



'Constitutional Package' set to see light of day

- Much-touted legislation aimed at giving country's top judge a fixed term expected to be tabled today
- NA and Senate summoned on weekend; govt members say amendment may be introduced in upper house first
- Coalition claims to have 'done its homework'; PML-N's support seen as holding key to govt's success

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: A highly anticipated "Constitutional Package" that aims to — among other things — fix the tenure of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) at three years, seems set to be introduced in parliament today (Saturday).

While on the face of it, it is still not certain whether the ruling coalition has the numbers required to ensure the passage of the constitutional amendment — which requires the assent of at least two-thirds of lawmakers — around 224 votes out of a total of 336 members in the lower house. But as of now, it appears that the government is short of at least a dozen votes in both houses.

However, if postponed by government spokespersons anything to go by, the Shehbaz Sharif administration seems confident it will be able to secure the required numbers of vote to have the amendment passed.

Sessions of both houses of parliament have been summoned this evening (Saturday), with only an hour's gap. It is unusual for parliament to converge on a weekend, as this usually does not happen outside budget sessions or sitting convened for a specific, time-sensitive issue.

Although the officially issued agenda for the NA session does not include any mention of the amendment, experience has shown that such items are usually held before the house as part of a bigger statutory agenda.

Parties in the ruling coalition — including the PML-N, PPP, MQM and others — have directed their members to stay in the capital over the weekend打算 to ensure their presence in both houses for the passage of the legislation.

Parliamentary party meetings have been held on almost daily basis since the start of the current session of the National Assembly, ostensibly in a bid to

keep an eye on the availability of their members.

To illustrate their seriousness, a source in the PPP told Dawn that PPP MNA Nafisa Shah, who wanted to proceed to her hometown to celebrate birthday of her father, former Sindh CM Quaim Ali Shah, on Friday, was not allowed to leave the federal capital until the conclusion of the session.

Secretary Appeal MPA, an aide to the PM on legal affairs, claimed on Friday that the bill to turn the position of the CJP into a ceremonial post will be tabled today (Saturday).

"The Bill will be introduced on Saturday and I think it will be tabled

Opposition parties warn MNAs against voting for govt 'package': Page 3

first in the Senate and then in the National Assembly," he added.

Asked whether the government had the support of the required number of legislators, he said that both houses were summoned to meet after the government did its homework thoroughly.

A senator of the ruling PML-N also told Dawn that the bill — referred to as the media as a "Constitutional Package" as it includes amendments to a number of constitutional articles — was likely to be introduced today (Saturday).

"We have been asked to ensure our presence in parliament on these days," he said.

Asked whether incumbent CJP Qazi Faez Isa would also benefit from the bill's passage, Barrister Asad said that once any legislation becomes part of the Constitution, it applied to all concerned. However, the CJP's recent clarification seems to indicate that he was not

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Army chief lauds police, other agencies' role in terror fight

Vows to maintain 'hard-earned peace' at all costs

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Leading the consolidation of police and other law enforcement agencies in winning a "hard-fought peace" in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Aslam Munir reiterated the security forces' resolve to "comprehensively defeat hostile terrorist networks and eliminate activities in the illegal spectrum".

According to a statement issued on Friday by the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief visited Orakzai district, where he met sol-



CHIEF of Army Staff Gen Aslam Munir lays a floral wreath at Martyrs' Memorial in Chakwal. —White Star

diers who had participated in recent counter-terrorism actions in the Tirah Valley and its surrounding areas.

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Last month, security forces killed at least 25 militants in a series of encounters in the Tirah Valley and its surrounding areas.

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Tax or not to tax — tough choices ahead for govt

- FBR chief mulls wealthy taxpayers' audit instead of burdening public to curb money laundering
- Experts say additional revenue measures may be necessary amid political instability

By Mubarak Zeb Khan in Islamabad

WITH less than two weeks until the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) executive board issues on Pakistan's macroeconomic reform package, concerns are rising over revenue shortfalls, prompting speculation about possible tax hikes or new levies.

While many tax experts advocate for a mid-budget to address the deficit, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rauf Langrial has proposed an alternative approach to avoid new tax measures while adhering to the terms agreed with the IMF.

Despite a drop in tax collection in the first two months (July and August) of this fiscal year, the government has yet to call a spending review, raising questions about whether it will need to implement additional revenue measures.

A basic rule is that when the revenue shortfall reaches 2.5 per cent, the IMF will ask for new revenue measures. This raises the critical question: can the government avoid burdening existing taxpayers with more taxes?

The FBR chairman told Dawn that he has completed a comprehensive transformation report on tax reforms, which will be presented to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday (today). The report focuses on structural reforms, enforcement measures and obtaining parliamentary approval to strengthen tax compliance.

Mr Langrial is quite optimistic about remaining within the IMF limits with the alternative proposals, ruling out the need to raise tax rates or impose new ones. However, some economic analysts believe

that additional revenue measures will still be necessary to meet the fiscal deficit target set by the IMF.

FBR chief's strategy

The FBR chief revealed that the tax authority has identified the top 1pc of tax-payers — around 700,000 wealthy individuals — who contribute Rs 2 billion in taxes. He estimates that these individuals have the potential to contribute over Rs 2tr, suggesting that many other wealthy tax evaders under-report their income.

Of these 700,000 highest-tax individuals, only 230,000 have filed tax returns, while 470,000 have not. Mr Langrial's strategy focuses on bringing these non-filers into the tax net, alongside auditing the financial records of all super-rich individuals.

He stated that independent auditors would be appointed to scrutinise these wealthy taxpayers, stressing that even those who have filed returns did not deposit

their actual taxes.

"We will go to their doorsteps," Mr Langrial warned, emphasising that the burden would not fall on those earning less than Rs 1 million per year.

One of the most significant changes in Mr Langrial's proposal is to prohibit non-filers from engaging in land transactions, a move he believes will help economic development in the long run and curb the whitewashing of black money. The current revenue from property transactions involving non-filers ranges from Rs 10bn to Rs 10bn annually. This policy would be implemented this year, he said.

Additionally, a policy restricting the purchase of property with only known sources of income will be enforced next year. He also listed several penalties and other measures to ensure effective implementation. "We will approach parliament to seek

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Govt removes special envoy over 'clash' on Afghan policy

By Bashir Sagid Syed

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Asif Durrazi, Special Representative on Afghanistan, has been removed from his position due to differences over Afghanistan policy, a diplomatic source revealed on Friday.

According to an official notification, shared with Dawn, Durrazi was relieved of his duties last Tuesday.

Separately, in a text message, Durrazi confirmed his departure, expressing gratitude to the leadership for allowing him to serve Pakistan.

The special envoy for Afghanistan, a position created in June 2023 after the US-Taliban Doha Accord, reported to the military and engaged with the Taliban and other countries involved in Afghanistan.

While the military was unhappy with his performance, Durrazi, too, had grown increasingly frustrated as his policy advice was regularly ignored by his principals. He had shared his concerns with some of his visiting visitors.

Moreover, despite his 32-year diplomatic career, he was seen as an outsider in the Foreign Office during his unique assignment, which required him to report to and take directions from the military. He, therefore, felt excluded from Afghanistan-related discussions within the Foreign Ministry.

Durrazi was appointed in May 2023 with the

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MADRID: Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Manuel Albares (centre) addresses a press conference with European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, Palestinian FM Mohammed Alhakim and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Slovenia and Egypt following a meeting on a two-state solution to the Palestinian crisis, on Friday —AFP

JCP huddle ends in disarray amid row over amendment

- Justice Munib walks out after taking issue with law minister's absence
- AGP says govt still in deliberations on "Constitutional Package"

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) meeting on Friday was marred by controversy over a proposed constitutional package on judiciary, prompting a walkout by Justice Munib Akhtar of the Supreme Court.

At the outset of the proceedings, according to a source present at the meeting, Justice Munib Akhtar, a member of the JCP, pointed out the absence of Law Minister Aslam Naqeeb Darar, who had to skip the huddle due to some engagements, and recalled that the minister had on May 3 assured that he would provide a detailed explanation of the legal aspects of the package in the commission's next meeting.

On May 3, the law minister had requested a deferral of the meeting, citing the government's plan to introduce the constitutional package aimed at amending provisions related to the appointment, elevation, posting, and transfer of superior court judges.

The JCP had to postpone the meeting due to the summer vaca-

tions of the Supreme Court, Federal Shariat Court, and high courts. Besides, several members were on vacation, and some judges were abroad. Consequently, it was decided to reschedule the JCP meeting after the commencement of the new judicial year.

According to the source, when Justice Akhtar inquired about the constitutional package, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Arain responded that the government's deliberations on the package were still ongoing. Moreover, he noted that it was beyond the JCP's immediate responsibility to amend constitutional amendments, as the meeting's purpose was to discuss recommendations of the commission's law-making committee.

The AGP had emphasized that, as members of the commission, all participants in the meeting were equal and, therefore, none could raise matters outside the meeting's agenda.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, who was presiding over the full 29-member JCP meeting, observed that the commission was not entitled to inquire about the outcome of the constitution's next meeting.

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In response, CJP Faez Isa initiated the revision process and established a committee on Dec 8.

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ON OTHER PAGES



Modest hike in weekly inflation

The short-term inflation, measured by the Wholesale Price Index, registered a modest week-on-week increase of 0.01pc after a month of deceleration. On a year-on-year basis, it rose by 14.36pc in the week ending Sept 12. The slight upward trend was due to rising prices of perishable food products such as tomatoes and chicken, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data. Page 9



Putin warning to West over Ukraine

The Kremlin says President Vladimir Putin has delivered a clear message to the West about the consequences it will face if it allows Ukraine to retake Russian territory with Western long-range missiles. The warning comes as the UK and US leaders pull out whether to let North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members bring missile systems into Poland — an option that has won backing from Moscow. Page 12



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Session marred by senators' personal quarrels

Govt members stage walkout to protest presence of suspended PTI lawmaker; Musadik laments 'cartelisation' of fertiliser producers

By Hikmat A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Senate session on Friday was marred by the presence of a suspended PTI senator and the absence of ministers as it concluded without concluding any legislative business.

The lawmakers from both sides of the aisle made their speeches before treasury members staged a walkout to protest against the presence of Senator Fakhar Naz, who was suspended for two days on Tuesday for using abusive language against independent senator Faizal Vawda.

Tensions were palpable from the beginning of the session as the senators, Deans Kumar of RAP and Dr Zareen Soofi, narrowly avoided blows on their right to ask a supplementary question.

Mr Kumar, who is usually calm, shouted at Dr Soofi when she read poetry instead of asking a question. The RAP senator insisted on being allowed to ask the question, which led to an argument between the two lawmakers.

Deputy Chairman Saeed Khan Nasir appeared helpless in defusing the situation, forcing some members from both sides to intervene.

Later, the deputy chairman referred the question to the standing committee concerned and gave the floor to Senator Samina Zafar.

The RAP senator also objected to the presence of Ms Nasir and claimed she was suspended for "two working days" and cannot sit in the House today.

Senator Zafar claimed to have been invited by the PTI senator on Tuesday, adding that the PTI leadership "undermined" its conduct in the House.

Mr Vawda also supported Senator Zafar and said she should be provided

with justice. He also ordered her demand to kick out Senator Nasir, who was suspended. "Either she should apologise or go out. Otherwise, we all will walk out," he said.

Senator Farooq, the opposition leader, came in support of his besieged colleague and said a "shame" was being staged over this issue. He claimed that the PTI senator didn't say anything objectionable and a committee should have been formed if any action was to be taken.

An quantum was pointed out during Mr Farooq's speech, he regretted the government was "trying to hide behind quorum". After the House was found not to be in order, the deputy chairman adjourned the proceedings till 4 pm Saturday (today).

Absence of ministers

At the outset of the proceedings, some members objected to the absence of ministers.

Senator Shabbir Aslam of PPP proposed deferring the question hour so that ministers could come and answer questions related to their ministries.

When the question hour resumed, Petroleum Minister Moushafiq Matto and subsidies worth billions of rupees were doled out to fertilizer firms under a flawed policy. He also disclosed that all fertilizer companies were not being sold gass at the same price.

The rates varied from Rs170 to Rs580 and Rs1,500 per million British thermal units (quintals), he said, adding that despite the tariff differential, every company sells gass at the same price.

The tariff difference helped fertilizer companies earn massive profits, the minister said. He said the Petroleum Division is working on the cost explanation mechanism for a uniform gas tariff for all fertilizer manufacturers.

After this policy, sufficient fertilizer firms would remain in the market, and inefficient plants would be phased out, Mr Matto added.

Meanwhile, the Senate Secretariat has announced that the session will now open every Saturday at 10am till the end of the session.

An official notification has also been issued in this regard.

Rahim Yar Khan by-election was 'largely transparent': Fafen

PPP vote share goes up by more than 40pc

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The by-election on National Assembly seat NA-171 (Rahim Yar Khan-II) was largely fair with the winning party, PPP, increasing its vote share by over 40 per cent compared to the general election, according to a report by the Free and Fair Election Network (Fafen).

The seat, which fell vacant due to the death of PTI leader Mian Iftikhar Mustafa, was won by PPP's Masihuddin Tahir Rasheeduddin, who got 116,429 votes, according to the official result.

PTI's Hassan Mustafa secured 58,251 votes.

According to the analysis of polling activity done by Fafen, the PTI saw its vote share slashed from 40pc in the general elections to 32pc in Thursday's polls.

Even though a total of seven candidates, including six men and a woman, were contesting the election, the absence of PMI-N's candidate made the by-election a two-way race between the PPP and PTI, Fafen said.

As per Fafen, the by-poll remained peaceful and well-organized, with no major procedural irregularities reported.

According to Fafen, inadequate copies of result forms were provided to the polling staff, who also lacked proper training to conduct the election.

The number of invalid votes declined

from 3pc of the polled votes in the general election to 2pc.

According to Fafen, the total number of voters in the constituency was 526,973, with 288,113 males and 238,860 females.

The turnout remained 35.79pc with 180,887 voters casting their votes. The number of discarded votes stood at 3,203, according to Form-47, available on ECP's website.

'Largely transparent'

The provisional consolidated result — Form-47 — was ready before 12pm on Thursday, the analysis said.

The ballot counting process was also "largely transparent and compliant with the legal and regulatory procedures".

The presiding officers provided copies of the 'Result of the Count' (Form-45) to all polling agents present during the counting process.

However, copies of the 'Ballot Paper Account' (Form-46) were not provided to the polling agents at 40pc of the observed polling stations, according to Fafen.

At 34pc of the observed polling stations, presiding officers did not provide copies of Form-45 to election observers and Form-46 at 40pc of the polling stations.

Around 22pc of the polling officers and 25pc assistant presiding officers at the observed polling stations reported they did not receive training before the election duty, Fafen noted.

The Election Commission of Pakistan had set up 301 polling stations — 88 male, 88 female and 125 combined — with 901 booths.

PM Shehbaz urges measures to prevent mpox spread

• Wants measures to enhance profitability of SMEs • Hails support by Saudi Arabia, China, UAE over IMF facility • Says tax on salaried class may drop in the form of reduced inflation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that all necessary preventative measures should be taken to prevent mpox, directing the officials concerned to raise public awareness about the preventive steps.

Chairing a meeting on the issue, the prime minister emphasised the importance of vigilance and preparedness to prevent the virus from spreading within the country.

PM Shehbaz at another meeting called for measures for the capacity building of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to enhance their profitability.

Separately, he appreciated the friendly countries, including Saudi Arabia, China and the United Arab Emirates for their support in paving the way for the IMF loan facility.

The PM instructed that screening at all air ports, seaports, and land entry points must be strictly enforced to detect any potential cases of mpox.

He noted that Pakistan was not currently

facing an emergency situation related to mpox, but stressed the need for continued preparedness, particularly by the Ministry of Health and the National Disaster Management Authority.

He called for the establishment of quarantine centres across the country to accommodate any affected individuals.

The meeting was informed that Pakistan had so far recorded only five cases, all diagnosed after those individuals arrived from abroad. It was told that some 600,000 people had been screened so far as a preventive measure.

PM Shehbaz, who chaired a meeting of the steering committee of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, said that steps to boost SMEs' exports were inevitable for national economy.

While highlighting the role of finance in national economy, the prime minister asked the authorities concerned to include women entrepreneurs in the decision-making related to the SMEs.



CHILAS: Banjar Income Support Programme Chairperson Senator Rubina Khawaja plants a sapling at a BISP office as part of the initiative 'Green Pakistan-Banjar Pakistan'. She earlier told journalists in Gilgit that from next year, the quarterly instalment of income support will be raised from Rs10,500 to Rs13,500.—APP/T Sadiq Javed Naqvi

Opposition parties warn MNAs against voting for govt 'package'

Khanwaja Asif calls on 'SIC lawmakers' to apologise for past behaviour

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The three main opposition parties warned their members on Friday that they could be de-seated from parliament if they voted in favour of a proposed constitutional amendment bill.

"Our party will not support any government or private constitutional amendment bill," he said, reaffirming that the party's members, as part of the opposition alliance, would oppose the proposed constitutional amendment.

JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman also stressed that an opposition party, including JUI-F, would buck any legislation that contradicts the Constitution or undermines democracy. "JUI-F will remain part of the opposition," he added.

PDP Chairman Barrister Ghobir also confirmed that no member of his party would vote in favour of the amendment.

NA session

Separately, Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif called on the Senate Judicial Council lawmakers to express regret and apologise for their past misconduct and misbehaviour to make a fresh start.

Speaking on a point of order in the National Assembly, Mr Asif clarified that the committee formed by the speaker was not intended to address the concerns of

any one political party but to uphold the dignity of the house and strengthen its morale.

He explained that the committee had been established on the suggestion of PDP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. However, he expressed concern that the proceedings appeared to be focused on addressing PTI members.

Referring to the incident that occurred two days ago, Khawaja Asif said that everyone protested and expressed solidarity with PTI as no one could support an attack on parliament.

The minister said that he had receded his protest during the committee meeting and recused himself from the body, while suggesting that his party support someone else.

Referring to such incidents, he questioned whether anyone had supported them when MNAs were taken into custody by Parliament Lodges, or when Naseer Sharif was not allowed to communicate with his ailing wife Kalima Nasir, despite numerous requests.

Mr Asif also pointed out that derogatory remarks passed by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Attaullah Khan Khattak about a mother and daughter were largely condemned by his party members.

ADB approves \$320m loan for KP development

Rural roads to be made climate-resilient under the project

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank on Friday approved a \$320 million loan to support the rehabilitation and improve climate-resilience, safety of roads in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that will help enhance safe and weather-connected connectivity in rural areas.

The ADB Resident Mission announced on Friday that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project will upgrade around 900 kilometres of rural roads in the province that are susceptible to floods and are in poor condition.

According to the geospatial analysis, almost 40 per cent of the rural population in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (about 14 million people) needs to travel more than 60 minutes to access a

health facility, the second highest in the country.

The part of the rural population that needs to travel more than 30 minutes to access schools are 85pc for primary school, 45pc for middle school, and 52pc for secondary school.

These cover key routes that link remote communities to education, health care and markets.

The project includes measures to incorporate climate-resilient design, road safety enhancement and sustainable maintenance practices.

The project is designed to address challenges associated with the people's lack of access to public services in rural areas, the loss of serviceability of roads damaged by the floods in 2022, and limited sustainability of rural roads through rehabilitation of prioritised rural roads and elevation and/or implementation of cut-and-cover drainage.

"Road transport is both a lifeline to the people and a key component of socio-economic development in the country. This vital

infrastructure project will replace travel time, lower transportation costs, and increase access to economic opportunities for millions of people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Veerayya Ziskar.

"By providing better access to markets and services, we are empowering local communities and driving inclusive economic growth in one of Pakistan's most underserved regions," he said.

Annual rainfall and temperature patterns have significantly increased in parts of the province, and the lack of resilient infrastructure has increased the impact of disasters on people and livelihoods. Flooding events since 2010 have substantially damaged the road network, impacting connectivity and escalating transportation costs.

The project will offer technical and financial support to assist the government in preparing long-term targeted interventions that will enhance the climate-resilient and sustainable nature of the province's road net-

work. "The ADB will help the government conduct a comprehensive study on flood susceptibility, with a focus on landslide vulnerability across the province, to identify priority roads," said ADB Senior Transport Specialist Seunghyun Kim. "We will support the government in preparing concessional arrangements for the operation and maintenance of new tourism roads, which will contribute to the sustainability of the road network."

About 85pc of the people in the valley live in rural areas, where access to public services is not only poor but also deteriorating. Basic public service provision in the province stands behind the national average, partially due to the area's geographic characteristics that make service delivery a challenge.

In contrast to central districts, the province's northern and southern districts, for example, confront significant challenges in providing access to decent public services.

the government's economic team, the army chief, and all those involved in the process.

The young parliamentarians presented suggestions with regard to governance and legislation, which the prime minister appreciated.

On Thursday, the PM joined 48 world leaders virtually to outline their expectations for this month's Summit of the Future to be held in New York, underscoring "effective" international cooperation to address global challenges, including the developing nation's rising debt burdens.

The Summit of the Future represents a great opportunity. We must not lose it," the PM said. The virtual live event is part of a global call for action to support the once-in-a-generation UN summit, which begins on Sept 22.

Over 130 heads of state and government are expected to attend the landmark event, which will be held just ahead of the annual debate in the UN General Assembly, which opens on Sept 24.—APP

Defectors in AJK will not be accepted back to PTI

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: Former Asad Javeed and Khurram (AJK) Prime Minister and national president of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, reiterated on Friday that there were no place in the party for Legislative Assembly members who had defected during difficult times in the region.

"There are clear instructions from Imran Khan regarding the defectors lawmakers they should not be accepted back into the party," he said while talking to a group of journalists here.

"They will neither receive party tickets for the next elections nor be appointed to any party office."

Following the July 2021 elections, PTI had emerged as the largest party with 51 legislators in the 54-member assembly. However, the disqualifications of three AJK Premier Sardar Taseer Illyas by the AJK High Court in April last year initiated its decline, marked by the defection of a significant number of PTI legislators, including sitting Premier Chaudhry Armaan Haq.

Currently, only six legislators remain openly affiliated with PTI and sit on the opposition benches.

"They [the defectors] have no connection with us and under no circumstances will they be taken back into the party. There is no room in the party for those who proved disloyal," Mr Niazi declared bluntly.

The end of the political career of those who betrayed and backstabbed the party and its imprisoned leader is inevitable. This is because they owe their election to Khan Sahib," he added. Mr Niazi said he had advised PTI workers to distance themselves from the turncoats.

Regarding Mr Haq, he said: "I call upon all PTI workers to avoid any contact with him and confirm if they find him using the party's name and flag."

Conversely, Mr Niazi praised those who had remained loyal to the PTI during its most difficult times, calling them an invaluable asset. He assured that their commitment and sacrifice would not go unrewarded.

The former AJK Premier recalled that, as per Imran Khan's instructions, legal action was to be initiated against all defectors. However, the proceedings had to be shelved due to the cancellation of the registration of political parties, including PTI, by the AJK election commission. He claimed that after reorganization at the grassroots level, PTI had once again become the most popular political party in AJK and was poised to make a clean sweep in the next elections.

An Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan fought for the cause of Kashmiris with boundless determination. Kashmiris all over the world are worried about him," he said. Mr Niazi urged PTI's governing body members, as well as its provincial and district organizations, to continue the "From Kashmir's Ambassador Imran Khan" campaign with vigor.

"Our mission is to wage a peaceful struggle for Imran Khan's release, and we will continue until he is freed," he said, adding that any office-bearer not active in the ongoing movement for Khan's release would be removed from their positions.



CAPITAL administration uses a crane to remove containers from D-Block in Islamabad on Friday to open it for traffic.—Photo by Mohammad Asim

Parliament Lodges declared sub-jail for arrested PTI lawmakers

PTI men sent to jail following suspension of physical remand

By Munawar Azoom & Asad Malik

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Speaker on Friday declared the Parliament Lodges Islamabad as sub-jail for the 10 lawmakers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, arrested by the Islamabad police under Anti-Terrorism Act and newly imposed Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act 2024.

The Islamabad High Court, on the other hand, set aside the physical remand of the PTI lawmakers, sending them to jail on judicial remand.

With regard to declaring the parliament lodges sub-jail for arrested lawmakers, an official of the National Assembly Secretariat wrote a letter to Secretary Interim, saying: "I am directed to refer to the production order issued on Sept 11 by the National Assembly Speaker in respect of the PTI lawmakers arrested recently to enable them to attend the sitting of the Session of National Assembly and to inform that in exercise of power conferred by sub-section

(3) of rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the Honourable Speaker has been pleased to declare the Parliament Lodges, Islamabad, as sub-jail for their custody after each sitting of the National Assembly."

The MNAs who were arrested on different charges following the PTI protest gathering at Sangam included Syed Afzal Khan from NA-41, Lakkh Marwan, Malik Mohammad Asim Dogar from NA-149, Mullah Ali, Muhammad Ahmed Chattha from NA-65, Wazirabad, Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi from NA-150, Mullah Ishaq, Waqas Akram from NA-109, Jhang II, Zubair Khan Wazir from NA-42, South Waziristan, Upper-combat South Waziristan Lower, Amrit Harider Jakkhar from NA-182, Layyah II, Syed Shahid Ali Shah from NA-33, Nowshera I, Nasir Ali Shah from NA-39 Rawalpindi and Younis Khan from NA-16 Hangu from Okara.

Police officials told DAWN that the same applied to these MNAs of the Parliament Lodges were the sub-jail for the MNAs and they were detained there.

These MNAs were arrested in connection with cases registered at Sangam and at Nasir Police station under several charges, they added.

There are no special arrangements and deployment in and outside the sub-jails (jail), as police were already present there, the officials said, adding that services of the available police officers and officials are being utilized for the jail superintendent and staff.

They said that under the written directions of the Speaker issued to the interior secretary the names of the MNAs were declared sub-jail. So far no necessary notification in this regard is yet to be issued from the capital administration or police.

PTI lawmakers physical remand set aside

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday set

aside the physical remand of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers and local leaders, arrested following Sept 8 protest meeting at Sangam.

IHC division bench comprising Chief Justice Asma Farooq and Justice Saeem Rafiq Justice while hearing the petitions of PTI lawmakers Asim Dogar, Syed Afzal Khan, Sheikh Waqas Akram, Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi, Malik Mohammad Asim Dogar and others overruled the order of the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of handing over their custody to Police on 8 days physical remand.

Subsequently, they were sent to jail on judicial remand.

During the course of hearing, Vice Chairman Islamabad Bar Council Adil Aziz Qazi, President and Secretary Islamabad High Court Bar Association Riaz Ali Asad, Shafiq Turner, senior lawyer Raja Aslam Abbasi and others appeared to represent the lawmakers including the members of Islamabad Bar Association.

Justice Farooq observed all the remand granting order of the ATC Judge were identical and sought an explanation from the prosecution.

The advocate general Islamabad read out the FIRs registered against the PTI leaders.

The court, however, turned the prosecution case as "vexious" as the police claimed to have recovered pistols, baton and gun from the lawmakers.

The chief justice noted that the PTI leaders were in custody of police for the last four days and there is no need to hold them on physical remand.

He expressed displeasure over the arrest of lawmakers from the Parliament House saying that the parliament is the mother of all institutions.

The court subsequently ruled against the physical remand of the petitioners.

Polio vaccination team tortured in Rawalpindi

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A female polio vaccination team of the Punjab health department was tortured and deprived of her belongings, including polio vaccination and cold chain allegedly by a group of employees of Government Board Chaklala who were booked by the police on the complaint of the victim.

She alleged in the FIR that in addition to torturing female staff, they also abused

and threatened her male staff members.

Khusnija Bibi, lodged an FIR with the Civil Lines police, said that they are Punjab government health department employees and were performing duty of giving polio drops and after their duty, they returned to Chaklala Community Medical Center in Thokri Bhawanwadi.

She said on reaching the medical center, as many as 40 employees of Government Board Chaklala broke into a store room which was allocated to the health team and took away their belongings, including polio

vaccine and a bag containing Rs 15,000 cash and medicines of her child.

She further alleged in the FIR that as she walked inside to bring medicine, they misbehaved with her, slapped and pushed her away.

Later, she said that they took away all of their belongings, male staff who were also accompanying them were also abused and beaten by them.

She pleaded with the police to take legal action against the accused and recover their goods taken by them.

THE BEGUM NUSRAT BHUTTO WOMEN UNIVERSITY SUKKUR

Phone No 0312-2171901 E-mail: bnb@bnu.edu.pk

All the concerned Companies/Units / Contractors / Manufacturers / Joint Ventures seeking eligible sources, we, having experience from Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for Income Tax, Sales Tax & excise/gross proceeds of goods, registering with the FBR, Revenue Board in case of procurement of goods and services and registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in case of non-goods and non-services, are invited to participate in sealed percentage (tender) bid tender for the following works:

No.	Name of Work	Bidder Fee	Completion Time	Current Money	Date of Submission	Date of Submission of Bid	Publication Date
1.	Hiring of Survey Services	Rs 500/-	05 days	Rs 0/-	14-09-2024	16-09-2024	14-09-2024

The terms and conditions are given as under:

The tender documents can be purchased from office of the Director Finance or can be downloaded from NPPA website (www.bnbsukkur.edu.pk) or www.bnbsukkur.edu.pk the payment should done non-refundable of Rs. 100/- on arrival draft or through the account of receiver. The tender documents are provided/packaged along with the payment of tenders (up to 11 AM 16th Sep) and same will be opened on the same day (11 AM 16th Sep) in Director Finance Office in presence of the Contractor. Supplier/representative, who is not well fit to present at the time, he can give his written nomination to another member of his firm to present at the time of opening of tenders. The tender shall be submitted/opened on the next working day in the case of absence. Any condition or requirement of the tenderer must be met and not be considered as the requirement.

1. The method of procurement is single stage - Two tenders (Procurement of Goods and Financial Proposal).

2. The bidders should have successfully completed at least 10 similar projects in last three years in our large capacities.

3. Other terms and conditions are mentioned in the tender document.

4. SPECIAL REQUIREMENT & CONDITIONS:

1 Under following conditions bid will be rejected:
(i) Incomplete and ambiguous bid (ii) describing the original specifications (bids) and (complaints) (iii) bidders will not be considered in the bidding process.

2 Bid submitted without required Bid security.

3 Bid received after mentioned date and time.

4 Bid submitted by the blacklisted firms.

5 Bid form is forged.

6 Bid not satisfied the terms and conditions mentioned in the tender document.

7 In case of any disturbance or loss schedule of any committee member, the tender will be opened on next working day. The time and date will remain same.

8 Documents must be provided whenever applicable.

The Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids subject to relevant provisions of PPP Rules, 2004 and may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal under Rule 27 of bid rules.

Procurement Officer
BNB Women University Sukkur

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM SHIKARPUR

Special Case No. 65 of 2024

The State

Versus

Khair Mohammed & Irfan & others.....Accused

Civil No 54/2024
Police Station: Shikarpur
District: Shikarpur

Lit. No. 204/2024/27/148-149 PPC & Art 144

WHEREAS, namely 1. Siallo, 2. Akbar Both Sialo Gafto, 3. Jumro, 4. Torki Ali, 5. Bhatas, 6. Meeral, 7. Bhati Buz, 8. Rahman, 9. Dilbar Ali Buz Deo, 10. Magro Buz Jassi, 11. Ibrahim Buz Jassi, 12. Ismail Buz Magro, 13. Sorhda Buz Samra, 14. Nawab Ali Ali Hassan, 15. Maliguzar Ali Mashkoor, 16. Alim Ali Hydi, 7. Bined, 18. Sharjeel, 19. Horia Ali Buz Toki Ali, 20. Suleyman Buz Mees, 21. Majeed Buz Sabhi, 22. Maliguzar Buz Sabhi, 23. Buz Teghani Buz Katcho Garhi Tegha Taksha Khatpura are shown as accused in the above cited case.

And whereas non-bailable warrant was issued by this Court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted with report of police that the accused have absconded and are not traceable.

Now, therefore, proclamation u/s 87 CrPC issued with section 18(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with direction to the above named accused persons to appear before this Court of Judicial Comptroller District & Sessions Court Shikarpur within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in their absence.

Given under my hand & seal of the Court

This the 10th day of September, 2024.

SPECIAL JUDGE
ANTI-TERRORISM COURT
SHIKARPUR

File No. 54/2024

Two security men martyred in Mastung, Kalat attacks

Eight FC personnel injured in IED attack

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: Two personnel of Levies Force were martyred and three others, including a senior officer, were injured when a group of tribemen opened fire near a Levies station in Deraignareshwar of Mastung district on Friday.

In a separate incident, a roadside explosion left eight security personnel injured in Kalat on Friday.

Officials said that a group of tribemen opened fire on the personnel of Levies Force. The cause of the incident was the arrest of the brother of a tribal elder who, along with other people, had blocked the Quetta-Mastung highway to protest against the arrest.

"Eight FC personnel were injured in the blast," said Mr Shahid, adding that the vehicle was also damaged in the explosion.

All the injured were taken to Kalat district hospital.

Security forces cordoned off the area after the explosion and launched a search operation to arrest the attackers.

JCP huddle ends in disarray

Continued from Page 1

last year, the committee, co-chaired by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Mansoor Malik, comprises senior puisne judges from all high courts, the AGP, Agha Ali Khan, and members from provincial bar councils.

The committee submitted its draft rules which were circulated among all JCP members under Article 175A of the Constitution.

On Friday, CJP has asked Justice Mansoor Ali Shah to present the draft rules and then invited the members to express their views.

Consequently, proposals were put forward, leading to a broad consensus on the matter. Suggestions were also made to make amendments and increase the number of bureaucracy attached to the different categories. It was decided to attend to the same by modifying the draft rules.

After the conclusion of the discussion, the members proposed that the CJP and Justice Shah send the draft rules and present them in the next meeting of the commission on Sept 28 at 11am.

According to suggestions made by the rule-making committee, the JCP chairpersons will propose three reasons for appointment of a judge in the Supreme Court for each vacancy and will convene the JCP meeting for deliberation not later than 15 days before the occurrence of the vacancy.

Likewise, for the appointment of the high court chief justice, the JCP chairpersons will convene a meeting to consider five senior-most judges of the high court concerned at least one month before the occurrence of the vacancy.

For the appointments of judges of the high courts, the JCP chairpersons will call discussions from the selection committee concerned not later than 60 days and convene a meeting of the commission for deliberations not later than 30 days before the occurrence of the vacancy.

National Disaster Risk Management Fund (A company set up under section 42 of the Companies Act 2017) Making Pakistan Resilient

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Hiring of Individual Consultants REOI# 1(1)/24-SFB-MOPDSI

Country:

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Project Name:

Pakistan Hydro-meteorological Climate Services Project (PHM CSP)

Implementing Agency:

National Disaster Risk Management Fund

Credit No:

ISAF 1245-PAK

Project ID No:

F162024

The Government of Pakistan has obtained a "Credit" from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Pakistan Hydro-meteorological Climate Services Project (PHM CSP) following "National Individual Consultants' Services", to be procured under this project. The Project aims at strengthening delivery of reliable and timely climate and hydro-meteorological services besides enhancing community resilience to shocks. Shocks include socio-economic disruptions caused to communities by climate risks, health emergencies, food security and natural disasters.

National Disaster Risk Management Fund now invites eligible individuals to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide detailed CVs indicating that they are qualified to perform the services.

S. # Position Required Qualification & Experience:

1 Data Scientist Over(1) Position Qualification: Masters degree in data science, statistics, or a related field, with a strong foundation in statistical modeling and data analysis.

Experience:- Professional work experience along with other expertise as per Terms of References.

Terms of Reference (TORs) for above consulting assignment can be accessed by the interested individuals from website, www.ndrfmfpk.com. Further information may be obtained at the address given below during office hours from 0800 to 1800 hours (Pakistan Standard Time (PST)). This RFI is also available on the website www.ndrfmfpk.com.

An attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section 18, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IFI Borrowers" July 2016 (Revised November 2017, July 2018 and November 2020) ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest, the same shall be observed while participating in the procurement process. The individual consultants shall be hired in accordance with the procedures set out in Para 7.38 of the World Bank's Procurement Regulations. In addition, the whole procurement process will be governed under the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IFI Borrowers" July 2016 (Revised November 2017, July 2018, November 2020 and September, 2023) which can be accessed at the website <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/bid-procurement-new-framework-framework>.

Applications, complete in all respects i.e. CV along with education and experience certificates, should reach Manager Procurement on or before 30th September, 2024 through surface mail, email or in-person. Name of Position applied for must be mentioned clearly on the top right corner of envelope. Expressions sent over email will be acknowledged within 48 hours by Fund. In absence of such an acknowledgement please contact NDRMF on contact details provided below.

MANAGER PROCUREMENT

National Disaster Risk Management Fund,
5th Floor, EDBI House, Mawala Area G-10/4, Islamabad.
Ph: +92(61)9108300 Ext: 415, Email: mohammad.asif@ndrfmfpk.pk

Ailing artist Naseer assured of all help, shifted to hospital

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Veteran TV artist Naseer Ahmed, who has been suffering from poor health and poverty for quite some time and unable to walk, was transferred to CMH Quetta on Friday on the directions of Chief Minister Mufti Sardar Bugti.

Mr Ahmed's both legs were paralysed in an accident some time ago and he had no means to take care of himself or his family.

He had set up a camp along with his three children in front of the Quetta Press Club, saying he had no resources to feed his children and get medical treatment for himself.

If and if the government did not help him, he would sell out his children.

On Friday, CM Bugti took notice of the matter after the old artist staged a protest in front of the Balochistan Assembly.

The CM met Mr Ahmed and after listening to his grievances, he was admitted to CMH Quetta for treatment.

Mr Bugti directed that complete treatment be provided to the artist along with a wheelchair and



NASEER AHMED along with his children and other people at the protest camp. —File photo

compensation.

The CM assured Mr Ahmed that he would take care of the children like his own children.

The chief minister said that the banner reading "children for sale" was too painful that he could not ignore it.

"I will bear the expenses needed for raising those children, it is my responsibility," he promised.

Later, the chief minister took the banner from the hands of the children and showed his affection towards them.

He said that after preliminary examination at CMH, Mr Ahmed would be shifted to a hospital in Karachi for treatment.

The artist and his children thanked the chief minister for his help.

Army chief lauds police, other agencies' role

Continued from Page 1

intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in the Tirah Valley, while four soldiers have also embraced martyrdom.

According to the ISPR, these operations were based on "robust intelligence" and dealt significant blows to the TTP and its affiliates. It also mentioned that 11 militants were injured in the operations.

During the visit, Gen Manir was briefed on the overall security situation, ongoing intelligence-based counter-terrorism actions and measures being taken to ensure stability in emerged districts, the statement said.

During his interaction with officers and troops, Gen Manir appreciated the forces' high morale and readiness to give effective response to all types of threats.

The sacrifice of the martyrs strengthened resolve of the armed forces to fight with utmost dedication and spirit of sacrifice, ISPR quoted Gen Manir as saying.

Paying rich tribute to martyrs and Ghairat of the army and personnel of law-enforcement agencies, the army chief said that the blood-curdling price achieved with nation's great sacrifices would be maintained at all costs and handed the contributions being made by police and law enforcement agencies in the province.

The chief of army staff also laid a wreath at the Yedgar-e-Shuhada.

"Pakistan Army will continue to provide all-out support to KP police and other IAFs in enabling them to perform their duties in newly emerged districts," the statement quoted Gen Manir as saying.

The COAS also appreciated the support of the local population in assisting security forces, noting that their positive role is essential in maintaining peace in the area.

The visit comes on the heels of a series of protests staged this week by police personnel who provide security for vaccination teams in the remote border areas, after a string of deadly militant attacks this week targeted officers guarding polio workers going door-to-door.

Imran claims Gandapur was "picked up"

Continued from Page 1

issue of terrorism. Earlier this week, the KP CM expressed his intentions to bypass the federal government and send a delegation to Kabul to speak to the Afghan Taliban government for their help in bringing peace to KP.

The statement provoked strong reactions from the Foreign Office and the Centre government, who retorted Mr Khan's claim that foreign policy was a federal subject.

"I fully support the stance of Ali Aslam Gandapur, he is absolutely correct", Mr Khan said, add-

ing the federal government should "support" the KP CM as dialogue is the "only solution to end terrorism".

He added that Mr Gandapur's proposal "could not be ignored" as it is speaking "for the sake of the country".

When a reporter asked him if the Foreign Office was the appropriate forum for dialogue, Mr Khan replied that KP is the province most affected by terrorism.

He criticised Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari for not even visiting Afghanistan once during his tenure as foreign minister.

Hundreds of police officials have been martyred in terrorist attacks, and they are now protesting and "may revolt" if correct decisions are not made.

The province has been suffering from the war against terrorism for the past 24 years, and our first priority should be to eradicate this menace.

Mr Khan expressed the apprehension that the economy would collapse if terrorism was not checked.

The PIA founder also stressed the need for sending the US to Afghanistan for eliminating terrorism.

Woman dies of Congo fever in Quetta

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: A woman suffering from Congo fever died a day after being hospitalised in the provincial capital, according to hospital officials.

The patient was brought from Muzaffargarh district to

critical condition with suspected Congo virus and admitted to the Fatima Jinnah Civil Hospital.

The patient's blood samples were taken for testing, but she passed away before the result were received.

Meanwhile, Congo virus has been confirmed in samples obtained from another patient admitted to the same hospital.

The 23-year-old patient hailing from Kohat, a locality on the outskirts of Quetta city, is currently undergoing treatment.

Only this year, 39 patients have been admitted to the Fatima Jinnah Hospital for the treatment of Congo virus and six have lost their lives.

Transfer of 13 police officers notified

QUETTA: The federal government on Friday notified the transfer and posting of 13 officers of the Police Service of Pakistan (PSO), including inspector general of police Musaam Jafri Ansari, to Balochistan with an immediate effect for serving in different areas.

IGP Ansari, a 22-grade officer, had already served as police chief of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The decision in this regard was taken in the national apex committee meeting, which was also attended by Chief of Army Staff General Aslam Manzoor, following the August 26 attacks which claimed 52 lives.

According to an official notification, 13 officers from the 47th and 48th Commissions, including Ahsan Amrit, Sardar Mohammad Shafiq Khan, Ghulam Amrit Chishti, Zeeham Ali, Raia Mohammad Dilawar, Shoaib Akbar, Akbar Nasar, Mohammad Usman, Owais Ali Khan, Rehmatullah, Khurram Mehmood, and Abdallah Khan, have been posted to Balochistan for one year.

"The Balochistan government may extend the officers' services if needed," the notification said.—Staff Correspondent

Govt removes Afghan envoy

Continued from Page 1

time of undocumented Afghans, arguing it would reflect badly on Pakistan's border controls and harden the Afghan Taliban's stance. He suggested a long-term approach to addressing the issue of illegal Afghans.

He believed Pakistan needed to manage its terrorism problem domestically, as the issue was likely to persist for foreseeable future due to Taliban not changing their position on ties with TTP, their ideological cousins.

However, strict military oversight of his role severely limited his diplomatic flexibility, leaving him with scant room to maneuver in negotiations with the Taliban.

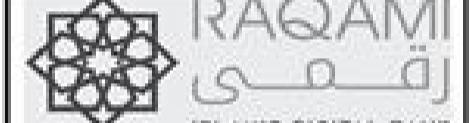
Though Durrazi advocated for a "one-document" regime for Afghan visitors, he opposed mass deportation.

His predecessor, Mohammad Sadig, had also resigned from the position.

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GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

OPEN AUCTION OF OFFICIAL CONDEMNED VEHICLES

Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Law and Justice, Islamabad intends to auction the following official condemned vehicles on "as is and where is basis" as per following schedule:-

S. #	Type of Vehicles with Engine Capacity	Quantity	Model	Parked at	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Suzuki Cultus (993 cc)	02	2005	Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue, Federal Courts Complex, Old State Bank Building, Mall Road, Lahore	

IMF hopes

THE inclusion of Pakistan's case on the agenda of the IMF Executive Board meeting later this month must end the uncertainty around the new \$7bn bailout for this crisis-hit nation. The IMF will review the country's loan request on Sept 25 since Islamabad has "obtained necessary financing assurances from its development partners". The IMF announcement comes nearly two months after the lender had signed a staff-level agreement with Islamabad. The delay in the ratification of the 27-month programme by the Fund had fuelled speculation that the government was facing difficulties in meeting its stipulations regarding the confirmation of \$12bn debt rollovers from China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, as well as the arrangement of fresh funding of \$2bn to cover the external financing hole for the present fiscal. The recent power subsidy amounting to Rs45bn announced by Punjab was also being seen as the latest bone of contention between the two sides. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's statement accusing the Fund of "deliberately delaying" the release of funds and pinning the blame on geopolitics had led many to believe that the bailout was in jeopardy. However, it is all water under the bridge now.

The IMF announcement, preceded by an aggressive rate cut by the State Bank, cheered up the stock market, with share prices soaring the next morning as the package was hailed as a "lifeline" for an economy reeling from a financial crisis that brought the country to the brink of insolvency last year. Pakistan had narrowly averted default only after the Fund agreed to provide a nine-month short-term facility of \$3bn on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's personal request at the end of his previous term. The approval of the programme is also crucial for the coalition government, which is struggling to overcome a serious legitimacy crisis, to improve its ratings by reviving the moribund economy. The nod to the loan will help the beleaguered Sharif government kick the default can a little further down the road, but constant borrowing is not the solution to the nation's deep-seated economic woes and structural issues. Nor does it mean an end to the trials and tribulations of ordinary citizens.

With the government failing to get its fiscal house in order, some reports suggest it is preparing to further tighten the noose around taxpayers and possibly bring in a supplementary or "mini" budget over the next several weeks to meet the Fund programme's revenue targets. These reports also suggest that much of the burden of additional revenue measures will be borne by taxpayers, both corporate and individual. That is not how crisis-hit nations like ours break out of the debt trap. If anything, the new IMF loan is surely not going to be our last bailout.

Media unity

IN recent years, media owners and senior decision-makers in newsrooms across the country have found themselves in increasingly difficult positions. Faced with external pressures, they have frequently had to make tough calls — often at the expense of their editorial judgment. These pressures have come from certain institutions within the state. At times, these institutions have sought to generally expand their influence; at others, they have wanted coverage of a certain kind or demanded that something — or someone — be censored or not reported. A recent incident serves as a stark reminder of the consequences that can arise when editorial independence within news organisations is compromised. This Thursday, the Supreme Court summoned the owners and senior executives of 34 television channels to account for several speeches that were broadcast from their platforms and were rightly considered contemptuous of the judiciary. The speech in question had been made earlier this year by lawmakers Faiyal Vaseem and Mustafa Kamal at the height of a stand-off between senior members of the judiciary and the incumbent regime. Both lawmakers had quickly issued apologies after being hauled up by the apex court, and were eventually let off with a warning. However, the media houses found themselves caught in the crossfire.

Though the Supreme Court took a decidedly lenient view of the incident, the media channels were nonetheless required to air their own apologies during prime-time slots, quoting relevant court orders as part of their compliance. The industry, already vulnerable to external influences, now faces an even greater challenge: it must decide how to safeguard its independence and credibility in the face of the increasing push and pull of various external stakeholders. The contempt episode offers an opportunity for reflection: is it time for owners and senior decision-makers at media houses to form a united front and resist undue external pressure? After all, they showed unity while tendering an unconditional apology before the court — why not extend that same unity towards preserving their independence as well? Reputation is a media channel's most valuable asset. By defending their right to independent decision-making, media owners can ensure that their platforms uphold the principles that are fundamental to their role in society. Without collective resolve, incidents like the latest one will continue to impact not just their credibility but also the broader landscape of media freedom.

Grim example

THREE struggle to eliminate extremism from society and create a more tolerant nation cannot succeed without the state's firm commitment to achieving this goal. But when representatives of the state themselves are found to be involved in extremist acts, the road to deradicalisation is that much longer. The murder of a man accused of committing blasphemy in a Quetta police lock-up — by a policeman no less — on Thursday is one example of the considerable challenges facing Pakistan on this count. According to reports, the suspect had been taken into custody after a video in which he had allegedly made sacrilegious remarks went viral. Following the man's detention, a mob led by religious parties besieged the police station where he was being held and attacked it with grenades. The law enforcers later shifted the suspect to another police station, where an officer opened fire on him.

While acts of sacrifice obviously cannot be condoned, there exist laws to address this serious issue. But when ordinary citizens or state functionaries take the law into their own hands, the gates to mob rule and anarchy are flung wide open. The Quetta incident is a grim reminder of Punjab governor Salman Taseer's murder in 2011 by his own police guard. More recently, a mob in Sialkot stormed a police station in Jasse where a man accused of committing blasphemy was being held. The suspect was set on fire. Arguably, in no other Muslim country is such violence tolerated. These shocking incidents all point to the need to urgently deradicalise society. The state, as well as the ulama, must reiterate the fact that no one can be allowed to play executioner in blasphemy cases, and that the law must take its course. In far too many of such incidents, the law is misused to settle personal scores. Therefore, strict action is required against those who exploit the sensitive issue of blasphemy.

OPINION

BY FARID PANJWANI



Negotiating with AI

The world today — the ecosystem in which artificial intelligence is born — is not enviable.

LAST December, I observed a child watching a fire made by matchbox in our street to keep warm. The chance of the flames facilitated her but the heat she felt stopped her from going too close, which was a safe response. Altruistic movements of machine computers that we simultaneously admire and fear; theologian philosopher Rudolf Otto coined this phrase to describe the human response to the incomprehensibility of extraordinary phenomena that people encounter. This triggered the thought of artificial intelligence, an invention unlike anything humans have created. From carrying out complex medical diagnoses to engaging in poetic conversations, AI is fascinating. But there is another side to it as well, a power that can have largely undesirable consequences for people and the environment.

Technologies require negotiation. A well-negotiated car — serviced and well-driven — serves superbly for years. Misunderstood, it gives trouble and becomes a burden. When technologies have a collective social use and impact, this negotiation involves wider material, legal and social factors for the realisation of its full potential. Continuing with the example of the car, these broader factors include, among other things, suitable roads, traffic regulations, an effective licensing system and considerate behaviour by drivers. In short, a technology's potential — will it serve the few or the majority — is fated in an ecosystem.

As it happens, the world today, the ecosystem in which AI is born, is not enviable. It is rather tragically worsened as closely interconnected world yet one where many people display a propensity to hate those defined as the "other" through polarising ideologies; an unprecedented scientific knowledge of the physical world, yet a fragile relationship with nature; and, an unparalleled technological promise with serious threat to freedom and privacy. Hope and despair, like shadow and sunlight, are interlocked by these paradoxes.

At the heart of these conditions is the escalating concentration of wealth in fewer and fewer hands. In 2022, 1.2 per cent of the richest per-

cent controlled 47.8pc of global wealth. This skewed distribution of wealth, an outcome of the neoliberal mode of economics, has political, social and psychological consequences as it creates inequality in access to resources and opportunities. In such an ecosystem, the power of AI is likely to exacerbate inequalities and their consequences.

What can this do? Sometimes AI is compared to the Industrial Revolution. The association goes only so far. That revolution, though catastrophic for unskilled physical labour, still left, in fact increased, the need for skilled manual work as well as intellectual labour. But now, the combination of AI and robotics can displace these forms of work and labour. The allure of profit makes this possibility attractive. This makes the threat of a completely unemployed life for hundreds of millions a real possibility. With humanised numbers and names, even the best jobs that require a soft, human touch are safe zones untenable.

AI's advocates often respond by foreseeing an age of leisure with universal income and unlimited time for swimming, playing, singing, fishing etc. This pose hope, or a false promise to justify the march of AI. Forget that having a few, most of us enjoy leisure only after spending time on what is called work. The sweetest youth will be repelled if forced to sit idly as staple food. Moreover, given what we now know of the neural plasticity, without the challenges of work and our growing dependency on AI for answers, how would the mind change? Would it become less agile, curious and resiliient whilst AI, on the other hand, with greater training becomes more intelligent? Finally, there is the question of its effect on the democratic model of governance. We work, pay taxes, and get a share in the government. We become citizens. Money received through largesse would mean no taxes and hence may result in no say in governance.

Even if we set aside the dangers of mass unemployment, without rebalancing the power structures, the biggest uses of AI are likely to be in warfare, surveillance and marketing, with

concerns failing in education, health and other social goods. It is not a surprise that some of those who pioneered this technology, for example Geoffrey Hinton, formerly at Google, are now worried about the impact of AI.

Given the importance of negotiation with AI. Without it, the path forward is slippery. How do we negotiate with AI? Critical education, at the individual level, and sound global and national regulations, at the collective levels, are the best negotiating tools we have.

Critical here means developing capacities to understand the structures of power and knowledge that lie beneath the surface and that shape life chances and access to opportunities and resources. The humanities are considered best suited for such capacities. They need to be an integral part of higher education with an aim to develop and sustain an interest in inner life, fellow beings, social organisation and the moral consequences of actions. Such an education can help us realise that technologies do not stand outside of a society. From where they can be called upon to rescue it. Rather, they are embedded within a society whose contours must be reimagined if the technology is to become a force for good for the majority.

Equally important is to bring a range of global and national regulations that create a fine balance between creativity and social responsibility. These would include an AI governance framework; accountability and safety protocols; data protection and privacy policies; equitable learning access; prescription on certain uses of AI, such as in warfare and for clandestine surveillance; public democratic oversight; transparency of algorithms; job protection; environmental impact regulations; and monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. This is far easier said than done. Hardly any of this exists currently.

Negotiations are possible under certain conditions and within a certain period. After that, it can be too late. Now is the time to negotiate. ■

The writer is a professor and dean, Institute for Educational Development, Aga Khan University.



BY SAMIA LIAQUAT ALI KHAN

Public Mis-service Inc

THROUGHOUT my profession, I have closely engaged with government ministries, agencies and departments, both at the local and federal levels. In my younger days, the calling of the public services was strong, and I passed through the process of the CSS examinations and interviews. My aim was to be an officer of the DPMG (district management group), and I obtained the possibility of joining any other group. Given my domicile (urban Sindhi), competition was strong for the single seat allotted to Karachi and that was chosen by the person who topped the exams. I decided then that I would still try to work for the people of my country, but go the way of civil society.

I learned my trade (development) — in public service carried out by private citizens in the length and breadth of Karachi — Machhar Colony, Baloch Colony, Orangi Town, and other smaller areas. My work brought me close to people there, and it also made me realise that government involvement was essential. In the 1990s, Machhar Colony, home to 400,000 people from all over the country, came under the administrative division of the Port Authority. The colony, which comprised of internal migrants who had illegally settled on Balochi land in the 1950s/60s, was divided by ethnic and socio-economic grouping — so the Bengalis wherever the poorest lived closest to the sea with most of their women and children engaged in the shrimp cleaning trade. The Pathans and Punjabis were somewhat better off and lived in their demarcated areas of the colony, and their men would work in the city.

There was one government school and one government health centre in the area. The school catered to around 500 children. The remaining 120,000 (approximately) children were catered to by low-income private schools, or not at all. The Citizens Foundation (TCF) was just starting up in those days but did not yet have their Lyari campus. There was a gigantic open nullah — at least 10 metres wide — that took wastewater into the sea, but there was so much debris and plastic waste in the drains that you could not see the water flow. One

would keep hearing about how children would fall in and drown or never be found again. There was no proper drainage, electricity or water provision to this colony. The streets, if that is what they could be called, were not made for humans or cars. And as the name suggests, the area was infested by mosquitoes (although one personally felt that the flies outnumbered the mosquitoes). The bayard, however, was the best I have eaten — yes readers, there is a reason Karratilis are known for their east-coast cuisine.

We made continuous efforts to involve the

While there have been good and even great public servants in Pakistan's history, their greatness owes little to the institution.

local government agencies in attempts to help the colony. I attended meetings in the municipal offices where I was told that the plans to cover the nullah had been designed and were ready to be implemented, but nothing happened. I personally took the Port Authority DC for a tour of Machhar Colony, to show him how bad the situation was. But he was least interested. My team and I would force vaccinations to cover the entire area — including the alleys which they usually skipped. We worked with the private schools (lack of interest of the government school prevented us from working with them to improve teaching quality, provided basic healthcare to mothers and children, held environmental-related events, inter-school sports competitions, and so on. I was hopeful that things would get better. But without the real public servants doing their part, it was a losing battle.

Years later, living in Islamabad, I again had the opportunity to engage closely with government institutions and individuals, this time at the federal level. This experience left me scarred and with the realisation that we need urgent structural reforms if we are to save this country. Yet, those with power believe that such reforms can only make them the losers.

We bequeath our colonial heritage — rightly so — to all the white aristocracy adhering to these same rules. But even our colonial masters have changed their rules. If you examine the British public service today, it is a different beast to what it used to be and to what we continue to have in place. Here, the "servant" continues to remain the master. And while there have been good and even great public servants in Pakistan's history, their greatness owes little to the institution. It is that special individual who sometimes manages to build a small circle of excellence in spite of it all. I think of the recent events hosted by the Pakistan Academy of Letters, and feel a sense of pride and inspiration. Yet, I also know it will not last. And the greatest challenge is that despite our systemic reforms only begins post-retirement, when the powerful are suddenly left weak and

I write this piece on the back of my recent experience and extreme frustration with the Islamabad Electric Supply Company — I am. My fellow citizens across the country are welling from this very such agencies currently do business. The aim, it seems, is to rob the citizens through procedural obfuscation and human apathy. Our structures and systems have become criminalised and decay has long since left the building. My heart breaks for my country. But a little voice inside my head raises a sneaky question — don't people deserve the rulers they get? If that is the case, my fellow citizens, we are all to blame. ■

The writer is an independent development professional and legal advisor with over 25 years of experience designing and managing programmes to improve people's lives. samialiahan21@gmail.com

OPINION

BY RASHID AMJAD



Reforms & the IMF

STRUCTURAL reform is a prerequisite for Pakistan's sustained economic growth. But put it bluntly, given our population and labour force growth rates, we need to grow at six per cent at a minimum to reduce poverty, unemployment and regional disparities. Yet, whenever we try to do so, the economy runs into a balance-of-payments crisis and faces the threat of a default. To overcome this binding constraint, we need to undertake painful structural economic reforms.

Unfortunately, most people believe that we are forced to carry out stringent economic reform only because we borrow from the International Monetary Fund, and, had it not been for the IMF, we could have carried on our economic train as before — paying little or no taxes, using cheap, subsidised electricity, running high fiscal deficits, and letting our domestic and foreign debt from donors and foreign commercial banks pile up. This is not true. We need reforms because we are not prepared to face the fact that we must change the irresponsible way we currently live and run the economy, with the result that we are forced to go to the IMF again and again or risk defaulting and being declared bankrupt.

If we were to accept this fact and start implementing the needed reforms — which, it must be said, even an underground student of economics could draw up — we could not go back to the IMF again, nor would finance minister loss the confidence and the people's backing to ensure that Pakistan was on its way to implementing sensible, doable reforms, he would not have felt the need to call our ambassador in Washington frequently to ask when the IMF Board was due to meet and approve our requested loan of \$7 billion. After all, the IMF is a bank — even if of last resort — and if no country were to borrow from it, the IMF would simply close.

To return to the fundamental question: why are we incapable of carrying out the economic reforms that we desperately need? The standard answer is that the ruling elite — which owns and controls the means of production and thus benefits from the rents of an inefficient and exploitative system — does not allow this to happen.

To put it another way, an Oxford economist Stefan Beroes argues, the ruling elite has to see the writing on the wall and build a strong coalition to actively support reforms and accept them. Otherwise, they will not survive long. Sadly, Prof Beroes met his Waterloo in Islamabad, where he recently presented a report along these lines at the request of the government of Pakistan, which duly chose to ignore it.

It is a fallacy that the ruling elite and, more importantly, the people of this country, are against undertaking reforms. As history bears witness, we are by nature a pragmatic people and can adjust to change when needed. These traits are what have given us the resilience to survive repeated periods of adversity and prosper over time. The traders who opposed reforms and taxes, primarily because any attempt to do so will require them to document their actual incomes, or the middle class, which cannot pay their mounting utility bills, are certainly not part of the ruling elite.

Who, then, stands in the way?

The first are the political elite, many of whom unfortunately do not have the required democratic credentials to be considered legitimate representatives of the public and now want to earn themselves "name" the hardships that such reforms will impose on the already hard-pressed middle and working classes. The second is indeed the IMF itself, which forces a pace and sequencing of reforms that aggravate public hardships. Its philosophy of providing safety nets to the poorest makes economic sense, but these nets do not provide sufficient coverage to those in need.

The third, of course, are the global markets and our selected friends — China, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, for example — which have, over time, lost their confidence in our ability to carry out the economic reforms we promise while signing an agreement to do so.

Therefore, let us accept the reality as we face it, and form a strong coalition that has the political will to ensure the reforms we need, drawing on a political elite with sound credentials, which the people accept and support. This will also bring in greater confidence on the part of global financial markets as well as among our nervous friends who are reluctant to roll over our debt, leave aside lending us more.

We can then show our disdain to the IMF. Till then, let us not shoot ourselves in the foot — indeed, both feet — by threatening them, as our current political elite is doing. At the moment, we really have no choice but to stand still. ■

The writer is a professor at the Lahore School of Economics and former vice-chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.



BY PARVEZ RAHIM

Outsourcing matters

AN entrepreneur investing in establishing a manufacturing unit or setting up a business will aspire to get maximum returns in terms of profit from his initiative. Depending upon the magnitude of investment, he will have no control over the labour market to secure the welfare and health of workers and avoid legal issues.

In Pakistan, half-hearted attempts were made in the 1990s to introduce a similar law, but the effort did not materialise. However, in the beginning of the current century, the federal government and Punjab and Sindh, respectively, have promulgated ordinances regulating the outsourcing of security services by security companies.

These ordinances require the security companies to get themselves registered with the government. Unfortunately, there are no provisions in the three ordinances guaranteeing the payment of minimum wages to the security guards and compliance with laws on daily working hours and the weekly rest days. As a result, most of the companies to whom these services are let out violate the laws to the detriment of security guards.

Progressive employers force contractors to ensure compliance with all laws.

The Punjab Private Security Companies Regulation and Control Ordinance, 2002, is the only state which provides for the group life insurance of guards for a paltry amount of Rs200,000 and mandatory registration with the social security institution.

The responsibility to ensure compliance with the laws rests both with the service providers as well as the companies to whom these services are provided.

Besides, the core job in which workers employed through contractors work under the direct supervision and control of the principal employer and along with the latter's own workers, cannot be outsourced. In this context, there are two landmark judgments of the Supreme Court dated May 16, 2013, and Dec 8, 2017, respectively.

In 2013, the management of Fauji Fertiliser plant at Mianwali was directed by then chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhary to regularise the services of 112 workers. In 2017, the management of Pakistan State Oil had to regularise the services of 210 workers on the direction of then chief justice Nisar Ali, at its head office in Karachi. ■

The writer is a consultant in human resources at the Aga Khan University Hospital and M白沙德 Rust.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Close to agreement

ISLAMABAD: The delegations of India and Pakistan appeared very close to an agreement when they met for the day this evening (Sept 13) after two days of talks on reconnection of travel facilities and restoration of postal and telecommunications links.

Approached by waiting journalists after the talks, the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr Kewal Singh, said: "We are very near an agreement". Pakistani Foreign Secretary, Mr Agha Shahzad, said: "I confirm it". Mr Kewal Singh indicated that a joint communiqué may be issued tomorrow. — Islamabad Bureau

Meanwhile, as reported by news agencies from the US, the US Secretary-General Dr Kurt Waldheim, warned ... that the situation in the Middle East "remains very explosive and dangerous". Speaking at a luncheon ... Dr Waldheim said the sense of urgency, "which dominated our approach to the Middle East question last October and in the following months, must be rekindled". ... Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had talks in Washington ... with US President Gerald Ford on supplies of modern weapons to the Israeli army and the "possibility" of a settlement in the Middle East. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was also present.

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Points of dispute

NEW YORK: The principal concern of Pakistan at the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly will be the Kashmir question, Chaudhry Zafarullah Khan, Pakistani Foreign Minister, said on arrival here yesterday (Sept 12). — He told reporters that Pakistan had accepted the terms proposed by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan for a "settlement of the dispute".

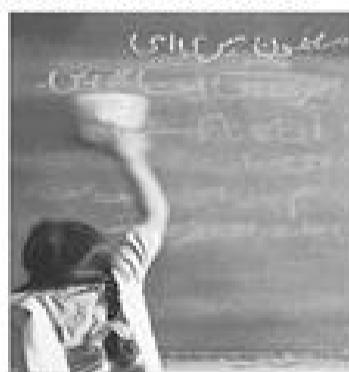
[He] referred to two other matters... One related to the control of the Rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej which, he said, had become "international" as a result of partition. Pakistan suggested that this subject should be referred to the International Court of Justice failing any agreement between here and India. ... Chaudhry Zafarullah Khan said that the third issue was the question of overseas property. — News agencies

[Meanwhile, according to news agencies in Karachi], Mr Adam Taylor Smith, former Director of Operations, Civil Aviation Department, was yesterday (Sept 13) found guilty of committing fraud against the Government of Pakistan, of absence of duty, and of breach of the Indian Aircraft Rules and sentenced to two years' simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs4,000.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Education in Sindh deserves attention



THE District Education Performance Index Report released recently (Aug 23) by the Planning Commission has portrayed a sorry state of education affairs and an alarming situation of school education systems in Pakistan.

According to the report, none of the 134 districts falls within the very high performance category, which merely features Islamabad. More than half of the districts that fall in the low performance category are in Balochistan (33) and in Sindh (22).

After the passage of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, administrative and financial powers have been devolved to the provinces. Each province has taken steps to improve the existing infrastructure and available facilities for enhancing the standard of education.

As far as education in Sindh province is concerned, the government has enacted a comprehensive education law, increased budgetary allocation for school education, recruited thousands of school teachers in different grades, released substantial funds to school management committees, and distributed free text books. Despite all this, where does the fault lie?

In Sindh, on ground, the position is that out of 49,000 schools, employing 1,10,000 teachers, only 36,629 schools are functional. According to recent data, 5,129 schools are shelterless, 26,200 schools have no drinking water facility, 19,429 schools are without a boundary wall, and 33,000 schools are without electricity.

Likewise, on the administrative side, short-notice and non-professional appointments, absentee teachers in large numbers, outdated teaching skills, political interference in the process of transfers and postings, and overall bad governance.

For moving up to the high performance category from the current low performance

category, a lot of extra efforts are needed to address all the relevant issues through a multi-pronged approach.

This comprehensive strategy, once in place, must include plans to improve infrastructure, provide basic facilities, professional training to teachers that keep them updated with the latest teaching methodologies, regular performance evaluation, review of curriculums, efficient management in financial matters, timely supply of textbooks to all schools, especially those located in remote areas of the province, and an effective supervisory role of all officials posted at various levels.

Sohail Jaffrani
Karachi

Healing touch

THE chequered political history of the country suggests that our political and democratic institutions worsened due to the imperialist approach adopted by those who opposed collaboration even for the sake of national interest and harmony. Since the emergence of the 'third party option' in our political dispensation in 2011, we have seen a colossal damage to our political dynamics. This has exacerbated our woes and eroded the trust of the people in the domestic process.

The only thing that crosses all lines during its rule with unprecedented impunity as if it was granted an exclusive mandate.

Once out of power, the only as well as its followers attacked several sensitive security institutions and demolished the monuments of the nation's martyrs. Undoubtedly, there is no denying the fact that the government has dealt with the perpetrators of such incidents leniently and non-seriously.

The country needs to avoid a collision course at this critical juncture of history. It needs a healing touch to come out of the pernicious and divisive political environment for peaceful coexistence and prosperity of the already poverty-stricken people whose lives have been made miserable by rampant poverty, serious hyperinflation and exorbitant utility bills owing to the economic meltdown.

Sajad Khan
Attock

Big fish, small fries

CHIEK historian and general Thucydides rightly said that the strong people do what they have to do, and the weak people accept what they have to accept.

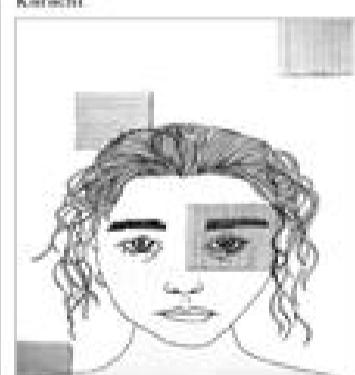
The words come to my mind especially when the sergeant-at-arms and his four subordinates were suspended by the speaker of the National Assembly for the arrest of opposition members from the

assembly of the legislative house by some unidentified people.

There is no doubt that the speeches made during the recent so-called power show by the opposition were highly and utterly objectionable as well as unfathomable, but the steps taken in lesser-jerk reaction were equally condemnable, just not acceptable in democratic set-ups.

But what impresses me is that the man who made the atmosphere so poisonous was subsequently arrested, perhaps for a cup of tea, and then delivered to his home district safely, while small fries, like the security staff, were suspended from services. With all the limitations of his office, the least the speaker can do is to remove the suspension order of the security staff.

Mushtaq Qadri
Karachi



Priya forgotten?

DESPITE the fact that a large number of people have expressed solidarity with the Hindu community in demand to recover Priya Ramani and recompense the child with her family, there has been no trace of the girl. It has been three years now.

The unfortunate Priya was abducted on the 12th of November while she was helping her synaptic father distribute winter to motorists in Sargodha, a small town near Lahore. Despite widespread outcry, mobilised in campaigns and public demonstrations, the mystery surrounding Priya's disappearance remains unsolved.

The prolonged saga of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) formed earlier was inconclusive, and the case was closed in April this year to file a report.

The public is weary of these committees, which are being used primarily as an excuse aimed at delaying the dispensation of justice.

The pattern of forming JITs as a tool of procrastination is evident in similar high-profile cases, like that of Faiza Nabi, kidnapped in 2002, and the nine family

members of Manzoor community who were abducted in 1998. Despite the formation of many JITs, no justice was done to the superior judiciary, and the passage of 17 and 26 years, respectively, these cases have remained dormant, illustrating the state's helplessness against powerful landlords and the entrenched system.

It has now become imperative for the authorities to act decisively to bring the criminals to justice. The nation must unite to ensure Priya's safe return that will restore her grieving family's smile.

Qaiser Saeed
Nokhrapar

Preserving history

I RECENTLY visited Khairpur, about 100km from Islamabad, with my family on a pleasure trip. It is a quiet town with a small population and wonderful weather. During a morning walk, I saw many old military barracks and quarters being occupied by government schools and departments as well as by some private citizens. These landmark buildings aroused my curiosity about the hill station's colonial past, but there was no information centre or any facility in the area to satisfy my curiosity.

While wandering in the town, I came across a mid-sized native man who told me a few things about the place and its colonial past. He said the weather of the town was very similar to that of the United Kingdom, and, during the British era, the place used to be a regular summer destination for officers and their families.

The man claimed that after Partition, the abandoned properties of the empire were occupied by powerful people of the area, and the government managed to reclaim only a few.

On return to my room, I searched the internet to learn about the town's colonial history, but could not find any detailed articles on my laptop, but unrelated ads for various products cluttered my screen, disrupting the learning experience.

Social media platforms have become breeding grounds for such advertising. Our online experiences are being invaded by these intrusive ads, undermining the purpose of online education and information. Forcing users to watch unwanted advertisements is not effective promotion. In fact, it is counterproductive, leading to rather increased annoyance. Can something be done in this regard?

Muhammad Saleem
Islamabad

► NEW CHARGE: I got my K-Electric (KE) bill for the month of August and was surprised to note that one of the items charged was 'STRUCT OKMC', which I later found related to Municipal Utility Charges and Tariffs (MUC) that the KE is collecting on behalf of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC). I have two separate meters for ground and first floors. Interestingly, the demand on one was for Rs150, while on the other it was Rs150. My house is located in Defence Housing Authority (DHA) Areas, and we pay our rates to the Corporation Board Clifton (CBC). Naturally, we have nothing to do with the KMC. I fail to understand why I should pay charges related to the KMC. Can someone be kind enough to explain this?

Kausar Latif
Karachi

► POLITICAL GEMMICK: This is with reference to the report "Imran's chancery had criticised in UK paper" (Sept 2). I understand that the elections for the position of chancellor of Oxford University will be held in the last week of September. The voting is online and the electoral college consists of 250,000 eligible voters.

Coming to the high values of Oxford University, does the man really qualify and deserve the position he is aspiring for? I suspect that his qualifications for the post of chancellor is more of a political gimmick to gain political mileage domestically.

Asif Ali
Islamabad

► SOCIAL MEDIA AD: As I noted in an online programming language class recently, it was irritated by intrusive ads on my screen on YouTube. Even after I turned off my laptop, the unrelated ads for various products cluttered my screen, disrupting the learning experience.

Social media platforms have become breeding grounds for such advertising. Our online experiences are being invaded by these intrusive ads, undermining the purpose of online education and information. Forcing users to watch unwanted advertisements is not effective promotion. In fact, it is counterproductive, leading to rather increased annoyance. Can something be done in this regard?

Muhammad Saleem
Islamabad

External Objection

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

ExternalObjection@geocities.com

Reopening of Angoor Adda border demanded

By Our Correspondent

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN The tribunals staged a demonstration in Wazir Bazaar of Lower South Waziristan district here on Friday, demanding of the authorities to resume trade activities at the Angoor Adda border crossing.

The gathering was organised by political parties, including Pakistan Khawaja Millat Awami Party, Jamiat-e-Islami, Pakistan People's Party, Pardman Tahafuz Movement and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf.

Tribal elders, political leaders and residents participated in the gathering. They urged the federal government and the security officials to address their legitimate demands.

The speakers, including Imran Masih, Asadullah Haroon, Khayal Mohammad and Maulana Tariqullah Waiz, highlighted the sacrifices made by the Wazir tribes of Lower South Waziristan for the country's sake, and demanded an end to the 'suppression' of tribal people.

They said that continuing suspension of trade activities at the Angoor Adda border crossing was tantamount to economic murder of local people.

The political leaders also asked the authorities to meet the demands of the people, who had been continuing a sit-in at the Angoor Adda border for one year.

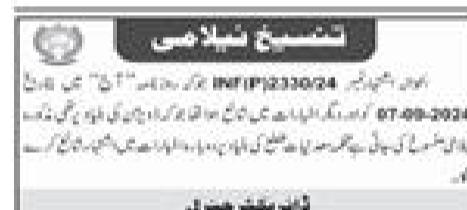
Jamrud tehsil chairman to be elected on Oct 20

KHYBER A day after the election commission announced the postponement of the elections for the post of Jamrud tehsil chairman due to 'prevacuous law and order situation' in the region, the district administration announced to hold the by-election on Oct 20.

An election commission notification dated Sept 11 and issued the next day stated that the decision regarding the postponement of elections for Jamrud tehsil chairman was taken after a request from the provincial government, while citing the infeasibility of law and order situation in the area.

The elections were earlier announced to be held on Sept 25 with strict curfewing by the contesting candidates in full swing despite a protest by Kalashniks, a major tribe of Jamrud, for return of their remaining displaced families.

The announcement immediately drew the wrath of both the contesting candidates and the political parties' representatives, who rejected the EC decision and accused the provincial government of its failure to effectively control the law and order situation.—Correspondent



PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY (PTA)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Hiring of Consultant for Interior Designing of PTA HQs, F-5/1, Islamabad

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority invites Electronic Proposal from the Consultants Firm/Individual Consultant, registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department for the services of Interior Designing of PTA HQs, F-5/1, Islamabad. Method of selection Least Cost will be used.

Electronic Request for Proposal containing detailed requirements, terms and conditions is available for the registered bidders on EPADS at (<http://epads.paktelco.gov.pk>).

The Electronic Proposal, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the RFP, must be submitted through EPADS on or before 31 October, 2024 11:00 AM. Manual bids shall not be accepted. The electronic Proposals will be opened on the same day by using EPADS at 11:30 AM.

In terms of Rule 48 of Public Procurement Rules, 2004 Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) is constituted for subject procurement. Notification of said GRC is provided on the epads.gov.pk and on EPADS at (<http://pprocurm.gov.pk>).

Engr.Anil Saeed
Director (Civil Works)
PTA HQs, F-5/1, Islamabad
Ph: 051-9225357, 9225352 Fax: 051-2678149
Email Address: anil.saeed@pta.gov.pk

BUITEMS
Bukharian University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUITEMS) awards service bids from interested bidders/interested respondents with Taxation Department (Active Engagements), for the following purchases:

Tender Date	Tender Submission	Tender Opening
06-10-2024 09:00 PM (PTI)	06-10-2024 09:00 PM (PTI)	

1. Tender Documents can be obtained from Director Business Development on payment of Rs.1,000/- (one thousand/-), in the form of Bank Challan on company's name/P.O no. PTA in favor of the Director Business Development (Bank Branch: HBL Bank), the payment challan shall also be included in addition to the tender documents for vendor documents required in tenders.

2. Single Stage – Two Envelopes Bidding Procedure shall be followed.

3. Sealed bids must be supported with current currency at 2% discount of the total bid value, in the form of C.I.F.R.I.U.P./P.O/Border's Charger in favor of the Director Business Development – BUITEMS.

4. Sealed bids are required to be submitted at the Directorate of Procurement, BUITEMS Airport Road, Bahria Town Lahore.

5. Sealed envelopes must clearly state the Tender Title.

6. Unsealed envelopes may be rejected at the Directorate of Procurement, BUITEMS Airport Road, Bahria Town Lahore.

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BUSINESS

Multilaterals push for digital reforms to boost trade amid challenges

Say policies, regulations should enable remote transactions, promote affordable access

By Khadeeq Khan

GENEVA As Pakistan struggles to digitise domestic trade and revenues, and entrepreneurs and consumers face online challenges, particularly in recent months, the leading multilateral institutions have called upon the governments, especially in developing and least developed countries, to invest in digital literacy, infrastructure and regulatory environments to reap maximum benefits from the largest and fastest growing international digital trade.

"Governments need to put in place a regulatory and policy environment that not only facilitates trade in a digital world but also generates inclusive and sustainable outcomes," said a new report jointly prepared by the World Trade Organization (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and

the World Bank.

The report, titled Digital Trade for Development and released on Friday, said that policies and regulations "should enable remote transactions, enhance trust in digital markets, promote affordable access and support cross-border delivery".

It added that a "predictable and interoperable environment that provides appropriate safeguards related to online transactions — such as data privacy, consumer protection and cybersecurity — is essential for the digital trade ecosystem to thrive".

The authors advised that laws and regulations that ensure easy entry and exit of firms, effective competition and an open trade regime promote healthy competition. Estimates suggest that improved digital connectivity would be an effective at lowering trade costs in middle- and low-income economies with an enabling regulatory environment for digitally delivered services.

The report found that cross-border digitally delivered services were the fastest-growing segment of international trade, with new players emerging. Digital trade refers to all international trade digitally ordered and/or digitally delivered.

According to WTO estimates, digitally delivered services have recorded an almost bi-fold increase in value since 2005, rising 8.8pc on average per year

over the period 2005-22, surpassing 5.8pc in goods and 4.2pc in other services exports to account for 54 per cent of total services exports. With new ways of obtaining, comparing, opportunities arise for new players to engage in global markets, including for farmers to connect to markets and for small businesses to trade via parcels.

The experts noted that while developed economies were responsible for the majority of digitally delivered services exports, they had also grown in most developing economies. That said, growth in least-developed countries (LDCs) continues to lag. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the gap between the most and the least advanced economies in terms of exports of such services widened further.

The research found that some economies were more prepared to seize opportunities and take on challenges associated with digital trade, highlighting the importance of digital skills. "In general, to engage in and benefit from digital trade, consumers and businesses must have access to fast, affordable and reliable digital infrastructure as well as the skills and capabilities to use digital technologies for productive activities," it observed.

The report also noted that an estimated 5.4 billion people, or 42pc of the world's population, were able to connect to the internet at present, doubling the number

of people connected only 10 years ago. Yet, 2.2bn people, or one-third of the global population, remain offline, most of them in low- and lower-middle-income economies.

High tariffs on imports of information and communication technology (ICT) equipment, restrictions on imports of enabling services and limited competition in telecommunications services can reduce affordability and slow down the adoption of these technologies.

The group of multilaterals advised for a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy to improve the adoption and effective use of digital technologies. This strategy should include "investments in physical and digital infrastructure, enhancing digital literacy and skills, and adopting regulatory frameworks that are conducive for digital trade", it said, adding that efforts to bridge socioeconomic and cultural divides were also crucial.

Bridging the digital divide and strengthening the resilience of developing economies to benefit from digital trade requires both domestic and international regulation, the multilaterals development partners said. In this respect, they called for more international financial and technical support to build the capacity of developing economies to improve connectivity and skills and to regulate relevant digital trade.

Roadshow strengthens US-Pakistan economic ties

ISLAMABAD The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Friday said that the US and Pakistan continue to strengthen their long-standing partnership through innovative economic initiatives.

After the conclusion of the "Pakistan Investment Roadshow", USAID said in a press statement that the show exemplified the collaboration by showcasing the potential of Pakistani firms to US investors in New York, San Francisco and Washington.

The roadshow is a key part of USAID's broader mission to promote economic growth in Pakistan by attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and enhancing bilateral trade.

The series aimed to raise \$15 million in FDI commitments by connecting 27 curated Pakistani firms with US investors eager to explore emerging markets. These firms, representing sectors such as artificial intelligence, healthcare, fintech, agribusiness, cleantech, and software as a service, showcased their innovative solutions and potential for scaling globally.

In New York, the Chamber's Panel Discussion highlighted Pakistan's tech ecosystem, featuring prominent CEOs and founders discussing technology trends and investment challenges.—Reporters

Businesses seek another 300bps cut in policy rate

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI Expressing disappointment over the 200 basis points cut in the benchmark interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Thursday, the business community has demanded an immediate reduction in the rate by another 300bps to facilitate the trade and industry facing extreme liquidity crunch.

In a statement issued on Friday, the United Business Group (UBG), representing top businesses and institutions, said the 200bps cut is insufficient to spur growth.

"While a 200bps cut will provide a slight relief to businesses, in reality, traders, exporters, importers, and small businesses are facing severe financial challenges, primarily due to a liquidity crunch," said the statement. It said this situation has been worsened by economic challenges, particularly the sharp rise in business costs and record-high energy tariffs.

"Although the reduction is a positive step by the SBP in the current circumstances, it remains insufficient," said the statement.

UBG President Zahid Tafail and top leaders demanded a further 300bps cut to improve the mounting situation. They said the interest rate should be brought down to single digits and a long-term, sustainable monetary policy should be devised.

They said the 200bps cut conflicts with the facts on business, industrial, and trading communities who are disappointed with the monetary policy across the country, as it continues to carry a heavy premium over commercial inflation.

According to market estimates, core inflation for September is expected to hover around 18pc, while global oil prices have fallen to a three-year low and dropped below \$70 per barrel this week, said the UBG statement. Therefore, the SBP had no compelling reason not to announce a substantial cut in the interest rate, it added. They said the interest rate should have been immediately brought down to 12pc to meaningfully reduce the cost of capital for importers and allow them to compete in regional and international markets.

However, Pakistan Business Council (PBC) Chairman Malik and the SBP Monetary Policy Committee's decision to adopt a cautious approach by limiting the cut to 200bps is inappropriate.

The impact on inflation of delayed increase in power tariffs, the increase expected in prices due to recent budgetary measures, uncertainty on global fuel and food prices and the gaps to achieve a medium-term 3-7pc inflation target together provide valid reasons for maintaining a relatively high interest rate.

Diamer-Bhasha dam termed crucial for water, food security

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has directed all relevant departments to prioritise the completion of the Diamer-Bhasha dam project and avoid further delays to ensure Pakistan's water and food security.

The minister chaired a review meeting on the progress of the Diamer-Bhasha dam project. The secretary of planning, Wapda chairman, and senior officials from relevant departments attended the meeting.

An official spokesman said that Diamer-Bhasha dam is a crucial project for the country's water and food security and must be completed expeditiously in the national interest. The minister said that until 2038, the estimated construction cost of the dam was Rs475bn, and Rs120bn had already been spent on land acquisition.

However, the project cost has increased significantly due to delays and unnecessary postponements during the previous government. The minister said that in 2020, construction was finally started without proper financing, which further compounded the problems.

He suggested that the dams and power projects be separated and the financing of the power project be obtained from the private sector. He further said that even after six years, the revised PC-I of the project still needs to be prepared.

He also said that in the future, projects will be completed under the public-private partnership to avoid delays in funding and completion. Diamer-Bhasha dam will provide storage of 6.5 million acre-feet of water, which is important for the country's agriculture and industry. Mr Iqbal emphasised that engineering and hydrology students from universities should be involved in dam construction so that they can benefit from this national project.



ACCORDING to official data, the prices of 16 food and household items increased on a week-on-week basis, while the rates of 14 commodities decreased.—PPB file

Short-term inflation rises on costly food, power

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD Short-term inflation, measured by the Sensative Price Index (SPI), rose 18.36 percent year-on-year in the week ending Sept 12 owing to an increase in prices of essential food items.

The SPI-based inflation returned to a modest increase after a seven-week consecutive deceleration. It increased by 0.019pc from the preceding week, according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data released on Friday.

The upward trend in short-term inflation is due to the rising prices of perishable food products, such as tomatoes and chicken, while electricity rates also increased week-on-week.

However, petrol prices fell slightly in the last three weeks, lowering the transportation cost of perishable items. The government has also hinted that fuel prices will drop beginning next week.

The weekly inflation hit a record 48.35pc year-on-year in early May 2023, but then decelerated as low as 24.4pc in late Aug 2023 before surging past 40pc during the week ending Nov 16, 2023.

The items whose prices saw the increase week-on-week included items

such as 6.62pc, electricity charges for Q1 (4.13pc), chicken (3.77pc), pulse grain (2.43pc), garlic (2.42pc), beef (1.13pc), mutton (0.71pc), milk fresh (0.11pc), card (0.1pc), gorgonite (0.06pc) and shirt (0.04pc).

The items whose prices declined the most over the previous week included biscuits (0.64pc), pulse maize (0.31pc), wheat flour (0.37pc), LPG (0.36pc), eggs (0.35pc), potassium (0.36pc), pulse mensor (0.35pc), pulse mungo (0.35pc), onions (0.35pc) and washing soap (0.22pc).

However, on annual basis, the items whose prices increased the most included gas charges for Q1 (57.9pc), onions (58.26pc), pulse grain (55.79pc), powdered milk (25.72pc), beef (25.28pc), shirt (21.6pc), chicken (21.59pc), garlic (19.52pc), pulse mungo (17.05pc), salt powder (15.24pc), gorgonite (13.23pc) and energy saver (12.22pc).

In contrast, the prices of seven items dropped 28.34pc, followed by chicken (15.64pc), petrol (15.01pc), sugar (13.38pc), electricity charges for Q1 (3.47pc), cooking oil 5 Litre (0.90pc), rice basmati broken (0.59pc), ghee (0.39pc), pulse mensor (0.13pc), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.12pc) and LPG (0.1pc).

Stocks make small gains despite rate cut

By Muhammad Kashif

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVE GAINERS		LOSERS		LEADERS*	
Unilever Foods	102.80	Hospital Pakistan	49.00	WorlCell Telecom	87.80
Home Industries	93.87	Dynex Pakistan	26.02	Parrot Consultancy	75.91
Saroya Industries	65.50	Shaid Corporation	20.60	Kohinoor Spinning	63.75
Pakistn Eng	43.00	Hartmark Company	17.61	First Cap. Securities	55.51
Mati Petroleum	33.97	Philip Morris	14.79	Pesa Pakistan	35.10

*Based on a sample of market stocks

INDICATORS		
KSE 100-SHAKE INDEX (points)	29,883.00	29,874.00
KSE 50-SHAKE INDEX (points)	25,027.00	24,993.00
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	106,421.93	106,366.77
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	85.89	85.86

said that the committee will review Pakistan's RTI law and focus programme for approval on Sept 25 boosted the market sentiment.

In its review, Tipline Securities said the rate

and DMF based market were the two key catalysts for today's bullish trend anticipated by the investor community.

Initially, the PSE com-

menced the day as per expectation and made an

intraday high at 80,016.74,

gaining 399 points or 0.23pc. However, selling pressure pushed the benchmark KSE index below this level, hitting a low of 79,292.72. However, it settled at 79,333.00,

after gaining 315.44 points or 0.40pc day-over-

day.

The trading volume

surged 54.75pc to 96,027.00 million shares, and the traded value increased by 25.77pc to Rs21.23m day-

over-day.

Foreign investors turned net sellers as they offloaded shares worth \$2.8m.

US DOLLAR BUYING Rs27.50 SELLING Rs29.76	EURO BUYING Rs207.99 SELLING Rs211.00
GDP BUYING Rs26.30 SELLING Rs26.63	UAE DIRHAM BUYING Rs19.62 SELLING Rs19.76
PSA RIAL BUYING Rs14.73 SELLING Rs14.82	YAH BUYING Rs227.90 SELLING Rs227.90

N. Korea shows first images of banned uranium enrichment site

MONSUL: North Korea for the first time showed images on Friday of the centrifuges that produce fuel for its nuclear bombs, as leader Kim Jong Un visited a uranium enrichment facility and called for more weapons-grade material to boost the arsenal.

The state media report on Kim's visit to the Nuclear Weapons Institute and a production base for weapons-grade nuclear materials was accompanied by the first photos of the centrifuges, providing a rare look inside North Korea's nuclear programme, which is banned under multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The photos showed Kim walking between long rows of metal centrifuges, thin machines that enrich uranium. The report did not make clear where the visit occurred nor the facility's location. Kim urged workers to produce more material for tactical nuclear weapons, saying the country's nuclear arsenal is vital for countering threats from the United States and its allies.

The weapons are needed for "self-defence and the capability for a pre-emptive attack," he said.

The North Korean leader said "anti-DPRK nuclear threats" from "US imperialist vassal forces" have crossed the red-line, according to the report.

South Korea condemned North Korea's travelling of its uranium enrichment facility and said it would never accept Pyongyang's possession of nuclear weapons, the South's unification ministry said.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby would not comment on the images. "I would simply say that we continue to monitor North Korean progress, both in their open nuclear ambitions as well as their ballistic missile technology and programmes," Kirby told reporters.—Reuters

The Hague to ban fossil fuel ads

THE HAGUE: The Dutch city of The Hague has become the first in the world to pass local laws banning advertisements for fossil fuels, petrol cars and gasifiers air travel.

The administrative city of over 500,000 residents late on Thursday adopted groundbreaking legislation to outlaw ads, including for cheap last-minute holidays and electricity contracts.

The law comes into effect on Jan 1.

"The City Council of The Hague adopted two proposals to ban fossil advertising in outdoor spaces," council spokesman Jordy Kraan said.

The first proposal will inform advertising agents

that fossil fuel advertising is not permitted, while the second completely banned all fossil fuel advertising in public spaces.

"We believe that applying binding laws to ban fossil fuel advertising throughout legislation is a 'worldfirst,'" Leontine Gerritsen, a Hague council member for the Party for Animals (PvdD), said.

"We hope that this law will also give a signal to other cities to do the same to fight climate change," Gerritsen, one of the main drivers of the legislation, said.

Other cities in the world have started against fossil fuel ads, but The Hague is the first to enact binding legislation.—AFP



A JUNE 7 file picture shows Marcel Malanga (centre, second row) with other accused at a prison in Kinshasa. Marcel is the son of Christian Malanga, the mastermind behind the coup attempt.—AFP

Russia expels six British diplomats for 'spying'

MOSCOW: Russia's security service said on Friday it had revoked the accreditation of six British diplomats in Moscow after accusing them of spying and sabotage work, signalling the Kremlin's anger at what it sees as London's vital role in helping Ukraine.

Britain described the accusations as "completely baseless", saying it was a tit-for-tat action after the UK expelled the Russian defence attaché and removed diplomatic status from several Russian properties in May.

Russia announced the expulsions hours before talks in Washington between British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and US President Joe Biden, a crucial step towards securing the go-ahead for Kyiv to use long-range missiles against targets in Russia.

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday

that the West would be directly fighting with Russia if it allowed Ukraine to strike Russian territory with Western-made long-range missiles, a move he said would alter the nature and scope of the conflict.

The Kremlin said on Friday that Putin had delivered "what it deserved as a clear and unambiguous message to the West, which it seems had been heard."

Washington said London accuse Iran of delivering ballistic missiles to Russia for use against Ukraine, calling it a dramatic escalation. Russia and Iran have denied any such deliveries.

The FSB, the main security agency to the Soviet KGB, said it had documents showing that a British foreign office department in London responsible for Eastern Europe and Central Asia was coordinating "escalation of the political and military situation" and was tasked with ensuring Russia's strategic doctrine in its war against Ukraine.

"The facts revealed give grounds to consider the action of British diplomats sent to Moscow by the directorate as threatening the security of the Russian Federation," the FSB said in a statement.

"On the basis of documents provided by the Federal Security Service of Russia and as a response to the numerous unfriendly steps taken by London, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, in cooperation with the agencies concerned, has terminated the accreditation of six members of the political department of the British Embassy in Moscow in whose actions signs of spying and sabotage were found," it said.

Britain and Russian accusations against the diplomats were baseless.

"The Russian authorities revoked the diplomatic accreditation of six UK diplomats in Russia last month, following action taken by the UK government in response to Russian state-directed activity across Europe and in the UK," a British Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

Long-range missiles

Russia's move to expel British diplomats reached up tensions between Moscow and London, hours before Sunak landed in Washington to advance talks on getting the green light from Biden for Kyiv to use Britain's Stinger Shadow missiles, which have a range of more than 250km, inside Russia.

Sources say the meeting is another step in talks to allow Ukraine to use Western long-range missiles against targets in Russia.—Reuters

Boeing's factory workers go on strike, halting 737 MAX production

SEATTLE: Boeing's US west coast factory workers walked off the job on Friday after overwhelmingly rejecting a contract deal, halting production of the plane maker's strongest-selling model and sending shares down over two per cent.

The first strike since 2008 comes as the plane maker is under heavy scrutiny from regulators and consumers after a dozen fatal blow-off a 737 MAX jet mid-air in January.

The mounting crisis hit Boeing's stock and sparked a leadership upheaval. The shares fell 2.1 per cent in the early morning trading session. The stock has lost nearly 38

per cent so far this year, losing \$28 billion in market value.

New CEO Kelly O'Hearn was brought in just weeks ago to restore faith in the plane maker and proposed a deal including a pay raise of 25 per cent over four years, far lower than the 40 per cent workers had demanded.

Roughly 30,000 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) members who produce Boeing's top-selling 737 MAX and other jets in the Seattle and Portland areas, voted on their first full contract in 16 years, with 94 per cent rejecting it and 96

per cent favouring a strike in a two-part ballot.

"This is about fighting for our future," said Jon Holden, who headed the negotiations for Boeing's largest union before announcing the vote results on Thursday evening. The union will get back to the table as quickly as it can, Holden told reporters, without saying how long he thought the strike would last or when talks would resume.

Boeing said it was ready to get back to the negotiating table, a sign that it could re-visit the deal.

"The message was clear that the tentative agreement we reached

with IAM leadership was not acceptable to the members. We remain committed to repairing our relationship with our employees and the union," the plane maker said in a statement. Boeing said it had offered workers everything it could and needs to plan for the investments needed to replace its best-selling single-aisle models, while placating striking workers.

A long strike could badly hit Boeing's finances, already straining due to a \$60bn debt pile. To cover debt amortisation, Boeing needs to generate enough cash flow. Banks of America said Boeing

would likely have to move closer to IAM's initial wage proposal.

Boeing's challenges

The proposed deal included a \$30,000 signing bonus and a pledge to build Boeing's next commercial jet in the Seattle area, provided the programme was launched within the contract terms.

Although IAM leadership recommended last Sunday that its members accept the contract, many workers responded angrily, arguing for the original demand and an annual bonus.

Workers have been presenting all

week in Boeing factories in the Seattle area that assemble MAX 777 and 787 jets.

On Friday, members in the union hall cheered and chanted "Strike! Strike! Strike!" and shortly after midday, striking workers started to gather outside Boeing factories in the Seattle area. Many waved placards that read "On Strike Against Boeing" and drivers honked horns to support.

"We're willing to strike for two months or even longer. Let's go as long as it takes to get what we deserve," said James Marrs, a 25-year-old who works in a wings division.—Reuters



RIPON: Visitors look at huge cabbages in a giant vegetable competition on the first day of the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show at Harrogate Hall country house in northern England, on Friday.—AFP



BERLIN: Kenya's President William Ruto and wife of German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier play table tennis during a festival, on Friday. The German president uses the festival to promote voluntary work.—AFP



NEWSMAKERS



Timberlake given community service in drunk driving case

NEW YORK: Popstar Justin Timberlake was handed a sentence of community service on Friday after the charged his plea to guilty following his arrest for drunk driving, US media reported.

On June 18, the 43-year-old superstar was pulled over in the town of Sag Harbor, about 160 kilometres east of New York City, after police observed his BMW go through a stop sign and struggle to stay within road lanes.

Judge Carl Isaac handed Timberlake a community service sentence and ordered the star to make a public statement after the singer pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of driving while alcohol impaired, broadcaster NBC reported.

The charge is a traffic violation that carries a fine between \$300 to \$500 and a 90-day license suspension.

Timberlake told法院 that he would

be willing to perform between 25 and 40 hours of community service to settle the case, NBC reported.

"Selfish" star

"I try to hold myself to a very high standard for myself. This was not that. I found myself in a position where I could have made a different decision," Timberlake said outside the court.

"Even if you've had one drink, don't get behind the wheel of a car, there's so many alternatives," added Timberlake, who wore a dark cardigan and a pearl necklace.

"I grew up in a small town so I am apprehensive and understand the strain, or unique nature, of what this case has been for the people of Sag Harbor... I'm very grateful and I thank them," —AFP



MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and president-elect Claudia Sheinbaum wave from a vehicle as they attend a ceremony marking the 177th anniversary of a Mexican battle.—Reuters



SAINT-JORY (France): Environmental activists opposed to the construction of a railway line climb a tree in order to save it from falling.—AFP

WHO hails Gaza anti-polio drive as a 'massive success'

GENEVA: The WHO chief hailed on Friday the success of the first phase of a giant polio vaccination campaign in Gaza after more than 560,000 children received a first dose.

"This is a massive success amidst a tragic daily reality of life across the Gaza Strip," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X.

Disease has spread with Gaza lying in ruins and the majority of its 2.4 million residents forced to flee their homes due to Israel's military assault — often taking refuge in cramped and unsanitary conditions.

After the first confirmed polio case in 25 years, a massive vaccination effort began on Sept 1 targeting at least 90 percent of children under 10, aided by localized "humanitarian passes" in fighting.

The first phase of the campaign, which brought vaccines to children in central Gaza, then the north, and finally to the hardest-to-reach north of the territory, wrapped up on Thursday.

A fresh campaign to provide a needed second dose is due to begin in about four weeks in Gaza, besieged for over 11 months.

"We admire all the health teams, who conducted this complex operation," Tedros said, also vowing gratitude to the families for turning out to get their children vaccinated against polio.

Poliomyelitis, most often spread through sewage and contaminated water, is highly infectious. It can cause deformation and paralysis, and is potentially fatal. It mainly affects children under the age of five.

The WHO has said that area-specific humanitarian passes were respected, allowing the campaign to go ahead, and has urged a broader halt in fighting to help establish humanitarian corridors and the delivery of desperately-needed throughout the war-torn territory.

"Imagine what could be achieved with a ceasefire?" Tedros said. —AFP

SA seeks veto rights for Africa in UNSC

PRETORIA: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Friday welcomed Washington's support for two permanent seats for African nations on the UN Security Council, but said releasing them veto rights would make them "second-class citizens".

The United States said Thursday that it supported creating two permanent seats for Africa but they should not wield veto power over council resolutions, unlike the current permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Not having a continent of 1.3 billion people represented on the Security Council diminishes the role of the United Nations, Ramaphosa said at a press conference.

However, refusing them the same rights as the other permanent members "means that we become second-class citizens once again", he said. —AFP

'Constitutional Package' set to see light of day

Continued from Page 1

interested in a "person-specific" change in the law, not one endorsed for an extension in his term.

Despite attempts by opposition parties to enforce strict discipline among their ranks, it is rumoured that the government had managed to win over some PSL-aligned lawmakers who are apparently willing to jump ship to lend their support to the ruling coalition.

The government has been busy trying its best to sway JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman — a long-time ally of the Sharifis. If he does indeed lend his support to the "Constitutional Package", the government will be in commanding position in the Senate, but would still be short of around four to five votes in the National Assembly.

A constitutional amendment is passed or rejected through open ballot, in which those who go against their party's stance cannot conceal their vote.

An official of the National Assembly Secretariat said that although the government was apparently short of the number of votes it required, past precedent indicated that the amendments could be passed through some backdoor deals.

He quoted the example of the election of incumbent Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, who was elected even though the ruling alliance seemingly did not enjoy the support of the required number of senators.

Venezuela warns Spain against 'interference' in its affairs

CARACAS: Venezuela warned on Friday that it would respond to "interference" from Madrid in its affairs amid a deepening stand-off with Spain over its fierce criticism of strongman President Nicolas Maduro.

Relations between Spain and its former colony came to near breaking point after a Spanish minister called Maduro's government a "dictatorship" on Thursday, prompting Caracas to recall its ambassador to Madrid for consultations and announce Spain's envoy to Venezuela for tales.

After the meeting with Spain's ambassador, Foreign Minister Reyes Gil said in a statement on Friday that Caracas would "accept no interference from the Spanish government" in its affairs and would "take the necessary steps to protect its sovereignty".

Madrid has been at loggerheads with its former colony since a disputed presidential election in Venezuela in July.

Spain last week granted asylum

to opposition candidate Fernando Gómez de Urdaz, who was threatened with arrest after claiming victory in the vote which the opposition accuses Maduro of stealing.

The escape of the 75-year-old prompted a show of support in Spain for the Venezuelan opposition.

Spain's Defense Minister Margarita Robles on Thursday dismissed Maduro's government as a "dictatorship" and expressed her support for "the Venezuelans who had had to leave their country" because of his regime.

The remarks infuriated Maduro's loyalists, who were also angered by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's decision to meet with Gómez de Urdaz earlier that day.

Gil called Robles's comments "rude and inexact" and the head of Venezuela's parliament called for her with Madrid to be cut.

Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares tried to cool the rhetoric and downplay the spat on

Friday, saying it was Venezuela's right to recall its ambassador.

"We are working to have the best relations possible with our Universal兄弟 in Venezuela," he told public radio.

Spanish lawmakers have called to urge Sanchez's government to recognize Gómez de Urdaz as the "legitimate winner" of the election, which Maduro claims he won despite international skepticism.

Spain supports "democracy".

Sánchez published a video on X showing the Spanish premier walking in the gardens of his official residence with Gómez de Urdaz and the opposition figure's daughter Carolina Gómez, who lives in Spain.

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ISRAELI soldiers stand at the entrance of a tunnel in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, on Friday. —AFP

Israeli troops raided Syria missile site, say US media

BERLIN: Israeli forces helicoptered into Syria days ago and destroyed an underground missile production facility built under Iranian supervision, two US media outlets said on Thursday.

The Israeli military, which has carried out hundreds of strikes on Syria since its civil war started in 2011, said "we do not comment on reports in foreign media" when asked about the operation.

Syrian authorities said 18 people were killed in Israeli strikes on "military sites" in Hama province's Mayad area. The Israeli assault targeted the Baal Abbas site, a precision missile production and development factory.

"Helicopters dropped down dozens of Israeli forces who were able to enter the weapons production site and destroy it," US news site Axios said.

Before troops descended, Israel

launched intense strikes that also destroyed a separate "scientific research centre" in Mayad used for weapons development where Iranian experts worked, it added.

Israeli warplanes and drones were involved in the operation, which took more than three hours, said the London-based Syrian Observatory, which relies on a network of sources inside Syria.

Strikes blamed on US claimed by Israel have hit Syria frequently since October, including targeting Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has traded near daily fire with Israeli forces in support of ally Hama.

Axios, citing three sources briefed on the operation, reported that an Israeli army unit with helicopters and apparently missile materials from the missile facility, according to the report. —AFP

The factory's destruction appears to be a significant blow to an effort by Iran and Hezbollah to produce precision medium-range missiles on Syrian soil", the report said.

Iran "decided to build an underground factory deep inside a mountain in Mayad because it would be impossible to interceptable to Israeli air strikes", it added.

The New York Times reported that an Israeli "commando raid" in Syria "destroyed a Hezbollah missile production facility near the Lebanese border", citing American and other Western officials.

The operation included a raid by Israeli special forces, who rappelled down from helicopters and apparently seized materials from the missile facility, according to the report. —AFP

Toronto festival drops Russian war film screening after threats

OTTAWA: A controversial documentary film on War about Moscow's invasion of Ukraine was to be screened to North American audiences on Friday, but the Toronto International Film Festival passed the screening after receiving "significant threats".

Any change in membership would first require adoption and ratification by two-thirds of the 193 member states.

Reform of the Security Council, long-stalled because of differences among its permanent members, would also need to be ratified unanimously among the five top-tier powers, which are all nuclear-armed.

African nations already have three non-permanent seats on the Security Council, allocated on a rotating basis for two-year terms.

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—AFP

Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland — called on the festival organizers to drop the film, but they refused until now.

"We have been made aware of significant threats to festival operations and public safety," festival organizers said in a statement.

"This is an unprecedented move for TIFF," read the statement, adding "Given the severity of these concerns, we cannot proceed as planned."

It began in 2004 following the publication of the Joe Report, which saw shockwaves around the country. It found that at least 3,800 girls were abused, trafficked and

seen the film, he noted that the filmmakers had expected a backlash in Russia. "Because in the film the Russian soldiers say they're fed up with this war".

In the film she embedded with a Russian battalion as it advanced across eastern Ukraine after Moscow launched its invasion in February 2022.

Additional screenings in Toronto scheduled over the weekend have also been passed.

One of the film's producers Philippe Lavalette said on Friday: "It's not that we've come to this point." Continuing to hold out hope that audiences will still get a chance to

see the film, he noted that the filmmakers had expected a backlash in Russia. "Because in the film the Russian soldiers say they're fed up with this war".

He said he also understood "very angry reactions" on the Ukrainian side, but he insisted it was important to tell "all facets of this story".

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Putin draws line on Ukraine use of Western missiles

- Warns green light will mean Nato at war with Russia
- Starmer in Washington for talks with Biden on the issue
- Zelensky wants to fire US, UK missiles deep into Russian territory

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Friday that President Vladimir Putin had delivered a clear message to the West about the consequences it will face if it allows Ukraine to hit Russian territory with Western long-range missiles.

The warning came as the leaders of Britain and the United States met on Friday in Washington on whether to let Kyiv fire Western-made long-range missiles into Russia — an option that has sent tensions soaring with Moscow.

Putin said on Thursday that the West would be directly fighting with Russia if it allowed Ukraine to strike Russian territory with Western-made long-range missiles, a move he said would alter the nature and scope of the conflict.

"The statement made by President Putin yesterday is very important, it is extremely clear, unambiguous and does not allow for double readings. We have no doubt that this statement reached those it was intended for," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

President Volodymyr Zelensky has been pleading with Kyiv's allies for months to let Ukraine fire Western missiles, including long-range US ATACMS and British Storm Shadow, deep into Russian territory to limit Moscow's ability to launch attacks.

Zelensky said on Friday that he will meet US President Joe Biden "this month" to present his "victory plan" on how to end two and a half years of war with Russia.

He also said Kyiv's recent offensive into Russia's border region of Kursk had "shocked" Moscow's advance in eastern Ukraine and that there are currently 40,000 Russian troops fighting in the area.

But he accused the West of being too "afraid" to even raise the possibility of shooting down Russian missiles and Iranian drones, even though it was helping Israel to do so.

President Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer will discuss whether to give the go-ahead for such strikes at talks in Washington on Friday.

Putin said on Thursday that such a move would drag the coalition supplying Kyiv with long-range missiles directly into the war. He said satellite-targeting data and programming of the missiles' flight paths would have to be provided by Nato military personnel,

Imran booked for allegedly inciting official to mutiny

Ex-PM refuses to answer FIA about his social media post in absence of lawyers; minister alleges post aimed at creating chaos, anarchy

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Friday registered a case against PTI founder and former premier Imran Khan for inciting government officer to mutiny, sources said.

An FIA team comprising investigation and technical officers visited Attock jail to question the PTI founder in connection with a controversial post on his official X account, but the personnel returned empty-handed after the insisted he would not join the interrogation without the presence of his lawyers.

In a statement, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ahsan Iqbal earlier said the FIA would probe into the handling of the PTI founder's

as Kyiv did not have the capabilities itself.

"If this decision is taken, it will mean nothing less than the direct involvement of Nato countries, the United States and European countries in the war in Ukraine," he said, and Russia would be forced to take "appropriate decisions".

"This would in a significant way change the very nature of the conflict. It would mean that Nato countries, the US, European countries, are at war with Russia," he said.

Not Ukraine missiles?

British media reported that Biden, who is wary of provoking a nuclear conflict, was ready to let Ukraine deploy British and French missiles using US technology but not US-made missiles themselves.

Responding to Putin's warning, Starmer told UK media travelling with him that "Russia started this conflict. Russia illegally invaded Ukraine. Russia can end this conflict straight away."

In a sign of increasing tensions, Russia's FSB security service announced on Friday that the accreditation of six British diplomats had been withdrawn and accused them of spying.

But London dismissed the claims as "completely baseless" and indicated they were a tit-for-tat measure after it slapped new restrictions on Russian diplomats in May.

The talk comes with Biden on his way out of office and November's US election a toss-up between Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump.

Trump repeatedly refused to take sides on the war during a debate with Harris on Tuesday, saying only "I want the war to stop."

Roden said on Tuesday that he saw "working" on Ukraine's demands, while top US and British diplomats Antony Blinken and David Lappin made a rare joint visit to Kyiv on Wednesday.

Blinken promised that Washington would move quickly to review Kyiv's longstanding request and would "adjust, if we'll adapt as necessary" to help Ukraine defend itself.

Washington currently authorizes Ukraine to only hit Russian targets in the occupied parts of Ukraine and some in Russian border regions directly related to Moscow's combat operations.—Agencies

special media accounts, which were being used allegedly to "create chaos and anarchy" in the country, and "undermining the national security", adds APP.

Mr Tariq said it would be ascertained who was the handler of his social media accounts, and whether such posts were being made on his behalf or it was done on directives of someone else. He said a batch attempt had been made to compromise against the sitting chief justice and heads of other institutions. Through these posts, he tried to meddle in the proceedings against three major state institutions, which was highly condemnable.

He said the PTI founder would be investigated in this regard. The message posted on the social media from the PTI founder's account was "tantamount to sedition, and creating an anarchy" in the country.

He said the PTI founder, in the post, had once again related himself with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, but he seemed to be elated about the current situation in Bangladesh where the latter's statue were demolished by the people after realising the truth.—Staff Reporter

NA passes cannabis control and regulatory authority bill

Dawn Report

KARACHI: The National Assembly on Friday passed a bill to regulate the cultivation of cannabis, and the sale of derivatives of the plant for medicinal and industrial use, Dawn reported.

Earlier this week, the Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology approved the country's first-ever Cannabis Authority Bill after a delay of over four years due to disputes between ministries over its jurisdiction.

The committee unanimously passed "The Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority Act 2024" with amendments that seek the inclusion of two members — one of whom must be a woman — in the board of governors of the authority, along with other revisions to the bill's clauses.

The idea of legalising the production of medicinal hemp in Pakistan was floated in September 2020 by Fawad Chaudhry, the minister for science and technology, but the Ministry of Narcotics Control had raised objections, claiming that the matter fell under its jurisdiction.

Later, the Ministry of Food Security expressed concerns about approving research and pilot cultivation of medicinal hemp, citing potential negative impacts on food cultivation in the country.

On Friday, the NA passed the bill to regulate the cultivation of cannabis plant, extraction, refining, manufacturing and sale of derivatives of the plant for medicinal and industrial use.

The bill, known as the "Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority Act, 2024", extends to the whole of Pakistan and will come into effect immediately as soon as it receives the president's assent.

Per the text of the approved bill, cannabis was defined as "seeds (chancery) that in, or separated from, either crude or purified, obtained from the cannabis plant or leaves of the cannabis plant and also includes concentrated, prepared and resin known as hashish and hashish oil (liquid hashish)."

Cannabis was further defined as "the floating or floating tops of the cannabis plant including the seeds and leaves when not accompanied by the tops from which the seeds has not been extracted, by whatever name they may be designated or known and include all forms known as hashish, hashish oil and liquid hashish."

Upon the commencement of this act, an authority will be established (Cannabis Control and Regulatory Authority) to carry out the purposes of the act under the administrative control of the concerned division.

The primary purpose of the authority will be to "ensure public health and safety by regulating the cultivation, extraction, refining, manufacturing, and sale of cannabis and its derivatives in accordance with international obligations and best practices."



CHIEF Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal greets his supporters after Supreme Court granted him bail, on Friday.—AFP

India's top court frees Modi's opponent Kejriwal on bail

US think tank Freedom House says BJP has "increasingly used government institutions to target political opponents"

amounts to unjust deprivation of liberty, Supreme Court Justice Sanjay Karia said in a verdict.

Kejriwal was bailed on a ₹11,200 bond on the conditions that he did not make public comment on the merits of the case against him, did not visit his office and refrained from engaging in political activities.

The politician had earlier been bailed by the same court for several weeks to allow him to campaign in this year's general elections, returning to custody once voting concluded.

His government was accused of corruption when it implemented a policy to liberalise the sale of liquor in the capital three years ago, reverting a lucrative government stake in the sector.

The policy was withdrawn the following year, but the resulting probe into the alleged corruption allegations of Kejriwal has since led to the jailing of two top Kejriwal allies.

Rallies in support of Kejriwal, who has consistently denied wrongdoing and refused to return his post after his arrest, were held in numerous other big cities around India after he was taken into custody.

The 56-year-old has been chief minister for nearly a decade and first came to office as a staunch anti-corruption crusader. He had resisted multiple attempts from

the India's financial crimes agency, Enforcement Directorate, to be interrogated as part of the probe.

Target political opponents

Modi's political opponents and international rights groups have long sounded the alarm on India's shrinking democratic space.

US think tank Freedom House said that the BJP had "increasingly used government institutions to target political opponents".

Rahul Gandhi, leader of the opposition Congress party and scion of a dynasty that dominated Indian politics for decades, was convicted of criminal libel last year after a complaint by a member of Modi's party.

The 65-year-old former minister was bailed by the same court for several weeks to allow him to campaign in this year's general elections until the verdict was suspended by higher court, and raised concerns over democratic norms in the world's most populous country.

Kejriwal and Gandhi are both members of an opposition alliance formed to compete against Modi and his party which made significant inroads in this year's election.

The BJP lost its majority in that vote for the first time since Modi was swept to office in a 2014 landslide and is now reliant on coalition partners to govern. —AFP

Spanish PM hosts meeting on two-state solution for Palestine

Asks international community to take a 'decisive step' towards a just and lasting peace in the Middle East

MADRID: Ministers from Muslim and European countries, along with the European Union's foreign affairs chief, gathered in Madrid on Friday to discuss how to advance a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"Together, we want to identify the concrete actions that will enable us to make progress towards this objective," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez wrote on social network X.

"The international community must take a decisive step towards a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," the Socialist prime minister added.

Sanchez welcomed participants

at his official residence before the start of the meeting at the foreign ministry in central Madrid, hosted by his top diplomat Jose Manuel Albares.

In attendance were Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mashaal and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar and Turkey — all members of the Arab-Balcanic Contact Group for Gaza — as well as the heads of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

The European Union was represented by its foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell as well as the foreign ministers of Ireland, Norway and Slovenia, in addition to Spain.

"The implementation of the two-state solution is the only way to ensure a just and lasting peace in the region through the peaceful and secure coexistence of the state of Palestine and the state of Israel," Albares told a news conference.

Asked about Israeli absences from the meeting, he said the country had not been invited because it belonged "neither to the group of Europeans nor to the Arab-Islamic contact group", but stressed he would be "delighted" if Israel took part in discussions on the two-state solution.

Calls for the solution have grown since the start of Gaza invasion by Israel over Oct 7.

The Spanish premier has been one of the strongest critics of Israel's Gaza offensive. Under his watch, Spain on May 28, along with Ireland and Norway, formally recognised a Palestinian state comprising the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Earlier this month, he announced that the first "official summit" between Spain and Palestine would be held before the end of the year.

He said he expected "several collaboration agreements between the two states" to be signed.—AFP

EU diplomat faces lack of engagement during key visit

Insiders say officials 'skipped' meetings with special envoy on freedom of religion, whose findings can affect Pakistan's GSP+ status

By Aslam Khan

ISLAMABAD: A special envoy from Brussels concluded a factfinding trip to Pakistan on Friday, where among the diplomatic community that the visit could have gone better for Pakistan if top officials had engaged with the mission as planned.

Ambassador Frans van Daele, special envoy of the European Union for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief, met a number of key officials during his working trip.

The mandate of the special envoy involves raising awareness and engaging with state and non-state actors, civil society, churches, faith-based and religious organisations, as well as non-confessional organisations on issues to prevent and address violations of the freedom of religion and belief.

But while Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Aslam Sabir, Law Minister Asma Naseer Tariq and Foreign Secretary Amanatullah Soochan had time for the diplomat, other key officials are said to have skipped meetings



AMBASSADOR Frans van Daele with Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani.—X/EU-Pakistan

with the EU diplomat.

Although there was no offi-

cial word from either the government or the EU delegation,

insiders said such as Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Interior Minister Khawaja Asif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif did not meet with the EU delegation.

The meetings that did not happen... confirmed the impression that certain voices — which are some of the key voices on these issues — do not seem ready to engage in this matter," a well-placed diplomatic source told Dawn.

The working visit gave the EU the opportunity to hear the full range of views on freedom of religion or belief before next year's monitoring mission, which is exactly the point of a fact-finding trip like this, said the source, who was privy to developments.

It should be noted that the status of religious freedom in the country is one of the benchmarks for retaining the duty-free access to European markets through the Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) regime.

Pakistan's status is up for review in 2027 and another extension for unchanged exports to Europe will greatly depend on how the country can demonstrate its commitment to upholding all global human rights obligations.

Ambassador Daele said that the next GSP+ monitoring mission to Pakistan is expected in early 2025.

According to an official source, the ambassador has encouraged Pakistani authorities to continue to implement relevant international conventions to facilitate the country's reapplication for the GSP+

SPORT

Pakistan end Nomad Games with three bronze medals

By Jurnal Shahid

ASTANA: The fifth World Nomad Games ended on Friday with hosts Kazakhstan securing most medals and Pakistan coming in at 18th position with three medals.

Kazakhstan secured 115 medals including 44 gold medals with Kyrgyzstan second with a total of 65 medals, ahead of Russia (86). Pakistani athletes secured three bronze medals, winning their first medal on the opening day.

During the six-day event, Kazakhstan's capital hosted around 2,500 participants from 89 countries, bringing together representatives of various cultures and ethnicities in a grand celebration of sports and nomadic traditions.

Participants in the sports programme of the Games were competing in 21 different sports. Throughout the week, around 100 events of the cultural programme had been held daily in the urban-village — a special designated venue for the events.

The Games, presented as a celebration of the cultural heritage of nomadic civilisations and the unique sports and traditions passed down through generations, included cultural performances and athletes' parades. Competitions include horseback archery, martial arts, falconry, and traditional wrestling.

Nadal out of Laver Cup

BARCELONA: Rafael Nadal will not compete at the Laver Cup next week in Berlin, said the 22-time Grand Slam champion in a statement released by tournament organisers on Thursday.

The Laver Cup pits a European team against a World team. Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe will captain the two 12-player squads, as they have in all the previous editions.

Nadal pulled out of the US Open in August as he did not feel he could perform at his best.

Nadal missed virtually all of the 2023 season because of a hip injury and has only taken part in one of the last seven Grand Slams.

The Laver Cup said a replacement player for Team Europe would be announced soon. The competition takes place between Sept 20-22.—AFP



BOLOGNA: Netherlands' Botic van de Zandschulp serves during his the Davis Cup Group A singles tie against Brazil's Joao Perneta at the Unipol Arena.—Reuters

'Impressive' Germany sweep past Chile in Davis Cup

PARIS: Germany swept past Chile to keep their perfect record after two ties in the Davis Cup group stage finale on Thursday with wins also for Canada, Australia and the Netherlands.

Despite the absence of their top four players, including world number two Alexander Zverev, the Germans dominated their Group 'A' tie 3-0 in Z黵ich, Switzerland.

The group also includes the United States and Slovakia.

In Manchester, England, Canada beat Finland 3-0 without dropping a set in Group 'B', Australia winning by the same scoreline over the injury-hit Czechs in Group 'B' in Valencia, Spain.

In Group 'A' in Bologna, Italy, the Netherlands took the doubles to beat Brazil 2-1.

In Z黵ich, Matthias M黱ker, ranked 104, and 96th-ranked Yannick Hanfmann won their singles tie in straight sets.

Martina Saurin, Tomas Berdych, Vasilisa Voronina and Martina Hingis won their singles tie in straight sets.

In the doubles, Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz then teamed up to

beat Barbara Visca and Mattheus Sato 6-3, 6-3.

"Before our first match we said 'okay we need six matches out of nine,'" said Germany captain Michael Kohlmann. Germany also beat Slovakia 3-0 on Tuesday.

"Now we have won six out of six, I think that's pretty impressive."

Germany will next play the United States, 22-time champions, on Saturday.

Chile, who lost 3-0 to the United States on Wednesday, play Slovakia on Sunday.

In Manchester, Felix Auger-Aliassime, ranked 21 in the world, put Canada ahead with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over 100th ranked Filip Krajinovic.

Denis Shapovalov, who is 100th in the ATP rankings, then beat Karen Khachanov, who is 340th, 7-6 (7/2), 6-2.

The two Canadians then teamed up to beat Vasek Pospisil and Hubert Hurkacz 6-2, 7-5 in the doubles.

"We couldn't ask for more today," said Canada captain Frank Dancevic. "Felix had an amazing performance in the singles and the guys stepped it up in the doubles. It was phenomenal. It was such a clean day."

The Canadians, who beat Argentina 2-1 in their opener, top their group.

Britain, who beat Finland 2-3 in their opener, are second with matches to come against Argentina and Canada.

In Valencia, the Czech Republic entered the competition with two players ranked in the top 40, but ended Thursday without either.

For the opening singles, Jakob Hlavaka replaced Jiri Lehecka, ranked 37th, against Thanasi Kokkinakis.

Hlavaka started at 6-2, 11 points higher than the Australian, but Kokkinakis won 6-2, 6-7 (7/3), 6-3.

The match between Australia's Alexei Popyrin and 54th-ranked Tomas Machac lasted barely five minutes.

Machac, who retired hurt against Carlos Alcaraz in the opening match, took the court with his cast strapped and retired after losing the first game.

"It was for sure my worst day as captain," said Czech Republic's Jaroslav Navratil.

"Thinking all last night why we are not day parting in singles, it was not easy. I was sleeping just three hours. But that was the situation, a hard situation for us."

"We have two players, one injured and one playing since last night, the other with a fever of 38 degrees, so what can I do? We tried our best."

Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell then finished past Jakob Hlavaka and Adam Pavlásek 6-4, 6-2 in the doubles to seal a commanding 3-0 win for the Australians who top the group ahead of Spain, who are led by Carlos Alcaraz.

In Bologna, Brazil's Joao Perneta beat Botic van de Zandschulp in the opener before Tatian Grishkoapeva fought back for the Dutch, overcoming Thiago Monteiro 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

Van de Zandschulp then teamed up with Wesley Koolhof in the doubles which saw the Dutch pair edge past Rafael Matos and Marcelo Melo 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) to clinch a 2-1 victory.

The group also contains Italy and Belgium, who both won their opening matches 2-0.

The top two nations in each of the four groups in the round robin competition will qualify for the eight-team final in Madrid, Spain, on Nov 19-24.—AFP

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Chopra was attacked outside her home in Eldoret, Kenya, on Friday, and relatives paid their respects on Friday in the Rift Valley town of Eldoret, where she lived.

Chopra is the third athlete to have died in Kenya as a result of gender-based violence since 2021, provoking a global outpouring of tributes and rage.

Tony Njinda, Chopra's uncle, described her as "a pillar to the family" and expressed his sadness over the loss.

As the body passed through the town of Eldoret, scores of activists lined the road with others walking alongside the funeral cortege.

At a rally the same day, 82-year-old Dickson Njema Marangach, was also severely beaten and died in hospital on Monday.

A 2023 report by Kenya's National Bureau of Statistics found 24 per cent of women had experienced physical violence since the age of 15.—AFP

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AFC launches standalone Women's World Cup preliminaries

SHANGHAI: Asian sides will qualify for the 2023 Women's Football World Cup via a standalone competition for the first time, the continent's governing body said on Friday.

The Asian Football Confederation announced it would create a three-round preliminary competition starting in 2027 to determine the continent's qualifiers for the finals.

The host nation for the 2023 tournament has yet to be decided.

Participants have previously been decided by performances at the Asian Games or Women's Asian Cup, with Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines joining hosts Australia as the continent's representatives in the 2023 edition.

The new format will see the lowest ranked teams feature in the opening round to determine qualifiers for a 24-nation second phase, which will include the continent's top eight sides.

Teams will then be divided into six four-team centralized biogeographic formats with the top two advancing to the third round.

These groups of four teams will then compete in a home-and-away group format with the number of qualifiers for the finals determined by the confederation's allocation.

The next edition of the Women's World Cup will be played in Brazil in 2027, with the Women's Asian Cup — to be hosted by Australia one year earlier — acting as the last chance at the continent's qualifiers for the finals.

The decision to create the qualifying tournament was taken by the confederation's executive committee in a series of moves to overhaul the calendar for women's football in the region.

A men's two-phase qualifying competition for the 2023 edition of the Women's Asian Cup, to be played in Uzbekistan, has also been launched.

The preliminaries for the 2026 Olympic Games will be introduced to feature the top eight finalists from the 2023 Women's Asian Cup, down from the 24-nation qualifiers that determined Asia's representatives in Paris this year.—Reuters

Maradona medical team's negligence trial postponed to next year

Buenos Aires: An Argentine court on Thursday delayed to March 2025 the long-awaited criminal trial of seven of the eight medical professionals accused of negligence in the death of Argentina football legend Diego Maradona.

The trial was set to start next month, after a previous postponement in May, but is now on track to begin on March 11 next year, according to a ruling seen by AFP.

Maradona died on November 2020 at age 60 while recovering from brain surgery for a blood clot, after decades of battling cocaine and alcohol addictions.

He was found dead in bed two weeks after going under the knife, in a rented house in an exclusive Buenos Aires neighborhood where he was brought after being discharged from hospital.

He was found to have died of a heart attack.

In 2023, an Argentine appeals court said that neurologist Leopoldo Losos, psychiatrist Agustina Casalier and six others, including nurses, would stand trial in the matter, rejecting an appeal.

One of the seven, Gisela Dabizzi Madrid, has asked to be tried separately, and her trial will proceed as planned on Oct 2.

Prosecutors have accused the eight medical professionals of providing "reckless" and "deliberate" home treatment to Maradona.

A panel of 20 medical experts convened by Argentina's public prosecutor concluded in 2021 that Maradona "would have had a better chance of survival" with adequate treatment in an appropriate medical facility.

The trial prison sentences ranging from eight to 25 years.—AFP

World Cup star Son Jun-ho leaves Korean club after match-fixing ban

SEOUL: South Korean World Cup midfielder Son Jun-ho had his contract with top-tier蔚山现代 terminated on Friday by mutual consent, three days after Chinese football banned him for life for alleged match-fixing.

"With the idea that we can no longer leave our fans who have been supporting the players and the team all year in confusion, the club has accepted a request by Son to terminate his contract that he made out of consideration for his teammates and fans," the club said in a statement.

Son, 32, gave a tearful press conference on Wednesday in which he confessed his innocence, having been among 13 people banned this week by the Chinese Football Association.

Son played for Shandong Taishan in the Chinese Super League, returned to South Korea in March, having spent 10 months in detention in China.

Choi Soontae, Son's sporting director, said: "We sincerely apologize to the蔚山现代 supporters and all Korean football fans for any concern this situation may have caused."

According to Yonhap, public sentiment has turned against Son since a press conference that the news agency said "left more questions than answers". An emotional Son denied wrongdoing and accused Chinese authorities of blackballing him to force a confession.—Agencies

Activists join funeral march for Uganda Olympian Cheptegei



AGADES: Cheptegei is assisted as she mourns her daughter and Olympian Rebecca Cheptegei at the Moi Teaching & Referral Hospital funeral home on Friday.—Reuters

Paris, where she finished 44th.

Her funeral is planned for Saturday in Eldoret, home to her family in Uganda, but relatives in Kenya paid their respects on Friday in the Rift Valley town of Eldoret, where she lived.

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Afghanistan-NZ Test abandoned without ball being bowled

GREATER NOIDA: The one-off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand was washed out on Friday after five days of rain, just the eighth Test in history to be abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Afghanistan's adopted home, general at Greater Noida, on New Delhi's outskirts, has been hit by persistent rain over the past fortnight, forcing officials to call the match off without even staging the toss.

However, there were also question marks about the venue, which was hosting its first ever Test and has only basic drainage and facilities.

Despite some resilience on day one and two — and increasingly desperate ground staff using electric fans — the outfield remained waterlogged.

Afghanistan, who have won a three-in-white-ball cricket and hammered New Zealand at the T20 World Cup in June, are unable to host international matches because of the security situation at home.

"To try and play Test matches at this time of the year is tricky," Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott told reporters, referring to Indian monsoon season. "Disappointed that we weren't able to play and the water that came down is unprecedented at this time of the year."



NEW ZEALAND coach Gary Stead and his Afghan counterpart Jonathan Trott attend a news conference after the one-off Test between the two teams was called off at the Greater Noida Sports Complex on Friday.—AFP

New Zealand coach Gary Stead said they had spent the time in the gym and trying to amuse themselves at their hotel.

"Lack of batbowling cricket in the hotel," he said. "The most disappointing part for us is that we have lost that ability to be match-hardened and ready ready when we get into our Test next week."

The South African side, who did not complete a single training session due to the weather, will now travel to Sri Lanka for two Tests before returning for three more against India.

The last time an entire Test match was washed out was in December 1958, when New Zealand hosted India in Dumars.

An abandoned 1970 Test match between Australia and England in Melbourne gave birth to One-day International cricket.

The two teams in that contest decided to play a different match on the originally scheduled fifth day once the weather had relented, and it was later officially recognised as the first-ever ODI.

ELECTRIC RAIN

Some unusual methods were deployed to dry the ground this week at Greater Noida with fans used on wet patches that were dug up and replaced with new sand and grass.

The tactic proved little an unrelenting rain on day three, four and five pulled the ground, which was left with covers and puddles.

Afghanistan have successfully played six Twenty20 and five one-day internationals at the venue since 2017.

The country's cricket board said they chose Greater Noida again over other options due to proximity to the Delhi airport.

Trott said the abandoned match underlined Afghanistan's need to have a settled permanent venue for their home games.

"If you have one fixed venue then you could iron out the issues that would arise," Trott said.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has offered Afghanistan several venues to train and host matches outside their troubled nation.

Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) officials have been anxious about attracting the Greater Noida group, fearing it could spoil relations with the BCCI.

Afghanistan have participated in nine prior Tests after getting free status in 2017 and made a brief introduction in 2018 when they lost their debut match to India inside two days.

They have improved in the years since, winning three Tests.—AFP



MULTAN: Players in action during Pakistan's net practice session at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Friday, ahead of their three-match women's Twenty20 international series against South Africa. The opening fixture of the series is set to be played at the same venue on Sept 16—courtesy PCB.

Final report clears WADA over China swimmers who failed dope tests

MONTREAL: A final report has concluded that the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) did not show "bias or malice" towards China in the case of 23 Chinese swimmers who were cleared to compete after testing positive for a banned drug.

It did find WADA's anti-doping rules and administrative processes could be strengthened, which the agency itself acknowledged, and also criticised parts of the Chinese response to the positive tests.

The report's author, former prosecutor Eric Trott, said he found "WADA has done its work acceptably, independently and professionally, and that there is no evidence to the contrary."

This matched his interim findings announced in July, ahead of the Paris Olympics, where 11 of the Chinese swimmers who tested positive for a banned heart medication competed.

"Nothing in the file — which is complete — suggests that WADA showed favouritism or complicity, or in any way benefited the 23 swimmers," Trott said in the conclusion of his 52-page report.

He also found WADA's decision not to appeal CHINADA's decision not to bring forward anti-doping rule violations against the swimmers "reasonable".

Responding to Thursday's report,

US Anti-Doping Agency chief Travis Tygart, who has been an outspoken critic of WADA's handling of the affair, said the conclusions "only validate our concerns."

Cottier noted in the final report

that some anti-doping rules were not followed by the Chinese anti-doping agency (CHINADA), but added "it does not change the outcome of the case and the acceptance of the contamination by together".

While WADA management wants to close the book on this year

did regarding 23 positive TMB cases by Chinese swimmers, the full report released today by WADA's investigator only validated our concerns and even raises new questions that must be answered," Tygart said in a statement.

"Clean athletes give all to excellence and what this report shows is that the global anti-doping regulation did not give them the same in return."

Tygart called for a further investigation.

"The Cottier report itself speaks to the disparity need for this expanded investigation, noting, 'The sense of justice or injustice, however, goes far beyond the scope of this investigation,'" Tygart said.

"The ongoing failure to investigate and to answer the critical question of whether the 23 positive tests were due to contamination or intentional use will hurt athletes

around the world for years to come."

WADA director general Olivier Niggli welcomed the final report.

"There are 'certainly lessons to be learned by WADA and others from this situation,'" he said in a statement, while calling to follow recommendations to strengthen the global anti-doping system for athletes.

This includes improving WADA's internal guidelines for managing doping cases, improving communication about alleged cases with national anti-doping agencies and athletes; and optimising a database called ADAMS to alert officials when there are delays in analysing tests, for example.

WADA said a working group has been asked to submit recommendations in December.

Tygart said USADA was "disappointed" by the establishment of the working group which "has the

Leclerc bounces back from crash to go fastest in Baku

BAKU: Formula 1 driver Charles Leclerc crashed and then went fastest in practice for the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Friday while champion Red Bull's Max Verstappen was forced to end second practice after crashing half of the first session when he hit the wall.

Red Bull's Sergio Perez, a two-time winner in Baku and the driver with the best record around the city circuit, was a mere 0.006 slower.

Perez's teammate and Formula One leader Max Verstappen had been fastest in the three-times fastest first practice session with a lap of 1:45.546 on the dampened track, but dropped to sixth in the later one and complained of understeer.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton ended the day third fastest for Mercedes, 0.066 off the pace, after setting the second-best time in opening practice.

Red Bull's Sergio Perez, a two-time winner in Baku and the driver with the best record around the city circuit, was a mere 0.006 slower.

Leclerc, winner of the previous round in Italy and on pole for the past three years in Baku, bounced back with a late lap of one minute 45.482 seconds to land second practice after crashing half of the first session when he hit the wall.

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KARACHI
 Sunspot 06:38 pm
 Sunrise (tomorrow) 06:17 am
NEXT 24 HRS
 Minimum 27°C
 Maximum 31°C
 Humidity 74%
 Outlook Partly Cloudy

Uplift schemes to be looked after properly, Aurangzeb assures CM

KARACHI: Federal Finance Minister Mohammad Aslam has assured Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah that the federally-funded projects would be looked after properly.

He held out the assurance at a meeting with the chief minister (CM) at the CM House. They also discussed the overall economy and measures being taken to strengthen it.

The CM told the federal minister that the Sindh Revenue Board had been given Rs150 billion collection target during the current financial year. Similarly, the mechanism to collect agricultural tax was being strengthened, he added.

The finance minister stated that significant measures were being implemented to strengthen the national economy. The initial results were evident as the inflation rate had dropped to single digit, he said.

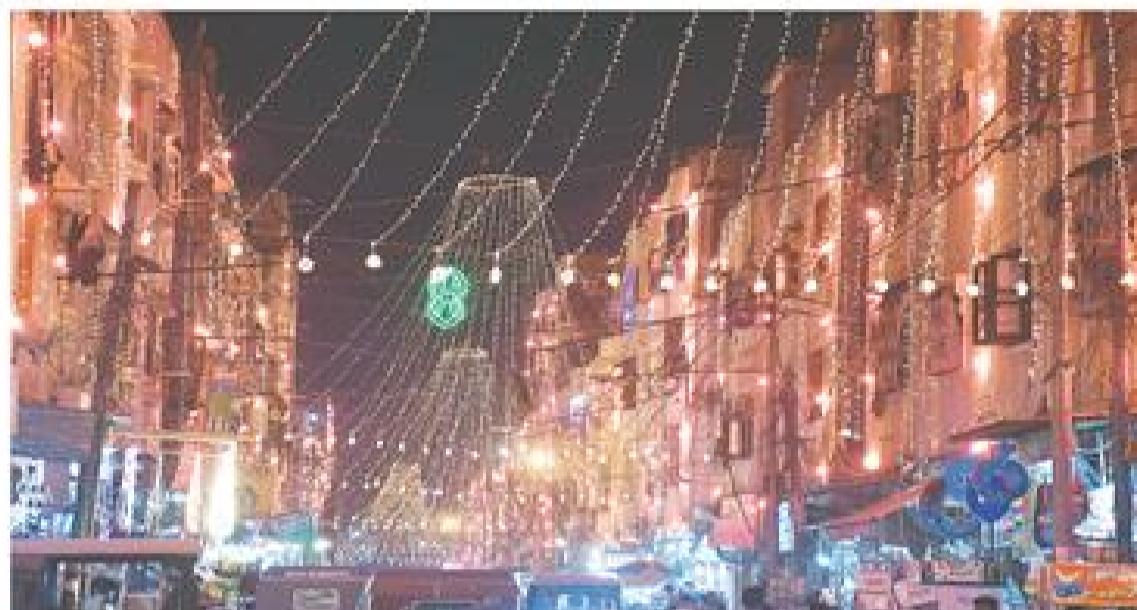
The Sindh CM took up the issue of federally-funded projects (Public Sector Development Programme) in Sindh for which funds were not being released, as a result even the ongoing project of Jamshoro-Sohawa road, to which his government had also contributed Rs7 billion, was going on at a slow pace.

He also discussed the dualisation of the Mehraan Highway.

It was agreed that the federal and provincial governments would work together to strengthen the national economy by promoting industrialisation and the agriculture sector, and by attracting investment.

The projects launched in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode by the Sindh government were lauded in the meeting.

The CM said the Thar Coal Mining project was the largest one launched in the PPP mode. Currently, the Mazar Expressway and Ghora-Kandhot bridge on the River Indus were major projects going in the PPP mode, the CM said.—APP



A STREET in old city area is festooned with colourful lights in connection with Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebrations. —Online

SHC seeks plan for 'high-level' board to tackle city's basic issues

Multiple organisations responsible for basic amenities in Karachi are not working under one umbrella, bench observes

By Ishaq Tareen

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has directed the federal and provincial governments to file proposals about formation of a high-powered board comprising all relevant bodies in the metropolis in order to regulate water, sewerage and other basic amenities.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Sabahuddin Panwala and Justice Aasaj Sabozi gave such directions while hearing a set of identical petitions filed against an administrative levy on water and wastewater

facility of potable water in the DHA and Clifton areas.

The bench said that issues of basic amenities in Karachi division were governed by different provincial and federal organisations. "It has come on record that all such bodies are not under one umbrella and there are overlapping and conflicting policies," it added.

At the outset of the hearing, the counsel for petitioners emphasised on the shortage of water in Sindh.

The bench in its order noted that there were overlapping and conflicting policies since various bodies were managing the issues of basic amenities in the city.

It also said that corporation boards had their own by-laws, whereas other entities had their separate rules and regulations.

The bench questioned under these circumstances how issues of sewerage, water, electricity, gas and plantation could be regulated.

"Judicial propriety demands to direct

federal and provincial government(s) to submit proposals with regard to formation of a high-level board comprising of all entities relating to affairs of services in public and private sector as well as basic amenities, functions and responsibilities to ensure interests of common citizens," the bench stated in its order.

A lawyer for the Corporation Board (CBB) sought time to file a compliance report in the light of a previous order of the court through which it sought an explanation as to why five million gallons per day of water being supplied to the CBB for its residents was being sold by tankers to the same residents who were paying taxes for such services.

The bench accepted his request and adjourned the hearing to a date to be later fixed by its office after four weeks.

Earlier, the SHC had observed that concrete steps were required to be taken by the

Continued on Page 14

Anti-beggary drive underway in Sindh to rescue children, minister tells PA

* Says begging has become a 'multi-million-rupee business' * Article 140-A doesn't explain to what extent political, financial, and administrative authority should be devolved to local govt, observes Ghani

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly was on Friday informed that the Sindh Child Protection Authority was working in close coordination with the provincial police to conduct anti-child beggary drive for rescue children who were forced to be involved in this worst form of child labour.

Promising statement and replies of lawmakers' written and verbal queries during Question Hour, Social Welfare

Minister Tariq Ali Talpur said the organised beggary was a business of unscrupulous people and it was not easy to eradicate the menace, though the provincial government was "making all possible" efforts to contain that.

He said that child beggars were rescued and shifted to the Shelter Home for Disinherited and Orphan Children, Mairi, which has a capacity to accommodate 200 children.

He said that the beggar children were provided with support including basic needs such

as shelter, food, clothing, hygiene, legal support, counselling, recreational activities to promote physical and mental well-being.

With regards to victims of trafficking, the welfare minister said that the SPCA participated in meetings organised by the Anti-Human Smuggling Wing of the Federal Investigation Agency and submitted annually report with requisite information.

Furthermore, SPCA is working to identify and rescue under-

18 victims of trafficking to address the cases of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation against children.

Besides, he said, 34 Senior Citizens Centres were under construction in districts Central and Korangi of Karachi, Tharparkar, Sanghar, Thatta, Badin, Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar, Nasirabad, Peacock, Tando Muhammad Khan, Sujawal, Umarkot, Shikarpur and Dadu.

Responding to another question, the minister said that the number of people treated and

Continued on Page 14

The inspiring world of Saadat Hasan Manto

Adapted from *Khol Do* and *Inqilab Pasand*, *Kamra-i-Afsana* will complete its run at Napa tomorrow

By Poonzada Salman

KARACHI: Saadat Hasan Manto has had a resonating impact on the coming generations of storytellers. Even when the division of the subcontinent didn't seem to be a subject to focus on for writers, painters and filmmakers in the 21st century, Manto's stories, a good number of which are to do with the horrors of the partition, continue to generate ideas.

A play titled *Kamra-i-Afsana*, written and directed by Syed Qasim Shahi adapted from two of Manto's stories — *Khol Do* and *Inqilab Pasand* — that will complete its run on Sunday at the National Academy of Performing Arts (Napa), is an effort that needs to be lauded and at the same time it must be mentioned that some loose ends could have been tied up and rough edges smoothed off.

The play begins when a man (Zakir

Baloch) assuming the role of Manto addresses the audience, telling them about how he's living in contemporary times. He gives the reference to a report in which a mother, her daughter and son in Mianwali were raped and killed. Then he reads *Khol Do* as a related text.

The scene shifts to a nearby house — the second part of the play inspired by *Inqilab Pasand* — where Abbas (Abdul Aziz) is seen talking to Saleem (Shahrokh Arif) in a cordial tone. Saleem comes across as a dilettante person. The conversation reveals that Saleem's father has died which has aggravated his nervous disposition.

In comes Zaki (the man from the first scene) and it turns out that Abbas and Zaki are actors. Zaki has some projects on his hands, including TV assignments. He has been asked to do Manto and Abbas tries to teach him how to do that part. As the story moves forward, Manto's unbridged mental state makes things go haywire.

There are quite a few things to like about *Kamra-i-Afsana*. Shahi has the knack for writing good, meaningful lines — make no mistake. The performances by the three actors are good, too. They just need to work on their diction, though, something that Napa used to attach importance to when the late Zia

Mohyuddin held its reins (he wouldn't have liked pages pronounced as palav). Again, they shouldn't take away anything from the three actors. They do a fine job.

Since one was drawn in the drama when one saw it, everything felt jarring. One in the first scene as Zakir comes to the point where he is to say arguably the most important line of the Manto story (the doctor asks to open the window, *Abba* does, resulting in the climactic sequence), the actor doesn't make it count. He reads the line in a three-flooring manner.

Then the second part of the script had the audience invested in it when Abbas and Zaki engage in an interesting discussion about the art of acting and how television, theatre and film differ. It was nice. But when Saleem returns in a shabby state after enraging a crowd with his ideas, he delivers a long, scholastic speech (taken from the original *Inqilab Pasand*). The Repetition numbers in a predictable way and the other two actors keep following him like baghdas children trying to make sense of pokey pat, with no lines to say. It dilutes the whole punchy effect of the first half of *Inqilab Pasand*.

That said, Shahi seems to have his heart in the right place and his pen has the right kind of energy. He just needs to know when to hit the高潮at the right time.



A SCENE from the play.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star



Afghanistan-NZ Test abandoned without ball being bowled

Pg. 20 SPORT

Judge rejects bail plea of Karsaz accident suspect in drug case

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A district and sessions court on Friday rejected the post-arrest bail application of the Karsaz traffic accident suspect in a drug case.

Suspect Neesha Danish had challenged the dismissal of her bail application by a judicial magistrate before Additional District and Sessions Judge (East) Sharad Ali Munir.

In his detailed order, the judge mentioned that he had examined both reported and unreported case laws submitted by defence counsel Asma Mehmood Chisti. He added that he had also reviewed the impugned bail order of Judicial Magistrate (East) Muhammad Reza Ansari along with the available records.

"It may not be forgotten that the deep appreciation at bail stage is not permissible and only the tentative assessment of the case is permissible," the order said, adding that the defence counsel had ventured into a deep appreciation of this case during the bail stage. "If this bail application were to be considered in such depth, it would undoubtedly affect the merits of the case and against the well-established principles of law and guidelines, which discourage deep analysis in bail matters," the court order said.

The court stated that the records showed nothing had been recovered from the vehicle or the suspect. Her samples were collected and examined by the chemical examiner, who confirmed that she was "under the intoxication of Methamphetamine (ice), which was detected in her urine sample".

"Again, I have not found any ill will even on the part of the chemical examiner, because he only found 'detected an intoxication substance in the urine of the lady accused and if he would have any ill will then he would have also shown to have detected the intoxication substance from her blood sample for making the case more strong," the court ruled.

Addressing the arguments of the defence counsel, who contended that only one FIR should be registered for a single incident, the court observed that the first FIR was filed in connection with the accident, while the second FIR was lodged based on the examiner's report that pertained to a separate crime.

On Wednesday, Advocate Tahir Iqbal Malik, who is the counsel for the legal heirs of the deceased victims, appeared in court and submitted that his clients had no objection if the court granted bail to the suspect.

However, the court rejected his submission, noting that the counsel had "no right to address the court in the instant case as it was a state case".

Celebratory gunfire claims man's life

KARACHI: A young man was killed when some people fired into the air in celebration of a wedding in Orangi Town on Friday, police said.

Local Member Sindh Aslam Khan said that during a marriage ceremony in Sector-11, a group of friends started social firing in jubilation. However, a bullet hit 24-year-old Arsalan Rasheed. He was taken to the Abbott Sheesh Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The officer said that the suspect had been identified and efforts were underway to arrest them. — Staff Reporter

Seven policemen booked for keeping man in wrongful confinement

By Our Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Two sub-inspectors and five constables were booked for holding a man in wrongful confinement, forcing him to withdraw a total of Rs422,000 through different transactions and snatching the money at the SITE police station of Hyderabad.

The FIR was registered after High Court Bar Association (HCBA) President Aqaz Tunc brought the matter to the notice of Hyderabad SSP Dr Fauziah Ali. It was lodged under Sections 342, 395 and 504(2) of the Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of Huber Ali Chandio, who is a hotel owner.

The two SIs were identified in the FIR as Asif Jatoi and Sadiqullah Gill and one of the constables as Zubair. The four other constables have not been named.

According to the complainant, he had gone to a shopping mall located along Azaib Khan Road after closing his hotel to pick his friend on Wednesday (page 11). The two SIs along with five constables riding a car waylaid him and forcibly took him to the SITE police station and snatched his ATM card, mobile phones and a cash amount of Rs422,000 from him. He stated that he was taken to an ATM where they withdrew cash through his card. He stated that he was also made to draw different amounts through e-wallets and some other electronic transactions. A total amount of Rs422,000 was withdrawn which was snatched from him at the police station, he stated.

Mr Chandio further stated that while holding him in wrongful confinement at the police station, the policemen forced him to record a video statement admitting that he worked as a 'bookie'. It was only after getting the statement recorded in a mobile phone, that he was let off, the complainant added.

Mr Chandio further stated that the next day, SI Asif Jatoi contacted his agent and demanded Rs100,000, threatening that else he would be implicated in a narcotics case.

SITE SPIC Imran Rasheed, when contacted on Friday evening, said that none of the suspects had been arrested as yet.

Man injured as outlaws fire at Hindu family's car

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: A man suffered gunshot wounds when a Hindu family, returning to Mirpur Matheo in their car after attending annual mela of Baba Shri Ramdev in Kankhoro district, came under fire by a gang of motorists riding motorcycles in Malhaar area on the Indus Highway on Friday when the driver ignored their signal to stop and tried to speed away.

The family members said that when their car's driver tried to speed away, the gangsters opened indiscriminate fire at the vehicle to force it to stop. As soon as the car came to a stop the outlaws robbed the family and escaped, they said.

They said that three bullets had hit Dr Shevak Kumar. They drove him to civil hospital where doctors provided him emergency medical treatment and referred him to Sukkur hospital due to his precarious condition, they said.

Meanwhile, a large number of members of Hindu Matheo community reached the civil hospital and staged a demonstration against police's failure to establish peace across the district. No police officials had reached the hospital to collect details about the incident, they said.

Man killed in clash

A man was killed and four others were injured on Thursday when two rival groups of the Jatoi community attacked each other over a piece of agricultural land in the village of Maanji Jatoi near Gahkora area of Madjei town in Shikarpur district.

The dead was identified as Nawab Jatoi and one wounded as Abdul Riazay Jatoi while the names of the other injured could not be identified.

According to detail, they had an old enmity and on Thursday the situation went out of control and they attacked each other with weapons.

Government of Sindh Sindh Peoples Housing for Flood Affected (SPHF)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Group Life Insurance for SPHF's Employees

- Dated: 10th September 2024
- National Disability Temporary Terminal Illness Benefit.
 - Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents from the company's website www.sphf.gov.pk for any inquiries please email us at sphf@sphf.gov.pk.
 - Bids shall be valid for a period of 60 days after bid closing and shall be delivered to address given below or before 3rd October 2024 at 11:00 am at which time they will be opened in presence of bidders who wish to attend.
 - The bidders are requested to give their best and final prices as no negotiation is expected.
- ORHALID MEHMUD SHAHIDI**
Chief Executive Officer - SPHF
Bungalow # 20 Block 718
Modern Cooperative Housing Society
Tippu Sultan Road Karachi
- SPHF-001/2024

Three bogies of Sir Syed Express derail near Rohri

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: The rail traffic on the 'Up' track of Rohri-Sakkor sector remained suspended for about two-and-a-half hours on Friday after three coaches of the Sir Syed Express derailed near Rohri station. No major damage to the tracks and coaches or injury to anyone was reported.

The derailment occurred while the train was on its way from Karachi to Rawalpindi. The Pakistan Railways authorities, confirming the incident, suspended the train services on the 'Up' track and dispatched relief trains and extra coaches to the site.

The rescue put the derailed coaches back on the track and removed it from the site. Three other coaches were attached to the train to accommodate all passengers before giving the train green signal to resume its journey after a break of two-and-a-half hours.

A reason behind the derailment could not be established immediately.



RELIEF teams at work to put the derailed coaches back on tracks.—Dawn

Polio worker admits sexual assault in court statement after initial denial

By Waheed Shahzai

SUKKUR: A female polio worker, who had earlier denied reports about sexual assault over during a vaccination drive in Allah Balochi Jakhrani village near Jacobabad three days ago, disclosed before district and sessions court on Friday that she was in fact sexually assaulted by the suspect who was arrested soon after the incident.

The victim had told media persons on Wednesday while reacting to "rumours" about her abduction by two armed men and sexual assault that she had not been raped but robbed of her phone and valuable belongings.

But when she appeared on Friday before the judge, Syed Sharafuddin Shah, who had taken suo motu notice of the reports about rape with the polio worker, the victim said the suspect Ahmed Jakhrani had sexually assaulted her on Tuesday.

The victim, however, appealed to the judge after receding her statement that she wanted to go to her parent's home. Hence, the court ordered police to escort her to her parent's home.

DHO Dr Irfan Barki submitted a report to the court which revealed that there were signs the polio worker might have been sexually assaulted. The court, however, rejected the report submitted by SPID of Maroshah police station and ordered the official to submit a complete report on Sept 25.

JIT to probe incident

The judge ordered Jacobabad SPID to constitute a Joint Investigating Team (JIT) to conduct a transparent inquiry into the incident and also directed DHO to submit five-year record of the polio worker on Sept 25.

The victim's lawyer Ms Zebida Jakhrani, Razid Hussain Sanoori, G.M. Sanoori, Syed Ghulam Hassan Shah and other local journalists outside the court that it was good that the district and sessions judge had taken suo moto notice of the incident because police wanted to sweep the case.

They said that the polio worker had been in police custody since the assault incident and they must have pressurised her into giving reports of sexual assault. Some influential persons of the

victims started to save the assault suspect, they said.

They said that they stood by the victim till she was served justice in this case.

DC, SPID hold presser

Jacobabad Deputy Commissioner Zahoor Ali Marri and SPID Suman Noor Chima held a press conference at DC office that they had provided help and protection to the victim after the incident.

The DC said that he had already said she had been sexually assaulted but the victim could not immediately give a clear statement in her truncated state. "We kept her in a safe house after the incident so that she could have a sense of protection," he said.

Rehnawali, she recited her statement in the court that she was in fact subjected to sexual assault. She had initially given a different statement probably due to stigma attached to an assault victim in society, he said.

The SPID said that immediately after the incident the victim was shifted to hospital where her samples were taken for DNA test. Police would now incorporate

various sections of sexual assault in the FIR in the light of her court statement, he said, adding police had already arrested the suspect Ahmed Jakhrani who was locked up at the area's police station.

He said that on the court's order a JIT had been formed and SPID City would head it.

JULP protest against police worker

A large number of workers of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazil took out a procession in protest against alleged sexual assault on the polio worker.

JULP district president A.G. Ansari said the shariat administration wanted to cover up the assault incident but they would not allow it to do.

He demanded that a judicial committee should be formed to carry out a transparent inquiry into the incident. If the victim was not served justice, they would stage their protest, he warned.

Meanwhile, a Shariat Court Committee convened held a meeting at the office of Pakistan People's Party-Shahdad Kheto, which demanded that the main accused should be tried for severe punishment and justice be provided to the victim.

Gangsters riding motorboat kidnap fishing contractor's son, two companions

By Our Correspondent

LARANA: Gangsters riding a motorboat kidnapped a fishing contractor along with two accompanying fishermen near Shashan Ferry Point of the Indus River in the Keti Mianmar area on Friday.

According to the Keti Mianmar police, the gang wanted "protection money" to be paid to it regularly by the contractor.

Sources in Nasodro told the media that the gang was perhaps over awarding of the fishing contract of Shashan Lake to Mohammed Ali Khakharvi.

Locals also criticised the police for their inaction while fishermen were chasing the outlaws on their own.

Keti Mianmar DHO Ghulam Hussain Ujjar, however, claimed that police along with relatives of the victims were after the kidnappers and would hopefully succeed in recovering the victims soon.

Larana DHO Nasir Afzal has taken notice of the incident and asked the SPID, Dr Mir Raheel Khan Khoso, to ensure safe

recovery of the hostages and arrest the outlaws. He is a resident of Golab Bhato village, according to the police.

The second encounter took place near Mano Hula village, within the jurisdiction of the Peer Shar police station. Arif alias Asad Junjo, a resident of Nohi Wazir village of Nasodro town, was wounded and arrested after the clash, the spokesman said.

The criminal records were being traced and verified, he said. All the kidnappers were hit on their legs while no policeman was hurt in the encounters.

One of the encounters took place on Golab Bhato Road when a patrolling party of the Haili police station noticed a group of suspected窃盗者 standing there and challenged them to the ensuing gun battle. Mianmar alias Peppa Bhalla Bhutto was

wounded and arrested. He is a resident of Golab Bhato village, according to the police.

The second encounter took place near Mano Hula village, within the jurisdiction of the Peer Shar police station. Arif alias Asad Junjo, a resident of Nohi Wazir village of Nasodro town, was wounded and arrested after the clash, the spokesman said.

The police described

Dostas as a proclaimed offender, saying that he was wanted by police in over two dozen criminal cases.

About all the three encounters, the police spokesman claimed that they found the suspect "intending to commit crime".

Police officials said that

Robbers gun down youth to take away his bike

By Our Correspondent

they rushed to the crime scene after receiving report about the robbery and shifted the dead body to Sakkor Civil Hospital for post mortem before handing over the area to catch the fleeing criminals.

They said that the victim originally belonged to Gola Dara area in Shikarpur district but had been living in Sakkor for a long time for livelihood.

Meanwhile, a large number of people belonging to Jattis community and their supporters gathered at the hospital where the dead body was handed over to heirs after completion of medico-legal formalities.

Qasim Khanwani and Dostas for the Dead
—In memory of our dear Son-in-Law

MR. OMER AAMIR
S/o Air Marshal (R) Aamir Masood

will be held on Saturday, 14th September 2024
between 10am & Magrib at House No. 20,
Main Khayaban-e-Shahenshah, DHA, Karachi

Please respect Dostas & Family for the Departed Soul

MR. AYAZ KHAN
Dr. Fahimuddin Mirza (Wife)
Dr. Zulfiqar Mirza (Son)
Barister Hassan Mirza
and Hassan Mirza

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE SHIKARPUR

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited under sealed cover from contractors/firms/enterprises registered with Income Tax & STT and Maintenance & Repair Work of PSI New Project to be established at Myodd Police Station under SPHFIA Rules 2010 (Amended 2018).

No tender form will be issued from the date of publication upto 03-10-2024 during office hours. The tenders may be submitted to the received back on 04-10-2024 at 10:00 hours & opened on the same day at 10:30 hours in presence of all interested bidders who wish to attend at Procurement Committee.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Bids tenders will be issued to the agencies/firms on payment of tender fee non-refundable.
- Conditions/bids, incomplete and not accompanied and deposit will not be considered.
- If competent authority remains out of Headquarters on the date of opening of the tender or any holiday is announced by Government, then tenders will be received & opened on the next working day on same schedule & price.
- Agencies/firms should be registered with Sindh Finance Board and Income Tax authorities.

INFORMATION & PROCEDURE

Complete set of bidding document containing the scope of work and relevant detail along with specification can be obtained by the interested contractors/tenders from SSI Office Shikarpur No. 0725-8021000.

KHALID MUHAMMAD DREMO

For Senior Superintendent of Police
Shikarpur

SPF-001/2024-24

ٹلاش گشیدہ اشتہار شور و غوغما

بھائی خواں کو اکتوبر اولیٰ چلتے ہے کہ سڑی مل جو ریس اس اکل مل
اکل تی ۵۱ میں سارہ برد 28.02.20218 سے اپنے
بے اس کے انت تھے اس کا نام امیر احمد ۱۹۶۱ء پر ۱۹۶۱ء پر
۳۶۶/۳۴ نمبر کے قریب مکان میں اپنے بھائی کی
خوشی مل کر اسکی کے ساتھ اسکی مل جو ریس اکل مل
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(جوت کالیہیں)
پر ٹکڑیں اس کے اسکی مل جو ریس اکل مل
(جوت کالیہیں)
031-34558852
031-34383308

**IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE
ANTI-TERRORISM SHIKARPUR**

Special Case No. 72 of 2024

The State
Versus
Moor Hassan & others Accused

Crime No. 08/2024
Police Station: Upper Kot
District: Shikarpur
Date: 2024-AUG-14 P.P.C. S. 677 A.D.A.

WHEREAS, namely 1. Ameer Bux Soo Ali Gehar B/C Pathore R/o Village Hajji Ameer Bux Pathore, 2. Wahid Soo Badaro B/C Pathore R/o Jangal District Jacobabad, 3. Bakhat Baldu Soo Wando Bux @ Qadri B/C Jhangwari R/o Village Atish Dino Jhangwari Taluka Khapur, 4. Methood Soo Khameso B/C Badaro Jatoi and 5. Popat Soo Ballo B/C Badaro Jatoi both the Choaqui Taluka Khapur are shown as absconders in the above cited case.

And whereas non-bailable warrant was issued by this Court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted with report of police that the accused have absconded and are not traceable.

Now, therefore, proclamation u/s 87 Cr.P.C read with section 19(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with direction to the above named accused persons to appear before this Court at Judicial Complex District & Sessions Court Shikarpur within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in their absence.

Given under my Hand & seal of the Court,
This the 10th day of September, 2024.

Special Judge
Anti-Terrorism Court
Shikarpur

INT-KOTY/2024/24

SERVICES REQUIRED ON CONTRACT BASIS APPLICATIONS INVITED

<p>BEFORE: SPECIAL JUDGE SPECIAL JUDGE, ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMORE AT KANDHKOT</p> <p>SPECIAL CASE NO. 22 OF 2024</p> <p>STATE</p> <p>Versus</p> <p>MUHAMMAD TARIQ KHAN DALANDARAM BHUGI & OTHERS</p> <p>CRIME NO 58/2023 UNDER SECTION-402, 399, 324, 563, 548, 149 PPC & 617 AKA POLICE STATION: Tempstar District Kashmore @ Kandhkor</p> <p>WHEREAS, the accused namely Liequat Ali Abdul Rehman R/o Mubarak Balochani CNIC No. 40502-0428790-5 has absconded.</p> <p>And whereas non-bailable warrants were issued by this court for the arrest of above named accused, which returned unexecuted, with report of police that the accused has absconded and is not traceable.</p> <p>Therefore, proclamation u/s 87 CrPC read with section 10(10) of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 is issued with directions to the above named accused to appear before this court at Subordinate Court Building Kashmore at Kandhkor within seven days after publication of this notice, failing which the case will be proceeded in his absence.</p> <p>Given under my hand, and seal of this court this 11th day of September 2024.</p> <p>SPECIAL JUDGE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT KASHMORE AT KANDHKOT</p>	<p>GOVERNMENT OF SINDH JINNAH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL CENTRE KARACHI-75510</p> <p>Tender No. I-07/2024-QS/DCM/JPMC Dated: 15-09-2024</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">CORRIGENDUM-II</h2> <p>The Procurement of Generic Consumables (Laboratory Chemicals, Kits/Reagents and Glassware) for the Financial Year 2024-2025</p> <p>POSTED ON WEBSITE: www.jpmc.sindhpunjab.gov.pk dated: Sep 05, 2024 for the procurement of Generic Consumables (Laboratory Chemicals, Kits/Reagents and Glassware) for the financial year 2024-2025.</p> <p>The Clarification regarding certifications in above said tender is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That in above said tender the certification criteria in every item except Machines may be read as "Should be IVDR/FDA/CE Marked" <p>Bidders who have already submitted the tenders on EPMDS website are requested to re-submit their tender after issuing of Corrigendum. In case Govt announces public holiday or any unforeseeable circumstances occur, the tenders will be opened on the next working day. However, other terms and conditions, venue, date and time of submission will remain the same as mentioned in bidding documents.</p> <p>PROF. SHAHID RASOOL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p>
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 <p>Sindh Employees' SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTION (HEAD OFFICE)</p> <p>(ST-17, Block-6, Rashid Minhas Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Kara-chi-75300)</p> <p>Phone No: 021-99244103</p>
HOUSE JOB TRAINING
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Eligibility Criteria:
1. Fresh MBBS Doctors will be eligible for the said training program.
2. All selections for House job training will be made on merit basis in accordance with the prevailing Rules / Policy of the institution.
3. Candidates must bring their Original Educational Certificates / Documents / Provisional PMC / PMDC License for House Job Training / valid CNIC / Domicile / PRC of Sindh Province at the time of interview along with one photocopy set of all documents / educational certificates and two passport size photographs.
4. Sindh Employees' Social Security Institution (SESSI) reserves the right not to fill any seat or to increase / decrease in the number of seats.
5. No TA / DA will be admissible / paid to the candidates who will appear for interview.
Date of Walk-in Interview: Thursday, 26th September, 2024 Time: 10:00 A.M to 04:00 P.M
Venue of Interview: Committee Room, 4th Floor, Sindh Employees' Social Security Institution (SESSI) Head Office, Alwan-e-Mehmood Kash, ST-17, Block-6, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Near NIPA Chowranghi, Karachi.
(DR. GHULAM MUSTAFA ABRO) DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION (MEDICAL) FOR COMMISSIONER SESSI

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ISLAMABAD
 Sunspot 65.149cm
 Sunspot (Tomorrow) 65.147cm
NEXT 24 HRS
 Minimum 22°C
 Maximum 33°C
 Outlook Partly Cloudy



CAPITAL administration uses a crane to remove containers from D-Chowk in Islamabad on Friday to open it for traffic. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Parliament Lodges declared sub-jail for arrested PTI lawmakers

PTI men sent to jail following suspension of physical remand

By Murtaza Aziz & Asad Malik

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Speaker on Friday declared the Parliament Lodges Islamabad as sub-jail for the lawmakers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, arrested by the Islamabad police under Anti-Terrorism Act and newly imposed Presidential Assembly and Public Order Act 2024.

The Islamabad High Court, on the other hand, set aside the physical remand of the PTI lawmakers, sending them to jail on judicial remand.

With regard to declaring the parliament lodges as sub-jail for arrested lawmakers, an official of the National Assembly Secretariat wrote a letter to Secretary Interior, saying: "I am directed to refer to the production order issued on Sept 11 by the National Assembly Speaker in respect of the PTI lawmakers arrested recently to enable them to attend the sitting of 9th Session of National Assembly and to inform that in exercise of power conferred by sub-section (3) of rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, the National Assembly has been pleased to declare the Parliament Lodges Islamabad as sub-jail for their custody after each sitting of the National Assembly."

The MNAs who were arrested on different charges following the PTI's gathering at Sarganwala included Sheh Ahsan Khan from NA-45, Lakki Marwat, Malik Mohammad Asmir Dagar from NA-149, Maham 11, Mohammad Ahmed Chatti from NA-65, Waheed, Miskhan, Zain Hussain Qureshi from NA-150, Mullah 11, Waqas Akram from NA-107, Baig 11, Sabir Khan Wazir from NA-42, South Waziristan, Upper-own-South Waziristan Lower, Aswan Haider Jackson from NA-182 Layyah 11, Sheh Shahzad Ali Shah from NA-33 Noshahr, Nasim Ali Shah from NA-39 Bara and Yousaf Khan from NA-36, Bhangarwala Orakzai.

Police officials told Dawn that the坐ites allocated to these MNAs at the Parliament Lodges were the sub-jail for the MNAs and they were detained there.

These MNAs were arrested in connection with cases registered at Sarganwala and Naon Police station under several charges, they added.

There are no special arrangements and deployment in and outside the sub-jails (lodges), as police were already present there, the officials said, adding that services of the available police officers and officials are being utilized for the jail superintendents and staff.

They said that under the written directions of the Speaker issued to the interior secretary the sites of the MNAs were declared sub-jail. So far any necessary notification in this regard is yet to issue from the national administration or police.

PTI lawmakers physical remand sent inside

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday set aside the physical remand of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers and local leaders, arrested follow-

ing Sept 8 public meeting at Sarganwala.

IHC division bench comprising Chief Justice Asma Fiaz and Justice Saman Raja Iftikhar while hearing the petitions of PTI lawmakers Asmir Dagar, Sheh Ahsan Khan, Sheh Shahzad Ali Shah from NA-33 Noshahr, Nasim Ali Shah from NA-39 Bara and Yousaf Khan from NA-36, Bhangarwala Orakzai.

During the course of hearing, Vice Chairman Islamabad Bar Council Adil Arif Qazi, President and Secretary Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IKA), Ali Asad, Shafiq Farwar, senior lawyer Haja Aleem Abbasi and others appeared to represent the lawmakers including the members of Islamabad Bar Association.

Justice Fiaz observed all the relevant granting order of the ATC Judge were identical and sought an explanation from the prosecution.

The advocate general Islamabad read out the IHC's registered against the PTI leaders. The court, however, turned the prosecution case as "comedy" as the police claimed to have recovered pistols, baton and gun from the lawyers.

The chief justice noted that the PTI leaders were in custody of police for the last four days and they are now to hold them on physical remand.

He expressed displeasure over the arrest of lawmakers from the Parliament House saying that the parliament is the mother of all institutions. The court subsequently ruled against the physical remand of the petitioners.

CDA tax notices show covered areas of apartments enlarging

ISLAMABAD: In a surprising move, the Capital Development Authority (CDA)'s revenue department has sent property tax notices to owners of many apartments in different buildings by increasing their covered areas in an abnormal way.

The action put owners of apartments in great trouble. They said they would not pay the taxes as CDA increased the size of their apartments abnormally.

"I owned an apartment of 1500-sq-feet in one of the main towers in Blue Area. Last year, I paid tax on the basis of 1500 sq ft, but this time I have received a tax notice, demanding to pay the tax for 3500 sq feet. Human earth pressure could enlarge itself over a period of one year," said an apartment owner.

He said that in the same building many other owners had also received property tax notices with enlarged covered areas. Even one of the owners of an apartment measuring 1500 sq feet received a letter to pay tax against 4000 sq feet.

Sources said that in several commercial areas residential buildings, the owner of apartments had received property tax notices with abnormal increase in the covered areas.

When Dawn discussed the issue with the building control inspector, he said, "The covered area of an apartment could be increased to some extent by including car parking and a portion of the corridor and under this practice the owner of 1500 feet size apartment could be asked to deposit tax against a maximum of 1700 feet, but increasing the covered area from 1500 sq ft to 3500 sq ft is something unique in the world."

Sources said that the CDA's revenue department, apparently to give benefit to owners of malls and towers, increased the covered areas of apartments.

He said he had issued notices to owners of two tower-s mall-complex buildings, informing them to make it clear, we are here to protect rights of public. Justice will be done with everyone."

It is irrelevant to note here that in addition to the civil issues, people are also complaining about excessive property bills with huge "outstanding amount."

Many people complained that they had paid property tax last year, but on this year's bills their previous dues were also mentioned. Due to this issue people are running from pillar to post, but to no avail. The director revenue told Dawn that he had been trying to resolve the issue as well.

"Because of the loads of kiosks, owners are sharing in the bills. We will write letters to OIC Lark and our all associated bank branches on Monday to fix this issue," the director said. — Khalid Abbasi

covered areas of apartments.

"Actually, the owners of malls and towers pay taxes in accordance with total perimeter and cover areas, and they allegedly in comparison with CDA, put maximum burden of covered areas on the apartment owners," said an official. "This issue seems a big issue and requires an inquiry," the official said.

When contacted, newly-appointed director revenue CDA, Khalid Abbasi said he joined the office just a few days ago and received some complaints about the increased covered areas by owners of apartments.

He said he came to know that the revenue department while calculating the tax relied on data provided by owners of malls and towers, who are supposed to pay tax in accordance with the total allowed covered areas in a tower-block.

However, he said he had issued notices to owners of two tower-mall-complex buildings, informing them to make it clear, we are here to protect rights of public. Justice will be done with everyone."

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covered areas of apartments.

The official stressed the need for a proper inquiry into the collections and cash deposited with the DMA.

In 2022, during a special audit, massive irregularities were found in the self-collection system and an inquiry was recommended to the responsible. Subsequently, an inquiry committee was constituted, but it failed to fix responsibility.

The audit of several projects was conducted by a special CDA team headed by the financial officer, Rao Shabir Pervez, which unearthed massive irregularities and corruption.

The team had been tasked with carrying out a special audit into the collection of fees at Shakarpurian and Damsoo Kali car parking and parking lot adjacent to Centaurus in the last two years. The audit report had revealed that officials get parking ticket books for Shakarpurian

and Damsoo Kali sites printed from a local market.

The auditors said due to the misappropriated books, it was difficult for them to check the daily collection of parking fees and its remittance to the CDA and Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI). They said the books were printed without the approval of the competent authority.

The inquiry report had stated that a previous contractor of Centaurus car parking had to pay Rs 1.5 million but not a single rupee was issued to him by the DMA office for recovery of the amount.

"The DMA managed the sites of car parking without any standard operating procedure. There is no record maintained for the printing of ticket books, which basically caused loss recovery," it said.

The audit report observed that there was no transparency in the recovery of parking fee due to which



Afghanistan-NZ Test abandoned without ball being bowled

Pg. 18 SPORT

LAHORE
 Sunrise 06:12 AM
 Sunrise Tomorrow 05:44 AM
NEXT 24 HRS
 Minimum 26.0°C
 Maximum 33.0°C
 Outdoor Sunny
AQI
 Maximum (Yesterday) 152



Afghanistan-NZ Test abandoned without ball being bowled

Pg. 18 SPORT



DEVOTEEES light earthen lamps at the shrine of Hazrat Mila Mir during the saint's Urs celebrations. — White Star

PA speaker wants parliament to reclaim role in judges' appointment

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Arsal reports that the federal government is going to introduce a constitutional package to restore the parliament's powers with regard to the higher courts' judges' appointment, Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan advised the parliamentarians to reclaim the role.

"Why the parliament is silent on the basic structure judgment," he asked, in a reference to Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry-led Supreme Court decision that forced the then government to introduce a constitutional amendment eliminating the role of the parliamentary committee in the selection of superior court judges.

"It, while explaining the Constitution,

the court had said that it would itself make the appointments of judges, then why the parliament is not objecting to it," Speaker Khan told a press conference here on Friday.

"There's a clear trichotomy of powers in the Constitution under which there are three pillars of state — the judiciary, the executive and the parliament. The parliament will decide the role of each [of the pillars]. The parliament will keep in check on the executive under the Constitution."

He appreciated that parliamentarians from across the aisle for sitting together on the issue of the arrest of some lawmakers from the National Assembly gate, but expressed that no one, from the treasury of the opposition, was bothered by the attack on the Constitution.

There's a judicial function in which

Clause 184(2) had been used as a substitute for the now defunct 206(2)(b) clause of the Constitution to send a government packing, he said.

"The political parties must raise the issue. If you cannot object to the judgment that defaced the Constitution, then you are leaving your space only to be claimed by someone else. Why are you becoming apologetic?"

He clarified that he was not paving the way for a clash between the parliament and the judiciary, but was only stressing on rectifying the foundation of the system.

Responding to a query, the speaker asked if the parliamentary committees in the US and UK did not have a role in the appointment of judges. "Here [in Pakistan] the parliament has been incapacitated; not even allowed to dis-

cuss the issue."

About Ali Amro Gandapur's statement in the PTV Islamabad public meeting, the speaker said those were absolutely unarmed and that the KP chief minister attacked the federation by threatening to hold direct talks with Afghanistan terrorists.

"The federal government, executive and parliament should question him [Gandapur]."

He said it seemed the KP CM was under the influence and would need to undergo medical tests to ascertain his condition.

The speaker said that in view of the PTI's track record, the government must have demanded affiliation from the party leadership, committing that no hate speech would be delivered at the meeting.

Minor girl 'tortured' to death at home

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A minor girl was allegedly tortured to death in her Raghianpara home on Shalimar Road on Friday.

The body of Meagan Qibria showed clear signs of torture.

Authorities took her father and stepmother into custody for interrogation after neighbours claimed they had previously abused the girl over trivial matters.

A police official said that a neighbour neighbour alerted them when they heard the girl crying. Upon arriving at the scene, police found Meagan with multiple injuries covering various parts of her body.

She had died from severe wounds, including deep cuts on her neck, and her swollen limbs indicated she had been beaten with a hard object. There were signs of burns on her arms. The visible bruises indicated an act of extreme brutality.

The police cordoned off certain areas of the house for

forensic analysis.

According to neighbours, Meagan's father had remarried and the young girl had reportedly faced harsh treatment from her stepmother.

Police are questioning the father to determine his role in the alleged abuse that led to Meagan's death.

The body was shifted to the city morgue for an autopsy.

SHRIFT HEAD: An elderly man was killed while two parsons injured by an armed man in Iqbal Town area here on Friday. A police official said the incident occurred near Bhikhwala Chowk where suspected attacker Sohail and Irfan exchanged hot words with each other over a petty issue of sharing jokes. Later, Sohail opened indiscriminate fire. Irfan escaped unscathed while his uncle, Sattar (65), and two passersby Mabrook and Zaynab suffered bullet injuries.

The injured persons were taken to a hospital where

Continued on Page 14

Omar demands probe into MPs' arrest in parliament

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Ghair Ayub Khan, on Friday demanded an investigation into the arrest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers in the parliament.

Speaking to the journalists outside the anti-terrorism court, he urged the prime minister and the army chief to immediately hold an inquiry to fix responsibility for the "attack" against the public representatives.

He termed the opposition members' arrest within the Parliament House a bigger trap than May 9 protests.

Ayub said he had been studying in Lahore, but didn't know that the corps commander's residence was called "Jinnah House".

He added that the people just went to the May 9 rally on Feb 8 - the date of the last general elections.

The Gulberg police had registered a case related to the attack on Aslam Tower near Liberty

To a question, he said the

longer the PTI demanding chairman Imran Khan was kept in jail, the greater would be threat to his (Imran's) life.

He declared all cases against the PTI leaders as bogus, saying he could have been released anytime.

The opposition leader pointed out that the "expensive" PPP agreements were made during the terms of the PML-N and the PPP in the government, claiming that as energy minister, he had managed to bring the power generation rate down to two-fold a half-rate.

Earlier, ATC Judge Arshad Javed extended preventive bail of Mr Ayub, former federal minister Asad Umar and others till Oct 8 in Aslam Tower attack case.

Asad Umar did not appear due to illness, and his request for a one-time exemption from personal appearance was allowed by the judge.

The Gulberg police had registered a case related to the attack on Aslam Tower near Liberty

Tower.

BAIB CONFIRMED: A new seven-court on Friday confirmed the interim post-arrest bail of PTI leaders Aslam Nezam, Ali Zaidi and Musafer Jamshed Chishti in a cybercrime case.

All three leaders appeared in court on expiry of their interim bail.

Petitioners' counsel Asif Shahzad Sabir argued that the case against his clients was filed on political grounds and that the FIA failed to present any evidence against them.

He said the provisions of the Pcoa added to the case were liable.

A public prosecutor opposed the bail, saying the suspects posted objectionable tweets against Punjab KPP and state institutions. He asked the court to dismiss the bail petitions.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Salman Chishti confirmed the bail of the leaders, directing them to furnish surety bonds worth Rs100,000 each.

LDA DG can retain only one accommodation: LHC

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Friday declared that the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) director general cannot retain more than one official accommodation under the law.

Justice Rafiq Rizwan issued the ruling on petition challenging an order by the LDA director administration whereby official accommodation No 2, Shaheed Colony, Lahore, had been cancelled from the name of a director and declared as official accommodation of the LDA DG.

A counsel for the petitioner contended that besides declaration of the accommodation in question as official accommodation, the DG had earlier declared accommodation No 46, Garden Town,

New Garden Town, Lahore, as official accommodation/camp office and he has also been provided accommodation in GORI by the Punjab government.

He argued that there was no provision in the policy authorising the DG to declare two official accommodations for him.

When confronted, a counsel for the LDA admitted that the DG was retaining more than one official accommodation camp offices in Lahore.

However, he argued that the DG was the competent authority to designate and issue allotment orders for any official accommodation according to the policy.

In his decision, Justice Rizwan observed that paragraph No 4 of the policy on allotment of official accommodations, according to which the LDA

has no legal obligation to provide legal right or claim to the allotment of LDA-owned residential accommodation.

However, till the time the facility is being provided to the officers/officials of the LDA, their allotment shall be, for RS 1% or above, accommodation of one-km and above (single or double storey).

"No exception to the above principle is spelled out in the policy, supported by any provision of law, in favour of the director general, LDA; therefore, he has no lawful authority and entitlement to designate, allot and retain more than one accommodation," the judge maintained.

With the consent of both sides, the judge disposed of the petition and remitted the matter to the LDA DG for reconsideration of the impugned order, while declaring only one official accommoda-

tion for his residence within a period of 15 days.

The judge observed that the spare accommodations shall be allotted to other officers/officials who are entitled in terms of the policy.

IMRISHABRI: An anti-terrorism court on Friday dismissed post-arrest bail application of a co-suspect, Yasir Ali, an alleged money-trapping and kidnapping of playwright Khalid Rehman Qasim.

Previously, the court had also denied bail to Amna Arora, the key suspect.

Two suspects — Hassan Shah and Rafiq alias Deepi — are on physical remand while nine other suspects including Tariq Ahmed, Quaiser Ali, Raheeq Ahmed, Sabek Sher, Mian Khan, Yasir Ali, Javed Iqbal, Zeeshan Qayum and Mumtaz Haider are in judicial lockups.

Two militants killed in firing by accomplices: CTD

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Punjab Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) claimed on Friday that a terror plot was thwarted and two suspected terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation in the limits of Sialkot Sector police station.

According to spokesperson, a CTD team in Dera Ghazi Khan received credible information about the presence of four unidentified suspects who were allegedly planning attacks on vital installations and law enforcement agencies in the province.

Acting on the information, the CTD team carried out an operation in the area under the jurisdiction of Sialkot Sector police.

He said the suspects were reportedly in possession of explosives and firearms.

On seeing the CTD team, the suspects opened fire on them indiscriminately.

The spokesperson said that after the gunfire ceased, two of the suspects were found dead, apparently killed in the firing by their own accomplices, who managed to escape under the cover of darkness.

The CTD team recovered four grenades, a 44 bore rifle with ammunition and a sub-machine gun (SMG) with ammunition from the suspects' hideout.

Bomb Disposal Squad was also called to the location to defuse the recovered explosives.

A First Information Report (FIR) No 08/24 has been registered under various sections, including the Explosive Substances Act, the Pakistan Arms Ordinance, and the Anti-Terrorism Act, among others, at DG Khan CTD police station, against the suspects.

Further investigation is underway, a CTD spokesperson said. — Correspondent

Three robbers shot dead in 'encounter'

By Our Correspondent

KASUR: Three robbers were killed in an alleged encounter with the police near Cinema Road in the jurisdiction of the Kot Radha Khan police on Friday.

According to the police, the robbers were shot by their own accomplices during an exchange of gunfire with the police. The authorities also linked the gang to the recent murders of two traders in robbery incidents earlier this month.

The police said they had received information about a robbery and began pursuing a gang of five robbers on two motorcycles in the Kot Radha Khan area. When they were on Cinema Road, the robbers allegedly opened fire on the police, prompting officials to retale. After about half an hour of ceasefire, police found three of the robbers critically injured at the scene.

The injured suspects were rushed to the Kot Radha Khan THQ Hospital where they were pronounced dead due to the severity of their injuries, the police said in a press release.

The deceased were identified as Abbas from Okara, Samer from Rawalpindi and Marwat from Bahawalpur.

According to the police, the gang allegedly shot dead trader Sheikh Tamir on Sept 5 in Mithiwas, Phoolnager, and the killing of trader Farjana on Sept 7 in Shittay, Chakwal, during a robbery.

Police said a triple murder case had been lodged against the accomplices of the robbers that fled away.

PTI for contempt proceedings against DC

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Friday sought a reply from the deputy commissioner (DC) on a contempt of court petition filed against him not granting permission to PTI for holding a rally in the city.

PTI-Lahore chapter President Akmal Khan filed the petition.

Advocate Khurram Latif Khosa argued on behalf of the petitioner that the court had directed the authorities concerned to decide on an application for the rally, but no action had been taken.

The lawyer further argued that holding a peaceful rally was a constitutional right of every political party, and no one could be deprived of his fundamental rights.

He pleaded that not complying with the court orders amounted to contempt of court. Therefore, he asked the court to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the DC.

Justice Farooq Haider issued a notice to the DC for submission of a reply by Sept 16. — Staff Reporter

Lawyer shot dead over past litigation

Passer-by injured in attack

By Our Correspondent

OKARA: A lawyer was shot dead and a passerby injured after an alleged shooting over previous litigation here late on Thursday.

According to the FIR, Jumana Khan with his son Advocate Malik Muhammad Shaukat and Malik Maroos Ahmad and cousin Shafiqe were travelling from their village Ruknpur to Dhalpur by car.

Near a filling station outside Ruknpur, Ghulam Murtaza, Iqr Ahmed, Waqas Ahmad and two others opened fire at Maroos, who was driving the car. In the incident, Faizal Khan, a passerby, also suffered bullet injuries.

Rescue 1122 provided first aid, but Maroos succumbed to his injuries enroute to Dhalpur THQ Hospital. The injured passerby was shifted to the hospital.

According to the FIR, the shooting was allegedly planned by Murtaza, who had previously shot at Jumana Khan. The case was being pursued by Advocate Muhammad.

Ruknpur police registered a case under sections 302, 324, 448, and 149 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

IUB reduces fees for various programmes

By Our Correspondent

BAILAWALPUR: The Islamic University Bahawalpur (IUB) has announced reduction in fees for various programmes in its three campuses in Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar and Rahim Yar Khan.

According to a press release, the decision of the fee reduction has been taken to lessen the financial burden on the students in view of the current difficult economic conditions in the country.

The fees have been considerably decreased nationwide.

At Bahawalpur Campus, the fees for the first and second semesters of BS Political Policy and Governance, Gender Studies, Political and Parliamentary

Murtaza was arrested, while a special team has been formed to trace and arrest the other suspects.

KILLED: Two persons were killed during a clash between rival groups on Thursday night on Attari Road near Mandi Ahmadiyah.

According to the FIR, Faiz Ahmad Khan, along with his sons Shaukat and Atab and others, Atish Datta, Mohammad Khan and Atish, was returning to the village Majidpur Ky after attending a 'jashayat' when they were intercepted by the supporters of a pharmacy on Attari Road.

Shayeq Zaman, his sons Atish, Zobair, Abdirahman and Atish and others, Atish Datta, Mohammad Khan and Atish, was returning to the village Majidpur Ky after attending a 'jashayat' when they were intercepted by the supporters of a pharmacy on Attari Road.

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The session was held at the Main Hall of the Government Comprehensive High School.

Police Station, District Police Officer (DPO), told Dawn the purpose of this initiative was to sensitise female teaching community and encourage them to take responsibility for their own safety.

The dialogue is related to a tractor robbery where Faiz Khan participated in the robbery.

Zaman, after Atish Datta had warned Faiz Khan to stop supporting their rivals and had even slapped Shayeq a few days before the incident,

Mandi Ahmadiyah police registered a case against six named suspects and 26 accomplices under sections 302, 324, 448, and 149 of the PPC.

Teachers sensitised on combating sexual harassment in schools

By Shafiq Butt

SATIALWAL: The district police, in collaboration with the education department, has engaged over 150 headteachers and headmistresses from public and private sectors to raise awareness about sexual harassment within and outside school premises.

Headteachers from 30 private schools of Sialkot and Chakwal districts were invited for dialogue.

The primary goal of the 620-minute dialogue was to educate headteachers and enable them to understand and subsequently inform their girl students about the distinction between 'good touch' and 'bad touch'.

The session was held at the Main Hall of the Government Comprehensive High School.

Police Station, District Police Officer (DPO), told Dawn the purpose of this initiative was to sensitise female teaching community and encourage them to take responsibility for their own safety.

The meeting was held at the Main Hall of the Government Comprehensive High School.

In addition, participants were introduced to the recently launched CM App, which encourages women to create a safe and secure environment with digital tools.

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PESHAWAR
Sunset 04:25pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:54am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 29°C
Maximum 31°C
Outlook: Mostly Cloudy



AN artist decorates a truck with intricate designs at a workshop on Ring Road, Peshawar. — APP

Treasury lawmakers emphasise importance of strong army

Claim 'elements' in the institution want to manipulate politics

By Umer Farooq

PESHAWAR: Treasury members in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Friday emphasised the importance of a strong army for the country but complained that certain elements in the institution wanted to manipulate politics and democracy to serve their ends.

During a session chaired by Speaker Babar Suleman Swati here, the lawmakers voiced concern about the deteriorating law and order situation in the province saying people feared stepping out of their houses.

They criticised security agencies for targeting PTI and its party leaders, Imran Khan, instead of fulfilling their basic responsibility of protecting public life.

The treasury members decried and criticised the army's involvement in politics for the fourth consecutive day.

They claimed that the establishment denied political maneuvering over it press-

sured the PTI candidates before the Feb 8 general election to join the PTI. Parliamentarians forced by former chief minister Pervez Khattak with its support.

The MPAs said their criticism was aimed at violators of the Constitution, so it shouldn't be considered a rebellion against the entire army or Inter-Services Intelligence.

They said the PTI would hold a public meeting in Lahore on Sept 22 at all costs.

Special assistant to the chief minister Sabir Afridi asked "those lecturing us about the Constitution should explain what Constitution they're referring to."

He said the Constitution clearly mandates elections within 90 days of the assembly's dissolution.

Mr Afridi foisted a government crackdown on the PTI's Sept 22 public meeting in Lahore and said if the need arose, the participants would use the law's "self-defence" provisions for their protection.

Another PTI member, Ramez Ghani, asked the establishment to disclose its "agenda" and accused it of hiding Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden in Abbottabad.

He said the PTI was ready for both rebellion and revolution.

Mr Ghani demanded accountability of

all top military officers from the past and said even the "graves should be exhumated."

Arif Ahmadzai, from the treasury bench, claimed that he was asked to quit the PTI to join Pervez Khattak's party, but he refused.

He said his party was opposed to the army's political maneuverings and would continue to oppose them.

Mr Ahmadzai insisted that the list of incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan was under serious threat.

Treasury member Mohammad Qadri requested the director-general of Inter-Services Public Relations to retract his recent statement that the army had nothing to do with politics.

He claimed that a year ago, the establishment pressured PTI leaders to join the party of Pervez Khattak despite claiming political neutrality.

PTI lawmaker Irfan Khan alleged that people were picked up from the merged tribal districts on the charge of providing intelligence to militants.

"As the sun rises, they come and take the people away. If authorities know about this activity of the people, why they're not familiar with the whereabouts of militants?" he said.

The speaker later adjourned the session until 2pm on Sept 15.

The MPA said PTI founder Imran Khan had become a brand beyond the control of the powers that be.

Member of the opposition JUI-F Aslam Khan said his party openly criticised the establishment's involvement in politics.

He suggested legislation to stop the armed forces from acting in aid of civil power. Mr Khan said his party leader had categorically shiedt becoming part of unconstitutional actions.

MPA Mohammad Rashed Khan of the PML-N said if the provincial government declared the arrest of PTI lawmakers from inside the National Assembly unconstitutional, the opposition supported it.

He suggested a grand debate and a multi-party conference with representatives of political parties and all institutions, including judiciary, attending it.

Awami National Party member Mohammad Nisar Khan emphasised that all border crossings with neighbouring countries except for Afghanistan were open for trade.

He said a fenced border and 2,600 checkpoints were enough to enable the state to monitor the country's trade with Afghanistan.

The speaker later adjourned the session until 2pm on Sept 15.

PHC stops law-enforcement agencies from arresting CM aide, ACE officers

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Friday directed law-enforcement agencies not to arrest special assistant to the provincial chief minister on anti-corruption charges, retired Brigadier Mohammad Masood Ali Abbasi and two officers of the anti-corruption establishment in any cases registered against them, without its permission.

A bench consisting of Justice Shaukat Ahmad and Justice Waqar Ahmad directed the government to produce details of any cases registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) or any other law-enforcement agencies against the three

people by Sept 26.

The court was hearing three petitions filed by Mr Abbasi, ACE director Sadiq Khan and additional director (admin) Usman Siddique, seeking its orders for law-enforcement agencies, especially those of the federal government and Punjab, to provide details of the cases registered against them.

A day earlier, a single-member high court bench had granted interim bail to the three petitioners until Oct 5 in a case registered against them under cybercrimes law in Islamabad for allegedly defaming a judicial officer, Hamayun Dilawar, who

convicted former Prime Minister Imran Khan last year, and his family members.

That case was registered by the FIA on Sept 11 over a complaint filed by Ahmed Sadiq Khan, a nephew of special judge (central) Hamayun Dilawar.

On Sept 10, a judicial magistrate in Islamabad issued interim warrants of judge Hamayun Dilawar, his father Dilawar Khan, his brother Sadiq Dilawar, and revenue officer Taj Mal Khan in a case registered by the KP ACE accusing them of tampering with a court decree to "illegally occupy" land and convert the same into a

housing scheme.

In the present case, the petitioners requested the court to stop the respondents, including different law-enforcement agencies, from arresting or harassing them, and dismiss the relevant registration of any case against them altogether.

Advocate Atta Khan Adilzai appeared for the petitioners and said their clients were respectable and law-abiding citizens and had never committed any illegal act.

He said the petitioners recently learned that an FIR was registered against them by the FIA in Islamabad.

The lawyer said Mr Abbasi intended to leave for Islamabad from Peshawar when he was informed about FIRs registered against him and other petitioners.

He said the petitioners feared arrest in any undisclosed case registered against them.

The court served a notice on additional attorney general Sarmad Khan, who was present in the courtroom, on the petitioners.

He said he should be given two weeks' time for producing a report.

The bench adjourned the hearing until Sept 26. — Report

Lakki, Bannu police end protest as their demands 'accepted'

Bajaur sit-in also called off as authorities promise early arrest of attackers

Dawn Report

LAKKI MARwat: Police officials ended their four-day-long sit-in and opened the Peshawar-Karachi highway and other roads in Lakki Marwat for vehicular traffic after the authorities accepted their major demands that they wouldn't be forced to launch attacks against

armed groups and that the security forces would be called back or confined to their camps.

An announcement to this effect was made by a protesting police official in the presence of local elders and senior police officials late Thursday night.

Citizens along with Capital City Police Officer Peshawar Qasim Ali Khan, Frontier Reserve Police (FRP) Commander Ahsan Arreas, Regional Police Officer Bannu Imran Shahid and other officials engaged the protesters' representatives in negotiations at the police lines in the District Headquarters Complex, Torkam, and convinced them to wind up the protest camp,

Former interior minister Idrees Miskandar said the negotiations continued for several hours and finally they succeeded in persuading protesters to end their agitation.

The protesting police official told the gathering of his colleagues that their demands had been accepted. "The authorities have assured us that there will be no compunction on the police to launch action against armed groups," he said.

He said police would be provided with more armoured personnel carrier vehicles and other resources to enhance their professional capabilities. He claimed the security forces would be called back or confined to their camps.

The police official said the authorities would not initiate any adverse action against the policemen, who took part in the sit-in.

The policemen had set up a protest camp at Lt-Admiral Shahid Square, popularly known as Tazakat Chowk, along Gulru Highway for vehicular traffic. As soon as the protesters, who had been stuck on the main artery for the last four days, took a sigh of relief and set out for their destinations.

In Bannu, the protesting police officials also ended their sit-in and handed over a charter of demands to the district police authority.

They had closed the Bannu-Miranshah Road after establishing the protest camp at Maulana Abdul Sattar Shah Bokhari Shah Chowk against the gun attack on a police constable, Jan Alian, in Domel area.

Traders had also shown their solidarity with the protesting police officials.

On Friday, the protesters gave a list of their demands to district police officer Ziauddin Ahmed and made clear that they would again come onto roads if their grievances were not addressed.

Mr Alian assured them that he would take up their issues with higher authorities concerned for early solution.



Afghanistan-NZ Test abandoned without ball being bowled

Pg. 18 SPORT

Reopening of Angoor Adda border demanded

By Our Correspondent

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: The tribesmen staged a demonstration in Wanis Bazaar of Lower South Waziristan district here on Friday, demanding of the authorities to resume trade activities at the Angoor Adda border crossing.

The gathering was organised by political parties, including Paktunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Jamiat-i-Islami, Pakistan People's Party, Pashtum Tahafuz Movement and Pakistan Tahrik-e-Insaaf.

Tribal elders, political leaders and residents participated in the gathering. They urged the federal government and the security officials to address their legitimate demands.

The speakers, including Imran Mukhi, Abdurrahman Hanoom, Khayal Mohammad and Maulana Tashibullah Wazi, highlighted the sacrifices made by the Wanis tribe of Lower South Waziristan for the country's sake, and demanded an end to the 'oppression' of tribal people.

They said that continuing suspension of trade activities at the Angoor Adda border crossing was tantamount to economic murder of local people.

The political leaders also asked the authorities to meet the demands of the people, who had been continuing a sit-in at the Angoor Adda border for one year.

Jamrud tehsil chairman to be elected on Oct 20

KHYBER: A day after the election commission announced the postponement of the elections for the post of Jamrud tehsil chairman due to precarious law and order situation in the region, the district administration announced to hold the by-election on Oct 20.

An election commission notification dated Sept 11 and issued the next day stated that the decision regarding the postponement of elections for Jamrud tehsil chairman was taken after a request from the provincial government, while citing the unfavourable law and order situation in the area.

The elections were earlier announced to be held on Sept 25 with electioneering by the contesting candidates in full swing despite a protest by Kukhidas, a major tribe of Jamrud, for return of their remaining displaced families.

The announcement immediately drew the wrath of both the contesting candidates and the political parties' representatives, who rejected the EC decision and accused the provincial government of its failure to effectively control the law and order situation. — Correspondent

Driver dies as truck plunges into Shangla ravine

SHANGLA: A truck loaded with buffaloes fell into a ravine after its brakes failed in Machar area of Alpuri here on Friday, killing its driver and injuring another person.

Police 1122 spokesman Rasool Khan Sharif said the truck was going from Swat to Baram.

He said a rescue team retrieved the body and the injured from the ravine and shifted them to the District Headquarters Hospital, Alpuri. The injured man was later referred to Shabqadar Teaching Hospital, Swat, in critical condition.

The rescue official said eight buffaloes also perished in the accident. — Correspondent

PRAYER

Fajr	04:33
Zohar	12:13
Aza	04:39
Maghrib	04:25
Isha	07:59

Starting time in Pakistan

Swat police claim arrest of three key militants

DPO says they were involved in Bamir police station attack

By Our Correspondent

SWAT: Swat district police officer Dr Zabihullah announced on Friday that three key militants, involved in the August 25 attack on the Bamir police station, which resulted in the death of a cop and injuries to two others, had been arrested.

Addressing a press conference at his office here, he said following the incident, the Swat police in collaboration with the Counter-Terrorism Department initiated an operation based on scientific methods, utilizing CCTV footage and human intelligence, which led to the critical breakthrough.

"We traced the suspect to Amir Khan Mardali in Nowra Kalay area with the assistance of local residents. The militants had deep connections to the outlawed Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan," he said, adding

that those of the five militants were arrested during a raid. He said efforts were underway to arrest the remaining two suspects.

He identified the arrested militants as Mohammad Hussain, Burhanullah and Shafiq, all hailing from Swat.

DPO Zabihullah also revealed that Hussain, alias Merajuddin, was a notorious TTP operative in Swat, who was killed by security forces in 2011.

He said mobile phones recovered from the suspects showed they were in constant contact with individuals in Afghanistan. "One of the aspects, however, is missing to the identity of a presumed TTP commander. All of the arrested militants are related, and their families have ties to the TTP," he added.

The three arrested militants were also presented to the media on the occasion.

DPO Zabihullah emphasized that Swat remained peaceful and assured that the police were prepared for any challenge. He also expressed gratitude to the people of Swat for supporting the law enforcement agencies in their fight against

the anti-state elements.

IRRIGATION CHANNEL RESTORED: A non-governmental association, Community Irrigation Activity North (CIRAN), has facilitated an irrigation channel, which was damaged in the 2022 floods in Balaora taluk.

The opening ceremony of the restored channel was held in Sharqian Pakhal area of Madyan the other day.

Additional assistant commissioner, Balochistan Ahmed Shah, tribal chairman Miran Shahid Ali and local elders were in attendance.

The speakers said the damage to the irrigation channel had caused significant hardship for local farmers, leaving their agricultural lands barren.

CIRAN officials said five similar projects had been completed in Balochistan and two in Khyber.

They said community training sessions were also held in Chawla, Shangay, and Pekal villages of Balochistan. These sessions involved 150 rural families from each village, who learned measures to reduce losses on flood risks and prevent tree invasions to ensure safety.

Long delay in Kohat irrigation project flayed

KOHALAT: An irrigation scheme in the remote rain-fed Shikarpur Allahbad area has hit snags due to lack of funds after an initial release of Rs 650 million for the project in 2023.

The people lamented that during the past 12 years the elected representatives had failed to utilize released amounts needed funds for the Zamzai God canal small project. A local official of small dams, while talking to Dawn on the condition of anonymity, attributed the delay in the approval of the second PCU of the small dam to lack of funds, which, he said, were released in small installments from a total outlay of Rs 980.77 million since 2013.

Former senator Masoom Khan said due to the inordinate delay in the completion of the project, the people had forgotten about the dam. Senator Rabi Khan expressed concern that the locals were overjoyed when the work was started on the dam, but the delay in its completion had disappointed the people. He criticized that the lawmakers had shown no interest in the completion of project.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE: The office bearers of small industrial estate demanded construction of labour colony, drainage system and a police post to prevent antisocial activities in the area.

During the visit of Commissioner Moinuddin Baloch to industrial estate the other day, the industrialists offered their services for teaching skills to the poor students in handlooms and machinery in their industrial units.

The office bearers stated that they had made the estate functional after it had remained closed for 10 years.

They put forward their long-standing demand for establishing police check post to stop antisocial activities in and around the industrial estate.

After listening to industrialists' demands, the commissioner said that he would summon heads of all relevant departments to make a workable plan of action to solve their problems. — Correspondent

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- d. Professor At least 5 in HEC 'W' category.
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- d. 1st three authors) in the relevant subjects in PM&DC recognized medical journals, of which 07 as Assistant Professor. At least 3 in HEC 'W' category.
- e. 5 years' teaching experience as Assistant Professor in the relevant subject. (PM&DC experience recognition letter is mandatory)
- f. PM&DC eligibility certificate is mandatory.

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- c. 2 research articles (1st three authors) in the relevant subjects in PM&DC recognized medical journals.
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In the Court of Iman Majidat Civil Judge Chakwal Bar for Mianwali Karez Zone vs Yousaf Ali (B) Major Hassan (C) Major Hassan (D) Major Hassan (E) Major Hassan (F) Major Hassan (G) Major Hassan (H) Major Hassan (I) Major Hassan (J) Major Hassan (K) Major Hassan (L) Major Hassan (M) Major Hassan (N) Major Hassan (O) Major Hassan (P) Major Hassan (Q) Major Hassan (R) Major Hassan (S) Major Hassan (T) Major Hassan (U) Major Hassan (V) Major Hassan (W) Major Hassan (X) Major Hassan (Y) Major Hassan (Z) Major Hassan (AA) Major Hassan (BB) Major Hassan (CC) Major Hassan (DD) Major Hassan (EE) Major Hassan (FF) Major Hassan (GG) Major Hassan (HH) Major Hassan (II) Major Hassan (JJ) Major Hassan (KK) Major Hassan (LL) Major Hassan (MM) Major Hassan (NN) Major Hassan (OO) Major Hassan (PP) Major Hassan (QQ) Major Hassan (RR) Major Hassan (TT) Major Hassan (UU) Major Hassan (VV) Major Hassan (WW) Major Hassan (XX) Major Hassan (YY) Major Hassan (ZZ) Major Hassan (AA) Major Hassan (BB) Major 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young world

DAWN

September
14, 2024



Recycled bottle airplane

Learn how to reuse ordinary objects, like empty plastic bottles, and transform them into a fun and creative airplane, and this 'private jet' of yours can be customised to reflect your personality and taste

Pg 5

The teenage rollercoaster!

By Crystal Maria Pereira



Cont...
pg 4



The weekly weird

Artists are going to great lengths to showcase their extraordinary talents. One is creating a cigar lighter out of solid gold, adorned with sapphires, while another is crafting character portraits using leaves and petals. Keep reading, as there's more in the weird news section that will leave you amazed.

Pg 9

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The gravity of carelessness

This is regarding the story "The gravity of carelessness" by Aqsa Shoaib (YW, July 20). The article was nicely written and emphasised the importance of paying proper attention to our parents' instructions, especially when they leave us alone at home. Even a little carelessness by us can result in dire consequences.

The famous quotation "Prevention is better than cure" perfectly illustrates the scenario depicted in the story.

I am glad Young World publishes stories that teach children how their irrational acts could lead to dangerous situations, helping them understand the value of caution and responsibility in their daily lives.

Azeem Hassan Maitlo,
Khairpur Mirs

The world of rocket launches

This is regarding the website review of "The world of rocket launches" by Asif Ali (YW, July 27).

I visited the site and found all the information quite comprehensive. The website focuses on rocket launches, and I can confidently say that those who love rockets will enjoy knowing and reading about all the rocket launches. The topic is hardly talked about and I would suggest to the YW team to include more articles and stories about space and the universe.

Muneer Shar,
Mir Wah

Tune in, turn down

This is regarding the advice "Tune in, turn down" by Marvi (YW, July 20). Like everything, headphones have both benefits and downsides. The important thing is to see whether the benefits outweigh the downsides or vice versa, and to maintain a balance between the two.

The writer acknowledged that while one cannot



Mailbox

completely avoid using headphones, it is crucial to use them carefully and sensibly. The article also mentioned precautions, which I found practical.

Additionally, one should be well-informed regarding the use of gadgets or devices like headphones, to prevent damaging one's hearing.

Umair Khan,
Kazi Ahmed

Listening through headphones can be an enjoyable experience, making us feel immersed in the moment. However, it's important to remember the potential long-term damage to our hearing.

The article, "Tune in, turn down" by Marvi highlighted all the essential details about headphone usage and the risks we often overlook. Headphones are here to stay, but we should use them responsibly. By being mindful of our listening habits and taking simple precautions, we can enjoy sound without compromising our health.

Ayaan Ali,
Karachi



Your contributions should mention your full name, age, class, school, address and telephone number/email address. If you are under 18, you need to give your parent's or guardian's name too with their CNIC number.

Young World accepts original contributions only.

Quotes

"If you're afraid — don't do it, — if you're doing it — don't be afraid!"

— Genghis Khan
(Emperor)

"There is only one way to deal with fear: to face it, to bring it out into the open and to challenge it."

— Nadeem Aslam (Novelist)

"Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance."

— George Bernard Shaw (Playwright)

"Even the greatest was once a beginner. Don't be afraid to take that first step."

— Muhammad Ali (Boxer, activist)

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

— Mark Twain (Author)

"What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books."

— Thomas Carlyle (Philosopher)



Word search

Wordlist:

CANISTER
BOTTLE
TUMBLER
CRATE
FLASK
PAIL
POT
BARREL
BEAKER
PITCHER
DECANTER
TUB
DRUM
CYLINDER
PHIAL

Find these words, related to different types of containers, from the list given below, hidden in this word grid.

T	L	W	V	R	D	K	S	A	L	F	F
L	O	O	P	I	T	C	H	E	R	G	J
W	N	P	E	L	Q	D	G	A	G	F	P
Y	R	C	M	J	M	B	R	A	K	O	D
P	U	A	G	D	O	I	R	P	S	R	M
O	A	L	Y	T	R	E	E	J	U	C	M
L	I	D	T	L	K	E	D	M	B	A	Q
E	R	L	S	A	H	Y	N	B	U	N	V
R	E	M	E	I	O	C	I	U	S	I	H
R	E	B	Q	H	X	P	L	T	Q	S	G
A	D	G	K	P	X	A	Y	Q	N	T	Z
B	X	L	I	A	P	R	C	M	T	E	O
P	Y	D	D	E	C	A	N	T	E	R	A
E	S	W	E	T	A	R	C	A	U	D	C
Q	D	T	U	M	B	L	E	R	R	S	G

My dad

My dad is a great man,
He went to the beach and got a tan.
He is a spectacular soccer player,
Often talks on the phone with his friends everywhere.
He's a big fan of Messi,
And likes to drink cold and refreshing Pepsi.
He loves to make me fool,
And often takes me to the swimming pool,
Sometimes, tells me bedtime stories.
And he likes to watch horror movies.
He bakes me yummy chocolate cake,
I eat it, while drinking a mango shake
When I call him again and again, "Dad!"
He laughs and asks, "Are you mad?"
My dad is the best,
Yet, he always keeps on giving me a test.

Tehreem Noor,
13 years, Multan

Humanity

Even the name is sacred.
Was it worth it?
Making all those animals go extinct?
Dinosaurs, dodos, rhinoceroses,
How did they ever harm you?
Killing life instead of nourishing it,
Cutting down trees, manufacturing cars,
Smoke streaming from factories.
Tearing down trees, destroying the ozone layer.
Let me just say,
You're all gathering diseases in your basket.
Will you keep up this destruction?
Killing animals, destroying forests.
Do you ever think of the harm to our environment?
The clouds of carbon dioxide,
The dangerous greenhouse gases.
Do you even know how we depend on Amazon?
How does it produce oxygen for us to breathe?
How does it swallow carbon dioxide?
Forests are critical for our survival,
Producing not just oxygen, but fruits and berries too,
So please decide, the choice is up to you.

How do you wish to live your life each day?
Do you want to breathe fresh air, come what may?
Do you want to be healthy?
Plant a tree, save a life,
Don't just kill these innocent creatures,
The choice is yours.

Zoya Agha,
12 years, Karachi

My era

The best of times is this age,
With peace, charity and prosperity.
The worst of times is also this age,
With poverty, disparity and adversity.
This is the age of wisdom,
With education and philosophical thoughts.
This is the age of foolishness,
No fair decisions in the courts.

Muhammad Zaid,
12 years, Sukkur

Poet's corner**The people of Gaza**

Oh dear people of Palestine,
You are so innocent,
They are killing you for months.
You are still patient,
They are so tyrant.
They have no heart,
Don't be sad,
Because you are the best.

Fatema Khan,
8 years, Karachi

The fox

I saw a fox in a box,
And it was wearing red socks.
It sneaks into houses and open locks,
It's clever and never gets electric shocks.
The fox coloured the roads with chalks,
And played with rocks and blocks.

Razeena Ahmed,
7 years, Islamabad

The night sky

In the night, the moon is bright.
In the night, the stars shine.
In the night, the birds sleep.
In the night, the sky is dark.
In the night, we all say good night.

Rija Hareem,
6 years, Karachi

Mother

Mum, you are the one everything for me,
You are the one who likes everything in me.

You are courageous as well as gorgeous,
You are precious than any treasure.
For me, being your daughter I feel pleasure.

You always encourage me to continue,
That's why my success is all due to you.

You remember me in your prayers,
And pray for me with the tears.
A lot of pain you bear,
But I never feel pain because of your care.

You are my friend as well,
And the one I want all the secrets to tell.
Our friendship's bond will never end,
Because you always give me a helping hand.

Thank you for being my whole life.
And making me sharp as a knife.

Anshra Zahid,
11 years, Karachi

Palestine

Tears fall from the eyes,
And pain hurts my heart,
Blood sheds from the bodies,
The people I speak about are Palestinians.

Hassnain Ali,
13 years, Sukkur

Dear parents!

You're like a shining bangle,
Just like a burning candle.
Your presence is a pleasure,
Like a valuable treasure.
You're the best,
Like the treasure chest.
You're the nicest, and the brightest.
You teach us to grow.
You're a light of guidance,
Who gives us light in the dark night.

Aroosh Waseem,
10 years, Islamabad

Spot the difference

There are eight differences in these pictures, see if you can spot them. You can find the answer on Page 11

The teenage rollercoaster!

If you feel like your life is suddenly spiralling out of control, you're a teen.

If your friends have become your priority and family no longer seems as important, you're a teen.

If you feel like everyone is turning against you, you're a teen.

If you think that working a little harder might finally earn you some appreciation, you're a teen.

And if you feel like you have a hundred problems in your life, congratulations — you're normal. It's all part of growing up.

As a teenager, how do you find your way through this maze of challenges, expectations, opportunities and tough choices? Well, let me help you there.

Discipline is the key

First of all, I have noticed a lot of teens complaining that they don't have time to do their chores or even school homework, etc. Well, let's accept that we mostly have time, it is just that we are a little disorganised. Those who are organised don't know what to do with it.

And to bring a little discipline into your life, you just need a pen and a planner. Simply plan out your day. It doesn't take long at all and pretty soon you will be planning out your life. The best part about planners is that you feel that you have a certain goal to achieve. And trust me, you feel so proud of yourself at the end of the day that you can't help smiling and thinking 'Wow! I can do that; I am so amazing!'

The power of a smile

Next up I'd like to give you the biggest power of all time — the power of a smile. This is often underestimated, especially by teenagers.

Caught up in their busy lives, whether it's school, social media, or hanging out with friends, teens can become so absorbed in their world that they forget something as simple, yet powerful, as a smile. A smile can brighten someone's day, lift spirits, and create a sense of warmth and connection.

When was the last time you smiled at your family? Parents, siblings and even grandparents often go unnoticed in the hustle of daily life, yet they are the ones who appreciate these small gestures the most. A simple smile shows them that you care and that you're present. It's a tiny act with a huge impact, capable of soft-

tening hearts and strengthening bonds.

So, next time you're rushing out the door or sitting down for dinner, take a second to smile. You might be surprised at how much it changes the atmosphere around you.

Believe in yourself!

Believe in yourself — always and forever. If you're wondering how to think positive always, well, I suggest you start simple. How many of you, after getting ready for an occasion, have looked in the mirror and thought, "Oh no, why do I look like

or "We are all different and beautiful in our ways". You will see that cloud of jealousy and hatred toward others vanishing as if it were never there.

It's not just teenagers — people of all ages have developed the bad habit of putting others down to elevate themselves. Whether it's jealousy, sarcasm, hate, fake smiles, lies, gossip, selfishness, greed, negativity, dishonesty or envy, the list of negative behaviours goes on and on. These habits have become so ingrained in us that they could easily fill pages.

But imagine a world where we replaced these toxic tendencies with positive thinking, kindness, and self-control. Simple changes like

Exercise, for instance, doesn't just keep us physically fit; it also reduces stress, boosts mental clarity and helps us sleep more peacefully at night. The road to a more fulfilling life starts with small, mindful choices each day. By consciously adopting healthier habits and letting go of negativity, we can truly transform ourselves and the world around us.

Music, food for the soul

As a teenager, you probably listen to music more than most people, and it's one of your favourite ways to relax. You have your unique playlist and the music becomes your escape when you need a break or just some



Illustration by Sumbul

this?" or "Why does my hair stick up like that?" or "Why do I have so many zits?"

The next time you take a peep at yourself in the mirror, focus on the good in you, "Oh look, my eyelashes are so pretty", or "I have the perfect jawline". Or even saying things like, "Wow! Don't I look amazing" can help boost your confidence.

Remember, be confident about yourself. No one is ugly or beautiful, everyone is just different. Try saying, "I'm unique", or "I can do this",

swapping gossip for compassion, or bitterness for gratitude could make all the difference, not just for ourselves, but for those around us.

As Charles R. Swindoll said, "Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it."

How we choose to respond to challenges, stress, or the actions of others defines our character and shapes our happiness. Developing healthy habits like meditation, mindfulness and regular exercise can also work wonders.

time to yourself.

But here's some advice: when you're feeling down, try to avoid listening to sad music. Yes, I know it's tempting to match your music to your mood, but honestly, it won't help as much as you think.

Instead, create a playlist of your favourite upbeat, feel-good songs that can instantly lift your spirits. Music has the power to change your emotions and, if you choose wisely, it can make you feel lighter, happier and more positive.

Wonder Craft

Recycled bottle airplane

By The Crafter

Journaling to share

For a nice, peaceful, fun-filled, yet organised, life is to practice journaling. Now for those who don't journal, writing their thoughts, feelings and emotions down on paper may seem ridiculous. But I promise you give it a try sometime and you'll see all the changes in your life. Suppose you have a secret that you badly want to tell someone, but as it's a secret you can't. Well, write that down in your journal.

Similarly, if you are angry just write how you feel, believe me, once you're done you will feel good. It feels like a burden is being taken off your back. Write in a journal if you have a problem that you can't seem to find the solution to. Later on, reading back you will find the answer to that problem.

Trust me, writing is fun, it not only strengthens your memory but also builds your confidence, reduces stress and makes you happier. If that doesn't seem like the perfect life, I don't know what is.

Healthy habits first

As a teenager, healthy habits might seem far from your understanding or even unimportant, but believe it or not, developing them now can have a profound impact on your life, both mentally and physically. You might feel invincible or too busy with school, friends and social media, but taking small steps toward building positive routines will pay off in ways you can't imagine. Whether it's getting enough sleep, eating a balanced diet, or finding time to exercise, these habits will help you stay energised, focused and more in control of your emotions.

Activities like taking nature walks, practicing mindfulness or listening to uplifting music can help clear your mind and reduce stress. Even something as simple as spending less time on your phone and more time reading or writing can give you a sense of balance. It's all about taking small actions that build up over time. You don't have to do everything perfectly, but starting now will make the journey to adulthood a lot smoother.

And here's the key: this isn't just about looking after your body — it's about nurturing your mind, too. Positive thinking, self-reflection and surrounding yourself with supportive people will make a world of difference. Believe in your ability to grow and face challenges with resilience, because these habits will give you the foundation you need to become the best version of yourself. ■

The empty bottles often sit around the house, seemingly without purpose, but can hold immense potential.

Beyond their usual function of storing water, these bottles can be repurposed in countless creative ways.

Today's activity highlights this idea perfectly, as we transform a simple, empty plastic bottle into a fun and imaginative airplane. Thus, with a little creativity, even the most ordinary objects can take on new life and purpose. Let's not waste time and start our project instantly:

Things you need:

1. Empty plastic bottle (250ml)
2. Two A4-sized coloured papers
3. 18 inches long string or jute rope
4. Double-sided tape
5. Ruler
6. Scissors/paper cutter
7. Pencil
8. Marker

Directions:

1. Decide colours to use for the plane's wings and the stars and windows. Here, I have used purple for the wings, and yellow for the windows and stars.
2. Place the paper in portrait orientation, then fold it into three equal sections, picture 2.
3. Cut the two parts still joined together, and secure and paste double tape on one side of the fold (wings), picture 3.
4. Using a pencil, create the wing shape from both sides then cut it out, see pictures 4 and 5.
5. Mark 3 inches long line on both sides (parallel to each other) in the middle of the bottle, then carefully make slits using scissors or a paper cutter. This is where you will insert the wings (see picture 6). You can ask an adult for help.
6. Take the bottle cap and cut a piece of paper to match its size. Cut a propeller from the same paper, then paste the propeller onto the circular piece and then onto the bottle cap, pictures 7, 8 and 9.
7. Cut a fin that is three inches long and one-inch-wide, then cut a rudder that is two inches long and one-inch-wide from the same purple paper, pictures 10 and 11.
8. Insert the wings into the slits you made in the bottle, picture 12.
9. Cut a one-inch slit at the bottom of the bottle and insert the fin and rudder, pictures 13 and 14.
10. Cut six small circles from the other coloured paper and paste them on top of the wings on the bottle. Add two stars, one on each wing; picture 15.
11. Make two small holes at the top centre of the bottle, insert the string from one hole and bring it out from the other. ■

The writer can be contacted at ihecraftman@gmail.com

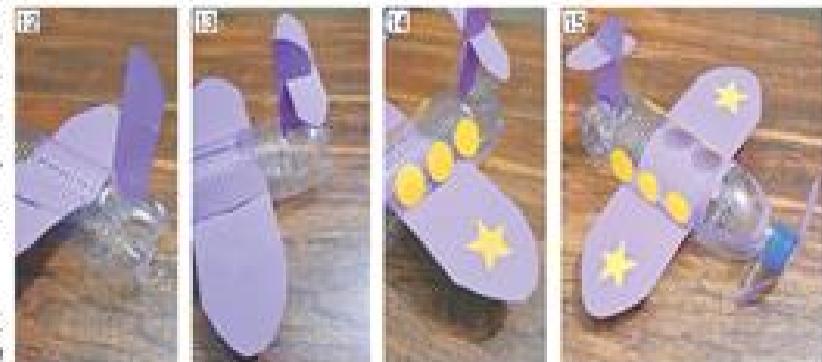
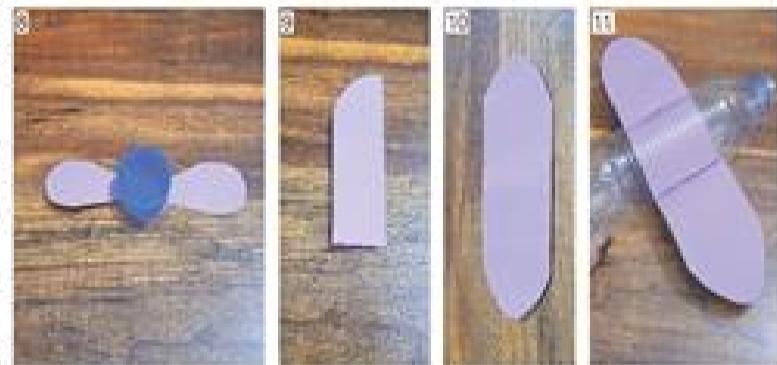
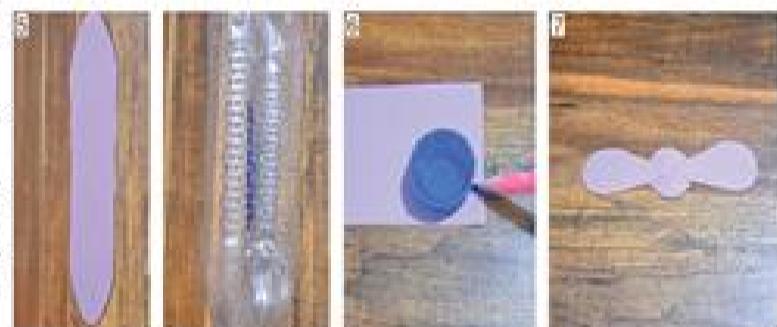
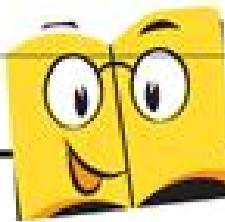


Photo by the writer

Story time

By Aqsa Shoaib



The power of encouragement

After multiple days of practice, the day had finally arrived — the day of my first ever live performance in front of an audience. I had worked so hard during the last two months.

The backstage air hung heavy and I had the mixed feeling of nervousness and excitement. The dim glow of the dressing room reflected anticipation in my eyes. The muffled hum of the audience created restlessness. Although I had practiced for so long, I felt butterflies in my stomach. I felt on the edge, as if my soul had left my body. A sense of anxiety washed over me. I was biting my nails and that was an action I had never done before. I could hear the echo of my heartbeat in the chamber.

I went over my script again and again to make sure that I remembered everything and would not embarrass myself in front of the audience. I was mumbling every word constantly. I kept on thinking that I was not good enough to handle this and that I might fail. At one moment, I also thought about quitting.

While I was thinking all these things, an unknown kind-hearted lady, after perceiving that I had stage anxiety and fright, approached me and asked my name. I stopped



thinking and glanced at her.

Her voice was very polite and soothing. She had a huge smile on her face. Looking at her was very motivating. I told her my name.

She asked me, "What would you be

performing on stage today?"

I told her I was a participant in the debate group. She told me a little about herself like her name, and that she worked there. She shared a story from her own life, telling me that she also had stage fright when she was young, and understood how difficult it was to get up and speak in front of a crowd. She encouraged me to stay calm, assuring me that once I started speaking, everything

no one can tell when my heart is racing or if my hands get sweaty, and even if they do, it's completely fine.

Listening to her words I took a deep breath and kicked out all negative thoughts out of my mind. I looked at the audience from backstage and noticed that my friends in the audience were thrilled and excited. They were excitedly waiting to see my performance. Seeing them gave me a surge of courage.

On the contrary, some people in the audience were least concerned about who was performing and who was not, and then there were my parents who were eagerly waiting to see me on stage for the first time.

I then realised that most of the other performers were sailing in the same boat as me. Suddenly, my name was announced. My palms were sweaty. I looked back at the lady. She gave me a thumbs up which made me smile. With a heavy heart, I walked to the stage.

I did not look at the audience in the first few seconds, but then I recalled the words of that lady and gave myself the confidence and courage to look up at the audience and I did it. I confronted myself with the audience. Seeing the familiar faces once again, my fear completely vanished into thin air and I had a huge smile on my face. I tried my best and I ended up doing every step and part well.

The audience was impressed and cheered for me. Their cheering was like a soothing balm on all the nervousness I was going through. It was beyond my expectations. I went through the ride of emotions. The beginning was rough, but it ended wholesome.

That lady's personality and the way she treated me had a huge impact on who I am. I never realised how a few words could change someone's day or even their life. I'm so grateful and will never forget her. ■

Jokes

A man got a job of painting the white line on the middle of the highway. After three days, the foreman called him:

"The first day on the job, you painted five miles of the highway; the second day, one mile, and today only a few feet! Why are you slowing down like that?"

"Can't be helped," replied the man. "I keep getting farther and farther away from the paint can!"

"Any complaints?" asked the restaurant manager to a man dining in.

"Yes," said the man, "these peas are awfully hard."

The manager dipped a spoon into the peas in the plate and tasted them.

"They seem soft enough to me, sir," he declared. "Yes, they are now," agreed the man, "I've been chewing them for the last five minutes!"



Two fleas were walking out of a cinema when they discovered it was raining hard.

"Shall we walk?" said one flea.

"No," said the other, "let's take a dog."

Story time

By Rabia Hamid



A birthday to remember

It was a typical evening, and I walked with my father to the bakery to order my birthday cake. The anticipation of my birthday, which was just two days away, filled me with excitement.

As we entered the bakery, I felt a thrill knowing I would soon be celebrating with friends and family, enjoying the cake we were about to order. There were different types of cakes on display, and I got a little confused. After discussing it with my father, I ordered a customised cake.

When we arrived home, my mother gave invitations to all our close family and friends. The most exciting part of my birthday for me is when different people give me various presents.

The day of my birthday finally arrived. When I woke up, my family wished me first. My grandparents blessed me with their prayers and warm hugs. However, I had to wait the whole day for the birthday party because it was scheduled to start at eight in the

night. Finally, at 7 o'clock, I started getting ready for the party. I wore my new frock and a crown.

Then my family and friends started arriving. I met everyone excitedly, and they wished me and gave me gifts. But my excitement wasn't complete because my favourite aunt, Iman khala, hadn't arrived yet. She always brings me unique and different birthday presents. Last year, she gave me a roller skates.

I was desperately waiting for her, and finally she arrived a bit late due to traffic.

She said in her usual tone, "Mir-

Illustration by Armeen Shahzad



ha, I have something special for you. You will love it."

Everyone gathered around us because it was a special gift. My cousin Irtiza bhai, Iman khala's son, had the basket in his hands. I was so excited, wondering what it could be. Then khala gave me the basket, and as I took the net off the basket, I saw a beautiful white kitten, which was incredibly cute. I hugged it and carried it around.

Every one cheered because it was a very different gift and special gift. I thanked khala, as she knows how much I love cats. The kitten

then jumped from my hands and went into the lawn to play. We left her there and gathered around the cake to cut it.

After cutting the cake, we had dinner. Then, we played some games and danced to some music. Finally, the party ended and everyone started leaving.

When everyone had gone, I thought of looking for my kitten. I searched the lawn, but she was not there. I called all my family members and asked if they had seen my kitten. They said I should have taken care of her and not let her go outside because kittens are curious creatures, and they can go out wandering. I got upset, thinking I had lost her.

Then, my elder brother advised we should go out and ask our neighbours if they had seen a white kitten. My dad and brother looked for it in the house and all around the neighbourhood, but returned empty-handed. I had tears in my eyes. Because of my carelessness, the kitten had gone missing.

We went inside the house and suddenly, my mother called, "Look, here's your kitten! She is sleeping under the cushion here."

We were all relieved to know that the kitten was safe in the house, and we all sighed in peace. We had been looking for her everywhere, and all this time she was right at home near us.

I hugged her, and my brother said, "Give your kitten a name at least."

So, I named her Butter because I had thought long ago that if I ever had a cat, I would name my cat Butter.

It was my best and most memorable birthday because I received my favourite birthday present and also learned an important lesson about taking care of my possessions. ■

Opinion

By Armeen Shahzad

Life sometimes takes us on an exciting rollercoaster ride, that too without any admission fee. And in such a scenario, it demands a great deal of perseverance and resilience from us. As we reflect on our experiences, we come to realise that they have played a significant role in shaping the story of our lives.

This could not be more interesting than the adventures a science student experiences. From observing ripples in the water collected in the potholes on the street to recalling the process of diffusion after spraying a fragrance. From carefully observing the nutrient chart behind every product to remembering why that drop seeping through the balcony grills seems to be spherical.

Everything has a reason and is a phenomenon, according to science, and a true science student can never find it hard to know the reason behind the distortion of signals on your television screens.

Science has it all



ence behind it? Science is all around us, waiting to be explored and understood.

A science student starts with excitement, feeling a rush of energy and motivation. What was once just a simple fever becoming something they now know as pyrexia. As their knowledge grows, they transition into a 'pre-medical student', driven by the desire to become a doctor. With that goal in mind, they work tirelessly day and night, putting in endless effort to finally achieve their dream of becoming a medical student.

The universe is expanding with all of its diverse mysteries that leave us in awe and wonder, becoming the

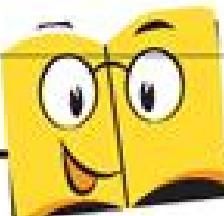
Has the sight of dew on leaves ever sparked your curiosity about science? Or has a knee-jerk reaction ever made you wonder about the sci-

basis for new research and fuelling the curiosity in a science student's inquisitive mind. From the vastness of galaxies to the microscopic world of cells, each discovery opens the door to countless questions. These mysteries not only shape the direction of their studies, but also inspire them to seek answers and contribute to the ever-growing body of scientific knowledge.

Kudos to all the groundbreaking science discoveries and to my fellow science enthusiasts, who understand the underlying principles of our daily experiences. We know that every action has an equal and opposite reaction, just like Newton's third law of motion explains. This principle helps us grasp why reactions from our siblings or others might seem so intense. It's a reminder of how fundamental scientific laws can illuminate the simplest aspects of our lives, making us appreciate the depth of science in our everyday interactions. ■

Story time

By Amna Asgher



From challenge to glory

In the bustling city of Karachi, lived two brothers, Ahmed and Shafiq, each with their distinct nature and personalities. Ahmed was a cool and outgoing kid, while Shafiq was a silent observer and quite wise for his age.

Ahmed was always involved and occupied in football games and competitions, as he was the most outstanding player in his college team. Unfortunately, his interest cost him his studies and he failed his intermediate examination very badly.

Out of frustration, he lay on the couch in despair, complaining to his brother, who was silently reading a book.

"I don't understand, Shafiq. I failed the exam despite burning the midnight oil studying. The examiners must have been cruel; they must have deducted my genuine marks. I just know it!" he grumbled.

"Ahmed, take a deep breath, you have been cursing the examiner for a long time," said Shafiq calmly.

"You can calm yourself Shafiq, because you just got lucky enough to



pass your examination with flying colours," sniffed Ahmed in a very envious manner.

Shafiq instantly figured out Ahmed's intentions, but being his brother, he decided to help Ahmed out of his misery.

The next day, Shafiq urged Ahmed to submit his re-examination form. Later that day, Ahmed learned about the annual football

championship and his coach encouraged him to register as an official member of the All-Sindh Colleges Team.

When Ahmed came home that night, he was perplexed. Noticing his brother's unusual behaviour, Shafiq asked what the matter was.

"I don't know Shafiq, I cannot decide whether I should focus on my studies or football career," Ahmed said in a sorrowful tone.

Hearing his brother's frustration about his career choices, Shafiq came up with an idea and explained that Ahmed could pursue both paths if he directed his efforts properly.

Shafiq quickly grabbed Ahmed's football and three

books from the shelf, for the subjects in which Ahmed had received poor marks. Ahmed looked on in surprise.

Shafiq placed the football on the table in front of Ahmed and tried to balance the books on it, but despite his efforts, he failed. He then explained to his brother that if he didn't manage his responsibilities in a balanced way and also in the

right way, no matter how hard he tried, he would not succeed.

"Then what am I supposed to do?" asked Ahmed desperately.

"Place three books on top of each other and then put a ball on the uppermost book," Shafiq instructed.

Ahmed easily balanced the ball above the books. He quickly understood the lesson Shafiq was trying to teach him.

"Now I see that if I plan my days properly, I'll have enough time to prepare for my re-examination and practice for the annual football event," Ahmed said, while giving a high-five to his brother warmly.

The next day, he registered for the football team and, at home, he organised his daily schedule to include football practice at a nearby club after college and exam preparation by subject.

Shafiq was pleased to have helped his brother with his advice.

Ahmed confidently passed his examination and led his team to victory in the championship. Later, his parents supported his participation in international championships.

A few years later, Shafiq became a bank manager after completing his ACCA, while Ahmed, having graduated on a scholarship from a German university, joined the official football league.

Their combined achievements highlight the impact of determination and wise counsel. From overcoming challenges to reaching new heights, their journey exemplifies the rewards of dedication and support. ■

1 "The Eras Tour" was the highest-grossing concert tour in 2023. The tour was of which artist?

2 Which instrument is the largest in the string family?

3 Which band released the popular song "Let It Go" from the Disney movie Frozen?

4 Billie Eilish is the youngest person to win two Oscars. It was for her songs "No Time to Die" from the movie No Time to Die and "What Was I Made For?" from which movie?



5 Which musical genre is commonly associated with bagpipes?

6 Zayn Malik was a former member of which

musical band before going solo?

7 Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta is the real name of which famous American singer?

8 The soul-pop superstar recently announced plans to take a lengthy break from the music industry, while wrapping up live performances in Germany?

9 Which band's signature song is "Dancing Queen"?

10 In 2024, Taylor Swift set an all-time record at the Grammys as the performer who has the most wins in the Album of the Year category. She won her fourth Grammy for which album?

—The Quiz Master

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Taylor Swift | 2. Double bass. At over 6 feet long, the double bass has the longest strings, which allow it to play very low notes. The 6 to 8 double basses of the orchestra are almost always playing the same harmonies. |
| 3. Linda Menzel | 4. Robbie Williams |
| 5. Celtic. A genre commonly found in Scotland and Ireland. | 6. One Direction |
| 7. Double basses of the orchestra are almost always playing the same harmonies. | 8. Adele |
| 8. ABBA | 9. Lady Gaga |
| 10. Madonna | 10. Michael Jackson |

ANSWERS

Spotlight

LEGO Harry Potter games getting a new remaster soon

Warner Bros. Games is remastering the LEGO Harry Potter collection, which will be released on October 8 for PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S and PC (Steam) at \$39.99.

Originally launched in 2016, this collection combines the 2010 and 2011 games covering all Harry Potter films. The remaster will feature 60 FPS, native 4K resolution, haptic feedback and high-resolution shadow maps. It will be available only digitally, with no physical release planned. ■



Marvel's Infinity Saga concert debuts *Fantastic Four*'s theme

The Marvel Studios' Infinity Saga Concert Experience debuted at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. Fans got a surprise with the debut of the *Fantastic Four: First Steps* theme, composed by Michael Giacchino. After the concert, Giacchino appeared on stage, offering an additional four-minute performance of the score for the upcoming *Fantastic Four* film, set to release on July 25, 2025. Marvel Studios' Kevin Feige also made an appearance, announcing the concert experience will go on a world tour next year. ■



Adele confirms musical hiatus

Adele is taking a lengthy hiatus and bidding farewell to her fans for an undisclosed amount of time.

"I'd like to thank you so much for coming to my show this evening," Adele said during the final show of her Munich residency, per fan footage shared via social media. "And after that, I will not see you for an incredibly long time and I will hold you dear in my heart," Adele said, adding that she will "fantasise" about the shows she's played the past three years.

"It has been amazing, I just need a rest," she said while getting emotional. "I have spent the last seven years building a new life for myself and I want to live it. I want to live the new life that I've been building. I will miss you terribly." The multiple Grammy winner and single mother previously said she suffers from sciatica and is uncomfortable performing live for long periods. ■



The weekly weird

Toothache tree shrine in Kathmandu

In Kathmandu, Nepal, a unique shrine to the goddess Vaisha Dev, the patron saint of toothache, draws scores of visitors seeking relief from dental pain. Known as the Toothache Tree, this old stump, located between Thamel and Kathmandu Durbar Square, is covered with rupee coins nailed by sufferers hoping for the goddess's aid.

Despite modern dentistry, people continue this tradition, which dates back to the Licchhavi kingdom (400-750 CE). Legend says a gold idol once resided in the tree, but it was stolen long ago. Today, the area around the Toothache Tree is known as the city's dental district, with numerous clinics nearby. ■



The world's most expensive cigar lighter

The Louis XIII Fleur de Parme, crafted from 400 grams of solid gold and adorned with 152 sapphires, is recognised as the world's most expensive cigar lighter, priced at \$500,000.

French luxury brand S.T. Dupont created it in 2013 for Hong Kong billionaire Steven Hung, with Princess Tania de Bourbon Parme, a descendant of Louis XIII, designing the piece. Inspired by the Renaissance/Baroque style, the lighter resembles a royal gold crown. Its popularity led S.T. Dupont produced 31 smaller replicas, each sold for \$15,900. Over a decade later, it remains the world's most expensive cigar lighter. ■



New lightsaber toy shows off a retractable blade



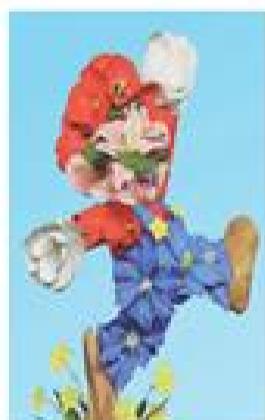
Star Wars fans should be on the lookout for a brand-new lightsaber toy with features you haven't seen on an official release. Goliath has launched its new Power Saber line, which featured auto-retracting and extending glowing plastic swords — something never seen in official Star Wars toys.

Initially developed with Hasbro, but inventor Yair Shilo secured a patent and teamed with Goliath for the release. The Power Saber boasts motion-based SFX, flash-on-clash, and a 35" extendable blade, available in red or green. ■

Pop culture icons from flowers and leaves

Raku Inoue is a talented Canadian artist who specialises in carefully arranging flower petals, leaves and other plant parts to recreate pop culture characters, animals and pretty much anything else you can think of.

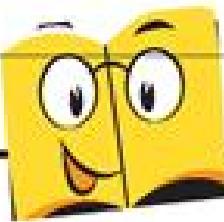
Inoue's journey into painstaking floral art began one windy day in 2017 when he noticed a strong wind shaking dozens of pink petals from a rose bush in his backyard. The Japanese-born artist picked them up and came up with the idea to use the petals to create art. He arranged them in the shape of a beetle with small twigs for legs, and his little project turned out so well that he kept at it. Today, Raku Inoue is famous for his impressive portfolio of plant art. Each design is meticulously arranged and photographed before being composted, highlighting the ephemeral nature of his work. ■



Source: www.metro.co.uk; metro.co.uk; UPI.com

Story time

By Syeda Alvina Fatima Zaidi



The fateful dream

Inaya was deep in slumber when she suddenly tumbled out of bed and landed in a 'heap' on the floor. Just a second later, cries of "Ammi!" filled the house. Poor Ammi had to leave her cooking and go inspect the scene.

"What happened beta?" she asked, confused as she found a scowling Inaya on the floor.

"Ammi, I had that same dream about my project that ... that I have exceeded the deadline and I got expelled!" she explained with a shriek.

Ammi's anxious face changed into a calm expression as she sat on the bed.

"Beta, you don't need to worry. You are an A-grade student and you still have at least ... (she counted her fingers) three months! This is an end-of-term assignment, just put your thinking cap on and come up with ideas. Oh, and also, you won't get expelled!" she consoled her in a soothing tone.

"Hmm ... sounds reasonable. I just need to think of some lead for my project," Inaya gestured towards her stomach. "The problem seems to be that I'm too hungry to think of anything but food."

"Yes, I was busy cooking breakfast when a rude call interrupted me," Ammi added with a laugh. "Go and get ready."

Inaya nodded and left for the bathroom.

The next day when Inaya arrived home after school, she rang the bell continuously until the door was eventually opened by her younger brother, wearing a dazed expression on his face.

"Assalam-o-alaikum!" she howled and launched her shoes on the rack, nearly destroying it. Hearing Inaya, Ammi greeted her back.

"Ammi! It's so hot outside. I think I'm melting, help me!" Inaya over-reacted.

"Okay, drama queen come, first go freshen up, then come and eat some food."

After lunch, Inaya went into her room to work on her project. A few failed attempts later, she thought, "I'm so sleepy. Maybe I'll be able to concentrate after a tiny nap ..." and before she knew it, she was fast



Illustration by Sumbal

asleep, drooling on her desk.

"What is this place?" she thought as she looked around the strangely all-white room after being jolted to consciousness. Eager for a clue, Inaya ran around and after finally becoming exhausted, she found a standing figure looking at the ground disappointedly.

She approached it and, hesitantly, poked it in the arm. As the mysterious person turned around and Inaya was shocked as it was the one and only — Quaid-i-Azam!

Taken aback, Inaya exclaimed, "I can't believe it!"

"Yes dear, it's me. I think you may not realise this, but this is your dream," he replied in his crisp voice.

Inaya was surprised beyond words, but she gathered her senses and dared to ask about him what he felt about how things are like in Pakistan today.

"Ah, Pakistan! My Pakistan is deteriorating. Heatwave after heatwave, thousands suffering from heat strokes, there are landfills overflow-

ing with toxic waste and water becoming increasingly polluted. This isn't the Pakistan I dreamt of and I struggled for. It's turning into something like a boiler room."

Inaya was ashamed because she knew she had also contributed to the state her beloved country is now in.

"You, my dear Inaya, you have to do something about this, for I be-

hauled her heavy bones up and sat on her desk. After a couple of hours inside her locked room, Inaya came out. Her family was just sitting down for dinner while Ammi was bringing something for her to eat when Inaya appeared in the dining room.

She pretended this was her school assembly, imagining herself on stage with hundreds of eyes focused on her. She coughed to capture the supposed 'audience's' attention before beginning her speech.

"Since the primary issue facing our struggling country is the heat caused by the careless littering of polluted materials on land, in the air and in our water, I've decided to organise a small plantation programme at our school. Anyone can participate. I've also created a chart highlighting the benefits of plants to our environment — they help reduce heat and produce oxygen, a gas essential for our survival. I hope you all understand the purpose of this project, as I'm doing it not for recognition, but for the betterment of Pakistan."

After ending the speech a few minutes later, Inaya made a courteous bow and said, "Thank you". The dining table erupted in applause from her family.

"That was awesome, aap!" her brother squeaked.

"Thank you, everyone, and especially Ammi, for the motivation I needed," Inaya replied, beaming from ear to ear.

It looked like the rest of the month went by in a blur and the big day came, the end of term project day. Inaya had already had her campaign approved by her principal and she was ready for the ultimate reveal.

After hearing her name being called out, taking a deep breath, Inaya went up the stage. After the speech, she launched the campaign with her friends, collecting funds from students who wanted to participate. With the funds they collected, they bought plants and planted them with other students in the school's vicinity and, surprisingly, it went better than she expected.

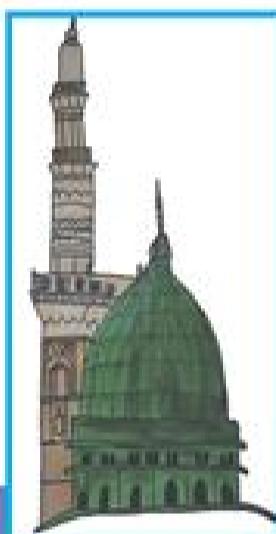
Everyone in the school was very impressed with her presentation and the project itself. And it was no surprise that Inaya got the first prize in the project competition.

"This calls for a treat at Inaya's favourite restaurant!" her dad announced joyfully and everyone agreed.

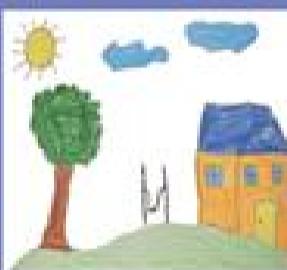
Inaya grew up to become a philanthropist, dedicating her social work to the same principle that Quaid-i-Azam had conveyed to her in that dream — age does not matter, it is the small steps that lead to bigger ones, much like how a river is formed by many small drops. ■



How can I get
more people to
see my work?



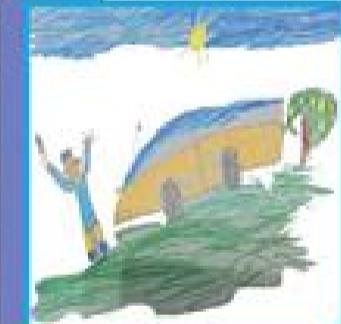
Muntaha
9 years, Karachi



Rayyan Hameed Magsi
8 years, Karachi



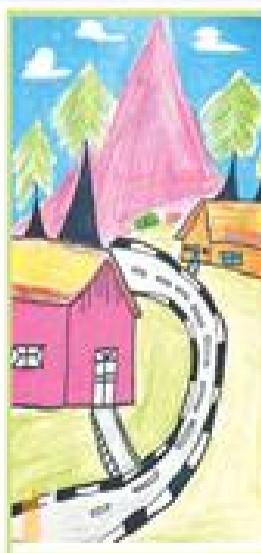
Ilsa Khurram
8 years, Karachi



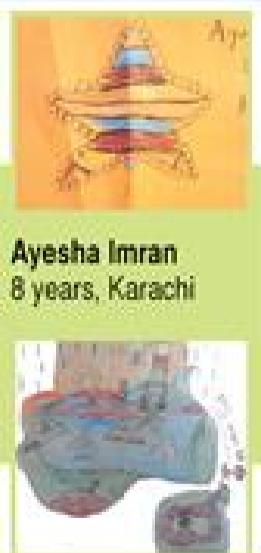
S. Hassaan Ahmed Rizvi
5 years, Karachi



Zoobia
6 years, Karachi



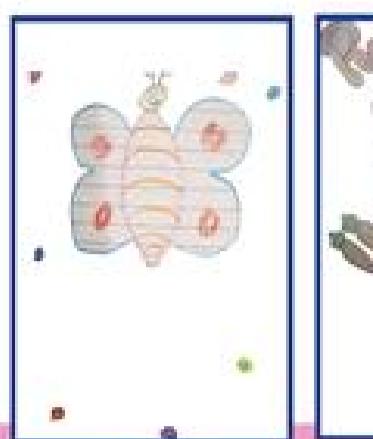
Kartik Kumar
10 years, Karachi



Ayesha Imran
8 years, Karachi



Muskan
7 years, Karachi



Bilal Zaman
6 years, Karachi



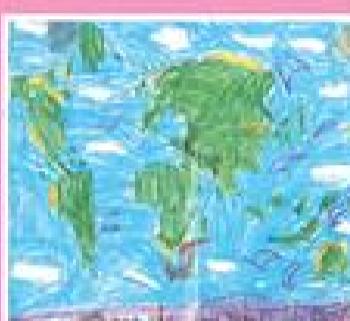
Piryanka Khanghar
11 years, Karachi



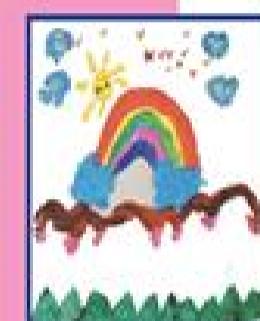
Abdullah Anas
9 years, Karachi



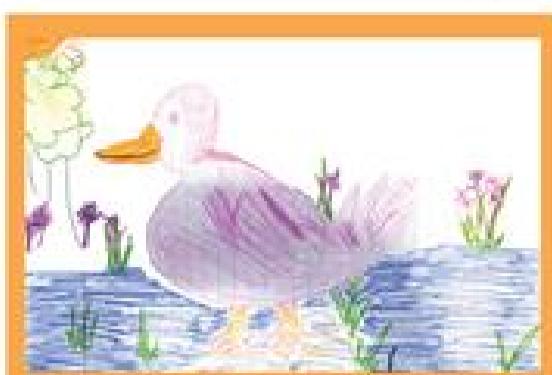
Abdullah Zaman
4 years, Karachi



Ali Zainulabedin
6 years, Karachi



Duae Zainab
6 years, Karachi



Sarinah Fatima
12 years, Karachi



Zamin Mansoor
5 years, Karachi



Maryam Zia
9 years, Karachi



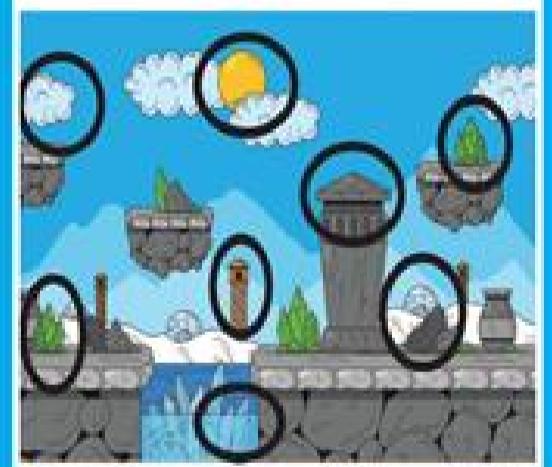
Moosa Hasani
7 years, Karachi



Huzaifa Zaman
9 years, Karachi

Spot the difference

Answers of the pictures
on Page 3



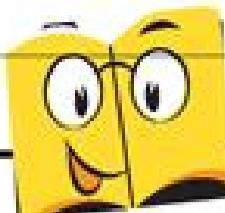
When sending your drawings, poems and contributions to us, write your full name, age, class, school, address and telephone number/email address. If you are sending your drawings by post, please write your details on the back side of the drawing.



Email: youngworld.dawn@gmail.com or youngworld@dawn.com
Postal address: Young World, Haroon House, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi, Postal Code 74200. Telephone: +92-21-35613338, +92-21-35613014
Please note that we don't accept drawings that have been traced or made by children over 12 years, of age.

Story time

By Mahnoor Sohail



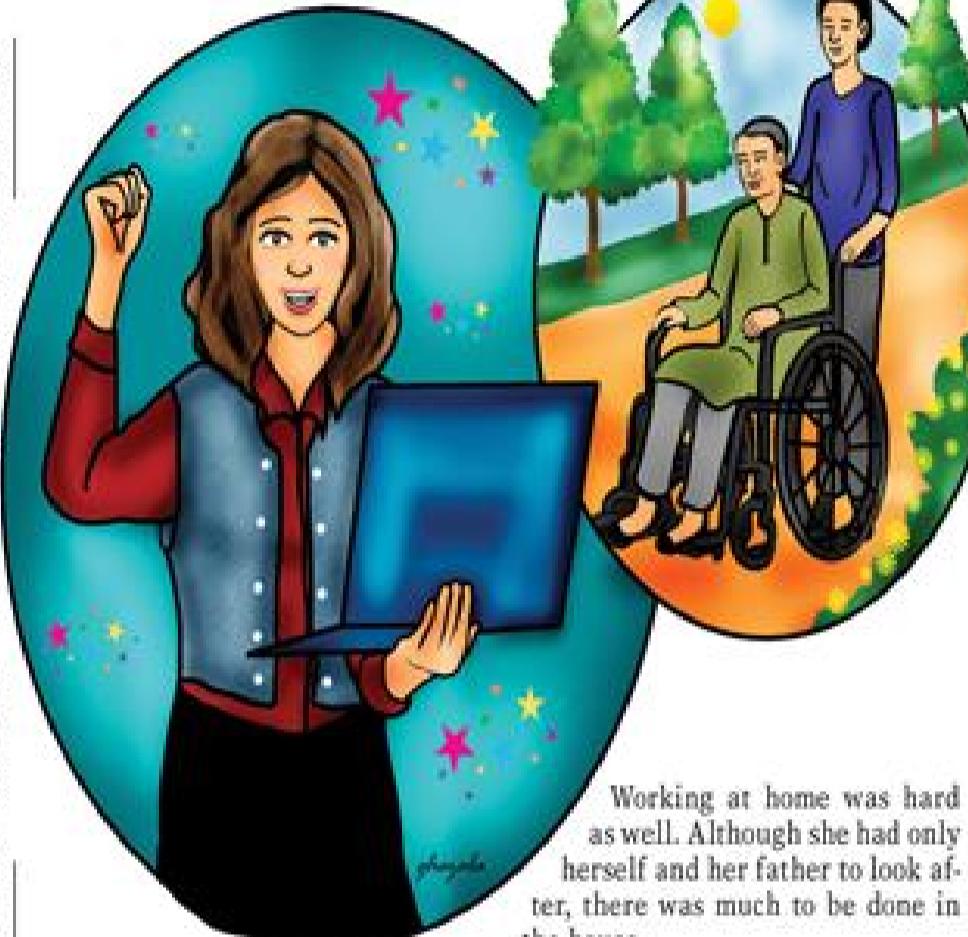
Against all odds

Maham was an only child and, as a 19-year-old, she often wished that she could have some fun like other girls. Some of her friends, she knew, were always going to see the latest films, eating meals in the most expensive restaurants, and wearing expensive branded clothes.

"My life is all work. I don't get to enjoy most of the exciting things other girls my age do," Maham said to herself one day.

It was indeed all work, because Maham's mother died in an accident, while the same accident left her father paralysed. Therefore, as well as working hard all day in a departmental store in the large city she lived in, Maham had to look after her father. She cooked all his meals and kept the house spotlessly clean. But she did not want to spend all her life doing this and so at night, when everything else was done, she started learning web design. She went to attend classes in the evenings.

She would often think, 'One day, I will get a really good job as a web designer for a big company, and I will have much more money and I



will be able to get external help to take care of my father while I go to work.'

Time passed, Maham worked harder than before. She was very often on her feet all day from morning un-

til night. Her work was not easy, as Maham worked at the meat counter where sometimes, the buyers were never satisfied. She did not like this job, she would have preferred a coffee or a clothing shop. However, like many working girls, she needed the money and so she had to persevere.

Soon the sound of the click, click, click of the keys could be heard as the class began its evening's work. Maham became absorbed in hers too. She was very tired, but she tried her best to concentrate, looking all the time at the code and designs on her screen.

"You have a good understanding," said a voice. "I have great hopes for you in diploma examinations next week."

She looked up to find her tutor standing by her desk. This was indeed an honour.

"Your coding speed is good too," went on the tutor. "Try hard in your examination and then I will help you to find a nice job. Remember to practice your coding at home, as well. If you have no one to help you, there are plenty of tutorials available online."

He walked to the next desk, leaving Maham to her work and wondering just what time she could find to fit in any more practice.

Her tutor was right, indeed, for that year, Maham obtained her diploma with very good marks. As promised, her tutor secured her a job at a large company, where she showcased her hard work and was soon promoted. She didn't stop learning; she continued studying in the evenings and acquired other skills that helped her build a successful career. Eventually, she fulfilled her dream and was able to provide her father with a caretaker at home. She was so happy that, through determination and hard work, she achieved everything she had dreamed of. ■

Movie

review

The Sandy Cheeks Movie

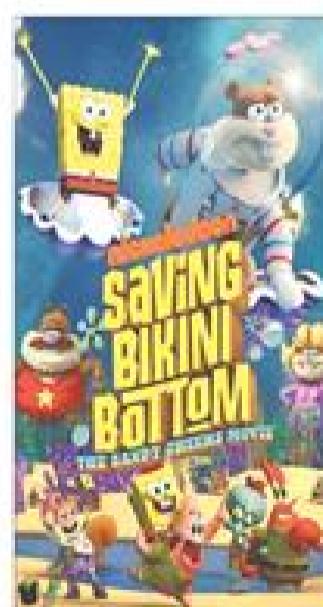
By Muhammad Suhayb

The SpongeBob SquarePants Cinematic Universe manages to expand with *Saving Bikini Bottom: The Sandy Cheeks Movie*. Released on Netflix, the movie mixes live-action with CGI and animation, where the animated characters interact with the real ones. The film brings back the crazy underwater world of all the beloved characters, SpongeBob and Sandy Cheeks at the forefront. This third SpongeBob movie keeps up with the fun jokes, bright animation and lovable lessons from the other films.

The film begins when the whole of Bikini Bottom — SpongeBob's underwater home — is scooped up by a crane and transported to a Texas laboratory. Evil scientist Sue Nahmee (Wanda Sykes) plans to exploit their environs and turn them into a theme park attraction and a toy line. All in flesh and blood (not animation), she begins with experiments on the residents, and here

enter the heroes. When it's saving the world, SpongeBob is joined by a capable, science-savvy character, Sandy. The addition of Sandy makes the two-member world-saving team stronger.

Despite the presence of SpongeBob (voiced by Tom Kenny), Sandy Cheeks' character (voiced by Carolyn Lawrence) is given more screen time in this 86-minute movie than in the previous ones. Her practical approach to problem-solving gives the film a balance of humour and heart. Whether it's constructing gadgets on the go or using her karate skills to fend off enemies, Sandy proves to be a reliable and tough ally. Even her family, when summoned at a crucial moment, is a treat to watch. They are more circus performers than family members, who perform rather than help out.



The stunning animation, vibrant colours and detailed character designs bring all the characters and its surreal underwater landscapes to life. While the humour remains as silly as ever, warmth comes from the camaraderie between the characters. Sandy's dry humour, often poking fun at SpongeBob and Patrick's antics, fits perfectly into the film's tone. As for the one-liners, they are silly and senseless. SpongeBob's dialogues are funny while Sandy has used philosophy in the lines.

Directed by Liza Johnson, the movie touches on themes of friendship, perseverance, and being there for the ones you love. Sandy's unwavering dedication to helping SpongeBob demonstrates the power of true friendship. Her character embodies loyalty and strength, serving as a reminder that intellect and courage can go hand in hand. ■