



## Israel targets Lebanon with unprecedented 'tech warfare'

- Children among at least 26 dead, more than 3,000 hurt after walkie-talkies, pagers explode over two days across the country
- Security sources say pagers were 'sabotaged at source', Taiwanese firm claims it didn't manufacture devices that exploded
- Hezbollah vows revenge; US cautions against any further escalation

BEIRUT: A day after exploding pager devices — thought to have been triggered by Israel — caused a wave of casualties across Lebanon, a second wave of explosions in hand-held communication devices hit the country on Wednesday, striking fears of an all-out war in the region.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said 14 people had been killed and 450 injured on Wednesday, while the death toll from the previous day's explosions rose to 12, including two children, with nearly 3,000 injured.

A pager is a wireless telecommunication device that receives and displays messages, and were used for wireless communication in the 1990s, before mobile phones became cheap and widely available.

The latest wave of explosions is said to have targeted walkie-talkie devices being used by members of Hezbollah in Beirut and other parts of the country.

Hezbollah said Israel was "fully responsible for this criminal aggression" and reiterated it would avenge the attack, while vowing to continue its fight against Israel in support of Hamas in Gaza.

The peculiar wave of attacks, weaponising the very tech-based paging devices used by Lebanese groups to evade Israeli location tracking, drew widespread global condemnation for threatening to inflame tensions in the simmering Middle East.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that civilian objects should not be weaponised, while the Kremlin warned this could become a trigger for a wider regional conflict.

In Egypt to meet with officials participating in Gaza truce talks, **Continued on Page 11**



PULWAMA: Under the watchful eye of security personnel, voters queue to cast their ballots at a polling station for the first phase of assembly elections in Indian-held Kashmir, on Wednesday. These are the first elections to be held in the occupied territory since the cancellation of its special semi-autonomous status under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which sparked fury in the disputed region. — AFP

## Despite 'no' from Fazl, govt clings to hope

- PML-N leaders say consultations with political parties underway, appear confident of roping in JUI-F
- Fazl 'rejects' constitutional amendments after meeting with PTI; Qaiser says party to coordinate with JUI-F on 'all issues'

By Syed Irtan Raza

ISLAMABAD: After Maulana Fazlur Rehaman "completely rejected" the proposed constitutional package chalked up by the PML-N, the coalition government without losing hope has stepped up consultations with other political parties to evolve a consensus on the controversial amendments to the Constitution.

In a media talk following a meeting between the JUI-F chief and the PTI leaders at the residence of former

Minister moves to allay lawyers' fears over amendment: Page 3

KP to move Supreme Court against proposed constitutional amendments: Page 8

National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser on Wednesday, the JUI-F leader said, "We have completely rejected the proposed package as the govt

## Repression mars first held-Kashmir polls since Article 370 debacle

By Our Correspondent

SRINAGAR: Three-stage assembly polls began in India-held Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, amid widespread reports of repression, as Amnesty International called on New Delhi to halt detention of dissenters.

He said the JUI-F had never agreed to support the package. "If the government

Pakistani leaders reject 'arrested' IHK polls: Page 3

Working around these targets, the main endeavour is to work systematically on enhancing the capacity to generate additional net foreign exchange earnings compared to the current levels. Pakistan has registered a negligible current account deficit in FY24 and less than 1 per cent in last four years except 2022. The objective is to turn it around into a surplus of \$4-\$8bn by FY28. Is this feasible or, as may-be-would argue, kite flying?

Exports of goods recorded a 14pc growth rate of merchandise exports in August. In FY22, the increase was 28pc. If this average rate of 14pc is maintained for the next four years, \$50bn of exports can be earned by FY28.

Foremost, the problems faced by the exporters, for example in

## Possible exit strategy from the IMF programme

COMMENT

Actions, rather than speeches, will establish credibility and restore investor confidence

By Ihtisham Hussain

THE International Monetary Fund's (IMF) executive board is set to meet next week to discuss the approval of a three-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan ending in the fiscal year 2027-28 — the 24th time the country is going to enter into an agreement with the lender.

There seems to be a broad consensus that it is in Pakistan's best interests to exit from the IMF programme. The reasons are quite obvious — the loss of autonomous

decision-making by the sovereign, inability to set its own priorities and their phasing, timing and sequencing, and getting out of a straitjacket framework of short-term performance criteria, structural benchmarks agreed with the IMF.

Govt to induct experts in key ministries: Page 14

The most question is how to translate this rhetoric into a credible strategy as many such promises have been made in the past but never fulfilled. The imperative prerequisites are that we achieve durable political stability, tackle security concerns and are willing to take tough extraordinary actions unerringly without succumbing to pressures from vested interests. Next, we have to move away from generalised, vague

and contradictory statements of intentions and move towards achieving verifiable, quantifiable and measurable targets.

The compelling reason for approaching the Fund and other creditors is to fill in the external financing gap of \$25 billion resulting from the current account deficit and repayments of principal amounts. No, the main goal of this exit strategy ought to be to take actions in the next three years that by FY28 this amount is reduced and the ratio of external debt to GDP, external debt to total foreign exchange earnings, external debt servicing to export earnings, and external debt servicing to foreign exchange reserves are brought down to manageable levels. On the domestic debt side, we have to focus on debt servicing payments as a percentage of total revenues.

diverting voices from speaking out on Jammu and Kashmir," Amnesty said, ahead of the first elections in the disputed region in the last ten years.

These are also the first elections being held in the area following the revocation of its special constitutional status by the Modi government in 2019.

"The authorities' escalating repression of human rights after India revoked the special autonomy status of the region has resulted in arbitrary detentions," it said.

Amnesty referred to prospects being revoked, the creation of opaque 'no flying lists', the denial of

## TREET LAGA SHAVE BANA






### ٹریٹ شیونگ فوم

## Outrage over Kabul envoy's 'disrespect' for national anthem

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Pakistan condemned the "repulsive and disrespectful" act of the country's national anthem by an Afghan diplomat, who decided to remain seated when the anthem was played at a Khorfar Pak forum from a government event on Tuesday, sparking an uproar on social and mainstream media.

However, the Afghan consulate downplayed the incident, attributing the envoy's decision to remain seated to the presence of "music in the anthem".

The hard-line Afghan Taliban regime in Kabul is notorious towards many art forms, including music. Their dislike for artists compelled many singers, musicians and other artists to flee the country when the Taliban claimed control of the country over two years ago.

On Tuesday, Foreign Office spokesperson Minister Zahira Akhbar told media "disrespect" for the host country's anthem was against diplomatic norms.

"We are conveying our strong protest to the Afghan authorities both in

Continued on Page 5

## ON OTHER PAGES



### Court told not to announce £190m verdict

The Islamabad High Court on Wednesday stopped the accountability court from pronouncing its verdict in the £190 million corruption reference against Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Khan. The high court, however, asked the trial court to continue its proceedings. Talking to journalists at Adala Jail, Mr Khan said the government was adamant in its plan to get the constitutional package passed. **Page 9**

### Punjab govt cuts public transport fares

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Wednesday claimed that public transport fares in the province had been reduced up to Rs70 after an increase in petroleum prices by the federal government.

Information Minister Azma Bokhari said Punjab was the only province where the relief was being passed on to the people.

She said that when petrol prices slumped, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her team worked hard to implement the decreased fares. The CM ensured that fare reductions were implemented under all circumstances.

"No other province has reduced [public transport] fares after petrol prices dropped," she said and added the district administration was actively checking fare lists at all bus terminals.

She warned those charging higher fares of strict action, adding that transport owners should cooperate with the government in the regard. She said Maryam Nawaz was monitoring the situation to ensure compliance with reduction in the fares.

Meanwhile, the chief minister ordered a crackdown on overcharging in public transport.

"Full relief of the reduction in petrol prices must reach every passenger. The overcharged amount should be returned to the passengers," she said.

She directed the provincial transport minister, commissioners, deputy commissioners and transport authority officials to remain in field for strict checking of fares being charged by transport owners.



LAHORE: Bonded Labour Liberation Front activists protest at Sheria Pahari Chowk in favour of their demands.—White Star

### Six die in two bikes collision

By Our Correspondent

TODA TEK SINGH: Six people died in a head-on collision between two motorcycles near Hukhras Canal bridge on motorway M-4 Waryamwala interchange road on Wednesday evening.

Rescue 1122 said a man, a woman and a 12-year-old child were on their way to Waryamwala from Toba by a motorcycle when it collided with a bike ridden by two men and a woman coming from the opposite direction.

The collision resulted in critical injuries to all six who died instantly before the arrival of Rescue 1122 ambulances.

The deceased have been identified as Mohsin Ali (30), his wife Sajida Bibi (33) and his son Babar Ali, Arwar (60), his wife Hafseema Bibi (55) and his nephew Bilalhar (24).

### Plea against detention of PTI leader

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Wednesday sought a reply from the deputy commissioner on a petition challenging the detention of PTI member of Azad Kashmir Assembly Ghulam Mohiuddin Dewan.

Justice Asjad Javed Ghoral heard the petition filed by Sabia Dewan, the wife of the PTI leader, challenging her husband's detention under the maintenance of public order.

The petitioner said her husband is a member of the Azad Kashmir Assembly and a law-abiding individual. She stated that the government detained her husband in clear violation of Article 8 of the Constitution.

She alleged that the detention of Dewan was politically motivated and the DC order was illegal.

The petitioner requested the court to set aside the detention of Dewan and order his immediate release.

After hearing the preliminary arguments, the judge issued a notice to the DC for submission of a reply by Sept 20.

As per media reports, Mr Dewan was taken into custody on his return from Lahore after attending a Mised conference held by Minhaj Quran leader Dr Tahsin Qadri at Mirza-Pakistan.

**SENT TO JAIL:** An anti-terrorism court on Wednesday sent two train suspects, Hassan Shah and Hafiz Ahsan Feroz, to jail on judicial remand in a case of alleged kidnapping for ransom and honey-trapping of playwright Khadim Rahman Qureshi.—Staff Reporter

## Punjab cabinet's nod to increase punishment, fine for kite flying

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The provincial cabinet on Wednesday approved the increase in the punishment for making, selling and flying kites and keeping and manufacturing illegal arms, besides the loose loan and subsidised tractor and paediatric heart surgery schemes.

The cabinet gave approval to fixing the punishment of three to five years, imposing a fine of Rs500,000 to Rs700,000 for possession of illegal arms and manufacturing and selling kites under the Kite Flying Ordinance 2005. Under the Kite Flying Ordinance, kite flying will be punishable with an imprisonment of two to five years and a fine of Rs2 million to 5 million," says a handbook.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz presided over the cabinet meeting that also approved three mega projects — Agri Chat Agri Gear, Green Tractor and Children's Heart Surgery programmes.

The Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) policy for the public and private sector institutions and establishment of the first Punjab Life Insurance Company of the province was also approved in the meeting.

The cabinet for the first time approved the grant of housing loan on the ownership of a plot. A borrower of Rs1.5m will have to pay Rs14,000 monthly installments in nine years. The loan scheme has been converted into a revolving fund and no additional charges will be taken from the public.

The cabinet approved giving 9,500 tractors to farmers under the Green Tractor Programme in Punjab, along with allocating a subsidy of Rs1m on each tractor to those possessing up to 50

acres of land. This scheme will be launched from September 20, 2024 and bidding process to be held on October 20.

The Children's Heart Surgery Programme was approved in the meeting with a direction to conduct 12,000 pending heart surgeries of children as soon as possible, and inviting international surgeons for paediatric heart surgeries.

Application for recruitment of assistant commissioner in Chief Minister's Office and regularisation of contract employees of the Public Health Engineering Department were also approved.

In the meeting, the establishment of a search committee for the appointment of the vice chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and the extension of the contract of 283 project employees of the Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education for one year was approved by

the cabinet. It also approved amendments to the Punjab Vagrancy Ordinance 1958 and Protection of Offenders Ordinance 1960, besides the appointment of technical member and vice chairperson of the Punjab Agriculture Food and Drug Authority.

The cabinet approved inclusion of new development schemes in the Annual Development Programme, reconstitution of the governing body of the Punjab Workers Welfare Fund and payment of salaries to contract employees of Khawaja Muhammad Sadiq Medical College. Recommendations for appointment of search committees for appointment of vice chancellors of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University of Technology, Dera Ghazi Khan and Punjab University of Technology Bahawalpur, Muzib Raza Khan and Board of Directors of Punjab Board of Investment and Trade were also approved by the cabinet.

## Youngsters' gang tortures, humiliates student publicly

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Some armed members of a group of youngsters calling themselves 'Shery Khokhar 666' gang allegedly tortured a private college's student and shoved his head publicly at gaspoint in Johar Town here on Wednesday.

After the violent attack, the suspects fled the scene leaving the victim injured. The incident occurred at Allah Hu Cheek, where the armed suspects, including Ibrahim Khokhar, Mansoor Khokhar, Ashar Khan, and their five unknown accomplices publicly tortured a student, Abdul Rehman (17).

A video clip of the incident also surfaced later showing the armed youngsters thrashing the victim.

The victim's brother Zulferrain, speaking to Dawn on phone, alleged that the suspects who attacked Rehman are running 'Shery Khokhar 666 gang' in Lahore and had also tortured several other youngsters in the same manner in the past.

He said the suspect move more on

motorcycles in groups while displaying arms and have become a symbol of terror, particularly in Johar Town and surrounding localities. Zulferrain says the ringleader of the gang was Shehryar Khokhar and he was also a student of the same private college at Johar Town.

He alleged that the gang, that was also notorious for supplying drugs, tortured Abdul Rehman and then uploaded a video clip of the incident on their social media where account also titled 'Shery 666 gang'.

About the incident, Zulferrain says, the attacker carrying weapons thrashed his brother on the road, and shoved his head in order to humiliate him in front of the scores of people.

Zulferrain said when he attempted to rescue his brother, the armed men tortured him too, adding that they snatched a mobile phone and Rs14,000 cash from his brother.

The passerby and locals later rescued Rehman and his brother, while the attackers fled the scene, leaving the victim in a pool of blood.

About the motive behind the violence,

he said, the suspects were supplying drugs in the college and other educational institutions, besides organising dance parties.

He said his brother, who was recently admitted to the private college was offered 'membership' of the gang, but he refused Shehryar because of 'criminal activities' of the group members.

At this, Shehryar had heard threats at Rehman on the college premises and when the letter brought the matter into the notice of the administration, the principal called both of them to resolve the issue.

Zulferrain said that Shehryar had nurtured a grudge against his brother for involving the college administration, and tortured and humiliated him to teach him a lesson. He said the police have registered a case, nominating Shehryar and his accomplices, with no arrest so far.

A police official said that they were not aware of the background of the attackers as they had fled the scene soon after the attack.

The police are investigating the incident and making efforts to arrest the suspects.

## Car showroom guard shoots four passersby

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A guard at a car showroom in Defence Housing Authority allegedly injured four passersby, including two children, during a dispute with a rich show driver on Wednesday.

The injured are Awan (4), Razaq (5), Zohban (17) and an unidentified man. They were shifted to a local hospital, where the condition of one of the victims is reported to be serious.

According to a police official, guard Wagar Ali had an altercation with the rich show driver regarding the parking of his three-wheeler in front of the showroom. Following the heated exchange, Wagar allegedly opened fire indiscriminately, injuring the four passersby.

The police arrested Wagar in a case of attempted murder and recovered the ammunition gun used in the incident.

**SIRT DEATH:** Scores of people blocked Canal Road near Fotehgarh on Wednesday in protest against the police for failing to arrest the gunman who allegedly shot dead a man and injured his son.

The protesters placed the body of 49-year-old Naveed Ahmad on the road, bringing traffic to a standstill, while shouting slogans against the police.

Hundreds of vehicles were stuck in the traffic jam for hours. Traffic was diverted to narrow streets, which were already congested, worsening the situation.

The protesters stated that the incident occurred at Sheerany Walk Park, where

suspects, including Haseefa, Naveed and Umar, had a heated exchange with Muhammad Bilal, the son of the deceased.

They claimed that the armed man later attacked Bilal, injuring him, and when his father Naveed came to his rescue, the suspects opened fire, injuring both. The attackers fled the scene.

The injured were rushed to a local hospital, where Naveed succumbed to his bullet wounds.

Protesters blamed the police for their delayed response to the emergency call. They also accused the armed men of having strong connections within the Baharwalpore police and demanded action from senior police officials to arrest the suspects and hold the police accountable.

The petitioner states that there is a likelihood that similar hate speeches may be delivered in upcoming rallies of the PTI.

The petitioner says that PTI has been planning to hold a rally in Lahore, despite having no permission from the authorities concerned.

He argues that the PTI is missing the privileges granted under the Constitution.

The petitioner requests the court to order the Punjab government, the deputy commissioner of Lahore and the NCP to restrain the PTI from holding any rally anywhere in the province particularly in the provincial capital.

He alleges that abuse and anti-state elements deliver speeches at the PTI rallies under the garb of fundamental rights.

The petitioner also urges the court for a

## MDCAT on 22nd

LAHORE: The Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) for all public and private medical colleges in Punjab will be conducted under the supervision of the University of Health Sciences (UHS) on Sept 22.

According to the UHS, the exam will be held at 26 centers in 12 cities across the province where preparations have been finished. Strict security measures will be adopted ahead of the test.

A total of 58,380 candidates will appear for the exam, including 46,364 female and 12,016 male.

In Lahore, eight examination centers have been established, six for female candidates and two for boys.

A spokesperson for the UHS said the largest center is the Punjab University's examination halls on Wabdar Road, where 3,779 female candidates will take the test.

He said other centers in Lahore include COMSATS University, DPS Model Town, University of Education Township, Government Girls Graduate College Gulberg, Lahore College for Women University, DPS Township and Government Islamia College for Women, Cantt.

Over 4,000 teachers will serve as invigilators across Punjab, with 1,000 of them deployed in Lahore.

The invigilation staff has been appointed by the Higher Education and Technical Education department's service faculty and officials from UHS have been designated as focal persons, while officers from the Specialized Healthcare Department will monitor the test arrangements.

Additionally, deputy commissioners from 12 districts have devised comprehensive plan to oversee MDCAT arrangements, with district police officers (DPOs) and city police officers (CPOs) responsible for security and parking management. The test will start at 09:00am and end at 1:00pm.

Each candidate must score at least 55% marks in MDCAT for admission to MBBS programme and 50% for BDS. There will compete for 3,016 seats in public colleges and 5,025 seats in private colleges.—Staff Reporter

## PTI drums up mass support for Sept 21 power show

Court moved to disallow rally

Dawn Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has launched its mass contact campaign to garner support for the much-hyped Lahore power show at the Mirza-Pakistan ground.

Different party leaders including parliamentary leader in Punjab Assembly Ali Ijaz Warraich, advocate Ali Ijaz Buttar, member of incarcerated Zahir Khan Nizami and Shehbaz Khan Nizami organized corner meetings in their respective constituencies, including NA-130 contested by incarcerated Dr Yasmin Rashid.

The party leaders and workers vowed to throng the Lahore power show venue on

Sept 21 (Saturday).

The PTI leaders have also prepared a four-page pamphlet paying tribute to party heroes and inviting the public to participate in the Sept 21 public meeting during a door-to-door campaign. Meanwhile, various party leaders including Sarwar Javed, Rehmana Inayat Dar, Mehr Shariqat Ali, Farrukh Javed Moon and Miss Awan Aqdas have recorded video messages and posted them on social media and other platforms including WhatsApp groups.

In her message, Sarwar Javed said party founder Imran Khan had asked the masses to come out of their homes and participate in the party's power show.

She said this was a great opportunity for the Lahories and Punjabis to support Imran Khan as they came out in droves on Feb 8 and voted for the candidates chosen by Imran Khan.

"It is high time that people raised their voice to retrieve their stolen mandate and for the future of the younger generations," she said.

PTI leader Rehmana Inayat Dar urged the masses to participate in the Lahore aqas as they had reached Islamabad to attend the PTI's power show there.

Meanwhile, the Lahore High Court has been requested to order the government and the police not to permit Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold a public rally in Punjab.

A citizen, Mirza Wahid Rafiq, filed a writ petition through Advocate Nadeem Sarwar citing hate speeches made by the PTI leaders at a previous rally held in Islamabad.

The petition reproduces the speeches delivered by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, former federal minister Hammed Azhar, who is a pro-

claimed offender in May 9 cases, and other leaders.

The petitioner states that there is a likelihood that similar hate speeches may be delivered in upcoming rallies of the PTI.

The petitioner says that PTI has been planning to hold a rally in Lahore, despite having no permission from the authorities concerned.

He argues that the PTI is missing the privileges granted under the Constitution.

The petitioner requests the court to order the Punjab government, the deputy commissioner of Lahore and the NCP to restrain the PTI from holding any rally anywhere in the province particularly in the provincial capital.

He alleges that abuse and anti-state elements deliver speeches at the PTI rallies under the garb of fundamental rights. The petitioner also urges the court for a

strict action against PTI if it holds a rally without permission from the government.

**ARRESTS:** Leaders of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly Ahmed Khan Bhattar has approached the Lahore High Court against the alleged arrest of PTI workers ahead of the party's planned rally in the city.

The petition states that the PTI is scheduled to hold a rally in Lahore on Sept 21. However, it alleges, the police have started making arrests before the rally.

The petition argues that holding a rally is a constitutional and legal right of any political party, and the PTI should not be deprived of this right. It asks the court to issue an order to stop the arrest of PTI members.

Justice Farooq Hader will hear both petitions on Thursday (today) along with other petitions filed by PTI former MNA Ahsan Iqbal and others against the denial of permission to hold a public rally on Sept 21.

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## Minister moves to allay lawyers' fears over amendment

• Legal fraternity asserts parliament cannot tamper with basic structure of Constitution • Tatar says FCC to hear matters of Article 184(3), constitutional interpretation

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Lawyers' Representative Convention on Wednesday expressed reservations over the amendment procedure of the first Chief Justice of the proposed nine-judge Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), pointing out that the procedure seems to give an upper hand to the executive and may become politicised.

While the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), as well as the bar councils and associations from Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were unanimous about the competence of parliament to bring a constitutional amendment, they had reservations over any changes being made to the basic structure of the Constitution.

Organised by Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and attended by elected leaders of the legal fraternity as well as Law Minister Asim Nadeem Tatar, the convention adopted a declaration expressing reservations over the process being adopted for the legislation, criticising the manner in which the move instead of holding meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders.

To allay their apprehensions, Mr Tatar explained that the first CJ-FCC would be appointed by the president on the PM's advice, while the rest of the judges would be appointed with CJ-FCC's consultation. On the other hand, the rest of the appointments of SC and high court judges would be done as usual by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), whose composition would be amended by including four members from both houses of parliament, two each from the treasury and opposition benches.

He said the ultimate purpose of the package was to bring relief to ordinary litigants by ensuring speedy justice, adding that Article 9A would also be inserted in the Constitution, making a clear environment a fundamental right by discouraging stalling or pollution of rivers and streams.

Under the package, he said, the JCP would be empowered to recommend retirement or removal of inefficient high court judges through SC.

But senior lawyer Atan Bhanu regretted that constitutional amendments were never made in such a narrative manner.

Regarding the apprehensions about extending the retirement age of judges to 68 years from the existing 65, the law minister suggested the SCRA form a committee consisting all stakeholders to give meaningful suggestions.

PBC Vice Chairman Farooq H. Naik also regretted that the package was drafted without taking the legal fraternity into confidence, but he tried to add that it could be the answer to all the prob-

lems the country was facing in terms of constitutional interpretation.

The law minister explained the package was drafted in line with earlier suggestions of the bar councils and associations.

He said all issues relating to the enforcement of the fundamental rights under Article 184(3) or any issue related to the interpretation of the Constitution would go to the FCC, which will have judges from all the provinces and the federal capital.

He said the 'Constitutional Package' also contained changes to Article 63A to ensure that the vote of a member is counted despite floor crossing, which warrants disqualification.

Trials of civilians in military courts, however, were not part of the current package due to a lack of consensus, the minister said, despite the fact that there were apprehensions on part of the military leadership that anti-terrorism courts had failed to bring perpetrators to justice.

Besides, he said, a timeline for the appointment of a chief election commissioner was part of the package.

SCBA President Shabbaz Zuberi read out the declaration stating that while lawyers accept the authority of parliament to bring constitutional amendment, it had no authority to amend the basic structure of the Constitution.

For a meaningful dialogue, he said, the SCRA would constitute a committee of all bar councils and associations to discuss the issue.

He, however, regretted the call on part of certain sections to observe a strike.

**'No court above SC acceptable'**

Separately, speaking to journalists at the Lahore High Court, PTI Senator and senior lawyer Hamid Khan said no other court above the SC was acceptable.

Hamid Khan, who heads one of the two major groups of lawyers in the country, stated that the legal fraternity would not allow 'unconstitutional' actions of the government. "We want to see the judiciary grow stronger and more independent," he added.

He said the amendments of the 'Right to Life' government would not be accepted.

**Parliament-related move**

In a related development, former SCBA president Akmal Shabbaz Zuberi moved an application before the SC with a request that CJ-FCC should immediately place before a three-member committee constituted under the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act, his petition seeking restraining order against the government from taking the controversial bill before parliament.

Wajah Ahmad Sheikh in Lahore also contributed to this report



MUZAFFARGARH: People chant slogans at a rally held on Wednesday to condemn what they called farcical elections in India-held Kashmir.—Online

## Pakistani leaders reject 'farcical' IHC polls

ISLAMABAD: Leaders from across the country on Wednesday categorically rejected the elections to the Legislative Assembly being held in India-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, saying that they were no substitute for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Speaking to a delegation, President Asif Ali Zardari emphasised that such elections were unacceptable to the people of Kashmir and called upon the international community to hold the Modi government accountable for the ongoing human rights violations in the occupied territory.

He further urged the need to take concrete steps toward conducting a plebiscite in line with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Meanwhile, AJK PM Chaudhary Arshad Haq declared: "No one can talk about division of Kashmir in our province." Speaking at an event in Palandri, he said: "Those who are comparing Azaad Kashmir with the India-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir must bear in mind the fact that the people of occupied Kashmir don't have the right to self-determination."

AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhary also lambasted the Indian government's efforts to legitimise its control over held-Kashmir through "bogus elections" held under the watchful eye of hundreds of thousands of troops. He emphasised that these elections lack legitimacy and are merely a desperate attempt to mislead the international community.

He highlighted the deteriorating human rights situation in occupied Kashmir since August 5, 2019, when India abrogated the region's special status by abrogating Article 370 and Article 35A.

When the JUI-F lawyer sought 60 days, the chief election commissioner warned that poll symbol can be withdrawn and a party can be de-notified over failure to hold intra-party elections.

## ECP still in a fix over SC verdict on reserved seats

Decides to seek opinion of legal experts; gives PTI ten more days to submit documents related to party polls

By Imkhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is still undecided on the implementation of the Supreme Court verdict regarding the eligibility of PTI for reserved seats and has decided to seek opinion of legal experts on the matter.

Sources told Dawn the ECP met here to deliberate on the Supreme Court's judgement on reserved seats and its September 14 order in response to the clarification sought by the commission.

In its latest order, the top court has sought immediate implementation of its majority judgement on the reserved seats case and warned of consequences if it was not done.

During the meeting, the ECP law wing, while raising legal questions, maintained that the PTI had an organisational structure. The law wing also referred to a controversial election law, apparently aimed at circumventing the Supreme Court verdict on reserved seats and sap the expected strength of PTI in parliament, introduced through both houses of parliament last month.

Under the amendment, a political party will not be allocated seats reserved for women and non-Muslim candidates if they fail to submit their list for the reserved seats within the prescribed time.

The law, designed to have retrospective effect, also provides that candidates should be considered independent lawmakers if they had not filed a declaration with the returning officer about their affiliation with a particular political party before seeking the allotment of a poll symbol.

The amendments to sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act also included provision declaring that the proposed amendments would take precedence over court orders, including the Supreme Court.

Following the briefing by the legal team, the ECP decided to consult legal experts on the reserved seats' verdict.

A source said the ECP will meet again on Thursday for consultations with legal experts at 11am.

**Intra-party polls**

Meanwhile, the ECP gave 10 more days to PTI to submit documents related to its intra-party elections and adjourned the hearing till October 2.

A three-member bench, headed by ECP Member from Sindh Nisar Ahmed Durriani, heard the case.

Following the briefing by the legal team, the ECP decided to consult legal experts on the reserved seats' verdict.

A source said the ECP will meet again on Thursday for consultations with legal experts at 11am.

**Intra-party polls**

Meanwhile, the ECP gave 10 more days to PTI to submit documents related to its intra-party elections and adjourned the hearing till October 2.

A three-member bench, headed by ECP Member from Sindh Nisar Ahmed Durriani, heard the case.

The high court, however,

During the hearing, when the ECP member from Balochistan questioned whether PTI's intra-party elections were conducted in Chambers, Peshawar Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said the elections took place in Islamabad.

An ECP official, during the hearing, warned that the PTI could face an uncertain future without an organisational structure, if the results of the intra-party elections were not recognised.

He also said that under Section 208 of the Elections Act, there should have been a five-year gap between two intra-party elections.

Later, talking to reporters outside the ECP, Barrister Gohar sought ECP's orders to get back the documents taken away by FLA during a raid on PTI office.

Stressing that his party conducted most transparent elections, he regretted that the ECP was finding faults with the exercise while it overlooks deficiencies in the elections held by other political parties.

The ECP also heard the intra-party elections case against JUI-F and reserved its judgement after the party sought two more months to complete the exercise.

When the JUI-F lawyer sought 60 days, the chief election commissioner warned that poll symbol can be withdrawn and a party can be de-notified over failure to hold intra-party elections.

The upcoming chief justice Naved Mansoor Ali Shah would fix his position to ascertain the facts. He claimed that Nawaz Sharif was defeated by PTI's jailed leader Yousaf Bhatti, but he managed to get 74,000 bogus votes.

He questioned as to why the election tribunals are dysfunctional despite a lapse of eight months.

Mr Khan said the Hamidul Karim Commission Report had revealed that then-military ruler Gen Yalqa Khan compromised the democracy to retain powers, adding that the country was likely to face the same situation.

He alleged that the government was trying to end the rule of law which is directly linked with foreign investment, adding that investors would not come to the country unless there was rule of law.

He said political stability was also intertwined with economic stability.

He alleged that police had started arresting PTI workers to sabotage the upcoming Lahore jalsa and urged people to attend the rally scheduled for later this week.

He expressed the hope that

## Advisory issued for prevention, control of Chikungunya

By Iqram Junsaid

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services (MHS) has issued an advisory for prevention and control of Chikungunya viral infection across the country.

According to the advisory sent to health authorities across the country, Chikungunya is a viral disease caused by Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) and transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes to humans. The word 'Chikungunya' means 'that which bends up', an allusion to the posture of the suffering patients.

Following the outbreak of Chikungunya in Karachi and other parts of the country, the disease is now endemic in many parts of the country like Dera Gharo, it stated. According to the advisory, onset of illness usually occurs four to eight days after exposure but can range from 2 to 12 days. Viraemia persists for 5 to 7 days from the onset of symptoms.

Chikungunya is spread by the bite of Aedes mosquitoes, primarily Aedes

aggypti and also Aedes albopictus. These mosquitoes are active during the day. Both species are found biting outdoors, but Aedes aggypti will also readily feed indoors. Mostly the transmission occurs during or just after the hot rainy season.

Mother-to-child transmission has also been reported in women who developed the disease within the final week prior to delivery.

There are rare reports of spontaneous abortions following maternal Chikungunya virus infection. There is no evidence that the virus is transmitted through breast milk.

There is no specific treatment for the disease and mainly relies on the management of symptoms, the advisory said. Neither any vaccine nor any antiviral are available for prevention and treatment.

Patients should get plenty of rest, drink fluids to prevent dehydration, symptomatic treatment is advised. However, patients are advised not to take aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like Ibuprofen, naproxen etc.

## IHC restrains court from issuing verdict in £190m case

Inman claims govt 'firm' on constitutional package, sees 'active involvement of four umpires' in the matter

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday restrained the accountability court from pronouncing its verdict in the £190 million corruption reference against PTI leader Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi.

A division bench comprising IHC Chief Justice Asim Farooq and Justice Mungul Hassan Anwaragab issued the restraining order while hearing Mr Khan and Bushra Bibi's petitions.

Through their petitions, the two had sought acquittal of the offence while relying upon amendments in the National Accountability Ordinance introduced by then-PDM regime in 2022.

The high court, however,

asked the trial court to continue its proceedings in the case.

On Wednesday, the trial court adjourned the proceedings without any progress as the defence counsel was not available for cross-examination of the last prosecution witness.

Talking to journalists after attending proceedings of the £190m corruption case at Adiala Jail, Mr Khan said the government was adamant in its plan to adopt the constitutional amendments and working to gather the support needed in the National Assembly and the Senate to get the amendments passed.

Referring to adjournment of the NA and Senate sessions without the constitutional amendments being tabled, he said the government could not win the match despite the 'active involvement of four umpires'.

The former prime minister alleged that the government was bringing the constitutional amendments to "benefit three umpires" — the chief justice of Pakistan, chief justice of IHC and the Election Commission of Pakistan — to protect the "farcical" elections.

In response to a question if the proposed constitutional amendments had been reversed, Mr Khan said the government wants to table the amendments at any cost and is making efforts to get two-thirds majority in parliament for the purpose.

Mr Khan urged all the political parties, including the JUI-F of Maulana Fazle Rehman, to stand with democracy. He further said that after all their attempts to crush the PTI had failed, they planned the May 9 incident.

The opposition said that the IHC election was an eye opener for the forces who wanted to eliminate the PTI as the party secured a landslide victory even without a proper contest.

Mr Khan said he survived two assassination attempts and was facing 140 cases prior to the May 9 riots, adding that those who removed the CCTV footage were responsible for the violent protests.

He expressed the hope that

the upcoming chief justice Naved Mansoor Ali Shah would fix his position to ascertain the facts. He claimed that Nawaz Sharif was defeated by PTI's jailed leader Yousaf Bhatti, but he managed to get 74,000 bogus votes.

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## Justice Mansoor Ali Shah to become next CJP, says Bilawal

PPP chairman says Fazl's support crucial for amendment; reviews proposed constitutional changes at PLF meeting

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari is convinced that Justice Mansoor Ali Shah would be the next chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) and would be taking charge of the top office next month.

The PPP chairman also believes that they will be able to win over JUI-F chief Maulana Fazle

Rehman on the proposed legislation that allows establishment of "constitutional courts", as envisaged by the PPP and PML-N leadership in the Charter of Democracy.

Mr Bhutto-Zardari shared these thoughts with different news channels on Tuesday night, where he candidly explained his party's reasons for backing the 'Constitutional Package' and what it could 'give up' as an ally of PM Shabbaz Sharif to achieve the "real target".

The PPP chairman also claimed that a draft of the amendments, being shared on mainstream and social media, is not the "real one".

Asked about the appointment of next CJP after Justice Qazi Faez Iqbal reaches the age of superannuation next month, the PPP chairman said:

"Justice Mansoor will become the next chief justice, I have no doubt about it."

"CJP Qazi Faez Iqbal and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah are both responsible figures. Both were part of the bench for Shabbaz Zardari Ali Bhutto's case, and they should not be made controversial. CJP Iqbal is the first chief justice who reduced his own powers and agreed to the Practice and Procedure Act, because it was the will of parliament."

Asked about the reservations of different parties over the proposed legislation, the PPP chairman said his party's proposals did not put emphasis on the age issue, rather focused on the establishment of constitutional courts. It's the govern-

ment that is concerned with age-related changes, Mr Bhutto-Zardari remarked.

"The PPP suggested reducing the age limit, to which the government agreed and incorporated into the draft. The government proposed setting the CJP's maximum age at 67 with a three-year term, he said."

"The JUI-F suggested retaining the current age limit of 65. Our party believes that fixing an age limit, whether 65 or 67, could be seen as individual-specific, aimed at keeping someone in or out of the race. The PPP's draft, therefore, made no mention of age, instead proposing term-based limits for constitutional courts."

He made it clear that without a

two-thirds majority, the amendments would not be passed and for that the government badly needed the support of Maulana Fazl.

"Passing the constitutional amendment without Maulana's [Fazle Rehman] affirmation is impossible," he said.

"The night before, Maulana and his party had significant objections. The PPP, too, engaged with the government regarding its reservations for clear and concise judicial reforms. Engagement with Maulana was intended to follow a similar pattern, with the inputs of all committee members regarding the complete draft being considered. Only then was the amendment to be passed, but this did not occur. Nonetheless, there is no harm in

waiting, as engaging with Maulana Fazle Rehman is crucial."

"If a consensus document based on the two drafts is achieved, surpassing the two-thirds majority would become more feasible. While we wish for this process to proceed swiftly, our priority is achieving our goals. This may take more than a month or two, but from Maulana's perspective, there is a genuine desire for PTI's involvement," added the PPP chairman.

On Wednesday, the PPP leader also chaired a meeting of the Peoples Lawyers Forum in Islamabad, where the proposed amendments to the Constitution, including the formation of a Federal Constitutional Court, were discussed throughout, APP reported.

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# DHA 'hands over' 729 plots to CDA after 17 years

### Civic agency decides to offer plots to 'overseas Pakistanis, general public'

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) after 17 years handed over allotment letters of 729 plots worth billions of rupees in favour of the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

In a statement on Wednesday, the CDA stated that the longstanding issue of 729 plots had been settled after the DHA had issued allotment letters of plots in favour of the CDA in light of the land exchange in 2007-8.

In 2007-8, the CDA had handed over 2,400 kanal land to the DHA and the latter was supposed to give the civic agency 729 developed plots. According to a CDA spokesperson, 729 plots are available in DHA Phase 6 Block A, which will be offered to overseas Pakistanis and the general public.

This major development came to surface ahead of a new deal between the CDA and the DHA, under which the DHA will develop 10,000 kanal land in the Kurr area. However, the CDA had asked the DHA to comply with its previous commitment before entering a new venture with the civic agency. "The long standing

matter regarding handing over of 729 plots by the DHA to the CDA has amicably been resolved," the CDA said in its statement.

"The CDA has now decided to offer 729 residential plots to general public and overseas Pakistanis. This was decided in a meeting held at CDA headquarters chaired by CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Raza. The meeting was attended by all board members and senior officers of the authority," read the press release.

"The matter had been lingering and remained unresolved since 2007-2008 when the CDA had handed over 2,412 kanals and five marlas of land to the DHA under an agreement. According to the original terms, the CDA was to receive 729 plots against the land but the agreement could not materialise for years. Under a fresh agreement, DHA has now handed over the 729 plots to CDA," the press release said.

An official said that if DHA honoured its both commitment of giving possession of the above-mentioned 729 plots as well as 55 per share in the developed plots in Kurr, then this new deal was good for civic agency as without making any new investments, it would get thousands of developed plots.

Earlier, CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Raza had told the meeting that the issue had been unresolved for over 15 years but through proactive efforts and positive approach it had been settled. "This is a major achievement for the

CDA as it demonstrates the resolve to protect the authority's interests and its assets," he said.

"These 729 plots...will not only generate substantial revenue for the CDA but also open doors for new development and investment opportunities in Islamabad. The revenue generated through these plots will be utilised on the projects that will directly benefit the people of Islamabad," the CDA chief claimed. According to the press release, Chairman Raza had lauded the efforts of all those involved in the resolution of the long-standing issue.

It is relevant to note here the federal cabinet recently approved a joint venture between the CDA and the DHA for developing the Kurr residential scheme on a build-lease-forwards basis. As per the agreement, the CDA will have a 55pc share in the plots while DHA will get 45pc plots.

Earlier this year, the CDA had in an advertisement stated that it wanted to get the said project developed through private partnership. In response, several developers, including the DHA, submitted their applications in February this year.

However, after receiving the applications, the CDA showed doubts the project, later stating that "only one developer came up with criteria" and decided to go for a public-private partnership with the DHA.

Then CDA board approved a summary in this regard and decided to take up the matter with the federal cabinet, which earlier this month approved the decision.

# Ministry asked to 'accommodate' late applications for MDCAT

### Official says opening registration at this point can delay test, cause monetary losses

By Ibrahim Juraifi

ISLAMABAD: With the medical and dental college admission test (MDCAT) only a few days away, there are requests to the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council to accommodate candidates who could not register themselves during the first two registration drives.

About 170,000 candidates will take the admission test scheduled for Sept 22 and the ministry fears new registration at this juncture can delay the paper and lead to monetary losses for registered candidates. Similarly, the reopening of the portal can also compromise transparency. The MDCAT portal opened for registration twice from August 5 to 15 and then from August 31 to Sept 5 only.

The PMDC again opened the registration portal from August 31 to September 5 and allowed those candidates, who could not register themselves, to get registered with a late fee. A number of candidates registered and now all the arrangements have been finalized to conduct the test in and outside the country," a source said.

Sources privy to the MDCAT procedures told Dawn that some influential personalities, including bureaucrats and some members of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), had allegedly approached the ministry for the reopening of the portal to admit about 30 candidates.

"It is understood that a number of influential personalities have been making efforts to (re)open the portal again. We informed them it was not possible as four days had been left in the test," the official said.

About 170,000 students have registered for MDCAT which will be held on Sept 22 at 30 venues across the country as well as Acad Jinnah and

Kadima (AIK) and two international centres (Dubai and Riyadh), he said.

Despite reservations expressed by the ministry, the influential personalities were insistent that the 30 late applicants be registered even if it delayed the entire exercise, claimed the official. "They want 30 candidates to be registered at the cost of thousands of candidates," he said.

The official revealed that half a dozen personalities had bank receipts for the amount they deposited for the exam but that amount had not been credited to the PMDC bank account. "It shows that either these receipts are fake or they managed to deposit the amount in backdates which may arrive in a few days," he added.

Similarly, some PMDC council members are also trying to reopen the portal. "They wanted to discuss the issue in the council meeting but unfortunately the meeting, which was scheduled earlier this week, was cancelled due to some reasons," he said.

Speaking to Dawn, Health Secretary Nadeem Mirza said the ministry had not asked the PMDC to cancel the test, either formally or informally.

The ministry's spokesperson, Sajid Shah, said that every year the health ministry and the PMDC get such requests. "Every year we receive applications which are forwarded to the PMDC to look into them. It is the job of the PMDC to consider them and take a decision. Ministry acts like a post office," he said.

Mr Shah said that there was also pressure via social media but hoped that PMDC would take an appropriate decision.

The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council had asked six universities across the country to conduct MDCAT on 22nd. These varieties are the University of Health Sciences in Punjab, Datta University of Health Sciences (DUHS) in Sindh, Rohan University of Medical and Health Sciences in Balochistan, Khyber Medical University in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University in Islamabad and Azad Kashmir, and Karakoram International University in Gilgit-Baltistan.

**"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"**

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

**NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY**  
(BALOCHISTAN-NORTH REGION, QUETTA)

**INVITATION TO BIDS**

**128x ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORKS**  
**ON N-25, N-40-I, N-40-II, N-50, N-65 & N-70 &**  
**02x BRIDGE CULVERT STRUCTURE WORKS ON N-65 & N-40**

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) invites Bids from the contractor, registered with Income Tax department and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category mentioned in the table with Specialization codes for the works mentioned below:

SR #	CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION	Route	FROM (KM)	TO (KM)	Estimated Cost (Rs)	PIC Category/ Specialization
1	RM-BN-2024-25-1001	Routine Maintenance	N-25	543	555	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
2	RM-BN-2024-25-1002	Routine Maintenance	N-25	555	570	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
3	RM-BN-2024-25-1003	Routine Maintenance	N-25	570	585	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
4	RM-BN-2024-25-1004	Routine Maintenance	N-25	585	600	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
5	RM-BN-2024-25-1005	Routine Maintenance	N-25	600	615	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
6	RM-BN-2024-25-1006	Routine Maintenance	N-25	615	630	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
7	RM-BN-2024-25-1007	Routine Maintenance	N-25	630	645	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
8	RM-BN-2024-25-1008	Routine Maintenance	N-25	645	660	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
9	RM-BN-2024-25-1009	Routine Maintenance	N-25	660	675	10,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
10	RM-BN-2024-25-1010	Routine Maintenance	N-25	675	685	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
11	RM-BN-2024-25-1011	Routine Maintenance	N-25	685	695	10,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
12	RM-BN-2024-25-1012	Routine Maintenance	N-25	695	705	10,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
13	RM-BN-2024-25-1013	Routine Maintenance	N-25	705	715	10,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
14	RM-BN-2024-25-1014	Routine Maintenance	N-25	715	730	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
15	RM-BN-2024-25-1015	Routine Maintenance	N-25	730	745	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
16	RM-BN-2024-25-1016	Routine Maintenance	N-25	745	760	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
17	RM-BN-2024-25-1017	Routine Maintenance	N-25	760	775	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
18	RM-BN-2024-25-1018	Routine Maintenance	N-25	775	790	10,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
19	RM-BN-2024-25-1019	Routine Maintenance	N-25	790	804	10,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
20	RM-BN-2024-25-1020	Routine Maintenance	N-25	804	814	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
21	RM-BN-2024-25-1021	Routine Maintenance	N-25	0	15+500 (RUDHRAK WESTERN BYPASS)	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
22	RM-BN-2024-25-1022	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	0	15	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
23	RM-BN-2024-25-1023	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	15	30	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
24	RM-BN-2024-25-1024	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	30	45	8,983,995	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
25	RM-BN-2024-25-1025	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	45	60	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
26	RM-BN-2024-25-1026	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	60	75	5,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
27	RM-BN-2024-25-1027	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	75	90	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
28	RM-BN-2024-25-1028	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	90	105	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
29	RM-BN-2024-25-1029	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	105	120	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
30	RM-BN-2024-25-1030	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	120	135	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
31	RM-BN-2024-25-1031	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	135	150	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
32	RM-BN-2024-25-1032	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	150	165	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
33	RM-BN-2024-25-1033	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	165	180	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
34	RM-BN-2024-25-1034	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	180	195	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
35	RM-BN-2024-25-1035	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	195	210	7,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
36	RM-BN-2024-25-1036	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	210	225	7,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
37	RM-BN-2024-25-1037	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	225	240	7,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
38	RM-BN-2024-25-1038	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	240	255	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
39	RM-BN-2024-25-1039	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	255	270	7,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
40	RM-BN-2024-25-1040	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	270	285	7,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
41	RM-BN-2024-25-1041	Routine Maintenance	N-40-I	285	300	5,015,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
42	RM-BN-2024-25-1042	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	300	315	10,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
43	RM-BN-2024-25-1043	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	315	330	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
44	RM-BN-2024-25-1044	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	330	345	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
45	RM-BN-2024-25-1045	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	345	360	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
46	RM-BN-2024-25-1046	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	360	375	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
47	RM-BN-2024-25-1047	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	375	390	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
48	RM-BN-2024-25-1048	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	390	405	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
49	RM-BN-2024-25-1049	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	405	415	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
50	RM-BN-2024-25-1050	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	415	430	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
51	RM-BN-2024-25-1051	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	430	445	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
52	RM-BN-2024-25-1052	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	445	460	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
53	RM-BN-2024-25-1053	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	460	475	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
54	RM-BN-2024-25-1054	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	475	490	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
55	RM-BN-2024-25-1055	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	490	505	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
56	RM-BN-2024-25-1056	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	505	520	10,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
57	RM-BN-2024-25-1057	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	520	535	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
58	RM-BN-2024-25-1058	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	535	550	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
59	RM-BN-2024-25-1059	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	550	565	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
60	RM-BN-2024-25-1060	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	565	580	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
61	RM-BN-2024-25-1061	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	580	595	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
62	RM-BN-2024-25-1062	Routine Maintenance	N-40-B	595	605	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
63	RM-BN-2024-25-1063	Routine Maintenance	N-50	0	15	5,200,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10

64	RM-BN-2024-25-1064	Routine Maintenance	N-50	15	30	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
65	RM-BN-2024-25-1065	Routine Maintenance	N-50	30	45	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
66	RM-BN-2024-25-1066	Routine Maintenance	N-50	45	60	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
67	RM-BN-2024-25-1067	Routine Maintenance	N-50	60	75	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
68	RM-BN-2024-25-1068	Routine Maintenance	N-50	75	90	7,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
69	RM-BN-2024-25-1069	Routine Maintenance	N-50	90	105	4,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
70	RM-BN-2024-25-1070	Routine Maintenance	N-50	105	120	5,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
71	RM-BN-2024-25-1071	Routine Maintenance	N-50	120	135	4,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
72	RM-BN-2024-25-1072	Routine Maintenance	N-50	135	150	5,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
73	RM-BN-2024-25-1073	Routine Maintenance	N-50	150	165	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
74	RM-BN-2024-25-1074	Routine Maintenance	N-50	165	180	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
75	RM-BN-2024-25-1075	Routine Maintenance	N-50	180	195	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
76	RM-BN-2024-25-1076	Routine Maintenance	N-50	195	210	4,800,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
77	RM-BN-2024-25-1077	Routine Maintenance	N-50	210	225	4,800,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
78	RM-BN-2024-25-1078	Routine Maintenance	N-50	225	240	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
79	RM-BN-2024-25-1079	Routine Maintenance	N-50	240	255	4,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
80	RM-BN-2024-25-1080	Routine Maintenance	N-50	255	270	5,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
81	RM-BN-2024-25-1081	Routine Maintenance	N-50	270	285	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
82	RM-BN-2024-25-1082	Routine Maintenance	N-50	285	300	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
83	RM-BN-2024-25-1083	Routine Maintenance	N-50	300	315	9,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
84	RM-BN-2024-25-1084	Routine Maintenance	N-50	315	330	12,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
85	RM-BN-2024-25-1085	Routine Maintenance	N-50	330	345	14,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
86	RM-BN-2024-25-1086	Routine Maintenance	N-50	345	360	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
87	RM-BN-2024-25-1087	Routine Maintenance	N-50	360	375	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
88	RM-BN-2024-25-1088	Routine Maintenance	N-50	375	390	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
89	RM-BN-2024-25-1089	Routine Maintenance	N-50	390	405	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
90	RM-BN-2024-25-1090	Routine Maintenance	N-50	405	420	15,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
91	RM-BN-2024-25-1091	Routine Maintenance	N-50	420	435	15,500,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
92	RM-BN-2024-25-1092	Routine Maintenance	N-50	435	450	15,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
93	RM-BN-2024-25-1093	Routine Maintenance	N-50	450	465	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
94	RM-BN-2024-25-1094	Routine Maintenance	N-50	465	480	9,000,000	C-5 CE-01 & CE-10
95	RM-BN-2						

# Despite 'no' from Fazl, govt clings to hope

Continued from Page 1

is now claiming that there was no draft of the package then which document was shared with us," he questioned.

It may be noted that the government said the draft being shared on social media was just a "working paper" not the final document.

After the meeting, Mr Qureshi told reporters that the PTI and JUI-F decided to coordinate on all issues in parliament. He claimed the proposed package had not been shared with the ruling parties' legislators either.

The apparent agreement between the JUI-F and the PTI prompted Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to call on Maulana Fazl, again, to convince the veteran politician to stand with the government on the issue. Mr Naqvi was part of a team tasked with convincing Maulana

Fazl over the past weekend, but failed.

### "Still hopeful"

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif claimed that the PML-N and the PPP were on "one page" over the "Constitutional Package". Under the proposed package, the number of judges in the Supreme Court was to be increased from 17 to 23 and the tenure of the CJPC to be fixed at three years. A constitutional court is also on the cards under the proposed legislation. Khawaja Asif said a consensus document would be presented again and hoped that the JUI-F would be convinced about the amendments.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said extensive consultations with all political parties were underway but no one would be allowed to "raise the issue as a bargaining chip for getting an NRO". He reiterated that consultations would continue to reach a consensus on the amend-

ments. The drafts had been shared with the Pakistan People's Party, JUI-F and other parties and discussions were held on every section, he added.

Furthermore, the information minister told Dawn that the meeting of the special parliamentary committee where the constitutional package had been discussed would be summoned in a few days to take up the suggestions. He said the Balochistan National Party was also being taken on board.

Mr Tarar also required the impression that the proposed package was prepared somewhere else, saying the package was prepared in the office of the law ministry under the guidance of Law Minister Asim Nazeer Tarar.

### "No plans for extension"

Sharing details about the consultations, PML-N stalwart Irfan Siddiqi said in a TV interview that there was no plan

to extend the tenure of the chief justice or increase the retirement age of the superior judges. "These are merely speculations circulating in the media and the government has no such plans," Senator Siddiqi said during an interview with a private TV channel.

He said the constitutional package had not hit a snag, rather it was moving to the next stage in which the coalition partners, the PML-N and the PPP, were playing an active role. He expressed confidence that Maulana Faruk Rehman would agree and amendments would be passed by parliament with the cooperation of JUI-F and other parties.

Senator Siddiqi told Dawn that consultations with all parties, including the ANP and MQM-Pakistan, were underway and the government would meet their demands.

With input from Irfan A. Khan

# Outrage over Kabul envoy

Continued from Page 1

Islamabad and Kabul," she said in a statement.

In contrast, the Afghan consulate general's spokesman, Shuhailullah, insisted that "we cannot even think about disrespecting Pakistan's national anthem".

"The only reason why the diplomat [the Afghan consul general in Peshawar, Mohammad Shakir] remained seated was [because there is] music in the anthem," Shuhailullah told Dawn on Wednesday. "Imagine a religious scholar standing up for music," he said.

KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur acknowledged the envoy's explanation.

# Correction

APROPPOS a PPP News Agency photo, which appeared on Page 3 of Dawn's Sept 17 edition, it is clarified that the man seen speaking to the media was an MPA Nawaz Khan Zayran, provincial president of the PKMAP, and not a supporter of Mir Usman Perkani as was mentioned in the caption. The error is regretted.

# Possible exit strategy from the IMF programme

Continued from Page 1

obtaining refunds, competitive energy prices, tax incentives, etc are quickly resolved. The experts should raise the ratio of non-made fibre. The focus should shift from five traditional sectors to every exportable sector. The Export Import Bank should begin providing supplier and buyer's credit, pre-shipment and post-shipment finance to non-traditional and value-added sectors. IT exports and other service exporters are provided reliable and fast connectivity and the flow of skilled manpower is expedited.

The standards and quality assurance procedures are digitalised, trade flows facilitated through a national single window, new markets are penetrated supported by Export Development Fund (EDF), exchange rate is kept stable and new free trade agreements (FTAs) are negotiated tilted in favour of Pakistan's exports. Investment in Reko Dik should be geared up to start flow of export revenues. Tariff rationalisation would enable the exporters to become part of global supply chain, particularly to China, while liberalising the domestic market and ensuring competition bringing the consumer prices down.

At least four special economic zones have to be made fully operational to attract the

Chinese companies planning to relocate their labour-intensive export industries and other investors from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. A 1pc increase in participation in supply chain is accompanied by an equal increase in per capita income. Being connected to global supply chains provides access to new technology, new markets and makes the domestic ecosystem vibrant.

Large export firms should invest in their labour to raise their productivity. I have observed during my visits that some of the progressive firms are already doing so as the business case is quite obvious. Two-thirds of incremental returns from increase in productivity accrue to the owners making their products competitive in international markets.

Exports of IT services are estimated to hit \$4bn and this should be able to neutralise the deficit on balance on services. Targeting workers' remittances at 10pc annually (as the number of workers abroad is expanding fast and growth rate in FY24 was 10.7pc) to reach \$40bn seems feasible through the provision of performance-linked incentives to the banks and the exchange companies. Foreign Direct Investment and disbursements from the existing pipeline of multilateral and bilateral loans making a conservative estimate of \$6bn. Therefore, the total earnings would amount to approximately \$100bn, or \$95bn, if there is some shortfall.

As tariffs and non-tariff barriers are reduced, import restrictions are completely unwound, merchandise imports are projected to be \$85bn by FY24 assuming an annual growth rate

of 12pc. (The latest growth rate is 7pc). Adding unrestricted payments on interest, remittances and dividends of \$8bn, the current account can have a potential of generating surplus of \$6-7bn that can be utilised to reduce and repay one-way deposits and short-term liabilities.

By FY 25 these can be brought down to zero. Together with other flows in the financial account (e.g. NFCs, portfolio investment, purchases from the market), this would result in foreign exchange reserves to \$20bn by FY24 as projected by the IMF. These are point estimates but sensitivity analysis should further refine these estimates and make them robust.

On the import side, why a 12pc target is proposed? It is because if we take a multi-pronged approach, this would be the outcome. POC and RING are the largest import items. Oil and gas explorations and development companies — particularly the foreign-owned companies — should be incentivised both through concessive pricing, a facilitative regulatory environment where they do not have to run to the ministry or the regulator for securing permission at each stage.

These companies want to invest \$5bn but are waiting for changes in the policy. The CCI decision to allow 12pc off their production to third parties has not yet been implemented. It is hard to comprehend that since constitutional bodies such as CCI or NEC or high-powered coordination bodies such as SIPC make decisions, why there is fast dragging in implementing these.

Similarly, the refinery policy is lingering on for the last four years causing serious stockpiling block on the oil. Pakistan badly needs a petrochemical complex as the downstream industries would benefit from these raw materials. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had announced his commitment to this project four years ago, but it is now going through another feasibility study while the previous studies have been shelved.

RING contract with Qatar should be revised in 2025 as the demand for the imported fuel for power is on a downward curve. Power distribution and gas companies should be opened up to competition at retail level. Russian and Chinese companies were interested in setting up a new steel mill with a capacity of 3 million tonnes that would replace imports used by the auto and white goods and other industries.

A country with the largest contiguous irrigated system has been importing food items amounting to \$10bn. A smart agriculture policy should be able to save \$ 6-7bn. The government has to discontinue fixing prices for wheat, sugar cane and cotton and procuring wheat and selling it at below market prices. Compare this to maize and rice, the unregulated commodities which have increased their export significantly by exporting surplus.

By removing government interventions, wheat, sugar and cotton would no longer be imported. Oil seed cultivation should be

another priority area. Meat, poultry, fruits and vegetables, fisheries and milk have high potential for exports, but there are fragmented and there is no champion either at the federal or provincial level to act as their facilitator. My calculations show that these commodities can add \$2bn by FY24 if the problems faced by them are quickly resolved.

FDI has to be screened and only those investment which are export-oriented, bring in technology transfer and generate employment should be given the incentives comparable to those in our regional competing countries.

A question which arises frequently is who would manage this highly ambitious agenda given our bleak past track record of implementation? The SIPC has proved to be a useful platform for coordination, problem-solving and monitoring and should assign targets to each implementing agency, review the progress periodically and remove the hurdles if any.

Actions rather than speeches would establish credibility and restore investor confidence. The above strategy has to be accompanied by many reforms on domestic side which would form a separate discussion piece. Both external and domestic reforms, if implemented seriously, would allow Pakistan to raise its present growth speed from 4pc to 12pc, which is badly needed. Failing that, the country would again be knocking at the doors of the IMF in September 2024.

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Clarifications, if any, may only be submitted via E-PADS by 30th September 2024 5:00 pm for response by NCL. Any clarifications received on call, in person visits or email shall not be considered.

All further information and updates related to this procurement shall be published on E-PADS.

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1. National Highway Authority (NHA) invites Bids from the contractor, registered with Income Tax department who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Categories mentioned below inside the table with Specialization in (CE-01 & CE-10) for the works mentioned below:

Sl#	Contract No.	Description	Route	Engineer's Estimate Rs.	PEC Category/ Specialization
1.	RM-AJK-24-S2-01	Routine Maintenance Works from KM-00+00-12+00 on S-2	S-2	15,000,000/-	C-5 (CE-01, & CE-10)
2.	RM-AJK-24-S2-02	Routine Maintenance Works from KM-12+00-24+00 on S-2		15,000,000/-	C-5 (CE-01, & CE-10)
3.	RM-AJK-24-S2-03	Routine Maintenance Works from KM-24+00-35+00 on S-2		14,600,000/-	C-5 (CE-01, & CE-10)
4.	RM-AJK-24-S3-01	Routine Maintenance Works from KM-00+00-15+00 on S-3	S-3	15,300,000/-	C-5 (CE-01, & CE-10)
5.	RM-AJK-24-S3-02	Routine Maintenance Works from KM-15+00-30+00 on S-3		15,800,000/-	C-5 (CE-01, & CE-10)
6.	RM-AJK-24-S3-03	Routine Maintenance Works from KM-30+00-45+00 on S-3		17,200,000/-	C-5 (CE-01, & CE-10)
7.	RM-AJK-24-S3-04	Routine Maintenance Works from KM-45+00-59+00 on S-3		17,000,000/-	C-5 (CE-01, & CE-10)

2. Bidding documents, containing method of procurement (Single Stage - Two Envelope), detailed terms & conditions etc. will be available on the website mentioned below from September 23, 2024 for downloading free of cost. Prospective Bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedule and addendum(s), if any.

3. The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions provided in the bidding documents, must reach at the address mentioned below, on or before October 03, 2024 before 1500 Hours. Technical bids will be opened on the same day at 11:30 hours.

4. All Firms are advised to get E-PADS (PPRA) Registration at [www.epads.gov.pk](http://www.epads.gov.pk) immediately, as Manual Bid/Proposal Application (Hard Copy) will be eliminated in upcoming procurement.

5. The Advertisement is also available on PPRA website at [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk).

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# Lingering concerns

**D**AYS later, the possible repercussions of what could have been had the government's planned amendments to the Constitution been bulked through parliament are still being discussed. One thing seems clear: the government must have anticipated how strong the blowback would be if the details of its legislative coup were to leak beforehand. Senior political leaders have spoken about the lengths to which it went to cover its tracks, to the extent that it told different stakeholders different things about its plans. It appears that it had good reason to be nervous. Ever since the reported draft amendments have emerged, lawyers, politicians, academics and analysts from across the political divide have united in expressing their disappointment and disgust. Many are still trying to come to terms with the audacity with which the proposals were put to paper. The intent behind them seems to be an ambition that no amount of window-dressing could have ever made them palatable.

Meanwhile, after their humbling at the hands of Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the government, its allies and their skills are no longer as glowing and aggressive as they seemed over the weekend. Having attempted and failed to make drastic changes to the Constitution to favour a handful of individuals, they are now lecturing all and sundry that their 'constitutional package' was, in fact, solely for the public's benefit. After refusing to show anyone — even their own allies and ministers — a draft of the amendments they were planning, they are now waxing lyrical about the need for parliamentary debate and scrutiny of all important legislation. However, the damage may have already been done. The legal community, for instance, now suddenly seems to be highly agitated. The strong words in which many of its most respected members have condemned the government's move should be taken with the seriousness they deserve.

It is unclear for now whether the government will make another attempt to break the Constitution. Embarrassed after failing to muster the numbers during the high-stakes drama that played out all weekend, it will need time to regroup. It has also shown its hand and lost the element of surprise. This alone may force it to abandon the strategy altogether, especially after the strong pushback it has received from the legal community. Whatever the case may be, it would be well advised not to make another attempt in the manner it did last time. There is a reason why the Constitution is a protected document that requires two-thirds of parliament's strength to acquiesce to any changes. Attempting to override this protocol by hiding legislative proposals and coaxing other lawmakers to vote for them not only hurts our democracy but also signals that those making the changes may not be acting in good faith.

# Pager explosions

**L**EBANON was rocked by a shocking and sophisticated attack on Sunday in which hundreds of pagers exploded, causing at least nine fatalities and over 2,700 injuries. The main target of the attack appears to be Hezbollah, both the pro-Iran armed group and the Lebanese state have pointed the finger at Israel. Hezbollah fighters are among the dead, while the Iranian ambassador in Lebanon is reportedly injured. With more explosions reported on Wednesday, it is clear that Israel is looking to up the ante and lure Hezbollah into a larger confrontation, even though both sides say they are not interested in a full-blown war. The Lebanese group and Tel Aviv have been locked in a bloody battle of attrition ever since the Oct 7 Hamas attacks targeting Israel. Almost all observers are of the view that the pager attack required meticulous planning and a high degree of coordination. Hezbollah reportedly avoids the use of mobile phones and depends on low-tech pagers to communicate. Clearly, someone in Tel Aviv was aware of these facts and decided to exploit weaknesses in the system.

Both before and after the Oct 7 events, Israel has displayed brazenness and a manifest lack of respect for the sovereignty of regional states. Its targeting of an Iranian diplomatic facility in Damascus in April; subsequent assassinations of high-ranking Hezbollah operatives and commanders; the July murder of Israeli Hanyeh in Tehran and the latest provocation in Lebanon shows that while Israel publicly speaks of not wanting to expand the war, its actions suggest otherwise. Iran is yet to respond to the Hanyeh assassination, and it is clear that Tel Aviv is during Tehran and its allies in the 'Axis of Resistance' to make the next move. This dangerous brinkmanship is likely to drag the region — and the global economy — into a vortex of violence and instability. America's efforts for a cease-fire in Gaza, which would lead to region-wide de-escalation, are farcical to say the least, as US diplomats appear to be pleading Israel's case at every forum, instead of being impartial mediators. Israel has sent mixed signals, saying it does not want war, but is ready to confront Hezbollah Sunday's pager blasts did not seem like a peace offering. Israel can fire the first shot in a new regional war, but where such a conflagration leads will be in no one's control.

# Losing to China

**A**T a time when they should have stepped up, a sense of complacency seemed to have descended on the Pakistan hockey team. A fighting defeat against India in their last round-robin game had raised hopes of another clash between the two arch-rivals in the final of the Asian Champions Trophy — if Pakistan, as expected, had gone past China in their last-four clash. Instead, hosts China flogged the script. Holding the tournament in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, the Chinese — thumped by Pakistan 5-1 in their round-robin match — channelled the support of a fervent home crowd to stun Pakistan. A 2-0 penalty shootout loss after a 1-1 draw in regulation loss sent Pakistan back to the drawing board. Tahir Zaman's charges eventually finished third after beating South Korea 5-2 in their final game of the tournament.

It is the loss to China, though, that raises many questions about Pakistan's position in hockey. Mr Zaman's men gave India — bronze medalists at the Paris Olympics for which Pakistan failed to qualify — a run for their money in a narrow 2-1 loss that saw them finish second in the round-robin standings. Unbeaten in their opening four matches, it appeared that Mr Zaman was continuing the good work of his predecessor Bostjan Gilmans, who quit after the Pakistan Hockey Federation refused to offer him a long-term contract. The loss to China is a dent in what was turning out to be a good tournament for Pakistan under Mr Zaman, who was roped in by the PHF after Mr Gilmans' departure. Ahead of the Asian Champions Trophy, Mr Zaman had said that Pakistan required time to return to its former standing, stressing the need for better infrastructure, players' welfare, and high-performance centres. He spoke about the fact that the PHF and government understood that it was the need of the time. But the question is: when will concerted efforts be made to ensure that all requirements are met?

# OPINION

BY ZAHID HUSSAIN



# Taming the judiciary

Reports say that there will be another attempt to get the amendments passed before the CJP retires.

**W**HAT happened inside and outside parliament last weekend was nothing less than a tragedy. Rarely has Pakistani politics stopped so long. Some 400 members of both Houses remained virtually captive for days while the top leadership of the ruling coalition desperately tried to secure the numbers required for the passage of controversial constitutional amendments, which sought to change the entire structure of the country's top court.

It seemed that the government and its allies were in a great hurry to wrap up the vote by the weekend. And they were confident of getting it done. But the crafty Maulana Fazlur Rehman was not ready to play ball, deriding the government the vote of eight key JUI-F members in the National Assembly. Defeat in the members' game may have forced the government to step back for now, but the game is far from over.

Indeed, it has been a setback for the government and the security establishment that had put its full weight behind the move. The taming of the judiciary is part of a wider plan to remove any challenge to the military-backed dispensation. The amendments that were apparently proposed would not only have made the judiciary completely subservient to the executive but also demolished the very basis of the Constitution that enshrines the separation of powers among the three pillars of state.

What is being described as a 'judicial reform' package has been on the arvil since the installation of the PMJ-Mod coalition government. Yet, no clear framework of the plan was made public. What seems to have given it impetus was the increasing assertiveness of the apex and high courts in political cases, including the letter written by six judges of the Islamabad High Court, complaining against alleged interference by the intelligence agencies in judicial matters and their harassment of judges. In the past too, individual judges have made such allegations against intelligence agencies, but the collective protest was unprecedented.

What also seemed to have alarmed the government and the security establishment was the July 12 majority ruling by the apex court awarding the PTI its due share of seats reserved for

women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies. The decision changed party positions in the National Assembly, ending the ruling coalition's two-thirds majority required for constitutional amendments.

One other factor was the impending retirement of the current chief justice next month. With his exit, the government feared it would lose someone it perceives as a sympathetic member of the judiciary, thus leading, in its view, to a shift in the balance in the top court. That, perhaps, was the reason behind the government and establishment's move to push for the amendment that reportedly included an extension in the retirement age of Supreme Court judges to 68 years thus increasing the tenure of the top judge for three more years.

Interestingly, the full draft of the proposed constitutional amendments was not even shared with the members of the cabinet or allied parties. Parliamentarians, who were asked to stay put, did not have a clue of what was coming till the end. Several members of the treasury benches told me that they would regularly receive phone calls from 'unlisted' members asking them to ensure their attendance in the session. The plot thickened when the law minister said on Sunday that he had received the draft only a few days ago.

The source of this whole exercise leaves nothing to the imagination. Nevertheless, the ruling coalition, with its questionable legitimacy, is a willing partner in this game of thrones. The events of the past week have completely exposed the claims of the mainstream political parties, which are part of the ruling coalition, with regard to their democratic credentials.

The most damaging reported provisions of the proposed constitutional amendments are the establishment of a federal constitutional court, the transfer of high court judges and the appointment of the chief justice from a panel of judges instead of the automatic elevation of the senior-most judge. It's apparent that all these amendments are politically motivated and have nothing to do with claims of judicial reform.

According to the draft proposal now being circulated, all the political cases would be trans-

ferred to a proposed seven-member constitutional court, whose chief justice would be appointed by the prime minister. That would render the Supreme Court totally powerless. The two apex courts could create a dichotomy in the system, which could completely demolish the independence of the judiciary. And that seems to have been the main objective of the military-backed dispensation.

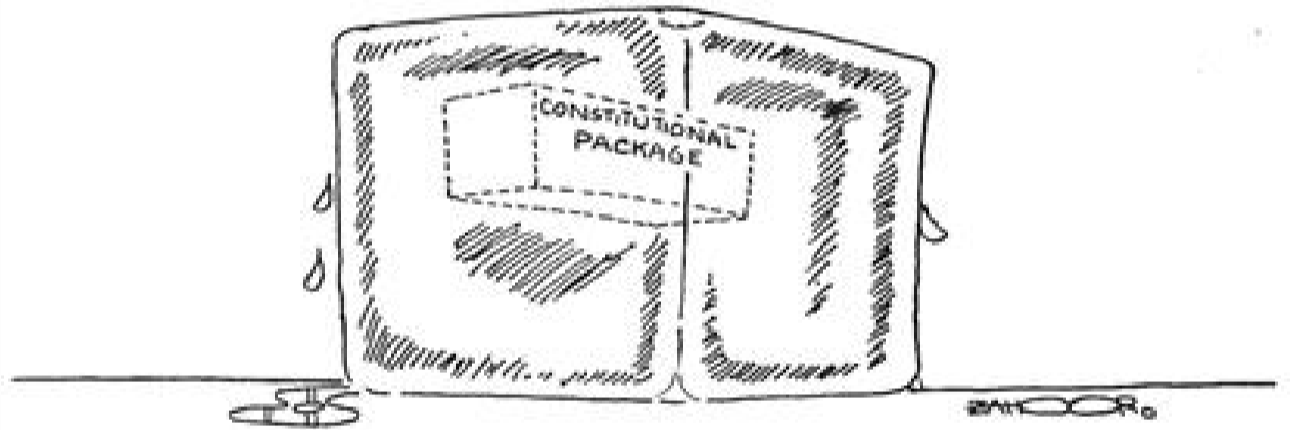
Ironically, the leaders of both the PML-N and PPP, the two major parties forming the ruling coalition, justify the formation of a constitutional court as being part of the Charter of Democracy endorsed by all mainstream political parties some two decades ago. This is a most incredible rationale for an undemocratic move erasing the very foundation of our constitutional democracy.

Indeed, the Charter did suggest the creation of a constitutional court but it was in a different context. In fact, the document emphasised the need to establish a balance of power between the judiciary and executive. It was not meant to curb the power of the top judiciary with the objective of strengthening non-democratic forces. Similarly, the provision of transferring high court judges is aimed at punishing outspoken and upright judges. It is yet another move to tame the judiciary.

The move to change the basic structure of the Constitution through controversial amendments has brought the dispensation into confrontation with the bar and the bench. Despite its failed attempt to bulkhead the amendments through the government and establishment have not abandoned their plan. According to media reports, there will be another attempt to get the amendments passed before the chief justice retires.

It will also be a test for Chief Justice Qazi Faez Ishaq regarding the legacy he would like to leave behind. One hopes he will stuff his robes next month, and then not get drawn into any establishment-backed agenda to undermine judicial independence. ■

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BY KHURRAM HUSAIN



# Shaky stability

**R**ARELY have I seen a situation like this one. The economy is finding an uneasy and shaky stability; an inflation peaks, the exchange rate looks like it might well stick, the backlog of unpaid dividends is being cleared, interest rates are on a downward trajectory from here on, the current account has returned to surplus, reserves are stable and so on. The list can go as long as one wants.

But the problems are growing. Rarely have we seen a situation where the economy stabilises while the government gets shaky. Usually, political and economic stability go together in our history. And mind you, I'm talking about economic stability, not growth. Paradoxically, periods of booming economic growth are also periods when politics becomes shaky. Nawaz Sharif found himself facing disqualification right when his economic growth rates were hitting their peak and the first of the large mega projects his government had commissioned were getting ready for start of commercial operations. Likewise, Imran Khan found himself facing a vote of no-confidence precisely when the economy was hitting its peak growth rate of seven per cent.

But I cannot recall a government going wobbly when the stabilisation phase of the economy is peaking. That is where we are today. The economy has not found itself, nor is growth about to return. All that has happened is the worst effects of the bitter medicine one has to take to stabilise an out-of-control economy are now beginning to wear off. That's all.

Usually this is the sweet spot. This is usually the time when the government of the day can start crowing about its achievement in having stabilised runaway fiscal deficits and falling foreign exchange reserves. Once interest rates start coming down — with IMF approval, as evidenced by the fact that an Executive Board meeting has been scheduled in the midst of the rate cuts — it usually means the worst is over.

But this is the first time we are seeing a government struggle politically while having largely survived the worst of the economic pain. And as its political meetings start booming, its capacity to stay on the path of stabilisation as required will weaken.

We are descending in history today, but one to

marvel at is how one of the strongest governments we have had in a long time in terms of its numbers in parliament is proving unequal to the task before it.

Despite its numbers in parliament and the strong backing of the establishment, this government is struggling to get things done that those with fewer members and less powerful backers in the past managed to do. This only means one thing: despite all its apparent strength in terms of its parliamentary arithmetic and powerful backing, this is probably the weakest government we have had in at least a quarter of a century.

How does that happen? How can a government be so strong by one standard, and yet so weak by another? This can only happen if the

**They use bailouts and loans to fuel the country's economy and repression to stifle the people's will.**

system of rule upon which the government stands itself is losing traction.

Systems are not built with force alone. They require buy-in from the population over whose affairs they preside. The current system of rule has taken a mortal hit on its ability to command its own population's loyalty after more than two and a half years of the most ferocious inflationary fire the country has ever seen. Nothing kills people's faith in their system, their own lives and their future, like inflation. And the kind of inflation we have seen since May 2021 is literally unprecedented. The fire still burns, even if it has stopped spreading. It will be many years before people's patience potentially catch up with the loss their purchasing power has suffered over those years.

To compensate for the people's loss of faith, the rulers of our time have resorted to gimmicks to deprive them of a voice in choosing their

elected representatives. When people protest this denial of fundamental rights, the rulers reply with repression, arrests, abuse. When attention is drawn to the violation of people's rights, they respond with measures to stifle the media, censor the internet, police social media, and more repression. When the judiciary refuses to play ball with this escalating cycle of repression, along comes a constitutional amendment to bifurcate the apex court and make its crucial functions — constitutional interpretation — subordinate to the government of the day.

Thus kicks off a vicious cycle that cuts away at the system's legitimacy and weakens its foundations. Riding the whole wave is a group of leaders using the oldest of the old playbooks that has always been used in Pakistan. They use bailouts and loans to fuel the country's economy and repression to stifle the people's will. Historically this has worked, but only partially. Military rule in the past managed to get large, concessional inflows with which to fuel the economy while engineering the local political landscape to their liking.

But this time it's not working, and that is why the situation looks grim. The repression is not silencing the people's will, and no foreign partner is stepping in with a bailout. A people beset with inflation and repression at the same time will not be enthralled about being part of the system that rules them. And the longer this state of affairs continues, the more the government will lose traction even as it succeeds in stabilising the macroeconomic indicators.

There is a lesson here for those who have not forgotten how to learn. Pakistan is not like one of those countries where a single dictator has ruled for three or four decades at a stretch. The demand for the ruler to earn his or her right to rule through the 'just consent of the governed' is strong here. Less than eight months into its tenure, and one of the (arch)historically strongest governments we have had in decades is already old and infirm. Time to read the writing on the wall. ■

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# OPINION



BY F.S. AIJAZUDDIN

## The other love

BUREAUCRATS wed twice — to a natural spouse, and also to an extramarital distraction.

One was reminded of this intellectual infidelity when reading a volume of modern (ie, post-revolution) Persian poetry — *Almanach-e Poets* — translated by a Pakistani diplomat, Malik M. Danish. A graduate from Lums, Punjab University and Georgetown University, Danish is the latest in a line of officials who will be remembered for their literary contributions.

One could begin with names like the Mirgholab engineer, Akbar's courtier. He spent his spare hours chronicling his master's court and its intrigues. Closer in time and to home, though, is the 19th-century engineer Karshaya Lal. He worked in the Public Works Department for 30 years before retiring as superintendent engineer in 1885.

His legacies to the architectural stonings of Lahore have survived time — Government College, Montgomery and Lawrence Halls, the then Mayo School of Arts, to name a few. 'Ye monumentum aequum vivimus' (If you seek [his] monument, look around you.) Karshaya Lal's equally enduring achievement is his book *Tarikh-e-Lahore*, first published in 1884 a year before his retirement, and reprinted many times.

Since then, there have been Syed Muhammad Latif's magisterial histories of the Punjab (1891) and of Lahore (1892). Latif's official responsibilities, though, were as an extra-judicial assistant commissioner.

Lopet Griffin (once chief secretary Punjab, 1880) authored the genealogies of the Punjab chiefs in 1890. In it, he sifted the proof of research from the fiction of family legends. (It is modern counterpart — the former high commissioner to Pakistan Sir Nicholas Barrington — absorbed himself in Islamabad, proving the family tree of Pakistan's prominent families.)

Sir Charles Airy, then chief secretary Punjab, found the time to compile his 11-volume *Collection of Poems, Engagements, and Sayings relating to India and neighbouring Countries* (1862-1892). Subsequent research into Punjab's history continued with the *History of the Punjab Hill States* by another official, J. Hutchinson, and his colleagues, J.H. Vogel (1933).

More recently, Dr M.S. Raza (an ICS officer), Parri lawyer Karl Khanalov and Dr B.N. Goswami (who left the ICS for academia), through their seminal researches brought painting done in the Punjab hills into the plains of the art world's consciousness. Some like G. Muzaffaruddin (once of the ICS, later an chief negotiator in the India Waters Treaty) had much to tell, if only his pen had not been so shy.

Every retired bureaucrat in Pakistan feels impelled to publish their version of a

history they could not prevent. They believe that their book — whether a biography or an autobiography — will ensure them the bonus of recognition, if not the gold of immortality. Not all can diagnose the paraphrase American poet and essayist Mark Strand that 'their expressive part [was] rather tedious — never curious or responsive, but blind and self-serving'.

Strand foresees perhaps the recent publication of memoirs by a former bureaucrat, responsible in the 1990s for the infamous yellow cab and yellow tractor schemes, and later the spurious birth of the PPP.

There was a time when bureaucrats saw themselves as modern Medias — patrons of the arts. R.A. Karsidi and Mukhtar Masood spring to mind. Which one of their successors today would expend their energies on restoring the Lahore museum?

Karsidi sponsored Sadegain there as an artist in residence. Sequestered in the museum's basement, Sadegain produced many inimitable masterpieces. His tour de force — its painted ceiling — has become

Lahore's avant garde of the Sixties chapel. Who today would commission two of Pakistan's greats — Sadegain and Shukri Ali — to paint a mural, such in his unique style? They hang in the Punjab Public Library, a content using brushes, a visual *deh* (art) between Akbar's singer Tansen, and his rival Rajni Bansi.

Malik Danish found his Persian muse in a language teacher at Jhelum and then in Dr Akbar Masood, a fellow bureaucrat with a passion for Persian poetry. Danish is a fervent scholar in verse and in Persian poetry when the very word 'Iran' releases thousands of sensations from Washington, D.C.

If one had to isolate a few stanzas from among Danish's 20 poems — the 'Brightest flowers' in a translated form — they would be from Mehdi Akhavan-Sales' *Lament*. He speaks for every Iranian and Pakistani: 'My house has caught fire, a deadly fire which is burning the engravings I etched with my heart's blood.'

Or Qayyum Amirpour's moving advice on behalf of fellow authors to readers everywhere: 'My hairs are turning white/ as pages of my book are turning black.' He concludes: 'Read my works/ Do by dot/ Word by word/ Line by line/ and count the verses in my *Divaan-e-Hair by Hair*.' ■

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BY SHAHZAD SHARJEEL

## Debatable debate

IN leadership about oratory, public speaking, long marches, or debates in our context? Although political campaigns worldwide rely on debating ability, so do debating societies; these are forums for expanding discourse. While political activists and leaders must be engaging, recourse to incitement and invective only reflects a lack of substance.

Immediately after the first US presidential debate this election season, commentators and pundits left Kamala Harris succumbed in gaudy Donald Trump into

around his camp would have him star clear of. Her strategy was to make Trump implicate himself, and he did just that.

Traditionally, deep thinking with a proper mix of action set leaders apart from philosophers. In the subcontinent's context, Abul Kalam Azad and Bahadur Var Jung were the best orators, but the leaders were Gandhi, Nehru, and Jinnah.

Among the recent world leaders, Barack Obama was that rare combination of being bookish yet communicating lucidly. However, even his ability to 'connect with the people' was questioned as, according to his critics, he could sometimes be 'too cerebral'. The dumbing down of discourse, ostensibly in the public interest, affects the quality of debate worldwide.

The battle of wits, at times dimwits, has come down to name-calling, slurs, and digging up past peccadilloes and bushy money trails. Regardless of the public lauding of candidates' alleged misdeeds — war crimes, tax evasion, sexual offences, murder, rape, etc — they continue to be cited in worldwide. The more they expose themselves, the more their ilk identifies with them, promoting a dimmy culture.

Interestingly, neither in her vice presidency, Mr Harris was not considered the shortest tool in the drawer by comment-tors; however, compared to the falling mental alertness of her boss, Joe Biden, and now her competitor, Trump, she appears over-looked.

Imagine a US-style debate between leading contenders for power in Pakistan. The debate would cover in everything but a solution to myriad problems. There would be hardly anything in the debate for their audience other than the realization that they are equally adept at pointing out challenges and their adversaries' contributions to it but unable to propose a tangible way out of the morass.

Deep thinkers are loath to speak and debate and cannot organize a rally in a brewery, let alone a political party. The charming orators can indulge in much riddle-solving but cannot think to save

their lives. Usually, after debasing and baffling their way to power, they gather a team of thinkers, also called strategists and technocrats, to run the actual business of governance. Lately, even the proverbial one-eyed leader has been missing, and it is a case of the blind leading the blind.

Take revenue collection, for instance. The leadership across the civil-military spectrum refuses to cough up its fair share of taxes. It is constantly hamstringing by one vested interest or another, usually strategists, in broadening the tax base. Thus, the leadership — or lack thereof — attempts to bring external experts to run the FBR. It turns out that the external experts entrusted with the shake-up got so shaken so fast by the interest groups that they required a check-up from the neck up.

In a two-way or even a three-way debate, what would PML-N, PTI and PPP candidates say about the tax-to-GDP ratio, 80% of the budget, the energy sector,

governance, reliance on the Fund programme, the investment climate, civil-military disempowerment, etc? One good thing that might come out of such a debate is a public realization of the sheer impossibility of the country's situation. It will also expose the jangling for office as nothing but a power grab.

While discussing public discourse, ignoring the recent PTI gathering near Islamabad is difficult. What the KP chief minister said to a cheering crowd of thousands is too repulsive to repeat. His leader Imran Khan's endorsement from behind bars is stunning. He may not be the pioneer of abuse in public discourse, but to become from the subcontinent's model, he definitely merits the status of the 'Barry Khan Sahib' of the 'Gandhi ghanta'. The party chairperson, Barrister Gohar, apologized on the floor of the House for the misogynist language used at the rally, and as expected, Imran Khan quickly dubbed all such apologies 'wards'.

Whether in one-on-one debates, televised speeches, or public rallies, what is said and how it is said reveals the workings of the state or the lack thereof. It also reflects on the audience; their leadership choice measures their self-esteem. ■

The writer is a poet. His latest publication is a collection of satire essays titled *Pinakara*. [shahzadsharjeel@gmail.com](mailto:shahzadsharjeel@gmail.com)

## FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

### Palestine issue

**EDITORIAL:** The Israeli Prime Minister's radio interview ... raises grave doubts about its willingness to recognize the reality of Palestinian identity and dispense hopes of early progress towards peace in the Middle East. Mr [Yitzhak] Rabin has asserted that "a third State between Israel and Jordan is out of the question". And worse still, he has volunteered the information that "the United States shares the Israeli view". If that is true, America's position as an honest broker ... may be compromised. ...

There is also a difference of approach between King Hussein and the PLO about whether the right to represent the Palestinians. The latter has been accepted by the Arabs and most of the Muslim countries as the sole representative of its people ... at the Algiers and the Lahore summits. The Arab view seems to be that the PLO should be able to organize a State of its own in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after its liberation. But, according to reports, America seems to support the Jordanian position to prevent the whole issue by negotiating with Israel. ... The Israeli thinking on the issue is fraught with great dangers. It is important for the Arabs to achieve unanimity among themselves.

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

### 'Not without Kashmir'

**HYDERABAD (Sind):** Addressing a largely attended meeting here this evening (Sept 18), Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan, Premier of NWFP, declared that Pakistan would not be complete without Kashmir and it was the duty of every Pakistani to be prepared for it. "We should always be in readiness to meet the danger to our independence which does exist," he said and reminded his audience of the Quaid-e-Azam's inspiring message of Faith, Unity and Discipline.

Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan said that the Pathans in the Frontier Province were not going to tolerate any handling in Kashmir. "They are full of zeal ... and are determined to continue the Kashmiri jihad to a successful end," he declared.

Referring to Afghanistan, the Frontier Premier assured that the Afghans would never come to blows with their Muslim brethren in Pakistan. The ... from the mood of the present ruling class in Afghanistan was merely India's propaganda stunt, which was bound to fail. ... Regarding Kashmir the NWFP Premier said that the Indian claim over Kashmir was nothing but a threat to the peace of Asia and perhaps to the peace of the entire world. — News agencies

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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

## Pakistan Post must stop falling apart



LIKE dozens of other state institutions, the Pakistan Post is waiting for a silent death. This is despite the fact that it has the most significant buildings in central locations of cities as well as towns across the country. With almost 12,000 outlets, Pakistan Post currently has more than 30,000 employees.

Established initially by Warren Hastings under the East India Company, but modified as a service under the Crown later in 1854 by Lord Dalhousie, Pakistan Post has had a wonderful past.

As such, the Post Office Act of 1838 still provides foundations and a framework for departmental performance and operations, with only minor modifications and amendments needed. In fact, the law contributed to the glory and splendour of the department in the past, and may well do the trick today.

However, assessing the reasons behind this swift debacle of a historical and giant-sized organisation is vital. The rough and aerial attitude of the department towards public should be discouraged and replaced with politeness, softness and tolerance with proper training. In essence, departmental training and reference centres for the staff should be conducted regularly and mandated for promotion to the next stage.

A social experiment with Pakistan Post employees working on counters shows a horrible lack of modern manners and strategies to cope with the issues related to public interactions. Ironically, in this day and age, staff members insist on packing a parcel in a white cloth and to have it sealed with a rare kind of wax. With carriers and plastic bags readily available, there is no point in continuing with such dated practices.

Valuable parcels and letters need to be handled responsibly. Damage to precious items, especially books, has led many people to question the reliability factor of

the service. Besides, careful handling and distribution of the daily mail must be ensured.

Moreover, the department can issue memorable postal stamps of public interest and affection. Religious and political heroes, nature and beauty, historical buildings and institutions, and a lot of other stuff is there to be used to generate public interest and revenue.

Branch post offices in villages as well as in far-off areas should be franchised to small investors and shopkeepers. An instant commission system for booking registered articles, parcels, money orders and foreign posts should be introduced to develop the personal interest of the booking clerks and delivery staff in increasing business to the highest level.

The officers' cadre should constantly organise meetings with small online business initiators, educational institutions, banks, public organisations, etc., and visit various workplaces.

Besides, other post of staff should be incentivised with target-based schemes, good performance and incentive development. Promotions should be based solely on integrity, performance and achievements. In essence, Pakistan Post should avoid standing in the way of its own future.

Qasim Akbar Wazir  
Islamabad

## Monsoon havoc

RURAL areas across Pakistan have been devastated by the recent torrential rains, with Balochistan, like the other provinces, suffering extensive damage. Homes have been destroyed, thousands of people have been displaced, and livelihoods have been severely disrupted. Personal belongings have been swept away, and the situation remains dire, with more rain said to be in the air. Restoring the link roads that have been washed away is crucial.

In some places, entire villages have been submerged, leading to the tragic loss of livestock and human lives in various regions. In this critical time, the government must act urgently, providing needed assistance to those in desperate need.

People are facing extreme hardship; they require food, medicine, mosquito nets, and, in some areas, tents and boats to help families move to safer places.

This is an incredibly challenging period, and it is vital for philanthropic individuals and organisations to step up and support their fellow citizens. The heavy monsoon rains and flash floods have wreaked havoc, caused widespread destruction of infrastructure, and left thousands of families, including children, homeless. Many people are left stranded, unable to stay home or relocate due to a lack of resources.

Mahib Hader Laghari  
Karachi or, Canada

## Fintech and fraud

THIS is with reference to the report 'RoboSim swindled out of lawyer through prank call' (Sept 6) which narrated the ordeal of a lawyer in Chichawatni who transferred the money to different online cash accounts, only to find that the mobile numbers had been switched off right after receiving the money.

I want to share my personal experience of creating an online account with these online financial enterprises.

When I approached a mobile wallet of a famous cellular company, I was told by the representative that an account had already been operational against my identity card for the last two years. This was despite the fact that I had never had one. On filing an official complaint, the 'account' was closed. My two of five colleagues also faced the same issue when they came to know that mobile wallet accounts were being run on their CNIC numbers without their consent and knowledge.

The process of creating these accounts happens to be too 'facilitated'. One only needs a CNIC number and the date on which the card had been issued. Anyone can get such details from a copy of anyone's CNIC. From photocopy centres to various educational, corporate and banking entities, CNIC copies are freely available, and any crook can use the data to create an account on any mobile app and misuse it for any purpose.

Undoubtedly, these banking franchises do not bother to check whether or not the CNIC number being given to create the account actually belongs to the person who is creating this account. The relevant authorities should look into the matter.

Nasim Malik  
Islamabad

## Lost integrity

MANY countries, especially in the Gulf region, have imposed stringent conditions on issuing visas to the holders of Pakistan passports. A significant factor behind these measures is the involvement of Pakistani nationals in criminal activities abroad. This involvement ranges from petty crimes to more severe offences, including street begging, which has become a rampant issue. Hundreds of visitors, who initially entered these countries on valid visas, have turned to begging, tarnishing Pakistan's image on an international scale. Only a few have been arrested in this regard, like the group that was taken into custody at Mihan airport (seen in the accompanying image).

These illegal, unethical acts not only harm the country's reputation, but also affect individual Pakistanis who wish to travel abroad for legitimate reasons, such as business, tourism or education.

Unfortunately, the consequences of these actions are felt even more deeply as Pakistan navigates through challenging economic and political times. The negative perception abroad makes it increasingly difficult for Pakistanis to seek opportunities and contribute positively to the global community.

To combat these issues, strict monitoring and screening at all international airports in Pakistan are essential.

Besides, authorities must ensure that only those with legitimate intentions and clean records are allowed to travel abroad. Moreover, strict punishment for those involved in criminal activities abroad is crucial to set an example. This is particularly important for visitors who are deported or return after engaging in illegal acts.

Now, it is imperative that the relevant authorities in Pakistan take decisive action against those involved in these criminal activities and their facilitators.



These steps should include a planned crackdown on networks that exploit individuals by encouraging them to engage in begging as well as other illegal activities abroad. Apart from this, stronger vetting processes for visa applications, public awareness campaigns, and collaboration with foreign governments can help address these issues effectively. Besides, the government must work to promote the positive aspects of Pakistani culture and society internationally.

As such, by showcasing the talents, achievements, and good character of its people, Pakistan can not only regain its global trust, but also improve its current standing on the global stage.

Eventually, restoring the integrity of the Pakistani passport is not only crucial for national pride, but also for the overall economic and social wellbeing of the country.

It is a critical task that requires collective efforts from the government, the diaspora, and every citizen committed to fostering a positive image of Pakistan worldwide.

Ashraf Wali Muhammad  
Karachi

► **BANARAS STOP:** The Ban Rapid Train (BRT) Orange Line operates between Orange No 12 and Board Office in North Nazimabad. However, there is no station at Banaras Chowk. The area has a stable population of working class individuals who use public transport for their daily commute. No doubt, the addition of a stop at Banaras will relieve the traffic in the area and give the local community a much-needed facility. The relevant authorities should take this rather serious matter into consideration. **Abdul Wahab Karachi**

► **PEACE AND PROSPERITY:** In 1948, Sir John Jacob arrived in Khanqarh, a village plagued by chaos and lawlessness at the time. Through his visionary approach, he engaged the local population in development projects, including the construction of canals, roads as well as buildings, thereby providing employment and a sense of purpose. This innovative strategy brought unprecedented peace and prosperity to the region. As a lasting tribute to his legacy, the people of Khanqarh renamed their village Jacobabad a few his death. The authorities would do well to emulate Sir John's effective strategies that may have a role in eradicating lawlessness and fostering a more harmonious and developed community. This will really help. **Kashif Bajwa Karachi**

► **MARATHON MISMANAGEMENT:** On Sept 6, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Directorate-General of Sports arranged a marathon race of 25km along the Ban Rapid Train (BRT) route. As such, a large number of participants took part in the race with great enthusiasm. The event started amid heavy rain, resulting in mismanagement, so much so that half of the participants did not know when the race started. No doubt, those who got top positions may be top athletes and their success should be appreciated by one and all. However, the administration should learn from this experience as it will help it arrange such healthy events in the future more efficiently and successfully. **Shakeef Ahmad Bajwa**

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



# KP to move Supreme Court against proposed constitutional amendments

Bureau Report

**PESHAWAR:** The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Wednesday decided to challenge the federal government's proposed constitutional amendments in the Supreme Court, saying such a move can't be made due to the "denial" of parliament's reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

The cabinet, which met here with Chief Minister Saadul Ali Amir Gandapur in the chair, declared that both houses of parliament are currently incomplete because the 40 reserved seats in the National Assembly and the Senate haven't been given away to the PTI.

It also approved the Debt Management Fund and rules for it.

"The view of the straggling debt servicing cost and the adverse impact of the steeply devaluation, this fund is essential to manage the province's debt obligations effectively and ensure financial sustainability," said an official statement.

It said the fund, designed by the finance department and to be created by invoking Section 34(1) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Financial Management Act, 2022, would be instrumental in safeguarding the province's financial future.

According to the statement, the Debt Management Fund will invest unutilised balances from the government treasury into low-risk investments.

"The Fund shall not only create a revenue source that offsets growing debt obligations, but also result in optimal cash management, ensuring the province can better manage its financial obligations and ensure that substantial fiscal space is available to prioritise expenditure on service delivery."

The cabinet also approved the draft Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Debt

Management Fund Rules, 2024, for governing the control, management, utilisation and oversight of the proposed fund.

It expressed "regret" over the poverty alleviation and social safety ministry's decision to obtain a \$118.4 million loan from the Islamic Development Bank for the "Poverty Graduation of Extremely Poor and Food Affected Households Project" in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The decision was made in light of the province's current debt burden and the availability of alternative funding sources that offer lower costs and more favourable terms, according to it.

The cabinet also approved policy guidelines for the province's participation in the carbon market as well as a reserving grant of Rs1.5 billion for public sector universities in the province.

The Higher Education Commission's annual grants to universities in the province have been frozen since 2018. Following the 18th Constitutional Amendment, higher education has become a provincial responsibility, requiring the province to independently fund its universities.

Despite substantial efforts over the past four years to increase self-generated income - achieving 84.5 per cent growth - the revenue generated internally remains inadequate to meet the rising financial demands of the universities. Older universities, in particular, are grappling with unmet needs relating to pensions and salaries.

The cabinet also approved the formation of an academic search committee for the appointment of vice chancellors to public sector universities.

# Gandapur to engage locals, tribal elders for restoration of peace

## CM launches portal for people to file complaints regarding their issues

By Umar Farooq

**PESHAWAR:** Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has said tribal elders, representatives of different institutions and locals will be engaged to restore peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as offensive against militants have failed to achieve the desired objectives.

He was talking to journalists after launching "Iktiyar Awaraz Ka", a newly-developed portal for promoting good governance and addressing issues of people in the province at Civil Secretariat here on Wednesday. He said that tribal elders, locals and institutions would jointly work for restoration of peace.

Mr Gandapur said that people faced issues at several checkpoints that were being abolished. He said that law and order could not be maintained without support of people. He said that jirga system was being reactivated.

"The results, that were supposed to be achieved from the operations and actions, did not come. Now, jirgas comprising locals and tribal elders will be held and the institutions and

departments will jointly work for restoring peace," he said.

Provincial government's spokesperson Barister Muhammad Ali Naif, however, said Mr Gandapur never referred to military operations against militants and rather talked about the weaknesses in the system.

"I don't think that the chief minister was referring to military operations but weaknesses in the system including law and order situation, which will be identified by people in the portal and will be resolved," he told Dawn.

He said that the situation in tribal districts was completely different. "For instance, people face issues at a checkpoint then jirga will be involved to resolve the issue like what we did in Laki Marwat by involving locals," said Mr Naif.

Mr Gandapur said that some of the displaced persons in Khyber district returned to their homes.

He added that the remaining people would soon return to the areas where there were no security issues since many localities were yet to be cleared.

He said that tribal districts were being focused. He said that jobs would be provided to people having local

domiciles. He added that there was huge potential of tourism in tribal districts.

The chief minister said that action would be taken against illegal recruitments and promotions. He said that government was focusing on "business" and would provide interest-free loans to youth.

Meanwhile, a statement issued from the chief minister's secretary said that "Iktiyar Awaraz Ka" portal was a robust and user-friendly digital platform that was open for citizens to file complaints regarding their issues and grievances.

"This 24/7 portal will ensure a real-time tracking and monitoring of complaints regarding services delivery in public sector entities allowing for swift redressal and resolution. Overseas Pakistanis can also register their concerns and issues on this portal," it said.

The statement said that the inclusive platform featuring simplified complaint submission mechanism, multi-channel interaction, data security and privacy, citizen feedback loop and artificial intelligence-powered analytics and reporting, was available on mobile app, WhatsApp, email, telephone and written application, offering dashboards for all departments and officers, ensuring seamless coordination and swift implementation of government decisions.

Mr Gandapur said that the purpose of the portal was to provide immediate solutions to people's problems. "We are empowering people, because solving their problems is our priority," he said.

He added that complaints would not be closed until the complainant was satisfied, reiterating the government's commitment to efficient and transparent governance.

**IN THE COURT OF SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE 2ND**  
Old High Court, Peshawar. File No. 10000 of 2024

**ADULAIN JIN... VERSUS... ANIS KHAN & OTHERS.**  
FIRST APPEAL arising out of the original suit No. 10000 of 2024 filed in the Court of Senior Civil Judge 2nd, Peshawar.

**Notice:** In Defendant No. 2 & 3 the son of Plaintiff calls for the return of the original suit file, presently in the possession of the Plaintiff, to the Court of Senior Civil Judge 2nd, Peshawar.

**Notice:** In Defendant No. 4 the Plaintiff calls for the return of the original suit file, presently in the possession of the Plaintiff, to the Court of Senior Civil Judge 2nd, Peshawar.

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**TENDER NOTICE**

Bids are invited for the following:

Tender No.	Description	Closing Date/ Time
PD/EA/C/PT/28913/24	3D seismic data acquisition (Synthetic & vibracoustic) and in-fold processing services in Bal & Sul North Block-Schistochron	21 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/OM/PT/28919/24	Supply of Mono ethylene glycol (MEG)	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/OM/PT/28924/24	Systems for Turbine (Gasheats, Pelton Kit, Cooler Oil, Valve etc.)	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/PA/C/PT/28929/24	Supply of split AC 1.5 ton (split inverter)	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/EA/C/PT/28937/24	Subscription of AutoCAD and AutoCAD Map 3D	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/EA/C/PT/28939/24	Maintenance and support services of SolarWinds network monitoring system	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/EA/C/PT/28946/24	Cisco Smartnet Renewal 2025-26	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/PA/C/PT/28970/24	Supply of AMS Time Device Communicator	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/EA/C/PT/28989/24	Call out agreement for tubular inspection services	14 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/EA/C/PT/28997/24	Call out agreement for wellhead welding services	14 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/EA/C/PT/28998/24	Call out agreement for wellhead inspection and refurbishment services	14 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/OM/PT/28971/24	Supply of transmitters, thermocouples, temperature indicators, chart, breaker, switches, relays, gasheats (instrumental items)	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.
PD/OM/PT/28972/24	Supply of lamps, cable, fan duct, module, strainer filter, flowmeters, gauges, orifice etc. (electrical items)	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.

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

**Extension in Bid Closing & Opening Date**

Closing and opening date of the following tender has been extended as follows:

Tender No.	Description	Tender Published On	Revised Closing Date/ Time
PD/EA/C/PT/28969/24	Enhancement in Pre-qualification list of vendors for development of corporate & relevant documents	09 Jul, 2024	07 Oct, 2024 1500 hrs.

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

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

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

**Commitment to Communities**

**Pakistan Petroleum Limited**

**HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION PAKISTAN**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROJECT COORDINATOR**

Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) Project

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has received funding from World Bank (WB) under Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) Project and intends to appoint one of the proceeds for consulting services. The Project aims to support research assistance in strategic sectors of the economy, improve teaching and learning, and strengthen governance in the higher education sector. A Project Coordinator Unit (PCU) has been set up under the Higher Education Commission for the HEDP project. The services of an eligible, motivated and professional individual for the position of Project Coordinator are required for PCU based in Islamabad as Individual Consultant. The eligibility, qualifications and experience criteria are as under:

S. No.	Position Title	Project Coordinator
1.	Qualification	A master's degree (16 years of education) from a reputable national/international university. Additional project management qualifications would be accorded more weightage.
2.	Experience	Market Competitive under the Procurement of FC-1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 05 years of experience (after acquiring stipulated qualifications) with at least 02 years working at a senior level (equivalent managing large complex projects with multiple stakeholders/national/international clients. Experience in the education sector would be accorded more weightage.</li> <li>• Preference will be given to those who have experience of working on water conservation/energy projects.</li> <li>• Documented experience of interacting with senior level policy makers and development institutions.</li> <li>• Proficiency in the usage of computer desktop applications and office software packages would be mandatory.</li> </ul>

- The TORs of the position are available at HEC website [www.hec.gov.pk](http://www.hec.gov.pk)
- Applicants are required to apply online from HEC website [www.hec.gov.pk](http://www.hec.gov.pk). There is no need to send a hardcopy of CV and documents.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section II, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IFB Bidders" (July 2016) (revised November 2017 and August 2018) ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Paragraphs 7.30 & 7.37 of "World Bank Procurement Regulations for Investment Project Financing Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services" (July 2016) (revised November 2017 & August 2018).
- Partners, family, associate or interest positions will not be considered if considered as experience.
- In person review of the credentials of applicants that have been evaluated as eligible, qualified and experience of applicants residing outside the Islamabad / Rawalpindi region and vicinity can be arranged via audio/video conferencing at the nearest HEC Office (Karachi, Lahore, Quetta & Peshawar).
- No NDA will be admissible for appearing in interview.
- Last date for submission of online application is **October 4, 2024**. Incomplete applications will not be entertained.

**Higher Education Commission**  
Sector 8-B, Islamabad, Ph: 991-99461415, 99461411  
For Technical/IT assistance, please contact: (991) 991-994622, 99461411-9432

**COMMON MANAGEMENT UNIT (CMU) FOR THE GLOBAL FUND (GFATM) GRANTS.**

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS & COORDINATION BLOKS C, E & F, EPI BUILDING, NEAR NIH, PM NATIONAL HEALTH COMPLEX, CHAK SHANZAD, PARK ROAD, ISLAMABAD.**

**INVITATION TO BID**

- The National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) under the Common Management Unit (CMU) for the Global Fund (GFATM) grants invites sealed bids for the procurement and supply of **Supplementary Equipment for Selected Sites / Misc. Equipment for Laboratory Network**, under procurement reference number: **CMU-NTP/066/2024**.
- Bidding shall be conducted under National Competitive Bidding through **Single Stage-Two Envelopes Bidding Procedure** mentioned in the Public Procurement Rules (PPRA Rules) 2004 (as amended time to time) and in accordance with the SMC approved NTP Procurement Manual.
- Eligible original manufacturing firms / distributor / authorized dealer (s) who have the experience in supply the required equipment, registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) may contact / download from [www.nhp.gov.pk/tenders/](http://www.nhp.gov.pk/tenders/), the standard bidding documents in English, at free of cost, from the office of the undersigned during office working hours (8:30am to 4:30pm) per before **Monday, October 07, 2024** (close of business). The Bidding Documents can also be obtained through sending email at [material@nhtc.gov.pk](mailto:material@nhtc.gov.pk) starting from **Thursday, September 19, 2024**.
- There shall be a pre-bid meeting at the office of the undersigned on **Monday, September 23, 2024** at **11:00 am**. Written questions and inquiries about the bids from potential bidders shall be emailed to [material@nhtc.gov.pk](mailto:material@nhtc.gov.pk) and will be answered (OO) days to the deadline for bid submission.
- The bid must be accompanied with a refundable Bid Security (or Earned money of value as mentioned category wise in Annex-B (Grant Total in Pak Rupees 3,870,000) for Orders No. 000,105/-, Split A/c No. 488,206/-, Pakistan Rs. 142,488/- and UPS along with Bankery Bank No. 2,181,480/- of bidding document in the shape of Bank Demand Draft or Call Deposit Receipt in the name of **National TB Control Program (NTP), Original Bid Security or Earned money shall be attached with the original financial bid whereas a copy shall be attached in the technical bid.**
- Submission of bids through EPADS system of PPRA is mandatory** (<https://e-procurement.gov.pk>)
- The sealed bids shall reach to the office of undersigned through registered Mail Services, Courier Services or by hand submission on or before **Monday, October 07, 2024** at **11:00 AM**. Bids submitted after the deadline shall be rejected. The bids shall be opened publicly on the same day by the Procurement committee in the presence of representatives of the bidders who choose to attend at **11:30 AM** at the office of the undersigned.

**Pre-Bid Meeting and Submission address:**  
PM Box, 0-Block, EPI Building,  
Near NIH, PM National Health Complex, Chak Shanzad,  
Park Road, ISLAMABAD

**(MUHAMMAD SABIR GURESHI)**  
Project Manager, CMU  
PHONE NO. 011-4428081, 326621-3 FBR(1561)/24

**CDA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Procurement & Contracts Agreement-I

**PROPOSALS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION #HumCDA**

**OF FIRMS / CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROJECT "CONSTRUCTION OF JINNAH MEDICAL COMPLEX AT SECTOR H-16, ISLAMABAD"**

- The Capital Development Authority (CDA) invites e-application from the Engineering firms/contractors registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category C-A for the subject multi-story towers including infra-structural developmental, electrical/mechanical machineries and equipment required for hospital buildings of international standards.
- Electronic pre-qualification document, containing detailed requirements, terms and conditions is available for the registered bidders on EPADS at [www.eprocure.gov.pk](http://www.eprocure.gov.pk) and [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk).
- The electronic proposal, prepared in accordance with instructions in the pre-qualification documents must be submitted through EPADS on or before **07-10-2024** at **11:30 AM**. Manual bids shall not be accepted. Electronic proposals will be opened on the same day at **12:00 PM** on [www.eprocure.gov.pk](http://www.eprocure.gov.pk).
- Notification of the GRC constituted in terms of Rule-48 of Public Procurement Rules, 2004 is provided on EPADS at [www.eprocure.gov.pk](http://www.eprocure.gov.pk) and [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk).
- Further information regarding the project may be obtained from the Project Director, Qazi Umar (cell no. 0321-5390080) on any working day (during office hours). Only the short listed/pre-qualified firms/contractors will subsequently be invited to submit tender/bid for the above-mentioned project. In case of incomplete information or concealment of fact, the application will result into disqualification of the firm/contractor.
- The Authority reserves the right to reject all the applications as per PPRA Rules-2004.

(Sana Ullah Virk), Dy. Director-I (P&C-I), CDA  
Block No III, P&C Wing, Room No.26  
CDA Secretariat, Sector G 7/4, Islamabad.  
051-9252928, [dd.ipsai@cda.gov.pk](mailto:dd.ipsai@cda.gov.pk) PD (I) 2014/24

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S.No.	Name of the Post and Pay Scale	Academic / Professional Qualifications/Requirements
01	Project Director-PPRA-00	<p>PhD degree in Civil Engineering from HEC/UGC recognized university with 10 years of professional work experience in PPRA and above or equivalent in Government or Government Autonomous Organization, University, Government Communications and Works Department and/or a firm of repute OR holding 10 years of education or equivalent qualifications from HEC/UGC recognized university in Civil Engineering with 05 years of construction work experience in PPRA and above or equivalent in Government or Government Autonomous Organization, University, Government Communications and Works Department and/or a firm of repute.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>MA in Civil Engineering (05 years of education) preferably in first class, or equivalent qualifications from a HEC/UGC recognized university with 05 years of construction work experience in PPRA and above or equivalent in Government or Government Autonomous Organization, University, Government Communications and Works Department and/or a firm of repute.</p>

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- To apply, please visit website <http://www.aror.edu.pk>. Those applicants who meet the above-mentioned criteria should apply. The completion of final/required degree is mandatory for all positions. For further job descriptions and other requirements, please visit website [www.aror.edu.pk](http://www.aror.edu.pk) (detailed resume less than 2 pages, duly attested photocopies of Certificates/degrees, names and contact of two professional referees (not relatives). Equivalence of qualification by HEC on case of Foreign Degree, along with payment of PKR 5000/- through Bank Cheque (DD drawn/underlined) in favor of "Aror University of Art, Architecture, Design and Heritage Sukkur".
- Applications must reach the office of the Director, Human Resources on or before **October 02, 2024**, by **05:00 PM** during office hours (DD) via registered post/courier service only. Any incomplete applications as per the instructions mentioned above and/or late applications received after the specified date and time shall not be entertained/considered. Hardcopy of documents e.g. degrees, certificates, HEC,



# BUSINESS

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## Current account in surplus after four months

Foreign direct investment surges \$5.5pc in August

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The current account deficit (CAD) declined sharply by 81 per cent in the first two months of the financial year (FY25) while August posted surplus after four months.

The declining trend has finally produced a \$75 million surplus for August, compared to a deficit of \$152m in the same month of the previous year.

This must be a big relief for the government as it is struggling to deal with a huge surplus requirement for external debt servicing. The government needs \$26.2 billion for debt servicing in FY25 — a load which is rising every year. According to financial experts, this is not a good sign for the economy.

The IMF loan of \$7bn, likely to be approved next week, would be used to repay the debt and interest on it. Despite this inflow, the government will require inflows of \$1.2m from China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The finance minister and the State Bank governor have assured the nation that the rollover is almost certain. This assurance has helped the local currency to stay strong against the dollar and to keep the exchange rate stable.

The CAD was \$171m during July-Aug FY25, whereas it was \$801m during the same period of the previous year, showing a decline of 81 per cent.

The CAD was \$965m in FY24, \$1.27bn in FY23 and \$17.8bn in FY22.

The current account surplus in August is likely to send a positive signal to investors as well as creditors. Some analysts said that despite political uncertainty, economic performance on the external front is an achievement for the government.

They also noted that the August surplus was significant because of a large current account deficit of \$246m in July. The change is welcome and could bring more inflows of dollars from exporters and overseas Pakistanis.

### Foreign investment

According to the State Bank, foreign direct investment (FDI) rose by 55.5 per cent during July-Aug FY25. The increase looks healthy, but the size of investment remained poor. During the first two months of FY25, the country received \$350m, compared to \$225m in the same period of the last financial year.

The inflows in August sharply increased to \$144m, compared to \$140m in the same period of last year. The government has been trying hard to attract foreign investors with incentive offers for giant entities. But foreign investors are reluctant to bring their money to a country with a high degree of political uncertainty and an economy which is being run on short-term policies.

## Banking industry expands 11.5pc

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has said that the balance sheet footing of the banking sector expanded by 11.5 per cent in H1CY24, mainly driven by investments in government securities.

In its Mid-Year Performance Review on the Banking Sector for 2024, released on Wednesday, the central bank noted that the government remained the primary borrower of banking money, which doubled the profits of the entire banking industry in FY23.

The government has planned to borrow over \$6.3 trillion from banks in FY25, primarily to service its domestic debts. The review covers the performance and soundness of the domestic banking sector in January-June. It also briefly covers financial market performance and the Systemic Risk Survey (SRS) results.

The State Bank said the advances posted a continued growth due to the net refinements by the private sector, a through long-term financing to SMEs showed some revival.

"The decline in private sector advances was significantly lower than H1CY23," said the SBP report. On the funding side, deposits increased by 11.7pc in H1CY24, with a major impetus from saving and current deposits. The higher pace of asset growth, however, necessitated additional borrowing, which kept banks' reliance on borrowing intact. The asset quality profile of the sector remained satisfactory, as gross Non-performing loans witnessed a subdued increase. —Staff Reporter

## T-bill bids rejected

KARACHI: The government rejected all bids for treasury bills on Wednesday, apparently to borrow at a cheaper rate in the next auction.

The State Bank of Pakistan reduced its policy rate by 200 basis points to 17.5 per cent on Sept 12, and cut-off yields on T-bills were already at this rate before the announcement.

The market experts termed the move surprising since the government depends mostly on banking money to run its day-to-day affairs. Most of the revenue goes for debt servicing each year.

The investors placed total bids of \$41,425bn, three times higher than the target.

The 12-month T-bills saw significant interest, with bids totalling \$622bn, representing 6pc of the total bid amount. For the three-month T-bills, bids amounted to \$222bn, while six-month papers attracted \$427bn, accounting for 2pc of the total bids. —Staff Reporter

<b>US DOLLAR</b> BUYING: \$279.48 SELLING: \$280.70	<b>EURO</b> BUYING: \$208.83 SELLING: \$211.71
<b>GBP</b> BUYING: \$1366.75 SELLING: \$1370.24	<b>SAUDI RIYAL</b> BUYING: \$173.84 SELLING: \$174.56
<b>YEN</b> BUYING: \$109.18 SELLING: \$110.18	<b>GOLD</b> 24K 999.9: \$2377.700 10 GRAMS: \$229,810

## Power firms seek to refund Rs7.2bn

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Amid a major drop in demand, public sector power companies have sought a 57 paise per unit negative fuel price adjustment (FCA) in electricity bills to refund Rs7.2 billion overcharged to consumers last month.

This will be the second month in a row that FCAs remain negative, mainly because of robust fuel allowances allowed by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) through a 20pc increase in base tariff effective from July 1 to June 30, 2025.

Almost 70pc of the total power supply during the month flowed from domestic fuel sources, more than half at zero fuel cost.

Last month, the regulator had approved a 37 paise per unit negative FCA adjustment for consumption in July. However, since the FCA is only for one month, the 37 paise relief would be replaced by 57 paise with Nepra's approval.

The effective cost would thus

work out to be about 20 paise per unit or about Rs1.2bn because negative FCA is not applicable to consumers with low consumption.

The Nepra has called a public hearing on Sept 26 to take up a petition filed by the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) — a subsidiary of the power divisions — seeking "a decrease of Rs8.5755/kwh over the reference fuel charge... Rs9.3827/kwh".

The CPPA said the power companies had charged Rs9.39 per unit fuel cost last month, which actually turned out to be Rs8.81 per unit.

The CPPA, acting as a commercial agent for Discom, proposed through a petition that 57 paise per unit negative FCA should be adjusted to consumers in the billing month of October for electricity consumed in August.

It claimed the reference fuel cost for August was set at Rs9.39 per unit, but the actual cost turned out to be Rs8.81 per unit.

It said 11,179 gigawatt hour (GWh) electricity was generated at an estimated fuel expenditure of Rs98.71m (Rs7.49 per unit) in

August, of which 12,752 GWh energy was delivered to Discom at a cost of Rs112.4bn (at Rs8.81 per unit).

The data showed a major fall in power consumption, apparently due to record tariffs and shrinking purchasing power of consumers. The consumption in August was 18pc lower than the same month (13,472GWh) of last year. The per unit fuel cost in August last year was reported at Rs8.40 per unit against Rs9.39 this year.

**Biggest contributor**  
The biggest contributor to the total power supply came from hydroelectricity at 80pc, compared to its 37pc share last year. Hydropower has no fuel cost.

The second biggest share in the national grid came from nuclear power at 36.6pc, followed by LNG's share of 16pc.

The supply from coal-based generation amounted to 15pc of the total, which included local coal share of 9.9pc and imported coal at 5.17pc. This was followed by 7.2pc contribution from local gas.

The LNG-based power generation cost in August stood at

Rs25.76 per unit, followed by Rs15.82 per unit from imported coal and Rs13.58 per unit from local gas. The cost from furnace oil-based generation came in at Rs30.3 per unit, but its contribution was just 0.04pc to the overall power supply.

On the other hand, the cost of local coal-based generation stood at Rs12.27 per unit and the cost of nuclear fuel amounted to Rs4.49 per unit. Hydropower supply at 40 per cent of the total share was produced at zero cost while three renewable energy sources — wind, biomass and solar — together contributed 4.12pc share to the grid. Wind and solar have no fuel cost, while that of biomass-based generation cost more than double at Rs12.47 per unit, compared to Rs6 per unit earlier, given their so-called subsidised status.

After approval by Nepra, the lower FCAs would be adjusted in consumers' bills in the billing month of October.

The lower FCA, on approval, would not be applicable to domestic consumers using up to 350 units per month.



EXPORT of various items rose 50.73pc in July-August from same period a year ago — Fishermen

## Consumers paying higher prices as food exports surge

By Mubarak Zub Khan

ISLAMABAD: Exports of raw food items continued to increase in the current fiscal year, with a 42.39 per cent gain in the first two months compared to the same period of the previous year.

The value of raw food exports reached \$1.01 billion in July-August from \$710.65 million over the corresponding months of last year, according to data compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

In FY24, the raw food exports reached \$88m, up from \$5.8bn over the preceding year.

As a result, consumers nationwide are paying higher prices for food items because of supply and demand gaps. Raw food exports have climbed for the past 13 consecutive months despite the highest food inflation in history.

The government has allowed sugar export despite an average retail price of Rs160 per kg.

In the first two months, sugar exports reached \$6.148 tonnes, compared to 5,146 tonnes in the same months last year, showing an increase of 190.29pc. Millers have mainly exported sugar to Afghanistan.

Rice is a major contributor to the rise in food exports. Rice exports increased by 98.58pc in the first two months of FY25 compared to the previous year. The quantity and value of basmati rice increased by 136.19pc and 103.63pc, respectively.

Exports of rice, other than basmati, increased 95.34pc in value and 64.84pc in quantity in 2MY25 over the last year.

This surge is attributed to Pakistan's strong performance in the EU, Africa, the ASEAN region, and GCC countries, coupled with rising the Minimum Export Price and enhanced compliance with

### Sanitary and Phytosanitary standards

Due to a sustained surge in export figures over the past two years, the average price of basmati rice has surged to Rs600 per kg from Rs450, restricting buying from domestic consumers.

Most exports increased by 2.43pc in 2MY25 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The opening of new markets, participation of new companies in meat exports and approval for additional slaughterhouses have contributed to this growth.

Meat prices in the domestic market have experienced an unparalleled surge in recent years. In the past three years, the average cost of buffalo meat has jumped from Rs700 per kg to Rs1,400. This increase has caught the attention of market observers and stakeholders alike. The price of chicken has also experienced an unprecedented surge, reaching its highest level over the last three years.

Exports of vegetables, especially onions, have recorded growth of 56.73pc in July-Aug FY25 from a year ago. The export of fruits increased by 11.20pc during the months under review.

Exports of fish and its product declined by 10.90pc, followed by a decline of 9.63pc in spices, 15.27pc in oil seeds and nuts, 100pc in the export of leguminous vegetables during the period under review.

Contrary to this, the import of food products declined 38.15pc to \$1,064m in 2MY25 from \$1,307m over the corresponding months thanks to a decline in the arrival of infant baby milk, soyabean oil, palm oil, sugar and probiotics.

However, the import of spices increased by 59pc and dried fruits 89pc, respectively.

## Steep fall casts doubt on cotton production data

By Arjad Mahmood

LAHORE: An abnormal decline in domestic cotton production and abnormal performance of spinning factories make the fortnightly data, released by the Pakistan Cotton Spinners Association (PCSA) on Wednesday, doubtful.

The PCSA says that as of Sept 15, the total physis arrival at spinning units was 1,434,028 bales, a significant decrease of 63.55 per cent compared to the 3,933,846 bales recorded during the same date last season. It reports that only 302 spinning units are operating against 634 units last year.

An insider says that spinning units report an average of preparing 45 bales per day against the normal working of 100 bales daily. This means that a large quantity of lint is going undocumented to avoid the payment of higher taxes imposed by the government this year, he says, requesting not to be named.

Domestic cotton production is projected to be only 6.570 million bales this season, significantly below the national requirements.

In Punjab, cotton production reached 538,686 bales in contrast to 1,544,634 bales produced by this date last year, indicating a 65.13pc decline.

In Sindh, 899,341 bales have been produced this year, compared to 2,385,212 bales during the same period last year, reflecting a 62.5pc fall in production. In Balochistan, the total cotton production for the year stands at 34,900 bales.

The significant fall in domestic cotton production may be attributed to several key factors, including climate change, extreme heat and drought, heavy rains and pest infestations.

These challenges have pushed production costs beyond the reach of many farmers, while climate-resistant cotton varieties capable of yielding optimally under such harsh conditions have yet to be developed.

## Auto financing declines

By Aamir Shahaan Khan

KARACHI: Amid a downward trajectory in the interest rates, auto financing declined for the 29th consecutive month to Rs227.3 billion in August from Rs258m in July.

As per the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data, the outstanding auto loan registered a massive fall of Rs186.71m from Rs366m in June 2022.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reduced the interest rate for the first time in nearly three years to 20.5 per cent on June 10 from an unprecedented 22pc. This was followed by a further

reduction to 19.5pc on July 29 and then to 17.5pc on Sept 12, thus bringing a ray of hope for the revival of auto sales.

Amid falling interest rates, private banks have also offered lucrative deals to new buyers. A few seem to have achieved some success, as the drop in auto financing volume in August wasn't as alarming compared to previous months.

Spire Separation Chief Executive Muhammad Sufail said car and bike sales were surging. Moreover, banks have started extending financing at slightly lower markup rates. "We see some improvement in auto loans going forward," he added.

## 970-point rally tosses index above 80,000

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: Despite aggressive foreign selling, the stock market on Wednesday rallied further higher on the back of improved economic numbers following a much-anticipated rate cut and scheduling of an IMF loan meeting on Pakistan's full-on, raising the KSE 100 index above 80,000 amid low volume.

Ahmad Mubtashir of Arif Habib Corporation said the market surged on speculation ahead of the IMF executive board meeting on Sept 25 to approve a \$7bn state Extended Fund Facility amid rising remittance, exports and falling trade deficit.

He added that the Asian Development Bank's affirmation of a \$2bn annual concessional loan till 2027 and a stable rupee also contributed to a robust performance.

In its review, Capital

### PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

#### THE TOP FIVERS

GAINERS		LOSERS		LEADERS*	
Sapphire Textile	57.88	Unilever Foods	182.77	WorldCall Telecom	32.22
Mari Petroleum	41.59	Sapphire Fibres	121.42	TRG Pakistan	22.00
Pakistan Eng	35.46	Hocehar Pakistan	79.16	Pace Pakistan	19.64
Pakistan Services	30.52	Neelka Pakistan	78.39	Leads Limited	12.34
Premium Textile	25.89	Raffian Maps	72.50	First Cap. Securities	11.95

\* Based on volume of traded shares

#### INDICATORS

Indicator	Present	Previous	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	80,481.84	79,481.84	▲ 999.2
KSE 20-SHARE INDEX (Points)	29,498.48	29,048.40	▲ 450.08
MARKET CAPITAL (in billion)	10,670.873	10,522.268	▲ 148.607
TRADING VALUE (in billion)	15.904	8.911	▲ 6.993

Security Ltd said the KSE index opened on a positive note as broad-based buying was observed in blue-chip stocks, where heavyweights such as Mari Petroleum, Engro Fertili-

zer, United Bank, Mehsan Bank and Faqir Fertilizer, posted significant gains, collectively contributing 582-point rise.

Pioneer Cement declined in FY24 result, where the company posted earnings per share of Rs22.79, along with a cash dividend of Rs10 per share.

while the traded value surged by 78.46pc to Rs1,900m day-on-day.

Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included WorldCall Telecom (12.2bn shares), TRG Pakistan (22.0bn shares), Pace Pakistan (19.64bn shares), Leads Ltd (12.34bn shares) and First Capital Securities (11.95bn shares).

The shares registering the most significant increases in their prices in absolute terms were Sapphire Textile (Rs25.89), Mari Petroleum (Rs41.59), Pakistan Engineering Works Ltd (Rs15.46), Pakistan Services (Rs30.52) and Premium Textile (Rs25.89).

The companies that suffered major losses in their share prices in absolute terms were Unilever Foods (Rs182.77), Sapphire Fibres (Rs121.42), Hocehar Pakistan (Rs79.16), Neelka Pakistan (Rs78.39) and Raffian Maps (Rs72.50).

Foreign investors remained net sellers as they sold shares worth \$4.3bn,

# Fury as Indian SC drops charges against troops over 13 deaths

**NEW DELHI:** Relatives of civilians killed in a bus ambush by the Indian army said on Wednesday they were "disgusted" the Supreme Court had quashed criminal proceedings against the soldiers.

"I am greatly hurt that the court has not been able to deliver justice," Chetwani Koryak, whose 32-year-old son was among those killed, said. Koryak, 60, said the ruling appeared as if "only the lives of uniformed men matter".

Indian commandos in the northeastern state of Nagaland killed six miners in Dec 2021 when they fired on a truck, mistaking them for insurgents operating near the frontier with war-torn Myanmar. Nagaland has seen decades of unrest among ethnic and separatist groups, and the army said after the killings that its troops had acted on "credible intelligence".

Later, officers fired on protesters angry at the deaths, taking the toll to 13 civilians. In addition, a soldier was killed in the violence. At the time, Home Minister Amit Shah vowed a probe would provide "justice to the bereaved families", and state police pressed charges of attempted murder against 30 soldiers.

But the federal government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi refused to endorse the process. New Delhi's green light is required to prosecute soldiers operating in hostile areas covered by special laws granting commanders the discretion to prosecute officers.

The Supreme Court in New Delhi ruled on Tuesday that charges against soldiers have to be quashed because there had been no government approval for prosecution. "I am disappointed," Koryak said. "Thirteen people have been killed, and several have been maimed for life, but there is no accountability." Survivors say they were shot at despite it being clear that they were unarmed civilians.

Tinghen Koryak, 37, was among a group bringing the bodies of those killed in the initial shooting back to their families when he said soldiers shot him in the hand, removing his thumb.



FLAMES rise during an explosion in Russia's Tver region, on Wednesday.—Reuters

# Ukrainian drone attack triggers quake-sized blast at Russian arsenal

The strike leaves 13 people injured

**LONDON:** A large-scale Ukrainian drone attack on Russia triggered an earthquake-sized blast at a major arsenal in the Tver region on Wednesday, leaving the executives of a nearby town, war bloggers and some media reported.

Thirteen people have been injured in Russia's Tver region after a large Ukrainian drone attack sparked a fire there, according to the country's health ministry, the BBC reported.

Unverified video and images on social media showed a large ball of flame blasting high into the night sky and multiple detonations thundering across a lake about 380 km west of Moscow. News satellites picked up intense heat sources emanating from an area of about 14 square kilometres at the site in the early hours and earthquake monitoring stations picked up what sensors thought was a small earthquake in the area.

"The enemy hit an ammunition depot in the area of Toropets," said Yuri Fedotyuk, an Ukrainian-born, pro-Russian military blogger. "Everything that can burn is

already burning there (and exploding)." Russian state media have in the past reported that a major arsenal was located at the site of the blast. State media, which is now subject to military censorship laws, was muted in its reporting on Wednesday.

Igor Rodermis, the governor of the Tver region, said that Ukrainian drones had been shot down, that a fire had broken out and that some residents were being evacuated. One woman said that members of her family had been evacuated from Toropets. "A fire started with explosions," the woman said, giving only a first name, Irina.

A source in Ukraine's SBU state security service said the drone attack destroyed a warehouse storing missiles, guided bombs and artillery ammunition. Russia and Ukraine each reported dozens of enemy drone attacks on their territory overnight, with Russian forces advancing in eastern Ukraine.

This latest attack by Ukraine is the kind it has been warning to carry out with missiles supplied by its western allies. However, in the absence of approval from the US and UK, it has once again hit

Russian targets with drones it has made itself.

Russia reported that its air defence units had destroyed 54 drones launched against five Russian regions overnight, without mentioning Tver. Ukraine said it had shot down 86 of 92 drones launched by Moscow overnight and that Russia had used three guided air missiles which did not reach their targets.

**Major explosion**

The size of the main blast shown in the over-the-top social media video was consistent with 200-240 tons of high explosive detonating, according to George William Harbert of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Montserrat in California. A Toropets chatroom on the Russian social media site VK was flooded with messages of support from other parts of the country and offers of help to people fleeing the town.

Some people were asking whether buildings at specific addresses were still standing. "People, does anyone know what's happened to Kudino village?? They told me nothing is left of our house," posted one woman.

—Agencies

# US Fed makes half-point cut in first rate reduction since 2020

**WASHINGTON:** The Federal Reserve cut interest rates by half of a percentage point on Wednesday, kicking off what is expected to be a steady easing of monetary policy with a larger-than-usual reduction in borrowing costs that followed growing uneasiness about the health of the job market.

"The committee has gained greater confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward two per cent, and judges that the risks to achieving its employment and inflation goals are roughly in balance," policymakers on the US central bank's rate-setting committee said in their latest statement, which drew a dissent from Governor Michelle Bowman, who favoured only a quarter-percentage-point cut.

Policymakers see the Fed's benchmark rate falling by another half of a percentage point by the end of this year, another full percentage point next year, and by a final half of a percentage point in 2026 to end in a 2.75 per cent target range.

The endpoint reflects a slight upgrade, from 2.8 to 2.5pc, in the long-term federal funds rate, considered a "neutral" stance that neither encourages nor discourages economic activity.

"This decision reflects our growing confidence that with an appropriate overall stance, strength in the labour market can be maintained in a context of moderate growth and inflation moving sustainably down to 2pc," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said at a press conference following the meeting.

Stocks gained following the release of the statement and updated quarterly economic projections, while the dollar fell against a basket of currencies. Treasury yields fell.

"The Fed ended the

passive with a bang. It's a strong signal that they cut by 50 basis points and expect another 50 basis points of cuts this year. This was controversial," said Brian Jacobson, chief economist at Arconis Wealth Management.

Even though inflation "remains somewhat elevated", the Fed's latest statement said policymakers allow to cut the overnight rate to the 4.75pc-5pc range "in light of the progress on inflation and the balance of risks".

The central bank "would be prepared to adjust the stance of monetary policy as appropriate if risks emerge that could impede the attainment of the Committee's goals," with attention to "both sides of its dual mandate" for stable prices and maximum employment, it said.

The Fed's policy meeting this week was its last before voters go to the polls in what is expected to be a close US presidential election on Nov 5.

**Labour market slowdown**

The size of the initial cut will likely raise questions about the Fed's strategy, and whether policymakers were merely trying to account for the fast decline in inflation since last year, or address concerns among some officials that the US job market may be weakening faster than desired or needed to ensure inflation fully returns to the central bank's two per cent target.

It is currently about half a percentage point above that level, and the new economic projections now show the annual rate of increase in the personal consumption expenditures price index falling to 2.3pc by the end of this year and down to 2.1pc by the end of next year. The unemployment rate is seen ending this year at 4.4pc, higher than the current 4.2pc, and remaining there through 2025.—Reuters

# Rafsanjani's daughter freed after two years

**TEHRAN:** The daughter of former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was released on Wednesday after two years behind bars in Tehran's Evin prison, media outlets in the Islamic republic reported.

Fazolah Hashemi Rafsanjani, 61, was arrested in September 2022 for allegedly inciting people to get involved in protests sparked by the death that month of Mahsa Amini, after her detention for an alleged breach of Iran's strict dress code for women.

The woman's father is an activist and former parliamentarian who was released from the prison in Tehran following an appeal court ruling, her lawyer Mohammad Hossein Aghaesi was cited as saying by the Reuters news agency.

Hashemi, previously convicted in 2012 for propaganda against the Islamic republic, had been sentenced to five years in jail in the wake of the 2022 protests.

Her father served as Iran's president from 1989 to 1997 and was known for advocating better relations with the West.—AFP

# Global police sting targets users of 'Ghost' organised crime app

**THE HAGUE:** A 32-year-old Australian "computer geek" has been arrested on suspicion of building an encrypted messaging app used by hundreds of criminals worldwide to arrange drug deals and order killings, police said on Wednesday.

Australian Federal Police said the Ghost app was marketed to underworld figures as "unhackable" and was used by hundreds of suspected criminals from Europe, the Middle East and Asia. But, unbeknownst to users, global policing authorities hacked the network and were watching as the criminals discussed illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, homicides and serious violence.

Authorities made their move on Tuesday

and Wednesday, arresting criminals from Italy, Ireland, Sweden, Canada and Australia — including Jay Je Yoon Jung, the alleged "master criminal" of the app. European executive director Catherine De Belle said law enforcement from nine countries had been involved in the international sting.

"Today we have made it clear that no matter how hidden criminal networks think they are, they can't evade our collective effort," she said. "This was a truly global game of cat and mouse, and today the game is up".

Jean-Philippe Lecomte, Europe's deputy executive director, told reporters in agency's headquarters in The Hague. Authorities dismantled an Australian drug lab while weapons, drugs and more than

one million euros in cash have been seized globally, the EU policing agency added.

Ghost, a kind of WhatsApp for criminals, was created nine years ago and could only be accessed via modified smartphones that sold for about \$492,356. The hefty price tag included a six-month subscription to the Ghost app and tech support, Australian police said, and users were required to purchase an ongoing subscription.

French police traced the creator's location to Australia and joined forces with local police to target the platform. The app's creator regularly pushed out software updates but in 2022, Australian police were able to hijack those updates to access encrypted content.

For two years, authorities watched as Ghost became more popular and criminals exchanged messages — including 50 death threats that Australian police said they were able to thwart. Several thousand people worldwide use Ghost and around 1,000 messages are exchanged on it every day, according to Europol. There were 176 phones with the Ghost app installed in Australia alone.

In one case, police intercepted an image of a gun to someone's head and were able to save that person within the hour, Australian Federal Police assistant commissioner Kirby Schofield said. Ireland, which was second in terms of Ghost users, was able to dismantle "a primary drugs trafficking

route into our country and in doing so have seized drugs with an approximate street value of 16 million euros", Justin Kelly, assistant police commissioner, was quoted as telling The Irish Times.

**Revoking the unhackable**

Hacking into encrypted apps on phones has become increasingly challenging for authorities, but not impossible. Three years ago, a similar network — called ANOM — led to 805 arrests worldwide.

Little did they know, ANOM was produced and distributed by the FBI, allowing US and other nations' law enforcement to decrypt 27 million messages, many of which related to criminal activity.—AFP



MOSCOW: A partial lunar eclipse is seen with the Kremlin and Russia's foreign ministry headquarters in the foreground, on Wednesday.—Reuters

# NEWSMAKERS



FARSA Aali, Zahra Hassani, Masoma Zaki and Malika Mohammadi, the four female medical students from Afghanistan, in their new surroundings at the University of Glasgow.—AFP

# Afghan women pursue medical studies in Scotland after ban

**GLASGOW:** When the Taliban banned women from attending university in Afghanistan, Zahra Hassani thought her dream of becoming a doctor was over. Now, she is continuing her medical degree in Britain.

"Coming to Scotland, it changed everything. It has given me hope for a better future," the 26-year-old said in Glasgow, where she arrived last month to resume her studies. "I can become a doctor, I can become independent financially and I can serve my family, my community to the best of my ability," she added.

Hassani is one of 19 female medical students from Afghanistan who landed in Scotland on Aug 21 following a three-year campaign by the Linda Norgrove

Foundation. Norgrove was a 36-year-old Scottish aid worker who was kidnapped by militants in Afghanistan and killed during a failed rescue attempt by US special forces in 2010.

The foundation, formed by her partners in her name, said that the students had often been confined to their homes since the Taliban issued its ban on women studying at universities in Dec 2022.

The Taliban authorities have implemented an austere interpretation of Islamic law since returning to power in Afghanistan in Aug 2021 following the withdrawal of US forces. Women have borne the brunt of restrictions that the United Nations has labelled "gender apartheid".—AFP



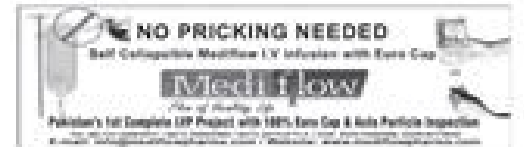
DRESDEN: A view of a partially collapsed Carolus Bridge (Carlostrasse) in the city's centre, Germany's eastern state of Saxony is expecting a flood peak in Elbe river on Thursday. The death toll has risen to 19 in central Europe after flooding hit towns by storm floods last week.—AFP



YIWU: A robot delivers food to a guest at a hotel in China's Zhejiang province.—AFP







# Govt looking to induct experts in key ministries

### International lenders advise govt to adopt best governance structures

By Khaleeq Khan

ISLAMABAD: The government is considering inducting experts from the local market and abroad into all economic and technical ministries to replace the existing generalist cadre of federal secretaries and their immediate subordinates to create an efficient and modern government structure capable of steering the country out of the prevailing governance challenges.

Sources told Dawn that international lenders working with the government on structural reforms have recommended adopting the best international governance structures in which bureaucrats serve as facilitators to the private sector based on research and data-based decision-making rather than creating trouble through their control and power.

As part of the advice, the government has already taken the first step by inducting the federal secretary from the private sector to the Ministry of Information, Technology and Telecommunications. The minister of strategy — both petroleum and power — finance, commerce, water resources, climate change and aviation are expected to follow suit.

The sources said it had also been felt at the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) — a newly created body of civil and military leadership — that the present-day bureaucracy was not capable of taking the country forward.

Several cases and proposals come before the government from various quarters, but get stuck or pass through the process without quality input based on best market practices because the secretary is not necessarily an expert in the field.

Most of the critical federal ministries, particularly those on the economic side, have long been in control of the Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) — formerly the District Management Group

(DMG). For example, dozens of PAS-DMG officers have led the crucial Ministry of Finance for decades with no more than one exception.

"The minister needs to be changed from exercising power for permits and approvals to target-oriented performance indicators on a yearly basis," said a cabinet member familiar with the discussions. The World Bank is the key lender supporting Pakistan's structural reforms through loans, grants and technical assistance.

They should be given targets each year, and their performance should be evaluated based on outcomes and problems solved, not months and years of completed tenure. The proposed inductees would be on the pattern of under-secretary of state in the United States, where highly qualified professionals of relevant fields are given top bureaucratic positions to improve the efficiency and output of the government.

In doing so, the government may also transfer the powers of the principal accounting officers (PAOs) from the federal secretaries to ministers who should be answerable to the cabinet, the prime minister and parliament for their decisions.

The sources said the recent appointment of a PAS officer as head of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) instead of a taxation expert did also not go well with the lenders. The tax authority already suffered around Rs100bn revenue shortfall in August.

The sources said the revenue collection, according to lenders, should be driven by data and research and had appreciated the hiring of a few consulting firms by the government, but worried this to be institutionalised.

This had to be applied to other fields as well, and decision-making should be based on target studies as other countries were doing in modernising their economies, including in the Middle East, where all economic, commercial and financial decisions stand anchored to consulting firms of respective fields instead of political considerations.

"The political leadership should look at the broader policy direction," an official said while referring to lenders.

# Pakistan, Russia seek more avenues for cooperation

### Dar, Overchuk underscore potential for further energy collaboration

By Basir Sajid Syed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral relations through increased trade, energy cooperation, regional connectivity and stronger defence ties.

This commitment was expressed during a joint press conference by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, following delegation-level talks at the Foreign Office.

During the discussions, both sides reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation and explored ways to enhance it by building on the positive momentum in their relationship over the past two decades. Mr Dar highlighted a significant milestone in bilateral trade, announcing that trade between the two countries had reached \$1 billion in the last fiscal year.

He hailed the existing partnership, emphasising that cooperation with Russia remained a central priority for Pakistan's foreign policy. "Pakistan-Russia relations have come a long way, and we are committed to strengthening this relationship based on trust and mutual respect," Dar said.

Both sides expressed a shared vision for boosting trade, with discussions focusing on overcoming logistical hurdles and dealing with sanctions against Russia for increasing trade volume.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar welcomes Alexei Overchuk, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Wednesday — PFI

Mr Overchuk offered cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which is an economic union of five member states comprising Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

He said he had discussed with the Pakistani delegation the possibility of having a free trade agreement between Pakistan and EAEU. "This is something that we would certainly be willing to also discuss in greater detail in the months to come," he maintained.

Mr Dar expressed interest in the possibility of negotiating a FTA between Pakistan and EAEU.

Mr Dar pointed to energy cooperation as an essential avenue for growth, stating that Pakistan had initiated talks with Russia on energy purchases, particularly LNG and oil, as early as 2022. Both leaders underscored the potential for further energy collaboration.

Connectivity emerged as a critical topic in the talks, with plans to develop rail and road networks to improve trade routes between Pakistan and Russia. The Russian deputy prime minister emphasised

the importance of enhancing regional infrastructure through the North-South Transport Corridor and linking it with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This integrated connectivity can potentially facilitate trade between Pakistan, Russia and Central Asia, through existing infrastructure and new routes via Afghanistan and Iran.

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**Cultural, educational exchanges**

With the upcoming Pakistan-Russia Trade and Investment Forum set to take place in Moscow on Sept 30 and Oct 1, both sides appeared optimistic that these engagements will give further impetus to bilateral cooperation. "We are expecting representatives of many companies from both Pakistan and Russia to join together

and discuss how they can do business," the Russian deputy PM said, calling the forum a unique opportunity for enhancing trade.

Mr Dar highlighted increased collaboration between Pakistani and Russian universities, while the Russian deputy PM spoke about initiatives to promote the Russian language in Pakistan and enhance educational links.

Looking ahead, both sides have a busy diplomatic calendar.

The Russian prime minister is expected to visit Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting next month. Additionally, the sixth session of the Pakistan-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economy, Science and Technology is scheduled to take place in Russia by the end of the year.

Experts from both sides will meet on Thursday for in-depth discussions on these proposals.

**Meeting with army chief**

Meanwhile, Army Chief Gen Asim Munir, in his meeting with the Russian deputy PM, reiterated Pakistan's commitment to enhancing defence ties with Russia. "Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen security and defence cooperation in multiple domains," the INPR said, adding that the two also discussed regional security dynamics and bilateral cooperation.

# Partnership doesn't prevent sanctions: US State Dept

### Says Washington won't hesitate to act to protect its own interests

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: The US State Department has reaffirmed Pakistan's status as a long-term partner, while also emphasising that Washington will not hesitate to impose sanctions on allies when it comes to protecting its own interests.

During a news briefing on Tuesday, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller addressed the recent US decision to sanction companies allegedly supplying components for Pakistan's missile programme. On Sept 12, the State Department imposed sanctions on three Chinese firms and one Pakistan-based company, citing their involvement in Pakistan's ballistic missile programme.

"Pakistan has been a long-term partner of ours, and I think what this action

shows, is that there continues to be areas of disagreement. When such disagreements arise, we won't hesitate to act to protect America's interests," he said.

"When reminded by a reporter that the sanctions might contradict the spirit of partnership, Miller stated, "It has been our longstanding policy to deny support to Pakistan's long-range ballistic missile programme, and we will continue to use sanctions and other tools to ensure our national security is not compromised".

Miller also emphasised that Washington would not allow its partners to misuse US financial assistance.

He also highlighted last week's executive order as part of a broader effort to curb proliferation-related activities across the world. "The executive order action that was taken last week follows our October 2023 and April 2024 designation of six Chinese and one Belarusian entity that have worked to supply Pakistan's missile programme, as well as the listing of numerous Pakistani and third-country entities on the Department of Commerce Entity List for decades," he explained.

# King Charles invites PM to C'wealth summit

### Premier tells UK envoy Islamabad committed to further enhancing ties

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday received a telephone call from King Charles III of the United Kingdom, who invited the premier to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa in October, a statement from the PM Office said.

According to the Commonwealth's website, governments meet every two years for the CHOGM, hosted by different member countries on a rotating basis. The 2022 meeting was

held in Rwanda, whereas this year, Samoa will host the event, which will run from October 23-26.

According to a statement issued by the PM Office, Shehbaz Sharif accepted the invitation, saying that the summit would be a "significant moment" in the history of the Commonwealth since this would be the first summit King Charles III would chair since becoming head of the Commonwealth in September 2022.

"Prime Minister Sharif reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the Commonwealth and the values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter," the statement said.

"He said the CHOGM in Samoa would provide a forum to discuss opportunities for enhancing intra-Commonwealth cooperation on a number of important issues, such as fostering sustainable development, strengthening democratic

institutions, and empowering Commonwealth youth," according to the statement.

Noting the king's longstanding interest in environmental issues and various initiatives for climate sustainability, PM Shehbaz said he particularly looked forward to engaging with Commonwealth leaders on climate change, especially since Pakistan is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The prime minister also inquired after the king's health and conveyed his best wishes for the Princess of Wales, who announced earlier this month that she had successfully completed her chemotherapy treatment.

Separately, in a meeting with British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott, PM Shehbaz reaffirmed his commitment to working closely with the UK leadership to strengthen relations between the two countries, while emphasising that their long-standing ties could be further enhanced through cooperation in various areas.

The premier emphasised the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation on trade and investment, climate change, social connectivity, and regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

He stated that millions of Pakistanis residing in Britain served as a vital link between the two countries, playing a key role in enhancing bilateral relations.

The prime minister also attended his best wishes to King Charles III, while the British High Commissioner conveyed good wishes for Pakistan on behalf of the British government.

# Musk's satellites 'blocking' view of the universe: researchers

### Thousands of orbiting satellites 'blinding' radio telescopes, hindering astronomical research

Monitoring Desk

RADIO waves from Elon Musk's growing network of satellites are blocking scientists' ability to peer into the universe, according to researchers in the Netherlands, BBC News reported.

The new generation of Starlink satellites, which provide fast internet around the world, are interfering more with radio telescopes than earlier versions, they say.

The thousands of orbiting satellites are "blinding" radio telescopes and may be hindering astronomical research, according to the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy (ASTRON).

SpaceX, which owns Starlink, has not replied to a request from BBC News for comment. According to a BBC report, the satellites provide broadband internet around the world, often to remote places, including challenging environments like Ukraine and Yemen.

They are also used to connect remote areas of the UK to fast internet. In 2022, tests showed that Starlink could deliver internet

speeds four times faster than the average, according to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. But astronomers say this comes at a cost.

"Every time more of these are launched with these kinds of emission levels, we see less and less of the sky," Professor Jessica Dempsey, director of ASTRON, told BBC News.

"We're trying to look at things like the jets, which are emitted from black holes in the centre of galaxies. We also look at some of the earliest galaxies, millions and millions of light years away, as well as supernovae," she said, highlighting the areas the satellite radiation is affecting.

Interference from the second generation, or V2, satellites was found by ASTRON to be 32 times stronger than the first generation.

The amount of radiation emitted exceeds regulations set by the industry body the International Telecommunications Union, Prof Dempsey added.

One concern suggests there are 6,402 Starlink satellites currently in orbit at around 342 miles (550km) above Earth, making it the largest provider by far.

The satellites are relatively large — with 3m flat panels and an 8m solar array for power.

SpaceX's main competitor, OneWeb, has fewer than 1,000, but it is a growing business area. Amazon is developing its own network and hopes to launch at least

3,000 in the next few years. By 2030 the number of satellites in orbit is expected to surpass 100,000.

The study was done using the LOFAR radio telescope in the Netherlands on a single day in July earlier this year. Many objects in space, including distant galaxies and planets, emit light on the electromagnetic spectrum.

This radiation travels like waves and radio telescopes can pick up on those waves, allowing us to get a picture of things we can't see with our eyes. But those waves are being disturbed by satellites.

The scientists found unintended electromagnetic radiation from almost all the V2 Starlink satellites observed.

It was about 10m times brighter than from the weakest sources of light identified, they say.

Lead author Chris Hanna said it was like comparing the "faintest stars visible to the naked eye and the brightness of the full Moon".

"Since SpaceX is launching about 40 second-generation Starlink satellites every week, this problem is becoming increasingly worse," he added.

Robert Massey, Deputy Executive Director of the Royal Astronomical Society in the UK, said "It's very clear that if you have something this bright that is compromising a major radio observatory this much, then we need to do something and we need to do it quickly".

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# SPORT

## Bayern hit nine, Real and Liverpool win as new CL kicks off

PARIS: New format. Some old winners. The revamped Champions League made its debut on Tuesday with some familiar clubs claiming victories on opening night.

Harry Kane scored four as Bayern Munich became the first team to score nine goals in a game in the modern Champions League (the German club opening their bid for a seventh title — which could be achieved in their home stadium in May — with a 9-2 rout of Borussia Zagreb).

It was a remarkable way to mark the opening night of the new format of Europe's elite club competition, with the Champions League now featuring 36 teams all pooled together in one giant league instead of the old group stage.

Every participant now plays eight games against eight different opponents, with the top eight teams at the end of the league phase advancing automatically to the last 16.

Those finishing from ninth to 24th will go through to a play-off round to decide the remaining sides in the last 16, while the bottom 12 will be eliminated.

UEFA, European football's governing body, introduced the new format to weed off the threat of a breakaway Super League by the biggest clubs, but it also hopes the changes will breathe new life into the competition.

Bayern fans didn't appear enthusiastic about the new format, holding aloft a gigantic banner that ran the length of one end of the stands reading "Too much of a good thing — back to the roots — make new CL-format."

The protest banner was displayed during the playing of the Champions League anthem.

After joining from Paris St Germain, Kylian Mbappe scored for 15-time champions Real Madrid, who needed late goals from Antonio Rudiger and Endrick to beat VfB Stuttgart 3-1.

"I know I can do more, each game I feel better and now I'm scoring goals, and I'm happy here," new signing Mbappe told broadcaster Movistar. "What we know is that the Champions League has changed and it's important to win quickly to see if we can qualify quickly or not."

Six-time champions Liverpool marked their return to Europe's top table by coming back from a goal down to win 3-2 at seven-time champions AC Milan in a



MILAN: Liverpool's Brahim Nouri heads to score during the Champions League match against AC Milan at San Siro. —Reuters

rematch of the 2005 and 2007 finals.

Two-time champions Juventus dispatched PSV Eindhoven 3-1. Aston Villa returned to the competition for the first time in 41 years and won 3-0 at Young Boys in Bern, and Sporting Lisbon beat 10-man Lille 2-0.

**KANE'S RECORD**

Kane converted three penalties at the Allianz Arena and broke Wayne Rooney's record for the most Champions League goals by an English player by boosting his tally to 33 — three ahead of Rooney.

"An amazing game, a bit of a crazy game," Kane told broadcaster DAZN. "It's the first time I've scored three [penalties] in a game. That doesn't happen at all really."

Bayern's best goal might have been their second from Raphael Guerreiro, who crashed in a powerful drive after a chest pass from Jamal Musiala.

Bayern coach Vincent Kompany was not the first choice when he was named in May but so far his team has won all five of its matches. His team now top the Champions League standings on goal difference.

Bayern had been the last team to score eight in a Champions League match, when they beat Barcelona 8-2 in the quarter-finals in 2019.

Michael Olise scored twice on his Champions League debut, while Leroy Kane and Leon Gronek were also on target for the home team in Germany.

Croatian champions Dinamo were 3-0 down at the break but scored twice in two minutes just after half-time to give the hosts a scare, with Bruno Petkovic and Nikola Ogimara on target. But Bayern then scored six times from the 57th minute onwards.

**REAL TESTED**

There was plenty of excitement around the continent on Tuesday, with reigning champions Real made to work hard before beating Stuttgart at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"This was a typical Madrid match in the Champions League," Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said. "We always have difficult games. We sometimes complicate things ourselves, but credit to Stuttgart. They pressed high, they were really offensive and they created chances."

After a scoreless first half, Mbappe put Real ahead seconds after the break when he received a cross from Rudiger.

However, Deniz Undav equalised midway through the second half for a Stuttgart side appearing in the Champions League for the first time since 2010.

Real nevertheless emerged victorious as Rudiger headed

them back in front against his old side seven minutes from time, and Brazilian youngster Endrick sealed it with a solo counter-attack in stoppage time.

At 18 years and 28 days, Endrick became Real's youngest scorer in the Champions League. Real forward was 18 years and 113 days old when he scored a hat-trick in a 6-1 win against Fortuna in 1995 for the previous record.

**BACK IN THE BIG TIME**

Under experienced coach Unai Emery, Villa have won three of their four Premier League matches and were in control virtually throughout at Young Boys in their first ever match in the modern Champions League, 41 years after they last appeared in the old European Cup.

Youri Tielemans put Villa ahead with a bounding shot midway through the first half and Jacob Ramsey doubled the lead 11 minutes later by taking advantage of a loose ball. Amadou Onana sealed a four-minute first-half win.

Emery has won the Europa League four times with two clubs — three with Sevilla and once with Villarreal. He also coached Villarreal in the Champions League semifinals in 2022 and led Villa to the Conference League semifinals last season.

Emery wanted his team to take three points as a tribute to the club's former striker Gary Shaw, a member of their European Cup-winning side who died on Monday aged 63 after being injured in a fall.

"Twenty-two years [ago] they achieved winning the Champions League. We want to try and follow what that team achieved," Emery said.

**YILDIR THE YOUNGEST**

Kerem Yildiz's goal for Juventus after 21 minutes was the first of the revamped competition. And what a goal it was.

The Turkey winger dribbled into the left side of the box and curled in a long shot off the far, top corner of the goal frame.

At 19 years and 136 days, Yildiz broke the Juventus record for youngest scorer in the competition that Alessandro Del Piero established when he scored at 20 years and 308 days against Borussia Dortmund in September 1995.

With a goal reminiscent of the way Del Piero used to score, it seemed fitting that Yildiz was wearing the same No. 10 that Del Piero wore for Juventus.

"He was my idol as a child," Yildiz said. "An incredible evening, good nights."

Wesley McKenna and Nicolas Gonzalez also netted in Turin while Ismail Sabiri pulled one back for PSV.

**LIVERPOOL, COMEBACK**

Christian Pulisic scored early for Milan at San Siro before Liverpool struck back with headers from both of their centre-backs before the interval. Ibrahim Konate and Virgil van Dijk, Dominik Szoboszlai added another for Liverpool.

"I'm very proud to be standing here after 50 appearances, a goal and a win at the San Siro after a difficult start. The way we played after that start was outstanding," Liverpool captain Van Dijk said.

Impressive Swedish striker Viktor Gyokeres, who had been an Arsenal transfer target, opened the scoring for Sporting with a neat turn and shot into the bottom left corner. It was Gyokeres' sixth goal in six matches this season.

Lille midfielder Angel Gomes was sent off before the break and Zeno Robust added a long-range piledriver midway through the second half. —Agencies

## India guard against complacency against buoyant Bangladesh

CHENNAI: A series sweep against Bangladesh will cement India's place atop the World Test Championship (WTC) standings but the team under Rohit Sharma are guarding against any complacency in the two-match home series beginning in Chennai on Thursday.

Bangladesh, led by Najmul Hossain Shanto, are on a high after their memorable 2-0 series victory in Pakistan, a team they had never beaten before in a Test match.

The task will be tougher against India, who have prevailed in 11 of the 13 previous encounters between the neighbours — the other two were draws — and have not lost a home Test since 2012.

"I have been big believer that we don't fear anyone but we respect everyone," India head coach Gaurang Gambhir told reporters on Wednesday.

"I congratulate them for what they did in Pakistan but this is a new series and they are a quality side and we want to play good cricket."

India are hoping to make the WTC final for the third time in a row and are eyeing a strong start to their season, which also includes three home Tests against New Zealand followed by five in Australia. They have been enthralled by wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant's return to the side after a horrific crash in December 2022.

Dinesh Karthi, who impressed both behind and in front of the stumps in the home series against England earlier this year, will have to wait for his turn.

"Jani is a phenomenal player but when Pant is coming in, sometimes people have to wait," Gambhir said.

Mohammed Shami will miss the series as he recovers from an ankle surgery but Bangladesh batsmen will still have to deal with the cunning and craft of India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and the lively pace of Mohammed Siraj.

The series will literally be a different ball game altogether for Shami and Siraj.

Used to playing with the Kookaburra ball, they will have to adjust to the 90 variety with pronounced seam in India.

Gambhir's Bangladesh counterpart Chandika Hathurusinghe was confident his team would maintain their standard against India.

"It certainly gives us a lot of confidence coming into this series," Sri Lanka's Hathurusinghe said ahead of the match referring to their victory in Pakistan. "Not because of the outcome of the series but the way we played that series... gives us a lot of belief for this series." —Reuters



BANGLADESH'S Mustafizur Rahman bats in the nets during a practice session at the M.A. Chittabawara Stadium on Wednesday. —AFP

## Raducanu into Korea Open second round

SEOUL: Emma Raducanu came out for Korea Open campaign off to a winning start with a hard-fought 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/5) victory over American Peyton Stearns on Tuesday.

Britain's Raducanu is looking to make an impact in Seoul after a string of back-to-back defeats, including world number one Iga Swiatek, US Open runner-up Jessica Pegula and former Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina.

Raducanu had to dig deep to beat her 48th ranked opponent in steady conditions in a match that lasted 2hr-45min.

"I'm proud to have made it through to the next round," said the 21-year-old Raducanu, who is unseeded. Thank you to everyone for sticking around and watching us. It was tough, it was very humid."

Raducanu's next opponent will be China's Yu Yuan, the eighth seed.

Raducanu stormed into a 4-1 first-set lead but let her opponent come back before edging her in the tiebreak. Raducanu struggled to shake off Stearns in the second set and could not finish the job when serving for the match at 5-3.

She had to battle some more to take the second set to a tiebreak but then rode a late surge of momentum to clinch the match in straight sets.

American Haley Baglini joined her in the second round after beating competitor and former US Open champion Sloane Stephens 7-6 (7/4), 6-2.

Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan was knocked out after a 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) loss to American Amanda Anisimova. —AFP



SOPIA: Serbia's Novak Djokovic in action during his exhibition match against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria at the Arena 8888 Sofia on Tuesday. Both the players put on a show for the audience with Dimitrov prevailing 6-4, 2-6, 10-8. —AFP

## Italian World Cup hero Schillaci dies aged 59

ROME: Former Italy striker Salvatore Schillaci, a star of the 1990 World Cup on home soil, has died at the age of 59, his former clubs Inter Milan and Juventus said on Wednesday.

Schillaci led Italy to their third-place finish in 1990, winning the Golden Boot for his six goals during the tournament, including in the semi-final against Argentina and in their third-place victory over England.

Schillaci, who was born in the Sicilian city of Palermo and was hospitalised there, suffered from colon cancer, Italian media reports said.

"A football icon is leaving us, a man who has entered the hearts of Italian and sports fans around the world," Italy's prime minister Giorgia Meloni posted on X.

"Salvatore Schillaci, known by everyone as Totò, the striker from the magic nights of Italia '90 with our national team. Thanks for the emotions you gave us, for having made us dream, celebrate,

embrace, and wave our national flag. Bon voyage, champion."

The Sicilian's wife eyes as he celebrated his goals became one of the enduring images of that World Cup and his was the name on all Italian's lips, combining more established players such as Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Baggio.

Schillaci was awarded the Golden Ball as player of the tournament and was later named as the runner-up for the 1990 Ballon d'Or men's player of the year award, behind World Cup winning captain Lothar Matthaus of West Germany.

He had started Italy's opening World Cup game as a substitute but came off the bench to score the winner in a 1-0 victory over Austria.

After the excitement of 1990, Schillaci scored only one more goal for Italy and did not appear for them at any other major tournament. —Agencies

## United put seven goals past Barnsley in League Cup rout

LONDON: Manchester United crushed Barnsley 7-0 as troubled winger Anthony scored his first goal this season and Marcus Rashford hit twice as the Old Trafford side roared into the last 16 of the League Cup on Tuesday.

United were joined in the fourth round by fellow Premier League sides Brentford, who beat third-tier Leyton Orient 3-1, and Crystal Palace after they edged Queen's Park Rangers 2-1.

But top flight Fulham made unexpected history as they were knocked out in extraordinary fashion by second-tier Preston North End after the match ended 1-1 — the home side prevailing 16-15 in a 34-minute shootout, the longest ever in the competition.

United manager Erik Ten Hag has endured a rocky time since taking over in 2022 but



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Alejandro Garnacho scores during the League Cup match against Barnsley at Old Trafford. —Reuters

enjoyed the biggest win of his reign.

England forward Rashford netted a six-month goal drought at the weekend when he scored against Southampton in the Premier League and needed only 16 minutes to strike against Barnsley.

His silky finish high into the net proved the way for United to demolish Barnsley who were no match for Ten Hag's side.

Anthony added the second from the penalty spot in the 25th minute and Alejandro Garnacho poked home United's third in first-half stoppage time to put the hosts in complete control.

Garnacho side-footed his second from Rashford's pass just after the restart and returned the compliment as Rashford made it 5-0. Christian Eriksen scored his first United goal for more than a year in the 81st minute, starting in Bruno

Fernandez's cross.

Eriksen then fired in from the edge of the area to complete United's biggest-ever League Cup win.

"It is the first time this team is playing together. Once we found our patterns we scored some great goals," Ten Hag said. "We played with a bit of speed and were ruthless. The key was the right attitude and to be 100 percent concentrated. Last season was for everyone difficult, but we ended with the FA Cup. We hit our target and that is what we aim for this season, we want to progress."

At Deepdale, it took 34 penalties in total before Preston beat Fulham.

At 12-15 in the shootout after a miss from each team, Fulham's Timothy Castagne blasted over and Preston's Ryan London calmly netted the winner.

The previous League Cup shoot-out record was set in 2016 when Derby beat Carlisle 14-13.

The Premier League's bottom two clubs met at Goodison Park and there was more woe for Everton as they bowed out on penalties to Southampton after a 1-1 draw.

Aleksandrs Donskovs put Everton ahead but Southampton levelled through Taylor Harwood-Bellis and the

## Asjad secures bronze in snooker world cup

ULANBAATAR: Pakistan's Asjad Iqbal claimed a bronze medal at the Mongolia Snooker World Cup after a thrilling quarter-final victory and a narrow semi-final defeat on Wednesday.

In the quarter-finals, Asjad edged China's Guo Yang 4-3 in a nailbiting contest. He dominated the opening frame with a 76-0 win, but Guo fought back to level. The 31-year-old Asjad sealed the win with a decisive 69-50 victory in the seventh frame.

Competitor Awasalish Mameer's campaign ended with a 4-2 quarter-final loss to Iran's Ali Gharaadagost. Awasalish, 30, struggled to contain Gharaadagost's potent breaks, including a 131(65) in the sixth frame.

In the semi-finals, Asjad, the current national champion, pushed Cyprus' Michael Georgiou to the limit, ultimately losing 5-4. Georgiou's 135 break in the third frame proved crucial, while Asjad's 76 and 65 breaks kept him in contention.

Georgiou will now face Gharaadagost in final on Thursday.

Tuesday's results saw Asjad and Awasalish registering convincing wins in their pre-quarter-finals.

Asjad defeated Hong Kong's Chang Yu Kin 6-1 (68-69, 74-62(62), 71-12, 57-46, 71(68)-24), while Awasalish overcame China Ben Mao 4-2 (44-83, 80-68, 17-65, 88-42, 85(75)-05, 64-34). —Agencies

Pakistan beat SA by 13 runs to level T20 series

MULTAN: Pakistan defeated South Africa by 13 runs in the second T20I at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, leveling the three-match series 1-1. Nida Durr became the third Pakistani woman to reach 2,000 T20I runs...



MULTAN: Pakistan opener Muneerba Ali plays a shot during the second Twenty20 International against South Africa at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.—courtesy PCB

Kamran, Salman shine as Markhors continue perfect run

FAISALABAD: A half-century century from Kamran Ghulam, all-round heroics by Salman Ali Agha and a vital half-century by skipper Mohammad Rizwan helped Markhors beat Dolphins by 92 runs in the Champions One-Day Cup...

Kamindu Mendis century rescues Sri Lanka against New Zealand

GALLE: Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis scored a courageous century against New Zealand Wednesday as the host overtook the back the initiative to reach 302 for seven as it steps on the first day of the first Test.

England last week, was cleared up by a Yorker that swung in late after posting 27. O'Roarke clipped Sotherton's fourth ball after lunch to mid-wicket, where Michael Bracken took a diving catch.

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Scoreboard table for Sri Lanka vs New Zealand, showing runs and wickets for both teams.

South Africa lost Tamim Iqbal early. Captain Laura Wolvaardt's 35, shared with five fours and six, kept the visitors in contention before her departure in the ninth over.

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SRI LANKAN batter Kamindu Mendis sweeps during the first Test against New Zealand at the Galle International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.—AFP

Afghanistan humble South Africa in first ODI

SHARJAH: Afghanistan hustled their way to a six-wicket win over South Africa in the opening One-day International in Sharjah on Wednesday after shattering the Proteas for just 106.

South Africa avoided their lowest ever score in an ODI but some fine bowling from opening bowlers Farooq Farooqi, who took 4-35, and AM Ghanzdar, 3-29, ensured that the Afghan batsmen would have a comfortable chase.

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Sufyan hails fighting spirit after Pakistan finish third in Asian CT

HULLENBURG: Pakistan's Sufyan Khan hailed his team's fighting spirit after his brace led his side to a come-from-behind 5-2 victory against South Korea in their third-place playoff of the Asian Champions Trophy at the Mani Training Base on Tuesday.

Sufyan was disappointed with Pakistan's penalty shootout loss to China in the semi-finals but said that his side had done well.

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MARKHORS batter Kamran Ghulam celebrates scoring a century during the Champions One-day Cup match against Dolphins at the Iqbal Stadium on Wednesday.—courtesy PCB

McCullum's white-ball takeover excites Brook ahead of Australia ODIs

LONDON: Harry Brook believes England's approach to the Test and limited-overs formats will "merge into one" when Brendon McCullum arrives as the head coach.

Brook is preparing to captain England for the first time in Thursday's opening ODI at Trent Bridge and the high-flying Yorkshire star knows what is expected of him by McCullum.

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**KARACHI**

Sunset 06:34 pm  
 Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:18am

**NEXT 24 HRS**

Minimum 26°C  
 Maximum 33°C  
 Humidity 77%  
 Outlook Sunny

# METRO

South



Pakistan beat SA by 13 runs to level T20 series  
Pg.20 SPORT



A TRUCK is stuck in one of the countless potholes on the road in Liaquatabad, on Wednesday. —Fahm Siddiq / White Star

## Murad allocates Rs1.5bn for repair of few select rain-damaged roads in city

- TMC officials await funds for massive works needed in their respective areas
- CM orders inquiry into destruction of roads, seeks action against those found responsible

By Tahir Siddiqui & Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Expressing grave concern and displeasure over substandard construction and repair work of city roads that were severely damaged in recent rains, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday approved Rs1.5-billion to repair some of the roads within the jurisdiction of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC).

However, there's no word about the fate of the badly damaged roads within the remit of the city's more than two dozen town municipal corporations.

Chairing a meeting here, he directed the local government department to initiate an inquiry into the destruction of the roads and take action against those

found responsible.

The chief minister also directed the LG department to initiate an inquiry into the roads constructed or repaired after 2022 that had since been washed away.

"It is unacceptable for the quality of work to fall short of standards, and strict action must be taken against those responsible," the chief minister said and emphasised the need for accountability in the construction and maintenance of public infrastructure.

The meeting held at the CM House was attended among others by Planning and Development Minister Nasir Shah, LG Minister Saad Ghani, Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hiysher Shah and others.

"The destruction of roads shows that the quality of work is not maintained, therefore the culprits must be brought to book," he said.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab informed the chief minister that there were 17,861,590 square feet of roads that had been damaged during rains in 2024.

Giving district-wise details, he said that South had 909,560 square feet of damaged roads, East 795,000 square feet, Central 832,000 square feet, West 13,750,000 square feet, Korangi 5,555,000 square feet, Malir 425,000 square feet and 395,000 square feet of flyovers and bridges.

He said that 20 roads, flyovers and underpasses of Karachi needed patchwork, including 20 roads in district South, 22 East, seven Central, 38 West, 11 Korangi, 12 Malir and 10 flyovers.

He added that around Rs1.5bn was required to repair and reconstruct the damaged roads, bridges and flyovers which the CM had approved and issued directives to carry out quality work.

**TMCs term amount 'petty'**

A majority of more than 20 town administrations across the city, however, saw the chief minister's announcement of funds as just "petty" which could not meet the required level of repair work which is badly needed after the rains.

In Liaquatabad Town, for instance, the municipal administration has already approached the Sindh local bodies minister seeking his support for release of funds from the provincial government so the repair work could be started in the area where the monsoon rains had ruined the already vulnerable infrastructure.

"We have completed a survey of the town and estimated that more than 300,000 square meters of roads need immediate intervention for repair work," said Liaquatabad Town chairman Faraz Hanoo. "We have already written to the local bodies minister appealing his support for the funds. This Rs1.5 billion funds announced by the CM are just pittance. This could not help improve the situation in towns in any part of the city."

**Road infrastructure in other divisions**

The chief minister chaired a separate meeting and identified that 219 roads totalling 3,545.39 kilometres in Hyderabad Division, and 179 roads totalling 124.81km in Sukkur Division had been damaged by floods.

He directed the works and services department to estimate the damages and start repair work.

The meeting was held at CM House and attended by P&D Minister Nasir Shah, Works and Services Minister Hujj Ali Hassan Zaidan, chief secretary Asif Hiysher Shah, P&D chairman Najam Shah, finance secretary Fayaz Jatoi, works secretary Mohammad Ali Khoso and others concerned.

The chief minister was told that this year heavy rains had damaged 219 roads with a length of 3,545.39km in Hyderabad Division and 179 roads of 124.81km in Sukkur Division.

The damages include surface, shoulder, bridge, and culvert.

Mr Shah directed P&D and works ministers to sit together along with their respective teams to estimate the damages caused by the rainfall to the roads so that they could be approved to start the work.

## PAC calls for action against KE over refusal to pay Rs29bn in dues

Power utility states efforts underway to find amicable solution for outstanding amounts, electricity duty

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Public Account Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly has recommended initiation of action against the KElectric for its continued refusal to pay the provincial government its outstanding dues to the tune of

over Rs29 billion.

Informed sources told Dawn that the PAC expressed grave concern and displeasure over the lethargic attitude of the power utility in resolving the issues of dues with the provincial government.

They said that the PAC in its meeting, presided over by its chairman Nisar Ahmad Khan, also recommended action against the KE as the power utility categorically refused to pay the provincial government its outstanding dues to the tune of over Rs29bn, telling the committee that the provincial government owed to the power of bills of over Rs3.8bn.

The sources said that the KE

had told the PAC meeting that it would pay its dues to the provincial government only after its bills were paid.

They said that the PAC was informed that the KE had not deposited the electricity duty to the province for the past some years and certain actions could be initiated against the power utility for challenging the writ

of the provincial government.

The energy secretary suggested that the PAC could recommend to the federal government to curtail the license of the KE.

The sources said that the PAC had lost the confidence of the provincial government. They said

Continued on Page 14

## The curious case of the disappeared paintings

- KMC claims artworks of Seffy Soomro are with them and he can claim them by showing receipt
- The artist says he will take back his paintings but also wants to be compensated

By Poorzadin Salman

KARACHI: It sounds like a plot right out of a mystery novel. A group exhibition is held. After the show, one of the artists inquires about his two paintings on display. He's told that his artworks have also disappeared. A couple of years later he sees the two paintings in a scene of a TV drama and gets utterly flummoxed by it... It does sound mysterious. What if it has an anticlimactic end to it? Then the whole enigma will evaporate into thin air.

The reference here is to the claim that the artist Seffy Soomro, who hails from Dabarki, has made. He says he had two of his paintings on view at an exhibition held at Freer Hall in 2017. Once the show ended, Soomro asked the organisers about his artworks and was told that they had disappeared. He accepted the answer. Can to seven years later, he sees those two works of art displayed in a room shown in a TV play titled *Kabhi Main Kabhi Tum*. Disgusted and infuriated, he posted the story on social media, blaming the Freer Hall administration for the unsavoury turn of events.

When the news spread like wild fire, Freer Hall officials came out with a statement that after the exhibition, they had got out an advert saying that the paintings on view in 2017 could be reclaimed.

The production house that has produced the drama also clarified its position stating that the location where the scene was shot as well as the assets seen in it were rented.

Dawn got in touch with M Saleem, the curator at the Sadogoin Art Gallery (Freer Hall) where the show had taken place. He said, "The artist is not contacting us. He wants

money. We have said that give us the receipt (stamped) and take your work back. He has blocked our members. The paintings are on display at the gallery from 2017. When any event happens there, we remove the artworks to make way for that event's exhibits."

KMC's Senior Director Culture and Sports Raza Abbas Rizvi said, "Yes, his paintings are there. The procedure is that whoever puts their work display gets a receipt from us. Once the show is over, he returns the receipt and takes back the artwork. We are still saying to him that give us the receipt and take your paintings."

Responding to Soomro's allegation that he was told that the paintings had gone missing, Mr Rizvi said, "He could have shown us the receipt and held us responsible for it then. Besides, the usual understanding is that the organisers are not responsible for anyone who comes after a month to collect their artwork... This has all been done to create social media hype."

When Dawn spoke with Mr Soomro, he said: "The exhibition happened in 2017. After



THE 'missing' artworks of artist Seffy Soomro are on display at Sadogoin Art Gallery, Freer Hall, on Wednesday. —Fahm Siddiq / White Star



PRAYER

Fajr	5:00
Zuhr	12:26
Asr	4:54
Maghreb	6:35
Isha	7:51

REFLECTIONS

DO NOT BE LIKE PERSONS ON WHOM ADVICE HAS NO EFFECT, THEY REQUIRE IMPROVEMENT TO IMPROVE THEM. — HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

No mpox cases reported in Sindh thus far: minister

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Health Minister Dr Aam Faraz Pechhu said on Wednesday that no case of mpox (previously known as monkeypox) had so far been reported in the province.

Speaking at a press conference here, she said a total of 149 cases of the kunguama have been confirmed through laboratory tests, while the malaria situation in the province has improved.

Highlighting official efforts to improve the health sector, she said the government would upgrade all health facilities, including primary units, under the 1000 Days Integrated Health and Population Project supported by the World Bank.

"We have treated a major plan for the upgradation of the Dr Ruth Pina Civil Hospital Karachi, which is the second major tertiary care government hospital in the province after Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre," she said.

She added that the government was implementing a biometric system at hospitals to improve staff efficiency and had planned to establish simulation labs at all teaching hospitals.

Addressing concerns over the recruitment process, she said doctors were being hired through the Sindh Public Service Commission, and other medical staff would be recruited following a court order.

"Seventeen medical legal officers have been inducted for Karachi, the majority of whom are women," she said.

In response to a question about the Sindh Protection and Promotion of Breast Feeding and Young Child Nutrition Act, 2023, she clarified that the government did not impose restrictions on the sale of infant formula products.

"We required medical stores to only sell these formula products with a doctor's prescription. However, the act was challenged, and the case is still in court," she said.

SHC directs Auqaf dept to revisit contracts of footwear-storage services at shrines

Bench rules decision to remove shoes at shrines should be viewed as voluntary, cultural practice, rather than an obligation

By Ishaq Tariq

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has directed the Auqaf department to revisit shoe-storage service contracts at shrines as visitors cannot be penalised for the purpose of revenue generation especially when thousands of acres are already dedicated and reserved for such purposes.

The SHC also ordered the secretary of Auqaf to devise a policy regarding facilitation of visitors with or without shoes categorising the places for removal of footwear at holy places, as necessary.

A five-judge bench comprising Justice Saleemuddin Pathan and Justice Anjum Ali Sahito ruled that the Auqaf department was awarding public contracts for providing services for keeping the shoes of visitors at shrines under its control, but such a practice was not available within the existing laws dealing with the subject matter.

While hearing a petition about culture and heritage, it further observed that a report filed

by the Auqaf department lacked details regarding reservation of more than 10,000 acres of agricultural land specifically whether the same was dedicated for the educational purposes or for maintenance of shrines and directed the Auqaf secretary to submit a compliance report with details of accounts and Waqf deed must be registered for the properties which were donated/dedicated by various philanthropists for the intended purpose.

At the outset of hearing, the chief administrator of Auqaf submitted a report about details of the properties under the control of the Auqaf department including agricultural land and commercial properties in compliance with earlier court while senior member of board of revenue had also filed a compliance statement about formation of a committee for the purpose of demarcation and mutation of all heritage properties.

The bench was informed that the committee would ensure demarcation and mutation of all heritage public properties falling within in Sindh under the Ancient Monuments and Preservation Act, 1934 and the Antiquities Act and Heritage Act, 1994 as per government prescribed policy/procedure and complete the exercise within 60 days.

It directed the senior member of board of revenue to ensure strict compliance with earlier court orders in letter and spirit regarding the demarcation and mutation of public properties falling explicitly within the domain and authority of the such committee.

The SHC also noted that a majority of land/properties belonging to the Auqaf department was not entered in the revenue record of rights and issued directive to ensure that the mutation entries were recorded in its favour and for this purpose they must approach the deputy commissioners concerned.

It declared that there was no mechanism provided in the relevant scheme of law for the purpose of transparently disposing or deciding the fate of properties of department in question through open auction and rather the powers have been given to district committees to decide their fate while there was no concept of valuation of lease/tenancy in relevant law and rules.

"Therefore, the rate assessment exercise is pivotal and a condition precedent for all the properties, including the agricultural and commercial properties, through third party is to be carried out. It is further ordered that, from now (from the date of present order) onwards, only open auction proceedings, shall be carried out by advertising, through three widely published (ARC) verified leading newspapers, enabling the interested persons to participate, in healthy and transparent auction/lease/tenancy process, subsequent to above referred rate assessment through third party, keeping in view thirdly the Government/DC rates of the land for levying taxes, secondly market value whichever is higher", it added.

About shoe-storage services, the bench also said that even otherwise, in Sindh tempora-

ries can soar up to 50 degrees Celsius and walking without shoes can become unbearable and even dangerous due to the scorching hot grounds that cause discomfort or burns on the feet particularly during the summer months.

Instead, the policy of shoes keeping should be formed more selectively, such as in holy places like Masjid or strictly sacred spaces, while being relaxed in places of cultural and literary significance as the teachings of Sufi saints and revolutionary poets, such as Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi and Shah Inayat Shahood, do not explicitly mandate the establishing shrines and visit shrines, it added.

The court further observed that it was essential to recognize that the practice of removing shoes at shrines in Sindh was rooted in local and cultural traditions rather than being a direct directive from the teachings of Islam or influential literary figures.

In reality, the flexibility and inclusiveness inherent in Sufi and revolutionary poetic traditions encourage an open-minded approach, allowing individuals to engage with the sacred in their own authentic ways, without rigid adherence to prescribed conduct or behaviors, it added.

"Therefore, the decision to remove shoes when visiting shrines in Sindh should be viewed as a voluntary, culturally-rooted practice, rather than an obligation, stemming from the explicit teachings of Sufi saints or influential poets," it concluded.

'Voters should focus on candidates' merit, not rhetoric'

KARACHI: Instead of candidates' manifestation and plans of action, voters these days tend to focus more on their image and rhetoric, which as a result brings forward people who are unworthy of the positions they are elected for.

These views were expressed by one of the four professors of the University of Essex, United Kingdom who delivered guest lectures at the Hamdard University's (HU) main campus on Wednesday morning.

According to a press release, Prof Lanza Sachithi pointed out that as opposed to the past practice of discussing policies and plans during election campaigns, candidates as well as their voters are more fixated nowadays on factors that were once deemed less important.

"Things like the image of a candidate and his/her rhetoric matter a lot nowadays, instead of manifestos and plans of action. However, as voters, we should never take anything on face value as we are supposed to ascertain carefully which of the candidates is worthy of our votes," she said.

Turning to the US presidential election, Prof Sachithi pointed out that in 2016, Donald Trump had to work hard to earn the right to become the Republican candidate as several well-known politicians were competing against him in the primaries.

"But this year, there was no such competition and he became his party's candidate rather easily. There was not a lot of public interest in the primaries, as a result," she added.

Prof Suman Weidmanthaler spoke at length about ways in which coordination problems may be solved by using game theory.

He said making sense of measurements in a country where metric system is used as well as the imperial system, or making sense of railway schedules in a country where there are several time zones, becomes extremely difficult at times. He, however, explained at length how game theory could be applied to solve all such problems.

In his presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Prof Antonio da Silva explained how the evolving technology can be utilised to enhance teaching and learning in educational institutions. He agreed with the contention that under some situations AI could render certain jobs obsolete.

Prof Joe Bailey of the Essex University's School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science also delivered a lecture.

Senior HU staff who welcomed the guests were Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences Prof Dr Abdul Aziz and Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Prof Dr Amrullah Latif.

Later, HU's Chancellor Sadia Rashid, Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Syed Shabbir-ul-Hameed and Registrar Kabeem A. Ghos discussed with the guest professors the possibility of further enhancing the cooperation between the two universities, particularly in the area of student exchanges. —By Waqar Ali



Chief Minister Meraj Ali Shah members the live feed of the main Eid Mubarak Nabi procession at the Central Police Office, on Tuesday. —OWNS

Ex-bank manager sentenced to 13 years in prison for Rs21.4m fraud

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A banking court has sentenced a man to a collective 13-year imprisonment for his involvement in parallel banking and embezzlement of a total of Rs21.425 million.

Presiding Officer of the Special Court (offices in bank) Javed Ahmad Khera, found Riaz Durrani — a former branch manager of Askari Bank in Balidia Town — guilty and sentenced him to three years each under Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent), 420 (cheating) and dishonouring check/delivery of property), 468 (Forgery for purpose of cheating), 477-A (Falsification of accounts) and one-year under Section 471 (using as genuine a forged document) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

However, the court ruled that all sentences would run concurrently.

"In this case, the prosecution has succeeded in establishing its case against the accused, and evidence led before this court is confidence inspiring and circumstantial evidence and own admission of the accused while obtaining bail, made him guilty of the offence he has been charged with," the

court observed.

After promulgating the verdict, the court directed police to take the accused into custody and cancelled the ninety bond of the accused, who appeared in court on bail.

Discussing the mitigating circumstances, the presiding officer noted that the accused was arrested in 2021 and remained in one year and two months in prison. However, in Feb 2023, he was released on bail after two of the witnesses (victims) in this case admitted before the court that they had received the amount from the accused.

"There might have further amount to be paid to the victims but his strenuous efforts suggest that at least he has repaid himself while realising that he had defrauded people class, was ready to pay their amount, this attitude and conduct of the accused made me to take a departure from severe punishment as suggested in the provision," the presiding officer noted.

According to the state prosecutor of the Federal Investigation Agency Muhammad Faizal Barua, the agency had received a formal complaint against the accused person through an official of the private bank regarding the financial misconduct.

In the complaint, the bank stated that

the accused had worked as a branch manager from 2013 to 2016 in their bank, and had orchestrated a "systematic fraud". The bank alleged that the accused approached their 11 customers with an offer to invest in the bank under Term Deposit Receipts (TDRs) and promised them highly lucrative returns.

However, instead of investing the customers' funds in the bank, the accused had issued fraudulent TDRs using official bank letter heads, the bank said. It added that the accused secured these documents with his genuine signature while forging the signatures of a required second signatory.

The accused managed to deceive the customers (victims) and embezzle a total of Rs21.425 million. The bank also said that the misappropriated funds were never recorded in the bank's official accounts or ledgers, which led to huge losses for both the customer and the bank.

During the trial, the defence counsel contended that the documents produced in court were prepared after the apprehension of his client. He further claimed that the accused was made the victim of circumstances, adding that he was "badly handled by the senior bank officials who obtained this confessional statement forcibly."

The curious case of the disappeared paintings

Continued from Page 13

it ended, I asked about my paintings. They replied that mine, along with works of two or three other artists, had disappeared. I thought since the others weren't protesting against it, I should keep quiet. But then I saw the exhibits in a TV play."

The artist said while he did have the receipt at the time of delivering the paintings seven

years ago, he now doesn't have it. He, at the time, didn't feel the need to produce the receipt since other artists were not making any noise about it.

"Now I will take back my paintings and I also want to be compensated (stahi) for it because my works may have been used in other places apart from the drama that I saw," he said.

Answering the question whether the organ-

isation approached him for the exhibition in 2017, Mr Soomro replied he came to know about the show through social media.

The story has gotten so big that the Sindh government has hatched an inquiry into it.

"Who's telling the truth remains to be seen... The fact is, the entire saga is so less dramatic and mysterious than TV dramas, and some witty writer might turn it into a play in the future."

PAC calls for action against KE over refusal to pay Rs29bn dues

Continued from Page 13

that the PAC also recommended to Major Murtaza Wahab for the withdrawal of the decision of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation to collect municipal tax through electricity bills.

Meanwhile, a KE spokesperson said in a statement on Wednesday that the power utility and the Sindh government were in contact over "precoordinated deal and electricity duty" and efforts were underway to find an amicable solution. It said that the KE was waiting for the clearance of its loaned amount.

Special body led by KE chief's absence from meeting

On Wednesday, the absence of KE chief executive officer in the maiden meeting of the Special Committee of the House irked the members, who asked as to why the power utility was unaccountable.

The assembly had last week established an 11-member special committee of the lawmakers to examine the proposal for suspending KE's income after adopting a unanimous resolution tabled by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed Sena Irshad Council member Sajjad Ali.

The committee was formed not only to review K-Electric's performance but also to assess the operations of Hyderabad Electric Supply Company and Sukkur Electric Supply Company.

The committee was headed by Pakistan Peoples Party member Fayaz Ali Bari and included Leader of Opposition Ali Khattak, Jamaate-Islami's, Muhammad Farooq, PT's Muhammad Shafiq and Rajid Ali, Naajam Mirza of Muttahida Qumi Movement/Pakistan, and PPP members Saleem Baloch, Yousaf Baloch, Sadia Javed and Ghulam Qadir Chaudhry.

Mir Khattak told PT that the special committee took exception to the absence of the KE CEO and observed that the power utility chief had breached the privilege of the special committee.

The special committee decided to issue call-up notice to the KE CEO with the committee chairman saying that the house body had the authority to give punishment to anyone who breached committee's privilege.

Meanwhile, the sources said that the special committee would hold its second meeting on Thursday (today) and chiefs of all power utilities in the province have been asked to attend the meeting.

NOTICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF KARACHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (K-ELECTRIC) REGARDING THE CANCELLATION OF A SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING AND THE RECALL OF A WARRANT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Karachi Electric Supply Company Limited (K-Electric) has decided to cancel the meeting of the Shareholders of K-Electric held at the Karimkhan Hotel, Karachi, on the 18th day of September, 2024, and to recall the warrant for the appointment of a new Board of Directors of K-Electric issued by the Registrar of Companies, Karachi, on the 18th day of September, 2024.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Karachi, on the 18th day of September, 2024.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
KARACHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF KARACHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (K-ELECTRIC) REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Karachi Electric Supply Company Limited (K-Electric) has decided to appoint a new Board of Directors of K-Electric, and to recall the warrant for the appointment of a new Board of Directors of K-Electric issued by the Registrar of Companies, Karachi, on the 18th day of September, 2024.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Karachi, on the 18th day of September, 2024.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
KARACHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED



'Junior doctor' posted as MS at Liaquat University Hospital

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The Sindh government posted a junior general cadre doctor as medical superintendent (MS) of the Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) the other day after removing a senior doctor of the hospital management cadre. The incumbent has no past experience of heading any tertiary hospital as large as the LUH.

As per Sept 17 notification, LUH MS Dr Ajaz Abbas, a doctor of the hospital management cadre, has been replaced by Dr Kashif Memon. From general cadre in BS-19, Dr Memon has been working as in charge of intensive care unit (ICU) of the LUH for close to a decade.

According to the rules of the hospital management cadre approved in 2022, doctors in BS-20 have to be posted as MS of Sindh's teaching hospitals, major and district headquarters health facilities (DHQ). Other posts which were to be held by doctors of this very cadre are director general health services, additional DG health services, deputy DG, additional MS of teaching hospitals, major hospitals, district headquarters hospitals (DHQ).

Dr Kashif Memon, a senior medical officer of BS-19, was officially posted as chief medical officer (CMO) but he was also holding a post of 'director' in the LUH. According to hospital sources, the notification of Dr Kashif was issued when Dr Abbas was still holding the charge.

One source said the recent posting of the non-health management cadre's candidate was the result of a friction between two groups of hospital doctors. Dr Kashif belongs to a group whose leader has already been removed from the LUH under a Sindh High Court's order in 2023.

Dr Kashif received felicitations on his posting as MS from hospital's doctors and staff at his leader's house, whose images went viral on Tuesday.



KARACHI: Ulama and scholars express solidarity on the occasion of Eid Miladun Nabi.—Shakil Abu White Star

Court orders stopping salary of LG secretary

By Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad circuit bench of the Sindh High Court on Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to provincial secretary of local government and ordered Accountant General (AG) of Sindh to stop payment of salary to the officer till further orders.

A division bench comprising Justices Zafar Ahmad Rajput and Anjad Ali Bekio passed the order on two identical joint petitions filed by 38 pensioners of Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) and 29 others of their colleagues about delays and stoppage of pension payment to the retirees.

The court directed director general of HDA, who was present in the court, to submit details measures taken by the officer for payment of pension and retirement benefits to pensioners and other retired employees of HDA, and of payments made to contractors and other expenditures made by the authority.

The court said this order should be communicated to AG Sindh "who shall submit a comprehensive report [of its order] through additional registrar".

The court noted that despite directives, the LG secretary did not appear in the court and no comprehensive report was submitted regarding queries raised by the bench in its Sept 5 order.

Through Ben Ali Mahar, special secretary for hearing and town planning, had appeared at the behest of the LG secretary with his authority letter but he was unable to assist the court regarding investments made by HDA and the amount deducted from general provision (GP) fund and pension fund of employees.

The court noted that grievances of HDA's retired employees over payment of pension benefits had not been redressed by the officials concerned and despite issuance of clear directives the LG secretary had failed to appear in court.

Earlier, the court had ordered attachment of six bank accounts of HDA having up to Rs20 million as the petitioners had contended that HDA Employees Pension Fund and other grants received by the authority from government for payment of pensionary benefits to retired employees had been kept in different accounts and because of that the retired employees were not being paid pension monthly.

HDA's DG had submitted a list of bank accounts of the authority under the court's directive. The petitioners said that they were getting pensions in time after retirement but it started getting delayed first and suddenly, the payments stopped in September 2023 and around six months' pension remained unpaid.

They said that they were facing severe financial crisis. If the situation remained unchanged, it would not only jeopardise the petitioners' well-being but would also hamper their ability to take care of their families.

They said that billions of rupees of the authority were recoverable in fees from various private builders and developers who obtained approvals from HDA for launching their housing schemes and projects.

They said that HDA had invested HDA Employees Pension Fund in National Savings Centre, Sindh Bank, Defence Plaza, ARL Civic Centre, ARL, Sakhli, MCB Resham Gali Branch etc. but they feared for safety and security of "HDA Employees Pension Fund" and its mismanagement or fund preparation by the respondents.

They requested the court to direct the respondents to release monthly pension to the pensioners along with arrears immediately and consistently and also pay pensionary benefits.

The court fixed hearing of the case for Oct 1.

PMA calls for action against culprits behind death threats to lady doctor

Dawn Report

LARKANA/KARACHI: The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has condemned the death threats to a lady doctor in Larkana and called for immediate action against the culprits.

In a press statement, the association stated that from the life of PMA Larkana President Dr Dayal Gul was inescapable. "Violence against healthcare workers is intolerable, and those responsible must be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law," it said.

The association urged the government to take immediate and decisive action to arrest the culprits behind threatening posture and confrontations. "It is essential for the authorities to ensure safety and security of healthcare professionals across the country," it added.

Dr Dayal Gul, who runs her private medical centre in Nawatah locality, conveyed to Dawn on Wednesday that three Muslim claimants had visited her clinic on Aug 15 and then 23 along with a heavily pregnant woman who was wife of one of the men but since the patient had low platelet count and anaemia she was referred to SUIIT Karachi on Aug 25, she said.

She said that instead of shifting her to SUIIT the attendants took the patient to Liaquat National Hospital Karachi where she expired.

"The patient's relatives came to meet me on Sept 5 when I was in Karachi. Again on Sept 15 three men including the husband of the patient visited my clinic and threatened that I had killed their patient. They kept on shouting and hurling threats at me demanding payment of Rs3 million fine," she said.

Dr Gul said that they also demanded that she seek pardon and visit their village for forgiveness which she refused. "They showed up to me and threatened me with dire consequences. They said they will not allow her to run the clinic peacefully and threatened to kill me."

They said that they would return to Jhal Magsi away from the reach of police and plan to kill her. "I told them I am present here to face any inquiries by any medical board or court. Why are you going back to come again. I am standing before you. Do whatever you want I will not listen to your threats," she said.

They returned to clinic on Sept 15 at around 7 pm and left at 8:30 pm and as soon as they left "I called the SSP who immediately deployed 8100 Darsi to meet me. Later, the SSP deployed two guards at my clinic," she said.

Doctor booked over blasphemy charge

UMERKOT: Police have booked a doctor allegedly for sharing blasphemous posts on social media after certain religious parties staged a violent protest to demand strict action against the suspect.

A large crowd of enraged protesters gathered in front of local press club on Wednesday and demanded immediate arrest of the doctor. They noted the protest after Umerkot SSP assured them of registration of a criminal case against the suspect.

Nevertheless, the protesters attacked a police mobile van and set it on fire. Police took action against the miscreants, took into custody over 10 suspects and registered a case against them.

Police authorities suspended 8100 Ahsan Shabbir for his failure to control vandalism and damage to government and public property.

Police officials said that a blasphemy case was also registered against the suspect at the Taluka police station under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The SSP told Dawn that teams had been formed to nab the suspect.

Umerkot and adjoining towns remained shut on the second consecutive day in protest against police failure to arrest the suspect. —Correspondent

Eid Milad celebrated with religious fervour across Sindh

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Eid Miladun Nabi was celebrated on Tuesday throughout Sindh with religious fervour, solemnity and a renewed pledge by the Muslims to uphold and promote Islam following the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (Peace be Upon Him).

In Karachi, three main processions were staged in South district. One was taken out in the afternoon from Memon Masjid and after passing through M.A. Jinnah Road, Tiber Centre, Regal Chowk, Shahrah-e-Liaquat, it culminated at Arambhadi Masjid.

Another was taken out by the Jamiat Ahl-e-Sunnat from Memon Masjid. It ended at Nishtar Park after passing through M.A. Jinnah Road, Tiber Centre and Nazimabad.

The third, organised by Dawati-Ilami, emerged from Kakeri Ground and ended at Memon Masjid after passing through Nawab Mohabbat Khanji Road, Jinnah Khana, G. Adams Road and Tower.

In other parts of the city, many small processions from different areas were taken out which after marching through various routes, merged into the main processions. But some remained confined to their localities.

Various religious, social, cultural and educational organisations held majlis-e-milad and some conferences. Quranic discourses were also organised in several city mosques while special prayers were offered for the integrity, solidarity and progress of the country and the Ummah.

In Hyderabad, the central procession was taken out by Anjuman Fidayeen-e-Pakistan in the city while Anjuman Fidayeen-e-Rasool brought out its 65th procession in Larikhal in the morning, led by Haji Gulshan Ishaq, Mubashir Sherwani, MPA Sahir Kamkharani and others.

The central procession in the city started from Madina Masjid in Norokhat area in the lead of Mufti Muhammad Ibrahim Nadeem Qureshi, Allama Muftizul Hasan, the deputy chief of Markazi Jamiat-e-Qurtubi Mahmood-ul-Uloom, Umam Khatibi, Arif Noorani and others.

Gwan Noorani, son of late Allama Shah Ahmad Noorani, addressed the participants of the procession at Kohinoor Chowk. Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan Noorani (JUP-N) leader Sabiruddin Zahir led a separate rally from Tilakia Park in Hiralal. He also addressed the participants of his group's rally from the same stage at Kohinoor Chowk as in practice to vogue since the split in Shah Ahmad Noorani's JUP several years ago.

The participants of the procession were received by Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Sheroo, CM's special assistant Akhbar Jalil Khan, Deputy Mayor Saqib Qureshi, MQM district organiser Zafar Siddiqui, party parliamentarians Rashid Khan, Nasir Qureshi, Wasim Hameed, Akhbar Akhbar Khattak and others.

Several reception camps were set up by social organisations, political parties like the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM), Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Sunni Tehreek, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf etc.

The Jamiat Ahl-e-Sunnat brought out a big rally from Umar Islam Masjid, Gari Khana while Dawati-Ilami from Fatima Madina in Effendi Town.

In Mirpurkhas, children, young and old participated in the processions organised by different religious organisations in different parts of the city.

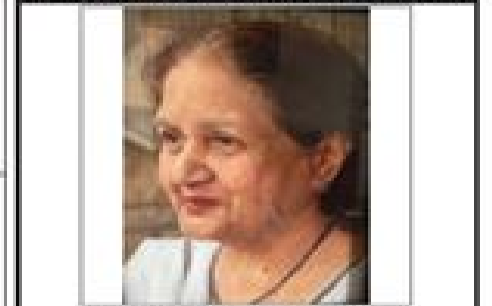
Makhdumpur was also held at different places in the city.

Processions were also taken out in Mirwah Gachhara, Digri, Jhokho, Nasokot, Kor Ghulam Muhammad, Sirdheri etc., amidst strict security arrangements.

In Nawabshah, main processions were taken out from Kohat Badshah and Fatima Madina. Rallies were taken out and congregations were also held in Sanghar and Nandahero Taluka districts. Ulama and scholars addressed the gatherings.

Similar processions were taken out in Sanghar, Nandahero Taluka, Mir, Tando Adam, Qazi Ahmed, Durr, Barakki, Shahadpur, Kandhari, Moolahay, Kibzra and other towns in which participants were reciting shrood and manaz.

Please recite Surah Fateha for our mother



**RAFFIA AZHAR HUSSAIN**  
W/o. Cdre (late) SYED AZHAR HUSSAIN  
"Your spirit lives on in the quiet halls of my mind. This big, lonely world is my home. I am nothing more than a moment. When it's over, I leave your tender heart, a love that goes beyond this world. You may no longer be physically present, but your memory will always be with me."  
Raffia & Capt. Azhar Sahi  
Urooj Hussain & Shera  
Grandchildren & great grandchildren  
Raffia Hussain & Shera  
Ajmal Hussain & Anissa  
Aali Hussain & Saad  
Mobile : 0300-82 82 032

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
TSE # 2425054211 ELECTRONIC BIDS ONLY  
Baltistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat invites electronic bids as per Baltistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) Rules, 2014 from well-qualified, established and experienced firms for PROCUREMENT OF LABORERS having registration and active status of NTN and GST with Federal Board of Revenue on the basis of following terms & conditions: 1. The bidder shall not be harassed by any of Provincial or Federal Government Department, Agency, Organization or Autonomous Body or Private Sector (Dependent on payment in Pakistan). 2. Detailed bidding documents can be downloaded from B-PBRA website www.bppra.gov.pk. 3. Single stage fee envelope bidding method shall be used as per Rule 41-(2) of the BPPRA Rules, 2014. 4. Contract will be awarded as per the evaluation criteria mentioned in bidding document. 5. Bid can be submitted electronically through BPPRA portal on or before 11:00 AM, 1st October 2024 (11:00 am). Technical bids will be opened on the same day at 11:00 am at the Procurement Cell Room # F6 of Baltistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat, Zarghoun Road, Gilgit. Financial bids of technically qualified bidders will be opened on the same day at 11:30 am. Bidder's account no. of Rs.10000/- shall be submitted through Chief Executive Officer, National Bank of Pakistan (Head of Account CO-5870). 7. The bids must accompany Bank Security of Rs.100,000/- in the shape of Call Deposit issued from a scheduled bank in favor of Secretary Baltistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat. 8. Bidders shall quote their rates inclusive of all applicable taxes and duties for each and every item entered in bidding document/Data sheet. 9. The Baltistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat reserves the right to reject any or all bids as per provisions of B-PBRA Rules, 2014.  
CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Telephone Number: 985-826679 Ext-375, 376, Fax Number: 985-826679 (Email Address: bidderservice@bpa.gov.pk)  
Procurement Cell Baltistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat Zarghoun Road Gilgit  
PSE No.1091/18-09-2024

EXTENSION OF BIDS OPENING DATES  
In continuation of the BTEB advertisement AB No 26295-9-2024 the dates of bid opening have been extended due to lesser competition as follows: TSE No. 2425052891 package D, TSE-2425053281 package E & TSE-2425053271 package F will be opened on 25/09/2024 whereas TSE No. 2425052911 package A, TSE-2425052891 package B & TSE No-24250548781 package C will be opened on 26/09/2024. All the terms & conditions will remain the same.  
Chairman Baltistan Textbook Board, Quetta Gulistan-e-Islam Colony, Near Tariq Hospital Barak Road, Gilgit. Phone no: 9812478501 Email: tbb@textbook.gov.pk  
Chairman Baltistan Textbook Board, Quetta  
AB No.106/18-09-2024

CORRIGENDUM  
TENDER OF ANGIOGRAPHY MACHINE  
An advertisement "PURCHASE OF ANGIOGRAPHY MACHINE" reference to: AB No. 178/15-09-2024 & AB No. 26594-09-2024 bearing TSE-24250730001 was published in newspaper on August 15, 2024 & Sept 9, 2024 by the Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology Quetta. Following changes are made in the bidding documents, the vendors are advised to download the updated bidding documents.  
Changes in the Criteria:  
Changes in the date of opening of tender: 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024  
Note: Terms and all other conditions remain the same as mentioned in earlier notice published on 09-Sep-2024. 091-282232  
Registrar Director (BPPRA/COG)  
AB No.105/18-09-2024



**OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE SUKKUR**  
Phone: 071-9310565 Email: spsokkur@yahoo.com  
Sukkur, dated 13.09.2024

### NOTICE INVITING SEALED TENDERS

The sealed tenders are invited from interested individuals/firms and companies as well as suppliers on Standard Bidding Document Form (SDBDF) for the procurement of the following work under SPPRA Rules 2010 (Amended 2019):

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in Million	Tender Fee	Bid Security in Million (50%) only	Completion Period
1	Repair/Reconstruction of Police Station Model Sukkur (as Model Police Station)	10.000	5000	5%	03 Months

**PROGRAMME FOR ISSUE, RECEIPT AND OPENING OF TENDERS**

Particulars	Date	At Address & Place of Opening
1. Date of acceptance of application and issuance of tenders form	07.10.2024 upto 04.00 PM	In the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police Sukkur at Upper Quarters Road Sukkur
2. Date of Opening of Tenders (at 02:00 PM)	07.10.2024	In the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police Sukkur at Upper Quarters Road Sukkur
3. Date of acceptance of application and issuance of tenders form (at 04:00 PM)	08.10.2024	In the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police Sukkur at Upper Quarters Road Sukkur
4. Date of Opening of Tenders (at 02:00 PM)	08.10.2024	In the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police Sukkur at Upper Quarters Road Sukkur

**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE TENDER**

- The interested participants must be registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for the year 2024. Any firm must have relevant category.
- Bid-bids of engineers and technical staff working with the firm.
- Documentation evidence of work executed within the progress and certificate of satisfactory completion of work by the employer.
- List of works in progress, including cost of each work and copy of letter of award of work.
- List of machinery and equipment available with documentary evidence of its ownership certificate of Bank showing credit/balance along with Bank statement.
- Registration with Income Tax Department (ITN Certificate) and copy of CNIC.
- The approved bids will be subject to stamp duty levied by the Government.
- All the contractors/firms should be registered with Sindh Revenue Board in terms of Rule 40-10, of SPPRA Rules (Amended 2019).
- Annual Income Tax Return of the last three years.
- Annual audited reports of the last three years from (CAAP) registered audit firm. Audit report issued other than (CAAP) registered audit firm will not be accepted.
- Certificate of bank showing contribution of at least 1% (percentage balance per year for the last 3 years) of the estimated cost of work along with Bank Statement, Bank statement must be provided separately for each year starting from 1st July to 30th June for the last three years and recent bank certificate must be attached showing available balance.
- Undertaking on stamp paper that the contractor is not involved in any kind of litigation, departmental or, abandoned or unnecessary delay in completion of any work in the Government as well as in private organizations.
- Condition to disqualify bidders will not be entertained.
- The bids shall be evaluated on single envelope method of SPPRA Rules 2010.
- The approved bids will be subject to stamp duty levied by the Government.
- In case of delay and unforeseen circumstances on opening date, the bids shall be submitted and opened on the next working day.
- The bidders should submit prescribed amount of earnest money as shown against each work in shape of Call Deposit prepared from the authorized bank in favour of the undersigned.
- Affidavit to the effect that the contractor/firm has not been involved in any litigation or any pending agency.
- Affidavit to the effect that all documents/contracts/permissions/licenses are in a good condition.
- In case of delay, bid of participating firm, giving full particulars of delay/obstruction or other connected information along with power of attorney, in case of being with progress, such undertaking on stamp paper to be furnished.
- The SPPRA Rules 2010 will be applicable as per jointly and severally.
- In case the undersigned or any member of the committee happens to be out of the Headquarters, the bids shall be submitted and opened as per the given schedule on the next working day.
- The undersigned and other competent authority reserves the right to reject any one or all the bids as per provision of SPPRA Rules, 2010.

**(AMJAD AHMED SHAIKH)**  
PSP  
SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE SUKKUR

**SERVICES REQUIRED ON CONTRACT BASIS APPLICATIONS INVITED**

Applications are invited for interview of qualified candidates for filling of the following post on contract basis for initial period of three years, which may be extended, for the Project namely "Establishment of Divisional Record Office at Hyderabad Muzaffargarh". The applications are invited from the persons having domicile of Sindh province, who fulfil the under mentioned criteria -

Name of Post	Age Limit	Qualification / Eligibility Criteria	
Divisional Coordinator	Minimum 30	65	Post-Graduate having extensive experience in relevant field (at least 15 years); additionally, the experience of handling Architect Matters, Record Management, Capacity Building etc. of 15 years, relevant Public Sector Organizations.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- The hiring shall be on contract basis and term specific.
- liable to be terminated on one month notice.
- Interested candidates may forward their applications with recent resume dated by 30th September 2024 on address given below.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for test/interview.
- All candidates should bring their original documents on the date of interview.
- Rs 5000 shall be admissible.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CENTRAL RECORD OFFICE**  
350-A, 1st Floor, POP Complex  
Barar, Shafiq Road, Karachi

Ref:ADP No. 265/24

**GOVERNMENT COLLEGE UNIVERSITY HYDERABAD**  
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS  
Dated: 18.09.2024

All the interested Contractors / Firms / Parties / Suppliers / Manufacturers / Sole Distributors meeting eligibility criteria, viz, having registration with Federal board of Revenue (FBR) for income tax, sales tax in case of procurement of goods, registration with the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) and as the case may be and are not black listed in any procurement or authority, are invited to participate in sealed percentage / item rate tender for the following work, under the ADP Scheme: Procurement Method Single Stage Two Envelope.

S. No.	Name of Work	Tender Fee	Completion Time	Earnest Money	Date of Issue	Date of Submission of Bids	Date of Opening Bids
1	Establishment of Information Communication Processing Center (ICPC) Lab at GC University, Hyderabad	5,000	03 Months	3%	20.09.2024 To 07-10-2024 09:00am to 03:00pm	08-10-2024 Up to 10:00am	08-10-2024 Up to 11:00am

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- The Method of Procurement is Single Stage Two Envelope procedure.
- Must be registered with FBR/NTN-GST, SRB and active taxpayer at both the authorities.
- Relevant experience in similar nature of works executed during last 3 years.
- At least (1) similar work of 80% of estimated cost.
- OR
- At least two (2) similar works of 50% of estimated cost.
- List of litigation (if any) their nature and status.
- Affidavit in which the bidder undertakes that it is not involved in any litigation.
- Tender documents can be obtained against the written request on company letter head along with Procuretor's CNIC copy or authorized nominee from the office of the Project Coordinator, Government College University Hyderabad with a pay order / demand draft as tender fee mentioned above (non-refundable) in favor of Director Finance Government College University Hyderabad.
- Tender documents can be downloaded from SPPRA website: www.ppsrindia.gov.pk or https://www.gcuh.edu.pk/
- Bids must be offered on the prescribed bidding documents issued by Government College University Hyderabad including an applicable government taxes (Federal/Provincial/Local Bodies).
- The tender will be opened by the procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representative who wish to be present.
- Bid validity period 90 days.
- The earnest money at the rate of 3% of bid price should be submitted along with Bid in shape of Call Deposit/Pay Order/Demand Draft issued by any scheduled bank of Pakistan in favor of Director Finance Government College University Hyderabad.
- Conditional bid and bid without earnest money shall not be considered.
- Affidavit that the bidders have not been black listed by any Government/Government (Autonomous Body) Affidavit in which the bidder undertakes that it is not involved in any litigation.
- Bidder have to fulfil the mandatory criteria for eligibility mentioned in bidding document. If the bidder failed to comply in any one of point, bidder will be disqualified.
- Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject all or any bids subject to the relevant provisions of SPPRA Rules 2010 amended up to date.
- In case any unforeseen situation resulting in closure of office on the date of opening or if government declares holiday, the tender shall be submitted/opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The Financial bids of the eligible firms will only be opened who all fulfil the technical eligible criteria mentioned in the bid/tender document.
- All the terms and conditions of SPPRA Rules 2010 (Amended up to date) shall be applicable.

**PROJECT COORDINATOR GC University, Hyderabad**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Date: 18 September 2024  
Loan No. and Title: A-000-PAC; Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project - Additional Financing  
Contract No. and Title: CWO2 Reconstruction of 113 Schools using Light Gauge Steel Frame Structures with Solar Panels Installation on Design-Build Basis in Taluk Khanpur, District Khairpur (20-488)  
Deadline for Submission of Bids: 21 October 2024 at 11:00 Hours (Pakistan Time)

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project (Additional Financing) that of this financing will be used for payments under the contracts named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

The School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh (the Employer) through Project Director (SIBEP), School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh (SIBEP) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of LO/Lots as mentioned above (the Work). Bidders may submit separate bid for one or multiple Lots. However, a bidder may be awarded one or multiple lots, if it submits the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bid in compliance with the aggregated qualification requirements for one lot or both lots.

Open Competitive Bidding - National advertisement will be conducted in accordance with the ADB's Single - Stage Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

National Bidders are required to be registered with Pakistan Engineering Council with a valid registration Certificate in Category as mentioned in Section 3 of the Bidding Document.

Only eligible bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding:

Contract No.	Description of Package	Participation in at least one contract that has been successfully or satisfactorily completed within the last ten (10) years and that is similar to the proposed work, where the value of the bidder's participation exceeds amounts mentioned below. The similarity of the bidder's participation shall be defined by the physical site, nature of work, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6, Employer's Requirements of the Bidding Documents.	The bidder should have a minimum Average Annual Turnover as mentioned below calculated as total certified payments received from contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (03) years.	The bidder should have cash requirement
Lot-1	Reconstruction of 45 Schools using Light Gauge Steel Frame Structures with Solar Panels Installation on Design-Build Basis in Taluk Khanpur, District Khairpur Mirs	PKR 1,201.00 million or US\$ equivalent	PKR 5,207.00 million or US\$ equivalent	PKR 1,170.00 million or US\$ equivalent
Lot-2	Reconstruction of 68 Schools using Light Gauge Steel Frame Structures with Solar Panels Installation on Design-Build Basis in Taluk Khanpur, District Khairpur Mirs	PKR 2,743.00 million or US\$ equivalent	PKR 7,480.00 million or US\$ equivalent	PKR 1,602.00 million or US\$ equivalent

The complete qualification criteria are described in the Bidding Document.

If there are any discrepancies between this invitation for bid and the Bidding Document, the Bidding Document shall prevail.

To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, the bidders should contact:

**Attention:** Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project, School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh.  
**Street Address:** House No. 171, Street No. 31, Khayaban-e-Shamshad, Saba Avenue, GHA Phase 5 E-10N, Karachi, Pakistan.  
**Floor / Room Number:** Office of the Project Director.  
**City:** Karachi.  
**ZIP Code:** 75400.  
**Country:** Islamic Republic of Pakistan.  
**Telephone No.:** +92-21-99332182.  
**Email Address:** ssepp@psa.gov.pk

To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should:

- Write to address mentioned below requesting the bidding document as mentioned above.
- Pay a non-refundable fee of Pak Rupees Fifteen Thousand Only (PKR 15,000.00) by Pay Order/Demand Draft in favor of Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project, School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, Address: House No. 171, Street No. 31, Khayaban-e-Shamshad, Saba Avenue, GHA Phase 5 E-10N, Karachi, Pakistan.
- The general bidder have option to download the bidding document of at cost from PSA/SIBEP website i.e. https://www.sibep.gov.pk

A pre-bid meeting shall take place on 20th September 2024 at 11:00 Hours (Pakistan Time) at PU Office. The online link of pre-bid meeting will be uploaded on the project website i.e. https://www.sseip.gov.pk

Deliver your bid(s) to the address:

- Project Director, Project Implementation Unit, Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project, School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, Address: House No. 171, Street No. 31, Khayaban-e-Shamshad, Saba Avenue, GHA Phase 5 E-10N, Karachi, Pakistan. Email address: ssepp@psa.gov.pk
- on or before the deadline 21st October 2024 at 11:00 hours (Pakistan Time)
- together with a Bid Security Declaration as described in the Bidding Document(s)
- electronic submission of bids is not allowed, and late bids will not be accepted.

Technical bids will be opened on 21st October 2024 at 11:00 hours (Pakistan Time) in presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend, whereas the financial bids shall remain sealed and unopened and shall be placed locked. The Price bids of only Substantially Responsive and Qualified Bidders shall be opened after technical bids evaluation, whereas the price bids of those bidders whose technical bids are not responsive and not qualified shall be returned unopened.

**PROJECT DIRECTOR**  
Project Implementation Unit  
Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project  
School Education and Literacy Department  
Government of Sindh  
Address: House No. 171, Street No. 31, Khayaban-e-Shamshad, Saba Avenue, GHA Phase 5 E-10N, Karachi, Pakistan  
Telephone No. +92 21-99332182  
Email address: ssepp@psa.gov.pk

**QUAID-E-AWAM UNIVERSITY of Engineering Science and Technology**

**THE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED ON PRESCRIBED PROFORMA FOR ADMISSION TO THE FOLLOWING DEGREE PROGRAMMES FOR 15th Batch of PhD (Phase-II)**

**PhD Degree (Existing Program) at Main Campus (Nawabshah)**  
The minimum CGPA should be 3.00 out of 4.00 in the semester system or first division with 60% in the annual/system system in the relevant master's degree from QUEST Nawabshah or equivalent qualification from any other HEC recognized university/institutions. At least 60% score in International GRE or GAT (General) test conducted by NTS or 60% score in GAT (General) type computer based test conducted by the university.

Sr.	Discipline	Eligibility Criteria
1.	Civil Engineering	ME in Civil Engineering, Construction Engg. & Management, Structural Engg., Geotechnical Engg., Environmental Engg., Transportation/Highways Engg., Irrigation & Design Engineering.
2.	Mechanical Engineering	ME in Mechanical Engg., Manufacturing Engg., Industrial Engineering & Management, Mechatronics Engg., Polymer & Gas Engg., Materials Engg., Energy Systems Engg., Automobile Engineering.
3.	Electrical Engineering	ME in Electrical Engineering, Power Engg., Electronic Engg., Telecommunication Engg., Energy Systems Engineering.
4.	Electronic Engineering	ME in Electronic Engineering, Industrial Automation & Control, Telecommunication Engg., Communication Engg., Bio Medical Engg., Computer Communication & Networks.
5.	Computer Systems Engineering	ME in Computer Systems Engineering, Computer Communication & Networks, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence.
6.	Energy & Environment Engineering	ME in Energy & Environment Engineering, Energy Systems Engg., Environmental Engg., Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Chemical Engg., Agricultural Engineering.
7.	Environmental Engineering	ME in Energy & Environment Engineering, Environmental Engg., Agricultural Engineering, Energy Systems Engg. & Chemical Engg.
8.	Telecommunication Engineering	ME in Telecommunication Engineering, Electronic Engg., Electrical Engg., Computer System Engg., Software Engineering.
9.	Information Technology	M Sc/M.Phil. in Information Technology, Computer Science, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence.
10.	Mathematics	M Sc/M.Phil. in Mathematics.
11.	Software Engineering	ME in Software Engineering, Computer Systems Engineering, Computer & Information Engineering and ME in related fields.

**Application Procedure**  
Application form can be filled online for conduct of GAT (General) test for admission in PhD program (15<sup>th</sup> Batch). The online form is available at https://paest.edu.pk. The application form should be completely filled in all respects along with the concerned copy of bank cheques of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five thousand only) in NEFT/RTGS/Engg. (Bank Name: Nizamabad account No. NDA/41) should be uploaded on or before 10/10/2024.

**Schedule for the conduct of computer based test for admission in PhD Program**

Availability of application form online on website	14.09.2024
Last date for filling of online application form	10.10.2024

Date of Computer based entry test will be announced later on.

**Director (PGS) Director (ICT)**





# METRO North

**ISLAMABAD**  
 Sunset 05:15pm  
 Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:45am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
 Minimum 22°C  
 Maximum 33°C  
 Outlook Mostly Sunny



**Pakistan beat SA by 13 runs to level T20 series**  
 Pg.18 SPORT



A VEHICLE stands at the entrance to the first digital parking lot in G-8/8 sector in Islamabad, which was recently launched. For the first 10 days, the CDA will not charge a parking fee. — Online

## DHA 'hands over' 729 plots to CDA after 17 years

**Civic agency decides to offer plots to 'overseas Pakistanis, general public'**

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the District Housing Authority (DHA) after 17 years handed over a total of 729 plots worth 340 acres of land in favour of the Capital Development Authority (CDA). In a statement on Wednesday, the CDA stated that the long-pending issue of 729 plots had been settled after the DHA had issued allotment letters of plots in favour of the CDA in light of the land exchange in 2007-8. In 2007-8, the CDA had handed over 2,400 kanal land to the DHA and the latter was supposed to give the civic agency 729 developed plots. According to a CDA spokesperson, 729 plots are available in DHA Phase 5 Block A, which will be offered to overseas Pakistanis and the

general public. This major development came to surface ahead of a new deal between the CDA and the DHA, under which the DHA will develop 50,000 kanal land in the Kauri area. However, the CDA had asked the DHA to comply with its previous commitment before entering a new venture with the civic agency. "The long standing matter regarding handing over of 729 plots by the DHA to the CDA has amicably been resolved," the CDA said in its statement. "The CDA has now decided to offer 729 residential plots to general public and overseas Pakistanis. This was decided in a meeting held at CDA headquarters chaired by CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Raza. The meeting was attended by all board members and senior officers of the authority," read the press release. "The matter had been lingering and remained unresolved since 2007-2008 when the CDA had handed over 2,412 kanals and five marlas of land to the DHA under an agreement. According to the original terms, the CDA was to receive 729 plots against that land but

the agreement could not materialise for years. Under a fresh agreement, DHA has now handed over the 729 plots to CDA," the press release said. An official said that if DHA honored its long commitment of giving possession of the above-mentioned 729 plots as well as 55pc share in the develop plots in Kauri, then this new deal was good for civic agency as without making any new investments, it would get thousands of developed plots. Earlier, CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Raza had told the meeting that the issue had been unresolved for over 15 years but through proactive efforts and positive approach it had been settled. "This is a major achievement for the CDA as it demonstrates the resolve to protect the authority's interests and its assets," he said. "These 729 plots... will not only generate substantial revenue for the CDA but also open doors for new development and investment opportunities in Islamabad. The revenue generated through these plots will be utilised on the projects that will directly benefit the people of Islamabad," the CDA chief claimed.

According to the press release, Chairman Raza had launched the efforts of all those involved in the resolution of the long-standing issue. It is relevant to note here the federal cabinet recently approved a joint venture between the CDA and the DHA for developing the Kauri model scheme on a land-sharing formula. As per the agreement, the CDA will have a 55pc share in the plots while DHA will get 45pc plots. Earlier this year, the CDA had in an advertisement stated that it wanted to get the said project developed through private partnership. In response, several developers, including the DHA, submitted their applications in February this year. However, after receiving the applications, the CDA showed down the process, later stating that "only one developer came up with criteria" and decided to go for a public-private partnership with the DHA. Then CDA board approved a summary in this regard and decided to take up the matter with the federal cabinet, which earlier this month approved the decision.

## Medical officers suspended following unborn child's death

By Our Correspondent

GUJAR KHAN: District Health Authority Rawalpindi has suspended three medical officers posted in Tehsil Headquarters Hospital (THQ) Gujjar Khan over 'misconduct' after the baby of an admitted pregnant woman reportedly died before delivery on Wednesday. According to local sources, Aysha Ali was admitted to the gynae ward of the THQ Hospital in Gujjar Khan on September 16 for childbirth, and was referred to another hospital in Rawalpindi on Wednesday morning by on-duty woman medical officer after the health of the baby deteriorated in the mother's womb, despite the on-call gynaecologist and on-call anaesthetist being available for delivery. The child was declared dead at a private hospital in Gujjar Khan during checkup of the woman before she could be transported to a hospital in Rawalpindi. According to the incident report compiled by Medical Superintendent of THQ Hospital Gujjar Khan, Dr Samad Khyani, Dr Jawaid Iqbal, anaesthetist, and Dr Hira Tamiz, gynaecologist, were on-call but did not join the hospital for operation, adding that the patient was referred to a tertiary care hospital by a woman medical officer, Dr Sehar Ishaq, on the "written" demand from the attendants. While talking to Dawn, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the District Health Authority (DHA), Dr Arbab Niaz said immediate action was taken over the "misconduct" of the medical officers after the issue was raised on social media. He maintained that no formal application was submitted from the attendants of the patient over the incident, saying the DHA was investigating the matter on its own. CEO Niaz stated that Dr Jawaid Iqbal, anaesthetist, Dr Hira Tamiz, gynaecologist, and Dr Sehar Ishaq (WMO) have been relieved of their responsibilities at THQ Gujjar Khan and put under suspension till the finalisation of inquiry/legal process from authorities. Dr Arbab Niaz also said that a three-member inquiry committee has also been constituted to probe the incident, which would submit its report to the DHA within 24 hours. Meanwhile, MPA from Gujjar Khan, Shaikat Aziz Bhutti has also taken notice of the incident and demanded action against the medical staff for negligence. In a statement, he said that he would share the findings of the inquiry with the Punjab chief minister for action.

## Young pharmacists resist medicine price deregulation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Young Pharmacists Association (PYPA) on Wednesday said removing the mandatory government control on medicine prices and registration of licensed medicines were not only violation of Constitutional provisions afforded to every citizen of Pakistan but a grave violation of Drugs Act 1976 and violation of Drug Act 2012. It has alleged that foreign firms of Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drug) officials, sponsored by private Pharmaceutical Companies and Transfer Pricing (money laundering) were rampant in pharma sector. In a letter, written to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the association has alleged that some elements in health departments were encouraging transfer pricing. Moreover it has alleged that some pharmaceutical companies were bribing government officials into removing mandatory government control on medicine prices. The letter, written by PYPA General Secretary Dr Farqan Ishaq, claimed that Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) always

focused on welfare of poor patients and provision of free medicines in government hospitals. "If medicine prices would increase by 30 times on average then it would be almost impossible for the government to give free medicines in government hospitals. The prices of life saving medicines have been decontrolled; the government mandatory control remained only to the extent of essential drug list of World Health Organisation (WHO) i.e. medicines needed for basic health units," he said. While sharing the profit margin, letter has claimed that some pharma companies get profit of over Rs1 billion if their any product's price is increased by Rs50. "Once removing mandatory government control on medicine prices was proposed by the then Finance Minister Shaikat Aziz in March 2002, but PYPA informed the then President General Pervez Musharraf that market forces cannot determine the medicine prices in Pakistan, because in almost every commodity there is one person who has to determine, whether he buys or not.

In purchasing medicines there are three different persons involved—client, doctor and attendant of patient or patient himself. Unfortunately, 999 out of 1,000 doctors are not prescribing medicines and diagnostic tests on real disease based, rather prescription is based on the volume of bribe paid by pharmaceutical companies and diagnostic laboratories to doctors, which is a homicidal crime," it stated. "Pharmaceutical companies are profit-making organisations, they don't believe in charity. How can we assume that pharma companies would reduce their profits or business. On the other hand, some officials of Drug are also involved in favouring companies," it stated. The association has alleged that a former Chief Justice of Pakistan played a "wicked" role in medicine price increase as his daughters were running three pharmaceutical companies. A former CEO Drug declared himself dead in a case of NAR. The prime minister has been urged to take notice and address the issue of exorbitant prices of medicines. — Staff Reporter



PEOPLE participate in the Eid Miladun Nabi procession on Jinnah Masjid Road in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. — White Star

## Ministry asked to 'accommodate' late applications for MDCAT

**Official says opening registration at this point can delay test, cause monetary losses**

By Ibrahim Jussaidi

ISLAMABAD: With the medical and dental colleges admission test (MDCAT) only a few days away, there are requests to the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council to accommodate candidates who could not register themselves during the first two registration drives.

About 170,000 candidates will take the admission test scheduled for Sept 22 and the ministry fears late registration at this juncture can delay the paper and lead to monetary losses for registered candidates. Similarly, the reopening of the portal can also compromise transparency. The MDCAT portal opened for registration twice from August 5 to 19 and then from August 21 to September 3. "The PMDC again opened the registration portal from August 31 to September 3 and allowed those candidates, who could not register themselves, to register with a late fee. A number of candidates registered and not all the arrangements have been finalised to conduct the test in and outside the country," a source said.

Source privy to the MDCAT procedure told Dawn that some influential personalities, including bureaucrats and some members of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), had allegedly approached the ministry for the reopening of the portal to adjust about 30 candidates. "It is unfortunate that a number of influential personalities have been making efforts to reopen the portal again. We informed them it was not possible as four days had been left in the test," the official said. About 170,000 students have registered for MDCAT which will be held on Sept 22 at 30 venues across the country as well as Anad Jinnah and

Kashmir (AJK) and two international centres (Dubai and Riyadh), he said. Despite reservations expressed by the ministry, the influential personalities were insistent that the 30 late applicants be registered even if it delayed the entire exercise, claimed the official. "They want 30 candidates to be registered at the cost of thousands of candidates," he said. The official revealed that half a dozen personalities had bank receipts for the amount they deposited for the exam fee that amount had not been credited to the PMDC bank account. "It shows that either these receipts are fake or they managed to deposit the amount in backdate which may arrive in a few days," he added.

Similarly, some PMDC council members are also trying to reopen the portal. "They wanted to discuss the issue in the council meeting but fortunately the meeting, which was scheduled earlier this week, was cancelled due to some reasons," he said. Speaking to Dawn, Health Secretary Nadeem Mubashir said the ministry had not asked the PMDC to cancel the test, either formally or informally. The ministry's spokesperson, Sajid Shah, said that every year the health ministry and the PMDC get such requests. "Every year we receive applications which are forwarded to the PMDC to look into them. It is the job of the PMDC to consider them and take a decision. Ministry acts like a

post office," he said. Mr Shah said that there was also pressure via social media but hoped that PMDC would take an appropriate decision. The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council had asked six universities across the country to conduct MDCAT on 22nd. These universities are the University of Health Sciences in Punjab, Dera University of Health Sciences (DUHS) in Sindh, Baluchistan University of Medical and Health Sciences in Balochistan, Khyber Medical University in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Medical University in Islamabad and Anad Kashmir, and Karolium International University in Gilgit Baltistan.



# Three-day 'Seerat Festival' starts tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A three-day 'Seerat Festival' will take place from September 20 to 22 under the theme 'Searching for World Peace: In the Light of the Prophet's Teachings'.

The festival, organised by the Qasim Rahmat Lal Ahl-e-Sunnat wa Khairat Nadeem Authority, will feature over 50 research papers presented by scholars from both Pakistan and abroad. Special sessions dedicated to children, women and minorities will also be included in the festival's agenda.

The event will be held at the National Skills University in I-8. At a joint press conference held in Islamabad, Chairman of the Rahmat Lal Ahl-e-Sunnat wa Khairat Nadeem Authority Khurshid Nadeem along with Education Secretary Mubayyidin Ahmad Wani, announced that the festival will transform the atmosphere of the capital during Rabul Awwal.

Mr Nadeem described the festival as a multifaceted occasion.

"The three-day international conference, 'Searching for World Peace: In the Light of the Prophet's Teachings' will bring scholars from around the world to explore various aspects of the Prophet's life," he said.

"Our aim is to promote scholarly engagement with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)," Mr Nadeem stated.

He said publishers from Pakistan would offer discounts of up to 50pc on biographical books, making this a unique opportunity for the public.

The festival will also showcase the beauty of Islamic art and culture through an exhibition of calligraphy, featuring stunning representations of the names of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Additionally, poetry readings and documentary screenings will highlight the life and teachings of the Prophet, aiming to convey messages of moral integrity based on Quranic verses and prophetic sayings.

Education Secretary Mubayyidin Wani emphasised the engagement of all educational institutions under the ministry in this noble initiative.

"Every institution is enthusiastically participating in this event," he said, adding that "The National Book Foundation will also offer a nationwide 50pc discount on its publications during the festival, showcasing the collective effort in promoting the knowledge and teachings of the Prophet (peace be upon him)".

The event organiser said significant academic and administrative support was provided by Allama Iqbal Open University and its Department of Islamic Studies. He also mentioned contributions from the Federal Board of Education, Inter Board Chairman Commission, Private Schools Regulatory Body, Federal Directorate of Education, Dame Darul Uloom Haqqania, the Institute of Islamic Research, the Message of Pakistan and Jamia Muhammadiyah Sharif Chishti.

Khurshid Nadeem said the authority had also initiated the formation of 'Rahmat Lal Ahl-e-Sunnat Youth Clubs' in educational institutions to encourage young people to engage with the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). These clubs aim to cultivate a passion for studying the Prophet's biography and deepen the youth's connection with these teachings.

"It is essential for our younger generation to develop a practical relationship with the Prophet's life," Mr Nadeem added.



THE old Islamabad Traffic Office on a greenfield in F-8 sector in Islamabad has been converted into a 'traffic theme park'. The park has been established on the directives of IGP Syed Ali Naseer Piruz in order to attract students and people and make them aware of the traffic rules. The park also provides recreational facilities to families, especially those of police officials. However, it is eclipsed by the nearby F-8 Park which is popular among the capital's residents. — Photo by Mohammad Aamir

# Strong Pakistan vital for Kashmir's freedom struggle: AJK PM

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhary Anwarul Haq on Wednesday stressed that a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan was the cornerstone for the success of the Kashmiri freedom movement.

Addressing a large gathering in Pothohar, the district headquarters of Sudhouni, he commended the Pakistan Army for its pivotal role in safeguarding the country's geographical and ideological borders.

"The brave officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army are laying down their lives to secure our future," he remarked, underlining that a strong economy was directly tied to a robust

defence system. He warned that the weakening of a nation's defence, even if its economy was stable, could lead to vulnerability and instability.

"A strong defence is the backbone of a prosperous nation," he added.

Rejecting any notion of dividing Kashmir as a solution to the long-standing issue, he firmly stated, "As long as we are here, no one can even discuss the division of Kashmir."

The AJK premier went on to highlight the advantages enjoyed by the residents on his side compared to those living in the Indian-occupied part of the region.

"Those who compare the liberated territory (AJK) with Indian-occupied Kashmir should remember that our brethren across the border have been stripped of their fundamental rights.

They can't even freely offer prayers in mosques," he said.

Reinforcing the strong ties between Kashmir and Pakistan, he said: "Let it be clear: no one can weaken the bond between the people of Kashmir, the State, the people and armed forces of Pakistan."

Turning his focus to governance, Mr Haq stressed that his government was committed to improving the administrative system.

Highlighting Sudhouni district's potential as a tourism hub, he said that with improved road infrastructure, the area could become a key destination for tourists.

In this context, he outlined several road projects—both inter-district and intra-district—that he said were set to begin soon.

He also announced a series of development initiatives, including the establishment of a Wellness Centre and the upgrading of the Basic Health Unit at Bandi Gorch, a government floor depot at Bandi Gorch, the elevation of Pothohar Municipal Committee to Municipal Corporation status, and a new water supply scheme for the District Headquarters Hospital in Pothohar.

"My government is proactively utilising funds to bring underdeveloped areas up to par with the more developed parts of the state," he said, adding that his administration had shifted focus from bureaucratic luxuries to public welfare.

"We are promoting transparency to ensure the rule of law and meritocracy, especially to benefit the most marginalised members of society."

# Japanese embassy recognises services of individuals, organisations

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Wada Mitsuhiko on Wednesday conferred the 'Japanese Ambassador's Commendations' to Shirai Mariko, Lahore Seogiten Study Group and Lahore Bussan Society at a ceremony held at his official residence.

These commendations are awarded to individuals or organisations for their significant contributions or exceptional services in cooperation with the Japanese embassy.

Former general manager of the Cos & Kings Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd Shirai Mariko was recognised for her longstanding role as the point of contact for Japanese travellers in Pakistan.

Ambassador Wada, speaking on the occasion, praised her active contributions to the Japanese community in Islamabad and thanked her for the building bridges between the two cultures and supporting the important work of the embassy.

The Lahore Seogiten Study Group, a cultural organisation dedicated to the Japanese art of Ikebana (flower arranging), was recognised for its voluntary contributions.

Ambassador Wada appreciates their display of Ikebana art at the Japan's Emperor's Birthday and



JAPANESE Ambassador Wada Mitsuhiko speaks during a ceremony held to confer commendations to individuals and organisations in Islamabad on Wednesday. — Online

Self-Defence Forces Day receptions, and admired their passion towards the Japanese culture.

Similarly, the Lahore Bussan Society was honoured for its contribution to the Japanese-style pottery. Ambassador Wada shared his experience and fondness for the art of Bussan, and hoped for continued collaborations with them while thanking their voluntary contributions of Bussan displays to various Japanese receptions.

Shirai Mariko, Neveen Syed, President Lahore Seogiten Study Group, and Miss Umair, President Lahore Bussan Society, were presented the certificates of commendation as well as mementos.

Neveen Syed recounted how her group began with a few ladies having a passion for Ikebana holding demonstrations, workshops and regular classes.

"We are so passionate that wherever we go, we encourage goodwill between Pakistan and Japan," she said.

Miss Umair appreciated the embassy for recognising her society's contributions to promotion of Bussan art.

Shirai Mariko, who had been in Pakistan since 2000, said, "Despite innumerable travel advisory, which seriously damaged tourism in Pakistan, we were able to open doors for new opportunities such as studying, business and research projects etc." She thanked all her friends and patrons for support in bringing Japanese tourists to Pakistan.

# Girl found murdered

ISLAMABAD: A girl was found murdered at Margalla Hills, police said on Wednesday.

A police patrol found the girl's body lying in a wooded area of the Margalla Hill near Pathar Mir, they said, adding that after getting the information the Khasar police, including a police woman, reached the spot and during examination found a bullet wound in her head.

Later, the body was shifted to hospital for identification, the police said, adding that the girl was yet to be identified.

The girl is her 30s.

The police searched the spot from where the body was found. However, nothing was found from there which could help identify the girl, they said, adding it was yet to be cleared whether the girl was murdered on the wooded area or somewhere else and later the killer's tentacle the body there and changed it.

A case has been registered at Kohsar police station under section 302 (murder) against unidentified persons, the police said. — Staff Reporter

# Capital administration arrests 23 professional beggars

ISLAMABAD: The district administration has arrested 23 beggars in a crackdown on professional begging across Islamabad.

The arrests were made as part of efforts to curb begging in the federal capital, said the spokesman of the administration.

In a recent move to address the growing issue of begging in Islamabad, the district administration, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner (Retired), arrested 23 professional beggars. The arrests were carried out in the jurisdictions of Lohi Bher, Sibiha, Korai, and Hareak police stations.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon urged the citizens to discourage professional beggars.

He emphasized that such activities could create an undesirable environment and could often be linked to organized groups.

The administration has taken this step to not only clear public spaces but also to ensure that vulnerable people, who may be exploited through begging networks, were not harmed.

Memon called upon the public to avoid giving money to individuals begging at the public places, as it could inadvertently support these networks.

Instead, he encouraged people to support recognised charitable organisations that work to address poverty and provide assistance to those in need. The district administration has also requested the cooperation of citizens in reporting professional beggars. — APP

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
Ministry of Interior

**NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY**  
(REGIONAL HEAD OFFICE ISLAMABAD)

Procurement of IP Based Q-Matic LEDs

**BID NOTICE**  
NADRA/RHO/ISB/Proc/048/2024

- Regional Head Office NADRA Islamabad requests sealed bids from firms/companies registered with income/sales Tax Departments and is on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue for procurement of IP Based Q-Matic LEDs.
- The Bid Document having complete details may be obtained during office hours less gazette holidays from Procurement Branch (NADRA RHO ISB) from 19 Sept 2024 to 03 Oct 2024, on cash/Rs. 2000/- (non-refundable). Sealed technical along with financial proposals must be submitted by 1000 hours on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024. Bids will be opened at 1030 hours on the same day in the presence of firm's representatives at NADRA RHO Islamabad Building (30-31, Muzee Area, G-10/4, Islamabad).
- Bid Security is Rs. 50,000/-, which must be attached with bid in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order in the name of NADRA NPC Disbursement Account Islamabad.
- The process of "single stage single envelope" would be adopted.
- Competent Authority reserves right to reject bids/offers as per the clause 33 of PPRVA rules. (In case of public holiday(s), tender will be opened on next working day)

For Any query contact on below address:

Procurement Branch  
Regional Head Office NADRA, Plot No. 30/31,  
Muzee Area, G-10/4 Islamabad. Ph. 001-9188173

Azad Govt. of the State of Jammu & Kashmir  
(Jinnah Dental Hospital, Muzaffarabad)

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Sealed bids are invited for procurement of medicines & Dental materials/ medicines and Dental X-ray films against the Normal budget for Jinnah Dental Hospital AJK Health Department during the financial year 2024-25, which will be received up to 18.10.2024 at 11:58 am in the Jinnah Dental Hospital Go AJK Muzaffarabad and will be opened on the same day at 12:00 pm in the presence of bidder or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the meeting of bid opening.

- Bidding shall be conducted through Single Stage Two Envelopes bidding procedure of AJK Public Procurement Rules, 2017. The envelopes shall be marked as "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" and "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" in bold and legible letters. Financial Proposal of bids found technically non-responsive shall be returned unopened to the respective bidder.
- For supply of Medicines & Dental medicines/materials and Dental X-ray Films etc, Authorized Importers and Authorized Distributors/ supplier can participate according to technical criteria mentioned in the bidding document.
- Bid Security (CDR for Dental Materials/Medicines and Dental X-ray Film Rs. 90,000 & Medicines Rs. 100,000/- in the name of Executive Director Jinnah Dental Hospital Muzaffarabad AJK must be accompanied with the financial bid. Cheque shall not be accepted.
- Bids shall remain valid for 30.09.2025.
- A complete set of Bidding Document including detailed specifications, quantity, terms & conditions and evaluation criteria can be obtained upto 09.10.2024 on or before duty hours on submission of written application and upon payment of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees two thousand) Non-refundable in shape of cash or bank draft as bidding document fee from Store Incharge Jinnah dental Hospital (Mobile No 03460403400) Email jinnahdentalsp@ajk.gov.pk from the office of the Executive Director Jinnah Dental Hospital Muzaffarabad AJK during Office hrs.
- All taxes/ duties levied by GoAJK will be charged from the bids under admissible rules.
- All bidders (Companies, Firms, Distributors, Dealers) are directed to make registration with AJK Income tax department.
- All bids should be submitted in tape binding duly sealed. All documents should contain proper page marking, attached in sequence should have signatures of authorized persons. Moreover, signing and stamping of each page of bidding documents are mandatory.
- All bidders shall furnish an affidavit/certificate that they are neither black listed nor in conflict with government anywhere in territory of the State of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Federally administered areas and provinces of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- Bid Evaluation Report and Award of Contract shall also be displayed on AJK/PPRA web site.
- For further information please contact us on Ph. #05822-920769, during office hours.
- The Competent Authority may reject any or all bids at any time prior to the bid and also decreased/increased the number of items as AJK PPRVA Rules 2017.

Note: This invitation for bids is also available on AJK PPRVA's website (www.ajkppra.gov.pk)

Dr. Abdul Haleem Khan  
Executive Director,  
Jinnah Dental Hospital Muzaffarabad  
Ph.#05822-920769

AR 09/10/2024





Pakistan beat SA by 13 runs to level T20 series Pg.18 SPORT

LAHORE
Sunset 06:04 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:47 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 26.0°C
Maximum 32.0°C
Outlook Overcast
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 174

METRO Central



BONDED Labour Liberation Front activists protest at Sheria Park Chowk in favour of their demands. — White Star

Punjab gov't cuts public transport fares

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Wednesday claimed that public transport fares in the province had been reduced up to 75% after cut in petroleum prices by the federal government. Information Minister Azma Bokhari said Punjab was the only province where this relief was being passed on to the people. She said that when petrol prices slashed, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her team worked hard to implement the decreased fares. The CM ensured that fare reductions were implemented under all circumstances. "No other province has reduced public transport fares after petrol prices dropped," she said and added the district administration was actively checking fare lists at all bus terminals. She warned those charging higher fares of strict action, adding that transport owners should cooperate with the government in the regard. She said Maryam Nawaz was monitoring the situation to ensure compliance with reduction in the fares. Meanwhile, the chief minister ordered a crackdown on overcharging in public transport. "Full relief of the reduction in petrol prices must reach every passenger. The overcharged amount should be returned to the passengers," she said. She directed the provincial transport minister, commissioners, deputy commissioners and transport authority officials to remain in field for strict checking of fares being charged by transport owners.

Punjab cabinet's nod to increase punishment, fine for kite flying

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The provincial cabinet on Wednesday approved the increase in the punishment for making, selling and flying kites and keeping and manufacturing illegal arms, besides the house loan and subsidised tractor and paediatric heart surgery schemes. "The cabinet gave approval to fixing the punishment of three to five years, imposing a fine of Rs200,000 to Rs700,000 for possession of illegal arms and manufacturing and selling pistols for making and selling kites under the Kite Flying Ordinance, 2009. Under the Kite Flying Ordinance, kite flying will be punishable with an imprisonment of two to five years and a fine of Rs2 million to 5 million," says a handout on Wednesday. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz pro-

vised over the cabinet meeting that also approved three mega projects - Agri Chihar Agri Ghar, Green Tractor and Children's Heart Surgery programmes. The Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) policy for the public and private sector institutions and establishment of the first Punjab Life Insurance Company of the province was also approved in the meeting. The cabinet for the first time approved the grant of housing loan on the ownership of a plot. A borrower of Rs1.5m will have to pay Rs34,000 monthly installments in nine years. The loan scheme has been converted into a revolving fund and no additional charges will be taken from the public. The cabinet approved giving 9,500 tractors to farmers under the Green Tractor Programme in Punjab, along with announcing a subsidy of Rs2m on each tractor to those possessing up to 50

acres of land. This scheme will be launched from September 20, 2024 and bidding process to be held on October 20. The Children's Heart Surgery Programme was approved in the meeting with a direction to conduct 12,000 pending heart surgeries of children as soon as possible, and inviting international surgeons for paediatric heart surgeries. Application for recruitment of assistant comptroller in Chief Minister's Office and regularisation of contract employees of the Public Health Engineering Department were also approved. In the meeting, the establishment of a search committee for the appointment of the vice chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and the extension to the contract of S&I project employees of the Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education for one year was approved by the cabinet. It also approved amendments to the Punjab Vagancy Ordinance 1958 and Probation of Offenders Ordinance 1960, besides the appointment of technical member and vice chairperson of the Punjab Agriculture Food and Drug Authority. The cabinet approved inclusion of new development schemes in the Annual Development Programme, reconstitution of the governing body of the Punjab Workers Welfare Fund and payment of salaries to contract employees of Khawaja Muhammad Sadiq Medical College. Recommendations for appointment of search committees for appointment of vice chancellors of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University of Technology, Dera Ghazi Khan and Punjab University of Technology Rasul, Mandi Bahaudin and Board of Directors of Punjab Board of Investment and Trade were also approved by the cabinet.

MDCAT on 22nd
40,364 candidates are female and 18,016 male

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) for all public and private medical colleges in Punjab will be conducted under the supervision of the University of Health Sciences (UHS) on Sept 22. According to the UHS, the exam will be held at 26 centers in 12 cities across the province where preparations have been finalized. Strict security measures will be adopted ahead of the test. A total of 58,380 candidates will appear for the exam, including 40,364 female and 18,016 male. In Lahore, eight examination centers have been established, six for female candidates and two for boys. A spokesperson for the UHS said the largest center is the Punjab University's examination hall on Wafat Road, where 3,779 female candidates will take the test. He said other centers in Lahore include COMSATS University, DPS Model Town, University of Education Township, Government Girls Graduate College Gulberg, Lahore College for Women University, DPS Township and Government Islamia College for Women, Cantt. Over 4,000 teachers will serve as invigilators across Punjab, with 1,000 of them deployed in Lahore. The invigilation staff has been appointed by the Higher Education and National Education departments. Nasser

Youngsters' gang tortures, humiliates student publicly

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Some armed members of a group of youngsters calling themselves 'Shery Khokhar 666' gang allegedly tortured a private college's student and shaved his head publicly at a gaspoint in Johar Town here on Wednesday. After the violent attack, the suspects fled the scene leaving the victim injured. The incident occurred at Allah Ha Chowk, where the armed suspects, including Irfan Khokhar, Mazhar Khokhar, Ashraf Khan, and their five unknown accomplices publicly tortured a student, Abdul Rehman (17). A video clip of the incident also surfaced later showing the armed youngsters thrashing the victim. The victim's brother Zulfikar, speaking to Dawn on phone, alleged that the suspects who attacked Rehman are running 'Shery Khokhar 666 gang' in Lahore and had also tortured several other

youngsters in the same manner in the past. He said the suspect move move on motorcycles in groups while displaying arms and have become a symbol of terror, particularly in Johar Town and surrounding localities. Zulfikar says the ringleader of the gang was Shabaz Khan and he was also a student of the same private college at Johar Town. He alleged that the gang, that was also notorious for supplying drugs, tortured Abdul Rehman and then uploaded a video clip of the incident on their social media where another also titled 'Shery 666 gang'. About the incident, Zulfikar says, the attackers carrying weapons thrashed his brother on the road, and shaved his head in order to humiliate him in front of the scores of people. Zulfikar said when he attempted to rescue his brother, the armed men tortured him too, adding that they watched a mobile

phone and Rs14,000 cash from his brother. The passersby and locals later rescued Rehman and his brother, while the attackers fled the scene, leaving the victim in a pool of blood. About the motive behind the violence, he said, the suspects were supplying drugs in the college and other educational institutions, besides organizing dance parties. He said his brother, who was recently admitted to the private college was offered 'membership' of the gang, but he refused Shabaz Khan because of 'criminal activities' of the group members. At this, Shabaz Khan had started threats at Rehman on the college premises and when the latter brought the matter into the notice of the administration, the principal called both of them to resolve the issue. Zulfikar said that Shabaz Khan had nurtured a grudge against

Six die in two bikes collision

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: Six people died in a head-on collision between two motorcycles near Hokkan Canal bridge on motorway M-4 Waryamwala Interchange road on Wednesday evening. Rescue 1122 said a man, a woman and a 12-year-old child were on their way to Waryamwala from Toba by a motorcycle when it collided with a bike ridden by two men and a woman coming from opposite direction. The collision resulted in critical injuries to all six who died instantly before the arrival of Rescue 1122 ambulances. The deceased have been identified as Mohsin Ali (39), his wife Tajida Bibi (55) and his son Babar Ali, Anwar (60), his wife Haleema Bibi (55) and his nephew Iftikhar (34).

JIT formed to probe Azma Bokhari case

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Wednesday constituted a joint investigation team (JIT) to probe the fake video case related to Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari. According to the FIA, the investigation into the case has been taken from the investigation officer and a JIT comprising three officials of FIA is formed to probe the matter. Ms Bokhari had expressed her dissatisfaction regarding FIA investigation so far in her fake video case. She had also moved the Lahore High Court.

PTI drums up mass support for Sept 21 power show

Court moved to disallow rally

Dawn Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has launched its mass contact campaign to garner support for the much-hyped Lahore power show at the Minar-e-Pakistan ground. Different party leaders including parliamentary leader in Punjab Assembly Ali Ijaz Warrich, advocate Ali Ijaz Butt, mother of incarcerated Zulfair Khan Niaz and Sharjeel Khan Niaz organized corner meetings in their respective constituencies, including NA-130 constituency of incarcerated Dr Yasmin Rashid. The party leaders and workers vowed to

through the Lahore power show come on Sept 21 (Saturday). The PTI leaders have also prepared a four-page pamphlet paying tribute to party heroes and inviting the public to participate in the Sept 21 public meeting during a door-to-door campaign. Meanwhile, various party leaders including Sarwar Javed, Rehana Ijaz Dar, Mebr Shaukat Ali, Farrukh Javed Meem and Mian Awaiz Anjum have recorded video messages and posted them on social media and other platforms including WhatsApp groups. In her message, Sarwar Javed said party founder Imran Khan had asked the masses to come out of their homes and participate in the party's power show. She said this was a great opportunity for the Lahoris and Punjabis to support Imran Khan as they came out in droves on Feb 8 and voted for the candidates chosen by Imran Khan.

"It is high time that people raised their voice to retrieve their stolen mandate and for the future of the younger generations," she said. PTI leader Rehana Ijaz Dar urged the masses to participate in the Lahore jalsa as they had reached Islamabad to attend the PTI's power show there. Meanwhile, the Lahore High Court has been requested to order the government and the police not to permit Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold a public rally in Punjab. A citizen, Mirza Wahid Rafiq, filed a writ petition through Advocate Nadeem Sarwar citing hate speeches made by the PTI leaders at a previous rally held in Islamabad. The petition reproduces the speeches delivered by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, former federal minister Hamid Azhar, who is a pro-

claimed offender in May 9 cases, and other leaders. The petitioner states that there is a likelihood that similar hate speeches may be delivered in upcoming rallies of the PTI. The petitioner says that PTI has been planning to hold a rally in Lahore, despite having no permission from the authorities concerned. He argues that the PTI is missing the privileges granted under the Constitution. The petitioner requests the court to order the Punjab government, the deputy commissioner of Lahore and the ICP to restrain the PTI from holding any jalsa anywhere in the province particularly in the provincial capital. He alleges that offenders and anti-state elements deliver speeches at the PTI rallies under the garb of fundamental rights. The petitioner also urges the court for a

strict action against PTI if it holds a jalsa without permission from the government. ABBEY'S Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly Ahmed Khan Bhattar has approached the Lahore High Court against the alleged arrest of PTI workers ahead of the party's planned rally in the city. The petition states that the PTI is scheduled to hold a rally in Lahore on Sept 21. However, it alleges, the police have started making arrests before the rally. The petition argues that holding a rally is a constitutional and legal right of any political party, and the PTI should not be deprived of this right. It asks the court to issue an order to stop the arrest of PTI members. Justice Paroo Haider will hear both petitions on Thursday (today) along with other petitions filed by PTI former MNA Aliya Hameed and others against the denial of permission to hold a public rally on Sept 21.





# Three cops held for shooting two students in 'encounter'

By Our Correspondent

**TOBA TEK SINGH** Three Jaranwala Elite Force constables were suspended from service and arrested on Wednesday for allegedly shooting in an and injuring two Class IX students and later portraying the incident as an "encounter with robbers".

Taking notice of the incident, Operations SPP Rama Abdul Wahab has suspended the constables, Naveed, Arshad and Tariq, from service and got them arrested. He also formed a three-member committee headed by Jaranwala SPP to probe into the incident.

Sources say that the incidents,

All Kamran and Dargis, both residents of Chak 351-GR, Kot Rabwah, were returning home after participating in a Eid Milad procession at Jaranwala on a motorcycle.

When they reached near the farmhouse of one Rai Haider Ali, the Elite Force constables allegedly opened fire on them without any apparent reason, leaving Kamran and Dargis critically wounded.

They were shifted to Jaranwala Tehsil Headquarters Hospital for treatment.

The two other students, who remained unharmed in the incident, said they had changed the route to avoid possible robbery, but

were targeted by policemen, who later falsely declared them deceased.

The sources say that the injured students have no criminal record.

**TORTURED TO DEATH:** A youth was kidnapped and tortured to death on Wednesday over suspicion of stealing cricket bats of a cricket club players on Wednesday on Cinema Road, Faisalabad.

Complainant Subhansha Sharif, member of the victim Usama, a resident of Gilberg Colony, said in the FIR that the suspect, Shaban, a cricket player of an indoor cricket club located on Cinema Road, and his 10

accomplices kidnapped his son.

She said the suspects took Usama to their cricket club where they severely tortured him and his friend Samraiz Khalid, already there, accusing them of stealing bats from the club.

When her son's condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the Allied Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

His friend Samraiz was under treatment in the hospital.

The police have arrested Shaban and were conducting raids to nab his accomplices.

A case has been registered under sections 302, 305, 148 and 147 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against the suspects.

# Woman 'raped' by business partner

By Our Correspondent

**SAHRAWAL:** A woman from Lahore was raped and robbed of Rs7,000 and a mobile phone allegedly by her business partner at a house on Malhotra Road on Monday night.

The Faisal Town Police registered a case under sections 375-A, 292C, and 382 of the Pakistan Penal Code against the man in suspect and an unidentified accomplice.

Reports said the alleged rape survivor had started an online clothing business with the man. She was responsible for purchasing unstitched fabric from Lahore and sending it to Sahrawal, where it was tailored according to specific designs.

The finished products were then sold

through online stores.

The woman alleged she dispatched unstitched cloth worth Rs150,000 but did not receive the agreed-upon returns. Following this, the suspect cut off communication with her. On Sept 16, she met the suspect in Sahrawal, where he invited her to his house for a dinner.

During the visit, the suspect raped her, tore her clothes and his accomplice locked the door from the outside. The friend also recorded the incident.

Her cries for help alarmed the suspects, who threatened to release the video on social media if she reported the incident. During the assault, the suspect snatched her purse and a mobile phone.

The Faisal Town police responded to a 15 emergency call and rushed to the scene, but the suspect had already fled.

# Two Gepco officials held for graft

By Our Correspondent

**GUJRAT:** Two senior officers of Gujratwala Electric Power Company (Gepco), Gujrat office, have been arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency for being involved in Rs20 million corruption.

Official sources said the FIA Gujrat circle had arrested Gepco's executive engineer Athar Shahzad and accounts officer Raheel Mirza for allegedly withdrawing a sum of Rs20m from the official account of grid stations in Gujrat and Sialkot.

A spokesman for FIA said a case had been lodged against the officials of Gepco on the charges of their alleged corruption as raids were being conducted for the arrest of remaining sus-

pects in the case.

He said a team had been constituted to conduct investigation.

Meanwhile, the FIA Gujratwala region claimed to have arrested a fugitive wanted in a fraud with a citizen regarding the human trafficking from Samsawal town of Sialkot district.

Suspect Javed Iqbal had been included in the list of most wanted fugitives to FIA Gujratwala in the year 2023, however he disappeared after committing a fraud with a local.

The FIA official said the suspect had received a sum of Rs-590,000 from a citizen for sending him to Canada but he had not returned the sum nor met the client to abscond after which a formal complaint was lodged against him last year.

# Man, son killed over enmity

By Our Correspondent

**NAROWAL:** A long-standing enmity led to the killing of a man and his son, while their nephew was injured in a shooting incident in Chak Mirza village, Zafarwal.

Fifty-year-old Zahid and his 17-year-old son Zakir were killed while their nephew Zahir Ali was injured. The suspects fled.

Reserve 1122 shifted Zahir to the Zafarwal Tehsil Headquarters Hospital. Police, on being alerted, arrived at the scene and recorded evidence and statements from eyewitnesses and shifted the bodies to the hospital for a post-mortem examination.

Local resident Haider said the attackers and victims were related and had a history of conflict. Three years ago, the slain party had killed three people. Despite a recent record list ban between the two parties, tensions remained high.

Police are trying to track down the culprits. No FIR was registered at Zafarwal police station till the filing of this report.

**SUSPECT KILLED:** A murder suspect was killed in firing by his accomplices who attacked a police team to get him released from custody near Chaudhar Mirza village, Passer, on Wednesday.

According to police spokesmen, a Qila Kalrawala investigation team was taking Imran, who was accused of murder,

attempted murder, and other serious crimes, for encounter troops. Near Chaudhar Mirza, five unidentified suspects confronted the police team and demanded the release of Imran while opening fire on the officials. The police returned fire, taking cover behind a mobile police van.

The spokesperson said the suspects fled under the cover of darkness while continuing to shoot. He said Imran was critically injured by the gunfire of his accomplices. The police van was also damaged during the exchange.

Before dying from his injuries, Imran identified the attackers as Kamran alias Jans (his brother), Arif alias Arif, Muhammad Jamool (his brother-in-law), and two unknown men. He was being shifted to the hospital in a police van for first aid, but succumbed to his injuries on the way.

A first information report has been registered against the five suspects, including Kamran, Arif, and Muhammad Jamool, on the complaint of Sub-Inspector Muhammad Shabbaz.

Kathif, Mehranwal confirmed that Imran was killed in firing by his accomplices while in police custody. The body has been moved to Passer Tehsil Headquarters Hospital for autopsy.

District Police Officer Rama Umar Farooq has ordered immediate arrest of the attackers. Raiding teams, led by the Passer DNP, have been formed to arrest the suspects.

# Elderly woman dies from suffocation at BISP centre

**MUZAFFARGARH:** A 55-year-old woman died at a Bismillah Income Support Programme (BISP) centre in Khushkhar, some 20km from here, due to heat and suffocation on Wednesday.

There was a rush and disorder at the centre set up in a high school.

Khadiza Mas, a mother of seven, died at the spot.

She was from Bari Lang near Khushkhar and had been visiting the centre for many days to get her money from retailers.

On the other side, the district administration claimed the deceased woman was not a beneficiary of the BISP and was a heart patient.

Correspondent

# MDCAT on 22nd

Continued from Page E3

faculty and officials from UHS have been designated as local persons, while officers from the Specialized Healthcare Department will monitor the test arrangements.

Additionally, deputy commissioners from 12 districts have devised comprehensive plans to oversee MDCAT arrangements, with district police officers (DPOs) and city

police officers (CPOs) responsible for security and parking management.

The UHS has already issued roll number slips to candidates. The test will start at 10:00am and end at 1:30pm.

Each candidate must score at least 55% marks in MDCAT for admission to MBBS programme and 50% for BDS. There will compete for 3,616 seats in public colleges and 5,025 seats in private colleges.

## The Islamia University of Bahawalpur

University Online: [www.iub.edu.pk](http://www.iub.edu.pk)

**SITUATIONS VACANT**

1. Applications are invited from Pakistani Nationals for following posts on Regular/Contract Basis/PTA in Department of Studies & University College of Nursing (UCN)

Department/Post	Vacant Position	Criteria for Appointment
Professor (BPS-11) (Desk)	1	<p><b>Criteria for Regular / Limited Appointment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhD degree in the relevant field from an HEC recognized university / institution.</li> <li>10 years teaching/research experience in an HEC recognized university or a Post graduate institution or professional experience in the relevant field in a national or international organization.</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 years post-PhD teaching/research experience in an HEC recognized university / post graduate institution or professional experience in the relevant field in a national or international organization.</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 research publications (with at least 5 publications in the last 4 years) in journals recognized by the HEC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Criteria for Appointment on Tenure Track System (PTS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhD from HEC recognized institution in the relevant field.</li> <li>10 years post PhD experience or minimum of 1 years of post-PhD experience along with at least 10 years of experience prior to the PhD. The experience to be counted is in the field of Teaching/research experience in recognized university or a post graduate institution or professional experience in the relevant field in a national or international organization.</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 research publications (with at least 4 publications in the last 4 years) in internationally abstracted journals recognized by the purpose of appointment as Tenure Track by the HEC.</li> </ul>
Assistant Professor (BPS-10) (On Campus of Nursing)	2	<p><b>BS, BS (Hons) / MSc, MPhil, MEd/PhD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 years experience, Teaching and Administration Experience preferred.</li> <li>Minimum 3 Publications in any recognized Nursing/Health Sciences journal (with at least 02 of these publications in last 05 years).</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 years experience, Teaching and Administration Experience preferred.</li> <li>Minimum 3 Publications in any recognized Nursing/Health Sciences journal (with at least 02 of these publications in last 05 years).</li> <li>Valid HEC License.</li> </ul>

**NATIONAL TRANSMISSION & DESPATCH COMPANY LIMITED**

**AMENDMENT NO. 3**

**TENDER NO. TLC-18-2024 (NTDC FUNDED)**

**CIVIL WORKS, ERECTION, STRINGING, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 500KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT OASD BUNDLE TRANSMISSION LINE FROM SANGAL TO 500KV MAHRA SWITCHING STATION (APPROX. 80KM), USING ACSR "BUNTING" CONDUCTOR**

REFERENCE INVITATION NOTICE FOR THE ABOVE TENDER WAS PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL GAS DIS. THE SUBMISSION DATE OF BIDS HAS BEEN EXTENDED FROM THE BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 18-10-2024 AT 10:00 A.M. BIDDING OF EXISTING I.e. 10-09-2024. BIDS WILL BE OPENED ON THE SAME DAY AT 10:30 A.M.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE TENDER NOTICE SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

**CHIEF ENGINEER (MP&M) NTDC**

8th Floor, National Complex, Feroz Road, Lahore  
Phone: 372-817017

**Corrigendum**

بابت ترمیم کے لیے مندرجہ ذیل باتوں پر توجہ دینی ہے۔

1. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.1 میں "10-09-2024" کو "18-10-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

2. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.2 میں "10:00 AM" کو "10:30 AM" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

3. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.3 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

4. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.4 میں "10:00 AM" کو "10:30 AM" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

5. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.5 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

6. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.6 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

7. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.7 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

8. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.8 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

9. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.9 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

10. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.10 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

11. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.11 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

12. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.12 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

13. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.13 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

14. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.14 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

15. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.15 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

16. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.16 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

17. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.17 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

18. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.18 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

19. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.19 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

20. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.20 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

21. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.21 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

22. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.22 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

23. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.23 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

24. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.24 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

25. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.25 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

26. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.26 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

27. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.27 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

28. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.28 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

29. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.29 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

30. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.30 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

31. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.31 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

32. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.32 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

33. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.33 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

34. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.34 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

35. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.35 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

36. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.36 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

37. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.37 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

38. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.38 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

39. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.39 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

40. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.40 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

41. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.41 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

42. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.42 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

43. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.43 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

44. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.44 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

45. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.45 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

46. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.46 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

47. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.47 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

48. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.48 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

49. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.49 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

50. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.50 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

51. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.51 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

52. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.52 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

53. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.53 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

54. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.54 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

55. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.55 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

56. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.56 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

57. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.57 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

58. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.58 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

59. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.59 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

60. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.60 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

61. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.61 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

62. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.62 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

63. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.63 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

64. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.64 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

65. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.65 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

66. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.66 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

67. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.67 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

68. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.68 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

69. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.69 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

70. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.70 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

71. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.71 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

72. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.72 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

73. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.73 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

74. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.74 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

75. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.75 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

76. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.76 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

77. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.77 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

78. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.78 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

79. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.79 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

80. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.80 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

81. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.81 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

82. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.82 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

83. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.83 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

84. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.84 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

85. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.85 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

86. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.86 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

87. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.87 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

88. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.88 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

89. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.89 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

90. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.90 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

91. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.91 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

92. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.92 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

93. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.93 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

94. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.94 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

95. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.95 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

96. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.96 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

97. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.97 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

98. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.98 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

99. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 1.99 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

100. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.00 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

101. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.01 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

102. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.02 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

103. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.03 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

104. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.04 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

105. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.05 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

106. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.06 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

107. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.07 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

108. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.08 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

109. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.09 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

110. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.10 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

111. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.11 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

112. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.12 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

113. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.13 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

114. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.14 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

115. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.15 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

116. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.16 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

117. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.17 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

118. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.18 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

119. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.19 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

120. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.20 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

121. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.21 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

122. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.22 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

123. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.23 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024" میں تبدیل کیا جائے گا۔

124. اس تینڈر نوٹیفکیشن کے آرٹیکل نمبر 2.24 میں "10-09-2024" کو "10-09-2024"

# METRO

North



**Pakistan beat SA by 13 runs to level T20 series**  
Pg.18 SPORT

**PESHAWAR**  
Sunset 06:18pm  
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:51am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
Minimum 24°C  
Maximum 37°C  
Outlook Sunny



A MAN displays his skills on jetski at Kharpur Dam lake in Haripur. — Online

## Gandapur to engage locals, tribal elders for restoration of peace

**CM launches portal for people to file complaints regarding their issues**

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has said tribal elders, representatives of different institutions and locals will be engaged to restore peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as offensives against militants have failed to achieve the desired objectives. He was talking to journalists after launching 'Iktiyar Awam Ka', a newly-developed portal for promoting good governance and addressing issues of people in the province at Civil Secretariat, here on Wednesday. He said that tribal elders, locals and institutions would jointly work for restoration of peace. Mr Gandapur said that people faced issues at several checkpoints that were being abolished. He said that law and order could not be maintained without support of people. He said that jirga system was being reactivated. "The results, that were supposed to be achieved from the operations and actions, did not come. Now, jirga comprising locals and tribal elders will be held and the institutions and departments will jointly work for restoring peace," he said. Provincial government's spokesperson Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, however,

said Mr Gandapur never referred to military operation against militants and rather talked about the weaknesses in the system. "I don't think that the chief minister was referring to military operations but weaknesses in the system including law and order situation, which will be identified by people in the portal and will be resolved," he told Dawn. He said that the situation in tribal districts was completely different. "For instance, people face issues at a checkpoint then jirga will be involved to resolve the issue like what we did in Lakki Marwat by involving locals," said Mr Saif. Mr Gandapur said that some of the displaced persons in Khyber district returned to their homes. He added that the remaining people would soon return to the areas where there were no security issues since many localities were yet to be cleared. He said that tribal districts were being restored. He said that jobs would be provided to people having localised issues. He added that there was huge potential of tourism in tribal districts. The chief minister said that action would be taken against illegal recruitments and promotions. He said that government was focusing on 'business' and would provide interest-free loans to youth. Meanwhile, a statement issued from the chief minister's secretariat said that 'Iktiyar Awam Ka' portal was a robust and user-friendly digital platform that was open for citizens

to file complaints regarding their issues and grievances. "This 24/7 portal will ensure a real-time tracking and monitoring of complaints regarding services delivery in public sector entities allowing for swift redressal and resolution. Overseas Pakistanis can also register their concerns and issues on this portal," it said. The statement said that the inclusive platform featuring simplified complaint submission mechanism, multi-channelled interaction, data security and privacy, citizen feedback loop and artificial intelligence-powered analytics and reporting, was available on mobile app, WhatsApp, email, telephone and written application, offering dashboards for all departments and officers, ensuring seamless coordination and swift implementation of government decisions. Mr Gandapur said that the purpose of the portal was to provide immediate solutions to people's problems. "We are empowering people, because solving their problems is our priority," he said. He added that complaints would not be closed until the complainant was satisfied, reiterating the government's commitment to citizen-centric governance. He said that the 99-point 'Awami Agenda' was already provided to civil administrators that resulted in enhanced service delivery and significant improvement throughout the province. "Launching of 'Iktiyar Awam Ka' portal will further expedite the implementation of that agenda," he said.

## ANP proposes province's new name as 'Pakhtunkhwa'

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party has demanded changing the name of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to 'Pakhtunkhwa' through the constitutional amendment that introduced the provincial autonomy plan to introduce in the parliament.

The party also rejected the proposal of trying political activists in military courts. The demand was made during the party's central advisory meeting held at the Basha Khan Centre here the other day. ANP central president Senator Aimal Wali Khan chaired the meeting. Later, a statement issued to the media said ANP would oppose any constitutional amendment that infringed on personal liberties and extended the tenure of constitutional offices. The party also rejected the proposal about trial of political workers in military courts. It, however, lauded the move to establish a federal constitutional court. "Any amendment against fundamental rights and democratic principles is not acceptable to the party. We will also oppose any amendment that tried to reverse the Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment, that restored provincial autonomy," the statement quoted the participants as saying. The participants observed that the ongoing 'power struggle' between institutions was not a good omen for the country. "ANP's stand from day one is that the rule of power is only the parliament. We will continue to struggle for the supremacy of the parliament and the rule of the Constitution," the meeting noted. Central leaders, including Haji Ghulam Ahmad Rizo, Ameer Haider (Isti), provincial president Mian Durrhan Hussain, central general secretary Dr Muhammad Saleem Khan, provincial general secretary Ihsaan Shah Yousafzai, Khudim Hussain, office bearers from other provinces and central secretary information Eng Ehsanullah Khan participated in the meeting. — Bureau Report

## Expired dried milk kills two minors in Haripur

HARIPUR: Two minors died after allegedly consuming expired powdered milk of a known brand, police said here on Wednesday. Sora a Saleh police station Ghulam Ali of Mohalish Rehman Akbar said that his wife fed their two and half years old daughter Aara Riza the powdered milk of a multinational brand and her condition had deteriorated within minutes and the child died in the hospital. He said the police that one of his nephews, Muhammad Ali, a 7 months old infant, was also fed the milk by his mother from the same packet and the infant immediately fell seriously ill. He was taken to the nearest hospital but doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. The complainant accused the shopkeeper of selling expired powdered milk of a known brand which became the cause of death of his minor daughter and the infant. On his complaint, the police confiscated the stock of the powdered milk from the shop for forensic inspection and started investigation. — Correspondent

## Security official, bank manager martyred in attacks

Dawn Report

**NORTH WAZIRISTAN/SOUTH WAZIRISTAN:** A security official and a bank manager were martyred in separate attacks here on Wednesday. In the first incident, a security man was martyred in a sniper attack on a checkpoint in Dattakhal tehsil of North Waziristan district. The security forces retaliated to the attack, but the assailant escaped the area. In another incident, three security personnel, including a captain, were injured when an improvised explosive device hit a convoy of security forces in Shawal area. There was no official confirmation of the incident by ISPT, the media wing of the army. Meanwhile, a bank manager was martyred when unidentified gunman attacked a private vehicle in Miral area. Sources said the manager of National Bank of Pakistan's Miral branch, Akbar Zaman Khan, was travelling in the vehicle along with other bank staff from Miral to Bannu when they came under attack. They said the other staffers remained unhurt. The attackers escaped the area after the incident. In the Lower South Waziristan district, a police officer narrowly escaped a sniper attack the other day. SHO Zafarullah Wazir was travelling from Wana to Dara Ismail Khan when an unknown sniper fired at his personal vehicle on Wana Bypass near Rustam Bazar. The bullets hit the front of the car, but fortunately SHO Wazir remained unhurt. According to sources, SHO Wazir had received death threats from terrorists twice before. When contacted, SHO Wazir confirmed the attack and said that he remained unhurt. The attacker escaped the area after the incident.

## Fumigation drive launched in dengue hotspots

PESHAWAR: The health department has launched fumigation campaign in dengue-endemic union councils of five districts, including Peshawar, following detection of cases from there. Fumigation began on Wednesday on the directives of adviser to chief minister on health Iftikhar Ali in Peshawar, Abbottabad, Bannu, Swat, and Nowshera districts, according to a press release. Fumigation will be carried out at dawn and dusk in dengue hotspot union councils. In response to a media report about the spread of dengue in the Dara Shikhan area of Peshawar, the health adviser directed anti-dengue teams to reach the affected area to conduct fumigation and distribute mosquito nets among people. Anti-dengue operations are actively underway in Tahki, interior city, Naar Bugh Road, Hayatabad, and other localities in Peshawar, the statement said. It said indoor residual spraying was also being carried out inside the homes of dengue-affected patients to eliminate mosquitoes. Efforts to eradicate dengue larvae within households have also been accelerated in addition to public awareness campaigns at the street and union council levels. The CM's health adviser instructed all the five departments to effectively implement the new dengue action plan and fulfil their responsibilities diligently. "No negligence regarding dengue control will be tolerated," he added. Mr Ali also urged the public to report any dengue-related complaint on the health department's social media page or his official page. — Bureau Report

## KP to move Supreme Court against proposed constitutional amendments

**Cabinet insists parliament incomplete as PTI not given reserved seats**

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Wednesday decided to challenge the federal government's proposed constitutional amendments in the Supreme Court, saying such a move can't be made due to the "denial" of parliament's reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. The cabinet, which met here with Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur in the chair, declared that both houses of parliament are currently incomplete because the due reserved seats in the National Assembly and the Senate haven't

been given away to the PTI. It also approved the Debt Management Fund and rules for it. "In view of the surging debt servicing costs and the adverse impact of the rupee's depreciation, this fund is essential to manage the province's debt obligations effectively and ensure financial sustainability," said an official statement. It said the fund, designed by the finance department and to be created by invoking Section 36(B) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Financial Management Act, 2022, would be instrumental in safeguarding the province's financial future. According to the statement, the Debt Management Fund will invest unutilised balances from the government treasury into low-risk instruments. "The Fund shall not only create a revenue source that offsets growing debt obligations, but also result in optimal cash management, ensuring the province can better manage

its financial obligations and ensure that substantial fiscal space is available to prioritise expenditure on service delivery." The cabinet also approved the draft Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Debt Management Fund Rules, 2024, for governing the control, management, utilisation and oversight of the proposed fund. It expressed "regret" over the poverty alleviation and social safety ministry's decision to obtain a \$118.4 million loan from the Islamic Development Bank for the "Poverty Graduation of Extremely Poor and Flood Affected Households Project" in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The decision was made in light of the province's current debt burden and the availability of alternative funding sources that offer lower costs and more favorable terms, according to it. The cabinet also approved policy guidelines for the province's participation in the carbon market as well

as a recurring grant of Rs1.5 billion for public sector universities in the province. The Higher Education Commission's annual grants to universities in the province have been frozen since 2018. Following the 19th Constitutional Amendment, higher education has become a provincial responsibility, requiring the province to independently fund its universities. Despite substantial efforts over the past four years to increase self-generated income - achieving 84.5 per cent growth - the revenue generated internally remains inadequate to meet the rising financial demands of the universities. Older universities, in particular, are grappling with unrecouped liabilities relating to pensions and salaries. The cabinet also approved the formation of an academic search committee for the appointment of vice chancellors to public sector universities. Prof Kausar A Malik will serve as

the convener of the committee comprising Prof Anwarul Hassan, Prof M Aslam Baig and Prof Sara Sahib. The cabinet formed the "performance evaluation committee for vice chancellors in public sector universities" for a period of two years. It consists of Dr Shafiqur Rahman, Prof Zahir Shah and Prof Muhammad Akmal. The cabinet approved a non-ADP scheme amounting to Rs3.1425 billion for the recovery of maternal and child health care equipment in flood-affected areas of Hazara Division. According to the official statement, the project is meant to strengthen the diagnostic and treatment systems in the target facilities and improve the regional referral system through the provision of medical equipment, which are necessary to provide maternal and child health services at the primary, secondary and tertiary health facilities located in flood-hit surrounding areas. The project will be imple-

mented with a financial support of Rs3.66 billion from the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The cabinet approved a one-year extension for the "Literacy for All" programme in the merged tribal districts, with a total cost of Rs221.872 million. The programme, which began in 2015, aims to eradicate illiteracy and achieve universal primary education by enrolling out-of-school children. Its extension will be carried from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Additionally, the cabinet approved a strategy under which centres will be "rationalised" and converted into Talim Card Schemes, according to the statement. It approved a special compensation package of Rs14.87 million for 319 victims of the fire incident in Nohia Bazaar of Peshawar, saying money will be provided to those identified in the damage assessment report prepared by the district's deputy commissioner.



**PRAYER**

Fajr 04:38  
Zuhar 12:11  
Asr 04:32  
Maghreb 06:17  
Isha 07:41

Starting time in Peshawar

**REFLECTIONS**

DO NOT BE LIKE PERSONS ON WHOM ADVICE HAS NO EFFECT; THEY REQUIRE PUNISHMENT TO IMPROVE THEM.

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)  
TB44427

# Prosecutors go on strike for indefinite period today

**Seek allowances, residential facilities and establishment of office of prosecutor general**

**Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: Public prosecutors across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will start indefinite strike today (Thursday) for acceptance of their demands including setting up of an independent prosecution department and office of prosecutor general on pattern of other provinces.

Addressing a provincial convention of prosecutors held here under the aegis of Prosecution Officers Welfare Association (POWA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, its president Saragwan Shah announced that prosecution

officers would stay away from their official work and they wouldn't appear in any court.

He stated that they had been making demands of provincial government, but it had turned a deaf ear towards it. He said that during their strike, they wouldn't perform any official work including supervision of investigations, tendering opinions in cases, scrutiny of applications and challans, getting cases in court, case management and monitoring system etc.

The convention was also addressed by presidents of Peshawar High Court Bar Association and Peshawar District Bar Association, Fida Gul and Abdul Haseeb, respectively, president of Law Officers Welfare Association, Nisar Zaman Khattak, president of Attached Departments Officers Association Amin Khan, Power gen-

eral secretary Javed Ali Mohmand, its vice president Anjad Ali, information secretary Zaheer Ali and joint secretary Wahidullah.

The convention was attended by prosecutors from across the province in a large number.

Saragwan Shah stated that their major demands included provision of 1.5 running basic pay or equivalent special allowance on the pattern of judiciary and police; residential facilities for regional directors at divisional level and district public prosecutors at district level; offices for all prosecution officers specially females including washrooms and prayer rooms; establishment of the office of prosecutor general; official vehicles for all regional directors, district public prosecutors and prosecutors of anti-terrorism courts and other special courts; provision of prosecution and utility allowances to supporting staff on pattern of Punjab and Balochistan;

and applying forensic service structure formula to prosecutors.

He said that the supervisors of KP Prosecution Academy should be given to prosecution services and prosecutors should also be included in Shariah trainings. He said that prosecutors' allowance was frozen at Rs20,000 in 2018 and the prosecutors of anti-terrorism courts were even not getting it.

Mr Shah regretted that since 2004 the director general and secretary of prosecution directorate had been appointed from other departments instead of prosecutors, who were least interested in developing the prosecution service.

He said that earlier they had started a two-day strike on May 14, but called it off after assurance was given by the government that their demands would be accepted.

Javed Ali Mohmand stated that prosecution was an important component of criminal justice system. He

said that all the three sister provinces established their prosecutor general offices for conducting prosecution of criminal cases in superior courts by their prosecution officers having relevant expertise. However, he stated, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa no such office was established till date.

He called upon prosecutors to set up protest camps on the premises of courts in their respective districts.

The convention passed several resolutions for acceptance of their demands.

The convention also condemned registration of FIR by Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Islamabad against the director of KP anti-corruption establishments, Siddique Anjum, and demanded that the same should be withdrawn.

Representatives of other associations also announced their support to POWA and called upon the government to accept its demands.

## PHC CJ asks newly-inducted judges to ensure impartiality

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Iftikhar Ibrahim said here on Wednesday that there were several strike obligations attached with the office of a judge including impartiality, independence, dignity and propriety etc.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of pre-service training for newly inducted civil judges-cum-judicial magistrates/judicial officers at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy.

Chairing the ceremony of the five-week training, PHC Chief Justice Iftikhar Ibrahim, who is also chairman of the academy, congratulated the participants on their appointment and said that it was not an ordinary position.

He highlighted the fragile nature of the noble profession, saying that office of a judge came with a unique set of obligations and values.

Elaborating the significance of training, he said that pre-service training was an essential requirement for the participants, which would enable them to perform efficiently and effectively.

Highlighting the effect of conduct of judges/judicial officers, he made special reference to judicial ethics and placed great emphasis

on the study of "Adab-ul-Qari" written by Dr Mahmood Ahmad Ghani.

The ceremony was also attended by senior judge Justice Ijaz Arwan, registrar of Peshawar High Court Barrister Ihtishar Khan, the director general of KP Judicial Academy, Jehanzeb Shiswari, and directors of academy.

Jehanzeb Shiswari said that the tier of civil judges was like a nucleus of district judiciary. He added that judges should have the law at their fingertips.

As a judicial officer, he said, they must possess a deep understanding of both substantive and procedural laws, enabling them to deliver expeditious and effective justice to the litigant public.

He said that to equip the participants to meet the challenges and demands of their new assignment, the academy had designed the training programme to sensitize them about their new responsibilities, inculcate ethical values and standards and reinforce their professional skills and knowledge.

The ceremony ended with formal wish of the trainees to various wings of the academy to familiarise themselves with their training environments. — Bureau Report

## Suki Kinari power project completes testing phase

MANSHERA: The Suki Kinari hydro-power project has successfully completed the testing phase and is prepared to connect to the national grid, an official said on Wednesday.

"We have successfully tested power production and are ready to supply electricity to the national grid," Suki Kinari project deputy director (technical) Bilal Khan said.

He, however, said the project had yet to start commercial power production and that would happen after it was linked to the national grid.

The official said a project was to connect first with the provincial grid and then with

the national grid.

"Now after the completion of the testing phase, the Suki Kinari hydro-power project is set for inauguration by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif," he said.

Mr Khan said the agreement signed between the federal government and the dam's management didn't have any clause for supplying free electricity to residents.

Meanwhile, Hazara deputy inspector general of police Tahir Ayub Khan along with district police officer Shafiqullah Khan Kandagor visited the project's site

and reviewed security arrangements.

He directed law-enforcement agencies to be more vigilant to provide foolproof security to Chinese nationals working on the project. — Correspondent

**PESCO TENDER NOTICE**

PESCO invites sealed bids for... (Detailed technical specifications for transformer repairs and replacements, including lot numbers, descriptions, and estimated costs.)

**Chief Operation Officer**  
**PESCO H/O, Peshawar**

**UNIVERSITY OF SARGODHA**

**Tender Notice**  
Tender No. PG-01/2024-25

University of Sargodha intends to purchase the below-mentioned items. Interested parties should register with Income Tax/GOVT Departments... (Detailed list of items for purchase, including quantities and estimated costs.)

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- Detailed bidding documents are available immediately from the Directorate of Procurement & Stores...
- If bids are sent through courier then bidding document fee (in the form of demand draft) must be sent in separate envelope...
- The Bidding Document carrying all details can also be downloaded from website of University of Sargodha...
- University of Sargodha will not be responsible for any cost of expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
- For Lot No. 1 & 2, attach CDR with financial bid form and for Lot No. 03 attach CDR with technical bid form.
- 90% CDR (refundable) of scheduled bank bid value of the estimated amount as mentioned above in the name of Treasurer, University of Sargodha as Bid Security must be attached.
- Detailed specifications along with estimated cost are available in the bidding document.
- In case of official holiday on the day of submission, the next day will be treated as closing date.
- For all correspondence, please use postal address: Directorate of Procurement & Stores, University of Sargodha, Sargodha.
- For further details please contact on phone No. 998-9230110.
- For Lot No. 01 & 02 Purchase will be made under PPRR (Punjab) rule "single stage one envelope procedure" as amended from time to time.
- For Lot No. 03 Purchase will be made under PPRR (Punjab) rule 302(a) "single stage two envelopes procedure" as amended from time to time.
- All bids shall have to follow all terms and conditions issued by University of Sargodha and PPRR (Punjab) from time to time.

**CHAIRMAN**  
Purchase Committee  
Directorate of Procurement & Stores  
University of Sargodha  
Contact: 998-9230110, 998-9230111

**E-QUOTATION NOTICE**

Municipal Committee Dina intends to quotation the following scheme through newly introduced E-Procurement/EPADS, Government of Punjab.

Interested parties should register on the website EPADS/https://eprocure.gov.pk of Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) by submitting their requisite information.

**Single Stage Two Envelopes Bidding procedure will be adopted.**

- Bidders may get registered from our website EPADS/https://eprocure.gov.pk of Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) by submitting their requisite information.
- After registration on E-Quotations website EPADS/https://eprocure.gov.pk the contractor of eligible categories may participate in E-Procurement.
- Bidders may generate the CDR amount mentioned against each name of work of the estimated cost of any scheduled bank. The contractor/bidder has to update estimated signed of Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) of any scheduled bank. Original CDR must be submitted to the office of undersigned on quotation opening date before closing time.
- The bidders have to quote on the percentage rates on below of above/DOQ must be submitted on EPADS on or before 01-10-2024 not later than 03:00 PM. The rates quoted online by the contractor will be announced on same date at 03:30 PM. Manual bids shall not be accepted.
- All the bidders participating in E-Quotations will be bound to submit their Original CDR with self-attested in the office of the undersigned not later than 01:00PM on 01-10-2024, otherwise, the contractor will be declared as disqualified in presence of Quotation Opening Committee.
- In case of later intervention, late CDR, action will be taken against the contractor as per PPRR Rules and they will not be eligible to participate in upcoming quotation of MC Dina. Further, this case will be forwarded to PSC and PPRA for initiation of Strict Legal Action.
- In case the lowest bidder whose bid will be more than 5% below of DMIT of the work, the lowest bidder will be bound to deposit the difference between the bid & estimated cost as per rate quoted by the bidder as performance guarantee upto 10% (PPRA 2014 Rule 50) in shape of Cash Deposit or Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank within 15 days after opening E-quotation. The lowest bidder will have to update the CDR or Bank Guarantee on the website & will submit the original CDR/Bank Guarantee in the office of undersigned, otherwise the quotation of the lowest bidder will stand cancelled & earnest money will be forfeited in favour of the Government.
- The Procuring Agency shall, upon request, communicate to any bidder the grounds for rejection of all bids or proposals, but shall not be required to justify.
- Please note that the subject procurement shall be carried out through EPADS of Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) only. All interested applicants are required to get registered on EPADS to be eligible for participation.
- Quotation/procurement document containing detailed requirements, terms and conditions is available for the registered bidders on EPADS at Punjab/eprocure.gov.pk and Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) website https://ppra.punjab.gov.pk

**By the Order of**  
Administrator MC Dina

**CHIEF OFFICER**  
Municipal Committee  
DINA

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAKWAL**

**TENDER NOTICE**

District Council Chakwal invites sealed bids through EPADS (https://eprocure.gov.pk) from contractors who have got their names entered/registered for the current financial year 2024-25 as per Punjab Local Government Workers Rules 2017 and have registered on EPADS.

The bidding shall be conducted in line with "Single Stage Two Envelopes" Procedure of the Punjab Procurement Rules 2014 and is open to all eligible bidders. The bids must be accompanied by a bid security of required amount in the form of CDR/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Punjab in favor of District Council Chakwal.

- Separate Bidding Documents containing detailed terms & conditions of the bidding process of respective activity can be downloaded from https://eprocure.gov.pk free of cost.
- The bids prepared in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the respective procurement activity's Bidding Document, must be submitted through EPADS at https://eprocure.gov.pk by or before 10:00 hours PST on the closing date (10-10-2024) for respective procurement activities mentioned above. The bids will be opened at 03:00 hours PST through EPADS at 10-10-2024 for respective procurement activities in presence of Bidders/representatives who shall choose to attend the bids opening session to be held in office of the District Council Chakwal.
- In case the lowest bidder whose bid will be more than 4% below of DMIT of the work, the lowest bidder will be bound to deposit the difference between the bid & estimated cost as per rate quoted by the bidder as security guarantee in shape of Cash Deposit or Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank within 15 days after opening of tender. Bidder will have to update the scanned copy of bid security on EPADS & will submit the original CDR in the office of undersigned by or before closing date and time, otherwise, the tender of the bidder will stand cancelled and will be considered as non-responsive.
- The Competent Authority may reject all bids at any time prior to the approval/acceptance of the tender rates.
- If the bidders are not featured/received on fixed date and time due to any reason then the same would be opened on 11-10-2024.
- When acceptance letter is issued to the successful contractor, he has to make the agreement with department on stamp paper of value specified by Government within seven days for issuance of work order.
- Bidding document is also available on PPRA Punjab website.
- Non-responsive bids shall be rejected.

Sr. #	Title of Scheme	Estid. Cost	T.S. No.	Bid Security	Due Date & Time
1.	Construction/Participation of Resident for Chief Officer & District Officer (MC) District Council Chakwal	48000	No. DM-01 (PWA) (PPRA) (1) Detail 12-09-2024	10,20,000	10-10-2024 01:00 pm 10-10-2024 01:30 pm

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
**DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**CHAKWAL**

**ADVERTISER**

**TO ADVERTISE IN DAWN**

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E-mail: mohammad.aziz@ad.com

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E-mail: shahid.ayub@ad.com

**COURT NOTICE**

**CHAKWAL**

In the Court of Javed Akhtar Afdi District Judge Chakwal Case No. 217/2024 dated 19-09-2024. Plaintiff: Mst. Zahida Begum vs. Defendant: Mst. Zahida Begum. The plaintiff has filed a suit for recovery of Rs. 100,000/- with interest. The defendant has filed a written statement denying the claim. The court has directed the plaintiff to produce evidence in support of her claim. Failure to do so will result in the dismissal of the suit. Dated 19-09-2024. J. Akhtar Afdi.

**BANNU**

In the Court of Javed Akhtar Afdi District Judge Chakwal Case No. 217/2024 dated 19-09-2024. Plaintiff: Mst. Zahida Begum vs. Defendant: Mst. Zahida Begum. The plaintiff has filed a suit for recovery of Rs. 100,000/- with interest. The defendant has filed a written statement denying the claim. The court has directed the plaintiff to produce evidence in support of her claim. Failure to do so will result in the dismissal of the suit. Dated 19-09-2024. J. Akhtar Afdi.

**BUNARI**

In the Court of Javed Akhtar Afdi District Judge Chakwal Case No. 217/2024 dated 19-09-2024. Plaintiff: Mst. Zahida Begum vs. Defendant: Mst. Zahida Begum. The plaintiff has filed a suit for recovery of Rs. 100,000/- with interest. The defendant has filed a written statement denying the claim. The court has directed the plaintiff to produce evidence in support of her claim. Failure to do so will result in the dismissal of the suit. Dated 19-09-2024. J. Akhtar Afdi.

**TURKEY**

In the Court of Javed Akhtar Afdi District Judge Chakwal Case No. 217/2024 dated 19-09-2024. Plaintiff: Mst. Zahida Begum vs. Defendant: Mst. Zahida Begum. The plaintiff has filed a suit for recovery of Rs. 100,000/- with interest. The defendant has filed a written statement denying the claim. The court has directed the plaintiff to produce evidence in support of her claim. Failure to do so will result in the dismissal of the suit. Dated 19-09-2024. J. Akhtar Afdi.

**MIRPUR**

In the Court of Javed Akhtar Afdi District Judge Chakwal Case No. 217/2024 dated 19-09-2024. Plaintiff: Mst. Zahida Begum vs. Defendant: Mst. Zahida Begum. The plaintiff has filed a suit for recovery of Rs. 100,000/- with interest. The defendant has filed a written statement denying the claim. The court has directed the plaintiff to produce evidence in support of her claim. Failure to do so will result in the dismissal of the suit. Dated 19-09-2024. J. Akhtar Afdi.

**SAWAT**

In the Court of Javed Akhtar Afdi District Judge Chakwal Case No. 217/2024 dated 19-09-2024. Plaintiff: Mst. Zahida Begum vs. Defendant: Mst. Zahida Begum. The plaintiff has filed a suit for recovery of Rs. 100,000/- with interest. The defendant has filed a written statement denying the claim. The court has directed the plaintiff to produce evidence in support of her claim. Failure to do so will result in the dismissal of the suit. Dated 19-09-2024. J. Akhtar Afdi.

**NEWSHERA**

In the Court of Javed Akhtar Afdi District Judge Chakwal Case No. 217/2024 dated 19-09-2024. Plaintiff: Mst. Zahida Begum vs. Defendant: Mst. Zahida Begum. The plaintiff has filed a suit for recovery of Rs. 100,000/- with interest. The defendant has filed a written statement denying the claim. The court has directed the plaintiff to produce evidence in support of her claim. Failure to do so will result in the dismissal of the suit. Dated 19-09-2024. J. Akhtar Afdi.

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC**

**MANSHERA**

The public at large is informed by the District Council Chakwal that the office of the District Council Chakwal has been shifted to the new premises located at the intersection of the main road and the railway station. The old premises are being vacated. All the pending cases and matters are being transferred to the new office. The public is requested to visit the new office for all the pending cases and matters. Dated 19-09-2024. Administrator, District Council Chakwal.



# Eid Milad celebrated with religious zeal

Dawn Report

PESHAWAR:

Eid Milad Nabi (peace be upon him) was celebrated in Peshawar and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with religious fervor on Tuesday. The provincial capital was giving an attractive look as official and private buildings were adorned with colorful lights.

The main procession was taken out on Tuesday night from historical Hattisagar Gate under the aegis of Imam Tabligh-i-Islam, which was led by its patron Syed Zahid Ali Shah and others.

The procession passed through different banners and was also joined by some small processions. The route of the procession was decorated with vibrant lights, banners and lanterns. Foodstuff security measures were observed on this occasion.

On the occasion, Syed Zahid Shah and other speakers urged the participants to follow the teachings of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon him) so as to turn the society into an exemplary one.

Throughout the way the participants were chanting slogans praising the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet.

Arjuman Gulamami Mustafa organised a rally and tight security in Lakki Maud, which originated from Ghosia Muzga and culminated at a Milad Park after passing through traditional routes.

The traditional routes of the procession were decorated with colorful banners and lanterns.

Addressing the gathering, speakers shed light on the importance of 12th of Rabul Awwal and asked the people to follow the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

In Baran, the administration arranged Rahmat-ul-Aalam conference at the District Council Hall in the town.

Among others deputy commissioner Akhbar Khan, religious scholars, prominent clerics, members of alternate dispute resolution council and people from different segments of society were in attendance.

In Bara, Eid Milad Nabi was celebrated with religious zeal and fervor. Special prayers for unity of Muslim Ummah, progress and prosperity of Pakistan were offered in mosques.

Different ceremonies were also held and processions taken out on the occasion. In Bajaur, the district administration arranged a Rahmat-ul-Ill-Ahameen Conference at the Jirga Hall in Khar.

# Research to be launched to assess psychosis prevalence

### Initiative to ensure early interventions, says research programme head

By Asif Ali Yusuf

PESHAWAR: A team from university in the United Kingdom is going to launch a research programme to ascertain the prevalence of psychosis — a severe mental disorder condition in which people lose contact with reality — in Pakistan and Sri Lanka and recommend measures for early interventions.

In view of the huge impact of the delayed treatment on young people suffering from psychosis in Pakistan, a team at the Royal University, UK, is starting a research programme, Translate, which stands for translating evidence for early intervention in psychosis (Translate) in low and lower-middle countries," programme head and psychiatrist Prof Saeed Farooq told Dawn.

He noted that 90pc of patients with psychosis lived in low-income countries, including Pakistan, where 5-5pc of the population were thought to experience the condition.

Prof Farooq added that it was particularly important considering that around 6pc of the country's population was under 30. He said psychosis treatment would be offered in Peshawar and Abbottabad districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisalabad in Punjab, Quetta in Balochistan, and Hyderabad in Sindh, and Sri Lanka's Galle district.

Prof Farooq, who was awarded UK's Global Health Professionalism Award by National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) last month to conduct research on "Translating evidence for early intervention in psychosis (Translate) in low and lower-middle countries," said the research team would assess in a one-year period whether these services could improve the health of around 650 patients experiencing psychosis across these sites.

He said psychosis patients had some contact with reality and interpreted reality in a very different way from others around them. "This condition involves seeing or hearing things that others cannot see or hear (hallucinations) and believing things that are not actually true (delusions)," he said.

The psychiatrist said psychosis might involve confused thinking and speaking.

He added that these symptoms often caused severe distress and changes in behavior. "Psychosis affects around 21 million people around the world, most of whom do not receive appropriate care," he said.

Prof Farooq said younger people were at the highest risk of experiencing psychosis, as it usually occurred when a person was in their late teens or early twenties.

He said in high-income countries such as the UK, there were services for treating psychosis early.

The programme head, however, said Pakistan had a few clinics for the diagnosis and treatment of psychosis. "This means that there is a large gap between somebody experiencing a first symptom of psychosis and receiving appropriate treatment. On average, this gap is around two years in lower-income countries like Pakistan."

This often results in poor outcomes for the patient, including more severe symptoms, worse quality of life, and lower levels of recovery from psychosis," he said.

Prof Farooq said the Translate team held meetings with health workers, patients and other stakeholders to understand the needs of the local communities when treating people with psychosis.

He added that the team was currently working on making existing guidance for managing psychosis from high-income countries suitable for use in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"Our programme will help develop the careers of many clinicians working in health care services. They will be trained on how to follow guidance to manage and treat psychosis. In turn, this training can be passed on to other mental health clinicians and healthcare workers in other settings. The programme will also support the research careers of PhD students in Pakistan," he said.

Prof Farooq said the initiative was expected to have a large impact on psychosis care in Pakistan and Sri Lanka and improve outcomes for people suffering from psychosis in low-income countries.

He said the Translate programme would be extended to other South Asian countries to provide treatment for psychosis in the places where it was currently lacking.

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# Villagers demand provision of drinking water

KOHAT: People of Boraka village have been using polluted water, brought from a pond for decades, spreading various water-borne diseases among residents.

Talking to Dawn on Monday, an elderly villager, Shah Jan, said that the Boraka village had at least 50 chronic patients suffering from kidney ailment which was caused by polluted water. He said that a large number of locals had been affected by waterborne diseases in the village. He claimed that his family had to spend over Rs 600,000 on the treatment of a family member following kidney disease due to contaminated water. He said that due to poverty, the villagers had to borrow money from relatives for the medical treatment.

One Munir said that they approached the lawmakers and the public health engineering department for provision of clean drinking water, but nobody had cared to do the needful in this regard. He alleged that the lawmakers even adopted delaying tactics against the installation of tube well in the locality.

Another elder, Shaker Rangash, said that the Shahid Afridi Foundation had also promised them to fund a water supply project for the village, but nothing was practically done by the organisation. — Correspondent



WOMEN fetch water from a pond in Boraka village of Kohat. — Dawn

# Doctors' protest cripples healthcare at Dir hospital

By Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: People on Wednesday blocked the road outside the District Headquarters Hospital, Timergara, here against the authorities for not resolving an ongoing rift between the hospital's management and Young Doctors' Association, which has crippled the healthcare delivery for the last three days.

The protest was channelled through a series of sit-ins against the hospital management.

Addressing the rally, Jinnah Dental Hospital secretary information Shaukat Ahmad, DHP's district secretary information Alam Zeb Advocate, Nawabzade Irfan and others demanded of the authorities concerned to resolve the rift between the management and YDA so doctors could resume their duties.

Meanwhile, addressing a doctors' protest, YDA leader Dr Waqar Alam accused the hospital's administration of committing corruption in the tendering process of Sehat Trust Card programme and purchase of land for doctors' colony. He also alleged that medical equipment handed over to

hospital by an NGO had gone missing, and the purchase of substandard medicines for the hospital.

Dr Alam demanded immediate replacement of the hospital's MS.

Meanwhile, deputy commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan along with district police officer Saleem Abbas Khatibi, MPW, Shahidullah Khan and district development advisory committee chairman Uzair Rehman met the YDA leadership. YDA district president Dr Najibullah and others briefed them about the prevailing situation in the hospital.

The DC said a report on the allegations of the YDA had been sent to the provincial government. He said doctors' boycott had severely affected the healthcare delivery in the hospital.

Mr Arif said a verification process of the hospital staff had been initiated and the absent staff would be dealt with an iron hand.

The visiting officials also met MS Dr Ali Anghar and asked him to ensure provision of medical care to patients.

Later, YDA held a meeting and decided to postpone their protest for two weeks.

# Health staffers rally against councils' proposed merger

Dawn Report

PESHAWAR: Health workers across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Wednesday protested against the proposed merger of Pakistan Allied Health Professionals Council with Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council and demanded of the federal government to review its plan.

In Peshawar, the members of KP's Paramedical Association held a protest demonstration outside Peshawar Press Club. The protesters, led by provincial president Anwar Khan and other office bearers, were holding banners and placards inscribed with their demands and also chanted slogans against the proposed merger.

The speakers said that the health workers were regularly serving millions of patients in the country but the government was least bothered to resolve their issues. They said that many representatives' leaders were working in the country in the health sector including nursing council, pharmacy council, homeopathic

medical council and others and their health professionals council should also be allowed to continue the same way.

"We, paramedics are working day and night in medical facilities across the country but the government is not ready to recognize our services," the speakers complained. They feared that due to government's policy, not only the paramedics but the nursing cadre would also face serious difficulties in the future.

In Bajaur, paramedics staged a protest demonstration against government's plan to merge allied health professionals council in nursing council.

Scores of paramedics, working in different governmental health facilities including district headquarters hospital Khar participated in the demonstration held outside the Bajaur Press Club. The protesting health workers refused to accept the government's proposed plan to merge allied health professionals council into nursing council.

Bajaur Paramedical Association president Davi Mohammad and others pointed out that the government had

planned to merge paramedical staff of all the statutory health facilities into Nursing Council, which were not in their interest.

They urged the government to withdraw its proposed plan and warned to launch a massive protest movement if the proposed proposal was not cancelled immediately.

Meanwhile, paramedics' association staged a rally in front of the Timergara Press Club, Lower Dir against the merger of Pakistan Allied Health Professionals

Council with the nursing council.

Addressing the rally, the association's president Murtaza, general secretary Ghafor Ali and others demanded of the federal government to reverse the decision.

They alleged the government under the IMF pressure was taking the decision in haste in the name of rationalizing and downsizing. They said that decades' old council was being merged into a newly established council, putting the future of three million employees in jeopardy.

# Govt asked to extend financial support to writers, artists

CHARRASABDA: Speakers at a literary event have demanded of authorities concerned to extend financial support to writers, poets and artists so that they can contribute to literature and arts in a befitting manner.

The event titled 'Da Ashrafgarh Manzoor' was arranged by youth affairs department in collaboration with district administration on the lawn of Poshkharwan Museum here the other day. Poets read out poems while local folk artists sang popular numbers and entertained audiences.

Organisers said that the main objective of the event was to promote literary and cultural activities in the district and encourage young poets, writers and folk singers to spread the message of peace, goodwill and humanism.

Speakers demanded of authorities to take steps for encouraging young writers and folk artists so that they could contribute to society in a befitting manner. They said that financial support should be extended to poets and artists.

Poets recited their romantic poems while local artists sang popular numbers. Musical and poetic tributes were paid to late poets Ikramullah Ghosia, Ashraf Chaudhary, Wadood Ashrafzadary, Marwan Shahzad, Qamar Zaman, Mirza Zakham Jigar, Faisal Rahim Saqi and Ghani Khan.

Speakers said that Poshkharwan Museum was a symbol of ancient Gandhara civilisation. They said that the district was the first capital of Gandhara. Since then, the soil had been producing literati, political leaders, statesmen and artists of great calibre, they added.

"Charasabda has been hub of movements, therefore its soil is rich and fertile when it comes to outstanding figures and personalities," they said.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Qamar Khan said that Poshkharwan depicted their feelings and emotions through poetic pieces and high-lighted local culture. He added that folk artists should be credited for their lively performance. He said that poetry was a mirror of Pakistan traditions and social values. — Correspondent

# Two held in woman's murder case

BAJAUR: The police on Wednesday claimed to have resolved a blind murder case of a woman by arresting two suspects, including the woman's daughter-in-law.

The murder of the elderly woman occurred in Kasal area of Salarai tehsil on Sept 12, according to a statement issued from the office of the district police officer.

It said a special team headed by SP investigations Narveed Iqbal was constituted for bringing the culprits to justice after registration of the FIR.

Members of the investigation team, which also included DSP circle Nisarullah Khan and SHO Salarai police station, Rashid Bahmani, first arrested a woman, the daughter-in-law of the deceased, on suspicion.

During interrogation, the woman disclosed that a man, identified as Iqbal Khan, killed the woman by cutting her throat with a knife.

Afterwards, the police arrested the main suspect.

The statement said a family dispute led to the murder. — Correspondent

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
Ministry of Interior

**NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY**  
(REGIONAL HEAD OFFICE ISLAMABAD)

Procurement of IP Based Q-Matic LEDs

**BID NOTICE**  
NADRA/RHO/TSB/Proc/048/2024

- Regional Head Office NADRA Islamabad invites sealed bids from firms/companies registered with income/sales Tax Departments and is on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue for procurement of IP Based Q-Matic LEDs.
- The Bid Document having complete details may be obtained during office hours less gazette holidays from Procurement Branch (NADRA RHO ISB) from 19 Sept 2024 to 03 Oct 2024, on cash/RS. 2000/- (two thousand/-). Sealed technical along with financial proposals must be submitted by 1000 hours on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024. Bids will be opened at 1030 hours on the same day in the presence of firm's representatives at NADRA RHO Islamabad Building (30-31, Muzee Area, G-10/R, Islamabad).
- Bid Security is Rs. 50,000/-, which must be attached with bid in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order in the name of NADRA NRC Disbursement Account Islamabad.
- The process of "single stage single envelope" would be adopted.
- Competent Authority reserves right to reject bids/offers as per the clause 32 of PPRVA rules. (In case of public holiday(s), tender will be opened on next working day)

For Any query contact on below address:

Procurement Branch  
Regional Head Office NADRA, Plot No. 38/31,  
Muzee Area, G-10-A Islamabad. Ph. 001-9188173

Azad Govt. of the State of Jammu & Kashmir  
(Jinnah Dental Hospital, Muzaffarabad)

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Sealed bids are invited for procurement of medicines & Dental materials/ medicines and Dental X-ray films against the Normal budget for Jinnah Dental Hospital AJ&K Health Department during the financial year 2024-25, which will be received up to 18.10.2024 at 11:58 am in the Jinnah Dental Hospital Go-AJK Muzaffarabad and will be opened on the same day at 12:00 pm in the presence of bidder or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the meeting of bid opening.

- Bidding shall be conducted through Single Stage Two Envelopes bidding procedure of AJ&K Public Procurement Rules, 2017. The envelopes shall be marked as "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" and "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" in bold and legible letters. Financial Proposal of bids found technically non-responsive shall be returned unopened to the respective bidder.
- For supply of Medicines & Dental materials/materials and Dental X-ray Films etc. Authorized Importers and Authorized Distributors/ supplier can participate according to technical criteria mentioned in the bidding document.
- Bid Security (CDR for Dental Materials/Medicines and Dental X-ray Film Rs. 90,000 & Medicines Rs. 100,000/- in the name of Executive Director Jinnah Dental Hospital Muzaffarabad AJ&K must be accompanied with the financial bid. Cheque shall not be accepted.
- Bids shall remain valid for 30.09.2025.
- A complete set of Bidding Document including detailed specifications, quantity, terms & conditions and evaluation criteria can be obtained upto 09.10.2024 on or before duty hours on submission of written application and upon payment of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees two thousand) Non-refundable in shape of cash or bank draft as bidding document fee from Store In-charge Jinnah Dental Hospital (Mobile No. 03460403400) Email: jinnahdentalsp@rediffmail.com from the office of the Executive Director Jinnah Dental Hospital Muzaffarabad AJ&K during office hrs.
- All taxes/ duties levied by GoAJ&K will be charged from the bids under admissible rules.
- All bidders (Companies, Firms, Distributors, Dealers) are directed to make registration with AJ&K income tax department.
- All bids should be submitted in tape binding duly sealed. All documents should contain proper page marking, attached in sequence should have signatures of authorized persons. Moreover, signing and stamping of each page of bidding documents are mandatory.
- All bidders shall furnish an affidavit/certificate that they are neither black listed nor in conflict with government anywhere in territory of the State of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Federally administered areas and provinces of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- Bid Evaluation Report and Award of Contract shall also be displayed on AJ&KPPRA web site.
- For further information please contact us on Ph. #05822-920769, during office hours.
- The Competent Authority may reject any or all bids at any time prior to the bid and also decreased/increased the number of items as AJ&K PPRVA Rules 2017.

Note: This invitation for bids is also available on AJ&K PPRVA's website (www.ajkppra.gov.pk)

Dr. Abul Haleem Khan  
Executive Director,  
Jinnah Dental Hospital Muzaffarabad  
Ph.#05822-920769

AR 09/09/2024