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Judges bring spat out in the open

• In detailed ruling on reserved seats, senior puisne judge takes exception to two colleagues' remarks in minority judgement • Justice Shah grills ECP, says it should not have acted as primary complainant • Judgement says court more concerned with electorate's rights than a political party's • In separate note, Justice Afridi asks ECP to revisit notifications in light of verdict • Justice Shah boycotts panel to form benches over 'unfettered and arbitrary discretion' vested in CJP • Legal experts hope this isn't another 'Sajjad Ali Shah moment'

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: A bitter spat between brother judges, which had been simmering for quite some time, came to a head on Monday as differences between them were reflected in a judgement issued by the top court — something many legal experts termed 'unprecedented'.

In a 70-page verdict now writing the reserved seats, senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah responded to the observations made by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Nazeem Akhtar Afghan in their dissenting notes.

"We feel constrained to observe, with a heavy heart, that our two learned colleagues in the minority... have made certain observations in their dissenting judgement of Aug 3, 2024, which do not fully give judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the highest court of the land," registered Justice Shah.

"We take no issue with their having and expressing the view that, in their understanding, our order dated 12 July 2024 is not in accordance with the Constitution, as members of a bench of this court, or any court, can legitimately do."

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Reserved seats: Editorial on Page 6

for an issue of fact and law... However, the manner in which they have expressed their disagreement falls short of the courtesy and restraint required of judges of the superior courts," Justice Shah said.

"What is more disappointing is that... they appear to have gone beyond the parameters of propriety by naming the 10 plus 41 (40) reserved candidates and regaling the commission and

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PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan (left) speaks to reporters, while Law Minister Asim Nisbani (right) addresses a press conference following the release of the detailed SC verdict, on Monday. —White Star/APP

Govt stands firm after PTI seeks 'rightful share' in NA

• Gohar says SC observation on ECP vindicates party's stance, announces public rally in Pindi on Sept 28 • Tarar insists amended Elections Act 2017 still in field, says review plans all the more important after detailed verdict

By Ikram Jurrabi

ISLAMABAD: As a pious PTI on Monday demanded the allocation of reserved seats in the wake of the Supreme Court's detailed judgement, the federal government continued to rely on recent amendments to the Elections Act 2017 to insist it was no longer possible to "turn back the clock" on the status of lawmakers.

Speaking to reporters, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that through the detailed judgement in the reserved seats case the

SC had strengthened democracy. He said the apex court had made it clear that candidates nominated by parties and those who get votes in the name of the

ECP to deliberate on SC's reserved seats judgement today: Page 3

party would be considered the party's representatives.

"The [court's] observation regarding Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is the same that we have been saying all along. We

have time and again said that ECP has become a tool of the government and has been filing case after case against PTI. Today the court has also made it clear that the candidates in question are of PTI. We urge the ECP to notify 38 MNAs as members of PTI. Our candidates' affidavits are already filed with the ECP," he said.

Barrister Khan said that reserved seats should be allocated to the PTI proportionally on the basis of the number of its general seats, adding that the party had the

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TTP 'denies' involvement in Swat attack on diplomats

By Fazal Khalid

SWAT: A case has been registered against unidentified persons over Sunday's explosion which targeted a diplomatic convoy in Swat.

The Counter-Terrorism Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police has registered the FIR a day after one cop was martyred and five others were injured in the attack.

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MPAs wonder how militants knew about foreign diplomats' Swat visit: Page 8

The FIR has been registered under sections 324, 323 and 427 of the Pakistan Penal Code, sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act, and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA).

The PPC sections deal with crimes of wilful murder, assault on public servants and causing damage, while Section 7 of ATA includes a punishment of ten years to life for acts of terrorism.

The outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has denied its involvement in the attack, according to AFP.

In a statement, the group said it had "nothing to do with the attack" targeting the foreign ambassadors of a dozen nations.

The attack has been condemned by the Swat Chamber of Commerce, traders' federation, lawyers, and civil society members.

Meanwhile, the funeral prayer of martyred constable Raftan Khan was held at the Police Lines, Mingora, on Monday.

He was laid to rest with official honours in his ancestral cemetery in Shamsal village of Swat.

Gen Asim Malik named new ISI chief

By Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: Lt Gen Asim Malik was named the new director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency on Monday, while an announcement stated the new age chief will assume office on September 30.

Gen Malik, previously serving as the army's adjutant general, will replace Lt Gen Nadeem Arjum, who retires after a tumultuous tenure.

Although the notification to this effect usually comes from the prime minister, there was no official word from PM Office, and state broadcasters PTV and Radio Pakistan reported the development.

The new appointment comes at a critical time, as Gen Malik will take charge amid a challenging internal environment marked by political instability, rising military, and growing public scrutiny of the ISI's role.

A graduate of Pakistan Military Academy's 80th Long Course and recipient of the prestigious Sword of

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Top court 'not bound by procedure' where justice is concerned

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court asserted its authority on Monday, explaining that in the exercise of constitutional power to dispense complete justice, it was not handicapped by any technicality or dependent on any rule of procedure.

A 70-page detailed reason issued here on Monday explained why eight judges constituting the majority of the 13-judge Supreme Court decided in favour of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to settle the thorny issue of reserved seats.

Authorised by senior puisne judge Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, the judgement categorised into

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How 'treatable' typhoid turned into a 'superbug'

More than 15,000 cases of the drug-resistant strain XDR-typhoid have been reported in Pakistan, but many outbreaks still go unreported

By Mishah Khan for The Bureau of Investigative Journalism



OVERUSE of antibiotics is one of the biggest contributors to drug-resistant bacteria. —TBL/BSAC/Alayna Basha

FROM his sickbed, eight-year-old Ukaasha watched through heavy eyes as his siblings played with a ball in the courtyard. His head hurt and his body felt too heavy to move. Ukaasha

had typhoid fever — an illness he should have typically recovered from in days. It had been a month.

Ukaasha's family were anxious to see signs of recovery, even moving his bed outside to give him fresh air and sunlight. And now, he could sit up, smile at the night before him and even feel some of his appetite return. He was finally able to eat his favourite food, eggs.

Across the road, his classmate, 12-year-old Abuzar, had also been stuck in bed for months with typhoid. At the height of his infection, he woke up in the middle of the night, drenched in sweat and his forehead burning hot.

They were not the only ones. Ukaasha's father noticed that chil-

dren across the entire village — on the outskirts of Peshawar — had been falling ill.

Typhoid, also known as enteric fever, is an infection that is often caused by contaminated food or water. At its worst, typhoid can kill. If left untreated, it kills one in five. But the treatment is simple: a course of antibiotics. Most people, if they get their drugs promptly, should start recovering within a few days.

But the drugs that used to cure the fever are now, in many cases, failing. The bacteria that cause the infection, antibiotic-typhoid, have developed resistance to the antibiotics meant to kill them. It's a pattern repeated

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ON OTHER PAGES



Israel kills over 490 in Lebanon

Israel said it had launched airstrikes against hundreds of Hezbollah targets on Monday, killing at least 490 people and sending tens of thousands fleeing for safety in Lebanon's deadliest day in decades, according to authorities. After almost a year of war against Hamas in Gaza on its southern border, Israel is shifting its focus to its northern border. Lebanon's health ministry said 400 people had been killed, including 26 children and 58 women, and 1,645 wounded. Page 12

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Plane makes emergency landing at Lahore airport

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A private airline's plane had to make an emergency landing at the Allama Iqbal International Airport here on Monday after its cargo compartment was filled with smoke.

According to a spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Fly Jinnah's flight FL-846 left for Lahore from Karachi with 171 people, including passengers and crew members.

"A distress signal was issued by the captain of the flight from Karachi to Lahore. The captain reported smoke in the cargo area at 7:15pm, while the aircraft was descending for landing. It made a successful landing at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport at 7:20pm," he said.

In accordance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs), the Airport Authority's Fire Department was on the site to handle any potential emergencies, he said and added that after landing, all passengers and crew members were safely evacuated using the emergency escape slide system.

He said the fire department completed the inspection of the cargo compartment and cleared the aircraft at 7:57pm.

Senior officials have initiated an investigation into the incident, he added.

There are also reports that one of the aircraft's engines caught fire.

A passenger was quoted as saying that there was an engine on fire and some smoke in the cabin for 35 minutes before the plane made an emergency landing, which terrified the passengers.



LAHORE: A hustle and bustle at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry during voting to elect new office-bearers. — White Star

Teenage girl gang-raped during road robbery

Bahawalnagar family was on visit to Pakpattan when incident happened

By Shaqib Butt

BAHAWALNAGAR: A teenage girl was gang-raped allegedly by robbers during a road robbery in the presence of her relative family near village Malik Bahawal in Pakpattan between the nights of Sunday and Monday.

A resident of Bahawalnagar was on a visit to family friends in Pakpattan along with his wife, a son and a minor daughter, a sister and 17-year-old niece when the incident happened.

The family left for Pakpattan in their car at noon on Sunday. They first went to Muzaffargarh Jhokka village to offer condolences on the death of the father of a family friend. Later, they visited another family friend at Mohalla Abdolbakh

Shah of Pakpattan.

After dinner at around 11pm, the family left for Bahawalnagar in their car. On their way back near Malik Bahawal village, their car was intercepted by four unidentified armed suspects on two motorcycles in the middle of a village road. The man was driving the car and his son was in the passenger seat while his wife, daughter, sister and the teenage niece were sitting in the back seat.

The suspects first snatched mobile phones and car keys from them. They offloaded the women from the car and snatched cash and gold ornaments from them.

After about 20 minutes, two armed suspects took the man's niece to the roadside maize fields where they gang-raped her while their two companions held the family hostage by the roadside. Despite the girl's cries for help, the family was unable to save her.

The incident in the Sakhar police area of Pakpattan lasted for 50 minutes, including 35 minutes of torture and gang rape, but there was nobody to help the fam-

ily. The girl was crying for help but neither her uncle nor her aunt could save her.

The suspects deprived the family of Rs7,000 cash, two mobile phones and gold ornaments worth Rs20,000.

After the robbery and gang rape, the suspects threw the car keys on the road and fled.

The family went to a nearby farmhouse whose owner called police emergency 15. Police reached the crime scene after an hour, visited the site and collected evidence.

The victim girl was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, Pakpattan, for a medical examination.

Sakhar Police registered a case under Section 371 (robbery) and Section 375A (gang rape) of the PPC against the four unidentified suspects based on a complaint of the victim's aunt, a resident of Chowk Fatah Shah of Bahawalnagar district, who was also in the car.

District Police Officer Tariq Wajid said that the police

had formed three investigation teams under the CIA, SP Investigation Shahida Noreen, and some undercover officers.

He said the girl was sent home after counseling and claimed that the Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFS) team and police had got an important lead in the case and the arrests would be made soon.

Regional Police Officer Mubshob Rashid also visited the crime scene and met the victim family. He assured the family all the suspects would be arrested.

The Pakpattan incident reminded of the notorious gang rape incident in 2020 which happened after a Pakistani-origin French woman's car had run out of gas near Lahore on the M-4 and two men — Ahsan Malik and Shafiq Ali Bagga — broke into their car, robbed them and gang-raped the woman in front of her children.

(Names have been withheld to protect privacy of the rape victim and her family.)

LHC allows plea for hearing on next CJ issue

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday overruled a registrar officer's objection to a petition challenging the non-issuance of a notification for appointing Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, the most senior judge of the Supreme Court, as the next chief justice of Pakistan.

The office had raised an objection, saying the petition was not maintainable before the LHC. Dismissing the objection, Justice Faizal Ramzan Khan directed the office to file the petition for hearing.

Advocate Nadeem Shabbir filed the petition, pleading that political, constitutional and legal issues were causing unrest in the country. He argued that under the Constitution, the most senior judge should be appointed as the CJ but the notification for Justice Shah's appointment had not yet been issued.

The petitioner pointed out that usually, the notification for the next chief justice was issued two months before the sitting chief justice's retirement. However, he said, with only one month remaining until Chief Justice Qazi Faez Ali's retirement, a notification had been issued. He expressed concern that the delay in issuing the notification for Justice Shah could be due to mala fide intent of the government, causing anxiety among the lawyers and the public.

He asked the court to order the issuance of the notification appointing the senior-most judge as the chief justice of Pakistan.

Seven universities get vice chancellors

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday appointed vice chancellors of seven public sector universities across the province.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz met 11 candidates for vice-chancellor (VC) positions at public universities on Sept 2. The CM also conducted a meeting with seven candidates for VC positions at public sector women universities in the province on Sept 16.

The government had issued the notifications of seven VCs including Prof Dr Muhammad Ali Shah as VC of the University of the Punjab, Prof Dr Shahid

Munir as VC of the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, Prof Dr Zubair Iqbal as VC of the Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Prof Dr Amir Azam Khan as VC of the Khwaja Farid University of Engineering and Information Technology Rahim Yar Khan, Prof Dr Aqil Anwar Chaudhry as VC of the University of Education Lahore, Prof Dr Inayatullah Khan as VC of the University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila, and Prof Dr Ahmed Shuja as VC of the University of Gujrat.

A search committee, led by former bureaucrat Iqbal Qureshi and including members such as retired Lt Gen Muhammad Aghar, Parkhanda Wasim Akmal, and Anjad Singh, had conducted

interviews for the appointment of regular VCs in general public sector universities of the province in August.

The notification of 11 universities including Government College University, Faisalabad, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Information Technology University in Lahore and University of Narawal, Women University, Multan, LCWU, Women University, Sialkot, Government Sadiq College Women University Bahawalpur, Government College Women University, Madina Town, Faisalabad, Home Economics University, Lahore, and Firdaus Jinnah University, Rawalpindi were yet to be issued.

Earlier, Punjab Governor

Chancellor Sardar Saleem Haidar Khan raised concerns over the appointment of VCs in universities while Punjab Information Minister Arshad Bhatti reminded him of his "limited role" in the selection process.

However, after the intervention of a senior PPP leader, the governor had issued the notifications for appointment of vice chancellors in public universities.

A source claimed that the governor would soon leave the country on a personal visit to some foreign country and the acting governor would issue the notifications of the appointments in remaining universities this week.

US envoy calls on Nawaz, Maryam

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome called on PM-N President Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz here on Monday.

Matters of mutual interest, the promotion of Pakistan-US relations, and cooperation in various fields were discussed in the meeting.

Enhancing investment opportunities, keeping in view future requirements, along with exploring ways to further improve relations between the people of the two countries, were also discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief

minister said, "Pakistan and America have excellent cordial relations, and we are determined to further strengthen them. There is immense potential in Pakistan-US trade, which needs to be utilized. The government has made remarkable achievements in several sectors in a short span of time. Pakistan is more secure and peaceful compared to the past."

She said the PM-N government had set new standards of "good governance" and transparency. Pakistan has achieved great success in the war against terrorism and extremism, she said.

Mr Blome discussed increasing trade opportunities for both countries. The government had not men-

tioned any discussion between Nawaz Sharif and the US ambassador.

US Consul General Kristin Hawkins and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Rashid Naseerullah were also present at the meeting.

Also, the chief minister attended the 75th National Day of the People's Republic of China.

She met Chinese Consul General in Lahore Zhao Shiran and congratulated him on China's National Day.

"The bond of Pakistan-China friendship is not based on mere strategic interests, as it is a relationship of heart and soul. Pakistan-China relations are based on mutual respect, trust, and unwavering commitment to each other's prosper-

ity," Ms Nawaz said.

She said the CPIC was not just a project but a symbol of hope, development, and prosperity for the two nations.

"China is taking significant steps to achieve economic development through the Belt and Road Initiative. CPIC is changing the economic landscape of Pakistan."

Zhao Shiran thanked the slogan "Long Live Pak-China Friendship".

"This is not my day, rather our day. The participation of guests in the ceremony is proof of the strength of Pakistan-China relations," he said.

Chinese artists performed traditional Chinese cultural art.

Cane growers paid over 99pc of their dues, minister tells PA

PPP MPA Chang alleges corruption by police in RYK katcha area

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly was told on Monday that 99.34 per cent of the payment of sugarcane dues has been made to the growers.

Parliamentary Secretary for Food Malik Wahid, while replying to a written query of a member, told the house that of the total Rs497 billion outstanding dues of farmers, the sugar mills have paid Rs494.54pc. The chain, being held by parcel of chair-

men's Kamilullah Khan, referred the issue of dues payment and powers of the cane commission to the standing committee as the mover of the question was not satisfied with the answer.

The secretary also told the house that the government would not procure wheat provided it had sufficient stocks of grain in its storage, but made it clear that there was no plan to dissolve the food department, whose main function so far had been procurement of wheat during the seasons and then providing it to the flour mills throughout the year on the basis of quota.

Opposition MPAs Rana Aftab and Rana Shehbaz requested that the wheat growers were facing financial devastation as grain rate had dropped to Rs2,200 per 40 kg in the open market.

KATCHA AREA ISSUE: The issue of lawlessness in the Katcha (Overrun) area in

Rahim Yar Khan district resurfaced in the assembly when Rana Aftab rejected the response of minister Mujtaba Shuja to a call attention notice regarding five months in the (RYK) district in unemployment.

PPP's Mansoor Ali Chang, through a point of order, said the police had no writ in katcha area though billions of rupees were being spent on the force.

He alleged that police officers posted in katcha area had become billionaires, as they in collusion with robbers in the area were minting money through kidnap for ransom and other illegal means.

He claimed that the Anti Corruption Establishment (ACE) had unearthed properties worth Rs1,000 million owned by an SDD posted in katcha area, alleging that the money allocated for police operation in the area was being embezzled.

He alleged that the police officials posted

on Sindh-Punjab border were also involved in smuggling of Iranian oil.

He demanded establishment of a parliamentary fact-finding committee to get first-hand information for framing an effective strategy to resolve the problem.

RESOLUTION: The house unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the disrespectful attitude shown by the Afghan consul general towards Pakistan's national anthem.

Tabled by PM-LN's Anjum Ali Javed, it demanded the federal government lodge a formal protest with Afghanistan on the issue.

Earlier, opposition leader Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar termed the arrest of MNAs from parliament lodges was an attack on democracy and cautioned those using high-handed tactics against the PTI that political parties could not be eliminated

through coercion.

He recalled that the PPP and the PM-LN, now ruling the country, could not be blamed despite imposition of martial law and declared that the PTI was facing 'civil martial' law these days.

He said the parliamentarians should identify the masked men who had picked the MPs from the parliament lodges as some members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly had suspected that the establishment was behind the episode.

Mr Bhachar challenged the government to establish its writ by forming a judicial commission on the May 9 incidents and alleged that the Punjab government desired to stage another such episode during the PTI's Sept 21 public meeting in Lahore by forcibly occupying the container (being used as the stage for the speakers) at Gaps.

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Detailed verdict reignites debate on SC powers

• PBC vice chairman Naek terms ruling novel as it is based on 'popular will' • Akram Sheikh says court was not dealing with ordinary civil case

By Malik Anad

ISLAMABAD: The detailed judgement in the reserved seats case has reignited a debate about the powers of the Supreme Court to do 'complete justice' by invoking Article 187, which is usually used in cases being heard under Article 184 or the suo moto jurisdiction.

According to the Pakistan Bar Council vice chairman, the exercise of appellate jurisdiction with the 'suo moto' powers was a 'novel precedent based on popular will of the people'.

However, the eight judges in the majority judgement authored by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah split on the reasons why the constitutional provision for complete justice under Article 187 was invoked. The provision is normally applied in the suo moto jurisdiction.

The judgement said that "in exercising its appellate jurisdiction under Article 185 of the Constitution, this court cannot go beyond the pleadings. We are afraid, this constant is misconceived. It results from a misunderstanding of treating election disputes as mere civil disputes between two private parties, similar to other civil disputes."

Pakistan Bar Council Vice Chairman Farooq H. Naek said that the Supreme Court usually exercises powers vested in Article 187 in suo moto cases to provide 'complete justice'.

However, the Supreme Court "in its wisdom has rewritten the Constitution by overriding Article 4 that provides the right of individuals to be dealt with in accordance with the law", the PBC vice chairman said. The independent candidates voluntarily joined the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) under Article 63, but the apex court changed their party without hearing them by invoking Article 187, he added.

"This is a judgement passed under Article 187 to provide complete justice, but unfortunately this judgement has not been passed in accordance with the doc-

trine of complete justice," he claimed. The veteran lawyer said the courts were "always legally bound to do justice within the parameters of the law and Constitution and not on the basis of the perception and popular will of the people".

The judgement, however, said the court could invoke Article 187(D) to do complete justice in any case when there is no "specific provision of law that covers or addresses the matter or issue involved".

Legal expert Raja Inam Amoon Mishan opined that the judgement also discussed matters that were not part of the SIC appeal.

He said if the bench intended to go beyond the jurisdiction, it should have put the parties concerned on notice. According to him, this judgement has set a new precedent as it extended relief to a political party whose application for implementation was pending before the apex court.

"The procedural formality of first accepting PTI's application and then granting it the relief does not carry much weight where the court's concern is the protection of the right of vote of the people (the electorate) guaranteed under Articles 17(G) and 19 of the Constitution, more than the right of any political party—whether it be SIC or PTI or any other party," the judgement said.

According to former deputy attorney general Raja Khalid Mahmood Khan, this was a populist decision as the apex court could have dismissed, accepted, or partially allowed an appeal under Article 185 of the Constitution.

Advocate Mohammad Akram Sheikh, on the other hand, said that "while exercising Article 185, the Supreme Court is not detached from its powers vested in Article 184 or 187".

He agreed with the court observations that the reserved seats case was not a "routine civil suit but the court was dealing with the matter of public importance".

ECP to deliberate on SC's reserved seats judgement today

Apex court warned commission of consequences in case of non-implementation of its Sept 14 order

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ten days after the Supreme Court ordered the Election Commission of Pakistan to immediately implement its verdict on eligibility of PTI for reserved seats in the national and provincial assemblies, the ECP will hold another meeting on Tuesday to consider a legal expert on how to go about.

Informed sources told Dawn that the commission held meetings on a daily basis last week to discuss a legal quandary arising after a recent amendment to the elections act made by the parliament and also consulted the legal expert.

A source said the commission consulted the legal expert on Monday as well.

"But the situation has changed after the announcement of the detailed judgement of the

Supreme Court and the commission will meet again on Tuesday to seek opinion of the legal expert," the source said.

The Supreme Court had in its September 14 order sought immediate implementation of its majority judgement on reserved seats case and had warned of consequences if it was not done.

During the meetings last week, the ECP's law wing raised legal questions and said the PTI had no 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, billdressed through both houses of parliament on a single day last month.

The source, without disclosing the name of the legal expert, said similar views were expressed by the expert.

Under the amendment, a political party is not to be allocated seats reserved for women and non-Muslim candidates if it fails to submit its list for the reserved seats within the prescribed time.

The law, designed to have retro-spective 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 68A of the Elections Act made under the law also included a provision declaring that the proposed amendments would take precedence over court orders, including the Supreme Court's.

As the ECP kept sitting on the SC order of September 14, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq wrote a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja last week urging him not to implement the SC judgement on reserved seats.

In his letter, the speaker said since the SC judgement was based on the law prior to the enactment of the amendment, it cannot be implemented now.

"Instead, it is the amended Elections Act that shall prevail and supersede the prior ruling," he stressed.

"The amended Elections Act is in the field and, therefore, it is the statutory obligation of the ECP to honour the laws made by Parliament and uphold the prin-

ciples of democracy and parliamentary supremacy," the speaker emphasised.

A petition on similar lines, filed by two PML-N lawmakers, also landed in the ECP the same day. It urged the ECP to declare that all those political parties which failed to submit their list for reserved seats within the prescribed time in terms of Section 68A of the Elections Act, 2017, are not eligible for reserved seats at a later stage.

It also urged the ECP to declare that all independent returned candidates who have once submitted declaration of affiliation for joining any political party, are now deemed to be members of that political party and cannot substitute or withdraw the same.

A senior ECP official, while commenting on the Supreme Court judgement, said the judgement has rendered the Elections Act ineffective and weakened under which the Commission should operate.

"The ECP has now become a redundant body," he remarked, adding that the Supreme Court has taken over the ECP and now it should declare the ECP to be its branch.



HYDERABAD: Boats are anchored due to decreased water level in Indus River, on Monday—PTI

PTI leader slams article falsely calling him 'Israel supporter'

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Describing those criticising him on the basis of an article published in an Israeli newspaper as "naive", former prime minister Imran Khan said he stood by his earlier stance on Israel.

Talking to media persons after proceedings in the Toshakhana case at Adiala Jail on Monday, Mr Khan said he had been falsely portrayed as being a staunch supporter of establishing bilateral ties with Israel.

The Jerusalem Post article, in an anti-over view of relations between the Muslim world and Tel Aviv, had alluded to the potential role of former prime minister Imran Khan in the realisation of ties with Israel.

Mr Khan claimed that those indulging in propaganda against him had misunderstood the arti-

cle, perhaps because of their "little comprehension of English language".

He said the newspaper in its article had only mentioned his reputation in the Muslim world and Western countries.

Referring to his stance on Israel in the same as before, the PTI leader stated that Israeli forces were committing genocide of Palestinian people and added that a dialogue with Israel could only start after a ceasefire.

The incarcerated leader said PTI would hold a jalsa in Rawalpindi, adding that party leaders had already been told to make arrangements for same of power next week.

He claimed that PTI had held more public gatherings than any other party in the country.

Referring to the recent Lahore jalsa, he pointed out that permission for the rally was granted just

a day ago and access to the venue was blocked by placing containers on roads.

However, he added, people reached the venue on foot despite the fact that PTI had nothing to offer them as refreshments.

He alleged that around 500 PTI workers were put under house arrest and criticised the local administration for closing the jalsa at 5pm.

Imran Khan warned that PTI would start mass street protests if the government brought the proposed constitutional package.

Earlier, the FIA prosecution admitted the challan in the Toshakhana case before the court, along with a list of 24 witnesses.

The challan accused Mr Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi of corruption and corrupt practices to retain an expensive jewellery set at a throwaway price.

PML-N to move against lawmaker 'straddling' govt, opposition benches

Quetta MNA Bazai, who joined ruling party after winning as 'independent', is often seen siding with opposition

By Syed Iftikhar Raza

ISLAMABAD: In a National Assembly with 215 members, Adil Bazai is an anomaly. A lawmaker from Quetta, he is part of PML-N as per official records, but is often found on the opposition benches, criticising the government.

It is also unclear which party supported him during the February 8 general election. According to the National Assembly website, Mr Bazai contested the election from Quetta's NA-262 constituency.

A source told Dawn that he was an independent candidate, but later joined PML-N. Within three days of the election, he submitted an affidavit to the ECP, per the source.

However, a list of PTI-backed independent candidates issued by the party before the elections included Mr Bazai's name as its contact for NA-261.

Now, more than seven months after the elections, the government has finally decided to move against Mr Bazai and file a reference against him with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), a government source told Dawn.

Dawn made several attempts to contact Mr Bazai, but he didn't respond to requests for comment.

De-writing

As per the law, an independent candidate cannot switch sides after submitting an affidavit to the ECP.

Yet, Mr Bazai has been repeatedly seen siding with the PTI and SIC members. Amid all the broodhah surrounding the 'Constitutional Package', Mr Bazai allegedly went 'missing', with PTI claiming it to be a tactic to pressure its members to vote in favour of the amendments.

Interestingly, around the same time, an unofficial list of members issued by the NA on Sept 18 listed one independent candidate as having joined the opposition.

If a reference is moved against Mr Bazai for conduct against party policy, he would be served a show cause notice.

If he is found to have violated the party whip, he could be disqualified in line with Article 63(A) of the Constitution, which states that if a member votes against the direction issued by the parliamentary party during the election of the prime minister or the chief minister, vote of confidence or no-confidence, or budget, they may be 'declared in writing by the party head to have defected from the political party'.

Mr Bazai has also been accused of not casting his vote at the time of the election of PML-N leader Shehbaz Sharif as PM, a source in the National Assembly said.

If Mr Bazai loses his seat, which sources say seems highly likely, it will change the composition of the lower house of parliament.

Returning Nomad Games athletes complain of 'lack of official support'

Pakistan had finished with three bronze medals; players claim they covered their own expenses

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: Athletes who represented Pakistan at the recently concluded World Nomad Games (WNG) have expressed their disappointment with the lack of official support, forcing many of them to participate in the event at their own expense.

The athletes complained about the lack of assistance from the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), the country's main patron for sports.

The Pakistani contingent, comprising more than 30 athletes, won three bronze medals and finished 27th out of 39 nations on the medals table.



AUTANGZED Mubashir takes aim at a target during the Horseback Archery event at the 5th World Nomad Games.

During the six-day event, held in Kazakhstan's capital, around 2,500 athletes participated in various nomadic sports.

Autangzed Mubashir, who represented Pakistan for the first time in Horseback Archery, said he had to cover his expenses, including the cost of the green blazer he wore during a parade at the opening ceremony on September 8.

In addition to funding his participation, he also sponsored a fellow archer.

Mr Mubashir, who had previously competed in the World Nomad Games twice under the Canadian flag, said it was his "longheld desire" to represent Pakistan.

"I always wanted to represent my home country. While I had full support from my coach and team in Canada, it was my dream to compete for Pakistan," he said. Mubashir told Dawn after returning to Islamabad.

Athletes shine at global stage

Both Mr. Autangzed and his fel-

low countryman, Arshad Noor, not only qualified among the top 40 horseback archers in the event but were also selected as Level 1 judges from a pool of 90 athletes.

This was a testament to their expertise as they were selected to assist the organisers during the games.

Pakistani athletes who competed in other events like strength sports, equestrian, traditional archery, and mass wrestling had similar complaints, especially about logistics and poor hotel accommodations.

Dawn tried to contact Shahid Ijaz, PSB director general (Technical), for a response to the athletes' complaints, but he didn't respond to repeated calls and messages.

Earlier, at the end of the financial year in July, the PSB reportedly returned an annual budget of Rs380 million to the finance ministry, according to a source within the organisation.

"These funds could have been uti-

lised effectively, but the board was ineffective," the PSB insider told Dawn on the condition of anonymity.

Lack of recognition

A four-member team from Quetta also competed in the traditional archery competition.

Led by Saad Ali, the president of Pakistan Traditional Archery Federation, the team members hailed the exposure of the global event.

Mr Ali told Dawn that the team participated in the Nomad Games for the first time.

He added that the whole experience was "completely different" and boosted the team's confidence.

Mr Mubashir, who is also the director of operations and organisation of the World Nomad Games Federation, said he has been striving to get the Pakistan Horse and Mounted Archery Federation recognised by the PSB.

"Unfortunately, the Board, which governs all sports federa-

tions in Pakistan, primarily focuses on events like the Asian and South Asian games," he said while referring to the traditional sports events.

"We want to encourage young people to experience the excitement of horseback archery and adopt it as a mainstream sporting activity."

The Pakistan Horse and Mounted Archery Federation, which was founded and headed by Mr Mubashir, has registered around 30 horseback archers.

The games, often dubbed the Olympics of the nomadic world, were presented as a celebration of the rich cultural heritage of nomadic civilisations and their unique sports passed down through generations.

While games like horseback archery, martial arts, falconry, and traditional wrestling resulted in stiff competition, the week-long event also included around 100 cultural events and performances depicting Kazakh traditions.

Judiciary bound by law, not past rulings: speaker

Malik Ahmed says SC order on reserved seats 'blocked' various clauses; new elections law cleared blockade

By Amjad Mahmood

LAHORE: Hours before the Supreme Court detailed judgement on reserved seats case, Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said the judiciary is bound by the law in force.

"It is not established position, which is also pronounced by various benches of the Supreme Court, that the law in force has priority over Supreme Court judgement (even under the previous law)," he told a press conference before the start of the assembly session here on Monday.

He said the July 12 court order of the apex court on the reserved seats issue blocked the way of various clauses of the Constitution, including floor-crossing, as a parliamentarian could submit an affidavit showing one's affiliation with one party and then submit a new affidavit the next day to join another party.

The parliament made things clear by passing the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2024 on Aug 7 and thus clearing the blockade, he asserted, adding all institutions, including the judiciary, are now bound to act in accordance with the new law unless it is declared as ultra vires by the Supreme Court.

"My recent letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan was under the same spirit," he said.

Regrettably, that the parliament was robbed of its rights under the purview of framing laws against the basic structure of the Constitution during the last three decades of judicial activism, he

urged upon MPs from both sides of aisle to win back the rights of the parliament to appoint judges (through the 15th constitutional amendment which, he said, was passed by harnessing the parliamentarians on the eve of the 18th amendment).

"How can one be a judge of one's own cause? How can [the Supreme Court] appoint judges on its own and then remove only through the Supreme Judicial Council, eliminating the role of the parliament and executive altogether in the process?" he questioned.

Speaker Khan also announced that certain changes have been made in the rules of procedure of the provincial assembly to bring powers of the standing committees for parliamentary oversight of the executive at par with the committees of the National Assembly.

He said he had been raising this issue when the PTI was in power with then speaker Farooq Ghani but to no avail as the previous assembly worked with only three special committees instead of total 42 standing committees.

The changes in rules of procedure also includes making playing of the national anthem mandatory before every sitting of the provincial house like in the National Assembly, allowing MPs to use any language during the assembly proceedings, increasing time for the Question Hour.

The key changes also include a requirement for police to obtain permission from the speaker before arresting a member of the assembly.

The speaker said that these changes were aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability within the assembly's functioning.

He said the standing committees were now empowered to decide on public petitions independently and make their proceedings public, a move intended to streamline processes and improve efficiency.

Pashtoon Culture Day celebrated in Balochistan

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Pashtoon Culture Day was celebrated across Balochistan with traditional enthusiasm and fervour on Monday.

Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffer Khan Mandokhail and Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bagh, while congratulating the Pashtoons on the occasion, said their culture has a history of thousands of years.

They said that culture is of pivotal importance as it highlights the identity of each region and Pashtoon culture teaches love, respect, harmony and tolerance in society.

Various cultural organisations and political parties, including Pashtoonخواہ Milli Awami Party and Pashtoonخواہ National Awami Party held special functions and events in the provincial capital to mark the occasion. A large number of people wearing traditional Pashtoon dresses participated in these events.

Speaking at these events and gatherings Pashtoon leaders said that celebrating



QUETTA: PNMPP chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai looks at an old war helmet during the Pashtoon Culture Day celebrations, on Monday.—DP

this special day means remembering Pashtoon customs and traditions which were spread through poetry.

They said it was the responsibility of Pashtoons to spread the message of love, harmony and tolerance.

Speaking at a function to mark the occasion, Balochistan Governor Mandokhail said that culture is a thread that binds together our past, present and future and it is the responsibility of all Pashtoons to keep Pashtoon history alive.

Provincial Minister Bakht

Muhammad Kakar, Provincial Advisor Nasoum ur Rehman Malakhal, Member of the Provincial Assembly Zameer Khan Achakzai, Director General of Human Cultural Centre Alta ul Hasan Amir, Nasir Muhammad Baroch, Dr Tahir Baroch and a large number of women and youths attended the function.

The governor said that the history of the Pashtoons runs in thousands of years old and the Pashtoon language is among the 40 major languages of the world.

KP CM's software has been updated, says Azma

By Zulqarnain Tahir

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhan has said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister As Amin Gandapur's software has been updated in Lahore.

Talking to reporters outside the Lahore High Court after attending hearing in her fake video case here on Monday, she said the proceedings were adjourned again because the PIA director general was absent.

"Gandapur's software has been updated in Lahore," she said.

She said that Advocate Azhar accompanied the father of Falak Javed, who again discussed her fake video. She said Javed "encouraged other women to follow her lead".

"Falak Javed's indecent remarks reflect her flawed upbringing. Her parents portray themselves as innocent whenever the law takes its course. Azhar Siddique has been caught submitting fake affidavits and forging signatures three times," she said.

When asked why Ms Javed deleted the fake video if she had not done anything wrong, Ms Bokhan said the PTI had a team that engaged in such activities. She said women in our society were being threatened not to pursue their cases, but she was different and not afraid of anyone.

Govt stands firm as PTI seeks 'share'

Continued from Page 1

right to these seats.

He said it was unfortunate that the Senate elections could not be held [in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa] because of the ECP. He said efforts were being made to do legislation to pressure the judges and transfer them to other courts.

He said that as per the directions of the party's founding chairman Imran Khan, PTI would hold a public meeting in Rawalpindi on Sept 28, adding that an application has already been submitted with the district administration in this regard.

PTI leader Raafat Hasan said the public meeting would be held at Liaquat Bagh.

Govt unfazed

On the other hand, the federal government once again ruled out the reallocation of 60 MNAs of the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) to the PTI, indicating its position on the issue stays unchanged even after the SC's detailed

verdict, Dawn.com reported.

Addressing a presser, Law Minister Anam Nazwar Tarar said the recent amendments in the Elections Act were still in field and thus, as per the law, it was not possible to "reverse the clock" regarding the status of lawmakers.

He said various prior court verdicts maintained that parliament's right to legislation would have greater priority over the apex court's verdicts.

He said review petitions against the reserved seats' verdict were still valid and had gained even more importance after the detailed verdict.

"All judges in the court are equal and seniority does not weigh on decisions... difference is the beauty of debate and logic, whenever we look at something in depth, different opinions emerge and something better is found," he added.

The minister said the issue on the constitutional and legal plane was that the list of lawmakers to be allocated

had to be decided as per the law, no matter what the detailed verdict said. He added that the recent Elections Act amendments were now a part of the law.

"In their petitions, how these seats are to be allocated and what is the way for this law to be overruled, these are all the questions to which the answer are not in this detailed verdict."

Mr Tarar said the court's interpretation should not go to the extent of "changing the plain letter of the law and Constitution".

Regarding the future after the verdict, he said "The uncertainty is still there. As per the country's law, those considered independent lawmakers cannot leave the SIC since their action is irreversible."

He said keeping in mind the relevant provisions of the law, the seats could not be given to the PTI. "The court's verdict is otherwise. It seems to me there is a need for a further round of litigation."

Barber shot dead in Quetta

QUETTA: Unidentified armed men shot and killed a barber at his shop on Brewery Road in the provincial capital on Monday night.

Police said the armed men riding motorcycles opened indiscriminate fire at the barber shop in the Easa Nagar area, killing 55-year-old Mujahid on the spot.

He belonged to Bahawalpur in Punjab, and had been running the

barber shop for the past many years.

Soon after the incident police rushed to the site and shifted the body to Civil Hospital. Police termed the incident target killing and said further investigation is in progress. The banned Baloch Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for the killing.

—Staff Correspondent

Judges bring spat out in the open

Continued from Page 1

to comply with the majority order... Such observations undermine the integrity of the highest institution of justice in the country and seem to constitute an attempt to obstruct the process of the court and the administration of justice," the judge lamented.

"The judges need not always see eye to eye and may ultimately disagree, but the possibility of disagreement does not absolve them from engaging in a free and frank discussion before rendering their final opinion," Justice Shah observed.

"Egos may be bruised, tempers frayed, yet all must pass the process with respect and civility," he suggested.

In their dissenting verdict on the issue of reserved seats, both judges had held that the upper structure created by July 12 majority judgement did not come within the ambit of the jurisdiction vested in the Supreme Court, or in the Constitution.

Calls for restraint

"For the first time in Pakistan's judicial history, minority judges had asked institutions not to implement the majority judgement, thus inviting chaos in the country," commented a senior counsel on con-

dition of anonymity.

The judges should show restraint instead of commenting against each other since their conduct adversely affects the prestige and dignity of the court, he regretted.

Former additional attorney general (AG) Tariq Mehmood Khokhar was of the view that the 'interjective strife' in the top judges was not without precedent.

In Nov 1997, during the PML-N government, two parallel courts convened simultaneously in the Supreme Court building, in crude opposition to each other.

"Much ugliness followed, including the ruling PML-N thugs and goons storming the Sagd Ali Shah court, without any intervention by the security personnel," he recalled.

"It is happening again during another PML-N premiership," Mr Khokhar said, expressing hope that this was not the beginning of a 'Sagd Ali Shah moment'.

For Advocate Taimur Malik, an expert in international law, the observations in the detailed judgement regarding two fellow judges were unprecedented, unusual and very significant. These observations highlight that the majority judges have strong reservations regarding the note authored by two judges and its

adverse effect on the implementation of the full court's majority judgement, he said.

The judgement penned by Justice Shah also underscored the majority of the judges did not take lightly any attempts to undermine the sanctity of judicial decisions, he said.

Justice Shah's letter

Shortly after the judgement was released, Justice Shah wrote a three-page letter expressing his displeasure with recent changes to the bench-forming committee, in light of a recently promulgated ordinance. He said that he could not participate in meetings of the three-judge committee, which had been reformatted under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Ordinance 2024.

The Sept 23 letter of CJP Qazi Faez Isa to the court's registrar seeking an explanation of how the Sept 18 clarification order by Justice Shah was uplinked on the top court's website also showed him at infighting among 'brother judges'.

Through Monday's letter, Justice Shah suggested that until the constitutional validity of the amendments was determined by a full court, or judges of the apex court resolved to act upon the amendments in a full court meeting on the administrative side, or the earlier committee was

restored, he would not attend the meeting, the Sept 23, memo after the federal government promulgated the ordinance, the CJP had changed the composition of the committee by substituting Justice Mansoor Akhtar with Justice Amiruddin Khan.

In his letter, Justice Shah observed that independence, transparency and collegiality required the CJP to raise an immediate alarm and concern on the promulgation of the ordinance in the light of court's celebrated pronouncement in the 2024 Raja Amr case and to convene a full court meeting for deliberations on the matter, rather than hurriedly acquiescing to it and quietly reconstituting the existing committee without any lawful justification and reasons.

The Supreme Court had held in the Raja Amr case that Article 199 vested the initial and primary power to make rules for regulating its practice and procedure in the Supreme Court, he wrote.

"I am afraid, any proceedings taken or decisions made by the reconstituted committee will, undermine the integrity of the highest institution of justice in the country as well as the public confidence in the decisions made by the benches constituted by it," he feared.

The judge also appeared con-

cerned over the amendment vesting unfettered and arbitrary discretion in the CJP to determine the composition of the committee. Further, the constitutional conditionality of the very act of promulgating the amending ordinance also requires a judicial determination as to whether such an ordinance is necessary and justified in the public interest in the midst of the current constitutional crises.

Justice Shah also pointed out that the legislation did not provide for necessary reconstitution of the existing committee and hence, the earlier committee could have continued even after the amendment.

But within hours of the promulgation of the ordinance, it was notified that the committee had been reconstituted and no response was given as to why the second senior-most judge, Justice Akhtar, was removed despite his availability.

Furthermore, no reasons were given why the most senior-most judge Justice Yahya Afridi was ignored and instead, the fourth senior-most judge was nominated as a member of the committee. Such unbecomingly cherry-picking and undemocratic display of one-man show are precisely what the 2023 act tried to discourage, he added.

BISP partners with IFAD for vocational training

By Bakhtawar Mian

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has entered into a contract with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to explore ways and means for the vocational skills of the registered beneficiaries of the social protection system.

For this purpose, BISP Chairperson Rubina Khattak met Ghulam Nabi Harri, the national coordinator of IFAD, on Monday to discuss the issue and explore avenues for providing livelihood opportunities through human resource training and asset transfer initiatives for BISP beneficiaries.

Ms Khattak highlighted the importance of a strong partnership with IFAD to maximise benefits for BISP beneficiaries. She stressed the need for boosting the agricultural sector in all provinces, with a special focus on Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in the merged tribal districts.

She said that skill training of BISP beneficiaries will not only improve their financial status but also enable them to contribute to the country's economy and allow more deserving individuals to benefit from the programme.

IFAD representatives commended BISP's extensive database and assured financial and technical support for sustainable skill training and livelihood programmes for BISP beneficiaries.

Both parties agreed on joint collaboration and decided to hold another meeting to further discuss the future modalities and concept paper.

Ministry denies house rent notification

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Housing and Works has said it had not issued any office memorandum about an increase in the rental ceiling for government employees.

Commenting on a report published in Dawn on Monday, which stated that federal government employees had received a 45pc bump in house rent allowances, the ministry said that its sub-ordinate Estate Office was "currently conducting a survey of market rent rates of residential accommodations at six specified stations (i.e. Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta)".

It said that the survey had not yet been finalised, and "nothing has been notified so far".—Staff Reporter

Top court 'not bound by procedure' where justice is concerned

Continued from Page 1

multiple sub-headings emphasised that the PTI was before the bench with an application for impeachment as a party to the case.

"The procedural formality of first accepting PTI's application and then granting it the relief does not carry much weight where the apex court's concern is the protection of the right of vote of the electorate guaranteed under Articles 17(2) and 19 of the Constitution, more than the right of any political party — whether it be Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) or PTI or any other party," the judgement contended.

Where the rights of people are involved the proper place of procedure in any system of administration of justice is to help and not thwart the grant to the people of their rights, Justice Shah emphasised. He said the case in hand regarding the reserved seats was not an ordinary civil case but a case of the highest order where democracy — a salient feature of the

Constitution — and the fundamental right of the people to choose their representatives for the legislative and executive organs of the state was to be protected.

The detailed reasons explained that the constitutional power of the Supreme Court under Article 187(1) was to do complete justice when there was no specific provision of law that covered the matter.

The judgement also had some flak reserved for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) when it said the body failed to fulfil its constitutional role in the Feb 8 elections.

Being the 'constitutional electoral management body', the commission is not merely an administrative entity but a fundamental "quasi-judicial institution" of democratic processes, with a constitutional status akin to a "fourth branch of government".

ECP receives flak

It said the ECP was tasked with ensuring the transparency and fairness of elections to maintain public

trust in the electoral system, but it, unfortunately, participated as the primary contesting party against the SIC and the PTI.

This function of organising the elections, as held by the Supreme Court in the 2022 Asim Leg Refud case, was primarily executive and not judicial or quasi-judicial, though the commission also performed some quasi-judicial functions, it said.

The function performed in the present case was quasi-judicial, the judgement explained. A body performing its quasi-judicial function in a matter between two rival camps is not treated as an aggrieved person if its decision is not aside or modified by a higher forum or by a court of competent jurisdiction, Justice Shah observed.

Such a body, therefore, does not have locus standi to challenge the decision of higher forum or court. Nor can such a body contest an appeal filed against its quasi-judicial decision by one of the rival parties as a primary contesting party.

In the present case, the commis-

sion was a proper party to assist the court in settling all the questions involved in the case, it said, adding that the ECP should not have acted as a primary contesting party. The verdict said the PTI, its candidates and the electorate should not be made to suffer or be prejudiced by the unlawful acts or omissions of public functionaries, namely the returning officers (ROs) and the ECP.

Given that members have been deprived of their constitutional right to proportional representation in the reserved seats due to unlawful acts and omissions, the members are entitled, by virtue of an obligation to be restored to that right and placed, insofar as possible, in the same position they would have been if such unlawful acts and omissions had not occurred.

The judgement also explained that the Sept 18 clarification order in which eight judges had rebuked ECP for not implementing its July 12 judgement in the reserved seats case should also be read as part of this judgement.

Referring to the March 14 Peshawar High Court (PHC) denial of reserved women and minority seats to SIC, the Supreme Court held that the ambit and scope of the high court under Article 199 was not as wide as of the Supreme Court under Article 187 of the Constitution.

Nor do the high courts possess general constitutional power which SIC has under Article 218(3) to ensure that elections are conducted honestly, justly and fairly, the judgement said.

Therefore, without PTI's petition, the high court could not have passed an order like the one we have, or the one that the commission could have passed, for doing complete justice and ensuring that the election was conducted honestly, justly and fairly.

However, what PHC could have done, but failed to do, in the present case is to remand the matter to ECP with a direction to do what the commission was required to do under Article 218(3) of the Constitution, read with Section 4 and 8 of the Elections Act, the judgement said.

"We are completely at a loss to understand the logic, other than the constraint of the circumstances, as to why a candidate of a national-level political party (PTI), which had once formed the federal and two provincial governments, would supersede his candidature of that party (PTI) with a party (PTI-Supporters) whose name had not even been heard by most of the electorate, or why he would leave the candidature of PTI and become an independent candidate, by his own free will," the judgement said.

In his separate note, Justice Yahya Afridi said the ECP should revert its notification of returned candidates, keeping in view that a returned candidate, who declared himself to represent a political party and submitted the certificate of that political party and hasn't withdrawn the declaration, has to be declared a returned candidate representing the said political party and not otherwise. The needful be done within seven days if not earlier, Justice Afridi said.—Nasir Iqbal

Reserved seats

THE verdict is in. But does that make a difference? The Supreme Court's detailed reasoning for its decision in the reserved seats case was finally made public on Monday, after weeks of clamouring for its release. However, the judgment, which carries the weight of a full court, was promptly rejected by the PML-N. The ruling party described it on X as "a political decision" issued by "eight specific judges in violation of their oath, to give political benefits to a party that spreads chaos and division". It seemed like a knee-jerk reaction to the 70 pages of meticulous reasoning for why 11 of the 13 judges who heard the case, including the chief justice of Pakistan, agreed that the PTI had been wronged by the ECP and deserved relief, and also why eight judges differed from the other three on what relief would be suitable.

The operative part of the judgment had, it may be recalled, been issued much earlier in July. After a first reading of the detailed reasoning, it is still difficult to understand why the ECP and government reacted so adversely to it from the get-go. The Supreme Court has, in fact, unanimously rejected two important arguments presented by the Shami Irtihal Council and the PTI: i.e. the SIC was entitled to reserved seats based on the strength of its parliamentary party despite not having directly won a seat, and that reserved seats could not be distributed to parties other than the SIC even if it was not to be given any. In fact, the verdict makes clear that it was the ECP's original sin — not allowing candidates to contest as PFI's nominees, in violation of the Constitution and the law — that necessitated intervention and a prescription for rectification from the court.

The judgment explains that the court considered the dispute as being larger than just a disagreement between two parties, and that it acted to protect the rights of the electorate, not a particular political party. Based on that, the government's position seems rather weak. Has it been risking contempt merely because the Supreme Court pointed out that the ECP did something wrong and instructed, as is its mandate, that justice be done? Moreover, how does the government morally justify its position considering that it is a direct beneficiary of the actions struck down as unlawful and unconstitutional by the court? Perhaps if this detailed verdict had been issued sooner, much of the controversy that has surrounded it may have been avoided. However, now that it is in hand, the government should either file for a review or accept it as is. Refusing to implement it is a dangerous strategy; it may unravel the entire edifice of the state.

Close call

A DISASTER of considerable proportions was averted on Sunday when a roadside device exploded in Swat as diplomats from a dozen countries were making their way back to Islamabad from the KP district. Though the envoys remained safe, a police vehicle accompanying the convoy was hit by an IED, resulting in the martyrdom of one officer. Considering that such a large number of diplomats — many accompanied by their spouses — was moving through the area, a full probe is in order to determine the facts behind this major security lapse. Among the envoys were the ambassadors of Russia, Iran, Indonesia and Portugal, as well as representatives of other states. The envoys had been invited to the area by the Islamabad and Swat chambers of commerce to highlight the region's industries. Through the loss of a police officer is tragic, Pakistan would have faced global embarrassment had any of the envoys suffered harm.

Questions remain about who carried out the terrorist act. Till the time of writing this piece had claimed responsibility — in fact, the banned TTP denied involvement in the attack. While KP — including Swat — has suffered from attacks by religiously inspired militant groups, it is difficult to fix blame in this case unless a claim or solid evidence of a particular group's involvement comes to the surface. TTP terrorists had actually held territory in the area in 2007 until they were flushed out in military operations. However, there are fresh reports of militant activity in Swat. For example, locals have protested against terrorist attacks targeting police personnel. Yet it is also true that for the most part, Islamist militants do not attack foreign targets. There are of course exceptions. Chinese nationals, installations and projects have been attacked both by religious militants, as well as Baloch separatists. Therefore, only a transparent probe can unearth the perpetrators behind the Swat bombing. Investigators need to look at all angles; there is also a possibility that hostile foreign actors were involved. As mentioned earlier, the targeting of so many foreign dignitaries would have resulted in massive worldwide humiliation for Pakistan. Therefore, our counterterrorism and counterintelligence apparatus needs to prevent such attacks, and explore how such sensitive information was leaked. Whether such attacks are the handwork of militants or hostile external forces, the state needs to do a much better job of neutralising violent actors.

Digital gagging

IT happened again over the weekend. Internet users in Pakistan found themselves cut off from WhatsApp and Instagram, with many unable to send voice notes, multimedia messages or even make calls. According to DownDetector, these issues started cropping up at around 10:45am on Saturday, the same day as a PFI rally. While the PTA, as usual, remains silent on the matter, the timing of the outages raises questions. Are all these disruptions mere glitches or something more? It is worrying how the nation is continually subjected to such digital blackouts. The state's recurring strategy seems to be to curb access to popular social media platforms during politically sensitive occasions, under the guise of combating "digital terrorism". And when it is not acting in the interest of "national security", "technical faults", such as submarine cable issues, are cited. This has gone on long enough now for patterns to emerge. Such excuses wear thin when the patterns align a bit too neatly with events challenging the state's narrative.

In this era of digital connectivity, feted as the very backbone of economic activity, Pakistan can ill afford such disruptions. Businesses are hampered, critical services delayed and social connections severed. Worse, Pakistan's image on the global stage is tarnished. Such outages cast doubt on the country's commitment to democratic principles and have kept foreign investment at bay. And needless to say, citizens are deprived of their basic right to information. It is high time this cyclic pattern of digital gagging is ended. It simply does not do to resort to censorship this way. The authorities must engage with dissenting voices and address grievances. Genuine security concerns must be balanced against people's fundamental rights. Pakistan stands at a crossroads. It can either continue down this path of suppression or embrace the principles of open discourse that are the hallmark of any progressive society. The choice should be clear.

OPINION

BY ARIFA NOOR



Unpacking the hybrid

Is it only recent governments that deserve to be called 'hybrid'?

PAKISTANI politics is a gift which keeps on giving — to the language we speak. And the recent buzzword for the state of politics in our land is 'hybrid regime'. It's descriptive, reparative and analytical all at once; it can be used to criticise any party in power and explain inappreciable happenings.

A phrase which became rather popular during the PTI tenure, it didn't fall into disuse even after the party was sent packing. The PDM government was described in no less complimentary terms since it 'settled' down, disappointing some and vindicating others with its inability to govern.

Before long, the 'hybrid regime' tag was upgraded to hybrid plus. Once the elections took place, the plus wasn't deemed enough and the phrase became 'hybrid plus plus' or 'hybrid pro-plus'. This is now as much a part of our conversation as 'Abdullah Abdullah' once was.

But as a phrase and its connotations it does raise questions. In a country where civilian governments have always been hampered and compelled to cede power to or share it with the establishment, is it only recent governments that deserve to be called 'hybrid'?

After all, Benazir Bhutto's first government was able to come into being only after she agreed to accept that those running finance and foreign policy would be appointed by those who had "kindly" allowed her to become prime minister. Once 'they' decided to send her packing, Nawaz Sharif was brought to power in an election, which was perhaps the most controversial and manipulated of the four polls held in the 1990s. It was also the only one of the many controversial elections in Pakistan to have been challenged in the Supreme Court. After the 2008 election, more often than not, the chief of army staff Asiflye Kayani held meetings on the economy at his office in Rawalpindi attended by the relevant federal ministers.

So what makes it different post-2008? Is it even different? Perhaps last week's sorry saga of the constitutional amendment that wasn't provides some enlightenment.

For months, talk of a constitutional package was doing the rounds. And for days if not weeks, the government told us the members were in the bag (or was it the members who was in the bag?) as the president, prime minister and interior minister went a-calling. But the presence of the last heavyweight made it more than evident which stakeholders were behind this boat of law-making. And yet, once the operation turned out to be as successful as Joe Biden's second election run, the gears were turned on the political government only.

From 'independently' elected senators (this election has given us not just the PTI allied independents but also a cast of independent senators) to powerful journalists, no one was willing to mirror their words about the government's incompetence in getting the job done. But was it simply the government's failure? Who can afford to ask this question?

Perhaps, this is what distinguishes what we call the 'hybrid system'. It is one in which the relationship between the government and establishment works at two levels: officially the claim is that of a close relationship while at the unofficial level, a different picture is painted.

This doubletalk starts with the election; not only are polls questionable to begin with but the controversy generated is kept alive. The election continues to be called into question even as the government is formed. Constant references to ECR and Form 47 keep the election controversy alive in people's minds; the incessant talk about Nawaz Sharif's Lahore election is a case in point.

This is accompanied by constant, unrelenting references to 'one page'. The government and establishment are working in coordination with each other; as the government has been put in power by the establishment, the widespread assumption is the latter will support the former. Publicly and officially, this is reiterated again and again. While the PTI speaks grandly of the 'one page', Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif went a step further to speak of the chief and him being 'half-jan do qaid' (Dear friends).

Along with these public pronouncements,

however, is the unofficial messaging, which is no less vociferous. This messaging, carried out during closed-door meetings and background briefings, together with the analysis of media people with sources aplenty, is used to explain how the establishment is tiring of the incompetence of a government which refuses to stand on its own feet.

All of this builds up an image of a government which was helped into power at great cost but has since disappointed those who propped it up. Imran Khan was disappointing — no one realised that he had no plan to fix Pakistan's problems and that he was obsessed with corruption, using the state powers to demoralise the opposition. Now it seems that Shehbaz Sharif and his government have similarly disappointed the powerful; once again the plan is missing as is the ability to make decisions. And along with the disappointment come whispers of how 'they' are being forced to manage it all. To borrow a phrase from Parvez Elahi, diaper-changing duties never stop.

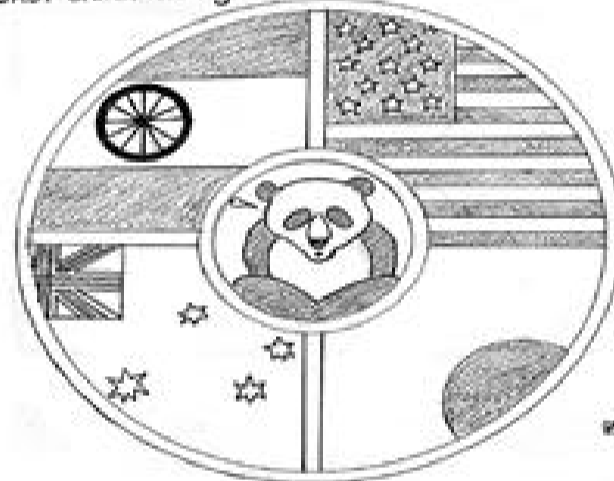
It is here where this hybrid regime perhaps varies from earlier governments, with which the boundaries were rather public. From the 1990s to even the PPP and PML-N governments post-2008, the chafes with the establishment were upfront and aggressive, be it Memonate or Musharraf's trial. Second, one reason for the hostility or the tussle was the government's assertion of power, which is recognised to not be an issue as such.

But hybrid regimes are also marked by a third feature, where despite the control, the failures somehow are the government's alone — from the mishandling of the economy to diplomatic isolation, be it the PTI or PDM.

Within this larger context, the confidence of the government about the numbers being there for a constitutional amendment till the last moment can tell a very different story. If there is anyone out there who wants to move beyond the obvious. ■

The writer is a journalist.

BIDEN TO QUAD: CHINA 'testing us'



BY JAWED NAQVI

The uphill climb to woo neighbours



A MONTH to the date before Sri Lanka's Sept 21 presidential polls would elect a first-time Marxist head of state, and distract the political furniture in the region and beyond, the Indian high commissioner to Colombo installed a free water vending machine at a tourist site in Negombo.

At slightly over half the steep climb to the summit of the 180 metres high volcanic granite rock of King Kanayapa's ancient fort-and-cave spectacle in the heart of Sri Lanka, the Indian envoy announced the RO machine on a metal plaque, which glinted in the sunning heat with the message of neighbourly goodwill "from the people of India".

If the Indian envoy's intent was to win friends or impress visitors, the investment fell short of its goal on two counts. A truer point that the water taps missed lies in a stallnear drive to Sri Lanka's most haunted site.

It's here that a strategic port has come up abutting a sea lane seen as more crucial for India's Western allies than for India. Has New Delhi under Narendra Modi's watch has got itself entangled with the US-led and complexly self-centred "pivot to the East" strategy offers an object lesson on how not to rise to the bait in a purely bilateral dispute, this one being essentially between Beijing and Washington. The day the two make up, even if they don't end up kissing, proverbially, the cheerleaders in the transient stand-off wouldn't know where to look.

Pakistan has been used skillfully twice by the West, on both terms under the watch of a muscle-flexing military ruler. It's in an economic mess today, but does the West care? Moreover, in the current context, the ascent of the Philippines as a China-specific military outpost for the US threatens to undermine Delhi's north in the Western strategy, say leading US think-tanks.

And so, it would seem odd for New Delhi to shove Western enthusiasm that the China-built Hambantota port somewhere poses a threat to its interests.

The anti-China Quad group of which India is a member, others being Japan, Australia and the US, is as common as the next business deal between the economic and political heavyweights. Yet, it is unexpected that as the Beijing-friendly Anura Kumara Dissanayake was lead-

ing the Sri Lankan race, the Quad leaders were huddled in a meeting with President Joe Biden at his home in Delaware. India's recent rapprochement with the tiny archipelago nation of the Maldives, after initial fears of Male veering sharply right, this is mentioned again and again. While the PTI speaks grandly of the 'one page', Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif went a step further to speak of the chief and him being 'half-jan do qaid' (Dear friends).

Coincidentally apart, there was a stark message from the Sri Lanka polls waiting to ambush India, or perhaps not so much India as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, personally. To its credit, New Delhi was not entirely unaware of the impending defeat of its preferred friend in

The diplomatic soft-soaping from Dissanayake's India visit seems not to have worked.

Colombo, the outgoing president, Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Noting the need for change stalking the southern neighbour, New Delhi as early as February this year invited Dissanayake to visit the country, which he did as head of the National People's Front. The NPF is purportedly a ideological avatar of the vibrantly leftist JVP, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramarta, in which the 55-year-old Dissanayake cut his political teeth. The future president was taken on a guided tour of Delhi and Ahmedabad, Modi's home state, and there's a picture of him beaming in a frame with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar from that visit.

The diplomatic soft-soaping from the India visit seems not to have worked, however. Upon his return Dissanayake reiterated his main theme of fighting legitimate corruption he has accused his predecessors of indulging in. One

such deal he mentioned in particular involved an Indian tycoon who has been in the crosshairs of Modi's domestic opponents too — Gautam Adani. Modi has been accused of sacrificing India's political and economic interests in plugging for Gautam Adani on his diplomatic sojourns. Dissanayake has been quoted as threatening to cancel Adani's 450 MW wind power project in Sri Lanka if elected. Reports quote him as claiming the agreement was corrupt and skewed against Sri Lanka's interests.

There are two ways for India to handle the crisis. It could treat it as a business deal between a private individual and a foreign government. Or it could regard the dealings of an individual as a means to intervene as Indian government.

"Dissanayake highlighted that Sri Lanka is purchasing energy from Adani at a rate of \$0.0926 per unit, whereas a nearby Sri Lankan firm supplies energy at only \$0.0488 per unit," a local daily in Colombo quoted him as saying. "The Adani project's costs should decrease, given its large scale, but it's the opposite. This is clearly a corrupt deal, and we will definitely cancel it." The problem is that Adani is facing similar charges in Bangladesh and even from state governments in India.

In February 2023, Sri Lanka's Board of Investment approved Adani Green Energy's \$442 million wind power project, with plants planned for Mannar and Poonernay in northern Sri Lanka. The project has since faced legal challenges, local reports say, with its details currently under Sri Lankan supreme court's review.

The Adani Group, led by billionaire Gautam Adani, is also involved in the development of a \$200m container terminal at the Colombo Port, adding to its growing presence in Sri Lanka, reports say.

From all accounts Dissanayake is not a Trotskyite variant of Don Quixote tilting at global capitalism. He sees he wouldn't reject his country's deal with the IMF, and would prefer to adopt the business model of Vietnam, which doesn't needlessly ruffle the West. It is India that needs to do more than hamper the neighbours with RO utilities. ■

The writer is Dawn's correspondent in Delhi. jnaqvi@dw.com

OPINION

BY DAVID WALMSLEY

Society's safety net

A RECORD number of newrooms have signed up for World News Day 2024, recognizing the positive influence of journalism on the world over.

More than 600 newrooms and media associations across all continents join to bring awareness to the purpose of journalism, a trade that is under constant attack. It's a day to pause, and reflect on the importance of independent and often brave journalists who make a difference in their communities and countries, by providing the proof that leads to the truth.

Too often, he or she who leads the charge in social media seems to be the muckraker of the day, overshadowing the professional reporter and editor trained and determined to stand behind everything they publish.

Responsible journalism is a tough business when done properly. It necessarily involves the easy, repetitive, and instant world of politicians and propagandists determined to divert life to fit agendas that are often based on uncertainty and exclusion.

Photographing events that happen, reporting on the facts, beginning with incomplete information and building a more complete file over time and ultimately ensuring, in the final edit, that the facts are clear and placed accurately into the public discourse, is the business of mainstream media. It is inefficient yet is a timeless tradition without parallel.

Professionals fight back against the hackneyed idea that belonging to the mainstream is somehow inferior to being extreme.

World News Day (Sept 28) is a day of awareness, to better explain journalism to the public at large.

It is also a moment to provide room for our audience and highlight how their viewing a journalist improved their life. How, perhaps, finally, they were listened to, or to reflect on the contribution of a local newspaper to the body politic, or the cost of liberty for a reporter determined for no reason — other than that she could be — by those with armies at their disposal.

Avoid the growing consciousness of public debate, the pride of independent journalism stands as a source of optimism and belief.

Often at significant personal cost, whistleblowers entrust journalists with secrets. Businessmen, politicians and others in power increasingly refuse to meet reporters or explain themselves — but that doesn't mean they are unaccountable. The rest is still exposed by individuals.

This past year I met a source determined to get the truth out, but the conversations took place in a hot tub to prove I was not wearing a listening wire, and, on another

occasion, in my underwear for the final interview. The story was worth it all, but I couldn't have known it would be when I started out on the four-month odyssey.

That's the romance of the business that recruits and repays the indefatigable. Interest groups laden with bias threaten economic punishment. I'd cancel my subscription or 'we'll pull our advertising'. Perhaps next year we will list those people who set that way.

No fan, news organisations take the hit, and don't make it public. But it is all an attempt to interfere with editorial independence, and it is wrong.

Attacks on journalists — including murder — run at record highs. Journalism was not created for the messenger to be shot, but, while you can kill the journalist, you can't kill the story. Others will take it on. Look at journalists in Mexico or Iran if you haven't received your daily dose of inspiration. The rate of impunity, killing journalists and not being arrested, creeps toward 100 per cent in some countries, but still the stories must go.

A great article exists in the business of journalism facts are not suppressible.

Those in need understand it. And it is those least in need who fight us most: the powerful, terrified their world can't be entirely controlled.

That's the magic of World News Day.

As you talk to friends, and consider your community, village, town or the wider world, think about what you have learned today. There is a fair bit of journalism was involved. The storytellers, who come from your community, tell the facts, no matter how uncomfortable that can be. That is why, interested and living in your community, they are targeted, harassed, belittled, threatened. And it is why they respond with more facts, more answers, more independence of thought — and maintain the link between you and the wider world.

Journalists are a bridge as we build the future, supported by the expertise of our audience, who are as loyal and determined as the reporter and the editor.

Together, on World News Day, if it falls at times that the vestiges of hope are falling away, remember the safety net of journalism is there. ■

The writer is the editor-in-chief of The Globe and Mail, Canada, and is coator of World News Day.



BY SAMEER KHOSA

Practice & Procedure

RECENT moves by the government leave no doubt that the judiciary is facing one of the most serious onslaughts in its history. Although attempts to tame the courts have been afoot for a while, as seen by the letter written by six judges of the Islamabad High Court, these have only met with mixed success. Various courts in the country have continued to pass strict observations in cases of enforced disappearances, granted bail to persons that the state is unwilling to release, and acted in on the phenomenon of audio books. Most significantly, a 13-member bench of the Supreme Court denied the government its extra reserved seats in parliament.

Faced with a judiciary refusing to declare total submission, the government first attempted to pass a constitutional amendment proposing widespread changes to the structure of the judiciary. Having failed to achieve that for the time being, the president promulgated the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance, 2024.

The contents of the proposed constitutional amendment are now well known: all the significant constitutional powers of the Supreme Court would stand transferred to a federal constitutional court (FCC), which would effectively be handpicked by the government. Judges of the high courts would face being transferred to another court without their consent. The powers of the high courts in matters related to laws in relation to national security would stand eliminated. The government would also have the power to bypass the senior most judge in appointing the chief justice.

Now, the ordinance issued by the president demonstrates that the government remains undeterred. Through the ordinance, the government has changed the composition of the committee that forms benches and fixes cases under the original Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023. The committee originally consisted of the chief justice and two senior-most judges of the court. Now it will consist of the chief justice, the most senior judge, and a judge picked by the chief justice.

The promulgation of the ordinance is problematic in several respects. For one, the Constitution does not envisage the president as a lawmaker except in exceptional circumstances when parliament cannot be summoned. No exceptional circumstances seem apparent given that the original committee was functional and available.

For another, it seems to be yet another attempt to interfere in the functioning of the judiciary. In recent weeks, the chief justice has found himself out-voted on matters that are important to the government's ability to pass the constitutional amend-

ment. In particular, the chief justice unsuccessfully attempted to fix a review petition related to the reserved seats verdict and the Article 63A verdict (related to floor crossing). In case either of these review cases is successful, the government's ability to pass a constitutional amendment would greatly increase (either through reserved seats, or defections).

Instead of respecting the Supreme Court and the committee, the government decided to modify the committee to strengthen the chief justice so that it could change outcomes for itself. It is a dangerous game for the government to contract and expand the powers of the chief justice at will depending only on its professed temporary concerns.

Unfortunately, instead of sticking to the original committee, within hours the chief justice changed the formation of the committee by skipping the third and fourth most senior judges of the court. The composition of the committee is particularly important at this time because if the government can successfully pass the constitutional amendment,

then any challenge to the amendment filed in the Supreme Court would be subject to the decision of this committee as to whether it is heard, when, and by whom. In effect, the chief justice would now control this process.

Add to this the fact that, according to an official press release of the Supreme Court, the government already made its interest in extending the tenure of the chief justice clear several months ago. The clear intent is, therefore, to ensure that the chief justice, who himself potentially needs to be one of the involved beneficiaries of this whole exercise (on the form of an extended tenure at the FCC), can control any challenge to the proposed amendment.

Last year, when the government was in no mood to implement the Supreme Court's decision related to elections in Punjab and KP, it brought in the Practice and Procedure Act to thwart the chief justice. This year, when it is in no mood to implement the reserved seats case, it has brought in the ordinance to retain the chief justice's control.

Behind all of the government's claims, there is only one real aim: outpacing the Supreme Court. ■

The writer is a Lahore-based lawyer. skhosa.rms@gmail.com

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1974 | Fifty years ago

Sino-Pakistan ties

CHIEF Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said here today (Sept 23) that friendship between Pakistan and China would go from strength to strength for greater co-operation not only ... for peace and prosperity but also for regional and world peace. He was speaking at a grand colourful reception arranged for him by the Chinese road builders and workers at Danyang. ... The Chinese workers chanted Pakistan-China friendship slogans and sang friendship songs to the beat of drums and playing of other musical instruments.

Red banners with inscriptions: Long Live Pak-China Friendship and welcome to Prime Minister of Pakistan Z.A. Bhutto, both in Urdu and Chinese, hung on the route which was lined on both sides by cheering and singing Chinese workers. ... Mr Bhutto expressed Pakistan's gratitude for Chinese efforts in building the gigantic highway. ... When the road is complete ... it would be a great contribution to permanent friendship. ...

When the host offered oatmeal to the Prime Minister he said: "Sorry I am fasting. You can offer to those who are not." The Chinese had brought various oatmeal ... from their country. — News agencies

1949 | Seventy-five years ago

Trade with India

KARACHI: A brisk transaction in all foreign currencies, except the Indian, through the usual postpaid sterling, backed the deficit of the appreciated Pakistan rupee, when the banks in the country opened after four days' closure. ... India's reluctance to accept the changed rates brought about by the devaluation of the Indian rupee is still, like her Ministry of Industries on the commercial front has left Karachi circles cold. A high financial authority admitted the ... people of Pakistan and its economic structure for their "unlimited" capacity to absorb "severe shocks". ...

The eventual decision — no devaluation — taken by the Government of Pakistan, was undoubtedly a "very severe shock" to the economic organism of the country and the healthy reaction only showed the high vitality of the organism," he said. ... The deadlock brought about by the Indian Ordinances banning all imports from Pakistan, except raw cotton, barley and rock salt and Bengal gram seed by land route, had no effect on the market whatsoever. Trade with India was completely at a standstill on Friday (Sept 23), and newspapers and cotton samples were the only goods sent from Karachi to Bombay by air. — Staff correspondent

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.

Pope can do a lot by visiting Gaza



DESPITE having bad knees and suffering from arthritis, Pope Francis recently had an extended tour of southeast Asia and Oceania, travelling to four countries — Indonesia (pictured above), Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore — over a span of 12 days.

This was the farthest trip of his pontificate, and one of the longest papal trips ever in terms of days on the road and distance travelled. During these visits, the pope emphasized urgent action on climate change, and stressed the need for interfaith dialogue.

However, one of the most significant moments of the journey was his visit to a township of around 12,000 people on the edge of a deep jungle in Papua New Guinea where the pope distributed hundreds of essential items, including medicines, clothing, candles and toys, among the natives and their children.

In Papua New Guinea, the pope continued to emphasize ending tribal disputes, equitable distribution of resources to benefit local populace rather than multinational companies that extract resources, ending gender equality and respect for women.

In essence, these visits mark yet another powerful chapter in the legacy of the pontiff, known for his compassionate outreach and prayers for his followers worldwide.

The pope, despite his old age and falling health, visited places that were never visited by a pope earlier, or where the Catholics formed a small minority. His mission of peace and humanitarian aid really deserves applause.

Having said that, the Christian community in Palestine has been facing severe hardships in the face of Israeli brutality, and deserves to have the pope among them. Though small in numbers, Christians remain concentrated mostly in the West Bank towns of Ramallah and Bethlehem,

as well as in occupied Jerusalem and Gaza. Resolute and determined, they refuse to abandon their ancestral homes as well as businesses despite the relentless atrocities they have been facing alongside their Muslim brothers and sisters. Israeli airstrikes have not spared their homes or churches either, and these communities have endured severe hardships.

One of the most significant historic Christian landmarks in Gaza, the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Porphyrios, located in the Zaytoon neighbourhood, still stands as a symbol of resilience. Alongside, there is the Holy Family Church, Gaza's only Catholic parish, and the larger Latin church in Gaza, both representing the deep-rooted Christian presence in the region.

However, the most tragic victims of the ongoing Israeli airstrikes and ground assaults in Gaza are the innocent children irrespective of their religion or creed. These children, who should have been the torchbearers of a bright or future, have become victims of an unending and heinous crime against humanity.

A visit of the charismatic Pope Francis to Catholic and Orthodox churches in war-torn Gaza would be more than a gesture of solidarity; it would serve as a catalyst for promoting interfaith harmony and bringing hostility to a standstill. With his powerful global influence, the pope has the ability to call attention to the ongoing atrocities and to save the lives and futures of children whose education has already suffered irreparable damage in war-torn Palestinian areas.

As a firm believer in interfaith harmony, I believe the pope's visit to war-torn Gaza will surely bring the much-awaited peace, and will at least help in preventing any further massacre of children.

Qasim Saadouni
Mokarpar

Obsolete textbooks

RECENTLY, I had the opportunity to review Class VIII Social Studies textbook used in Sindh. I was shocked to discover how our educational material lacks innovation and relevance compared to the rest of the world.

Most public-sector schools in Sindh adopt these textbooks without scrutiny, and accountability is virtually non-existent. The first chapter, which covers the universe, fails to mention fundamental concepts, like black holes, asteroids, meteors, star formation and death. There are among the topics that are commonly found in elementary textbooks worldwide.

Furthermore, the terminology used bears little resemblance to the subject matter. The chapter on Pakistan's industrial sector cites outdated statistics from 1998, including a population figure of 150 million, which is far from being accurate. This is particularly concerning in the light

of the Sindh government's recent initiative to launch book banks in public schools, where students are expected to return used books containing worksheets for reuse.

Unfortunately, this approach defies logic and highlights the need for serious reforms in Sindh's education sector. Accountability is essential at all levels, and negligence should not be tolerated. To align with developed and developing countries, we must revamp our education system and eliminate the outdated mindset.

Tamoor Aqar Mirza
Larkana

Misery for fathers

THE Guardian and Wards Act, 1890, provides a statutory framework for the custody of minors, a critical aspect of the family law. However, its limitations and inadequate provisions have created and continue to create legal complexities, causing undue distress to all parties involved.

To seek permanent custody, a parent must file a formal petition with the guardian court, articulating the grounds for



the claim. The Muhammadan Law's para 32 provides guidance on the circumstances and age of minors at which custody may be granted.

In practice, fathers predominantly initiate such claims, and the trial court often grants temporary visitation rights for a limited duration, typically two hours twice a month, with the father bearing transportation costs.

Nevertheless, the existing framework is deficient in several respects. The restricted visitation time allotted to fathers frequently results in emotional distress, as it is insufficient for a meaningful parent-child bonding.

Moreover, applications for additional

visitation time, including special occasions like holidays as well as birthdays, are subject to judicial discretion and may be denied. The requirement for fathers to seek permission for visitation, including vacations, perpetuates a cycle of litigation and acrimony.

Further, the law's purpose is to provide protection, peace and legal assistance. However, the current state of affairs often denies power to fathers, and forces them into prolonged legal battles. Past case law has demonstrated the apex court's preference for compromise, but this is frequently unsustainable due to inter-party animosity.

As such, to address these shortcomings, a codified amendment to the Guardian and Wards Act, 1890, is essential. This reform should grant parents the right to summer and winter vacations, special days, and emergency meetings without the need for a court application, ensuring uninterrupted access to their children.

By delegating this right, the law can minimize objections from the opposing party, and promote a more harmonious and child-centric approach to custody disputes.

The Act requires revision to align with the evolving needs of families and the principles of justice. By introducing reforms that prioritize the welfare and wellbeing of minors, we can create a more compassionate and effective legal framework for custody disputes, ultimately serving the best interests of the minors.

Riaz Ali Panhwar
Hyderabad

Rivers of Harappa

SEVERAL thousand years ago, the Indian subcontinent experienced significant upheavals. The northwest region transitioned into an arid zone, and the courses of rivers were greatly affected by erosion and tectonic events.

One of the river courses disappeared, only for the British to discover it in the early 19th century through topographic exploration.

Recently, geological and climatological experts have probed its evolution and disappearance, with satellite imagery tracing the river's buried courses, and isotopic analysis detecting ancient water still stored under the Thar desert. The Indus civilization, which was the subcontinent's first known urban settlement, did not benefit from the Indus River alone. Since Aurel Stein's expedition in 1940, hundreds of Harappan sites have been identified in the now-dry Saraswati basin. The rich technological, artistic and cultural legacy of the Harappan civilization laid the foundation for developing newer civilisations in the subcontinent.

Dr Khanamul
Mirza

► **EYE INFECTIONS:** The recent monsoon season has badly affected life in Ural. People are unable to move out of their houses as the streets are inundated by overflowing sewage. There are large patches where the sewage has dried up on the streets, and since it has not been removed from the area, there is a lot of harmful dust floating around. Eye infections and other health issues are spreading in the area. The relevant authorities should look into the matter urgently. **Ashraf Babak**
Gawask

► **HARMFUL MILK:** In a recent raid on dairy vendors and hotels in Dado to check the quality of milk being sold and consumed, the samples collected from various vendors showed harmful chemicals. Consequently, several dairy shops and hotels were penalised and sealed. However, despite penalties and the publication of a list naming these vendors, many have reopened their outlets and resumed their business. It is high time for the authorities concerned to take strict and immediate action, and stop the sale of substandard milk in Dado. **Ashraf Ghaffar Khokhar**
Dado

► **NARROW FOCUS:** As things stand, the entire power of the state is being used to do only two things: to somehow manage a two-thirds majority in parliament for the government, and to control social media at any cost to silence criticism of the government as well as state institutions. As such, everything else has been put on hold. This is too narrow a focus to allow the government to do anything meaningful for the people. **Danar Ashraf**
Karachi

► **OUT OF SERVICE:** The automated teller machines (ATMs) in Ural city have been out of service for weeks now. This forces the local people to commute long distances to draw money. Despite filing many complaints by the residents, nothing seems to have been done for fixing the ATMs. The authorities should pay attention to the matter. **Ghulam Ahmad**
Amran

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

Kurram clashes toll rises to 10 as five more killed

By Our Correspondent

KURRAM: Fierce clashes between rival tribes left five more people dead, raising the death toll from three days of fighting to 10 as 25 others were injured in the Kurram district on Monday.

Local residents said that the rival groups used heavy weapons to target each other's positions.

According to the police and hospital sources, the clashes erupted after Boshohra tribesmen of Upper Kurram were setting up bunkers on the lands of the Ahmadzai tribe. Later the clashes spread to other areas. So far, 10 people have been killed and 25 others injured in the clashes, they added.

They said that the five people were killed in clashes in Balashahai, Soddai, Khair Kalay and other areas, while at least 10 others were injured on Monday.

All roads in the region, including the main Parachinar Road, remained closed to traffic due to the fresh clashes.

Meanwhile, Majlis-i-Wahdat-i-Muslimeen's MNA Hamid Hussain warned that they would launch a protest movement if the authorities failed to restore peace in the area.

He threatened the wife speaking to the people who staged a sit-in outside the Parachinar Press Club to demand immediate steps for the restoration of peace in Kurram district.

Meanwhile, Kurram deputy commissioner Javedullah Mehsud said that the administration had initiated talks between the warring tribes through a jirga to resolve the dispute. He said that the jirga members and tribal elders had also been sent to the troubled areas to prevent further clashes.



A WORKER sorts used plastic bottles at a junkyard on Northern Bypass, Peshawar, for recycling.—AFP

Three die as jeep falls into Kaghan Valley ravine

MANSEHRA: Three people were killed and two sustained critical injuries when a jeep travelling on the Mansehra-Naran-Jalhad Road plunged into a deep ravine in Paras area of Kaghan Valley here on Monday.

"We have shifted the deceased and the injured to a nearby health facility," one of the policemen, who rushed to the spot after the accident, told reporters on the occasion.

He said that the jeep carrying passengers was on its way to Paras from a nearby village when the driver lost control over the vehicle while negotiating a sharp turn.

Local residents rushed to the spot and shifted the bodies and the injured to a nearby health facility after retrieving them from the gorge.

The deceased were identified as Liaqat Shah, Nasseer Shah and Waqar Shah, and the injured — Sadiaqat Shah and Rafiqat Shah — were later referred to Civil Hospital Batakot.

The police said condition of one of the injured was critical.—Correspondent

11 cops dismissed for holding protest

LAKKI MARWAT: Eleven policemen were dismissed from service for attending a protest demonstration against the arrest of a former colleague and for refusing to guard polo teams in Bannu district, an official said on Monday.

He said that the sacked cops had played a leading role in launching an agitation and road blockades against the arrest of their former colleague, Jamshed Khan.

He said that the dismissed policemen included head constables Sher Aslam and Mirzaan, lower head constables Haroonullah and Bakhtiar and constables Zahoorullah, Faridullah, Tausifullah, Faridullah, Haqir, Farmanullah and Anwar Ali Shah.

Bannu district police officer Zaiduddin Ahmed told Dawn that police were a disciplined institution and if the cops had genuine concerns, their concerns were there to address them.

"But so far as performing duties in anti-polio drives or accomplishment of other assignments is concerned, no pressure will be accepted at all," he made clear.

Jamshed was arrested under Maintenance of Public Order and shifted to Haripur jail two days ago. His arrest triggered protest as policemen from Bannu and Lakki Marwat blocked a key road to record their protest against his arrest.—Correspondent

MPAs wonder how militants knew about foreign diplomats' Swat visit

Announce peace protest in Mingora next Friday

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly from Swat district on Monday condemned Sunday's attack on a convoy of foreign diplomats in Malam Jabba area and declared it an embarrassment for the federal government and security establishments.

They announced a peace protest at the Nisbat Chowk of Swat's district head-quarters Mingora next Friday.

During a session chaired by Deputy Speaker of the assembly Sarfraz Bhatti, advisor to the chief minister on housing Dr Anis Ali wondered how militants got wind of the visit of foreign diplomats to Malam Jabba when the local police, media, over 1.4 million residents, and even the provincial government were unaware.

He also complained about the provincial government being not informed about the visit in advance, and insisted that everyone learned about the attack only after the international media reported it.

Dr Ali claimed that former PTI MNA Miral Saeed had pointed out threats to peace in Swat but had to go into hiding

due to threats to his life from the establishment, while his family members were subjected to severe torture.

Livestock minister Fazal Hakim said the issue that Swat suffered a lot from violence between 2004 and 2012 but the situation returned to normal prompting massive investment.

He said that Swat was destroyed by suicide attacks and bomb blasts but later recovered.

"I worry all those concerned that if any attempt is made to destroy our home, we [Swat residents] will offer strong resistance," he warned.

Mr Hakim said that Swat residents would hold a protest demonstration for peace at Nisbat Chowk of Swat's Mingora next Friday.

He said that after May 9 protests against the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan, he decided to not withdraw but had after facing dozens of police personnel surrounded his house.

MPA Khatir Khan alleged that the security establishment didn't tolerate popular leaders.

He demanded "space" for the PTI to freely function to ensure political stability in the country and urged all political stakeholders to sit down to decide about how to run the country.

"We all will have to sit together for the supremacy of the Constitution and the law," he said.

The lawmaker urged the government

to learn from the fall of Bhutto for the sake of the country's protection.

Agriculture minister Najid Khan alleged that the PML-N-led federal government, which came into being through rigged elections, wanted to destroy the PTI and all others seeking their rights.

He said that the entire system had been "hijacked" with politicians supposed to rescue it.

"We're not against any institution but a few of its members for overstepping their mandate," he said, adding that violators of the law would be resisted.

MPA Abdul Ghani said the constitutional amendment proposed by the federal government was meant to limit the Supreme Court's authority, so its passage by parliament would be a tragedy like the fall of Bhutto.

He said those wanting to keep their control over the system were trying hard to create a parallel Supreme Court.

ANP member Arbab Usman said the opposition stood with the treasury for the protection of the Constitution.

He called for effective power in the province and said no compromise on it was acceptable to people.

The opposition lawmaker demanded the formation of a committee with representation of the major national institutions to address the law and order issue.

MPA Ali Haq demanded power in Kurram tribal district and sought the house's support for such efforts.

He wondered who was fueling the fight between two groups in the district.

The member urged all his colleagues to contribute to restoring peace in the region.

He also complained about the declining education system and demanded corrective measures.

MPA of the opposition PML-N Sabia Shafiq insisted that her party's government in Punjab didn't create hurdles to the PTI's Sept 19 public meeting in Lahore in line with the court's orders.

She praised the country's armed forces for protecting the country's borders, carrying out relief and rescue operations during and after natural disasters, and helping with economic revival, and said if anyone had issues with them, the government should stop calling them for help in need.

The lawmaker accused the PTI of coming to and remaining in power for four years with the help of the establishment.

The deputy speaker said the Pakistan Army was a national asset but some of its members were involved in political activities.

She said the army should restrict itself to the non-political constitutional role.

Member of the opposition PPP Khawarshah said the people had elected him and his colleagues to discuss their issues for resolution.

He said he agreed with the convention that all national institutions should work within their constitutional limits.

Swat chamber wants Malakand commissioner, RPO suspended

By Fazal Khaliq

SWAT: The Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday alleged that the explosion targeting a police van here the other day was carried out as part of a well-thought-out plan to demonstrate to the world that terrorists were still active in Swat. They claimed that these actions were paving the way for another military operation in the valley.

The chamber's office leaders made the claim while speaking at a meeting chaired by its president Rahat Ali Khan.

They also demanded the suspension of the Malakand division commissioner and the regional police officer over the incident. They sought an inquiry into the blast, which occurred on the Malam Jabba Road to target a convoy of foreign diplomats, killing a constable and injuring five others.

Chamber's senior vice-president

Haji Bakht Karim, vice-president Dr Zakir Muhammad, former president Yusuf Ali Khan, general secretary Muhammad Iqbal and others were in attendance.

The participants said that the incident occurred due to inadequate security provided to the diplomats from 12 countries.

They said they would hold a press conference to reveal further details about the Jalabad blast. They threatened to launch a protest movement if the commissioner and the RPO were not suspended.

Diplomats from Indonesia, Portugal, Kazakhstan, Bosnia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Turkmenistan, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Iran, Tajikistan, and Russia were part of the delegation.

The Swat chamber leaders explained that a formal letter had been sent to the ministry of foreign affairs regarding the ambassadors' visit, and the ministry had, in turn, notified the Swat adminis-

tration about it.

Despite this, the local authorities failed to provide sufficient security, resulting in the attack on the convoy, they regretted.

The participants offered prayers for the martyred policemen. The chamber also provided an amount of Rs100,000 to the family of the deceased cop.

The business leaders called on the people of Swat to participate in the protest demonstration scheduled for Sept 27 at the Nisbat Chowk, Mingora, in response to the recent terrorist activities.

Meanwhile, city mayor Shahid Ali Khan also condemned the blast, affirming that any attempt to create unrest would be rejected by the people of Swat. "We share the grief of the family of the martyred policeman," he said.

He also called on the citizens of Swat to fully participate in the protest rally on Sept 27 to oppose the current wave of what he said self-inflicted insecurity in the region.

MTI authorities concerned over litigation on BoG membership

PESHAWAR: Authorities at the medical teaching institutions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have voiced concerns about legal disputes regarding membership of the board of governors and urged board members to abandon their positions for smooth operations at teaching hospitals.

"Though board offices are voluntary, they're high in demand, with no incumbent willing to leave," an MTI director told Dawn.

He said the BoG members appointed by the caretaker government were removed after the PTI formed the current government in the province early this year but they continued to hold their positions due to the legal battles for which they're paying lawyers huge fees.

The director said the PTI enforced the Medical Teaching Institutions (Reforms) Act, 2015, during its first government in the province.

According to him, the law, meant to grant financial and administrative autonomy to the teaching hospitals and their affiliated medical and dental colleges, has been implemented in 19 MTIs in phases.

Under it, the BoGs govern each of the MTI-owned institutions, with their members picked by the search and nomination board led by the health minister.

The BoGs have powers to make appointments to top MTI positions, including deans and medical, hospital, nursing and finance directors, and former bureaucrats, doctors, lawyers and other professionals were inducted to run these institutions.

The director insisted that things went smoothly regarding key nominations, with most people close to the ruling PTI grabbing those positions, but last year, the provincial caretaker government replaced BoG members with people of its choice.

However, the removed members went to the court but decided to stay away, so those appointed by the caretaker government continued with their positions.

When the PTI came to power a third time in the province, it replaced BoGs with its own people. However, those chosen the court claimed to stay under its jurisdiction.

Senior administrators at MTIs told Dawn that BoGs were voluntary and could work only if they're appointed by the existing government.

"BoGs are toothless as the government has stopped them from taking major decisions of appointments, promotions, and tender issuance, severely affecting medical teaching institutions," an MTI director told Dawn.

He said the lawyers attached with the ruling had mis-handled the case as the Act declared that BoG members couldn't appeal the chief minister's order for their removal if no name for the same was specified.

An MTI medical director wondered how board members were clinging to their positions when they actually couldn't do anything tangible.

"BoGs can function only if they're the government's support, so the honorable way-out for them is to resign and let MTIs work smoothly," he said.—Adnan Yousofi

PTI govt using official resources on political rallies, claims Muqam

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Asim Muqam has accused the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government of using the official resources on political rallies and failing to curb the growing terror attacks in the province.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Mr Muqam, who is also provincial president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, said the KP people are persecuted of law enforcement agencies had rendered meritless sacrifices in the war against terrorism but the provincial government was least bothered to take effective measures for main-



Asim Muqam addresses a presser in Peshawar on Monday.—AFP

tenance of the law and order situation.

Mr Muqam said the situation in southern districts had worsened to the extent that people could not leave their homes after sunset.

He condemned the explosion targeting a police van near Malam Jabba, Swat, and asked

the government to focus on improving the law-and-order situation in the province. He said terror attacks were growing in merged districts and Malakand division, and accused the Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur of oblivious to the alarming situation.

The PML-N leader claimed that differences among the members of the provincial cabinet were increasing on the distribution of funds.

He also expressed anguish over the rising dengue cases in the province, but said no serious efforts were being made to prevent the mosquito-borne disease from getting out of control.

Mr Muqam said at a time when most of the public sector universities in the province

were running without vice-chancellors, the government was planning to sell the land of the higher seats of learning. The minister said there should be no politics on the issue of peace.

To a question, the federal minister said imposing governor's rule in the province could be considered in future, but no such thing was on the table presently.

He said that the government could get the proposed constitutional amendments sailed through the parliament if it could muster the two-thirds majority.

Mr Muqam said that talks were going on with different countries on the issue of sending the remaining Afghan citizens back to their country.

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Senate committee slams SBP inaction over banks' Rs65bn 'unlawful' profits

Committee seeks details of IMF fund utilisation over the years

By Khaleeq Kiari

ISLAMABAD: The Senate's Standing Committee on Economic Affairs criticised the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) during a meeting on Monday for inaction in penalising commercial banks involved in Rs65 billion profit through unauthorised higher charges on opening of letters of credit (LCs) for imports at the height of a foreign exchange crisis in 2022.

The meeting, presided over by Senator Saifullah Abbasi, sought details about profits earned by banks through foreign exchange on imports and also called upon the Economic Affairs Division to create a special desk for monitoring of foreign-funded projects.

The committee asked the central bank to provide details on how funds received from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the years had been utilised.

The committee took up complaints that commercial banks had made unreal profits by charging heavily on provision of foreign exchange for LCs. It enquired about actions taken by the SBP

regarding return of an additional amount of Rs65bn from various banks to the government in lieu of over-invoicing of LCs during 2022.

Senator Abbasi said Jehangir Durr, the finance minister at the time, had conceded that banks had made "unreasonable" foreign exchange earnings and ordered an investigation.

The SBP officials explained that the central bank had investigated the matter and imposed fines totalling Rs1.4bn on banks involved in "over-invoicing".

The senator wondered what was meant by the term 'over-invoicing', recalling that the word was being repeatedly used in the IMF's saga.

The committee directed the SBP to provide a report on the instance of LCs from April-Sept 2022 in a tabulated format, including the names of the bank, amount, the dollar rate for that day, and action taken by the central bank.

Senator Kamran Murtaza criticised the SBP for imposing a mere Rs1.4bn in penalties on banks which made a huge profit of over Rs65bn, terming the fine severely inadequate.

Senator dissatisfied with SBP's reply

Senator Abbasi expressed dissatisfaction with the SBP's response and the parliament, warning that the matter would not be closed so lightly.

The SBP officials explained that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had also imposed a 10pc foreign exchange income tax last year, but the banks had taken the matter to court and it was currently being heard.

Senator Abbasi highlighted that the SBP officials were not acknowledging the alleged Rs65bn loss, despite their finance minister's assertions. He asked the central bank to provide all details to the committee in two weeks.

Senator Agha emphasised that without the presence of the federal minister and the secretary in the meeting, the issue would remain unresolved.

Senator Kamran Murtaza asked whether the State Bank had identified weaknesses on its part and the individuals involved. The SBP officials replied that the bank had no role in the matter.

Senator Murtaza wanted to know how long the mispractice of over-invoicing had lasted. The SBP officials stated it went on for two to three months before action was taken.

Water projects

On a separate agenda item, the committee was informed that water sector projects worth \$2.84bn were currently ongoing with commitments from multilateral development partners, with total disbursement of \$705.67 million so far.

The projects under bilateral development partners had financial commitments of \$730.94 million and the disbursement stood at \$480.63m.

During the briefing on Tarbela Dam's 10th Extension Hydropower (TSHIP) project, the Wapda representatives said the contract for the project was awarded in 2017. It involved a tunnel to release water for irrigation needs and has been in operation for 70 days.

The tunnel can function when sufficient water is available in the dam.

The panel was told that the provinces had previously objected to closing the tunnel for four years, but later agreed.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$860m, with \$490m funding from the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

The project is set to be completed in three phases by 2026. The committee decided to take up the project for further discussion during its next meeting.

The panel asked the economic affairs division (EAD) to invite the Wapda chief to attend the next meeting. The committee unanimously decided that the EAD should establish a desk, headed by technical person, to have a better monitoring mechanism over projects being executed in collaboration with multilateral development partners, bilateral development partners and UN agencies.

Number of 'junk tax' returns surges to 2.7m in 2023

By Mubarrak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top tax machinery is confronted with a big dilemma of roll-backs, which has reached an alarming level of 68 per cent of total income tax returns in the tax year 2023, Dawn has learned from official sources.

This presents a significant challenge for the government in identifying individuals not paying their taxes, with 2.3 million out of 3.4 million potentially by cancelling their taxable income. This means that only 1.1m taxpayers declared income in their returns in 2023.

The roll returns are submitted for one-time financial transactions or to take advantage of lower tax rates for placement on the Active Taxpayers List (ATL).

Well-placed sources told Dawn that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to send notices to around 1.5m roll-backs on Tuesday, requesting that they submit their actual returns in tax year 2024. These roll-backs are identified based on their financial transactions, indicating that they had taxable income and did not report it in their tax returns.

It was also proposed that non-filers be prohibited from engaging in any financial or investment activities and that there be a travel restriction except for Hajj and Ziarat trips.

There are two other forms of non-declaration of income by individuals, who are on the tax rolls but have yet to report their income.

Another 0.3m are roll-backs under a fixed tax scheme. Individuals with no business transactions on their sales tax returns are considered roll-backs. There is another category known as below threshold (BT) returns filers, who have also claimed that their income is below the threshold in their returns.

The number of returns in this category will reach approximately 50,000 in the tax year 2023. The total number of roll-back filers for tax year 2023 was reported to be 2.7m. The FBR conducted an exercise to identify about 25m eligible taxpayers based on their financial positions as reported in the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics household income tax data.

The wealthiest 1pc Pakistanis paid Rs495bn in taxes. However, the FBR estimates a Rs1.3 trillion gap in tax collection among them.

Former FBR chairman Dr Muhammad Imshad told Dawn that junk returns resulted from tax policy lacunas. He stated the existing policy encourages people to submit tax returns without paying taxes to benefit from reduced tax rates. He said the FBR would have to redefine the terms filer and non-filer and relate tax return filing exclusively to tax payment.

He went on to say that the present system suffers from data integration issues.

According to the sources, mandatory digital invoicing will be introduced to curtail the misuse of roll-backs.

Individual taxpayers' tax gap analysis reveals that 200,000 top taxpayers are paying less tax by approximately Rs1.2tr in 2023. There is another category of 400,000 individuals who pay less tax of Rs370bn, followed by an identical number who also pay less tax by Rs300bn.

Senator Dr Ahsan Iqbal told Dawn that the government should consider data triangulation. "It is simple to calculate some of these returns by triangulating CNIC-based transactions. If CNIC is used for transactions that should all inside the tax net, the abuse of roll-back returns would be handled immediately," he added. He said that to improve tax collection, we do not need new policies but rather the proper implementation of current ones.

Deadline for import of cash dollars extended

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday extended the deadline for exchange companies to import half the dollar value of their currency exports, in cash, until the end of FY25 against the previous validity of June 30.

According to an SBP circular, the decision was taken to ensure an adequate supply of US dollars in the open market. The exchange companies can export foreign currencies, bearing greenbacks, to Dubai and bring back the entire amount in US dollars through banking channels.

Later, the State Bank allowed half of the forex imports in cash to improve liquidity in the open market for general masses who need foreign exchange to travel abroad for Umrah, health, education and other purposes.

Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan General Secretary Zafar Paracha said the deadline extension would stabilise the open market longer and end the liquidity shortages.

Slow inflows

He said the inflows of remittances were relatively slow in September due to several factors, mainly the uncertainty about the executive board's approval of the new \$7 billion IMF loan.

He said that Pakistan will get approval on Sept 25, which will improve sentiment and lead to more stability. He said thousands of overseas Pakistanis did not visit the country due to floods and rains, causing a lower supply of foreign currencies in the open market.

He said the exchange companies sold \$300 million to banks in August compared to the current month's \$150m so far. Overseas Pakistanis sent 44pc more remittances in the first two months of FY25. They remitted \$2.994bn in July and \$2.942bn in August.

Sazgar plans to roll out NEVs next year

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Competition for producing new energy vehicles (NEVs) has intensified as Sagar Engineering Works Ltd (SEWL) plans to introduce the completely knocked down (CKD) model before Dec 31, 2025.

In a stock filing on Monday, SEWL said the board of directors had approved the plan, which includes the expansion of the existing paint shop, construction of new warehousing facilities, installation of a solar system of 4-megawatt and construction, erection, installation of new manufacturing facilities for the local assembly of NEVs subject to the approval of relevant government regulatory authorities.

The board also approved an estimated expansion cost of Rs4.5 billion, including land, which will be financed from the internal cash resources.

SEWL's profit swelled by 697pc to Rs7.94bn in FY24 from Rs955m in FY23. Net sales rose to Rs7.4bn from Rs1.8bn.

The board also recommended a final cash dividend of Rs12 per share in addition to the interim already paid at Rs8 per share.

Besides Sagar, Dewans Farooque Motors Ltd (DFML) last week said it had started production of EVs at its assembly plant after receiving approval from the Engineering Development Board (EDB).

China's electric vehicle leader, BYD, has also announced plans to test the potential of EVs in Pakistan. Master Charge Motors Ltd has also launched its EV vehicles — Deepal L07 sedan and Deepal S07 SUV in Karachi — now available at the company's 18 dealership network across 12 cities.

US DOLLAR BUYING: 2279.37 SELLING: 2280.65	EURO BUYING: 2306.94 SELLING: 2309.80
GBP BUYING: 2827.28 SELLING: 2830.87	SAE DIRHAM BUYING: 3675.45 SELLING: 3676.20
RSIA RYIAL BUYING: 1673.70 SELLING: 1674.39	GOLD TOLA: 24271.900 10 GRAMS: 2423.170



INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo visits a new copper smelting plant in Jawa, on Monday.—AFP

Digital payments to IT vendors abroad shortly

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khwaja has announced that arrangements are underway to facilitate digital outward remittances for IT companies, saying the move will enable IT exporters to seamlessly pay international suppliers and vendors.

Speaking at IIR/PWSHA ICT Awards 2024 here on Monday, she said the awards empowered innovators, startups, and students to shine on their national platforms, such as the Asia-Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards.

She said that in order to facilitate IT companies to compete globally, arrangements were being made to make payments online to vendors abroad without involving the routine banking channels and seeking permission of State Bank of Pakistan for every transaction.

"It will be a complete paradigm shift of the whole society, economy and the government in the country," the minister said, adding that the new scheme to provide smartphones to the youth will empower them in becoming self-employed and get into business and commerce activities.

Ms Khwaja underscored the impor-

ance of recognising and supporting IT companies to sustain growth and place Pakistan firmly on the global technology map. The event, hosted by Pakistan Software Houses Association (PSH SSHA), showcased not only the IT exports winners but students and educational institutions excelling in IT products.

The IIR/PWSHA ICT Awards 2024 honoured 33 Gold Award winners and 47 Merit Award recipients across several categories, including Consumer, Business Services, Inclusion & Community, and Student Innovation. PWSHA had received over 1,138 applications this year for the awards, marking an overwhelming response.

Speaking on the occasion, PWSHA Chairman Muhammad Zohab Khan said that the association was driving the country's digital economy forward by creating thousands of jobs and advocating for more efficient and transparent government.

"Our efforts have directly contributed to the consistent rise in IT exports, which reached \$3.22 billion this year," Mr Khan said.

Ahmad Ali, Chief Innovation & Financial Inclusion Officer at IIR, speaking at the event said that the IIR's partnership with PWSHA has been a catalyst for growth of Pakistan's IT industry.

PIA signs deal to promote Saudi tourism

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Funsadiq Travel & Tourism Services, the official marketing representative of the Saudi Tourism Authority in Pakistan, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost tourism and air travel between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

A spokesman for PIA said on Monday that the partnership aims to promote Saudi Arabia as a top tourism destination for Pakistani travellers through joint marketing initiatives, co-branded travel packages, and sustainable tourism practices. The collaboration also supports the broader objectives of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, PIA CEO Amir Hayat said: "This partnership reflects PIA's commitment to providing enhanced travel experiences for our passengers. By working with Funsadiq and the Saudi Tourism Authority, we aim to make travel between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia more accessible and enjoyable for our customers."

Funsadiq CEO Muhammad Salman Arain said: "We are thrilled to join hands with PIA in promoting Saudi Arabia as a world-class destination. Together, we will ensure that Pakistani tourists enjoy seamless travel experiences while exploring the rich cultural and historical heritage of Saudi Arabia."

Stocks falter on mounting political tensions

By Muhammad Kashif

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVERS			
GAINERS		LOSERS	
Sapphire Foods	129.80	Unilever Foods	228.70
Ismael Industries	124.19	Sagar Eng	45.88
Hawthorn Pak	48.87	Lucky Core Ind	37.25
Global Pak	36.83	Harish Maize	27.50
Afias Honda	13.09	Mari Petroleum	26.99

INDICATORS			
	Monday	Friday	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	81,855.57	82,074.45	↑ 218.88
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points)	25,477.27	25,604.21	↑ 126.94
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	10,708.246	10,723.196	↑ 14.950
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	18.486	20.188	↑ 11.802

KARACHI: The stock market dragged a steady trading streak on Monday amid mounting political tensions as the KSE 100 index faltered below 82,000 after reaching an all-time high in the previous session driven by optimism about imminent approval of the IMF loan.

Ahsan Majeed of Araf Habib Corporation said stocks tumbled on political uncertainty after the apex court supported the PTI's bid for reserved seats in its detailed judgment and concerns about aggressive foreign selling.

The market came under selling pressure on the first day of the week as the benchmark index hit an intraday low of 81,548.65 on profit-taking by institu-

tions and foreign investors. The profit-taking was seen mainly in Bah Power, Mari Petroleum, Pakistan Petroleum, Oil and Gas Development Company and Bank Alfalah, which

collectively contributed to a decline of 634 points in the index. However, the benchmark index settled at 81,855.50 after losing 223.94 points or 0.27pc

ACTIVITY	
Total Intraday	532
Active	436
Gainers	143
Losers	237
PARTICIPANTS	
Foreign	↑ \$0.20m
Companies	↑ \$0.70m
Banks	↓ \$0.20m
Mutual Funds	↓ \$0.70m
Individuals	↓ \$2.70m

day-on-day. The index saw its highest-ever closing at 82,074 points on Friday. The trading volume was down by 17.01pc to 400.30 million shares, while the traded value tumbled by

38.08pc to Rs18,09m day-on-day.

Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included Pace Pak Ltd (20.18m shares), WorldCall Telecom (29.1m shares), OGDCL (23.08m shares), Symphony Group (21.97m shares) and The Hub Power Company (18.52m shares).

The shares registering the most significant increases in their prices in absolute terms were Sapphire Foods (Rs12.80), Ismael Industries (Rs124.19), Hawthorn Pak (Rs45.87), Bahon Pak (Rs67.93) and Afias Honda (Rs13.09).

The companies that suffered major losses in their share prices in absolute terms were Unilever Foods (Rs228.70), Sagar Engineering Works (Rs45.88), Lucky Core Industries (Rs37.25), Harish Maize (Rs27.50) and Mari Petroleum (Rs26.99).

Foreign investors remained aggressive sellers, offloading shares worth \$5.20 million.

Floods sweep away homes in Japan's quake-hit region

WAKAJIMA — Rescuers combed the debris-strewn banks of a river in central Japan on Monday, searching for drowning victims after homes were swept away in flooding and landslides that claimed at least seven lives.

The river on the Noto Peninsula — an area still reeling from a devastating earthquake in January — overflowed at the week-end, becoming a muddy torrent that inundated roads and a remote hamlet.

After the skies finally cleared, police and firefighters from across Japan were joined by residents and the father of a 14-year-old girl who is one of seven missing people. The number of deaths reached seven, with one severely injured and 11 mildly injured as of Monday afternoon, Ishikawa prefecture said on their website.

Rain poured the region from Sunday, with more than 540 millimetres recorded in the city of

Wakajima over 72 hours — the heaviest continuous rain since comparative data became available. The flooding disaster hit the area as it was making a fragile recovery from a magnitude-7.5 quake on New Year's Day, which toppled buildings, triggered tsunami waves and sparked a major fire.

Floodwaters inundated emergency housing built for those who had lost their homes in the Jan 1 earthquake, which killed at least 374 people, according to the Ishikawa regional government. "I have to start over, through another cold winter," 28-year-old former teacher Shojiichi Miyakoshi, whose wife was killed in a 2007 earthquake, said.

On Monday afternoon, 3,600 households still had no power after the rain, according to the Hokuriku Electric Power Company. More than 100 areas in the region were isolated, with roads blocked due to landslides.—AFP



A MAN (center) searches for his missing 14-year-old daughter among debris washed away from flooding along a river following heavy rain in Wakajima, a city in Japan's Ishikawa prefecture, on Monday.—AFP

30 bodies found in boat adrift off Senegal coast

Four die in migrant shipwreck off Greek island

DAKAR (Reuters) — Senegal's navy has recovered at least 30 bodies from a boat discovered adrift around 70 kilometres off the coast of the capital Dakar, the army said on Monday.

Investigations are under way to establish where the vessel came from and to confirm the death toll, the army said in a statement posted on social media.

Senegal's coast line sees frequent tragedies involving attempts to reach Europe by boat. After being alerted to the incident on late Sunday, a navy patrol towed the adrift, long, wooden fishing boat known as a pirogue to the port of Dakar where it arrived around 06:00 GMT, the statement said.

A team of doctors, fire service personnel and sanitation workers awaited the survey's arrival, it added. "Necessary identification and transfer operations are being made extremely delicate by the advanced state of decomposition of the bodies," the army

statement said.

"So far, 30 bodies have been counted," Senegal's coast is one of the main departure points for scores of migrants hoping to reach Europe every year, many heading for the Spanish Canary Islands.

At least four migrants died when their boat sank on Monday off the Greek island of Samos, the Greek coastguard said.

30 migrants were believed to be initially on board the vessel that foundered off the rocky shores of Agios Ioakim in the northwestern part of the Aegean island, according to coastguard officials.

The four migrants found dead were all women, a coastguard official said. Five migrants have been rescued so far, among them a pregnant woman and a minor who were taken to hospital for medical checks, another official said.

The coastguard said another 25 migrants had been located on shore. It was immediately clear whether they had been on board of the vessel that sank. Four vessels and a naval helicopter were involved in the search-and-rescue operation launched by the coastguard after a resident reported seeing migrants on the shore.

Strong winds in the area hin-

dered the operation, the official added. Greek authorities were also searching the island in case some of those believed missing had already reached the shore.

Britain arrivals

The number of migrants arriving in Britain by crossing the Channel in small boats has topped 25,000 since the start of the year, provisional figures showed on Monday.

The figures come as the new Conservative administration — struggling to reduce the cross-Channel arrivals, some 717 migrants crossed the Channel from northern France on Sunday, taking the cumulative number of arrivals so far in 2024 to 25,052, according to the interior ministry. A similar number, 707, also made the crossing on Saturday.

The total represents a four per cent rise on the equivalent figure at this point last year, but a 21pc drop on 2022. Stopping the small boat arrivals on England's southern coast was a key issue in Britain's general election in July. Within days of taking power, Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer scrapped the Conservatives' controversial scheme to deport migrants to Rwanda.—Agencies

Iran walls off part of border with Afghanistan

TEHRAN — Iran's military has built a wall along more than 10 kilometres of its eastern border with Afghanistan, the main entry point for immigrants, local media reported on Monday.

"More than 10 kilometres of walls have been built on the border and another 50 kilometres are ready to be walled off," IRNA news agency said, citing General Nasser Namazi, deputy commander of army ground forces.

Iran shares a more than 900-kilometre border with Afghanistan, and the Islamic republic hosts one of the largest refugee populations in the world. This comprises mostly war-torn Afghans who arrived over the past 40 years after fleeing conflict in their home country. The flow of Afghan immigrants has increased since the Taliban took over in Aug 2021 after US forces withdrew.

Tehran has not given official figures for the number of Afghan immigrants, but a member of parliament Abdoljal

Torabi has estimated their number at "between six and seven million".

The authorities have recently increased pressure on "illegal" refugees, regularly administering expulsions through the eastern border. "By blocking the border, we want to control the country's entries and exits" and "better increase the security of border areas", General Namazi said.

In September, Interior Minister Ehsanollah Ghannadpour said Iran will employ other methods including barbed wire and water-filled ditches in addition to the wall to block the border.

On Sept 13, the spokesman for the parliamentary National Security Committee, Ebrahim Karami, said police plan to "expel more than two million illegal citizens in the near future". According to the official IRNA news agency, Afghans represent "more than 90 per cent of foreign nationals" in Iran, and "most of them enter the country without identity papers".—AFP

'Nobody is safe' amid Russia rights crackdown: UN

GENEVA — The rights situation inside Russia has become "much worse" in the past year amid a tightening "state-sponsored system of fear and punishment", a United Nations expert warned on Monday.

"Nobody is safe," Mariana Katzarova, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights situation in Russia, told reporters in Geneva.

Already a year ago, the independent expert said repression had led to "unprecedented" levels amid the war in Ukraine. But the grabbing of dissent had intensified since then, Katzarova warned as she presented her latest report.

"The country is now run by a state-sponsored system of fear and punishment, including the use of torture with absolute impunity," Katzarova said. "Human rights defenders, journalists and political figures are persecuted and incarcerated in greater numbers, anti-war dissent of any kind is criminalised, police violence is condoned," she said.

In addition, she pointed to the increased use of arbitrary arrests while "prison conditions have worsened with increased solitary confinement and death in custody". Political prisoners, the number of which she put at more than 1,300, suffered the worse conditions as "many are tortured". For the expert, the death in custody of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny last February was "just one example of the brutal treatment of the political opposition".—AFP

6 killed, 7 injured in China bridge crash

BEIJING — Six people died after a car lost control and slammed into buses and other vehicles on a bridge in central China's Hunan province early on Monday morning, police said.

Police said the car was rear-ended, sending it into incoming traffic travelling in the opposite direction. Another seven people were injured, police said.

Footage on Chinese social media on Monday showed a large white van rushing into oncoming traffic and barreling through vehicles on Liansong Bridge in the city of Zhuzhou. The footage showed debris scattered across the road as at least four ambulances were at the scene, blocking traffic.

The cause of the accident is being investigated, according to state media Xinhua News Agency. Deadly traffic accidents occur frequently in China, due to lax safety standards and widespread disorderly driving.

This month in a separate incident, a school bus ploughed into a crowd of people outside a middle school in eastern China, killing 11 parents and students. State broadcaster CCTV said the driver "lost control" of the vehicle as it approached the school in Shandong province's Tai'an city.—AFP

Leaders at climate meeting warn of growing mistrust between nations

NEW YORK — UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres launched a two-day, climate-themed "Summit for the Future" on Sunday as part of the UN General Assembly, where some leaders warned of growing mistrust between nations as climate-fuelled disasters mount.

National leaders addressed the group after adopting a "Pact for the Future" aimed at ensuring and increasing cooperation between nations, with many calling for urgent action to avert climate disaster.

"International challenges are

moving faster than our ability to solve them," Guterres told leaders at the summit. "Crises are intersecting and feeding off each other — for example, as digital technologies spread, climate disinformation, that deepens distrust and fuels polarisation." Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados echoed Guterres' warning and urged a "reset" in how global institutions are governed so they can better respond to crises and serve those most in need.

"The distrust in our institutions of governance, the mistrust between the governors and the gov-

erned, will continue to foster social alienation the world over at the very time that we need to find as many people as possible to shape a new world," Mottley said. The UN climate summit continues on Monday with speeches from China, India, and the United States.

Elsewhere during the week, US President Joe Biden is expected to deliver a speech at an event also attended by actress and climate activist Jane Fonda and World Bank President Ajay Banga, among others. Another event hosted by the Clinton Foundation features speeches by Prince Harry, Duke of

Sussex, and actor and water activist Matt Damon.

The Climate Group, which is coordinating Climate Week, counted some 900 climate-related events planned across the city this week, hosted by multinational corporations, international non-profits, governments and activists.

Big agenda

Climate summits and events like Climate Week, held alongside the UN General Assembly, have taken on a more urgent tone in recent years as rising temperatures fuel increasingly extreme disasters like heatwaves and storms.

Some observers to climate negotiations suggested that the global pact adopted on Sunday morning by the General Assembly did not go further than last year's COP28 summit in Dubai in affirming a commitment to transition away from fossil fuel use.

Countries are showing "collective amnesia" about the need to tackle these polluting fuels, said Aileen Meyer, a senior associate at the climate think tank ICG.

Leaders have also been grappling with a more urgent challenge on the climate agenda: There are



LONDON: A gallery assistant poses wearing an 18th century diamond jewel necklace, weighing approximately 300 carats, at a press preview at Sotheby's. This necklace is estimated to fetch £1.2-£2.1 million at auction in Geneva on Nov 11.—AFP

NEWSMAKERS



NASA astronaut Tracy Dyson holds a Russian traditional Matryoshka wooden doll depicting her after landing at Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, on Monday.—AFP

Russian cosmonauts return to Earth after record ISS stay

ALMATY — Two Russian cosmonauts landed back on Earth on Monday after a record-breaking stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Oleg Kotomin and Nikolai Chud spot 274 days in low-Earth orbit at the ISS, the longest time anybody has ever stayed on the station in a continuous stint. During his stay, Kotomin, 66, also set a new record for the longest cumulative time any person has spent in space — passing the three-year mark with a total of 1,311 days across five trips.

American astronaut Tracy Dyson, who took off for the station in March, also returned to Earth. The Soyuz MS-25 capsule carrying the three landed in the vast steppe of Kazakhstan at 16:29 local time, an official broadcast of the landing showed.

The absolute record for the longest continuous time any human has spent in space belongs to Russia's Valeri Polyakov, who spent 438 days on the Mir space station in 1994-95. Russia has vowed to quit the ISS, which it says has outlived its purpose, and is planning to launch its own independent space station, though those plans have been held by delays.

Russia's Roscosmos state space agency is seeking new partnerships with countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

In a rare form of cooperation between Washington and Moscow amid tensions over Ukraine, US and Russian astronauts jointly stay aboard the ISS and Russian Soyuz craft ferry them to and from the station. The ISS spans the size of a football field and orbits some 250 miles above the Earth.—AFP



BEDFORD (UK): The boat of a submerged car is seen on a dual carriageway after it was flooded following heavy rain, on Monday.—Reuters



VERPEIL: Opponents of a motorway, who call themselves "agorrets", hang from a tree during an operation by military police to clear the site in south-western France, on Monday. Operations to evacuate a property that has become the last stronghold of opponents of the Toulouse-Castels motorway have been going on since Sept 17.—AFP

SAO PAULO (Brazil): Greenpeace activists attend a demonstration on Monday to highlight the threat of wildfires caused by climate crisis.—Reuters

Clashes between Israel and Hezbollah since 2006 war

PARIS: After fresh strikes on Monday following nearly a year of cross-border clashes between Israel and Hezbollah, here are the major eruptions of violence since their 2006 war.

2007-2013: rocket fire and dispute
In early August 2010, a move by Israeli troops to uproot trees in a disputed border area at Adajonah sparked a deadly battle in which two Lebanese soldiers and a journalist were killed along with a senior Israeli officer. On Aug 7, 2013 four Israeli soldiers on patrol were wounded in a blast claimed by Hezbollah 400 metres inside Lebanese territory.

2014-2015: Israeli strikes
On October 7, Israel struck two Hezbollah positions in response to a bomb attack that wounded two of Israeli soldiers in the Shebaa hills on the ceasefire line between the two countries.

On Jan 28, 2015, two Israeli soldiers were killed in a Hezbollah ambush in the Shebaa hills in retaliation for a raid blamed on Israel 30 days earlier on the Syrian-controlled side of the Golan Heights. That killed at least six members of Hezbollah and an Iranian general. In response to the

ambush, Israeli tanks and artillery bombarded several villages in southern Lebanon.

2019: drones and missiles at risk
On Aug 25, 2019 two explosive-laden drones hit southern Beirut suburbs, causing damage according to Hezbollah, which blamed the attack on Israel. The day before, an Israeli air strike in Syria killed two Hezbollah members. On Sept 3, the Israeli army and Hezbollah traded missile fire along the border.

2021: uptick in clashes
In early August 2021, Israel responded to rocket fire from Lebanon with artillery fire and air strikes on southern Lebanon.

2023-2024: Oct 7 aftermath
Hezbollah has traded almost daily cross-border fire with Israel since Hamas's Oct 7, 2023 raid on southern Israel which triggered the conflict in the Gaza Strip. In southern Lebanon, a Reuters video journalist was killed on Oct 13, and six other journalists from AFP, Reuters and Al Jazeera were wounded.

On January 2, 2024 Hamas deputy leader Saleh al-Arini was killed in Beirut's souther-



ISRAELI soldiers gather amid debris and charred vehicles in Haifa, following a reported strike by Hezbollah.—AFP

ern suburbs in a strike blamed on Israel.

On July 27, a rocket strike killed 12 children aged 10-16 in the Druze Arab town of

Majdal Shams in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, Israel blamed the strike on Hezbollah, which denied the claim.
The Israeli army responds by striking Beirut's southern suburbs on July 30, killing Hezbollah's top commander in the south, Foad Shaker. In an Aug 21 strike, the Israeli military killed Khalil Maghlab, described by the Palestinian Fatah movement as "one of the leaders" of its armed wing in Lebanon.

Sept 2024: explosions, deadliest day
On September 17 and 18, hundreds of papers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah for communication exploded in an operation the Lebanese group blamed on Israel. Israel did not comment on the stunning security breach, which killed several and wounded 2,931 more, according to Lebanese authorities.

More to-and-fro exchanges of fire followed, and on Sept 20 an Israeli strike on the group's southern Beirut stronghold killed Ibrahim Agbi, the commander of Hezbollah's elite Kadwan Force.

Days later on Sept 23, Israeli strikes provoked Lebanon's north, killing 274 people — the worst toll by far since the conflict in Gaza erupted.—AFP

'I lived a lie', tearful witness tells French mass rape trial

AVIGNON: A former partner of a co-defendant in a mass rape trial that has sparked horror and protests in France broke down in tears on Monday, telling the court she had "lived a lie" and might herself have been sexually assaulted.

"I don't know if I was raped," Emille O, told a criminal court in the southeastern French city of Avignon. "It's terrible, I will always have doubts." Emille O is a former partner of Hugues M, one among several men accused of participating in the mass rape over a decade of Gisèle Pelicot.

Gisèle's then-husband Dominique Pelicot has admitted to dragging her into unconsciousness and inserting strangers into their home to rape her. The 71-year-old has been on trial since the start of the month along with 50 other men aged between 26 and 74, many of whom have denied the accusations.

Emille O said she herself might have been dragged and sexually assaulted by Hugues M, her former companion. "I was manipulated and lived a lie," said Emille O, who had lived with the man for five years. "I'm still questioning everything," she said without glancing at her former partner.

"I was stunned"

Recounting her story, Emille O broke down in tears as she looked at Gisèle Pelicot, who smiled back at her in a show of support. The 23-year-old said she had first met Hugues M online and the two shared a passion for motorcycling.

She described Hugues M as a respectful and considerate man but added that he was repeatedly unfaithful to her. Emille O said he had needed "adventures" that he only found by riding a motorcycle and engaging in sexual relations. She began seeing her life with him in a different light when she learned in 2023 of the charges against her former partner.



GISELE Pelicot (centre) walks with her son David (second left) and her lawyers as she arrives at a court in Avignon, on Monday.—AFP

Her life was turned upside down when she received a call from the Avignon police. "I was stunned and told that Hugues had raped a woman in October 2019, a few days before my birthday," she said. "I didn't believe them, I was stunned, shocked, I asked to see the photo and then I realised that it wasn't a nightmare," she said.

Hugues M has been prosecuted for "attempted rape", having failed to achieve penetration. She began doubting their entire relationship and thinks she might have suffered the same treatment as Gisèle Pelicot.

She also experienced "stunners" between September 2019 and March 2020, but investigators did not detect any substances that might have affected her at the time.

Gisèle Pelicot has testified that for years she had strange memory lapses and other health problems and thought she might have had Alzheimer's.

In addition to Hugues M, the court began examining evidence against

five more defendants. Among them was Jean K, the youngest of the 50 co-defendants who was 22 at the time of the alleged assaults.

In 2019, he was absent for the birth of his own daughter on one of the occasions he is accused of sexually assaulting Gisèle Pelicot, a profiler told the court. He is suspected of having visited the couple's home in Mazen in rape Gisèle Pelicot on two occasions.

Born in French Guiana, he joined his brother in Avignon when he was 16 before enlisting in the army. Jean K was in a relationship with a woman he met on the internet, but their time together was marked by "numerous" conflicts and "extramarital relations", the court heard.

At the time of their separation, Jean K's partner was pregnant. Gisèle Pelicot has become an over-night feminist icon and received praise for demanding the trial be open to the public to raise awareness about the use of drugs to commit sexual abuse.—AFP

Gen Asim Malik named new ISI chief

Continued from Page 1

Honour, Gen Malik earned his BSc Honours from Bahochistan University, Quetta, in 1999. He later studied at Fort Leavenworth in the United States and the Royal College of Defence Studies in London.

In his research thesis, "Mountain Warfare: The Need for Specialist Training," submitted for his Master's degree from Fort Leavenworth, Gen Malik drew lessons from conflicts in Kashmir, Afghanistan, and World War II. He criticised traditional military approaches, noting: "Senior leaders consider themselves well-equipped for planning and conducting operations in any kind of environment. This is unfortunately not always true."

As a major general, Gen Malik commanded the 4th Infantry Division in Balochistan and an Infantry Brigade in Waziristan, both regions experiencing high levels of insurgent activity. He has also

held instructional roles at the National Defence University and Command and Staff College in Quetta.

Since his promotion to three-star general in October 2023, Gen Malik has served as adjunct general, handling administrative, personnel, and disciplinary matters, including the investigation into the May 9 arson attacks and the high-profile case involving former ISI chief Lt Gen Fiaz Hammed.

Notably, Gen Malik's three-year tenure as adjunct general is unusual, as general officers typically transition between command and staff positions every two years. Gen Malik has so far not commanded a corps.

Reports believe Gen Malik's leadership may bring tactical adjustments in how the ISI operates, particularly in its interactions with the political leadership. "We may not see a drastic shift in the agency's larger strategy, but his appointment

suggests there could be tactical adjustments," said a defence analyst.

The new ISI chief's belief that "bold and audacious officers can create opportunities" may well define his approach as the top intelligence official. This statement, from his thesis, underscores his willingness to take calculated risks and innovate in the face of emerging challenges.

In Gen Naddeen Arqam's tenure, leading the ISI since 2021, has been largely marred by political crises and allegations pertaining to the agency's management of internal affairs. Controversies surrounded Gen Arqam since his appointment three years ago.

"Outgoing ISI chief Gen Arqam's three years in office were mostly consumed by managing the political crisis in the country," said the defence analyst. Gen Arqam received an extension last year upon completing his original tenure.

Venezuela issues arrest warrant for Milei

CARACAS: Venezuela's highest court on Monday approved a warrant for the arrest of Argentina's President Javier Milei, a vocal critic and ideological rival of counterpart Nicolas Maduro.

The warrant was issued

over the "theft" of a Venezuelan plane seized in Buenos Aires for alleged sanctions violations. But it is only symbolic as Milei is unlikely to set foot in this country, where the warrant applies.

The cargo plane owned

by Venezuelan company Entrenar was confiscated after landing in Argentina in June 2022, before Milei took office. An Argentine judge then granted a request for the United States to seize the plane on grounds that laws were

broken when Iran sold it to Venezuela. Both countries are under US sanctions.

The 730-seat plane was composed of Venezuelans and Iranians — one of whom the United States suspected had links to the Al Qaeda force.—AFP

How 'treatable' typhoid turned into a 'superbug'

Continued from Page 1

across the world, the problem of resistant infections is global and borderless.

At the height of his illness, Ukaasha's father took him to a hospital in Peshawar. In the children's ward, each single bed held four or five patients. Ukaasha's typhoid was soon diagnosed, and it was contagious.

"Typhoid was once treatable with a set of pills and rice cruds up with patients in hospital," says Dr Jahanzeb Khan, a clinical pharmacist at the hospital.

With the hospital jam packed, his father took him home for the rest of his treatment.

A superbug strain

Ukaasha's infection wasn't caused by an ordinary strain of typhoid. It was XDR-typhoid, short for extensively drug-resistant typhoid — a strain of "superbug" that emerged in Pakistan in 2015. XDR-typhoid is resistant to almost all of the antibiotics that are supposed to treat the disease, so options are limited and death rates are higher.

Of the roughly nine million people around the world who get sick from typhoid each year, the vast majority are infected by a drug-resistant strain. Pakistan has the

worst rate of typhoid in South Asia, a problem that has only escalated since the emergence of XDR typhoid.

More than 15,000 cases of XDR-typhoid have been reported in Pakistan — and some outbreaks, like the one in Ukaasha's village, go unrecorded.

The risk of typhoid is higher where a community lacks safe water and sanitation. A neglected sewage system, for instance, can contaminate water and compound the problem.

In Pakistan, water is a critical issue. It has one of the lowest rankings in the world for access to clean water near homes, and contaminated water is thought to be the cause of about 80 percent of diseases in the country.

"There is no reason we should have typhoid fever today if we have proper access to safe water and sanitation," says Dr Maria Neira, a director at the World Health Organisation's (WHO) department of environment, climate change and health.

Ukaasha's father was convinced that a contaminated water tank in the boys' school had led to the typhoid outbreak in their village. When TBH contacted the school, it said that nothing had been reported.

"Access to safe water is one of

the public health fundamentals that should not be denied to anyone," Dr Neira said. "Whenever you have a lack of hand hygiene and the [lack of] possibility in the healthcare facilities to wash your hands, you will see an overlap with cases of drug-resistant typhoid."

"Drug-resistant typhoid is unique in the challenge that it represents," she added. "It is preventable and it is very much related to poverty — the vulnerability of people, and lack of access to water and sanitation."

Typhoid can also be prevented with a childhood vaccine. Pakistan has vaccinated more than 30 million children since 2019, but those efforts have been mostly concentrated in the south of the country, where XDR-typhoid first emerged. There are more than 100 million children in Pakistan and the infection has since spread north.

Global problem

Superbugs like XDR typhoid are not confined by borders. Cases have been identified in 16 other countries due to international travel from Pakistan, including in India, China, Qatar, the UK and US. The US Centers for Disease Control has warned all travellers to Pakistan to take precautions against the superbug.

This month, world leaders will meet at the United Nations to address drug-resistant infections. The aim of the meeting is to negotiate a political declaration for member states to curb the impact on health, the environment and development.

"XDR typhoid is the final warning sign. After this we will enter a stage where the superbug won't respond to any drugs at all. That means we will go back to when typhoid was a more deadly disease. And that really worries us," Dr Khan said.

In Pakistan, Ukaasha and Abrar both felt well enough to return to school. Within a few days, they had fevers again.

This report has been published in collaboration with The Bureau of Investigative Journalism.



UKASHA was treated with azithromycin, one of the few antibiotics that works against XDR typhoid.—TBH/ISAC/Sayra Bashe

If you want your child to develop a reading habit from a young age, introducing them to newspapers is a great start.

Newspapers offer engaging content like stories, puzzles, and news about events that can capture their interest. This exposure improves reading skills, expands vocabulary, and encourages curiosity and critical thinking.

Incorporating newspaper reading into their routine helps build a lifelong habit and fosters early understanding of the world and media literacy.

It's Probably Not For You

#StopFakeNews #PromoteAuthenticity



A shared truth, a sacred bond

By Branko Brkic and Maria Hessa

THE year 2024 is testing our modern societies in ways we once hoped would never be repeated.



Authoritarian regimes and aspiring dictators around the world have thrown a gauntlet to freedom across borders, races and religions. Modern conflicts span the entire globe and are fought in an information space that is overwhelming in its reach and power. New technologies, and the platforms they enable, are battlefields on which our future is being decided — often without our permission and against our will.

In this mad world, it is journalism — fact-based, evidence-based credible news media — that has a lifelong duty to defend the self-evident values our civilization was built on. Worldwide, it is the journalists who live their responsibility to honour this sacred bond with our audiences and our communities.

In return, we feel the joy of shared truth — with You. These special moments — when news stories are first, improve understanding among people and guide us through rough times — are often lost in the avalanche of disinformation, destroying trust, the bedrock of our ability to live together.

Even the very meaning of Truth is under assault. Journalism everywhere is struggling to maintain its standing and relevance to our own communities, and for an alarming number of our news organisations, daily existence equals a struggle for mere survival.

There's only one choice ahead of us: The news media will continue to fulfil its sacred duty. The news we report will remain based in fact. We will defend Truth.

These are indeed extraordinary times — swerving to the core to every soul that craves about people, civilisation and democracy that made it all possible.

And yet, these troubled days are also exciting and worth living at the same time.

In moments when systems are crumbling and foundational truths are under pressure, the news media of the world must show that we're made of sterner stuff, the stuff that can withstand disinformation campaigns, sustained attacks, and a flood of falsehoods.

Our business models have crumbled under the pressure of Big Tech. Truth itself is being relativised daily; what once was a common understanding of material reality is today, often supplanted by fact-free interpretation.

In many instances, the very form of the word Truth carries the meaning of Lie.

These are not random, accidental attacks. These are all part of the crusade against our system of values, our basic understanding of what is good and bad. Without our system of values, if we can't distinguish right from wrong, we have no civilisation either.

Since September 28 — every World News Day — we, news media organisations from around the world, join hands to recommit you of our undying commitment to News, Facts, Accountability, Public Service, Humane, Scrutiny, Independence, Ethics & Community.

These words have deep meaning. They matter to us.

There's only one choice ahead of us: We, the news media, will continue to fulfil our sacred duty. The news we report will remain based in fact. We will defend Truth.

And we want to further assure you, dear reader, that it is our every intention to keep it that way. We will not tire, and we will not give up. The battle for Truth is the battle for our common future.

And to our colleagues everywhere in this troubled stretch of history: Do not despair. You are not alone. Our mission ties us all together.

The noise and violence will eventually subside, and the discourse based on truth and decency will return. It may not happen now, but it will happen eventually.

For now, we fight. Every moment of every hour of every day. This 2024 World News Day, let us ensure we never forget why we're here in the first place — and help to keep the joy of shared truth with our readers, our true North.

Branko Brkic is editor-in-chief of the Daily Maverick and creator of the #ChooseTruth campaign. Maria Hessa is a Nobel peace laureate and CEO of Rappler.com.

This article is part of the campaign for World News Day 2024, which is being observed on Sept 28.

Israeli strikes kill over 490 people in Lebanon

• 35 children, 58 women among dead; over 1,600 injured • Military asks civilians to evacuate northern areas immediately • Hezbollah says it launched dozens of missiles at a military base • Warning sirens sound in occupied West Bank and Israel

JERUSALEM: Israel said it had launched airstrikes against hundreds of Hezbollah targets on Monday, killing 492 people and wounding thousands, flooding the safety in Lebanon's deadliest day in decades, according to authorities.

After some of the heaviest cross-border exchanges of fire since the hostilities flared last October, Israel warned people in Lebanon to evacuate areas where it said the armed movement was storing weapons.

After almost a year of war against Hamas in Gaza on its southern border, Israel is shifting its focus to its northern frontier, from where Hezbollah has been firing rockets into Israel in support of its ally Hamas.

Israel's military on Monday struck Hezbollah in Lebanon's south, eastern Bekaa valley and northern region near Syria in its most widespread strikes.

Lebanon's health ministry said 492 people had been killed, including 35 children and 58 women, and 1,645 wounded. One Lebanese official said it was Lebanon's highest daily death toll from violence since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Prime Minister Benjamin



CARs go north from Lebanon's coastal city of Sidon as some Lebanese flee heavy Israeli bombardment, on Monday. — Reuters

Netanyahu said Israel faced "complicated days" as it stepped up attacks in northern Lebanon and called on Israelis to stay inside as the campaign unfolded. "I promised that we would change the security balance, the balance of power in the north — that is exactly what we are doing," he said in a message following a structural assessment at military headquarters in Tel Aviv.

The Israeli military said it had struck about 800 targets allegedly connected to Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and the area of the Bekaa valley. "Among the targets struck were buildings where Hezbollah hid rockets, missiles, launchers, UAVs and additional infrastructure," the military said in a statement.

Reuters could not independently verify Israel's allegation that Hezbollah had stored weapons in homes and villages.

Hezbollah has not commented on the Israeli claims it hid weapons in houses, but it

has said it does not place military infrastructure near civilians.

In response to the strikes, Hezbollah said it had launched dozens of missiles at a military base in northern Israel.

Warning sirens sounded in the northern part of the occupied West Bank on Monday as Hezbollah rocket fire extended further south from the border areas in northern Israel, which have been most heavily attacked in the latest exchange of fire.

Alarms were also sounded in areas across northern Israel, including in the port city of Haifa, the military said.

More attacks in Lebanon were expected. Israeli aircraft are preparing to attack Hezbollah's strategic weapons in Lebanon's Bekaa valley, the Israeli military spokesperson said, calling on civilians to evacuate immediately.

The strikes have raised pressure on Hezbollah, which last week suffered an attack by Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah called unprecedented in the group's history, after thousands of papers and satellite cables used by its members exploded. — Reuters

Gandapur, others booked for toll plaza attack

LABOUR: The city police have registered a case against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and 100 unidentified suspects under anti-terrorism, attempted murder, and other charges for alleged involvement in an attack on the Lahore-Sukkur Toll Plaza.

The KP chief minister, senior PTI leader Shahid Khanak and others have also been accused of attacking police personnel deployed for security duties.

According to the FIR, CM Gandapur led a group of 250-300 armed and agitated men to the Shalimar Lahore toll plaza on the motorway on Saturday, where they vandalised the plaza, broke windows and smashed CCTV cameras.

Haryana SHD Hassan Hameed, who was complainant in the FIR, alleged that Mr Gandapur and his accompanying mob turned violent when police attempted to intervene. Ignoring police warning, they smashed the windows of vehicle-cameras and attempted to set them on fire.

They also attacked police personnel deployed there, forcing them to run for safety, he said. — Araf Chaudhary

Xi, Shehbaz aim to build 'shared future'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday reaffirmed the pledge to promote the CPIC and work towards building a "shared future".

In a letter sent to PM Shehbaz on his birthday, the Chinese president said the two nations had been enjoying a strategic partnership marked by mutual trust and support.

This cooperation has remained "unaffected" despite changing international scenarios.

Mr Xi recalled the PM's "successful" visit to China in June, during which the two sides agreed to cooperate on various matters. He said the strengthening of China-Pakistan ties was of "great significance" to him.

He expressed his desire to work with PM Shehbaz to promote the China-Pakistan strategic cooperation and the construction of CPIC.

President Xi wished the PM good health and success and reaffirmed his commitment to enhance bilateral cooperation to build the "China-Pakistan community of shared destiny in the new era". The PM thanked President Xi for his sentiments and hailed the strength of Pakistan-China ties.

In response to the letter, PM Shehbaz said "Together, we will continue to work assiduously to build a prosperous

Pakistan-China community with a Shared Future."

PM to arrive in New York. PM Shehbaz has also left the UK and will arrive in New York on a five-day visit to attend the session of the UN General Assembly.

The PM, who stayed in London for two days, will address the UN General Assembly on September 27, his office said on Monday.

He is scheduled to meet UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, philanthropist Bill Gates, and presidents of the UN General Assembly, European Commission, and World Bank.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also extended greetings to the government and people of Saudi Arabia on the kingdom's 94th National Day on Monday. In his message, the PM hailed the leadership of Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, according to a PM Office press release.

Calling Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 a model to emulate for the world, the PM said the kingdom was "playing a leading role in the developing world in business, technology, economy and other fields". — APP/Wired In-Far Raza

No quick fix to crisis, Sri Lanka's new president tells nation

• Dissanayaka seeks international support to rebuild economy • PM Gunawardena resigns shortly before oath-taking ceremony

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's first leftist president was sworn to office on Monday and vowed to restore public faith in politics, but said he had no magic solution to the hardships suffered following an unprecedented economic crisis.

Self-styled Marxist Anura Kumara Dissanayaka of the People's Liberation Front (JVP) took his oath at the colonial era Presidential Secretariat in Colombo after pronouncing his recent arrival in Saturday's vote.

The previously fringe politician, whose party led two failed uprisings that left tens of thousands dead, saw a surge of support after the 2022 economic meltdown impoverished millions of ordinary Sri Lankans.

Dissanayaka, the bearded 55-year-old son of a labourer, was sworn in by chief justice Jayantha Jayasinghe in a televised ceremony attended by diplomats, lawmakers, Buddhist and other clergy and the military.

"I am not a magician, I am not a politician, I am a common citizen," he said after taking his oath. "I have strengths and limitations, things I know and things I don't — my responsibility is to be part of a collective effort to end this crisis."

A small crowd of JVP supporters gathered outside the secretariat, waving pictures of Dissanayaka and the national flag.

Dissanayaka succeeds Ravi Wickremesinghe, who took office at the peak of the financial crisis following the government's first foreign debt default and months of punishing food, fuel and medicine shortages.

Wickremesinghe, 75, imposed steep tax hikes and other austerity measures under the terms of an IMF bailout. His policies ended the shortages and returned the economy to growth but left millions struggling to make ends meet.

Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena resigned shortly before the ceremony, clearing the way for Dissanayaka to appoint his own cabinet.

Addressing concerns about the JVP's historical anti-West and anti-India stance, Dissanayaka said he wanted international support to rebuild the economy.

"Regardless of the power divisions in the world, we intend to work with other nations to benefit our country," he said, as Colombo-based diplomats watched from the balcony of the presidential office. — AFP



PRESIDENT Anura Kumara Dissanayaka visits the Buddha's Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, on Monday. — AFP



ایڈوانس انکم ٹیکس

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Last-gasp Boniface gives Leverkusen victory, Stuttgart hammer Dortmund

LEVERKUSEN: Victor Boniface struck a stoppage-time winner to give Bundesliga champions Bayer Leverkusen a thrilling 4-3 win over VfL Wolfsburg on Sunday, while Deniz Undav scored a brace as runners-up VfB Stuttgart put on a spectacular display to shock Borussia Dortmund 5-1.

Second-placed Leverkusen have nine points from four games, level with FC Freiburg and Eintracht Frankfurt, but despite taking home the three points, it was far from a convincing performance from the champions with midfielder Granit Xhaka criticising his side's defending.

"This is a huge make-up call for all of us. We can't continue with this performance," Xhaka told DAZN. "We can't defend so naively. That's not good enough and shouldn't happen at this level. A top team doesn't concede two goals in nine minutes? It was all far too easy."

Eighth-placed Dortmund are level on seven points with Stuttgart, who sit one place higher thanks to a better goal difference, and the two sides are a point behind RB Leipzig, who were held to a 0-0 stalemate at promoted St Pauli.

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso opted to shuffle his pack, making five changes to the team that beat Feyenoord 4-0 in the Champions League, and they suffered a nightmare start as they conceded from a Nordi Mukiele own goal in the fourth minute.

Leverkusen levelled nine minutes later when Florian Grill found space on the edge of the box and swept his shot into the bottom corner, before an unmarked Jonathan Tah scored their second with a cool header at the back post.

The lead was short-lived as the visitors equalised from a short-range Borussia header before Mattias Svareberg went onto a driving run in Leverkusen's half and curled the ball past goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky on the stroke of half-time but Leverkusen levelled again on 48 minutes through Piero Hincapi.

In breaking through for their debut Bundesliga title last season without losing a match Leverkusen dropped just 12 points but they appeared on course for a second setback after losing to RB Leipzig in their last home game.

Boniface had set his team on fire and sliced the ball home in the third minute of injury time to keep Leverkusen three points behind league leaders Bayern Munich.

Days after going down 3-1 at Real Madrid in the Champions League, Stuttgart dominated a disappointing Dortmund at home.

Dortmund had raised last season's surprise run-offing Stuttgart in the summer, signing captain Waldemar Anton and striker Serhou Guirassy who had scored 28 goals in 28 league games.

Champions League finalists in June, Dortmund came into the match yet to lose this season but were 2-0 down in 21 minutes.

Undav cut in on the break just four minutes in and Ermedin Demirovic — Guirassy's replacement up front — headed in a second on the 21-minute mark.

Eren Millit, who like Undav upgraded his loan deal to a permanent move in the summer, topped in after a corner to put Stuttgart in control.

Guirassy pulled a goal back with 15 minutes remaining, but Stuttgart scored twice in the closing stages through El Bilal Sylla and Undav to top off a dominant victory. —Agencies

Budding players dazzle at national tennis

KARACHI: The BC Janko Solar Juniors and Seniors Tennis Championship showcased high-voltage encounters here at the Karachi Club on Monday, featuring remarkable performances from the young guns in the competition.

In an intense battle in the girls' Under-14 singles second round, Khadija Khalil emerged victorious over Razia Abbas in a nail-biting match featuring a tie-break finish.

Razia looked on her way to victory when she comfortably clinched the first set 4-2.

But, the second set proved to be a tense affair as Khadija raced to a 3-2 lead before Razia crossed back to come within a point of victory leading 4-3.

Khadija, though, visibly exhausted broke Razia's serve to force a tie-break. Despite the odds, Khadija played with grit and won the electrifying set 7-4.

The decisive final set, played under the first-to-10 points format, was dominated by Khadija, who triumphantly sealed the match with a 10-5 victory.

"I struggled at first but noticed my opponent's weakness in handling high-angle shots," Khadija told DAWN, while reflecting on her remarkable performance. "When I exploited that in the second set, I started winning points."

Razia, a Turkish-born Pakistani player, was highly emotional post-match. Speaking to DAWN, she expressed her disappointment, saying:

"I made too many errors in my serve during the second set. My opponent was tired, and I had the game in my hands."

In girls' U-18 singles first-round match, returning under-14 champion Romina Malik routed Ayla Malik 6-1, 6-0.

"It is a windy atmosphere here, and the ball was moving too much," Romina told DAWN after the match. "I struggled to serve initially, but as the match went on, I found my rhythm and secured the victory", she said.

She added: "I feel confident about my performance and I will continue to work hard to improve myself as a player. I will aim to represent my country in international tournaments in the future."



LEVERKUSEN: Victor Boniface (obscure) of Bayer Leverkusen scores past VfL Wolfsburg goalkeeper Bernd Leno during their Bundesliga match at BayArena. —Reuters

Gabbia ends Milan's derby pain with late header against Inter

MILAN: Matteo Gabbia headed home the winner in the closing minutes as AC Milan secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory and local bragging rights over Inter Milan in Serie A on Sunday, while AS Roma thumped Udinese 3-0 as fans protested the shock sacking of Daniele De Rossi.

Defender Gabbia evaded his marker and found the top corner with a perfectly timed header from a free kick into the box in the 89th minute.

The victory lifted some of the pressure on Milan coach Paulo Fonseca following a disappointing start to the campaign, as Milan earned their first win in the Derby della Madonnina since 2022 following six consecutive defeats to Inter.

Milan had won just once in five games in all competitions to spark talk of a crisis, but Sunday's victory moved them to eight points in Serie A from five games, level with Inter.

"I am so happy for us, for the fans. It was a pretty difficult moment where things weren't going well, but I am sure this game will give us a real energy boost," Gabbia told DAZN.

"It is our duty to give our all. There are negative moments in life and in careers, so we must make sure that we don't have regrets at the final whistle and that's what happened today. We are always by the side of the coach, despite what is said on-site."

Christian Pulisic opened the scoring for Milan in the 10th minute with a solo effort. The

American forward skillfully navigated through Inter's defence, slipped into the box, and fired a precise shot past goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

Inter levelled in the 27th minute when captain Lautaro Martinez set up Federico Dimarco, who found space on the edge of the box and unleashed a powerful strike into the back of the net.

Both Inter's Sommer and Milan's Mike Maignan made several crucial saves throughout the match until Gabbia snatched the winner. "We had the wrong approach and weren't enough of a team, which is rare for us," said Inter coach Simone Inzaghi.

"We didn't start either half with the right attitude." Goals from Artem Borzok, Paolo Dybala and Tommaso Baldoni gave Roma their first win of the season against Udinese who had been surprise leaders before this week and fell down to third, a point behind Torino.

But the match was a sideshow due to the vocal protests at the Roma's dismissal on Wednesday which will continue unless new coach Juan Luis Garcia can ensure continuity with the sort of display which moved Roma up to 10th on six points.

"The boys were very sad about Daniele being fired, they were very honest about it and I appreciated that," said Juve after the match.

Supporters booed above at the team from the stands while the entire Curva Sud section of the Olimpico, where the hardcore supporters stand, was on edge for the first half on home of the match.

By the time those fans started pouring into the stadium Roma were ahead thanks to Dybala's goal, but that didn't stop loud chants of De Rossi's name ringing around the stadium.

Dybala extended the advantage four minutes into the second half, calmly converting a penalty following a foul by Jaka Bijol.

In the 70th minute Baldoni scored Roma's third goal to end their four-match winless streak and alleviate tensions within the club after a difficult start to the season.

The anger at De Rossi being fired has been such that CEO Lisa Bonolis, who resigned on Saturday morning, had been placed under police protection after online threats made against her and family.

Earlier, Albert Gudmundsson netted a brace of penalties on his Fiorentina debut to fire his new team to their first win of the campaign, 2-1 against Lazio. —Agencies

Marseille stun Lyon with 95th-minute winner

LYON: Olympique de Marseille came from behind to beat Olympique Lyonnais 3-2 away from home after being reduced to 10 men early in the match on Sunday courtesy of a 95th-minute winner by Jonathan Rowe.

The result sent Roberto De Zerbi's resurgent side second in Ligue 1, level on 13 points with Paris Saint-Germain but with an inferior goal difference.

De Zerbi's defender Dejan Calovic opened the scoring for Lyon in a dramatic 95th-minute derby.

But Lirio levelled for Marseille, before Ulisses Garcia sent three ahead with order 15min remaining.

Rogan Cheliki looked to have claimed a point for Lyon in the third minute of added time only for Rowe to pile-drive a winner for Marseille from the edge of the box 2min later.

The match lived up to its feisty billing as one of France's most intense rivalries with Marseille's Leonardo Balerdi picking up a yellow card inside 30 seconds for a heavy challenge on Corentin Tolisso.

The Marseille captain then got his marching orders inside five minutes for a second bookable offence when he hauled down Alexandre Lacazette.

A man to the good, Lyon dominated but failed to translate this into the scoreboard.

First-half controversy then continued when deep in added time, Lyon were awarded a penalty for handball after a lengthy VAR review.

Lacazette's effort from 12 yards was repelled by Corentin Tolisso and the Lyon captain, under intense pressure from the following defence, could only blame the rebound well over the crossbar.

Calovic powered in a 53-min header following fine work by Clinton Mata to win the ball and put in a pinpoint cross on the right flank.

But Marseille, despite having subdued all attackers Armin Hartit and Elze Wahi, hit back through substitute defender Lirio in the 69th minute when he calmly lifted a one-on-one finish over Lucas Perri.

The shock turnaround continued in the 82nd minute when another replacement defender in Garcia strode onto Lirio's cross and bounced a first-time finish over the goalkeeper and into the far corner.

The drama was not finished, however, as Cheliki bundled in a cross at the near post to seemingly ensure Pierre Sage's side would earn a draw.

Rowe then stole the show for Marseille as he drove forward from

the left wing, beat two defenders and threaded the ball across Perri and inside the far post.

Marseille saw off La Havre 3-1 to produce their first comeback record.

The Principality side backed up their impressive midweek victory in the Champions League against Barcelona by winning their fourth game in five league outings this term.

Skyros in quick succession midway through the second half by Edoardo Ben Seghir and Valentin Bologan ensured Monaco claimed all three points, after La Havre's Daler Karybayev had cancelled out Jordan Toral's early opener.

Dutch right-back Insa gave the home side the lead inside 10 minutes, before Karybayev got the equaliser with an outside-of-the-foot finish that crept into the far corner.

King star Ben Seghir restored Monaco's lead with a moment of individual inspiration in the 66th minute.

Receiving the ball 25 yards from goal, he advanced on the packed defence and slotted the ball beyond the goalkeeper with his right foot from 25 yards.

Bologan wrapped up the points four minutes later when he swept home from George Boudiakba's pass. —AFP

Pakistan pay penalty as Bhutan snatch last-gasp draw

THIMPU (Reuters): Bhutan scored twice in stoppage time, including a late penalty, to send their fans into raptures after snatching a 3-3 draw against Pakistan in a riveting SAFF Under-17 Championship clash at the Changlimithang Stadium on Monday.

Pakistan had come from behind to go 3-1 up before Bhutan launched a spirited fightback to ensure a share of the points in the Group 'B' clash.

Thirty-year-old Bhutan striker Khushi Khan levelled matters with a long-range screamer in the 38th after the hosts failed to clear a throw-in.

Two minutes into the second half, Pakistan took the lead when Subhan Karim fired from an acute angle after lurching onto a low cross from the left.

Striker Khan finished off a counter-attack with a shot from the edge of the box in the 58th to put Pakistan well and truly on top before the late meltdown.

In the 94th minute a cross from the left by Tashi Phuntsok sailed into the far corner to give Bhutan a lifeline and two minutes later they were awarded a penalty for handball with Sonam Dorji making no mistake from the spot.

The draw leaves both sides level on four points after two matches at the top of the group with Bhutan ahead on goal difference. Nepal are on three points after a 4-0 thrashing of powerless Sri Lanka.

Pakistan, who edged Nepal 3-0 in their opener, face Sri Lanka in their final group game on Wednesday, when Bhutan play Nepal. The top two finishers in the group advance into the semi-finals. —Agencies



BERLIN: Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas (second L), Carlos Alcaraz (third L) of Spain, Germany's Alexander Zverev (fourth R) and other players of Team Europe celebrate with the Ueber Cup trophy after their 6-2, 7-5 win over Team World in the final session of the event. —AFP

Asjad moves into 6-red snooker quarters

ULAANBAATAR: Pakistan's campaign in the IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship saw mixed fortunes as Asjad Iqbal reached the quarter-finals, while Awaisulhaq Majeed bowed out in the last-16 stage on Monday.

National champion Asjad showcased his skills with a hard-fought 5-3 victory over Mongolia's Likhiginovon Tumarchaak.

The match began with Asjad, 31, dominating the opening frame 7-0, but Tumarchaak fought back, winning the next two frames 5-4 and 5-2.

Asjad regained momentum, taking the fourth frame 5-18 and the fifth 34-21. Asjad gained a two-frame advantage as he won the sixth frame convincingly 44-0. Despite Tumarchaak's brief resurgence in the seventh frame (35-5), Asjad wrapped up the match with a 36-4 victory in the eighth frame.

Meanwhile, Awaisulhaq, winner of the 6-red championship in Riyadh in July, struggled against Iran's Sijarosh Mousavi, losing 5-1.

Mousavi's breaks of 59 and 65 proved decisive, as the 31-year-old Awaisulhaq failed to find his rhythm. The Iranian took the opening frame 59-0, with a break of 58, and extended his lead with wins in the next two frames 31-15, 45-20.

Awaisulhaq's sole victory came in the fourth frame 39-14, but Mousavi sealed the match with convincing wins in the next two frames 65-0, 42-13. —Agencies

Evenepoel and Brown claim golden doubles

ZURICH: Belgium's Remco Evenepoel edged out Italian Filippo Ganna to claim his world road time trial title and conclude a golden season after Australia's Grace Brown also backed up her Olympic title to win the women's event on Sunday.

Evenepoel roared around the 46km course on his stunning golden bike, winning by six seconds. Former world champion Ganna clawed back some time but Evenepoel had enough in reserve and raised his arms in triumph as he added yet another victory to his resume.

Italy's Edoardo Affini was third, the only other rider within a minute of Evenepoel.

Brown is set to retire after next week's road race but made sure she will leave the sport as a world champion with a stunning performance to claim a rare double.

The 32-year-old became the first rider in history in men and women's racing to take the Olympic and world titles in the same year, a feat matched by the mighty Evenepoel shortly afterwards.

Brown was behind Dutch rider Demi Voltering at the second check-point on the 29.9km route but staged a remarkable turnaround to claim the title by 17 seconds. —Reuters

Barca rout Villarreal but Ter Stegen hurt

MADRID: Robert Lewandowski and Raphinha struck twice each as leaders Barcelona maintained their perfect start in La Liga by ramping up a 5-1 win at Villarreal on Sunday but were left fearing a season-ending knee injury to goalkeeper Marc Andreu Stegen.

Athletic Madrid, fourth, were held to a 1-1 draw at city rivals Rayo Vallecano as Cesar Gallego netted his second goal for the Basques.

Barcelona's sixth league triumph in six games as they bounced back

from their 2-1 loss against Manisa in the Champions League on Thursday was mirrored by Ter Stegen being taken off on a stretcher after falling awkwardly having collected a cross.

The club said on Monday the 32-year-old Germany international will undergo surgery after suffering a complete rupture of the patella tendon in his right knee, with Ter Stegen potentially sidelined for the rest of the season.

Lewandowski netted Barca's first two goals and later missed a penalty in a thoroughly entertaining battle

in Spain's east coast at Villarreal's Estadio de la Ceramica.

Ayoze Perez pulled his team back into the game shortly before half-time and the previously unbeaten hosts had two goals disallowed, with Pablo Torre and Raphinha's strikes cementing Barcelona's victory.

After second-placed Real Madrid thrashed Espanyol 4-1 on Saturday the Catalans were able to restore a four-point lead on the champions.

"It's very important for us that we played a game away from home, we scored five goals and in the end we

have three points," said Lewandowski. "In the end it doesn't matter how, as long as we win that's perfect."

Lewandowski opened the scoring after 20 minutes with a simple first-time finish and added a second in the 35th with an overhead kick from close range after the ball bounced off goalkeeper Diego Conde.

Villarreal were far from giving up and Perez pulled a goal back in the 38th minute before brilliant Ter Stegen denied Nicolas Pepe from levelling just before the break but

the Barca captain was soon struck as he fell badly after catching a corner and was replaced by Inaki Pena.

Barca, however, put again proved unstoppable and Torre added a third with a shot from outside the box in the 58th minute before Raphinha netted his fourth and 10th goals of the campaign to seal the win.

In a Madrid derby clash Diego Simeone's unbeaten Atletico could not find a way past Rayo.

Rayo's Di Palazon slammed home from close range after 35 minutes and the goal was eventually given

Team unity among issues discussed at Connection Camp

By Mohammad Yaqoob

LAHORE: Improving unity within the national team and strengthening its communication with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) were issues that came under discussion during the Connection Camp, which was held at a local hotel here on Monday.

The event — organised by the PCB in order to “devise a clear and sustainable vision for the future of Pakistan cricket” — was attended by a few national team players, its respective Test and white-ball head coaches Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten, and the board’s higher officials.

Pakistan’s recent downfall in the sport saw reports of growing rifts within the team’s dressing room and the PCB’s chief operating officer Salman Naseer admitted that it was one of the agenda points during the Connection Camp.

“It was an open and transparent session, during which we got to talk to each other with utmost honesty and discussed unity, collaboration and how we can improve our communication,” Salman said during a press conference held after the event.

“Today’s session was held in this regard as well as that we can openly, sincerely and carefully accept, identify and ask for commitment from each other and make demands so that we can improve our performance and also on how we need to work together as a team since it is a team sport.”

Salman acknowledged that it was not only the players who were struggling to perform on the field, and that the board’s management hasn’t been able to control things well too.

The Connection Camp, he said, therefore, was the best way to make the most of the stakeholders’ availability to carry out discussions and find a way forward.

“We have a hectic schedule, and it was the right moment to sit together and discuss matters,” said Salman. “There were three to four important things on which we did focus on during the camp. I think it was the need of the hour as we all know that the performance of other players or management can be improved.”

“Another idea [behind the Connection Camp] was that we sit together to identify the issues, things which can be improved and also our vision and what steps are needed to achieve it.”

“Yes, we need a roadmap on how we can recognise our excellence and what steps are necessary to achieve success.”

Over the past one year, Pakistan have registered defeats against the likes of Afghanistan, Ireland, the United States and Bangladesh across all three formats. The dip in the side’s performance graph left the PCB with no place to hide, with the only option for the body to accept an overhaul was required.

“It was a fantastic time to be part of this session and I think the intention was to align our premises for the team and I think we all agreed that we want the Pakistan team to be as successful as it can be,” said Kirsten. “And today we went through something which can help us. I think we have achieved today what fair amount today in terms of what we can do.”

“I think some commitments from the team and the players in terms of level of professionalism are one thing we spoke about and it is really important.”

“And I think the commitment around it is to make sure that to present themselves (players) as best they can for the nation and to bring...”

...pride back into Pakistan cricket.”

Kirsten said he had been watching the ongoing Champions One-day Cup and believed good cricket was on display in the tournament and that the players participating in it looked promising in terms of the depth of talent in Pakistan.

To a question if the Pakistan players lacked in confidence or there were any fitness problems being faced by them, Test coach Gillespie did not give a clear answer.

“The pride for the players is that they are representing Pakistan and in the session they looked desperate to do well for the country,” said the former Australian pacer.

Among the Pakistan players attending the Connection Camp were white-ball captain Babar Azam, red-ball skipper Shan Masood, Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Rizwan, Saad Agha, Salman Ali Agha, Naseer Shahzad, Shadab Khan and Shauheen Shah Afridi.

The team’s assistant coach Athar Mahmood and high-performance specialist David Reid also took part in the event, which was presided over by PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi.

Knight reprimanded

LONDON: England women’s cricket captain Heather Knight has been reprimanded and given a suspended £200 (\$1,300) fine after a historical photograph of her in a “black face” emerged on social media.

Knight, set to lead England at next month’s Women’s T20 World Cup, said she was “truly sorry” for conduct that was deemed “racist and discriminatory” by Cricket Discipline Commission adjudicator Tim O’Gorman.

However, O’Gorman accepted there was no racist or discriminatory intent by Knight, who was 28 when the image was taken at a fancy dress party in 2012.

Knight, whose fine has been suspended for two years, said in a statement: “I’m truly sorry for the mistake I made in 2012. It was wrong and I have long regretted it.”

“Back then, I simply was not as educated as to the implications and consequences of my actions as I have become since. There was no ill-intent or racism.”

“Whilst I can’t change the past, I am passionate and committed to using my platform to promote inclusivity across the game, ensuring under-represented groups are afforded the same opportunities and fulfilment within the game as I have.”

The picture of Knight in blackface was posted to the Facebook account of another person.—AFP



NEW ZEALAND’S Ajaib Patel plays a shot during the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Monday.—AFP

Five-star Jayasuriya leads SL to victory in first New Zealand Test

GALLE: Prashanth Jayasuriya took five wickets to steer Sri Lanka to a 63-run victory Monday against New Zealand on the final morning of the first Test in Galle.

Set a target of 275 to win, the Black Caps were bowled out for 211 less than 15 minutes after play resumed, with Ruchira Ravindra top-scoring on 92.

“When you come to Galle, all that you need to do is to stick to the basics,” said man-of-the-match Jayasuriya. “The wicket provides plenty of assistance and you just need to bowl with discipline. Your consistency is the key and there was lot of help from the rest of the spinners as well.” Ravindra had finished on Sunday waging a lone battle on a sharply turning pitch in Galle,

where the tourists had lost all four of their previous Test encounters.

His knock was the highest score by a New Zealander at the ground, eclipsing Ross Taylor’s 89 in 2010.

But the slender path to victory he had opened was snuffed out when Jayasuriya trapped him low while trying to defend on the back foot.

The decision was upheld despite Ravindra’s review, and he departed having added just one run to his overnight total.

Jayasuriya, who took nine wickets across the match and finished the second innings five for 68, brought the match to an end when he bowled rookie pacer William O’Rourke for a duck.

Scoreboard table showing New Zealand vs Sri Lanka Test match statistics, including runs, wickets, and player names.

“Disappointed we didn’t get enough lead in the first innings,” New Zealand skipper Tim Southee said. “We had the game in the hand, but we threw it away.”

SENSATIONAL O’ROURKE LAUGHED
O’Rourke, 23, had impressed for New Zealand with eight

wickets, including his second five-wicket haul from just three Test appearances in the first innings.

“William O’Rourke has been brilliant for us,” Southee said. “For him to come here and do what he did was absolutely amazing. He’s never played in conditions like these... when there is not much for pace bow-

ing. His effort was sensational.” New Zealand had come for cheer after fighting on for a fifth day during their first Test in six months on a pitch where they have always struggled.

Their scheduled warm-up against Afghanistan earlier in September was washed out without a ball being bowled.

Left-arm spinner Ajaib Patel claimed 6-50 in Sri Lanka’s second innings, the best figures by a New Zealand bowler in Sri Lanka since Daniel Vettori’s 6-64 in Colombo in 1998.

Tom Latham, Kane Williamson, and Daryl Mitchell all contributed with half-centuries in the first innings. The second and final match of the series will be held at the same venue on Thursday.—AFP

Popovic replaces Arnold as coach of Australia

SYDNEY: Tony Popovic was named as the new coach of Australia on Monday, three days after the shock resignation of Graham Arnold in the wake of the team’s poor start to the third round of Asian qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

A member of Australia’s “golden generation”, the former centre half won 58 caps for his country during a playing career that included long stints in club football in England with Crystal Palace and Japan with Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

Since retirement, the 51-year-old has mainly coached in Australia with his crowning achievement being the Asian Champions League title he won with Western Sydney Wanderers in 2014, only the second year of the club’s existence.

“I am extremely honoured to be given this opportunity,” Popovic, who has signed a deal through the 2026 World Cup finals, said in a news release.

“To be entrusted with guiding our national team is a privilege I do not

take lightly. I believe that we have the talent and determination to make our nation proud.”

Popovic was in charge at Melbourne Victory until the end of the last A-League season, when he opted against renewing his contract after leading the four-times champions to a loss in the Grand Final.

Football Australia were keen to make a permanent appointment before the next World Cup qualifier against China on Dec 10, a match the Socceroos must win to get their campaign for a sixth straight appearance at the World Cup finals back on track.

A rare home loss against Bahrain plus a draw with Indonesia in Jakarta prompted Arnold to stand down last Friday with Australia five points adrift of group leaders Japan in fifth place.

The top two in the group will qualify automatically for the 2026 finals in the United States, Mexico and Canada with the third and fourth place finishers advancing to another



SYDNEY: Tony Popovic, the newly-appointed head coach for Australia’s football team, reacts as Football Australia chairman Arne Slot (L) looks on before the start of a press conference on Monday.—AFP

round of preliminaries.

The last two Australian coaches of the Socceroos, Ange Postecoglou and Arnold, have walked away from the job and expectations might be higher for Popovic after the run to the round of 16 at the Qatar World Cup two years ago.

“Popovic’s appointment represents an exciting new era for the Socceroos at a critical stage,” said FA chairman Arne Slot.

“His leadership, beginning immediately, will be vital as we head into the upcoming qualifiers.”—Reuters

Joshua says boxing career ‘far from over’

LONDON: Anthony Joshua insists his career is “far from over” following his devastating knockout defeat to Daniel Dubois at Wembley, which raised doubts about his future in boxing.

Joshua was aiming to become a three-time world champion by claiming the IBF world heavyweight title on Saturday but was knocked out in the fifth round in front of a record-breaking official attendance of more than 98,000.

The 34-year-old was floored four times by Dubois and many people called for Joshua to retire afterwards.

But the British former Olympic champion released a video on X on Monday saying his journey in boxing is not over yet, with a potential rematch with Dubois as well as another all-British clash with Tyson Fury options in the future.

Joshua said he was determined to take the positives from the situation despite his resulting — the fourth defeat of a 32-fight career.

“What a rollercoaster journey, but do you know what the problem is? It is far from over yet,” he said.

“We’ve done it once, we’ve done it twice, doing it a third time hasn’t been easy but I believe it is something I can achieve. It’s about making the right steps forward, working hard, improving and it has to come from here [heart] more than anything.”

“It’s only been a day but I know when I sit back I know I’ve got a lot of this [heart], thanks for your support, thanks for being on this rollercoaster journey with me.

“Keep your seats for tonight because deep down in here I know we have a lot more to bring to this game.”—AFP

Lions make playoffs despite loss against Dolphins

FAISALABAD: Lions booked a spot in the Champions Cup playoffs despite their 16-run loss to Dolphins in the last league-round match of the tournament here at the Iqbal Stadium on Sunday.

After Dolphins, who won the toss, had put up 126 runs on the board, Lions needed to score at least 260 to ensure qualification to the next round. They did so with three overs to spare, however missing the winning target narrowly.

Led by Pakistan pace spearhead Shauheen Shah Afridi, Lions will take on Stallions in Wednesday’s elimination, a day before which table-toppers Markhor and Panthers will feature in the qualifier.

Dolphins opening batsmen Muhammad Iftikhar (87 off 41), four fours and two sixes and Muhammad Akhlaq (52 off 50, three fours and four sixes) laid the platform for a big score as they put on 63-ball 77-run second-wicket stand before the former departed in the 16th over.

After Dolphins were reduced to 126-3 in 19.1 overs, Umar Amin, the top scorer for Dolphins, hit 75 off 81 balls with the help of nine fours to keep the innings intact.

He also put on a 53-run (fourth-wicket) and 62-run (sixth-wicket) stand with Saad Shaukat (23 off 23) and Qasim Akram (31 off 26, four fours), respectively.

Fabehom Ashraf’s 30 off 20 (sixth-

ing three sixes) helped Dolphins cross the 300-run mark as they finished 326 in 48.3 overs, Asim Jamal (3-60), Ahmed Daniyal (2-58) and Shauheen Shah Afridi (2-58) were the leading bowlers for Lions as Khushdil Shah and Shauheen Srarj picked up one wicket each.

Half-centuries from Rohail Nazir (62 off 70, six fours and a six) and Khushdil (60 off 40) were crucial in keeping the Lions in front of the target. After a 78-run opening partnership between Rohail and Abdullah Shafigie (27 off 42, three fours), Omar Bin Yousof and Shauheen Srarj contributed 26 and 25 runs, respectively before Lions were reduced to 172-4 in 29 overs.

Muhammad Taha (40 off 49, four fours) and unheralded Irfan Khan departed in a space of 19 balls as Lions were reduced to 213-6 in 38 overs. Khushdil, batting at number seven, hit four fours and five sixes and was aided by Shauheen Shah Afridi who smoked five sixes in his subsequent 33 off 28 balls but in vain.

Saad (2-24) and Muhammad Abbas Afridi (2-78) were the leading bowlers for Dolphins.

NEWS IN BRIEF
DOLPHINS 326 in 48.3 overs (Irfan Khan 40, Muhammad Akhlaq 52, Muhammad Iftikhar 87, Qasim Akram 31, Shauheen Shah Afridi 58, Asim Jamal 3-60, Ahmed Daniyal 2-58, Abdullah Shafigie 27, Omar Bin Yousof 26, Shauheen Srarj 25, Markhor 62, Saad Shaukat 23, Fabehom Ashraf 30, Umar Amin 75).—AFP



DOLPHINS batter Umar Amin plays a stroke through the on-side as Lions wicket-keeper Rohail Nazir looks on during their Champions One-day Cup match at the Iqbal Stadium.—courtesy PCB



Five-star Jayasuriya leads SL to victory in first New Zealand Test

Page 20 SPORT

KARACHI

Times: 09:30 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow): 06:26am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum: 27°C
Maximum: 39°C
Humidity: 74%
Outlook: Partly Cloudy

METRO South

Dozens of govt cars gutted in Clifton Nazarat fire

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: As many as 50 cars were gutted when a large fire erupted on a plot being used to park government-owned vehicles in the Clifton area on Monday morning, police and rescue officials said.

The police said that the 4,000-square-yard plot was being used as Nazarat, also called the central pool for unclaimed and retired vehicles, and it belonged to the Sindh services and general administration department.

While the Rescue-1122 suspected it was an arson act, the police ruled out the possibility of a sabotage.

Rescue-1122 official Hameed Khan told Dawn that their control command and control received information from a policeman about a fire in Clifton, Block I near Qurtaba Masjid at around 5:37am.

The official said that three fire tenders controlled the blaze at around 6am.

He estimated that around 50 cars were destroyed in the blaze. There were around 150 retired vehicles belonging to the different departments of the Sindh government, he said.

Given the extent of the damage and sudden spread of the fire that engulfed so many vehicles, Mr Khan suspected an arson act behind it. However, he added that the exact cause of the fire was still being looked into.

Meanwhile, Boat Basin 8100 Nazam Tareekh ruled out the possibility of any sabotage behind the incident and suspected that some drug addicts might have caused the fire while consuming the contraband at the plot.

At the time of the incident, the watchman of the plot was not present.

The area 8100 said that the police had estimated that over 20 cars had been destroyed.

The police were further investigating the case, he added.



A MAN looks at charred vehicles in Clifton, on Monday.—Fahim Siddiq / White Star

Court acquits killer of wife, three daughters after in-laws pardon him

Accused Fawad had slaughtered his family and attempted to take his own life in November 2022 in their Malir home

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A sessions court has acquitted a man from charges pertaining to the murder of his wife and three underage daughters after legal heirs of the victims pardoned him in the name of Allah.

Accused Muhammad Fawad had slaughtered his wife Huma, 40, and his three daughters and tried to take his own life in his home in Malir's Shams Society within the remit of the Al-Falah police station in

November 2022.

Total six legal heirs — deceased's mother, his mother-in-law, sister-in-law, two brothers-in-law and his own brother — moved applications before Additional District and Sessions Judge (East) Aziz Ur Rehman Junejo under Section 345 (2) of the criminal procedure code (CrPC) seeking permission to compound the offence.

In their statement before the court, they stated that they had "pardon[ed] the accused in the name of Almighty Allah without any compulsion" and coercion and have "no objection if the accused is acquitted".

They also waived their right to Diyat as well as Dam against the accused.

"They [legal heirs] attested application under Section 345 (2) of the CrPC along with their supporting affidavits and application under Section 345 (5) of the CrPC along with supporting affidavits and forms for acceptance of compromise for

waiver of Diyat and confirmed their signature thereon," the judge stated in the verdict.

After hearing the legal heirs of the deceased persons and completing legal formalities, the court acquitted Fawad, who appeared on bail, from the murder charges.

"I am of view that the legal heirs of deceased persons and accused, who is the husband/father of the deceased persons, have patched up their differences outside the court and buried their hatchets. The compromise has been effected without duress and coercion. Therefore, there is no impediment in allowing compromise application," the court ruled.

The court also noted that the state prosecutor Farooq Ahmed Qureshi also submitted "no objection" to the compromise application.

Accused Fawad had murdered his wife

Continued on Page 14

SC Practice and Procedure Ordinance challenged in SHC

By Ishaq Tanzeel

KARACHI: Two identical petitions landed in the Sindh High Court on Monday, challenging the Supreme Court's (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance, which changed the composition of the three-judge committee of apex court about formation of benches.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Sindh president Hameed Adil Sheikh and Advocate Mohammed Ghulam Rahman Kori separately moved the SHC, asking it to declare the impugned ordinance unconstitutional and ultra vires to the Constitution.

The petition moved by the lawyer is fixed for hearing before a two-judge bench comprising Justice Yousof Ali Sayeed and Justice Arbab Ali Hakeem on Tuesday (today).

Citing the secretaries, cabinet division, ministry of law and parliamentary affairs and others as respondents, petitioners submitted that there was no pressing emergency which warranted bypassing the legislative process of the parliament.

Representing the PTI leader, Advocate Ali Tahir contended that the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 was a product of extensive parliamentary debates and to limit unilateral powers of chief justice about constitution of benches, but enactment of the impugned ordinance has effectively subverted the authority of parliament and rule of law.

He also argued that the power of President to promulgate ordinances under Article 88 must be exercised in most exceptional circumstances where immediate action was required.

The counsel further submitted that the impugned enactment overrode the almost exclusive powers of chief justice to constitute benches, and unilateral power of chief justice had previously attracted severe criticism, particularly regarding cases under Article 184(3) of Constitution, leading to lack of transparency and fairness.

He maintained that such promulgation was also made in violation of various constitutional provisions related to fundamental rights specifically with regard to independence of judiciary and access to justice.

Advocate Kori also submitted that the ordinance in question was promulgated in violation of various articles of the Constitution and there would be irreparable and irreversible loss to the independence of judiciary if the same was not set aside.

Both the petitioners pleaded to declare the impugned ordinance unconstitutional, ultra vires to the constitution and of no legal effect as well as to set aside all actions, orders and decisions taken in pursuance of such ordinance.

Mutahida MNA's plea dismissed

An election tribunal, headed by Justice Mohammad Kazim Khan Agha of the Sindh High Court on Monday dismissed an application of MNA Saadq Ishaq of the Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) questioning the maintainability of an election petition filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Sindh president Hameed Adil Sheikh against his victory from NA-208.

Murad orders govt depts to adopt paperless system to improve efficiency

In first phase, E-Office App will be introduced in nine departments, IT secretary tells CM

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the authorities concerned to digitise all government departments to increase efficiency, transparency, cost-effectiveness, improved data security and better collaboration.

He issued these instructions while presiding over a meeting here at CM House on Monday. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Anil Hyder Shah, Secretary to CM, Kabeem Shukh, Information Technology Secretary Nasir Rameez, Services Secretary Ghulam Ali Ibrahim and others concerned.

The chief minister said that he wanted the government departments to adopt an electronic mode of filing/correspondence system to replace the manual filing system, built to perform the functions/business assigned to it in the Sindh Government Rules of Business, 1996.

Mr Shah said that he had a plan to introduce a paperless system in government departments by introducing a digital system or E-Office.

In the first phase, the departments do their official work through a digital system and phase-wise connect other departments.

The IT secretary told the CM that in the first phase, deployment of the E-Office application would be made in the IT Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DE/PD), Minorities, Social Welfare, Rehabilitation, Mines and Mineral Development, Inter-Provincial Coordination, College Education departments and the Sindh Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority.

He told the CM that his department has started training the officers of the concerned departments to implement E-Office in different departments.

He said that he would submit his proposal for implementation of the E-Office system in the other departments in the second phase.

The chief secretary told the CM that an E-service app had been developed in the office of deputy commissioner Saikhan. The assistant commissioner and multilateral are connected to the e-services. Through the e-service, domicile, birth certificate, and revenue-related applications are submitted and disposed of digitally, he added.

The chief secretary said that he was monitoring the success and effectiveness of the system. Once it is established the system would be replicated in other districts, he added.

81 industries shut down in five years due to power crisis, PA told

House unanimously passes Sindh Control of Narcotic Substances Bill

By Tahir Siddiqi

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly was informed on Monday that around 81 industrial units, including 50 textile mills and five sugar mills, had been closed during the past five years due to electricity crisis in the province.

Paraphrasing statement and replies to the lawmakers' written and verbal queries, Parliamentary Secretary of the Industries and Commerce Department Ali Ahmed said that the power crisis had affected the industrial activities a lot in the province and the industries were concerned and worried about power shortage.

In reply to a question by Leader of Opposition Ali Khureshi, he said that the provincial government was extending all possible cooperation to industries.

The opposition leader expressed his concerns over the unsatisfactory replies given by the parliamentary secretary and said that he wanted to know as to how many industrial units were closed and how many new units were established during

2018 to 2023 and added that he had not been given answer of his question.

Mr Khureshi said that the lawmakers were not being given satisfactory replies to their questions.

Local Government Minister Saad Ghani stood to receive the parliamentary secretary and said that that question pertained to the industry department and not to the industries and commerce department.

To a question, parliamentary secretary said that around 81 industrial units, including 10 textile mills and a cement factory, were closed during the past five years.

In reply to a verbal question, the parliamentary secretary said that 4,850 units were operational across the province and 915 new industrial units were established.

Provincial narcotic law

The assembly unanimously passed the Sindh Control of Narcotic Substances Bill, 2024 to regulate the matters relating to narcotics, synthetic drugs and psychotropic substances, including commonly known ice, meth, crystal, ecstasy and molly.

Under the new law, an officer not below the rank of inspector narcotics control, is authorised to enter without search and arrest warrants any building, place, premises or

conveyance if he has information about the concealment of narcotic, drugs and precursor chemicals or controlled substances and methamphetamine.

The authorised narcotics officer can break open any door and remove any other obstacles during raid and arrest any person whom he has reason to believe to have committed an offence punishable under the Act.

The officer in charge of the operation is also required to make video recording of all raids, seizures, inspections and arrests.

Chairman of Standing Committee on Excise, Taxation & Narcotics Najam Mirza told Dawn that Sindh emerged the second province to make provincial anti-narcotics law as the KP had earlier in 2019 adopted the provincial anti-narcotics law.

Local Government Minister Saad Ghani informed the house that as many as 13 licenses had been issued so far for the extraction of subsoil water in the city under the revised rules adopted by the Sindh government for the purpose.

He said that initially 34 licenses had been issued for subsoil water extraction under the 2018 law as 20 of them were later rescinded due to violation of the rules.

The house was adjourned to Tuesday.

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Court returns Rs5bn graft reference against Sharjeel, others to NAB

Accountability judge orders anti-graft watchdog to send the case to court of relevant jurisdiction

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: An accountability court on Monday remanded back a corruption reference against South Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and others to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman over the issue of jurisdiction. The anti-graft watchdog in 2016 had filed the reference and alleged Mr Memon, along with his accomplices, committed corruption to the tune of over Rs5 billion in awarding adver-

tisements for the provincial government's awareness campaigns in electronic media. When the case came up for hearing on Monday, an application was already filed on behalf of the three accused persons — Salman Memon, Syed Navroz and Umar Shehzad — through their counsel Raj Ali Wahid. In their application, they prayed before the court to acquit them from the reference or return it to the authorities concerned. After hearing arguments, the court allowed the application and remanded back the reference to the NAB chairman, directing him to forward the matter to the court of relevant jurisdiction. The defence counsel submitted that no allegation had been made against public office holders in the reference of accountability and alleged Mr Memon, along with his accomplices, committed corruption to the tune of over Rs5 billion in awarding adver-

tisements for the provincial government's awareness campaigns in electronic media. When the case came up for hearing on Monday, an application was already filed on behalf of the three accused persons — Salman Memon, Syed Navroz and Umar Shehzad — through their counsel Raj Ali Wahid. In their application, they prayed before the court to acquit them from the reference or return it to the authorities concerned. After hearing arguments, the court allowed the application and remanded back the reference to the NAB chairman, directing him to forward the matter to the court of relevant jurisdiction. The defence counsel submitted that no allegation had been made against public office holders in the reference of accountability and alleged Mr Memon, along with his accomplices, committed corruption to the tune of over Rs5 billion in awarding adver-

CS suspends two municipal officers

Dawn Report

KARACHI: South Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah expressed dissatisfaction regarding widespread encroachment and the deplorable condition of roads in district South and suspended two officials on Monday. During his visit to the Saddar area, he noted issues such as unchecked encroachment, overflowing drains, poor maintenance and unsanitary conditions, including heaps of garbage, which indicate serious misconduct and inadequate performance by the responsible officials. In light of these observations, he suspended Naseer Hassan Johri, 55-19, Talika Municipal Commissioner, Saddar, and Manzoor Hussain Shabbir, Deputy Director of the South Solid Waste Management Board, with immediate effect. The CS emphasized that encroachments could not be tolerated in the city. He directed authorities concerned to take urgent actions to enforce the sanitation system.

Experts call for making suicide prevention a public health priority

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Experts at a seminar on Monday underscored the need for changing the narrative around suicide — from one of shame and silence to empathy and action — and improving access to mental

healthcare services. The seminar titled "Changing the Narrative: Starting the Conversation on Suicide Prevention" was organised by the Jinnah South Medical University's CME department in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences at the

Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre in connection with World Suicide Prevention Day. Speaking at the programme, JPMU's psychiatry unit head Dr Chohan Lal said over 720,000 people died by suicide annually, with the highest rates among people between the age 15 and 29 in low-to-middle

income countries. "These alarming statistics underscore the urgent need to change the narrative around suicide and make suicide prevention a public health priority," he emphasised. JPMU Vice Chancellor Prof Arshad Siraj Memon said healthcare professionals had a critical role to play in shedding light on this crisis and equipping communities with evidence-based strategies for prevention. "Suicide is a leading cause of death globally, yet it remains

shrouded in stigma and misconceptions," he regretted. CME Director Dr Rabat Nas said the society must respond to the situation with urgency and compassion. "By changing the narrative around suicide, we can create an environment where those struggling feel safe to reach out and get the support they need."

They emphasised the importance of improving access to quality mental healthcare, training communities to recognise warning signs, and reducing barriers to seeking help. The seminar concluded with a play performed by JPMU's Performing Arts Society, highlighting the need for focusing on building individual and community resilience, fostering social connectedness, and addressing the root causes of suicidal ideations.

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Ather Viqar Azim remembered

By Peerzada Salman

KARACHI: Friends, colleagues and members of the family of a former current affairs director of PTV and eminent media person Ather Viqar Azim, who passed away on Sept 8, gathered at the Arts Council of Pakistan's Jam Elna lawn on Sunday evening to pay homage to him. Mr Azim's son, Nadia, who resides in London and is these days in Karachi, thanked the council for putting together the event and said his father was a great supporter of the Arts Council. "My father spent a lifetime in putting other people in focus. He would be proud of the legacy that he's left behind. I admired so many things about him... He always did what he could do for other people, and nothing made him happier than that. There was no pretence about him. He said what he meant," he said. He also talked about the great time he spent with Mr Azim, who had lost his life and added, "He will always be missed and loved."

Court acquits killer of wife, three daughters after in-laws pardon him

Continued from Page 13

and three daughters and also tried to commit suicide in 2022. At that time, his mother and suspect brother's wife had told the police that they lived on the ground floor and heard screams from the upper floor of the house in the afternoon. They quickly went upstairs and somehow managed to open the door and saw the bodies and injured Fawad in separate rooms. They also told the police that the couple might have had some friction like most couples, but there was "no serious tension" between them. Fawad previously worked as a salesman in a packaged spices factory, but around 10-20 days before the incident he had switched to a different company. He also worked as an 'investor' in the food industry and had suffered some financial losses, the police had said. An case was registered against him at the Al-Falah police station under Section 302 (murder), 315 (attempt to commit suicide) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). However, the accused was not charged with attempting to commit suicide as the then provision in December 2022 had approved the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act 2022, which repealed Section 325 of the PPC.

CS suspends two municipal officers

KARACHI: South Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah expressed dissatisfaction regarding widespread encroachment and the deplorable condition of roads in district South and suspended two officials on Monday. During his visit to the Saddar area, he noted issues such as unchecked encroachment, overflowing drains, poor maintenance and unsanitary conditions, including heaps of garbage, which indicate serious misconduct and inadequate performance by the responsible officials. In light of these observations, he suspended Naseer Hassan Johri, 55-19, Talika Municipal Commissioner, Saddar, and Manzoor Hussain Shabbir, Deputy Director of the South Solid Waste Management Board, with immediate effect. The CS emphasized that encroachments could not be tolerated in the city. He directed authorities concerned to take urgent actions to enforce the sanitation system.

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F.No.3(32)/24 Dev-1
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION
 LG&RD Complex, G-5/2, Islamabad

SITUATION VACANT

The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination invites applications from Pakistani Nationals to fill the following positions in the WB-PSDP Project – Strengthening Technical Capacity of Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (STC-MoCC&EC), on purely contract basis for the period of one year extendable subject to satisfactory performance by another year/ completion of the project.

Sl. No.	Title of Post with Pay Scale	Qualification & Experience	Max Age
1.	Team Leader - Communication & Media (PPS-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree in Mass Communication, Journalism, Media Studies from a national or foreign university is desired. Higher degree/PhD in the above-mentioned disciplines from a foreign university will be given preference. At least 15 years of post-qualification experience is required in media, communication, campaign planning and management, especially in the development sector. Excellent writing skills are mandatory. Strong communication skills are essential. Hands-on experience of working with computer (MS Office) is desired. 	55
2.	Team Leader - Projects Support (PPS-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's in climate change, environmental engineering from a national or foreign university is desired. Higher degree/PhD in the above mentioned disciplines from a foreign university will be given preference. At least 15 years of post-qualification experience is required working with Government/intergovernmental setups, UN system or international organizations in environment protection, climate change at managerial or senior technical levels. Demonstrated experience of conducting similar assignment(s) in the past would be an asset. He/she should have good speaking and writing skills in English & Urdu languages. Demonstrated experience of development and management of projects in areas related to climate change & environment protection is a must. Hands-on experience of working with computer (MS Office) is essential. 	55
3.	Team Leader - Environment & Climate Change (PPS-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's in climate change, environmental engineering from a national or foreign university is desired. Higher degree/PhD in the above mentioned disciplines from a foreign university will be given preference. At least 15 years of post-qualification experience is required working with Government/intergovernmental setups, UN system or international organizations in environment protection, climate change at managerial or senior technical levels. Demonstrated experience of conducting similar assignment(s) in the past would be an asset. He/she should have good speaking and writing skills in English & Urdu languages. Demonstrated experience of development and management of projects in areas related to climate change & environment protection is a must. Hands-on experience of working with computer (MS Office) is essential. 	55
4.	Project Development Specialist UN/FPCC (PPS-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's in climate change, environmental engineering from a national or foreign university is desired. Higher degree/PhD in the above-mentioned disciplines from a foreign university will be given preference. At least 10 years of post-qualification experience is required working with Government/intergovernmental setups, UN system or international organizations at technical levels. Demonstrated experience of designing, managing and implementing projects in sectors of climate change. Sound understanding of procedures and process related to project cycle management is a must. Experience of involvement or familiarity with climate change negotiations/ UN/FPCC processes or MEAs documentation & implementation would be an added advantage. Experience of donor coordination or working with donors or UN systems is essential. Hands-on experience of working with computer (MS Office) is essential. 	52
5.	Team Leader - Green Finance (PPS-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's degree in Environmental Sciences (including Environmental Biology, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Protection & Management, Environmental Engineering, Climate Change or Natural Resources (Agriculture, Forestry), Public Policy or Economics (including Environmental Economics) from a national or foreign university is desired. Higher degree/PhD in the above-mentioned disciplines from a foreign university will be given preference. At least 15 years of post-qualification experience is required working with Government or semi-government intergovernmental setups or UN system on climate change/environment, natural resource management or development sector at managerial or senior technical levels. Demonstrated experience of research and analysis in sectors of environment, climate change or policy processes and preparation of technical documents related to environmental/climate change or development is essential. Experience of donor coordination or working with UN system & international organizations is essential. Hands-on experience of working with computer (MS Office) is essential. 	55
6.	Green Finance Specialist (PPS-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's in Economics (including Environmental Economics), Finance (Financial Planning & Management, Public Finance, Business Development, Climate Finance), Public Policy, Development Studies or International Development from a national or foreign university is desired. Higher degree/PhD in the above-mentioned disciplines from a foreign university will be given preference. At least 10 years of post-qualification experience is required working with Government/intergovernmental setups, UN system or international organizations at technical levels. Demonstrated experience of designing and managing financial mechanisms, institutional processes and conducting technical analysis is essential. Sound understanding of procedures and process related to financial management, establishment of procedures and protocols and resource mobilization is desired. Experience of stakeholder engagement & consultations would be an added advantage. Hands-on experience of working with computer (MS Office) is essential. 	52
7.	Project Management & Reporting Officer (PPS-09)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of education in Project Management, Economics, Public Administration from an HEC recognized university. At least 8 years of post-qualification experience in supporting project management and reporting under donor funded projects. Working with PSDP & UN/International development agencies (successfully support implementation of one project of GoP and international agencies) is added advantage. He/she should have good speaking and writing skills in English & Urdu languages. 	35

Terms & Conditions

- Interested eligible candidates, who fulfill the criteria mentioned against each of the above posts, must apply online through National Job Portal's official website: <https://njp.gov.pk/> within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement. Government servants should apply through proper channel as per law.
- The General Age relaxation for a period of 55 years in upper age limit has already been added in the max age limit mentioned above. Master's degree refers to 18 years of education.
- Only shortlisted candidates, fulfilling the prescribed requirements, will be called for test/interview.
- Short listed candidates must bring original testimonials at the time of test/interview.
- The competent authority reserves the right not to fill the Advertised Post without assigning any reason thereof.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for test/interview.
- Applications received through post or by hand will not be accepted/entertained.
- Information provided in the application forms will be verified. In case any false or forged information, MoCC reserve the right to cancel candidature of any person at any stage.
- The cutoff date for determining the eligibility of the candidate in terms of age, qualification, experience, etc., will be the closing date of receipt of applications.
- Applications that are incomplete or received after due date will not be entertained.

MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION
 GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

FD/3134/24

"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"
 GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
 MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
 (BALUCHISTAN-SOUTH REGION, KHUZDAR)

INVITATION TO BIDS

29x ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORKS ON N-25, 12x ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORKS ON N-85 & 16x ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORKS ON M-8

1. National Highway Authority (NHA) invites Bids from the Contractors, registered with Income Tax Departments and who are active Taxpayers list of the Federal Board of Revenue having valid Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category & Field of Specialization (F.Y. 2024-25) mentioned below inside table for the following works:

S.P.	CONTRACT NO.	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS, CHANGE & ROUTE	ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE (PKR)	PEC CATEGORY & CODES
1	RM-2024-25-B5-1001	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 22 – 45, N-25	8,465,310/-	C-5
2	RM-2024-25-B5-1002	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 45 – 60, N-25	9,010,110/-	CE-01 & CE-10
3	RM-2024-25-B5-1003	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 60 – 75, N-25	3,020,500/-	C-5
4	RM-2024-25-B5-1004	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 75 – 90, N-25	4,815,875/-	CE-01 & CE-10
5	RM-2024-25-B5-1005	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 90 – 105, N-25	5,270,785/-	C-5
6	RM-2024-25-B5-1006	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 105 – 120, N-25	7,064,145/-	CE-01 & CE-10
7	RM-2024-25-B5-1007	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 120 – 135, N-25	7,512,784/-	C-5
8	RM-2024-25-B5-1008	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 135 – 150, N-25	7,585,315/-	CE-01 & CE-10
9	RM-2024-25-B5-1009	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 150 – 165, N-25	7,235,487/-	C-5
10	RM-2024-25-B5-1010	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 165 – 180, N-25	5,385,725/-	CE-01 & CE-10
11	RM-2024-25-B5-1011	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 180 – 195, N-25	8,017,882/-	C-5
12	RM-2024-25-B5-1012	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 195 – 210, N-25	9,007,532/-	CE-01 & CE-10
13	RM-2024-25-B5-1013	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 210 – 225, N-25	9,425,187/-	C-5
14	RM-2024-25-B5-1014	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 225 – 240, N-25	7,015,807/-	CE-01 & CE-10
15	RM-2024-25-B5-1015	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 240 – 255, N-25	5,541,540/-	C-5
16	RM-2024-25-B5-1016	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 255 – 270, N-25	9,015,724/-	CE-01 & CE-10
17	RM-2024-25-B5-1017	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 270 – 285, N-25	6,355,488/-	C-5
18	RM-2024-25-B5-1018	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 285 – 300, N-25	7,645,841/-	CE-01 & CE-10
19	RM-2024-25-B5-1019	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 300 – 315, N-25	6,354,875/-	C-5
20	RM-2024-25-B5-1020	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 315 – 330, N-25	5,984,712/-	CE-01 & CE-10
21	RM-2024-25-B5-1021	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 330 – 345, N-25	5,874,821/-	C-5
22	RM-2024-25-B5-1022	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 345 – 360, N-25	7,745,123/-	CE-01 & CE-10
23	RM-2024-25-B5-1023	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 360 – 375, N-25	7,187,548/-	C-5
24	RM-2024-25-B5-1024	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 375 – 390, N-25	6,754,875/-	CE-01 & CE-10
25	RM-2024-25-B5-1025	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 390 – 405, N-25	2,487,912/-	C-5
26	RM-2024-25-B5-1026	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 405 – 420, N-25	2,865,471/-	CE-01 & CE-10
27	RM-2024-25-B5-1027	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 420 – 435, N-25	2,245,987/-	C-5
28	RM-2024-25-B5-1028	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 435 – 450, N-25	2,312,487/-	CE-01 & CE-10
29	RM-2024-25-B5-1029	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 450 – 465, N-25	2,895,515/-	C-5
30	RM-2024-25-B5-1030	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 465 – 480, N-25	8,085,758/-	CE-01 & CE-10
31	RM-2024-25-B5-1031	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 15 – 25, N-85	7,245,987/-	C-5
32	RM-2024-25-B5-1032	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 25 – 35, N-85	7,365,471/-	CE-01 & CE-10
33	RM-2024-25-B5-1033	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 35 – 45, N-85	7,975,412/-	C-5
34	RM-2024-25-B5-1034	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 45 – 55, N-85	7,385,142/-	CE-01 & CE-10
35	RM-2024-25-B5-1035	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 55 – 65, N-85	7,295,562/-	C-5
36	RM-2024-25-B5-1036	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 65 – 75, N-85	6,687,423/-	CE-01 & CE-10
37	RM-2024-25-B5-1037	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 75 – 85, N-85	5,865,412/-	C-5
38	RM-2024-25-B5-1038	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 85 – 95, N-85	6,098,723/-	CE-01 & CE-10
39	RM-2024-25-B5-1039	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 95 – 105, N-85	7,548,914/-	C-5
40	RM-2024-25-B5-1040	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 105 – 115, N-85	6,547,820/-	CE-01 & CE-10
41	RM-2024-25-B5-1041	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 115 – 125, N-85	6,048,832/-	C-5
42	RM-2024-25-B5-1042	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 125 – 135, N-85	5,145,878/-	CE-01 & CE-10
43	RM-2024-25-B5-1043	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 135 – 145, M-8	8,217,858/-	C-5
44	RM-2024-25-B5-1044	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 145 – 155, M-8	9,875,432/-	CE-01 & CE-10
45	RM-2024-25-B5-1045	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 155 – 165, M-8	11,378,542/-	C-5
46	RM-2024-25-B5-1046	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 165 – 175, M-8	11,358,542/-	CE-01 & CE-10
47	RM-2024-25-B5-1047	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 175 – 185, M-8	14,098,781/-	C-5
48	RM-2024-25-B5-1048	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 185 – 195, M-8	14,347,851/-	CE-01 & CE-10
49	RM-2024-25-B5-1049	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 195 – 205, M-8	12,248,987/-	C-5
50	RM-2024-25-B5-1050	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 205 – 215, M-8	14,098,542/-	CE-01 & CE-10
51	RM-2024-25-B5-1051	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 110 – 120, M-8	14,588,320/-	C-5
52	RM-2024-25-B5-1052	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 120 – 130, M-8	14,023,588/-	CE-01 & CE-10
53	RM-2024-25-B5-1053	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 130 – 140, M-8	10,585,752/-	C-5
54	RM-2024-25-B5-1054	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 140 – 150, M-8	6,080,854/-	CE-01 & CE-10
55	RM-2024-25-B5-1055	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 150 – 160, M-8	5,188,570/-	C-5
56	RM-2024-25-B5-1056	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 160 – 170, M-8	5,365,445/-	CE-01 & CE-10
57	RM-2024-25-B5-1057	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORK FROM KM 170 – 180, M-8	8,365,824/-	C-5

2. Bidding Documents, containing Method of Procurement (Single Stage Two Envelopes), detailed terms and conditions etc. will be available on the website mentioned below from October 03, 2024 for downloading fee of cost. Prospective Bidders are also advised to follow the said website for updates of schedule and addendums 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 15, 2024 at 12:30 Hours. Technical bids will be opened on the same day at 1:30 Hours.

4. All Bids are advised to get EPADS (PPRA) registration at www.eprocure.gov.pk immediately, as Manual Bid/ Proposal/ Application (hard copy) will be eliminated in upcoming Procurements.

5. This Advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.

DIRECTOR MAINTENANCE (BALUCHISTAN-SOUTH)
 National Highway Authority
 NHA Complex, Main RCD Highway, Khuzdar
 Phone: 0848-4123015 Email: balosouthkhuzdar@gmail.com
 Website: www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk

PRD/021/24/24

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MISCELLANEOUS

Higher Education Development in Pakistan
Higher Education Commission
Pakistan

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS
LOOKING FOR A REPUTABLE EVENT MANAGEMENT FIRM

Country: Pakistan
Name of Project: Higher Education Development in Pakistan
Contract(x) Title: Procurement of Event Management Services for Investor Connect Event 2025
Loan No./Credit No.: 8438-PK
RFQ/STEP Reference No.: PK-HEC-437041-NC-RFQ

- The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the Purchase Order(s)/Agreement(s) "PO" for Procurement of Event Management Services for Investor Connect Event 2025. This procurement process will be conducted in accordance with the Request for Quotations (RFQ) method as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IFB Borrowers" July 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders/ Firms/ Service Providers as defined in the Procurement Regulations and the procedures described herein.
- Bidders are invited to submit their priced quotation(s) for Procurement of Event Management Services for Investor Connect Event 2025 as per requirements cited in the RFQ. The PO will be awarded to the Service Provider offering the lowest evaluated total cost for complete scope of services.
- The quotations should be accompanied by necessary documentation and other printed material establishing eligibility and qualification of the bidders as required in the RFQ.
- The complete RFQ document is available at Higher Education Commission website (<https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/news/Pages/Tenders/RFQ.aspx>). Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the address given below between 10:00 AM – 03:00 PM (Monday to Friday) latest by three working days before the deadline for quotations submission date.
- The quotation(s) shall be submitted (in person or by post/ surface mail) by/ before 15:00 Hours October 10, 2024, as per the format given in the RFQ and marked as "Procurement of Event Management Services for Investor Connect Event 2025", addressed to:

Procurement Specialist (HEDP)
Project Coordination Unit (PCU)
Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) Project
Higher Education Commission
Sector H-9/4, Islamabad, Pakistan 051-90400120, procurement.hec@hec.gov.pk

Request for Proposals (RFP) for Geotechnical Drilling

1. MCO Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd is a 100% Pakistani Company from Quetta City, Gilgit-Baltistan, registered as a private limited liability company with a paid-up capital of Rs. 100 million. It is currently engaged in the construction of a dam project in Gilgit-Baltistan. The project involves the construction of a dam with a height of 100 meters and a length of 1000 meters. The dam will be used for hydroelectric power generation and irrigation. The project is located in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan. The project is a joint venture between MCO Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd and a local partner. The project is a large-scale infrastructure project and is expected to have a significant impact on the region's economy and environment. The project is a priority for the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan and is being funded by the Government of Pakistan. The project is a key component of the region's development plan and is expected to create thousands of jobs. The project is a major infrastructure project and is expected to have a significant impact on the region's economy and environment. The project is a priority for the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan and is being funded by the Government of Pakistan. The project is a key component of the region's development plan and is expected to create thousands of jobs.

2. The Bidding Documents, including Instructions to Bidders, are to be obtained from the Bidding Documents Issuance Office (BDIO) located at the following address: MCO Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd, 100 Main Street, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days.

3. The Bidding Documents, including Instructions to Bidders, are to be obtained from the Bidding Documents Issuance Office (BDIO) located at the following address: MCO Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd, 100 Main Street, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days.

4. The Bidding Documents, including Instructions to Bidders, are to be obtained from the Bidding Documents Issuance Office (BDIO) located at the following address: MCO Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd, 100 Main Street, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days.

CDA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(Procurement & Contracts Agreement ID)

CORRIGENDUM #HumCDA

The following amendment is made in date of opening of Bids for the project "HIRING OF TRANSACTION ADVISOR (LEGAL AND FINANCIAL) FOR HOTEL PLOTS (PLOT # 6 & 8 AT F-5/11) ISLAMABAD" published in the newspapers i.e. DAWN, JANG, Express Tribune, Dunya, Aaj, and Avas on PD No. 01/15/24.

FOR	TO BE READ AS
Date for submission and opening of Bids	24.09.2024
Date for submission and opening of Bids	09.10.2024

2. Other terms & conditions shall remain same.

Dy. Director-II (P&CA-I), CDA
P&C Wing, Room # 20
Block-III, CDA Secretariat, G-7/4, Islamabad.

TENDER NOTICE

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA-GOB. The Chief Minister Development Package for Dera Bugh invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates.

Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Bid Security 2%.

S.No	Name of Works	Est./Cost
1	Construction of Dams Under Livelihood Promotion Program (Pkg-02)	1,073,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Subcontract Public Procurement Rules - 2014, Eligibility of Bidders/ Presence in Active Tax Payer List the bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Bidders must have completed 1. Registration of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 500,000,000 PKR (Amount in) subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), C-1 and above (upto 2000 million) relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE040 (Dams/Water Retaining Structures) - CE100 (General Civil Engineering Works) - Bid Security of 2% of estimated cost tender processing fee of amount Rs. 1000 in account No. CO2716 having head: PD/CMOPB in case of Joint Venture of two firms, the bidder must attach JV Agreement duly signed and Stamped Procedure Of Procurement/Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security. The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee/Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The Bidding Documents can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk (In case of manual submission, the Bidding Documents can be obtained from the Bidding Documents Issuance Office (BDIO) located at the following address: Chief Minister Development Package for Dera Bugh, Islamabad. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days. The Bidding Documents are available for inspection from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on working days.

Procurement notice from
Part Qaida Electric Power Company (Private) Limited.

P/Q/24, seeking to purchase two sets of substation revenue metering equipment. Suppliers interested in participating in the tender process should submit the following documents by 05:00 pm September 26, 2024 to pqpp@pqcpl.com.

Required Documents are:

- Valid company operating documents (ensure that your business license and operational certificates are up to date).
- Financial reports from the past three years. Provide proof of your company's financial standing.
- Customer structure and transportation capabilities evidence of your capacity for substation revenue metering and installations.
- Bank statement proof of current bank account.
- Authorization for revenue metering equipment installation based on the order of agent, the metering must be from the Part, Dera, or an equivalent brand.

Once these documents are reviewed and the supplier meets the qualification requirements, they will be entered into the qualified supplier database. If a supplier is already listed in the database, they are automatically considered part of the bidding process.

Contact Details: **Muhammad Bilal 0333-6002977**

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited is a Full Regulatory Organization and the only securities depository company in Pakistan operating under license from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). It is widely recognized as the infrastructure backbone of the capital market (the functions of the CDD include Investor Account Services, Transfer & Custodian Services, Share Registrar Services through a wholly owned subsidiary namely "CDD Share Registrar") and Business Process Outsourcing through a wholly owned subsidiary namely, "CDD MIS".

CDD is looking for a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who will lead the management team and collaborate with the company's Board of Directors to create robust strategic growth initiatives that form an integral part of its mission to long-term strategic business plan. The person should have demonstrated the ability to lead a team to long-term success and engage with the various stakeholders (PEA, SECP, SBF institutions and other investors, fund managers and companies) that form an integral part of its growth strategy, while increasing shareholder value.

Qualifications:

- As a member of a recognized body of professional accountants, or financial or general management degree in Finance, accounting, business management, economics, statistics, capital market and financial services or other related disciplines from a university recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, or equivalent.

Experience:

- At least 10 years of experience in a senior management position at the Central Depository or has earned a similar management position previously as Chief Executive Officer for a period of two years in any other company of business size in the regulated financial services sector and has demonstrated, through qualifications and experience, the capacity to successfully undertake the requisite responsibilities of the position.

Fit and Proper Criteria:

- The person should be fit and proper in accordance with criteria set down in the Central Depository Company and Operations Regulations, 2019.

Skills & Competencies:

- Well-developed financial management and project management skills and techniques.
- Comprehensive knowledge of overall operations of Capital Market and applicable laws / regulations including Company Law.
- Working knowledge of emerging technologies, including information security, impacting the financial markets, with the ability to lead out of the box and work on new initiatives. Knowledge of Reg Tech will be a plus.
- Proven track record of implementing complex IT/IT related projects with an understanding of Enterprise Risk Management.
- Demonstrated experience of brand building and development of go-to-market strategies for the industry is an essential requirement of the job.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a proactively diverse and inclusive organization with the passion to lead, inspire and create high levels of performance.
- Demonstrated ability to analyze complex policy issues, draw relevant conclusions and articulate clear and focused policy proposals with respect to Capital Market Law.
- Knowledge of Regional Capital Markets and their Depository Companies.

What is in it for you?

- A competitive compensation and benefits package that will be commensurate with experience and qualifications for a role of this nature.
- Leading role in a dynamic working environment.
- State of the art infrastructure.

Interested candidates fulfilling the above criteria may apply latest by October 04, 2024 with sending their resume to "hr@cdcp.com", mentioning CEO in the subject. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. We are an equal opportunity employer.

DAWN
the complete newspaper

INVITATION TO E-BID THROUGH SAP ARIBA DISCOVERY

E-Bids are invited through SAP-Ariba Discovery for the service/material given below under competitive bidding procedure as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules:

S. NO.	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-PPFD-255293895-2024	HIRING OF RENTAL COMPRESSOR FOR TIGHT GAS WELL NUM WEST-1	15.10.2024 AT 1030 HRS

EXTENSION IN BID CLOSING & OPENING DATE

S. NO.	TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	REVISED CLOSING DATE/ TIME
1.	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB(EO)-04-259924319-2024	HIRING OF INTEGRATED SERVICES (DRILLING AND FRACTURING) FOR KUMHAR UNCONVENTIONAL HORIZONTAL IN KUMHAR BL.	07.10.2024 AT 1030 HRS

Reference our Tender Notice published in this newspaper on 17.09.2024, it is notified that the bid submission/opening date is extended as follows:

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

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

5. Tender Notice/ detailed instructions are available on Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) website at www.ppra.org.pk

6. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at <https://ogdcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders> or <https://discovery.ariba.com/profile/ARG156289962>. For details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.

7. OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33".

GENERAL MANAGER (SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT)
OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
OGDCL HOUSE, JINNAH AVENUE, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN.
No.155/15 Phone No. 92-01-92923340-3795

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited for the following:

Tender No.	Description	Closing Date/ Time
PD/GEN/PT/20020/24	Supply of summer uniform	10 Oct, 2024 1500 Hrs.
PD/GEN/PT/20000/24	Feasibility study Morgarh X-1 appraisal	15 Oct, 2024 1500 Hrs.
PD/GEN/PT/20000/24	Prospectivity evaluation study of offshore Indus C block	15 Oct, 2024 1500 Hrs.
PD/GEN/PT/20000/24	Spares for air compressor, dryer, and amine cooler	10 Oct, 2024 1500 Hrs.
PD/GEN/PT/20000/24	Spares for Gemini gas compressor	10 Oct, 2024 1500 Hrs.
PD/GEN/PT/20012/24	Spares for produced water feed and injection pumps	10 Oct, 2024 1500 Hrs.

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

Extension in Bid Closing & Opening Dates

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

Tender No.	Description	Tender Publish On	Revised Closing Date/ Time
PD/GEN/PT/20020/24	Pre-qualification of manufacturers or their authorized representatives/ distributors for supply of tents & tarpaulins	22 Aug, 2024	10 Oct, 2024 1500 Hrs.
PD/GEN/PT/20750/24	Supply of gasless for relief valve	27 Aug, 2024	10 Oct, 2024 1500 Hrs.

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

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

Tender notice / detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through PPL's e-procurement portal at <https://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

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Capital Development Authority
(Resource Windy) #HumCDA

CORRIGENDUM

INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FOR "CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION & MANAGEMENT OF FILLING STATIONS AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES AT SERVICE AREA ON MAJOR ROADS OF ISLAMABAD", PACKAGE-1 "SITES FOR EAST AND WEST BOUND SERVICE AREA OPPOSITE LAKE VIEW PARK, MAIN MURREE ROAD, ISLAMABAD" FOR A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS EXTENDABLE FOR ANOTHER 05 YEARS ON MUTUAL CONSENT.

The following amendment may please be made in this office advertisement appeared in the National Press i.e. Dawn, Jang, Express Tribune, Dunya, Aaj and Avas through PD (I) 2105/24 on 23-09-2024 on the subject noted above:-

S.No	FOR	NEED
1.	Upfront payment of one time guaranteed amount of Rs. 244,834,020/-	Upfront payment of one time guaranteed amount of Rs. 2,345,000,000/- (Rupees Two Billion Two Hundred Forty-five Million)

2. Other terms and conditions indicated in original Bidding Document will remain unchanged.

Mr. Abdul Razzaq
Director General (Resource)
CDA Secretariat, Sector G-7/4, Islamabad-Pakistan.
Tel: +92-01-92830618

RAILWAY ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING COMPANY (PVT) LIMITED (REDAMCO)

CORRIGENDUM

INVITATION OF SEALED BIDS

Reference advertisement dated 05.09.2024 for invitation of sealed bids for leasing out 06 (Six) No of Sites for purpose of Petrol Pump & Allied Facilities published in Daily Dawn, Daily Express Tribune, Daily Jang and Daily Avas-e-Waag. All prospective bidders are hereby informed that minimum Reserve price/benchmark for annual rental are as follows:

S. No	Location	Approximately Area (Sq)	Minimum Reserve Price/Benchmark for Annual rent (Rs PER Million)
1	Mirawal Station yard	30,000	02
2	Old AER Office Hyderabad	14,688	08
3	Near BSN By Oval Bridge Karachi	11,000	15
4	Abandoned Ex Traffic Store 11 Chungiya Road	20,190	18
5	Opposite King Classic Apartment Karachi	12,300	15
6	Near Green Police Line at Karachi Cantt	16,800	10

Bid Submission / Bid opening date is extended till 18th October, 2024 at 11:00 AM. All other terms / conditions shall remain the same.

UNWAQ KHAN
Manager North
1st Floor, Corporate Office, Service Road (Growth), Sector G-7/4, Islamabad
Telephone: 051-9078717, 19, Email: unwaq@redamco.com

PARCO PEARL GAS (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Tender Enquiry # 6000002213

Bids are invited from the interested parties for the following:

S.No	Brief Description	Bid Submission/Opening Date and Time
1.	Supply of High Pressure LPG Regulators at PPA, Lahore Filling Plant	Bid Submission Through SAP ARIBA 06.10.2024, 1500 hrs. Bid Opening 06.10.2024, 1500 hrs.

Bid Stored Amount
Rs. 50,000/-

Tender Enquiry Date / Tender Fee
Through SAP ARIBA 04.09.2024 to 05.10.2024

SAP ARIBA PORTAL LINK
<https://discovery.ariba.com/vtr/24027027>

Any party interested to participate may send its request for the tender documents through SAP ARIBA Portal link by uploading the following documents:

Scanned copy of the duly signed and stamped request on Company's letterhead along with the scan copies of valid NTN Certificate, GST Certificate.

The Bidders should be registered with the federal income tax authorities, and shall maintain its status as an active-tax taxpayer with these tax authorities while rendering services to PPA.

This advertisement is also available on PPRA website <https://www.ppra.org.pk> & SAP Ariba Discovery.

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

Manager Materials

Capital Development Authority
(Resource Windy) #HumCDA

CORRIGENDUM

INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FOR "CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION & MANAGEMENT OF FILLING STATIONS AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES AT SERVICE AREA ON MAJOR ROADS OF ISLAMABAD", PACKAGE-1 "SITES FOR EAST AND WEST BOUND SERVICE AREA OPPOSITE LAKE VIEW PARK, MAIN MURREE ROAD, ISLAMABAD" FOR A PERIOD OF 20 YEARS EXTENDABLE FOR ANOTHER 05 YEARS ON MUTUAL CONSENT.

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UNWAQ KHAN
Manager North
1st Floor, Corporate Office, Service Road (Growth), Sector G-7/4, Islamabad
Telephone: 051-9078717, 19, Email: unwaq@redamco.com

METRO North

ISLAMABAD
 Sunset 06:05pm
 Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:54am
NEXT 24 HRS
 Minimum 28°C
 Maximum 38°C
 Outlook Mostly Sunny



Five-star Jayasuriya leads SL to victory in first New Zealand Test
 Pg.20 SPORT



THE shed of the I-8 stop for the Blue Line metro buses along Islamabad Expressway is in urgent need of repairs. It has been over a year since the shed was damaged by protesters but it has failed to catch the eye of the civic authority. — Photo by Mohammed Asim

Completion of Islamabad's first parking plaza still not in sight

Launched in March 2022, project in Blue Area is still incomplete after missing two deadlines

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The completion of the first of the proposed five parking plazas in Islamabad has been facing an inordinate delay, raising serious question marks over the efficiency of the Capital Development Authority (CDA). After missing two deadlines, the under-construction parking plaza in Blue Area is still incomplete as its gray structure is being finalised. Work on the project was started in March 2022 and was supposed to complete in March 2023 to cater to the city's business district. Parking has become one of the major issues in Islamabad over the years as available spaces are shrinking due to an increase in the population.

CDA officials said besides a massive increase in the number of vehicles, poor implementation of by-laws and ill-planning also contributed to the mess. They said parking spaces had been designed in the city's markets and plazas in accordance with the number of shops, but with the passage of time the shop owners violated the layouts and increased the number of shops. Similarly, commercial buildings in markets should have adequate parking space in basements, but no focus was paid in this aspect, that resulted in traffic mess in all markets, particularly in E-8 Market. "Now parking spaces are not only shrinking in markets but also in small markets known as neighbourhood markets and class three shopping centres," said the officials. Initially, these small markets had nine shops (units), but the business community increased the number by converting one unit into many mini-shops, putting an extra burden on services and parking lots. "Parking is the major issue of the

city and special forces should be paid on it," said an official. The Blue Area parking project worth Rs1.3 billion was started in March 2022 and was supposed to be completed in March 2023, but subsequently its deadline was extended to September 30 last year, which also lapsed without much progress. Then, the deadline was extended to June this year and finally the contractor was asked to complete it by September 15, but still to no avail. Structures of the building implied that if even work continues at full pace, a few more months are required for its completion. CDA's director media Shehul Kayani, when contacted on Monday night to know about the reasons behind the inordinate delay, said being too late he was not in a position to explain the reasons and give the completion date of the project. "It's 8:20pm now, I will let you know tomorrow after talking to concerned officials," he said. The plaza is one of the six parking lots, planned by the CDA some years

ago. However, the construction of the first ever plaza has been facing an inordinate delay due to several reasons while tenders of the remaining five are yet to be floated by CDA. The other proposed plazas are one each in E-8 Market and E-8, two in E-10, and one in G-9 Market. CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Razaibandi in May this year had taken notice of the delay and visited the site to direct for early completion of the project. The plaza will have a basement phase-ground floor and six storeys. It will accommodate 900 cars and 150 motorcycles. On its ground floor, there are shops which the CDA will auction. As per the initial design, the sizes of the shops were small, which were later redesigned to attract investors. A CDA engineer said initially the project faced delay because of the crossing of a wall through the project site that forced the contractor to fix the issue of slash and running water before starting work.

Pakistan plans to offer scholarships to Bangladeshi students

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is planning to offer scholarships to students of Bangladesh in the country's top ranked universities. An official of the education ministry said the ministry was going to contact the top ranked universities to finalise a proposal of offering scholarships to Bangladeshi students. He said in this regard, the Pakistani high commissioner met with officials of the Bangladesh government in Dhaka. The official said the initiative was taken on the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to encourage Bangladeshi students to study in Pakistan's top institutions. "Yes, we are holding discussions," said another official of the education ministry. When asked about the numbers of scholarships, he said, "We are at the initial stage, but surely it [scholarships] will be a sizable number." It is relevant to note here that Pakistan through the Higher Education Commission was already offering hundreds of scholarships to Afghan and Sri Lankan students under two separate projects of the federal government.

Traffic police to wear body cameras

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police will wear body cameras to record their interactions with the public and to perform duties in line with the law to facilitate road users. Following the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Sheesh Fatima, has provided body cameras to the traffic staff in all sectors which will help them adopt a positive and courteous attitude towards the public and to perform their duties according to the law. CTO Sheesh said that not only the activities of the officials and their behavior will be monitored with the body camera, but violations of traffic rules of citizens will also be recorded. This will not only increase the public confidence but help enforce traffic laws in a more transparent manner. CTO Sheesh Fatima said the protection of people's life and property is their first priority, and no negligence will be tolerated in this regard. CTO said that this initiative of the city traffic police is being done to ensure the safety of the people and the supremacy of the law. She advised citizens to abide by traffic laws to prevent traffic accidents and to ensure everyone's safety.

Gunman takes three girls hostage, flees with money

Suspect injures policeman, escapes with looted money, cell phones; one girl 'assaulted'

By Muhammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: Three university students who were enjoying a leisurely stroll on a hiking trail near a police rest house at Kashmir Point in Murree were taken hostage by a lone gunman who robbed them of their mobile phones and Rs12,000 in cash. One of the girls whom the gunman had kept as a hostage to extort more money from the trio claimed she had been assaulted by the suspect. The incident happened at about 7pm on Sunday when a gunman appeared out of nowhere, took the three girls hostage, and forced them towards the forest. According to sources, the gunman after taking their mobile phones and cash sent two girls to withdraw Rs20,000 from an ATM and kept their friend hostage. Instead of going to the ATM, the girls went to the ANP office for

help. The police promptly moved and District Police Officer Murree Asif Amin Awan constituted a team to track down the culprit and for the safe release of the hostage. Upon seeing the police, the gunman opened fire injuring a constable. The injured policeman identified as Wajid was shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Murree and then to a hospital in Rawalpindi. The girl was subsequently released and the gunman taking advantage of the darkness managed to flee. The student taken hostage is a resident of Wah Cantt. In her statement to the police, she claimed she had been subjected to assault by the unknown person. When Station House Officer Sub-inspector Rafique was contacted to ask about the medical report of the victim, he said, "The girl's medical was conducted and the report turned out to be negative." The FIR registered by the police, however, presented a different version of events that transpired on Sunday evening. The case registered on the statement of Aish Fida, in-charge of the police Chowki, contained sections pertaining to robbery, attempt to kill, assault criminal force to

woman with intent to outrage her modesty. According to the FIR, the police team was on patrol at a hiking track near Kashmir Point at about 6:45pm when they heard screaming of women from the jungle. The police with arranged lighting moved ahead and saw a young skinny boy clad in a blue salwar kameez and black jacket, with small mustaches, carrying a 30-litre pistol. Three girls were also present near him. The official said in the FIR that on seeing the police party, the gunman opened fire on the police which resulted in the injuries to Wajid Hussain. He said in the FIR that the girls in their statement told the police that they were taking photographs when a young boy threatened them at gunpoint and snatched three mobile phones and Rs12,000. One of the girls claimed she was assaulted by the suspect with intent to outrage her modesty, the FIR added. Later, the girl who was held hostage by the accused was sent to hospital for treatment and medical examination with lady constables. Despite a lapse of 24 hours, the police were unable to trace the culprit. DPO Asif Amin Awan did not respond to Dawn queries despite multiple attempts.

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 NBP Fund Management Limited

CFA Society Pakistan

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 NBP Fund Management Limited
 Best Asset Management Company Award - FY2024
WINNER
 17 September 2024
 Rawalpindi

*As of 30th September, 2024 asset under management were 440.00 Billion. Asset under management of open-end schemes, voluntary pension schemes, and discretionary mandate portfolio are discretionary mandate. Moreover, all investments in mutual funds are subject to market risk. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. Please read the offering documents to understand the investment objectives and the risks involved. The use of the name and logo of National Bank of Pakistan does not constitute an endorsement by the National Bank of Pakistan for the liability obligations of the Company. NBP Fund Management Limited or any investment advisor managed by it.

PRAYER

Fajr 04:36
Zuhr 12:04
Asr 04:23
Maghreb 06:06
Isha 07:30

Starting time is calculated

REFLECTIONS

CC BELIEVE MORE DISTANTLY THAN STRANGERS AND OFTEN STRANGERS HELP YOU MORE THAN YOUR NEAREST RELATIVES. — HAFIZ ALI (A.S.)

24/09/2024

Police arrest three murder suspects

TANILA: Police have arrested three suspected murderers involved in separate murder cases, police spokesman said on Monday.

According to the Police spokesman, one of the suspects allegedly killed his friend Usair over some petty dispute and later threw his body in a water canal on Regt 15 and went underground.

The spokesman said a team of Tanila police led by SHO Inspector Rana Khaled traced the suspect and arrested him.

The spokesman has said that the main suspect in the murder case had already been sent behind bars.

The spokesman said that the same team also arrested a trailer driver who crashed a woman to death on G.E. Road near Jamshabab on Regt 19. Two of her family members were also injured in the accident. — Correspondent



LABOURERS carry out renovation work on a greenbelt near Zero Point Interchange in Islamabad. — White Star

No let-up in dengue cases as 59 more cases reported

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: There is no let-up in dengue cases as the city's three government hospitals received 59 more patients on Monday, taking the tally of the season to 721.

Officials said 47 of the patients were from Rawalpindi, one from Attock and the others from Islamabad. A total of 197 dengue patients are admitted in the Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital, Benazir Bhutto Hospital and other head-quarters hospitals.

Most of the patients arrived from Chak Jalalain, Lakhiana, Gulistan Colony, Lane 4 Postwar Road, Chaklala Scheme-III, Chaudhry Rostan Khan Road, Kharna Dak, Anghar Mall Scheme, Jamia Masjid Road, Dhoke Dalal, Dhoke Mangal, Perwadhai Mor, Morah Noori, Taktai Pari and adjacent areas.

According to official figures, five of the dengue patients were critical. As many as 719 dengue cases have reported in Rawalpindi this year while 825 patients had reported to hospitals in 2023 and 1449 in 2022.

Addressing a press conference, Deputy Commissioner Dr Hassan Waqar Cheema said on the instructions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Pasha that been given on dengue in Rawalpindi, "Compared to last year, the number of dengue cases is less this year," he said.

Accompanied by District Health Authority Chief Executive Officer Dr Asif Arshad Niaz, the deputy commissioner said 59 private clinics had been sealed which were not reporting the dengue cases.

He said the district administration is working on proposals to conduct dengue tests at lower rates in all private laboratories. He said surveillance teams checked government buildings every three days. He said action will be taken if larvae were found in any government building.

The deputy commissioner said 200mm rain was recorded in August this year which led to an increase in the dengue cases.

"How long has the government continued cleaning people's houses? The citizens will also have to cooperate," he said.

He said that 3,000 cases had been reported this year for violation of

dengue SOPs and 1100 sites sealed along with a fine of Rs4.5 million imposed on the violators.

Compared to previous years, he added, we have fewer teams this year, but still statistics on the dengue activity are high. He said that from January 1, during indoor surveillance, 402,013 houses were checked and larvae recovered from 43,000 houses while the checking of 1.3 million places in the outdoor surveillance led to the detection of larvae at 4,644 places.

He said arrangements were also being made in mosques regarding dengue in high risk union councils. Citizens should provide their support and help the government control dengue, the DC added.

Meanwhile, Secretary Primary and Secondary Health Nadeem Naig said that dengue situation in Rawalpindi was being closely monitored and all possible steps were being taken to control its spread.

She said that on the instructions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, she visited Rawalpindi and reviewed the measures for the prevention of dengue with the aim of further improving the measures taken by the government.

The secretary along with the deputy commissioner and the health authority chief visited Chak Jalalain Union Council and inspected a medical camp.

The secretary appreciated the efforts of the district administration and Rawalpindi Health Department against dengue. Later, the secretary also visited the houses of dengue patients.

PUNJAB BUILDING DEPARTMENT E-TENDER NOTICE

The tenders for the following schemes are invited from Engineering firms / contractors on item rate basis as per PPRPA E-Tendering System, online with relevant PPRPA Rules (amended upto date). According to these Rules, all the firms / contractors can participate in tendering process with the following terms and conditions:-

- The intending contractors / firms who have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category / codes are eligible to participate.
- The contractors / firms have to be registered on Punjab PPRPA website www.punjab.e-procure.gov.pk. Any information / procedure regarding registration can be seen / obtained from website ppra.punjab.gov.pk / e-procurements.
- The contractor / bidder has to upload scanned copies of Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) 92% of the estimated cost of any scheduled bid. Original CDR has to be submitted to the Tender Opening Committee on the same day, half hour before the opening of bids, otherwise, the firm / contractor will be disqualified in presence of Tender Opening Committee.
- After filing the bids on website, the contractors will attend the office of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Rawalpindi on 06-10-2024 at 12:00 Noon, where all bids will be reviewed and quoted rates / successful bidder will be announced in presence of Tender Opening Committee on the same date at 12:30 PM.
- In case of false information, fake CDR, the contractor will be liable to disqualify as per PPRPA Rules and will not be eligible to participate in upcoming tender of C&W Department Government of the Punjab. Further, his case will be forwarded to PEC and PPRPA for initiation of Strict Legal Action.
- Quorum Redressal Committee (QRC) has been constituted vide Govt. of the Punjab, Communication & Works Department Notification No. 5026-1(C&W)/3-152017-18 dated 31-07-2024. The Committee shall redress the complaints of the bidders pertaining to procurement as per PPRPA Rules.
- 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.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (M)	Summ. Money (%)	T.B. No. Item	Year Period
1	Maintenance & Repair to Commissioner Office (Plaster Work) Rawalpindi for the year 2024-25	Rs. 2,991 (M)	Rs. 0.060 (M)	S.E. No.1715-D Dated 28.08.2024	Two Months
2	Maintenance & Repair to Police Lines Colony Rawalpindi (External Plaster & Painting Works) for the year 2024-25	2,991 (M)	0.060 (M)	S.E. No.1750-D Dated 06.09.2024	-0-
3	Maintenance & Repair to Commissioner Office (External Additional Work) Rawalpindi for the year 2024-25	2,938 (M)	0.059 (M)	S.E. No.1715-D Dated 28.08.2024	-0-
4	Maintenance & Repair to Police Lines Colony Rawalpindi (External Street Line & Ties Works) for the year 2024-25	2,991 (M)	0.060 (M)	S.E. No.1750-D Dated 06.09.2024	-0-
5	Maintenance & Repair to Commissioner Office (External Work) Rawalpindi for the year 2024-25	2,938 (M)	0.059 (M)	S.E. No.1715-D Dated 28.08.2024	-0-
6	Maintenance & Repair to Jharida Chaudhry Colony Rawalpindi (Secondary Wall & Floor Street) for the year 2024-25	1,821 (M)	0.032 (M)	S.E. No.1750-D Dated 06.09.2024	-0-
7	Maintenance & Repair to Commissioner Office (Replacement of Fiber Street) Rawalpindi for the year 2024-25	2,991 (M)	0.060 (M)	S.E. No.1740-D Dated 28.08.2024	-0-
8	Maintenance & Repair to Police Lines Colony Rawalpindi (Car Parking, Shed etc. Partition Wall) for the year 2024-25	0,600 (M)	0.013 (M)	S.E. No.3170-D Dated 06.09.2024	1 Month

Name Sayed Karam Hussain Designation Executive Engineer Department Building Division No. 2 Rawalpindi	Name Sayed Anshad Paul Designation Superintending Engineer Department Building Circle No. 1 Rawalpindi
House/Street P.O. 110-Adambay Road Bakhtar Rawalpindi	House/Street P.O. Marhabad Main, Peshawar Road, Rawalpindi Cantt.
Contact Area Rawalpindi Cantt.	Contact Area Rawalpindi Cantt.
City Name with Toll & Distt. Phone: Rawalpindi 031-8271910 031-8271987	City Name with Toll & Distt. Phone: Rawalpindi 031-8234587 031-8234542
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Building Division No. 2 Rawalpindi	SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER Building Circle No. 1 Rawalpindi

IFL-9023

PUNJAB HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE

The tenders for the following Special Repair Works are invited from Engineering firms/ contractors on item rate basis, as per PPRPA E-Tendering System, online with relevant PPRPA Rules (amended upto date). According to these Rules, all the firms/contractors can participate in tendering process with the following terms and conditions:-

- The intending contractors/firms who have been registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category/codes may participate.
- The contractors/firms have to be registered on Punjab PPRPA website (www.punjab.e-procure.gov.pk). Any information/procedure regarding registration can be seen/obtained from website ppra.punjab.gov.pk / e-procurements.
- All intending contractors/firms have to upload the scanned money in the form of CDR in favor of the Executive Engineer 92% of the estimated cost and all rates against items of work on the same website upon half hour before the opening date and time of opening of tender. However, original CDR has to be submitted to the Tender Opening Committee on the same day, half hour before the opening of bids, or the firm/contractor fails to submit original CDR will be disqualified in presence of Tender Opening Committee.
- After filing the bids on website, the contractors will attend the office of Commissioner on 06/10/2024 at 12:00 PM, where all bids will be reviewed and quoted rates/ successful bidder will be announced in presence of Tender Opening Committee.
- In case of submission of any false information/document such as CDR/receipt, the contractor/firm will be disqualified from the current tendering procedure and will be blacklisted to participate in any tendering process of C&W Department. Further, recommendation to PPRPA and PEC will also be made against such firm/contractor for appropriate action/blacklisting.
- The Procuring Agency may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal under PPRPA Rule-25 (Rejection of Bids).
- Recovery against credit of bid material will be adjusted manually and accordingly the bids will be evaluated.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	T.B. No. & Date	Comp. Period	Estimated Cost / Summ. Money	Opening Date & Time
1.	Special Repair of Road from Rawala to Jaha LCC Main Rd - 3.50 Km Tehsil KORA Sialkot District Murree	T.B. with Chief Engineer (Murree) Tender No. 345/17g Dated 21-08-2024	3 Months	57,999 1,180	5-10-2024 at 11:30AM
2.	Special Repair of Road from Chandi Karna Thoon Road Land Side at Km 1 & 2 Length = 20 Km Tehsil KORA Sialkot District Murree	T.B. C.E. (H) No. 431/17g Dated 06-09-2024	3 Months	1,40,203 3,897	5-10-2024 at 12:00PM
3.	Special Repair to R.M.R. Road (Land Side at Km 30) Tehsil & District Murree	T.B. E.E. No. 2022/08 Dated 21-08-2024	3 Months	1,186 6,046	5-10-2024 at 12:30PM
4.	Special Repair of Rawalpindi Murree Kamhar Road (Water Tap to Kharwa Road) Land Side at RD 144+00 Tehsil & District Murree	T.B. E.E. No. 2872/08 Dated 06-09-2024	3 Months	1,272 6,026	5-10-2024 at 12:30PM
5.	Special Repair to Kohala Bridge Road (B&B) Construction of Road Wall at Km 120 Tehsil & District Murree	T.B. E.E. No. 2897/08 Dated 06-09-2024	3 Months	6,834 9,017	5-10-2024 at 12:30PM
6.	Annual Repair of Roads Highway Sub-Division Murree (Supply of Material) Tehsil & District Murree	T.B. E.E. No. 2894/08 Dated 06-09-2024	15 Months	1,488 9,029	5-10-2024 at 12:00PM

Executive Engineer Highway Division Murree

Superintending Engineer Highway Circle No. 1 Rawalpindi

IFL-9023

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ISLAMABAD

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FULLY furnished Studio Apartment for Rent in G-4/4 available on Feroz Avenue in with your luggage located in Daman (near Islamabad) is a lovely suited for a couple with/without job requirements. To Contact Office and Business Centre Contact: 0300484855, 0700778903

COURT NOTICE

ISLAMABAD

In the Court of Munsif Khan Judge Banking Court Islamabad, Bank Aftab Ltd versus Faisal Zaman, To, Faisal Zaman, Dr. Muhammad Zaman, (Gazetted Officer & Tehsil) House Number 20-433 Street Number 1, Mubashir Colony Faisalabad, Faisalabad, Office # 5, To, Feroz Avenue Road, Sector 10, Islamabad. Whereas Bank Aftab has initiated a suit for Recovery of Rs.15,758,831/- due against Under Section 105 of Financial Institution Recovery of Finance Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit under sub-section within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default thereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the suit with all reliefs and amount due with interest as per law. (0300484855, 0700778903)

COURT NOTICE

ISLAMABAD

In the Court of Munsif Khan Judge Banking Court Islamabad, Bank Aftab Ltd versus Faisal Zaman, To, Faisal Zaman, Dr. Muhammad Zaman, (Gazetted Officer & Tehsil) House Number 20-433 Street Number 1, Mubashir Colony Faisalabad, Faisalabad, Office # 5, To, Feroz Avenue Road, Sector 10, Islamabad. Whereas Bank Aftab has initiated a suit for Recovery of Rs.15,758,831/- due against Under Section 105 of Financial Institution Recovery of Finance Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit under sub-section within 30 days after the publication of this notice. In default thereof the plaintiff will be entitled to obtain the decree of the suit with all reliefs and amount due with interest as per law. (0300484855, 0700778903)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

PESHAWAR

PUBLIC notice is informed that Mr. Azeem Ali Khan of Peshawar is the owner of Plot No. 204 Sector 2A/3 measuring 10 acres of Zone - 1, Reg Model Town Peshawar. He has given its power of attorney to Mr. Zahir ul Haq through vide Deed No. 159/2024 No. 4 Volume No. 164 Date 20-09-2024. Mr. Zahir ul Haq has agreed to transfer the plot through grant attestation. Therefore, if any Bank, Department, Firm or Individual has any objection on this matter he should contact the undersigned with written proof within 10 days. Otherwise, the plot shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (General), PDA Hayatabad Peshawar. (03004779412)

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

PESHAWAR

PUBLIC notice is informed that Mr. Muhammad Yousaf Noor Bin Noor Muhammad Khan, is the owner of Plot No. 51 Sector F/1 measuring 30 Meters at Phase-4, Hayatabad Peshawar. He has given its power of attorney to Mr. Zahir ul Haq through vide Deed No. 470/2024 No. 4 Volume No. 164 Date 20-09-2024. Mr. Zahir ul Haq has agreed to transfer the plot through grant attestation. Therefore, if any Bank, Department, Firm or Individual has any objection on this matter he should contact the undersigned with written proof within 10 days. Otherwise, the plot shall be transferred and later on no claim shall be entertained. Housing Officer (General), PDA Hayatabad Peshawar. (03004779412)

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MARRIAGE BUREAU

ISLAMABAD

NEED to marriage proposal for my daughter has good income must be educated and a good looking person. Willing people contact: 0347010438, 0700778903

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited from potential bidders for the "Procurement of Services for Operation of Centralized Call Centre for Power Distribution Companies". Pre-Bid Conference will be held on 26-09-2024 at 11:00am at FITC Conference Room, Lower Ground, Building # 3, Azam-ghat Complex, Upper Lower Road, Rawalpindi. Technical and financial bids shall be received up to 12:10-2024 at 11:30am and both bids shall be opened at 11:30am on same day of above mentioned location. Under the No. 1,000/- will be deposited in Form No. 001, FITC Office WAPDA House, Lahore. Please download Tender Document with all details from: www.ppp.com.pk and www.ppra.gov.pk websites.

For any further clarification please contact:
Director General (GSD) P-1, 642-96002666 during office hours.

GEO FITC, 405-WAPDA House, Lahore

Invitation to Bid

Supply of Computer Systems

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Attock Campus a Public Sector University of Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) invites bids through E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (EPADS) <http://epads.procure.gov.pk> on "Single-Stage Two-Envelope" procedure from from Executive T-02 (CIT registered Firms/Companies who are also on the Approved Supplier List (ASL) for General Goods, Services and Software for the Procurement of Supply of Computer Systems".

- The bid security for the bid is Rs. 200,000/- in the form of Cash Deposit/Bank Draft (non-refundable) drawn in favor of "COMSATS University Islamabad, Attock Campus" (PTIN/NTN: 9016873-6) enclosed copy of which is required to be uploaded through EPADS and hard copy must be submitted physically along with hard-copy of sealed bidding document on the closing date of the tender to COMSATS University Islamabad, Attock Campus, the address given below.
- The complete tendering process shall be carried out through EPADS.
- Interested bidders are requested to register themselves on the EPADS, <http://epads.procure.gov.pk> and submit their required fees and upload their work documents.
- For registration and guidance/training on EPADS, you may contact EPADS UAN: 951-111-137-137.
- Closing date of submission is October 14, 2024, by 11:00 hours. The bids shall be opened half hour after the closing date in the presence of the bidders who wish to be present at the opening session. Competitive Bidding Block, COMSATS University Islamabad, Attock Campus.
- As per PPRPA rule 15, CUI may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal.

Procurement Office
COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Attock Campus
a public sector University of Ministry of Science & Technology
University Road, Attock
Tel: 0312-5000114
Fax: 0312-5000114
www.comsats.edu.pk

National Grass Skiing Championship begins

By Tariq Maqsood

RAWALAKOTE: The third National Grass Skiing Championship began on Monday in the breath-taking hills of Anad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), drawing over a hundred athletes from across Pakistan.

Toli Peer, perched at an altitude of 8,000 feet and located 30 kilometres from Rawalakote, the district headquarters, provides an ideal setting for this unique sport. The event has been organised by the AJK Winter Sports Association and the Pakistan Winter Sports Federation, in collaboration with the AJK tourism and sports departments.



SKIERS in action on the first day of Third National Grass Skiing Championship in Toli Peer on Monday. — Dawn

Grass skiing, though relatively new in Pakistan, follows similar techniques to Alpine skiing, with the key difference being the surface — grass instead of snow.

A total of 107 athletes from 14 teams, representing Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Anad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan, were participating in this year's championship, including 44 female competitors, according to Asad Kharsheed, Secretary General

of the AJK Winter Sports Association.

Mr Kharsheed pointed out that this year's turnout was a clear indicator of the sport's rising popularity. He recalled that in the 2nd National Grass Skiing Championship, held two years ago, also in Toli Peer, 72 athletes, including 28 women, from

10 teams had participated.

"The increase in participants this year shows that more people are becoming interested in grass skiing... It's a testament to the sport's growing appeal," he said.

He added that, in addition to the registered competitors, many local amateur athletes

were also expected to join the event in significant numbers.

"The first three days of the championship have been reserved for a training camp led by national-level male and female coaches. The camp aims at familiarising participants with the terrain and helping them refine their

skills," he said.

He informed that the final competition races for both men and women would take place over the next two days, offering an exciting showcase of talent.

The AJK Winter Sports Association Secretary General also highlighted the broader significance of the event, not

ing that it extended beyond just the sport.

"These championships not only foster healthy competition among the youth but also play a crucial role in promoting tourism in the region. We encourage people from across the country to attend, not just for the sports, but to experi-

ence the natural beauty and rich culture of Toli Peer."

The event will conclude on September 28 with a vibrant closing ceremony featuring Kashmiri folk music and songs, where trophies and medals will be awarded to the top teams and standout athletes, he said.

SI arrested for abusing two minor children

By Munawer Azeem

ISLAMABAD: A sub-inspector (SI) of the capital police was suspended and put behind bars after he was found involved in detaining two minor children illegally for two days and physically abusing them, police said on Monday.

The action against the SI was taken in response to a complaint lodged by relatives of the children with Inspector General of Police Syed Ali Naair Kiani.

The complaints stated that the policeman picked the children and detained them in a police station besides physically assaulting them. Later, the SI dropped them at an Edhi centre.

In response, the IGP ordered an inquiry and asked DHC Syed Ali Raza to establish the facts and fix responsibility. During the inquiry, the DHC found that the SI had picked up the two minors — one 10 years old and the other 12 years — while begging in Karachi Company on September 16.

Later, the SI took the children to the Shams Colony police station, where he was posted, and illegally detained them there for two days, said the police. He took them to the Edhi centre on September 18.

The complaints alleged that during the illegal detention the SI abused them. Over the allegations, a medical examination of the children was conducted which confirmed it.

After the SI was found guilty, DHC Raza suspended him and ordered registration of a case against him.

When contacted, the DHC told Dawn that the SI was now behind bars and under the directives of the IGP departmental proceedings had been initiated against him to discontinue his service.

"The capital police will ensure strict implementation of law and any official or officer involved in any illegal and immoral activity will be made accountable," Mr Raza said, adding police officers and officials were not above the law and any of them overstepping their authority will face strict legal and departmental action.

Farmers should be consulted on any new package: commissioner

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Aamir Khattak on Monday directed the Agriculture Department to take farmers on board before launching any government package. This will produce effective results to the measures taken by the government.

He also directed to ensure the transfer of field assistants and ensure that they registered small farmers in their areas through geo-tagging.

He expressed these views while addressing a meeting of the Divisional Agriculture Advisory Committee and Task Force here. Director Agriculture Shahid Bokhari and other concerned officers attended the meeting in person whereas the deputy commissioners of Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal participated through video link.

The commissioner said he would check soil and water test reports during his visits.

"The reports should have detailed notes from field assistants based on which the farmers would be guided as to which crop would be most profitable on their land and what kind of agrochemicals they would need and in what quantity," he said.

On the complaint about black marketing of seeds from Attock district, he directed the deputy commissioner to take immediate action against the responsible.

He also directed the deputy commissioner Chakwal that since time for groundnut cultivation was near he should call farmers and middlemen to fix the price so that no one can exploit the farmers.

The commissioner said that the purpose of the government's subsidy was to provide relief to the common man and this was possible only if commodities were available to farmers in the required quantity and at the fixed prices, which was the responsibility of the agriculture department.

He added that the most important thing was coordination with farmers.

He directed that providing all possible support and guidance to farmers should be the first priority so that they can get full advantage of Punjab Chief Minister's Rafiq Billim Kisan Package.

He said farmers whose crops were not being sold should be assisted by the agriculture department officers by developing linkages with the market.

Director Agriculture Shahid Bokhari gave a briefing on the agricultural profile of the Rawalpindi division and said more and more farmers were being registered to benefit from the Kisan package.

He said under the package, apart from other agricultural benefits, about 512 tractors will be given to farmers in Rawalpindi division.



A MAN walks by murals of national heroes painted on a wall in F-6 sector in Islamabad. — Online

PMDC says had tip-off about 'organised gang', so far no proof of cheating

By Ibrahim Javed

ISLAMABAD: The Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) held on Sunday continued to garner controversy for purported mismanagement and cheating during the exam, with the Islamabad chapter of the Pakistan Medical Association urging 'corrective measures' to accommodate students.

The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) said there was hitherto no proof of organised cheating in the exams, but they had been tipped off by security agencies about an 'organised gang' that planned to facilitate cheating through gadgets.

It may be noted that in Quetta over 50 students had been arrested by the police as well as two other individuals for cheating during MDCAT, while similar gadgets were recovered from almost a dozen students in Islamabad.

In a statement on Monday, the

PMDC said the information about the alleged gang had been provided three days before the test and they had taken strict measures to discourage cheating.

Dr Rawan Taj, who heads the PMDC, claimed that the security agencies were on board and were cooperating to stop cheating, adding that the inquiry panel had not found proof of cheating but the investigation was going on.

"The PMDC president himself visited a number of centres to ensure that cheating gadgets would not be used and ensure transparency," the statement claimed.

Dr Taj said candidates and their parents should ignore the rumours and information circulating on social media and also avoid any action against those involved in spreading fake news.

On the other hand, the PMA Islamabad demanded action over the concerns of students. "The PMA has taken serious notice of the alleged discrepancy and mistakes in MDCAT

held on Sunday and urged President PMDC Dr Rawan Taj and SPARMO Vice Chairman Dr Tariq Iqbal to take immediate and urgent corrective measures to address the concerns of candidates and rectify the discrepancies before the result is out to save the careers of students," the PMA said in a statement after the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Prof Dr Akhtar Ali Rashedi and attended by Dr Mian Akhbar Rashid, Dr Muhammad Ajmal, Dr Mubasher Datta, Dr Hans Javed, Dr Aamir Shah, Dr Khuram Akram, Dr Ahsan Saad, Dr Raza Abbas, and Dr Saad Ali Khan.

Former PMA secretary general Dr Qaiser Sajjad, while talking to Dawn, said it was unfortunate that the impression regarding MDCAT was that the test was not transparent. "Tests should have been arranged at proper places instead of institutions, as PMDC had charged Rs5,000 from each student and the [total] amount was about

Rs1.5 billion," Dr Sajjad said, adding that even water was not provided in Karachi.

"Female candidates were directed to remove gold jewellery and watches, due to which a number of them went back to their leave precious jewellery and could not reach the centres on time since the gates had been closed," he said, adding that the students who handed over their valuables to the staff could not find them after the test.

Dr Sajjad said those who could not appear in the test should be given another chance and results be announced without any delay to avoid making the situation further complicated.

Meanwhile, students demanded that the question papers should be shared with the candidates, claiming a number of questions had wrong answers or more than one answer, so grace marks should be given. They also claimed that there were some discrepancies in the 'key'.

Three suspects in murder case granted bail

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The additional sessions judge on Monday granted pre-arrest bail to three suspects, including a former National Assembly candidate, in the murder case of a JUI worker who was gunned down while his parents and brother were injured over a parking dispute in Raza Amral on Sunday.

The counsel for the suspects filed a petition in the court of additional sessions judge Raja Faizal Rashid seeking bail before arrest.

The court granted them bail on the surety bonds worth Rs50,000 each and directed the police not to arrest them till Oct 5.

The court also issued notice to the police to appear before the court with a complete record of the case on October 5.

Fiaz Khan, a resident of Hazara Colony, lodged an FIR with Raza Amral police on Sunday saying that he was a rickshaw driver and so was his son Saqib, 33.

On Sunday, Saqib parked his rickshaw outside his house to bring his mobile phone from inside when their neighbour, Babar Jadoon, came out of his house and on seeing the rickshaw parked outside, got its tyre flattened and started abusing him.

The victim said when he himself came to talk to Babar Jadoon, he was struck in the head by his accomplice Asad.

On seeing him injured, his son Usman came to rescue him, but he too was beaten up.

They also beat up his wife, he claimed in the FIR.

Later, Babar Jadoon brought a gun from his car and shot Saqib, injuring him critically.

Later the three suspects escaped from the scene till they sought pre-bail arrest on Monday.

CJP-supported decision to revive union at QAU still not implemented

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa may not see revival of students unions during his tenure, as his fully supported Qazi-Azam University (QAU) syndicate's decision, seeking revival of unions at the university has not been implemented as yet.

QAU syndicate had decided last year to revive students unions at QAU, a step which was widely appreciated by students and others, as it was hoped that revival of union at QAU will pave the way for revival of unions in other universities of the country.

Chief Justice, being member of QAU syndicate had attended the meeting in September last year and not only supported the revival of unions, but also recommended that the union be modeled around Oxford

University's student union, which has produced a number of world leaders.

"CJP is due to retire next month, but QAU syndicate's decision has not been implemented as yet. If unions are not revived during his tenure, their revival will be very difficult as successive governments under the pretext of a previous judgement of Supreme Court of 1993 always avoided holding elections," said an official of QAU.

He said that CJP, who being member of the board of governors of various universities took special interest in education sector. "He should also summons QAU administration to explain why elections are not being held as he held Islamic University's management accountable for alleged misdeeds," said an official adding

that "we expect that the chief justice will pay special focus on QAU."

However, when contacted an administrative officer of QAU claimed that election of students union would be held soon.

"Our new semester has started and during this semester we will hold elections," he said and when asked about deadline, the officer said a committee formed by the syndicate will announce the date for election.

It is relevant to note here Student unions were banned in 1984 by the dictator Ziaul Haq in an effort to quell student uprisings against his oppressive policies. The decision had left a significant vacuum in Pakistan's political landscape. Four decades hence, the students at QAU

last year seemed poised to be the first to get their democratic rights back. Later a committee formed by QAU syndicate also finalised code of conduct for holding elections, but the university failed to hold the same.

Last year during a syndicate meeting, Chief Justice while discussing Ziaul Haq's regime had observed that Gen Zia's Martial Law Order had been repealed by an Act of Parliament in 1985. He had also pointed to a 1993 Supreme Court judgement, through disapproval of students' involvement in politics, also allowed for and appreciated the existence of elected bodies which address students' issues and arrange co-curricular activities for them.

After discussion, the syndicate unanimously decided to revive QAU's students' union, which is an elected body representing all students of the university.

Before the QAU's syndicate meeting, successive governments made several commitments for the revival of student unions, but no practical steps were ever taken in this regard.

In 2017, the Senate, then headed by Mian Raza Rabbani, had adopted a resolution for the revival of student unions, but it remained unimplemented.

Later, during the PTE regime, then prime minister Imran Khan also expressed support for the restoration of student unions following protests across the country. However, once again, no practical step was taken in this regard. — Kashif Akbar

LAHORE
Sunset 05:59 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:50 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 28.0°C
Maximum 38.0°C
Outlook Mainly Sunny
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 180

METRO Central



Five-star Jayasuriya leads SL to victory in first New Zealand Test Pg.20 SPORT

US envoy calls on Nawaz, Maryam

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Burns called on PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz here on Monday.

Matters of mutual interest, the promotion of Pakistan-US relations, and cooperation in various fields were discussed in the meeting, says a spokesman. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said "Pakistan and America have excellent cordial relations, and we are determined to further strengthen them. There is immense potential in Pakistan-US trade, which needs to be utilised."

She said the PML-N government had set new standards of 'good governance' and transparency. Pakistan has achieved great success in the war against terrorism and extremism, she said.

Mr Burns discussed increasing trade opportunities for both countries. The government had not out did not mention any discussion between Nawaz Sharif and the US ambassador.

LHC allows plea for hearing on next CJ issue

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Monday overruled a registrar officer's objection to a petition challenging the nomination of a nomination for appointing Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, the most senior judge of the Supreme Court, as the next chief justice of Pakistan.

The office had raised an objection, saying the petition was not maintainable before the LHC. Dismissing the objection, Justice Faizal Zaman Khan directed the office to file the petition for hearing. Advocate Nadeem Shabbir filed the petition, pleading that political, constitutional and legal issues were arising in the country. He argued that under the Constitution, the most

Continued on Page 15



A HUSTLE and bustle at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry during voting to elect new office-bearers. — White Star

Teenage girl gang-raped during road robbery

Bahawalnagar family was on visit to Pakpattan when incident happened

By Shafiq Butt

SADIQWALA: A teenage girl was gang-raped allegedly by robbers during a road robbery in the presence of her relative family near village Malik Rahmon in Pakpattan between the nights of Sunday and Monday.

A resident of Bahawalnagar was on a visit to family friends in Pakpattan along with his wife, a

son and a minor daughter, a sister and 17-year-old niece when the incident happened.

The family left for Pakpattan in their car at noon on Sunday. They first went to Mastagan Jhonka village to offer condolences on the death of the father of a family friend. Later, they visited another family friend at Mohalla Atallah Shah of Pakpattan.

After dinner at around 11pm, the family left for Bahawalnagar in their car. On their way back near Malik Rahmon village, their car was intercepted by four unidentified armed suspects on two motorcycles in the middle of a village road. The men were driving the car and his son was in the

passenger seat while his wife, daughter, sister and the teenage niece were sitting in the back seat.

The suspects first snatched mobile phones and car keys from them. They offloaded the women from the car and searched cash and gold ornaments from them.

After about 20 minutes, two armed suspects took the man's niece to the roadside maize fields where they gang-raped her while their two companions held the family hostage by the roadside. Despite the girl's cries for help, the family was unable to save her.

The incident in the Sadiq police area of Pakpattan lasted for 50 minutes, including 35 minutes of torture and gang rape, but

there was nobody to help the family. The girl was crying for help but neither her uncle nor her aunt could save her.

The suspects deprived the family of Rs67,000 cash, two mobile phones and gold ornaments worth Rs20,000.

After the robbery and gang rape, the suspects threw the car keys on the road and fled. The family went to a nearby farmhouse whose owner called police emergency 15. Police reached the crime scene after an hour, visited the site and collected evidence.

The victim girl was shifted to the District Headquarters

Continued on Page 14

Seven universities get vice chancellors

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Monday appointed vice chancellors of seven public sector universities across the province.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz met 11 candidates for vice-chancellor (VC) positions at public universities on Sept 2. The CM also conducted a meeting with seven candidates for VC positions at public sector women universities in the province on Sept 16.

The government had issued the notifications of seven VCs including Prof Dr Muhammad Ali Shah as VC of the University of the Punjab, Prof Dr Shahid

Misir as VC of the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, Prof Dr Zubair Iqbal as VC of the Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Prof Dr Amir Asam Khan as VC of the Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology Bahin Yar Khan, Prof Dr Ajmal Akhtar Chaudhry as VC of the University of Education Lahore, Prof Dr Inayatullah Khan as VC of the University of Engineering and Technology, Faisal, and Prof Dr Ahmed Shuja as VC of the University of Gujrat.

A search committee, led by former bureaucrat Iqbal Qureshi and including members such as Lt-Gov Muhammad Asghar, Farzana Waqar Afzal,

and Anjum Saqib, had conducted interviews for the appointment of regular VCs in general public sector universities of the province in August.

The notification of 11 universities including Government College University, Faisalabad, Islamia University, Bahawalpur, Information Technology University in Lahore and University of Narawal, Women University, Multan, LCWU, Women University, Sialkot, Government Sadiq College, Women University Bahawalpur, Government College Women University, Multan, Faisalabad, Home Economics University, Lahore, and Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi were yet to be issued.

Earlier, Punjab Governor Chaudhry Sarfaraz Baloch Khan raised concerns over the appointment of VCs in universities while Punjab Information Minister Arma Bokhari reminded him of his "limited role" in the selection process.

However, after the intervention of a senior PPP leader, the governor had issued the notifications for appointment of vice chancellors in public universities.

A source claimed that the governor would soon leave the country on a personal visit to some foreign country and the acting governor would issue the notifications of the appointments to remaining universities this week.

Cane growers paid over 99pc of their dues, minister tells PA

PPP MPA Chung alleges corruption by police in RYK katicha area

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly was told on Monday that 99.14 per cent of the payment of sugarcane dues has been made to the growers. Parliamentary Secretary for Food Malik Wahab, while replying to a written query of a member, told the house that of the total Rs497m outstanding dues of farmers, the mills have paid Rs494m (99.14pc).

The chair, being held by parcel of chairman's. Sumailah Khan, referred the issue of dues payment and powers of the cane commission to the standing committee as the mover of the question was not satisfied with the answer.

the wheat growers were facing financial devastation as grain rate had dropped to Rs2,200 per 40kg in the open market.

KATICHA AREA ISSUE: The issue of indebtedness in the katicha (river) area in Bahin Yar Khan district resurfaced in the assembly when Raza Afridi rejected the response of minister Mujtaba Shuja to a call-attention notice regarding five murders in the (RYK) district as unsatisfactory.

PPP's Muztaz Ali Chung, through a point of order, said the police had no writ in katicha area though billions of rupees were being spent on the force. He alleged that police officers posted in katicha areas had become billionaires, as they in collusion with robbers in the area were misusing money through kickback for ransoms and other illegal means.

He claimed that the Anti-Corruption Establishment had unearthed properties worth Rs1,600m owned by an SHO posted in katicha area, alleging the money allocated for police operations in the area was being embezzled. He alleged the police officials posted on Sadiq/Punjab border were also involved in smuggling of Iranian oil.

He demanded establishment of a parliamentary fact-finding committee to get first-hand information for framing an effective strategy to resolve the problem.

mostly adopted a resolution condemning the disrespectful attitude shown by the Afghan counsel general towards Pakistan's national anthem.

Tabled by PML-N's Anjum Ali Javed, it demanded the federal government lodge a formal protest with Afghanistan on the issue.

Earlier, opposition leader Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar termed the arrest of MNAs from parliament lodges an attack on democracy and cautioned those using high-handed tactics against the PTI that political parties could not be eliminated through coercion.

He recalled that the PPP and the PML-N could not be eliminated despite imposition of martial law and declared that the PTI was facing 'civil martial law' these days. He said the parliamentarians should identify the snatched men who had picked the MPs from the parliament lodges as some members of the KP Assembly had suspected that the establishment was behind the episode.

Mr Bhachar challenged the government to establish its writ by forming a judicial commission on the May 9 incidents and alleged that the Punjab government desired to stage another such episode during the PTI's Sept 21 public meeting in Lahore by forcibly occupying the container (being used as the stage for the speaker) at 9pm. — Staff Reporter

Plane makes emergency landing at Lahore airport

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A private airline's plane had to make an emergency landing at the Allama Iqbal International Airport here on Monday after its cargo compartment was filled with smoke.

According to a spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Fly Jinnah's flight FL 846 left for Lahore from Karachi with 171 people, including passengers and crew members.

"A distress signal was issued by the captain of the flight from Karachi to Lahore. The captain reported smoke in the cargo area at 7:15pm, while the aircraft was descending for landing. It made a successful landing at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport at 7:20pm," he said.

In accordance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs), the Airport Authority's Fire Department was on the site to handle any potential emergencies, he said and added that after landing, all passengers and crew members were safely evacuated using the emergency escape slide system.

He said the fire department completed the inspection of the cargo compartment and cleared the aircraft at 7:57pm.

Senior officials have initiated an investigation into the incident, he added. There are also reports that one of the aircraft's engines caught fire.

A passenger was quoted as saying that there was an engine on fire and some smoke in the cabin for 30 minutes before the plane made an emergency landing, which terrified the passengers.

Court disposes of plea against possible arrest of Salman Raja

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Monday disposed of a petition against possible arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's leader Advocate Salman Akram Raja as police said he was not required in any case.

A law officer presented a report on behalf of additional IG Punjab, maintaining that Mr Raja was not wanted for arrest in any case.

Based on this statement, Justice Abid Hussain Chaudhry disposed of the petition. Last week, the judge had restrained the Punjab police from arresting Advocate Raja until Sept 23.

The petition had raised concerns that Raja could be arrested in an undisclosed case and had requested the court to order the provision of case details and issue an advance notice before any possible arrest.

A lawyer for the PTI leader had alleged that the government wanted to prevent the petitioner from participating in the Lahore rally scheduled on Sept 21. He said politically-motivated cases had been registered against the petitioner. — Staff Reporter

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Police station caught stealing electricity

By Our Correspondent

TORA TEK SINGH: The Nargodha Road police station has been accused of electricity theft after connecting direct wires from the main supply line. In a letter to the Faisalabad city police officer (CPO) on Monday, Faisalabad Electric Supply Company's Muslim Town Sub-Divisional Officer Mohabbir Hussain Larra said the police personnel

at the station resort to stealing electricity whenever the power supply was disconnected due to non-payment. The station owes an outstanding bill of Rs.16 million, leading to a power cut. He asked the CPO to take action against those responsible and ensure the payment of the overdue amount. **DETECTED:** Three Elite Force constables were booked on Monday for the murder of Ghulam Dastagir, a grade nine stu-

dent, after a fake encounter during the Eid Miladun Nabi night in Jaranwala. Dastagir, along with his cousin Ali Kamran, a second-year student, was returning home on a motorcycle after watching a procession when they were shot at by the police officials. Both cousins were seriously injured, and Dastagir succumbed to his injuries after a week in Jaranwala THQ Hospital. The constables, includ-

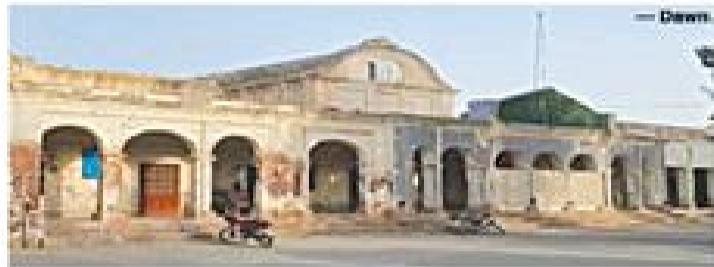
ing Riswan, who has a prior murder case against him, were arrested. Dastagir was an orphan and the only brother to three sisters. **ELECTROCUTED:** A 15-year-old boy died after being electrocuted while working at a welding shop in Ghosia Colony, Mansakranja, on Monday. Reports state that Perouse Din was an apprentice at the shop when he touched a live wire, receiving a fatal electric shock. He died instantly

at the scene. **ACCIDENT:** Sixteen-year-old college student Talha Arshad died near Rajana on Sarwarri Road on Monday in a road accident. Talha was on his way home to Chak 254 GB South after attending classes at a private college in Toba when his motorcycle collided with another bike. He rushed to Rajana Rural Health Centre but was referred to DHH Hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries.

18th-century MC building declared dangerous

By Majeed Gill

RAHAWALPUR: The Buildings Department has declared Bahawalpur Municipal Corporation's (MC) 18th-century building on Stadium Road near Borsal Jail dangerous. According to MC officials, the building, constructed around the 18th century, occupies 29 kanals and five marlas. Its constructed portion includes rooms and a front veranda. Over the years, millions have been spent on repairs and mainten-



ions. However, in the last survey conducted by the buildings department

for 2023-24, it has once again been declared unsafe for official use. It

poses a risk to the MC staff working there. Despite repeated warn-

ings in the previous years, the Local Government Department did not undertake repairs and renovations to ensure the safety of staff. Officials have sent a formal request to the Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Programme director, seeking funds for constructing a new building in its place. The letter states that recent rains have caused further damage to the already dilapidated structure, requesting immediate attention.

Man killed in explosion at junk shop

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARGARH: One person was killed in a powerful explosion at a junk shop in the suburbs of Sarwarri, Quaha Garmari, on Monday, police sources said. The police cordoned off the area, but failed to ascertain the exact nature of the explosion. The deceased has been identified as 31-year-old Muhammad Wassam, son of Ramzan, the owner of the junk shop. A bomb squad and forensic teams arrived at the scene to assess the nature of the blast. This is the third explosion in and around Kot Adha in the ongoing

year, resulting in a total of seven fatalities, according to police. Police Station House Officer Shahid Riswan said that his team was interrogating the shop owner and that a case would soon be registered. **FOUR KILLED:** Four people were killed, and more than 20 passengers seriously injured when a passenger bus collided with a tractor-trolley near Kot Adha Road at Kothi Qureshi, on Monday morning. The accident occurred around 4am when the bus, travelling from Rawalpindi to Dera Ghazi Khan, collided with the tractor-trolley. Rescue 1122 officials responded to the scene, extracting

the bodies from the wreckage and treating the injured passengers. The injured were later shifted to the Kot Adha THQ Hospital for treatment. Sources said that some critically injured passengers were transferred to Nishat Hospital in Multan for further medical care. Kot Adha Deputy Commissioner Syed Abbas Bokhari directed the hospital administration to ensure the best possible treatment for the injured and arranged for the transport of the deceased to their native towns. He also said that no complaints had been received from the families of the patients.

Woman gang-raped in Tandlianwala

By Our Correspondent

TORA TEK SINGH: A woman was allegedly gang-raped here on Monday in Tandlianwala, Faisalabad. As per first information report registered under sections 376 and 292 of Pakistan Penal Code, complainant 'M' of Rasoolpura locality alleged that she was on her way back by foot after selling her sheep in different villages when four men stopped her between Chak 407 GB and 412 GB and took her to a maize field where they raped her at gunpoint. She said when she ran out of the field, the suspects overpowered her and one of their accomplices took her to the field and gang-raped her. The suspects have been identified and one of them has been arrested. Meanwhile, a fake faith healer allegedly raped a woman in Mohallah Islamabad at Faisalabad. According to FIR registered under section 376 of PPC, complainant 'W' told the Madina Town police that his sister used to visit a faith healer. He said his sister a long with her seven-year-old niece went to get an amulet for her cure. The suspect took them by his car to his house where he raped her for four days and let her free after six days. Police have arrested the suspect. **ARRESTED:** Jaranwala Sadhar police arrested on Monday two men for raping a woman at Chak 352 GB. Complainant 'A' alleged in his FIR registered under section 376 of PPC that his daughter went to a sugarcane field located in front of his house when two men overpowered her and raped her. Both have been arrested.

TikToker dies from snakebite

By Our Correspondent

RAHAWALPUR: A TikToker allegedly died after being bitten by a snake he was using to shoot a video clip, in Soanji Minia area in Multan on Monday. According to police, TikToker Wassam went to an Hakim Javed, who keeps snakes, claiming to use them in different homemade medicines for his patients. Wassam registered Javed to let him shoot a video with a snake. Javed, according to the report, gave him a snake. The police said that when Wassam was recording the video, he was bitten by the snake and was shifted to hospital, where he died. His body was shifted to the Nishat Hospital for the postmortem examination. After his death, police raided Javed's work place, but he managed to escape. Sources say that the

wildlife department officials also conducted unsuccessful raids to arrest Javed to prosecute him under the Wildlife Act. **ARRESTED:** Multan police claim to have arrested three dandy suspects allegedly involved in an encounter near MPS Road on Monday. According to police sources, on a tip-off that five suspects were fleeing after committing a dandy and injuring two brothers, a police patrol party chased them. Later, during a shootout with police, three of the suspects were allegedly injured in the firing by their own accomplices, while two others managed to escape. The police say that the injured suspects, identified as Talha, Zouhan and Daniel, were involved in several criminal cases registered against them in different police stations. Cases were registered against the arrested and fleeing suspects.

Three held with 'stolen' insulin stock

By Our Correspondent

RAHAWALPUR: Multan Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) have arrested three members of a gang allegedly involved in the theft of insulin vials worth hundreds of thousands of rupees from different hospitals and selling the same in the market. According to the ACE, the suspects, Farhan and Zouhan and Mohabbir Ali of the Children's

Hospital, Multan, have been arrested, while a large number of insulin vials were recovered during raids on their secret hideouts, besides other medicines and stolen from hospitals and cash. Earlier, the Multan police had recovered insulin vials worth over Rs25 million and arrested health department employees, including former CEO of health. An inquiry into the case was going on in chief minister's order.

Robbers kill shopkeeper

SAHIBWAL: Three unidentified robbers killed a shop owner for offering resistance near Chak. Salamatt, Pakistan. Fugaza was going home when he was intercepted by three armed men on a motor cycle. They searched and snatched a mobile phone from him. He resisted and one of the suspects opened fire on him. Rescue 1122 said Fugaza died at the spot. — Correspondent

LHC allows plea for hearing on next CJ...

Continued from Page 13

senior judge should be appointed as the CJ but the notification for Justice Shah's appointment had not yet been issued. The petitioner pointed out that usually, the notification for the new chief justice was issued two months before the sitting chief justice's retirement. However, he said, with only one month remaining until Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa's retirement, no notification had been issued. He expressed concern that the delay in issuing the notification for Justice Shah could be due to male-fide interest of the government, causing anxiety among the lawyers and the public. He asked the court to order the issuance of the notification appointing the senior-most judge as the chief justice of Pakistan.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB LOCAL GOVT. & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT VACANCIES

The Government of the Punjab, LG&CD Department has initiated IT based Monitoring System to enhance service delivery in urban local governments of the Punjab. The project aims to digitize local government functions such as sanitation, solid waste management, HRMS, financial and asset management, etc. The department seeks professionals for performance-based contracts, initially lasting eight months which is further extendable based on project's extension and satisfactory performance. The LG&CD Department promises a great work environment and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post	Qualification / Experience	Age (in years)
1	Senior Coordinator	01	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Education in Computer Science/IT /Business Administration / Project Management / Software Project Management or equivalent Degree from HEC recognized university. Experience: Minimum 10 years of experience in a project coordination role, preferably within the IT / industry. Demonstrated experience with project management methodologies (e.g. Agile, Waterfall). Strong organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills. Ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks concurrently.	Maximum 45 years
2	Manager (Operations)	01	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Education in Management Science / Computer Science / IT / Project Management / Social Sciences or equivalent Degree from a HEC recognized local or foreign institution. Experience: Minimum 5 years of relevant experience.	Maximum 45 years
3	Project Coordinator	05	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Education in Business Administration / Social Sciences / Computer Science / IT or equivalent Degree from HEC recognized foreign or local institute. Experience: Must have at least 2 years of post-qualification experience in supporting software projects related activities. Experience of providing client-side support will be preferred.	Maximum 45 years
4	Assistant Program Officer	05	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Education in Management Science / Computer Science / IT / Social Sciences or equivalent Degree from a reputed HEC recognized local or foreign institution. Experience: Minimum 1 year of relevant experience.	Maximum 45 years
5	Senior Software Engineer	01	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Education in Computer Science / Computer Engineering / IT or related field from a reputed HEC recognized local or foreign institution. Experience: Must have at least 5 years of post-qualification experience in software development, with a reputed IT organization. Must have good communication skills. Skills: Prof. Laravel, MongoDB, PHP, Angular related Frameworks, and Technology.	Maximum 45 years
6	Manager (Technical)	01	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Degree in Management Science / Computer Science / IT / Software Engineering / Project Management or equivalent from HEC recognized reputed local or foreign institution. Experience: Minimum 5 years of post-qualification experience in related field. Skills: Prof. Laravel, MongoDB, PHP, Angular, Java Design and Server Management.	Maximum 45 years
7	Software Engineer	02	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Education in Computer Science / Computer Engineering / IT or equivalent Degree from HEC recognized local or foreign institution. Experience: Must have at least 2 years of hands-on post-qualification experience in software development, with a reputed IT organization. Must have good communication skills. Skills: Prof. Laravel, MongoDB, PHP, Angular related Frameworks, and Technology.	Maximum 45 years
8	Application Developer	01	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Education in Computer Science / Computer Engineering / IT or equivalent Degree from HEC recognized reputed local or foreign institution. Experience: Must have at least 2 years of hands-on post-qualification experience in Mobile Application Development, with a reputed IT organization. Must have good communication skills. Skills: Java, Kotlin or Flutter	Maximum 45 years
9	Database Administrator	01	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Education in Computer Science / Computer Engineering / IT / Data Science or equivalent Degree from HEC recognized local or foreign institution. Experience: Minimum 2 years of post-qualification working experience in the Public / Private sector in MySQL, Database Management and Administration Work-related in Database Functions, Optimization, Performance and Security.	Maximum 45 years
10	Graphic Designer	01	Qualification: Minimum 10 Years of Education with a Degree in Computer Science / Software Engineering / Graphics Designing / IT or equivalent Degree from HEC recognized local or foreign institution. Experience: Must have at least 2 years of hands-on post-qualification experience in Graphic Designing, with a reputed organization. Qualification: Adobe Photoshop Experience: Relevant Experience	Maximum 45 years
11	Office Boy	01	Qualification: Middle Pass Experience: Relevant Experience	Maximum 50 years

Note: Female & minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

- Applicants must apply through Punjab job portal at www.jobs.punjab.gov.pk only by **02-10-2024 before 11:59 PM**.
- Government Employees should apply through proper channel. Incomplete applications will not be considered and degrees must be recognized from HEC institution.
- All posts are on contract basis with lump sum salary package. Initially for a period of 08 months which is extendable based on project's extension and satisfactory performance.
- No TA/DA will be admissible to candidates.
- In case of large number of candidates, PMU, LG&CD reserves the right to establish any threshold marks or candidate ratio for further consideration in the recruitment process and interviews.
- PMU, LG&CD reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any application or recruitment process without providing any reason.

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Project Director (IT&MS) / Manager MIS
Local Govt. & Community Development of Civil Secretariat Punjab
LAHORE
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PL-2024

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INVITATION OF BID/REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

- FESCO (Faisalabad Electric Supply Company), invites sealed proposals from the well reputed Engineering Consultant Firms registered with Income Tax & Sales Tax Departments and Pakistan Engineering Council for consultancy services contract.
- The proposal shall be opened on the following dates:

Tender No.	Description of services	Bid submission date & time	Bid opening date & time
FESCO/PC-1/AFMS/17	Hiring of consultancy services	10.10.2024 11:00AM	10.10.2024 11:30 AM
- Scope of work for Consultant
 - The Consultant is required to carry out techno-economic feasibility and validation of bifurcated PC-1 FESCO (extracted from umbrella PC-1 prepared by PPMC) for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Asset Performance Monitoring Systems (APMS) on 100kVA & 200kVA general duty Distribution Transformers in FESCO.
 - The Consultant is required to have comprehensive review/analysis of the studies carried out by PPMC in umbrella PC-1 for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Asset Performance Monitoring Systems (APMS) on 100kVA & 200kVA General Duty Distribution Transformers in FESCO.
 - The consultant is also required to carry out techno-economic feasibility and validation of revised PC-1 (APMS) prepared by FESCO.
 - The Consultant is required to submit a self-explanatory detailed report regarding techno-economic feasibility already carried out by PPMC for Umbrella PC-1 & to be carried out for bifurcated and revised PC-1 by FESCO and advise clear recommendations whether the above proposed option is viable technically & financially for FESCO's interests.
 - FESCO will provide available data / information relating to the T&D losses calculated by various consultants and actual / recorded T&D losses and financial details.
 - Keeping in view of said data, the Consultant is required to recommend the most viable technically & financially feasible alternate option for improvement of FESCO distribution system specifically which should serve the purpose proposed in umbrella PC-1.
 - The consultant will be responsible to present the case before the relevant forums as and when necessary.
 - The Consultant shall complete the job(s) mentioned in RFP (if any) other than above TOCs regarding APMS project.
- Interested eligible firms may obtain relevant information from the office of:
Office: Chief Engineer (Operation) FESCO
Address: West Canal Road, Abulhasanpura, Faisalabad
Telephone No: 941-9220552
- Single stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure will be adopted for the hiring of consultancy services.
- All rights are reserved by Chief Executive Officer FESCO.
- Interested firms/bidders may obtain bidding documents containing all necessary information from the address given below on net cash from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Monday to Friday). The cost of each tender form is Rs.2000/- (Non-refundable) per document on the production of following documents:
 - Registration Certificate with Pakistan Engineering Council
 - Registration Certificate with Sales Tax & Income Tax Departments.
 - Non Blacklisting Certificate.
 - No Litigation Certificate.

No tender document will be issued on the tender opening date.

8. Estimated money @ 05 % of the quoted price in shape of Cash Deposit Receipt, 5% guarantee issued by any scheduled Bank of Pakistan valid for 150 days from the opening date of tender in favour of Chief Executive Officer FESCO, Faisalabad must accompany with the bid, otherwise bid will be rejected.

The Proposals/Bids must reach to the office of Chief Engineer (Operation) FESCO West Canal Road, Abulhasanpura Faisalabad upto 11:00 AM on 10.10.2024. The bids will be opened at 11:30 AM on the same day.

This advertisement is also available on FESCO (www.fesco.com.pk) and PPAR (www.ppar.org.pk) website.

NOTE: FESCO reserves all its rights regarding rejection of tenders without providing any justification as defined in clause 33 (1) of PPAR Rules 2004.

This tender is also available at FESCO website: www.fesco.com.pk & PPAR website: www.ppar.org.pk

Chief Engineer (Operation) FESCO Faisalabad, Tel: 941-9220552



Five-star Jayasuriya leads SL to victory in first New Zealand Test

Page 20 SPORT

PESHAWAR
Sunset 06:11pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:01am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 26°C
Maximum 38°C
Outlook Sunny



A WORKER sorts used plastic bottles at a parkyard on Northern Bypass, Peshawar, for recycling. — APP

MPAs wonder how militants knew about foreign diplomats' Swat visit

Announce peace protest in Mingora next Friday

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: Members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly from Swat district on Monday condemned Sunday's attack on a convoy of foreign diplomats in Malim Jabba area and declared it an embarrassment for the federal government and security establishment. They announced a peace protest at the Nishat Chook of Swat's district headquarters Mingora next Friday. During a session chaired by Deputy Speaker of the assembly Surtiya Bibi, advice to the chief minister on housing Dr Anjad Ali wondered how militants got wind of the visit of foreign diplomats to Malim Jabba when the local police, media, over 2.4 million residents, and even the provincial government were unaware. He also complained about the provincial government being not informed about the visit in advance, and insisted that everyone learned about the attack only after the international media reported it. Dr Ali claimed that former PTI MNA, Muzaf Sarwat had pointed out threats to peace in Swat but had to go into hiding due to threats to his life from the estab-

lishment, while his family members were subjected to severe torture. Livestock minister Fazal Hakim told the house that Swat suffered a lot from violence between 2004 and 2012 but the situation returned to normal prompting massive investment. He said that Swat was destroyed by suicide attacks and bomb blasts but has recovered. "I warn all those concerned that if any attempt is made to destroy our home, we [Swat residents] will offer strong resistance," he warned. Mr Hakim said that Swat residents would hold a protest demonstration for peace at Nishat Chook of Swat's Mingora next Friday. He said that after May 9 protests against the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan, he decided to surrender but fled after finding dozens of police personnel around his home. MPA Kabir Khan alleged that the security establishment didn't tolerate popular leaders. He demanded "space" for the PTI to freely function to ensure political stability in the country and urged all political stakeholders to sit down to decide about how to run the country. "We all will have to sit together for the supremacy of the Constitution and the law," he said. The lawmaker urged the powers that be to learn from the fall of Dhaka for the sake of the country's protection.

Agriculture minister Sajjad Khan alleged that the PM's-led federal government, which came into being through rigged elections, wanted to destroy the PTI and all others seeking their rights. He said that the entire system had been "hijacked" with politicians supposed to restore it. "We're not against any institution but a few of its members for oversteering their mandate," he said, adding that violators of the law would be resisted. MPA Abdul Ghani said the constitutional amendment proposed by the federal government was meant to limit the Supreme Court's authority, so its passage by parliament would be a tragedy like the fall of Dhaka. He said those wanting to keep their control over the system were trying hard to create a parallel Supreme Court. ANP member Arbab Usman said the opposition stood with the treasury for the protection of the Constitution. He called for effective peace in the province and said no compromise on it was acceptable to people. The opposition lawmaker demanded the formation of a committee with representation of the major national institutions to address the law and order issue. MPA Ali Haidi demanded peace in Kurram tribal district and sought the house's support for such efforts. He wondered who was fueling the fight between two groups in the district.

The member urged all his colleagues to contribute to restoring peace in the region. He also complained about the declining education system and demanded corrective measures. MPA of the opposition PMT-N Sobia Shabid insisted that her party's government in Punjab didn't create hurdles to the PTI's Sept 15 public meeting in Lahore in line with the court's orders. She praised the armed forces for protecting the country's borders, carrying out relief and rescue operations during and after natural disasters, and helping with economic revival, and said if anyone had issues with them, the government should stop calling them for help in need. The lawmaker accused the PTI of coming to and remaining in power for four years with the help of the establishment. The deputy speaker said the Pakistan Army was a national asset but some of its members were involved in political activities. She said the army should restrict itself to the non-political constitutional role. Member of the opposition PPP Ehsanullah said the people had elected him and his colleagues to discuss their issues for resolution. He said he agreed with the content but that all national institutions should work within their constitutional limits.

Kurram clashes toll rises to 10 as five more killed

By Our Correspondent

KURRAM: Fierce clashes between rival tribes left five more people dead, raising the death toll from three days of fighting to 10 as 25 others were injured in the Kurram district on Monday. Local residents said that the rival groups used heavy weapons to target each other's positions. According to the police and hospital sources, the clashes erupted after Boshetra tribesmen of Upper Kurram were setting up bunkers on the lands of the Ahmadzai tribe. Later, the clashes spread to other areas. So far, 10 people have been killed and 25 others injured in the clashes, they added. They said that the five people were killed in clashes in Balashkhal, Soadda, Khar Kallay and other areas, while at least 10 others were injured on Monday. All roads in the region, including the main Parochinar Road, remained closed to traffic due to the fresh clashes. Meanwhile, Mags-i-Wahab-i-Mustameen's MNA Harid Hussain warned that they would launch a protest movement if the authorities failed to restore peace in the area. He threatened the while speaking to the people who staged a sit-in outside the Parochinar Press Club to demand immediate steps for the restoration of peace in Kurram district. Meanwhile, Kurram deputy commissioner Javedullah Mehsud said that the administration had initiated talks between the warring tribes through a jirga to resolve the dispute. He said that the jirga members and tribal elders had also been sent to the troubled areas to prevent further clashes.

Three die as jeep falls into Kaghan Valley ravine

By Our Correspondent

MANSEHRA: Three people were killed and two sustained critical injuries when a jeep traveling on the Mansehra-Naran-Jalohad Road plunged into a deep ravine in Parasa area of Kaghan Valley here on Monday. "We have shifted the deceased and the injured to a nearby health facility," one of the policemen, who rushed to the spot after the accident, told reporters on the occasion. He said that the jeep carrying passengers was on its way to Parasa from a nearby village when the driver lost control over the vehicle while negotiating a sharp turn. Local residents rushed to the spot and shifted the bodies and the injured to a nearby health facility after retrieving them from the gorge. The deceased were identified as Liaqat Shah, Naveer Shah and Waqar Shah, and the injured - Sadiaqat Shah and Rafoqat Shah - were later referred to Civil Hospital, Balakot. The police said condition of one of the injured was critical.

MTI authorities concerned over litigation on BoG membership

Urge board members to quit for smooth operations

By Ashfaq Yasinzai

PESHAWAR: Authorities at the medical teaching institutions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have voiced concerns about legal disputes regarding membership of the board of governors and urged board members to abandon their positions for smooth operations at teaching hospitals. "Though board of governors are voluntary, they're high in demand, with no incumbent willing to leave," an MTI director told Dawn. He said the BoG members appointed by the caretaker government were removed after the PTI formed the current government in the province early this year but they continued to hold their positions due to the legal battles for which they're paying lawyers huge fees. The director said the PTI enforced the Medical Teaching Institutions Reforms Act, 2015, during its first government in the province. According to him, the law meant to grant financial and administrative autonomy to the teaching medical and

dentist colleges, has been implemented in 10 MTIs in phases. Under it, the BoGs govern each of the MTI-covered institutions, with their members picked by the search and nomination council led by the health minister. The BoGs have powers to make appointments to top MTI positions, including deans and medical, hospital, nursing and finance directors, and former bureaucrats, doctors, lawyers and other professionals were inducted to run these institutions. The director insisted that things went smoothly regarding key nominations, with mostly people close to the ruling PTI grabbing those positions, but last year, the provincial caretaker government replaced BoG members with people of its choice. However, the removed members went to the court but decided to stay away, so those appointed by the caretakers continued with their positions. When the PTI came to power a third time in the province, it replaced BoGs with its own people. However, those shown the door obtained a stay order in their favour. Senior administrators of MTIs told Dawn that BoGs were voluntary and could work only if they're appointed by the existing government. "BoGs are toothless as the government has stopped them from taking major decisions of appointments, procurements, promotions,

and tender issuance, severely affecting medical teaching institutions," an MTI director told Dawn. He said the lawyers attached with the ruling had mishandled the case as the Act declared that BoG members couldn't appeal the chief minister's order for their removal if no cause for the move was specified. The law says, "The CM shall appoint the members on recommendation of search and nomination council and they shall hold office for a period of three years or during the period of the pleasure of the CM whichever is earlier and shall be eligible for re-appointment. The members can challenge their removal only if they are accused of misconduct. No appeal shall lie in case removal of any member of BoG is simply dispensed with, without any accusation or blame of misconduct and therefore, they cannot go to court because the members have not been blamed for any misconduct but have simply been removed by the chief minister as the law states." An MTI medical director wondered how board members were clinging to their positions when they actually couldn't do anything tangible. "BoGs can function only if they're the government's support, so the honourable way-out for them is to resign and let MTIs work smoothly," he said.

Advertisement for NBP FUNDS featuring a CFA Society Pakistan award. Text includes: 'REACHING NEW HEIGHTS', '"BEST ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY FOR THE YEAR"', 'AWARDED BY CFA SOCIETY PAKISTAN', 'THANK YOU INVESTORS FOR YOUR TRUST!', 'NOW MANAGING OVER Rs. 440 BILLION* OF INVESTORS' SAVINGS'. Includes a QR code and contact information.

Life insurance to be included in Sehat Card programme: CM

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday said life insurance would be included in the Sehat Card Plus programme, and directed the relevant authority to come up with a viable plan to ensure social protection to the citizens.

He issued the directions while chairing a meeting held here on Monday, according to a statement.

Advisor to CM for Health Aftab Khan, advisor for finance Muzammil Anjum, additional chief secretary planning and development Idrisullah Khan, high-ups of health department and State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) attended the meeting.

Mr Gandapur also took notice of the complaint regarding suspension of cardiac surgeries at Padshah Institute of Cardiology under the Sehat Card Plus due to the waiting rates, and directed the authorities concerned to make sure resumption of cardiac surgeries there.

He said that the provincial government would also bear the additional expenses of the cardiac procedures ensuring that no burden was placed on the patients.

He also directed the relevant quarters to ensure that patients did not face any difficulties in getting treatment under the free healthcare facility.

The chief minister termed Sehat Card Plus as a key initiative of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government and said that his administration would go all out to make it more inclusive by covering treatment of remaining diseases and ensuring transparency and accountability.

Mr Gandapur added that Sehat Card was not only an initiative but a complete package of social protection. He announced that keeping in view the needs of the citizens hospitals with good reputation would also be added to the Sehat Card panel, ensuring that people in remote areas also had access to free and quality health care services at their doorsteps.

He said that his government was regularly making payments to SLIC for Sehat Card Plus on priority, and that there should be no obstruction in providing free healthcare to the patients under the cashless facility.

11 Bannu policemen dismissed for holding protest

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARWAT: Eleven policemen were dismissed from service for attending a protest demonstration against the arrest of a former colleague and for refusing to guard police teams in Bannu district, an official said on Monday.

He said that the sacked cops had played a leading role in launching an agitation and road blockades against the arrest of their former colleague, Jamshed Khan.

He said that the dismissed policemen included head constables Sheer Alam and Mirzaam, lower head constables Hameedullah and Bakhtiar and constables Zahoorullah, Faridullah, Taseemullah, Faridullah, Rizq, Farmanullah and Arshad Ali Shah.

Bannu district police officer Zarad Khan Ahmad told Dawn that police were a disciplined institution and if the cops had genuine concerns, their seniors were there to address them.

"But so far as performing duties in anti-police drives or accomplishment of other assignments is concerned, no pressure will be accepted at all," he made clear. Jamshed was arrested under Ministry of Public Order and shifted to Haripur jail two days ago.

His arrest triggered protest as policemen from Bannu and Lakki Marwat blocked a key road to record their protest against his arrest.

Local traders also joined the protest demonstration. Jamshed had also attended a protest sit-in organised by the police officials in Lakki Marwat this month against the military attacks on cops.

Ban on transportation of chilgoza cones sought

CHITRAL: The residents of villages situated near the chilgoza (pine cone) forests have demanded of the government to impose ban on the transportation of chilgoza cones to downstream to ensure the conservation of forests and provide sources of employment to local people.

Rahman Elahi, chairman of forest conservation council, a civil society organisation, told the journalists here on Monday that the transportation of chilgoza cones from Chitral caused widespread concern among the local people due to its negative effects on the local job opportunities and forests.

He said that in the previous years, the rains were significant from the cones in the villages situated nearby the forests in which hundreds of unemployed people were engaged on daily-wage basis who had earned a handsome amount of money during the season spreading over two months.

Mr Elahi said that the emptied cones of chilgoza were also used as fuel during the winter season as an alternate of oak wood which served the oak forests from being cut.

He also urged the forest department to ensure friendly harvesting of chilgoza cones in order to make sure that the branches and twigs of the chilgoza pine trees were not injured which would bear fruit next year.

Mr Elahi said that the District Council had already passed a unanimous resolution, seeking ban on the transportation of chilgoza from Chitral but the quarters concerned were not paying heed to it. — Correspondent



A VENDOR sells corn cobs on the roadside near Laffari Gate, Peshawar. — AFP

Swat chamber wants Malakand commissioner, RPO suspended over terror attack

Claims explosion 'bid' to pave way for military operation in valley

By Fazel Khalid

SWAT: The Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday alleged that the explosion targeting a police van here the other day was carried out as part of a well-thought-out plan to demonstrate to the world that terrorists were still active in Swat. They claimed that these actions were paving the way for another military operation in the valley.

The chamber's office-bearers made the claim while speaking

at a meeting chaired by its president Rahat Ali Khan.

They also demanded the suspension of the Malakand division commissioner and the regional police officer over the incident. They sought an inquiry into the blast, which occurred on the Malakand Jabbas Road to target a convoy of foreign diplomats, killing a constable and injuring five others.

Chamber's senior vice-president Haji Bakht Karim, vice-president Dr Zakir Muhammad, former president Yusuf Ali Khan, general secretary Muhammad Iqbal and others were in attendance.

The participants said that the incident occurred due to inadequate security provided to the diplomats from 12 countries.

They said they would hold a press conference to reveal fur-

ther details about the Jehanabad blast. They threatened to launch a protest movement if the commissioner and the RPO were not suspended.

Diplomats from Indonesia, Portugal, Kazakhstan, Bosnia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Turkmenistan, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Iran, Tajikistan, and Russia were part of the delegation.

The Swat chamber leaders explained that a formal letter had been sent to the ministry of foreign affairs regarding the ambassadors' visit, and the ministry had, in turn, notified the Swat administration about it.

Despite this, the local authorities failed to provide sufficient security, resulting in the attack on the convoy, they regretted. The participants offered

prayers for the martyred policemen. The chamber also provided an amount of Rs100,000 to the family of the deceased cop.

The business leaders called on the people of Swat to participate in the protest demonstration scheduled for Sept 27 at the Nisbat Chowk, Mirgora, in response to the recent terrorist activities.

Meanwhile, city mayor Shahid Ali Khan also condemned the blast, affirming that any attempt to create unrest would be rejected by the people of Swat. "We share the grief of the family of the martyred policeman," he said.

He also called on the citizens of Swat to fully participate in the protest rally on Sept 27 to oppose the current wave of what he said self-inflicted insecurity in the region.

Religious tension defused in Khyber

KHYBER: Local police succeeded in normalising religious sentiments between the followers of different schools of thought after a brief verbal war on social media.

Seniors in Lee Shalman said that some clerics, belonging to the Deobandi school of thought, expressed their opinions on the observance of 12th Rabi ul Awwal in their response to remarks of Deobandi clerics, the followers of Barelvi school of thought insisted that these people had deviated from the actual path of Islam.

Local residents brought the contentious matter to the notice of the local police authority which immediately convened noted clerics from both sides and persuaded them to stop spreading religious differences among the local residents.

The police officials made it clear to both the groups that nobody would be allowed to spread hatred against any particular sect nor would they be spared for taking law into their hands.

Following the meeting's conclusion, both sides agreed to debate the objectionable points from their social accounts and live in peace. — Correspondent

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Malakand chamber elects office-bearers

PESHAWAR: Malakand Chamber of Commerce and Industry elected new office bearers for the 2024-25 term.

According to a statement issued here on Monday, Inamullah was elected as president, Muhammad Salman Shahzad senior vice president and Arslan Alam Khan as vice president.

According to chamber's election commission, the 24-member newly elected executive

committee of the chamber had elected the cabinet composed as no nomination papers had been submitted against them till last day of the process.

On this occasion, founder president of the chamber Muhammad Shams Khan congratulated the successful office bearers and executive members and said that the new cabinet would use all its energies for the development of industry and commerce. — Bureau Report

Action sought to curb drugs use in educational institutions

SWAT: Speakers at a seminar against drugs said that spread of narcotics to higher educational institutions across the country was deplorable and emphasised the need for evolving a comprehensive strategy to eradicate this menace.

The seminar titled "Say No to Drugs" was organised by the University of Swabi (UoS) here on Monday. Retired major general Anwar Rehman Malik was the chief guest on the occasion.

Commissioner Mardan Javed Marwat, Deputy Commissioner Nawazullah Khan, press club members, scholars, police officials and a large number of students participated in the seminar.

Organisers said that the main objective of the seminar was to infuse a new enthusiasm in all stakeholders of our society, including the educated youth to create awareness about the dangerous effects of narcotics. They stressed that society as a whole had to take result-oriented steps to control this danger while saving future of young generations on one hand and the country's future on the other.

The speakers emphasised on taking solid drug prevention measures and involvement of ev-

eryone, especially the parents, to curb this menace.

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Anwar Rehman expressed his grave concern over the use of drugs by the youth as the number of drug addicts in the country had almost reached the figure of 15 million.

"I have to say with great regret that drugs are now being used in educational institutions," he said, adding that the seeing the youth from narcotics was required on a par footing basis by both the government and the society.

Commissioner Javed Marwat said that the war against drugs was not only the responsibility of institutions but the ordinary citizens should also come forward to play their due role to save the younger generation.

GUARD KILLED: A security guard of GIK Institute of Engineering, Sciences and Technology was killed in a road accident.

Relatives of the deceased Goleer Khan said that he was going home on a motorcycle when he hit a building due to over-speeding. As a result, he was seriously injured and rushed to nearest medical facility, but he succumbed to his injuries. — Correspondent

Training workshop on energy conservation concludes

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Buildings Energy Research Centre (BERC) and centre for intelligent systems and networks research, University of Engineering and Technology organised a 15-day training programme on implementation

tools for energy conservation building code 2023 at the Bari Gali summer campus. According to a statement issued here on Monday, the training was part of the project titled, "Transformation of the Construction Sector in Pakistan: A Pathway towards Green, Smart, and Sustainable Buildings" supported by GIZ Pakistan and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency (NEECA), Islamabad as the lead executing author-

ity. Dr Navaz Ahmad, Director BERC, said that participants of the training gained practical knowledge in creating climate-resilient and energy-efficient buildings.

Aimed at the country's growing energy crisis and climate vulnerability, the training focused on easy to use software tools to assess the impact of building design on its electricity/energy bills, he added.

The participants from various organisations engaged in three hands-on training modules including introduction to the energy conservation building code (ECBC 2023) and its implementation framework, life cycle analysis in buildings and the embodied carbon calculation tool, building energy certification system and building load calculation tool developed by the BERC team.

The representatives from CDA, MESPAC, UJMS, LG depts, GERHA, PWD South, LDA, NED University and others participated in the training.

Strong LG system termed key to people's empowerment

Orientation session held on LBs' role, responsibilities

PESHAWAR: Speakers at an orientation session here on Monday emphasised the vital need for strong and empowered local government system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to resolve the problems of people at their doorsteps.

Centre for Peace and Development Initiative (CPDI) conducted the session for the local body representatives.

political and economic turmoil.

The speakers, including KP Assembly Deputy Speaker Surtiya Bibi and former local government secretary Hilar Rehman, advocated for the timely release of funds to empower representatives in effectively serving their communities and fostering development.

The session was held with the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, a German entity. Moazzam Kayyum Zahra, project manager at CPDI, emphasised that strong local governments were fundamental to democracy.

"Despite constitutional provisions, local governments in Pakistan face numerous chal-

lenges, including over-centralisation, inadequate funding, and limited citizen participation."

She said greater financial autonomy was essential for effectiveness of the local government system in the province.

She called for immediate release of funds for the local body members to serve their communities.

Additionally, she advocated for inclusive local governance that amplified the voices of women and marginalised groups.

On the occasion, Surtiya Bibi emphasised the critical need for strong and empowered local governments.

She highlighted the pressing issue of delayed fund

releases for local government representatives, which exacerbated financial crises and hindered their effectiveness.

Ms Bibi reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the local government system and ensuring timely fund disbursement.

Dr Taj Muhammad, a senior academician, provided an insightful overview of the historical evolution and legislative framework of local governance in Pakistan.

He focused on the development of the local government system, emphasising its constitutional and legal foundations. The session aimed to clarify key concepts for elected representatives, enhancing their understanding from a political science perspective and equip-

ping them to navigate the complexities of local governance effectively.

Hilar Rehman, former secretary of local government, conducted an interactive session on the roles and responsibilities of local government representatives under the KP Local Government Act.

He engaged the participants in a focused discussion about the powers and functions of local government officials, using practical examples to illustrate key concepts and enhance understanding.

Hidayatullah Mayar, mayor of Mardan city and president of the Local Council Association of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, spoke about the critical challenges facing local governments, particu-

larly regarding funding and authority.

He criticised the proposed rules for tribal councils, stating they conflicted with Article 140A of the Constitution and undermined elected representation.

He called for reforms, including restoring the LC Act of 2019, ensuring timely fund releases, and providing necessary resources for local governments in merged districts.

He added that he had also urged the chief minister through a letter to intervene swiftly to establish a functional local government system, emphasising the need for equitable resource distribution and legal honours for elected officials.

Additionally, he advocated

for the establishment of tribal offices and the nomination of local representatives in various boards to enhance governance effectiveness.

The session effectively highlighted the challenges faced by local governments and garnered the commitment of the assembly deputy speaker to empower these institutions.

Elected representatives emphasised the urgent need to extend the tenure of local government officials.

They pointed out that following the initial two-year period, many had been unable to fulfil their responsibilities due to a lack of funding. They noted that the extension was crucial for enabling them to serve their communities effectively. — AFP