



# DAWN

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## PM brings good tidings of \$7bn IMF package

- Says lender's 'stringent conditions' have been met; hopes this will be country's last IMF programme
- Meets Yunus on UNGA sidelines, invites Bangladeshi leader to visit Pakistan
- Calls on UN chief to press for implementation of UNSC resolutions on Kashmir

By Anwar Iqbal

**NEW YORK:** The International Monetary Fund's board (IMF) on Wednesday approved a \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan, providing a critical boost to the country's struggling economy.

The development was announced by the Prime Minister's Office, while a statement from the IMF was still expected at the time of going to press.

Shortly after the announcement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva in New York and expressed his gratitude for the approval of the loan package.

After their meeting, the IMF boss expressed her approval of Pakistan's economic progress. She congratulated both the government and the people for implementing key reforms, which facilitated the IMF's approval of the program.

"We do have good news,

We have completed the review of the programme successfully. I want to congratulate the government of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan for moving forward with the home-defined, Pakistan's own reforms, and they are bringing fruits," Ms Georgieva stated. "Growth is up, inflation is down, and the economy is on a sound path."

**ADH sees 2.8pc growth amid political, funding risks: Page 3**

When asked if these reforms were benefiting Pakistan's poorer citizens, she responded, "I do not see that this is happening. The government aims to collect taxes from the rich and is strengthening the Benazir (Income Support) programme to support the poor."

The PM Office statement said the premier expressed his satisfaction with the programme's approval.

"The implementation of

economic reforms is going on rapidly," he said, adding that the government would continue to work hard to achieve goals related to economic development after achieving economic stability.

The prime minister said the increase in business activities and investment in the country was "welcome and a testament to the hard work of the economic team."

"Along with the success on the diplomatic front, the increase in remittances from Pakistanis living abroad is a reflection of their confidence in the government's policies," he said, adding that the government was grateful to the Pakistani community.

"If the same hard work continues, God willing, this will be Pakistan's last IMF programme," PM Shehbaz said.

The premier thanked Saudi Arabia, China, and the UAE for their support regarding the package, as

Continued on Page 5



PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif greets Dr Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh, during a reception to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dhaka joining the United Nations. — PPI

## 3 suspected militants killed in Swat, Lakki

By Fazal Khalid and Ghulam Mursalin Marwat

**SWAT/LAKKI MARWAT:** Three suspected militants were killed and two policemen were wounded in two attacks in Swat and Lakki Marwat on Tuesday night, sources said.

The first attack took place in Swat when militants attacked a police contingent while it was patrolling the Ashray area of Matta tehsil.

Swat DPO Dr Zahidullah told Dawn that police from the Ashray post, in Matta tehsil, were on routine patrol at 11.40pm when they encountered five masked suspects on the road.

The masked men opened indiscriminate fire at the police party, causing injuries to sub-inspector Noor Wali Shah.

Continued on Page 5

## 12 hurt as bomb targets police van in Quetta

By Saleem Shahid

**QUETTA:** At least two policemen were among a dozen people injured by a bomb attack, which targeted a police van in the provincial capital of Balochistan, on Wednesday.

Officials said that unidentified insurgents had parked an explosive-laden motorcycle in the Nawa Marsh area of Eastern Bypass. When a police vehicle reached the spot, an explosion was triggered, ostensibly using a remote-controlled device.

The bomb blast injured a police constable, the driver of the police van and 10 other passersby.

Soon after receiving information about the explosion, police rushed to the area and shifted the injured to the Quetta Civil Hospital.

The condition of two injured people was stated to be serious.

"The target of the insurgents was a police mobile vehicle which was slightly damaged in the explosion. The explosive-laden motorcycle was detonated with a remote-controlled device," senior police

Continued on Page 5

## PML-N broadsides judges for violating Constitution

- Senator Irfan Siddiqui says detailed judgement in reserved seats case compounded problems instead of fixing them
- Terms constitutional court necessary to clear Supreme Court's backlog

By Syed Irfan Raza

**ISLAMABAD:** The ruling PML-N on Wednesday came out all guns blazing against the superior judiciary, accusing judges of transgressing their jurisdiction and violating the Constitution of Pakistan through their judgement in the reserved seats case.

The criticism came against the backdrop of a judgement, authored by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, in which he espoused the concept of 'complete justice' to dole out reserved seats to the PTI.

besides, concerning the Election Commission of Pakistan for becoming a party in the case.

The verdict also declared 80 MNAs who had joined the Shura

Facel 'ready to back' constitutional court: Page 3

Itihad Council as members of the PTI.

During a wide-ranging press conference, PML-N leader Senator Irfan Siddiqui said the top court declared the 80 members as the PTI MNAs even though that was

not the case in the Supreme Court or any forum, such as the ECP. The judgement nullified Articles 239(5) and 239(6). He went on to read both articles: "(5) No amendment of the Constitution shall be called in question in any court on any ground whatsoever; (6) for the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that there is no limitation whatever on the power of the Majlis-e-Shoora (parliament) to amend any of the provisions of the Constitution."

"If we violate the Constitution

Continued on Page 5

## New category for families to reduce tax filing burden

- Overseas Pakistanis can remain on Active Taxpayers List without filing returns
- Individuals earning below Rs600,000 per year won't be required to file returns
- Non-filers will face restrictions on opening current accounts, making large transactions

By Mubarak Zeb Khan

**ISLAMABAD:** The government is set to introduce a raft of measures to address the concerns of individuals not required to file tax returns, such as housewives, people with an annual income below Rs600,000, and overseas Pakistanis.

A new "family" category will exempt dependents from filing, while those earning below the threshold or living abroad will avoid penalties like SIM blocking or travel bans. The measures aim to prevent these citizens from being unjustly penalised as the government moves to abolish the "non-filer" category.

The initiative comes in response to the rising number of nil returns filings, which

have surpassed 2.5 million, making up nearly 70 per cent of all returns filed in the tax year 2023.

Under the proposed system, a new definition of family will be introduced into income tax law. A wife, a son under the age of 25 and an unmarried daughter

Taxation plan: Editorial on Page 6

will be allowed to benefit from the filing status of a husband or father.

This provision will enable family members to carry out financial transactions, such as investing in property and financial investments, using the tax filer

Continued on Page 11

## Ballots take precedence over Form 45 or 47 tally, rules SC

Three-judge bench upholds tribunal's decision in PB-14 election dispute

By Nasir Iqbal

**ISLAMABAD:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that ballot papers hold more significance in determining the vote count than Forms 45 and 47, as

they serve as the primary evidence of any election result.

The observation came against the backdrop of the heated debate that ensued after the PTI

Fresh polls must to resolve crises, says PkMAP chief: Page 5

claimed that its mandate in the Feb 8 elections was stolen, as the candidates fielded by the party were declared successful under Form 45, but the results altered

through Form 47.

The Form 45 is the result of the vote count prepared by a presiding officer (PO) at each polling station, while Form 47 is the provisional consolidated statement of results of vote count of all polling stations in a constituency, prepared by the returning officer (RO) concerned.

A three-judge SC bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and consisting of Justice Neelum Akhtar Afghan

Continued on Page 5

## ON OTHER PAGES



### High court stays result of MDCAT

While Shahzad Zulfkar Ali (Baito Medical University) has decided to give six grace marks to candidates of MDCAT, the Islamabad High Court has stayed the result till Thursday (today). On the other hand, candidates have rejected the grace marks announced by the university, and demanded that they be shown the answer sheets and discrepancies be removed from the key. Page 4

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Taxation plan

At first glance, the new FBR 'transformation plan', which aims to broaden the tax net, scrap the category of 'non-filers', and improve compliance and enforcement through fresh punitive measures, might come across as a positive step. Yet, without addressing the deep-seated and long-standing issues of tax equity, policy reforms and institutional restructuring of the FBR, can it work? Indeed, the idea of making 'dirty money' redundant through imposing restrictions on asset purchases and investments by tax evaders and cheaters should be appreciated. But how will the plan be executed? The proposed plan shifts the entire burden of tax scrutiny of a spender on other regulators and sellers rather than building its own capacity to net the dodgers. It is also likely to create problems for tax-evading segments, including those whose annual income is less than Rs600,000 or non-residents or Pakistanis abroad. Will they also be required to file annual tax statements? The plan does not distinguish between tax evaders and middle-class taxpayers showing an annual income of less than Rs10m in their tax statements. They could also face the same spending curbs as articulated for non-filers when they try to purchase a vehicle or real estate or financial instruments or attempt to open bank accounts. This is not the first time the tax bureaucracy has come up with a plan to boost tax revenues. But previous efforts have, for the most part, only made the taxation system more complex and expensive for taxpayers, providing a 'reason' for others to stay out of the net. That inflation-adjusted real tax revenue growth has stood at a mere 2pc a year since 2018 confirms the futility of past FBR plans. Little wonder, Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio has grown to just 8.5pc from 8pc in 2000. In comparison, India has improved its taxes to 18.5pc of its GDP from 13.4pc and Nepal to 17.5pc from 8.7pc in the same period. These countries have improved their tax performance not just by taking punitive actions against tax dodgers and cheaters but also making their tax regimes equitable, fair and easier to comply with through wide-ranging policy and administrative reforms. Unless Pakistan also follows the principle of equity, does away with wasteful exemptions of Rs4tr, and restructures the FBR to weed out inefficiencies and corruption, punitive actions will not have the intended effect. The measures to make dirty money difficult to spend are welcome. Those who do not pay their taxes or underreport their income should be punished. But the FBR must also give details on how it intends to execute these proposals without creating more difficulties for compliant taxpayers or tax-exempt segments. So far, the intent seems to be to squeeze existing taxpayers to meet the revenue targets rather than broadening the net.

XDR typhoid risk

The combination of poor sanitation, contaminated water and the indiscriminate administration of antibiotics by medical practitioners has turned typhoid into a formidable health threat for millions of Pakistanis, particularly children. As per a report published in this paper, the country has the worst rate of typhoid in South Asia, with the extensively drug-resistant (XDR) strain of 'superbug' posing a particularly acute challenge to its feeble health infrastructure. The superbug is resistant to most antibiotic treatments, and there have been several outbreaks of XDR typhoid reported in Pakistan, affecting thousands of children. As some medical experts have cautioned, XDR typhoid may be "the final warning sign" before this waterborne disease takes on more lethal and debilitating forms, with drugs unable to fight infections. Typhoid is general in the result of the poor sanitation situation in Pakistan, which is particularly the case in urban slums. Yet the XDR variety of the ailment is said to be rooted in over-prescription of antibiotics by doctors. Unfortunately, many medical professionals prescribe antibiotics at the drop of a hat, even when the patient can be treated through other methods. Complications also develop when patients do not complete the course as prescribed. Moreover, self-medication has also aided this crisis, as people try to heal themselves by buying drugs without consulting a physician. This can cause more problems than it resolves. There is a need for the state to tackle the XDR typhoid crisis before it develops into a full-blown health emergency. In this regard, the medical community must self-regulate. Physicians should be urged not to prescribe antibiotics unless they are absolutely required. A stricter check on pharmacies by respective provincial health departments is also in order to ensure that drugs are only dispensed after the production of a valid medical prescription. The battle against virulent strains of typhoid can further be strengthened through extensive vaccination. Parents should be counselled to get their wards immunised against typhoid to avoid refusals, while vaccination drives need to be carried out in schools. Youngsters — as well as adults — also need to be taught about proper hygiene practices to ward off ailments. In the longer term, typhoid and a host of other waterborne diseases can be kept at bay if the state ensures that the population has access to clean water, and a healthier environment devoid of filth.

MDCAT chaos

The MDCAT has yet again fanned itself embroiled in controversy. Allegations of paper leaks, cheating, and widespread mismanagement continue to cast doubt on the credibility of the exam, which determines entry into the nation's top medical and dental schools. In Sindh, reports have surfaced of candidates from Tharparkar and Kashmore scoring 95 or even 100pc. More disturbing, however, are allegations that some students in Hyderabad paid up to Rs1.5m to take the exam at a farmhouse. Dow University of Health Sciences, which was tasked by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council to conduct the exam in the province, has denied the paper leak claims and labelled the allegations as an effort to tarnish the varsity's image. Similarly, in Islamabad, students have alleged that a cheating mafia within Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University manipulated the exam. Out-of-syllabus questions, inconsistent test difficulty across regions have sparked protests. Some students have demanded grace marks or a re-test, while university officials have accused the protesters of being proxies for profit-driven teaching academies. The university did, however, establish a complaint desk and a grievance committee is reviewing the matter. This situation threatens to damage the global reputation of Pakistani doctors, who are otherwise well-respected internationally. If these allegations are true, Pakistan could be on the brink of another scandal reminiscent of the 'pillock' licences' debacle, where alleged irregularities eroded trust in the aviation sector. The lack of transparency, repeated charges of paper leaks, and administrative failures highlight the urgent need for reform. The government must conduct a thorough and independent investigation, holding individuals accountable for malpractice, and exploring other ways of conducting the MDCAT. Handing over the exam to reputable institutions as suggested by the Young Doctors Association, could restore trust in the system. Introducing online tests, with stronger monitoring mechanisms, would further ensure transparency. The government must act swiftly. Delay will only deepen the crisis.

OPINION

BY ALI TAUQEER SHEIKH



Climate finance ecosystem

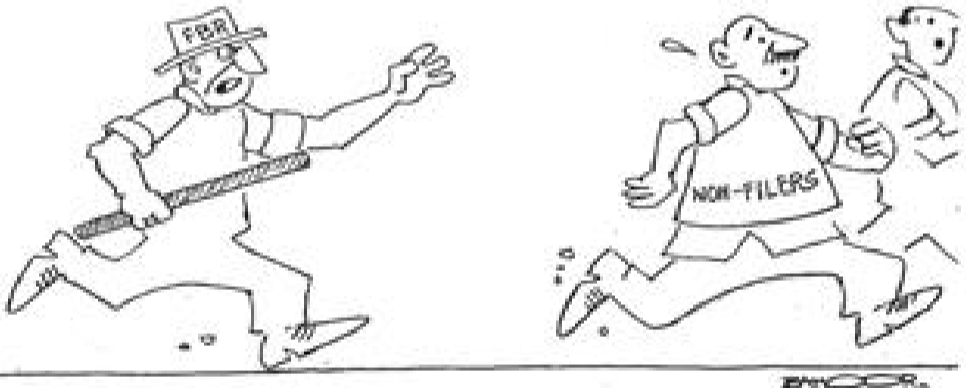
The inability to stock-take has impeded the development of the climate finance ecosystem.

PAKISTAN'S climate finance ecosystem is informal and unaligned. It has not been fully operationalised or coordinated, but above synchronised with climate action. In fact, policymakers are still grappling to define it fully for policy coherence and to systematically catalogue vulnerabilities, priorities, and financial needs for specific climate actions across sectors, provinces, and human settlements. In a frantic reaction to Pakistan's desperate fiscal situation, the entire attention of key ministries and departments has moved to access international climate finance. The hope is that, if successful, this can ease the financial squeeze. This newfound priority has delayed the national debate that ensued after the 2022 floods, from prioritising community resilience and low carbon development to accessing financing from some under-accessed sources. The shaking of the apple tree has not stemmed from specific provincial or sectoral estimates of financial needs. Instead, it has sprung from the urgency to plug the financial gaps that are forcing Pakistan to essentially restructure its debt. It is clear that the urgency to access climate finance is driven by the present narrow fiscal apices, and not the importance to invest in resilient, bottom-up demand. The sincerity of motivation has emerged as a barrier, adding to the long list of chronic obstacles. This is in spite of the fact that during the last 50 years, Pakistan has developed an elaborate institutional and policy architecture dealing with environment and climate change. The process started with the Pakistan Environment Protection Ordinance in 1983, followed by the approval of the National Conservation Strategy (1992), Environmental Protection Act (1997), National Environment Policy (2005), and a wave of climate policy documents since the 10th Constitutional Amendment of 2010. None of these policies defined the decision-making tree for policy coordination, resource allocations, or timelines needed for implementation of specific policy initiatives, let alone identifying the structural barriers to their implementation. While presenting impressive plans, they fell short of identifying key constitutional, legal, or institutional constraints to their environment and climate actions. None of the websites of national and provincial climate-related outfits carry any study on why our policies have failed the implementation test. This inability to stock-

take has impeded the development of the climate finance ecosystem. Specific questions begging clarity on mandates, respective roles and responsibilities between the provinces and the federal government, and between the climate and other sectoral ministries, particularly the planning ministry, remain unaddressed. The planning ministry holds the key to engaging with provincial planning boards in order to embed climate considerations in the public sector development portfolio and provincial annual development plans. Liquidated development has not allowed the climate finance ecosystem to take root. The ecosystem in our context is a web of intricate interactions reflected by hard and dotted lines, indicating the complexity and richness of the functioning of its parts. The dynamic nature and interdependence of their interactions, as in natural systems, reflects both its fragility and resilience. The backward and forward loops, as in systems theory, will be indicative of its health and ability to protect itself from predators. In the climate change realm, the predators include domestic and international interest groups, and undue outside influences and interferences regarding its functioning. Therefore, the ecosystem in our context does not only refer to cataloguing the existence of institutions, their mandates, rules, regulations and procedures, or the existence of their policy or strategy documents. Instead, it also encompasses their formal and informal relationships and linkages with each other and their respective constituencies and stakeholders, to protect the interests and well-being of everyone affected by climate change as users, consumers, or taxpayers. How well has this ecosystem evolved in the last 50 years and how well is it working? The response to the following five factors shapes the size and influence the scale of the flow of international finance for climate action: Institutional and policy landscape: Has the climate ecosystem evolved the key government and regulatory issues? Or does the tendency persist to evade questions that deal with clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of all national and provincial actors? Introducing a legislative package that mandates climate action across the sectors and tiers of governance can clear the obstructed path to action, instead of adding yet another tier of institutions. Sectoral integration and action plans: Does the

ecosystem include sector-specific action plans for concrete climate measures? The absence of sectoral action plans that do not include adaptation strategies to build resilience, mitigation measures to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, or protect communities from loss and damage from rapid-onset and slow-onset will impede alignment with the country's national targets and international obligations. Such plans can help identify opportunities for green growth and low-carbon development within each sector. Subnational implementation: Does the ecosystem commit to deliver resources at local levels by recognising that climate impacts are always localised? This would entail setting up local governments and allowing them to function. They can develop and implement their own, locally led action plans to create resilience, build local capacities, and diversify livelihood opportunities. Nothing is more important for climate justice than inclusion and equity for a well-functioning ecosystem. Stakeholder engagement and partnerships: Has the ecosystem engaged dynamic organisations, academia, small and medium enterprisers, women and youth? Has the partnership with the private sector been designed to strengthen local markets and nationally generate revenues and finances? It is imperative to leverage private sector investment in low-carbon or disruptive technologies for climate-resilient infrastructure. Climate finance mechanisms: Does the ecosystem include instruments for channeling domestic and international climate finance? Blending private sector contributions, international climate finance, and domestic budgetary allocations have catalytic importance in the present economic situation for derisking climate investments. These can be enablers for enhancing direct access to international climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund. The climate finance ecosystem will be incomplete unless it covers mitigation actions, adaptation efforts, and loss and damage planning. The national discourse will have greater credibility if it is based on the firm foundation of reorienting community resilience and low carbon development, rather than seeking climate finances without a well-functioning climate finance ecosystem. The writer is an internet-based climate change and sustainable development expert.

GOVT TO GO ALL-OUT AGAINST NON-FILERS



BY KHURRAM HUSAIN

And audits for all

An idea is taking shape in a desperate bid to increase revenue collection. This idea would see thousands of auditors loose on those who have been naive enough to file their tax returns. The idea is that large numbers of people are concealing incomes, or filing nil returns while large amounts of money can be seen grinding through their bank accounts. On the surface, it sounds simple: stop and ask those people where they get off filing nil returns when large amounts of money are clearly going through their accounts and they make multiple foreign trips in a year and have a vast arsenal of assets at their command, from property to automobiles to expensive smartphones, and perhaps, who knows, exotic pets. On the surface, the idea sounds alright. After all, what's wrong with catching those who are filing nil returns despite having large incomes. Except making audits work in not as straightforward as it might seem at first glance. This particular idea is not new and it has a simple flaw that my conversations with a number of chartered accountants have made obvious. The FBR does not have the capacity to do this many audits, and no auditing firm worth its salt is willing to work with them on this venture because there is a conflict of interest. An ethical accounting or auditing firm cannot work for the tax authority and private clients at the same time. And those who are willing to do this should not be treated with such a responsibility. An attempt to net tax evaders through stronger audits is not in itself a bad idea. But it has been tried in Pakistan and other wonders how much those who are advocating this idea have explored this history. The effectiveness of such an exercise hinges crucially on the ability to target it effectively. Earlier, the FBR selected cases for audit, using non-transparent criteria, which prompted a court challenge followed by a stay. So in 2013, they started what they called random selection through computerised balloting. This programme ran for three years and new audit cases being selected via random selection in the presence of taxpayer representatives. The programme did not achieve much by way of improving compliance or collection. In 2021, a small group of researchers carefully studied the

data produced by that programme to determine what impact it had on tax compliance of firms. The programme was targeted specifically at firms and associations of persons, not individuals, and gathered voluminous amounts of their data from sales tax filings. "We find that despite detecting substantial amounts of unpaid liabilities audit does not cause any change in behaviour," the authors of the study said. How was this happening? How did the programme yield up massive tonnes of data that aided detection, but was ineffective when it came to deterring non-compliant behaviour? The answer lies not so much in the quantity of information that informs audit selection, the authors say. It lies more in the nature, or quality of that information and equally importantly, the ability to collect after detection. In both areas, the authors found, there were serious weaknesses. Most firms were operating so far below what they called the "detection point of reporting" that raising the "detection probability" had (which is what an audit is supposed to do) little impact on their behaviour. Secondly, even after detection, the amounts owed on the firms were "subject to adjudication and appeal processes", which the authors say are "manipulable" making it difficult to translate detection into collection. The study found that firms typically settled two per cent of detected liabilities, with the rest going into adjudication. Second, they found that the higher the share of a firm's final sales to its overall turnover, the lower the detection probability. The first finding relates to capacity weaknesses in the audit itself, as well as recovery mechanisms, weaknesses which should exist

because they are what prevent the tax authority from turning predatory and consolidating the economy to further its purposes. The second finding tells us that even at the firm level, what information the state has matters rather than the sheer volume or quantum of information. For example, the study finds that transactions between a firm and its customers were easier to conceal from the tax authorities, as were transactions among colluding firms (a vendor and supplier in a long-term relationship, for example). But transactions between cross-length firms yielded up larger detected amounts. There are three things to bear in mind when looking at this. The study being cited is based on data from an exercise done more than a decade ago, which is thus compared with data running from 2008 till 2018. Much has changed between then and now. For example, we have far more information available by comparison to then as more databases have been digitised and integrated. Second, the tools to sift through this data have also improved significantly. Third, the present case of audit-based recoveries is targeting individuals whereas the study looked at firms. What information is useful for detection purposes, and whether audits like these can successfully deter individuals where they failed to deter firms remains to be seen. The differences between the world this study looked into and the world the FBR is currently gearing up to move into are appreciable. But whether or not the FBR can leverage a large-scale auditing exercise into any improvement in recovery or even reduction in evasion depends a great deal on the type of information they are relying on, the effectiveness with which evasion can be detected, and how well this detection can be translated into recovery. Past experience does not inspire confidence that they can jump these hoops, but let's see. What should not be allowed is a rolling back of the safeguards that protect taxpayers from arbitrary action by the tax authorities. The writer is a business and economy journalist khurram.husain@gmail.com @khurramhusain







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## Move to open lending to businesses in two provinces

### SBP chief unaware of regulatory checks on Islamic banking; senators seek powers to set their perks and privileges

By Khadeeq Khan

ISLAMABAD: A Senate panel on Wednesday approved a bill to lift the virtual freeze on lending to businesses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, which the banking sector had informally imposed.

However, another piece of legislation seeking to grant the Senate financial powers to determine the perks and privileges of senators, similar to those enjoyed by their counterparts in the National Assembly, did not pass.

The hallmark of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance meeting, presided over by Saleem H. Mansoorwala, was the inability of the State Bank of Pakistan team led by Governor Jamshed Ahmed to confirm if the 'Islamic banks' followed its regulatory requirements.

However, Mr Ahmed revealed that the central bank was working on an alternative plan to free Islamic financing from the mandatory requirement of assets as collateral. "We are working on an alternative structure, looking at means to make banks will invest the 'credit' of it being backed by an asset," he told the Senate panel.

He said one of the key challenges to Islamic financing compared to conventional banking was the asset constraint, meaning that Islamic banks or lenders must have an asset as collateral. He said the Islamic scholars currently were opposed to asset-less Islamic financing, but "we are in touch with Islamic scholars for a relaxation", as some other countries were already doing such transactions.

The SBP officials said Islamic banks were not passing on the losses to their customers through a profit pool sharing, under which they transfer their profits through Hiba to gift method. Senator Anashe Rehman contended that there was no such condition in template agreements that banks sign with customers.

The SBP officials said this was a regulatory requirement, but when various senators questioned if the SBP was monitoring banks to confirm enforcement, the SBP governor and his colleagues expressed their ignorance and promised to get back with a status report later.

After thoroughly examining the Islamic banking mechanisms, the committee members concluded that further discussions are necessary to assess how Islamic banking is regulated under Islamic principles.

### Bills approved

The committee unanimously approved the government bill titled "The Banking Companies (Amendment) Bill 2024" with amendments proposed by the committee. Additionally, the private member's bill titled "The State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill 2024," introduced by Senator Mohsin Aziz, was also passed by the majority, as PMEN's Anashe Rehman abstained.

The proposed bill requires banks to increase their lending to 40pc of their deposit base from respective provinces. The SBP governor opposed the bill, saying other measures needed to be taken than just legislation.

Furthermore, the additional finance secretary addressed the amendments to sections 14B and 14C of the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowances) Act 1974 through the Finance Act 2024, stating that it is the prerogative of parliament to adopt these changes as deemed appropriate. The committee directed the Ministry of Finance to respond in three days.

Additionally, a briefing on the need for the PFR to hire audit firms, including the procedures and criteria involved, was discussed.

## Gold hits Rs275,500 per tola amid economic uncertainty

By Aamir Shafiq Khan

KARACHI: Amid uncertain political and economic environment, domestic gold prices continued a record-setting spree on Wednesday, crossing the 10-grain and one-tola marks to an all-time high of Rs236,197 and Rs275,500, respectively, up by Rs2,144 and Rs2,500, from Tuesday's rates.

The All Pakistan Gem and Jewellery Association (APGJA) attributed the surge in local prices to a \$25 per ounce jump in the world market to \$2,653.

All Karachi Jewellers and Manufacturers Association Chairman Muhammad Haseem Qurashi said the rising prices drive away the buyers and "we are running our shops with only 30-35 per cent full of consumers."

He said that the buyers of 10-tola jewellery sets have gone uptick toward two to three tola, and others rely on half a tola jewellery items due to their shrinking buying power.

Saaidullah Tariq, head of research and development at Pak Kowat Investment Company Ltd, said the people in Pakistan were preferring to invest in gold rather than in real estate and US dollars due to an uncertain economic outlook.

APGJA Chairman Haseem Harbudo Chaud said investors worldwide have moved towards the yellow metal after interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve and Chinese central bank, followed by uncertain political situation arising from Israeli attacks on Gaza and Lebanon and reports of economic crisis in many countries.

<b>US DOLLAR</b> BUYING: \$278.64 SELLING: \$280.33	<b>EURO</b> BUYING: \$130.42 SELLING: \$131.23
<b>GBP</b> BUYING: \$170.12 SELLING: \$173.45	<b>SAE DIRHAM</b> BUYING: \$175.48 SELLING: \$176.11
<b>INR RYAL</b> BUYING: \$173.70 SELLING: \$174.32	<b>GOLD</b> TOLA: \$275,500 10 GRAMS: \$236,197

## ADB sees 2.8pc growth amid political, funding risks

• Says economic outlook hinges on fulfilling commitments under IMF's new \$7bn bailout • Warns high taxes and costly energy will push inflation from single digits to 15pc in FY25

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Constrained by increased personal income tax rates and high energy costs and resultant low consumption, Pakistan's economic growth has been estimated to be 2.8pc in FY25, which remains subject to domestic and external risk, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"Higher personal income tax rates in the FY25 budget and the government's efforts to limit spending will constrain private and public consumption. In addition, growth in agriculture is projected to slow in FY25 as higher administered prices for gas and lower subsidies raise the cost of fertiliser," said the Manila-based lending agency in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO). "The economy is expected to grow by a moderate 2.8pc in FY25."

On the other hand, the ADB anticipated the inflation to rise from its recent lows due to the impact of fiscal measures in the FY25 budget, including higher sales taxes on some items and energy tariff adjustments required to ensure cost recovery in the energy sector. However, with an appropriately tight monetary policy, reduced exchange rate volatility, and a stable outlook for international food prices, inflation expectations are anticipated to moderate later in the year. Therefore, average inflation is projected at 11pc in FY25.

It said that Pakistan's outlook hinged on continued and effective economic reform as committed to the IMF under the 17-month Extended Fund Facility arrangement worth about \$7 billion that should catalyse significant international financial support for the underlying economic stabilisation

and reform programme.

The IMF programme, it said, should enhance macroeconomic stability as it aimed to consolidate public finances, expand social spending and protection, rebuild foreign exchange reserves, reduce fiscal risks from state-owned enterprise, and improve the business environment to encourage growth led by the private sector.

The reform programme is expected to support economic activity by providing a more stable macroeconomic environment. Private investment should rebound on more favourable macroeconomic conditions, including easier access to foreign exchange. This will also benefit manufacturing and services, it added.

The ADB warned that "high downside risks cloud Pakistan's economic outlook". With Pakistan's sizeable external financing requirements, its economic outlook was vulnerable to any shortfall in external inflows, making timely disbursements from multilateral and bilateral partners crucial, it said.

The Manila-based lending agency also highlighted that lapses in policy implementation could jeopardise these inflows, increasing pressure on the exchange rate and worsening sovereign debt vulnerabilities.

It also warned of heightened political and institutional wrangling over budgeting the government commitments to the necessary stabilisation and structural reforms. The government "faces challenges owing to elevated political and institutional tensions and the prospects of social unrest from a steep drop in real income", the ADO noted and added that devastating floods in 2022 demonstrated Pakistan's vulnerability to climate-induced natural disasters, further compli-

cating the economic outlook.

Externally, the main risks to macroeconomic stability stem from the economic impacts of adverse geopolitical developments, including higher food and oil prices and tighter global financial conditions. On the upside, improved global financing conditions and lower international food and fuel prices would reduce fiscal and external vulnerabilities, lower inflation, and allow for a faster buildup of external buffers, the ADO noted.

Fiscal consolidation targets tax measures equal to 3pc of GDP over the EFP period. With tax revenue measures equal to 1.5pc of GDP already implemented through the FY2025 budget, tax revenue is projected to rise to 11.2pc of GDP in FY2025. With non-tax revenue forecast at 3.1pc of GDP, total revenue is expected to increase to 14.3pc of GDP by the end of this fiscal year, it said.

## NA body seeks harsher punishments for makers of fake seeds

By Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research has emphasised the need for stringent legal action against sellers of counterfeit seeds, recommending both fines and imprisonment.

At a meeting on Wednesday, held under the chairmanship of MNA Syed Tariq Hussain, the body recommended that the maximum imprisonment for this offence be extended to two years, and fines raised to Rs2m.

The ministry updated the committee on the progress of a Special Inquiry Commission probe into the sale of counterfeit seeds, saying that a final report was expected within the next couple of days.

During discussion on the Seed Amendment Bill 2024, National Food Minister Rama Tarsoo Hussain told the committee that telephonic consent had been secured from provincial governments through their respective chief secretaries, and that resolutions from the provincial assemblies — as required under Article 144 of the Constitution — would be submitted before the bill is passed into law.

The Pakistan Cotton Growers Association voiced concerns over unjustified taxes imposed by the FBR. The committee directed the ministry to address this issue with the FBR and report back in the next meeting.

Additionally, the Department of Plant Protection was instructed to collaborate with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for enhancing insect control operations and to report back on short-term overhead strategies.



BRUSSELS: King Philippe of Belgium (right) meets members of a new digital technology company, on Wednesday. MelenGeek's mission is to make technology accessible to everyone, regardless of background or level of training, to give everyone the chance to find a job, set up a business or develop professionally.—AFP

## Pakistan, Belarus explore JV options for tractor plant

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Belarus on Wednesday discussed different options for a joint venture to establish a tractor plant in the country.

Consensus on this initiative was reached during a meeting between Minister for National Food Security Rama Tarsoo Hussain and Belarusian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Vadim Shagolov.

Both sides agreed to collaborate on a fast-and-cheap disease vaccine to protect cattle, as well as on the capacity building of agricultural engineers in machinery design.

The minister shared a detailed plan on cooperation in the livestock sector, the seed sector, the mechanisation of agriculture, and increasing market access for agricultural and livestock

products. He emphasised that Pakistan greatly appreciates the active engagement from the Belarusian side, aimed at fostering and enhancing bilateral cooperation and collaboration in agriculture and livestock.

Pakistan has carefully considered the requests made by the Belarusian side and has made corresponding suggestions to ensure that this partnership is mutually beneficial.

The minister also stated that Pakistani fruits should be granted access to the Belarusian market.

Vadim Shagolov also expressed his country's interest in establishing a veterinary medicine plant in Pakistan, and Mr Hussain responded that Pakistan was ready to facilitate investment in veterinary medicine.—Reporter

## Foreigners put \$55m in T-bills in a week

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: Despite frequent sharp declines in the out-of-jackets across all forms, foreign investors poured a record \$55 million into short-term treasury bills during the first week of September.

The inflows were disappointing in August, but the scenario changed on the outset of the current month.

"Some of the good reasons are the macroeconomic stability which compels foreign investors to look towards Pakistan for better

returns," said Treasury Chief Executive Officer Farid Masood.

The State Bank of Pakistan data showed that the foreigners invested \$55.32m in the first week of this month, with major inflows of \$28.62m from Bahrain and \$26.707m from the United Kingdom.

The three-month treasury bills offer a return of 12.47pc, which is highly attractive for foreign investors, mainly because the US Federal Reserve has recently cut the interest rate, and the returns in the developed economies are much lower than what Pakistani bonds offer.

"The exchange rate is stable, inflation may fall further, the interest rate is declining, and the current account deficit is just \$17m in the first two months of FY25. This economic stability is attracting foreign investors," said Mr Masood.

Financial experts believe that approval of a new IMF loan would further stabilise the economy and would be an additional attraction for foreign investors.

The outflow from T-bills was just \$1.317m in the first week of this month. Inflows reached \$386.7m in the current fiscal year, convincing experts that more are

expected in the coming weeks and months.

"If the current account remains low or positive and debt servicing remains under control, foreigners would like to invest more in Pakistan," said a senior banker.

The current return on T-bills in Pakistan is not the highest in the developing economies since the rates are higher in Turkey, Egypt, Sri Lanka and other countries, but Pakistan is more stable economically than these countries," said the banker, adding that the political uncertainty needs to be addressed for a boost in the foreign investments.

## Stocks hit all-time high before IMF approval

By Muhammad Kashif

KARACHI: Pakistani shares staged a recovery ahead of the much-anticipated approval of the new bailout by the IMF's Executive Board, propelling the index to a new all-time high above 82,000 on Wednesday.

Ahmed Mirza of Arif Habib Corporation said stocks closed an all-time high on existing political news and speculation ahead of the IMF board meeting to approve a 17-month \$7bn new Extended Fund Facility.

He added that the rally was fuelled by falling government bond yields amid receding inflation, surging global crude oil prices, and rising reserves.

### PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVERS			
GAINERS	LOSERS	LEADERS*	ACTIVITY
PA Holding Co. <b>89.75</b>	Ishtak Industries <b>83.28</b>	Kohistan Spinning <b>51.82</b>	Total Issued <b>532</b>
Healthmark Company <b>84.90</b>	Mahmood Textile <b>60.40</b>	WorldCall Telecom <b>29.71</b>	Ashar <b>437</b>
Service Industries <b>46.79</b>	Rafsan Maize <b>50.00</b>	Pace Pakistan <b>25.43</b>	Gainers <b>248</b>
Soda Pakistan <b>35.84</b>	Haseem Pakistan <b>16.22</b>	K-Electro <b>14.09</b>	Losers <b>126</b>
Sagar Engineering <b>22.32</b>	J8 Global Capital <b>15.94</b>	The Hub Power Co <b>13.30</b>	Participants

\* Includes 100 shares of listed shares

INDICATORS	Wednesday	Previous	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	82,247.82	81,482.84	A 764.98
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points)	24,211.41	24,901.55	A 690.14
MARKET CAPITAL (Rs billion)	10,764,947	10,488,774	A 276,173
TRADING VALUE (Rs billion)	18.390	17.062	A 1.328

king a gain of 764.98 points or 0.94pc day-on-day. Broad-based buying was observed in blue-chip stocks, like MCB Bank, OJ

and Gas Development Company, National Bank of Pakistan, United Bank Ltd, and Bank Al-Habib, cumulatively contributing

373 points to the overall index's rise. The trading volume was up 14.23pc to 422.15 million shares, and the traded

value rose 7.72pc to Rs25.38m day-on-day. Stocks contributing significantly to the traded volume included Kohistan

Spinning Mills Ltd (51.82m shares), WorldCall Telecom (29.71m shares), Pace Pakistan (25.43m shares), K-Electro (14.09m shares) and The Hub Power Company (13.30m shares).

The shares registering the most significant increases in their prices in absolute terms were PIA Holding Company (89.75), Healthmark Company (84.90), Service Industries (46.79), Soda Pakistan (35.84) and Sagar Engineering Works Ltd (22.32).

The companies that suffered major losses in their share prices in absolute terms were Ishtak Industries (83.28), Mahmood Textile (60.40), Rafsan Maize (50.00), Haseem Pakistan (16.22) and J8 Global Capital (Rs15.94).

Foreign investors remained net sellers as they disposed of shares worth \$2.58m.

# Nuking a huge asteroid could save Earth, lab experiment suggests

There is no current threat looming, but scientists have been working on how to stave off any big asteroids that could come our way in the future

PARIS: Humanity could use a nuclear bomb to deflect a massive, life-threatening asteroid hurtling towards Earth in the future, according to scientists who tested the theory in the laboratory by blasting X-rays at a marble-sized "mock asteroid".

The biggest real-life test of our planetary defences was carried out in 2022, when NASA's fridge-sized Dart spacecraft smashed into a 160-metre-wide asteroid, successfully knocking it well off course. But for bigger asteroids, merely crashing spacecrafts into them will probably not do the trick.

When the roughly 10-kilometre-wide Chicxulub asteroid struck the Yucatan peninsula around 66 million years ago, it is believed to have plunged Earth into darkness, sent kilometres-high tsunamis rippling around the globe and killed three quarters of all life — including wiping out the dinosaurs. We humans are hoping to avoid a similar fate.

There is no current threat looming, but scientists have been working on how to stave off any big asteroids that could come our way in the future. A leading theory has been to blow them up with a nuclear bomb — a last-ditch plan famously depicted in the 1998 sci-fi action movie "Armageddon".

In the movie, Bruce Willis and a plucky team of drillers save Earth from an asteroid 1,600 kilometres wide — roughly the size of Texas. For a proof-of-concept study published in the journal Nature Physics this week, a team of US scientists worked on a much smaller scale, taking aim at a mock asteroid just 12 millimetres wide.

To test whether the theory would work, they used what was billed as the world's largest X-ray machine at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The machine is capable of generating "the brightest flash of X-rays in the world using 80 trillion watts of electricity", Sandia's Nathan Moore, the lead study author, said.

Much of the energy created by a nuclear explosion is in the form of X-rays. Since there is no air in space, there would be no shockwave or fireball. But the X-rays still pack a powerful punch.

### Turned into a 'rocket engine'

For the lab experiment, the X-rays easily vaporised the surface of the mock asteroid. The evaporating material then propelled the mock asteroid in the opposite direction, so that it effectively "turned into a rocket engine," Moore said.

It reached speeds of 250 kilometres an hour, "about as fast as a high-speed train," he added. The test marked the first time that predictions about how X-rays would affect an asteroid had been confirmed, Moore said. "It really proves this concept could work." The scientists used modelling to scale up their experiment, estimating that X-rays from a nuclear blast could deflect an asteroid up to four kilometres wide — if given enough advanced notice.

The biggest asteroids are the easiest to detect ahead of time, so "this approach could be quite viable" even for asteroids the size of the dinosaur-killing Chicxulub, Moore said.—AFP



QUITO: A fire engulfs a residential area in the Ecuador capital, on Wednesday. The city has been enveloped by clouds of ash and smoke from five simultaneous wildfires, according to the mayor.—Reuters

# Members of previous govt dump cars across Colombo

## Dissanayake's rise to power sparks panic

COLOMBO: Hundreds of private government vehicles have been abandoned around Sri Lanka's capital after the country's new Marxist-leaning president took office, a member of his party said on Wednesday, with hundreds of others missing.

Senior members of the former government had dumped the state-owned cars and SUVs without a proper handover, according to Wasantha Samaratilaka, a member of Anura Kumara Dissanayake's JVP party.

The fleet includes four-wheel-drive Toyota Land Cruisers and utility vehicles. "We have launched an investigation into who abandoned these vehicles and on what authority they used them," Samaratilaka told reporters at a public park where the vehicles had been left. He did not say whether the keys had been left with the cars.

Out of a fleet of 833 vehicles registered at the colonial-era Presidential Secretariat, there was no trace of 251, he added. The

vehicles are believed to have been taken by senior politicians and officials of previous administrations.

Local election monitors reported during the peaceful vote was the misuse of state-owned vehicles and other resources. Cars are prohibitively expensive in Sri Lanka, which in March 2020 banned the import of vehicles amid a worsening foreign exchange shortage that ultimately saw supplies of food, fuel and medicine run out. A 10-year-old Toyota SUV currently goes for around \$150,000, while a five-year-old Range Rover costs \$300,000.

### 'Debt restructuring programme'

Sri Lanka's new president called on Wednesday for restarting talks with the IMF "immediately" over a \$2.9 billion bailout that threw a lifeline to his bankrupt country but imposed painful austerity. "We plan to begin negotiations with the International Monetary Fund immediately," Dissanayake said in a televised address to the nation.

In his 10-minute address, he said he also wanted to conclude a deal to restructure international

sovereign bonds and secure more concessions for the cash-strapped nation. "To advance our debt restructuring programme, we are negotiating with relevant creditors to expedite the process and secure necessary debt relief," he said.

His call to resume talks with the IMF came after the international lender of last resort said it was ready to discuss its bailout with the new administration. "We look forward to working together with President Dissanayake... towards building on the hard-earned gains that have helped put Sri Lanka on a path to economic recovery," an IMF spokesperson in Washington said.

"We will discuss the timing of the third review of the IMF-supported programme with the new administration as soon as practicable," the spokesperson said, referring to the periodic review of the bailout.

Analysts, however, say Dissanayake likely has little room to renegotiate the terms of the deal.

"There are certain red lines that the IMF will not agree to negotiate," Marissa Jathorpe of the Colombo-based economic think tank Advaoca said.—AFP

# Earth may briefly gain '2nd moon'

SCIENTISTS say the Earth is about to get a second moon, BBC News reported on Wednesday.

A small asteroid is going to be captured by Earth's gravitational pull and temporarily become a "mini moon". This space visitor will be around from Sept 29 for a couple of months before escaping from Earth's gravity again.

However, the second moon is going to be too small and dim to be seen, except through a professional telescope.

The asteroid was first spotted by NASA's Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) on August 7.

Scientists worked out its trajectory in a study published in Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society.

The asteroid, which scientists refer to as 2024 PT5, hails from the Arjuna asteroid belt, which contains rocks that follow an orbit quite similar to Earth's.

Occasionally, some of these asteroids get relatively close, getting as near as 2.8 million miles (4.5 million km) from our planet.

According to the researchers involved in the study, if an asteroid like this is moving at a relatively slow speed of around 2,200mph (3,500km/h), Earth's gravitational field can exert a strong influence, enough to trap it temporarily.

Which is exactly what's about to happen — starting this weekend, this small asteroid will spend about two months orbiting Earth.

Dr Jennifer Millard, astronomer and host of the Astronomy podcast, told the BBC's Today programme that the asteroid would enter orbit on the 26th of September and then was predicted to leave on 25 November.

"It's not going to complete a full revolution of our planet, it's just going to kind of have its orbit altered, just twisted slightly by our own planet and then it'll continue on its merry way," she said.

The asteroid is approximately 320 (10m) long, which is tiny in comparison to Earth's moon, which has a diameter of approximately 3,474km.—Monitoring Desk

# Kabul keen to attend BRICS summit in Russia

KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban government is keen to join the BRICS economic forum, a spokesman said on Tuesday ahead of the group's summit in Russia.

The summit of emerging economies that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will meet on October 22-24 in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan.

"Countries with major resources and the world's biggest economies are associated with the BRICS forum, especially Russia, India, and China," said Hamidullah Fiaz, a government deputy spokesman.

"Currently, we have good economic ties and commercial exchanges with them. We are keen to expand our relations and participate in the economic forums of the BRICS," he said.

The Taliban authorities have not been officially recognised by any country, but they have growing relations with founding BRICS nations including China and Russia.

The group that has recently expanded by including the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia has not publicly reacted to the Taliban government's comments.—AFP

# Putin threatens to use N-weapons if Ukraine hits Russia with Western missiles

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin warned the West on Wednesday that Russia could use nuclear weapons if it was struck with conventional missiles, and that Moscow would consider any assault on it supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack.

The decision to change Russia's official nuclear doctrine is the Kremlin's answer to deliberations in the United States and Britain about whether or not to give Ukraine permission to fire conventional Western missiles into Russia.

Putin, opening a meeting of Russia's security council, said that

the changes were in response to a swiftly changing global landscape which had thrown up new threats and risks for Russia.

The 71-year-old Kremlin chief, the primary decision-maker on Russia's vast nuclear arsenal, said he wanted to underline one key change in particular.

"It is proposed that aggression against Russia by any non-nuclear state, but with the participation or support of a nuclear state, be considered as their joint attack on the Russian Federation," Putin said.

"The conditions for Russia's transition to the use of nuclear weapons

are also clearly fixed," Putin said, adding that Moscow would consider such a move if it detected the start of a massive launch of missiles, aircraft or drones against it.

Russia reserved the right to also use nuclear weapons if it or ally Belarus were the subject of aggression, including by conventional weapons, Putin said.

The clarifications were carefully calibrated and commensurate with the modern military threats facing Russia, a confirmation that the nuclear doctrine was changing, the president added.

Russia's careerist published

nuclear doctrine, set out in a 2020 decree by Putin, says it may use nuclear weapons in case of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatens the existence of the state.

The innovations outlined by Putin include a widening of the threats under which Russia would consider a nuclear strike, the inclusion of ally Belarus under the nuclear umbrella and the idea that a rival nuclear power supporting a conventional strike on Russia would also be considered to be attacking it.

The United States in 2022 was so concerned about the possible use of

tactical nuclear weapons by Russia that it warned Putin over the consequences of using such weapons, according to Central Intelligence Agency Director Bill Barr.

### Confrontation

The Ukraine war has triggered the gravest confrontation between Russia and the West since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, considered to be the closest the two Cold War superpowers came to international nuclear war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has been urging Kyiv's allies for months to let Ukraine fire

Western munitions into Russia to limit Moscow's ability to launch attacks.

With Ukraine losing key towns to gradually advancing Russian forces in the country's east, the war is entering what Russian officials say is the most dangerous phase to date.

Zelensky has urged the West to cross and disregard Russia's so-called "red lines", and some Western allies have urged the United States to do just that, though Putin's Russia, which controls just under one-fifth of Ukrainian territory, has warned that the West and Ukraine are risking a global war.—Reuters



MELBOURNE: Pesto, a nine-month-old penguin chick, dwarfs other penguins at the Sea Life Melbourne. A fluffy brown ball, the chick has shot to fame for his massive weight of 22.5 kilograms, more than the combined weight of its parents. With a healthy diet of 25 fish a day, Pesto's fluffy frame may grow yet.—AFP



STRASBOURG: French railway operator SNCF's next-generation light passenger train, dubbed DRAISY, is unveiled in Strasbourg, on Wednesday. The train is expected to enter service on rural railway lines in 2027, providing a 100 per cent electric and sustainable transport solution for low-density regions, with 60pc reduced operating costs compared to traditional trains.—AFP

# NEWSMAKERS



COLOGNE: Astronaut Alexander Gerst of the European Space Agency looks on during presentation of LUNA, a training ground facility designed to recreate the lunar surface.—AFP

# Walking on the Moon in Cologne: Europe's lunar life simulator

COLOGNE: A large, ordinary-looking warehouse in the German city of Cologne is the closest you can get to walking on the Moon — without leaving Earth.

The facility known as LUNA, which was officially inaugurated on Wednesday, is the world's most faithful recreation of the lunar surface, according to the European Space Agency (ESA).

European astronauts will train inside the unique simulator and test equipment that will one day travel to the Moon — including potentially on NASA's upcoming Artemis programme, which plans to send humans there on a mission in a few years.

From the outside, it looks like a huge white hangar in a corner of the German Aerospace Center on the outskirts of

Cologne. But inside the nine-metre (30 feet) high facility, below the jet-black ceiling and walls, is a replica of the soil that covers the lunar surface.

Creators and hangs riggle in and out of darkness under the stark light of a sole lamp at one end of the 700-square-metre area — the equivalent of more than three tennis courts. The terrain is strewn with rocks and smothered in a strange pale-grey dust.

ESA astronaut Matthias Maurer described walking through the environment wearing a space suit.

"When you're entering the black area and you have the sunlight in front of you, it can be difficult to find your way around," Maurer told journalists during a recent tour of the facility.—AFP



NARATHIWAT: Birds sit in cages during a singing competition in southern Thailand, on Wednesday. Some 2,500 birds from Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore are taking part in the annual contest.—AFP



A VIEW of Finland's Parliament House in Helsinki after it was partially covered with red paint during a protest against peat collection by a private company.—Reuters

# 'We feel their pain': Gazans stunned by Israeli strikes on Lebanon

### Displaced residents say 'war in Lebanon means less global attention towards the crisis in Gaza'

GAZASTRIP: As Israeli bombs flattened buildings and sent smoke billowing skywards over Lebanon this week, Gazans looked on with both empathy and fear over how the widening conflict might affect them.

Israel carried out a third day of air strikes against Lebanon on Wednesday. In a dramatic escalation after nearly a year of cross-border violence, Israeli air raids on Monday killed at least 558 people in Lebanon in the country's deadliest day since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Chadi Nasraf, a 24-year-old resident of Gaza City who said he lost his home in an Israeli strike, said on Wednesday that footage from Lebanon was hard to watch. "The bloody scenes from Lebanon that we see on our television screens are very harsh images," he said. "We people in the Gaza



A PALESTINIAN man approaches an Israeli vehicle to hit it with his shoe during an Israeli raid in Jerin, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, on Wednesday. — Reuters

Strip are the only ones who can currently feel the pain that the Lebanese people are experiencing."

Israel's focus moves north

Another strike on the Lebanese capital on Tuesday killed Hezbollah rocket force commander Ibrahim Khatib. Taken together, Israel's onslaught confirmed its Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's claim a week ago that the war's "centre of gravity" was moving northward.

Hezbollah has displaced tens of thousands of Israelis, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has said it is determined to return them to their homes along the border with Lebanon. Aymon al Amruti, another displaced resident of Gaza City, said he was worried the fighting in Lebanon would mean the ongoing conflict in Gaza gets less global attention.

"The military weight is now shifting to Lebanon, so even the media attention on the Gaza Strip has become secondary," the 42-year-old said. "This encourages the appetite of the occupation (Israel) to commit more crimes." Israel's retaliatory military

offensive has killed at least 41,875 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to figures provided by the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. The United Nations has described the figures as reliable.

'The victims are the people'

There are obvious differences in time-frame and scale, but Umm Musayir Nasir, 52, said she could not help but see similarities between the fighting in Lebanon and in Gaza.

"The war against Lebanon and Hezbollah is a war like in Gaza. The victims are the people," she said. "The small, the big, the properties, everything is targeted — humans, trees... they say it's against Hamas and Hezbollah, but on the ground it's people who die."

Amruti said he hoped the fighting would end soon in both places, and that their forces could even be linked given Hezbollah's past pledges to stop fighting once a Gaza ceasefire comes about. "The outcome, the hope is that any settlement with Hezbollah will also involve Gaza," he said. "Right now, that is the hope that the children of the Palestinian people are turning to." —AFP

## UN chief warns of 'rising tide of misery' from swelling seas

UNITED NATIONS: UN chief Antonio Guterres warned on Wednesday that surging sea levels are creating "a rising tide of misery," as a coalition of small island nations declared that their sovereignty must be respected even if their lands are submerged.

Nearly a billion people worldwide live in low-lying coastal areas, increasingly vulnerable to storm surges, coastal erosion and flooding — while Pacific islands face growing threats to their economic viability and even existence.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the global mean sea level has risen faster than in any prior century — at least in the past 1,000 years, a direct consequence of human-caused global warming triggering the melting of ice on land and the thermal expansion of seawater. "Rising seas mean a rising tide of misery," said Guterres, speaking at a summit that placed sea-level rise at the top of the international agenda at the UN General Assembly.

Over the past century, as global temperatures have risen about one degree Celsius, sea levels have gone up 160 to 210 millimetres — with about half of that amount occurring since 1993, according to Nasir.

According to a study cited by the

UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, five nations — the Maldives, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Kiribati — may become uninhabitable by 2100, creating 600,000 stateless climate refugees.

Guterres warned of "communities uprooted, fresh water contaminated, crops ruined, infrastructure damaged, biodiversity destroyed and economies decimated — with sectors such as fisheries, agriculture and tourism paralysed." Those effects are already being felt, he said — pointing to hundreds of island families in Panama forced to relocate to the mainland, and people in Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, who are abandoning their homes, schools, businesses and mosques to the encroaching tide.

Legal protections

Felipe Texe, prime minister of the tiny Pacific archipelago of Tuvalu, added that rising seas pose "an existential threat to our economies, to our culture and heritage, and to the land that nourished our ancestors for centuries." Flooding has increased soil salinity, reducing crop yields and weakening trees. Infrastructure such as roads and power lines has been washed away. "Higher land on

which to rebuild does not exist," he said.

Low-lying nations are seeking to "affirm that seabed cannot be challenged under any circumstances of sea-level rise," and that their 200-nautical-mile maritime zones remain intact even if land mass disappears.

Island nations are also pushing for legal protections to safeguard the human rights of forcibly displaced people, secure financial support for adaptation efforts, and establish programmes that preserve their cultures.

"Since 1989, we've been sounding the alarm on the climate crisis and sea level rise while facing its devastating impacts," added Somalia Prime Minister Flame Nourou Matia's in a statement.

"Through it all, we've stayed firm — our states, maritime zones and rights remain intact under international law, no matter the rising seas we are here to stay," Guterres urged countries to commit to ambitious new climate targets to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees Celsius — particularly the G20 nations, responsible for 80 per cent of global emissions. "We cannot lose the hopes and aspirations of billions of people dead in the water." —AFP

## Meta unveils star-studded AI assistants

MENLO PARK: Meta launched AI chatbots voiced by Hollywood celebrities like John Cena and Judi Dench on Wednesday, betting that its billions of users are eager to embrace artificial intelligence.

"I think that voice has the potential to be one of, if not the most frequent ways that we all interact with AI," said Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg at the company's annual product presentation event. "It is just a lot better," he said.

The deployment comes months after OpenAI unveiled its own ChatGPT voice feature, which drew controversy for its similarity to actress Scarlett Johansson's voice.

Meta has obtained permission from the stars featured in its new voice tool, which will be available on Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp. However,

Meta AI won't be accessible in Europe due to concerns about compliance with EU data protection laws and potential fines.

Meta's AI relies on content and data from its platform's billions of users, a practice that involves numerous obligations and safeguards in Europe.

400 million users

Like ChatGPT or Google's Gemini, Meta AI is an AI assistant that answers questions, creates images, writes messages and even provides companionship.

This new version builds on the initial release unveiled a year ago. Meta reports that over 400 million people already consult Meta AI at least once a month, and the company aims to make it "the most widely used AI assistant by the end of the year."

Critics, however, point out that many users stumble

into Meta AI inadvertently, as it has replaced the search function on apps such as WhatsApp.

Since ChatGPT's breakthrough, the major tech companies have been rapidly developing AI applications capable of producing high-quality content from simple queries.

Competition is fierce, with Google and Microsoft having a head start in productivity features, and Apple entering the market with AI-capable iPhones. However, these models require substantial technical infrastructure, energy, and skilled engineers, significantly impacting company resources.

Meta believes its enhanced assistant sounds more natural, can interact verbally, and analyze images. Like other chatbots, it can suggest recipes from food

photos or edit images based on simple user requests.

Despite concerns about heavy spending on AI and virtual reality, Meta's profits have soared, with its share price up 60 percent since the beginning of the year. The company's success relies on strong advertising results.

But the social media giant's heavy spending on AI and virtual reality technology has always been a concern for investors and observers. "When I think about AI, Meta is not necessarily the first brand that comes to mind," Creative Strategies analyst Carolina Millonni said.

"And their biggest hurdle is going to be privacy and trust: a lot of consumers will have issues with trusting that the data is not being used for other reasons." —AFP

## New category for families

Continued from Page 1

status of the husband or father. The measure is designed to relieve many taxpayers from the obligation of filing tax returns, particularly when their primary source of income is their spouse. However, the transactions made under this arrangement will be limited to the income declared by the filer in previous tax returns.

Curbing self-employment filings

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) aims to set reference values for families eligible to purchase real estate, vehicles and other assets. The reference values will be based on the income declared in the husband or father's previous tax filings. In cases where a woman earns income and her husband is financially dependent on her, the same rules will apply, allowing the husband to invest within the income limits disclosed by his wife.

Former finance minister Ishaq Dar introduced higher tax rates on non-filers to encourage tax compliance, but this has led to an increase in self-employment filings as individuals sought to avoid paying higher tax rates on key transactions. Under the current system, non-filers pay higher tax rates on 15 types of transactions, including property and vehicle purchases.

FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial said the notion of "non-filers" is a unique Pakistani innovation and that the government plans to abolish the concept by amending the law.

The proposed reforms aim to differentiate between genuine filers and those who file returns solely to avoid penalties such as higher tax

rates or the suspension of services like mobile phone SIMs.

Bank account restrictions

Under the proposed measures, the FBR will shift its focus from penalising non-filers through SIM blocking to restricting the opening of current accounts. Non-filers will be prohibited from opening current accounts but will be allowed to open a simplified "Asset Account" for basic transactions, including bank-related activities.

Overseas Pakistanis, particularly holders of Pakistani Origin Cards (POCs), will be permitted to remain on the Active Taxpayers List (ATL) without filing tax returns. This facility will be worked out in coordination with Nadra to prevent potential misuse.

Similarly, the government plans to introduce travel restrictions for non-filers, particularly to Europe, North America and other developed countries. However, exemptions will be made for religious pilgrimages such as Hajj and Umrah, as well as visits to religious sites.

For individuals refusing to join the tax roll, financial transactions tied to their Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) may be scrutinised, and those with undeclared incomes could face a ban on international travel. Individuals earning less than Rs600,000 per year will continue to be exempt from filing tax returns under the proposed system.

FBR to set transaction ceilings

With the elimination of the non-filer category, the FBR plans to generate reference values for individual taxpayers to ensure that property,

vehicle and financial transactions match declared incomes. These values will be accessible online and used to verify the eligibility of purchases. The initiative aims to encourage people to disclose their true incomes, which will serve as a benchmark for financial transactions.

Restrictions will also be placed on the declaration of loans and gifts in tax returns, with cross-checks and other safeguards introduced to prevent misuse. Individuals over 65 years of age will be allowed to declare the real market value of their assets, which will serve as a benchmark for future transactions.

In consultation with banks, the FBR will establish a risk rating for taxpayers based on their declared incomes. Banks will be required to report any transactions exceeding the set limit, helping the FBR in identifying individuals who conduct large transactions but fail to declare adequate income on their tax returns. Cash withdrawals will also be capped at Rs30 million per year to reduce cash circulation and promote digital transactions.

The government also plans to move deterrent tactics to force people to declare their true earnings. The government may reserve the right to purchase properties declared below market value, thus discouraging the under-declaration of assets. The investment will be linked with data shared with banks.

Non-filers will face further restrictions, including being barred from purchasing vehicles and property and making investments in financial instruments.

**"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"**  
**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY**

**NOTIFICATION**  
**REVISED TOLL RATES ON NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & MOTORWAYS**

1. National Highway Authority has Revised its Toll Rates on National Highways & Motorways Network effective from **October 01, 2024**. Details are as under:

**A. NATIONAL HIGHWAYS:**

Category	National Highways		Karakoram Highway		M-10 (Murree, Lodhran)		M-10 (Murree, Lodhran)		M-10 (Murree, Lodhran)	
	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024
Car	40	50	100	120	100	110	40	50	20	20
Wagon	70	90	300	400	120	130	70	90	30	30
Bus	130	170	400	520	250	280	130	170	80	80
2 & 3 Axle Trucks	190	250	600	800	300	330	190	250	70	70
Articulated Trucks	250	400	800	1100	500	600	250	400	150	150

**B. MOTORWAYS:**

**1) M-1 (ISLAMABAD-PESHAWAR):**

Category	TOLL RATES (RS.)	
	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024
Car	350	400
Wagon upto 12 Seater	550	720
13-24 Seater, Coaster/Mini Bus	700	910
Bus	1000	1300
2 & 3 Axle Truck	1300	1600
Articulated Truck	1800	2300

**2) M-3 (LAHORE-ABDUL HAKEEM):**

Category	TOLL RATES (RS.)	
	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024
Car	500	650
Wagon upto 12 Seater	750	980
13-24 Seater, Coaster/Mini Bus	1150	1500
Bus	1600	2080
2 & 3 Axle Truck	2100	2750
Articulated Truck	2800	3650

**3) M-4 (PINDI BHATTIAN-FAISALABAD-MULTAN):**

Category	TOLL RATES (RS.)	
	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024
Car	600	850
Wagon upto 12 Seater	1000	1300
13-24 Seater, Coaster/Mini Bus	1500	1950
Bus	2000	2600
2 & 3 Axle Truck	2600	3380
Articulated Truck	3500	4550

**4) M-5 (MULTAN-SUKKUR):**

Category	TOLL RATES (RS.)	
	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024
Car	900	1200
Wagon upto 12 Seater	1300	1700
13-24 Seater, Coaster/Mini Bus	1900	2500
Bus	2600	3400
2 & 3 Axle Truck	3500	4500
Articulated Truck	4500	5700

**5) M-14 (D.I Khan - Bahk):**

Category	TOLL RATES (RS.)	
	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024
Car	550	680
Wagon upto 12 Seater	850	1080
13-24 Seater, Coaster/Mini Bus	1300	1670
Bus	1800	2290
2 & 3 Axle Truck	2500	3150
Articulated Truck	3300	4150

**6) E-35 (HASSANABDOL-HAVELIAN-MANSHERA EXPRESSWAY):**

Category	TOLL RATES (RS.)	
	Existing	Revised w.e.f 01.10.2024
Car	180	230
Wagon upto 12 Seater	280	360
13-24 Seater, Coaster/Mini Bus	400	520
Bus	560	730
2 & 3 Axle Truck	750	960
Articulated Truck	900	1170

**GENERAL MANAGER (REVENUE)**  
**National Highway Authority**  
 28-Mauve Area, Sector G-9/1, Islamabad  
 Tel: 051-9260190, 051-9262153 & 051-9032843 | Website: www.nha.gov.pk

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# Israel continues to bomb Lebanon as Hezbollah claims hitting Mossad

• Minister says Israeli strikes killed 51 people in a day • International Organisation for Migration estimates nearly 100,000 displaced so far • Pakistan tells its citizens to leave the country or relocate to safe areas

BEIRUT: Israel widened its airstrikes in Lebanon on Wednesday and shot down a ballistic missile that Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah said it had fired at the Mossad spy service headquarters near Tel Aviv, escalating up the conflict between the two arch-rivals.

The Israeli airstrikes killed 51 people and wounded 223, the Lebanese health minister Firas Abiad told a press conference on Wednesday.

Hezbollah announced in a statement on Wednesday that it has struck a Mossad headquarters in the suburbs of Tel Aviv with a Qader 1 ballistic missile.

"In support of our defiant Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and as part of backing its daring and honorable Resistance, and in defense of Lebanon and its people, the Islamic Resistance fighters targeted on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 6:30 a.m. the Mossad headquarters in the suburbs of Tel Aviv with a Qader 1 ballistic missile," the statement said.

"This headquarters is responsible for assassinating Hezbollah leaders and blowing up pagans as well as the wireless devices," it said, accusing the Israeli spy agency of carrying out an operation last week in which Hezbollah trapped pagans and radios of Hezbollah members exploded, killing 29 people and wounding nearly 3,000.

The missile attack triggered sirens in Tel Aviv as well as multiple other towns in the central Israeli territories, with Israeli media reports declining to provide details on the extent of damage and the number of casualties.

The Wednesday strike marks the first time Hezbollah has used a long-range ballistic missile in the near-daily conflict

with Israel. **Civilians flee Israeli attacks**  
Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese have fled their homes and hospitals have filled with the wounded since an intensification of bombing on Monday, when more than 500 people were killed in Lebanon's deadliest day since the end of a 1975-1990 civil war.

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said the United States was deeply concerned by the reports of a ballistic missile attack aimed at Mossad headquarters in Tel Aviv, but it still believed a diplomatic solution could be found to ease the violence.

Israel has expanded the areas it has been striking since Tuesday night in Lebanon, with attacks for the first time on the beach resort town of Tyre just south of Beirut and Marjayoun.

The strikes also took place in Ras Sheik, Bshamin and Ain Qana in the north, the village of Joun in the Ghazir district near the southern city of Sidon, and Marjayoun in northern Keserwan district.

Israeli authorities said the Galilee region of northern Israel was hit by heavy Hezbollah barrages on Wednesday morning.

In one salvo about 40 rockets were fired. Some were intercepted in mid-air, others struck open areas or penetrated air defences in more populated areas, they said.

Near-daily exchanges of fire in the Israel-Lebanon border area started after war broke out last October between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas in the Gaza Strip on Israel's southern border, with Hezbollah saying it was acting in solidarity with its ally Hamas.

Thousands of thousands of Israelis have been evacuated from their homes near the border, and the Israeli government has made their safe return an aim of the war, setting the stage for a long conflict. Hezbollah has said it will not back down until Israel ends its war in Gaza.

**UN says 90,000 displaced**  
The United Nations said Wednesday that some 90,000 people had been displaced in Lebanon this week, as Israel pounds what it claims are Hezbollah targets across the country and the Lebanese resistance group attacks Israel.

Since Monday, the UN's International Organization for Migration has recorded "90,230 newly displaced persons", a statement said.

Human Rights Watch warned on Wednesday that Israeli strikes on Lebanon were putting civilians "at grave risk", urging an international investigation into hostilities in the country and in northern Israel.

**WFO advisory**  
The Foreign Office (FO) has advised Pakistanis against travelling to Lebanon and urged Pakistani residents in Lebanon to leave the country.

According to a travel advisory issued by the FO, "In view of the recent attacks in Lebanon, Pakistani nationals are strongly advised not to travel to Lebanon until further notice."

The advisory urged Pakistanis in Lebanon to "travel out through commercial flights which are still available", adding that if they cannot leave the country, they must "exercise extreme caution and relocate to safe areas".

The FO urged Pakistanis remaining in Lebanon to remain in contact with the Pakistani embassy in Beirut, attaching contact details to the advisory.—Agencies

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Stressing the need for a secure environment to stage an economic recovery two key PM-1N leaders on Wednesday claimed that Pakistan's advancement, in a bid to stabilise the country, were perpetuating political instability and militant violence.

Speaking at a youth ceremony in Islamabad, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz described a meeting between her father Nawaz Sharif and a foreign diplomat, saying "This meeting, a foreign ambassador was visiting Nawaz Sharif and I was also present."

"He talked about the political chaos in Pakistan and asked how he (Nawaz) views it. Nawaz Sharif told him we have grown up in the midst of this turmoil, we have grown politically and even today, this is not something new for us; this is the way it has been in Pakistan for a long time," she said.

Although she did not identify the diplomat, Chinese ambassador Jiang Zehong had called on Mr Sharif earlier in the day.

The anecdote reflects how even foreign governments are concerned over events unfolding in the country, and lines up with reports that certain 'friendly countries' have expressed reservations over investing in Pakistan because of the persistent political instability that currently prevails.

Mr Sharif's interaction with the Chinese ambassador, according to an official comment, focused on exploring the potential for enhancing cooperation in the fields of technology, business, and investment.

Jiang Zehong highlighted that China highly valued its friendship with Pakistan, and this relationship had advanced significantly under PM-1N governments. He welcomed Punjab's inclusion in the upgraded vision of CPEC, which included the development of special economic zones.

"Adversaries trying to destabilise Pakistan"

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday stressed that Pakistan's adversaries were actively working to destabilise the country by sponsoring and facilitating militant groups, adding that economic recovery depended on a secure environment.

Looking economic stability with security, the federal minister highlighted the need for enhanced intelligence capabilities, stronger regional cooperation, and more robust measures to counter the narratives supporting militancy that is aimed at disrupting Pakistan's progress and undermining national security.

He expressed these views while addressing an international conference titled 'Countering Terrorism in



SMOKE billows from Lebanon's eastern city of Beikha in the Bekaa valley, after an Israeli air strike, on Wednesday.—AFP

## 'N' leaders vow not to let political strife, militancy derail progress

• Nawaz told diplomat political chaos nothing new for Pakistan, says CM Maryam • Ahsan Iqbal urges security steps, socio-economic strategy to combat extremism

By Zafarwan Tabir and Saam Ahsan

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Stressing the need for a secure environment to stage an economic recovery two key PM-1N leaders on Wednesday claimed that Pakistan's advancement, in a bid to stabilise the country, were perpetuating political instability and militant violence.

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He expressed these views while addressing an international conference titled 'Countering Terrorism in

Pakistan: Progress, Challenges and the Path Forward', jointly organised by Islamabad-based think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bahria University, Islamabad.

"As a result of a lack of continuity in policies, we saw the re-emergence of these networks [of terrorism]... The policy adopted [during the PTI tenure] of taking back some elements from Afghanistan has again posed a challenge, but now the PM-1N government is determined to fight, defeat and eliminate them like we did before," AIP quoted him as saying.

Mr Iqbal outlined the government's initiatives, such as the National Action Plan (NAP) and Anti-Terrorism Vector, which focused on consolidating counter-terrorism gains and promoting long-term peace.

The minister warned about the evolving nature of the terrorist threat and called for both immediate security measures and long-term socio-economic strategies to combat extremism.

Terrorism is no longer confined to organisations or large militant groups. The rise of lone wolf attacks, along with cyber radicalisation and the use of social media for extremist recruitment, have transformed the landscape, he said.

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## Court rules against retrospective application of income tax law

By Malik Asad

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore High Court's (LHC) Rawalpindi bench has ruled against retrospective application of a section of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001 that relates to concealment of taxable income.

The LHC bench comprising Justice Sajid M. Karbi and Justice Jawad Hassan noted that the application of Section 111(6) of the ordinance in the tax reference in hand was "unlawful".

Initially, the court formulated the question that when it is admitted or determined that income has been concealed by suppressing the sales can the evaded tax be allowed to be kept as a gift by the taxpayer on the ground that wrong provision of law has been mentioned i.e. Section 111(1)(b)(ii).

The court was earlier informed that a show cause notice was issued to the respondent taxpayer to explain the nature and source of credit entries based on suppression of sales and evasion during a desk audit, on account of certain discrepancies found between the bank statement and statement of final taxation for the period in question.

Although the respondent filed reply to the show cause notice, the same was found "unsatisfactory" that further led to amendment of the assessment and subsequent addition of Rs228 million under Section 111(6)(b) of the ordinance and total income was assessed at annual Rs228m

involving two demand of Rs57m. Feeling disgruntled, the respondent filed an appeal before Inland Revenue Commissioner. It was later disposed of vide order dated Nov 17, 2016 with the observation that Section 111(1)(b) as well as general rate of tax on the income of taxpayer without altering his status under the minimum tax regime under Section 113A declared under Section 115(4) of the ordinance, was wrongly applied by the assessing officer.

However, the appellate tribunal allowed the appeal of the taxpayer.

FIR's legal adviser submitted that despite the fact that income has been concealed by suppressing the sales, the appeal of respondent-taxpayer was allowed by learned appellate tribunal without any lawful justification, on the ground that the provision of law i.e. Section 111(1)(b)(ii) was not attracted.

He admitted that the show cause notice should have been issued under Section 111(1)(b), but said Section 111(6)(b) was "erroneously" quoted.

The bench observed that Section 111(6)(b) was inserted through the Finance Act, 2001 with prospective effect and came into force with effect from July 1, 2001 adding that the matter pertains to the tax year 2000, thus, no retrospectivity can be given to it.

"As a basic principle of interpretation of statutes, the statute operative prospectively unless clearly indicated by the legislature, therefore, retrospectivity cannot be presumed," the court ruled.

## Another polio case surfaces in Pishin

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As the country confirmed its 22nd polio case of the year, government officials renewed their appeals to parents and caregivers to vaccinate their children against the crippling disease.

The latest case reported was of a 30-month-old boy from Pishin, Balochistan.

The national reference laboratory for polio eradication at the National Institute of Health has confirmed the presence of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in the child from Pishin area of Balochistan.

"This brings the total number of reported polio cases in 2024 to 22, with Balochistan accounting for 15 of them. Sindh has recorded four cases, while KP, Punjab, and Islamabad have reported one case each," an official of the lab said.

Expressing deep concern over the rising number of polio cases being found in the country, the Prime Minister's Social Person for Polio Eradication, Azeem Raza Farooq, emphasised the critical role parents play in safeguarding the health of their children.

"Each case represents a child whose life has been tragically and unnecessarily affected by polio. And

the only solution is timely and repeated vaccination. Every new case is a tragic reminder that we have all failed our children. I urge all parents to take responsibility and ensure their children receive the polio vaccine to fight against polio," he said.

According to a press release, in response to the ongoing outbreak, the government has updated its National Polio Eradication Emergency Operations Plan to target critical gaps in access, campaign quality, and vaccine acceptance.

Two large-scale, door-to-door vaccination campaigns are planned for later this year to close immunity gaps

and curb the spread of the virus.

National Coordinator for the Polio Emergency Operations Centre, Muhammad Anwarul Haq, has highlighted the importance of maintaining high vaccination coverage.

"Every new case is a tragic reminder of what happens when there are gaps in immunity," he said.

"When a child misses vaccination, the virus wins. Let's work together to protect our children and importantly to get a step to the virus," Mr Haq said. He urged parents to welcome polio teams into their homes to ensure health and well-being of their children.

## 'Selected' diplomats allowed to witness polling in India-held Kashmir

After 10 years without elections, locals say they are desperate for representation; 'Black Day' observed in AJK

SRINAGAR: In a first, foreign diplomats from some 15 countries were allowed to observe voting in India-held Kashmir on Wednesday, the first electoral exercise in the disputed region since 2014.

The visitors included diplomats from embassies of the UK, Mexico, Singapore, Spain and South Korea, among others, officials in Srinagar and New Delhi said.

Soldiers carrying rifles stood outside polling stations across India-held Kashmir as voters queued to participate in the second phase of elections, the first since New Delhi revoked its semi-autonomous status in 2019.

The change by Hindu-nationalist PM Narendra Modi brought the disputed region under the government's direct control and was accompanied

by mass arrests and a long curfew across the territory.

Since then, the territory has been without an elected government, ruled instead by a federally appointed governor.

Key decisions still remain with New Delhi, however, and it also has the power to override legislation passed by the 90-seat assembly.

Polling in the first stage of the three-phase election was held on Sept 18, when around 43 per cent of voters are said to have cast ballots.

The last round of voting will be held on October 1 with results expected a week later.

"It is a rare opportunity to come to Kashmir and see the electoral process in action and see democracy. It looks very smooth, everything is very professional," said Jagan K. Andrews, deputy chief of mission at the US embassy.

But Modi's opponents said the visit by diplomats was not necessary. Questioning the Modi government's motives, Omar Abdullah, leader of the local National Conference party pointed out the contradiction in its stance.



PEOPLE queue to vote under the watchful eye of security personnel, during the second phase of elections in Srinagar on Wednesday.—Reuters

When foreign governments comment, the government of India says it's an internal matter. But now they want foreign observers to come and monitor our elections, he said.

"Jammu and Kashmir elections are an internal matter for us and we do not need their certificate," he

said, after casting his vote, and accused the Modi government of humiliating and harassing the people, using its machinery to detain and suppress them.

Despite this, people are participating in the election, which Abdullah said was a testament to

# SPORT

## Alcaraz hopes Davis Cup finals won't be Nadal's 'last dance'

BEIJING: Carlos Alcaraz said Wednesday he is relishing teaming up with Rafael Nadal for Spain at the Davis Cup finals but hopes it won't be "the last dance" for the 22-time Grand Slam champion.

Spain this week named both players in their five-man team for the finals in November on home soil in Malaga, the duo having competed together in doubles at the Paris Olympics.

The 20-year-old Nadal was included for the Davis Cup despite not seeing competitive action since Paris and only playing one of the last seven Grand Slams because of injury and fitness struggles.

The 21-year-old Alcaraz said he had "missed" his competitor at the recent Laver Cup, which Nadal skipped because of injury.

"I don't want to think that it is a potential last dance for him in Malaga," four-time major winner Alcaraz said at the China Open in Beijing.

"Obviously it is a great support having him in the team."

"He can bring a lot of experience. For me it's going to be my first Davis Cup final, it's going to be a great experience for me."

"To have the chance to spend more time off the court, on the court as well with him, it's going to be great for Team Spain and I think for the country as well that we're playing in Spain."

"Hopefully it's not going to be the last time for him."

Nadal is not in the Chinese capital and the Spanish great has given mixed messages about his future in the sport.—AFP

## Asjad settles for silver after defeat in 6-red final

ULAANBAATAR: Pakistani cricketer Asjad Iqbal had to suffice with a silver medal after losing 6-2 against India's Karun Chandel in the final of the IRSP World 6-Red Snooker Championship in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on Wednesday.

The contest saw Asjad make a strong start, winning the first two frames 47-15 and 47-18. However, Chandel staged a remarkable late comeback, taking the next six frames to clinch the title.

Chandel's resurgence began in the third frame, where he crafted a stunning 71 break to reduce the deficit. He carried this momentum into the fourth frame, leveling the score with a convincing 41-7 win.

Chandel's precision and strategic play allowed him to dominate the proceedings, taking the next three frames 64-0, 45-0, and 53-20. Asjad threatened a late comeback in the seventh frame but ultimately fell short.

Asjad, Pakistan's reigning national champion, had an impressive run in the tournament, also securing a bronze medal in the Mongolia Snooker World Cup.—Agencias



MANCHESTER: Jeremy Doku (second R) of Manchester City scores during the League Cup match against Watford at the Etihad Stadium.—Reuters

# Nkunku hits hat-trick for Chelsea, City advance to League Cup last 16

MANCHESTER: Christopher Nkunku scored a hat-trick as Chelsea thrashed fourth tier Barnet 5-0 to reach the last 16 of the League Cup on Tuesday as a reshuffled Manchester City edged out Watford 2-1.

Nkunku now has six goals in seven appearances this season, but the Frenchman has still been unable to nail down a regular place in Enzo Maresca's side.

Maresca made 11 changes from the team that beat West Ham 3-0 on Saturday but could still start around 400 million (\$533 million) worth of talent.

Joao Felix was another of the Blues' big money signings to shine. His scuffed pass set up Nkunku for opener.

Nkunku then flicked home a second before Felix's free-kick hit the post and rebounded in off Barnet goalkeeper Paul Farman.

Pedro Neto tapped in Mykhailo Mudryk's cross for his first Chelsea goal.

Nkunku sealed his first hat-trick for the club when he dispatched Farman and rolled into an empty net.

City began what is likely to be many months without key mid-



LONDON: Chelsea's Christopher Nkunku (1) shoots to score during the match against Barnet at Stamford Bridge.—AFP

fielder Rodri after he suffered suspected knee ligament damage in a fiery 2-2 draw against Arsenal in the Premier League on Sunday.

Little over 48 hours on from that top-of-the-table clash, City were in action again and Pep Guardiola made nine changes, including a debut for 16-year-old

Kaden Braithwaite.

Jeremy Doku, one of the two to retain his place, fired in the opening goal from Jack Grealish's pass after five minutes.

Rodri's absence could mean a more prominent role for Mathew Nunes and the Portugal international blasted in his first goal

since joining City for 53 million a year ago.

Tom Ince, son of former Manchester United midfielder Paul Ince, pulled a late goal back for Watford, but it was too little, too late for the Championship side.

Anton Villa's second string were also pushed by lower-league opposition but Emil Rasmussen's header and Jon Daren's penalty were enough to win 2-1 at Wycombe.

Fourth-tier Watford came closest to an upset as they forced Leicester to penalties after a 0-0 draw.

However, the Premier League side was the shortest 3-0.

Newcastle's trip to AFC Wimbledon was postponed after a sinkhole appeared on the League Two side's pitch following heavy flooding in London this week. The match has been switched to Newcastle's St. James Park on October 1.

Newcastle have contributed 15,000 to a fund to help repair the pitch at Cherry Red Records Stadium, Manchester United and Tottenham were among the sides to progress to round four last week.—AFP

# Mbappe strikes again as Madrid hold off Alaves

MADRID: Kylian Mbappe struck for the fourth consecutive game as Real Madrid survived a late scare to beat Alaves 3-2 in La Liga on Tuesday.

Los Blancos, second, cut the gap on Barcelona to one point before the leaders beat Getafe on Wednesday.

Madrid dismantled Alaves with goals from Lucas Vazquez, Mbappe and Rodrygo before a late salvo from the visitors rocked Carlo Ancelotti's side when they thought the game was won.

Carlos Prekoci and Kike Garcia scored two goals in two minutes in the final stages but Madrid held on for the victory.

"I'm happy for the win," Vazquez told Real Madrid TV. "I think we had a great game until the 80th minute, when two mistakes cost us two goals against us, and we had to suf-

fer more than we should have.

"With the game that we played, we didn't deserve that ending." Los Blancos overpowered Alaves from the start in what was a highly uneven contest for most of the game, despite the Basque side's solid start to the season.

Ancelotti brought Vinicio Juarbe back into the starting lineup and gave Vazquez a rare start and the pair combined inside the first minute to send Madrid ahead.

The Brazilian winger surged in from the left flank and cut the ball back for a simple finish from Vazquez.

Ancelotti said Monday he wanted more intensity from his team at the outset of matches after Madrid had scored just one first half goal this season in La Liga or the Champions League, and his demand was readily met.

Los Blancos dominated with Alaves barely reaching Thibaut Courtois' penalty box.

Despite that Madrid's second goal only came five minutes before the interval, when Mbappe and Jude Bellingham combined beautifully.

France captain Mbappe converted a volley flicked pass to the English international, who completed a one-two by sending his teammate through on goal.

Mbappe took two deft touches to shake his marker and get a sight of goal, before striking home clinically for his fifth league goal.

Rodrygo expanded Madrid's lead soon after the interval, coming in with freedom from the right and firing through Alaves goalkeeper Antonio Sivero's legs.

Teenage Brazilian striker Endrick hit the post with a

deflected effort and Abde Rabbaoui also struck the woodwork as Alaves made a rare foray forward.

Madrid substitute Endrick, 18, was fortunate not to be dismissed when he kicked out at Alaves defender Santiago Mouton.

The visitors pulled one back after 85 minutes when Prekoci curled home a sweet strike from the edge of the box.

Prekoci then turned provider with a fine ball over the top which Kike Garcia fired home.

Madrid being on for the victory, their 20th consecutive league game unbeaten, ahead of Sunday's derby clash with Atletico Madrid at the Metropolitan.

The Real Betis' stadium was where they last tasted defeat in the top flight, exactly



MADRID: Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe (C) scores during the La Liga match against Deportivo Alaves at Santiago Bernabeu.—Reuters

a year ago.

Tempers frayed at full time when Carlo Ancelotti congratulated the referee, unhappy

with a few of his players being booked while some of Alaves' tough tackling were unpunished.—AFP



THIMPU (Bhutan): Pakistan players celebrate scoring a goal during their SAFF U-17 Championship match against Sri Lanka on Wednesday. Pakistan won the match 5-1 to qualify for the semi-final of the tournament. Subhan Kaseem's brace, a goal apiece by Mohammad Talha and Abdul Ghani, and an own goal did the job for Pakistan.—courtesy AFP

## National tennis continues

KARACHI: The RC Janko Solar National Juniors and Seniors Tennis Championship pre-quarterfinals and quarterfinals of different categories were held here at Karachi Club on Wednesday.

In the men's singles pre-quarterfinals, Mohammad Saker beat Kashan Tariq 8-4, Ahsanul Karim Talha outclassed Yasir Das 8-2, Alimkhan Islamov comfortably outgassed Haris Arsojo 8-2 and Asad Zaman downed Faisal Anwar 8-3.

The men's singles quarterfinal featured a close contest where Mahir Muhammad edged past Farhan Kamran 9-7.

Tasnuva secured a convincing 6-2, 6-2 win against Junaid Mehar in the juniors U-18 singles pre-quarterfinal. In the quarterfinals, Alimkhan defeated Mohammad Yaqub 6-1, 7-5 while Mohammad Hamza Asim crushed Rubab Faisal 6-2, 6-2.

In the boys U-14 singles pre-quarterfinals, Lariq Shauqi outplayed Mustafa Chohan 4-0, 4-1, Musarrat Bhatti overcame Zayd Zaman 4-1, 4-2. Anwarul Hameed struggled to prevail over Junaid Mehar 4-2, 2-4, 5-3 while Mohammad Muz edged past Rubab Das 5-4, 5-4 in the quarterfinals of the same category.

Dalish Shauqi displayed her dominance in the girls U-18 singles quarterfinal as she blanked Sabrina Khan 8-0. The quarterfinal saw Saraqha Bin claim a facile 8-0 victory against Mustafa Fatima.

In the girls U-14 singles semi-final, Eschelle Aul overpowered Inara Akram 4-0, 4-0 while Khadija Khalid defeated Rozana Malik 4-0, 5-4.

The girls U-12 singles quarterfinals saw Khadija Khalid beat Eman Shabbir 4-0, 4-0. Hania Bakht and Zoha Inad also advanced, defeating Ahsan Farhan 4-0, 4-1 and Arooba 4-0, 4-0, respectively.

In the U-10 singles pre-quarterfinals, Saqyan Bin secured a 5-3, 5-5, 4-2 victory against Ralim Faisal.

In the 35-plus doubles first round, Asad Ali Bhatti and Khalid Ali Marar achieved an 8-3 win over Noman Farid and Qasim Hafid.—Sports Reporter

## London Marathon raises record 73.5m pounds

LONDON: The London Marathon raised a record 73.5 million pounds (\$98.26 million) for charity, race organizers said on Wednesday in what they described as the world's largest annual one-day fundraising event.

The collection surpassed the previous world record of 66.4 million pounds, set in 2019, on April 23 when more than 51,000 runners completed the 44th London Marathon.

London Marathon said in their final report that they raised 73.5 million pounds after the 2024 event, bringing the cumulative total to more than 1.1 billion pounds since the first edition in 1981.

"We salute every single participant who has contributed to this world record-breaking total of 73.5 million pounds for the thousands of charities which provide essential services to so many," London Marathon Events' CEO Hugh Brasher said in a statement.

The London Marathon's official online fundraising partner Endava also raised a record 30 million pounds on its platform.

The next London Marathon will be held on April 27.—Reuters

# Osaka wants 'no regrets' after hiring Serena's former coach

BEIJING: Four-time major champion Naomi Osaka said on Wednesday she "didn't want to have regrets" after confirming she has teamed up with Serena Williams' renowned former coach Patrick Mouratoglou.

Former world number one Osaka, now ranked 73, defeated Lucia Bronzetti of Italy 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the WTA 1000 China Open with the Frenchman Mouratoglou as her players' coach.

The 26-year-old Osaka split from Belgian coach Wim Fissette this month as she attempts to return to the form that propelled her to the top of the women's game.

Japan's Osaka said she "felt like I needed a change" and



ITALY'S Lucia Bronzetti eyes a return against Naomi Osaka of Japan during their China Open match on Wednesday.—AFP

"I like the way he coaches. I think it's going to be really interesting," she said in Beijing after setting up a second round meeting with 21st seed Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan.

"I think I'm at a stage in my life that I don't want to have regrets. I'd rather pull the trigger on something and I don't want to say 'ah, but I feel like I really need to learn as much as possible in this stage of my career.'"

"Patrick seemed like the guy with I guess the information that I wanted to learn from."

Fissette had two stints coaching Osaka, from 2019 to the summer of 2022 and again when they reunited last year

as Osaka launched her return to tennis after the birth of her daughter Shai in July 2023.

Osaka has struggled to put together victories since she returned to the WTA Tour in January.

She bowed out in the second round of the recent US Open and her best results since returning to action have been two quarter-final appearances.

Osaka, who won the China Open in 2019, admitted being a little wary initially about Mouratoglou, given the 54-year-old's long and successful association with the big-money Serena.

"I think the fact that he was Serena's coach for me made me want to avoid him just

because his persona is so big," she said.

"Then I met him, talked to him, worked with him on the court. He absolutely is a really good coach. I'm really glad that he's taking this project on as well."

**SHUAL ENDS 24-MATCH LOSING STREAK**

Meanwhile, Zhang Shuai won her first WTA Tour match since January 2023 when she triumphed at her home China Open to snap a painful run of 24 defeats.

The two-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist's previous singles victory came 403 days ago.

The 35-year-old tested the winning feeling again with a

handbought 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-1) win over the 65th-ranked American McCartney Kennedy.

Zhang, a former top-25 player, made the last eight of the Australian Open in 2016 and Wimbledon three years later. She has also won two Grand Slam doubles titles.

However, she has been plagued by injuries in recent times and is now ranked 59th, entering the prestigious WTA 1000 event in the Chinese capital as a wildcard.

She will face sixth seed Emma Navarro in the second round in Beijing.

In the Open Era, only one player has ever lost more than 24 matches in a row on the tour, including the 1911 Joan King Cup, the WTA said.—AFP

# With WTC points at stake, NZ aim to bounce back against Sri Lanka

GALLE: New Zealand must adapt to the tricky Galle surface if they are to average their first-Test ton to Sri Lanka this week, coach Gary Stead said on Wednesday.

Despite not having played a warm-up match, the Kiwis showed resilience by taking a five-innings lead, but Sri Lanka's experience in home conditions ultimately helped them secure a close victory on the final morning.

Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner, who managed just one wicket and scored four in the first Test, is likely to be replaced by off-spinner Michael Bracewell.

Oppener Devon Conway, who has failed to score a half-century in his last 35 Test innings, could be left out in favour of Will Young.

Additionally, Sri Lanka have confirmed that all-rounder Milan Ratnayake will return to the side, replacing Lahiru Kumara.

Ratnayake's inclusion is expected to strengthen Sri Lanka's tail-end batting.

## Stokes open to white-ball return under McCullum

LONDON: England Test captain Ben Stokes said he would be willing to return to the white-ball setup under new coach Brendon McCullum if he was asked but added that there had been no conversations about him coming back into the limited-overs squads.

McCullum's appointment as head coach across all formats came after a two-year period of having separate coaches for the white and red-ball teams and following Matthew Mott's departure as limited-overs coach in July.



JAPAN'S Shintaro Mochizuki hits a return to Ugo Humbert of France during their Japan Open match at Ariake Coliseum on Wednesday.—AFP

## Hurkacz reaches second round at Japan Open

TOKYO: Poland's number two seed Hubert Hurkacz reached the second round of the Japan Open tennis tournament with a 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-4 win over American Marcos Giron in Tokyo on Wednesday.

Hurkacz was playing his first match since losing to Australian Jordan Thompson in the second round of the US Open last month.



NEW ZEALAND'S Kane Williamson bats during a net practice session at the Galle International Stadium on Wednesday.—AFP

## Ahmed's all-round show helps Lions knock Stallions out

FAISALABAD: An all-round show by Ahmed Danial helped Lions knock Stallions out of the Champions One-day Cup after beating them by 12 runs in the first Eliminator here at the Iqbal Stadium on Wednesday.

Lions' victory set up their date against Markhams in the second Eliminator, which is set to be played on Friday.

Ahmed's quickfire 65 off 59 balls, after the right-hander had come in to bat at number nine, first limited Lions to 263-9, before his medium-pace bowling accounted for three wickets as Stallions were bowled out 251 with two balls to spare in what was a thriller.



LIONS' batter Ahmed Danial plays a shot during the first Eliminator of the Champions One-day Cup against Stallions at the Iqbal Stadium on Wednesday.—courtesy PCB

## Shakib available for second India Test, says coach

KANPUR: Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has no injury concerns and remains fit to play the second Test against India, coach Chandika Hathurusinghe said on Wednesday.

Media reports suggested Shakib played the first of two Tests with a finger injury when India bowled Bangladesh a 280-run thrashing in Chennai.

Former Sri Lanka all-rounder Hathurusinghe said "there was no doubt" over Shakib's participation in the second Test, which begins on Friday.



KANPUR: Indian captain Rohit Sharma bats in the nets during a training session at the Green Park Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.—AFP

Shakib made 32 and 25 with the bat in the first Test but went wicketless with the ball.

"I've played a lot of white-ball cricket for England and I'm very happy and content with what I've achieved in that form of the game..." Stokes told Sky Sports on Tuesday.

## Ex-Real Madrid defender and World Cup winner Varane retires

PARIS: France World Cup winner Raphael Varane, on Wednesday announced his retirement from football at the age of 33, adding that he will remain at Comps in a non-playing capacity.

Former Real Madrid and Manchester United centre-back Varane had joined the Italian club for this season but was then excluded from their Serie A squad having suffered a knee injury in August.

Varane joined United in 2021, lifting the League Cup and FA Cup with the English club, but his time at Old Trafford was disrupted by injuries.

Varane made his France debut in 2013 with the pinnacle of his international career coming at the 2018 World Cup, where Les Bleus beat Croatia 4-2 in the final.

and have tried to leave everywhere better than I found it." Varane's former teammates paid tribute to the Varane, including United's Portugal midfielder Bruno Fernandes.

## Brook's maiden ton keeps England alive in ODI series against Aussies

CHESTER-LE-STREET: England captain Harry Brook's maiden One-day International century revived his side's series hopes against Australia as they beat the world champions by 46 runs in the third ODI in Chester-le-Street on Tuesday.

Victory in the match left England 2-1 down with two to play.



ENGLAND captain Harry Brook plays a shot during the third One-day International against Australia at the Riverside Ground.—Reuters

Brook, however, went to 99 by driving Steve back over his head for four before a single off the paceman saw him to an 82-ball hundred including 12 fours and two sixes.

England fans would have feared the worst when Salt clipped Steve straight to mid-wicket before Duckett, aiming across the line, edged the left-arm fast bowler to backward point.

Scoreboard table showing runs and wickets for both teams.

Player-of-the-match Brook was understandably elated by a first cen-

tury in his 18 ODIs, with the 25-year-old Yorkshireman saying at the presentation ceremony: "It's nice to get the first one on the board and hopefully plenty more to come."

Jack's missed out on a maiden century when he appeared a Cameron Green bowler to backward point to end an 82-ball innings featuring

big partnership you can not the game up for yourself, fair play to them [England]."

As for Zaheer's absence, he added "Whenever you're missing someone like him it's hard work, but we'll hopefully welcome him back in a few days."

Allrounder Green, in for the injured Travis Head, had previously fallen for 42 and run out over Australia's 131-3 because 132-4 when Marcus Labuschagne was out for a duck after an intended middle-sweep off spinner Jacks lobbed gently to wicket-keeper Jarryd Smith.



Ahmed's all-round show helps Lions knock Stallions out

Page 20 SPORT

Weather forecast for Karachi: Karachi, Sun: 29-26, Mon: 29-26, Next 24 Hrs: Min: 27, Max: 33, Humidity: 78%, Outlook: Partly Cloudy.

METRO South

Aimal wants KP renamed as 'Pakhtoonkhwa' in constitutional package

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Awami National Party president Senator Aimal Wali Khan has said his party proposed an amendment to the upcoming constitutional package to rename Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Pakhtoonkhwa.

"We have proposed in the upcoming constitutional amendment package to rename KP as 'Pakhtoonkhwa' to give our identity," he said while speaking at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected cabinet members of the National Lawyers Forum (NLF) here at City Courts on Wednesday.

He opposed the idea of any extension in the retirement age of judges of superior judiciary and the direct appointment of practicing lawyers as high court judges.

"Elected judges and all judges should not be appointed in the superior judiciary," he said, adding, "The biggest mistake is appointing a high court lawyer directly as a judge."

He emphasised his party wants establishment of a permanent bench of the Supreme Court in every province so that citizens do not have to travel to the federal capital for justice.

Speaking on the country's economic condition, Senator Wali remarked, "This year and the next will be very difficult for us."

He clarified that the ANP had no personal affiliations with any judge of the apex court, stating, "We just want Pakistan's system to function properly."

During his speech, Mr Wali addressed issues related to the rule of law, judicial reforms, and the importance of freedom of speech.

Karachi Bar Association President Asrar Nawaz Warraich, General Secretary Ihtisham Ali Channa, NLF-Stocks president Haroon Shah and others also spoke.

The ANP chief had arrived in the metropolis on Sunday to attend Pakistan Culture Day. On Monday, he had attended the 'Meet the Press' programme of the Karachi Press Club.

Minister links cut in power tariff with reforms, re-profiling of CPEC debt

Awais Leghari sees Rs10-12 per unit cut in electricity cost after 18 months

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Awais Leghari reports of talks with independent power producers (IPPs) to negotiate their contracts for providing much-needed respite to the people, Power Minister Awais Leghari dismissed hopes for an immediate relief in electricity tariff on Wednesday when he said that the government's measures would take "one-and-a-half year" to bear fruit.

He also linked the potential Rs10-12 per unit cut in electricity with implementation of power reforms, re-profiling of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) loans and some other issues.

"We are taking all-out efforts to achieve the target of Rs10 to 12 per unit reduction in the electricity cost in the next one-and-a-half year, as case all reforms are implemented, including re-profiling of CPEC loans, review of contracts with Independent Power Producers, settlement of transmission constraints, improving efficiency of distribution companies and broadening the tax net," he said, according to an ANP report.

Minister Leghari said this while talking to the media after attending a programme — Power Reforms Roundtable — organised by the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) on its main campus.

In a question, he praised the federal government for providing subsidy in the electricity bills for the month of August and September and said that its renewal or review would be the decision of the provincial government.

He said that the forensic audit of IPPs would be carried



POWER Minister Awais Leghari speaks at the event, on Wednesday — Dawn

out if it was required. But he expressed the hope that it would not be needed. The minister claimed that a Rs170 billion subsidy was being paid by the federal government to enable power consumers in Karachi get electricity at par with the prices in other parts of the country.

Replying to another question, he said that the K-Electric was being regulated by its regulator, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra), and added that there was a need of further improvement in the efficiency of the power regulatory bodies, because the regulator had to watch the interests of the consumers and the government also needs to further strengthen their regulatory bodies.

Earlier, the minister delivered a keynote address, identifying key issues and a clear roadmap for reforms that can improve efficiency of the power sector, catalysing industrial and economic growth in the process.

The keynote was followed by a discussion with the minister,

and IBA's Executive Director Dr S Akbar Zaidi as panelist and entrepreneur Jamil Iqbal as the moderator, and a press release issued by the IBA.

The minister emphasised that structural reforms are complex, with results expected in a few months. The power division is focused on enhancing governance in distribution companies and transforming transmission infrastructure to boost efficiency and reduce losses. Additionally, plans are underway to stimulate industrial demand and accelerate economic growth, he added.

Discussing the issue of tariffs, he highlighted that front-loaded debt repayments contributed significantly to capacity charges, and addressing the same through various policy levers can result in rationalised prices across the board.

"Moreover, it's extremely important to actively move towards a competitive market regime, where electrons can be traded between buyers, and sellers, such that efficiency is rewarded, moving away from a

cost-plus regime focused on a single-buyer model," he added.

The minister also announced a forthcoming policy to promote electric vehicle (EV) adoption, especially for two-wheelers and three-wheelers, which will boost electricity demand, lower transport costs and reduce fuel imports.

He noted that Pakistan has one of the world's cleanest energy mixes, with over 55 per cent of electricity from clean sources, projected to exceed 70pc in a few years.

Additionally, nearly 75pc of electricity comes from indigenous sources, expected to rise above 90pc soon, he said.

According to the ANP report, the minister also said that seven out of 10 power distribution bodies would be privatised very soon.

He said that the government needs to review the IPPs contracts and that it would be done with mutual consent.

He told a questioner that the higher income group of the society was the beneficiary of the solar net metering.

Man shot dead, son hurt by robbers in Korangi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A man was shot dead and his son wounded by robbers in Korangi on Wednesday, police said.

They said Abdul Malik, 50, and son Kashif, 20, drew 1st million cash from a local bank near Dhal Chowrang.

As they came out from the branch, three armed muggers on a motorcycle intercepted them and tried to snatch the money from them, the police said, adding that they put up resistance and the robbers opened fire on them, causing bullet injuries to the father and the son.

The police said that victim Kashif pulled out his licensed pistol and fired at the robbers. A bullet hit a suspect, who was arrested by the police.

Korangi SSP Tauheed Fahman Memon said that Abdul Malik was critically injured and died.

The police said that the wounded suspect was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where he died during treatment. He was identified as Imran Hussain.

The SSP said that the police recovered Rs300,000 from his possession.

The SSP claimed that during the exchange of gunfire some cash fell onto the road and some passers-by took it away.

He said that the deceased suspect had a past criminal record as there were two FIRs registered against him at the Korangi and Korangi Industrial Area police stations pertaining to possession of illegal weapons and robbery.

Meanwhile, a 30-year-old man was shot dead in Blockin Town on Wednesday evening, police said.

The Blockin Town police said that Mohammed Asif was travelling on a motorcycle with another person. As there was traffic jam on the main road near Power House, they took a detour road, where some suspects tried to stop him. When he did not stop they fired at him and a bullet hit him in the hand, travelled through the body and pierced his heart, proving fatal.

The police said that the 1st police officer had fled the scene.

The body was shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi for medico-legal formalities.

Health experts voice concern over rapid increase in cases of iatrogenic fistula

Demand patients be compensated when a doctor is responsible for an injury during surgery

By Fatma Ilyas

KARACHI: Health experts have expressed concern over the rapid increase in cases of iatrogenic genital tract fistula — an abnormal connection between the urinary bladder or ureter and the vagina, created accidentally by a surgeon during an operation — in the country and called for action against healthcare providers and compensation for the affected female patients.

jointly organised by the Pakistan National Forum on Women's Health, the Pakistan Medical Association, and the Society of Surgeons Pakistan, at the PMAH House.

"While the cases of obstetric fistula in Pakistan are declining, the cases of iatrogenic fistula have increased dramatically in recent years," said senior gynaecologist Dr Sher Shah Syed.

He added that around 500 cases of iatrogenic fistula were reported at a single hospital in Karachi last year.

He recalled that these cases included at least 17 patients who had been operated on by an anaesthetist.

This type of fistula, he explained, occurs when poorly trained surgeons perform major operations such as abdominal hysterectomy and lower uterine segment caesarean sections.

"In Pakistan, it's common for qualified doctors without any surgical training to

perform these procedures. Then, there are general surgeons, urologists, orthopaedic surgeons, unregistered postgraduate trainees, and even neurosurgeons conducting medical procedures that fall within the domain of obstetric gynaecologists (OBGYNs)," he elaborated.

He also noted that quacks and traditional birth attendants are performing surgeries, contributing to the rise in iatrogenic fistula cases.

Dr Sher Shah expressed surprise that "for some strange reason," the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan had allowed OBGYN trainees to pursue courses in ultrasonography instead of urology or general surgery.

Dr Abdul Ghafour Shro pointed out that few postgraduate centres in Pakistan provide structured training to postgraduate trainees. "This system forces candidates to take shortcuts, obtain postgradu-

ate diplomas, and start working as consultants. They are more likely to make blunders, cutting the uterus left and right and causing fistulas."

The experts demanded that patients should be compensated when a surgeon is responsible for an injury during an operation.

"It's the duty of the hospital to assist these patients and ensure their fistulas are repaired without any charge," they said, calling upon the heads of medical colleges and universities to monitor the quality of postgraduate training.

Also present were Dr Aminda Strain and Dr Martin Verroldom, both Swedish surgeons visiting Pakistan.

They emphasised the need for adopting conservative management, stating that surgery should be the last option, and efforts should be made to keep procedures minimally invasive.

Train runs over, kills two women

KARACHI: Two women were killed when a train ran over them near Dhabaj on Wednesday, railway police said.

Pakistan Railway's spokesperson Syed Gamar Rashid said Rehman Baba Express was on its way from Peshawar to Karachi. When it was passing through a small railway bridge near Dhabaj, two women, who were trying to cross the bridge, were run over by it and died on the spot. Their identity could not be ascertained immediately.

Meanwhile, two men were killed when a trailer hit them on Superhighway on Wednesday.

Police said the men were riding a motorcycle when the heavy vehicle hit them at New Babel Mandi. The bodies were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where their identity could not be ascertained till late in the night.

— Staff Reporter

A kingmaker's struggle for relevance

SITUATIONER

'Taken-for-granted' MQM-P earns ire of voters for failing to negotiate a better deal over constitutional amendment package

By Azfar-ul-Ashfaq in Karachi

ONCE considered a kingmaker in national politics, the Muttahida Qasmi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) appears to have been relegated to a mere pawn on the political chessboard as it is conspicuously absent from the current political discourse that revolves around a controversial constitutional amendment package, forcing it to cry out loud about being "taken for granted."

Earlier this month, the PML-N had failed to present a controversial constitutional amendment package in the National Assembly and the Senate after it failed to secure a two-thirds majority in parliament. Although it claimed to have support of the PPP, MQM-P, PML-Q, Inqilabi-Pakistan Party, Balochistan Awami Party, Awami National Party, PML-Z, National Party, and a few independents, the party lacked the required numbers. It had tried its best to secure the votes of the opposition Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam-Faid (JUI-F) but failed.

While Pakistan Peoples Party chairman Bilawal

Bhutto-Zardari reiterated on Tuesday his party's firm support for a constitutional amendment to establish a Federal Constitutional Court and Awami National Party chief Aimal Wali vowed on Wednesday to support the amendment package if Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was renamed as only 'Pakhtoonkhwa', the MQM-P has kept them over the contentious issue with its chairman and federal Education Minister Khalid Maqsood Siddique currently in New York with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to attend the UN General Assembly.

Although the PML-N did not need MQM-P votes to form the government at the Centre after the Feb 8 general elections, it requires the support of MQM-P's 22 MNAs and these senators to get two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament.

However, the little importance the PML-N had given to its junior coalition partner over its proposed constitutional amendment package has strengthened the widely held belief that the ruling party as well as the PPP know that the Karachi-based organisation is being "managed" by powerful quarters and they don't need to make any concession for the votes of MQM-P parliamentarians to get a two-thirds majority.

Conversations with several current and former MQM leaders revealed that the PML-N had intentionally ignored the MQM-P and did not take it into confidence about their constitutional amendment package.

It was only a few hours before the proposed bill

was to be tabled in parliament on Sept 15 that it had seen Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Law Minister Azam Nasser Tarar to meet the MQM-P parliamentarians to save the party from further embarrassment.

They say that the MQM-P leadership might have tolerated the PML-N's cold shoulder, but the high-profile treatment JUI-F chief Maulana Fazal Rabbani received publicly from the ruling party and the PPP made things even more difficult for them.

The MQM-P leadership began facing intense criticism from both within and outside the party on the night between September 14 and 15, which only intensified as party members questioned the decision to unconditionally support the PML-N without securing any benefits for their constituents.

Realising the resentment within the party, senior MQM-P leader Dr Farooq Sattar openly complained on the floor of the National Assembly that his party was being "taken for granted" by the PML-N. He said that the PML-N had sent a delegation to meet MQM-P lawmakers "only after the MQM-P pointed out the neglect."

A video clip of Dr Sattar's NA speech quickly went viral on social media, sparking a flurry of memes and queries from users who tagged party leaders and asked them what benefits they had gained from backing the PML-N.

"It has become increasingly difficult for us to dispel a perception that certain quarters are control-

ling our every move," a senior MQM-P leader said, adding: "The PML-N probably thinks the same that we are being managed."

When asked if the powers that be were preventing the MQM-P from demanding a development package or something else for its voters from the PML-N, another senior leader replied in the negative, saying: "It seems it is not on their [leadership] priority list. They just want more ministries."

"What Farooq Sattar said is the case," says senior MQM-P leader Naveez Jaleel. "We realise that the PML-N and the PPP have the numbers to form the government... and because the MQM-P is unlikely to support the PTI, we have no option but to support the PML-N. Hence, we are being taken for granted."

Former Sindh governor Dr Ishratul Huda seems quite unhappy over the downfall of the party he was once closely associated with.

"What else to say if Dr Farooq Sattar or himself said on the floor of the National Assembly that the PML-N is taking MQM-P for granted," he says.

In his view, the root cause of this "cold shoulder" by the PML-N lies in the MQM-P's disposition to join the government soon after the February 8 general elections. "They [PML-N] have seen how desperate they were, and now it seems they are treating them accordingly," he says.

He believes that the MQM-P missed an opportunity to include a clause on empowered local government in

Continued on Page 14





### Six booked for impersonation in MDCAT exam

**HYDERABAD:** Police have booked six suspects on charges of impersonating registered students in the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) held at the Police Training School under the supervision of Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi, on Sept 22.

#### Students protest paper leak

A large number of students, who had taken MDCAT examination on Sunday, staged a demonstration outside local press club on Wednesday, urging the government to conduct it afresh as the paper had been leaked ahead of the exam.— Dawn Report

## SHC reaffirms entire Karoonjhar range as protected heritage

By Our Staff Correspondent

**HYDERABAD:** The Mirpurkhas circuit bench of the Sindh High Court has reaffirmed that entire Karoonjhar mountain range in Tharparkar is a protected heritage under the Sindh Cultural Heritage (Preservation) Act, 1994, and any violation thereof, "shall be treated as a violation of the orders of the court".

He said the cabinet was cognizant of historical, archaeological, heritage and cultural importance of the entire Karoonjhar range (comprising more or less 100 hills). However, the technical committee had not mentioned exact coordinates and surface area in the light of court orders. The culture department was therefore directed to place the matter before the committee, he said.

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### Suspects' bail pleas in illegal powerhouse case rejected

**HYDERABAD:** The special judge of anti-corruption (Central) Hyderabad on Tuesday rejected the bail applications of Seth Goharullah, former president of the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI), and a line superintendent of HCCI, Asad Ahsan, in a case of running an illegal powerhouse.

#### TENDER NOTICE

The Directorate General Population Welfare Department Quetta invites bids for eligible bidders for supply of following items, TBE-24258547131 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB (Weather Through Electronic) or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of PPRAS/GOB.

S.No.	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Medical Equipment and Accessories (Total Items) Count: 4	200,000 PKR

#### GOVERNMENT OF SINDH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT UNIT ACCELERATED ACTION PLAN (AAP) FOR REDUCTION OF STUNTING MALNUTRITION IN SINDH (FISHERIES SECTOR) KARACHI

Bungalow # C-8, Block #, Quetta-Jaisalmer Road Karachi Email: aapfisheriesindh@gmail.com Phone: 021-7420262 Camp Office Hyderabad

#### CORRIGENDUM OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Noted bids for the procurement of fish seed through tender published in various newspapers viz publication number PPP-001/2024 and the tender was also posted on PPRPA website. To avoid ambiguities in the tender documents, some corrections are made through this corrigendum in tender documents/bidding document and date of tender is also extended as under:-

S.No.	Particulars	Tender Fee
1	Labeo Rufus (White), not less than 4 inches	Rs. 2,000/-
2	Carassius Auratus (Moribay), not less than 4 inches	Rs. 2,000/-
3	Carassius Auratus (Moribay), not less than 4 inches	Rs. 2,000/-
4	Hypoclinemus (Blue) (Other Carp), not less than 4 inches	Rs. 2,000/-
5	Cyprinus Carpio (Golden), not less than 4 inches	Rs. 2,000/-

## Civil society protest extrajudicial killing of blasphemy suspect

By Our Correspondent

**UMERKOT:** Activists of civil society organisations across the province participated in a protest here on Wednesday which was led, among others, by daughter of blasphemy suspect Dr Shahbaz Khan. Dr Shahbaz Khan was allegedly killed by police in a staged encounter last week.

The protesters chanted slogans "Soul of Sindh needs peace" and "The land of peace needs peace". Mr Haroon Karbhar said it had not been verified that his father had committed the blasphemy because the social media account which was referred as his, its id was not in his name and it was in the name of some Shah Nawaz Shah.

and other drew attention of Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and said: "You have been claiming to be chairman of a democratic and secular party. Just your Tharparkar MNA Amroor Ali Shah Jorjani has been seen guarding the police officials who killed Dr Shahbaz Khan, a grade 18th officer, extrajudicially.

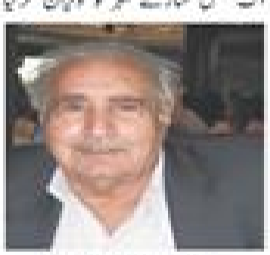
#### 10<sup>th</sup> BARSII

Please recite Surah e Fatiha

### UMAR JAN

March 4, 1923 - Sept 26, 2014

Forever loved, forever missed!



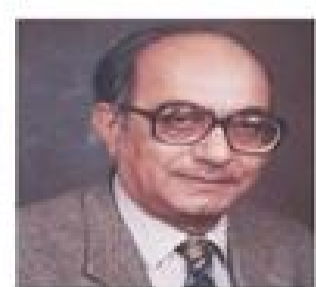
All family members

#### QUETTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY QESCO TENDER NOTICE

QESCO invites sealed tenders from the manufacturers who are registered with sales tax department and on active tax payer list (ATL) of FBR and Registered in required categories with PPMC former (PFCOS) Labour or with any QESCO for supply of the following material according to WAPSA / PFCOS drawings / Specification (Amended to date) as PCC / Ex Works/Plant basis to QESCO

S. No.	Description	Tender No.	Qty	Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of opening	Basis of Supply
1	HT PCC SPUN HOLLOW POLE	T-1885	3056Nos	14.10.2024 11:00 AM	14.10.2024 11:30 AM	Ex Works basis
2	ACSR DCG	T-1889	187 Nos	14.10.2024 11:30 AM	14.10.2024 12:00 Noon	Free Consignee to Regional Store QESCO Quetta
3	ACSR RABBIT	T-1890	710Nos	14.10.2024 11:30 AM	14.10.2024 12:30 PM	
4	ACSR OSPRAY CONDUCTOR	T-1891	34 Nos	14.10.2024 11:30 AM	14.10.2024 01:00 PM	
5	INSULATED DCG CONDUCTORS	T-1892	300m	14.10.2024 01:00 PM	14.10.2024 02:00 PM	
6	3-CORE LT ALUMIN PVC CABLE 7/352	T-1893	450280M	15.10.2024 11:30 AM	15.10.2024 11:30 AM	
7	4-CORE LT ALUMIN PVC 12/252	T-1894	36,5450M	15.10.2024 11:30 AM	15.10.2024 12:00 Noon	
8	4-CORE LT ALUMIN PVC 15/183	T-1895	75,3190M	15.10.2024 12:00 Noon	15.10.2024 12:30 PM	
9	4-CORE LT ALUMIN PVC 27/93	T-1896	100M	15.10.2024 12:30 PM	15.10.2024 01:00 PM	
10	HT CABLE 500 MM <sup>2</sup> S/C	T-1897	34 Nos	15.10.2024 01:00 PM	15.10.2024 02:00 PM	
11	15 KV DISTRIBUTION T-CORNER	T-1898	108Nos	16.10.2024 11:00 AM	16.10.2024 11:30 AM	
12	400 VVA DISTRIBUTION T-CORNER	T-1899	60Nos	16.10.2024 11:30 AM	16.10.2024 12:00 Noon	
13	AMVA POWER I/F	T-1900	60Nos	16.10.2024 12:00 Noon	16.10.2024 12:30 PM	
14	S/P ENERGY STATIC METER	T-1901	64 Nos	16.10.2024 12:30 PM	16.10.2024 01:00 PM	
15	3-Phase AMR Meter (Whole Current)	T-1902	6360Nos	16.10.2024 01:00 PM	16.10.2024 02:00 PM	
16	11 KV GONG FRAME	T-1903	23Nos	17.10.2024 11:00 AM	17.10.2024 11:30 AM	
17	33 KV PV INSULATOR NORMAL	T-1904	3639Nos	17.10.2024 11:30 AM	17.10.2024 12:00 Noon	
18	33 KV PV FOR STEEL X-ARM	T-1905	840Nos	17.10.2024 12:00 Noon	17.10.2024 12:30 PM	
19	33 KV STEEL X-ARM	T-1906	60Nos	17.10.2024 12:00 Noon	17.10.2024 12:30 PM	
20	LOOP DEAD-END CLAMP LC-34	T-1907	1314Nos	17.10.2024 12:30 PM	17.10.2024 01:00 PM	
21	NUT AND BOLT 10x5.8	T-1908	2000Nos	17.10.2024 12:30 PM	17.10.2024 01:00 PM	
22	M 110 BOLT 4.75H	T-1909	1791Nos	17.10.2024 01:00 PM	17.10.2024 02:00 PM	
23	CURRENT TRANSFORM LT 100'S AMP	T-1910	2355Nos	18.10.2024 11:00 AM	18.10.2024 11:30 AM	
24	CURRENT TRANSFORM LT 200'S AMP	T-1911	2374Nos	18.10.2024 11:00 AM	18.10.2024 11:30 AM	
25	CURRENT TRANSFORM LT 400'S AMP	T-1912	710Nos	18.10.2024 11:30 AM	18.10.2024 12:00 Noon	
26	CURRENT TRANSFORM LT 800'S AMP	T-1913	660Nos	18.10.2024 12:00 Noon	18.10.2024 12:30 PM	
27	11 KV DISCONNECT SW	T-1914	144Nos	18.10.2024 12:30 PM	18.10.2024 01:00 PM	
28	S/F CH	T-1915	10764Nos	18.10.2024 02:00 PM	18.10.2024 03:30 PM	

#### Remembering Fatehyab Ali Khan 1936 – 2010



کوئی تو پر ہم لے کر نکلے اپنے گریباں کا جاب  
چاروں جانب سنا ہے دیوانے یاد آتے ہیں

Masuma Hasan  
Hasan Ali Khan Asad Ali Khan



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# JOIN PAKISTAN AIR FORCE AS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN 05 GD (P) SUPPLEMENTARY COURSE



**ONLINE REGISTRATION FROM 27 SEP, 2024 TO 06 OCT, 2024 ON [www.joinpaf.gov.pk](http://www.joinpaf.gov.pk)**

## 05 GD (P) SUPPLEMENTARY COURSE (SSC)

Nationality: Male citizen of Pakistan | Age: 21 to 23 years on 25 April, 2025  
Marital Status: Unmarried | Height: 5 feet 4 inches/163 cm  
Vision: 6/6 each eye (without Glasses) | Rank: Flying Officer

**Qualification:**  
◆ BS Maths / Physics / Chemistry / Biology.  
◆ BS (with FSc / ACS / A Level / IB International Baccalaureate) background with Physics as major subject/ Computer Sciences / IT / AI / Economics / Finance / Statistics / English or Equivalent degree.  
◆ BE (All disciplines) / BS (Engineering all disciplines) or Equivalent degree.  
◆ MBBS / BDS or Equivalent degree.  
**Note:** Each qualification must be with Minimum 1st division / 2.5 CGPA from a Pakistani / Foreign University recognised by HEC.  
**Training Period: 02 years**

## INELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

A candidate is ineligible if he is:-  
(a) Rejected by ISSB / GHQ / NHQ / AHQ Selection boards.  
(i) Twice Rejected by ISSB for Post Graduate Entry.  
(ii) Twice Rejected by ISSB for Intermediate / Graduate (PMA / Graduate / Equivalent) and once rejected by ISSB OR GHQ / NHQ / AHQ based selection boards.  
(iii) Once Rejected by ISSB for Intermediate / Graduate (PMA / Graduate / Equivalent) and twice rejected by ISSB OR GHQ / NHQ / AHQ based selection boards.  
(b) Twice Screened out by ISSB.  
(c) Tested within four months (120 days) gap of previous appearance in ISSB except waiver granted by the competent authority. However, bar of 120 days will not be applicable to candidates appearing in GHQ/NHQ/AHQ selection boards.  
(d) Dismissed / Removed / Debarred from Govt services including armed forces.  
(e) Convicted in a court of law for any heinous offense (to be ascertained by the competent military authority).  
(f) Permanently declared UNFIT by Appeal Medical Board (PMB) by AMB.  
(g) Declared medically unfit due to Hepatitis B & C (AMB cannot be requested).  
(h) Withdrawn from any bonded armed forces college / institution on disciplinary grounds.  
(i) Withdrawn / Discharge / resigned or purchase release from any armed forces officers academy / training institution on any ground.  
(k) Tampering of academic certificates / forgery / concealment to get undue advantage will make an applicant permanently ineligible for all types of commission in Armed Forces.  
(l) Gives incomplete, false or wrongful information.  
(m) Thrice screened out by Army / Navy / Air Force during preliminary selection.

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

- ◆ Online Registration at [www.joinpaf.gov.pk](http://www.joinpaf.gov.pk).
  - ◆ Intelligence Test followed by Academic Test through e-Testing.
  - ◆ Initial Medical Examination & Interview at ISS Centre.
  - ◆ **Initial Physical Test:-**
- | Test Type | Qualification Criteria |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Running   | 1 Mile - 08 Minutes    |
| Push-Ups  | 15 - 02 Minutes        |
| Sit-Ups   | 20 - 02 Minutes        |
| Chin-Ups  | 03 - 02 Minutes        |
- ◆ Only Shortlisted candidates would be detailed for ISSB.
  - ◆ Test / Interview by ISSB Kohat / Gujranwala / Mair / Quetta.
  - ◆ Final Medical Examination at CMB Lahore.
  - ◆ Flying Aptitude Test (FAT) at ISSC Rawalpindi.
  - ◆ Final Selection by Air Headquarters in order of merit.

## FUTURE PROSPECTUS

- ◆ **Highly Competitive salary package.**
- ◆ **Free Medical treatment self and family.**
- ◆ **Training and posting in different cities of Pakistan and abroad.**
- ◆ **Free accommodation and 50% waiver in fare by train and air travel.**
- ◆ **Internationally recognized courses.**
- ◆ **Membership of Air Force Officer Housing Scheme (AFOHS).**
- ◆ **The Permanent Commission will be granted after successful completion of the Probation period and as per service requirements.**

For further details, contact any of the following PAF Information & Selection Centres along with all original Educational Certificates and mark sheets, 04 passport size attested photographs and also bring NADRA Smart Card of self, Father/Mother, Old NIC / Form B is not acceptable.

↓ <b>ABBOTTABAD</b> : 310-Mansehra Road, Near Ayub Medical Complex Ph: 0992-385157, 385166	↓ <b>MUZAFFARABAD</b> : Shaikat Lines Near Army Public School, Cantt Ph: 05822-933272
↓ <b>FAISALABAD</b> : Main Jhang Road, Near Airport Chowk Ph: 041-9201199, 2577799	↓ <b>MIANWALI</b> : Fazala Road, Opp Custom Office Ph: 0418-350226
↓ <b>HYDERABAD</b> : 49-Salahuddin Road, Cantt Ph: 022-928093	↓ <b>PESHAWAR</b> : 9-The Mall, Peshawar Cantt Ph: 091-9210829, 5286329
↓ <b>KARACHI</b> : Main Shahrah-e-Faisal (Near PAF Base) Faisal Ph: 021-99240909	↓ <b>QUETTA</b> : M.A Jinnah Road Ph: 081-92017531
↓ <b>LAHORE</b> : 14-Munir Road (Near PAF Cinema) Munir Chowk Ph: 042-99220084, 36871043	↓ <b>RAWALPINDI</b> : 3-The Mall, Opposite AFIC Ph: 051-9791143, 9701257-88
↓ <b>MULTAN</b> : 217-Sher Shah Road Ph: 061-9201183, 9201795	↓ <b>SUKKUR</b> : Opposite Govt Islamia College, Minara Road Ph: 071-9310409
↓ <b>KHARIAN</b> : Bahawalwa Road, Near Punjab College, Kharian Ph: 0323-641868	↓ <b>GILGIT</b> : FC Road, Jugal Gilgit Ph: 05811-930588

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### TENDER NOTICE

The Directorate General Population Welfare Department Quetta invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of following items. TME-242500047-221 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 SPPRA-GOB.

**1. Medicine & related items (Total items) Count: 35, 200,000 PKR**

**PRQ No. 1198-25-9-2024**

### CORRIGENDUM

Deposited of Hazardous Material at PMA-4 Peshawar (Ref # 204157902) & para; Deposits on PMA-4 Storage at T-3 (Fabricated and T-3-4 Machine (Ref # 200009001))

**PARCO PAK-ARAB REFINERY LIMITED**

### PARCO PEARL GAS (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Tender Enquiry # 6000002662

**PARCO PEARL GAS (PRIVATE) LIMITED**

### CORRIGENDUM

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PROCUREMENT) DIST: MEPCO LTD: MEPCO Complex, WAPDA Colony Khanewal Road, Multan

**MULTAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY LIMITED (MEPCO)**

### PARCO PEARL GAS (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Tender Enquiry No. 6000002662

Electric Water Bath Type Vaporizers (capacity 100,200,300kgs)

Sl. No.	Items Description	Bid Submission/Opening Date/Time	Bid Bond / Tender Fee	SAP ARBA PORTAL LINK
1.	IT No. 6000002662 Electric Water Bath Type Vaporizers (capacity 100,200,300kgs)	Bid Submission Through SAP ARBA at 10:15:2024 Bid Submission Time: 10:00 hrs Bid Opening Time: 10:00 hrs	Ph: 600,000 Tender documents are available for cost of S\$47 Archa from 09-09-24 to 09-10-24	<a href="https://www.sppra.gov.pk">https://www.sppra.gov.pk</a> #B21200014

### Procurement notice from

Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Private) Limited.

(P/QPC) looking to purchase five sets of generator system concrete structures. Suppliers interested in participating in the tender process must submit the following documents by 07:00 on September 26, 2024 to [ppqp-portal.power@psa.gov.pk](mailto:ppqp-portal.power@psa.gov.pk)



# METRO

North



Ahmed's all-round show helps Lions knock Stallions out

Pg.20 SPORT

**ISLAMABAD**  
Sunset 06:04pm  
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:55am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
Minimum 22°C  
Maximum 29°C  
Outlook Th/Storms



(CLOCKWISE from top) Iqbal Road and Bara Bazaar have been cleared of stalls while Assistant Commissioner City Hakim Khan seals a shop in Bohar Bazaar during an anti-encroachment drive launched in Rawalpindi city on Wednesday. — Photos by Mohammad Asim

## Shoppers in awe after bazaars shed encroachments

**Admin seals 11 shops, demolishes sheds in latest drive; Moti Bazaar action today**

By Aamir Yasin

**RAWALPINDI:** The district administration on Wednesday cleared encroachments from six major bazaars in the Garrison City, sealed 11 shops and demolished sheds in the commercial area to facilitate shoppers as well as to maintain smooth flow of traffic.

The team led by Assistant Commissioner City Hakim Khan cleared Iqbal Road, Bara Bazaar, Tahsara Bazaar, Bohar Bazaar, Safai Mandi and Moti Bazaar from all kinds of encroachments.

Visitors and shoppers appreciated the move of the district administration as they walked freely in the commercial zone while the traffic flow was also smooth. They said it was difficult to navigate the roads due to encroachments in the main bazaars of the Garrison City, making shopping here an arduous task.

"Now, it is the duty of the civic bodies

to maintain the bazaars and main markets' roads like this. If the vendors and shopkeepers manage to encroach the roads and footpaths again then all this effort will go to waste," said Mohammad Karim, a visitor in Bara Bazaar.

Ahmed Nadeem, a visitor in Bohar Bazaar, said that it was difficult for the people to use the road but it was a different story after the drive. "There are vast roads for two and four wheelers and footpaths are also sufficient for pedestrians, but due to encroachments, it had become difficult to use them," he said.

Rajal Hussain, a resident of Naya Mohallah, said accessing their neighbourhood had become easier after Bara Bazaar and Iqbal Road were cleared from encroachments. It took half an hour to reach Committee Chowk on Moti Road from their mohallah (neighbourhood).

On the other hand, the district administration on Wednesday sealed 11 shops and razed sheds built in front of shops. "We had already issued the notices to shopkeepers to demolish their sheds in front of their shops exceeding three feet. Most people removed them while the rest were razed by the district administration," AC Hakim Khan said.

He said stern action would be taken

against the vendors and shopkeepers if they displayed goods by the roadside again.

He told Dawn that the administration after a survey marked the "line" and asked the shopkeepers not to increase the limits of their shops to avoid consequences. He said that as per the land record available, the administration would not allow the shopkeepers to go beyond the lines.

Admitting that the shopkeepers and vendors encroached on the roads in the main bazaars, he said that the administration started the operation in downtown to facilitate the public. He said the building inspectors of the Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation would take action in case of any encroachment in the coming days.

He said the administration would implement a 'uniform' pattern for shops' signboards to beautify the city and discourage haphazard boards. The roads in these bazaars were wide enough to cater to the traffic, he said.

He said that the district administration made a plan to make these roads green by planting trees on roadsides to curtail air pollution. He said an operation would also be launched in Moti Bazaar's inner streets on Thursday.

## High court stays MDCAT results, issues notices for hearing

By Ikram Jussif

**ISLAMABAD:** While Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) has decided to give its grace marks to candidates of the Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT), the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stayed the result till Thursday (today).

On the other hand, candidates have rejected the grace marks announced by the university, and demanded that they be shown the answer sheets and discrepancies be removed from the key. They also demanded that if it was not possible to make the answer sheets public, the test should be re-held.

The Wednesday assembly of six candidates, including Aamir Nazam, Shahzad Waseem and Saba Iqbal, filed a petition in which Health Secretary Nadeem Mullah, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) President Dr Birwan Taj and SZABMU Vice Chancellor Tariq

Continued on Page 15

## Four killed in road accident on G.T. Road

By Our Correspondent

**TAXILA:** Four people were killed and two injured in a road accident on G.T. Road in the limits of Wahi Suddar police station on Wednesday, police and Rescue 1122 sources said.

According to police sources, a speeding dumper not only hit a motorcycle rickshaw and a passenger van and hit passengers standing on bus stop and overturned.

Two persons on board the passenger van and two standing on bus stop were killed while two others were injured.

A couple remained stuck in the wreckage of the dumper for three hours, but later their bodies were retrieved and shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Taxila.

The dead were identified as Muhammad Isam, 26, Ikramullah Khan, 22, Asma Aidi, 55, and Hamid, 24, while one of the injured was identified as Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

On getting information, police reached the spot and initiated the rescue operation which lasted for four hours.

Wahi Suddar police have registered a case against the dumper driver and launched further investigation.

Commuters travelling on intercity and inter district routes remained stuck in traffic for hours.

The passengers travelling in public transport especially women and children suffered a lot due to humid and hot weather.

## Man kidnaps child, wants stolen bike in return

By Our Staff Reporter

**ISLAMABAD:** A man kidnapped a toddler and demanded his stolen motorcycle in ransom.

The incident came to light after a case was registered with Tarnol police station on the complaint of the girl's father.

According to the police, the suspect was a close friend of the complainant and resided in Lahore.

On September 20, he and his family came over to the complainant's house, located in Islam Market, Tarnol, on a motorcycle and stayed overnight.

The next day, he found his motorcycle missing, and demanded it from the complainant who told him that the bike had been stolen.

On September 22, he took the complainant's three-year-old daughter with him and later informed him that his daughter was with him and that he would hand her over to him once he got his motorcycle.

The complainant requested the police to take action against the suspect and recover his daughter from his captivity, police added.

## Task force terms state of affairs in education alarming

**Calls for immediate steps to improve situation**

By Kashif Abbasi

**ISLAMABAD:** The first meeting of Education Task Force on Wednesday termed the state of affairs in education sector alarming and called for immediate steps to improve the situation.

The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and attended by State Minister for Information Technology Shauqat Hussain Khattak, chief secretaries from all provinces, and representatives from the Ministry of Education, United, UNDP, FCDO, Unesco, the World Bank, ADB, Mada Fund, IFA and Children's Education Institute.

Addressing the meeting, planning minister expressed deep concern over the current state of education which he termed alarming and stressed the need for urgent and immediate actions to bring about improvement in the education sector.

Citing alarming data from the

Education Index, he highlighted that approximately 25 million children in Pakistan are currently out of school, and the literacy rate stands at a mere 50pc, which is a matter of grave concern.

Sources said that meeting was told that federal government could allocate Rs25 billion for out-of-school children funds while provinces should also contribute with Rs25 billion and international partners like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Unicef, Unesco, etc., should also provide Rs25 billion funds to tackle the challenge of out-of-school children in next six years.

The meeting discussed that by 2030, the issue of out-of-school children (OOHC) should be addressed at maximum level.

Meanwhile, the meeting also discussed that in next 10 years, literacy rate should reach 90pc.

Earlier, the planning minister emphasised that the government's aim is not just to enroll children in schools but to provide them quality education.

"We must equip every child with basic computer skills and modern technical education, along with establishing state-of-the-art laboratories," he stated.

He further identified teacher training as a significant challenge, underscoring

that without improving teacher training, educational reforms will not succeed.

Mr Iqbal also called for enhancing technical and vocational education.

The planning minister also held the 18th Amendment responsible for the decline in the literacy rate and devolved education to the provinces in 2010.

He stressed the importance of focusing on both education and health, as Pakistan is among the top countries in the world for cases of hepatitis, tuberculosis, diarrhea and polio.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal acknowledged the contributions of all stakeholders and international partners, emphasising the need for a public-private partnership in both education and health sectors.

He assured that the federal government would not leave the provinces to tackle these fundamental issues alone.

Besides other, the meeting was attended by Education Secretary Molyrackin Ahmad Wani, Agatha Raza Farooq of the National Commission on the Rights of Child Pakistan, Dr Rabia Hameed Durrani, Zahid Ali Abbasi, Dr Anjum Saqib, Shaheed Durrani, Farooq Panjwani, along with representatives from various non-governmental organisations.



CDA gardeners trim grass on a ground at Ferozabad Interchange in Islamabad. — White Star

PRAYER
Fajr 04:37
Zuhr 12:00
Asr 04:30
Maghreb 06:04
Isha 07:27

REFLECTIONS

DO NOT INTRODUCE RIGHTEOUS TOPICS IN YOUR TALK EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO REPEAT SAYINGS OF OTHERS.

— HAZRAT ALLI (A.S.)



Sherry stresses need to urgently address population growth

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday underscored the urgent need to address Pakistan's rapidly growing population, calling it a " ticking time bomb" that required immediate action.

Speaking at the eleventh meeting of the Parliamentary Forum on Population, organised by the Population Council in collaboration with the UNFPA and UKAID, the senator said the country's population crisis transcended provincial and partisan boundaries, calling for united efforts across all sectors.

"It is heartening to see representatives from all provinces and political parties gathered here today. Population is neither a provincial issue nor a partisan one — it's a national crisis," Senator Rehman said, stressing that population growth directly impacted Pakistan's resources and development. She pointed to family as a core

story where population planning had been integrated with health services but emphasized that similar efforts were needed nationwide.

"In Simla, we've managed to integrate population issues with health policy, but this needs to happen across the country before the crisis spirals out of control," she added.

Pakistan, currently the fifth most populous country in the world, was projected to see its population exceed 400 million by 2050.

Senator Rehman expressed concerns over how the country would provide basic needs such as jobs, clean drinking water and education to the growing population.

"Our health-care services are already stretched. How will we provide maternal health care or provide education when we have 26 million children out of school," she asked, emphasising the strain on Pakistan's infrastructure and social services.

Addressing Pakistan's water

scarcity, she noted that the country ranked third globally among the most water-stressed nations. "As our population grows, fewer people will have access to clean water," she said, advocating for public-private partnerships to tackle the crisis.

Senator Rehman praised successful initiatives like the Lady Health Worker (LHW) programme, originally launched by Benazir Bhutto in 1994, which had been internationally recognised for its impact on reproductive health and family planning.

She called for scaling up such programmes nationwide to ensure that every household had access to these essential services.

"These are not taboo topics. Conversations about family planning and pregnancy spacing are crucial to improving maternal and child health," she said, stressing the need for open dialogue on such issues.

Sherry Rehman also highlighted the importance of reliable population data, advocating for better data collection to inform

policymaking. "Without accurate data, we are only guessing at the true scope of the problem," she said.

Additionally, she urged for stronger media and public awareness campaigns, noting that the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pera) mandated that 10 per cent of airtime should be allocated to public service announcements, but questioned if this mandate was being effectively utilised.

Senator Rehman called for a resolution to integrate population policies with health strategies, ensuring that dedicated resources are allocated to address the issue. "This is not something we can shelve once the event is over. It must be a continuous priority," she urged.

The event brought together parliamentarians, private sector representatives, and civil society organisations, all aligned on the urgent need to address Pakistan's population growth with innovative solutions and coordinated efforts.

Concerns raised over rise in killings of blasphemy accused

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Cell of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has expressed concern over the rise in judicial killings of blasphemy accused.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the president of the HR Cell, former senator Farhatullah Rashid, said the recent incident in Unkarot of killing a blasphemy suspect contradicted, tearing his body, denying him burial and the celebrations over it by senior police officers, clerics and even a member of the National Assembly will always remain a stigma on state and society.

"The incident happened at a time when the Christian community was solemnly observing the 11th anniversary of the killing of over 80 Christians in an attack on their church in Peshawar."

"A thorough investigation is a fair and transparent manner and prosecution of those responsible is needed. The legislature who publicly celebrated the gruesome incident owes a public apology and remorse by the parliament and political parties," he added.

"Rarely a few weeks ago a police officer in Quetta himself shot dead with an official weapon a blasphemy suspect inside a police station where the accused had sought protection. This grotesque incident will send shivers down the spine in a civilised society," he said.

"What is even worse is the impunity of the crime of extrajudicial killing and celebrations over it. This cannot and must not be allowed," he added. — Staff Reporter

Boy's body recovered from water channel after 20 days

TAXILA: Body of a teenage boy who drowned in Ghazi Barotha water channel in Kamra town of Attock on Sept 6 was recovered from a reservoir after 20 days, police and rescue workers said.

According to rescue officials, British Harris, 18, a native of Jamshik Colony, was drowned in a violent rain. After four days of searching on the popular short-video sharing application TikTok when he accidentally slipped into gulching water of Ghazi Barotha water channel and drowned.

On Wednesday, the body of the victim was spotted by locals while floating on Ghazi Barotha sewerage and informed authorities who shifted the body to hospital for autopsy. Police while quoting the family of the victim said the man was the sole bread earner of his family who runs a cart in the evening border attending classes in a local college.

Journalist trashed

Police have started probe against a journalist who allegedly stayed and trashed a female journalist publicly besides attempting to snatch her mobile phone.

He also stopped her from covering the road accident which claimed four lives on G.T. Road on Wednesday.

The official sources said that the sub-inspector, who happened to be the SHO of Wala Cantonment police, allegedly snatched Mustafa Zia, a correspondent of Rawalpindi-based Urdu newspaper when she was busy in recording the rescue operation at accident site.

"As the policeman started beating a passerby in presence of bystanders at the site of the accident, I started recording his high-handedness which infuriated the official and he attempted to snatch my mobile phone and trashed me in public," said that victim journalist.

Soon after the incident, the local journalists visited the SHO's residence and apprised him the high-handedness and misuse of power by the SHO.

The SP assured to initiate departmental inquiry against the SHO and would bring him to justice. — Correspondent

Dengue patients continue to surface

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: As many as 23 more people were infected by dengue virus on Wednesday, taking the tally to 850 in the current season. A total of 233 patients arrived in the three government-run hospitals in the last 24 hours on Wednesday out of which 73 were confirmed dengue cases.

At present, there are 292 dengue patients admitted to Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital.

Benzair Bhutto Hospital and Tehsil Headquarters Hospital.

Most of the patients arrived from Kohat, Shikohabad, Khemana Dak, Lakhsan, Chagial, Chakhalo, Daska, Mirsidi, Rahnawastad, Korha Kalan, Mergah, Dhamail, Chak Sahidien, Garia, Sarcotille Dera, Qayyomabad, Kattaeran, Godimian Colony, Daska Gupran, Daska Woodan, Tarsi Bhattai and adjoining areas.

According to official figures, three dengue patients are in critical condition.

Man booked for 'raping' boy

GUJAR KHAN: Kallar Syedan police have registered a case against a man for allegedly raping a boy who reportedly injured the suspect when he put up resistance on Wednesday.

According to details, the case was registered on the complaint of the victim's father, who told Kallar Syedan police that his 15-year-old son returned from school on Tuesday and went to a man who was repeatedly calling on his mobile phone.

He said that when his son returned home, he had some injuries on his face, and on inquiring, he divulged that a resident of Pindarian Charfithran, used to molest him for a year.

He added that the man started blackmailing him and attempted to abuse him again in his flat, to which his son resisted and attacked him with a blade. The complainant added that the suspect again blackmailed his son and threatened to release his objectionable videos.

According to the police sources, the case had been registered against the suspect under section 377-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) while the medico legal of the victim boy was also being performed. City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Khalid Mahmood Ilmudani, said that the suspect would soon be arrested and served justice. — Correspondent

Khyber Medical University, Peshawar
Committed to Excellence in Academics & Research
ADMISSION NOTICE
MBBS/BDS Session 2024-25
Public Sector Medical & Dental Colleges
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Advertisement for Khyber Medical University, Peshawar, detailing admission notices for MBBS and BDS programs in public sector medical and dental colleges. It includes eligibility criteria, merit criteria, and application procedures.

Large advertisement for 'ADVERTISER' with contact information for displaying and classified advertisements. It includes phone numbers and email addresses for inquiries.

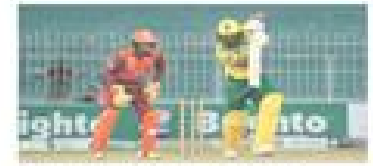
A collection of smaller advertisements, including court notices, job openings, and public notices from various locations like Islamabad, Mirpur, Bannu, and Swat. Each notice provides specific details and contact information.

A public notice in Urdu regarding a corrigendum for an examination. It includes details about the exam date, time, and location, and provides contact information for the organizing body.



LAHORE
Sunset 05:58 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:51 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 25.0°C
Maximum 32.0°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy
AQI
Maximum (Yesterday) 187

METRO Central



Ahmed's all-round show helps Lions knock Stallions out

Page 20 SPORT



BAROODHAI: Paddy being threshed during the harvest season at Adda Bari on Jhang Road. — APP

'Misbehaviour' with judge's family
Two senior police officials transferred, one suspended

DSP and SHO had stopped the family on Ring Road while managing traffic during PTI rally

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: The Punjab government has transferred two senior police officers and suspended another from service for allegedly misbehaving with the family of a Lahore High Court judge at Ring Road interchange that was blocked for 'security reasons' during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rally at Kabra on Sept 21.

PTI was holding a public gathering at Kabra on the same date. The police officers who faced punishment included Security SP Khalid Mahmood Afrak, Kabra Circle DSP Fakhar Raja and Muslim Town SHO Nadem Kamboh. An official privy to the development says the action was initiated against the officials in the light of an inquiry conducted by Lahore Organized Crime Unit (OCU) DG Imran Khatami. He says the DSP called all the three police officers, reviewed the videos of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) cameras, statements of the police officials deputed at the location where the incident occurred and the circumstantial evidence. The inquiry report proposed removal of two senior police officers and suspension of the SHO, holding him primarily responsible for misbehaving with the family of the high court judge. Sharing details, the official says the

police personnel stopped the official car of Justice Anwar Hussain, in which his family was travelling, at the interchange that was blocked with a container. He said the Muslim Town SHO, who was on duty at the point, refused to allow the judge's family to enter through the interchange, citing the 'security reasons'. The official says the judge's family insisted on clearance of the road as they had to take the Lahore-Kasur Road. As the SHO remained adamant, one of the family members introduced himself as the son of the high court judge, but the police official told him to go back. Meanwhile, both sides exchanged hot words over the issue as the judge's family declared the blockade of the public road a glaring violation of law. As the SHO reportedly misbehaved with the car occupants, one of them made a video on mobile phone and informed the judge about the police's unauthorised blockade of the road.

The official said that DSP Fakhar Raja, who was also present there, approached the family and politely told them that the police officials were bound to follow the department's instructions in letter and spirit. Meanwhile, the SP security also tried to handle the situation, while he was informed by the judge's family that the SHO 'misbehaved' with them first and used objectionable language. As the family returned from the interchange, the judge took up the matter with Punjab Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Arwan. The sources say that the senior judge also complained to Lahore High Court Chief Justice Aulia Neelum about the rash behaviour of the police officials, saying one of them held his son by collar and searched his mobile phone. Following the complaint, the sources say, the chief justice directed the higher

Continued on Page 14

Attempt to rape minor student
Seminary teacher handed down 20-year jail term, Rs1m fine

RAJAWALPUR: Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Ahsan on Wednesday handed down a 20-year rigorous imprisonment, along with a one million rupees fine, to a seminary teacher for sexual harassment and attempted rape of a 10-year-old girl student at Saharra Arjan village in the limits of Muzaffargarh police station in 2023. According to the prosecution, the daughter of one Malik Usman used to go to Qari Abdul Aziz (60) for learning the Holy Quran. On Feb 26, 2023, when the complainant's daughter did not return home from the seminary, Usman along with some others went to the teacher's room (at the seminary) and found him sexually abusing the girl. The girl told her father that Qari had been abusing her sexually for some time. The police, on Usman's complaint, registered FIR No 122/23 under section 377-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against the convict and arrested him. The judge also ordered that in case of default on payment of the fine, the convict will have to undergo an additional imprisonment for six months. — Correspondent

'Kickbacks' reference
NAB wants charges framed against Parvez Elahi

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Wednesday requested an accountability court to frame charges against former chief minister Parvez Elahi and others in a reference pertaining to alleged kickbacks in issuance of development funds. However, Mr Elahi's lawyer questioned the jurisdiction of the accountability court to hear the matter after the amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance 1999 had been upheld by the Supreme Court. During the hearing of the reference, NAB Prosecutor Waris

Jangna told the court that copies of witnesses' statements had been provided to all suspects. He asked the court to indict the suspects at the next hearing. Mr Elahi's counsel Anjad Pervez argued that the allegation against his client pertained to misuse of authority, which, after the amendments in the NAB law, no longer fell under the accountability court's jurisdiction. Judge Zulair Shahzad Kiyani adjourned the hearing till Oct 2 and directed the counsel to present more arguments on the question of jurisdiction. Mr Elahi, who is Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf president, did not appear before the court on health grounds and was allowed one

time exemption from attendance on his lawyer's request. The NAB reference alleged that Mohammad Khan Bhatti, being principal secretary to the then chief minister Mr Elahi, mismanaged the award of contracts in favour of some contractors, in connivance with other suspects, including some officials of government departments. It said the suspect got released full payment to the contractors even before the commencement of construction work, only to 'receive kickbacks'. The bureau alleged that proceeds of the 'corruptive' committee by Mr Bhatti had been transferred into the bank accounts of Mr Elahi and his son Muzamir.

Sexual assault cases
LHC seeks report on preservation of evidence

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A Lahore High Court full bench on Wednesday directed the advocate general and the prosecutor general of Punjab to submit reports on measures taken to preserve evidence and samples in sexual assault cases. Headed by Chief Justice Aulia Neelum, the bench was hearing a petition regarding preservation of evidence and samples in sexual assault cases. Justice Farooq Haidar and Justice Ali Zia Bajwa were other members of the bench. Punjab Advocate General Khalid Ishaq, Prosecutor General Syed Farhad Ali Shah, other law officers and experts from the Punjab Forensic Science Agency appeared before the court. Petitioner Subhan Tahir, through

counsel Mian Darood, pleaded that Miller Park police registered a case against him on the charge of sexually assaulting a 10-year-old girl. He said a female doctor from the Services Hospital issued a bogus and illegal medical certificate, including the two-finger test for the victim. The counsel further argued that there were no adequate standard operating procedures (SOPs) in place to preserve samples from the suspects and the victims in sexual assault cases. At this, the bench directed the advocate general and the prosecutor general of Punjab to submit reports detailing the steps taken and the SOPs related to the preservation of evidence and samples from the accused and victims in such cases. The bench also sought a detailed

report on the implementation of the Anti-Rape Act across the province and the presence of female investigation officers in the investigation of sexual assault cases. The bench also inquired about the appointment of trained female medical officers for medical examination of young victims of sexual assault. The hearing was adjourned until Oct 16. On July 2, the Punjab Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department told the LHC that Dr Abuz Gill of the Services Hospital had been terminated for performing a two-finger test (virginity test) of the minor rape victim. PLEA DISMISSED: Lahore High Court Chief Justice Aulia Neelum on Wednesday dismissed a petition of PTI

leader Ghulam Mohsin Dewani with a cost of Rs100,000. Mr Dewani had filed the petition through advocate Mian Ali Ashfaq seeking details of cases registered against him. Pointing out errors in the petition, the chief justice noted that a new petition is filed immediately after leaving the court, which contributes to the rising number of cases in the high court. Dismissing the petition with cost, the chief justice observed that the petition had been filed unnecessarily. The petition claimed that cases were being filed against the petitioner based on political vendetta, and he was unaware of the details of the cases. It asked the court to order provision of information regarding the cases registered against Dewani.

PTI seeks NOC for late night rally at Iqbal Park on Oct 5

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has applied ahead for permission to "stage a political gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan ground" in a late night slot on Oct 5 — since the police had broken up the party's last week Lahore power show for violating the timeline. PTI Lahore president Sheikh Imtiaz Mahmood, core committee member Aliya Hamza Malik and ticket holder Ali Ijaz Bhattar submitted a three-page application to the office of the deputy commissioner, seeking No Objection Certificate (NOC) to hold a public rally at Minar-e-Pakistan ground (Greater Iqbal Park) on Oct 5 from 5pm to 11pm. The application stated that the PTI, being the largest political party in the country, believed in maintenance of law and order and discipline and its office-bearers would fully cooperate with the DG office to ensure smooth and hassle-free political gathering on Oct 5. It stated the PTI, its members, leadership and supporters had a fundamental right to do political activities in Pakistan as guaranteed under the Constitution of Pakistan. "Denial of such a right is tantamount to violating the basic constitutional principle on which foundations of political party (PTI) rests," the application asserted and added that a political party inherently possessed the right to exert itself through all legal modes. The PTI leaders requested that possession of the location be handed over to them within 48 hours before the start of the political gathering in order to ensure proper and effective preparation. — Staff Reporter



CM launches agri graduates internship

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched a 'historic' agriculture graduates internship programme which will engage 1,000 graduates at Rs60,000 per month stipend. She distributed hiring letters among the graduates at a ceremony held at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, she said 95 PC ministers in her cabinet were young. She said not a single job had been given in Punjab in violation of merit under her rule. She said there was no such example in the past of introducing kisan package. She said 50,000 farmers have been delivered Kisan cards which will be activated from Oct 15. Later, she presided over a meeting of local PML-N leaders and ticket-holders at the Commissioner Office. The chief minister promised an IT city, a safari park and metro bus project in Faisalabad. The CM was given a detailed briefing on ongoing health, education, roads infrastructure and municipal services projects as well as about law and order situation in Faisalabad division. During the meeting, she directed Secretary C&W by phone to upgrade the Faisalabad-Shelkhpura road. — Correspondent

TikToker attack suspect arrested

LAHORE: A joint team of Punjab police special operations cell and the Federal Investigation Agency on Wednesday foiled an attempt by a suspect accused of attacking TikToker Samina in Gujranwala, to flee abroad and arrested him at Sialkot airport, says a handbook. The suspect, Sultan Ahmed, was arrested at Sialkot airport on Wednesday as he attempted to escape to Oman. The spokesperson for Punjab police said Sultan Ahmed is the brother of the complainant and had been placed on the Provincial National Identification List (PNIL). With the assistance of the FIA, police arrested him before he could board his flight. Sultan Ahmed is accused of launching a violent attack on TikToker Samina last month in the Qila Dikar Singh area of Gujranwala. An FIR for the attack has been lodged at the Qila Dikar Singh Police Station.



PRAYER

Table with prayer times: Fajr 4:31, Zuhar 1:00, Asr 4:14, Maghrib 5:58, Isha 7:16

REFLECTIONS

DO NOT INTERLUCE HIDE OUR TOPICS IN YOUR TALK... EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO REPEAT SAYINGS OF OTHERS. 95

Two senior...

Continued from Page 13

authorities concerned to take notice of the police high-handedness with a judge's family... They say that a DIO, along with some other senior police officers, had also visited the residence of the judge, offering an apology on behalf of the officers concerned.

Minor boy tortured over theft charge

By Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARGARH: A seven-year-old boy was allegedly tortured by some suspects over suspicion of theft in Langarwah area of Atipar tehsil, some 120 kilometres away from the city... Reports said the suspect's uncle Muhammad Nasir family... After the video went viral, District Police Officer (DPO) Syed Hameed Hashid took immediate action, directing the Kandi police to register a case and arrest the perpetrators.

According to the first information report filed by Saghran, she was on her way to a local shop with her son when Muhammad Hussain, Rafiq, and six others abducted the child and began torturing him... The video shows the boy weeping and begging for mercy, but the men ignored his pleas and continued the inhumane treatment... Following the video's circulation, the Kandi police registered a case under sections 305, 305A, 342, 348 and 349 of the Pakistan Penal Code and arrested all suspects.

Pildat highlights faultlines in electoral finance regulations

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (Pildat) has called for reforms for strengthening the political finance regulatory framework in the country... Briefing the media about its report titled "State of Political Finance in Pakistan," here on Wednesday, Pildat founder president Ahmed Bilal Muflood highlighted the importance of accountability and transparency in political finance for any democratic country.

The audit and accounts personnel within the political finance wing should undergo rigorous training... Investments should be made in technology and data management systems... While strict legal spending caps exist for candidates during elections, Section 132 (3) allows for a way around the limits by allowing third parties to spend money on behalf of a candidate without the consent of the candidate.

Moreover, while candidates are required to report expenditures, they are not required to report the identity of donors... While Section 218(2) mandates the submission of political parties' election expenses, it does not specify a reporting deadline or require public disclosure... The ECPE's 2023 annual report reveals that 1,170 members of the national and provincial assemblies submitted their financial disclosures (Form B) for the financial year ending June 30, 2022.

Five cops suspended for 'illegal raid, firing on locals'

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Five personnel of the Organised Crime Unit were booked and suspended from service for carrying out an 'illegal raid' and injuring some people at a village in Cantt area... The incident took place two days back while the action was initiated in the light of an inquiry which held the policemen guilty of the charges... An official said the arrest had occurred at Village Dial of Baghar when the police personnel of the OCU including Manzoor Aram, Nadeem Qaiser and others 'carried out raid for the arrest of the drug peddlers.'

The official said scores of other villagers were also involved in the riot and took the police personnel hostage... Meanwhile, the personnel of the Rangers and the Cantt division police rushed to the Dial village and recovered the policemen after holding negotiations with elders of the area, the official said... The case was registered on the complaint of Dial village resident Muhammad Shaukat who alleged that the attackers opened indiscriminate fire creating terror in the area.

Gepeco employee held for graft

By Our Correspondent

GUJRAT: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Wednesday claimed to have arrested an official of Gujranwala Electric Power Company (Gepeco) on charges of corruption... According to an FIA spokesman, Liaqat Supriatendran Ammar Akbar had been posted in Gujranwala city and was allegedly involved in installation of a motor and an electricity transformer in a locality, Inayat Colony, in the city... According to the initial FIA inquiry, the line superintendent had received Rs800,000 for the installation of electricity motor and transformer but did not deposit the amount into Gepeco's account.

The spokesman says the action was taken in line with the directions from the federal government and a formal investigation had been launched against the suspect... He added that the drive against the electricity theft and corruption in Gepeco had been accelerated in Gujranwala region.

ADVERTISER

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MARRIAGE BUREAU: LAHORE: NEED for marriage proposal for my daughter who has good income must be well educated and a good looking person. Willing people contact 0300703088 (0300)703088

COURT NOTICE: LAHORE: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Lahore. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

WAZIRABAD: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Wazirabad. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

ZAFARWAL: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Zafarwal. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

SHALIKOT: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Shalikoat. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

LAHORE: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Lahore. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

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JHELLUM: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Jhellum. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

KHAIRPUR: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Khairpur. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

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LAHORE: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Lahore. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

MANDI BAHAUDDIN: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Mandi Bahauddin. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

LAHORE: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Lahore. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

JAMSHUR: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Jamshur. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

JAMSHUR: In the Court of Mr. Justice Yousaf, Civil Judge (Senior) for the Appellate Division, District Court, Jamshur. In the case of M. Yousaf v. M. Yousaf, Civil Appeal No. 100 of 2024.

Public Notice: M/s Pakistan Fruit Juice Co. (PFC) Ltd. Desires to be referred as "Client" are interested to purchase all or part of the rights and title with vacant physical possession of an industrial plot No.3 Block-N measuring 4 Kanals situated at Industrial Area, Gulberg-II, Lahore with all constructions, four walls, gas, electricity connections, gas connections and water connection with all rights, titles, interests, encumbrances, debts, mortgages, privileges and benefits attached thereto (hereinafter be referred as "Property") free from all disputes, litigation, claims, demands, encumbrances, mortgages, debts, charges, tax, levies, liabilities, and outstanding dues of whatsoever nature.

TENDER NOTICE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25: THQ Hospital Samundri District Faisalabad intends to involve firms, sole proprietors, companies & contractors with good reputation in the auction process for the financial year 2024-25. The defaulters of any government departments will not be able to participate.

DR MUHAMMAD ASIF SIDDIQUE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT THQ HOSPITAL, SAMUNDRI PHONE: 041-9240077

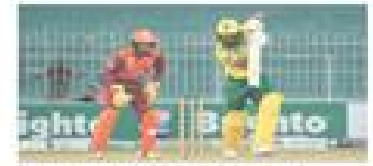
CORRIGENDUM: With reference to the tender notice advertised in Daily Press vide P/N No.0070 dated 09-09-2024, for the Annual Service & Maintenance Contract of the following Bio-Medical Equipments of this Hospital.

INVITATION TO BID FOR LAYING GAS NETWORK AGAINST SYSTEM REHABILITATION PROGRAM (SRP) - FY 2024-25 TENDER ENQUIRY NO. SRP/03/2024-25. Sul Northern Gas Pipelines Limited, a Govt. Enterprise & Distribution Company, invites sealed bids from the pre-qualified Contractors / Firms etc. Registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments, possess valid Professional Tax Clearance Certificate and are an Active Taxpayer for of the Federal Board of Revenue.



# METRO

North



Ahmed's all-round show helps Lions knock Stallions out

Pg.20 SPORT

**PESHAWAR**  
Sunset 06:09pm  
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:01am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
Minimum 23°C  
Maximum 28°C  
Outlook Showers



A HEALTH department worker carries out fumigation in Salsala village of Manshara on Wednesday. The government launched the campaign after a large number of Dengue cases was reported in the district and rest of the province. A cleric died in Oghi the other day due to the mosquito-borne disease. — Photo by Nisar Ahmed Khan

## FO letter belies KP govt's claim on foreign diplomats' Swat visit

Home dept was informed about Sept 22 tour along with security request on Sept 9

By Usher Farooq

PESHAWAR: While the provincial government has repeatedly claimed it was unaware of the recent visit of foreign diplomats to Swat district before a terrorist attack targeted them, the assertion is contradicted by a formal letter from the Foreign Office to the home department. In the Sept 9 letter, the Foreign Office informed the home department about the diplomats' Swat visit on Sept 22 along with a delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and requested security arrangements for them. The letter, a copy of which is available with Dawn, revealed that the Foreign

Office received a formal request from ICCI president Ahsan Zafar Bakhitani on Sept 5 for security regarding the envoys' Swat tour. "It is requested to ensure the required security arrangements under the rules, policy and prescribed SOPs [standard operating procedures] during the visit/ stay of foreigners in your area of jurisdiction, please," the letter read. On Sept 22, a convoy of ambassadors from 12 countries was targeted by an improvised explosive device on the Malan Jabba Road in Swat. Though the diplomats remained unharmed, a police mobile van escorting them was hit by the bomb blast, maiming a policeman and injuring five others. The foreigners later left for the federal capital without police escort for fear of another terrorist attack. Spokesman for the provincial government Barrister Muhammad Ali and provincial housing minister Dr Anjad Ali claimed that their government was not informed about the envoys' visit, trigger-

ing a controversy. In a provincial assembly session, Dr Ali wondered how militants learned about the presence of foreign diplomats in Swat when the provincial government, local media and residents were unaware of it. He claimed that the people learned about the attack only after the international media reported it. Mr Ali accused the government of not having the federal government informed the provincial government about the visit in advance, the latter would have taken proper measures for the security of visitors. Senior officials contradicted the claim, insisting the visit and a security plan for it were communicated to the provincial government in advance through proper channels. **INQUIRY PANEL FORMED:** The provincial government on Wednesday formed a fact-finding committee to look into the Swat attack on foreign diplomats. The committee comprises special secretary of the home department Zohair

Ahmad and additional inspector general (Investigation) Muhammad Alam Shinwari and will submit its report within seven days, according to an official notification. Also on the day, provincial Governor Faizal Karim Kundi wrote a letter to ambassador of Turkmenistan Ataljan Nuryevich Mowlanov and condemned the Swat attack. "We [the government] understand that incidents like the Swat explosion could raise concerns. Immediate and robust measures are being taken to enhance security across the region," he said, inviting the Turkmen envoy to visit the Governor's House. The governor said the government was actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the attack and would work tirelessly to bring culprits to justice. "We understand the importance of safeguarding foreign visitors and are reinforcing our security measures to prevent such incidents in the future," he said in the letter.

## 10 more killed in Kurram clashes

By Our Correspondent

KURRAM: Fresh clashes between rival groups in Kurram district left at least 10 more people dead on Wednesday, pushing the death toll from five days of fighting to 30 with 70 others injured. The police and hospital sources said that the clashes started after Doshwana tribes of upper Kurram started setting up bunkers on the lands of Ahmadzai tribes. They added that the fight spread to other areas. They said that 10 people were killed and 30 others were injured in fresh clashes in Dabekhot, Sacka, Khar Kalay, Peshawar, Maghal and other areas. They said that the main Peshawar highway and other roads in the area remained closed to traffic due to the clashes. They said that all educational institutions in the area had also been closed for an indefinite period. Local residents said that the rival groups used heavy weapons to target each other's positions. Kurram deputy commissioner Javedullah Mahood said that his administration was making efforts through a tribal jirga to ensure the warring tribes ceased fire. He said that the jirga members had been dispatched to different areas for the purpose. Meanwhile, the Kurram bar association has moved a local court over the frequent tribal clashes and lawlessness, which has made the life of common people miserable.

## MNA Shandana Gulzar gets transit bail

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has granted transit bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and MNA Shandana Gulzar Khan 68 Oct 25 in cases registered in Lahore after the party's recent public meeting there. A single-member bench of Justice Shakeel Ahmad restrained the law enforcement agencies, including the Punjab police, from arresting the lawmaker, and directed her to approach the concerned courts in Lahore by Oct 25. The bench was hearing a petition filed by the MNA stating that connected cases had been registered against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and leaders of the PTI after their public meeting of Sept 21. Her counsel stated that they came to know that the Punjab police had registered multiple FIRs after the said public meeting. He stated that the police had levelled baseless allegations against the PTI leaders of damaging public properties and creating hindrance in the duty of government officials. He said that apart from the chief minister the police claimed that 300 unknown leaders and workers of PTI were involved in commission of the so-called offence. The counsel said that the petitioner came to know that the police had also nominated her in those cases by including her among the said 300 unidentified persons. He argued that the petitioner wanted to approach the relevant court in Lahore to get pre-arrest bail but she apprehended that she would be arrested on her way to the court in Lahore. He requested the bench to grant her transit/protective bail so that she could approach the court in Lahore.

## Ji chief asks Kabul not to allow use of Afghan soil against Pakistan

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naveem Rehman on Wednesday urged the Taliban government in Kabul to not allow militants to use the Afghan soil for carrying out attacks against Pakistan. "The Afghan Taliban should act responsibly and their soil should not be used against Pakistan at any cost. Pakistani people should not be made to pay for the decisions made by some individuals," Mr Rehman told the Tribal Arsen Jirga headed by his party here. The JI chief said that Pakistan had hosted Afghan refugees for decades. He said both countries couldn't afford bitter relations. Mr Rehman said that mili-

tary enabled foreign agencies to play their dirty games, and Pakistan had previously turned into a battleground of Indian and American intelligence agencies. He said that his party did not want a clash between Pakistani people and its army at any cost. The JI chief said that it would be good for everyone if all state institutions restricted themselves to designated roles. He said that all stakeholders should talk to each other for the sake of peace. Mr Rehman said that during the Pakistan Peoples Party's rule, President Asif Ali Zardari signed a requisition to deploy the army in the country, while former President Arif Ali also signed the same document during the PTI government with the Sindh Assembly endorsing it.

He said that politicians were responsible for the military's involvement in politics. The JI chief said that in order to ensure a corruption-free Pakistan, all corrupt people, including those from the army, should be held accountable. He said that his party supported action against former ISI chief Lieutenant General Fiaz Hameed for overstepping his authority, but it would be a political move to act against the former spymaster only. Mr Rehman said that the army's job was to protect the country's border, while the police was tasked with ensuring internal security. He, however, said that if the army continued doing policing duty, the situation was unlikely to improve. The JI chief also said that mil-

itary operation was not a solution to law and order crisis and that a new operation would suggest that all such past operations had resulted in failure. He asked KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to pay attention to his province instead of focusing on Islamabad and Lahore. Mr Rehman said that the chief minister should focus on serving his people and it would also do well for his party. He also called for development work in merged tribal districts and Balochistan on an emergency basis. The JI chief said that the issue of enforced disappearances in Balochistan deserved attention. "The writ of the state can't be established as gangsters and making people disappear can-

not be justified at all," he said. Mr Rehman said that a woman's medical university should be set up in merged tribal districts and attention should be paid to improve the region's infrastructure and create employment opportunities for youth. He said that a jirga should be constituted under the patronage of the government to resolve issues. The JI chief said that former military dictator General Pervez Musharraf's Union on Afghanistan over American pressure led to militancy in the poorest tribal regions. He said those who pushed Pakistan into the US-led war against terrorism were responsible for the current security situation in the region that had so far claimed around 100,000 lives in the country.

## Landi Kotal elders say official jirga useless in resolving their issues

ADC promises to convey their grievances to relevant authorities

By Ibrahim Shirwari

KHYSER: The poor governance and inefficiency of Khyber district administration came under scathing criticism during the second session of 'Awami Jirga' held in Landi Kotal on Wednesday with speakers rejecting such 'useless gatherings when their problems remained unaddressed'.

Tribal elders and civil society activists took the officials of district administration to task and questioned their inability to end the month-long blockade of Peshawar-Torkham Highway and devise a workable plan for the return of remaining Kohakhot displaced families. "It is a complete failure of the administration that the main highway through which bilateral trade is carried out with Afghanistan has been closed for more than a month while the district administration is holding jirgas in the name of resolving public issues," they said. They said that the closure of road had not only hampered trade with

Afghanistan but also confronted local traders and transporters with huge financial losses along with shortage of essential daily use commodities, especially medicines, in Landi Kotal. Speakers also blamed officials of education, public health and health departments for their continued failure to solve the issues pertaining to their departments despite repeated reminders and complaints by locals. They said that results of previous such official gatherings were discouraging as they were yet to see solution to their problems that were highlighted on previous such occasions.

"We want the district administration to take practical steps for the resolution of our long-standing problems instead of wasting money and time on holding such useless gatherings," they said. Speakers also expressed their displeasure over the absence of deputy commissioner, MNA, MPA, and provincial minister elected as MPA from Landi Kotal from the jirga. Local political leaders also stated away from the jirga as they were not invited to it. Tribal chairman Shah Khalid Shirwari along with a group of councillors staged a walkout from the jirga and alleged that such gatherings could not resolve local issues

as provincial government was constantly denying legitimate claims to local governments in the development funds. In his brief remarks prior to walkout, Mr Shirwari termed holding of the said jirga a joke with the people of Khyber and insisted that it could not help in resolving the thorny issues faced by locals for a long time. Present on the occasion, the additional deputy commissioner, Naveem Khan, conceded that the criticism of all the speakers was genuine and he would convey those grievances to relevant authorities as per the mission of provincial government.

He pleaded for restraint and said that government was faced with a difficult financial situation. He assured the gathering that work would be initiated on a number of development schemes as funds were allocated for those projects. The Wednesday's jirga in Landi Kotal was part of the three jirgas announced by the district administration on the directives of chief minister. The first jirga was held in Bera on September 23 while the last will be held in Jamrud on September 27. Representatives of all the major political parties had earlier told Dawn that they were not invited to any of these jirgas.



