



## 'Working weekend' comes to naught

- Govt unable to muster numbers to pass constitutional amendment
- Attempts to build consensus at special parliamentary committee meeting do not bear fruit as govt fails to convince Fazl
- Sunday sittings of both houses adjourned with no business being transacted; cabinet expected to okay 'Constitutional Package' today ahead of National Assembly, Senate sessions

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: A controversial Constitutional Package, which had remained under wraps for weeks, could not be tabled in parliament even on Sunday, despite hectic efforts from the ruling coalition, as it failed to muster the two-thirds support required for the passage of a constitutional amendment.

The day-long ambiguity surrounding the Constitutional Package finally ended a few days, as both houses of parliament briefly convened at night following multiple postponements, only to be adjourned until Monday morning (today).

The Senate will now meet at 11:30am, whereas the National Assembly has been summoned to meet at 12:30pm on Monday. However, as per procedure, the constitutional amendment first needs to be cleared by the federal cabinet, which is also expected to convene on Monday.

Although it usually meets on Tuesday, the cabinet meeting may be held earlier as the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PMN) holiday falls on Tuesday.

However, observers believe this may open a door for judicial intervention, which the government had hoped to avoid by putting in extra effort on an off-day holiday.

The proposed set of amendments, which had been kept out of the public eye, much to the chagrin of the opposition as well as government allies, was eventually discussed at the special parliamentary committee's meeting in a bid to take the opposition on board.

This meeting, which was also attended by a representative of the opposition PTI, was convened after the government seemingly failed to convince its former ally Maulana Faheer Rehman to vote for the amendment on Sunday.

**Disappointment writ large**

It was apparent that the deadlock that prevailed before the special committee meeting continued to prevail as following the end of the meeting — after midnight — most participants emerged with long and haggard faces.

Committee chairperson Syed Khurshid Shah told reporters that the draft of the proposed constitutional amendment had not been shared with Maulana Faheer Rehman's party as it had yet to be cleared by the cabinet and

could not be shared before that.

The Maulana also seemed unhappy, though he did not talk about the issue in detail, he did say "It is a sensitive issue which should be discussed calmly."

PTI's Omar Ayub and Barrister Ali Zafar also complained that no draft was presented in the meeting, which lasted nearly three hours.

"They (the government) have no draft with them and they did not know what to discuss,"

**PTI 'made all-out efforts' to stop amendment: Page 3**

**The inescapable irony of Democracy Day: Page 3**

**Top lawyers oppose constitutional amendment bill: Page 3**

**Political drama: Editorial on Page 6**

Mr Omar said after the meeting.

Even PPP's Raja Pervaiz Ashraf termed the constitutional package "a serious piece of legislation" which should not be made in haste.

**Numbers game?**

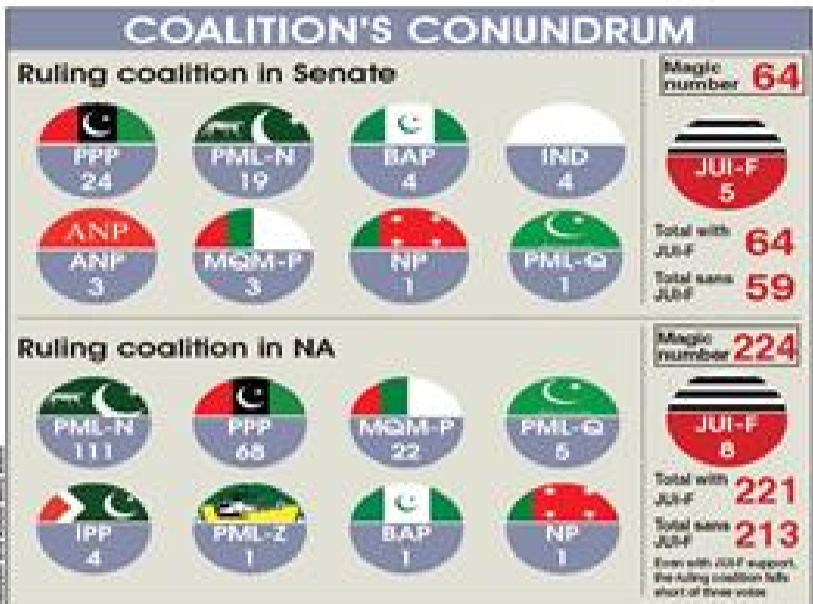
In the lead-up to the meeting of the special committee, Parliament Lodges and the residence of the JUI-F chief remained a hotbed of political activity.

The emphasis of the government seemed to be on securing the magic number required for the passage of the amendment — 224 in the case of the National Assembly and 64 in the Senate. But despite all claims that it had "completed its homework", the government's reluctance to table the amendment on Sunday night belied its earlier claims of having the numbers to push the amendment through both houses.

Everything seems to be riding on the support of Maulana — sources said the late night decision to put off the session of both houses of parliament was taken on his insistence — as he holds the key to bringing the government close to their goal as far as the Senate is concerned.

With his five seats in the Senate, the Maulana is in a position to tip the scales in the

**Continued on Page 5**



## Fazl — the quintessence of a dealmaker

- JUI-F chief's residence becomes political hub as govt, opposition try to win his support
- Key state offices said to be on table as both sides 'make offers'

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: The residence of Maulana Faheer Rehman saw the most political activity on Sunday — even eclipsing the level of politicking going on in parliament — as both the government and the opposition attempted to

win the support of the politically astute JUI-F chief.

So considerable is his clout that events began unfolding at Parliament House in earnest only after his arrival on the premises. After a day filled with political meetings, the Maulana made his way to a meeting of the special committee — chaired by PPP's Syed

Khurshid Shah — that was formed a few days ago to deliberate over the issue of the constitutional amendments being proposed.

While there was no official word on what transpired during the committee meeting, which was underway at the

**Continued on Page 5**

## Polio vaccination becomes 'bargaining chip'

- Host of challenges, from violence to use of inoculation campaigns as 'bargaining tool' and data forgery, mean virus remains endemic despite three decades of efforts
- Officials still unable to counter propaganda about the vaccine

SITUATIONER

By Ashfaq Yasufzai in Peshawar

PAKISTAN'S efforts to eradicate the poliovirus have always been beset with challenges. But over the past few years, issues have become compounded as attacks on vaccinators continue to rise and disillusioned masses use the vaccination drive as a "bargaining chip" to have their voices heard.

So far this year, Pakistan has reported 17 cases of the crippling disease. In the face of a resurging virus, the government intensified the vaccination drives, during which 17 health workers have been killed so far.

The eradication efforts are also



A HEALTH worker administers polio drops to a child during a recent inoculation campaign in Peshawar — Shahbaz Butt / White Star

marred by the forgery of vaccination data by vaccinators and officials to show inflated coverage to foreign agencies and donors.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are the two provinces

that have reported the highest number of cases over the past three years.

In 2022, all of Pakistan's 20 cases came from these KP dis-

**'Over 90pc coverage' as polio drive concludes: Page 5**

tricts. In the following year, four out of six cases were from the province. This year, 12 of 17 cases have been reported from Balochistan.

**Vaccinators under fire**

The law and order situation in the two provinces makes polio workers a frequent target for militants.

Since 2012, 126 persons have

been killed and 201 injured in attacks targeting health care workers and officials of the polio programme. In one of the most high-profile attacks, Dr Akmal Rehman, a polio programme official, was killed in Bajaur earlier this year.

"In each inoculation drive, our colleagues die and get injured," said Shabir Raza, a lady health worker.

The modes operandi of militants is simple, Ms Raza said, adding that in most cases two assailants on a motorcycle attack vaccinators and flee the scene.

Ms Raza, 24, tells Dawn that the frequency of attacks means that health workers are "always

**Continued on Page 11**

## Petrol cut by Rs10, diesel by Rs13 a litre

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: For the fourth fortnight in a row, the government on Sunday slashed prices of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) by around Rs9 and Rs13.04 per litre, respectively, with immediate effect till Sept 30, mainly because of lower international market.

The government also cut light diesel and kerosene oil prices by Rs12.12 and Rs11.15 per litre, respectively.

In a late night announcement, the Ministry of Finance said Ogra had worked out the consumer prices of petroleum products, based on the price variations in the international market. As such, the ex-manufacturer prices of both petrol and diesel have slipped below Rs250 per litre mark.

The ex-manufacturer price was then cut to Rs249.10 for the next fortnight from Rs259.10 at present, down by 10 Rupee (Rs10 per litre). In the retail market, petrol would, however, be available at around Rs250 per litre.

On the other hand, the ex-manufacturer price of HSD was slashed by Rs13.04

**Continued on Page 5**

## ON OTHER PAGES



### Trump safe in Florida shooting

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was safe after multiple shots were fired near his golf course in West Palm Beach. The Associated Press reported that US Secret Service agents opened fire after seeing a person with a firearm near Trump's golf club, citing two unconfirmed law enforcement sources.

**Page 11**

Plus... BUSINESS & FINANCE




# LEADING THROUGH INNOVATION

**BANK OF THE YEAR 2023 – PAKISTAN**  
**"THIRD YEAR IN A ROW"**  
**BY THE BANKER, UK**

Our unwavering commitment to delivering world-class, digitally integrated solutions to customers, passion for innovative thinking, mission to create sustainable value for all stakeholders and enthusiasm to support the community and society continue with even greater zeal.





www.abl.com

LITERARY NOTES

Seeratun Nabi: an encyclopedic work on Islam and Prophet (PBUH)

By Raul Parakh

A LARGE number of books have been written in Urdu on the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), but Shibli Nu'mani's *Seeratun Nabi* is among the most popular and most prominent ones.

Shibli Nu'mani (1857-1914) conceived the idea of a detailed and authentic work in Urdu in several volumes on the Prophet (PBUH) of Islam — recording events of his life, his way of living, disposition, temperament, morals, conduct and teachings. For this purpose, Shibli collected a large number of sources in several languages, notably Arabic, visited several libraries and engaged a team of scholars and assistants. Despite extreme hard work, Shibli could not finish the work due to ill health and could pen only two volumes.

When Shibli was on his deathbed he had asked Syed Sulaiman Nadvi (1884-1953), one of the most capable of his disciples, to complete the work. On Shibli's death, on Nov 18, 1914, only the first volume was ready. The second volume was

almost complete, but Sulaiman Nadvi added much to it after he found a note by Shibli that pointed out the required additions, as Shibli had left behind a large pile of notes/memoirs, first drafts and references. Sulaiman Nadvi wrote the remaining five volumes of the seven-volume gigantic work. Due to Nadvi's additions, some scholars, such as N.M. Ikram, feel that the second volume may be considered a joint effort by both Shibli and Nadvi. *Seeratun Nabi* covers not only all the important events of the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), but also almost every aspect of his life and teachings with references.

The historical background and the details that explain certain injunctions of Islam, along with basic beliefs and worship, truly make *Seeratun Nabi* an encyclopedic work. Though some scholars, for instance Prof Dr Zafar Ahmed Siddiqi, have pointed out some lacunae, still they value Shibli's hard work, appreciating his vigorous style of writing, his profound knowledge on history and his unswerving rejection of the incorrect



Seeratun Nabi's first volume (1918) has two forewords by Shibli, elaborating the need for writing about its

importance, historical development of the art of writing Prophet's life, famous books written on asein, the difference between Hadith and asein, works on the Prophet's (PBUH) life penned by Europeans and where they erred. Shibli has also described the principles of research that he had applied in writing this book. After forewords, the main text describes a brief history of the Prophet (PBUH) and his family, beginning of Muhammad's (PBUH) prophethood, migration to Madinah, battles against the non-believers and the Prophet's life till 9th year Hijri.

The second volume (1920) describes the Prophet's (PBUH) life till the year 11th Hijri, his passing away. The Prophet's (PBUH) physical appearance and countenance, moral practices, his virtues, his sittings with the companions, the addresses that the Prophet (PBUH) made from time to time, his wives and offspring. Apparently, with the death of the Prophet (PBUH) the description of his life and asein should end, but since the book was planned in a

way that it may also explain the religion that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had brought, the third volume (1924) describes the proofs of his prophethood including miracles, Muslims scholars' point of view on miracles, descent of angels on the Prophet (PBUH), his ascension to the heavens, Quran and its revelation as well as personal and prophetic qualities of the Prophet (PBUH).

The deliberation on Islam and its teachings is carried forward in the fourth volume (1932) and, in addition to explaining 'wahy', the Divine inspiration and revelation, this volume explains the basic beliefs of Islam, such as, belief in the only God, Allah, and His oneness, belief in angels, belief in the scriptures revealed to the previous prophets and the hereafter. The fifth volume (1935) describes the basic worship of Islam: salah (prayers), saikat (obligatory alms), saum (fasting), haj (pilgrimage), jihad and other injunctions, such as nuptial (Fear of God), ikhtisab (sincerity), sahr (patience) and shahr (gratitude). It also covers some issues related to Islamic jurisprudence.

The moral teachings and moral values of Islam are presented in the sixth volume (1938). It explains the obligations and rights of an individual, vice and virtue as well as etiquettes. While writing the last and the seventh volume, Sulaiman Nadvi migrated to Pakistan and it was published finally in 1980, some 27 years after the author's death. It discusses societal obligations, business dealings and transactions, concept of ownership in Islam, legislation and system of government.

Many scholars believe Sulaiman Nadvi was Shibli's true successor and fully capable of taking forward the unfinished work as he was, just like his teacher and mentor Shibli, an authority on Islamic Studies and had a command over the Arabic language, capable of consulting the original sources on history and hadith.

M. Tariqul Baksh, Balaqazi translated the first two volumes of *Seeratun Nabi* into English, published under the title *Seeratun-Nabi: The Life of the Prophet (PBUH)*.

draulparakh@yahoo.com

Rs875m scam: five LDA officers facing action continue holding posts

By Khalid Haernain

LAHORE: The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) has launched proceedings under the Punjab Employees Efficiency, Discipline and Accountability (PEEDA) Act-2006 against five officers for involvement in a Rs875m scam. Despite the ongoing inquiry, the accused officers have not been suspended from service as all of them, except one, continue holding the prime posts in the LDA Directorate of Housing-VII from where they had facilitated the private people.

The officers had executed an agreement with some private people for giving them 'specific' plots against the land they had surrendered to the authority in Johar Town under the

exemption category. "It has never happened in the history of LDA that the officers allegedly involved in the scam continue holding the same posts where they had done corruption. It is strange that the officers declared guilty in a fast-track probe are being inquiry under PEEDA Act and enjoying the lucrative posts," declared an official source.

"It seems that the guilty officers are so powerful that they have forced the LDA management not to suspend them from service," the official, who requested anonymity, told Dawn on Sunday.

According to the inquiry order, the LDA DG initiated disciplinary proceedings against Moazzam Rashid, director Housing-VII, Nisratin Hans Qureshi, deputy director Law - (the then director), Muhammad Irfan, deputy director

Law, Muhammad Bahr Darsy, deputy director and Rai Shah Jahan, estate officer of Housing-VII on the charges of inefficiency/diligence. Muzair Ahmed Shah, additional director general, was appointed as the inquiry officer to proceed against the accused officials.

The new order appointed Qamar Zahoor, assistant director (Housing-VII) as departmental representative.

According to another official source, the agreement was made between private parties and Director Housing-VII, Moazzam Rashid on behalf of LDA pledging to give plots worth Rs875m to private persons' status. He revealed that the joint evaluation report was not only mismanaged by the director but the selection of specific seven plots (bearing No 18-24 Block G-I Johar Town located on Canal Road) for the purpose of joint evalua-

tion was also arbitrary and filled with malafide as the area of the owners was dispersed over 13 khassas numbers.

"As per superimposed map of scheme, more than 50 plots are located within 13 khassas numbers. So the said director has no power to pinpoint seven high worth plots. This also runs against the exemption policy of Johar Town Scheme which stipulates exemption of 30pc area irrespective of its location. To achieve the vested interests, the Supreme Court order, dated 31.03.2021, was misinterpreted and used as a pretext to evaluate market rate of the aforementioned seven plots while the Supreme Court order was about allocation of two plots only," he explained.

"The LDA DG must immediately file a review petition over the order passed by Supreme Court based on

the said agreement dated 21.02.2024 to safeguard the authority from this massive embezzlement and plunder," the officer suggested, requesting Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to intervene.

LDA DG Tabir Fatouq said the inquiry was underway against the accused officers and the findings would be based on merit.

"Under the PEEDA proceedings, there are major and minor possible events (removal from service, demotion etc) of different nature," he said.

To a question, he added that he won't accept any pressure or influence from anyone and would take appropriate action against the officers soon after having findings of the inquiry report. However, the question as to why the officers were still holding their posts remained unanswered.

Infected veggie claims three lives

By Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: A female farm worker and two minor children died after they took 'contaminated' kakeri (long melon) while 16 others, most of them women and children, fell unconscious in a Chishtian village on Yamran, about 50km from here, on Sunday.

According to emergency service 1122, Bahawalpur, nearly 30 women and their children were busy in picking cotton in village 740B.

During the lunch break, they consumed kakeri sown in a field adjacent to cotton crop reportedly sprayed with pesticides recently. They were rushed to the Yamran THQ hospital where a woman and two children died.

Two of the injured were said to be in critical condition. Police said they were looking into the matter.



# Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur





## ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025





The online admission applications are invited from the interested candidates for fresh admission in Undergraduate (BS-I & BS-II) for the academic year 2025 in following departments/institutes of Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur and its Ghotki & Shahdadkot Campuses.

**MORNING PROGRAMS (MAIN CAMPUS)**

**ADMISSION.SALU.EDU.PK/ADMISSION.OOON**  
[Apply Online](#)

PROGRAMS OFFERED	FACULTIES/DEPARTMENTS/INSTITUTES
BS/CS/IT/BS/Com/EPAB/BA/B.Ed (4-Year Program) & Pharm-D/B.A LLB (5-Year Program)	<b>1. FACULTY OF ARTS &amp; LANGUAGES</b> 1. English Language & Literature 2. Sindhi 3. Urdu <b>2. FACULTY OF EDUCATION</b> 1. Special Education 2. Teacher Education 3. B.Ed (1.5) 4. B.Ed (2.5) <b>3. FACULTY OF LAW</b> 1. Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto School of Law <b>4. FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES</b> 1. Business Administration, Accounting & Finance 2. Public Administration 3. Commerce, Banking & Finance <b>5. FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES</b> 1. Biochemistry 2. Botany 3. Chemistry 4. Microbiology 5. Pharmacy 6. Zoology <b>6. FACULTY OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES</b> 1. Archaeology 2. Computer Sciences & Information Technology 3. Geography 4. Mathematics 5. Physics & Electronics 6. Statistics <b>7. FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES</b> 1. Economics 2. International Relations 3. Peace & Conflict Studies 4. Islamic Studies 5. Media and Communication Studies 6. Political Science 7. Pakistan studies 8. Sociology & Gender Studies
	BS Part-II (Old Master Program) & MBA (1.5 Year Program) MBA (3.5 Year Program)

**THE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT GHOTKI & SHAHADDOKT CAMPUSES**

PROGRAMS OFFERED	FACULTIES/DEPARTMENTS/INSTITUTES
BS & BBA (4-Year Program)	1. Business Administration
	2. Computer Science
	3. English

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

**FOR BACHELOR (4-YEAR PROGRAM) & B.A. - LL.B-D-PHARMACY (5-YEAR PROGRAM)**

- The candidates from Sindh province, who have passed Intermediate (HSC-II) or equivalent examination in 2021-2024 from any Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education can apply for the admissions.
- Candidates from other provinces can apply on the reserved seats.
- At least 50% marks are required for admission in Bachelor Program for all faculties including Ghotki & Shahdadkot Campuses except Pharmacy in which 60% Marks are required.
- It is informed that the candidates who are willing to apply for B.A LLB Program must have minimum 50% score in Law Admission Test (LAT), conducted by HEC.

**FOR BS PART-II (2 YEARS) & MBA (Year 1.5 & 3.5) PROGRAMS**

- A candidate who has passed 2 years Bachelor / AD examination in 2019 and onwards with a minimum of 50% marks from this or any other recognized University shall be eligible for admission in BS Part - II and will be awarded the BS(4 Years) Degree on completion.
- A candidate having completed higher regular scheme of study in BS/M.A/M.Com/MPA/MBA or any other 16 Year regular programs shall not be eligible for admission in 16 years program.
- Those students who have 16 years Business education are eligible to apply for MBA 1.5 year program.

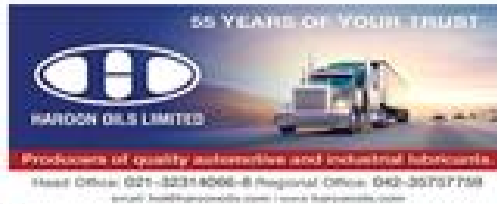
**INSTRUCTIONS**

- The eligible candidates have to appear and qualify the Pre-entry Test.
- The Prospectus can be downloaded from official website of the Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur ([www.salu.edu.pk](http://www.salu.edu.pk)).
- The Candidate should read the prospectus carefully and must follow admission rules and regulations.
- The Admission form can be filled online (<https://www.admission.salu.edu.pk>).
- The interested candidates are directed to:
  - > Deposit Rs.2500/- through HBL Konekt as Application Processing Fee.
  - > Upload all the necessary documents in online application.
  - > To send the print version of Application form along with documents and 2 recent passport size photos.
- Candidates wish to apply for any Quota must have to mention in the form, separate applications will not be called.
- Candidates can contact the Directorate of Admissions for any guidance (0243-920126).

**Admissions Schedule**

S.No	Description	Main, Shahdadkot and Ghotki Campus
1	The issuance and submission of online admission forms	Monday, September 16 <sup>th</sup> 2024 to Tuesday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> 2024
2	Pre-Entry Test	Thursday, November 07 <sup>th</sup> 2024
3	Commencement of Classes for BS-I	Monday, January 06 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
4	Commencement of Classes for BS-II (Bridging semester)	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025

DIRECTOR ADMISSIONS  
Tel. 0243-920126



# Top lawyers oppose PTI 'made all-out efforts' to stop amendment bill

### Muneer Malik urges CJP Isa to retire on Oct 25

By Arif Mahmood

LAHORE: Senior lawyers have reacted sharply to the proposed constitutional package and called upon Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa to stay away from the controversy. In a statement on Sunday, Muneer A. Malik and Faisal Siddiq, advocates Supreme Court, urged CJP Isa to relinquish his robes with honour on Oct 25, 2024, and said that Justice Naved Anwar Ali Shah will demurely to the de jure CJP on the dawn of Oct 26.

They also asked CJP Isa not to be a nominee for any appointment for any proposed constitutional court or bench. They recalled that they had acted either as counsels for CJP Isa, or publicly supported him through their writings against the unconstitutional and malefic presidential reference filed against them Justice Isa.

They called the government move an unprecedented assault on the Constitution and Supreme Court and the High Courts through a dubious and questionable constitutional amendments package.

Amendment made to the Constitution do not lie in the domain of a parliament that lacks national legitimacy, they said, adding, "We therefore urge the legal fraternity and the judiciary to resist and reject them".

Meanwhile, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Shehbaz Shaukat expressed surprise as to why the government is getting so secretive on the constitutional package and not bringing it to the designated forums for proper discussion, making the whole nation speculate on the issue.

In a statement, he pointed out that the

SCBA is unlikely to oppose the proposed amendment if it is related only to the institution of a constitutional court which, he says, is necessary to check the unbridled delay in the adjudication of cases of common people only because of the Supreme Court is mostly engaged in hearing of cases of political nature.

He recalled that even PTI leader Imran Khan and JUI-F emir Maulana Fazal Rehman were signatories to the Charter of Democracy in 2005 that had called for setting up the federal constitutional court. However, he declared, they would resist if the government tried to enhance the retirement age of judges or made any person-specific constitutional amendment as the Supreme Court had already declared null and void person-specific legislation.

Senior lawyer Khuram Chughtai said the nation is yet to overcome the errors of "constitutional patchwork" done through the 18th Amendment which was discussed by various parties and parliamentarians of various parties for a whole year before it was introduced, while the incumbent government is making "irreversible" efforts to introduce another constitutional package drafted by the likes of Tarar.

"At a time when parliament is incomplete because of reserved seats issue and results of elections of many constituencies are controversial, a government that cannot even appoint law secretary despite the Supreme Court orders is attempting to pass a constitutional amendment, which has far-reaching effects, without a thorough discussion on it in the house committees and other forums," he regretted.

Asad Jamal, another lawyer, said if election to the highest constitutional office of presidency could be held by the same "incomplete" parliament, then there was no harm in getting the constitutional amendment passed by the same house.

### Party leaders try to prevail on Maulana Fazl not to lend support to govt; family claims south Punjab MNA 'missing'

By Ikram Junaidd

ISLAMABAD: The main opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Sunday led one of its most hectic days after the Feb 8 elections, as it made "all possible efforts" to stop the government from introducing a controversial constitutional amendment.

The party's efforts, which began early in the day, culminated in Barrister Gohar Ali Khan's participation in the meeting of a special committee chaired by PPP's Syed Khurshid Shah at the National Assembly late on Sunday night.

Earlier in the day, the party focused its efforts on winning over Maulana Fazal Rehman, with several key leaders meeting the JUI-F



PTI screenshot from a video shows JUI-F chief Maulana Fazal Rehman leading the Maghrib prayer, also attended by PTI leaders.

called for over an hour.

Footage of party leaders offering prayers with the JUI-F chief was also broadcast by channels.

Party sources said efforts were being made to ensure that no PTI legislator attend the Senate and National Assembly sittings.

However, the party's high command said some legislators were not reachable and efforts were being made to contact and con-

vince the JUI-F not aim for temporary benefits.

He said if government would have been sincere about the legislation it would not have kept the proposed amendments secret.

He warned the proposed legislation would only damage the reputation of the judiciary.

Barrister Muhammad Ali Soofi, the spokesperson of the KP government, said such an amendment would constitute a clear case of sedition, as it was an "attack on the apex court".

### 'Missing' MNA

Separately, PTI MNA Ahsan-ud-Din Khan's family claimed he has been 'missing' for several days. According to Khilji family sources, MNA Ahsan-ud-Din has not been in contact with them.

The issue was raised in the Senate a day earlier by party leader Shafiq Yousaf, who accused the ruling coalition of pressuring his party's lawmakers in a bid to get their votes in favour of the constitutional amendments bill.

Majid GSI in Bahawalpur also contributed to this report.

## The inescapable irony of Democracy Day

Down Report

KARACHI: The country marked International Day of Democracy on Sunday with a flurry of unprecedented political activity in the capital, with leaders from across the political spectrum vying to garner support for, or show up opposition to, a government-sponsored constitutional amendment.

However, top state functionaries and senior government figures in their messages reiterated their unwavering commitment to the Constitution, democracy and rule of law.

"Our government's commitment to constitutionalism, democracy,

rule of law and human rights is firm and unswerving. Adherence to these democratic values is our calling as a nation," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in his message.

The prime minister called for continuing the efforts to build a more inclusive, just, and equal world for all.

"Together, we can strengthen the foundations of democracy and ensure that it serves as a beacon of hope and progress for future generations," he added.

In his message, President Asif Ali Zardari mentioned the importance of democracy in empowering citizens and promoting their active participation in the political process.

He said democracy stood as the cornerstone of a just society, advocating for the protection of fundamental rights and ensuring political, economic and social inclusion.

"We also recognise the role that our Parliament plays in safeguarding democracy by representing the will of the people, formulating public policy, and addressing the nation's most pressing challenges. It is the primary forum for addressing grievances, ensuring inclusivity, and fostering a resilient future for Pakistan," the president said.

Separately, while speaking about the constitutional amendment set to be tabled in parliament, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said that each and every provision of the proposed legislation was being pursued carefully.

He said if government would have been sincere about the legislation it would not have kept the proposed amendments secret.

He warned the proposed legislation would only damage the reputation of the judiciary.

Barrister Muhammad Ali Soofi, the spokesperson of the KP government, said such an amendment would constitute a clear case of sedition, as it was an "attack on the apex court".

Separately, PTI MNA Ahsan-ud-Din Khan's family claimed he has been 'missing' for several days. According to Khilji family sources, MNA Ahsan-ud-Din has not been in contact with them.

# 2nd ICAP NATIONAL MATHS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

EMPOWER YOUR POTENTIAL, CONQUER WITH NUMBERS!

## COMPETITION FOR GRADE 10 (O2) AND 12 (A1) STUDENTS

"BIGGER, AND BETTER THIS SECOND YEAR. JOIN PAKISTAN'S FIRST AND THE LARGEST MATH COMPETITION TO DEVELOP ANALYTICAL THINKING AND ENHANCE COMPETITIVE ABILITIES NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS."

Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Quetta, Faisalabad, Multan, Sialkot, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpur & Gilgit.

Scan to Register

<https://icap.org.pk/nmc/>

**Karachi:**

Zakir Tajammul  
0300-2345003  
zakir.tajammul@icap.org.pk

**Lahore:**

Aamir Malik  
0333-7688554  
aamir.malik@icap.org.pk

**Islamabad:**

Haroon Yaqoob  
0343-5076778  
haroon.yaqoob@icap.org.pk

111-000-422
www.icap.org.pk
icap.ca
icap.pakistan
icapofficial
icap-ca
icappakistan



### Operation conducted against seven illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI: On the recommendation of the Divisional Intelligence Committee, the Joint Task Force of the district administration, local police and Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) conducted an operation against seven unauthorised housing schemes and demolished main gates, site offices, boundary walls, barriers and removed containers and land plotting markers.

According to the RDA spokesman, the team executed an operation targeting seven illegal housing schemes - Pak PWD Housing Scheme, Agro Park Housing Scheme, Green Lake City, Fisser Marketing, Atter Farms, GB Valley and Organic Meadows.

These schemes are located in Muzzaq Bagga Sheikhani, Halia Qasim, Kari Khuda Bakshi, Baniyan, Jajja to Buchhal Road, Natha Dotal and Basanta in the tehsil and district of Rawalpindi.

He said the operation was supervised by Commissioner Aamir Khattak, along with Deputy Commissioner Dr Hassan Waqar Chishti, RDA Director General Kinza Murtaza and City Police Officer Khalid Hamdani.

RDA Director General Kinza Murtaza stated that, under the commissioner's guidance, the crackdown on illegal housing schemes would continue vigorously to prevent fraud and protect citizens from exploitation.

She emphasised that public complaints regarding illegal land occupation by housing scheme owners were being taken seriously, and strict actions would be taken against those involved in forcible land grabs.

"The RDA consistently issues information for the public and advises to avoid investing in illegal housing schemes. The public is encouraged to visit the RDA website ([www.rda.gov.pk](http://www.rda.gov.pk)) and only engage with approved housing schemes," she added.

Despite previous warnings to cease illegal advertisements, bookings and development activities, the owners of the above mentioned housing schemes continued to operate booking offices in violation of regulations.

On the other hand, the district administration on Sunday razed illegal sheds of shops and commercial buildings on Adiala Road and warned traders in other markets to remove illegal structures otherwise stern action would be taken against them.

According to the district administration spokesman, the district land revenue department conducted the survey and identified permanent structures to clear 66 feet right of way of main road.

He said final notices were issued to the illegal building owners, asking them to vacate voluntarily as illegal structures would be razed.

He said 66 feet from both sides of the road would be cleared and in this regard, the Punjab government had given a go-ahead signal to the administration. He said the provincial government was asked to clear the roads and remove hurdles in the smooth flow of traffic and provide easy access to pedestrians.

He said the Punjab government also made a plan to spend Rs2.85 billion to reconstruct Adiala Road from Kutchery Chowk to Adiala jail in the next fiscal year.

"Adiala Road is an important access road to the mega Ring Road project. Plans are being worked out to make it wide and signal free," he added.—Staff Reporter



PARTICIPANTS of a 5km marathon set off from the starting line at Sports Complex in Islamabad on Sunday. The event was organised by the Islamabad Running Club as part of its race series 2024, which include events stretching to a distance of 5, 10 and 21.1km.—Photo by Mohammed Asim

## Metro rehabilitation project inches forward

Track outside two stations fixed, eight more to go, feeder buses for Pindi to arrive in November

By Aamir Yasir

RAWALPINDI: The authorities have completed the rehabilitation of the bus corridor outside two metro stations as a part of a project to rehabilitate the elevated track by the end of December.

The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) divided the corridor into 20 sites - two each for a bus station - under the "Rehabilitation of Metro Corridor from Saddler to Faisalabad" project costing Rs718.945 million.

An RDA official said the work would be completed by December, adding that both sides of the Shamsabad and

Robanshad bus stations have been completed. Similarly, one side of the Wazir Khan and Liaqat Bagh stations had also been completed.

According to the official, the renovation of the metro corridor and the platform was a complicated process. He said during the day buses ran on a single track while the workers carried out renovation works on the other track. After completing all 20 sites, the road will be re-converted from Saddler to Faisalabad.

The official appeared confident that work would end by December, saying the contractor had been given six months to complete the task.

"Mostly the work is done at night, from 11pm till morning however," he said.

The RDA official said there was also need to repair the track and platforms on the metro bus stations. However, he said that the repair work was limited to the metro track and there was no plan for the renovation of bus stations in this project.

"For the safety of buses and passen-

gers, security guards are deployed on the track to manage the buses on one lane which is opened to traffic," he said.

He said that all measures had been adopted to make the journey of passengers comfortable during the construction work and it did not reduce the number of passengers. However, he said that the speed of buses did reduce due to the ongoing works.

It may be mentioned here that the project completed in 2014 and the federal and Punjab governments almost equally shared the Rs44.8 billion the project cost. Of it the Rawalpindi section cost Rs19.17 billion and the Islamabad section Rs23.84 billion.

The total length of the metro corridor is approximately 23km, including Kikori elevated, 10km at grade, and four kilometre trench.

The portion of Metro Bus Service in Rawalpindi from Faisalabad's Hotel to Faisalabad having distance of 8.6km is elevated, while in Islamabad 14.6km is

on ground, starting from Faisalabad to Pak Secretariat via IJP Road and 9th Avenue. The track has 24 modern stations for the passengers. Of these 19 are on Muzzaq Road while 24 are in Islamabad. Sixty-eight air conditioned buses for the service are being operated and transport an estimated 150,000 passengers daily.

On the other hand, Punjab government will launch 100 buses in the garrison city on 10 routes to connect different parts of the city with its nearest metro bus station.

"The feeder buses will connect all parts of the city with existing metro bus routes. The 10 routes of the buses designed as people from Badshahi Road, Adiala Road and other areas will catch the buses to Islamabad without any problem," said Regional Transport Authority Secretary Rashid Ali.

He said that the process of the buses arrival in Rawalpindi would likely to complete by November.

## Surge in dengue cases in Pindi sparks urgent response

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The city's three government hospitals are grappling with a continuous influx of dengue patients, as 32 new cases were reported on Sunday, pushing the total number of dengue cases this season to 374.

The alarming rise in cases in September has prompted urgent measures by the Punjab government to prevent further spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

A large number of dengue patients were reported in Holy Family Hospital, Benazir Bhutto Hospital and District Headquarters Hospital.

On Sunday alone, 237 patients were admitted to these hospitals. Among them, 32 tested positive for dengue fever, with 20 dengue patients landing in Holy Family Hospital, 34 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital and 34 at the District Headquarters Hospital.

All the patients in these

government-run hospitals arrived from 70 union councils of the city and 10 wards of Rawalpindi and the Chakdala Cantonment Board.

A senior doctor at Benazir Bhutto Hospital reported that the hospital currently had 334 patients admitted and could accommodate over 600 at a time. Six dengue patients were discharged on Sunday after receiving treatment.

The doctor expressed cautious optimism that the number of cases might decrease in the coming month, though the current period remains critical.

"The district administration, led by Deputy Commissioner Dr Hassan Waqar Chishti, is working day and night to clear the city and environment from the dengue virus," said a senior official of the district administration.

He said that a third-party audit conducted by the Agriculture and Local Government departments is ongoing to evaluate the effectiveness of the anti-dengue measures and the performance of sanitary patrols.

Chak Jalabibi and Katha Kalan union councils of the garrison city have been designated as sensitive areas due to the high number of cases.

However, the majority of patients have been reported from Gulistan Colony, Margala, Airport Housing Society and New Adiala Town near Galtara.

To address the outbreak, case response activities are scheduled for 12 Rabial Awal. However, it has been decided that no anti-dengue activities will be conducted along the routes of Eid Milad processions in the city and cantonment areas.

## Three murdered, man drowns in nullah

RAWALPINDI: Three people were killed while a man drowned in a nullah on Sunday, police and emergency services said.

The emergency services said a group of friends had gone to a nullah near Badli Talwar Barabha for bathing where one of them drowned. The emergency services said the body was fished out and shifted to the THQ Hospital Marrow. The victim was yet to be identified.

Tariq Mehmood told Wazir Khan police that his brother, Dilbar, left his house but did not return. Later, his motorcycle was found parked outside a hotel.

He said they were informed that a body had been shifted to hospital by Wazir Khan police. The relatives contacted the police which led to identification of Dilbar. He said there were knife and dagger wounds on his body.

Najam Saght lodged an FIR with Sadiqueabad police saying that his brother Mehboobullah ran a barber shop. He said he received a call that his brother had been taken by one Abdullah and an unidentified person to their room in the area and strangled.

He said later he found his brother's body lying in the mortuary of the District Headquarters Hospital. The motive behind the murder was still unclear.

Another murder case was reported to Nasarabad police by Amir Masud. He said his two brothers and his father were standing in the street. He said his father exchanged hot words with Kamran Manish alias Chishti following which Kamran went inside his house and came out with a pistol and shot his father.

The complainant said he shifted his father to the THQ hospital where he died.—Mohammad Anghar

## WHO calls for better diagnosis on World Patient Safety Day

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: "World Patient Safety Day" will be observed on September 17 (Tuesday), to raise public awareness and foster collaboration between patients, healthcare workers, policymakers, and healthcare leaders to enhance patient safety.

This year's theme, "Improving Diagnosis for Patient Safety", with the slogan "Get it Right, Make it Safe!", underscores the vital importance of accurate and timely diagnosis in ensuring patient safety and improving health outcomes.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), through its slogan, urges concerted efforts to significantly reduce diagnostic errors by adopting multifaceted interventions. These efforts should be grounded in systems thinking, human factors, and the active involvement of patients, their families, health workers, and healthcare leaders.

The interventions include con-

ducting thorough patient history assessments, comprehensive clinical examinations, improving access to diagnostic tests, implementing methods to track and learn from diagnostic errors, and adopting technology-driven solutions.

A diagnosis identifies a patient's health issue and is key to accessing the necessary care and treatment. Diagnostic errors, which include delayed, incorrect, or missed diagnosis, or the failure to communicate them, can have serious implications for patient safety.

Improving diagnostic safety requires addressing both systemic issues and cognitive factors that contribute to errors. Systemic factors include organisational vulnerabilities like communication breakdowns among healthcare workers or between workers and patients, excessive workloads, and poor teamwork. Cognitive factors relate to clinician training, experience, and predisposition to biases, fatigue, and stress.

One of the key objectives of World

Patient Safety Day 2024 is to empower patients and their families to actively engage with healthcare professionals and leaders to enhance diagnostic processes. It also aims to prioritise diagnostic safety in patient safety policies and clinical practices at all levels of healthcare, in alignment with the Global Patient Safety Action Plan (2021-2030).

The Global Patient Safety Action Plan emphasises the importance of safe diagnostic practices and encourages countries to adopt strategies that reduce diagnostic errors. These efforts stem from a combination of cognitive and systemic factors, affecting the recognition of patients' key symptoms and the interpretation of test results.

The scale of diagnostic errors is significant, accounting for nearly 10pc of preventable harm within health systems. With most adults likely to experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetime, substantial efforts are needed to improve the safety and accuracy of diagnostic processes.

**PEOPLES STEEL MILLS LTD.**  
Javedan Nagar, Manghopir, Karachi

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited from interested Parties / Authorized Agents as per following details:

Sl. #	Ref. No.	Description	Qty.	Submission Date
1	FP-88/ PR-23207-24	I. HIGH ALUMINIA BRICK II. HIGH ALUMINIA MORTAR -60 Offer on F.O.R. Basis.	20,000 Nos. 15,000 Kg.	03.10.2024
2	LP-33/ PR-23010-24	UPS, 3KVA, Backup Time: Approx. 30min. Offer on F.O.R. basis.	1 No.	03.10.2024
3	FP-SAA/ PR-1498-A-24	NICKEL METAL Offer on F.O.R. / CFR basis.	45 MT	03.10.2024
4	FP-SAA/ PR-1498-B-24	TITANIUM METAL Offer on F.O.R. / CFR basis.	3 MT	03.10.2024
5	FP-88/ PR-22917-24	I. LOW CASTABLE CEMENT- 1550. L.C II. DENSE CASTABLE 1550-D III. CRATH CASTABLE 1350-D Offer on CFR Basis.	5 MT 12 MT 3 MT	08.10.2024
6	FP-SAA/ PR-1498-C-24	MOLYBDENUM METAL Offer on F.O.R. / CFR basis.	12 MT	08.10.2024
7	FP-SAA/ PR-1498-D-24	COBALT METAL Offer on F.O.R. / CFR basis.	30 MT	08.10.2024
8	FP-SAA/ PR-1498-E-24	IRON HP IN BILLETS Offer on F.O.R. / CFR basis.	300 MT	09.10.2024
9	LP-44/ PR-23046-24	BOTTOM PLATE Offer on F.O.R. basis.	2 Nos.	15.10.2024
10	FP-SAA/ PR-1489-24	BAND SAW BLADES Offer on CFR / F.O.R. Basis.	400 Nos.	15.10.2024
11	FP-SAA/ PR-1640-24	PIERCER SMALL ROLL Offer on F.O.R. / CFR basis.	6 Nos.	16.10.2024
12	FP-88/ PR-23199-24	AXIAL PISTON PUMP Offer on CFR / F.O.R. Basis.	2 Nos.	17.10.2024
13	FP-SAA/ PR-22110-24	FLOW METERS (Various Types) Offer on CFR / F.O.R. Basis.	28 Nos.	05.11.2024
14	FP-88/ PR-23160-24	LADLE SHROUD MANIPULATOR Offer on CFR / F.O.R. Basis.	1 No.	12.11.2024
15	FP-88/ PR-22415-24	MOBILE FORGING MANIPULATOR Offer on CFR / F.O.R. Basis.	1 No.	13.11.2024

Tender(s) must be submitted on the submission date by 15:00hrs and the opening will be carried out at 15:30hrs on the respective submission date.

Interested bidders may obtain complete tender documents containing specifications and terms & conditions on payment of Tender Fee Rs.500/- (non-refundable) against each tender through Pay Order/Demand Draft in favour of M/s. Peoples Steel Mills Ltd, Karachi against a written request on their Company's letterhead. Companies wishing to receive documents through courier must add extra Rs.100/- in shape of Pay Order/Demand Draft.

**NOTE:** The Tender Notice is also available at [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk) and [www.psmlltd.com](http://www.psmlltd.com)

**HEAD PROCUREMENT**  
**PEOPLES STEEL MILLS LTD.**  
JAVEDAN NAGAR, MANGHOPIR, KARACHI - PAKISTAN  
Tel. No. 36770120 Fax No.36770112, PABX. 36770126-29 (Ext. 1501)

# 'Over 90pc coverage' as polio drive concludes

By Iqram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: As the week-long campaign against polio concluded on Sunday, the data of first six days showed that 97 per cent target of vaccination has been achieved. The data from the last day will be compiled on Monday.

The campaign was launched by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sept 9 in 115 districts of the country to vaccinate 20 million children under the age of five.

Some 286,000 polio workers went door-to-door to administer polio drops to children.

Prime Minister's Coordinator for Health Dr Malik Muhammad Khattak said that as of September 14, as many as 97pc of the children have been vaccinated in 115 districts, adding that the catch-up activities have also commenced and they are meant to ensure that no child is left unvaccinated.

In a statement, he appreciated efforts of polio teams or who delivered the vaccines house-to-house despite many challenges.

He directed the national polio programme team to review the post-campaign results and prepare detailed plans to plug the identified gaps ahead of the next campaign in October.

Muhammad Anwarul Haq, the coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, said that the campaign faced challenges in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that needed to be addressed, while the drive in Balochistan progressed well.



PPP leader Khurshid Shah chairs a meeting of the special committee, comprising both government and opposition members, on Sunday — National Assembly of Pakistan

# Fazl — the quintessence of a dealmaker

Continued from Page 1

time of going to press, brief remarks by JUI-F's Ghaffar Hakeem hinted at what the party's stance might be.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday night, he said the party would participate in the National Assembly session scheduled to be held later in the night, but would not support any amendment as the draft had not been shared with their party.

"Our point of view is clear, we cannot make any decision about the constitutional amendment as the draft has not been shared with us — how can we make a decision without even reading it," Maulana Hakeem said.

In responding to the statement, Barrister Asad Malik, who is the federal government's spokesperson on legal affairs, said that the law minister had briefed parliamentarians on the proposed amendments.

"Maybe the bill in its actual copy was not in Mr Ghaffar's hand but the Law Minister has briefed lawmakers on the proposed amendments," Barrister Asad clarified.

Political goings on

After his meetings with the government and opposition representatives on Friday and Saturday, the Maulana began Sunday with a meeting with PPP leader Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

Then, around 3pm after a JUI-F parliamentary party meeting at the

residence of the party chief, JUI-F Secretory General Alianza Rashid Soomro issued a statement that seemed to signal the party's willingness to listen to the government team.

In the statement, Mr Soomro said that the JUI-F was in favour of establishing a separate constitutional court or the Supreme Court could focus on public issues and public interest cases.

"If it helps in clearing the pending cases before the Supreme Court at a fast pace and provides relief to the public, the number of judges in the apex court has to be increased," Alianza Soomro said.

"If there is any such legislation, JUI-F will have no hesitation to be part of it," the statement concluded.

Subsequently, a government team comprising Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Aram Nasser Khan, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the JUI-F chief.

Then the opposition delegation led by PTI Chairman Barrister Ghous Ali Khan visited the residence of Maulana Fazl around 4pm and even offered evening prayers led by the JUI-F chief.

Offers on the table

Although there was no official word on what was discussed behind closed doors, insiders told Dawn that PTI had supposedly offered the Fazl's son Asad Mahmood a seat in

the National Assembly, encouraging him to join what the party terms its 'popular movement for restoration of true democracy in country'.

JUI-F sources indicated that two of the Maulana's demands included governance in KP province and a slot in parliament for his son Asad, apart from some space in the federal cabinet.

The PPP has reportedly offered to have Asad elected as a senator from Sindh.

Sources close to Balochistan lawmakers confirmed that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has offered the JUI-F chief the slot of Balochistan chief minister in return for his support, as well as the possibility that Asad Mahmood could become an MPA from that province.

The importance of winning over the Maulana can be gauged from the fact that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi was involved in the negotiation process on Sunday. He wasn't the only one, however, and former Senate chairman Sadiq Saragani also appeared to the government in acting as a bridge.

Then, later at night, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bhagti and former prime minister Arwazul Haq Kakar also appeared to Parliament House and joined a meeting between the Maulana and government representatives in Mr Naqvi's chambers.

# 'Working weekend' comes to naught

Continued from Page 1

favour of the government. Currently, the ruling coalition's parties have a total of 52 confirmed votes — PPP's 24, PML-N's 19, BAP's 4, MQM-P's 3, and one each from the PML-Q and National Party.

If the ANP backs the government with its three votes, and if the four independent senators also side with the treasury, this would mean a total of 64 votes in an incomplete house of 85, which is the required threshold.

However, things are not so clear in the National Assembly: here coalition parties have a total of 213 seats (including 20 disputed reserved seats), while the opposition has 99 in an incomplete house of 312. The JUI-F has eight seats in the lower house, and even if they were all to vote for the government, it would still fall three short of the required number.

# Petrol cut by Rs10, diesel by Rs13 litre

Continued from Page 1

(4.97pc) to Rs249.69 per litre for next 15 days.

The government also announced Rs11.35 and Rs12.12 per litre cut in the price of kerosene oil and in the ex-depot price of high diesel to Rs258.47 and Rs141.79 per litre, respectively.

Informed sources said the prices of petrol and HSD decreased in the international market by more than \$5 per barrel in the last fortnight.

Officials said the average price of petrol had dropped in the international market to about \$75 per barrel from about \$81 per barrel. The HSD also declined to about \$82 per barrel from \$88.5 in the last fortnight. During the current fortnight, the import premium on petrol and HSD remained generally stable at \$8.5 and \$5 per barrel, respectively. On the other hand, the exchange rate remained range bound.

On the last pricing review with effect from September 1, the government had reduced the petrol and HSD prices by Rs1.86 and Rs1.32 per litre, respectively. Thus, the total reduction in petrol and HSD prices in four fortnights has amounted to Rs26.50 and Rs32.94 per litre, respectively.

The prices of petrol and HSD had witnessed an increase of Rs17.44 and Rs15.74 per litre, respectively in the month of July. Earlier between May 1 and June 15, the prices of both petrol and HSD had been reduced by about \$45 per barrel and \$22 per barrel, respectively.

At present, the government is charging about Rs76 per litre tax on both petrol and HSD. Although, general sales tax is levied on all the petroleum products, the government is charging Rs10 per litre PDL on both products that normally impact the masses.

# Alarm over rise in bringing kids to sit-ins

Child protection body seeks action against culprits behind such 'exploitation'

By Saleem Shahid

their safety and protection at various risks.

"This exploitation undermines their right to protection and security, as outlined in national legislation and Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child," it stated.

The commission had recommended that the government take stringent action against those responsible according to the relevant laws, to ensure the protection and welfare of children.

Additionally, it urged all political and social organisations to avoid involving minors in any form of protest or activity that could jeopardise their safety and integrity.

QUETTA: The Balochistan Child Protection Commission has expressed serious concerns over the increasing trend of "using children as human shields" in political protests and riots.

The commission said the exploitation of children in this manner constitutes a grave violation of their rights, putting

# Habib Metropolitan Bank and Pak Suzuki Join Hands to Enhance Supply Chain Finance via CashNow



Karachi, September 16, 2024: HABIBMETRO recently announced a strategic alliance with Pak Suzuki to revolutionise supply chain finance. This partnership will enable HABIBMETRO's suppliers to access early payments from HABIBMETRO on approval received via CashNow, a cutting-edge fintech platform.

CashNow will handle the technological aspects of this revenue accelerating solution, providing suppliers with rapid access to working capital.

"HABIBMETRO is dedicated to foster growth with a particular emphasis on supporting SMEs. With the Digital Supply Chain Financing initiative, we aim to enhance operational efficiency and ensure consistent cash flow by offering seamless processing and expedited inter-company bills. Our partnership with Pak Suzuki Motors underscores our commitment to delivering innovative financial solutions to our customers," said Khuram Mahboob Khan, President & CEO of HABIBMETRO.

"We are delighted to announce this scheme to improve the financial stability of our esteemed suppliers," remarked Haseeb Kamran, MD of PAKSUZUKI.

"We are honoured that PAKSUZUKI and HABIBMETRO have entered CashNow with its pivotal Supply Chain Finance initiative," remarked Saad Iqbal, Director & Founder of CashNow.

This collaboration is a significant step towards enhancing financial and operational resilience in supply chain management. Through this initiative, new standards in supply chain finance are being set, driving innovation and supporting the economic growth of the industry.

# Pakistan succeeds in eliminating CFCs use: official

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has successfully eliminated the consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and currently working towards phasing out of hydro-chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), a climate change expert at the Ministry of Climate Change said, on the occasion of World Ozone Day, being observed on Monday.

"Our commitment to a greener and healthier future is unwavering," said Muhammad Saleem Shaikh, specialist in the climate change education and environment

tail coordination at the ministry.

He said Pakistan's efforts under the Montreal Protocol have not only contributed to the recovery of the ozone layer but also supported national climate goals.

Meanwhile, Coordinator in Prime Minister for Climate Change Roshni Khurshid Alam has called upon the global community to maintain its focus on sustainable development and climate action, urging the businesses, industries, and citizens to adopt climate-resilient practices and embrace renew-

able technologies that contribute to the protection of the ozone layer.

She renewed the government's commitment to safeguarding the planet for future generations.

"Although the ozone layer is gradually recovering, the continued use of harmful chemicals and unsustainable practices in various parts of the world still threaten the progress made over the past few decades regarding restoring the ozone layer that shield earth from harmful impacts of ultraviolet rays of sun," — Asim Ahmed

# ADB president visits BISP office

By Bakhtawar Mian

ISLAMABAD: The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Masatsugu Asakawa, visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Tehsil Office in Taxila to observe its initiatives aimed at providing cash assistance, supporting enrolment in schools and maternal and child health in the country.

During the visit to the BISP Tehsil Office in Taxila and the Benazir Nashonuma Centre at Wah General Hospital, the ADB president was briefed on BISP's programmes and their impact on the education, health and well-being of the poorest households.

The ADB delegation comprised Haruto Takimura, chief adviser to the president, Yuzuyuki Kinoshita, director general, Ms Ayesha Raza, senior adviser to the president, and others.

BISP director general Naveed Akbar briefed the delegation on different programmes of the social protection system.

The briefing covered BISP's key initiatives such as Benazir Kafalat, Takimmi Wazaif, Nashonuma, and the Undergraduate Scholarship Programme.

At the Tehsil office of Taxila and Nashonuma Facilitation Centre in Wah General Hospital, the ADB team interacted with beneficiaries and observed the registration process for the National Social Economic Registry, the Takimmi Wazaif and Nashonuma programmes.

# LEGACY

KARACHI: Legacy is more than just memories and expectations. Many people have come up to me since my father's passing to relate to me what he meant to them. Many more do that today since I've entered the fray of business politics. Earlier, I would be affected by their revelations. That was the reaction of a grieving son, being told by perfect strangers that his father's death was a great personal loss for them.

Today, however, I've grown to understand that this is a part of legacy. SIRAJ KASSAM TELI wasn't a man who'd say no to people, especially those in need. He cared deeply for his family, and as far as he was concerned, Karachi is his family. It was never who you are, where you came from, but what can I do for you. That's how he led his life, in service to his country because serving Karachi meant serving Pakistan at large. Karachi is the largest contributor to the largest exchequer in Pakistan, with over 60 and 90 percent of national and provincial tax revenues, respectively, and 54% of national exports coming from the city itself. Yet to this day, Karachi seems to be the unwanted, subservient stepchild of the country.

His work for Karachi was such that in 2010 when the fires broke out in Bolton market, following a terrorist attack, he cut short a personal trip with his family to Dubai to come back and see how he could help. He used his platform as chairman of the Businessmen Group (BMG), the leading panel of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), which is now led by

Mr. Zubair Motiwala, to mobilise support for the affectedes.

He personally took it upon himself to call major leaders of the time, which included former government officials, Interior Minister, Mr Rehman Malik, Chief Minister, Mr Qaim Ali Shah and President Asif Ali Zardari. It was his persistence and perseverance through which he secured the government provided relief to the market affectedes to the tune of nearly 2 billion rupees, of which nearly 500 million was returned after each and every affected business owner was catered to. There were over 1700 claims submitted to the KCCI. That's 1700 businesses my father went out of his way to save. Many of these were not members of the KCCI.

It is these very business owners and countless more that come up to me till this day to tell me what a marvel my father was. The Government of Pakistan acknowledged his efforts by awarding him the Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 2011. It is only fair that I acknowledge it as well by furthering his legacy.

I do not claim that I can replace my father. I do not believe that such a man can be replaced, a man that even his opponents praised. The void he left is far too great for any single man or woman to fill. However, all it takes is a single drop for the bottle to start filling and it's time that I start filling what I can. While I may not be an exact replica, in fact, I grew up believing I was very different. That said, since the day I found out, while isolating myself in a hotel room that my father had passed away two hours ago, oblivious of the loss, I've come to realise I'm more like him than I give myself credit for.

As his son, there are many similarities, however, my greatest inheritance from him is the love for this city. To us, Karachi is more than our home. She gave us



Siraj Kassam Teli

life, and she gave us our identity. Karachi made my father the man he was, and me the man I am today. In an era where people my age look abroad for better opportunities, I have chosen to stay, take up arms and fight. As a father now, having inherited such a great love for this city from my own, I feel compelled to leave this city better than when I found her.

I firmly believe that a conducive environment in Karachi, not just for businesses, but for every citizen who calls this city home, willingly or otherwise, can transform the trajectory that Pakistan is on today. Siraj Kassam Teli believed it too, but he'll never get the opportunity to see her the way she's meant to be. Thriving. That is why I'm here today.

That is why I'm contesting elections in the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry as part of the BMG Panel because there is much work to be done. When my father passed away, Karachi lost her voice. I implore you to vote for the BMG Panel. It is still the same BMG, set on the same core values set by my father. It is a panel that represents a unified voice for Karachi. And unity amongst us, citizens of this fair city, tax payers and business owners alike, is the only catalyst of true change in the coming days. Together, we can give Karachi back her voice.

**PARCO PAK-ARAB REFINERY LIMITED**  
A Pakistan-Abu Dhabi Joint Venture

**Disposal of Hazardous Material at PS-4 Fazilpur (Ref # 264187902) & Disposal of HSD Sludge at TS-3 Faisalabad and TS-4 Machhike (Ref # 263889981)**

(Bids are invited for Disposal of Hazardous Material at PS-4 Fazilpur and for Disposal of HSD Sludge at TS-3 Faisalabad and TS-4 Machhike on 'as is where is' basis.)

Sr.	Description	Bid Bond Amount	Bid Submission / Opening Date and Time	Tender Issuance Date / Tender Fee	SAP ARABIA PORTAL LINK
1	DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL, (single) from Benazir, petrol cans, waste material etc.) at PS-4 FAZILPUR (Ref # 264187902) 1 LOT	Free Percent (5%)	Bid Submission Through SAP ARABIA: 01.10.2024 till 10:00 hrs. Bid Opening: 01.10.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Tender Selling Through SAP ARABIA: 10.09.2024 till 20.09.2024 (09:00 hrs.) Fee of Cost	<a href="https://sustainability.arabia.com/ps420240488">https://sustainability.arabia.com/ps420240488</a>
2	DISPOSAL OF HSD SLUDGE AT TS-3 FAISALABAD AND TS-4 MACHHIKE (Ref # 263889981) Quantity 400,000 Kg approx.	Free Percent (5%)	Bid Submission Through SAP ARABIA: 30.09.2024 till 10:00 hrs. Bid Opening: 30.09.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	Tender Selling Through SAP ARABIA: 29.09.2024 till 20.09.2024 (09:00 hrs.) Fee of Cost	<a href="https://sustainability.arabia.com/ps20240544">https://sustainability.arabia.com/ps20240544</a>

Any party interested to participate may send its request for the Tender documents through SAP Arabia Portal Link by uploading the following documents:

Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on Company's letterhead along with the clear copies of valid NTN Certificate / CNIC and a valid EPA Permit / Provincial Environmental Authority approved License / NOC for Handling, Transportation & Disposal of Hazardous Waste / City Sludge (self-declared) applicant which clearly mentions that Contractor is eligible to handle, transport and dispose of the Hazardous Waste / City Sludge (self-declared).

PARCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to cancel the entire bidding process without assigning any reason whatsoever before or after the Bid Opening.

This advertisement is also available on PARCO website: <https://www.parco.com.pk/tenders/> & SAP Arabia Discovery. Further information may be obtained from: Materials Department, Tel: (92-21) 35090100-113 Ext. 2042, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720, 2721, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, 2731, 2732, 2733, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2741, 2742, 2743, 2744, 2745, 2746, 2747, 2748, 2749, 2750, 2751

# Political drama

IT fell to the Maulana to save the day. With a constitutional amendment in the balance and powerful individuals repeatedly knocking on his door, Maulana Faruk Rehman, chief of his own faction of the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam, broke the deadlock late Sunday when he made it clear that he would not support any extension in the tenure of senior judges. This is one of the many controversial changes the government reportedly plans to make through its constitutional package, the details of which are still wrapped in mystery. Given that the JUI-F chief, even with his few votes, could have tipped the scales in favour of or against the amendments, both the government and opposition made all-out efforts to win him over. In the end, his position, stated late on Sunday during a special parliamentary committee's fourth meeting of the day, forced the government to delay its plans.

As news announcements began breaking the news late last night, signalling a much-needed intermission to a political drama that has kept the nation on edge, it seemed like a fitting conclusion to the International Day of Democracy, which, incidentally, was also being observed yesterday. Despite all that has transpired over the past few years and the many valid criticisms of Pakistan's flawed political system, it was heartening to see that the country's burning political issues can still be settled through old-fashioned dialogue and negotiation. The maulana's position was underlined by his insistence on major decisions being taken through consultation and negotiation instead of bulldozing them through parliament. Further, while the government ultimately could not move its desired legislation according to the plan, the opposition offered it an olive branch. It suggested that its proposals be debated more thoroughly and given more time; it even offered conditional support for a suggestion to set up a constitutional court.

As matters stand, there is an opportunity for the chief justice to step away with grace from the controversies surrounding his tenure. While some of his decisions may have sparked debate, Chief Justice Qazi Faez has had an enviable career and earned much honour. The best course of action for him would be to voluntarily step down and ensure that any amendments that affect the judiciary take effect once he retires next month. In doing so, he will not only safeguard the independence of his office but also set a good precedent for future transitions. Meanwhile, the government must revisit its plans. It should ensure that any proposed changes to the judiciary are subjected to thorough debate and consensus before implementation. Creating a constitutional court is a step worth exploring, but influencing the elevation and transfer of judges is not. Given the importance of these matters, a consultative and transparent process is essential.

# Complete impunity

ZERO per cent. That is the conviction rate in crimes against women and children in Sindh, according to data shared with the Senate's Functional Committee on Human Rights. Not only is that record shocking, but the provincial police chief also appears to have zero interest in the subject. In what the committee's chairperson has considered "a serious violation of rules", the IG Sindh remained absent for a briefing he was supposed to provide the Senate body on the issue last week. His lack of regard for "the growing number of cases of domestic violence, rape, murder, and other crimes in the province", despite repeated reminders to attend, as regretted by the chair, can only be seen as a symptom of the cavalier attitudes that seem to be prevailing in Sindh — and indeed nationwide — when it comes to protecting the most vulnerable citizens. It emerged during the meeting that, out of the 1,058 cases filed, 985 remain in 'pending' state. The committee chair also highlighted incidents of rape in religious schools, asking why no action was being taken against those responsible. The Ministry of Human Rights secretary separately regretted provinces' refusal to share relevant data, which has made fighting crimes more difficult.

There appear to be a number of areas that need to be looked into urgently, some of which were also highlighted during the meeting. Despite the creation of the Zarra app, which is tasked with tracing and recovering missing children, it appears that public awareness regarding its services remains minimal, which has greatly limited its utility. Furthermore, the labyrinthine workings of the law seem to be discouraging ordinary people from going to court to seek redress for the crimes committed against them. This has particularly harmful consequences, especially in cases concerning domestic abuse, where the incentives for seeking justice are consistently outweighed by the potential costs of doing so. In some places, the law of the land seems to hold no sway, as dispute resolution continues to be overseen by jirgas operating under outdated and, often, backward customs. On the administrative end, prosecutors and investigators are often untrained or under-trained, which leads to weak prosecution of serious crimes. All of these are serious challenges for Sindh's provincial authorities to resolve. Lastly, the provincial police, too, need to set their houses in order. Their complacency is unacceptable.

# Melting glaciers

ACCELERATED glacial melt in the Indus river basin, as highlighted recently by the National Disaster Management Authority, paints a grim picture of the risks facing our region. With a staggering 23.3pc reduction in snow cover and a 65pc loss in glaciers over the past five years, the threat to the basin — which supports nearly 300m people in Pakistan and India — is dire. The impacts are already being felt across the region, with short-lived water surpluses and long-term threats of water scarcity and increased flood risks. The Hindu Kush-Himalayan range, often referred to as the world's Third Pole, feeds this river basin and is vital to about 2bn people who depend on its glacial melt for water, energy and agriculture. The melting glaciers not only threaten the Indus basin's water supply but also impact agriculture and food security across South Asia. The looming possibility of losing 20-75pc of the glaciers' ice volume by the century's end, as noted by some experts, underscores the urgent need for action.

Unfortunately, the stark reality is that political hostilities between India and Pakistan often overshadow these pressing issues. Both nations, already water-stressed and heavily reliant on agriculture for survival, find themselves at odds over many issues, leaving the climate crisis unaddressed. Political disputes have led to a lack of data sharing and collaboration between scientists across borders. This lack of cooperation means that both countries are sleepwalking into what scientists have forecast as "cascading disasters". The impacts of glacial melt are not confined to national borders. Effective management of water resources, sharing of climate data, and joint disaster preparedness initiatives are essential. Discussions at official forums are important, but these must be followed by action that leads to a broader, regional strategy. South Asia's leaders must realise that when it comes to climate threats, political hostilities must take a back seat because floods, droughts and future climate disasters will wait for no one.

# OPINION

BY MALEEHA LODHI



# Regaining global relevance

There are no short cuts to rebooting Pakistan's international standing and influence.

PAKISTAN is becoming increasingly marginalised in international affairs. It is no longer able to shape the strategic environment in its neighbourhood to advance its interests, much less influence global geopolitics. The country has faced reversals on a number of fronts, notably Kashmir and Afghanistan. Once an active diplomatic player in the Middle East, today its principal engagement with the region is to seek loans from rich Arab countries. Even the country's most critical bilateral relationship — with China — is facing challenges. Its international relevance has been progressively declining and its diplomatic options shrinking.

A combination of factors is responsible for this situation. Pakistan's economic weakness, political instability, worsening terrorism, poor governance, continuing internal security threats and strategic confusion. The key question raised by this is why the country was strategically 'relevant' in the past when some of these characteristics were also present. The answer is that factors or developments extraneous to Pakistan gave it a significant role and importance in global geopolitics. For over two decades after its independence, it was the Cold War that catapulted Pakistan into the position of a much sought-after ally by the United States in its fight against communism. Membership of Western-sponsored military alliances enabled it to benefit from significant economic and military assistance.

In the 1980s, it was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that propelled Pakistan in a 'front-line' role in the international coalition's campaign to roll back Russian occupation. The defeat and disintegration of the Soviet Union was followed by a period in which Pakistan's geostrategic importance declined precipitously. 9/11 dramatically changed that. Pakistan once again assumed a front-line role in the so-called War on Terror. This enabled the country to coast along for two decades in a globally prominent role as a result of the US and Nato countries' need for Pakistan's cooperation in the war in Afghanistan.

What all these phases underlined was that that external dynamics, regional geopolitical storms or big power rivalries enhanced Pakistan's international importance. Thus, factors extraneous to the country effected transformations in Paki-

stan's global status, not its intrinsic importance. But in the changed international environment of the post-Cold War era what increasingly mattered was countries' own attributes that gave them importance. There Pakistan came up short. This should have been an urgent call to adjust to new realities. External overreach and internal under-reach had characterised Pakistan's past priorities and actions. That was no longer tenable. But successive governments failed to see the world had changed fundamentally and the days of living off geopolitical rents were over. Having often didn't understand the only way the country could reverse the erosion in its strategic importance was by strengthening and empowering itself at home and putting its own house in order. But old habits persisted as did outdated paradigms.

Pakistan now has to operate in and adapt to a vastly transformed international environment. The post-Cold War era has given way to a world of growing multipolarity, where power is being redistributed and where there is intense competition among states for global influence. In this transformed landscape, it is increasingly the economic power of countries that gives them international clout and both. Nations with strong economies and who are technology innovators are the ones that have become consequential in the international arena.

The growing importance and rising clout of 'middle powers' in global affairs reflects this. Middle powers are not superpowers but have characteristics that give them the ability to influence and shape geopolitics. Most middle powers have strong economies and possess other positive attributes that provide them leverage in global affairs to pursue their national interests as well as the ability to build multiple relationships through skilled diplomacy.

The structural changes and dispersal of power in the international system — the emergence of power having changed — has created an enabling environment for middle power diplomatic activism and for them to wield greater influence and become global players. Middle powers play off the US-China competition to strengthen their bargaining position even while they seek to enhance relations with both global powers. They try to avoid getting into the crosshairs of that con-

frontation but also reap advantages from it. This urges both the US and China to pay more attention to them to ensure they are not firmly tied to their rival's camp.

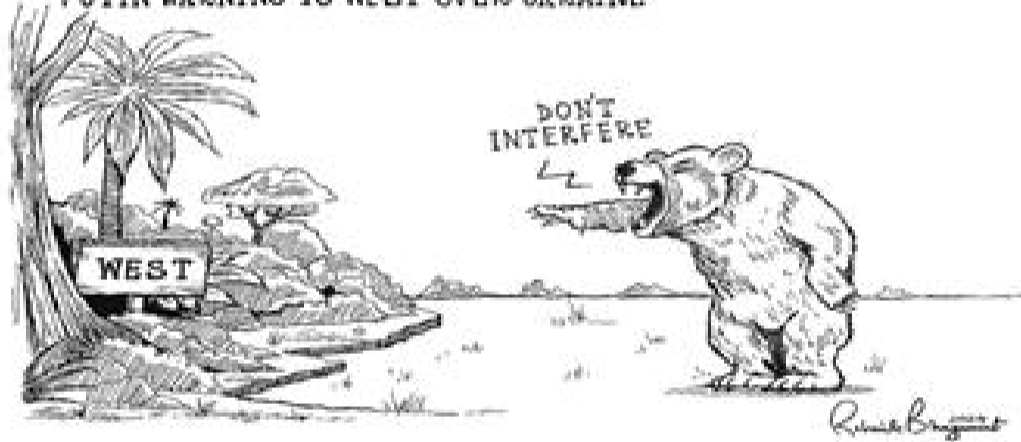
Pakistan doesn't figure today among middle powers that include many countries of the Global South, such as Turkey, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Singapore among several others. But it has all the potential to become one. To be internationally relevant, it must first and foremost build a strong and resilient economy that is not reliant on external life support, on loans and borrowing — an economy integrated into the global economy, which at present it is far from being. This needs efficient governance, political stability and an end to the political squabbles that keep the country in such an unsettled, distracted and divided state. It also needs an educated citizenry and workforce that has the ability to innovate and contribute to scientific and technological progress. All this will empower national self-confidence that can empower the country with hope and optimism, which acts as a force multiplier.

Along with building domestic strength, incorporating soft power in the country's diplomatic strategy will also help to improve its global standing and reputation. Understood as a country's qualities or behaviours that appeals to others, soft power can be an indispensable tool to boost its international influence and image. Pakistan has several soft power resources which if identified and leveraged intelligently can help create positive perceptions about the country and build trust, which in turn, can elevate its position and elicit support from the international community for its foreign policy goals.

To sum up, Pakistan's international relevance now depends on its domestic repositioning and the choices made at home to strengthen the economy, establish durable political stability, provide competent governance, invest in people and address its human development deficits. It also involves fashioning and implementing a coherent and imaginative foreign policy. What should be clear is that there are no short cuts to rebooting Pakistan's global influence. ■

The writer is a former ambassador to the US, UK and DM.

# PUTIN WARNING TO WEST OVER UKRAINE



BY UMAIR JAVED

# Punjabi nationalism



IN comparison to other multiethnic/multi-cultural countries in Asia, like India and Malaysia, Pakistan is a bit of an anomaly in that the largest identity group is not formally politicised. While Hinduism is the predominant political force in India, and Malay nationalism remains the basis of the modern Malaysian state, Punjabis do not vote as Punjabis in mainstream Pakistani politics.

There are a number of explanations for this. One can argue that Punjabis already enjoy a privileged role in the polity on account of how population numbers form the basis of the National Assembly. With nearly 100 out of 266 directly elected seats coming from north and central Punjab, the region and its chosen representatives carry outsized importance in the making, breaking, and functioning of governments.

Additionally, continuity with colonial-era patterns of economic development and recruitment, especially in the military, ensures more than proportionate Punjabi representation in the state as well as greater access to resources. This is partly why districts of north and central Punjab score the highest in any composite measure of human development compared to the rest of the country.

If the political and development needs of a population are being addressed by the state to an extent greater than for anyone else, it leaves arguably little room for identity-based politics. While it may make sense for Pakistan's marginalised ethnic groups to mobilise given existing patterns of underdevelopment and political disenfranchisement, the largest group faces no such compulsion.

This is a persuasive argument and probably helps explain the absence of Punjabi ethnic nationalism. However, privileged status and rational numbers aren't always enough to limit a group's politicisation. Upper-caste Hindus in India are by far the most economically privileged population and enjoy representation greater than even their numbers, yet they continue to mobilise against Muslim and lower-caste 'others', in service of a virulent, majoritarian politics.

Instead, what may push a majority towards majoritarianism is the loss of privilege in a relative sense, which enables victimhood narratives. This is clearly visible in India, where a handful of reservation-based concessions made to lower-caste and minority groups continuously triggers these already dormant. The result is an aggres-

sive and periodically violent backlash. In Pakistan, there are a few developments taking place, mostly on social media at the moment, which are worth monitoring to assess whether the demographic majority here can go the same way.

The first is an earnest and largely wholesome revival of Punjabi cultural identity in the digital sphere. There is plenty of new internet content covering the history and cultural heritage of the region, highlighting connections with Punjabis on the other side of the border, and popularising the use of the Punjabi language.

Such content is useful since it helps revive cultural diversity in a region that adopted regressive religion-tinged nationalism most forcibly after 1947. One aspect of this adoption was that upward mobility in Punjab gradually became synonymous with a disavowing of Punjabi language and heritage by the urban middle classes, often in favour of

Punjabi cultural revival is necessary for a more progressive and tolerant Pakistan.

Urdu and greater religiosity.

Helping a younger generation connect with their cultural heritage, especially their mother tongue, is a worthy goal in its own right. And if, in that process, it allows people to forge regressive fundamentalisms, and forge connections with others across the border as well as helps them see the essence of shared heritage and humanity, it only advances the cause of peace and co-existence in the region. In other words, Punjabi cultural revival is necessary for a more progressive and tolerant Pakistan.

But on the margins of this revival lurk more regressive tendencies. These were visible in the aftermath to the BKA attack in Balochistan, which led to the death of 23 people. The bizarre demand to boycott Quetta hotels established in Punjabi cities, which are in fact run by Pakistani entrepreneurs, is one such example. Another dangerous one is the epidemic call for the expulsion of Baluch

and Pakistan students studying in universities of Punjab, labelling them as *marazi kharis* trouble-makers or terrorism enablers.

This is not the first time ethnic prejudice has reared its ugly head in Punjab, but it would be catastrophic if such tendencies are allowed to gain a mass-culture foothold. The prevalence of a minority group and that of a majority group are significantly different. The former at worst results in the creation of enclaves of exclusion and insularity. The latter, however, creates majoritarianism capable of far greater violence.

Pakistan's uneven patterns of development require considerable redistribution and affirmative action to achieve greater equity. The so-called ethnic peripheries are underdeveloped, and, on average, someone born in Balochistan or the arid tribal areas is going to have lower opportunities for mobility than a fellow citizen born in urban Punjab or Karachi.

Resultantly, regions that are more developed need to forgo some of their resources to help those areas that lag behind. Any reallocation, such as the reservation of seats in Punjab's universities, should be prevented from being portrayed as an unfair concession. Instead it should rightly be seen as a necessity for social justice and equality of citizenship.

To (mostly) their credit, mainstream parties popular in Punjab generally avoid making Punjabi ethnic prejudice. The PTI, as a national entity with a strong base in urban Sindh and KP, stands to gain little in any case. The PML-N, on the other hand, has its electoral base largely confined to the province and has occasionally dabbled in ethnic appeals. But on big questions, such as redistribution of finances under the NTC and devolution of central government power, its track record is more liberalist.

With M's popularity currently languishing, the allure of politicising Punjabi identity is probably considerable. But it is imperative that it opens up to do so. The political system is already weighed down by authoritarian governance, regional inequality, and religious fundamentalism. It does not need awakened prejudice of the majority to be added to the mix. ■

The writer teaches sociology at Lums. [@umairjaved](#)

# OPINION



BY HUMA YUSUF

## State and citizens

TRUST is the new buzzword in global politics. Western democracies in particular are preoccupied with rebuilding trust between the state and citizens in an effort to repair a post-World War II social contract that has eroded with growing income inequality, heightened corruption, and cost-of-living crises. Big ideas floating around Western governments are linked to preservation of the social contract: data privacy, universal basic incomes, state support for the green transition. Pakistanis watching this trend should ask: how do you restore what you never had?

The social contract is a useful construct for thinking about the relationship between the state and its citizens. The term is used for the formal or informal rules governing how the state and citizens behave and interact with each other, and what obligations they have to each other.

Sadly, the social contract in Pakistan seems non-existent. Citizens are taking to the streets to defy political persecution, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings by the state, media censorship, and price hikes.

More not able to the number of issues that has not provoked a public outcry. Here's just a sampling: a public order law that essentially bans peaceful public protest; the installation of a 'web management system' that will likely make a mockery of data privacy; proposed constitutional amendments to fix the chief justice's term, skewing executive-judiciary dynamics and threatening judicial independence; absence of anti-terrorism laws, including the recent decision to allow for preventive detention of suspected terrorists in Balochistan without any charges or court orders; proposals for domestic 'interment centres'; the findings of an audit of military institutions that highlights how the rules apply selectively. You get the picture.

There are of course a growing number of groups ready to call out the mounting violations of the social contract. From PFI supporters to the Balochi Yakkobi Committee, the Pakistan Taliban Movement to Aamir March and digital rights groups. These groups' failure to coalesce into a broader civil society movement against state transgressions is often attributed to ethnic-line gnostic differences. But it may be more helpful to consider this through a social contract lens.

Markus Lauerer et al in their work on the Middle East point out that social contracts are asymmetric and hierarchical, writing "some citizens and societal groups are more influential than others and have more say in the nature and content of the social contract". This plurality of social contracts explains why Pakistan will not go

the way of Bangladesh, with a unified uprising. The expectations of the state from each group vary: one feels its social contract has been violated because it is excluded from elite state patronage, another feels betrayed because its loved ones are being arbitrarily abducted.

It is a damning critique of our country that there are such inequities in the social contracts negotiated, and that the baseline assumptions of most social contracts (transparency, inclusion, accountability) do not apply. State representatives' growing willingness to shamelessly negotiate divergent social contracts for a privileged few was on display recently with electricity subsidies for some but not others.

Recognising the plurality of social contracts also explains why, despite worsening conditions, more Pakistanis are not panicking. For many citizens, there never was a social contract. Their negotiated expectations extended to their families, tribes, feudal lords. The state never had anything to do with it, and so the state's failings and excesses now remain irrelevant.

The other challenge in Pakistan is that the citizens' counterparty in the social contract remains nebulous. In other contexts (Western democracies or explicitly authoritarian states), it's clear to all who they have negotiated their social contracts with, and where accountability lies. The pervasiveness of our hybrid system is that the social contract cannot be enforced because the real counterparty remains voided.

So where do we go from here? For many Pakistanis, the social contract on offer is unacceptable, and they are simply choosing to opt out. (Recent estimates suggest that 1.6 million Pakistanis have emigrated over the past two years; the informal number is likely higher.) But it could get worse.

When a nation's citizenry cannot agree on the basic terms of a social contract among themselves, and the state is not willing to participate in contracts with all its citizens, then fragmentation is inevitable. We must halt this terrifying trajectory. The state must renegotiate its social contract with Pakistani citizens, and they, in turn, must collectively seek an equal and inclusive contract among them. ■

The author is a political and integrity risk analyst.  
✉ [huyusuf@proton.me](mailto:huyusuf@proton.me)



BY NASEER MEMON

## Irsa controversy

THE Indus River System Authority is again in the spotlight. Following in the footsteps of the previous caretaker governments, the present regime is also, most painstakingly, working on amending the Irsa Act, 1992. The caretaker government managed an ordinance to amend the Act in February 2024. Former president Arif Alvi declined to sign off on the ordinance and issued a note of objection. However, it became a constitutional fact accomplished after the Prime Minister's Office countermanded it. Subsequently, its proponents managed to get a former Sindh chairman, known to be a staunch advocate of the controversial proposed Kalabagh dam, notified as the new Irsa chairman. However, the ensuing political machinations compelled the PM's Office to rescind the notification and eventually the ordinance was lapsed without being promulgated.

The controversial amendment was resurrected recently when a meeting was held at the President's Office on July 8. According to the minutes of the meeting, officials of the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) apprised the president of the necessity of an amendment to the existing Irsa Act, and this was endorsed by the president. This time, a more dubious draft of the amendment was pushed through the Irsa chairman's office. The draft aims to defuse the federal character of Irsa by making the latter a centrally controlled body, fully subservient to a chairman to be handpicked by the PM.

The proposed chairman, a Grade-21 serving or retired officer of the federal government, has been given ministerial powers to co-opt more members and create an Independent Committee of Experts. Section 8 of the proposed amendment authorises the independent experts' committee to lay down the technical basis for regulation and distribution of surface water. This clause has set off alarm bells as it renders Irsa's provincial members redundant and reduced to a rubber stamp. Water allocation on a 10-day basis for every single canal has already been established under the 1991 Water Apportionment Accord. Any new technical basis for water distribution by a handpicked experts' committee will render the Accord ineffective. Article 74 of the proposed amendment further limits the role of the provincial members by stipulating that all decisions involving technical matters shall be taken after seeking necessary technical assistance from the experts' committee.

Constitutionally, Irsa is a subject of the Council of Common Interests under the Federal Legislative List. Under Article 155 of the Constitution, the CCI decides on water-related disputes. Hence matters pertaining to Irsa come within the CCI's

purview, no other office, including the presidency, has jurisdiction over its affairs. However, those eager to bring Irsa under their grip have circumvented the constitutional forum and attempted to meddle with the regulatory body through the country's highest office.

The proposed amendment has stirred a strong reaction in Sindh from political parties, growers' associations, civil society and media. The proposed amendment is being seen as an attempt to make Irsa an Islamabad-controlled body with more token representation by the provinces.

A marathon session of the Sindh Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution against the anticipated amendment. The resolution considers it against the democratic spirit of federalism, which will not make the amendment acceptable to the people of Sindh. Lawmakers criticised the amendment, which is aimed at controlling Irsa and that tampering with water distribution. Recently, PPP MNAs Khurshid Shah, Naveed Qasim, Chaudhry Ali Talpur and Mahabub Raza, speaking in the National Assembly, questioned the proposed Irsa amendment and the rationale behind the plan to irrigate millions of acres of barren land under the GPI. They asked about the availability of water for the massive ploughing.

Replying to a question, Minister for Water Resources Musadik Malik confirmed that 812,000 acres of land have been acquired so far to bring barren land under cultivation in Punjab and Sindh. The GPI is pursuing an ambitious plan of corporate farming over large parcels of barren land. While national food security and the export of grains are important objectives, it also requires water, not just land.

Under the present arrangement, all the available water is committed. Except when there is a very wet monsoon, water shortages in the river basin often trigger conflicts between the upper and lower riparian. Pakistan can enhance grain productivity by employing improved water management technologies, opting for water-thrifty crops, planting new varieties, cutting agrivoltaic needs and agri inputs and adopting climate-sensitive agricultural practices. The GPI should focus on non-divisive options to increase crop and water productivity. ■

The author is a civil society professional.  
✉ [naseer2004@yahoo.com](mailto:naseer2004@yahoo.com)

## FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

### Bugti-Bhutto talks?

**KARACHI** Former Governor of Balochistan, Nawab Akbar Bugti was seen driving into the Prime Minister's House yesterday (Sept 15), but no official source was available to confirm that he was having talks with Mr Bhutto. Political circles were, however, intrigued that while the present Balochistan Governor, Mr Ahmed Yar Khan was inspecting the Tarbela Dam, the ex-Governor was contacting the Prime Minister. These circles were surprised at Mr Bugti's... unimpeached appearance in Karachi.

The question in everybody's — particularly the Baluchis — mind is "What was Mr Bugti doing in the Prime Minister's House? Is he trying to have a political deal?" The reply to this question may not be available until sometime later. It was by a sheer accident that Mr Bugti's presence in Karachi came to be known to a [news agency] correspondent while he was driving... to Clifton... [where]... he spotted Mr Bugti in [a] car... He trailed Mr Bugti's car which was headed towards the Prime Minister's residence. Minutes later, the ex-Governor was seen walking into the [PM's] House... Baluch political circles were also surprised to hear about Mr Bugti's visit to Karachi at this stage. — News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

### Foreign control

**KARACHI** A Bill to regulate ownership and editorship of newspapers in Pakistan by foreigners will come up before the Pakistan Parliament at its next session. It was widely known. Political circles in Karachi were definitely opposed to foreign control over the "Fourth Estate". They advocated that the Government should be armed with the necessary powers to restrict foreign capital in the newspaper industry. The fate of China, it was pointed out, was a definite pointer towards the unavailability of allowing foreigners to control moulding of public opinion...

For obvious reasons, even the Draft Convention on Freedom of Information of the United Nations allowed a country to restrict the right to edit and publish newspapers and periodicals within its territory to its own nationals. — Staff correspondent

[Meanwhile, according to news agencies in Karachi,] Prime Minister Liaqat Ali Khan will inaugurate in Karachi on Sept 15, Pakistan's "largest Urdu library", the Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu Public Library. Organised and set up by the Anjuman under the guidance of Dr Masood Ahmad Haq, the library is stated to contain over 10,000 books in Urdu...

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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

## Higher education is in a bade shape



IN its Aug 29 judgment in a constitutional petition taken up in terms of Article 184(3) of the Constitution, the National Public Universities Teachers Association vs Federation of Pakistan, the Supreme Court (SC) noted some disturbing facts as to how public-sector universities in the country were being made to function. The findings were based on a report submitted by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

There are 12 universities under the ministry's purview, two each in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and four each in Punjab and Islamabad. All these universities are either working without vice-chancellors (VCs) or without other named positions, while some have such vacancies filled in with temporary appointments or on an ad hoc basis.

One university in Multan has a VC who has occupied the post since a decade without undergoing proper competitive recruitment process using political affiliation. It was further observed by the SC that the Board of Trustees or the Board of Governors do not hold meetings as required by the constitution of respective universities.

The condition of universities under the control of provincial governments is not different. Out of five universities in Balochistan, three universities have ad hoc VCs, while the VCs of the remaining two have obtained stay orders from the Balochistan High Court.

Besides, the report submitted by the KP government discloses that out of 34 universities, 17 do not have a regular VC. Moving on, according to a similar report from the Punjab government, 25 of the 34 universities are working without a regular VC. According to the Sindh government, seven universities do not have regular VCs. As such, holding of meetings as mandated by the constitution of the universities is also not being followed, observed the SC.

The SC has made it clear that public-sector universities must comply with their

respective laws, and those in charge of them must demonstrate that they are competent enough to hold their respective positions. Transgressions involve effect academics, the reputation and standing of Pakistani universities, and also undermine the degrees awarded by them, noted the SC.

We can only hope that those in charge will take a serious note of the state of affairs prevailing in public-sector universities. Until we improve our education system and equip people with the right tools, our dreams of progress cannot be realised.

Syed Musazzam Nawaz  
Karachi

## Jetty in Pasni

THE jetty in Pasni is a vital part of the fishing industry in Balochistan. For many years, the jetty has been the backbone of the local economy, providing livelihood to thousands of families dependent on fishing. Unfortunately, due to long-term neglect and lack of maintenance, the jetty has fallen into poor condition. This decline has severely affected the efficiency of fishing activities, and has reduced the overall economic output.

The need for the jetty's reconstruction goes beyond the local level, as it is also crucial for the country's seafood exports. More than 30 per cent of Balochistan's fish catch is processed through this jetty, and its current condition poses a serious risk to both the local fishermen and the national economy.

Considering the importance of Pasni jetty, the government should prioritise its reconstruction. This investment will not only revive the local economy, but also boost the country's export capacity, leading to greater economic stability. Rebuilding the jetty will support national development goals and protect the livelihoods of many people, ensuring long-term economic growth.

It is essential for the government to take immediate action to restore this critical infrastructure, securing the future of the fishing industry and its economic benefits.

Khalid Raheem  
Pasni

## KE's uniqueness

ELECTRIC (KE) is a rather unique electricity-providing company that does so many strange things to its consumers that any power supply company in the world would struggle to even imagine to do that to its consumers.

Undoubtedly, the people of Karachi have been enduring several atrocities being committed by the KE over the last several years. From long loadshedding to overbilling, and from tactical bill-making

to abrupt power outages, KE does it all. Besides, there is the fortnightly power shutdown, from morning till evening, in most parts of Karachi on a rotational basis in the name of carrying out 'maintenance'. Despite this so-called maintenance, abrupt power outages are experienced everywhere in the city. Nowhere in the world does a utility provider company shut down the power supply for the whole day in the name of maintenance. What is the mystery and the actual purpose behind this pain-afflicting power shutdowns?

The federal and provincial governments are indifferent towards people's woes. They never bother to investigate such issues and do not intervene and punish the KE for its ineptly and exploitative practices. Maybe human rights organisations should contest a case in this regard.

Aamir Musazzam  
Karachi



## Population explosion

THIS is with reference to the editorial "Population calamity" (July 25). The population of the area that comprised West Pakistan at the time of partition was around 33 million. Now, according to a conservative forecast, the underbilled population will surge past 400 million by the time we cross the centennial celebrations. During this long journey of 77 years, we have not added, conserved or taken possession of any additional land area to bring it under cultivation for agricultural produce in order to attain food security. In fact, in many places the rich cultivable land has been encroached upon by the land mafia.

In plain words, while the land holding remains constant at 881,923 square kilometres, the population has increased by about 218 million already.

Similarly, the density of people at 308.01 per square kilometre in 2024 compared to 47.35 in 1950 is definitely disproportionate to the available resources.

The above is a fine example of the Malthusian theory regarding exponential population growth compared to arithmetic food supply growth. In Europe when the population was rising at a rapid rate, the food supply was also increasing steadily thanks to technological developments, whereas this has never been the case with Pakistan. The recent import of wheat, to quote one instance, is before us all.

With so many to feed and resource being scarce, infant mortality, underweight babies, undernourished children, malnutrition and stunted growth are still in 40 per cent of the newborns and infants in their formative years of life. Research by the same deficiencies are reflected and carried over while growing up.

Ever since the 1960s, every government is apparently making efforts to contain the population growth, but all these efforts seem to have gone to waste.

Unfortunately, the growth rate has continued to hover around 2.5pc per the latest official census in 2023, whereas it is around 1pc to 1.1pc in the regions.

The policymakers need to revisit the population planning programme, as well as the right to reproductive health while figuring out what went wrong in the past and what remedial steps should be taken to avoid the onslaught.

Khalid  
Islamabad

## Revitalising NSC

THIS is with reference to the article "Missing NSC" (Sept 7). Established in 2013, the National Security Committee (NSC) aimed at fostering consensus between civil and military establishments on national security issues. However, the division's structure has been altered, rendering it ineffective, and the NSC is without a national security adviser since April 2022. To restore the NSC's effectiveness, some steps are needed to be taken urgently.

The national security adviser must be appointed and there should be restructuring of the division by appointing senior officers from the foreign service and police service. NSC meetings should be convened regularly at least monthly, to address the ongoing security concerns and develop proactive strategies, not just in response to specific incidents.

As such, the Strategic Policy Planning Cell (SPPC) must be strengthened with additional researchers, tasked to develop a comprehensive external national narrative, accurately reflecting Pakistan's current and future directions.

By implementing these measures, the NSC can be revitalised to effectively address all national security challenges, and thereby ensure a safer Pakistan.

Zahid Ghaffar  
Karachi

**WATER SHORTAGE:** The shortage of drinking water in Hyderabad, particularly in Quaidabad area, is a persistent issue. Water filtration plants are generally not maintained properly. Kotri Barrage has enough water that flows to various parts of the city via the Pholai and Pinyari canals, but the pipelines in Hyderabad are consistently dry. In some cases, entire neighbourhoods have to spend days without access to clean drinking water.  
Jawad Ahmad Mungl  
Hyderabad

**COLLEGE CLOSURE:** The University College of Dera Muzaffar Jamali (UCDMJ), a campus of the Lardha University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, is about to shut down due to lack of permanent teachers and other facilities. The budget allocated last year has been utilised, and no new funds have been announced so far. Since the faculty members have not received their salaries for two months, they are already frustrated, and may not continue their service. The government must take concrete steps to resolve this pressing issue.  
Afshar Ahmad  
Jalhabad

**INTERMEDIATE RESULTS:** Intermediate examinations were held in May, but the results have not been announced yet. Consequently, students, especially admission seekers, are left frustrated because universities across the country have initiated the admission process. The relevant authorities should look into the matter urgently.  
Naveed Ahmad  
Hab

**JUNK FOOD:** The menace of junk food continues to affect the health of people, but there seems to be no end in sight. All such food is processed, and requires huge amounts of synthetic chemicals that are not only toxic, but also contain numerous carcinogenic materials. They are a major source of non-communicable diseases, like heart problems, diabetes, stroke and others. Obesity, a silent killer, has a direct linkage with junk food. Unhealthy food is destroying the health of the nation.  
Dr Razaq Anjum Shabbir  
Gujranwala

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



# PUNJAB NOTES

## National history: our 'this and that'

By Mushtaq Soofi

WHEN I was working for Pakistan Television, a colleague, who was a senior cameraman, narrated an anecdote over a cup of tea regarding PTV's administrative affairs. "Some years back an international one-day cricket match was to be played in Peshawar. For its live coverage an OR Van (outside/ outdoor broadcast van) was requisitioned from PTV Centre, Lahore. I was camera in-charge. We reached Peshawar Centre and had a meeting with the general and the administrative managers regarding the security arrangements. Admin manager said: 'I assure you nothing unusual will happen'. I insisted that there should be footstep security arrangement for the van and for our personal vehicles. He assured us that security would be tight. Next day when we set up the recording equipment, the stadium was already check-a-block. As the match started a big crowd tried to get in. A local member of the crew told me that tribunes of cricketer Shahid Afridi had gathered and

wanted to enter the stadium without tickets. They argued with the security staff that they had the right to watch the match for free as the cricketer boy was from their Afridi tribe. In the meantime, Shahid Afridi came to bat and got out in no time. There was a ballast. Security deployed at the gate pushed the highly-charged mob back which turned violent because they had failed to see their boy in action. It started pushing the parked vehicles with stones. When we came out at the end of the match I found my car with front and back screens totally smashed. Outraged, we reached the TV centre and had a meeting with the general and admin managers. I protested loudly that why our personal vehicles were not protected as promised. The admin manager, responsible for the arrangement, replied: 'It's not my fault, if Afridi had not got out so soon, nothing would have happened.' 'I threw my arms up.' 'If this or that had not happened' is a recurrent pattern of our conversations especially when we talk about our history. Such suppositions spring from our national failure of what we professedly wanted to

achieve but failed. It is a product of collective despair. Lack of better future compels us to be obsessed with the past. But the past offers little more than what it has created, a bleak tomorrow. Stared at the things which are ahead and disappointed by what happened in the past pushes us into a state that prompts us to fantasise; we enter the cocoon of alternative reality. It's a defensive measure that protects us from the pain of failure. With the benefit of hindsight we imagine what other options were available when we made a particular decision in a particular situation. But we pay scant attention to the concrete conditions which forced us to choose what we chose. We are generally more concerned with the consequences of what we chose, not with why we chose what we chose.

M.A. Jinnah, the founder of the state, declared on March 11, 1948 in Dhaka that Urdu alone would be the sole national language of Pakistan and just for once he was fooled by Bengalis who were not only at the forefront of Pakistan Movement but also formed the majority population of the new state. They protested and it morphed into a political conflict. We now whisper in hushed tones that if this had not happened the seeds of separation would not have been sown. But too hesitate to analyse the factors that made him to take such a step.

We refuse to understand why Bengalis loved their language so much! We have internalised the imposition of foreign languages such as Urdu and English during the Raj. Bengalis had seen the remnants of Bengal during the Raj. The first Nobel Laureate from India was a poet of their language. We ignore the fact that M.A. Jinnah who spoke just two languages, Urdu and English, was influenced by Muslim leaders of Uttar Pradesh that he made their language the national language of Pakistan. What an irony! He couldn't speak Urdu, his national language. 'If he had not done this' is one of our refrain.

In 1958, General Ayub Khan supported by his fellow generals and civil bureaucrats mostly imported from India imposed martial law and put the politicians in jail or debarred them from politics. He stalled the process of nascent democracy and created the One Unit lumping all the diverse regions of West Pakistan together that provoked an angry response from the regions forced to form it except Punjab. They were diverse regions having distinct histories, languages and identities. The effort was designed to sacrifice the richness of diversity, taken as dangerous poverty, at the altar of ill-conceived notion of monolithic national identity. Combined with it was a hollow notion of parity between the One Unit (West Pakistan) and Bengal (East Pakistan) both were declared equal defying the fact that latter had majority of population.

## Eight booked for 'attacking' women in four incidents

By Our Correspondent

SAHIWALA: Kamran, Okarwala Bangle, and Fatah Sher police have booked eight suspects, arresting three of them, for allegedly physically assaulting and threatening four women in separate incidents.

The suspects were charged under sections 354, 506 and 324, of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and Section 25 of the Telegraph Act, 1885.

As per police, in the first incident, a woman 'A' was attacked by a youth, Sajjan and his mother, Iram Bibi, while she was returning home with father at 121/9-L village. On being attacked 'A' offered resistance and administered the crowd suspect, who resorted to aerial firing.

On hearing gunshots and the victim's cries for help, locals came to her rescue upon, while the attackers fled the scene.

In Fatah Sher Colony, two suspects, Akram and Riaz, physically assaulted Riaz Bibi when she went to her friend's house to recover a loan amount of Rs15,000. Riaz Bibi was rescued by the Fatah Sher police after they were called by a passerby.

In the third incident, Kamran police arrested Jabbar and Ahsan Ghaffar for continuously threatening Mumtaz Bibi and her son over the telephone and through social media platforms at 1207-R.

In the fourth incident, a woman 'B', a resident

of 46/12-L village, was allegedly harassed by two goldsmith brothers, Anwar and Akbar, when she went to their shop to demand money which they owed her for the gold she had given them two months back.

According to the complainant woman, the suspects abused her and threw her out of the shop.

Fatah Sher police registered a case against the two brothers, who fled the scene.

**PROTEST:** Residents of 7-R village blocked on Saturday night the Chichawatni Faisalabad Road for two hours, to protest against the police's failure to check rising incidents of snatching in the area.

They chanted slogans against the police, alleging lack of patrolling in the area.

According to protesters, in the latest incident, a shop owner, Ahmed, was robbed of Rs15,000 cash and motorcycle by unknown dacoits who had set up a picket near 1107-R village. Ahmed was returning home after closing his shop in Chichawatni city.

They said the dacoits also tortured Ahmed for offering resistance.

Following the incident, the village residents blocked the road for traffic for two hours. On being informed of the situation, the Chichawatni ASP Muhammad Masud held negotiations with the protesters and assured them of increased patrolling in the area.



SARGODHA: A traffic team rides motorcycles wrongly parked at Gole Chowk. — AFP

## Two held for online harassment, blackmail

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: FIA: The FIA Cybercrime Wing in Faisalabad arrested two people on Sunday for online sexual harassment and blackmail.

According to an FIA spokesperson, Muhammad Ahsan and Ali Raza had edited and fabricated pictures of a woman. They sent them to her and her relatives for blackmail, and also shared them on social media.

The woman filed a complaint with the FIA, which led to the arrest and seizure of their mobile phones containing objectionable images.

In a separate raid in Faisalabad, the FIA arrested franchise employees Zubairain, Ejaz Khan and Waseem Abbas from Jhang for illegally extracting thousands of mobile SIMs and pos-

sessing duplicate identity cards.

**CLASS ACTION:** A potential clash between the Muslim and Ahmadiyya communities was averted on Sunday in Gujra, Chak 369 JB Jodha Nagar, due to the intervention of police and religious leaders.

Reports said that the conflict arose after the mother of an Ahmadi, Nuhon Sikkandar, was buried in a shared graveyard.

Tehreek Latifkhan Pakistan leader Mian Masrur Mahmood Ghazali and Bazm Khawate Nabuwat president Mahmood Bhalla averted a protest.

However, former Gujra Bar Association president Taseer Khan mediated between police and protesters. It was agreed that the Ahmadiyya community would immediately construct boundary walls around their graves to separate their burial grounds

from those of Muslims.

**SUSPENDED:** Superintendent of Police Ahsan Zafar suspended Kotla Police ASI Allah Yar and constables Ghazanfar and Hyas from job on Sunday for conducting an illegal raid and torturing Sughra Bibi.

Also, four Dolphin police officials publicly tortured Imran on Sarogodha Road. After a video of the incident went viral on social media, CPO Kamran Adil ordered the arrest and suspension of the officials involved, Qamar Rauf, Hafiz Masajid, Ahsan and Naveem Zain. SSP Investigation Rana Ashraf Wahab was tasked with conducting an inquiry.

**FIRE:** A rickshaw passenger was burnt alive and another injured after a fire broke out in the rickshaw on Chisht Road at Jhang on Sunday near Nawaz Street bus stop.

Reports said a truck hit the rickshaw

after which rickshaw caught fire.

Hammed Aslam of Lahore was burnt alive while the other was identified as Imran Ali of Jhang was seriously burnt. He was shifted to Jhang DHQ hospital.

**AZMA:** Punjab Information Minister Azam Bukhari inaugurated an Islamic calligraphy exhibition in Faisalabad on Sunday, featuring over 100 pieces.

She, along with Punjab Local Government Minister Zohban Nafis and Parliamentary Secretary Shazia Riazwan, held a meeting with officials about Eid Milad-un-Nabi procession.

During a visit to Faisalabad Press Club, Ms Bukhari promised to address journalists' concerns, pledging a yearly grant of Rs2.5 million and vowing to resolve the long-standing issue of residential colony allotments for media persons.

## MoU signed for building modern vegetable, fruit market

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) and Punjab Agriculture Marketing Regulatory Authority (PAMRA) for the construction of Pakistan's first modern and innovative vegetable and fruit market here on Sunday.

At the MoU signing ceremony, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed her government's resolve to further bring down inflation to provide relief to the people.

"We are determined to save people from inflation," she said, directing the authorities concerned to complete the project in 18 months and make it Asia's best vegetable and fruit market. The CM will lay the foundation stone of this market soon.

On the occasion, she was briefed by the authorities concerned on the market project.

She was told that spreading over 100 acres of land in Kala Khatai area, this modern and innovative market would have world-class infrastructure, and be an export hub.

It will have access for traffic from all sides and heavy vehicles will be able to reach the market directly from the GT Road and Lahore-Shalton Motorway.

She was informed that for the convenience of labourers and shopkeepers, routes of metro and Speedo buses would be extended up to the Kala Khatai market.

Cold storage facilities would also be built at the market for storing vegetables and fruits that are in short supply in the market, especially tomatoes and onions, to ensure their continuous availability for people at affordable prices.

## Faith healer rapes woman

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARGARH: A faith healer (Pir) allegedly raped a woman who called on him to take an amulet at Chak 434/TDA, Chokk Azam.

The victim, a resident of Mohallah Badgah, went to get an amulet from the faith healer for her sick daughter. He called her into the room and raped her there. She registered a case against the suspect with the Chokk Azam Police Station and police arrested him.

The suspect has been remanded in the police custody for investigation, said the SHO.

**ACCIDENT:** Three members of a family died in a road accident near Chak 217 TDA, Ferozpur, Layyah.

Devran (20) was riding a motorcycle while her mother Rashood Bibi (40) and sister Farina (8) were the pillion. The speeding motorcycle rammed into a tractor-trailer from its rear side and all three of the motorcycle riders died on impact.

The locals called the rescuers who shifted the bodies to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Ferozpur, before handing them over to the deceased's family.

**PROTEST:** A woman protested against police in Layyah for supporting the accused who had allegedly kidnapped and sold her.

Hira Kanwal alleged that Ghulam Mustafa, Munna, Muhammad Arshad, Babar and Nadeem Qureshi had kidnapped her and sold her in Karachi for Rafiq. However, she escaped and returned home.

She said a case was registered on her complaint on the orders of the district police officer but the accused were still free because police did not include the relevant sections in her case. As a result, the only accused arrested by the police, Mustafa, was also set free. She demanded police include relevant provisions in her case.

Police said according to the preliminary investigation, the woman was having a monetary dispute with her father and brothers. On her request, a case was registered according to the law.

An accused, Nadeem Qureshi, was arrested and brought before the court while the other suspects involved in the case were on interim bail. Police claimed the woman would be provided with justice on merit.

## Lahore power show PTI local formations tasked with mass mobilisation

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Lahore chapter has directed all its field formations to launch mobilisation initiatives to build momentum and to engage people at the grassroots level for the party's 'Lahore Jalsa'.

In a directive issued to all party organisations, parliamentarians, ticket holders and wings in Lahore, PTI president Sheikh Imtiaz has asked them to hold corner meetings at union council level to gather

local support and spread awareness about the public meeting.

It stated that all concerned should mobilise teams for door-to-door irritations and distribute pamphlets in their neighbourhoods and market areas regarding the event.

The PTI also asked its formations to make outdoors in respective areas to inform and mobilise public for the Jalsa. "Use it as a tool to remind and energise your base," the directive says.

Imtiaz also called leaders to record personalised video mes-

sages, besides launching aggressive social media campaigns, utilising both paid and unpaid media for the purpose.

Amplify posts across all platforms to increase visibility and engagement, he said, adding that all activities must be reported back to the Internal Audit Team.

The president said the success of the event depended on the party's collective ability to mobilise every supporter. "This is a decisive moment for our movement and your efforts will make the difference! Let's

rise together for Lahore Jalsa," he asserted.

Meanwhile, the PTI Lahore has appointed Fiaz Alam as Internal Audit Team lead for the party activities.

Ms Alam has been entrusted with the task to ensure that all PTI-related activities be executed effectively, with proper follow-up and reporting. She will establish her teams up to the union council level.

The internal audit team will track and audit all ongoing PTI initiatives to ensure adherence to plans and targets. It will prepare and present post-activity

reports that provide a thorough analysis of the outcomes, gaps, and success of the party activities.

Eventually, it will communicate key insights and recommendations from findings to the executive council for future strategy development.

**RAJIV:** The PTI volunteers on Sunday organised a motor cycle rally on the Canal Road.

The volunteers were carrying party flags and party founder chairman Imran Khan's portraits bearing inscriptions "Release Imran Khan".





A CHEF prepares traditional dish sage at a food outlet in Abbottabad. — Online

# Militants used video game features in Swat police station attack, claim officials

### DPO says they traced an attacker with the help of CCTV footage

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Militants applied features introduced in PlayStation's Battlebreak, a video game commonly known as PUBG, to attack a police station in Swat, according to senior officials. They said that militants used PUBG's chat room for communication to avoid electronic surveillance and being tracked down. On August 28, Swat police station in Swat came under a militant attack, which left a police

man martyred and two others wounded. According to district police, investigation was launched into the attack, and militia were traced after monitoring of CCTV footage of different surveillance cameras for several hours. The district police officer of Swat, Dr Zahidullah, said police found one person using a mobile phone and they believed that it would help them to hunt down the militants. However, militia names never called each other but utilized features of PUBG to avoid being traced, he added. "The militants would play PUBG to practice and motivate their group members for battle against the state and would use the chat room for communication," Mr Zahidullah told Dawn.

He added that it was too difficult to reach the target and arrest militants in absence of chat. He said that initially, investigators were focusing on a motorbike, which in the CCTV footage passed in front of the police station minutes before explosion took place. He said that the investigators believed a hand grenade had been lobbed at the police station. However, it was not the case, he added. Mr Zahidullah said that it was difficult to find out as to what was actually used for the attack because there was nothing on ground which could prove that a hand grenade was used in the attack. "They had used an improvised explosive device, made of a power bank, which is mostly used for

charging mobile phones, for the attack," he said. He added that one of the suspected militant was finally traced through several CCTV footages. The district police officer stated that during investigation, the accused revealed names of two other suspected militants, who were also arrested and shared with the investigation team that they never used common means for communication and would charge mobile phones and their Sims separately. "They had created a chat room in PUBG for communication and exchanging messages," he said. He said that the militants belonged to a local, Marat alias Rehmanullah group, affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. He said that

Marat, head of the group, and family members of the suspected militants, were living across the border in Afghanistan. "We have proved that suspected militants remained in contact with their family members and Rehmanullah group in Afghanistan and that they never travelled to Afghanistan (in Karachi)," he said. Mr Zahidullah also stated that family members of the suspected militants were involved in militant activities and were wanted by law enforcement agencies. He added that suspected militant's family members escaped Operation Rah-e-Nasr, a military onslaught against militants in Swat in 2009. He said that around 2,000 families of militants belonging to Swat were residing in Afghanistan.



# Man trying to smuggle cranes held in South Waziristan

By Our Correspondent

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: The wildlife department has foiled an attempt to smuggle 70 demisele cranes in Lower South Waziristan tribal district. The cranes were seized at the Sikandar checkpoint on the Wana-Gomal Zam Road. Sub-divisional wildlife officer (SDWO) Ilyas Khan said. He told Dawn on Sunday that the seized cranes would be transferred to divisional office, Dera Ismail Khan. He said demisele cranes were a distinct type among various crane species. He said Saib Rahman, a hunter from Bannu, was arrested on Saturday when he was caught transporting 70 demisele cranes in a single-cabin vehicle from Gul Kutch area to Wana-Gomal Zam Road. SDWO Ilyas Khan said Lower South Waziristan had rich biodiversity and was considered a paradise for migratory birds. He said South Waziristan's Wana subdivision was located on the internationally recognised India Flyway of migratory birds, and thousands of migratory birds passed over this area twice a year during their long journeys from Central Asia to the subcontinent and vice versa. He said the biodiversity's protection, preservation, conservation, and sustainable management was the prime responsibility of the South Waziristan's wildlife department. Every year, these cranes migrate from their habitats in Indian Rajasthan and coastal areas of Sindh to Siberia and Central Asian Republics via Zhob, Dera, Bannu, South Waziristan and Kurram districts. They fly in flocks of up to 400 individuals, reaching altitudes of 15,000-20,000 feet.

# Parents urged not to boycott polio drives for 'petty' demands

KHAIAT: Khat division commissioner Syed Mansoor Bilal Shah has urged the people not to link polio vaccination of their children with common demands like electricity and gas supply and construction of roads because such an attitude compromised the health of their children and their future. Emphasising the importance of polio drops for children, he said the society as a whole must protect children from lifelong disability. He made the appeal while addressing an awareness session held in the wake of the recent boycott of the polio campaign by the people of some Lachi tribal union councils. MPA Daud Shah Afridi, Lachi tribal chairman Ehsan Khan, coordinator of the expanded programme on immunisation Dr Mohabbat Ali Bangash and others who also spoke on the occasion. Frontline polio workers and community members were also in attendance. The commissioner appealed to the parents to allow polio drops to their children as it was their national responsibility. MPA Daud Afridi promised upon the elders to separate their daily life demands from polio drops. He called for not only vaccinating children against polio but also against 12 other diseases under the EPI programme. Mr Afridi urged the community to have trust in their government and seek guidance from religious leaders to clear any misunderstanding about polio vaccination. The MPA emphasised the need for the adoption of a coherent strategy on polio vaccination and taking influential leaders into confidence for dealing with polio refusal cases. EPI coordinator Dr Bangash emphasised the need for addressing the issues faced by frontline workers. He said the session aimed to create awareness about the importance of polio vaccination and to address the misconceptions and concerns of people. — Correspondent

# Former DHO charge-sheeted for running fake polio drive

By Ashfaq Yousaf

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry has charge-sheeted former district health officer of North Waziristan for running fake polio campaign, restoring services of terminated employees and making illegal appointments, directing him to explain his position within two weeks. Dr Hafizullah Khan, the former DHO of North Waziristan, currently medical officer in Mohmand, was found to be unwilling to participate in supplementary immunisation activities (SIAs) as he failed to implement the existing review meetings' decisions regarding campaign and manage the health staff to take part in polio campaigns effectively. The doctor in BPN-17 also compromised on accountability of the staff during his tenure as DHO which resulted in detection of two polio cases in the last week of April 2022 in North Waziristan. The charge sheet issued from the office of chief secretary also said that Dr Hafizullah also issued salaries to 296 employees, who had been terminated by health department after an inquiry revealed that most of them were recruited illegally and some of them were already but they received salaries. The DHO, the charge sheet, said also concealed the facts about these employees from the director-general

health services (DGHS) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The employees continued to receive salaries and caused losses to national kitty of an amount of Rs2.5 million, which showed negligence on your part," it said. It added that he also appointed nine employees on deceased's contracts. A clerk has also been included in the charge sheet. "Therefore, you appear to be guilty of misconduct under Rule-3 of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government Services (Efficiency and Discipline) Rules, 2011, and have rendered your self to all or any of the penalties specified in Rule-4. You are, therefore, required to submit your written defence within 10 days and not more than two weeks to the inquiry officers and also intimate if you want to be heard in person," said the charge sheet. The DHO has been instructed to comply with the directives and reach the inquiry committee within the given time. "In case of failure it shall be presumed that you have no defence to set in and in that case appropriate action shall be taken against you," it said. A two-member committee including Shahid Khan, a BPN-19 officer, and Mohammad Shady, also a BPN-19 officer, has been constituted to start formal inquiry against the former DHO and submit its report to chief secretary regarding polio and recruitment issues accordingly.

Separately, another inquiry committee relating to fake appointments has also been formed under Faiz Alam, a BPN-19 officer, with Dr Faiz Masud, the DHO of Kohat, to probe the matter. The first inquiry has been started on complaint of World Health Organisation that fake vaccination campaigns has been shown in papers and there are instances of fake finger-marking. The deputy commissioner of the relevant district had also complained that the DHO didn't attend evening meetings regarding polio immunisation. Earlier, an inquiry had taken place but the chief secretary didn't agree with its recommendations and rejected the same and ordered fresh probe into the matter. Sources said that the chief secretary had directed that inquiry would not be tolerated in polio immunisation. Recently, he issued instructions to all deputy commissioners, district police officers and district officers to ensure their active participation in polio-related meetings to wipe out the crippling ailment. Sources said that fake finger-marking had become a chronic issue, which showed children as vaccinated despite the fact that their fingers were marked with indelible ink with out vaccinating them. "Legally, vaccinators mark the fingers of vaccine's recipients after giving them drops," they said.

# Lakki reports three dengue cases

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARJWAT: Three dengue cases have surfaced in the Lakki Marwat district during the ongoing month, prompting the health authorities to reach the affected areas to implement the case response mechanism. Talking to reporters on Sunday, Mohammad Jameel Khan, an entomologist at the district health office, said three patients with fever and body ache visited the health facilities, where they tested positive for dengue virus. He said Nizamuddin, 15, Rahmatullah, 42, and Faridullah, 27, had a travel history. Nizamuddin, a secondary student, reached his native Wanda Amir area from Islamabad," he added. Rahmatullah, residing from Titterkhal area is a driver, who arrived in his village from Peshawar. He was diagnosed with dengue after his blood test was conducted at the District Headquarters Hospital, Tajawal. Mr Jameel said a third case was reported from Tajawal area when Faridullah, an electrician, who lived in Islamabad tested positive for dengue. The official said district health officer Dr Abdulgal had directed the subordinate officials to implement the case response mechanism in letter and spirit. He said the health department conducted anti-dengue spray inside the houses of the patients and also provided the inmates with insecticide treated nets. The official said fumigation and larvae eradication activity was also carried out in the rural localities. He said health experts also conducted screening of the family members of the dengue patients.

# Khyber Aman Pason opposes military action, formation of peace bodies

### Speakers allege innocent people are harassed during 'so-called search operations'

By Ibrahim Shiwari

KHYBER: Speakers at Khyber Aman Pason (open uprising) in Bara on Sunday rejected military operations, formation of peace committees and said that people of Khyber would no more tolerate self-imposed terrorism, lawlessness and shedding of blood of innocent tribesmen. Organised under the banner of Bara Sipah (Bara), the gathering was attended by people of Khyber district in a large number. BSI president Shauq Afridi, MNA Iqbal Afridi, MPAs Sahab Afridi and Abdul

Ghani Afridi, tribal elder Malik Wazir Khan, former federal minister Hameedullah Jan and a number of local politicians and social activists addressed the gathering. Speakers in their emotional speeches conveyed to the authorities concerned that people of Khyber through their Sunday Aman Pason rejected intimidation through extortion calls, kidnapping, targeted bomb attacks on their homes and terrorising locals in the name of extremism. "Our voices can no longer be silenced through such inhuman and unlawful acts. We will continue to raise our voices against such crimes and inhuman acts," they declared among vociferous slogans in favour of peace and rejection of military and military operations. Speakers alleged that innocent people were harassed during so-called search operations



A LARGE crowd listens to speeches at the peace jugs organised by Bara Sipah (Bara) in Khyber on Sunday. — Dawn

while sanctity of private homes was also infringed with locals picked up for interrogations on pretext of having affiliation with outlawed groups.

They called upon all security agencies, counterterrorism department and police to refrain from raiding the homes of innocent tribesmen without

prior warrant and stop unnecessary checking of people at the so-called security checkpoints, which most of the tribesmen took as a personal insult.

"The people of tribal districts have lost their faith and trust in the rule of law enforcement agencies as they are mostly involved in unconstitutional and illegal acts, which will ultimately result in promotion of lawlessness and insecurity," they said. Expressing their deep concern and displeasure over deteriorating law and order in the region, speakers revivified the state institutions to fulfil their prime responsibility of ensuring peace and safeguarding the lives and honour of common people. While demanding immediate abolition of Action in Aid to Civil Power, they termed it a black law and alleged that it was the mother of lawlessness, injustice, vice and insecurity in tribal districts. They insisted that a surge in holding of peace gatherings in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was a manifestation of common people's dis-

pleasure over government's failure to restore peace and ensure security of its citizens. "We believe that a deliberate attempt is made by some elements or institutions to sabotage the hard earned peace in Khyber and other tribal districts with law enforcement agencies required to keep an eye on the movement of suspected people and take practical steps to foil all attempts of sabotaging peace," they said. Speakers said that the last two decades of military and extremist adversely affected economy of tribal areas and badly impacted the social fabric along with pushing local youth towards extremism. "We want to give a clear cut message to all the stakeholders that tribesmen have now become aware of all such conspiracies and will foil all attempts aimed at imposing war of terrorism on us with a strong determination," they said.

# US to give Bangladesh \$202m in aid

**DHAKA:** The United States is committed to supporting Bangladesh's inclusive economic growth, infrastructure building and development and will provide an additional \$202 million of aid, a US delegation said during a visit to Dhaka on Sunday.

The six-member delegation, led by Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury Department Brent Neuman, is the first from the US since the interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took office last month following the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after bloody protests.

In a televised address last week, Chief Adviser Yunus said the government was appealing for \$5 billion in aid to help stabilise an economy that has been struggling since the Ukraine war sharply increased the cost of fuel and food imports. Bangladesh last year sought a \$4.7 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) said it would provide a \$202 million grant to promote good governance, social, human and economic opportunities and resilience, in a deal signed on Sunday in Dhaka. It follows a 2021 agreement where USAID pledged a total of \$954 million between 2021 and 2026, of which \$425 million had already been provided.

In a statement released on its Facebook page following the meeting with Yunus, the US embassy emphasised its readiness to support Bangladesh in its pursuit of a more "resilient and inclusive future".

Yunus sought US support to help rebuild Bangladesh, carry out essential reforms to the judiciary, police and judicial institutions and to recover assets stolen by the previous regime, according to a statement from his office.—Reuters

# Kolkata college head charged for tampering in rape case

**KOLKATA:** India's federal police have charged the former head of R. G. Kar Medical College in Kolkata with tampering with evidence linked to the rape and murder of a junior female doctor, a case that triggered weeks of nationwide protests.

Former college principal Sandip Ghosh is already in police custody for suspected graft. The additional charges were made against him in a petition filed on Saturday by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) before a court.

The CBI also arrested Abhijit Mondal, the officer in charge of police station that has jurisdiction over the college, for failing to protect the crime scene, a source with a direct knowledge of the matter said.

Asked about Mondal's arrest, a senior Kolkata police official said: "We will respond to the charges in court." The lawyer representing Ghosh could not be immediately reached for comment.

The rape and murder of the 31-year-old doctor, whose body was found at the college more than a month ago, set off a wave of protests by doctors demanding greater safety for women in the workplace and justice for their slain colleague.—Reuters

# Parts of Europe in grips of worst flooding in decades

• Many rivers overflow, suspending road traffic and railway lines • War-ravaged Ukraine offers to send rescuers, specially equipped to deal with floods

**GLACIOLAZNY:** One person has drowned in Poland and an Austrian fireman has died responding to floods, authorities said on Sunday, as Storm Boris lashed central and eastern Europe with torrential rains.

Since Thursday, swathes of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia have been hit by high winds and unusually heavy rainfall. The rains have flooded streets and submerged entire neighbourhoods in some places, while shutting down public transport and electricity in others.

Romanians waded through strong high water to safety. Police sought shelter in schools and Czechs hurriedly put up sand dykes in an effort to keep the water at bay.

Sunday's deaths bring the overall toll from the storm to seven, with thousands evacuated across the continent.

In Romania, a body was found on Sunday, after four people were reported killed earlier. Four people were reported missing in the Czech Republic.

"The water came into the house, it destroyed the walls, everything," Sofia Basalic, 60, a resident of Romania's village of Puchea, in the hard-hit region of Galati, said. "It took the chickens, the rabbits, everything. It took the oven, the washing machine, the refrigerator. I have nothing left," she said.

"Worst hours of their lives"

"Heartfelt solidarity with all affected by the devastating floods in Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia," EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen wrote on X, formerly Twitter, adding that the EU was ready to offer support.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said that "we have the first confirmed death by drowning in the Kłodzko region" on the Polish-Czech border in the southwest of the country, which has been hit hardest by the floods.



RESIDENTS rescue an elderly person from the rising flood waters in the Romanian village of Sibotiza, on Sunday.—AFP

Around 1,500 people have been evacuated in Kłodzko and Polish authorities have called in the army to support firefighters.

Separchy, a fireman in north-eastern Austria died in floods in the Lower Austria region, which has been classified as a natural disaster zone, regional governor Johannes Mikl-Leitner told reporters.

"For many residents, the upcoming hours will be the worst of their lives," she said. Emergency services had made nearly 5,000 interventions overnight in the state of Lower Austria, where flooding had trapped many residents in their homes.

A highway from western Austria to Vienna was shut just outside the capital and fear of Vienna's five metro lines had been shut in the city, where the Wien river was threatening to overflow its banks, according to local news reports.

In Poland, authorities shut the Gdansk border crossing with the Czech Republic after a river flooded its banks on Saturday, as well as closing several roads and halting trains on the line linking

the towns of Pruszk and Nysa.

Tusk said that Ukraine, which is sending off a Russian invasion in its third year, has offered to send some 100 rescuers specially equipped to deal with floods to help as an expression of solidarity with Poland, which has steadily backed Kyiv during the war. "It's very touching," Tusk said of the offer.

In the Czech Republic, a dam in the south of the country burst its banks, flooding towns and villages downstream. In the village of Vello Hustice, residents put up a wall of sandbags 500 metres long in an effort to hold back the rising waters of the River Opava.

"If we don't stop the water, it will flood the lower part of the village," local mayor Jaroslav Lata said.

"Catastrophe of epic proportions"

In south-eastern Romania, another body was found on Sunday in the worst-affected Galati region, where four people had died on Saturday. "We are again facing the effects of climate change, which are increasingly present on the European continent, with dramatic consequences," Romania's President Klaus Iohannis said.

Hundreds of people have been rescued across 19 parts of the country, emergency services said, releasing a video of flooded homes in a village by the Danube river.

"This is a catastrophe of epic proportions," said Emil Dragomir, mayor of Sibotiza, a village in Galati, where he said 700 homes had been flooded. Romania's interior minister said more than 5,000 households and 15,000 people were affected in the region.

Some in September

In Austria, some areas of the Tyrol region were blanketed by up to a metre (three feet) of snow — an exceptional situation for mid-September, which saw temperatures of up to 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit) last week. Rail services were suspended in the country's east early Sunday. In neighbouring Slovakia, a state of emergency has been declared in the capital Bratislava.—AFP

# Philippine ship leaves flashpoint reef

**MANILA:** A Philippine vessel that spent months anchored at a disputed reef in the South China Sea has left the area, the national maritime council said on Sunday.

The Philippine Coast Guard ship BRP Teresa Magbanua had been anchored inside the Subona Shoal since April to assert Manila's claims to the area and prevent China from seizing it.

Beijing has continued to press its claims to almost the entire South China Sea despite an international tribunal ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

Philippine and Chinese vessels have collided at least three times recently near Subona Shoal, located 140 kilometres (87 miles) from the Philippines' western island of Palawan and 1,200 kilometres from China's nearest major harbours, Hainan island.

The Teresa Magbanua's bridge wing and fireboard were damaged in one of the collisions.

"During her deployment... she challenged an encroachment by a larger flotilla of intruders, battled inclement weather, with her crew surviving on diminished daily provisions," National Maritime Council Chairperson Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin said in a statement.

Last month Chinese vessels blocked a resupply mission to the Filipino sailors on board the ship, leaving them running critically low of food and other provisions.

The Teresa Magbanua "carried on her sentinel duty against overwhelming odds", Bersamin added.

China's coast guard noted the ship's withdrawal on Sunday, and said Beijing "has indisputable sovereignty over... Xianbin Shoal and its adjacent waters", using the Chinese name for Subona Shoal.—AFP

# AI is 'accelerating the climate crisis', expert warns

Artificial Intelligence and cryptocurrency sectors consumed nearly 460 terawatt hours of electricity in 2022 — two per cent of total global production

**MONTREAL:** If you care about the environment, think twice about using AI. Generative artificial intelligence uses 30 times more energy than a traditional search engine, warns researcher Seda Luccioni, on a mission to raise awareness about the environmental impact of the hot new technology.

Recognised as one of the 100 most influential people in the world of AI by the American magazine Time in 2024, the Canadian computer scientist of Russian ori-

gin has sought for several years to quantify the emissions of programmes like ChatGPT or Midjourney.

"I find it particularly disappointing that generative AI is used to search the internet," Luccioni is the researcher, who spoke on the sidelines of the AI4, an artificial intelligence conference, in Montreal.

The language models on which the programmes are based require enormous computing capacities in terms of billions of data points, necessitating powerful servers.

Then there's the energy used to respond to each individual user's requests. Instead of simply extracting information, "like a search engine would do to find the capital of a country, for example," AI programmes "generate new information," making the whole thing "much more energy-intensive," she explains.

According to the International Energy Agency, the combined AI and the crypto currency sectors consumed nearly 460 ter-

awatt hours of electricity in 2022 — two per cent of total global production.

**Energy efficiency**

A leading researcher on the impact of AI on climate, Luccioni participated in 2020 in the creation of a tool for developers to quantify the carbon footprint of running a piece of code, "CodeCarbon," has since been downloaded more than a million times.

Head of the climate strategy of startup Hugging Face, a platform for sharing open source AI models, she is now working on creating a certification system for algorithms.

Similar to the programme from the US Environmental Protection Agency that awards scores based on the energy consumption of electronic devices and appliances, it would make it possible to know an AI product's energy consumption in order to encourage users and developers to "make better decisions." "We don't take into account water or rare materials," she

acknowledges, "but at least we know that for a specific task, we can measure energy efficiency and say that this model has an A+, and that model has a B," she says.

**Transparency**

In order to develop her tool, Luccioni is experimenting with it on generative AI models that are accessible to everyone, or open source, but she would also like to do it on commercial models from Google or ChatGPT creator OpenAI, which have been reluctant to agree.

Although Microsoft and Google have committed to achieving carbon neutrality by the end of the decade, the US tech giant saw their greenhouse gas emissions soar in 2023 because of AI: up 48pc for Google compared to 2019 and 29pc for Microsoft compared to 2020.

"We are accelerating the climate crisis," says Luccioni, calling for more transparency from tech companies. The solution,

she says, could come from governments that, for the moment, are "flying blindly" without knowing what is "in the data sets or how the algorithms are trained." "Once we have transparency, we can start legislating."

**'Energy sobriety'**

It is also necessary to "explain to people what generative AI can and cannot do, and at what cost," according to Luccioni. In her latest study, the researcher demonstrated that producing a high-definition image using artificial intelligence consumes as much energy as fully recharging the battery of your cell phone.

At a time when more and more companies want to integrate the technology further into our lives — with conversational bots and connected devices, or in online searches — Luccioni advocates "energy sobriety." The idea here is not to oppose AI, she emphasises, but rather to choose the right tools — and use them judiciously.—AFP



**VIDAUBAN (France):** An employee collects grape samples to make wine from different varieties resistant to climate change in a 'test' wine laboratory. Rose wine, associated in the consumer's imagination with the freshness of a summer aperitif, is now paradoxically threatened by climate change, particularly global warming. A phenomenon to which the Mediterranean region is particularly exposed, according to the IPCC, the UN's climate experts.—AFP

# NEWSMAKERS



A SEPT 9, 2007 file photo shows writer Elias Khoury giving an interview at a Beirut cafe.—AFP

# Lebanese novelist Elias Khoury dies aged 76

**BEIRUT:** Novelist Elias Khoury, one of Lebanon's most renowned writers and a fervent advocate of the Palestinian cause, died on Sunday from illness aged 76, sources close to his family said.

Khoury, who was born in 1948 to a Christian family in Beirut, died in the Lebanese capital where he had been hospitalised for months, the sources said.

Over several decades Khoury produced a large body of work in Arabic that touched on the themes of collective memory, war and exile, alongside writing for newspapers, teaching literature and editing a publication linked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Many of his books were translated into foreign languages including French, English, German, Hebrew and Spanish.

One of his best-known novels, "Gate of the Sun", tells the story of Palestinian refugees expelled from their homes in 1948 during the war that coincided with Israel's foundation.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven out or expelled from their homes during that war, in what Palestinians call the Nakba, or catastrophe in Arabic. The novel was made into a film by Egyptian director Youssef Nawarallah.

Khoury also wrote about Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war in novels like "Little Mourning" and "Yale".

A champion of the Palestinian cause since his youth, Khoury was co-managing editor of the PLO-linked Palestinian Affairs magazine from 1975 to 1979, together with poet Mahmoud Darwish.—AFP



**TORONTO (Ontario, Canada):** Australian film director Rebel Wilson poses for selfies with fans during the 2024 Toronto International Film Festival, on Saturday.—AFP



**HAMPTON (New Hampshire, US):** Members of the Boston Circus Guild perform during the annual Fire Show in Hampton Beach on Saturday. The Boston Circus Guild is a collaborative group of artists and performers from across the New England area.—AFP



**HAMPTON (New Hampshire, US):** Members of the Boston Circus Guild perform during the annual Fire Show in Hampton Beach on Saturday. The Boston Circus Guild is a collaborative group of artists and performers from across the New England area.—AFP

# Over 40 injured in Kharkiv strike

KYIV: A Russian-guided bomb struck a multi-story apartment building on Sunday in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, triggering a fire and injuring at least 41 people, the region's governor said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the latest attack underscored the need for Ukraine's Western partners to provide weapons and air defense systems and permission to use weaponry on targets deep inside Russia to save lives.

Oleh Synchukov, governor of Kharkiv region in northeastern Ukraine, said on Telegram that rescue operations were proceeding, with 12 people in hospital, three in serious condition. He said residents could be trapped under rubble.

Synchukov posted photos of heavy damage to the top floor of five stories of the building, with smoke and fire billowing out of blown-out windows.

Zelenskyy, in his nightly video address, said three other guided bombs had struck villages in Kharkiv region, where population centres have been a frequent target of Russian attacks near the Russian border.

Russia did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the apartment building but has denied intentionally targeting civilians despite having killed thousands of them since it invaded Ukraine in 2022.

Zelenskyy called for rapid decisions on long-range strikes "in order to destroy Russian military aviation right where it is based. These are obvious, logical decisions."

"Every Russian strike of this nature, every instance of Russian terror, like today in Kharkiv...this proves that there must be long-range capability and it must be sufficient."

He said appropriate decisions were expected in the first instance from the United States, France, Germany and Italy, "those whose decisions can help save lives."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said last week that the West would be directly fighting with Russia if it allowed Ukraine to strike Russian territory with Western-made long-range missiles.—Reuters



MISSION specialist Sarah Gillis stepping out of Dragon capsule after it splashed down, off the coast of Florida.—AFP

# Historic private astronaut mission ends with splashdown off Florida

### Led by Isaacman, four-member team hit a peak altitude of 1,400km

WASHINGTON: The SpaceX Polaris Dawn mission, which made history when its crew conducted the first spacewalk by non-government astronauts, concluded early on Sunday with a splashdown off the coast of Florida.

The Dragon spacecraft plunged into the ocean at 13:28pm (07:57 GMT), a welcome of the arrival showed, with a recovery team deploying in the pre-dawn darkness to retrieve the capsule and crew.

The capsule was lifted from the water and put onto the recovery vessel half an hour later.

After brief medical checks, a smiling and waving SpaceX engineer Anna Moroz was the first of the crew to exit, followed by engineer Sarah Gillis, pilot Scott Potvin and commander Jared Isaacman.

"Happy, healthy, home," the Polaris Dawn crew wrote on X. "A new era of commercial spaceflight dawns, with much more to come."

The four-member team led by 41-year-old billionaire Isaacman launched on Tuesday from the Kennedy Space Centre, quickly journeying deeper into the past than any humans in the past

half century as they ventured into the dangerous Van Allen radiation belt.

They hit a peak altitude of 1,400km — more than three times higher than the International Space Station and the furthest humans had ever travelled from Earth since the Apollo missions to the Moon.

Then on Thursday, with their Dragon spacecraft's orbit brought down to 500km, Isaacman swung open the hatch and climbed out into the void, gripping a structure called "Skywalk" as a breathtaking view of Earth unfolded before him.

"SpaceX, back at home we all have a lot of work to do, but from here, Earth sure looks like a perfect world," he told mission control in Hawthorne, California, where teams erupted in applause.

He went back inside after a few minutes and was replaced by a second astronaut, SpaceX engineer Gillis, who, like Isaacman, performed a series of mobility tests on SpaceX's sleek, next-generation suits.

Since Dragon doesn't have an airlock, the entire crew were exposed to the vacuum of space. Mission pilot Potvin and SpaceX engineer Moroz remained strapped in throughout as they monitored vital support systems.

It marked a "giant leap forward" for the commercial space industry, said NASA chief Bill Nelson, as

well as another triumphant achievement for SpaceX.

Founded in 2002, the company has quickly outpaced its legacy competitor, now thriving as one of NASA's prime contractors — thanks in large part to owner and CEO Elon Musk's fervent drive to colonise Mars.

### Rousing civilian side

Since completing their extraordinary activity, the crew have continued to carry out roughly 40 activities experimentally — for example, inserting endoscopic cameras through their noses and into their throats to image their airways and better understand the impact of long-duration space missions on human health.

They also demonstrated connectivity with SpaceX's Starlink internet satellite constellation by sending back to ground control a high-resolution video of Gillis playing "Ray's Theme" by "Star Wars" composer John Williams, on the violin.

Polaris Dawn is the first of three missions under the Polaris program, a collaboration between Isaacman and SpaceX.

Financial terms of the partnership remain under wraps but Isaacman, the 41-year-old founder and CEO of Red Bull Payments, reportedly poured \$200 million of his own money into leading the 2021 all-civilian SpaceX Inspiration4 orbital mission.—AFP

# Kejriwal to resign as Delhi CM

NEW DELHI: Just a day after being released on bail, Indian opposition leader Arvind Kejriwal said on Sunday he would resign as chief minister of the Delhi regional government.

Kejriwal, 55, was granted bail on Friday by India's Supreme Court and left prison on Saturday almost six months after being detained in relation to alleged irregularities in the capital city's liquor policy.

A fierce critic of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kejriwal whose decade-old Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) quickly rose to mainstay status politics, although its claim is relatively small compared to older opposition parties.

AAP had expected that Kejriwal's release from prison would allow him to campaign as a chief minister in regional elections next month in the northern state of Haryana, and in Delhi early next year.

However, Kejriwal while announcing his resignation as chief minister at a meeting with AAP workers said he would only return to the post if people certify his honesty by voting for him in the upcoming Delhi election. He called on the Election Commission to bring forward the Delhi election to November, from February 2025.

"I demand elections to be held in November with Maharashtra elections, I demand the elections to be held immediately," Kejriwal said.

He was first taken into custody in March by India's financial crime-fighting agency, weeks before the country's national elections, in relation to Delhi's liquor policy.—Reuters

# Polio vaccination becomes 'bargaining chip'

Continued from Page 1

gripped by fear". "The attackers are never brought to justice," she claimed.

These continuous attacks also led to a surge in refusals because militants warn people against vaccination and therefore, they turn away the immunisation teams of fear, according to officials.

Mullah Fazlillah, the top leader of the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, was the first to use polio vaccination for his campaign against the government in Malakand.

At the height of militancy in KP and tribal areas in the early 2010s, he used to warn people through FM radio to not get their children vaccinated.

As a result, West recorded over a dozen cases in 2010.

Misconceptions and propaganda

There are a number of misconceptions surrounding the polio vaccines in Pakistan. It is one of the reasons for a vast number of parents refusing to get their children inoculated.

The polio eradication initia-

tive started in Pakistan in 1998. Initially, the vaccines were perceived to be a "foreign plot" to reduce the population of Muslims.

In some cases, parents also refused vaccination, claiming that they weren't allowed in Islam, said Muhammad Rafiq, who supervises polio vaccination teams in Dera Ismail Khan.

He said parents' apprehensions surrounding the vaccines have largely remained unaltered over the years.

"There are certain areas where people refuse the drops," he said, adding that misgivings about foreign donors also contribute to this attitude.

Some parents now ask why the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation — one of the biggest contributors in Pakistan's polio programme — isn't keen on vaccinating children in Pakistan, as per Mr Rafiq.

He feared that this argument would only gain more currency in the near future.

The propaganda against polio vaccines has become more pronounced in recent years.

Senior health worker

Muhammad Ali says videos on social media are one of the biggest reasons for parents' refusals.

These videos make unfounded claims about the alleged side effects of vaccines.

### 'Bargaining chip'

Pakistan is one of only two countries, Afghanistan being the other, where the poliovirus is still endemic.

Since humans are the virus carriers, the situation in Pakistan also puts other countries — which have successfully eradicated the disease — at risk.

This results in pressure from foreign donors and the government to show progress.

Over time, the masses have become cognisant of these complications and have started taking vaccination drives as a tool to get their civic and social issues resolved, according to Prof Muhammad Ishaque.

"Recently, even police in Khyber, Bajaur, and Barak and Lakki Mawwat districts reported polio cases to get their demands accepted," said Prof Ishaque, who is the president of

Pakistan Paediatrics Association.

Mr Rafiq, the vaccination supervisor, also said that people in many areas demand authorities to address civic issues like the construction of roads and provision of water and electricity before allowing their children to be vaccinated.

A senior official of the KP health department has conceded that opposition to polio vaccination has become a complicated issue.

The Kaskidul tribesmen of Khyber tribal have long been demanding the repatriation of locals displaced during military operations in the past.

Last week, they announced a boycott of the polio vaccination campaign till their demands were met.

"These are totally political issues but have been linked with polio. Reporting polio vaccination is a big issue due to which the virus remains in the province despite three decades of efforts," the health department official told Dawn.

### Administrative issues

Robina Shah, a female vaccin-

ator from Peshawar, claims that around 20,000 vaccination refusals are reported during each drive.

To cover this gap, vaccinators mark the fingers of children without actually administering them the vaccine, according to reports.

This discrepancy has also been pointed out by officials familiar with the polio programme. They said vaccination coverage has remained between 95 and 99 per cent on average, yet the virus has been found in various samples collected from 18 KP districts, including Peshawar.

An official told Dawn that these administrative issues have been brought to the notice of KP Chief Secretary Nadeem Adnan Chaudhry.

Last week, he warned deputy commissioners, district police chiefs and health officers to ensure proper vaccination campaigns.

Even though KP has not reported any cases of poliovirus this year, Mr Chaudhry conceded that the positive environmental samples are a "ticking bomb".

# Trump safe after shots fired near his golf course

FLORIDA: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was safe after multiple shots were fired near his golf course in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Sunday, according to two sources briefed on the incident.

The shots originated outside the fence line of the course, the sources said. Trump's campaign had earlier said he was safe following gunshots in his vicinity but gave no details.

The Associated Press reported that US Secret Service agents opened fire after seeing a person with a firearm near Trump's golf club, citing two unnamed law enforcement sources, adding that no injuries were reported.

Reuters was not immediately able to verify the report.

The Secret Service said it was investigating the incident, which occurred shortly before 2pm.

Trump was injured in an assassination attempt in Pennsylvania on July 13, raising questions about protection for candidates, just months ahead of what looks likely to be highly contested Nov 5 election in which he will face off against Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris.

The White House said President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris had been briefed about the incident and were relieved to know that he is safe. "Violence has no place in America," said Kamala Harris, Trump's rival in November election.

Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr, cited local law enforcement as saying an AK-47 automatic weapon had been discovered in bushes and a suspect has been apprehended, according to a post on X.

The Washington Post said Trump had been golfing at the course when the incident occurred. Secret Service agents took him to a holding room at the club, it said, citing two people briefed on what had happened.

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The first shooting of a US president or major party presidential candidate in more than four decades was a glaring security lapse that forced Kimberly Chanin to resign as Secret Service director under bipartisan congressional pressure.

Trump was grazed in the right ear and one rally-goer was killed in the gunfire. The gunman, identified as a 20-year-old Thomas Crooks, was shot and killed by a Secret Service sniper.

The US Secret Service's new acting director said in August that he was "adamant" of a security lapse that led to the assassination attempt.—Reuters

# Boat capsizes in Channel, eight die

### Of 59 migrants on board from Eritrea, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Egypt and Iran, six hospitalised

AMBLETEUSE: Eight migrants died on early Sunday when their overcrowded vessel capsized while trying to cross the Channel from France to England, French authorities said, less than two weeks after the deadliest such disaster this year.

A regional official said the latest tragedy means 46 migrants have lost their lives attempting to reach England from France so far this year, up from 12 in 2023.

The French and British governments have sought for years to stop the flow of migrants, who pay smugglers thousands of euros per head for the passage on overcrowded inflatable dinghies.

A police source said the accident occurred shortly after the vessel embarked. "The toll was terrible, with eight people reported dead," regional prefect Jacques Billant told the press, off the coast of the northern town of Ambleteuse.

Six survivors were hospitalised, including a 10-month-old baby with hypothermia, he added.

The boat had set off from the Slack river that flows into the sea between the towns of Wimereux and Ambleteuse. It had 59 people on board from Eritrea, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Egypt and Iran, Billant said.

"It quickly got into difficulty and ran aground... The boat was torn apart on the rocks," he said.

Maritime authorities said that migrants had made numerous attempts to cross the Channel in recent days, with 200 people rescued in 24 hours over Friday and Saturday alone.

The latest incident comes a few weeks after at least 12 migrants, mostly from Eritrea, died off the northern French coast on Sept 3, when their boat carrying dozens of people capsized.

An Eritrean survivor Rimam Semay, 34, said he had lost his 18-year-old sister in that accident. Another Eritrean who was rescued, and gave his name only as Amariel, said "there were a lot of girls and young boys, and I saw them die".

More than 23,000 migrants have arrived in England by crossing the Channel since the beginning of this year, according to British officials.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and France's President Emmanuel Macron pledged this summer to strengthen "cooperation" in handling the surge in unauthorised migrant numbers.

The Channel crossings often prove perilous, and in November 2021, 27 migrants died when their boat capsized in the deadliest single such disaster to date.

French authorities seek to stop migrants taking to the water but do not intervene once they are afloat except for rescue purposes, citing safety concerns.—AFP

# Israeli military investigating unauthorised leaflets ordering Lebanon evacuation

The leaflet, published in Arabic, warned that "anyone present in the area after this time will be considered a terrorist".

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said on Sunday it was investigating after a unit dropped unauthorised leaflets on a border area in southern Lebanon ordering residents to leave.

Lebanon's state-run national news agency reported that Israel had dropped leaflets ordering residents out of the Wazzani area.

The Israeli military said dropping the leaflets was an unauthorised action by a unit that had not sought appropriate approval, and that there was no evacuation underway.

Tens of thousands of civil-

ians have already fled villages and towns on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon frontier during months of cross-border strikes, since Hezbollah movement stopped up attacks alongside the war in Gaza.

Israel dropped leaflets over a Lebanon border village on Sunday urging residents to leave, state-run media said, but Israeli military said a brigade had taken the initiative without approval.

It was the first time Israeli had told residents of south Lebanon to evacuate in 11 months of cross-border fire between Hezbollah and Israel over the Gaza invasion.

"The Israeli forces dropped leaflets over Wazzani calling on those in the area and its surroundings to evacuate," the official National News Agency said, referring to a southern border village.

Wazzani Mayor Ahmed al-Mohamed shared a picture of the leaflets that showed a map of the region with the areas

marked for evacuation in red.

The leaflet read in Arabic: "To all residents and refugees living in the area of the camps, Hezbollah is firing from your region."

You must immediately leave your homes and head north of the Khazn region before 4pm (1300 GMT). Do not return to this area until the end of the war."

It added: "Anyone present in this area after this time will be considered a terrorist." Wazzani is an agricultural region where Syrians are often hired to work the land.

Asked about the incident, an Israeli military spokesman said the leaflets had been dropped by drone in an area from which rockets had been fired into southern Israel.

"This was an initiative of the 209 Brigade, it was not approved by the Northern Command. An investigation has been opened," she added. A cameraman collaborating

with this news agency saw



SYRIAN refugees load their belongings on a truck as they prepare to leave the southern Lebanese village of Wazzani after the Israeli army dropped leaflets asking them to evacuate, on Sunday.—AFP

evacuate their makeshift tents,



Some families relocated to



an area about a couple of kilo-

metres (miles) further north, said the cameraman, who saw children and women unloading a truck filled with mattresses.

"Some of the Syrian workers are leaving the area... But as for us, we are farmers and we have livestock. We cannot leave our land," Mayor Mohammed said.

In the Qana Strip, Israeli aircraft regularly drop leaflets urging residents to evacuate before an attack.

On Saturday, Hezbollah's second-in-command Naim Qassem warned that an all-out war by Israel aimed at restoring 500,000 displaced people to their homes in areas near the Lebanon border would displace "hundreds of thousands" more Israelis.

The cross-border violence since early October has killed 423 people in Lebanon, mostly fighters but also including at least 54 civilians, according to a tally.—Agencies





# Essential services law extended to power firms

### Law applies to Genexis, Discos, NTDG; officers will have powers to order any employee to avoid going to another area without prior approval

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The government has extended the application of Pakistan Essential Services Act to all generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity for another six months to Jan 25, 2025 to avoid interruption in power supply because of possible union activities amid ongoing restructuring exercise in the state-owned entities (SOEs).

"The federal government is of the opinion that employment under all Pakistan Power Sector Entities including Distribution Companies (Discos), Generation Companies (Genexis) and National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC), Ministry of Energy Power Division of Pakistan is essential in order to ensure uninterrupted operation of the organisation," said a notification issued by the Ministry of Interior and forwarded to all power companies by the Power Division.

Therefore, while using powers under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Pakistan Essential Services (Maintenance) Act 1952 (PESA), the federal government declared all the above-mentioned power companies "an essential services for a period of six (06) months w.e.f 26-07-2024", it added.

The caretaker government had applied the Act to all power companies till July. Under the law, SOEs could be described as essential services for six months.

During the intervening period, workers had resorted to protests against the restructuring that they feared could negatively impact their jobs.

The decision was taken by then federal cabinet in the second week of January on a summary moved by the Ministry of Interior on the request of Power Division. Under the decision, all these companies — Discos, Genexis and NTDC — involved in the business of generation, transmission and distribution had been declared as essential services under section 3 of the PESA "to restrict all kind of union activities for [a] period of six (06) months", extendable to another six months.

The government has already decided to exclude the option of offering power companies to the provinces and is working on divesting of two Discos — one loss making and one profitable.

The Ministry of Interior noted that currently Discos had launched a campaign against electricity theft and non-payment of dues by defaulters with the help of respective provinces. The monitoring of this campaign was being done on a daily basis. It is high time to check the activities of these unions, otherwise, this will bear heavy toll on the performance of Discos as well as the finances of federations.

Ministry of Energy Power Division said in the 2023-24 financial year, it was apprehended that Discos may make a loss of Rs280 billion, including under the head of recovery and the losses beyond the threshold set by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority.

The PESA deals with the maintenance of certain essential services. As per section 3 of the Act, the federal government may, by notification to the official gazette, declare any employment or class of employment for a period of six months extendable to further periods not exceeding six months. The government is of the opinion that such employment or class of employment is essential service for the purpose of "securing the defence of the security of Pakistan or any part thereof and maintenance of such supplies or services as relate to any matter with regard to which Central Legislature power to make laws and are essential to the life of the community".

Under the law, the authorised officers of the government have the powers to order any or all the employees to remain in specific areas and avoid going into another area without prior approval.

A magistrate has the powers under the law to try such offence summarily in accordance with the procedure laid down for summary trial in case an employee or group of employees disobeys any lawful order given in the course of such employment, or attempts to persuade any person to disobey any such order or refuse to work or to continue to work.

# Special logo on CNICs to boost organ donation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday launched a national initiative to promote organ donation, including a special logo on the identity cards of donors.

In his message on International Liberty Day, the PM said organ donation is a "profound act of kindness that can give a new lease on life to those in need".

"I encourage all citizens to participate in this initiative and become part of a life-saving community."

Individuals who voluntarily register themselves as organ donors will have a special, exclusive logo printed on their Computerized National Identity Cards, symbolising their commitment to giving the gift of life," the PM said in his message on the day commemorated on Sept 16 to ensure universal access to an identity proof.

He said identity is not merely a matter of recognition, but a "cornerstone of inclusion, representation, and access to essential services"—AFP

# Israel hit by hypersonic ballistic missile

### Netanyahu says Houthis will pay heavy price for Tel Aviv attack

JERUSALEM: Houthis attacked central Israel with a hypersonic ballistic missile in response to Israeli strikes that killed over 41,000 Palestinians in Gaza in 11 months.

Yemen's military spokesman Yahya Saree said the military attacked Israel with a new hypersonic ballistic missile that travelled 2,040km in less than 12 minutes.

While Israel's military claimed the missile fell in an open area and nobody was hurt, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Houthis will pay a "heavy price" for the strike.

Photographers saw firefighters putting out a fire near Lod and broken glass at a train station in Modiin, about 20km of Tel Aviv, after the attack.

"The Houthis launched a surface-to-surface missile from Yemen into our territory. They should have known by now that we charge a heavy price for any attempt to harm us," Netanyahu said.



RESPONDERS put out a fire in the area of Lod, near Tel Aviv, on Sunday.—AFP

Hamas praised the Houthis' attack, saying that Israel "will not enjoy security unless it ceases its brutal aggression against our people in the Gaza Strip".

The Houthis had targeted an Israeli military position in the Jaffa area, around Tel Aviv, using a hypersonic ballistic missile that succeeded in reaching its target, the Yemen military spokesman said in a video statement, adding that the

Israeli army defence failed to intercept the missile.

US failed to stop Israel, says Hamas

A senior Hamas official said that the United States was not doing enough to force concessions from Israel that could lead to a truce in the war in Gaza.

"The American administration does not exert sufficient or appropriate pressure on the Israeli

Hamdan during an interview in Istanbul.

"There were martyrs and there were sacrifices... but in return there was an accumulation of experience and the recruitment of new generations into the resistance."

### Israel loathes for Lebanon

On the other hand, Israel dropped leaflets over a Lebanon border village, urging residents to leave.

However, Israel's military hours later said a brigade had taken the initiative without "proper approval".

It was the first time Israeli had told residents of south Lebanon to evacuate in 18 months of cross-border fire between Hezbollah and Israel over the Gaza war.

On Sunday, Netanyahu said the status quo with Hezbollah will not continue and a change in the balance of power on our northern border is needed.

Hundreds of people, mostly Hezbollah fighters, have already died in Lebanon and dozens of Israeli soldiers and civilians in Israel in Israeli-Hezbollah clashes since October 2023.—Agencies

**EXCISE, TAXATION, AND NARCOTICS CONTROL DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF SINDH**

**SINDH EXCISE DEPARTMENT TAKES ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS DIGITIZATION**

## BIOMETRIC VERIFICATION NOW MANDATORY FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ALL NEW & OLD VEHICLES

The Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department, Sindh, has initiated the following:

PHASE	DESCRIPTION	DATE
First	New Registration: Biometric has already been started this year	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2024
Second	Transfer/Alteration of Vehicles: Biometric Verification will start for Buyers Only	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2024
Third	Transfer/Alteration of Vehicles: Biometric Verification for Buyer & Seller (Both)	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025

Vehicle sellers are requested to carry out biometric verification at the sale of vehicle.

**IMMEDIATE REGISTRATION & TRANSFER PROTECTION FOR LIFE**

**WARNING** OWNERS PLEASE VEHICLES ON ROADS ON OPEN LETTERS **1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2024** OR THEY WILL BE HELD TO TRANSFER THE VEHICLE TO THEIR NAME BEFORE

Visit our website for more information: [www.excise.gos.pk](http://www.excise.gos.pk)

For any queries, contact at: 021-111-374634 / 021-111-ESINDH

For any related documents, email at: [esupport@excise.gos.pk](mailto:esupport@excise.gos.pk) For other complaints, email at: [info@excise.gos.pk](mailto:info@excise.gos.pk)

Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department, Government of Sindh

**CFA Society Pakistan**

**The Bank of Punjab Sweeps Three Prestigious Awards**

**CFA Society Pakistan 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Excellence Awards**

**CORPORATE FINANCE HOUSE - FIXED INCOME**

**BEST TRANSACTION**

**GENDER DIVERSITY AT WORKPLACE**

**BOP THE BANK OF PUNJAB**

Printed at Pakistan Herald Publications (Pvt) Ltd by Khadi Mohsin and published for Pakistan Herald Publications (Pvt) Ltd by Khawaja Kabeer Ahmed at Haroon House, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi. EDITOR: ZAFFAR ARIAS



# SPORT

## Kenya's Kipyegon, Chebet cap season with Diamond League titles

BRUSSELS: Kenya's Faith Kipyegon pulled her remarkable winning streak over 1,500 metres with her fifth Diamond League season title at the series finale, while compatriot Beatrice Chebet nearly crashed into a photographer en route to her 5,000m victory on Saturday.

The 30-year-old Kipyegon, who has not lost over the distance since 2021, took the lead just before the final lap and then held off a challenge from Dinares Wabaji to cross the line in three minutes 54.75 seconds. Wabaji clocked 3:55.25.

Kipyegon, the world record holder and three-time reigning Olympic champion in the 1,500, smiled and held up five fingers after securing the win.

"My goal was to finish my Diamond League season in a good way and I did," she said. "It was a good race, but definitely not an easy one."

Chebet, who won Olympic gold in the 5,000 and 10,000 in Paris this year, crashed home in a time of 14:59.82, her stiffest challenger being the photographer who stepped into her way on the Kenyan's penultimate lap.

"It's not easy to do even better the next year, but you have to train hard, to

have faith in yourself and may succeed," Chebet said. "Now I am going back to my country, celebrate with my family and take some holidays."

The winners in 16 disciplines earned a Diamond League trophy and \$30,000. Another 16 were crowned in events on Friday.

American Kerry Bednarek beat Olympic champion Letabile Tebogo of Botswana to win the men's 200 on Saturday in 19.67 seconds. Tebogo, who became the first African to win the Olympic 200 title in Paris, trailed home in 19.80.

"This year I shocked a few people with how fast I was running," Bednarek said. "This season people saw a glimpse of what I can do. Next year I will even be faster and more dangerous."

Kenya's Olympic champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi powered past Djamel Sedjati of Algeria and Canada's Marco Arap over the final 50m to win the men's 800m.

The 20-year-old Wanyonyi, who missed the world record by 0.2 three weeks ago in Lusansu, did just enough to win on Saturday with a relatively slow 1:42.70.

Italy's Leonard Fabiani handed triple Olympic champion Ryan Cresser of the US a rare defeat in

the men's shot put, with 22.98 metres on his first throw. Cresser, the world record holder, was second with 22.79.

Faith Chebetich of Kenya held off Olympic and world champion Windred Yasi of Bahrain to win the women's 3,000 mopechase by half a second. Yasi was 0.07 shy of a world record in Rome two weeks ago but chilly Brussels conditions made for slower times.

Other winners included Japan's Haruka Kitaguchi, who followed up her Olympic javelin gold medal with victory on her final throw, and Brazil's Alison dos Santos and Fumke Bol of the Netherlands, who won men's and women's 400m hurdles, respectively.

Grenada's Anderson Peters edged India's Neeraj Chopra by just 1cm for victory in the men's javelin at 87.87m.

Olympic 400m hurdles champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levyrose won her second invitational race in two days, clocking 22.40sec for victory in the 200m.

American Brittany Brown raced to victory in the women's 200 while Jamaica's Camacho-Quinn of Puerto Rico capped her perfect Diamond League season by winning the women's 100m hurdles. —Agencies



HARUKA Kitaguchi of Japan in action during the javelin throw final of the Brussels Diamond League at the King Baudouin stadium. —Reuters

## Vinicius, Mbappe penalties give Real win at Sociedad

SAN SEBASTIAN: Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr and Kylian Mbappe converted second-half penalties to give the champions a hard-fought 2-0 win at Real Sociedad in La Liga on Saturday.

Carlo Ancelotti's side took the lead in the 58th minute with Vinicius netting a penalty after an Arda Guler shot from the edge of the box hit the hand of midfielder Sergio Gomez, who raised both arms in a reflex move to protect his face.

Mbappe secured the three points by putting away his spot kick in the 75th after Vinicius was stopped on by a defender in a late challenge that was not spotted by the referee but was penalised after a VAR review.

Real remain second with 11 points behind rivals Barcelona. They must now rally their players with only three days before their Champions League opener at home to Villarreal on Tuesday.

Ancelotti said his side were not dominant enough to deserve the victory however, the Italian praised his players' resilience and was proud of how they were able to endure the home side's pressure and claim three valuable points.

"It was a complicated match. We didn't deserve to win, because Real Sociedad pushed us really hard," he told a press conference. "We held on and suffered, showed character and a lot of commitment. I value that a lot because it's not easy to find commitment in a team with so much talent and quality and today we did it."

"I have very satisfied and then we have to be self-critical in order to improve."

Earlier, Kovilla beat Goyate 1-0 to earn their first win of the season and Villarreal moved provisionally third with a 2-1 win at Malaga. —Agencies

## Champions Italy, Argentina qualify for Davis Cup final eight

PARIS: Defending champions Italy qualified for the Davis Cup final eight on Saturday without playing an Argentine advanced with a dominant 3-0 win over Finland.

Italy and Argentina join Spain, Australia, the United States and Germany, who are already through to the eight-team final in Malaga, Spain from Nov 19-24 in Bologna, Italy advanced thanks to Brazil's 2-1 victory over Belgium.

Brazil's Thiago Monteiro beat Belgian Zizou Bergs 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 after Joao Fonseca defeated Raphael Collignon 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3.

Belgium kept their slim hopes alive thanks to their doubles victory.

In Group 'D', Guillermo Coria's Argentina powered back after 2-1 to Canada on Tuesday crushing last year's semi-finalist Finland.

The 37-year-old world number four, who won the Davis Cup with Serbia in 2010, wrapped up the match in just 85 minutes.

Earlier, Miami's Kevin Krawietz gave Serbia a 1-0 lead with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Azerbaijan's Thomas.

Casper Ruud secured a 3-1 win for Norway in their World Group 'D' tie against Portugal. —AFP

## Pakistan cueists power into last-16

ULAANBAATAR: Pakistan's Ahsan ul-Haq guided off a stunning upset at the Mongolia Snooker World Cup on Sunday, defeating reigning world champion Ali Akbari of Qatar 3-1 in a thrilling encounter.

Ahsan, Pakistan's national champion, showcased his skills with precise potting and strategic play. The 31-year-old took the first frame 59-36, but Akbari levelled with a dominant 63-26 win in the second. Ahsan regained control, winning the next two frames 58-19 and 70-58.

Compatriot Ahsanullah Memon, 30, also advanced to the pre-quarterfinals with a 3-1 victory over Iran's Sipavosh Moayami.

Ahsanullah, recent winner of the Grand title in Riyadh, recovered from a slow start, losing the first frame 63-78. He rallied to win the next three frames 78-34, 59-50 and 73-13.

Both Pakistani cueists have secured direct spots in the pre-quarterfinals, underlining their strong form in the tournament.

The tournament continues on Monday with remaining group matches, followed by the knockout round starting on Tuesday. —Agencies



MILAN: AC Milan's Alvaro Morata in action during the Serie A match against Venezia at San Siro. —AFP

## Milan start huge week by destroying Venezia as Juve held at Empoli

MILAN: AC Milan warmed up for the Champions League and next weekend's Milan derby in the best possible fashion with Saturday's 4-0 hammering of Venezia in Serie A, while Juventus stumbled to a goal-less draw at Empoli.

Pressure had been building on Milan over the international break after just two points from their first three matches, and thousands of hardcore fans gathered outside the San Siro to show their support ahead of a big week for the seven-time European champions.

Paolo Ponzo's team responded to that backing by sweeping away Venezia aside, racing into a four-goal lead within 20 minutes and cruising through the rest of the match.

Milan are eighth but will face Liverpool on Tuesday night in better spirits following their first win of the season, with a massive clash with champions Inter Milan coming a week on Saturday.

Inter have won the last six derbies, the most recent victory also securing last season's Scudetto.

"It was important to win, and win in this manner, to give the players belief in what we're doing," said Fonseca to Sky.

"This week I've been thinking about Liverpool and Inter. I know how important the derby is... I know

that we've not won the last few derbies, we're working to change that."

Theo Hernandez gave Milan the lead just two minutes in with a shot from a tight angle which deflected off Venezia keeper Joao Jonsson's legs and into the net.

The hosts doubled their lead 14 minutes later when a low corner reached Youssef En-Nesyri, who flicked it past the goal post and into the net.

Things got worse for Venezia when Jonsson brought down Tammy Abraham after spilling the ball in the box, allowing Christian Pulisic to convert the penalty in the 25th minute.

Four minutes later, it was Abraham's turn to convert from the pen-

alty spot after a VAR review confirmed Joel Schlegelmann's foul on Rafael Leao.

Meanwhile, Thiago Motta's Juventus underwhelmed in Turin, creating almost nothing in a performance that offered little to worry PSV Eindhoven, who visit Turin on Tuesday evening.

Dusan Vlahovic went closest for Juve four minutes after half-time when he shot straight at Denis Vaspouza after being seen racing towards goal.

And Juve had Federico Gatti to thank for a goal-saving tackle in the fifth minute of stoppage time which denied Emmanuel Gyasi what would

## Kane bags treble in Bayern's 6-1 demolition of promoted Kiel

KIEL: Bayern Munich's Harry Kane scored a hat-trick as they crushed promoted Holstein Kiel 6-1 away on Saturday to lead the Bundesliga after three matches with a maximum nine points.

It was a fourth straight win in all competitions this season under new coach Vincent Kompany and with Bayern eager to reclaim top spot after losing the title to Bayer Leverkusen last term.

Bayern are first on nine points, two clear of second-placed Borussia Dortmund and RB Leipzig in third.

"There are a lot of positives about our game at the moment," Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer said afterwards. "We have that winning mentality back and we've started a run of form now."

The Bavarians, who welcome Dinamo Zagreb in the Champions League on Tuesday, enjoyed an explosive opening to the match, netting three times in the first 13 minutes as Kiel made a disaster start peppered with defensive errors.

Jamal Musiala scored the fastest goal in Bundesliga history as he slotted home after just 15 seconds.

The hosts repeatedly failed to clear the ball in the first minute and England forward Kane doubled their lead six minutes later following a mistake by captain Lewis Holtby, whose pass was intercepted by Serge Gnabry.

It went from bad to worse for the hosts, as Musiala took advantage of another defensive error to deliver a cross that was eventually turned into his own net by Niclas Rubenow.

Kane scored his second just before the break, before substitute Michael Olise smoothed in a rebound shortly after the hour mark.

Arsenal's Giggsy's header gave the home fans something to cheer about, but Bayern had the last word as Kane dispatched an injury-time penalty to seal his hat-trick and an emphatic Bayern victory.

He now has four goals from three matches as well as two assists.

"There was a difference in class today," Holtby told Sky Germany. "It felt like they had an extra man out there, compliments to Bayern on a great performance."

Despite the dominant performance Kompany



KIEL: Bayern Munich's Harry Kane scores (C) during the Bundesliga match against Holstein Kiel. —AFP

said that it means little as they look to reclaim their dominance in the league.

"I have said that this is just three games. I know, I know, for Bayern it is always important to be in top spot but it is three games at the moment," Kompany, in his first season in charge, told a press conference when asked about going top of the table.

"Today it was good and then Tuesday must be good again and then again and that's the way it goes again," Kompany said. "If we continue as we do now, maybe at the end of the season... I don't even want to say it. We just have to keep going."

Meanwhile, defending champions Bayer Leverkusen put their first defeat in 35 Bundesliga games behind them on Saturday when they thumped Hoffenheim 4-1 with Victor Boniface bagging a brace.

The win will be a confidence-booster for Xabi Alonso's Leverkusen, who start their Champions League campaign next Tuesday in Rotterdam against Feyenoord.

Frenchman Martin Terrier scored his first Bundesliga goal to give the visitors a deserved lead, before Boniface danced around defenders to add a second while Morgan Bernabé scored pulled one back.

Florian Grillitsch converted a penalty before Boniface added a well-taken second. Hoffenheim goalkeeper Oliver Baumann, making his 44th Bundesliga appearance to draw level with German football legend Lothar Matthaus, made a string of saves to keep the home side in the game.

Elsewhere, Leipzig couldn't find a way past Union Berlin as they played a goalless draw while Eintracht Frankfurt beat VfL Wolfsburg 2-1.

VfB Stuttgart recorded their first win of the season by beating Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-1 thanks to two goals in four second-half minutes from Ermedin Demirovic.

A brace from Junior Adams helped Freiburg to a 2-1 win over Bochum, who had taken the lead with their first goal of the season. —Agencies

## PSG coach Enrique hails team after extending perfect start of the season

PARIS: Paris St Germain manager Luis Enrique said he was lucky to have a great team in charge after they carried a 3-1 comeback win over Brent on Saturday for their fourth Ligue 1 win in as many games this season.

Oussame Dembele's brace and Fabian Ruiz's sublime strike helped PSG remain top of the table on 12 points, two clear of Olympique de Marseille and AS Monaco.

The Spanish coach was full of praise for his France forward Dembele, but said any of his players could have scored several times as he leads a quality side.

"I didn't realize he scored two goals, it was a difficult match against a tough team, the most important thing is that he scored two goals, we had many chances for several players to score," Enrique told reporters.

"I've been a Dortmund admirer for many years, he's a different player, he comes out on the left and on the right, he has a change of pace, he's intelligent."

"When you are lucky enough to have players of the quality Fabian, it's a pleasure and a privilege."

Enrique added he was grateful for the depth and versatility of his squad as he was able to rest several key players ahead of Wednesday's Champions League opener against Chelsea.

"Versatility is what makes this squad, of course you miss some players but I have seen the same ability to play, we are a young team full of desire and hunger, it's a wonderful feeling," said the former Barcelona and Spain coach.

"We were able to rest several players, but (Lucas) Berault, (Milan) Skriniar were sensational, Fabian is in great shape as last season and at the Euros, Kang-in Lee was superb, Juan Verza great in attack and defence."

Monaco's Brent, who finished third last season, have lost three of four games so far before meeting Strain Grass on their European debut.



PARIS: Paris St-Germain's Marco Asensio (L) in action against Brent during their Ligue 1 match at Parc des Princes. —AFP

In the Mediterranean derby, Marseille continued their impressive form under new coach Roberto Di Zerbi by beating Nice 2-0, despite finishing the match with 10 men. Marseille's Neal Maupay scored on his home debut before a brilliant strike by Luis Henrique sealed the victory.

Marseille had Canadian defender Derek Cornelien sent off late on, but held on for the win which moved them to 10 points from four matches.

"We have had an almost perfect start. I wasn't too pleased with how we played today, but football is not just about quality. It is also about character, and blood, and in that sense we were excellent," said Di Zerbi.

In the night's other fixture, Monaco kick off their Champions League bid at home to Barcelona next Thursday and warmed up for that with 3-0 victory away at newly-promoted Auxerre. —Agencies



KARACHI

Times	09:30 pm
Sunday (Tomorrow)	09:17 am
NEXT 24 HRS	
Minimum	26°C
Maximum	32°C
Humidity	74%
Outlook	Cloudy

# METRO

South



Arteta salutes depleted Arsenal's 'ugly' victory over arch-rivals Spurs

Pg.18 SPORT

## Three shot over kite flying dispute

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Three people were shot at after a scuffle among children over kite flying turned violent in Korangi on Sunday night, police said.

Workers of two political parties became involved in the petty dispute resulting in a violent clash and bullet injuries to Shah Faqeer, 25, Kasid Qasim, 30, and Ejaz Khan, 25 in Sector 48-C.

The injured were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre.

The police said that a scuffle broke out between children over kite flying in which adults also became involved.

Zaman Town police SHO Ahsan Rehman said it was not a "political clash" between the Pakistan Peoples Party and Milli Ahle Qasim Movement Pakistan, but these workers got involved in it.

He said the condition of the injured was out of danger.

### Two brothers shot

Two teenage brothers were shot in Machar Colony early on Sunday morning.

Docks police said that Sameer Alam, 12, and Sameerul Alam, 14, were riding a motorcycle when unidentified suspects opened fire on them near Anad Mohalla.

The police said that electricity had gone out in the area at the time of the incident. The exact motive for firing could not be ascertained immediately.

The wounded brothers were taken to the Civil Hospital Karachi where their condition was stated to be out of danger.

According to Docks police SHO Nabeen Rehman, one brother sustained a bullet wound in his abdomen.

## Experts call for ROP screening to save newborns from blindness

Doctors describe 'Retinopathy of Prematurity' as one of the most common causes of childhood blindness in country

By Faiza Hyatt

KARACHI: Born this year in March, Musa spent several days in a hospital incubator, fighting multiple health complications, before he got reunited with his mother.

Over a month later, he gradually developed an eye illness that doctors described as ROP (Retinopathy of Prematurity), a vision-threatening disease and one of the most common causes of childhood blindness in Pakistan.

"Being a premature baby, Musa was too weak. At the time of the check from the hospital, the doctor advised that we should get him examined by an eye specialist," recalled Musa's father Mushtaq, a resident of Lyari who is associated with milk supply business.

The family reported to an ophthalmologist within a month of Musa's birth. At that time, the doctor found no signs of the illness. Musa's follow-up examinations, however, continued for at least a month till he developed disease signs.

"The news was shocking. While we were lucky that the disease was timely detected, it was not easy for us to agree to the treatment," Mushtaq narrated how the family faced the situation.

In the first phase, the treatment involved injecting both eyes with a medicine that would help reduce growth of abnormal retinal blood vessels. The second step was laser surgery for which the baby was required to be under general anaesthesia.

"I can't explain what I went through. On the one hand, the very thought of my child going blind was unbearable. And, on the other hand, I feared Musa won't be able to tolerate the effects [of general anaesthesia]," shared Umera, the mother of Musa who is the sixth child of the fam-



Dr. Ibtisam Adil examines the eyes of an infant held by a medical staff at his clinic. — Fahim Siddiq / White Star

ily and second son after 18 years. The mother, in her 30s, had a difficult postpartum period. In addition, the private hospital in the Garden area where Musa was born did not have an incubator, forcing the couple to get him admitted to another health facility in Pak Colony. His treatment cost the family around Rs270,000.

"Despite this difficult time, we are happy today. Musa has successfully completed his treatment, actively responds to our gestures and has gained weight. Alhamdulillah," she said, adding that Musa would now continue to have periodic eye examinations for some time.

### Lack of awareness

According to experts, while Musa was able to get timely medical intervention, this is not the case for many infants in Pakistan as most parents and even doctors have no knowledge of the disease. One of them is Dr. Aziz Nazam.

"When I took my daughter to a senior ophthalmologist, she had already experienced 60 per cent retinal detachment," Dr

Memon recalled. He added that she was born premature and spent almost three weeks in the incubator in 2012. "As a result, she lost one eye. Over the years, she has been treated for different complications, including vitreous haemorrhage, retinal detachment and cataract, affecting her functional eye," said Dr. Memon.

The girl, now 12, has regular follow-up eye examinations. The family says vision challenges have not dampened her joyful spirit as she is an extraordinary student.

### Early screening crucial

According to experts, blood vessels in the retina at the back of the eye normally finish developing a few weeks before birth. An infant who is born early is exposed to many different things: medicine, bright light, or temperature changes and high levels of oxygen that might affect how an eye's blood vessels develop.

"ROP happens when abnormal vessels grow in the retina. If not diagnosed by timely screening it leads to irreversible retinal detachments, causing blindness.

Rabies are at risk, if they're born before 30 weeks of pregnancy or weigh less than about three pounds at birth," explained senior ophthalmologist Dr. Merveen Adhi, who has been treating ROP cases for the past several years in Karachi and Riyadh where he also chaired ROP Board of the ministry of national guard health affairs.

According to him, while there is no data on ROP in Pakistan, the statistics from developed countries like the United States show that around 600 infants go blind every year. From these alarming figures, he says, one can imagine the severity of the situation in Pakistan.

"We can prevent this blindness by good neonatal care, timely screening programmes and treatment. But, the most important thing is awareness among healthcare providers, especially those associated with neonatal care, and paediatricians as well as parents," he said.

He said ROP might not be visible until several weeks after birth. So, premature babies at

Continued on Page 14

## Five-year-old boy dies as father's pistol goes off accidentally

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A minor boy was killed when the pistol of his father accidentally went off in Azam Basti on Sunday morning, police said.

They identified the victim as five-year-old Burhan and said that the pistol went off when his minor cousin was holding it.

Mahmoodabad SHO Ajaz Pathan said that the six-year-old boy took out the loaded pistol of victim's father Babar Javed. He said that the child was playing with it when it went off and a bullet hit Burhan who died on the spot.

The body was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

The police said that further investigations were underway.

### ASI found dead

A policeman was found dead in his residence in Police Lines on Sunday.

The Mata Buz police said that the body of Assistant Sub-Inspector Ghulam Sarwar, 50, was found from his second-floor quarters.

Area SHO Mohammed Ashfaq said that it appeared that the body had been there for around three days. He said that he was suffered from dengue fever and doctors said he died of natural causes.

He said the ASI was posted in the investigation wing of the Peshawar police station and lived alone in the bachelor's quarters.

## Two diplomats among seven awarded honorary PhD degrees

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has awarded honorary PhD degrees to seven persons, including the consulate general of Iran and Bahrain, for their contributions in their respective fields.

According to a press release, the degrees were conferred on Iran's Consul General Hassan Nourian and Bahrain's Consul General Abdullah Ahmed Binjous, first woman president of any

Pakistan bank Akram Khatoon, former federal minister and chairman of Al-Mustafa Welfare Society Hajj Harit Taryyah, renowned noha khwan Syed Nadeem Raza Sarwar, academic Farhan Hanif and former caretaker minister Anshad Wali Muhammad at a special convocation of the Jinnah University for Women held at the Governor House.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor congratulated the honorary doctorate recipients for their remarkable achievements in various fields.

He acknowledged their outstanding efforts in enhancing bilateral relations and fostering national unity through their exemplary service and advancing the vision of national progress. Their efforts to promote dialogue, resolve conflicts, and address global challenges have set remarkable standards, he said.

Awarding honorary doctorates is a reflection of their accomplishments and the values they represent, he said.

## SHC acquits four policemen in extortion case

By Ishah Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has overturned 10-year imprisonment handed down to four policemen by the trial court in an extortion case.

An anti-terrorism court had sentenced constables Aziz Khan, Muhammad Waqar, Muhammad Kasid and Baiter Musir (alias) to 10 years in prison in March 2014 and also imposed fine for intercepting the vehicle of complainant Hassan Adil and his friend Nazeem Khan, forcing them to withdraw money from the ATM and entering the same from them in November 2020 in a Gulshan-e-Jashar locality.

The convicts through their counsel impugned the conviction order before the SHC and after hearing both sides and examining the record and proceedings, a division bench of SHC comprising Justice Naimatullah Pholpo and Justice Irfan Ali Shah allowed the appeals and acquitted the appellants.

The bench in its judgement observed that on account of his failure to support the case of the prosecution, the complainant was declared hostile while the female witness was not able to identify the appellants at trial.

If their evidence being near witness to the incident is taken into consideration, then it supports the plea of the appellants that they are innocent, it

added. The SHC also noted that in absence of forensic reports, not much reliance could be placed upon the Close Circuit Television Camera (CCTV) footage allegedly taken from the place of the incident.

The complainant reported the incident to police after a delay of around four days and no plausible explanation for such delay was offered by him and it could not be overlooked, it maintained.

The bench further said that at one moment the police had recommended the case for cancellation under B-Class (Bogus) and the same was also approved by the judicial magistrate concerned, but the order was challenged and reversed by the

SHC. Thereafter, further investigation of the case was conducted and police had furnished a report under Section 173 CrPc before the magistrate, who had returned the same by observing that it was a case of extortion involving terrorism and thus, cognisable whereof was to be taken by the ATC under the Antiterrorism Act, 1997 and consequently, the case was presented before the trial court/ATC, it added.

The SHC stated that no empty bucket casing was secured from the place of incident, which belied the fact that fire was shot at the time of the incident.

The discussion revolves a conclusion that the prosecution has

not been able to prove its case against the appellants beyond a shadow of doubt and to such benefit they are found entitled, it concluded.

According to the prosecution, the complainant and his friend were on their way to their destination when the policemen, riding on two motorcycles, intercepted their vehicle, threatened and harassed them by making firing in the air.

Thereafter, the appellants had forced them to withdraw Rs50,000 each from their respective bank accounts through ATM and the policemen had taken the money from them by force and then returned Rs20,000 to them for fuel purpose, it maintained.

## Cyclists rally to raise childhood cancer awareness

Participants converge on Port Grand from different points in the city

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The annual cycling event titled "Ride, Bike, Save Lives, 2024" organised by the Intra Hospital Health Network (IHNN) on Sunday attracted a large number of enthusiasts from across the city.

The event was held in collaboration with Critical Mass Karachi (CMK) and Port Grand. This year's ride was dedicated to raising awareness for Childhood Cancer.

"This cause is very close to IHNN's mission of providing free-of-cost, quality healthcare to the under-served. We are glad that more and more people are coming forward to support the hospital's mission," a spokesperson for the hospital shared with Dawn.

He appreciated the role of the CMK and other groups that helped

rally the cycling community for the cause and said that this year over 400 cyclists supported the event, spreading awareness of paediatric cancer.

The event brought together cycling groups — CMK, Cyclists, 432 Riders, PECHB Riders, Free Riders, Slow & Steady, North Nazimabad Cycling Group, Wings on Wheels, Docs on Wheels, and ECKO Rider — to ride through the streets of Karachi, promoting a healthy lifestyle and raising awareness for paediatric oncology.

The cycling groups started their rides from different points in the city and converged on Port Grand in the end, where they were greeted with cheers and applause from their families, friends, and IHNN staff.

The scenic venue offered a perfect backdrop for the event's closing ceremony, which included a special engagement session with the cyclists, courtesy Port Grand.

The venue generously provided parking, audio setups, and a hearty breakfast for the participants, making the event a memorable and impactful occasion.

In his remarks, Salim Karak Talwar, chairman of IHNN's Fundraising Committee, expressed deep gratitude to all cyclists, donors, supporters, and partners who made this event possible.

He acknowledged that with the increasing demand for healthcare services, IHNN's role in providing top-of-cost, quality care to over 500,000 patients monthly continues to grow.

Salim Karak Talwar, and Syed Mashhood Bani, Executive Director of Communications & Resource Development Directorate at IHNN, also addressed the participants with inspiring messages about the critical need for continued support in fighting childhood cancer.

The event was made more special by the presence of paediatric oncology patients from IHNN, who were honoured as chief guests.

These brave children presented heartfelt, handwritten cards to the leaders of the various cycling groups, expressing their gratitude and appreciation for the cyclists' support.



The cyclists participating in the event. — Dawn







# HIV-positive transgender dies 'due to inattention' at LUH

By Our Staff Correspondent

**HYDERABAD:** An HIV-positive transgender person died on Saturday night in the Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) for want of, what her colleagues claimed, 'timely attention' by the hospital administration.

According to transgender rights activist Sana Khan, Nirma, 24, was admitted to the LUH in Jamshoro last week for a surgery as she had some wound on her hip. She said the wound developed some infection but doctors did not allow the surgical procedure and she was discharged.

Sana said that Nirma had been an HIV-positive patient for the last four years and after remaining at home for the last couple of days, her condition deteriorated. "We shifted her to the LUH city branch on Saturday when doctors didn't pay attention to her and she died in medical unit-8," she claimed.

She said Nirma needed intensive care unit (ICU) when bed was not available for her. According to Mariam, a transgender community leader, doctors said that since she was an HIV-positive patient, they would not touch her. "It is a case of sheer gender discrimination," she alleged.

LUH Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Faizan said an ICU bed was arranged for the patient and it was allotted to her.

Dr Faizan also explained that patient was in a state of gasping when received at the casualty department at around 6.30pm on Saturday with complaint of abscess. "The patient was taking hormonal therapy (for breast development) and abscess was developed in gluteal region due to administration of wrong injections.

He said that she was also an HIV-positive and was given emergency treatment at casualty ward before being referred to medicine unit. He said that at around 70.30pm, one bed had fallen vacant in the ICU at LUH, Jamshoro, and her attendants were advised to move to Jamshoro. However, he said, they initially refused and agreed to move only after one hour of counselling.

# Policemen put out shop fire in Sita Road Market

By Our Correspondent

**DADU:** A team of policemen on patrolling duty demonstrated their sense of responsibility by extinguishing a fire, that had broken out in a shop, to stop it from engulfing the entire Sita Road Market during night hours.

They noticed smoke coming out of a shop in the closed market and entered into it out of curiosity.

Constables Sarwan Solangi, Rohail Shahzad and Abdul Qadir Lakhir, posted at the Sita Road police station, found that the furniture present inside the shuttered shop was in flames. They broke open the shutters without waiting from firefighters' help and made their way into the shop.

Risking their lives, they lifted the burning chairs, tables and other furniture and brought them in the open outside the market, thus preventing the fire to engulf more shops within the market.

Later, residents of the nearby locality and owners of several shops in the market arrived and appreciated the policemen's sense of responsibility.

Dadu SSP retired Captain Ameer Saad Magal also appreciated them and promised commendation certificates for them.

# Literati, civil society resolve to protect entire heritage site of Karoonjhar Hills

By Our Correspondent

**MIRSHI:** A large number of the poets, writers, rights activists and the common people coming from different parts of Sindh on Sunday registered their strong protest against the provincial government's decision to allow granite extraction at the heritage site of Karoonjhar Hills.

The call for the gathering at the foothills of Karoonjhar, under the banner of "I am the custodian of Karoonjhar", was given by the Sindh Adalat Sangha, which strongly opposes quarrying at certain points of the site.

The protesters were carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans of "complete preservation and protection of Karoonjhar Hills".

Nisar Chakraborty, Dr Nisar Kalari, Ameer Anad Parbhani, Dr Mushtaq Pasha and other literati in their fiery speeches lashed out at the provincial government for its recent decision to protect



PROTESTERS walk towards foothills of Karoonjhar in Tharparkar to attend the gathering on Sunday.—Dawn

"only 21,000 acres" of Karoonjhar Mountain Range, and not the entire heritage site.

They noted that the Sindh cabinet had directed the culture department to notify its

decision which, they said was just to show compliance of the relevant orders of Sindh High Court's Mirpurkhas bench.

They apprehended that such decisions taken by the provincial cabinet

were "a step towards selling out the Karoonjhar area and other parts of the Parkar region".

They demanded that the entire region - stretched over 200,000

acres and housing several hundred small and big hills/mountains - must be declared "protected site".

They noted that people of this region had been struggling for long to ensure preservation of the

entire region which, they said, had its unique cultural, religious, geographic and demographic significance as mentioned in various studies conducted by researchers.

Rejecting Sindh government's decision to allow quarrying in the region, they said "Mining or excavation to extract granite will badly damage the ecology of the whole region".

The literati and civil society activists accused the ruling party of having hatched a conspiracy to destroy the heritage site by allowing granite extraction.

They resolved to continue and intensify their resistance to foil the conspiracy by raising their voice at all forums, besides within their respective areas.

Advocate Shaukat Mughniar, who had moved the judiciary against granite extraction in the region, reiterated his firm resolve to keep challenging the Sindh government's unacceptable decisions.

# DIG-level probe into sexual assault on polio worker in Jacobabad initiated

By Our Correspondent

**SUKKUR:** DIG Pte Muhammad Shah of Sukkur range on Sunday initiated a thorough inquiry into the alleged sexual assault on a lady health worker, engaged in the anti-polio drive, in the Aliah Bekhelo Jakhrovi village of Jacobabad district five days back.

The inquiry was ordered by Sindh Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nadeem after several days of uproar on the social media and the victim's hectic efforts to secure action against the alleged culprit along with three accomplices. She has also moved the relevant court of law to seek justice.

DIG Shah on Sunday visited Jacobabad SSP Dr Sumair Noor Charas and discussed the matter in detail in his office.

The DIG also recorded statement of the victim and her father, besides the SHO, local mobtar and some other officials of the Mandial police station.

Separately, the DIG discussed the victim's medical examination reports and

other matters with the staff of the Jacobabad Institute of Medical Sciences (JIMS).

The police worker reportedly stated before the DIG that she was subjected to harassment and sexual assault at gun point by one man, who was accompanying his three friends. She named the rapist and said that his associates had kept their faces covered during the episode. She said one of his associates made a video of the sexual assault with his mobile phone.

The victim's father told the DIG that her daughter's husband had naturally taken the rape of his wife as a matter of honour and disowned her. "He had taken their [the couple's] three children in his custody and asked her to leave his home," the father said, and added that on an order issued by the Jacobabad District and Sessions Court, the children had to be handed over back to her.

Commenting on the victim's act of modifying her initial statement before the Mandial police, in which she had denied having been raped, the DIG told

the local media that "strict action will be taken against anyone, may it be a police official, who may have forced the victim to hide anything".

On the police worker's complaint of being threatened by the suspects and her in-laws with dire consequences if she proceeded with her case, SSP Charas told the media that he had ordered setting up of a police jacket outside her house to ensure security to her and her children.

While the prime suspect named by the victim has already been arrested, the Sindh police have also detained her husband, his brother and a nephew to facilitate the investigation and ensure safety of the complainant, her children and relatives.

Meanwhile, Jacobabad Deputy Commissioner Zafar Ali Mairi has recommended to the provincial government a Rs2 million cash relief for the victim and a government job for her.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Haji Sher Muhammad Mughniar sent a delegation comprising local councillor Aftab Ali Mughniar, Ali Hameed Mughniar,

Bahadar Ali Mughniar and others to the victim's home to assure her of all possible financial and legal support in the matter.

The delegation handed over a cash amount of Rs100,000 to her and pledged a monthly assistance of Rs20,000 on behalf of PPP Mughniar.

PPP Jacobabad district president Mir Liaquat Ali Lodhri along with other office-bearers, speaking at a press conference at Jakhrovi House on Sunday, condemned the sexual assault on the polio worker.

He held out the assurance that they would continue their fight in her case until complete justice was dispensed to her.

He said he had shared all details of the case with PPP Larkana district president MNA Mir Aftab Hameed Jakhrovi, who pledged Rs1 million cash relief for her.

Jacobabad District Council Chairman Mir Tahir Khoso and Vice Chairman Sardarullah Kizwan Odho had also announced Rs200,000 for the victim, he pointed out.

Furthermore, he said, the Peoples Lawyers Forum would extend legal support to her in her case.

# Govt urged to help develop Hyderabad as premier IT, e-commerce hub

By Our Staff Correspondent

**HYDERABAD:** Global shift towards information technology (IT) and e-commerce has transformed economies, offering a robust alternative to traditional natural resources.

Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry President Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani said in a statement issued here on Sunday.

Highlighting the remarkable achievements of neighbouring nations, he said India's IT exports were projected to reach \$194 billion in 2024 while China's exports were expected to surpass \$1.2 trillion. He said Pakistan's IT industry, in contrast, had only earned few billions. He has urged the government to unveil a comprehensive

strategy to position Hyderabad as a premier IT and e-commerce hub.

He pointed out that region already hosted prestigious institutions like ZARINT, FAST, national incubation centres (NICs) and universities, which were spearheading IT and technology education. By uniting these educational powerhouses on a single platform, Hyderabad had potential to become a world-class IT business corridor, he added.

He said Hyderabad possesses full potential to emerge as a premier hub for IT and software businesses. However, he stressed that potential could only be realised with robust support and effective policies from the government.

He called upon both the federal and provincial IT ministers to visit Hyderabad and assess its

resources and see that region was developed in line with the contemporary IT sector demands.

He highlighted need for targeted training and opportunities to the youth of Hyderabad and interior Sindh in IT and e-commerce, enabling them to integrate into global market effectively. Drawing a comparison with neighbouring countries such as China, India and Bangladesh, he said those nations had made IT education a priority and offered substantial incentives to IT companies at the government level. He said Pakistan must adopt similar policies to foster growth of its local IT industry.

He addressed pressing issue of payment security for freelancers, noting a 4% increase in freelancer income in Pakistan over recent years.

Despite that growth, many freelancers kept their earnings abroad due to concerns about payment security, he said.

He urged the government to ensure secure payment systems for freelancers, which would encourage them to bring their earnings back to Pakistan. That move, he said, could significantly stabilise country's economy and alleviate dollar shortage. He appealed to the federal and provincial governments to support youth through initiatives like 'Bano Qabil', offering them future business opportunities and guidance.

He shed light on necessity of key facilities to establish Hyderabad as a leading IT and e-commerce hub, with high-speed and reliable internet connectivity being paramount. IT sector could not thrive without

a robust digital infrastructure, he said. Additionally, he highlighted importance of creating special economic zones offering tax exemptions and incentives to IT companies. He called for modern technology courses and training programmes in educational and IT institutions to prepare students and freelancers to meet global standards.

He said the chamber of small traders & small industry was dedicated to support fully the transformation of Hyderabad into a leading IT and e-commerce hub. He said it was ready to collaborate closely with both governments and private sector to develop Hyderabad into a world-class IT business centre. He said the proposed initiative aimed at creating ample growth opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs in the region.

**Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)**

The Institute of Business Administration, Karachi (IBA) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the purchase of 2 lots of stationery & printing materials as detailed below.

Lot No.	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Stationery & Printing Materials	As per Bill of Materials	Lot
2	Stationery & Printing Materials	As per Bill of Materials	Lot

**REGISTRATION**

IBA, Main Campus, University Drive, Karachi 75215  
 111-421-421 Fax 111-8919199  
 Karachi Branch: P.O. Box 10000, Karachi 75215  
 Email: info@iba.edu.pk  
 Website: www.iba.edu.pk

**GOVERNMENT OF SINDH  
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER  
PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT**

Gate No. 4, Governor House Compound  
Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi-75530

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

According to the Procurement Plan the Printing & Stationery Department invites sealed bids under SPPFA Rules-2010 from well-reputed firms having signed bond registered with the Sindh Procurement Board, General Sales Tax, Income Tax for supply of the following items to Printing & Stationery Department during the current financial year 2024-2025:

- Supply of Durable Goods (DGT)
- Supply of Stationery & Miscellaneous
- Supply of Paper, Printing, Binding & Stationery Materials
- Requirement of Different Brands of Printing Materials (Part-I) & (Part-II)
- Repair, Overhauling and Servicing of Offset/Letter Press/Alloy Flat & Post-Printing Machines.

The tender documents containing Terms and Conditions can be purchased from the office of the Manager Bookshop Near Gate No. 4, Governor House Compound, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi on submission of a written application to the undersigned non-refundable cash payment of tender purchase fee followed against respective number on any working day during office hours. The deadline for availability, submission and opening of bids is under:-

Date of Release of Bidding Documents	08.09.2024 09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m.
Deadline of Issuance of Tender Documents	08.09.2024 07:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m.
Deadline of Submission of Bids along with relevant supporting documents as per SPPFA Rules 46.1 (Single Stage One Envelope Procurement)	09.09.2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Date of Opening of Bids in presence of each bidder who may attend to attend the opening and Procurement Committee in the Conference Room of the office of Controller, Printing & Stationery Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi	09.09.2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Bidders are requested to submit tender samples/proposals against each item after before the Procurement Committee before opening of tenders, failing which, offer will be rejected and rates will not be considered.

The bidders should follow the detailed terms & conditions included in the bid documents. The offer must be accompanied by a bid security @2.5% (two and half per cent) of quoted rates in shape of pay order / demand draft in favor of the Accounts Officer, Printing & Stationery Department, separately in respect of each lot.

The Procuring Agency may reject all / any bid subject to relevant provision of SPPFA Rules 2010 and may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to acceptance of bid or proposal on per Rule 29 of said rules.

**ACCOUNTS OFFICER  
PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT**

847-WPT-2423/24

**SYED ALI BAQAR NAQVI  
(Muhammad Bhai)**

With professional services as announced the opening date of

**REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION  
OF MANUFACTURER FOR STEEL ROUND  
BILLET (CAST/ROLLED) AND  
SEAMLESS PIPES**

Applications are invited from the eligible manufacturer to be registered as pre-qualified supplier for Steel Round Billet (cast/rolled) and Seamless Pipe.

Application for pre-qualification alongwith terms & conditions may be obtained through e-mail at [imtiyazahmed@psmtd.com](mailto:imtiyazahmed@psmtd.com)

Application duly filled must reach the office of the undersigned latest by 25-10-2024

**NOTE:** The Tender Notice is also available at [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk) and [www.psmtd.com](http://www.psmtd.com)

**DGM MARKETING - SPM  
PEOPLES STEEL MILLS LTD.  
JAVEDAN NAGAR, MANHOPUR  
KARACHI - PAKISTAN  
PABX. 36770126-29 (Ext. 1634)**





Arteta salutes depleted Arsenal's 'ugly' victory over arch-rivals Spurs

Pg.18 SPORT

ISLAMABAD

Sunset	05:16pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	05:45am
<b>NEXT 24 HRS</b>	
Minimum	22°C
Maximum	33°C
Outlook	Sunny

# METRO North



PARTICIPANTS of a 5km marathon set off from the starting line at Sports Complex in Islamabad on Sunday. The event was organised by the Islamabad Running Club as part of its race series 2024, which include events stretching to a distance of 5, 10 and 21 km. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

## Metro rehabilitation project inches forward

Track outside two stations fixed, eight more to go; feeder buses for Pindi to arrive in November

By Asim Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The authorities have completed the rehabilitation of the bus corridor outside two metro stations as part of a project to rehabilitate the elevated track by the end of December. The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) divided the corridor into 20 sites — two each for a bus station — under the "Rehabilitation of Metro Corridor from Saddar to Faisalabad" project costing Rs718.945 million. An RDA official said the work would be completed by December, adding that both sides of the Shamsabad and

Rehmanabad bus stations have been completed. Similarly, one side of the Wazir Khan and Liaquat Bagh stations had also been completed. According to the official, the renovation of the metro corridor and the platforms was a complicated process. He said during the day buses run on a single track while the workers carried out restoration works on the other track. After completing all 20 sites, the road will be re-carpeted from Saddar to Faisalabad. The official expressed confidence that work would end by December, saying the contractor had been given six months to complete the task. "Mostly the work is done at night, from 11pm till morning however," he said. The RDA official said there was dire need to repair the track and platforms on the metro bus stations. However, he said that the repair work was limited to the metro track and there was no plan for the renovation of bus stations in this project. "For the safety of buses and passen-

gers, security guards are deployed on the track to manage the buses on one lane which is opened to traffic," he said. He said that all measures had been adopted to make the journey of passengers comfortable during the construction work and it did not reduce the number of passengers. However, he said that the speed of buses did reduce due to the ongoing works. It may be mentioned here that the project completed in 2014 and the federal and Punjab governments almost equally shared the Rs44.8 billion project cost, 48 in the Rawalpindi section cost Rs25.17 billion and the Islamabad section Rs19.64 billion. The total length of the metro corridor is approximately 23km, including 8.6km elevated, 10km at grade, and four kilometre trench. The portion of Metro Bus Service in Rawalpindi from Flashman's Hotel to Faisalabad having distance of 8.6km is elevated, while in Islamabad 14.6km is

on ground, starting from Faisalabad to Pak Secretariat via I.J.P. Road and 9th Avenue. The track has 24 modern stations for the passengers. Of these 10 are on Murree Road while 14 are in Islamabad. Sixty-eight air conditioned buses for the service are being operated and transport an estimated 150,000 passengers daily. On the other hand, Punjab government will launch 502 buses in the garrison city on 59 routes to connect different parts of the city with its nearest metro bus station. "The feeder buses will connect all parts of the city with existing metro bus routes. The 59 routes of the buses designed as people from Park Road, Allaha Road and other areas will catch the buses to Islamabad without any problem," said Regional Transport Authority Secretary Haseeb Ali. He said that the process of the buses arrival in Rawalpindi would likely to complete by November.

## Preparations in place for Eid Miladun Nabi processions

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: More than 5,000 police personnel and 454 traffic officers will be deployed to maintain peace and manage traffic on Eid Miladun Nabi, with a comprehensive plan in place for the main processions scheduled for September 17. City Traffic Police Rawalpindi has issued a special traffic plan, as two main processions will be held in Rawalpindi. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Beenaish Fatima said that the plan involves deploying 454 traffic police officers and wardens, including seven Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), 83 senior traffic wardens, and 304 traffic wardens and assistants. These officers will be stationed along the designated routes of the processions. All circle and sector in-charges have been directed to personally oversee the traffic flow and ensure that it remains uninterrupted during the festivities. A special contingency plan will be in effect for emergency vehicles, including ambulances and fire brigades, to guarantee their timely access in case of emergencies. CTO Beenaish Fatima stated, in addition to traffic management, more than 5,000 police officers will be on security duty. This includes over 450 officers specifically tasked with overseeing traffic arrangements. Security arrangements will cover 108 processions, with 2,400 officers assigned to the main procession and more than 2,600 officers designated to secure the remaining 107 processions. CTO Syed Khalid Hamdani outlined additional security measures, including the installation of walk-through gates at procession entry points, full-body searches for participants, and deployment of weapons on rooftops for enhanced security. Streets and routes along the procession paths will be sealed, and police from all local stations will perform security and patrol duties in their respective areas. The authorities are committed to using all available resources to ensure foolproof security throughout the Eid Miladun Nabi celebrations.

## Woman killed in road accident

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A housemaid was killed while another woman and her daughter were injured when their car crashed into a truck on Motorway near Chakri on Sunday. Initial police report suggested that a doctor, her three-year-old daughter and a housemaid were heading to Islamabad from Seragodha in their car when it crashed into a truck, resulting in the death of housemaid Asma Bibi, 32. The doctor, who was driving the vehicle, and her daughter were injured. According to Rescue 1122, shortly after the accident happened, two emergency vehicles with four crew members were sent to the scene to shift the victims to the hospital. Initial reports, quoting the statement of the survivor, suggested that the driver fell asleep and crashed her car into the truck.

## Surge in dengue cases in Pindi sparks urgent response

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The city's three government-run hospitals are grappling with a continuous influx of dengue patients, as 22 new cases were reported on Sunday, pushing the total number of dengue cases this season to 274. The alarming rise in cases in September has prompted urgent measures by the Punjab government to prevent further spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

A large number of dengue patients were reported in Holy Family Hospital, Benazir Bhutto Hospital and District Headquarters Hospital. On Sunday alone, 237 patients were admitted to these hospitals. Among them, 32 tested positive for dengue fever, with 20 dengue patients landing in Holy Family Hospital, 34 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital and 14 at the District Headquarters Hospital. All the patients in these government-run hospitals arrived from 70 union councils of the

city and 20 wards of Rawalpindi and the Chaklala Cantonment Board. A senior doctor at Benazir Bhutto Hospital reported that the hospital currently had 334 patients admitted and could accommodate over 400 at a time. Six dengue patients were discharged on Sunday after receiving treatment. The doctor expressed cautious optimism that the number of cases might decrease in the coming month, though the current period remains critical. "The district administration,

led by Deputy Commissioner Dr Hassan Waqar Chishti, is working day and night to clear the city and cantonment from the dengue virus," said a senior official of the district administration. He said that a third-party audit, conducted by the Agriculture and Local Government departments is ongoing to evaluate the effectiveness of the anti-dengue measures and the performance of sanitary patrols. Chak Jalaludin and Kotla Khan union councils of the gar-

risson city have been designated as sensitive areas due to the high number of cases. However, the majority of patients have been reported from Galistan Colony, Morgah, Airport Housing Society and New Afzal Town near Galistan. To address the outbreak, case response activities are scheduled for 12 Rabwah Area. However, it has been decided that no anti-dengue activities will be conducted along the routes of Eid Milad processions in the city and cantonment areas.

## Murree official suspended over Rs20m tax fraud

Plaza worth Rs220 million undervalued to Rs6,000 to evade taxes

By Kashif Abbasi

MURREE: Authorities have detected a tax fraud of Rs20 million in Murree after it was revealed that a revenue official had massively undervalued a commercial property from Rs220 million to merely Rs6,000 to evade taxes. Sources in the Murree revenue department told Dawn that the registry mobiliar was immediately suspended by the Board of Revenue Member Zaman Wattoo after he visited the newly created district following the information about the fraud. He also referred the case against another revenue official to the authority concerned for disciplinary proceedings. The commercial property was valued at Rs220 million as per the valuation

tables of the Punjab Board of Revenue, but its value was shown at Rs6,000 to avoid Rs20m in taxes. "After the on-spot inspection of the plaza at Mall Road Murree and after finding the report of huge undervaluation correct, [the] member suspended the registry mobiliar and referred the case against the mobiliar (Tahir Nawaz) to the authority concerned," said a source in the revenue department Murree. While quoting the member, the official said that the revenue board member was of the view that he would frequently seek information about the revenue department of Rawalpindi and Murree so that no one could evade taxes. He also directed that there should be no complaints from the public about issues, such as the transfer of property and insurance of land, and such issues should be resolved on a priority basis. After the information came to light, the revenue board member (taxes) held a meeting of the divisional administration of the revenue department on Saturday and

discussed the corruption rampant in the registry branches to eliminate corrupt practices in these offices. It is relevant to note here last week four mobiliars of Murree were also suspended in another alleged case of preparing documents for thousands of kanal of shamlat (communal) land. Talking about the above-mentioned case of tax evasion, an official said that as per the valuation table of the Punjab government, the plaza was valued at Rs220 million. He said the price of the building in the open market would definitely be higher than the government valuation table but despite this, people evaded taxes with the help of revenue officials. Meanwhile, a notification issued by the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Murree on September 14 stated: "Mr Nasir Mahmood, junior clerk (B-11) working as registration clerk Murree is hereby suspended from service with immediate effect on account of inefficiency and misconduct."



PEOPLE enjoy a ride on a boat at Rowal Lake in Islamabad on Sunday. — White Star