



## Lawmakers can't join PTI under new law: speaker

- 'Defiant' ECP to meet today to ponder apex court's order in reserved seats case
- May also deliberate over fresh petitions seeking to deprive PTI of reserved seats
- Information minister terms Ayaz Sadiq's letter 'milestone in parliamentary history'

By Hishar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: An apparently defiant Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is set to meet today (Friday) for the third consecutive day to deliberate over the Supreme Court's order on reserved seats, whereas the National Assembly speaker urged the body to honour laws made by parliament, insisting that the amended Elections Act prevents independent lawmakers from switching parties.

Sources told Dawn the ECP's meeting stretched to the next day because a legal expert, who was supposed to be consulted in the matter, was unavailable on Thursday.

In a majority ruling passed on July 12, the Supreme Court declared PTI eligible for reserved seats despite an amended law barring independently elected candidates from joining political parties after a specific deadline.

The ECP, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan

Raja, met on Thursday for the second day but deferred further discussions to Friday's session.

In a related development, a petition was filed by two PML-N members of the Punjab Assembly — Amira Hassan Sheikh and Mohsin Ayub Khan — seeking to declare that any political party failing to submit its list of candidates for reserved seats

### What now? Editorial on Page 6

within the stipulated time, as mandated by Section 104 of the Elections Act 2017, should be ineligible for reserved seats at a later stage.

### Speaker's letter

In his letter to the chief election commissioner, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stressed the importance of parliamentary sovereignty and its implications for the democratic process.

"Upholding the principles of parliamentary so-

vereignty is essential in maintaining the integrity and independence of our parliamentary system. Any actions perceived as undermining the sovereignty of parliament can erode public trust and confidence in our institutions," the letter said.

Mr Sadiq alleged that the Supreme Court's July 12 ruling enabled a candidate to switch political parties and argued that this went against the amended Elections Act, which he said now has overriding authority.

The speaker's letter highlighted the parliament's passage of the Elections (Second Amendment) Act 2024, which was signed into law on Aug 7 and came into retrospective effect from 2017. He said the amendment precludes independent candidates from switching parties once they have declared their affiliation.

"Two particular provisions of the amended Elections Act are particularly relevant for your

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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong cut a cake to celebrate China's National Day, at a reception on Thursday. — PM Office

## New CPEC phase will transform the country's economy: PM

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Pakistan on Thursday reaffirmed its commitment to working with China for shared prosperity, and promoting peace and stability in the world.

The second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would help transform the country's economy, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said at the National Day Reception, hosted by the Chinese Embassy to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari said that high quality development of CPEC would "help unlock greater benefits for our people, besides enhancing connectivity and prosperity of the region".

"We are entering into the second phase of CPEC which has huge potential of mutual cooperation in the field of

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## Blasphemy suspect killed in 'police encounter'

Mob burns man's body after snatching it from heirs; family say slain doctor was struggling with mental health issues

By Gamarruddin & A.B. Arisaz

MIRPURKHAS/IMERKOT: An Umerkot-based doctor, Shah Nawaz Kandhoo, was shot dead by police in an alleged extra-judicial killing in Mirpurkhas on Thursday, a day after he was booked on allegations of blasphemy.

On Wednesday, the medical professional was booked by Umerkot police under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code for allegedly posting "blasphemous content" on Facebook following protests by religious parties.

Reportedly, the suspect had

Woman sentenced to death for 'online blasphemy' Page 3

Strifed 8150 Niaz Khoso, however, confirmed the killing of the suspect, saying the doctor along with "accomplices" opened fire at police. In retaliatory action, the suspect was shot dead whereas his alleged accomplices managed to escape, he claimed.

Mirpurkhas' CIA police also shared the same version of events. Police claimed the incident occurred during snap-checking near the Kasta stop in Sindhri.

A day earlier, Dr Shah Nawaz had issued a video statement on his social media, saying that his account had been hacked and he could not even imagine sharing blasphemous content. According

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## Ready to discuss India's concerns on Indus Waters Treaty, says FO

Says deliberations should be held within existing mechanism; calls Lebanon attack 'terrorism' by Israel

By Basir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed willingness to discuss issues concerning the Indus

Waters Treaty (IWT) with India. Weeks after India formally notified Pakistan to amend the bilateral treaty due to "fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances," the Foreign Office said on Thursday that all discussions could take place within the treaty's existing framework.

During her weekly press briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Munira Zehra Bakoch was asked about India's intentions to review the water sharing agreement.

In response, Ms Bakoch reaf-

firmed Pakistan's commitment to the treaty and said the issues could be discussed between the commissioners for Indus Waters appointed by both countries.

Under the IWT, the commissioners are part of the Permanent Indus Commission, comprising officials from India and Pakistan. The body oversees the treaty's implementation and exchanges bilateral data.

The Indus Waters Treaty is an

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## Pakistan warns UN of global threat posed by TTP

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Pakistan has warned the UN Security Council of a "serious threat of terrorism" within and from Afghanistan, emphasizing that the banned Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is fast emerging as an "umbrella organisation" with potential of causing regional destabilisation, Dawn.com reported.

The banned TTP, a separate group but aligned with the Afghan Taliban, had escalated attacks on Pakistani security forces after breaking a fragile ceasefire agreement with the government in November 2022.

According to a statement posted on the X account of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN, Munir Akram, while addressing a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Afghanistan on Wednesday, pointed out the threat posed by the TTP globally.

"The umbrella — termed the TTP, known as Firqa al-Khawarij in Pakistan, as the largest terrorist organisation in Afghanistan that is conducting almost daily

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## ON OTHER PAGES



### Israel bombs Lebanon after pager blasts

Israel bombed Lebanon on Thursday, after two waves of blasts targeted its communications systems, killing at least 37 people across the country. On Thursday, the Israeli military claimed it struck an Hezbollah "infrastructure site" and a weapons storage facility overnight in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said his group had suffered an "unprecedented" blow. Page 12

## 'Proposed' amendments can't be challenged: SC

- Registrar returns plea filed by SCBA's Abid Zuberi; terms question posed in petition 'hypothetical'
- PBC decries 'secrecy' surrounding Constitutional Package; lawyers' body to study proposed amendment

By Nisim Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has said that proposed constitutional amendments can't be challenged at this stage, since they are yet to be passed by parliament.

Meanwhile on Thursday, lawyers con-

### Constitutional court dominates political discourse: Page 3

tinued to express concerns over the government's attempts to "secretly" amend the Constitution.

The SC registrar office returned a peti-

tion moved by former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Abid Shahid Zuberi, seeking to stop the government from taking the "Constitutional Package" in parliament.

In a one-page letter, the assistant registrar referred to the direction from the registrar's office to return the petition, which raised "hypothetical questions".

It said that under the Constitution, the power to make laws lies with parliament, and it cannot be curtailed before a law has been passed.

The registrar also objected to the officials who have been cited as respondents

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## Constitutional court dominates political discourse

- Bilawal calls for such courts in provinces, says other parties to be contacted if Fazl refuses to lend support
- Tarar says parliament has sole jurisdiction to enact, amend laws; Aqeel denies law being made in 'haste'
- Omar says PTI will resist move to set up 'super court'

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: While the ruling allies on Thursday assailed the judiciary for 'interfering' in constitutional matters and vowed to establish the proposed constitutional court at any cost, the opposition PTI termed the proposed forum a "super court" and resolved to block it.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said his party will never retreat from its stance on the formation of a constitutional court as it was the dream of his slain mother Benazir Bhutto and also promised in the Charter of Democracy signed between her and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in 2006.

Speaking at a Peoples Lawyers Forum (PLF) programme, the PPP leader said he believed that not only in the centre but constitutional courts should also be set up in provinces. He said the party's lawyers' wing gave the 1973 Constitution to the country and stood firm against every tyrant, whether in the form of dictators like Gen Zia and Gen Musharraf, or ex-chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhary.

"The [matter of] appointment of judges, which constitutionally lies with the prime minister, was later transferred to the chief justice through judicial intervention. Attempts were made to address this in the 18th Amendment, following global examples like the United States, where legislators hold such powers. However, this effort was derailed by the so-called 'hardliner' chief justice, who set a precedent for an insular judicial system. The doctrine of 'political activism' initiated by Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhary has since been propagated by figures like Saght Nisar and Gohar Ahmed," he regretted.

He said the process of judicial appointments needs reform. Stressing the need for constitutional courts, he said only 15 per cent of the Supreme Court's cases are constitutional, "yet these occupy significant portions of [the court's] time".

He said provinces need to have their own constitutional courts. "In provincial courts, 50 per cent of cases are related to

constitutional matters. Legislation in this regard would provide meaningful relief to people seeking swift and timely justice," he added.

He lashed out at the judiciary for not giving prompt justice to people, saying ex-PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto got justice 50 years after his "judicial murder". "Is it the responsibility of judiciary to fix prices of tomatoes and sugar," he asked.

Later, speaking on ANY News, the PPP chairman endorsed a proposal regarding transfer of high court judges but said it should be done through the Judicial Commission of Pakistan or a proposed parliamentary body.

"When our cases are shifted from Sindh to Rawalpindi, why can't the judges be transferred from one high court to another?" he asked.

About his meeting with JUIF chief Maulana Faruk Rehman, Mr Bhutto Zardari said it was decided that they would meet again in two days, but no one from the JUIF had contacted him. He said the government allies had asked him that JUIF was desecrating his tomb.

"If the Maulana does not agree on the constitutional package, we will talk to any other party for support," he added.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Anasullah Tarar told a presser that parliament is supreme and has the sole jurisdiction to enact and amend laws.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Law and Justice Haris Aqeel said the government would take opposition on board on the issue of constitutional court and would incorporate their positive suggestions. In a statement, he said the government was not making the proposed legislation in haste as it was working on it since its inception.

Separately, PTI leader Omar Ayub said that his party would never accept any "super court", adding that there would be martial law in the country if the constitutional package was passed by parliament.

He said both Mr Bhutto-Zardari and Mr Tarar were not aware of the amendments when efforts were made last week to get them passed from parliament.



HYDERABAD: A worker places clay pitchers in the sun to dry at Komhar Para. —AFP

## Woman sentenced to death for 'online blasphemy'

- Family pardons cop who killed blasphemy suspect in Quetta
- HRCP raises alarm over extrajudicial killings in blasphemy cases

By Malik Asad and Saleem Shahid

ISLAMABAD/QUETTA: A woman was sentenced to death on Thursday under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) in a blasphemy case.

Judge Muhammad Adnan Majeed convicted the woman under Section 295 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and Section 11 of Peca. In addition to the death penalty, the court imposed a fine of Rs500,000 on the convict.

The case was brought against her by the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) cybercrime wing on a complaint lodged by a private citizen, Shiraz Ahmed.

According to the FIR, the woman, who belongs to the Christian community, was accused of posting blasphemous content about the Holy Prophet (PBUH) on social media in September 2020. The FIA registered the case against her on July 26, 2021.

The woman, a mother of four, had previously sought bail from both the trial court and the Islamabad High Court (IHC), but her bail applications were rejected by both courts.

**Family pardons cop**

Separately, the family of Abdul Ali, who was shot and killed while he is in police custody over blasphemy accusations, has pardoned the police official responsible for his death.

At a press conference, the sons of Abdul Ali (also known as Shakhri), Muhammad Usman and Muhammad Wali, along with the chief of the Nooran tribe, Hajj Fatullah Nooran, condemned

the act of blasphemy allegedly committed by Ali. Two of Ali's brothers, Khair Muhammad and Bar Muhammad, also denounced his actions.

"The family said they have nothing to do with the vile act of blasphemy committed by Abdul Ali," Usman said, adding, "We have pardoned police official Saad Muhammad Sarhadi posthumously, in the name of Allah."

Usman and Wali also announced that they would not pursue legal action against the police officer, who had been arrested after the killing and charged with murder.

All had been arrested the previous week for allegedly making blasphemous remarks, which had gone viral on social media.

**HRCP expresses concern over killings**

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) said it is "gravely concerned by the alleged extrajudicial killing of two people accused of blasphemy, a hotel owner in Quetta while in custody, and a doctor in Unarokot during a police raid".

"This pattern of violence in cases of blasphemy, in which law enforcement personnel are allegedly involved, is an alarming trend," the commission said in a statement.

It urged the government to conduct an independent inquiry into the death of the doctor in Unarokot and ensure that those responsible are held accountable. "At a wider level, the state must counter the rising radicalisation (much of which has been historically sponsored by the state itself) that triggers such incidents," the HRCP said.

## Imran warns of 'court arrest drive' if jalsa blocked

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday threatened the government with a jail bhara androkh (court arrest drive) if his party was not allowed to hold its jalsa in Lahore on Sept 21.

Talking to reporters after accountability court proceedings in the 119th corruption case at Adiala Jail, Mr Khan said he had been in prison for the last 15 months and could stay there longer.

He described the planned Sept 21 jalsa as a "do and die" issue for PTL, saying the Constitution guaranteed the right of assembly and if this right was denied, PTL supporters would fill the jails.

He alleged that the government was playing havoc with the Supreme Court by amending the Constitution in haste and it is tantamount to usurping the right to liberty which endures people.

In response to a question whether he supports the proposed Federal Constitution Court, Mr Khan said amendments were being made to chip the wings of judiciary.

He claimed that the government wants to extend the tenure of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, adding that even schoolboys know the objectives behind these amendments.

The ex-PM said he knew that the government would introduce these amendments as they were afraid of the PTI's popularity.

**Cross-examination**

Earlier, Mr Khan's counsel conducted cross-examination of the last prosecution witness in the case.

Advocate Zaher Abbas questioned the witness, an investigation officer of the National Accountability Bureau. However, the counsel for Bushra Bibi, Usman Riaz Gill, was not available to cross-examine the witness.

Mr Khan's counsel requested the court to adjourn the hearing till Sept 26. Accountability Court judge Nasir Javed Raza remarked that the defence counsel could not complete the cross-examination during the last 21 hearings while the investigation officer had appeared on every date and rejected the counsel's request. The case would be taken up on Friday (today).

Meanwhile, IHC Justice Mirzaul Hassan Anwarogly reminded the special judge, counsel to decide Mr Khan and his spouse's bail post-conviction/five days in accordance with the National Judicial Policy. —Malik Asad

## Why didn't Nawaz help govt win over 'old pal' Fazl?

Insiders say PML-N chief warned to stay away due to Maulana's 'obstinacy'

By Zulqarnain Tahir

LAHORE: After the PML-N led coalition failed to table a constitutional 'Constitutional Package' in parliament due to an inability to convince Maulana Faruk Rehman — a former ally of the PML-N — questions are being raised over the role of PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, who

remained conspicuous by his absence from the scene, despite the tough time being faced by his party.

There are also questions about whether the former premier was on board with the amendments proposed by the government of his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif, who is leading a coalition government in the Centre, and if so, why he did not play an active role.

Azra spoke to a number of PML-N leaders and party insiders about the role of the older Sharif in the Constitutional Package saga.

His close aide and former information minister Pervez Rashid said that the PML-N president had been thoroughly briefed on the

Constitutional Package and had given it a thumbs-up.

"Mian sahib [did not have] any reservations over the proposed draft. He was briefed on it thoroughly and was subsequently put to others to evolve a larger consensus," Senator Rashid told Dawn on Thursday.

With the party president on board, the PML-N then reached out to other parties, including the JUIF, which eventually realigned the ruling coalition and "completely rejected" the proposed amendments on Wednesday.

Interestingly, a government delegation made several calls on the Maulana, while PM Shehbaz also

met him twice — but in vain.

After the PML-N failed to win the Maulana over, Nawaz Sharif spoke to his younger brother and expressed a willingness to trade in to try and persuade the JUIF leader, with whom he has a considerable rapport.

However, insiders claimed Nawaz was told that the Maulana had made up his mind, so it might not be a good idea to call on the JUIF chief, knowing he would not budge from his stance.

Nawaz Sharif and his nephew Hassan Shehbaz — who are both MNAs — had remained in Islamabad over the weekend to take part in the voting for the proposed constitutional package,

but returned to Lahore after the coalition government's attempts to muster a two-thirds majority in parliament fell through.

The older Sharif had expressed his disappointment on his younger brother's failure to woo Maulana Faruk Rehman, another party insider said, adding that both the PML-N and PPP did not expect the Maulana to be such a tough nut to crack.

However, there are murmuring in Punjab, where some PML-N leaders are reportedly not happy with how the older Sharif handled the situation.

They said the PML-N president should have convened a meeting of

the party's top brass and grilled them for not delivering.

"The PML-N government has faced a huge embarrassment and [his episode is] a blow to its future plans related to the judicial amendments," another party leader said.

However, Mr Rashid was still hopeful of a consensus on the proposed amendments, even though the PPP and JUIF are said to be working on their own drafts.

"The process of consultation with other parties is underway. One thing is clear, all parties want judicial reforms. They have a total consensus on this. However, no timeframe can be given regarding a consensus on the draft," he said.



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### Israel violated global child rights treaty in Gaza: UN

GENEVA: A UN committee on Thursday accused Israel of severe breaches of a global treaty protecting children's rights, saying its military actions in Gaza had a catastrophic impact on them and are among the most violations in recent history. Palestinian health authorities say 41,000 people have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched its military campaign. Of those killed in Gaza, at least 11,355 are children, Palestinian data shows, and thousands more are injured. "The outrageous death of children is almost historically unique. This is an extremely dark place in history," Brazil's Guillermina Gaitaneri, vice chair of the committee, told reporters. "I don't think we have seen before, a violation that is so massive, as we are seeing in Gaza now... These are extremely grave violations that we do not see often," she said. The 18-member UN Committee monitors countries' compliance with the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child — a widely-adopted treaty that protects them from violence and other abuses. In its conclusions, it called on Israel to provide urgent assistance to those needs of children maimed or injured by the war, provide support for orphans and allow more medical evacuations from Gaza. The UN body has renewed its resolve to monitor the conflict closely — although countries generally aim to comply. During the hearings, the UN experts also asked many questions about Israeli children, including details about those taken prisoner by Hamas to which Israel's delegation gave extensive responses. Sabine Tarna, the mother of a 17-year-old boy shot dead in the Oct 7 raids, addressed the UN hearings and said child survivors were traumatized. —Reuters

## Spanish PM, Palestinian leader urge Mideast de-escalation

### Abbas seeks peace conference modelled on the 1991 Madrid talks that led to the 1993 Oslo accords

MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Thursday called for a de-escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, as Lebanon said 17 people had been killed by Israeli-trapped hand-held devices. "Today the risk of escalation is once more increasing in a dangerous way" in Lebanon, Sanchez told a news conference in Madrid after more than an hour of talks with visiting Palestinian president Mahmal Abbas. "So we must again make a fresh appeal for restraint, for a de-escalation and for peaceful coexistence between countries, in the name of peace," he added.

Abbas also called for a new peace conference in the Spanish capital aimed at ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, modelled on the 1991 Madrid talks that led to the 1993 Oslo accords. Urging a two-state solution, long a cornerstone of international attempts to end the decades-long conflict, Sanchez said a Palestinian nation "living side by side with the state of Israel" was the only way to "bring stability to the region". Abbas' visit was his first to Spain since Madrid took the decision to recognise a Palestinian state on May 28. Ireland and Norway took the same decision in May. "Why is this a good thing? Because Palestine exists and has the right to have its own state," Sanchez said. Abbas expressed his thanks for Sanchez's support and Spain's recognition, saying "all states that have not yet recognised us to do so". Neither Sanchez nor Abbas referred directly to the explosion of elec-

tronic devices that rocked Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday in the latest escalation of tensions. **Palestinian state recognition** Given before that stunning act of apparent sabotage, tensions were running high in the Middle East, in large part due to the conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Since the conflict began, Sanchez has positioned himself as a champion of the Palestinian cause within the European Union. His socialist government has increasingly taken highly critical positions towards Israel's conduct of its campaign against Hamas, rival to Abbas's own Fatah party which controls the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank. "The international community and Europe cannot remain impassive in the face of the suffering of thousands of innocents, largely women and children," he added. —AFP



SPAIN'S Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez embraces Palestinian President Mahmal Abbas at Mercuria Palace in Madrid, on Thursday. —Reuters

## Israel arrests citizen in alleged Iran plot to kill Netanyahu

JERUSALEM: Israeli police have arrested a citizen on suspicion of having been recruited by Iran to plot the assassination of top officials including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the force said on Thursday. "An Israeli citizen was recruited by Iranian intelligence to promote assassinations of Israeli figures. He was assigned twice into Iran and received payment for carrying out missions," the police said in a joint statement with the Shin Bet domestic security service.

The reports said he had been in custody since August 29. The joint statement from the police and Shin Bet said he was "a businessman who lived in Turkey for an extended period" and maintained connections with Turks and Iranians who introduced him by phone to an Iranian business man-called Ebbike. It said the suspect first visited Iran in May to meet Ebbike, after Ebbike had "difficultly leaving" Iran. He also met someone called Hajjaji, who was introduced as an Iranian security operative, the statement said. The suspect was asked during his trip to carry out security missions in Israel, including transferring "money or a gun", taking pictures of crowded public places

and threatening other Israelis recruited by Tehran, the statement alleged. In August, he was smuggled to Iran by ferry for another visit. While there, "he met additional Iranian intelligence agents and was asked by them to carry out terrorist activities for Iran on Israeli soil, including promoting assassination attacks", the statement alleged. Some of the proposed assassinations were characterised as revenge for the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July, the statement said. Iran and Hamas have accused Israel of being behind Haniyeh's death. Israel has not commented on the killing. The suspect was also asked to perform additional tasks, includ-

ing recruiting members of Israel's Mossad spy agency to be double agents, the statement said. After asking for a \$1 million advance, the suspect was given 5,000 euros for taking part in the missions and told he would be contacted in the future, it alleged. "This is a very serious case that exemplifies the enormous efforts of Iranian intelligence agents to recruit Israeli citizens to promote terrorist activities in Israel," a senior Shin Bet official was quoted as saying. The Times of Israel quoted Masmari's lawyer as saying he made "an error of judgement" and was cooperating with the investigation. "It's great that you arrested me, I don't know where it could have gone," Israeli media quoted Masmari as saying. —AFP

## Blasphemy suspect

Continued from Page 1

to the Unwarhol District Headquarters Hospital at MS, Dr Shah Nawaz was a dedicated doctor, who went 'missing' on September 12, which could be due to a 'psychotic episode'. It may be noted that the situation had turned tense in Unwarhol following process against the alleged incident of blasphemy. A large crowd of enraged protesters gathered in front of the press club on Wednesday demanding the immediate arrest of the doctor. They also set fire to a police mobile. **'Body found'** After the 'discovery', the body was handed over to the family, who brought it to Jarburn — the native village of the suspect — for burial. However, they had to escape after a mob descended on them to search the body. The family fled to Nafisar Thar, where they were pursued by locals who did not let them bury the slain suspect. However, upon returning to Jarburn with the body hidden in a car, a mob managed to search the corpse and set it on fire. The slain man is survived three sons, a daughter, and his widow. According to his family and locals, Dr Shah Nawaz was struggling with a mental disorder and had been under treatment for four years. His nephew, Dr Shahid, a psychiatrist in the UK, used to treat him and had also prescribed medication at regular intervals. Dr Manzoor Hingorji, working as a family physician in Ireland, told Aam that Dr Shah Nawaz was a "deeply religious person". "Academically, he was among the top ten in his class—an intelligent, dedicated nationalist with a strong spiritual side, at least during his periods of mental clarity," he added. Despite several attempts, the SSP Mirpurkhas and other police officers could not be reached for comment.

## Cathay Airbus fault could have caused major damage

HONG KONG: An engine defect in the Airbus A350 plane that led to the cancellation of dozens of Cathay Pacific flights this month could have escalated into "extensive damage", according to the results of a Hong Kong probe released on Thursday. Hong Kong-based Cathay briefly grounded its fleet of A350s for inspections and repairs after a Zurich-bound plane was forced to

turn around and head back to the Chinese city on Sept 2. The inspectors found that components on 15 of the 48 planes in the fleet of A350s, powered by engines from the British manufacturer Rolls-Royce, had to be replaced. In Thursday's report, the Hong Kong investigators said a post-flight examination of the Zurich-bound plane found that a fuel

line had ruptured, as evidenced by a "discernible hole", burn marks and "black soot" observed on the aft section of the core engine. The fuel could have leaked through the ruptured hose and resulted in a fire that would have spread to surrounding areas, said the report released by the Air Accidents Investigation Authority. —AFP



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# Nasrallah vows revenge amid Israeli bombing

### Panicked citizens toss power banks, mobile phones following carnage of pager blasts

BEIRUT: Israel bombed Lebanon on Thursday, after two waves of explosions targeted its communications systems, killing at least 37 people across the country.

On Thursday, the Israeli military claimed it struck six Hezbollah "infrastructure sites" and a weapons storage facility overnight in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon's National News Agency also reported Israeli strikes and shelling on several towns in the south.

Meanwhile, panic-stricken Lebanese have tossed power banks, or sleep with mobile phones in another room after hand-held devices used by Hezbollah operatives detonated two days in a row.

Scenes of carnage circulating on social media, which shocked many in Lebanon, showed injured, bloodied people lying in the street or falling to the ground after explosions in sleep.

Doctors in Lebanon told AFP of horrific eye injuries and finger amputations caused by the blasts.

On Thursday, Lebanese authorities prohibited passengers traveling from Beirut airport from "transporting any pager or walkie-talkie device aboard planes".

Schools and universities were closed on Wednesday following the initial blasts, but they reopened on Thursday, with people on edge.

In his first speech since the attacks, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said his group had suffered an "unprecedented" blow.

Describing the attacks as a "massacre" and as a possible "act of war", Nasrallah said Israel would face "tough retribution and a just punishment, where it expects it and where it does not".

Israel has not commented on the attacks in which Hezbollah operatives' pagers and walkie-talkies exploded in supermarkets, on streets and at farms, plunging the country into panic.

Nasrallah vowed to keep up Hezbollah's fight against Israel until a ceasefire in Gaza is reached.

"The Lebanese from will not stop until the aggression on Gaza stops" despite "all this blood spill," he said.

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Abdullah Bin Hatib said the "latest assault on Lebanon's sovereignty and security" was a dangerous development that could "signal a wider war".

Prime Minister Najib Mikati urged the United Nations to oppose Israel's "technological war" on the country, ahead of a UN Security Council meeting on the attacks set for Friday (today).

Hamas welcomed the promise of continued support, saying it "serves as a blow to (Israeli) prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his fascist government".

Analysts said explosions had likely been planned in the pagers before they were delivered to Hezbollah.

The preliminary findings of a Lebanese investigation found the pagers had been booby-trapped, a security official said.

"Data indicates the devices were pre-programmed to detonate and contained explosive materials planted next to the battery," the official said, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.—Agencies

# Pakistan elected as IAEA board member

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan was elected a member of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the 23rd time since becoming a member of the agency.

The 68th General Conference (GC) brought many Israeli and business for the South East Asian country that are very significant to us.

Earlier, Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI), a PAEC-run hospital in Islamabad, earned accolades when its contribution to cancer diagnosis, treatment and sharing of expertise with regional member states, was acknowledged by IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grosse.

On this occasion, Mr Grosse recalled his visit to the hospital during his tour of Pakistan last year. He said he was very impressed with state-of-the-art facilities at the hospital.

Speaking on this occasion, Chairman of PAEC Dr Raja Ali Raza Arwar said: "It is, indeed, a great pleasure for me to address a community which is keen to adopt nuclear science and technology for socio-economic uplift of its countries."

"Pakistan enjoys a long-standing and mutually beneficial partnership with the IAEA. Cancer is one of the major contributory to non-communicable diseases, causing the death of 0.18 million people annually in Pakistan."

He said PAEC gives high priority to the application of nuclear technology in health sector.—APP

# Pakistan, Russia sign MoU for cooperation in multiple sectors

### PM says improving ties with Moscow 'a priority'

By Ishaq Sajad Syed



RUSSIAN Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Gurevich exchanges MoUs with his Pakistani counterpart, Ishaq Dar, at the PM House, on Thursday.—White Star

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia on Thursday finalized their commitment to deepening bilateral ties with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for expanding cooperation across multiple sectors.

The agreement, signed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Gurevich and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, has set the stage for enhancing their relationship across multiple domains.

Mr Sharif, while talking to the Russian delegation, reiterated the government's stance that strengthening

relations with Russia was a priority for Pakistan's foreign policy.

Mr Sharif said he looks forward to welcoming Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin to Islamabad next month for attending the Shanghai

Cooperation Organization's Council of Heads of Government meeting.

The MoU builds on talks held between the two countries during delegation-level discussions at Pakistan's Foreign Office a day earlier, where both sides explored avenues for boosting trade and overcoming logistical hurdles in the face of international sanctions on Russia.

A notable outcome of the discussions at the Foreign Office was Russia's offer to explore a free trade agreement between Pakistan and the Eurasian Economic Union.

The discussions, during Mr Gurevich's visit, also touched on cultural and educational exchanges, with both countries seeking to deepen people-to-people ties.

# Ties with Pakistan vital for global stability: Biden

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden has emphasized that an enduring partnership between Pakistan and the United States is crucial for global and regional stability.

Biden highlighted this key aspect of the bilateral relationship while accepting the letter of credence from Pakistan's new envoy, Rizwan Saad Sheikh on Wednesday, marking the start of his tenure as the country's 30th ambassador to the United States.

The formal ceremony took place at the president's official guesthouse, the Blair House, with notably an attendance from diplomatic and US administration officials.

"The enduring partnership between our countries is crucial for global and regional stability," Biden said in his brief remarks. He reaffirmed the US's commit-

ment to working with Pakistan to address major challenges such as climate change, security threats, and health issues.

Biden also commended US-Pakistan cooperation in countering terrorism and stressed the importance of building on their shared interests in security, trade, investment, and economic growth.

This commitment to strengthening and advancing the bilateral relationship comes in the wake of US sanctions imposed on three Chinese and Pakistani firms for allegedly assisting Pakistan's missile programme. On Tuesday, the US State Department defended the decision, asserting that the partnership could not prevent such sanctions.

In his address, Ambassador Sheikh extended greetings from Pakistan's president, prime minister and citizens, emphasising the deep-seated cooperation between the two nations. He underscored ongoing investments in their bilateral relationship, particularly in areas such as climate change, energy, health, trade, and investment.

"Pakistan-US economic partnership is central to our engagement. The United States remains the largest destination for Pakistani exports," Sheikh stated.

He also expressed Pakistan's readiness to expand its economic ties with the US by welcoming investments in alternative energy, green technology, industry, digital platforms, and higher education.

He highlighted the pivotal role of the Pakistani diaspora in the US as a vital link between the two countries and called for structured dialogues to enhance cooperation in both security and non-security areas.

The ceremony represents a renewed focus on deepening ties and addressing mutual challenges through increased collaboration and strategic dialogue.

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Centurion Ashwin lifts India to 339-6 against Bangladesh

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NEXT 24 HRS
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Maximum 33°C
Outlook Mostly Sunny

METRO North



SHOPKEEPERS have parked their vehicles on both sides of College Road in Rawalpindi, causing disruption in traffic flow. — Online

IHC restores Jahangiri-led election tribunal

Court rules in favour of PTI runners-up, asks ECP to review decision about tribunal

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday set aside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decision regarding the formation of a fresh election tribunal led by a former judge and restored the tribunal headed by IHC Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri.

appointing a retired judge, Akhbar Shaukat Paracha, as the presiding officer of the election tribunal constituted after the amendments to the Elections Act. PTI's Shauqat Shauqat, Muhammad Ali Bekhari and Amir Masood Moghal had challenged the appointment of Mr Paracha as the presiding officer and requested the court to set aside the amendments to the election law. The amendments to the Election Act through an ordinance promulgated in May this year allowed retired judges to preside over election tribunals without the consultation of the respective chief justice.

Elections (Amendment) Ordinance 2024, promulgated on May 27, 2024. The petitioners termed them ultra vires to Article 4, 5, 10-A, 25 and 175(3) of the Constitution.

The petition stated that following the notification of the election tribunal for Islamabad, the candidate filed an election petition before the tribunal appointed under Section 140 of the Elections Act 2017.

appeared and the tribunal directed them to file their replies and original documents.

Against the backdrop of these developments, the Elections (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 was issued on May 27 which amended Section 140 of the Elections Act and allowed for retired judges to be appointed to the election tribunals and that too without the consultation of the chief justice.

According to the petition, the returned candidates filed applications under Section 145(1) of the Elections Act 2017, for summary dismissal of the election petition on the ground that the same was time-barred. The tribunal after hearing preliminary arguments issued notices to the petitioners with a direction to file a reply by giving an advance copy to the other side, and adjourned the case.

According to the petition, there was no legal remedy left to the petitioner other than approaching the IHC.

Rawalpindi reports highest single-day surge in dengue cases

By Azam Yasin

RAWALPINDI: Since the start of the dengue season along with the onset of the monsoon rains a few months ago, the Rawalpindi district has reported its highest tally of dengue patients as 55 individuals tested positive for the mosquito-borne disease on Thursday.

infectious disease department, Dr Mujeeb Khan said 315 patients on Thursday arrived in the outdoor patients department (OPD) and 55 out of them tested positive for dengue. According to Dr Mujeeb, people with high fever mostly tested positive for dengue upon their arrival.

According to the data collected from three government hospitals including Holy Family Hospital, Basmair Bhutto Hospital and District Headquarters Hospital, currently 171 patients are admitted to three hospitals in Rawalpindi after 52 patients were discharged after treatment on Thursday. This year, 6,592 patients arrived in the OPD of the three hospitals. 1143 people were admitted and out of them, 594 had turned out to be dengue patients.

Rawalpindi. District Health Authority Chief Executive Officer Dr Aisat Arbab Niaz said September was the peak month for dengue. At a press conference in his office, he said 493 people were diagnosed with dengue during the ongoing season and four deaths occurred due to dengue during one month.

RWMC are engaged in cleaning works while the patients are being treated on a daily basis," he said.

He said staff had been trained by the healthcare commission to combat dengue and spraying and fogging was also underway. Dengue teams are checking larvae from house to house, he claimed, adding the Punjab dengue report was also being uploaded on a daily basis. Similarly, special wards for dengue have been set up in all hospitals of Rawalpindi, he added.

Dr Niaz said emergency measures were being taken to contain dengue in Rawalpindi. "As many as 70 cases were reported from Chak Jalalida. The staff of

One of these patients, 26 dengue patients were admitted to Holy Family Hospital in Satellite Town, 25 arrived at Basmair Bhutto Hospital in Maroo Road, and four patients were admitted to the Rawalpindi District Headquarters Hospital in Raja Bazaar, Rawalpindi. Medical University (RMU) head of the

number of dengue patients in the

No far, the city has reported four deaths due to dengue. Two deaths were reported at Holy Family Hospital, one each at Basmair Bhutto Hospital and Faqir Foundation Hospital in

Inter-city fares cut by 5pc

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Dr Hassan Waqar Cheema on Thursday announced 5 percent cut in inter-city public transport fares after decrease in petroleum prices.

The decision was made at a meeting of transporters and bus stand owners held under the chairmanship of secretary Regional Transport Authority.

During the meeting, after the decrease in petroleum prices, reduction rates and cleaning of the bus stand were reviewed. The deputy commissioner said that after the decrease in petroleum prices, the fares have been reduced by 5 percent on all routes from Rawalpindi to other cities.

He directed the Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) to display the list of fares at prominent places at all bus stands. A special squad to check whether the fares fixed by the government on was being charged or not on a daily basis.

He said that banners and posters highlighting new fares should be displayed at bus stands. He said that a cell should be established in the office of secretary RTA to whom citizens can register their complaints about overcharging by transporters.

He said that after the decrease in petroleum prices, people have to get benefit directly. He further said that special attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the bus stand.

Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Secretary Fiazuddin Ali told Dawn that the provincial government issued the notification and it had been handed over to the transporters. He said that the RTA would take action against those transporters who failed to implement the fares.

In response to a query, he said that the petroleum prices reduced four consecutive times in last two months and total reduction is recorded as five percent so, the government asked to reduce the fare by five percent.

Founder Group sweeps ICCI executive body elections

ISLAMABAD: The Founders Group of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry won all the seats of the Executive Committee with a huge majority in chamber's elections for the year 2024-25 on Thursday.

According to a press release issued by ICCI, Nasir Mansur Gureshi, Sardar Tahir Mahmood, Mohammad Zakria A. Zia, Ali Nawaz, Amir Rahim Gureshi, Aliqur Rehman Khan, Faisal Muzammal, Malik Aqeel Ahmed, Mohammad Kaleemullah, Mohammad Najeeb Elahi Malik Raja Naveed Akhtar Saiti, Sanaulah Khan, Umair Abdul Naeer and Umer Hussain Malik were elected for Founder Groups CM class.

For the Am Class, Abdur Rehman Siddiqui, Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Ch. Mohammad Wassam, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Tahir Ayub, Mohammed Irfan Chaudhry, Mohammad Ishaq Sial, Mohammad Zulqurnain Abbasi, Rohail Anwar Butt, Umer Khayyam Abbasi, Altaf Ahmed Gujar, Gh. Nadeem Ahmed, Malik Abdul Aziz and Mohammad Imran were elected. — APP

Pakistan, Russia to strengthen educational cooperation

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia on Thursday have committed to enhancing their educational cooperation, with a focus on boosting collaboration between Pakistani and Russian universities, especially in emerging technologies.

This development was confirmed during a meeting held in Islamabad.

A high-level Russian delegation, led by Andrey Kornov, State Secretary and Deputy Minister of Education of the Russian Federation, and Konstantin Moshchinsky, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education, visited the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training.

The delegation also included the Consultant of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Russia, an Associate Professor from Ural

State Pedagogical University, and officials from the Russian Embassy in Pakistan.

Federal Secretary for the Ministry of Education & Professional Training, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, briefed the delegation on Pakistan's educational achievements and challenges. The discussions focused on deepening educational cooperation and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

According to an official press release, the meeting reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral educational cooperation and ways to enhance it. Both sides expressed a strong commitment to enhancing collaboration, particularly in emerging technologies.

The Pakistani side emphasized a desire to increase university partnerships, while the Russian Deputy Minister highlighted efforts to promote the Russian language in Pakistan and strengthen educational links.

As per the press release, an agreement was reached to establish a Russian Facilitation Centre in Islamabad to assist students seeking admissions to Russian educational institutions. Additionally, the Russian delegation expressed their willingness to organize a Russian Educational Expo in Pakistan to strengthen educational ties and promote technology-based industrial linkages.

The delegation also visited Islamabad College for Girls (ICG), Sector P-6/2, and commended the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for its efforts in advancing pedagogical initiatives, with a special emphasis on girls' education. Both sides agreed to finalize plans at the upcoming Joint Working Group Meeting, expected in October 2024.

The year 2025 is anticipated to be pivotal in advancing Pakistan-Russia educational collaboration.



TRADERS cast their votes during ICCI Elections for 2024-25 in Islamabad on Thursday. — Online



China keen to boost collaboration in various sectors

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy, announced on Thursday China's readiness to enhance collaboration with Pakistan in several fields, including information technology (IT), new energy, and space exploration.

At a seminar titled "People-Centric Governance Systems: A Case Study of China," hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) in partnership with the Asian Institute of Economic Research, Research and Development (AIERD), Shi highlighted the strengthening ties between China and Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"This year marks the beginning of the second golden decade of BRI and CPEC," Shi said. He noted that CPEC has significantly contributed to Pakistan's growth in infrastructure and job creation, particularly in the infrastructure and energy sectors, laying a solid foundation for the country's ongoing economic and social progress.

A statement issued here said that highlighting China's ongoing commitment, Shi detailed upcoming projects, including the second phase of the Karakoram Highway and the Aghori hydropower project, expected to become operational later this year. He also mentioned efforts to ensure year-round accessibility of the Khunjerab Pass and support for the development of Gwadar, including the opening of its new international airport.

Additionally, according to Shi, China is eager to enhance cooperation in agriculture and mining, increase imports of high-quality Pakistani agricultural products, and explore oil and gas development partnerships. "We are prepared to help Pakistan maximize its development potential through these collaborative efforts," Shi added.

Romina Khurshid Alam, Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change and Chairperson of the Pakistan-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, praised the long-standing relationship between the two countries and highlighted the lessons Pakistan can learn from China's achievements in sustainable development. She underscored the importance of people-centric governance and expressed appreciation for the collaborative opportunities with China.

"China's approach to poverty reduction and sustainable development has set a powerful example," she said, referring to the Global Development Initiative (GDI) that has lifted millions out of poverty. Alam also noted Pakistan's climate action efforts, including the Green Pakistan Programme and the Redesign Pakistan project.

Former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr. Syed Kaleem Iqbal commended China's people-centric governance model, which focuses on transparency, efficiency, and long-term planning, and encouraged Pakistan to adopt similar strategies to improve governance and reduce poverty.

Three police officials sacked for illegal activities

Action taken by police authorities on complaints of citizens

By Munawar Azam

ISLAMABAD: Three officials of the capital police were found involved in illegal activities, including setting up a network to extort money from citizens, kidnapping for ransom, supporting illicit business like drug peddling and detaining people to bring money from them.

Police officers told Dawn that the three officials were sacked after they were found guilty of the illegal activities in an inquiry. The three officials were stationed in the Rural Zone of the capital.

The inquiry was ordered in response to complaints submitted by residents in senior officers. The complainants alleged that the personnel deployed in Rural Zone were operating criminal gangs and were hands in glove with criminals.

Shew-come notices issued to the officials stated that it had come into the notice of the authorities through surveillance that they were involved in illegal activities and had set their own network for extorting money from the pub-

lic. They were also accused of supporting illicit business through their posts. Furthermore, they detained individuals and demanded bribes for releasing them.

"It shows their sheer negligence, ineffectiveness and lack of professional approach towards discharging their official responsibilities, obligations which make them guilty under the relevant rules," the dismissal order said, adding that a regular departmental inquiry into the matter was conducted through a superintendent of police, which found them guilty of gross professional misconduct and recommended for major punishment against them.

When the allegations proved in the inquiry, the officials submitted their written reply to their defence but the authorities were not satisfied with it. The police officers said that illegal activities of the officials brought the department into disrepute and also depicted their mala fide intentions of abusing official authority.

"An optimum level of deterrence is imperative for discipline," the order issued by the police said, adding that their retention in the capital police was against the interest of the general public as well as the department.

"Therefore, finding them guilty of gross misconduct and abusing official position in the light of recommendation of inquiry report, the major punishment of dismissal from service was awarded

to them with immediate effect under Punjab Police (E&D) Rules 1975 duly adopted by the ICT police.

The officers said it was also under consideration to register cases against the officials and initiate illegal proceedings.

In this regard, approval was sought from the senior hierarchy, however, they were found reluctant as the involvement of the officials in illegal activities also raised questions over their poor supervision and command, they added.

Two policemen booked for harassing woman

Two police officials allegedly sexually harassed a woman in the presence of her husband, Dawn has learnt.

Over the incident, a case has been registered against the officials at the Buzura Kaba police station under section 506 (Punishment for criminal intimidation) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the PPC, 25-D (Penalty for causing annoyance), Telegraph Act and 156-D (infracts torture or violence to any person in his custody) of Police Order 2002.

The case was registered after the woman approached the deputy inspector general (DIG) and lodged a complaint against the two officials.

In response, an inquiry was ordered to establish the facts and fix responsibility, they added.

ity, they added.

In her complaint, the woman stated that police personnel riding an official vehicle intercepted her at Shahdara Road when she was traveling along with her husband in a car. Two police personnel disembarked from the official vehicle and approached them and asked the couple to produce their National Identity Cards (NICs), she added.

The policemen demanded money from the couple when the latter failed to produce the certificates as they were not carrying it, the FIR said. However, the couple refused to pay the money.

In response, the personnel forced the man to move away from the car. The policemen then took the woman to their official car, and one of them searched her mobile phone.

"The constabulary searched different parts of her body and also got her and her family members' phone numbers from her mobile phone," stated the FIR.

The personnel threatened her with dire consequences, and sexually harassed her, the FIR said, adding the suspects also threatened that they would abduct her in case she complained to anyone.

The FIR said one of the suspects had been continuously calling her since then and asking for physical relations, adding the official also threatened to kill her if she did not fulfill his demand.

The woman demanded legal action against the police officials.

Census of private educational institutions launched

By Our Staff Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: For the first time in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), an online census of private educational institutions has been launched to gather comprehensive data on teacher and student numbers, as well as available facilities.

This was announced by Syed Saleem Gardner, Chairman of the AJK Private Educational Institutions

(Registration and Regulation) Authority, in a press release on Thursday.

Mr Gardner, who also serves as the Senior Additional Secretary of the Elementary and Secondary Education,

highlighted that AJK had the distinction of being the first administrative unit in the country to both implement its own educational policy and initiate a census of private educational institutions.

"The availability of accurate and reliable statistics is

essential for policy formulation, decision-making, infrastructure development, and resource distribution, especially in the education sector," he said.

"While the census of state-run schools is conducted every year, with reports published accordingly, a comprehensive survey of private educational institutions has never been carried out—until now, and in order to address the gap the Authority has taken the initiative in collaboration with the Directorate of Education Management Information System (EMIS)," he added.

Directorate of Education Management Information System (EMIS)," he added.

In order to assist in the process, instructional videos, tutorials, and other relevant materials had been made available on the official website of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ([www.ese.gov.pk](http://www.ese.gov.pk)), Mr Gardner said, adding, registered institutions had already been provided with usernames and passwords, while unregistered institutions could obtain login credentials from designated district local persons.

Mr Gardner expressed optimism that all stakeholders—including the Azad Kashmir Private Schools and Colleges Association, Road Development, Children Education Foundation, Education Society, Mustafa, Muslim Hards, Mishaful Quran School Systems, and other organizations—would fully cooperate to ensure the success of this ground-breaking census.

Mansoor Javed 1939 - 2015. Can't forget someone who gave so much to remember. May Allah rest his soul in peace. Ameen

Two killed, two injured in separate incidents

TAXILA: Two people were killed, and two others were injured in separate incidents within the limits of Taxila and Wazir Cantonment police stations on Thursday, according to police and rescue sources.

In the first incident, a woman was killed and two others injured when a speeding trailer, driven recklessly by an accident-prone driver, rams into a motorcycle on GT Road near Jomalabad, within the limits of the Taxila police station. The woman and her two family members were on the motorcycle when the trailer collided with them, crushing her under its wheels. She died instantly, while her two male companions sustained injuries. Taxila police have registered a case against the driver who fled and have launched a hunt to arrest him.

Separately, a man was fatally stabbed by his brother following a domestic dispute in the Gadwal area, under Wazir Cantonment police station. According to police, Javed Khan had a heated argument with his brother, Nadeem Khan, in a fit of rage, Nadir stabbed Javed to death before fleeing the scene. The body was shifted to Tahir Headquarter's Hospital Taxila, for an autopsy. Respective police registered two separate cases and launched a hunt to arrest the fleeing suspect. 11 suspects arrested in police crackdown.

Police in a crackdown against gangs involved in criminal activities in three different strikes in Hazro, Harnasahel and Ferozjhang, banded three different gangs and netted eleven members. The authorities also recovered stolen booty and weapons utilized in various crimes.

Addressing a press conference at the district police office, District Police Officer Arshad Dr Ghazi Gill said that the recovery of stolen property valued at Rs7 million, including over 100 motorcycles in cash, one car, nine stolen motorcycles, several mobile phones, and various weapons.

He further stated that Hazro police dismantled a six-member gang comprising of Waqar, Zubayr, Waris, Jinn, Salam, and Ameer, who confessed to their involvement in thirteen robbery and snatching incidents across rural and urban areas. In Ferozjhang, police arrested three gang members, Asif, Munish, and Haris connected to multiple robberies. Muzaffargarh police banded two gang members, Naif and Dilawar, who admitted to involvement in seven theft, robbery, and snatching cases.

— Correspondent

NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF MINOR MINERALS LEASE OF DISTRICT DIR LOWER. The District Auction Committee of District Dir Lower invites applications from registered contractors of Minor Minerals for participation in auction and grant of Minor Minerals lease of the following blocks in District Dir Lower under the provision of section 78 sub section (B) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines & Mineral Act 2017 for a period of one year mining lease on the basis of "As is where is" against reserve price and call deposit given against each block in the Office of Deputy Commissioner Dir Lower on 08/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. In case of non-auction due to any reason, next date of auction will be 10/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. Further in case of non-auction on above mentioned dates due to any reason, next date will be decided by the District Auction Committee.

METROPOLITAN CORPORATION ISLAMABAD PUBLIC NOTICE. It is notified for the awareness of general public that 5% tax rebate will be offered on payment of your Commercial and Residential Property tax Bills before 30th September, 2024. Dear consumers Property Tax bills have already been issued at your premises. You can contact on the following MCI Landline Numbers for further information during office hours. Owner/occupants may also download duplicate bills from CDA's website using their Property Tax consumer number. Valued consumers who have not cleared their outstanding dues of Property Tax are requested to clear their dues to avoid further levy of non-waivable surcharge on arrears.

Capital Development Authority TENDER NOTICE. The Capital Development Authority invites bids, from firms registered with SGP, who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the RFP/Bidding Documents for the following project.









Centurion Ashwin lifts India to 339-6 against Bangladesh

Page 20 SPORT

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Sunset 05:16pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:58am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 24°C
Maximum 37°C
Outlook Sunny



WOMEN align in queues to receive financial aid under the Benazir Income Support Programme in Peshawar on Thursday. — AFP

Lawmakers insist only a few people responsible for 'political anarchy'

Complain about military's interference in politics

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Thursday complained about the military's interference in politics and insisted that only a few individuals were responsible for the current 'political anarchy' in the country. During a session chaired by Ishaq Khan...

imposed the current system of governance. 'The entire game of the ouster of former prime minister Imran Khan was played by those who called themselves establishment,' he said. Mr Afridi alleged that on May 9, a crowd was incited by intelligence agency's agents to violence in Kohat and the people who shared its culture faced threats. He said the PTI leaders were detained and pressured to leave Imran Khan and join former chief minister Porvez Khattak's party, but most of them refused and preferred to face consequences. The minister praised the province's judiciary for dispensing justice to those political detainees. He said there was no doubt that the country required a strong military for its defence, but it should confine itself to the constitutional role. Mr Afridi alleged that most of the businessmen run by the Pakistan Army evaded billions of rupees worth of taxes every year. Bukhar Masood, another treasury member, contested the denial of the Inter-Services Public Relations director general about the army's involvement in politics and insisted that he was pressured by the establishment to quit the PTI.

'After being called by a major, I stayed in Nowshera for two nights before being shifted to Peshawar where the ISI sector commander asked me to choose between the state and the PTI. I replied that I stood with both. The sector commander asked me to choose the state to prevent detentions like PTI founder Imran Khan, but I went for the PTI,' he said. MPA Musir Hussain Leghmani said the Constitution was being restricted, so all parliamentarians should get together for its protection. Lawmaker Akhtar Khan said he thought parliament was the supreme institution, but 10 MNAs, who represented 30 million people, were picked up by masked men from inside parliament. 'People are losing trust in the system, so respect institutions to work on improving law and order situation and controlling military in Balochistan,' he said. He urged authorities to produce footage of the May 9 violence for the benefit of all citizens. Member of the opposition PML-N Sobia Masood said the army was called for help in national disasters and even if 'something bad happens here, the army will come to our protection and not the police.' She said the PTI denied an attack with...

ary installations but there was evidence of its involvement in violence. The lawmaker warned that participants of the upcoming PTI public meeting in Lahore would face serious consequences. He alleged that the legislation done by the provincial assembly in the last 12 years benefited individuals. Another opposition member, Nisar Khan of the ANP, said undemocratic forces had been interfering in the country's politics since 1947 and not for the last two years. PML-N MPA Shohib Bano said the lawmakers, who were currently speaking against a state institution, used to call former ISI chief retired General Fala Hameed an asset and former army chief retired General Qasim Bajwa a champion of democracy. She said the PTI activists shouldn't expect a red carpet treatment after decorating and attacking military memorials and installations. The lawmaker also flayed Afghan diplomats for remaining seated during the playing of Pakistan's anthem during a ceremony, declaring their act against diplomatic norms.

Public prosecutors go on indefinite strike

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Public prosecutors on Thursday started a province-wide strike for acceptance of their demands including setting up of an independent prosecution department and office of prosecutor general on the pattern of other provinces. The indefinite strike call was given by the Prosecution Officers Welfare Association (POWA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in a provincial convention of prosecutors a day earlier. The prosecutors mostly stayed away from official work and didn't appear in cases on behalf of the government before courts. The association has put forward a nine-point charter of demands to the government stating that early this year the government had made commitment that their demands would be fulfilled but so far the matter was being delayed. The officer boarders of the association including its president Sargoon Shah, general secretary Javed Ali Mohmand, Wahidullah, Zulfiqar Ali and others visited offices of prosecutors in their respective districts. The protesting prosecutors had also displayed placards in their offices inscribed with their demands. Sargoon Shah said that their major demands included provision of 1.5 million 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 especially 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 application of four-tier service structure formula to prosecutors.

Man, three sons shot dead in Charsadda

CHARSADDA: A man and his three sons were shot dead by rivals over an old enmity in Kottak area of Shabqadar taluk here on Thursday. Jawad son of deceased Farus registered an FIR in Baitagram police station against the accused. He reported that he along with his father Farus Khan of Kot Jattar area and brothers Hazrat Bilal, Inamullah, and Baitullah were returning to their village in a rickshaw after appearance in a case in Peshawar High Court when accused Majid and his sons Nizam and Musawwar opened indiscriminate fire on them in Kottak area. He said as a result, his father Farus and brothers Hazrat Bilal, Inamullah, and Baitullah died on the spot, while he (Jawad) narrowly escaped while rickshaw driver Sahaeedullah also got serious injuries and was shifted to Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar in precarious condition. The bodies were shifted to THQ Hospital Shabqadar for autopsy. The police personnel reached the spot, collected evidence and started a search for the accused. The police said that the accused Majid had an old enmity with his brother Farus. Baitagram police have registered a case and started investigation. — Correspondent

Another dengue case sets off alarm bells in Lakki

LAKKI MAHWAT: A spike in the dengue virus cases set off alarm bells after another case was confirmed here on Thursday. Jameel Khan, an entomologist in the district health office, said that the fresh case was reported from the Umar Tinkhal area of the district. He said Naigbullah, 45, was diagnosed with carrying the virus when his blood sample was examined at a laboratory in the District Headquarters Complex, Takkal. 'The patient, who is a contractor by profession, had arrived in his native area from Islamabad,' he maintained. He said the health staffers carried out fumigation in the area and anti-dengue spray inside the house of the victim. 'Screening of other inmates of the house was also conducted and they were also given mosquito nets,' he added. With the emergence of a fresh case, the number of positive cases has risen to six in the ongoing month, prompting the health authorities to improve surveillance and implement dengue control and prevention plan in letter and spirit. — Correspondent

Gandapur urges lawmakers to ensure maximum participation of workers in Lahore rally

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter on Thursday finalised preparations for its Sept 21 public meeting in Lahore. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, who is also the PTI's president in the province, and provincial general secretary Ali Anwar Khan held four meetings with the party's regional chapters, including Malakand, Hazara, southern and central...

regions. The meetings were attended by members of the provincial and national assemblies and the party's district presidents and other leadership, according to a party statement issued here. Mr Gandapur held separate meetings with the PTI's regional chapters and other leadership. The participants discussed the party's upcoming public meeting in Lahore. Party leaders from the province were assigned duties regarding Lahore's public meeting. Mr Gandapur told meetings that the public meeting would be a momentous event. He said party lawmakers should ensure the maximum participation of workers and activists in that meeting. In a video message shared on social media platforms, Mr Gandapur said the party was going to hold a public meeting at Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore, for Happy Azadi. He said that their forebears lost their lives and properties to secure an independent state and now the time has come for them to get theirs from mandate...

thieves, mafias and thieves. 'Every one of you needs to come out of your homes and the entire Pakistan will be on roads on September 21,' he said. Mr Gandapur asked the people of KP to participate in the meeting with zeal. Mr Gandapur said that he will himself lead the rally from the front. 'KP rally will leave for Punjab early on September 21. The time has come to decide whether we want freedom for our future generation or hand their future to mafias and corrupt people,' he said. The chief minister said the PTI would stand with Imran Khan and would strive to get him freed from jail. A PTI leader told Bano that the leadership had assigned every MNA and MPA to bring 500 people to the rally. He said party workers from across the province would gather at the Swat on Saturday and leave for Lahore at around 2pm. The party leader said workers were also directed to bring masks, handkerchiefs and water bottles to better protect themselves in case of a crackdown by the Punjab police.

High court suspends PGMI chief's termination

Seeks govt's reply to petition on matter

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has suspended the provincial government's order for terminating the services of the chief executive officer of the Post Graduate Medical Institute Peshawar and directed it to maintain status quo on the matter. A bench consisting of Justice Ijaz Awan and Justice Syed Muhammad Atiqur Shah issued notices to the provincial chief secretary and health and finance secretaries giving them a fortnight to respond to the petition of PGMI CEO Prof Sahibzadeh Mehmood Noor against his removal and disciplinary action against him. It observed that after the examination of records, it seemed that additional seats of trainee medical officers (TMOs) were created by the caretaker government following protests by the Young Doctors Association (YDA), and that nothing appeared to have been initiated by the petitioner for the creation of those seats. The petitioner requested the court to declare illegal and unconstitutional the Aug 29, 2024, decision of the provincial cabinet and the subsequent order for his removal on Sept 5, 2024. He also sought the court's orders for the government to quash the recommendations made in the cabinet meeting of Aug 29 against him, and for his restoration as the PGMI's chief for the remaining term of his service. Advocate Khalid Rehman appeared for the petitioner and said that his client was a leading doctor, who also served as the professor of dermatology at Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital. He said the petitioner was posted CEO to the PGMI through an order on Dec 1, 2022, for two years and his performance remained up to the mark thereafter. The counsel said that the PGMI issued an induction order of the MBBS/MD degree holders in various specialties for the session 2024 on Jan 10, 2024, and inducted 522 doctors for postgraduate training on merit. He added that scores of candidates didn't get the induction opportunity. Mr Rehman said that the leftover candidates started protests, prompting the then caretaker chief minister to constitute a committee for finding out ways and means for them. He added that the committee recommended to the chief minister that induction of those doctors was in the 'best interest of the people.' The lawyer said that the Young Doctors Association also agreed that...

those doctors wouldn't claim any stipend, so their induction won't have any financial implications. He argued that a cabinet meeting on Feb 22, 2024, gave approval for the creation of 254 more slots of TMOs on the payment of basic stipend without accommodation allowance and workshop fee. Mr Rehman said that the PGMI inducted 190 more TMOs for training but those doctors later started agitation for stipend. He contended that the cabinet meeting took notice of the matter on Aug 29 and put the entire blame of creating 190 positions on the petitioner and recommended termination of his remaining employment period as the 'standard disciplinary action against him. Mr Rehman argued that the decision about those TMO slots was taken by the government and not his client.

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PRAYER

Table with prayer times: Fajr 04:38, Zuhr 12:11, Asr 04:32, Maghreb 06:17, Isha 07:41

REFLECTIONS

“A SENSIBLE MAN ACQUIRES EDUCATION AND CULTURE THROUGH ADVICE, WHILE BRUTES AND BEASTS ALWAYS IMPROVE THROUGH PUNISHMENT.”

MoU signed for research, community development

HARIPUR: Three public sector universities of Hazara division on Wednesday agreed to extend cooperation to the Sangi Development Foundation for research, education and community development projects.

The three universities signed a memorandum of understanding during a special ceremony with the representation of Sangi Development Foundation at the University of Haripur.

Prof Mahabub Nawaz of the Hazara University of Mansehra, Prof Shahjehan Behman of the University of Haripur, Dr Malik Mujaddid Rehman of the AUNT and Sangi executive director Malik Shaban Ahmad Tahir signed the documents.

Under the MoU, Sangi Development Foundation will establish the Omer Anghar Khan Sangi Chair in each of these universities to promote education in climate change, humanities and gender sciences.

High court disposes of plea against PSL sponsorship by betting companies

PCB says it has prohibited betting

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Thursday disposed of a petition against the alleged sponsorship of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) by international betting companies and casinos through surrogate advertising, as the Pakistan Cricket Board said it had prohibited such companies from sponsoring national cricket and PSL teams.

A bench consisting of the Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry and Justice Wajid Ahmad directed the PCB to file a return to show how it had prohibited betting companies from sponsoring national cricket and PSL teams.

The petition, filed by resident Syed Tameer Ahmad Khwaza, sought orders for the federal government to probe the matter and stop PSL teams from getting sponsored by casinos.

He had challenged sponsorship of PSL and PCB events by surrogate corporations of international betting companies and casinos. The bench announced a short order on the petition. The detailed judgement will be released later.

The petitioner's counsel, Neeman Mahabub Kakakhel, argued that betting was prohibited in Pakistan, but through these surrogate companies, young generation was attracted by PSL sponsorships, by writing their names on the franchise's shirts, to bet in the cricket by using different mobile phone applications.

In these applications, he said, available for both Android and iOS users, Pakistanis could easily get in money in their respective profiles from their bank accounts or microfinance com-

panies and the amount was further used for betting. He argued that these betting companies had their helpline toll numbers in Pakistan as well who helped an individual get in money in a betting account to bet on various sports events.

He claimed that these companies show themselves to be sports news and sports utilities manufacturer that their products were not available or making enough profits as they were not focused, whereas, when they were searched on the internet, they were found to be surrogate companies of gambling foreign corporations, with an identical name and logo.

Advocate Shahid Qayyum Khattak appeared for the PCB and submitted certain documents including many meetings were held by PCB with other stakeholders, wherein it was made clear that no surrogate corporations of gambling companies and casinos would be allowed to sponsor any PSL team or the Pakistani national cricket national team.

In its comments, the PCB said it had told all franchisees regarding enforcement of the government's position with respect to surrogate entities. It added that the PCB had never directly engaged or executed a contract with any surrogate entity.

However, the PCB said it had no control on matters related to sponsorship when players attend international events arranged and managed by other international boards or regulators. It added that if Pakistan

refused to take part in international events, it would lead to isolation and foreign teams won't attend events hosted by Pakistan.

Moreover, a significant portion of revenues of PCB is derived from participation in ICC events such as World Cup and Champions Trophy. Taking such a step would only hurt Pakistan cricket, and ultimately also hinder all the programs which has been made to bring international cricket back home," it observed.

Comment for the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority Jehanzeb Mohiud said the authority had also submitted a complaint to the Federal Investigation Agency last year asking it to take action against

such companies and block their activities. He added that the website and applications provided in the petition had been referred to the FIA through a letter by the PTA on June 16, 2023, with the request to investigate the content in relation to alleged gambling activities.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry observed that in one of the photos, Pakistani cricket player Muhammad Rizwan had put a logo on a betting company name on his shirt while playing PSL.

He added that even superstar cricketers were not happy with those betting companies sponsoring them.

Young poets narrate plight of Shangla coal miners

SHANGLA: Young poets from various parts of Shangla depicted the plight of coalminers, instability and resurgence of terrorism in the region in their poems at a ceremony here on Thursday.

The ceremony titled 'Hafia Alpoori Poetry Award' was organised by district administration in collaboration with youth affairs department at government degree college in Alpoori.

Prof Abas-e-Yousof was chief guest at the ceremony. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Farooq, ADC, Ashraf Khattak, youth officer Haidar Ali and others were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Prof Abas-e-Yousof said that poetry was a kind of litmus test and to one would learn it. He said that it was a good medium that youth could use to express their views and concerns.

"Today I am happy to see such energetic and talented young poets, who presented their pieces and amazed us. Most of them highlighted social issues, current affairs and plight of local community in their poems," he said.

He said that it was the responsibility of youth to promote their mother language. He advised poets to promote love, peace, local culture and beauty of the region in their poems.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Farooq said that the administration would continue to engage youth in such healthy activities in future. He said that Shangla youth were motivated and could showcase their potential in every sector.

On the request of a jury member Prof Malik Shaban Ahmad Tahir signed the documents.

Attar Rehman Atta, the deputy commissioner promised that he would make arrangements to get a Class IV deployed at the camp of famous Sufi poet Hafia Alpoori for its look after. He said that a conference would be held to pay homage to Hafia Alpoori.

According to the district youth affairs, 15 young poets took part in the poetry competition and three of them were declared winners. They were paid cash prizes of Rs30,000, Rs20,000 and Rs10,000, respectively.

The first prize was given to Alamzeb Haidar and second to Irtiza Hiraat. All while, third prize was awarded by Arhae Hussain. The jury members and officials were given the models of Hafia Alpoori tomb, specially made by a renowned artist to pay tribute to the Sufi poet. — Correspondent

EXTENSION NOTICE: The last date for submission and opening of the "Tender Notice" regarding purchase of medicines etc. for ICT Employees Social Security Institution (ESSI) Islamabad, was 18.09.2024 at 11:00 AM & 11:30 AM respectively.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER: The Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is inviting tenders for supply of sports gear and equipment for various Regional Centers.

PAKISTAN SPORTS BOARD Srinagar Highway, Aabpara, Islamabad TENDER NOTICE: Pakistan Sports Board, an autonomous body working under the administrative control of Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, Government of Pakistan invites bids/offers for "Supply of Food/Grocery Commodities to PSB Hostels at PSB (HQ) Islamabad, PSB Coaching Centres Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar for one Year".

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