



Mideast on edge as Nasrallah's killing confirmed

- Another senior leader, member of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps dead in south Beirut strike
• Israel targets warehouse near Beirut airport; Lebanese group responds with rocket fire
• UN refugee chief says over 200,000 people displaced inside Lebanon

BEIRUT: Hezbollah leader Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah has been killed, the Lebanese movement said on Saturday, dealing a serious blow to the Iran-backed group that has been engaged in a year of cross-border hostilities with Israel.



Nasrallah's murder: Editorial on Page 6

Hezbollah's statement came after Israeli military said it had killed Nasrallah in an air strike in Beirut's southern suburbs, in a move that would destabilise Lebanon as a state.

Iran said a senior member of its Revolutionary Guard Corps was also killed in the same strike. A source close to Hezbollah said the group's top commander in south Lebanon, Ali Karaki, had also died.

Iran's official IRNA news agency reported General Abbas Millarian was, deputy commander of the Guard's operations, died in the strike that killed Nasrallah.

Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah, has passed his last moments in the southern suburbs in the previous day killed the Hezbollah leader.

Prime Minister Nayef Mikati said the official mourning would start on Monday, with flagpoles at half-mast on public build-

ings, a statement said. Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, in a televised briefing, called Nasrallah "one of the greatest enemies of the State of Israel of all time."

French critics

The Israeli military said that in a strike on south Lebanon on Saturday it killed a senior member of Hezbollah's intelligence, coming from an Hassan Khasbi Younis.

Hezbollah made no mention of it in its statement.

A Lebanese security source said an Israeli strike on Saturday targeted a warehouse near Beirut airport, Lebanon's only international passenger facility. "An Israeli strike targeted a warehouse in the vicinity of the airport," the source said.

Lebanese sources continued to report Hezbollah's south Beirut stronghold was hit Saturday, sending panicked families fleeing.

Middle East expert James Thomson described Friday's attack as "very significant", adding it "demonstrates not only significant technological capacity but just how deeply Israel has penetrated

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BEIRUT: People inspect the devastation in the Hadeeth district of the Lebanese capital's southern suburbs in the aftermath of intense Israeli air strikes, on Saturday. — AFP

Over 100 rounded up as police contain PTI protest

- Police use teargas, batons to disperse protesters; PTI activists hurl rocks, set off firecrackers
• Pindi's entry points sealed; Gurdaspur's caravan braves shelling, but was stopped near Bahawal interchanging; Gohar, Raja briefly detained

By Mohammad Asghar and Asim Yasir

KAWALPINDI: An PTI supporter took to the streets to stage an anti-PTI rally in Kawal Pindi on Saturday, which police quickly dispersed.

The gathering was reported to be a peaceful one, but police used teargas and batons to disperse the protesters.

The gathering later turned into a riot as protesters set off firecrackers and threw stones.

The rioters later set off a fire in the area, which was quickly extinguished.

The rioters then moved towards the main market area, where they were again dispersed by police.

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Another polio case takes year's tally to 24

Seven cases reported in two weeks; gov't plans to expand vaccination campaign

By Faran Javed

ISLAMABAD: A second case of polio virus in a young boy took this year's tally to 24 on Saturday, four cases more as compared to 2023.

The latest child to be affected by the polio virus is a 20-month-old boy in Hyderabad district of Punjab, the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health confirmed.

The child, a resident of Chakriana colony, was vaccinated on Sept 7 during the mass polio vaccine campaign drive, and received Sept 15, according to Hyderabad Deputy Commissioner Javed Akhtar Mirza.

The vaccination "did weaken the virus", but couldn't eradicate it completely, as per the official.

After visiting the child and his family at their residence on Saturday, the DC said the child's stool sample had been collected on Sept 18 following the family's complaint of paralysis in the child's body.

After six days, the sample confirmed

the presence of wild poliovirus (WPV1), the official added.

This is the second case from Hyderabad this year after one was reported in August. Of the 24 polio cases, 13 were from Bahawalpur, five from Sindh, two from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one each from Punjab and Islamabad, a lab official confirmed.

Of the two dozen cases, seven have been reported since the vaccination campaign concluded on Sept 14. According to the polio programme, the nationwide polio vaccination campaign covered 33 million children under the age of five in 115 districts.

Despite the challenges, the polio programme hopes to reach the target vaccination coverage by mid-2025 through a "comprehensive strategy".

The ministry made its commitment with the government, was focused on ensuring the vaccination of every child in polio hotspots areas, phasing operational gaps, building community trust through open communication, mapping and vaccinating all children and strengthening management and oversight to achieve the objective of polio eradication.

The polio programme has planned two more vaccination campaigns before the end of the year to boost immunity among

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Panjour attack leaves seven labourers dead

Automatic weapons used in the attack

By Saleem Shaheed and Marium Baloch

QUETTA: Terrorists armed with automatic weapons stormed an under-construction house in the Khuda Abad area of Panjour on Saturday, killing seven labourers, all having jobs at the site.

The deadly attack drew reactions from Parliament and Punjab Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The PM sought a report from Bahawalpur Chief Minister Mir Nadeem Baig regarding the government's resolve to take all possible measures to root out terrorism

in the region.

At the time of the attack, the construction workers were sleeping in the same room of the house that they were building in Khuda Abad, Bahawalpur, police said, adding that the attack used automatic weapons.

"Seven labourers were killed on the spot and another was injured in the firing," Inspector General Police Mirza Jafar Ahmad told Dawn. He said they worked and lived at the under-construction house of Abu Bakr.

Soon after receiving information about the shooting, police and personnel of other law enforcement agencies rushed to the site. The victims were shifted to the district hospital.

All the labourers who lost their lives in the firing belong to the Wazirabad area of Multan district and Abu Bakr brought them

to Panjour for the construction of the house," said Panjour SSP Iftikhar Malik.

"It is a terrorist attack," he said, adding that investigation into the incident was in progress.

Hospital officials said, "We have reported seven deaths and an injured person to the hospital."

The victims were identified as Saql, Shaqir, Pakistan, Bhattar, Saharun, Mirza and Allah Waheed.

The bodies were kept in the district hospital Panjour. All the victims sustained multiple gunshot wounds that resulted in their death, they said, adding that the injured man, who also sustained bullet wounds, was hospitalized.

Senior sources said in all, there were nine labourers and one of them was not at the house at the time of the shooting attack remained safe.

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Shehbaz lauds army chief for role in securing IMF deal

PM attends US president's reception in New York • Says May 9 rioters will be forgiven only when they 'sincerely apologise'

By Aika Rehman

LONDON: Praising the role of the army chief and recently retired Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said the government would expand Pakistan's tax net and that the "time has also come to reform."

The prime minister made these remarks at a press conference held at the Churchill Hotel in London, where he had a reception after attending the UN General Assembly session in New York.

He added that together with Finance Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the IMF and China played a significant role in securing the approval of the \$2 billion IMF programme. "This deal could not have been possible with-



PHOTO: Minister Shehbaz Sharif with US President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr Jill Biden during the reception in New York. — AFP

out them. I would like to thank them for their spirit of talking Pakistan out of a difficult situation."

Months ago, Finance Minister Muhammad Aslamghar had made a similar statement, saying that China, Saudi

Arabia and the UAE are crucial in helping Pakistan secure an IMF deal due to their potential to enter the market in huge amounts.

PM Shehbaz said that deal at the very end because it was a last-minute decision to sell them that Pakistan's IMF programme is coming soon, and asked for their support.

He expressed the hope this is the last time Pakistan is going to the IMF. "We need to expand Pakistan's tax net. The agreement also made ourselves," said Shehbaz Sharif, adding that General Asim Muneer played a "big role" in the approval of the IMF programme.

"Economic stability is not possible without political stability," said the premier, adding that they are determined

"International organisations have acknowledged that Pakistan is on the path to progress," he added.

The PM spoke about his visit to New York, saying "the addressing the UN General Assembly, I conveyed the voice of the Pakistani people to the world."

He noted the meetings he had with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Bangladesh's chief adviser Muhammad Yunus, saying they were very positive. He added that efforts were made to strengthen relations with friendly countries.

He lauded the efforts of the caretaker government and the current government to address the economy and political situation, and hit out at the previous PTI govern-

ment for damaging Pakistan.

"We need Pakistan from bankruptcy after coming to power," said PM Shehbaz.

The spokesman the PTI said that the May 9 rioters would be forgiven only when they sincerely apologise.

"Their attack on IMF that day is shameful and an affront to the country's sovereignty. There will be no compromise on May 9. If the perpetrators are sorry they should apologise publicly to the nation."

He added that the previous government left "no stone unturned in damaging relations with China."

He also held the previous government responsible for

Continued on Page 5

Six killed, 10 injured in N. Waziristan chopper crash

By Our Correspondent

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: A chartered helicopter belonging to Mann Perpetrator Company Limited (MPCCL) crashed in North Waziristan on Saturday, killing six people and injuring 10 others on board.

Witnesses said the MH helicopter went down near an orchard in the Shawa town of North Waziristan shortly after take-off. They said the pilot attempted to land the helicopter safely, but the tail rotor struck the ground, leading to the crash.

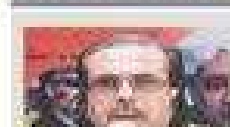
The helicopter had 21 occupants on board, including two foreign pilots. Sources confirmed that the crash was caused by a technical fault and no signs of sabotage were detected during the initial investigation.

Man Perpetrator operates the Waziristan Block, formerly known as Bajaur West, situated in North Waziristan district. The company made a significant gas and oil discovery in the Shawa I exploration well in June 2022, marking the largest hydrocarbon find in the country in 12 years.

The company recently achieved another milestone as the Shawa 2 appraisal-completion well, spudded on June 12, 2023. The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) said in a statement that the MH-60T helicopter registration mark: PK-11117 MSN: 97110.

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BNP-M leader shot dead in Quetta



A senior leader of the Balochistan National Party-Mingot (BNP-M), Agwa Khalid Shah, was shot dead in the Kati Ghar area of Quetta, Archaed

officers on motorcycles opened fire on Mr Shah, and his cousin Mr Khairi and his brother Mr. Shah were critically injured in the attack, a police official said, adding that they were shifted to Civil Hospital, Quetta, where Mr. Shah, who died on Saturday, was shifted to Page 3.

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Framework to fund energy transition

State Bank of Pakistan Governor Jamil Ahmad says a draft document detailing framework is being worked out to facilitate energy transition

The transition to renewable energy in Pakistan is already underway, but they do not have the required financing. The SSBP chief said the Asia Energy Transition Summit on Saturday, Page 9.

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### CM forms panel for tourism promotion

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has constituted a 20-member steering committee for promotion and development of tourism in Punjab.

Senior Punjab Minister Masrur Anjum will act as its convener. Senior Punjab Minister has been especially included in the committee.

According to an official notification, the committee includes Information & Culture Minister Amina Zaidi Bukhari, Construction and Communications Minister Sohaib Ahmed Malik, Transport Minister Ishaq Akbar and MPA Aqsa Khokhar.

Other members of the committee include chairman planning & development and secretary of tourism, tourism, construction information, PWD, forest, environment protection and transport. The DG Metro City Lahore, Chairman PTTC, CEO ICMT, CEO Urban Unit, DG FPA, DG WADO and DG, DG LDA and principal NCA will also be members of the committee.

It will work together to identify, approve and implement plans and will remove barriers for the promotion of tourism.

The committee will plan the construction, rehabilitation and repair of important tourist spots. It will also make recommendations for the upgrade of historical, religious, cultural and commercial sites suitable for tourism.

The committee will also formulate a communication strategy by employing digital electronic and social media platforms as one-stop solution for promotion of tourism. The secretary tourism will provide administrative support to it that will make recommendations within 15 days in consultation with the stakeholders. — Staff Reporter



LAHORE: Traffic wardens place cones on Ferozpur Road near Model Town to make motorists follow lane discipline. — White Star

## P&D Board for timely execution of foreign-funded projects

By Maroof Malik

LAHORE: The Planning and Development Board, Punjab, has expressed its concern over the delays in the execution of foreign-funded projects and advised project directors to streamline activities and ensure timely update on progress and completion.

During a review meeting of foreign funded projects of Punjab at the Atchafaloh Khan Sardaar Auditorium on Saturday, P&D Board Secretary Dr. Asif Iqbal said the project directors' focus should remain on the timely execution of project activities and targets and align all project activities.

Dr. Iqbal stressed the importance of maintaining transparency in project monitoring and expenditure management to prevent further setbacks.

"Regular updates are crucial to keep

ing on track and achieving our project goals," he said.

Highlighting the importance of strengthening partnerships with foreign donors to enhance bilateral relations, the P&D Board secretary emphasized the government's commitment to maximizing the impact of foreign-funded projects for local communities. He said the Punjab government's overarching goal was to transform foreign investments into tangible benefits that drive sustainable growth in the region. He said this approach aimed at enhancing community well-being while fostering economic development through strategic partnerships and responsible management of resources.

The meeting also discussed the Sector Monitoring of Development Projects (SMDP) mechanism report designed to streamline the tracking of World Bank funded projects from inception to

completion. Dr. Iqbal stressed the need for transparency in project monitoring and expenditure management. He said being timely and updated focus on improving efficiency and ensuring the timely completion of critical development projects across the province.

Several senior officials attended the meeting, including Senior Chief of the Finance and Taxation Department (F&T) Saba Anjum, Senior Chief of Livestock and Dairy Development Board, Chief Government Officer Punjab and Project Director Anwarullah (Punjab Rural Municipal Services Company), Director Punjab Agriculture & Horticulture Programme, Chief Officer Punjab Fruit and Vegetable Processing Project, All India Punjab Resilient Infrastructure Development and Improvement, Waqar (Punjab Division for Economic Growth Project), Waheed (Project

Management Office, Canal), Syed Zahid (Punjab Office Programme), Imran (Lahore Water and Wastewater Management Strategy), Farooq (Product Education Service Reform Programme), Akram (Punjab Housing Improvement and Digitalisation Programme), Farooq (Hubb University Research Lab), Adnan (Project Management Unit Punjab), Haseeb (Punjab Agriculture Reform and Innovation Programme and Skills and Market Development Project) and Haroon Malik (Punjab Income-generating Scheme Improvement Investment Programme).

Also, Assistant Commissioner of Excise and Taxation Department (E&T) Salim Ullah, DG Administration of the Planning and Development Board (P&D) Ghous Parthasarthy, Assistant Commissioner of F&T Ali Nawaz, Assistant Commissioner of E&T Arsal, and other relevant officials were also present.

### Worker chained at brick kiln rescued

BAHAWALPUR: Bahawalpur City police rescued a chained worker from illegal confinement of a brick kiln owner on Tuesday night on Saturday.

According to SHO Akmal Wahid, Anar Khan, the owner of a brick kiln, had allegedly tortured his worker, Anis, and chained him in one of the rooms at the brick kiln for the last 10 days for demanding his wages. Police conducted a raid on the brick kiln and freed Anis. Anar Khan fled away from the scene.

According to police, Anar Khan had not paid thousands of rupees in wages to the worker and rather threatened him with removal of his kidney to earn money. — Correspondent

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## 200 affectees of real estate scams lodge complaints with NAB

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Over 200 affectees of housing schemes lodged their complaints with NAB Lahore Division General Anwar Mansoor Awan during an open court on Saturday.

The affectees of the housing schemes include Khayaban-e-Aman Housing Society, Park View Housing Society, Islamabad Housing Society, Al-Nour Housing, Al-Nour Orchards, Lahore Garden Housing Scheme and Lahore Monarchy City registered their complaints against fraud. There were also affectees of other financial scams like Field Real Traders, Green Impact Gold Views and

Prime Zone areas. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Awan highlighted a full-fledged inquiry after completion of a preliminary investigation process of the Field Real Traders in which more than 700 complainants were noted their claims to the tune of Rs77m.

The JMC also finalized the preliminary plan for the Khayaban-e-Aman Housing Society concerning the provision of plots to each and every claimant. He assured the affectees that NAB would not rest until the last claimant received their plot.

He further informed that within the upcoming few months, all 700 affectees would be compensated and those who might not get jobs,

market value compensation would be provided. To facilitate the complainants of the Lahore Monarchy City, DC NAB directed the bank concerned for immediate release.

He referred the complainants against Lahore Garden Housing Scheme's administration to the deputy commissioner and district police officer (DPO) of Sheikhpura for action.

Regarding the Islamabad Housing scam, the NAB Lahore DC informed the affectees that the board was actively working to reduce the scam propagation for recovery of public investments yet two action attempts remained incomplete. However, he said that the affectees were welcome to report double accounts to the affectees.

## Bail of PTI MPA, 39 activists extended

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday extended the pre-arrest bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPA Hafiz Farhat Akbar and 39 activists in the Punjab House attack and burning police vehicles during the May 9 riots.

The MPA and the party workers appeared before the court on expiry of their pre-arrest bail. They filed a writ of habeas corpus

for the bail of Akbar in the police case filed during the riot.

The judge extended the bail of the PTI workers in the case FIR of Punjab House attack till Oct 23.

**INQUIRY:** An anti-terrorism court on Saturday extended its writ on an application of party worker Khalid Rafiq Khan (Qatar) seeking release of money and party registration book retained from the suspect involved in the alleged kidnapping and

hijacking.

A prosecutor opposed the release of the accused money and car, stating that the case was still pending and the money should remain with the police until the investigation was complete.

However, the prosecutor agreed that the registration book of the car could be handed over to the complainant.

After hearing the arguments, District Judge Anwar Javed reserved his verdict on the application.

## Woman gang-raped by robbers

Two minor victims raped by three at tuition centre

By Our Correspondent

TOSSA TEK SINGH: Two minor girls and a married woman were gang-raped in separate incidents in Tossa Tek.

Robbers gang-raped a young woman during robbery at All Town in the Noshahad police area of Faisalabad in the early hours of Saturday.

In the first information report (FIR), registered under rape and robbery charges, complainant Gul Noshahad and her companions broke into her home at 11:30am. They robbed the family of cash, valuable and a motorcycle and forced him to go with them to a shop at his neighbour's house. When the neighbour opened the gate, the suspects entered it and took away Rs270,000,

10 gold ornaments, a money-bag and other valuables. Three robbers gang raped the 25-year-old wife in the shop.

Report said the incident had suspects' relatives were known in the area locality.

Faisalabad CID Karam, SSI visited the house where the robbery and the attack had taken place. He found a lot of suspect items, including the 98P registration, in shop and across the street.

Meanwhile, two five-year-old cousin girls were gang-raped by three men at a tuition centre on Chak 225 RR, Multan, in the Noshahad police area of Faisalabad.

According to the FIR, the complainant and his daughter and his brother-in-law's daughter used to take tuition at the house of the suspect. When both girls returned from tuition on Sept 5, they fell ill. They were taken to a clinic for treatment. When they fell better on Sept 28, they were asked to go for tuition but they hesitated. When they were asked about their reluctance, they

revealed that the victim (wrote), his uncle and their friend had raped both of them after giving them medicine to sleep.

A police release issued by the CPD office said both girls were taken to district headquarters' hospital where the lady doctor confirmed that they had been raped.

The main suspect had been arrested while he was being taken to court to arrest the other two alleged rapists.

Meanwhile, a boy was raped near Masjid Shah Jevra in Jhang on Saturday.

The complainant, a resident of Mansar, Multan, alleged in the FIR registered with Quddus police that his 13-year-old nephew was on the way to purchase commodities from Masjid Shah Jevra when three boys raped him to an on their motorcycle.

They took him towards the canal where they overpowered him and one of them raped him.

Police arrested all the three suspects.

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## PTI, PML-N trade barbs over clashes

PTI accuses Centre, Punjab of inciting unrest, PML-N blames Gandharp for using KP resources to 'attack' Punjab

By Iqram Javed & Zulgerman Tabir

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: As police cracked down on PTI leaders and workers protesting against the price hike, alleged murder of a Punjab politician, and in support of an independent judiciary, the opposition party condemned the government's "authoritarian" behaviour, accusing the ruling elite of violating constitutional human rights, including the right to assembly.

The party alleged that the federal and Punjab governments are intentionally attempting to create ethnic and tribal hostility in the country, warning that the government will be held accountable for any untoward situation.

"Everyone can see what is being done to us in Rawalpindi and Lahore. It is our right to hold peaceful protests, and our founding chairman Imran Khan has always urged us to respect the law," PTI leader Sheikh Waqar Akram said during a news conference in Lahore. Pakistan News Agency (PNA) reported on Saturday that the PTI leaders in Lahore held a press conference in Lahore to condemn the government's behaviour, accusing the ruling elite of violating constitutional human rights, including the right to assembly.

"We will not tolerate any discriminatory remarks against Pakistan and its institutions during protests. They repeatedly claim to be peaceful, but we have seen their violent reaction of tearing down the PTI banner and attacking protesters. We have seen their violent reaction of tearing down the PTI banner and attacking protesters. We have seen their violent reaction of tearing down the PTI banner and attacking protesters."

In reply to a question, Mr. Akram stated that PTI members picked up a case against the Punjab government in Lahore. "PTI members should not be treated like terrorists. They should be treated like citizens. PTI members should not be treated like terrorists. They should be treated like citizens. PTI members should not be treated like terrorists. They should be treated like citizens."

The government wants to suppress us as an unconstitutional party, he added.

Mr. Waqar said all roads leading to Lahore have been closed, and even small streets were blocked with containers. "Workers and leaders faced force charges and shelling by the police. The worst part was the use of tear gas shells against protesters, resulting in injuries to several leaders and workers. Unfortunately, the federal and Punjab governments are trying to create ethnic and tribal hostility in the country," he said.

"The government has claimed that people are coming from Lahore to Lahore," he said.

## PTI to block constitutional package sans JUI-F support

By Syed Irfan Raiz

ISLAMABAD: As the PML-N-led coalition government releases a draft of a new constitutional package, PTI has vowed to block the move to pass the package unless it is supported by the JUI-F. PTI has vowed to block the move to pass the package unless it is supported by the JUI-F. PTI has vowed to block the move to pass the package unless it is supported by the JUI-F.

The PTI claimed that all party parliamentarians were united in their stance, stating that not a single member would vote in favour of the constitutional package. "If Members don't join the government, none of the PTI members will support it," PTI's newly appointed secretary general Sheikh Waqar Akram said in a private TV show.

Meanwhile, in a news meeting with senior TV anchors, he said his agreement on the formation of a constitutional committee.

Sheikh Waqar accused the government of holding the PTI members hostage during its constitutional package in parliament on Sept 14, which coincided with the week-end holiday on Saturday and Sunday. "They have kept us in their custody and prevented them to vote in favour of the proposed package," he added.

"Now these MNA have returned home and started to adhere to the party's stance on the package," he said.

Interestingly, most of the PTI members, who were reportedly held hostage, probably complained about being confined in the Punjab House in the federal capital for two days, on Sept 14 and 15.



FAISALABAD: A train passes through deluge from the Mohatabad area after the only received showers on Saturday. Downpour soaked various districts of Punjab. —AFP

## BNP leader killed, cousin injured in Quetta shooting

Police launch manhunt for attackers

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: A senior leader of the Balochistan National Party (BNP) was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Quetta on Saturday, while his cousin was injured in the attack. Police officials said the incident occurred in the Kili Goo area on Kari Road when armed attackers on motorcycles opened fire on Mr. Shah and his cousin as they passed through the area. Both men sustained multiple gunshot wounds.

"Agia Khalid Shah and his cousin were both critically injured in the attack," a police official said, adding that they were rushed to Civil Hospital Quetta, where Mr. Shah later died of wounds.

The attackers fled the scene immediately after the shooting. The suspect

was identified as Ghazi Shah, a former BNP leader.

Agia Khalid Shah was a senior BNP figure and a member of the party's central committee. Police have not yet determined the motive behind the attack. "We are trying to identify the trigger and the motive behind the attack," a senior police officer said, adding that efforts were underway to trace the perpetrators.

Mr. Shah's body was handed over to his family after the completion of medical investigations.

Upon hearing of the attack, a large number of BNP workers and supporters gathered at the hospital to assist the bereaved family.

Chaham Nahi Mary, a member of BNP's Central Executive Committee and president of the party's Quetta branch, announced that Mr. Shah's funeral prayers would be held on Sunday (today) at Kili Goo.

Mr. Mary condemned the killing, saying that the party would not forget Mr. Shah's sacrifice. He also called for the immediate arrest of the attackers and their swift prosecution.

## Jaffar Express to resume operation soon

QUETTA: Pakistan Railways announced the resumption of train services between Quetta and Peshawar from Oct 31 after a suspension of more than a month and a half. An official notification issued by Pakistan Railways announced that the Jaffar Express, which operates between Quetta and Peshawar, will resume its services from Oct 31, according to the news release.

Train services were suspended across the country on Aug 26 after a key railway bridge between Rajpur and Mach was destroyed in a blast carried out by the banned Baluch Liberation Army (BLA) during the night of Aug 25 and 26. The blast was part of multiple coordinated attacks carried out that night by dozens of armed militants from the outlawed group in Larkana, Muzaffargarh, Karachi, Khatkhhat and other districts.

Following the destruction of the railway bridge, Pakistan Railways halted all incoming and outgoing passenger and goods train services from Quetta to Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar.

Railway officials said work on reconstructing the bridge was well underway. "The completion of the new railway bridge will take some time," a senior official told Dawn, adding that the bridge is expected to be ready by Oct 30. "A train will be scheduled after the railway track is laid on the newly constructed bridge, which is expected next week," the official added. Currently, resumption of goods train services are operational. However, Quetta and the rest of the country. —Saleem Shahid

## Pakistan to benefit from concessional education funding

By Anis Anwar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will benefit from a financing partnership between the Asian Development Bank and a consortium of four Asian donors. International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd), a recent concessional education funding.

IFFEd has signed an agreement with ADB that will provide at least \$500 million in concessional education funding for lower middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Pakistan is among the 10 countries of the region that are currently eligible for IFFEd funding. Besides Pakistan, the other nine countries are Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

IFFEd-funded education projects can support ADB programmes of access

to quality early childhood development and school education to technical and vocational training, skills development and tertiary education. Under the financing partnership, IFFEd will guarantee \$125 million of ADB's concessional loan against a portfolio of all sources, known as a synthetic portfolio, and provide an initial \$50m in grants.

By providing IFFEd's guarantee to ADB with grants that will comprise 10 per cent of every loan, the first of the kind, the arrangement facilitates a four times leverage ratio of the guarantee, boosting the amount of capital ADB can lend while lowering borrowing costs for the bank's developing member countries.

"Education is the cornerstone of modern, prosperous, and inclusive societies, and we are pleased to announce this partnership with IFFEd," said ADB Vice President for Access and

Thames, Estera Yassin. "By providing quality and concessional financing, this initiative opens up lower middle-income developing member countries to new opportunities in education and skills — vital to building knowledge-based economies — along with other sectors at the same time."

Lower middle-income countries face an education crisis. Over 50 per cent of students in these countries are not able to read single text by age 10 despite attending school, and graduates do not have the skills to find jobs, leaving employees unable to fill vacancies.

As countries move from lower to lower middle-income status, they tend to get caught in a financing "middle trap" where they are no longer eligible to receive grant financing, but find concessional financing — facing a difficult decision of where to invest,

characterized by limited income financing.

By bringing concessional to grant resources to developing countries seeking to strengthen their education systems, the ADB-IFFEd partnership's key innovation lies in the fact that it will help ADB's developing member countries prepare for a future characterized by digital transformation, climate change, demographic transitions, and rapid urbanization.

IFFEd's concessional donors include Canada, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, while the Asian Development Bank, India, Mongolia, the Pacific Islands Development Fund (the investment arm of Japan Society), Switzerland have provided seed capital. IFFEd, which benefits from a strong credit rating, will initially focus on Asia and the Pacific, and Africa, in collaboration with multilateral development banks (MDBs).

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DAWN Education Expo



# Residents confined to their neighbourhoods as police take on PTI

### Teargas fumes 'enter homes'; hospitals inaccessible to doctors, patients

By Amir Yasin & Muhammad Asghar

RAWALPINDI: As the Rawalpindi administration took steps to contain a PTI protest in the city, the road blocks along the main artery of the Garrison Road remained closed to traffic.

The protest started near the administration offices at the Charing Cross, Qasim Market, and Military Hospital areas. Other areas, such as the T-Club, Iqbal Road, 26 Number Changi, Fatahah, Soan Bridge, Kalna Chowk, Jinnah Bazaar, 4th, 5th, and 6th roads, Double Road, and surrounding roads and streets were also closed to traffic.

As the protests of teargas permeated the air, the police and PTI workers clashed on Garrison Road, which was inaccessible to residents due to restrictions placed by the administration.

The PTI leaders still managed to arrive near the Government Chowk in small groups but were pushed back by the police every time they tried to get on Garrison Road.

The Punjab government had proposed Section 144 in Rawalpindi. Atrook, Chakral and Jharna for September 28 and 29 to stop the PTI from converging on Garrison Road.

Use of teargas

The excessive use of tear gas — that entered people's homes — forced the residents to keep their doors and windows shut but the gas managed to enter houses, causing breathing problems for children and the elderly.

"I was going to my brother's house near Wazir Khan but the teargas created problems for my sick children as they thought someone had thrown children in their cars," said Muhammad Masood, who was riding a bike on Garrison Road.

Scores of non-combatants were seen hiding their way through narrow streets to evading the teargas.



THE local administration has placed containers on Garrison Road to block the main artery of the Garrison city on Saturday. — Photo by Tameez Shafiq

and chief international cardiologist, who did not wish to be treated, had to cancel more appointments with his patients because he could not move out of his house.

"I cannot reach the hospital to attend to my patients and have cancelled all the appointments due to road blockades. My staff has been repeatedly calling me from the hospital and a leave permit is stuck near Jharna as he could not move towards Bahawalpur," professor and chief cardiologist retired senior general Katarat Islam told Dawn.

The number of patients in other government hospitals, as well as the Basmal, Institute of Cardiology, remained low as patients were unable to reach the hospital due to the 'police siege'.

A female patient, who was suffering from heart disease and hypertension, complained at a hospital near Giza Mar on Friday, took three

hours to reach her residence in the PWD Housing Society due to the restrictions placed on the routes.

The Metro Bus Service was also suspended due to the protest whereas the gas station had arrested some around their outlets.

The government and private educational institutions were also closed in addition to most government offices.

As the administration sealed the routes leading to the city, the prices of private vehicles also spiked due to a disruption in the supply chain. A kilogram of cottonseed, which usually costs Rs100, surged to Rs140 on Saturday. While wheat in Feroz, a local variety, under its Giza Mar said that prices could not reach the city on Saturday and the shortage of supply had skyrocketed the prices.

Muhammad Asghar or Giza Mar who contributed to this report.

# IHC restrains executive magistrates from using judicial powers

### Court tells federal govt to issue notification to provide legal cover to magistrates

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has restrained executive magistrates from exercising judicial powers, as they must obtain a written judicial order in the capital territory under the Constitution.

JHC Justice Arshad Muhammad Tahir issued the judgement in response to a petition, which said the magistrates were using judicial powers against the spirit and mandate of the Constitution, particularly Article 175(3).

The petition highlighted that officers of the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration, while exercising judicial powers, did not follow the rules of procedure framed by the High Court under Article 192 of the Constitution

and that they were outside the superior jurisdiction of the High Court, contrary to Article 192 of the Constitution.

The assistant attorney general, however, argued that the judicial system of Pakistan was clogged with thousands and thousands of cases and it did not appear to a prudent mind to burden it further.

The state counsel stated that executive magistrates had been acknowledged and recognised by the Supreme Court, adding that the executive magistrates did not encroach upon the judicial sphere.

The counsel referred to various provisions of the Law Reform Ordinance 1971, Legal Reform Act of 1976 and 1982 wherein the executive magistrates had been vested with powers to try multiple offences.

The lawyer argued the executive magistrates exercised powers conferred upon them as had not been expressly abolished to the extent of the Islamabad Capital Territory.

The judge concluded that "the confinement of judicial powers upon the executive magistrates under CFC (i.e., inter alia, under sections 28, 29, and 37 thereof), their transfer from the magistracy jurisdiction of this court and handing over their administrative control and supervision to the executive is 'contrary to Articles 175(3), 192 and 203 of the Constitution and the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court referred to above, the same is, therefore, held to be unconstitutional."

The legislature has already performed its role by promulgating the 34th Amendment Ordinance; however, it has delegated the authority to the federal government to designate the date on which its provisions shall come into force through the 2nd Amendment Ordinance.

More than 20 years have passed since the promulgation of the Ordinance, but the government still failed to issue the requisite notification.

The judge noted that despite

filing a comprehensive report, the Ministry of Law and Justice failed to complete the delay in issuing the requisite notification.

The court declared that the period of fourteen years stipulated in Article 175(3) of the Constitution had lapsed in 1987. It is held that the delay involved in complying with the conferred provisions of the Constitution rendered the provisions unconstitutional, for allowing further time to any organ of the state to take measures for separating the judiciary from the executive.

The government has been directed to issue the notification in this regard, the judge directed.

The judge restrained the executive magistrates from passing final judgement orders until a notification was issued by the federal government.

After endorsement of the provisions of the 34th Amendment Ordinance, the separation of the judiciary from the executive was intended to be implemented by the executive magistrates which shall occur

truly be restricted to competent judicial magistrates for further proceedings, read the order.

The court declared that "within the Islamabad Capital Territory, judicial powers can only be exercised by courts in accordance with the provisions of Article 175(3), 202 and 203 of the Constitution and until enabling constitutional provisions and the separation of judicial powers in accordance of such constitutional provisions would be promulgated and null in the eye of law."

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**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
**CABINET SECRETARIAT**  
**CABINET DIVISION**

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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2. Initiate and coordinate any interrelated proposals and activities for execution which may require special treatment and interventions and coordinate, where appropriate, additional resources in education of conditions in relation to the Federal Government for approval.
3. Be accountable to the Government for all policies that have an impact on innovation in technology sector in Pakistan, including other areas, economic, social and health policies.
4. Coordinate with Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Provincial Governments with regard to policies and their implementation having impact on innovation in technology sector.
5. Develop a plan to be developed national special technology career strategy, national emerging technologies strategy and national innovation and communication technology strategy.
6. Identify and provide technology sector workforce opportunities and their promotion in Pakistan and abroad.
7. Develop and approve methodologies and arrangements for management and operations of areas including one-stop facility for provision of all services including physical infrastructure, human infrastructure, human capital development, digital infrastructure for the sector.
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  - c. Experience in managing budgets, resources, and operations of a sizable organisation or department.
  - d. Involvement in shaping technology policies at the national or international level would be highly advantageous and a plus.
  - e. Familiarity with public sector financing, procurement processes, and compliance requirements is desirable.
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3. either at the time of appointment as Chaperson or thereafter during such appointment was not or is not an citizen of Pakistan or
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6. falls for removal or disqualification as per Section 11 of S.O. 2021.

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The candidate for appointment as Chaperson shall have to work exclusively for the existing Department and post in the appointment shall be subject to acceptance of resignation from designated authority and shall not, during the term of office, engage himself in any other service, business, occupation or employment which may have any direct or indirect bearing on his performance as Chaperson.

### TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

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- Shortlisted candidates, willing to visit code of conducting site at Peshawar and high standards of performance are encouraged to apply for the above position, along with updated CV, addressing their applications to the undersigned within three days of the publication of the advertisement. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview/selection process. No DCA will be submitted for the process. The advertisement along with CV is available on [dgst.kp.gov.pk](http://dgst.kp.gov.pk) website [www.dgst.kp.gov.pk](http://www.dgst.kp.gov.pk).

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# Nasrallah's murder

THIS is an extremely dangerous moment for the Middle East, and indeed the international community. On Friday, a massive Israeli bombing raid targeting Beirut resulted in the killing of Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of the Lebanese pro-Iran armed group Hezbollah. The outfit confirmed the death of their leader on Saturday, and considering Nasrallah's influence on Lebanese politics, regional geopolitics, and Hezbollah's role as the vanguard of Iran's 'Axis of Resistance', this assassination is likely to cause major shockwaves across the Middle East. Hezbollah had been trading fire with Israel since Oct 8, 2023, after Hamas launched its armed incursion inside the Zionist state. Over the past few weeks, Israel has stepped up its attacks inside Lebanon, launching a savage bombing campaign on Monday which has resulted in hundreds of Lebanese fatalities and injured tens of thousands of people. Israel had also been targeting many key Hezbollah commanders over the past few months. Nasrallah's murder is the most devastating blow to the movement. But while Tel Aviv may have won a tactical victory with the assassination, it has set the stage for a spiral of violence that will be very difficult to control.

It is obvious that Israel does not learn from history. Hassan Nasrallah's predecessor Abbas Musawi was also assassinated by Israel in 1992, along with his wife and child. In the following decades, Nasrallah transformed Hezbollah — which was amongst the numerous confessional militias that had emerged from the chaos of the Lebanese civil war — into one of the strongest armed resistance actors in the region, which, incidentally, helped end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000. Similarly, Hamas's founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin — a worship-leader-turned cleric — was assassinated by Israel in 2004. His group is today a major political and armed force in the occupied Palestinian territories. The fact is that Israel's policy of murder and sabotage has been an abject failure, as the groups it has targeted have proved to be back stronger, and in many instances have succeeded in their pledges.

For now, Hezbollah is dashed, but remains defiant. In a statement, it has vowed to continue 'confronting the enemy'. Moreover, the Iranian supreme leader has promised to stand by Lebanon and Hezbollah. From here, the region enters extremely volatile territory. Israel's Mission (Mogavot) for all human values is manifested by its genocidal campaign in Gaza, and its reckless strategies as demonstrated by the assassinations of Nasrallah and earlier Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran indicate that it very much wants a confrontation with Iran and its allies in the region. And if it does all it can to pull the US — its greatest, most influencing patron — into the vortex, Israel's bloodlust has, therefore, brought the world to the brink of a massive conflagration.

# A close watch

THE IMF Executive Board's stress on the importance of "vigilant monitoring" of its new \$2bn programme's implementation, and "robust contingency planning" to safeguard its success is a reflection of two concerns. One, in spite of the recent economic recovery under the last 5.1bn Standby Arrangement, Pakistan's vulnerabilities and structural challenges remain formidable. The business environment poses problems and weak governance and the state's outdated rules, limiting investment. Likewise, the tax base remains too narrow to ensure tax fairness and fiscal sustainability or meet large development spending needed to tackle poverty. Without concerted adjustment alongside prudent spending and investment and sustained reforms, Pakistan risks falling further behind its peers. Two, Pakistan's credibility when it comes to pursuing programme policies and ensuring macroeconomic sustainability through consistent policy implementation remains suspect in the eyes of its creditors and development partners — despite the successful implementation of the BSA that saved it from default.

Therefore, IMF directors have emphasised "the criticality of sustained programme implementation" and "constant monitoring of the planned continued completion in the FY25 budget" in a statement after approving the loan this week. Some of them noted that "there is no room for policy slippage without undermining debt sustainability". The new programme mandates policies to help Pakistan move away from its stunted growth model to private sector-led growth by strengthening the business environment and creating a more open playing field. Other priorities include reforming SOEs, removing trade barriers and market distortions, reinforcing governance frameworks, strengthening energy sector regulatory, and handling climate resilience. Indeed, the agenda for Pakistan's politically balkanised rulers is huge. It cannot wriggle out of it without endangering the recent, fragile stability. The government's resolve to stick to the IMF-mandated agenda will be tested every time the leader reviews its progress before releasing the next tranche. Other multilateral and bilateral creditors will also be watching Islamabad's performance very closely. The prime minister has repeatedly pledged to make this programme the last bailout from the IMF. Other countries like India have pulled this off by restructuring their economies. Can we do so? The jury is out.

# Heart of the matter

AS World Heart Day is observed today with the theme "Use Heart for Action", Pakistan faces a growing epidemic of cardiovascular diseases. Often considered an issue predominantly affecting older populations, heart disease is now also being seen in younger individuals. The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Karachi, recently reported that 75pc of the heart attack patients it receives are between the ages of 25 and 40. As it is, cardiovascular disease is responsible for 20-40pc of all deaths in Pakistan, making it the leading cause of mortality here. Poor dietary habits, sedentary lifestyles, and high rates of smoking and hypertension are among the primary culprits. Pakistan is also witnessing a surge in obesity and diabetes — two conditions that drastically increase the risk of heart disease. According to the International Diabetes Federation, more than 33m people in Pakistan are living with diabetes, a condition that doubles the risk of CVD.

This year's theme urges immediate action at both individual and systemic levels. On an individual level, prevention is key. A heart-healthy lifestyle — regular physical activity, a balanced diet low in saturated fats, avoiding smoking, and stress management — can dramatically reduce the risk of heart disease. However, public awareness remains low, particularly in rural areas, where healthcare access is limited, and educational campaigns often fail to penetrate. At a national level, Pakistan needs stronger public health policies that promote preventive care, efforts to reduce trans fats in the food supply, encourage regular exercise in schools, and create public smoking cessation programmes are crucial. A significant proportion of the population remains unaware of the importance of regular health checkups, allowing conditions like high blood pressure and cholesterol to go undetected until it is too late. With the youth increasingly at risk, addressing the root causes of poor heart health is essential. Let us get to the heart of the matter today to avoid a public health disaster tomorrow.

# OPINION



BY AFZAL ALI SHIGRI

# Police command structure

The police are hindered by a fractured and compromised hierarchical structure.

TO accommodate the rapid expansion of Pakistan's population, successive provincial governments increased the number of police districts. In line with this, the police force and administrative staff at the district level were also expanded. However, this reorganisation of the police force overlooked the strategic need of the police for an effective hierarchical supervisory command structure in order to regulate a trained, armed, and disciplined force.

Over time, it became evident that the existing police force's strong and effective command structure was being eroded. Political interference further compounded the problem. The district police forces were fragmented and transformed into governance tools for suppressing political dissent. By 2005, the number of police forces in Punjab, Sindh, KP, and Balochistan had grown significantly. As the existing supervisory system found it difficult to manage such an expanding force, even the most capable officers at the command level struggled to control extensive territories in the functioning of the district police. Like most of the previous governments, the military government under Gen Pervez Musharraf also decided to reform the police as an essential part of the overall administrative structure of the country.

Employed for internal security duties, many of the senior military officers were able to gauge discernible deficiencies in the civilian law-enforcement structures. Based on their experience of operational duties, they viewed the police system from a command-and-control perspective, which allowed them to develop a vision of how the situation could be improved.

The new government's interior minister, retired Gen Mansoor Khan, a seasoned commander with experience of civil governance as a former governor of Sindh, formed a committee to look at police reform. The committee proposed its findings in a report within a short span of time. Interestingly, the National Reconstruction Bureau was established to reform the government structure including the police under the capable leadership of retired Gen Tariq Naqvi.

Gen Naqvi established a separate think tank comprising three respected general of police (GP) as well as an expert in the British-oriental justice system. Thoroughly examining the exist-

ing police system, the think tank studied the legal frameworks of developed countries and reviewed 27 reports on police reforms in Pakistan prepared by various governments after independence. Deliberately consulting all stakeholders, the members of the think tank prepared a comprehensive report, addressing the depoliticisation of the police, credible accountability, and operational administrative autonomy. This culminated in the enactment of the Police Order, 2002, which provided the legal framework for implementing these reforms.

Unfortunately, in 2004 on the formation of the political government, the very military government that had introduced the reforms attempted to undermine this law following the induction of political governments. A depoliticised and accountable police force was transformed into a mere instrument of law enforcement and law enforcement, leading to inconsistencies and new appointments on police in some provinces. However, steps to reorganise the police structure which had already been undertaken could not be reversed. Nevertheless, previous imposed checks on political decisions were ignored or violated.

While addressing operational and administrative autonomy, Police Order, 2002, introduced an upgraded command structure. It differentiated between civil and urban police to meet the emerging challenges posed by the growth of specialisation. To eliminate unnecessary interference, the terms of the head of the police establishment was fixed and formalised operational independence. To improve command and control, Police Order, 2002, also made certain fundamental changes in the police structure, upgrading posts at all supervisory command levels by increasing the number of posts at higher grades, strengthening operational support, reinforcing and reinforcing greater financial powers on the police department by designating the ICP as a civilian authority. Pivoting in big cities and other areas were clearly defined both structural operational and administrative powers assigned to various ranks of officers heading the police. The elected governments, however, chose not to follow the law when it matters of professional autonomy and administration of an armed uniformed police force.

Regrettably, political governments, resistant to any limits on their authority, openly violate the

lawful belief that their election to office grants them unchecked power to make both lawful and unlawful decisions. They treat civil servants as personal subordinates, frustrating arrangements aimed at ensuring such officers to preserve a system enabling democratic governance. A simple option for them is to bypass the law and refuse its implementation on one or the other pretext.

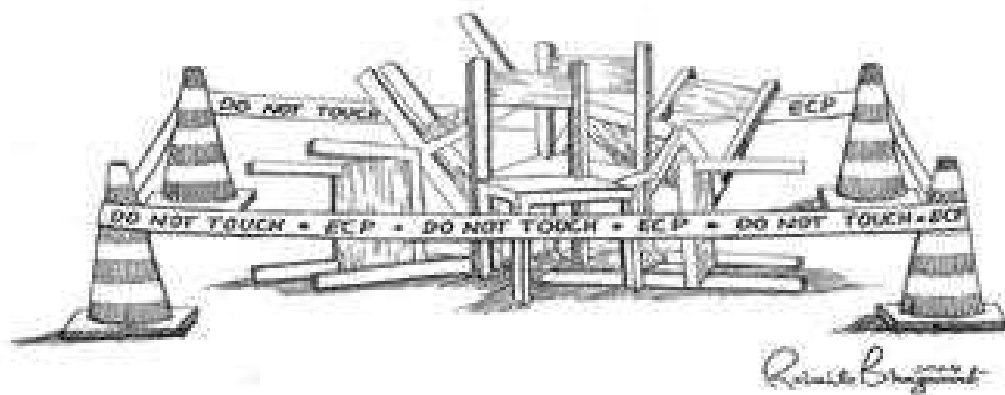
To enforce their constitutional law enforcement in strict violation of legal provisions, they tend to appoint inexperienced police officers as higher ranks. For instance, captains and vice-officers of Grade 22 have assumed appointments, while appointing junior officers to higher ranks. This reorganisation the administrative powers of the officers occupying the command posts actively hinders them to perform their duties. In retaining these command posts, they face a quantum shortfall of any potential talented officers entails recruited in the lower rank without any process. This transformation even hampers resource deployment into a tool for political patronage and undermines the entire structural justice system.

Pakistan is faced with an internal threat due to terrorism stemming from various unmet needs of economic and social development, giving rise to violent militancy. Police forces with such inner frailties are expected to deliver on the state's counterterrorism policy. The police, who are crucial in countering these threats, are hindered by a fractured and compromised hierarchical structure. The government must realise that no amount of investment in the shape of weapons, equipment and military technology in the force will have any effect until the police force is given a cohesive command structure and full operational and administrative authority.

Based on over 30 years of experience in the police force, I can confidently state that success against diverse terrorist organisations — funded and supported by our adversary — is achievable. The key to effectively countering such a police force is to ensure that operate under a clear and robust police law free from political interference, and an established upgraded command structure provided in the Police Order 2002. ■

The writer is a former ICP officer.

# RESERVED SEATS



BY ABBAS NASIR

# Israel's firepower won't win it peace



ISRAEL may have killed Hezbollah leader Sayed Hassan Nasrallah but what the world thinks of its occupation of Palestinian, contested lands in Gaza and provocative military action against Lebanon was evident at the UN's General Assembly. As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu set the podium to address the assembly, there was a mass walkout by a large number of delegates and the only applause and cheering at his belated speech came from the galleries that the Israeli delegation attracted were filled with genocide supporters.

The commissioner remarked, "It seemed the galleries were taken up entirely by members of the UN Congress", in a reference to the weighty standing ovations for Israel's extreme right-wing leader during a recent address to the UN Congress.

The most embarrassing moment for Netanyahu came when he was talking about eliminating 'terrorists' and then killing a peaceful region with partners such as Saudi Arabia. The camera panned to the seating area of the Saudi delegation tagged with a tag sign 'Saudi Arabia' and showed angry seats as the delegates had walked out.

While the role (or lack of it) of the bulk of the Arab world has been far from proactive in putting pressure on TB and Israel's other Western backers to force it to stop its mass murder of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and end of Lebanese Muslims, the mood in many Arab states was reflected in the decision to walk out.

As these days were being written on Friday, the Israeli military officially claimed that the Hezbollah leader had been 'eliminated' after a missile was struck on an apartment block in a Beirut neighbourhood, seen as a Hezbollah stronghold at the Lebanese capital, on Friday. Hezbollah confirmed the news.

Hezbollah is the only force in the Middle East to have successfully confronted the Israeli military over the past 50 years and gave it a bloody nose in the 2006 conflict, forcing the formidable opponent to seek a truce. This boosted the movement and propelled its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, to become one of the most popular figures in the Arab world and beyond.

With its men and its Western allies' financial and intelligence resources, it is clear now that Israel spent the period from 2006 to the present

day planning and plotting about degrading Hezbollah, the only military force in the area to stand up to it and face it down.

This Israeli view may well have been reinforced when Hezbollah and other Iran-affiliated forces alongside Syrian government forces against it that was threatening to overthrow Syria and stopped the movement. Many believed that the true proxy that sprung out of nowhere was the hierarchy of Israeli intelligence or at the very least received assistance help from Israel.

Interestingly, Hezbollah, along with the so-called axis of resistance comprising Iran, Yemen and Syria, is still and the only pro-Iran 'military' ally of the Syrian Hama government in Gaza. This alliance, perhaps in one of the reasons that Gulf executives and emirates and the UN-backed auto-

Israel carries on its relentless genocide simply because it can.

rit in Egypt look at it with suspicion, it makes them reluctant to offer meaningful assistance to the Palestinians.

For Israel, which was moving closer to the UAE and Saudi Arabia and has close diplomatic and trade relations with Egypt and Jordan, this 'war' had to be declared, if possible, discreet, because it continues to challenge its entire colonial project in Palestine and other illegally occupied areas in Lebanon and Syria, such as the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip.

Against this backdrop, it is clear from the expelling papers and walkout during the killing of Hassan Nasrallah and other senior Hezbollah leadership by Israel is claiming a huge success. But can this self-proclaimed win, with Israel the security and justice it wants for its citizens, it claims, has been its objective for several decades?

From the Netanyahu gambit strike in south Lebanon, killing Hezbollah leader Abbas al-Musawi (Nasrallah approved him), his wife and daughter of Leila in 1992, to the assassination

of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the co-founder, which also killed, paralyse, Hamas leader in 2004, these have been many 'occupation' murders in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and even its constitutionally neutral territory.

It is not the 'war' that is the 'success' celebrated by Israel but the 'peace' and 'security'. The answer has to be a resounding NO. But Israel carries on relentlessly simply because it can. The leaders of the 'free world', such as those in office in the US, UK, Germany, France and several other Western countries, have decided that Israel is their most important ally in the region and they'll back it no matter what it does.

They have collectively spent hundreds of billions of dollars to bolster Israel's military capabilities and have nothing to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza. There are three main reasons as I see it.

The first must be the greed at the Palestinian state which the patriarchs Adolf Hitler hoped one day to see millions Jews in Germany, Poland and other parts of Europe, while the US and UK looked on. The second is an ally in the Middle East which carries their own baggage, including colonialism. The third has to be the massive funding provided to election campaigns of US politicians by the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee and other pro-Israel institutions and bodies such as the Conservative Friends of Israel and the Labour Friends of Israel in the UK, which underlines their 'democratic' by having their elected officials compromised.

Hope one day these matters add what their carte blanche to Israel has delivered. From Sheikh Yassin who was assassinated by leaders such as Khaled Matar, Israel Haniyeh to the current leader Yehya Sinwar, the Palestinian desire for freedom from us.

Similarly, notwithstanding the setbacks, Hezbollah will find someone like Nasrallah's cousin Hashem Safi al-Din, whose son is married to IRGC's assassinated commander Qasim Soleimani's daughter, to provide leadership. Hezbollah will find its best ally, Israel's best friend is terrifying. But it should know the will of those standing in its way. ■

The writer is a former editor of Dawn.





# Flood-hit Chitralis seek govt help to rebuild houses

By Our Correspondent

CHITRAL: Scores of families, who have lost their homes to flash floods and glacial lake outburst flood phenomenon during the summer season, are likely to pass through the forthcoming winter season in the same way they have put up.

The villages of Raich, Yarkoon and Khot in Upper Chitral and that of Shal's Koh and Golen in Lower Chitral had been devastated by floods in summer, washing away a large number of houses.

Some of the affected people of Raich and Khot villages told mediapersons at the Chitral Press Club here on Saturday that they had no financial capacity to reconstruct their houses and were waiting for the government to help them do so.

However, they said that they didn't expect a positive response from the authorities.

Members Syed Zahid Shah, Durdana Khan, Gul Ahrar and others said that the compensation money was only paid to the heirs of those who lost their lives during the flood.

They said that living in tents after the first snowfall of the season, which usually happens in December, would not be possible for the families. As such, they said they had only two months to do when the harsh weather began.

They said that after having been disappointed by the government, they had pinned their hopes on the non-governmental organisations and were also looking up to well-off people to come to their rescue.

# KP governor urges CM to collaborate to address province's issues

Govt rejects letter, insists it is taking corrective steps

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR: After months of tensions, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faizal Karim Kasbi has formally invited provincial Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gerdapke to make joint efforts to address the province's issues.

He also proposed the formation of the Joint Task Force Committee, composed of representatives of all political parties in the province, for the purpose.

"JTFC will work together to address the regional, religious, developmental, security, strategic and other issues," he said.

He also proposed the formation of the Joint Task Force Committee, composed of representatives of all political parties in the province, for the purpose.

govt measures to reduce electricity, promote political cohesion and economic development initiatives," read a letter written by the governor to the chief minister on Friday.

The letter, a copy of which is available with Dawn, was titled "Strengthening Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: A Call for Collaborative Action."

It read that the province was confronted with numerous challenges and the governor felt compelled to bring the chief minister's attention to several critical issues that urgently demanded collaborative efforts.

"As you are aware, our province faces significant challenges in the fields of energy, education, health, and security, among others, and working together, we have analysed the issues and are looking towards an effective and responsible way forward," it read.

According to the governor, the

issues are about the "low electricity, political cohesion and economic development initiatives, national security, education, health, and security, among others, and working together, we have analysed the issues and are looking towards an effective and responsible way forward," it read.

He said the JTFC should be formed to effectively address these challenges. Mr Kasbi said he was committed to serving all residents of the province.

"I believe that our collective efforts can yield positive outcomes for the province. By working together, we can effectively address our concerns to the best of our abilities," he said.

The governor welcomed the chief minister's thoughtful response and said that he would like to convene an initial meeting to discuss the

JTFC's formation.

"Together, we can pave the way for a more prosperous and secure future for our province," he said.

On the other hand, the provincial government rejected the offer, insisting it is aware of the issues and is taking steps to address them.

"The governor has no authority to make any offer to us. We (PTI government) have people's mandate to address their issues," spokesman Dr the provincial Governor Muhammad Ali Naif told Dawn.

Political observers said that the provincial government's focus is on the safety of non-affected PTI members from Khatulda and people's development.

He urged the provincial government to work for people's development and take steps to address their issues instead of staying within the province.

The alleged that the ruling PTI's ministers and lawmakers were disconnected from people's problems and were merely focused on holding public meetings.

"The Council of Ministers involved has been tasked with resolving issues among following units but the PTI government has never bothered to engage with the constitutional bodies to clarify rights for the province," he said.

The PTI leader said he had no objection to the ruling PTI's staying in Khatulda, but he wanted to ensure it of the duty of ensuring safety for the rights of people who had voted it out.

# FSc exam position-holders fail to reach top 100 in MDCAT

By Arshad Yousaf

PESHAWAR: Position-holders from the intermediate examination in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have failed to make it to the top 100 in the recent Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test, raising questions about the credibility of the exam conducted by education boards.

Results of the MDCAT, conducted by the provincial Khyber Medical University in Mardan, revealed that the students, who topped the FSc exams held by eight education boards, obtained passing marks for admission in public medical and dental colleges but failed to secure top slots in MDCAT. Some of them scored more than 95 per cent marks in the FSc exams.

Among the top 100 MDCAT scorers, 24pc attended private colleges, 37pc government colleges, 19pc army colleges and 19pc government colleges. Students of government colleges ranked 90 of the top 100 MDCAT positions, with their marks ranging between 291 and 194.

The KEMU records show that 41.1pc of the students obtained below 100 out of the total 200 marks, 30.0pc (100-120 marks), 15.0pc (121-140 marks), 14.2pc (141-160 marks), 11.8pc (161-180) and 13.9pc (181-200 marks).

A total of 41,077 candidates sat for the test comprising 200 multiple-choice questions, which required a minimum of 15pc marks for MBBS admissions and 5pc for BDS admissions in accordance with regulations of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council.

Officials told Dawn that the medical and dental colleges' entrance test was introduced in the late 90s as the recruitment of its principal of Khyber Medical College Prof. Waqarullah Ahmad.

They added that in those days, there used to be just one admission board in the province, i.e. Pharmacy Board that conducted registration and intermediary examinations for the entire province, including the then Ferozeshah Administrative Tribal Areas.

The officials said at that time, the province had two medical colleges, one in Peshawar and the other in Mardan, with admissions offered to students on the basis of the marks obtained in board exams.

They said there were top scorers in the board exams didn't perform well in the medical college examination, the entrance test was introduced to select better students for medical and dental colleges.

The officials said the medical college entrance test showed a lack of trust in the board exams by the then KMC principal, who, despite opposition, introduced the test to filter the candidates.

They said the former KMC board's system was confirmed by the recent MDCAT results.

The officials said the entrance test had become controversial with the passage of time and due to the opening of more and more medical and dental colleges.

They said last year, the test was cancelled after several students missed the Pakistan High Courts against its results, pressuring the provincial government to order a fresh test by the Khyber Medical University.

Several students were caught cheating with the help of modern devices.

The KEMU concluded that test in collaboration with the provincial government under the guidance of the PMDC, with its systems complaining about its credibility. This time around, too, no one raised any issue about MDCAT.

Additional chief secretary (Health) Muhammad Akbar Mughal assured arrangements for the test for one month, while the test was held with elaborate security arrangements. The MDCAT results were expected within 70 hours.

# Over 70 new dengue cases reported

PESHAWAR: The health department has intensified efforts to control dengue outbreak as secondary health. All staff has directed to enter public spaces by safeguarding the people from the vector-borne ailment.

The secondary health has taken notice of the rise in cases and vowed that the department would take all necessary measures to control the spread of dengue fever in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"We urge the public to support us in combating this disease, especially during the peak dengue season," he said.

"We have distributed 80,000 diagnostic kits to hospitals and 300,000 mosquito nets to control dengue and malaria. We have also provided 500 litres of insecticide for spraying, 1,000 litres of chemical for fumigation, and 11 biogrammes of larvicide chemical to eliminate dengue larvae," secretary health Arts Ghous said.

According to the latest statistics, 372 active dengue cases have been reported in the province, with only 21 patients hospitalized. A total of 700 dengue cases have so far been reported, with 300 patients recovering from the disease.

During the last 24 hours, 72 new cases were reported, with four patients hospitalized and the rest undergoing treatment at homes. Unfortunately, two deaths have been attributed to dengue.

Peshawar and Abbottabad are the most affected areas, with 210 and 106 reported cases, respectively. The secondary health appealed to the people to take precautionary measures to keep dengue at bay. — Bureau Report

# S. Waziristan sit-in against shelling continues

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Militant influences and political parties continue their protest as an at Makena bazaar in Upper South Waziristan district as the militant commander they are demanding to prevent against shelling and bring an end to military operations in the region. They are also demanding to take action against the terrorists and to ensure the removal of them.

They said there were top scorers in the board exams didn't perform well in the medical college examination, the entrance test was introduced to select better students for medical and dental colleges.

The protesters, led by Dr. Kabeer Waseer, marched through the hospital, showing displeasure against the provincial government and the health department.

They demanded of the authorities concerned to release their salaries with no delay, warning that their protest campaign would be expanded if their demands were not met.

They also demanded to prevent against harassment of their salaries and to ensure all medical departments including emergency services.

The protesters, led by Dr. Kabeer Waseer, marched through the hospital, showing displeasure against the provincial government and the health department.

# 'Tour de Peshawar' marks Tourism Day

PESHAWAR: The Directorate of Archeology and Museums in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority organized a special 'Tour de Peshawar' to mark the World Tourism Day on Sunday.

A total of 25 parties, including students, academics and influencers from various fields, took part in the tour of Peshawar's landmarks, according to a statement.

During the tour, the participants visited historical sites such as the Peshawar Museum, Ralli House, Ghanta Ghar, Chak Tower, Ghor Khairi, Ghori Yagdar, Mahal Khan Mosque, Khyber Bazaar, Qissa Khori Bazaar and a number of monuments and parks.

Shahid Ali Khari, the chief coordinator of 'Tour de Peshawar', said that the purpose of the event was to send a message to the world on the World Tourism Day that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in general and Peshawar in particular were powerful regions.

He said that the theme of this year's day was 'Sustainable Tourism'. Mr. Ali stressed the need for collaborative efforts to promote tourism in the region. — Bureau Report

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**Sub Branch Manager (Conventional)**  
Location: Peshawar

Note: In case the degree is obtained from a foreign university, equivalency certificate from HEC is to be submitted by the candidates at the time of interview to validate the required education.

Interested candidates may visit our website at [www.bankofkhyber.com/pa/careers](http://www.bankofkhyber.com/pa/careers) for further details regarding job responsibilities and for submission of ONLINE application latest by **October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

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Heavy Mechanical Complex Ltd. invites applications for the following posts (as per contract form) (Candidates are candidates performance)

Sr#	Post	Max Age Limit	Range of Qualification & Experience
1	Sr. Manager (Sales & Marketing)	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSc/BBA (Hons) (Engineering) from University recognized by HEC, with minimum 17 years post qualification experience in marketing role.</li> <li>Having practical working experience of marketing of industrial engineering goods especially in heavy machinery, power plants, MNCs, Multinational and local markets.</li> <li>Proficiency shall be given to the candidate having working experience of heavy machinery and fittings of steel products.</li> <li>Applicant having advanced qualification plus MBA (Marketing) from any HEC recognized university will be preferred.</li> <li>Proficiency in MS Office is a must.</li> </ul>
2	Manager (Sales & Marketing)	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSc/BBA (Hons) (Engineering) from University recognized by HEC, with minimum 9-10 years post qualification experience of relevant industry.</li> <li>Having practical working experience of marketing of industrial engineering goods.</li> <li>Applicant having working experience in steel manufacturing industry will be preferred.</li> </ul>
3	Executive Engineer (Light Railways)	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSc/BBA (Hons) from University recognized by HEC, with minimum 07 years post qualification experience including 3 years in executive capacity as Project Manager / Construction Manager / Resident Engineer.</li> <li>Responsible to supervise and manage all civil construction activities in strict compliance with project specifications, safety regulations and quality standards.</li> <li>Applicant having excellent communication and organizational skills, proficient in project management software and tools including MS Office applications will be preferred.</li> </ul>
4	Sr. Electrical Engineer (Light Railways)	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSc/BBA (Hons) from University recognized by HEC, with minimum 10-12 years post qualification experience of working in Power Plants.</li> <li>Having experience of installation &amp; commissioning of Transmission Lines at 110KV including related parts.</li> <li>Good experience in design, drawing, test and expertise in installation, testing, operation and maintenance of synchronous electrical equipment and transformers from 50 kilowatt capacity.</li> </ul>
5	Asst. Manager / Asst. Manager (Sales & Marketing)	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master degree with 7 to 8 years post qualification relevant experience in marketing sales of heavy machinery, power plants and electrical machinery.</li> <li>Applicant having advanced qualification plus MBA (Marketing) will be preferred.</li> </ul>
6	Assistant Manager (Network)	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduation in Master in Computer Science / Information Technology along with 5-6 years post qualification relevant experience of networking with CCNA, CCNP classes.</li> <li>Candidate having experience of design, implementation, and commissioning of the organization's network infrastructure, ensuring optimal performance, security and reliability managing network devices such as routers, switches and firewalls will be preferred.</li> </ul>

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- Applicants are requested to submit original contract form within 07 days of publication of the advertisement.
- Final selection of candidates shall be called for test, when required.
- The Contracted Authority reserves the right to interview or consult the shortlisted persons at any time.
- The E.O shall be valid only for the interview.

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**Age:** Max 55

**Merit:** 01

**Social Media Expert and Content Writer (PPS-8)**

**Qualification:** Bachelors degree in Media Studies / Mass Communication / Development Communication / International Relations / Journalism and Social Sciences.

**Experience:** 5 to 10 years of experience in photographing and recording similar projects activities along with technical competence in advanced software.

**Age:** Max 45

**Merit:** 02

**Camerman (PPS-8)**

**Qualification:** Bachelors degree in Media Studies / Mass Communication / Development Communication / International Relations / Journalism / Computer Sciences and Social Sciences.

**Experience:** 5 to 10 years of experience in photographing and recording similar projects activities along with technical competence in advanced software.

**Age:** Max 45

**Merit:** 01

**All the above positions will be offered on PPS package**

**How to Apply:**

- Candidates can apply through online portal [ep.gov.pk](http://ep.gov.pk), or by sending their CVs and photographs to the following address: Joint Secretary (Development), Room No.246, P-Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad.
- Hardly duplicates of candidates' details should be submitted, when required.
- The Contracted Authority reserves the right to interview or consult the shortlisted persons at any time.
- The E.O shall be valid only for the interview.

**Joint Secretary (Development)**  
Room No.246, P-Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad



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## IMF sets tough tasks for \$7bn loan

Wants govt to consistently implement sound fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies

By Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has attached tough conditions for the government to follow alongside the release of the first tranche of over \$1 billion under the new Extended Fund Facility (EFF), including a focus on enhancing productivity and competitiveness.

The new IMF programme is supported by effective policies and reforms aimed at helping Pakistani authorities enhance macroeconomic stability, tackle significant structural challenges, and create conditions conducive to stronger, more inclusive and resilient growth.

"Mobilising policy credibility and achieving macroeconomic sustainability" are the key to consistent implementation of sound fiscal, monetary, and exchange

rate policies," said the IMF documents released on Saturday.

The IMF has approved a 37-month Extended Fund Facility for Pakistan amounting to \$6.8 billion (487.1M), marking the second highest amount ever agreed upon under any IMF programme in terms of RMB.

Prerequisites set by the IMF for the Pakistani economy include better public spending, fiscal and social efficient sector — especially from underused resources — and creating fiscal space for increased spending on health, education, and social protective programmes.

"Reforms should focus on improving the private sector business environment by removing state-created distortions and creating a fair and competitive playing field," stated the IMF. Plans include streamlining subsidies, improving the foreign direct investment regime, deepening bank intermediation, and scaling up investment in human capital.

The IMF also called for restructuring state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and improving public services. The reform and privatisation of SOEs, along with governance and transparency measures,

will help enhance public service provision, according to the paper. Additional measures include reducing the cost structure of the energy sector and phasing out the government's role in price setting.

The agreement emphasizes building climate resilience and implementing the COP28 Action Plan, along with supporting the National Adaptation Plans, which will strengthen the country's resilience to climate change, focusing on sustainable infrastructure and disaster risk reduction.

The IMF expects real GDP growth of 4.2 per cent during FY25, with inflation at 8.5 per cent and 10.5 per cent, a primary balance of 2 per cent of GDP, a current account deficit of 0.5 per cent, and reserves at \$12.75bn by June 2025.

The receipt of the first tranche of \$1.1 billion will further strengthen Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and may also assist in securing additional bilateral and multilateral loans. The statement noted "Some investors observed that, given the ambitious growth projections, there is no room for policy slippage without undermining

date sustainability."

Discussions also called for reforms to strengthen the fiscal framework, including: Federal provincial institutional arrangements; measures to ensure the energy sector's better sustainability, including through sustained tariffs and enhanced liquidity and debt management.

**Performance review and outlook**

Pakistan has made significant strides in boosting economic stability through consistent policy measures under the Stability Arrangement. In FY24, economic growth has improved to 2.4 per cent, primarily supported by the high outdoor sector. Inflation has seen a substantial reduction, reaching single-digit levels due to tight fiscal and monetary policies. The backlog of reserve buffers has been reduced by a public account surplus and a net foreign exchange market conditions.

Considering lower inflation and stability in domestic and external conditions, the SBP has reduced the policy rate by 500 basis points from June 2023, aided by a tight FETD basket.

## Framework being evolved to fund energy transition: SBP

By Khalid Hassan

LAHORE: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Saad Ahmad said a climate-driven banking framework is being worked out to facilitate energy transition.

"Transition to sustainable energy in countries like Pakistan is strongly needed, but they do not have the required financing," the SBP chief told the Asia Energy Transition Summit, organised by the Pakistan Renewable Energy Council (PREC) in collaboration with the Lahore University of Management Sciences Energy Institute, SDPI, Islamabad and the PREC on Saturday.

Mr Ahmad said countries like Pakistan need to make the most optimal energy transition because they are highly vulnerable to climate change and the most suitable to work.

"Energy individuals and institutional investors, therefore, are reluctant to invest in such countries," he said in his keynote address at the two-day summit.

He said Pakistan was among the top 20 countries vulnerable to climate change despite its minimal contribution to the same, adding that the country was committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 45 per cent by 2030, with a further reduction of 50pc conditional upon the availability of external climate financing.

He also highlighted Pakistan's goal to generate 50pc of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, stating the importance of adopting policies to reduce carbon emissions.

"Although Pakistan faces significant challenges in shifting to green energy, by 2030, despite recent macroeconomic difficulties, the country is in a better position than other Asian nations," he added.

Mr Ahmad pointed out that the share of fossil fuel in Pakistan's energy consumption has decreased by 8.5pc, from 86.5pc in 2019 to 81.5pc in 2023. He acknowledged the country's abundance of natural resources like solar, wind, and hydro-power.

Additionally, he emphasised the need for developing countries to secure climate funding, stating that more economic stability and structural reforms were essential to addressing climate change challenges.

"The SBP has taken several initiatives, including introducing a revised renewable energy financing scheme in 2019, raising an environmental and social risk management manual in 2022, and collaborating with the World Bank to develop a Green Finance Framework," he said.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim Khan Laghari stressed innovative financial solutions crucial to drive Pakistan's energy transition.

"Initiatives like the Asian Development Bank's Energy Transition Mechanism and Sun Energy Transition Partnership can mobilise necessary capital for this transition," he said.

Mr Laghari stressed the need to follow the Chinese experience to enhance the renewable energy capability. "Focusing on knowledge transfer, infrastructure development, and technical training, Pakistan must not only rely on traditional energy sources, it should also explore instruments available in China's financial markets, including RMB-based funds. Additionally, Pakistan can position itself as the supply chain for green metals, which is critical for future energy technologies."

The minister revealed that Pakistan has 50pc clean energy. This is going to be 82pc by 2030. Pakistan is at a large due to climate change, as it experienced 11 floods in the past 60 years.

According to him, the fossil fuel part of our energy will reduce from 86pc to 50pc. "We expect to add about 1,200 megawatts in our solar grid every year from now until 2034."

Delivering a keynote speech during another session, Dr Nadia Shah, an vice-chair of the Parliamentary Forum on Energy and Economy, highlighted steps can reduce both energy and economic crisis.

The summit's first day was marked by a rich exchange of ideas and expertise as various speakers explained the multifaceted challenges and opportunities surrounding the region's transition to sustainable energy.

Experts and panelists discussed the progress and hurdles faced by different sub-sectors, emphasising the need for tailored approaches to overcome barriers to the energy transition.

Dr Umar Khan, Assistant Professor at Tokyo A&M University, Mr Ali Habib, Dr Zeeshan Ullah Khan, Dr Taha S. Hashmi, Ergo Thomas Shabbir and others also spoke.

## FBR urged to extend returns date amid snags

By Asim Shafiq Khan

KARACHI: As the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has advised using the IRIS portal to file returns and verify tax deductions, the business community still faces difficulty filing their tax returns.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) President Ghulam Ahsan Shabbir said several traders have approached the chamber complaining that the FBR's portal for filing tax returns is not working.

There are limitations to the FBR's online system. As a result, the tax filing system remains unresponsive for the business class.

Considering the system's problems, the KCCI chief urged the FBR to extend the returns filing date by one month.

He said traders have also shared grievances regarding errors in the IRIS portal and the unavailability of FBR's server.

Federations of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Arif Hayat Sheikh also highlighted the technical difficulties and delays in filing income tax returns and sought a month's extension in a special case meant to enable the system to handle the increasing volume and flow.

Mr Arif said FPCCI has been urging the FBR to simplify the tax return system to attract and increase tax returns from individuals, in particular, in light of the previous 10 per cent minimal interest to make an error victims as possible in filing their returns. He added that the more Pakistan's economy is inclusive, formal and diversified, the more it will be acceptable for external financing from international financial institutions and lenders.

He said FBR needs to expedite digitalisation for many business like integrating business involvement, using time and resources of the return filers, reducing documentation errors, improving systems and procedural efficiency and curtailing complexities, penalties and discrepancies.

The FPCCI chief said that the FBR and Pakistan Revenue Authority had missed important deadlines regarding issuance of return forms as given in rule 20A(2)(v), (3), and (4) where, it is provided that the draft about form and manual return forms were to be released and made available by Jan 1, 2024. However, the same were issued on June 21.



PARAGAN saw a surge of 80pc in rice exports to \$3.80bn in FY24 from \$2.16bn in the preceding year. —AP/Photo

## Minimum export price for rice withdrawn

Exporters fear move to decrease Pakistan's export earnings, lead to pricing war with India

By Muhammad Zub Khan

BELGAUM: The Ministry of Commerce has withdrawn the minimum export price (MEP) for rice, a move expected to lead to a decrease in export value and increase order-bidding during the current fiscal year.

In November last year, the ministry had notified the MEP for several types of rice, leaving minimal margin for Indian-based buyers to export Pakistani rice under their trademarks. The apparent reason for this decision was the Indian government's ban on rice exports, while Indian-based buyers needed rice to supply to their buyers.

The ministry has now issued a notification to revoke the November 2023 notification. The Indian government has reduced its prohibition on rice exports, effective October 1.

While exporters and importers export Standard Indian Khairi told FPCCI that the ministry's decision to withdraw the MEP will lead to a pricing war between Pakistan and India. He feared that Pakistan's rice export value will suffer as the country may not receive the same value of its rice exports.

He added that the value of transfer pricing and underreported exports will be increased. India had stated for Pakistan to react similarly as that they could lose Pakistani exporters with their own production of rice and basmati rice. He warned that while the commerce ministry's decision may have been an easy way, it will ultimately result in a decline in Pakistan's rice export earnings.

In FY24, Pakistan's rice exports reached \$3.8 billion, up from \$2.16bn in the previous year, reflecting an 80 per cent increase. The growth in quantity was 50pc during the year under review.

A Karachi-based leading rice exporter told Dawn on Saturday that due to the commerce ministry's 2023 notification, there was an agreement between the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP). Under this system, REAP provided minimum pricing for specific rice types to the TDAP's subcommittee with certain conditions. However, in November 2023, the commerce ministry revoked this arrangement and unilaterally issued a notification mandating MEP prices for rice varieties. REAP was dissatisfied with this decision as the SBP for certain varieties was set higher

than REAP, has repeatedly demanded adjustments for a few types.

According to the exporter, the ministry's violation of the MEP due to two main developments, declining rice prices in the international market and the possibility that Indian-based buyers exporters might switch their buying to Indian farmers at lower prices. Now, India, however, has been in India they rise from Pakistan, though it is globally, allowing Indian buyers to dominate key markets while Pakistan rice exporters increasingly rely on those beneficiaries of their rice.

The new REAP chairman will convene after on September 30, and according to the exporter, he will address the issue with the TDAP. Without the MEP, Pakistan risks falling to meet last year's export value, even with a good harvest.

Contrary to this, an official spokesperson from the commerce ministry stated that the decision to withdraw the MEP was taken on the direction of Commerce Minister Ishaq Dar, based on a request from REAP. According to the statement, the MEP was initially introduced last year in response to rising global rice prices and India's ban on rice exports. However, with the recent decline in international rice prices and India lifting its export ban, the MEP has become a barrier for Pakistani rice exporters in the global market.

## Mining industry struggles with valuation gap

LONDON: Leading mining companies are struggling to balance investor expectations for high returns with pursuing the necessary investments to meet global demand for the metal and rare earth minerals.

The diversified miners including Rio Tinto, BHP Group and Glencore, pressured by a slowdown in global economic growth and falling commodity prices, are watching real copper production gradually grow beyond their reach, with shares benefiting from the metal's robust outlook.

While shares of Rio, BHP and Glencore have slipped between 10 per cent and 15pc this year, the valuations of pure play copper producers including Freeport-McMoan, Ivanhoe Mines and Tech Resources have risen, even as benchmark copper prices retreated after hitting a record high above \$4,000 per tonne in May this year.

"Considering the large copper deficit under the bounds of diversified miners, when fluctuations in other commodities, like iron ore and coal, are likely to persist, a banker who has worked on several mining transactions, told Reuters.

"Add some copper companies have performed better, diversified miners find it challenging to put massive premiums when their share prices have dropped near to zero points," the banker added.—Reuters

## India allows non-basmati exports

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday allowed exports of non-basmati white rice exports as incentives to the world's biggest exporter of the grain stepped and farmers are set to harvest a new crop in the coming weeks.

New Delhi set a floor price for non-basmati exports at \$690 per tonne, a government order said.

India on Friday reduced export duty on parboiled rice to 10 per cent from 20pc, earlier, a move that will lower its export prices, boost shipments and boost con-

suming countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan, and Myanmar to reduce their prices as well.

India imposed various export duties on rice in 2023 and continued them in 2024 to keep local prices in check ahead of the April-June national elections.

The government earlier this month reduced a floor price for basmati rice exports to help thousands of farmers who complained about a lack of access to lucrative overseas markets such as Europe, the Middle East and the United States.—Reuters

## Shanghai bourse to run test

BEIJING: China's Shanghai Stock Exchange will experiment with its futures and options in the platform on Monday, the financial newspaper Times reported on Saturday, a day after an unexplained transaction delay.

Futures trading on its index at the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index expanded with a Chinese stock rally that followed official announcements of a slow recovery, liquidity and fiscal stimulus this week.

All market participants can participate in Saturday's test, which will seek to identify issues with processing a large number of orders during the market process, the report said. The test will include a normal day's trading and clearing.—Reuters

## Bearish week on PSX despite IMF deal

By Muhammad Kasif

KARACHI: Despite receipt of the much-awaited first tranche of \$1.01 billion following approval of the new 37-month \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility by the International Monetary Fund's executive board on Sept 25, the benchmark KSE 100 index closed last ongoing week on a bearish note.

The market's overall depressed performance due to investors' worries about the potential impact of stringent IMF conditions, which could lead to double-digit inflation in the

current fiscal year due to heavy industrial taxation and expensive energy, the realisation of inflation, etc.

Throughout the week, political tensions continued to fuel negative sentiments, which made foreign investors uneasy. However, on the eve of the IMF board meeting, a strong rally pushed the benchmark index to its highest ever closing at 82,242.92.

Analysts said that IMF deal and the market remained mixed throughout the week despite the KSE 100 index reaching an all-time high last Friday as investors and fund holders \$2,000 on profit-taking made by foreign

investors in the last two sessions.

Expectations of profit and dividend by institutional investors in the first two quarters of the current fiscal year, \$224.7 million during July-Aug FY25 against \$49.6m in the corresponding period last year. The oil for another in August increased by 50pc to average of \$135.6m.

The State Bank of Pakistan reported a modest increase of \$28 million to \$75 billion in its reserves month-over-month, reaching the highest level since July 2023, without this being the source of this month's inflow. The report approved

and gas marketing companies (BMC) profit and revenue 154 percent.

Respective profit contributions were Fertiliser (855 percent), Shoked Bank Ltd (470 percent), Bank Al-Habab Ltd (25 percent), Oil and Gas Development Company (26 percent), and First Fertiliser (56 percent).

Meanwhile, negative contributions came from Hali Power (195 percent), Mari Petroleum Ltd (184 percent), Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (107 percent), Ergo Corporation (95 percent), and Bank Al-Habab (71 percent).

Foreign selling continued clock-

# Nine killed in Russian strikes on Ukraine hospital

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian strikes on a hospital in the Ukrainian border city of Stryi killed nine people on Saturday, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned Moscow for "bringing war to hospitals".

Stryi lies just across the border from Russia's Kursk region, where Kiev launched a shock offensive on Aug. 6, aimed in part at creating a "buffer zone" inside Russia. "Russia hit one of the city's hospitals with Shakhed missiles," Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram and explained on Twitter that the toll had risen to nine dead and 12 injured.

The attack comes as Zelenskyy is pressing Kiev's Western allies to allow the use of long-range precision weapons to strike deep inside Russia. "Everyone in the world who speaks about this war must pay attention to what Russia is doing. They are waging war on hospitals, civilian airports, and people's lives," the president said. Ukrainian Prime Minister Shmyhal said the attack was "another evidence of Russia's war of terror".

Zelenskyy posted photos of smoke pouring from the roof above the destroyed entrance to the hospital, with debris and the remains of the main and fronting two entrances lying on the ground.

On Saturday morning, three drones attacked the regional capital city and two hit the hospital, Ukraine's air force said. A first strike was followed by another around an hour later on Saturday evening, officials said, apparently targeting the civilian operation to ease their conditions. —AFP



An aerial view of damaged houses after Hurricane Helene made landfall in the west coast of Florida, on Saturday. —AFP

# Storm kills 44 in US, leaves millions without power

Helene travelled over exceptionally warm ocean waters in the Gulf of Mexico

CELEBRITY KEY: Nearly four million Americans were still in the dark and many faced structural flooding on Saturday, just hours after the powerful storm Helene struck the southeastern United States, leaving at least 44 people dead.

Catastrophic damage had been inflicted across multiple states since Helene struck the Florida coast as a Category 4 hurricane and moved north, leaving roads, homes and businesses underwater — many of them destroyed.

Power had been restored in some areas since night fell over the region Friday, but nearly four million customers were still without electricity across 10 states in the early hours of Saturday, according to tracker poweroutages.us, with US meteorologists warning of possible "long-duration" outages.

While Helene had weakened to a post-tropical cyclone, it has continued to wreak havoc with heavy rains that the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said could result in "catastrophic and potentially life-threatening flood and urban threat".

More evacuations were ordered overnight in Kentucky as flooding threatened to reach dams in North Carolina and Tennessee.

The National Weather Service (NWS) issued an extreme riverine flood warning on the verge of failure and rapid downstream deterioration to "move rapidly to higher ground." Record-breaking river flooding hit several southern states, the NWS said, with massive flooding reported in Asheville, a city in western North Carolina. "This is one of the worst storms to impact history for parts of western North Carolina," says Governor Roy Cooper, said in a briefing on Friday night.

In Florida's Sebring, an inland city of 200 people just off Florida's north coast, the fall destruction here of the last storm was on view. Record, partial-colored, weather balloons were completely destroyed, victims of storm surge and tornadoes.

"I've lived here my whole life, and it breaks my heart to see it," said Clabe Doby, superintendent of Cedar Key's water and sewer district. "We've not really been able to catch a break around here."

Up to 12 inches of rain was forecast in the Appalachian mountains, with isolated spots even receiving 21 inches. In South

# Nine drown, 48 missing as migrant boat sinks near Spain

MAJORCA, A boat carrying migrants captured off Spain's Canary Islands overnight, killing at least nine and leaving 48 missing, the national maritime rescue service said on Saturday.

Eighteen people were on board and 27 were rescued after rescuers responded to a distress call received shortly after midnight from off El Hierro, one of the islands in the Atlantic archipelago, a statement said.

The rescue in the early September when their boat sank off Majorca while attempting a similar crossing to the Canary Islands from migrants' flight to reach mainland Europe. Thousands of migrants have fled in recent years setting off into the Atlantic to reach Europe onboard overcrowded and often dilapidated boats.

The latest tragedy "again condemns the governments of the Atlantic basin", Canary regional president Fernando Clavijo told on X. "We need Spain and the EU to act decisively in the face of a structural humanitarian tragedy," he said. "We are not 'merely' from Europe's southern border", he added.

In late August, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez stated Majorca's role and the Canary Islands' cooperation agreements to reach shore as people awaiting entry to legal immigration. As of Aug. 15, 22,304 migrants had reached the Canary Islands since the start of the year, up from 9,864 in the same period the previous year. Almost 40,000 migrants entered the Canary Islands in 2023, a record on account of broken this year as more irregular conditions from September tend to lead to a spike in crossing attempts. —AFP

# UK navy officer laid to rest in Sri Lanka after 25-year delay

COLOMBO, A British naval officer's wish to have his ashes scattered at a strategic base in Sri Lanka has been granted 25 years after his death, officials said on Saturday.

Lieutenant Norman Schofield had served as a communications officer at Trincomalee, a key strategic port for Allied troops in the island nation's civil war during World War II. Schofield's wish was held up by bureaucratic hurdles, with Sri Lanka's navy saying it was unable to do so until the country had established a defence ministry.

His wife Marnie's ashes were also flown to Sri Lanka to be scattered together at Trincomalee on Saturday. —AFP

Lankan sailors formed a guard of honour while the Last Post was played, with two stars containing ashes placed on a pedestal in front of the Great Hall.

"Honouring the officer's final wish, his and his wife's ashes were scattered at our most beautiful base, Naval Headquarters Trincomalee, a place he held dear to his heart," the Sri Lanka navy said.

Navy Chief Pravintha Perera was present at the ceremony alongside British diplomat David Woods. "Today is a very historic day for the British defence who try to represent the United Kingdom around the world as we gather to bid a final farewell to Royal Navy officer Lieutenant Norman Schofield and his wife Marnie," Woods said. Two relatives of the Schofields were also present, the navy added. —AFP

# UK lawmaker quits Labour over PM's 'staggering hypocrisy'

LONDON, The government of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer saw its first resignation on Saturday, as lawmaker Rishi Daftlid quit the Labour Party, accusing him of "staggering hypocrisy" over his acceptance of free gifts.

In his resignation letter, Daftlid denounced Starmer for "staggering hypocrisy" and "staggering hypocrisy". "The claims, inquiries and expenses are all the same," he wrote, after it emerged earlier this month that Starmer had accepted more than 100,000 pounds in gifts and hospitality while serving an annual 500 pounds winter housing payment to politicians.

Daftlid also attacked the prime minister's decision to maintain a cap on a benefit aimed at supporting families with children.

"Someone with far above-average wealth choosing to keep the Conservative two-child limit to benefit payments which exacerbates children in poverty, while simultaneously accepting expensive private gifts of designer suits and glasses costing more than most of these people can grasp — this is utterly indefensible of holding the title of Labour Prime Minister," he wrote.

Daftlid said that she would be known as an independent MP "guided by my own Labour values". —AFP

# Kamala vows migration crackdown, reform as she finally visits border

DENVER, Kamala Harris pledged on Friday she would tighten the border and fix America's broken immigration system on her first visit to the US-Mexico border on a presidential visit.

The US vice president is playing catch-up on immigration, with a majority of Americans saying they trust Republican rival Donald Trump more than her on one of the most important issues for voters ahead of November's election.

In a speech in Douglas, Arizona before a friendly audience, Harris vowed to establish a tough, one-stop migration line with a promise to

reach across the aisle to fix an immigration system she said was broken. "The United States is a sovereign nation, and I believe we have a duty to set rules at our border and enforce them, and take that responsibility very seriously," she said.

"We are also a nation of immigrants, and we must reform our immigration system to ensure that it works in an orderly way, that it is humane and that it makes our country stronger," Harris said in part. "I hope that the world will see a Democratic border that Trump 'verified' last year, which would add 1,500 border agents and pay for 100 miles to

strengthen the border." "The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political agendas," Harris said.

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with border patrol officials and was photographed alongside the distinctive metal chain. It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden took the Democratic Party nomination in June, and Republicans have been moved for its reopening.

Arizona is one of the Southwestern battleground states expected to decide the upcoming close Nov. 5

election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Migration

Harris earlier Harris spoke by video from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 new citizens received in 2023, including more than 11,000 who have citizenship for naturalization. Trump kept up the pace, saying those people had been "by one of our best and brightest".

Trump claimed — wrongly — that the numbers referred to people who

had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration. In fact, the figures give no details on how long those people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in custody for decades. "These are people who, generally, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Matlack of the American Immigration Council said. Matlack added that, under Trump, there were also millions of people who were living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records. —AFP



TAICHUNG (Taiwan): People attend the birthday of Confucius to commemorate Teachers' Day at a Confucius temple, on Saturday. —Reuters



CAPE CANAVERAL: SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the Crew-5 shuttle lifts off for the International Space Station, on Saturday. The shuttle is carrying two astronauts and has been empty since it was sent to Earth two crew members stranded at the ISS since June due to technical issues with their Soyuz Starliner. —AFP



TEIJAS: A view of Corcové (2023) AS, known as the 'corner of the century', before dawn on Saturday from the Spanish island of Gran Canaria. —Reuters

# NEWSMAKERS



TOKYO: A woman reacts after visiting the panda enclosure at Ueno Zoo on Saturday, the last day of viewing before they are sent back to China. —AFP

# Japanese bid farewell to zoo pandas before return to China

TOKYO, Thousands of thankful, well-wishers gathered in a Tokyo zoo on Saturday to bid an emotional farewell to a pair of beloved pandas before their imminent return to China.

Spotting T-shirts, hats and even umbrellas featuring the black and white bears, visitors shed tears, took selfies and eagerly waved at the Bi and Shan Shan on the pandas' complex's porch. The pandas arrived in Tokyo's Ueno Zoological Garden.

More than 2,000 panda lovers turned long queues outside the zoo, some having spent the whole night there armed with picnic baskets and camping chairs. Among the most emotional was Mayuko Sumida, 44, who said she had arrived around 10pm the previous night, carrying with her panda-shaped key rings. "I'm overwhelmed," she said after

admitting the time for the last time.

"I'm the last one that gets to see them and say goodbye to them," she said. The pandas are increasingly popular around the world, and China likes them out as part of a "public diplomacy" programme to foster foreign ties. The pandas Bi Bi and Shan Shan arrived at Ueno Zoo in 2011 and were due to stay until Feb 2025, but Japan and China agreed a would-be deal for the 19-year-olds to return to their home country in light of their declining health.

They will be transported back to China on Sunday. On Saturday, a crowd of visitors were in place at the zoo to watch the pair after giving them just a few minutes to adore and photograph the pair through the glass. —AFP



AMRITSAR: Protesters throw bags of burnt rice along a street, on Saturday. —AFP



DHAKA: Dnyupa patterns receive treatment at a hospital, on Saturday. —AFP

# Thousands sleep on streets as Israel strafes Beirut

BEIRUT: Thousands of residents in Beirut's densely packed southern districts carried out overnight protests, public squares and makeshift shelters after Israeli airstrikes on Tuesday left a trail of destruction and fear.

"I expected the war to end, but I thought it would be limited to military targets, not civilians, homes, and children," said Sarah Nasr, 35, who spent the night in a friend's home.

Photographers saw families spend the night in the open, women

instead of in Lebanon's capital since the Hezbollah and Israel last week in 2006. "I didn't even pack my clothes, I never thought we would leave like this and suddenly find ourselves on the streets," Nasr said.

Israeli jets pounded Beirut's south and its suburbs throughout the night, and Beirut woke up to the aftermath of a night of war, smoke billowing from Beirut in several places.

"What will happen?"

"The streets are afraid of what

may happen, I don't see today without knowing where I'm going, what will happen to me, and whether I will survive," Nasr said.

Despite a night of intense strikes, the extent of the devastation and the casualty toll was still unclear. Hezbollah's Al Manar television broadcast footage from southern Beirut that showed destroyed buildings, streets filled with rubble and clouds of smoke and dust above the area known as Dahiya, Martyr Square, Beirut's main public space, was filled with residential and work-

ing buildings hanging out in the open. "The bombing started at night and our house started shaking," said an angry Hala El-Amin, 55, who slept in the square after fleeing the city of Haratnash neighborhood in Dahiya when strikes took place.

"Children's screams"

"What did the Lebanese people do to deserve this?" she asked, adding that her house had been destroyed by Israeli strikes during the 2006 war. "They want to wage

war but what wrong did we do?" she said after nearly a year of cross-border violence between Israel and Hezbollah which says it is acting in support of its ally Hamas in Gaza.

"We don't have to go through what happened in Gaza," El-Amin said of Israel's campaign against the Hamas-run Palestinian territory that has left more than 41,500 dead, according to the health ministry there.

When El-Amin hopes to see the Hezbollah's return, her husband

strictly discouraged. "We are scared, but we shouldn't be the only ones to get this pain," he said.

Hala's 16-year-old son, 21, described a "very difficult night" after fleeing Dahiya to sleep in Martyr Square with her family. "Myself, I would never forget the children's screams," she said.

"We're going back home in the southern suburbs, but we're scared," she added.

"It's impossible to live in this country any more," —AFP

# Hashem Safieddine tipped as successor to Nasrallah

Hezbollah's deputy chief Naim Qassem takes charge as a stop-gap move before the Shura elects new secretary general

BEIRUT: Hashem Safieddine, a potential successor to his close cousin Hassan Nasrallah, is one of Hezbollah's most prominent figures and has deep religious and family ties to Iran.

Safieddine bears a striking resemblance to his charismatic predecessor Nasrallah but in several ways his junior, aged in his late 50s or early 60s. A more close to Hezbollah said the grey-haired, bespectacled Safieddine was the "most likely" candidate for party's top job.

As head of the executive council, Safieddine oversees Hezbollah's political affairs. Safieddine's public statements often reflect Hezbollah's mili-

tary stance and its alignment with the Palestinian cause. At a recent event in Dahiya, Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs, he declared, "Our history, our goals and our resolve are with Iran" in a show of solidarity with Palestinian fighters.

The United States and Saudi Arabia and Safieddine, who is a member of Hezbollah's governing decision-making Shura Council, on their respective lists of designated "terrorists" in 2017. The US Treasury described him as "a senior leader" in Hezbollah and "a key member" of its executive.

He has also been vocal in his criticism of US policy. In response to American pressure on Hezbollah, he said in 2017, "The currently imposed, tiny US administration headed by Trump will not be able to harm the resistance," asserting that such actions would only strengthen Hezbollah's resolve.

While Hezbollah's deputy chief Naim Qassem traditionally takes over the Hezbollah

leadership after Nasrallah's death, the Shura Council must first elect a new secretary



A JULY 4 live photo shows Hezbollah leader Hashem Safieddine speaking during the funeral of Mohammed Hussein, a commander who was killed during an Israeli strike in Beirut. —Reuters

general Safieddine has strong ties with Iran after studying religious studies in the holy city of Qom.

He was married to the daughter of General Qasim Soleimani, the commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards military operations arm, who was killed in a 2020 US strike in Iraq. Unlike Nasrallah, who lived in hiding for years, Safieddine has appeared openly at recent political and religious events.

Usually presenting a calm demeanor, he has topped the fiery rhetoric during the funerals of Hezbollah fighters killed in nearly a year of cross-border clashes with Israel. Nasrallah said his forces were acting in support of Hamas fighters.

Amal Saad, a Lebanese researcher at Cardiff University, said that for years people have been saying that Safieddine was "the most likely successor" to Nasrallah. "The next leader has to be on the Shura Council, which has a handful of members, and he has to have religious figures," she said.

Safieddine "has a lot of authority, but the strongest candidate" she added. —Agencies



DISPLACED people gather at Beirut's Martyr Square on Saturday as Israel strikes the city's southern suburbs. —Reuters

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
CENTER OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATION**

## VACANCY POSITIONS

Center of Digital Communication, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Islamabad requires services of qualified, energetic, experienced and motivated individuals for appointment against a PSOP Project "Digital Advancement Verification System (DAVS)" on following positions purely on contract basis:

S. No.	Name of Posts	Pay Scale	No. of Posts	Qualification, Experience, & Eligibility Criteria
1	Director (Digital)	PPS-4	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> Class or Grade "C" Master's degree (18 years of Education) in Computer Science/ Software Engineering, or equivalent degree from BIC recognized local or foreign university.</li> <li>12 years' post qualification experience in the field of Information Technology / System Analysis, having a strong understanding of digital and social media channels and analytics.</li> <li>Experience in managing projects and teams, with a demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and deliver results.</li> <li>Experience in regularly track and analyze digital analytics data to identify trends, insights, and opportunities for improvement.</li> <li>In-depth knowledge of digital marketing channels, tools, and techniques, including SEO, SEM, social media, email marketing, and content marketing.</li> <li>Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills, with a keen attention to detail.</li> <li>Minimum 10 years' experience in public sector will be preferred.</li> <li>Maximum Age 45 years.</li> </ul>
2	Deputy Director (Operations)	PPS-3	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Class or Grade "C" Master's/ Bachelor's degree (16 years of education) in Computer Science/ IT or equivalent degree from BIC recognized local or foreign university.</li> <li>10 years' experience in the field of Information Technology / System Analysis, having a strong understanding of digital and social media channels and analytics.</li> <li>Experience managing projects and teams, with a demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and deliver results.</li> <li>Experience in regularly track and analyze digital analytics data to identify trends, insights, and opportunities for improvement.</li> <li>In-depth knowledge of digital marketing channels, tools, and techniques, including SEO, SEM, social media, email marketing, and content marketing.</li> <li>Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills, with a keen attention to detail.</li> <li>Minimum 10 years' experience in public sector will be preferred.</li> <li>Maximum Age 45 years.</li> </ul>
3	Deputy Director (Dev Ops)	PPS-3	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Class or Grade "C" Master's/ Bachelor's degree (16 years of education) in Computer Science/ Software Engineering/ IT, or equivalent degree from BIC recognized local or foreign university.</li> <li>10 years' experience in the field of Information Technology / System Analysis, having a strong understanding of digital and social media channels and analytics.</li> <li>Experience managing projects and teams, with a demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and deliver results.</li> <li>Experience in regularly track and analyze digital analytics data to identify trends, insights, and opportunities for improvement.</li> <li>In-depth knowledge of digital marketing channels, tools, and techniques, including SEO, SEM, social media, email marketing, and content marketing.</li> <li>Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills, with a keen attention to detail.</li> <li>Minimum 10 years' experience in public sector will be preferred.</li> <li>Maximum Age 45 years.</li> </ul>
4	Assistant Director (Dev Ops)	PPS-7	02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Class or Grade "C" Master's/ Bachelor's degree (16 years of education) in Computer Science, Software Engineering/ IT, or equivalent degree from BIC recognized local or foreign university.</li> <li>8 Years post qualification experience in software analysis, design, and development, with a strong understanding of software architecture and development methodologies.</li> <li>Maximum Age 35 years.</li> </ul>
5	Technical Assistant	PPS-5	02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second Class or Grade "C" Bachelor's degree in Computer Science/ Cybersecurity/ or equivalent degree from BIC, recognized local or foreign university.</li> <li>Maximum Age 35 years.</li> </ul>
6	Help Desk	PPS-1	02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matric/ Primary</li> <li>Maximum Age 25/30 years.</li> </ul>

**General Terms and Conditions:**

- All the posts are on contract and place of posting as Islamabad.
- The actual contract shall be of one year (11) or greater tenure.
- Only short listed candidates will be called for the interview. No TA/ DA will be admissible.
- Mobility towards the right to fill the posts or withhold applications against the advertised posts.
- Discretionary weightage may apply for project posts through proper channel as per rules.
- The age relaxation shall be given as per Federal Government rules.

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- Test Fee can be paid via (Bank / Bill Participating Banks/ATM/Internet, Banking/Mobile Banking/Post/Post Cash/ICB Engine/Coastal) by downloading the challan from NTN website.
- Online Application Form shall incorporate, biometric, without the application, and submitted by hard copy will not be entertained.
- Only online filled Application Forms will be entertained. Hand written Application Forms will not be entertained.
- Separate Application Form and fee will be returned in case of applying for more than one category/post.
- For further information/related queries, please visit [www.ntn.org.pk](http://www.ntn.org.pk) or call at 011-3444441.

**Project Director (DAVS)**  
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FD/01/No-2491/24

## Pope criticised over his stance on women's role

BRUSSELS: Pope Francis was sharply criticised on Wednesday by one of Belgium's Catholic newspapers over his stance on the role of women in society in a strongly worded piece published in the paper's magazine.

Pope Francis visited the university on Saturday to celebrate its 600th anniversary as part of a weekend trip to Belgium. He spent largely quiet days in Brussels.

Francis was sharply criticised on Wednesday by one of Belgium's Catholic newspapers over his stance on the role of women in society in a strongly worded piece published in the paper's magazine.

The magazine, *Le Soir*, published an editorial titled "The Pope's message on women: a disappointment" which criticised the Pope's stance on women's role in society, particularly his views on women's ordination and the role of women in the Church.

The editorial stated that the Pope's message was "a disappointment" because it did not fully embrace the role of women in the Church and society. It argued that the Pope's views were "outdated" and "discriminatory".


The magazine also criticised the Pope's stance on women's ordination, stating that it was "a barrier to the full participation of women in the Church's life and mission".

The editorial concluded by calling for a more inclusive and progressive approach to women's role in the Church and society.

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# World powers warn of Israeli attack's repercussions

• China, Russia, France seek immediate, comprehensive ceasefire • Biden says US fully backs Israel's right to self-defence • Muslim states condemn assassination

**BEIRUT** With the spectre of all-out war looming over the Middle East, world powers warned of the potential repercussions of the October 7 attack on Israel. The UN General Assembly on Saturday called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire in the Middle East.

China Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the UN General Assembly on Saturday that there must not be a delay in reaching a "comprehensive ceasefire" in the Middle East, and that negotiations between Israel and Palestine must be the way out of the region's tensions.

Russia strongly condemned "yet another political assassination" in the Lebanese capital Beirut. Its foreign ministry said, "This heinous act is fraught with even greater dramatic consequences for Lebanon and the entire Middle East. The Israeli side could not fail to recognise this danger, but took the step of killing Lebanese citizens, which would a priori severely prejudice a new initiative of dialogue. Thus, it bears full responsibility for the subsequent escalations."

However, US President Joe Biden the United States fully supported Israel's right to defend itself and said he had directed Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to further bolster the US military forces in the Middle East, calling Hamas leader Nasrallah's killing "a measure of justice" for his many crimes.

Israel's chief of the general staff Herzl Halutz said Hamas leader Nasrallah "deliberately" assaulted Israeli civilians and "we and this war" with the destruction of Israel.

**France, Germany**

On the other hand, France called on Israel to stop its military operations against the Lebanese Islamic militant group Hezbollah. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said Paris wanted "an

immediate halt to Israeli actions in Lebanon" and was "opposed to any ground operation" in the Beirut region.

Also, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock warned of "spiral of violence" in Middle East, saying the situation is "extremely dangerous." There is a threat that this entire region will slip further into an absolute spiral of violence.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in a post on X, condemned the attacks as part of an Israeli policy of "terrorism, aggression, and racism" and said the Muslim world should show a more "determined" stance.

In another post on X, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Karuni wrote, "The glorious path of the leader of the revolution, Hassan Nasrallah, will continue and his sacred goal will be realised in the liberation of Quds (Jerusalem), God willing."

Iran's premier Mehmetul Mohi Al-Badrani said the killing showed "the reckless desire to expand the control of the region and their security and stability".

Also, the foreign ministry of Syria condemned the attack, saying "The Zionist entity (Israel) continues to expand through this despicable aggression, once again, its barbarism and its total disregard for all international standards and laws."

Pakistan president Mehmetul Abbas offered his condolences to the Lebanese government and people of Lebanon over the civilian casualties in the ongoing Israeli aggression.

Also, the Hamas in Gaza said Hezbollah in Yemen condemned the unprovoked Israeli aggression in the region. "We see them as the strongest forces that have been the aggressors and targeters of residential buildings, and we consider it a completely heinous act," Hamas said.—Agencies

# Nepal floods, landslides kill 66 people; 69 missing

**KATHMANDU** At least 66 people have been killed in Nepal since Friday as torrential downpours triggered flooding and landslides, closing major roads and disrupting domestic air travel, officials said on Saturday.

Home ministry official Dr. Kamesh Thapa said the death toll could rise, with another 69 people reported missing, and 50 injured since Friday morning.

Most of the deaths took place in the Kathmandu valley, where the flooding brought traffic and some services to a standstill.

International flights are operating, but many flights to Kathmandu have been disrupted, said Binu Sharma, a spokesman for Kathmandu airport.

Rescue workers used helicopters and other means to help people stranded on rooftops or elevated ground as parts of Kathmandu reported up to 122.2mm (4.84 inches) of rain. Officials were also looking to clear debris and remove roads after landslides blocked highways in 28 places, and police spokesman Dan Bahadur Bansk said.

Most rivers in the Himalayan region have swollen, making crop fields and bridges, authorities said, after nearly a week's delay in the onset of South Asia's annual monsoon rains through torrential downpours across the region.

"Heavy rains are likely to continue until Sunday morning," said Binu Sharma, a weather forecasting official at Kathmandu.—Reuters



A POLICEMAN carries an injured woman from an inflatable raft after being rescued from a flooded area near the bank of the overflowing Bagmati River following heavy rains in Kathmandu, on Saturday.—Reuters

# Over one billion tonnes of food wasted daily in 2022: UN report

**SRI-AMARAO** While 781 million people were affected by hunger and a third of humanity faced food insecurity, over one billion meals a day were wasted across all continents in 2022, according to the Food Waste Index Report 2024, released by UN Environment Programme to mark the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, being observed on Sunday.

In 2022, there were 1.05 billion tonnes of food waste generated, including inedible parts, amounting to 152 kilograms per capita and almost one-fifth of all food available to consumers.

"Food waste is a global tragedy. Millions will go hungry today as food is wasted across the world," said UNEP executive director Inger Andersen.

According to recent data, food loss and waste generation equate to 10% of

annual global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—about five times that of the aviation sector—and equate to a loss of productivity by taking up the equivalent of almost a third of the world's agricultural land.

The toll of both food loss and waste on the global economy is estimated at roughly \$1 trillion.

Developing nations are expected to particularly benefit from efforts to strengthen food waste reduction and circularity. Rural areas generally waste less food, with greater diversion of food scraps to pigs, chickens, and home composting or biogas production.

As of 2022, only 21 countries have included food loss and waste reduction in their national climate plans (NDCs). The 2025 NDCs revision process provides a key opportunity to raise climate ambition by integrating food loss

and waste. The Food Waste Index Report underscores the urgency of addressing food waste at both individual and systemic levels.

Reduced food loss and regular measurement are needed for countries to show climate progress. Thanks to implementation of policies and programmes, countries such as Japan and the UK show that change at scale is possible, with reductions of 10% and 18%, respectively.

The report also revealed that countries should use the Food Waste Index to measure food waste consistently, develop robust national baselines, and track progress. Very few countries have included robust food waste data, which is essential to understanding the scale of the problem, in targeting hotspots, and in assessing the efficacy of interventions.—Anis Ahmed



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# SPORT

## Guirassy double sparks Dortmund's inspiring comeback win over Bochum

**DORTMUND** A resilient Borussia Dortmund staged a spectacular comeback to beat VfL Bochum 4-2 in the Bundesliga on Friday thanks to a double from Serbian forward...

The 19-year-old Dortmund winger scored twice on 50 points, two-balled forward Bayern Munich who has three goals in the game...

Martin Terzic gave Dortmund an early lead in the 10th minute, finishing into Philipp Hoffmann's decisive pass and striking home past goalkeeper Constantin Kocher...

Markel Susaeta's strike looked increasingly desperate for a goal but was denied by a series of three saves from goalkeeper Karim Onisiwa, with the save coming from...

Dortmund got their attacking shape in the final third as the match shifted to the center of the arena just before the break from midfielder Julian Brandt's cross...

Bochum got their attacking shape in the final third as the match shifted to the center of the arena just before the break from midfielder Julian Brandt's cross...

"It was a great moment for Dortmund," said Dortmund coach Christian Streich. "It's great to have a player who has always a goal for a goal."

"We wanted to get off to a good start in the game, but unfortunately we were not able to do that. But we would like to say that if we scored two goals before halftime, we would be OK."

Substitute Felix Nwakaeme completed the rout with a long-range strike into the top corner from 25 yards as the hosts made amends for their first defeat of the season, a 2-1 thrashing as the hosts of VfL Bochum on Sunday...

"We got in early but we started slow as we started a short session of 11 can say in fact I think we deserved to win," Dortmund boss Stefan Effenberg added.

Dortmund will host Schalke in the Champions League on Tuesday before facing Union Berlin in the German topflight four days later. — Agencies



**BOCHUM** Dortmund's Serbian forward Guirassy (11) heads to score against VfL Bochum during their Bundesliga match at Signal Iduna Park. — Reuters

## Milan ease past Lecce with quick-fire goals

**MILAN, AC** Milan beat Lecce 3-0 on Friday as Alessio Romagnolo, Theo Hernandez and Christian Pulisic scored the way past before the break, scoring all goals inside five minutes.

Milan, who travel to Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League on Tuesday, previously scored up to second in the standings on 33 points, level with leaders Torino who beat Lazio on Sunday...



**AC MILAN** Alessio Romagnolo (17) fights for the ball with Lorenzo Cristofari of Lecce during their Serie A match at San Siro Stadium. — AFP

A largely unopposed first half ended in the 10th minute as Milan took the lead in the 38th minute with a towering header, making it three goals before the half ended in off the heads of the fans.

The Spaniard then scored his second goal for Milan after he had scored in their season opener 2-2 draw against Torino.

Hernandez doubled the advantage three minutes later with a shot into the roof of the net from a precise low cross by Rafael Leao.

With 29 goals to his name, the French left-back equalized Paulo Dybala as the defender with the most goals scored by Milan in Serie A history.

Pulisic added a third two minutes from half-time as he got to the rebound and struck into the bottom of the net, minutes after Torino beat Lazio on Sunday.

Lecce looked grim throughout the game as they searched for a chance to mount a comeback and had several 10 attempts were denied by 15 by Milan.

The team, however, remained to goal and Stefan Loftus-Cheek led the last in the second half.

Milan were left with 10 men in the 80th minute after substitute Davide Faraone was sent off for his tackle on Lecce winger Luisuk Berish. — Agencies

## Pakistan's SAFF U-17 final hopes dashed in heartbreaking loss

**THOMPSON** Pakistan's Under-17 football team suffered an agonizing semi-final defeat to Bangladesh in the SAFF Championship, losing 2-1 in a hard-fought penalty shootout at the Changchun Stadium in Harbin.

Having taken a 1-0 lead, Pakistan's youngsters were unable to maintain a spirited Bangladesh comeback, which forced the match into overtime after a dramatic 2-2 draw in regular time.

According to the terms of the tournament, no extra time was given after 90 minutes and the game went to the shoot-out.

Mahabub Alam's blistering strike from a corner gave Pakistan the advantage and Akmal Hossain's penalty in the 10th minute seemed to put the national team in control.

However, Bangladesh staged an impressive half-back, with Mahabub Alam's partner in the field, the 17th minute and substitute Masek replacing in the fourth minute of overtime.

The intense penalty shootout saw both teams convert their first five attempts, sending the match into sudden death.

But Bangladesh's goalkeeper made a crucial save on Pakistan's eighth shot, paving the way for the winning strike that sealed their spot in the final.

Bangladesh will face India, who defeated Nepal 2-1 in the other semi-final, on Monday. — Agencies

## Pakistan to feature in Asia Rugby Sevens

**LAHORE** Pakistan will compete in the Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy, starting in Kathmandu on Oct 4.

Overall, 24 men's and eight women's teams of 17 countries from all five continents of Asia have confirmed their participation, said a press release issued by the Pakistan Rugby Federation on Saturday.

"Significantly placed on the regional agenda, the Asia Rugby Sevens Cup is an important and Asia Rugby Federation Sevens Trophy, the decision to stage the tournament was made due to a few years of planning and to foster a more competitive environment. This change ensures that every participating team has an equal shot at winning promotion to the East Asia Sevens Series. The men's competition, originally set for 12 teams, now includes 14 nationalities," the release added.

"The countries competing in the men's event include Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan while the women's teams are China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan." — Sports Reporter

## Paul stunned by Machac at Japan Open

**TOKYO** Nick and Tommy Paul became the latest top players to make an early exit at the Japan Open when he lost 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2) to Yannick Hanin in the second round on Saturday.

The American's departure means only two of the eight seeds are still marching in Tokyo.

Top seed Taylor Fritz, number three Casper Ruud, fourth seed Stefanos Pappas and number seven Kei Nishikori all lost in the first round.

Hanin, a 30-year-old player from Japan, took his victory over Paul, who had a 6-2 record in 2024.

Hanin's opponent was world number one Nick Kyrgios, who lost to Hanin's opponent, the 22-year-old Japanese player.

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Paul said he was looking to win his first career title.

"The past couple of years in and out of court is just trying to be a normal person, but it's been a struggle."

Paul was five straight games in the first set, but Machac came roaring back in the second set that he went for total himself 3-0 down in the final set.

"He's a great player," said Paul. "I had a good match, but I had a bad day today. I was playing well but he was just better today."

Machac's quarter-final opponent will be American Alex Michalek, who beat Australia's Christopher O'Connell 6-1, 6-4.

Japan's Kei Nishikori also reached the quarter-finals with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Australia's Jordan Thompson.

Nishikori, 31, has been plagued by injuries and he returned to Grand Slam competition at the French Open in May after an absence of about three years.

He was in surprise there as he lost to Thompson in the 22nd, but he refused to get carried away with his performance.

"It's just one match, I can't let my guard down," said Nishikori. "I'm just trying to win the match and that's all that matters to me."

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## Ahetsham and Romesa crowned champions at national tennis

By Arman Ali Khan

**KARACHI** Ahetsham Durrani and Romesa Malik emerged triumphant in the Under-18 category while Muhammad Hassan clinched the Under-18 crown at the BC Judo, Solar National Judo and Badminton Tournaments held here at Karachi Club on Friday.

In the boys U-18 final, Durrani staged a remarkable comeback against Ahadshah Tahir winning 5-7, 7-6(7), 5-3.

The 17-year-old Ahetsham's unconventional approach in the first set backfired as he went for some short, ping-pong style shots and eventually losing the set.

The second set proved to be a nail-biting affair as Ahetsham started strongly, taking a 1-0 lead as Ahadshah fought back. Both players traded games in a series of deuce but Durrani eventually won.

Ahetsham proved to be the fresher cat in the final as he easily won 7-1 and sealed the title. In the decisive third set, Ahetsham required his experience, dominating his opponent and convincingly serving the set to claim the title.

"I was playing too slow in the first set and losing my concentration," Ahetsham told Dawn. "Later, I started playing my natural attacking game, and that's where I was able to dominate."

This was a home win for the girls Under-18 final as Romesa got a walk over win against Hiba Waqar who suffered an injury during the match.

Durrani picked the trophy during the award ceremony against Ahadshah Tahir, in which she was trailing 6-5, 6-3.

She also signed up for the U-18 final, defeating Khadija Khalid of Lahore in a tight set 6-2, 2-4, 4-2.

Khalid suffered another setback as Romesa defeated her to win the Under-12 crown, winning 5-3, 5-3.

The boys Under-14 final saw Muhammad registering a straight 5-3, 4-1 against Razaq Tahir. Razaq later made amends as he fought the U-14 doubles with Iqbal Afridi.

In the doubles final, the duo of Muhammad Azeem and Romesa Malik secured an 8-5 win over Khadija Khalid and Iqbal Afridi.

Ahmed Imran bagged the Under-10 title while Ali Zeeshan clinched the Under-8 crown.

In the 15-plus division, Tahir Waheed and Romesa Malik clinched the title as well.

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# Sinner 'very disappointed' as doping case reignites with WADA appeal

**BEIJING** Jannik Sinner said on Saturday he was "very disappointed" but confident after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appealed the decision to strip him of his second Grand Slam title.

The Italian world number one had tested positive for traces of the banned substance clozapine in March but was exonerated and allowed to carry on playing.

The 23-year-old went on to win the US Open earlier this month for his second major crown, weeks after the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) found he had "acted in a negligent manner."

The ITIA accepted his explanation that the drug entered his system when his physiotherapist used a spray containing it to treat a bruise.

China's Zheng Qinwen, who lost to Sinner in the quarter-final of the US Open, said she was "disappointed but not surprised."

"We had three hearings. All three hearings came out very positively for me."



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# Sustained quality, ruthlessness vital for Pakistan: Gillespie

By Our Sports Reporter

LONDON: Red-ball coach Jason Gillespie says Pakistan will need to show sustained quality and added ruthlessness if they are to challenge formidable teams like England in a home series starting early next month.

"We showed glimpses of quality in the [recent] home Test series against Bangladesh, where we were really driving the game forward. We played some excellent cricket. [But] the issue was that we didn't sustain it long enough. When we allowed our opponents to get into the game, they capitalised and pulled ahead. That's where we let ourselves down," Gillespie said in a podcast released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday.

"So, what we need is a lot more ruthlessness. When we're ahead, we need to stay ahead and make sure we really drive home that advantage," added the former Australian Test fast bowler.

"That's the main takeaway from the Bangladesh series. There was some very good work done, but when we had a lead back, it really let us down. We need to sustain those good periods and maximize the

good ones," said Gillespie, who played 71 Tests from 1999-2010, claiming 250 wickets. Pakistan, led by Shah Mirza, are under pressure to perform against a top-quality side like England — who are third on ICC Test rankings — after suffering an earlier crushing 2-0 home series sweep against Bangladesh earlier this month.

England are scheduled to play a three-Test series to Pakistan starting in Multan on Oct 7.

On Pakistan's chances in the forthcoming series against England, Gillespie said the home series to be at their best to tackle a strong side led by Ben Stokes.

"Well, Test cricket is exciting, isn't it? And to play against a team like England, it's certainly exciting. It's a great opportunity to play in our home country. We have a really top-quality side against England, but we also recognise that they're a very good cricket team and we need to play really well. So, our focus is going to be on playing disciplined, consistent Test cricket and staying in the game," he said.

"It was a bit of an exception and not a common pattern, the result for Pakistan was quite mixed. What I realised that Pakistan were quite weak in home by England two years

ago and now suffered a series sweep to Bangladesh, the Australians will be looking for the right time to take the lead.

"As I mentioned earlier, it's about being ruthless when you're ahead. Once you gain the advantage, you have to find a way to sustain it," he emphasised.

"To be fair, Bangladesh played very well during certain periods, and they certainly took the advantage back from us. So, we need to ensure we don't leave the door open for our opponents."

On whether his players were capable of addressing these gaps and continuing to set these important moments, Gillespie sounded optimistic.

"I really believe in them. There's been a lot of discussion about the squad, whether we should make changes, bring on new players or, or take others out. But I'm a big believer in consistency and in backing and supporting players," the 49-year-old coach expressed.

"We've got many fine cricketers in Pakistan, and for this [England] series, we had some really good discussions as a selection group. We debated honestly and openly and, regardless, we decided to back and support our players and those already around the squad."

Asked about using former Kiwi captain and former Pakistan All-rounder Iftikhar Ahmed as a specialist batsman for the England series, the Test team coach said he was in contact with the dropped players on the subject.

"After the selections were made, they were communicated to the players, and I did touch up with Iftikhar communication. I let them know that if they wanted to have their conversations, my door was open. The players understood that," he said.

"What I'm learning is that the players understand my philosophy on selections. We want to back [the players]."

He continued, "We'll look to manage our bowling, given the amount of cricket coming up across all formats. So, we may see some changes here and there with the bowlers, but with the batting group, I want to show faith and provide support."

On how Pakistan could take benefit from the absence of key English players including James Anderson (cervical), Mark Wood and Ollie Robinson, Gillespie said remaining well-prepared and focused was crucial regardless of whom representing England.

"You need to have three quality reserve level cricketers, and we expect that

always. However, we can only prepare to play against the players that England has selected. While some of their players might be a bit inexperienced, they do show that they can perform at the Test level.

"We need to ensure that we are as well-prepared and focused as possible to go well and deliver our best."

In a question, Gillespie said he had never visited Multan, where Pakistan will play England in their second Test from Oct 7 to 10, but had to access the details here.

"I've communicated with Tracy Hastings, the head curator, who has provided back to back on what we can expect."

When asked to comment on 'batball' — an aggressive style of play in Tests adopted by England two years ago, Gillespie said every team had their own method.

"It's very clear from England's approach their cricketers. I don't particularly like the term 'batball' but they do play aggressive cricket. We've seen them evolve their game and that's how they want to play," he said.

"We will play our way, striving to be a consistent and disciplined team that hangs in there and makes the right decisions to drive the game forward and exploit gaps. That's our strategy," Gillespie concluded.

## City held without Rodri as Palmer's four-goal haul fires Chelsea

LONDON: Manchester City held the absence of star midfielder Rodri as the Premier League champions were held to a draw by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, United while Cole Palmer scored four goals in Chelsea's 4-2 win against Brighton and Harry Kane scored twice for the visitors.

Manchester City held the absence of star midfielder Rodri as the Premier League champions were held to a draw by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, United while Cole Palmer scored four goals in Chelsea's 4-2 win against Brighton and Harry Kane scored twice for the visitors.

City's second successive draw in the league was especially frustrating as Arsenal climbed above them with a four-goal win against Leicester City a few days later.

Chelsea's victory was their first in the Premier League since January, but they were still in the relegation zone.

Rodri has been ruled out for the rest of the season after surgery on a knee injury suffered in last week's fixture, a 2-2 draw with Tottenham.

Palmer's four-goal haul was a record for a Chelsea player in a Premier League match.

Chelsea's victory was their first in the Premier League since January, but they were still in the relegation zone.

Palmer completed his remarkable 40-goal season in the 11th minute, ending a brilliant finish that left Chelsea leading by two goals.

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## Livingstone-inspired England thrash Aussies to level series

LONDON: Liam Livingstone's stirring century helped level the Test series between England and Australia in the fourth day's play at Lord's on Saturday.

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NEW ZEALAND opener Devon Conway plays a reverse sweep during the second Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Saturday.—AFP

## Sri Lanka scent series win as NZ batting wilts

GALLE: Sri Lanka were just five wickets away from a crushing second Test and series victory over New Zealand on Saturday, with the tourists 195-5 at stumps on the third day, having followed on after collapsing to 88 all out in their first innings.

Tom Blundell was run out on 42 and Devon Conway on 32 when he had 150 runs and was out to play in the Galle International Stadium after a brilliant century in the first Test.

Blundell's century was a record for a New Zealand batsman in a Test match.

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## Day two of India-BD Test washed out

KANPUR: The second day's play was called off in India's weather-plagued second Test against Bangladesh without a ball being bowled, following rain that started on Saturday.

The rain was expected to last for the rest of the match.

Kanpur: The second day's play was called off in India's weather-plagued second Test against Bangladesh without a ball being bowled, following rain that started on Saturday.

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## Bagnaia halves Martin's lead with Indonesia MotoGP sprint win

LOMBOK: Francesco Bagnaia won a dramatic Indonesian MotoGP sprint race on Saturday, capitalising on an early crash by championship leader Jorge Martin to halve the Spaniard's lead to 12 points at the top of the standings.

Bagnaia's victory was his first in the MotoGP series since last year.

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# METRO

South



City held without Rodri as Palmer's four-goal haul fires Chelsea

Page 18 SPORT

**KARACHI**

Times: 06:22 pm  
 Sunrise (Tomorrow): 06:22 am

**NEXT 24 HRS**

Minimum: 27°C  
 Maximum: 33°C  
 Humidity: 55%  
 Outlook: Partly Cloudy



A MAN parks his motorcycle on a busy road in the Backer area, on Saturday. Not only the pavement, but more than half of the busy road near Baha Bazaar was occupied by the illegal charged parking. —Fahim Siddiq / White Star

## State urged to make stricter policies to curb growing use of new nicotine products

Health experts concerned over 'deceptive' marketing of e-cigarettes, vapes, nicotine pouches as being 'safer'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Raising alarm over the growing use of e-cigarettes, vapes, and nicotine pouches among Pakistani youth, health experts have said that these new nicotine products are becoming widely available in Pakistan and remain largely unregulated.

They called for urgent state action, stricter policies, and increased awareness to curb the use of these harmful products.

The experts were speaking at a seminar, 'Evolving Trends & Deep Dive into New Nicotine and Tobacco Products', jointly organised by Incha Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) and Health

Services Academy (HSA) here at a local level on Saturday.

The speakers also expressed concern over the tobacco industry's deceptive marketing of these products as 'safer' alternatives, which, they pointed out, was driving their popularity among youth.

The programme brought together a diverse group of health-care providers, as well as students from South and North, to discuss the latest advancements in nicotine and tobacco products, focusing on their health implications.

"As professionals and healthcare providers, our role goes beyond treating acute health issues; it involves preventing and reducing the impact of chronic diseases," said Dr. Muzafar Rehman, Professor of Pathology and Dean of Allied Health Sciences, HSA.

Dr. Bahar F. Shabbir from HSA, Dr. Shahid Hussain, and Dr. Waheed Siddiq, representing the IHHN, shared crucial insights into the growing complexity of new nicotine products.

Dr. Shabbir highlighted the public

health risks posed by these products, noting that the emergence of new nicotine and tobacco products has serious public health implications, such as unclear ingredients and safety parameters, as well as steep prices and greater uptake by youth under the misconception that these products are less harmful.

"With the country already facing a triple burden of disease-including infectious and non-communicable diseases—these products are exacerbating the public health crisis. Effective regulation is the most of the time to address the complex use and promotion of new nicotine and tobacco products," he said.

The event also featured a panel discussion with multidisciplinary professionals: Dr. Sohail Akhtar (IHHN), Dr. Javed Khan (SRUHS), Dr. Shahid Zaheer (IHHN), Dr. Akhbar Salam Masood Agha (Memon Medical Institute), Dr. Najeeb Nisar (IHHN), and Dr. Faridullah Khan (IHHN).

Together, they discussed how these products can harm the heart and lungs, increase the risk of cancer, and lead to addiction.

The panelists stressed that these products contain highly addictive nicotine and other harmful substances that contribute to chronic diseases. "The chemicals in tobacco may cause genetic mutations, leading to cancer and other serious diseases," continued Prof. Dr. Shahid Zaheer, senior genetic scientist and Head of Life Sciences at HSA.

A critical segment of the seminar reviewed the controversial use of new nicotine products as smoking cessation tools, weighing the benefits against public health risks and examining various research guidelines for their use.

The Senior Scientist, Head of Pathology and Director of the Lung Health Program at IHHN, underscored the need for strict action. "New nicotine products are becoming widely available and largely unregulated in Pakistan. While we've made progress in tobacco control, these emerging products present a growing challenge," he said.

He called for collaboration between health-care professionals and policymakers to educate the public and push for stronger regulations.

## IO files charge sheet against Karsaz accident suspect in drug case

SHC will take up suspect's post-arrest bail application tomorrow

By Inshaq Tariq

KARACHI: Police have filed a charge sheet against the Karsaz traffic accident suspect before the court of a judicial magistrate in a drug case.

The investigating officer stated in the charge sheet that suspect Nadeem Danish was driving a Toyota Land Cruiser on August 17 under the influ-

ence of drugs and had killed two people while mangled three others in an accident near Karsaz.

The SI, Sub-Inspector Shabbir Malik, filed the investigation report through a deputy district public prosecutor to the court and filed a prosecution summons, including police affidavits, chemical analysis and medical-legal officer (MLEO) in the charge sheet.

The investigation report also said that blood and urine samples of the suspect were submitted in the office of chemical examination on Aug 21 since the provincial government had declared a public holiday on Aug 21 in honour of the annual

day of both great Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai.

The report of chemical examination and blood medical report of MLEO police surgeon have confirmed that the suspect was under the influence of narcotic substance (hash) at the time of incident and, therefore, the present case was lodged under Section 18 (drinking habit) in favour of the Probation Department of Health Circle, 1979, it added.

The SI further stated in the charge sheet that initially, a judicial magistrate had dismissed the bail application of accused suspect on Sept 25 while a sessions judge had also turned down another application on

Sept 12 in the same case.

According to the evidence collected so far, including medical reports and testimonies of witnesses reported under Section 161 of Criminal Procedure Code, as well as circumstantial evidence, an offence under Section 11 of the Probation Act (Interference of Health Officer has been established under the law), the charge sheet concluded.

Initially, the suspect was arrested and booked under various provisions of Pakistan Penal Code for recklessly driving and killing 80-year-old Imam Araf and his 22-year-old daughter Arwa and injuring three others in the accident.

Later, another FIR was

filed against him after medical reports had confirmed that also was under the influence of narcot substance (hash) at the time of incident.

On Sept 5, a sessions judge had granted her post-arrest bail on the same case subject to conditions after lawyer for complainant did not oppose the bail after legal hours of detained persons 'terminated' but in the name of Advocate Allah.

However, after dismissal of her bail twice from lower judiciary in drug case, the suspect through her lawyer approached the South High Court and the post-arrest bail application is filed for hearing before the SHC on Monday (tomorrow).

## Mob torches two speeding tankers after youth dies in accident

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: An angry mob set two water tankers on fire after a motorcycle was run-over and killed by one of the heavy vehicles on main University Road near Saker Park on Saturday, police and rescue service officials said.

City Traffic Avoidance Chennai said drivers of the two water tankers (SU-1460 and PTA-728) were allegedly involved in a race while moving towards Nipa Chowring when one of them hit a bike-rider.

The victim suffered critical injuries and was taken to a hospital where he died during treatment. He was identified as Zameer Akhtar, 21.

The incident sparked a violent protest as enraged people poured their petrol both the tankers with stones and later set them on fire the official said.

They blocked the main University Road for hours and staged a protest. Many residents complained that accidents involving recklessly driven water tankers had become a routine on University Road because of the presence of a flyover near Nipa.

The SHO attributed negligent driving as a probable cause for the accident.

He said that both drivers had abandoned their vehicles and managed to escape from the scene.

Meanwhile, a traffic police spokesperson in a statement said that main University Road towards Nipa Chowring remained closed for traffic for around three hours because of the incident.

## Online driving licence service inaugurated

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: People of Karachi can now apply online for a learning driving licence or an International Driving Permit as Sindh Home Minister Zaid Hassan Larar on Saturday inaugurated the online driving licence facility at the District Driving Licence Branch.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the citizens could use the online service for effortless issuance of their learning license, international driving permits, and renewal of non-commercial licenses.

However, the international driving permits will only be issued to those residents of Sindh who possess a valid driving licence.

The minister said that modern policing would improve the image of police and may foster a friendly environment between the law enforcement agency and the people.

The Home Minister directed the Karachi police chief to set up model police stations in the metropolis.

Speaking on the occasion, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Hussain Memon said that the online service was launched for the convenience of the people.

He pointed that the online service would help a large number of drivers in getting their licenses.

The provision of applying for a driving licence while sitting at home would also reduce the burden on driving licence branches, he added.

He said that all over the world, traffic system was managed through information technology.



ACTRESS Nadeem Danish performs at the play. —Dawn

## The rabbit game

White Rabbit, Red Rabbit draws crowds at Arts Council on second and third day of World Culture Festival

By Fiaz Zahid Siddiqi

KARACHI: Miles Kowalenko has his novel *The Book of Longings* and *Figuring it Out*. "The only way to escape is to be masters of the future to change the past," how does one change the past? One of the ways could be to understand the present. The struggle against authoritarian regimes and mindsets worldwide can also be understood in a hope that playwrights and narrators in the 20th century have often tried to deal with.

In the 21st century, too, things haven't drastically changed. How to track authority or not to disturb the status quo is still a relevant subject for creative men and women.

An experimental short play titled *White Rabbit*,

*Red Rabbit* by Iranian writer Nasser Soleimanzadeh performed by Nadeem Danish and produced by Kamran Khanani on the second day of the World Culture Festival proved to be a large number of art lovers to the council's audience.

The play was also performed by a different actor on Saturday — the third day of the same event organised by the Arts Council of Pakistan.

First, a lot about Soleimanzadeh. When he was in his late twenties, his passport was taken away by Iranian authorities and therefore was not permitted to leave his country. Why? He refused his military service. So not being able to leave his homeland became a burning question for him. In 2010, he wrote a novel for theatre in which an actor appears on stage without a script, unprepared. He doesn't know what to do, not do those who have come to watch the performance. As a result, an interaction takes place between the actor and the viewer. This implies a 'liberal' experience, an intelligible way adopted by the playwright of putting his message across.

Now to the rabbit systems. In a story told by the actor during her time on stage, there is a bunch of rabbits trying to get to a carrot. There are holes and the rabbit who

grabs the carrot first is given the colour red. Reminds one of a scene by Prof Bahar Akhtar.

What's next? Miles Kowalenko says

You, goddess for clothes fit

(Who thinks fit and looks fit)

(Who makes fit way up the ladder)

Nadeem Danish's play on Friday evening, *White Rabbit*, was a hit. The audience that the author created didn't fill the room through. There were moments when the audience was laughing, which inspired the whole scene a comical touch, a bit dark.

Here it needs to be mentioned that the basic idea involved several suffering and obstacles — that is, in what level authority can pull strings and how low an obedient person can stoop. It is an extremely thought-provoking theme and even the slightest shade of threat by one drives its gravity. It captures the kind of ruthless energy that the powerful exerts, to any part of the world, to do as they please.

Also, and one could be wrong here, the members of the audience that I met called to come up on stage following her orders set in the room and, one or two, in the middle rows. She didn't go to those who sat at the back. It made the calling back a bit comical.



**PRAYER**

Page: 8,04  
Zohar: 12,20  
Aur: 4,44  
Maghrib: 6,22  
Isha: 7,38

Prayer time in Karachi

**REFLECTIONS**

**IS THE STRONGEST RELATION IN THE ONE WHICH IS BETWEEN MAN AND MAN? 23**

— HANAFI ALIYU

**Boy given in probation officer's custody in rape case**

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A session court has sentenced an exchange student to seven years in prison for raping a 16-year-old boy.

The court handed over the underage convict to a probation officer.

The additional district and sessions judge presided over the trial. The teenage guilty of committing an offence under Section 377-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) within the jurisdiction of the Yumail State police area was in 2022.

The judge also mentioned that during the final arguments, the defence counsel pleaded that the complainant, the father of the survivor, had entered into a compromise agreement with the accused and forgave him for the crime.

The court also directed the convict to visit the office of the probation officer once a month, adding that at the end of the sentence period, the officer should submit a report to court regarding the behaviour and conduct of the convict.

According to the state prosecution, the complainant was stated to the police that when he returned from work, he was being sexually abused by the exchange student who was staying with him in his home and was forced him to a sexual assault.

The prosecution presented six witnesses during the trial to support the case against the convict.

**PAKISTAN NAVY CIVILIAN INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED**

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AGE: Maximum 30 years

Interested Candidates to submit their application along necessary documents to: Officer In-charge Naval Aviation Training School PAF Base Islamabad (Room 4, Phase 1, PAF Base Islamabad) by 15 October 2024.

**Sindh Food Authority to establish second testing lab in city**

On KCCI request, SFA chief hints at reducing lab test charges

KARACHI: The Sindh Food Authority (SFA) is going to set up an second food testing laboratory, for which Karachi Mayor Mustafa Waliullah has promised to provide space in a building in District East.

This was announced by SFA Director General Muhammad Hattaji during his recent discussions with the mayor.

A statement issued by the SFA on Saturday said: "In addition to strengthening the culture of SFA, simplifying the testing procedures, and fully facilitating businesses in dealing with SFA-related issues, we are also looking into the possibility of reducing the lab test charges so that businesses don't incur burden." Mr Hattaji said during his visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI).

KCCI President Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, Senior Vice President Araf A. Qafler, Vice President Zaheer Berry, Director Vice President Yasir Raza, KCCI Managing Committee members, and other businessmen associated with the food business also attended the meeting.

The SFA chief categorically stated that there would be no tolerance, and heavy penalties would be imposed on sellers of food products involved in adulteration, selling food in unhygienic conditions, or engaging in any other illegal activities. "We are completely focused on quality and safety, which simply cannot be compromised, as it is a matter of life and death," he added.

Hattaji further mentioned that the SFA carries out 5,000 to 6,000 inspections every month, and heavy penalties are imposed only when a business is found to be involved in adulteration.

Commenting on the government's proposed plan to establish a second testing lab in Karachi, Hattaji said that the SFA would be happy to cooperate with the government in this regard.

expressed deep gratitude for the government's plan to establish a second testing lab in Karachi, Hattaji said that the SFA would be happy to cooperate with the government in this regard.

Regarding a request, he said that the Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) had no interference in the work being carried out by the SFA, which strictly takes action and performs all its activities in accordance with the Authority's Act. "If any PSQCA official visits your business premises, you must approach us for assistance, and we will look into such matters," he assured.

Further, KCCI President Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, while welcoming the SFA official, stated that it had always been one of the top priorities of the Karachi Chamber to act as a bridge between the business community and the heads of various departments, including the SFA, so that the government's plan to establish a second testing lab in Karachi, Hattaji said that the SFA would be happy to cooperate with the government in this regard.

thoroughly discussed and mutually understood. He mentioned that the SFA required businesses to register their packaged products by submitting a fee of Rs2,000 per product and six kilograms of product samples, which would cost Rs15,000 per product, which would be a heavy burden, especially for businesses offering a wide range of products.

The PSQCA already handled product registration for 40 key items in Pakistan, although only brands are registered, not individual products. Hence, the SFA's requirement seems impractical.

He said that the SFA often imposed heavy fines for minor violations, with only one or two days for payment. "Such practices create financial pressure on businesses, particularly small ones. Therefore, there should be more leniency, with adequate time allowed for compliance."

He stressed that standard operating procedures (SOPs) should be self-

imposed, formulated and signed with established SOPs. He mentioned that the SFA required businesses to register their packaged products by submitting a fee of Rs2,000 per product and six kilograms of product samples, which would cost Rs15,000 per product, which would be a heavy burden, especially for businesses offering a wide range of products.

He stated that the SFA had received several reports of harassment and intimidation by SFA officials, including closure of immediate shut-downs. This, he argued, goes against the SFA's purpose, which is to improve food standards and support exporters. The focus, he added, should be on collaboration and improvement, not heavy-handed enforcement.

He also suggested that during inspections, if any violations are found, they should not be publicised through media or social platforms. Efforts should first be made to issue an improvement notice, but if improvements are not made, penalties should then be imposed. Publicising violations negatively impacts exports and tarnishes Pakistan's reputation. —PTI



GOVERNOR Karan Talwar and others cut a cake to celebrate Indonesia's Independence Day. —APP

**79th Independence Day of Indonesia celebrated**

KARACHI: The Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi hosted a special diplomatic reception to celebrate Indonesia's 79th Independence Day.

The event was attended by South Governor Karan Talwar, Deputy Mayor Zulfiqar Ali Shah, and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Hassan Nawaz. Other guests included diplomats from foreign missions, government officials, and business leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Consul General of Indonesia Iqbal Wicak highlighted the strong friendship and cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan, which he said had grown over 74 years of diplomatic relations.

He expressed the hope for continued growth in trade, cultural exchanges, and education between the two nations. —APP

**Two sent to prison in sexual assault case**

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate has sent two suspects to prison on judicial warrant as they failed to furnish surety bonds in a case pertaining to a sexual assault on a woman inside a government hospital in Thatta.

The investigating officer (IO) brought two suspects before the judicial magistrate (JM) on charges under Section 354 (sexual harassment) and Section 375 (rape) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

During the hearing, the suspects filed a bail application, arguing that the victim involved in the case was a minor. The court granted them bail against a surety bond of Rs20,000 each. However, the court remanded them to prison until the bonds were submitted as the suspects failed to furnish the surety bonds in court.

According to the contents of the FIR, the complainant reported that she had got her toilet cleaned by a boy admitted to the jail after being arrested in Thatta. The incident occurred on September 22. The woman said that when she found the boy in her toilet, she reported the matter to the hospital staff, who took her to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. At the same time, the boy was arrested and taken to a nearby police station. She said the boy was 25 years old and was a student of a local school. She also mentioned that the boy was a resident of Thatta. The woman said that she had reported the matter to the police and the hospital staff, who took her to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. At the same time, the boy was arrested and taken to a nearby police station. She said the boy was 25 years old and was a student of a local school. She also mentioned that the boy was a resident of Thatta.

**EMPLOYMENT THROUGH SKILL**  
SINDH TECHNICAL EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL TRAINING AUTHORITY (STEVA)  
Government of Sindh

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**ADMISSION ACTIVITIES & IMPORTANT DATES:**

Activity	Date
Form Release/Issuance of Application Form	25-09-2024
Last Date of Submission Form	05-10-2024
CTE Test / Interview	10-10-2024
Issue of Seat List	11-10-2024
Registration & Start of Classes	21-10-2024

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Online submission of applications is mandatory. The application form can be downloaded from the home website: [www.dowu.edu.pk](http://www.dowu.edu.pk)

Form can be paid either only 3 bank notes of 1000/- along with the paid fee receipt and deposit receipt, should be submitted to the Director, DOW, Institute of Business Management, 8th Floor, 8th Building, KDA Scheme 23, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, DMC, Karachi.

Scan QR Code



### DNA report confirms polio worker was sexually assaulted

By Our Correspondent

**SUKKUR:** The main suspect in polio worker sexual assault case was remanded in judicial custody for 14 days on Saturday after he was proved out by a witness in a Jacobabad court on Saturday while DNA tests of the victim and the suspect also confirmed the polio worker had been subjected to rape.

The witness, Nihal Parthwar who was also a polio worker, identified the suspect and recorded his statement under Section 104 before the second civil judge and judicial magistrate of Jacobabad, Nasir Ahmad Qazi.

The judge afterwards remanded the suspect in judicial custody for 14 days and sent him to district jail.

The victim had also appeared in the court.

#### DNA test confirms 'rape'

Jacobabad District Health Officer Dr Inshad Malik has said that the DNA test report of the victim and the suspect issued by LUMHS laboratory has confirmed that the polio worker was subjected to sexual assault.

He told Dawn on Saturday that the DNA report had made it clear the suspect had sexually assaulted the victim. The report would be submitted to the court soon to help it reach a decision, he said.

The polio worker had admitted before court on Sept 22 that she had been subjected to sexual assault on Wednesday (Sept 11) while performing her duty in Akhri Bakhri, Jachhad village within limits of Malcoland police station in Jacobabad.

A day after the incident, the victim filed medical reports and had been sexually assaulted and said she was robbed of her cell phone and wallet belonging only to her. She later also admitted before the judge she had been assaulted and also named her tormentor who had been arrested by them.



**HYDRABAD:** People wait for their turn to fill jerry cans with clean drinking water from a municipal tap outside a water supply station operated by WAPDA in Larkana on Saturday. —Photo by Umar Ali

## 18 suspects in case of burning Umerkot doctor's body remanded

By Our Correspondent

**UMERKOT:** Mirpurkhas sessions court on Saturday remanded in judicial custody 18 suspects in the case of torching body of blasphemy suspect, Dr Shafiqullah Khan, 68, on Sept 2.

None of the suspects had been arrested earlier and the other nine were subject to Umerkot police and produced in the court on Saturday. They were identified as Lakhman, Anwar Ali, Akram Soomro, Mubshir Khan, Fakir Muhammad Pariz, Muhammad Saleem, Babar Parhwar, Akmal Qureshi and Usaf Bhangoo.

The court also sent to jail seven sus-

pects out of 150 booked by police for setting on fire a police van in front of local town ship on Sept 17 during a violent protest against the blasphemy suspect.

The two FIRs registered against Dr Shafiqullah Khan at Umerkot police station accusing him of attacking police party had been booked before and disposed of.

Meanwhile, complainants in the FIRs Ibrahim, Khalid, brother-in-law of Dr Shafiqullah, said they had been not taken into confidence over charge of investigation officer and total investigation of both cases of torching of the body and police van had been transferred to Mirpurkhas DSP without consulting with the concerned family. The transfer within the district would not have any

effect on the probe, he said.

#### TIP chief linked by FIR against party leader

Tablighi Larkana Pakistan (TLP) chief Hafiz Saad Hussain Naqvi said in a press statement issued here on Saturday that increasing incidents of blasphemy was a worrying sign.

He recalled struggle to registration of what he regarded as a false case against TLP owner of South South, Dr Agha Ijaz Jan Naqvi. The case should be closed immediately and an impartial investigation should be conducted into the Umerkot incident, he demanded.

He was increasingly frustrated of the inability to recruit clergy as part of a religious

conspiracy. "We will not allow any conspiracy to succeed," he added.

He reiterated from the day of his country would allow registration of false FIRs against peaceful people. The Umerkot case must be closed with a thorough investigation and religious freedom, he said.

He said that people were forced to take law into their own hands against suspected blasphemers as they had no confidence in the country's judiciary.

He announced that Dr Agha Ijaz Naqvi and other religious leaders would lead a peace procession being organized by Jamaat Ahle Sunnat from Mirpurkhas to Umerkot on Oct 2, and a thousand-man procession would be held in Umerkot on Oct 6.

### Zardari aide, brother remanded again for 10 days

By Our Correspondent

**RAWALPINDH:** Former special assistant to Sindh chief minister, Jamil Dahri, who was considered to be a close aide to President Asif Ali Zardari, and his younger brother were sent to jail after a court in Daudpota remanded them in judicial custody for 10 days on Saturday.

Jamil Dahri and his brother Raza Dahri were shifted to a Manzilgah jail after judicial magistrate Daudpota H. Hanif Ali Khatami, passed the order.

Last week, Hyderabad's S-500 court police arrested Jamil Dahri and claimed to have recovered 8kg of drugs and a Kalashnikov from his four-wheel vehicle. He was sent to jail to serve a 15-day judicial remand which ended on Thursday and he was released but soon afterwards, he was re-arrested by Sharada Daudpota police outside the jail to another case of kidnapping of a woman, Zoya Dahri.

Dahri had alleged at the time of his arrest that he was being victimised at the behest of Sindh Home Minister Zia Lodhi and warned that if any harm came to him, the home minister should be held responsible.

## Khuhro says establishment of constitutional court inevitable

By Our Correspondent

**LARKANA:** Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Khuhro said that while declaring members of the committee to establish a Federal Constitutional Court to resolve the issues of the National Assembly and the National Council, the PPP government will not be established until the committee is formed.

Khuhro said at a press conference at Larkana Press Club on Saturday that he was appointed as a special party to lead a delegation to PPP in this regard. The party's chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was busy touring with leaders of political parties, including the former Home Minister, former chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi, in London on Saturday and he was unable to attend the press conference, he said.

He was of the opinion that the constitutional court would not only reduce tension of cases but also strengthen judicial system. However, court will not be a real court and it would only be an

appeals court. He said that PPP was in power and had two-thirds majority and had to establish the committee. Khuhro said the party was based on bringing in 100 Amendment.

He said that the committee would be established in the National Assembly and the National Council, which was dissolved for which Mr Bilawal Zardari had been raising since time and again, he added.

He said that certain measures were made to comply with the 100 Amendment but it was PPP that had opposed it and had not agreed to it. He said that the committee would be established in the National Assembly and the National Council.

He said that the 100 Amendment was a complete failure and the PPP had thought it was a success. He said that the committee would be established in the National Assembly and the National Council.



**NISAR KHUHRO** gestures during the press talk at Larkana Press Club on Saturday. —Sanaul Memon

Khuhro said that the committee would be established in the National Assembly and the National Council. He said that the committee would be established in the National Assembly and the National Council.

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constitutional court to Sindh Assembly while respecting carrying on any amendment to law Act.

Khuhro said he would be in charge of the National Assembly Committee of Sindh Assembly which he recently chaired, that the PML-N would make a proposal in the report of the National Council.

Since its formation, 200 cases out of 2000 were settled in just two months which had been pending since 2015, he added. "I cannot promise of the concerned department, which is necessary, in the meeting and no meeting will be postponed only to maintain the regularity," he said.

Different departments had submitted that with regular meetings, a 600 per cent increase in revenue recovery was reported in October.

He said in reply to a question regarding "irregularity" in recently held MDCAT test that it was a "PML-N" complaint and he would be in charge of the National Assembly that would review if any application was filed.

### MRI, CT scans out of order for six months at Sukkur Civil Hospital

By Waseem Shafiq

**SUKKUR:** The Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computed Tomography (CT) scan machines at Sukkur Civil Hospital have been sitting idle for about six months due to lack of helium gas, which can be got refilled easily at a major cost but the hospital administration appears reluctant by the government to purchase the machines' availability to serving its patients.

Doctors in the hospital said that thousands of patients, including those battling with life-threatening diseases, were being denied access to critical diagnostic tests at the hospital's only MRI and CT scan machines that stopped functioning.

They said that the machines only needed minor repairs and refilling of helium gas to resume working but the hospital administration had not taken the problem seriously for six months. The indifference to the issue was simply shocking, they said.

They said that poor patients were forced to get MRI scans done at private health facilities, or move to other hospitals, incurring them to extra physical and mental hardship and thus causing delay in diagnosis of their diseases and initiation of treatment.

The sources said that previously, the machines did around 12 to 20 MRI and CT scans daily. It was found that the vital machines were lying idle due to lack of helium

gas, and the situation could be easily rectified with a little amount of such resources on part of the hospital management, they said.

They said that prolonged denial of the diagnostic facilities was not only causing undue suffering to patients but also undermining the hospital's reputation as a critical health care provider.

The hospital's medical superintendent



**MRI and CT scan machines lie idle in the labs. —Dawn**

did not appear indifferent to getting the issue resolved and halting misuse of the patients' suffering. The MDCAT question was particularly alarming, given critical role his office was supposed to play in ensuring smooth functioning of the facility and well-being of its patients, they said.

They lamented that the hospital's governing body, which was responsible for ensuring the facility's services, had also shown little concern about the problem, which had caused serious damage to the facility's reputation and management of the institution.

They said that disengagement of basic facilities from the hospital was highly disturbing for patients, who were forced to move from one hospital to the other for diagnostic services

often at great monetary disbursement. They said the hospital's failure to provide essential diagnostic services was not only a breach of trust but also a violation of patients' right to receive quality healthcare.

The situation was a clear indication of a systemic failure, where those responsible for ensuring the hospital's affairs were either unable



**MRI and CT scan machines lie idle in the labs. —Dawn**

or unwilling to take decisive actions towards that end, they said. They implored that lack of accountability and effective governance were exacerbating the problem, leaving patients to bear the brunt of the gross mismanagement. Besides maintaining machines, periodic after-complaint about availability of doctors and other required facilities at the hospital, they said.

#### Children hospital without staff

Many parents complained that the nearby Sindh children's hospital had neither doctors nor paramedical staff. When they took their ailing children to the facility they found no doctor and paramedical, they said.

### Inna Lilaha Wa Inna Ilaaha Rajiun Musfir Khan

23 December 1942 – 23 September 2024



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our Musfir Khan on 23rd September 2024 in Los Angeles, California. While we are sad, we are greatly comforted by the fact that he lived a full life into his eighties. A husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, uncle and brother-in-law, he was greatly loved by those he leaves behind. He was also blessed to have had many friends from his childhood, with whom he continued to enjoy good times.

We will miss his presence. His legacy is his lesson to us that time is your most precious commodity, so live your life spending it wisely.

Sarah Khan

Samarah Khan

# SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK	A4835 TRICKY	B4835
3 4 1 9 7		6 5
	7 5 1 3	
	8 4 3 2	
	4 5 7	7 1 3
5 7		9
4 3	9 6 1	
2		5 7 1
	9 1 3	

To solve the puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk).

Created by New Features @ DKD.com

# CHESS

## WORD GAME

**TODAY'S WORD INCLUDE**

**INCLUDE INCLUDE** To take in or incorporate as a part of a whole or group.

**AVERAGE MARK 10 WORDS.**  
**Time limit 30 minutes.**  
**Can you find 25 or more words in INCLUDE?**

**LETTERS OF THE GAME**

- Start with 10 letters
- Place the letters in order by the white knight's path (K1, L1, M1, N1, O1, P1, Q1, R1, S1, T1, U1, V1, W1, X1, Y1, Z1).
- Remove the letters that do not appear in the word.
- Place the remaining letters in order by the knight's path.

**SOLUTIONS**

**YESTERDAY'S WORD —**

<b>ORTHODOXY</b>	eght	gloy
rely	ogro	goery
roy	ogro	goy
roy	ogro	goy
roy	ogro	goy
roy	ogro	goy
roy	ogro	goy
roy	ogro	goy
roy	ogro	goy
roy	ogro	goy
roy	ogro	goy

## TELEWORD

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words above appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, over-unders. Find them and circle their letters. The solution below is not the answer.

## HELP

**EMERGENCIES**

- Subway: 913-800-9271
- DLA: 913-235-0000
- Fire Dept: 913-235-5000
- Police: 913-235-2222
- AAA: 913-235-2222
- AAA: 913-235-2222
- AAA: 913-235-2222

**HOSPITALS**

- Alfred I. DuPont: 913-235-2222
- St. Joseph: 913-235-2222
- St. Joseph: 913-235-2222
- St. Joseph: 913-235-2222
- St. Joseph: 913-235-2222

**AMBULANCE**

- City: 913-235-2222
- County: 913-235-2222
- St. Joseph: 913-235-2222
- St. Joseph: 913-235-2222

**BLOOD BANK**

- City: 913-235-2222
- County: 913-235-2222
- St. Joseph: 913-235-2222
- St. Joseph: 913-235-2222

# METRO EVENTS

**CYCLING**

**PLAY**

Writing for them a biography by Art For Art's sake. Known as part of World Culture Festival in 2004, it being organized at the Missouri Arts Council of Webster, at 6:00pm.

**COMEDY SHOW**

A comedy show is being held at Hobby City, 7:30pm. Susan Fink, at 8pm.

**THE COUNTRY CLUB**

A cycle rally is being organized by Dads On Wheels to mark World Heart Day. The event starts from Appleton University Hospital, St. Joseph Road, at 7:30am.

# HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** (March 21 - April 19)

It is an interesting day! You can make great headspace with home improvements. Nevertheless, this is also a passionate, romantic day for those who are so inclined. Tonight: Work This Week. Focus on relationships and close friendships. Romance is palatable!

**Taurus** (April 20 - May 21)

Today you are proactive about getting things done, especially practical matters. A friend might help you or, better yet, the efforts of a group will make a difference. Meanwhile, grab every chance to accept because this is a fun-loving, frantically busy day! Tonight: Play! This Week: Improve your health and your job. Relationships are blessed!

**Leo** (July 23 - Aug 23)

Even though you will work alone, you'll make great progress. Meanwhile, you're not there talking to everyone and enjoying short trips, who buying beautiful things for yourself and loved ones. Tonight: Check your money. This Week: Travel, communicate and entertain at home.

**Virgo** (Aug 23 - Sept 23)

You're very charming today. Join efforts with friends and groups to get something done. Trust your money-making ideas. Tonight: You win! This Week: It's a friendly, frantically busy! Focus on events.

**Scorpio** (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You make a great impression on others today because the Moon is at the top of your chart dealing with Venus, the symbol of beauty, charm and attraction. Venus is very vocal, which is why others start to be in your presence today. Tonight: You're adored! This Week: Choose quality friends who have your back. (A secret defender!)

**Sagittarius** (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Travel for pleasure will appear to you today! You want a change of scenery and adventure! A friend with someone from a different culture might be exciting. Don't look to get a lot done. Tonight: Explore! This Week: People are impressed with you. A friend might become romantic.

**Pisces** (Feb 19 - March 20)

This is a fortunate day and you are a romantic sign. Enjoy appreciating with partners, close friends and possibly someone who is different! Physical sports will appeal to you. Tonight: Cooperate. This Week: Travel, romance and favorable finance!

## THE SKELETON CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Squad joke label.
- ...in best 3- - not contained a laugh!
- Major team heading
- Monitor for written about
- Completed this issue
- Best known reduction
- Like a slot glass, emitting water in a shower
- Take one step with a heel
- Billy's small pair of pants
- strawed leaving
- Use, too basic a joke
- Ball of mauling job
- departed
- A mature insect I think without getting wings
- Source paper initially stops power
- The stream behind tot's back

DOWN

- Lifejacket identified by color code
- Brandy in revolutionary stuff
- Performance right on time
- Graduate student who works at income tax return
- Dark face of moon, look issue with common supporting figure
- Same receipt, different amount
- A girl you call with spirit
- Wide research currently revealed
- Four around next to a girl
- She's teacher wanted to be teacher
- No start to hit a parade
- A goddess but repeatedly
- Leading team work a major part
- Anchor also named an architect's stem
- lawyer's taking major in area

## THE SQUIRE'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Aspect (6)
- Cat (7, 2)
- Rule (2, 3, 4)
- Author of whodunnos plays (4)
- Put out (5)
- Name of 28 pages (7)
- Discovered (7)
- Stage of the monster (7)
- Tracker (7)
- Get to wake up (8)
- Wanted (9)
- Overcast (12)
- Fundamental (15)
- Overriding (17)

DOWN

- One (3)
- where (7)
- Sigh (5)
- Place (7)
- Embarrassed (7)
- Two over (3)
- Signified (8)
- Experience (2, 7, 17)
- Television (8)
- Central American country (7)
- George's Majest author (7)
- side ask (7)
- Stuffed overcast (7)
- Asian language (8)
- Heated (8)

# THE METRO FUNNIES

Sunset & Sunrise						
Sunset	06:48pm	06:49pm	06:50pm	06:51pm	06:52pm	06:53pm
Sunrise	06:17am	06:16am	06:15am	06:14am	06:13am	06:12am

Three Day Forecast						
Temperature	26	24	Moist Sunny	25	27	Sunny
Humidity	77	86	Moist Sunny	77	77	Partly Cloudy
Wind	12	12	North Wind	7	12	Sunny
Light	25	25	Sunny	21	25	Partly Cloudy
Wind	17	20	Sunny	17	19	Sunny
Pressure	1012	1013	Sunny	1013	1013	Sunny
Clouds	17	15	Moist Sunny	17	17	Sunny

## PENTALETTA

F	L
S	
I	E

**Average mark 34 words • Good! 33 words**  
**Excellent! 36 words • Incredible! 40 words**

**LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION:**

Head, head, edge, dilapid, miss, support with legs, eight, point, goods, give, traps, freight, feeling, level, raised, hair, trapped, covered, open, corner.

**The chess word was: HOOOOOOOO.**

**LAST SUNDAY SQUIRE'S SOLUTIONS:**

**Across:** 1. On top, 4. Strategem, 8. Northward, Abbey, 10. Trademark, 11. Grid, 12. Spectrum, 13. Shallow, 14. Olympic, 16. Proceed, 18. Agile, 22. Speed only, 24. Rules the wrong way, 25. Departure, 28. Sing in.

**Down:** 1. Sireet, 2. Forecast, 3. Phenomenon, 4. Summit, 6. He adds a second, 7. Summit, 8. Mayflower, 10. Snowcrust, 14. Agglomerate, 16. Invalid, 17. Diocese, 18. Pierre, 19. Christmas, 21. Giver, 23. Lay in.

**Price word:** Death.

**LAST SUNDAY SKELETON SOLUTIONS:**

D	A	L	L	O	W	T	H	R	A	B	H
O	I	N	H	U	M	I	D	E	I		
N	O	T	A	B	L	E	A	D	D	E	D
T	H	E	R	B	R	E	V	E	R	E	F
E	V	E	N	T	A	K	E	N	G	O	
I	E	A	D	D	A	T	I	O	N	C	
T	R	O	Y	A	W	A	D	E	R		
A	B	E	I	T	A	R	N	A			
B	R	I	T	A	I	R	O	N	O	F	
L	E	A	D	D	E	R					
E	C	L	A	I	R						

## CONTRACT BRIDGE

**Contract — Four Spades.**  
**Opening lead — Ace of the hearts.**

**NORTH**

♠ 9	
♥ K Q 10 9 4	
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5	
♣ —	

**WEST**

♠ A 10 2	
♥ 8 6 5	
♦ A 4	
♣ 10 9 7 6	

**EAST**

♠ A 7 7 3	
♥ K 2	
♦ 10 8 7 6	
♣ 9 8 4 3 2	

**SOUTH**

♠ K Q J 10 8 7 5	
♥ 2	
♦ 8	
♣ A K Q J	

**Assess your's declarer at four spades and their hearts, the ace and another diamond, which you ruff. You lead the ten of spades, which wins, and then the jack, taken by West with the ace. West shifts to a heart, suit-by-suit with the ace and East returns the king of diamonds.**

**It doesn't matter whether you ruff high or low — in either case West cannot or later scores the nine of trump, and down you go. That's the story if you played the hand this way, but naturally there's more to a hand than that. The question is whether you can figure out how to make the contract — and it can be made — low that you**

**TODAY'S SOLUTIONS**

**CHICK**

1. Head / 42 / 28 / 18 / 12 / 8 / 5

**BOOKS**

Down to Earth	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Up to Earth	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1

# METRO North



City held without Rodri as Palmer's four-goal haul fires Chelsea Pg.22 SPORT

**ISLAMABAD**  
Sunset: 05:58pm  
Sunrise (Tomorrow): 05:58am  
**NEXT 24 HRS**  
Minimum: 22°C  
Maximum: 32°C  
Outlook: Partly Cloudy



THE local administration has placed containers on Marwa Road to block the main artery of the gemstone city while a policeman uses tear gas to disperse protesters near Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi on Saturday. — Photos by Tanzeem Shahid



## Residents confined to their neighbourhoods as police take on PTI

**Teargas fumes 'enter homes'; hospitals inaccessible to doctors, patients**

By Aamir Younis & Mohammad Asghar

**RAWALPINDI** As the Rawalpindi administration took steps to contain a PTI protest in the city, the residents living in the vicinity of Marwa Road remained confined to their neighbourhoods, with some claiming that the tear gas fired by the police had entered their homes, compelling their agonies. The typical issue for the police and parliamentarians pertained the earlier activities and the security level was placed on 'high alert' in light of the developments. The government city presented a distorted look with containers placed on almost all major roads in the protest area at Liaquat Bagh. The worst affected area was Ferozshah Road where the administration placed containers at the Christmas Cross, Quaid Market, and Military

Hospital squares. Other areas, such as the T-Club, Jhal Road, 20 Number Chowk, Ferozshah, 200 Number, Khatia Chowk, Tarek, Bhatta, 4th, 5th, and 6th roads, Dauda Road, and connecting roads and streets were also closed to traffic. As the stretch of teargas permeated the city, the police and PTI workers clashed on Marwa Road which was made infeasible to continue due to obstructions placed by the administration. The PTI leaders still managed to arrive near Committee Chowk in small groups but were pushed back by the police every time they tried to go on Marwa Road. The Punjab government had imposed Section 144 in Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal and Jhelum from September 28 and 29 to stop the PTI from converging on Liaquat Bagh.

### Use of teargas

The excessive use of teargas — that entered nearby homes — forced the residents to keep their doors and windows shut but teargas managed to enter homes, causing breathing problems for children and the elderly. "I was going to my lawyer's house near Wara-i-Khan but the tear-

gas caused problems for my two children as they thought someone had thrown stones in their eyes," said Muhammad Nawaz, who was holding a banner on Marwa Road. Scores of protesters were seen finding their way through narrow streets to surround the Marwa Road blockades. Usually, the service road along Old Airport Road is opened during such protests, but this time, the administration closed all the streets and roads connecting residents to their neighbourhoods. Many patients and doctors were also caught up in roadblocks. A senior professor and chief internal cardiologist, who did not wish to be named, had to cancel many appointments with his patients because he could not move out of his home. "I cannot reach the hospital to attend to my patients and have cancelled all the appointments due to road blockades. My staff has been repeatedly calling me from the hospital and a doctor present in clinic near Ferozshah as he could not move towards Ferozshah," professor and chief cardiologist retired major general Tariq Iqbal told Dawn. The number of patients in other government hospitals, as well as the Rawalpindi Institute of

Cardiology, remained low as patients were unable to reach the hospital due to the 'police siege'. A female patient, who was suffering from heart disease and underwent angioplasty at a hospital near Giza Mary on Friday, took three hours to reach her residence in the PWD Housing Society due to the obstructions placed on the roads. The Metro Bus Service was also not possible due to the protest where the gas stations had received trucks around their markets. The government and private educational institutions were also closed in addition to most government offices. As the administration sealed the routes leading to the city, the prices of perishable goods also spiked due to a disruption in the supply chain. A kilogram of tomatoes, which usually costs Rs100, soared to Rs240 in Sarayeh. While talking to Dawn, a local vegetable vendor in Giza Mary said that goods could not reach the city on Saturdays, and the shortage of supply had skyrocketed the prices. — *Nawal Asghar in Giza Mary also contributed to this report*

## RDA asked to complete metro corridor rehabilitation at earliest

**RAWALPINDI** Punjab Secretary Transport Dr. Ahmed Javed Ghani has asked the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) to complete the rehabilitation work of metro corridor from Sadda to Ferozshah as soon as possible. During his visit to the metro bus track, he was told that the elevated road of the Metro Bus Service was being completed instead of being brought free. He said more than 100,000 citizens were benefiting from the metro bus on daily basis, therefore they could not be deprived of the facility for several days. RDA Director General Kamil Manzoor said the metro project was a model of social facilities for the general public, in which no obstacle would not be tolerated. It was informed that the rehabilitation of metro corridor from Sadda to Ferozshah, which would cost Rs750 million, was in progress and work would be completed by December. He said the RDA should finish the whole corridor into 20 sites and initially, six sites had been completed. Two sites of Sharnobad and Ferozshah bus stations and one site each of Wara Khan and Liaquat Bagh had been completed so far. The secretary transport and RDA director general has instructed the chief engineer RDA, Muhammad Anwar Khan, to immediately complete the rehabilitation work. — *Staff Reporter*

## Sherry fears Pakistan to become water scarce nation by 2050

**ISLAMABAD** Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Chairperson Senator Henry Rahman on Saturday said Pakistan was going to become a water scarce nation by 2050 with some parts of it already facing the situation. She was speaking at a brief meet at the opening ceremony of the 'mainstay' Green Urban Development (GUD) project funded by the Institute of Fisheries and the School of Leadership, Islamabad (SOLIS), with the support of the UN agency. The minister commended the Green Urban Development (GUD) project for empowering and motivating young people under its successful economic prosperity initiative to derive

feasible solutions for a better sustainable future. She said there were no plastic collection sites and mechanisms across the federal capital, which was leading to water and soil pollution, leaving plastic to damage fragile marine ecosystems of the coastline and rivers. The senator urged government to visit Rawal Pindi to study its water pollution as a case study to come up with a viable solution to clean the reservoir of vegetation. "Now million gallons of water is dumped into Rawal Pindi per day which is not healthy at all, toxic and used by domestic households," she said. Mr Rahman warned that there was an urgent need to protect the future as well as the

present and highly accelerated climate disasters in Pakistan's urbanisation was noted at 1.5pc. The senator said the federal capital could not afford its own programme of structural, unlike the basic 5pc climate adaptation coming with big pledges but not up with little action, to create sustainable solutions and mechanisms among masses. Minister Committee for Public Employees, Iqbal Chaudhry, said the GUD project was a joint effort by the UN and SOLIS that empowered young students and provided green solution and forward partnerships among key stakeholders. The UN mission targeted strong

collaborations to address pressing challenges of urbanisation and mitigate disasters in their main Green Urban Development schools established in two universities and colleges both that targeted students at the Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) to top half a million funding for multiple projects. "These efforts are important for the UN and Pakistan to work together to effectively work on climate action as the heavy youth will get disproportionately affected by climate change. Youth-led initiatives show emerging leaders address urban climate problems as Pakistan's universities are paving the way for better future," she said. Green Pakistan Alliance

Programme is one of the many mega efforts funded by the UN to speed millions of citizens to address climate crisis, she added. The event also showcased a film on the first entrepreneurship projects like Sindh Qadriya project electricity generation through making by Comsats university students whose parents were used to help making and power generation by connecting kinetic energy to electricity circuit. A panel discussion was held which was participated by Director General Water Management UDA Nadeem Khan Zaman, Managing Director Water Services, RWSC and Dr. Haseem Ahmed from the IUI. — *ATP*

## IHC restrains executive magistrates from using judicial powers

**Court tells federal govt to issue notification to provide legal cover to magistrates**

By Malik Asad

**ISLAMABAD** The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has restrained executive magistrates from exercising judicial powers, as only courts can exercise judicial powers in the capital territory under the Constitution. IHC Justice Arshad Muhammad Tahir issued the judgement in response to a petition, which said that the magistrates were using judicial powers against the spirit and mandate of the Constitution, particularly, Article 175(3). The petition highlighted that officers of the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration, while exercising judicial powers, did not follow the rules of procedure framed by the High Court under Article 202 of the Constitution and that they were outside the supervisory jurisdiction of the High Court, con-

trary to Article 201 of the Constitution. The assistant attorney general, however, argued that the judicial system of Pakistan was divided with hundreds and thousands of cases and it did not appeal to a greater need to hasten it further. The state counsel argued that executive magistrates had been empowered and recognised by the Supreme Court, adding that the executive magistracy did not encroach upon the judicial system. The counsel referred to various provisions of the Law Reform Ordinance 1972, Legal Reforms Act of 1996, and 1997 whereby the executive magistracy had been vested with powers to try and try offences. The lawyer argued the executive magistracy exercised powers conferred upon them as had not been entirely abolished to the extent of the Islamabad Capital Territory. The judge concluded that "the conferment of judicial powers upon the executive magistrates under 1972 law, repealed, under sections 26, 29, and 37 thereof, their power from the supervisory jurisdiction of this court and hence

their administrative control and supervision by the executive is contrary to Article 175(3), 201 and 201 of the Constitution and the judgments of the Supreme Court referred to above, the same is, therefore, held to be unconstitutional. The legislature has already performed its role by promulgating the 1st Amendment Ordinance, however, it has delegated the authority to the federal government to designate the date on which its provisions shall come into force through the 2nd Amendment Ordinance. More than 20 years have passed since the promulgation of the two ordinances, but the government still failed to issue the requisite notification. The judge noted that despite filing a comprehensive report, the Ministry of Law and Justice failed to explain the delay in issuing the requisite notification. The court declared that the period of fourteen years stipulated in Article 175(3) of the Constitution had lapsed in 1987. It is held that the delay occasioned by complying with the referred provision of the Constitution beyond the permissible period was unconstitutional, let alone

conceding further time to any organ of the state to take measures for separating the judiciary from the executive. The government has been directed to issue the notification in this regard, the judge directed. The judge restrained the executive magistrates from passing final judgments and orders in civil cases unless they are issued by the federal government. After endorsement of the provisions of the 1st Amendment Ordinance, the material facts relating to criminal trials should be transmitted by the executive magistrates to the respective sessions judge which shall accordingly be entrusted to competent judicial magistrates for further proceedings, read the order. The court declared that "within the Islamabad Capital Territory, judicial power can only be exercised by courts or magistrates with the provisions of Articles 175(3), 202 and 201 of the Constitution and other enabling events, financial provisions and the exercise of judicial power in contravention of such constitutional provisions would be unconstitutional and nullity in the eye of law."

## 85 more dengue patients surface

By Our Staff Reporter

**RAWALPINDI** As many as 85 more patients went down with mosquito-borne disease on Saturday, taking the tally to 1,111 in current season. As many as 103 suspected patients arrived in three government hospitals during last 24 hours of the week with dengue fever. Total 174 specimens are admitted in the hospitals including Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital, General Durrani Hospital and Civil Headquarter Hospitals. Suspected patients arrived from Kohat, Shikarpur, Mianwali, Dera Ismail Khan, Chakwal, Dera Ghokhar, Islamabad, Kotli, Kalam, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghaat, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore, Ferozshah, and other districts. According to official figures, the departments are still not releasing any patients from government hospitals in the gemstone city.

## Govt determined to make Pakistan top destination for business

Minister for Commerce Jam Rana Khan on Saturday said the government was working on increasing ease of doing business to make the country an attractive destination for foreign investment. In this regard, projects like Pakistan Single Window have been undertaken to provide one-stop solutions to potential investors seeking permits from different departments, said a press release. — *Detailed story on Page 15*



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Kashmiri leaders praise Shehbaz for advocating Kashmir cause

By Tariq Nazqah

MUZZAFFARABAD: Kashmiri leaders from both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) on Saturday expressed profound gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his strong advocacy of the Kashmir cause during his address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

In a statement, Aftab Ahmad Bhat, Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Movement (JKLM), maintained that Prime Minister Shehbaz's bold steps had once again brought global focus to the ongoing human rights violations and the legitimate aspirations of the people of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IJK).

"The addressed people of Kashmir are already indebted to Prime Minister Shehbaz for his principled and courageous stand against India's illegal occupation, and for rejecting the biased neo-imperialist policies being imposed by the Indian government in IJK," he said.

Stating that Pakistan's persistent advocacy at international forums afforded the people of Kashmir renewed hope in their cherished quest for self-determination,

Mr. Bhat expressed optimism that world leaders would respond to Pakistan prime minister's call for a peaceful and just resolution to the Kashmir dispute, which remained crucial for peace and stability in the region.

He further urged the international community to not only acknowledge but actively support efforts to resolve the Kashmir conflict by swiftly implementing United Nations resolutions on the issue.

He pointed out that lasting peace in South Asia hinged on granting the people of Jammu and Kashmir their inalienable right to self-determination, as mandated by the UN resolutions.

These resolutions must be endorsed and decades of Indian occupation and the continued human rights abuses in the region be stopped.

Tarwanat Bhat, a militant turned peace activist, also praised PM Shehbaz for his bold and principled stand on the Kashmir issue during his address at the UNGA.

"The prime minister's address is yet another reminder to the world of the urgent need for a peaceful and just resolution to the longstanding Kashmir conflict, in accordance with UN resolutions," said Mr. Bhat, who once headed the United

Front (UF).

Maintaining that the ultimate solution to IJK could not come as a replacement for the publicity generated by the UN resolutions, he urged the international community to heed Pakistan's call for intervention in keeping the stark reality that peace in South Asia will remain elusive without a lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute.

PM's regional secretary general and AJKA former senior minister, Chaudhary Tariq Farooq, also lauded PM Shehbaz for using the global platform to highlight the ongoing human rights violations and military aggression in IJK, maintaining that such international attention was crucial for the Kashmir cause.

He noted that the people of Kashmir deeply appreciated Pakistan's unwavering diplomatic, political, and moral support.

"Prime Minister's consistent advocacy for Kashmir's right to self-determination has kept the issue alive on the international stage, providing hope and encouragement to the oppressed people of IJK," he said.

"Pakistan's consistent stand reflects its commitment to seeking justice and peace in the region, despite challenges and opposition from the Indian government," he added.

Expert warns of laser therapy's side effects

By Brian Juarez

ISLAMABAD: While laser therapy has brought revolution in skin treatment across the globe, multiskin dermatologist at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Dr. Mubashir Datta has warned about its side effects.

"People should not go for laser therapy because of adverse effects and scarring on facial features. They should consult an expert rather than a beautician because it is a hard-core therapy and can be irreversible if not done properly," he warned while addressing a lecture at PIMS.

"While laser therapy offers many benefits, it's important to consider a few key factors before deciding on a treatment as not all lasers are suitable for every skin type. For instance, individuals with darker skin tones may need specific types of lasers to avoid pigmentation changes. Similarly, there are potential side effects including redness, swelling, and temporary discomfort. While rare, more serious risks like scarring or changes in skin color can occur," he said.

"However, it is a fact that laser therapy is a powerful tool in dermatology and aesthetic medicine, offering effective solutions for a wide range of skin concerns. The term 'laser' stands for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation, and the technology works by emitting a specific wavelength of light that targets particles of light that target proteins in skin cells or tissues. Different types of lasers are used based on the treatment goal, whether it's to remove unwanted hair, reduce wrinkles, or clear up acne-prone skin," he said.

Dr. Datta suggested that to address the issue of pigmentation and sun damage, laser treatments, retinoids, and sunscreen can be treated with lasers that specifically target melanin, the pigment in the skin. "These treatments break down the pigment, leading to a more even skin tone." Distinguishing between laser therapy, he observed that lasers can target specific areas with high precision, allowing for more controlled treatment than more controlled treatments that cause collateral damage to surrounding tissues.

"Most laser treatments are non-invasive or minimally invasive, requiring little to no downtime. This makes laser therapy an attractive option for those looking for effective results without a lengthy recovery," he said.

"Depending on the condition being treated, multiple sessions may be required to achieve the desired results. Maintenance treatments may also be necessary to sustain those results over time," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN ORDNANCE FACTORIES
CORRIGENDUM
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Government of Pakistan
Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination
CORRIGENDUM FOR HIRING OF PMU FOR NATIONAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM

(Dr. Samad Hossain)
Assistant Director (P-W)

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KP plans to provide free treatment for neuromuscular disorder

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government is making over to provide free of cost treatment to patients suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a rare and debilitating genetic disorder.

This great cause was adopted as an event organized by the Spina Foundation of Disability Foundation (SDF) a not-for-profit organization working for improving the quality of life of Patients with Disability (PwD).

The Executive Chairman of SDF, Mubashir Yasir Khan said the proposal was shared with the officials of the KP government about two months ago and they have agreed to enter into a partnership with the foundation.

"The health department of KP government has asked for the budget necessary for allocations and especially in a year or so patients will start getting treatment."

"Negotiations with other provincial governments are also in the process and they will follow suit," he said.

The President of SDF, Majid Qureshi said so far the foundation has raised about \$4.8 million to make possible the expensive treatment of 35 patients after entering into a partnership with a pharmaceutical company that helped the patients as beneficiaries.

It was informed at the event titled "Journey to

SMA" that 30 patients are still waiting for the treatment that is expensive even for an upper middle class family. Currently, only one medicine is available in Pakistan at 80 percent subsidized rates that can be beyond the reach of a large segment of Pakistanis.

There was a time when SMA was the single largest cause of the child deaths but with the breakthrough of new medicines now three can be saved if available timely in the country, said Yasir Khan.

He said the foundation has made possible to provide medicine to 14 patients this year despite its meager resources.

A father of a minor patient, Haris, shared his ordeal of being in his own world with no support from the government and the society.

He said his two-year-old daughter was getting treatment because of SDF and the foundation gave hope and a platform to people like him who have nowhere else to go.

NATIONAL BANK OF PAKISTAN
INVITATION TO e-BID
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3- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP ISLAMIC BANKING BRANCH, SIRLAM MUHAMMAD ABAD R.O FAISALABAD.
4- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP RAILWAY ROAD DINCA BRANCH R.O. GUJRAT.
5- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP MANO CHAK BRANCH R.O. GUJRAT.
6- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP MACHKE BRANCH R.O. SHEKHUPURA.
7- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP CIVIL LINES BRANCH SARGODHA.
8- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP MAIN BRANCH, BAHAWALNAGAR (EX-ZONAL OFFICE), R.O. BAHAWAL.
National Bank of Pakistan, invites electronic bids from the eligible contractors/bidders, who comply with the following criteria, for above-said works.
a) The bidder should have an active status on FBR Active Taxpayer List and with Punjab Revenue Board.
b) The bidder should have a valid registration in Pakistan Engineering Council in financial category C-3 or above for (Sl. No. 1 to 5 only) and category C-5 or above for (Sl. No. 7 to 8 only), with valid CE-10 and CE-04 construction specialties on loading date.
c) The bidder should have completed at least two similar projects of banks, financial institutions, Multinational Companies or reputable departments, costing not less than Rs. 4.0 Million for (Sl. No. 1 to 6 only) and costing not less than twenty five (25.00 Million) Pak Rupees for (Sl. No. 7 to 8 only) each during last five (05) years.
d) The bidder should not have been blacklisted and hence debarred due to involvement in corrupt and fraudulent practices, or performance failure or due to breach of bid security declaration by any Organization / Department / Institution.
2. e-bidding documents or job regulations containing detail terms and conditions, specifications and requirements etc. are available for the registered bidders on EPADS at https://epads.gov.pk
3. The electronic bids, prepared in accordance to the instructions contained in the bidding documents along with bid security instrument and required documents, must be submitted by using EPADS or at before October 31, 2024 at 11:00 am. Manual bids, shall not be accepted. In case of any technical difficulty in using EPADS, prospective bidders, may contact PPRB Team, Director M/S, Room No. 104, 1st Floor, PRC building Sector G-5/2, Islamabad. Contact Number 051-111-137-237.
4. Original bid Security instrument MUST be submitted to the order signed before closing hours of the bids submission time; otherwise respective bid will not be opened. Electronic bids will be opened on the same day at 11:00 am through EPADS in the presence of Procurement Committee and bidders who opt to participate at the following venue:
The Engineering Wing (Central), Engineering Comp LEML, NBP RHO Building, 26-Mulagon Road, Lahore.
Note: Notification of the GR is published in terms of Rule-46 of PPRB rules, 2004 is provided on EPADS at https://epads.gov.pk. This advertisement is available on NBP website at https://www.nbp.com.pk/Tenders and PPRB website at www.pprb.gov.pk.
If office remains closed on the bidding date for any reason, the bid will be opened in similar manner on next working day at the same time and venue.
Wing Head, Engineering Wing (Central), NBP RHO Building, 26-Mulagon Road, Lahore. Tel. +92-042-99210641, Ext. 3028

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KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA TEXTBOOK BOARD PESHAWAR
TENDER NOTICE
FOR PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OF TEXTBOOKS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26
1. Sealed bids are invited in accordance with Section 62(2)(b) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement of Goods, Works and Services Act, 2013 from the Sole Proprietor/ Firm/ Companies/ PA/Enterprises/MSMEs/Groups for the Academic Year 2025-26, for procurement and supply of approximately 40 million textbooks.
2. Each bidder shall submit sealed Technical bid and Financial bid in separate envelopes put together in a larger sealed envelope put together in a larger sealed envelope giving full detail as required in the Bid Solicitation Documents, both, technical and Financial bids shall be typed.
3. Technical bids shall be opened first and credentials of all bidders shall be evaluated physically and technically.
4. Financial bids of technically qualified bidders shall be opened on a verified date and time in presence of the bidders/their representative who opt themselves available on the date and time in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textbook Board, Hayatabad Peshawar.
5. Rate per book is to be quoted for the total mentioned quantity of each textbook as given in the Bid Solicitation Documents.
6. The bidding firm should not be blacklisted by any Government Department, Semi Government, Autonomous Body, Agency or Organization.
7. Conditional or incomplete bids shall not be accepted.
8. The bid documents can be obtained from office of the undersigned during the working hours on payment of prescribed fee of Rs. 5,000/- or through courier against bank demand draft of Rs. 5,000/- (including courier charges), in favour of Chairman, KP Textbook Board.
9. The bid meeting will be held on 07-10-2024 (Monday) at 11:00 hrs.
10. Bidders can be submitted on or before 16-10-2024 (Wednesday) 11:00 hrs in the office of Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textbook Board, Peshawar.
11. Technical bids shall be opened on the same day at 11:00 hrs in presence of bidders or their representatives who opt themselves available on that date and time in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textbook Board, Hayatabad, Peshawar. In case of official holiday on the day of submission/opening, next day will be treated as last submission/opening day.
12. The Procurement Entity/Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids in the public interest giving reasons for cancellation.
Note: The tender advertisement is also available on NPTBB website: https://nbp.gov.pk and PPRB website: www.pprb.gov.pk.
BAKHTIAR KHAN / SECRETARY
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textbook Board Phase-V, Hayatabad Peshawar
Ph: 091-9217726 Fax: 091-9217168 Email: chairmankpbb@gmail.com





BUSSES seen parked on a road in Rawalpindi. The buses will ply on a new route from Karol Qhar Khan (Shaheed Road) to Faisalabad in Rawalpindi. — AFP

# Govt determined to make Pakistan top destination for business, investment: minister

### Says prudent and effective gov policies brought down inflation and increased foreign reserves

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Saturday said the government was working to make Pakistan a top destination for business and investment.

In his remarks, Khan said the government has been successful in bringing down inflation and increasing foreign reserves. He said the government is working to make Pakistan a top destination for business and investment.

The minister was addressing the 10th anniversary celebration of International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICC) in Islamabad.

He said prudent and effective policies of the government had brought down inflation and increased foreign reserves.

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He said prudent and effective policies of the government had brought down inflation and increased foreign reserves.

# 'Heart disease on the rise among Pakistani youth'

By Irum Javed

ISLAMABAD: With World Heart Day being observed on Sunday today, statistics have shown that there has been an alarming increase in heart issues among youth in Pakistan.

Heart attacks and cardiovascular diseases, once predominantly associated with older adults, are now becoming common in individuals in their late 20s and 30s.

This was stated by Chief of Cardiology at Shifa International Hospital Dr. Assad Nadeem in a statement issued in connection with the day.

Highlighting the importance of lifestyle changes and early intervention to combat the growing threat, he said, "Sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy diets, smoking and rising stress levels are key factors contributing to the spike in heart problems among young adults."

"This is particularly concerning, as younger patients have a longer life ahead of them, and the early onset of heart disease can result in severe, long-term complications. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of high cholesterol levels, particularly in teenagers of families in which heart disease is prevalent can help save lives," he added.

The doctor went on to say that recent studies indi-

cated a surge in non-communicable diseases in Pakistan, with cardiovascular conditions leading the way.

According to Dr. Assad Nadeem, consistent cardiovascular health checks, including blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar, are crucial for early detection and prevention.

"Cardiovascular health is not just about preventing heart disease; it's about maintaining overall well-being and quality of life. Regular health checkups, a balanced diet, and physical activity are essential for maintaining a healthy heart," he said.

"While medical advancements have greatly improved our ability to treat heart conditions, prevention remains the best approach. Regular health checkups, a balanced diet, and physical activity are essential for maintaining a healthy heart," he said.

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# Eight booked for 'selling woman to gang'

By Mohd. Tahirul Huda

MUZAFFARGHURH: Laysyah city police have registered a case against eight people and arrested four of them for allegedly selling a woman to a gang and recovered her.

The police said they had received a complaint from a woman who had been sold to a gang. The police immediately took action against the suspects and arrested four of them. The remaining four suspects are being sought.

The woman, who had been sold to a gang, was recovered by the police. She is now being treated at a hospital. The police are continuing their investigation.

been arrested. The police are continuing their investigation.

The police are continuing their investigation.

The police are continuing their investigation.

The police are continuing their investigation.

The police are continuing their investigation.

The police are continuing their investigation.

officer confirmed that a case has been filed under Section 4 of the Protection of Children Act, 1933, and Section 302 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The police are continuing their investigation.

The police are continuing their investigation.

The police are continuing their investigation.

The police are continuing their investigation.

The police are continuing their investigation.

# Murderer sentenced to life imprisonment

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: A local court in Taxila on Saturday sentenced a murderer to life imprisonment for the murder of a woman in the city.

The court sentenced the murderer to life imprisonment for the murder of a woman in the city. The court also ordered the confiscation of the property of the murderer.

The court sentenced the murderer to life imprisonment for the murder of a woman in the city.

The court sentenced the murderer to life imprisonment for the murder of a woman in the city.

The court sentenced the murderer to life imprisonment for the murder of a woman in the city.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

"The nation's bank". National Bank of Pakistan aims to support the financial well-being of the Nation along with enabling sustainable growth and inclusive development through its wide local and international network of branches. Being one of the leading and largest banks of Pakistan, National Bank of Pakistan is contributing significantly towards socioeconomic growth in the country with an objective to transform the institution into a Future Fit, agile and sustainable Bank.

In line with our strategy, the bank is looking for talented, dedicated and experienced professionals for the following positions in the areas of **Audit and Inspection**.

The individuals who fulfil the below basic-eligibility criteria may apply for the following positions:

Sl	Position / Job Title	Internal Auditor – Team Leader (AVP)
01	Reporting to	Local Reviewer
	Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC.</li> <li>Fresh Chartered Accountants will be preferred.</li> </ul>
	Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 08 years of banking experience, out of which 03 years in Audit and / or Compliance and / or Operations and / or Risk and / or Finance and / or Business Governance function.</li> </ul>
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well conversant with internal audit problems and relevant regulatory guidelines.</li> <li>Good understanding of business communication, presentation and analytical skills.</li> <li>Ability to work under timelines and pressure situations.</li> <li>Proficient in use of Microsoft Office and Visio, SAP and Core Banking Application.</li> <li>Ability to work in a fast paced and deadline driven environment with consistent and quality output.</li> </ul>
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct Management Audits, Branch Audits and Region Audits.</li> <li>To develop and update Risk Control Matrix (RCM) of functions and their products.</li> <li>To hold pre-audit meetings with the auditee management to plan the audit and gather pre-inspection data for preparation of Audit Planning Document.</li> <li>To perform testing procedures for each control to be tested and for lapses observed disclose in the internal audit report.</li> <li>To validate the rectification status of regulatory and internal audit findings.</li> <li>To follow up and discuss Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with the management.</li> <li>To implement internal and external quality assurance recommendations, SAP inspection and external auditor's recommendations.</li> <li>To supervise effective management of internal audit MIS, back-office records and ensure the safeguarding of audit records.</li> <li>To conduct timely escalation of reportable / critical issues and their periodic follow-ups.</li> <li>To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s).</li> </ul>
	Place of Posting	Karachi
02	Position / Job Title	Internal Auditor – Team Member (DG-II / OG-I)
	Reporting to	Local Reviewer
	Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC.</li> <li>Chartered Accounting having Master's Degree and / or MBA (Finance) and / or any other relevant professional qualification or certifications such as ACCA / CA (Final) / CIA etc. will be preferred.</li> </ul>
	Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 08 years of banking experience, out of which 01 year in Audit / Compliance / Operations / Risk / Finance / Business Governance function.</li> </ul>
	Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well conversant with internal audit problems and relevant regulatory guidelines.</li> <li>Good understanding of business communication, presentation and analytical skills.</li> <li>Ability to work under timelines and pressure situations.</li> <li>Proficient in use of Microsoft Office and Visio, SAP and Core Banking Application.</li> <li>Ability to work in a fast paced and deadline driven environment with consistent and quality output.</li> </ul>
	Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct Management Audits, Branch Audits and Region Audits.</li> <li>To develop and update Risk Control Matrix (RCM) of functions and their products.</li> <li>To join the audit and gather pre-inspection data for preparation of Audit Planning Document.</li> <li>To perform testing procedures for each control to be tested and for lapses observed disclose in the internal audit report.</li> <li>To validate the rectification status of regulatory and internal audit findings.</li> <li>To follow up and discuss Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with the management.</li> <li>To implement internal and external quality assurance recommendations, SAP inspection and external auditor's recommendations.</li> <li>To supervise effective management of internal audit MIS, back-office records and ensure the safeguarding of audit records.</li> <li>To conduct timely escalation of reportable / critical issues and their periodic follow-ups.</li> <li>To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s).</li> </ul>
	Place of Posting	Karachi / Lahore / Islamabad
	Assessment Test / Interview(s)	Only shortlisted candidates meeting the above-mentioned basic eligibility criteria will be invited for test and / or panel interview(s).
	Employment Type	The employment will be on contract basis for three years which may be renewed on discretion of the Management. Shortlisted candidates will be offered compensatory package and other benefits as per Bank's Policy / Rules.

Interested candidates may visit the website [www.nbpfp.com.pk/careers](http://www.nbpfp.com.pk/careers) and apply online within 10 working days from the date of publication of this advertisement as per given instructions.

Applications received after due date will not be considered in any case. No TB / DA will be advisable for test / interview.

National Bank of Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of gender, religion, or disability.

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY  
PERSONAL HEAD OFFICE ISLAMABAD

### Procurement of SSDs (128 GB)

#### BID NOTICE

NDR/REGISTRATION/2024/0001

- Physical Head Office (HCO) interested bidders should visit from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on 29 Sept 2024 to the Department of Registration and Information Systems (DRIS) for the purpose of downloading the Bidding Documents.
- The Bidding Documents, complete details may be obtained during office hours from the office of the Procurement Officer (PO) from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on 29 Sept 2024. In case of any queries, please contact the Procurement Officer (PO) at 1133 before the deadline. The Bidding Documents must be submitted by 12:00 hours on 29 Sept 2024. Bids will be opened at 11:30 hours on the same day in the presence of all the representatives of HCO/DRIS/Interested Bidders at the Main Office, 1133, Islamabad.
- The Security is Rs 50,000/- which must be attached with bid in the form of Demand Draft/No Dd in the name of NDRRA/DRIS/Department of Registration and Information Systems.
- The process of single stage single envelope would be adopted.
- Interested bidders have the right to meet the officials on the day of the opening of bids.

In case of public tenders, bidders will be opened on next working day. For any queries visit the website [www.nbpfp.com.pk](http://www.nbpfp.com.pk)

**Procurement Branch** #9802100019  
National Head Office (NHO), Plot No. 1001  
Main Ave. G-2/2, Islamabad  
Ph: 351-2010

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY  
PERSONAL HEAD OFFICE ISLAMABAD

### Procurement of Digital Cameras

#### BID NOTICE

NDR/REGISTRATION/2024/0002

- Physical Head Office (HCO) interested bidders should visit from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on 29 Sept 2024 to the Department of Registration and Information Systems (DRIS) for the purpose of downloading the Bidding Documents.
- The Bidding Documents, complete details may be obtained during office hours from the office of the Procurement Officer (PO) from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on 29 Sept 2024. In case of any queries, please contact the Procurement Officer (PO) at 1133 before the deadline. The Bidding Documents must be submitted by 12:00 hours on 29 Sept 2024. Bids will be opened at 11:30 hours on the same day in the presence of all the representatives of HCO/DRIS/Interested Bidders at the Main Office, 1133, Islamabad.
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In case of public tenders, bidders will be opened on next working day. For any queries visit the website [www.nbpfp.com.pk](http://www.nbpfp.com.pk)

**Procurement Branch** #9802100014  
National Head Office (NHO), Plot No. 1001  
Main Ave. G-2/2, Islamabad  
Ph: 351-2010



City held without Rodri as Palmer's four-goal haul fires Chelsea

Page 24 SPORT

LAHORE
Sunset 05:53 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:53 am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 29.0°C
Maximum 33.0°C
Weather Sunny
AQI
Maximum (Overcast) 172

METRO Central



TRAFFIC members place cones on Ferozpur Road near Model Town to make motorists follow lane discipline. — White Star

P&D Board for timely execution of foreign-funded projects

By Marisoor Malik

LAHORE: The Planning and Development Board, Punjab, has expressed its concern over the delay in the execution of foreign-funded projects and stressed project directors to intensify activities and ensure timely execution of projects and completion.

During a review meeting of foreign-funded projects at Punjab at the Metropolitan Board Secretariat on Saturday, P&D Board Secretary Dr. Asif Iqbal said the project directors must speed up the timely execution of project activities and targets and stop all project activities.

Dr. Iqbal stressed the importance of monitoring, transparency in project monitoring and expenditure management to prevent further activities.

"Regular updates are crucial to keep...

ing on track and achieving our project goals," he said.

Highlighted the importance of strengthening professional with foreign donors to enhance bilateral relations, the P&D Board secretary emphasised the government's commitment to maximising the impact of foreign-funded projects for local communities. He said the Punjab government's overarching goal was to transform foreign investments into tangible benefits that drive economic growth in the region. He said this approach aimed at enhancing connectivity and driving economic development through strategic partnerships and responsible management of resources.

The meeting also discussed the Smart Monitoring of Development Projects (SMDP) evaluation report designed to streamline the tracking of World Bank-funded projects from inception to completion.

Dr. Iqbal stressed the need for transparency in progress monitoring and expenditure management. The meeting marked a renewed focus on improving efficiency and ensuring the timely completion of critical development projects across the province.

Several senior officials attended the meeting, including former Chief of the Excise and Taxation Department (ETA) Nadeem Anwar, Senior Chief of Livestock and Dairy Development, Chief Government Officer (GPO) and Project Director, Asifullah (Punjab Rural Municipal Services Commission), former Punjab Agriculture & Horticulture Department, GPO Punjab (Punjab Fruit and Vegetable Processing Project), Ali Jafar (Punjab Rural Infrastructure Development) and Engineering, Waqar (Punjab Tourism for Economic Growth Project), Waheed (Project

Management Office Canal), Saif Zohair (Punjab Urban Programme), Hameed (Labour Welfare and Welfare Management Project), Farooq (Punjab Education Sector Reform Programme), Akhtar (Punjab Economic Improvement and Digitalisation Programme), Farooq (Punjab University Research Lab), Sultan (Project Management), Iqbal (Energy, Punjab (Punjab Agriculture Reform and Socioeconomic Programme and Skills and Market Development Project) and Razaan Malik (Punjab Infrastructure Grant Improvement Investment Programme).

Also, Assistant Commissioner of Excise and Taxation Department (ETA) Nadeem Anwar, Director of Planning and Development Board (P&D) Umar Waheed, Assistant Commissioner of P&D Ad Nadeem, Assistant Commissioner of ICA, Asim, and other relevant officials were also present.

200 more affectees of real estate scams lodge complaints with NAB

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Over 200 affectees of housing schemes lodged their complaints with NAB (Lahore District) Central (National Anti-Corruption) Authority during an open court here on Saturday.

The affectees of the latest housing schemes like Khayaban-e-Amin, Housing Society, Park View Housing Society, Formations Housing Society, Al-Nour Housing, Al-Nour Apartments, Lahore Garden Housing Scheme and Lahore Motorway City registered their complaints against fraud. These were also affectees of other financial scams like Fird Real Estate, Green Impact Real Estate and Prime

Zone scam.

The DG also finalised the settlement plan for the Khayaban-e-Amin Housing Society, ensuring the provision of plots to each and every claimant. He assured the affectees that NAB would not rest until the last claimant received their plot. He further assured that within the upcoming few months, all 200 affectees would be

Continued on Page 17

Pre-arrest bail of PTI MPA, 39 activists extended

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday extended the pre-arrest bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Hafiz Farhan Akhtar and 39 activists in the Israeli House attack and burning police vehicles during the May 9 riots.

The MPA and the party workers appeared before the court on expiry of their pre-arrest bail. They Judge Ahsan Javed extended the bail of Akhtar in the police vehicles burning case till Oct 25.

The judge extended the bail of the PTI workers in the same FIR of Israeli House attack till Oct 25.

Nawaz Road police had registered a case against the leaders and the members of the PTI for

stocking and circulating the forged statements, the court also known as Jinnah House, during the protests of May 9 last year against the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan.

INDETERMINATE An anti-terrorism court on Saturday extended its verdict on an application of playwright Khalid Raza Wahi seeking release of himself and his registration book recovered from the suspects involved in his alleged kidnapping and harassment.

A prosecutor opposed the release of the accused money and car, arguing that the case was still pending and the same should remain with the police until the investigation was complete.

However, the prosecutor agreed that the registration book of the car could be handed over

to the complainant. Qureshi's lawyer, Muzaffar Chaudhry appeared in the court. He asked the court that the playwright's money and the car's registration book be returned to him.

He argued that the police had recovered Rs240,000 and the car's registration book from the suspects.

He stated that the suspects had withdrawn money from the complainant's bank account using his ATM.

After hearing the arguments, Judge Justice Ahsan Javed reserved his verdict on the application.

The suspects in the case, including Anwar Anjum, Hamid Shah, and Rafiq ul-Haq, are on judicial custody. They have been charged with the kidnapping of the playwright.

CM forms committee for tourism promotion

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has constituted a 20-member steering committee for promotion and development of tourism in Punjab.

Senior Punjab Minister Maryam Aurangzeb will act as its convener. Senator Pervaiz Rashid has been especially nominated in the committee.

According to an official notification, the committee includes Information & Culture Minister Asma Zohair Bhakhar, Convener and Communications Minister, Sahab Ahmed Malik, Transport Minister Iqbal Akbar and MNA Abdul Khaliq.

Other members of the committee include chairman planning & development and secretary of Finance, tourism, construction, information, P&I, forest, environment protection and transport.

The DG Water City Lahore, Chairman PTD, CEO IGAP, CEO Urban Unit, DG P&I, DG Welfare and Parks, DG LDA and principal NCA will also be members of the committee.

It will work together to identify, approve and implement plans and will remove barriers for the promotion of tourism.

The committee will plan the construction, rehabilitation and repair of important tourist spots. It will also make recommendations for the upgrade of historical, religious, cultural and commercial sites suitable for tourism.

The committee will also formulate a communication strategy by employing digital, electronic and social media platforms as one-stop solution for promotion of tourism.

The secretary tourism will provide administrative support to it that will make recommendations within 30 days in consultation with the stakeholders.

Worker chained at brick kiln rescued

By Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Bahawalpur City police rescued a chained worker from illegal confinement of a brick kiln owner on Talwar Road on Saturday.

According to SHO Abdul Wahid, Anwar Khan, the owner of a brick kiln, had allegedly chained his worker, Akbar, and confined him in one of the rooms at his brick kiln for the last 10 days for demanding his wages.

Police conducted a raid on the brick kiln and freed Akbar. Anwar Khan fled away from the scene.

According to police, Anwar Khan had not paid thousands of rupees in wages to the worker and latter threatened him with removal of his kidney to earn money.

Police registered case against the suspect.

DESI: A woman, Anwar Fatma (32), was killed when a trailer hit a motor-pole near Adha Pul Bazaar on Khanewal-Lodhran road.

The rescuers headed over her body to her family. Police took the driver into custody.

Rain across Punjab

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Moderate to heavy rain was reported in various districts of the province, turning weather pleasant on Saturday. Lahore city also received light to moderate rain in the morning.

Forecast recorded 64 mm of rain, Chakwal 22 mm, Sargodha 20 mm, Sheikhpura 22 mm, Gujranwala and Mandi Bahaudin both 20 mm, and Sahiwal 9 mm. Rain was also recorded in Multan, Rawalpindi, Jhang, Kasur, Jhelum and Okara.

In the next 24 hours, there is a possibility of rain in most districts of Punjab. The spell of rain is predicted to continue till October 1.

PCMA Director General Irwin Ali Kotler issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioners across the province to remain alert.

Another woman gang-raped by robbers

Two minor cousins raped by three at tuition centre

By Our Correspondent

TORA TER SINGH: Two minor girls and a married woman were gang-raped in separate incidents in Faisalabad.

Robbers gang-raped a young woman during robbery at AN Town in the established police area of Faisalabad in the early hours of Saturday.

In the first information report (FIR), registered under rape and robbery charges, complainant Tal Meharshah said five suspects broke into his house at

11:00am. They robbed the family of cash, jewellery and a motorcycle and forced him to go with them to bank at his neighbour's house. When the neighbour opened the gate, the suspects entered it and took away Rs200,000, 10-bulk gold ornaments, a motorcycle and other valuables.

Three robbers gang-raped the 21-year-old wife the neighbour.

Reports said the unidentified suspects robbed five more houses in the same locality.

Faisalabad CIDP Karamjit Anil signed the house where the robberies and the gang-rape had taken place. The house is now of special police officers, headed by the SSP, operations, to trace and arrest the suspects.

Meanwhile, two five-year-old minor

girls were gang-raped by three men at a tuition centre at Chak 125-R3, Multan district, in the Sakhra police area of Faisalabad.

According to the FIR, the complainant said his daughter and his brother-in-law's daughter used to take tuition at the house of the suspect. When both girls returned from tuition on Sept 5, they fell ill. They were taken to a clinic for treatment.

When they fell better on Sept 28, they were asked to go for tuition but they hesitated. When they questioned about their education, they revealed that the centre owner, his uncle and their friend had raped both of them after giving them medicine in liquid.

A press release issued by the CPRI office said both girls were taken to the

local headquarters hospital where the lady stated confirmed that they had been raped.

The minor suspect had been arrested while raids were being conducted to arrest the other two alleged rapists.

Meanwhile, a boy was raped near Malik Shah Jinnah in Jhang on Saturday.

The complainant, a resident of Masra Bahadrawala, alleged in the FIR reports filed with Quetta police that his 15-year-old nephew was on the way to purchase commodities from Malik Shah Jinnah when three boys forced him to do so in their motorcycle.

They took him towards the street where two boys overpowered him and one of them raped him.

Police arrested all the three suspects.





# Eight booked for 'selling woman to gang'

By Our Correspondent

**MUZAFFARHAR:** Laysakh city police have registered a case against eight people and arrested four of them for allegedly selling a woman to a gang and recovered her.

A resident of Muzaffar, reported to the Laysakh city police that she had been sold to a gang under the false promise of being offered a job. She filed a complaint against eight people, including Muhammad Iqbal, Muzaffar, Ad and Nadeem, who lived her with the promise of employment. When they allegedly actually arrested her at her residence in Laysakh.

The woman alleged that the woman sold her to Saad, Aamir, Muhammad, Nadeem, Muzaffar, and Nadeem, who allegedly had to be arrested and taken to Laysakh city police station. She has been released.

# 200 more affectees...

Continued from Page 14

unregistered and those who might not get plots, may be value compensation would be received.

To facilitate the compensation of the Lahore Metropolitan City, DC NAB directed the concerned for immediate release.

He referred the complaints against Lahore Corridor Housing Scheme's administration to the deputy commissioner and district police officer (DPO) of Wazirpur for action.

Regarding the Formative Housing team, the NAB Lahore DC informed the affectees that the bureau was actively working to review the award progress for recovery of public investments yet few action attempts remained uninitiated. However, he said that the affectees were under no need to return double amounts to the affectees.

# Recruitment violations in Narowal Medical College exposed

By Ahsan Mahmood

**NAROWAL:** Allegations of violations of merit and stated and governance in the recruitment of teaching staff at Narowal Medical College have surfaced.

After the Punjab government approved the establishment of Narowal Medical College, a recruitment advertisement was published by the project director/Deputy Commissioner in April 18, to which 167 candidates applied for professor, associate professor, assistant professors and demonstrator-officers.

The Specialized Health Services Department, Government of Punjab, issued a recruitment order (SRO) to conduct the recruitment process. The committee included Prof Dr Ahsan

Wahid Siddiqui, vice-chancellor of the University of Health Sciences Lahore, Commissioner, Prof Dr Muhammad Zafar Chaudhry, vice-chancellor of established Medical University/Principal of Narowal Medical College, Government, Prof Dr Iqbal Muhammad, principal of Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore, Ahmad Shari, section officer (AMT-11) and Javed Hussain, section officer (General). Also, 15 professors and subject specialists assisted in the interviews.

The interviews for the teaching staff positions took place on July 23 and 24 at the University of Health Sciences, Kala Shah Kaku Campus, and 15 of the demonstrated/assistant officers, including women medical officers, were selected.

On Aug 21, the secretary of

the Punjab Specialized Health Services and Medical Education Department issued appointment letters to 12 selected candidates based on the merit list compiled by the SSC.

However, controversy arose when the secretary removed Dr Maryam Ijaz from the merit list, despite her 80th place ranking.

The appointment letters were issued to the other 12 candidates. The SRO 9, an appointment letter was issued to Dr Ijaz for the same post, bypassing the recruitment SRO.

Dr Ijaz, an MBBS graduate from the University of Health Sciences, Lahore, had completed her service from job at Trauma, Shaoh, Medical College on June 21, after the deadline for submission of applications, which was April

20. Her inclusion in the merit list and subsequent appointment letter are in clear violation of the SROs.

Prof Dr Muhammad Zafar Chaudhry, Narowal Medical College principal, confirmed Dr Ijaz's joining.

Meanwhile, Dr Fatima Sohail, a candidate for a teaching staff position, expressed her frustration, stating that Dr Ijaz's three-year junior-to-senior, and that her own qualifications were rated as A plus.

"I have been unfairly removed from the merit list," Dr Fatima said, accusing the SSC of discrimination and political interference.

Another candidate, Dr Farid Ahmad also accused the SSC and the Specialized Health Services and Medical Education Department of collusion.

He said SSC chairman Prof Haroon and the interview

panel led to the department on Aug 23, yet appointment letters had already been issued on Aug 21 — two days earlier.

Candidates for teaching positions have expressed their distrust and disbelief over the recruitment process.

Several attempts to contact Prof Haroon for comment were unsuccessful.

When approached, Dr Muhammad Zafar Chaudhry, the co-ordinator of the SSC and principal of Narowal Medical College, responded.

"The Health Department has issued the appointment order. You should talk to them."

The affected candidates have called on Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and the chief secretary to take immediate action to address these violations.

# Community demands upgrade of girls elementary school

By Shafiq Butt

**SAJWAL:** Local residents, enrolled students and teachers of village SWS-1 in Sahawat taluk have demanded upgrade of the Government Girls Elementary School to a high school.

Up to 243 girls are enrolled in this school, established in 1962 and located in rural Village Council No 17. This school encompasses eight villages with a combined population of over 31,000, and the village of SWS-1 itself has more than 7,000 residents.

The surrounding villages served by this school include SWS-1, SWS-2, SWS-3, and SWS-4, along with several others that feed into the school.

Currently, there is no high school for girls in the entire area covered. Inhabitants, local social and political activists, said that after completing elementary education up to grade 8, girls have to travel six to seven kilometers to pursue their matriculation degree.

Many rural parents hesitate to send their daughters to schools because of the inadequate public

transportation and safety concerns.

"As a result, more than 50 per cent of girls are left with only a middle school certificate," he claimed.

Three senior residents — Mubshir, Zahid, and Munir — expressed their desire to convert the girls' school into a high school. They said that the school's infrastructure and facilities are outdated and need to be upgraded.

The school currently has 14 teachers, including a headmistress, along with four non-teaching staff members.

Muhammad Iqbal, education CEO, informed them that he recently submitted a list of 100 schools for potential upgradation to District Narowal. However, he said that the school in village SWS-1 is not included on that list.

"The department will conduct a feasibility study before considering any school for upgradation," the CEO added.

Last year, over 52 schools in Chakwal district were upgraded, with 60 per cent of them being girls' schools.

A senior female teacher from the

school said the school occupies a 17-acre area, divided into two parts. The existing building, which has five rooms, is situated on eight kanals, while an additional eight kanal plot remains vacant, where an upgraded school building could be constructed.

She stated that the current space was insufficient for 243 students, forcing most classes to be held in the school's veranda and courtyard.

Currently, the school employs 14 teachers, including a headmistress, along with four non-teaching staff members.

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"The department will conduct a feasibility study before considering any school for upgradation," the CEO added.

Last year, over 52 schools in Chakwal district were upgraded, with 60 per cent of them being girls' schools.

# Teacher accused of sexual assault tortured in court

By Our Correspondent

**NAROWAL:** A private school teacher, who was on pre-arrest bail in the case of sexual assault on his 16th class student, was tortured by the family of the victim at the gate of Shahjahanpur court on Saturday.

A first information report (FIR) of sexual assault on the 12-year-old girl by the teacher, a resident village Narowal, was registered with Shahjahanpur City Police Station on Sept 8.

The teacher had obtained his pre-arrest bail from the local court.

On Saturday, he reached the Shahjahanpur court for the case, hearing when the relatives of the victim student attacked him. More than a dozen people broke the windows of the car with sticks and forced the teacher out.

They tortured him with punches, sticks and iron bars. Unidentified armed men left the teacher in critical condition and fled while flying over the air.

The footage of the torture on the schoolteacher was posted on social media. A police van was allegedly present on the court premises when the first case happened.

According to police sources, an FIR had been registered on the incident.

Narowal District Police Officer Nawaz Malik said action was being taken against the suspects.



## Market Outreach Event

under

# PUNJAB URBAN LAND SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 (10:00 am to 04:00 pm)

VENUE | Nishat Hotel, Imperial Hall, Grand Ballrooms, Johar Town Lahore

The Board of Revenue and Punjab Land Records Authority Govt. of Punjab  
in collaboration with the World Bank organizing a full-day

### Market Outreach Event

The purpose is to provide information about opportunities created/available through the Project Titled "Punjab Urban Land Systems Enhancement" (PULSE) Project

ISO CERTIFIED

**Project Components:**

- Digital Land Records and Cadastral Maps for LRMS
- Land for Housing
- Integrated Land and Geospatial Information Systems and Services
- Project Management and Institutional Strengthening

**Firms can help us with:**

- GIS Mapping
- Drone & Satellite Imagery
- ICT Infrastructure
- Community Engagement
- Communication & Branding
- Survey
- Software Development
- Digitization & Data Entry
- Social Safeguards

**PULSE Project overview**

**Opportunities:**  
Digitization of Land Records, GIS, ICT and updating of Revenue Records

**Procurement rules and procedures in the World Bank financed projects**

**Guidelines for preparing acceptable bids/proposals**

Interested parties are invited to express their intention to attend in writing via email: [pspmupulse@punjab-zameen.gov.pk](mailto:pspmupulse@punjab-zameen.gov.pk) not later than **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

All prospective vendors, their partners and business representatives are also invited to submit their questions ahead of the event via email (if any)



Project Management Unit Board of Revenue PULSE

17B-A, Allu Ghan 2005, New Canton Road, Lahore, Pakistan  
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METRO North



City held without Rodri as Palmer's four-goal haul fires Chelsea Pg.22 SPORT

PESHAWAR
Sunset 06:04pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 06:04am
NEXT 24 HRS
Minimum 23°C
Maximum 34°C
Outlook Sunny



FARMERS plough a field with the help of a bullock team in Peshawar on Saturday. — White Star

Governor urges CM to collaborate to address province's issues

Govt rejects letter, insists it is taking corrective steps

By Umar Farooq

PESHAWAR After months of tensions, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Ijaz Khalil Kohli has formally invited provincial Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gillani to make joint efforts to address the province's issues. He also proposed the formation of the United Task Force Committee, composed of representatives of all political parties in the province, for the purpose. "UTFC will work together to address the available resource distribution, develop strategies for the National Finance

Commission regulations, propose measures to enhance security, promote political stability and identify key economic development initiatives," read a letter written by the governor to the chief minister on Friday. The letter, a copy of which is available with Dawn, was titled "Successful Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: A Call for Collaborative Action." It said that the province was confronted with governance challenges and the governor felt compelled to bring the chief minister's attention to several critical issues that urgently demanded collaborative efforts. "As you are aware, our province faces significant challenges including socio-political, economic, and security threats that have prevented progress and stability, resulting in irregular representations," it read. According to the governor,

the issues are about the "fair distribution of resources and their optimal utilization, National Finance Commission, two-tiered model, scheduling of electricity, federal income duty on oil, water supply, health services, education and socio-economic and political landscape of the province that ultimately affected the people." He said the UTFC should be formed to effectively address these challenges. "Mr Kohli said he was committed to working all residents of the province. "I believe that our collective efforts can yield positive outcomes for the province. By sitting at one table, we can effectively promote our interests to the federal government," he said. The governor welcomed the chief minister's thoughts on the proposal and said that he would like to convene an initial meet-

ing with the UTFC's formation. "Together, we can pave the way for a more prosperous and secure future for our province," he said. On the other hand, the provincial government rejected the offer, insisting it is aware of the issues and is taking steps to address them. "The governor has no authority to make any offer to us. We [PTI government] have people's mandate to address their issues," spokesman for the government Barrister Muhammad Ali Khalil Durrani said. Political observers insist that the provincial government's move is in the culture of incumbent PTI founder Imran Khan instead of people's demand.

On Sept 24, parliamentary leader of the opposition Pakistan Peoples Party in the KP Assembly Ahmad Karim Khattak urged the provincial government to work for people's development and raise rates for their rights instead of making claims across the country. He alleged that the ruling PTI's ministers and lawmakers were disinterested from people's problems and were overly focused on making public speeches. "The Control of Consumer Interest has been tasked with resolving issues among federating units but the PTI's government has never bothered to engage with that constitutional body to claim rights for the province," he said. The PPP leader said he had no objections to the ruling PTI's signing rallies anywhere in the country but would be opposed if it led to any form of violence or the rights of people who had voted it to power.

FSc exam position-holders fail to reach top 100 in MDCAT

Majority of top scorers in test belong to private and govt colleges

By Ashfaq Yousaf

PESHAWAR Position holders from the intermediate segment in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have failed to make it to the top 100 in the recent Medical and Dental College Admission Test, raising questions about the credibility of the exam conducted by

education boards. Results of the MDCAT, conducted in the province by the Khyber Medical University, were revealed that the students who topped the FSc exam held by public education boards, obtained passing marks for admission to public medical and dental colleges but failed to secure top slots in MDCAT. Some of them even got more than 95 per cent marks in the FSc exam. Among the top 100 MDCAT scorers, 54pc attended private colleges, 37pc government colleges, 8pc army colleges and 1pc missionary colleges. Numbers of government colleges grabbed 30 of the top 20 MDCAT post-

ions, with their marks ranging between 850 and 930. The KMU records show that 81.5pc of the students obtained below 800 out of the total 200 marks, 16.05pc (109-120 marks), 1.59pc (121-140 marks), 14.29pc (141-160 marks), 11.82pc (161-180) and 1.66pc (181-200 marks). A total of 41,673 candidates sat for the test comprising 200 multiple-choice questions, which required a minimum of 55pc marks for MDCAT admission and 60pc for BDS admissions in accordance with regulations of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council.

Officials said that the medical and dental colleges' entrance test was introduced in the late 90s on the recommendation of late principal of Khyber Medical College Prof Shaukat Ali Khan. They added that in those days, there used to be just one entrance board for the province in Peshawar (KMU) that conducted matriculation and intermediate examinations for the entire province, including the then Federally Administered Tribal Areas. The officials said at that time, the province had two medical colleges, one in Peshawar and the other in Abbottabad, with admissions offered to students on the basis of the marks obtained in board

Continued on Page 15

Flood-hit Chitralis seek govt help to rebuild houses

By Our Correspondent

CHITRAL: Scores of families, who have lost their homes to flash floods and glacial lake outburst flood phenomenon during the summer season, are likely to pass through the forthcoming winter season in the tents they have put up. The villages of Raich, Yarkheon and Khel in Upper Chitral and that of Shashi Koh and Golen in Lower Chitral had been devastated by floods in summer, washing away a large number of homes. Some of the affected people of Raich and Khel villages told correspondents at the Chitral Press Club here on Saturday that they had no financial capacity to reconstruct their homes and were waiting for the government to help them do so. However, they said that they didn't expect a positive response from the authorities. Residents Syed Zafar Shah, Durand Khan, Qazi Akbar and others said that the compensation money was only paid to the heirs of those who lost their lives during the floods. They said that living in tents after the first snowfall of the season, which usually happens in December, would not be possible for the families. As such, they said they had only two months to go when the harsh weather began. They said that after having been disappointed by the government, they had pinned their hopes on the non-governmental organisations and were also looking up to well-off people to come to their rescue.

Over 70 new dengue cases reported

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The health department has intensified efforts to control dengue outbreak as secretary health Javed Shah has directed to seek public support to safeguard the people from the recent dengue outbreak. The secretary health has taken notice of the rise in cases and issued that the department would take all necessary measures to control the spread of dengue fever in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "We urge the public to support us in combating this disease, especially during the peak dengue season," he said. "We have distributed 60,000 mosquito coils to hospitals and 300,000 mosquito nets to control dengue and malaria. We have also provided 540 litres of insecticide for spraying, 1,200 litres of chemical for disinfection, and 11 kilograms of bromochloro chemical to eliminate dengue larvae," secretary health said Shah said. According to the latest statistics, a 372 active dengue cases have been reported in the province, with only 21 patients hospitalized. A total of 760 dengue cases have so far been reported, with 388 patients recovering from the disease. During the last 24 hours, 72 new cases were reported, with four patients hospitalized and the rest undergoing treatment at homes. Unfortunately, two deaths have been attributed to dengue. Dushawar and Mardan had the most affected people with 258 and 106 reported cases, respectively. The secretary health appealed for the people to take the necessary measures to keep dengue at bay.

'Tour de Peshawar' marks Tourism Day

PESHAWAR: The discipline of archaeology and museums in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, organised a special 'Tour de Peshawar' to mark the World Tourism Day on Saturday. A total of 75 participants, including students, academicians and influencers from various fields, took part in the tour of Peshawar's landmarks, according to a statement. During the tour, the participants visited historical sites such as the Peshawar Museum, Sassi House, Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower), Ghor Khan, Chowk Yodgor, Mahabat Khan Mosque, Kaganor Harri, 'Gasia Khan' Bazaar and a number of restaurants and hotels. Rashed Ali Khan, the chief coordinator of 'Tour de Peshawar', said that the purpose of the event was to send a message to the world on the World Tourism Day that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in general and Peshawar in particular were potential regions. He said that the theme for this year's day was 'Tourism and Peace'. Mr Ali stressed the need for collaborative efforts to promote tourism in the region. — Bureau Report

PTI to hold another rally next week

Gandapur leads party workers to Pindi despite obstacles

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Disheartened by road blockades erected by the Punjab government during previous rallies of Pakistan Federation of Workers, the party workers again on Saturday gathered on the Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway in Swabi to march to the venue of a rally in Rawalpindi. Led by MNA and MPAs from Peshawar, Mardan and Khyber districts, the PTI workers gathered at the motorway

before leaving for Rawalpindi in a jersey headed by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. The chief minister left Peshawar at around 12 noon. A large number of PTI activists and supporters were waiting for the chief minister's arrival on the Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway in Swabi. Those who were waiting had come from Swabi, Mardan, Muzaffargarh and other parts of the province. The participants from Mardan division merged into the main procession on the motorway after using the Mardan Motorway. When the column of the chief minister reached Swabi, he left his official vehicle and embarked on the journey along with other leaders of the party. The number of vehicles con-

veying the PTI workers was double the number participating in the PTI's rally in Lahore. The procession comprised different types of vehicles, including cars, coaches, cabs and buses. Over a dozen motorbikes, five engines and heavy machinery for removing barricades were also part of the convoy. Their vehicles showcased banners with large pictures of Imran Khan, the party's founding chairman and former prime minister, who is languishing in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. They were chanting slogans against the federal government and for the release of their incarcerated leader. A PTI leader told Dawn that the party had already directed its SNSs and MPs to bring the maximum number of peo-

ple from their respective constituencies to the Rawalpindi rally by arranging transport for them as their performance was good in this regard during the rally in Lahore. A source of Dawn said he said that the chief minister held a meeting with the MNA, MPAs and other leaders of the party and impressed upon them to ensure their participation along with the maximum number of workers. One of the journalists travelling with the convoy from Peshawar told Dawn that a reception committee was established on the Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway to receive the convoy from different areas of the province. The journalist further said that the authorities had deployed the employees of all

forms (both municipal administration of the Swabi district) for providing services to the PTI workers. Meanwhile, spokesman for the provincial government Barrister Muhammad Ali Shah said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur had received his highest priority on the road of Swabi, according to a statement issued here. "The chief minister greeted with the workers by crossing all the barriers on the motorway," he said. He further said that the chief minister heavily based the administration and police of Islamabad and Punjab for five hours. He said that they would stage another protest next week on the direction of Imran Khan.

PRAYER
Page 06:45
Zohar 12:07
Aar 04:21
Maghrib 06:03
Isha 07:26

Peshawar court seeks governor's response to Rs500m damages suit

CM's brothers claim baseless corruption allegations levelled against them

NEWS DESK: A local court on Saturday issued a notice to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Amin Khan, seeking his response to a damages suit filed against him by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's two brothers for falsely accusing them of corruption in a TV show.

any hearing into the petition filed by MNA Faisal Amin Khan's brother Amin and his brother and in-laws of Dera Ismail Khan City Council Mayor Amin Khan, seeking Rs500 million damages from the governor under the Defamation Ordinance, 2002. The court fixed Oct 29 for the next hearing into the case. The plaintiffs also sought a prima facie injunction and an order, who requested the governor's intervention in the case, the defendants in the suit. They requested the court to ask these defendants to tender a proper apology over the allegations, and stating they have been contacted for a hearing.

Advocate Ali Asim Rizvi appeared for the plaintiffs and said the plaintiffs' family, including their brother and KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, had a good reputation and was elected to the national and provincial assemblies several times. He said the plaintiffs were politically engaged and actively involved in politics as a family. The lawyer said Faisal Amin remained MPA from 2018 to 2023 and also served as the provincial local government minister. He said that on Aug 31, 2024, a programme was aired by that news channel in which Governor Faisal Amin Khan, who lost the 2024 general election to Ali Amin Gandapur, 'falsely and corruptly and corruptly' accused them of corruption in the province in the province to the plaintiffs.

because of their relation with Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. The counsel contended that anything said by him and connected persons, promoting reputation of corruption against plaintiff's without any proof or seeking their reputation was tantamount to damaging their reputation and political rights and lowering the name in the people's eyes. He added that the TV programme was also shown on YouTube, Facebook and other social media platforms. The lawyer said that legal notices were served on the defendants on Sept 8, 2024, seeking an unconditional apology and payment of Rs500 million compensation to plaintiffs from the governor, with a warning of legal action in case of non-compliance, but the governor failed to do so.

Man killed as his pistol goes off mistakenly

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARWAT: A man was killed when he was clearing a pistol and it went off mistakenly inside his house in Rakki Marwa. A witness said the body was shifted to District head quarters hospital in Tarnab. Police said that the incident occurred in the house of Taji police station. They identified the deceased as Jahanzeb and said that his body was shifted to District head quarters hospital in Tarnab. Fardous Raza, the nephew of the deceased, told police that he was preparing fodder for cattle when the pistol accidentally went off inside his house. He said that he had heard a noise and looked into the room to find his brother-in-law lying on the ground. He said that he had immediately called for help and the body was shifted to hospital. Police said that they had received a call and rushed to the spot. Meanwhile, police on Saturday conducted a case on over orders against two suspected robbers a week after a robbery incident took place near Akhri Mithakhel area. According to complainant Dabbur Rahman, on Sep 21, he and his wife Khawar were going to their village Rakki Marwa Mithakhel after crossing the market in Rakki Marwa. He said when they reached near Akhri Mithakhel area, Akhri Khan along with an accomplice appeared from the main gate area and started looting them. The complainant approached the court of additional district and sessions judge-II for registration of an FIR against the robbers. Complying with the court orders, Dabbur police registered a case against the suspects under relevant sections of law on Sep 28.

NHA asked to stop culvert construction outside hospital

ABBOTTABAD: Construction of a culvert in the main Karakoram health facility in the event of rains. Highway in front of the Ayub Teaching Hospital Complex poses a serious threat of flooding to the hospital's director says to the National Highway Authority.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN ORDNANCE FACTORIES
CORRIGENDUM
Table with 4 columns: S. No. & Date, Description of Error, Qty, Drawing Code/Reference.

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination
20/Floor, National House, Islamabad

CORRIGENDUM FOR HIRING OF PMU FOR NATIONAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM
1. Attention is drawn to the fact that the...
2. The name of the...
3. The...
4. The...

PAKISTAN SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (PVT.) LIMITED
WE ARE HIRING!

PAKISTAN SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (PVT.) LIMITED
WE ARE HIRING!
Job openings for various positions including Manager, Assistant Manager, etc. with details on qualifications and application process.

PIC launches minimally invasive heart valve surgery

Initiative to benefit elderly who are at higher risk of complications from open heart surgery

Bureau Report

PERIAWAR: The Pakistan Institute of Cardiology has introduced a minimally invasive procedure for the treatment of leaky heart valves. The development marks the first minimal clip procedure in the province, according to a team of experts led by PIC. PIC assistant professor Dr. Ali Raza said the procedure was a positive advancement in cardiac care in the region. "Our highly skilled team, in collaboration with international experts, has successfully completed the first ever minimal clip procedure in the province, without the need for open heart surgery," he said. Dr. Raza said the cutting-edge intervention provided an innovative solution for patients with mitral valve regurgitation, a condition where the heart's mitral valve does not close properly, causing blood to flow backward into the heart. He said the minimal clip was used to repair leaking mitral valves, significantly improving heart function.

heart function. "During this minimally invasive procedure, a clip is attached to the mitral valve, restoring its ability to function properly without requiring open heart surgery. This procedure has been performed just five times in Pakistan," he said. The PIC assistant professor said the surgery had been carried out in the province for the first time, marking a major milestone for cardiac care in the region. He said also highlighted the benefits of the minimally invasive procedure for elderly patients who were at a higher risk of complications from traditional open heart surgery. "This technique offers a safer, more effective alternative for those who are not suitable candidates for conventional surgery. We are not only proud of this achievement but also committed to sharing our knowledge and training medical teams in other hospitals across Pakistan to expand access to this innovative procedure, improving cardiac care for patients nationwide," he said. He said the procedure was led by the PIC's specialist team with the support of Dr. Benar Barik, a clinical clip therapy expert from Abbott Laboratories, United Kingdom. Mr. Barik commended PIC for its groundbreaking work. "I am incredibly impressed with the commitment and expertise of the PIC team in introducing this vital procedure to Pakistan. Minimal clip therapy represents a less invasive approach to treating mitral valve regurgitation, significantly reducing risks for patients, particularly the elderly or those with complex conditions. PIC is an outstanding institution, and I am confident their team will continue to excel in this advanced field," he said.

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NATIONAL BANK OF PAKISTAN
INVITATION TO e-BID
1- CONSTRUCTION OF 03 NOS ADDITIONAL ARMY OFF SITE ATM ROOMS ADJACENT TO EXISTING ATM ROOMS INCLUDING REPAIR / RENOVATION OF EXISTING ATM ROOMS UNDER NBP GULAMPURA CANTT BRANCH, R.O. GULAMPURA.
2- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP ISLAMIC BANKING BRANCH, GHAFI SHARA, LAHORE.
3- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP ISLAMIC BANKING BRANCH, GHULAM MUHAMMAD ABAD R.O. FAISALABAD.
4- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP RAILWAY ROAD DIVCA BRANCH R.O. GUJRAT.
5- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP MANO CHAK BRANCH R.O. GUJRAT.
6- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP MACHKE BRANCH R.O. SHEKHUPURA.
7- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP CIVIL LINES BRANCH SAQOODHA.
8- MAJOR RENOVATION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS OF NBP MAIN BRANCH, BAHAWALNAGAR (EX-ZONAL OFFICE), R.O. BAHAWAL.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA TEXTBOOK BOARD PESHAWAR
TENDER NOTICE
FOR PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OF TEXTBOOKS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26
1. Sealed bids are invited in accordance with section 622(b) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement of Goods, Works and Services Rules, 2024 from the Sole Proprietary/Firm/Corporation/PA/Donor/Trust/MHA/Group for the Academic Year 2025-26, for procurement and supply of approximately 60 million textbooks.
2. Each bidder shall submit sealed Technical Bid and Financial Bid in separate envelopes put together in a larger sealed envelope put together in a larger sealed envelope giving full detail as required in the Bid Solicitation Documents, both Technical and Financial bids shall be typed.
3. Technical bids shall be opened first and credentials of all bidders shall be evaluated physically and technically.
4. Financial bids of technically qualified bidders shall be opened on a verified date and time in presence of the bidders/their representatives who opt themselves available on the date and time in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textbook Board, Hayatabad, Peshawar.
5. Rate per book is to be quoted for the total mentioned quantity of each textbook as given in the Bid Solicitation Documents.
6. The bidding firm should not be blacklisted by any Government Department, Semi Government, Autonomous Body, Agency or Organisation.
7. Conditional or incomplete bids shall not be accepted.
8. The bid documents can be obtained from office of the undersigned during the working hours on payment of prescribed fee of Rs. 5,000/- or through courier against bank demand draft of Rs. 5,000/- (including courier charges), in favour of Chairman, KP Textbook Board.
9. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 02-10-2024 (Monday) at 11:00 hrs.
10. Tenders can be submitted on or before 16-10-2024 (Wednesday) 10:15:00 hrs in the office of Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textbook Board, Peshawar.
11. Technical bids shall be opened on the same day at 12:30 hrs in presence of bidders or their representatives who opt themselves available on that date and time in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textbook Board, Hayatabad, Peshawar in case of official holiday on the day of submission/opening, next day will be treated as last submission/opening date.
12. The Procurement Entity/Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids in the public interest giving reasons for cancellation.
Note: The latest advertisement is also available on KPFB website http://kfb.kp.gov.pk and KPFB website www.kpfb.gov.pk



PEOPLE watch the final of Arise Football Tournament in Lard Khat area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the event, Chahab defeated Zahirya Football Club with a solitary goal after a controversial match. Around 40 football clubs from across the province participated in the event, which was jointly organised by the Khyber Sports Club and district sports department. — Text and photo by Iqbal Khan

# Court orders deportation of Afghan juvenile prisoners

### Authorities detain several people for violating Foreigners' Act

Business Report

**PESHAWAR:** District and Sessions Judge Usmanullah Khan has expressed concern over presence of several hundred Afghan juvenile prisoners in the Peshawar Central Prison under the Foreigners' Act and directed the prison authorities to contact the provincial home department for their early deportation.

The judge issued the directions when he came across around 25 such prisoners during his visit to the prison last Friday. An official of the district court said that the judge directed the prison superintendent to contact the provincial home department in this regard and also inform the court about developments in the matter.

These juvenile suspects were recently arrested over the period of time after they had crossed into Pakistan via Tribhuvan by foot, walk, and were charged under section 14 of the Foreigners' Act for not having any documents to travel to Pakistan. An official said that one of the juvenile suspects, who was around 10-11

years of age, started crying when he saw the district judge and other judicial officers accompanying him. Some of them complained that they had no money and no access to education.

The district judge also directed the court to ensure that the prison staff make efforts for maintaining the quality of the food.

# Fake faith healer gets 30 years in jail for assaulting girl

By Our Correspondent

**LOWER DIR:** Lower District and Sessions Judge Kamal Khan Wazir has sentenced a man, posing as a fake faith healer, to 30 years imprisonment and imposed Rs 2 million fine on him for assaulting an 18-year-old girl. The verdict was announced from the court today.

Mr. Khatibi said that the investigation of the case under the supervision of police officer Hammad Khan showed that the accused had taken the girl to an empty house in Peshawar, where he assaulted her.

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# FSc exam position-holders fail to reach top 100 in MDCAT

Continued from Page 13

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**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY  
REGIONAL HEAD OFFICE KARACHI

**Procurement of ESSE (USB GD)**

**BID NOTICE**  
BAGD/REGISTRATION/2024/000001

- Registered firms who are interested in bidding must take their information registered with us on our website. The Department is not responsible for any information not on the Federal Board of Revenue's procurement website.
- The Bid Document (including complete details) may be obtained during office hours from Karachi from Procurement Branch, BAGD/REGISTRATION/2024/000001 from 30 Sept 2024 to 14 Oct 2024, or with Rs 2000/- (two thousand/-) postal order/bank draft with financial proposals must be submitted by 11:00 hours on 15th Oct 2024 (closed) at 11:00 hours on the next day at the presence of their representative at PAF/REGISTRATION/2024/000001 Building, 5C/51, Market Area, G-11/1, Islamabad.
- The Security is Rs 50,000/- which must be attached with bid in the form of Demand Draft/PO/Order in the name of BAGDRA MDC Disbursement Account Islamabad.
- The process of single stage single envelope would be adopted.
- Qualified Authority reserves right to cancel bid/offer or open the house if it is found defective.

In case of public holidays, tender will be opened on next working day (The day being marked as public holiday).

**Procurement Branch**  
Regional Head Office KARACHI, Plot No. 5021  
Market Area, G-11/1, Islamabad  
Ph: 37332882

**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY  
REGIONAL HEAD OFFICE KARACHI

**Procurement of Digital Cameras**

**BID NOTICE**  
BAGD/REGISTRATION/2024/000002

- Registered firms who are interested in bidding must take their information registered with us on our website. The Department is not responsible for any information not on the Federal Board of Revenue's procurement website.
- The Bid Document (including complete details) may be obtained during office hours from Karachi from Procurement Branch, BAGD/REGISTRATION/2024/000002 from 30 Sept 2024 to 14 Oct 2024, or with Rs 2000/- (two thousand/-) postal order/bank draft with financial proposals must be submitted by 11:00 hours on 15th Oct 2024 (closed) at 11:00 hours on the next day at the presence of their representative at PAF/REGISTRATION/2024/000002 Building, 5C/51, Market Area, G-11/1, Islamabad.
- The Security is Rs 20,000/- which must be attached with bid in the form of Demand Draft/PO/Order in the name of BAGDRA MDC Disbursement Account Islamabad.
- The process of single stage single envelope would be adopted.
- Qualified Authority reserves right to cancel bid/offer or open the house if it is found defective.

In case of public holidays, tender will be opened on next working day (The day being marked as public holiday).

**Procurement Branch**  
Regional Head Office KARACHI, Plot No. 5021  
Market Area, G-11/1, Islamabad  
Ph: 37332882

# S. Waziristan sit-in against shelling continues

By Our Correspondent

**SWAT:** WAZIRISTAN: Militant leaders and political parties continued their protest in S. Waziristan in Upper North Waziristan district on the second consecutive day on Saturday to protest against shelling and firing in populated areas by the security forces, causing injury and loss of civilian life.

The protesters, led by Dr. Kaleem Waheed, marched through the hospital, showing flags against the provincial government and the health department. They demanded of the government to take action against the shelling and to stop the security forces from firing in populated areas. They also demanded of the government to take action against the shelling and to stop the security forces from firing in populated areas.

# Change of college affiliation protested

**RISEHILL:** Students of Peshawar College Lard Khat on Saturday held a protest demonstration against the college's affiliation with Feroz University. The students held their demonstration at Rishi Khat, Chokki with banners and placards in their hands protesting with slogans against the "forced" affiliation with the university.

The students held their demonstration at Rishi Khat, Chokki with banners and placards in their hands protesting with slogans against the "forced" affiliation with the university. They expressed their concern over the change of affiliation and the quality of education. They also expressed their concern over the quality of education and the safety of the students.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

"The nation's bank". National Bank of Pakistan aims to support the financial well-being of the Nation along with enabling sustainable growth and inclusive development through its wide local and international network of branches. Being one of the leading and largest banks of Pakistan, National Bank of Pakistan is contributing significantly towards socioeconomic growth in the country with an objective to transform the institution into a Future Fit, agile and sustainable Bank.

In line with our strategy, the bank is looking for talented, dedicated and experienced professionals for the following positions in the areas of **Audit and Inspection**.

The individuals who fulfil the below basic eligibility criteria may apply for the following positions:

01	Position / Job Title	Internal Auditor – Team Leader (AVP)
Reporting to	Lead Reviewer	
Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>Chartered Accountants will be preferred</li> </ul>	
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 08 years of banking experience, out of which 03 years in Audit and / or Compliance and / or Risk and / or Finance and / or Business Governance function</li> </ul>	
Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well conversant with internal audit provisions and relevant regulatory guidelines</li> <li>Good understanding of business communication, presentation and analytical skills</li> <li>Ability to work under timelines and pressure situations</li> <li>Proficient in use of Microsoft Office and Visa, SAP and Core Banking Application</li> <li>Ability to work in a fast paced and deadline driven environment with consistent and quality output</li> </ul>	
Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct Management Audits, Branch Audits and Income Audits</li> <li>To develop and update Risk Control Matrix (RCM) of functions and their products</li> <li>To hold pre-audit meetings with the auditee management to plan the audit and gather pre-inspection data for preparation of Audit Planning Document</li> <li>To perform testing procedures for each control to be tested and for lapses observed disclosed in the internal audit report</li> <li>To evaluate the rectification status of regulatory and internal audit findings</li> <li>To follow up and discuss Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with the management</li> <li>To implement internal and external quality assurance recommendations, SAP inspection and external auditor's recommendations</li> <li>To supervise effective management of internal audit MIS, back office records and ensure the safeguarding of audit records</li> <li>To conduct timely escalation of reportable / critical issues and their periodic follow-up</li> <li>To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)</li> </ul>	
Place of Posting	Karachi	
02	Position / Job Title	Internal Auditor – Team Member (DG-II / OG-I)
Reporting to	Lead Reviewer	
Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Graduation or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>Candidate having Master's Degree and / or MBA (Finance) and / or any other relevant professional qualification or certificate such as ACCA / CA (India) / CMA etc. will be preferred</li> </ul>	
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 05 years of banking experience, out of which 03 year in Audit / Compliance / Operations / Risk / Finance / Business Governance function</li> </ul>	
Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well conversant with internal audit provisions and relevant regulatory guidelines</li> <li>Good understanding of business communication, presentation and analytical skills</li> <li>Ability to work under timelines and pressure situations</li> <li>Proficient in use of Microsoft Office and Visa, SAP and Core Banking Application</li> <li>Ability to work in a fast paced and deadline driven environment with consistent and quality output</li> </ul>	
Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct Management Audits, Branch Audits and Income Audits</li> <li>To develop and update Risk Control Matrix (RCM) of functions and their products</li> <li>To plan the audit and gather pre-inspection data for preparation of Audit Planning Document</li> <li>To perform testing procedures for each control to be tested and for lapses observed disclosed in the internal audit report</li> <li>To evaluate the rectification status of regulatory and internal audit findings</li> <li>To follow up and discuss Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with the management</li> <li>To implement internal and external quality assurance recommendations, SAP inspection and external auditor's recommendations</li> <li>To supervise effective management of internal audit MIS, back office records and ensure the safeguarding of audit records</li> <li>To conduct timely escalation of reportable / critical issues and their periodic follow-up</li> <li>To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s)</li> </ul>	
Place of Posting	Karachi / Lahore / Islamabad	
Assessment Test / Interview(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only shortlisted candidates actively meeting the above-mentioned basic eligibility criteria will be invited for test and / or panel interview(s).</li> <li>This employment will be on contractual basis for three years which may be renewed on procurement of the Management. Shortlisted candidates will be offered comprehensive package and other benefits as per Bank's Policy / rules.</li> </ul>	
Employment Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interested candidates may visit the website <a href="http://www.nbp.com.pk/careers">www.nbp.com.pk/careers</a> and apply online within 10 working days from the date of publication of this advertisement as per given instructions.</li> <li>Applications received after due date will not be considered in any case. No TA / DA will be admissible for test / interview</li> </ul>	

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BY HIS OWN STRENGTH  
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024  
@secondawn

▶ THE ICON INTERVIEW

# THE BELIEVABILITY OF ADNAN SAMAD

The young television actor's greatest achievement, he says, is making his viewers believe his characters are real. His passion for his craft is inspirational, as he tries to make an impact even when pigeonholed into repetitive negative roles. But now he is waiting for something different to come his way...

By Malika Rehman

**H**e can be the nicest guy ever in a TV drama.

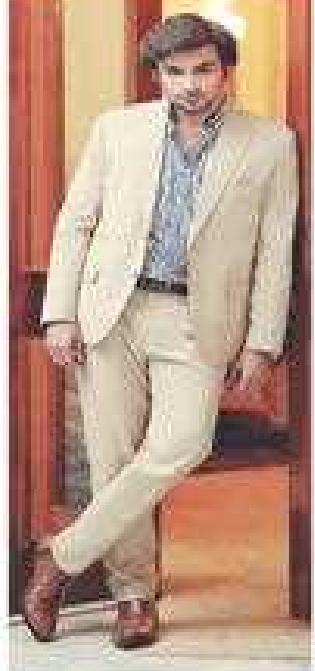
Sitting across from actor Adnan Samad Khan, I tell him this, recalling his two most recent acting awards. He smiles. "That means that I have been believable," he points out to me.

This statement sums up Adnan's philosophy as an actor: to successfully and so aptly that it serves as the perfect introduction as I begin writing about him: being believable has never been a problem for this young, very talented actor. He proved it when he made his TV debut, five-and-a-half years ago, with the drama *Ehd-i-Wafa*, starring in a multi-episode cast and winning awards for it. He's continued to do so, with a slew of roles that have lately been negative.

And now, he's waiting for something more... something that adds more shades to the interesting, multi-faceted, credible-comer version of the audience that keeps coming his way.

Consequently, I have named you for this interview. Shortly after wrapping up his shoots for the dramas *Khumsaar* and *Sadoun*... two dramas that were shot around the same time, and that aired on two different channels simultaneously — Adnan returned home for a substantial. We have been coordinating for this interview ever since.

Several months later, I am across



from him. He is visiting Karachi for work and the change in him is impressive. It's evident that Adnan has shed quite a bit of weight. The trip back home was certainly not just for laughing around in front of the TV, sitting just back.

"No, not at all," he smirks, shaking his head. "I had been feeling unhealthy and unhappy with my lifestyle. I had been working constantly and it would get very difficult to regulate my diet. I was basically eating a lot of junk food and it had started showing on-screen. Our work can be quite hectic, with the day starting around 9:30-10 in the morning, and going on till 1:00 am in the night. I am very inspired by actors who still manage to fit in the gym into this schedule."

Returning home, Adnan hit the gym and regulated his diet, and his efforts have worked wonders. He grips, "I read something very funny recently, that the problems with getting fit is that you have to stay fit."

When an actor isn't fit, do the roles coming his way also get limited, I ask him.

"Of course," he replies. "A hero tends to be someone who looks good and the villain should look bad. In TV dramas, casting is usually done from the perspective that the inside should match the outside. An actor's physical appearance is very important."

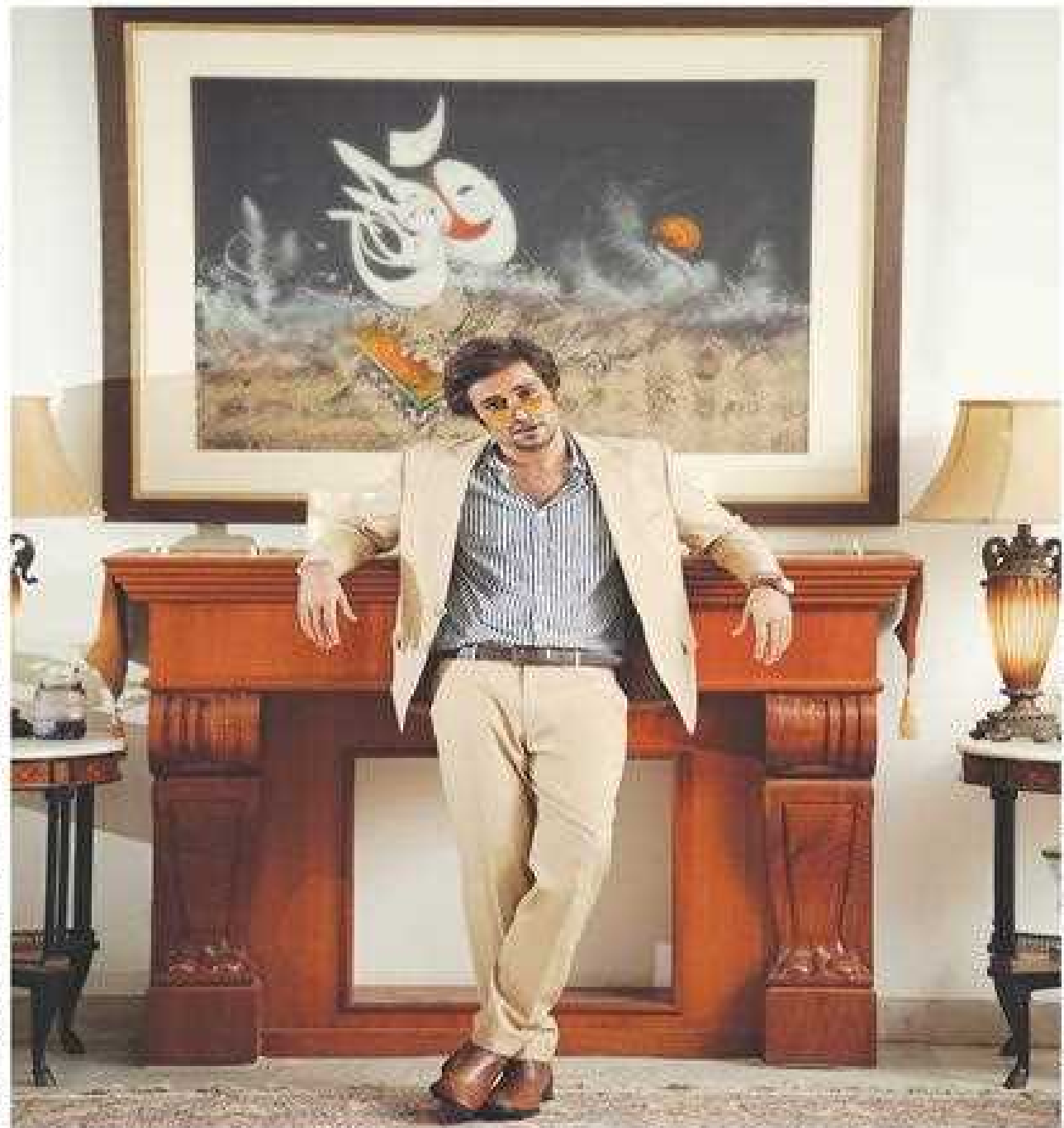
What sort of roles inspired him particularly: the classic TV drama hero or a nuanced, well-developed character, for instance, like Gulzar, his debut role in *Ehd-i-Wafa*? "Think," he says. "I just want to keep expanding my range as an actor. If I get offered an interesting, negative character, I would never refuse it just because I want to play the hero. The character should just give me the scope to perform."

"Getting cast as Gulzar was my good fortune. It was a very fine beginning for me and it led to later scripts that allowed me to explore my craft in other directions. To date, every script that has come to me has excited me, even if the end product has not. I just want every character that I play to be different from the previous one."

This doesn't always happen, though — and Adnan knows that very well. Most recently, his characters in the dramas *Khumsaar* and *Sadoun* were similar to the point that one would get confused between the two? Adnan laughs.

"I count those roles as a single character. Both these dramas aired in the same week and, in both, the location was the same, my bedroom was the same, even my Auntie — played by Anna Abbas Gill — was the same. She and I had a joke that we would come on set and get confused about whether we were shooting *Sadoun* or *Khumsaar*?"

Were the dialogues, after the



**“**Getting cast as Gulzar in *Ehd-i-Wafa* was my good fortune. It was a very fine beginning for me and it led to later scripts that allowed me to explore my craft in other directions. To date, every script that has come to me has excited me, even if the end product has not! I just want every character that I play to be different from the previous one.”

same? He shrugs and jokes, "You could mix them up and the audience wouldn't know!"

He adds, on a more serious note: "The thing is, there should be innovation in drama storylines, but the industry — producers, directors, actors — are often bound by certain restrictions. To do anything at all within these boundaries, should be encouraged because, at the end of the day, this is a business."

This is true, I agree, but does he not worry that he might be getting typecast into certain kinds of roles? "Let's look at it this way: what one may consider typecasting, another may consider an actor's particular brand of acting."

ADNAN SAMAD, PAGE 3



# ICON

## CINEMASCOPE



If you are looking for convincing logic or even appealing characters, *Never Let Go* is not the film for you.

# UNDECIDED HORROR



By **Mohammad Kamran Jawaid**

**I**n *Never Let Go*, the new psychological horror film playing in cinemas and starring Halle Berry, demons are not warded off by the power of prayer — all it takes here is a thick, long piece of rope.

A woman called Monima (Berry) and her two young sons Nolan (Percy Daggs IV) and Samuel (Anthony H. Johnston) don't venture out of their ramshackle small cottage in the woods. The forest, they know, is haunted by "The Devil," which has killed humanity. If they must venture out though, it is in pairs, with their bodies tied to the long aforementioned rope that is tethered to their house, the place keeps them safe, at the price of a daily incantation.

It takes but the steering of the movie to know that something is not right with Monima, and that the story will have a lot of *M. Night Shyamalan*-like twist. The screenplay, by Kevin Coghill and Ryan Cranley, is the direction by Alexander Aja (*The Hills Have Eyes*, *Mirror*), though, are far removed from the refined intelligence and severity of David Lynch's *Inland* in his early films.

The big reveal — *A Monima* portrayed as it is the first time — is far from eye-opening, and Berry's performance, though better than her recent Netflix comedy *Actress*, *The Union*, leaves little room for gasps, gasps or not.

the character definitely is wretched.

If you're looking for answers — or even appealing characters — then this is not the film for you. The origins of "The Devil" are never explained, in fact, it feels as if the original writer's even developed while the film went into production. The plot gives one enough evidence of its existence, and the indication that Monima may not have been crazy, merely negates the psychological angle.

With the way the scenes are handled, one doesn't buy that.

The story, though, keeps zig-zagging between take-home messages and the message. Scoping that jump-scare, and set actual scenes of horror, will keep audiences awake through the dreary three-quarters of the story.

There is a good idea here, but promises aren't enough to make good movies. The characters' plight they're forced to eat frogs and tree bark, even the rope can only take them so far, and their actions, especially in resolution, are situated without convincing build-ups. The whole, selection, evil manifestations also feel half-baked — everything, in fact, feels like a product of indecisive filmmakers who don't make for a good watch.

*Reviewed by Mohammad Kamran Jawaid, a columnist, columnist and writer, writing on film and TV. He is also a film reviewer. He is also a film reviewer. He is also a film reviewer.*

# THE GRAPEVINE

By **PYT**

## THE PAINTING DRAMA



The media was abuzz with reports of actor Saifi Soomro's claim that he saw two of his paintings that had gone missing in 2012 from Karachi's Free Hall in a TV play, *Kohli Mein Kohli Hain*. It sparked off an argument and counter-argument between the painter and Free Hall officials. The latter said the artworks were always there and the actor didn't come back to fetch them by showing the receipts he must have got at the time of the exhibit. The young painter Mamun the Free Hall administration for using his art for financial gain. Shortly, the production house that has produced the play clarified its own position, saying they had rented the location where the paintings were already on display. Great publicity for the play, though.

## JATT IN INDIA



At last, an fan-mangled over politics. The most biggest block-buster film in recent times, *The Legend of Maula Jatt* — directed by Bilal Lashari and starring Faraz Khan, Maham Khan and Hania Aali Abbas — will be screened in India from October. This is significant news. The reason is that relations between the two neighbouring countries had been sour for many years, resulting in a hiatus in quality collaborative work from both countries' artists. Now, that particular door has reopened, hopefully, South Asian artists, filmmakers and musicians will work together again!

## GANGSTA THREAT



In April this year, two men riding a motorcycle fired three rounds of bullets outside the apartment block where Salman Khan (and the rest of his family) lives. The police caught the culprits and it turned out they were hired by a gangster named Lawrence Bishnoi. On Sept 19, Salman Khan (Salman K's father and screenwriter) was sitting on a bench during a break from his regular morning walk when a man and a woman, again on a motorcycle, pulled up in front of him and the woman said: "Shall I call Lawrence Bishnoi?" and fired the shots. This rang alarm bells for the family and the police are investigating the case. New plot for an action-packed thriller? *Fight And Shyde*...

## EIGHT BALL



On September 12, actor Hania Aali Abbas celebrated her eight years in showbiz. How old? Well, it was on that day eight years ago that she appeared in a film called *Jinnate*, with Bilal Adani, Arshad Warsi, Maham Khan and Ali Abbas as co-stars. Posting a video clip from the movie on Instagram the writer: "They're saying I've completed eight years in the industry. This girl did not know she would come this far. I make my best to be happy to know that I have met some amazing people, made some great memories, discovered more about myself, and have found the best community on the internet." To be honest, we didn't expect that you'd come this far either, Hania A.

## ACTING BECKONS?



It's been 10 years since *Five Minutes* quit acting. She's been a good partner to Ryan Reynolds and a wonderful mother to their children. The local showbiz experts believe that once an actor, always an actor. When a person asked Iva M whether she'd act again, she said, "I don't know. If there's interesting roles, I left at a time where it was also 10 years ago... I kinda felt like I did it, ya know?" Because the prevalence of that statement, it does suggest she does want to return to the acting field if there are worthy parts for her. Other than the extremely interesting roles of a wonderful mother and a good partner, of course...

## RING OFF!



A couple of weeks ago, it came as a huge shock to many music lovers when Dave Grohl, the frontman of rock band Foo Fighters and the former drummer of Nirvana, disclosed that he had suffered a mild case of dementia. Last week, his wife of 21 years, actress Kaitlyn Dias, was seen at a service known with musician Pete Wentz... without the wedding ring. Those who don't know, Foo W is the bassist for the rock band Fall Out Boy. Hmmm... Fall-out boy got the fall-out girl!

## CINEMASCOPE

Demi Moore is ferocious in the gloriously gory satire *The Substance*, a commentary on Hollywood's female ageism

# BODY DOUBLE TROUBLE

By **Caroline Ruddell**

**F**ans of body horror will not want to miss director Coralie Fargeat's latest offering, *The Substance*, which bagged Best Screenplay at Cannes this year, and features an astounding comeback performance from Demi Moore.

There's a sense of gross inevitability to the film as we witness a familiar story of a female Hollywood superstar facing rapid career descent. Initially she-40 she turns 50, fired from her aerobic TV show by the hormonal big boss Harvey, played with relish by Dennis Quaid (though apparently the late, great Ray Liotta was originally cast in the role). Demi Moore's Elizabeth is rendered anachronistic by the industry in a matter of hours.

The film then branches into heavy genre territory, where the happens upon a mysterious substance that allows her body to regenerate itself. The new self is born directly out of Elizabeth's back in grotesque, gory detail on the bathroom floor, where we see her body split, bloody and writhing as she feels the young, beautiful and subtle skin, played by Margot Qualey.

There is a lovely opening sequence

focused on Elizabeth's run on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. We see the paving laid as she is at the top of her game, before witnessing the paved star slowly becoming cracked over time, and eventually covered in litter and leaves — a neat (or) subtle metaphor for her declining career.

Expect a visceral experience. The sound design is wonderful and coupled with a heavy use of close-ups and tight framing that's likely to make you feel, in a good way, that there is no escape. Take Harvey crumpling his way through a handful of people during his "ding" hand with Elizabeth, the combination of close-ups, low lighting, and inappropriate sharp sounds turns the stomach.

Moore's outstanding, channeling a barely contained seething rage and bitterness that resonated me of Kate Winslet's performance in *Mare of Easttown*. One of the great pleasures of watching actresses who have dared to age past 45 in movie roles is the sheer talent on offer. Moore gets full tilt in the role, embracing the gross (though more raising through the heart) of this film.

As the *Guardian's* Peter Bradshaw writes in his review, she's "just" for a laugh. I've always considered Moore a brave actress (remember the head shaving in *U-2*



Demi Moore in *The Substance* (1/5/24)

*21*) and she doesn't shy away from allowing herself to be tormented gradually (in a scene throughout the film, often naked, and finally emerging as a fully blown "mushroom-bombard").

There's a definite 1980s vibe to the setting, with the scene in aerobics and work-out TV leading itself to lewdness and leg warmers, both of which are prominent. Big shiny hair and lip gloss abound, clearly a nod to Moore's own heyday of *Fatal* as a younger actress, as well as the Jane Fonda aerobics fiasco that gripped the 1980s.

There are also frequent shots of pain trees, which are an intriguing visual trope throughout. The point-of-view shot from Elizabeth's point of view, looking straight up, is that of three pain trees "growing" the Walk of Fame, which we are not aware of until the end.

They are visible from Elizabeth's apartment and appear throughout the film, the implication being that they are ever watchful and, much as Elizabeth's proud self is set in stone, both the said 50s are trapped in an industry that will ultimately spit them out.

The playful atmosphere of the film is undercut by a feeling of claustrophobia, and decay and decline run deep through the intricate glass of the film business — film, for example, are a motif, bearing and twirling in close-up.

Fans will note visual references to horror legends such as David Cronenberg, but there are even scenes of Kobald's *The Shining* here — the carpet in the corridors of the television studio has surely been modelled on the famous *Carpeted Hall*.

This is an unflinching film in its use of gore and blood, but the messy close-ups on needles entering bodies and bodies cut of control can also be read as a "consciously feminist vision." As feminist film critic Alexandra Heller-Nicholas points out, the film is largely about the pressure women face to conform to certain beauty standards, which is arguably far more enlightening in the screen industry.

That said, the film could be criticised for playing into the Hollywood game, it is attempting to succeed. According to *Little White Lies'* review of the film, Fargeat has shot Qualey in a way that is "leery, obsessive, hypersexual", raising the game under the headline, "An shallow as the very thing it's critiquing."

There's also an issue with

the internal logic of the film, what does Elizabeth get out of this experience, given she never personally enjoys her success? They each exist as separate entities — one is active while the other lies dormant in the apartment, and neither has any recollection of what the other gets up to.

This is something of a large plot hole, given Elizabeth gains very little from the exchange, other than having brought her into existence and the hormones that she continues her aerobic show.

Nevertheless, there is much to enjoy here, it's a fun addition to the body horror genre, and visually and sonically it has some very nice touches. Mostly though, this is a fantastic vehicle for Moore, who exhibits her return to the big screen with a flexibility that really is something to behold.

But the last word must go to the director, best known for her brutal rape retribution movie, *Kluge*. Introducing her new film at Brighton in August 2024, Fargeat said: "Simply being female is a form of body horror in itself."

The writer is a Reader in Film & Television at the Brunel University, London in the UK

Reprinted from *The Conversation*

WIDE ANGLE

Cyborg: A Documentary, about the first upgraded human, asks whether we should just because we can

THE ARTIFICIAL FUTURE

By Andrew Rogoyski

Neil Harrison is the world's first officially recognised human cyborg, having had a device installed in his head to enable him to "hear" colours in the early 2000s. He is the subject of Cyborg: A Documentary, the first full-length film by London-based director Cary Thorn.

This thought-provoking work, which launched in UK cinemas on September 20, not only chronicles Harrison's unique journey, but also explores the philosophical and ethical questions surrounding human augmentation. Born without the ability to see any colours, the Canadian-born artist's life took an extraordinary turn when he decided to augment his sensory experience. He used an auditory doctor, having been refused official permission by a hospital in Harrison's home country, to have a device surgically implanted in the back of his skull, acting over his hearing like an insect antenna. Via a chip in his head, it translates the light frequencies of colours into sound vibrations, which he experiences through bone conduction, the same process used by whales and dolphins to hear underwater.

Even since with different colours, and also has an interesting line in face-reading, using his sense to map people's skin colours. People who say they're black, they're actually very dark orange, and people who say they're white, they're actually very light orange, so we are all exactly the same. He, meanwhile, argues that his experiential abilities make him more aware of health risks than the rest of us. "If we could all perceive vibrations, there wouldn't be so many people with skin cancer... You wouldn't come to the beach and sunbathe if you could hear the terrible noise of the sun." Harrison is not only endlessly enthusiastic about his enhancement, he is at the forefront of a movement of artists similarly interested in augmenting new senses through implants. It all raises the question to consider some provocative questions. At what point does technological integration fundamentally alter who we are? Are there ethical boundaries we should consider? Should we be free to create our own senses and, if so, how would we then share experiences? Will such decisions become commonplace in the near future?

The film is a timely reminder of the societal challenges facing humanity as cyborgism follows the well-trodden path from science fiction to science fact. Cochlear implants, for instance, have been in use since the 1970s to help those with hearing impairments. People with diabetes now implant "real-time" blood sugar monitors, receiving continuous readings on their smartphones. Prosthetics are increasingly enhanced by digital controllers, and the cutting-edge is brain controls. Elon Musk's Neuralink is no smaller territory. It aims to create human-machine interfaces through embedding computer chips in people's brains, recently moving from animal to human trials. Musk has spoken about the potential for visual enhancement, not only including infrared and UV, but also radar and sonar vision. The US Department of Defense is funding computer-controlled exoskeletons, which allow soldiers to carry more equipment, while a recent survey found as many as one in 20 people would consider a chip implant for connection to the internet. Such decisions have been made since the late 1990s. This all suggests that our connection to digital technology is significantly deeper than we are, a direct benefit (indeed, tattoos and piercings have been with us for millennia) if this opens the door to more surgical enhancements, perhaps acceptance driven by need will later become acceptance driven by desire and freedom of expression — in line with people like Harrison. Many will be inspired by the super-strength and super-speed portrayed in



Neil Harrison "hears" colours via a sensor surgically implanted in his head (1/11)

THE TUBE

THE WEEK THAT WAS

Acta | Hum TV, Fridays 8:00pm

The actress's story of two girls and their journey after marriage. Doctor (Sohail Khan) settles down to married life but is afraid to return to college and her past, but her husband Dr. Noman (Usman) supports and motivates her, insisting she complete her education. Hassan (Mehab Mirza) and Dr. Zara's (Mehreen Khan) relationship now takes a new turn as they try to resolve why Hassan will not seek treatment for his very obvious mental health issues.



Both Mira and Huma give us some strong, layered performances as abused and victim. Mira is an excellent performer, easily switching between pitiful vulnerability to Machiavellian cunning, while Huma shows us how love and societal pressure can put women into the "good girl" trap, blinding them to their own pain. The author reminds us that domestic abuse is not limited to the poor and the ignorant, as we watch the wealthy, empowered Dr. Zara being lured into a trap by Hassan. Desperate to find and control his wife, Hassan promises to seek treatment if Zara has his child. Zara is fooled for a moment, but remembers to take precautions, because Hassan is not reliable.

Ghar | ARY, Fri-Sat 8:00pm

Prolific writer Zainab Ali presents another story based with intergenerational trauma and dysfunction. The show focuses on a young man who has the scars of a past life, but the scars have faded as he grows into adulthood, which the film explores in detail. The one hope may be director Yasir Nawaz, who knows how to reel in the audience by creating tension in a simple story with some sharp editing. While it shows Shahid is a child of trauma and divorce, never quite at home, the loss hasn't been fully useful and runs far deeper than his family. Superficially, Wafa's father's (Shahid) love is a picture of love and respect for the traditional values we associate with the joint family system. Below the surface, however, violence, resentment and control vie for supremacy. The clash between older generation Faraj (Adeel Hussain) and Shahid's (Usman Khan) mother, the rivalry in the family Faraj is harboring, selfishness and conservatism, while Shahid is a pleasure-seeker, always looking for distractions like his parents. Wafa's otherwise loving step-father suddenly seems to relish the girl he loved as a daughter for so long. This plot has some heart and one of director's best writing.

Qatar | Green Entertainment, Daily 8:00pm

Despite the positive promise of a repeat of healthy love, love, respect, at least initially, the story is better than expected and devoid of the high moralism quotient that makes such shows so unbearable. The cast avoids melodrama and there is no love at first sight trope obsession between the leads. Mehru Nissa (Anamul Hakeem) has started working at a new office where she falls for her boss's politician friend Shalwan Shah (Ali Raza). Shalwan and his mother, Saira Shah, are corrupt, predatory politicians, who use and abuse their positions for profit. Mehru is an assertive girl who supports her family since her father's death. All Saira slips into the role of the arrogant, proud Shalwan with ease, his initiation with Mehru, more obvious than any attraction. The best surprise is Anamul Hakeem, who acts the most organic actress, but plays her role with restraint and makes the show watchable. The script from Huma Nadeem is slow but structured and would have done better if director Fahim Husain had edited more and picked up the pace.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR (OR NOT)

Giltane | Geo TV, Coming soon

As winter draws in, Geo TV brings us a new supernatural thriller, starring Hiba Sami Khan and Sohail Akmal, and a lot of black magic. — Sohaib Majeed



ADNAN SAMAD FROM PAGE 1

and, playing him, I got the chance to explore different aspects of the human psyche. "The director, Saqib (Khan) Khan, was wonderful and working opposite Saba Qamar was a learning experience. Shooting a scene with her, you realize that you will have to work very hard to live up to her performance, and as a producer manage to reach the pedestal that she is on." Recalling the impression Naad and connecting him to his later performance in other dramas, I tell Adnan that I might have figured out why he is being offered so many negative roles: he plays them too well. He grins. "I think I'll have to put out a few bad performance now," he jokes. But by now, I have understood that Adnan would consider getting out a steady performance a big beyond success. Throughout our conversation, as we discuss the highs and lows of Pakistan's TV industry, his love for his craft is constantly evident. He'll take the time with the press, the many repetitive roles with the occasional unique one, and he'll do it smiling, because there is nothing that he wants to do more. "I am that actor who would be on stage, in the spotlight, elated by the sound of clapping emanating from the darkness where the audience would be sitting," he says. "I love what I do. The fame and the money that comes from it are just by-products. What could be better than doing a job where I get to be a new person every six months? I am the rich, poor, corrupt or a saint, live in a new world, just for some time. "Even if I try to find negatives in what I do, I love my work too much and, ultimately, I am happy doing it." He adds, "The work matters can be roughly often, with the day starting at 10 in the morning and ending at 100 in the next day. You are working while people are sleeping. But then, this doctor's sense of our too much because I am a night owl. "If there is a long wait in between scenes, I'll entertain myself by playing chess on my phone or reading. I love doing both these things and I am being paid to put up and do them? What other job could allow me to do this?" This is all well enough, but as a young actor who may have proven his talent but is still in the beginning years of his career, does this job that he loves also pay well? "It's enough for me. I don't have too many necessities," he hedges. "I prefer but still? He replies, "Sometimes I get paid on time,



sometimes I don't. If one cheque doesn't come, it doesn't matter, another will eventually come or I'll borrow from a friend and pay the money back later. While you have to exist in an industry, you have to learn to live with the issues that may arise from time to time." His answer is an eye opener, not because it sheds light on the late payment patterns common in Pakistani entertainment — this is no secret, after all. Rather, it is important to Adnan's passion for his profession. "I realize this, perhaps, and adds, "Finance departments of channels, this answer was not directed towards you!" he laughs and then says, "It is good, though, that, in some cases, payment processes are getting better." I steer the interview towards the personal front: does his family watch his dramas? "Yes, they watch

"The boys around me were mostly pursuing educational careers in medicine, commerce or engineering," he agrees. "Luckily for me, my household is generally very understanding. They were initially reluctant but, when they saw that I was adamant on going to Karachi and studying at the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA), they gave in. "My father wanted me to get a professional degree and then pursue acting if I was still inclined to do so. I told him that there was no point in getting me to waste four years of my life, and that I just wanted to go study at NAPA. Unfortunately, he died when I was in my second year at the academy." So, his father never got to see him act on TV or win a Lux Style Award for his very first TV performance. No, but I give full credit to him for where I am now," says Adnan. "I don't think I would have become an actor had my father not allowed me, we believed in me." I am curious: does his family also watch the dramas in which his character is in pain? In Khawar, for instance, his character gets served justice when his leg ends up getting amputated. "No, both my mother and father (personal use) refused to watch it," he says. "Even if a reel of those particular scenes would come up, they would start crying." And does he sometimes get frownyed upon by random strangers when he is playing a negative character on TV? "Of course," says Adnan. "They show their displeasure by sending messages in my inbox. And then, there have been times when I have been out and a woman has suddenly come up to me and told me that I am a bad person, that my parents haven't raised me right." What does he do then? He grins. "You try to tell them that the character on TV is not real, and I am not actually like that. But I also feel a sense of achievement when something like this happens. It means that I have been so convincing that the audience has forgotten that there is a TV screen dividing us. It means that I have been successful as an actor." I resolve that we've come full circle, back to the conversation on being believable. Adnan's success as an actor is undeniable and his passion for his craft is unquestionable, so he tries to make an impact even when pigeonholed into repetitive negative roles. Now, of course, he is waiting for something different. "If drama-makers keep offering me the same kind of roles, they lose out on the chance of me delivering something different and unique for them. It is their loss as well as my own," he observes. It would be the audience's loss too, if

THIS WEEK ON SPOTIFY

Table with 3 columns: S.R, SONG, STREAMS. Top 10 Pakistani songs list including Jhol, Chal Diye Tum Kahan, Tu Hai Kahan, Wishes, Hoisaan Raheem, Umair, Tahwinder, O Yaara, Abdul Hannan, Kaawish, Faasle, Kamish, Quratulain, Baloch, Blockbuster, Faris Shafi, Umair, Buff, Gharvi Group, Bikhra, Abdul Hannan, Rowafo, COME THROUGH (feat. Abdullah Maharvi, Tahira Anjum), Umair, Abdullah, Maharvi, Tahira Anjum, Nahin Milta, Bayaan.



▶ STARBUZZ

# ICON

Ahsan Afzal Khan has a celebrity acting lineage he doesn't want to talk about. He wants to be known for himself and his own work. And by the evidence on hand, from his acting stints on television that have propelled him to fame, there's enough for him to talk about...

## BY HIS OWN STRENGTH

By Faisal Quraishi

**T**here's definitely something about Ahsan Afzal Khan. Truly gifted, this blue-blooded, rising young actor has continuously risen to fame by dint of his sterling performances in TV dramas.

As a graduate of a prestigious university, his normal career trajectory would have been in the corporate world. But he yearned to explore more personally fulfilling careers. And here, as an actor, he feels he has indeed found his true calling in life.

Sensitive to the core of his very being, as every performer must be, he believes in standing on his own merit. This is something that will hold him in good stead in life's long run. Excerpt from Khan's brief chat with Icon.

**Being a Lums grad, why choose showbiz over anything else?**

**Ahsan Afzal Khan:** After graduating from Lums, I started to work in the corporate sector, which served as a self-awakening that I wanted to do something artistic with my life. I want to evoke emotions amongst people which would not have been possible while working in an office, or while marketing some commodity. My biggest source of happiness has always been to make people be able to feel, and to help them understand themselves. That's how I realised that what I really wanted was to be an actor.

**You have appeared in *Yeh Mohabbat*, *Here In Here*, *Bawa*. Tell us something about your characters in each?**

**AAK:** A romantic lover, a poetic relief and a poor flag-knower (poor), *Bawa* made me mature. *Here In Here* made me enjoy life as it was my debut and everyone around gasped, that's not, I learnt a lot from there. *Yeh Mohabbat* was very close to me. It was my vision on what true love actually looks like. Straight and simple.

**What attracts you most acting or modelling?**

**AAK:** Acting in good roles and conceptual modelling.

**Which international celebrities inspire you in the realm of acting?**

**AAK:** I have loved Tom Cruise since I was a kid. I used to watch his movies the entire night till dawn during summer vacations.

**What about films? What kind of roles are you looking out for?**

**AAK:** I would love to have my acting abilities be pushed and tested to the limit. I want to play all sorts of characters, but my favourite would be layered characters with some depth in their personality, which is gradually revealed along the duration of the film.

**Singing also sounds like a good alternative these days for actors. Who do you listen to most?**

**AAK:** I love to sing but only when I'm by myself. I sing when I'm happy.

**Describe your sense of style and fashion?**

**AAK:** I like wearing minimal, monochromatic looks, relaxed fit, old money



styles, and leather jackets in the winter. Colors that are refreshing to look at, such as beige, white and sky blue. My fashion sense is one less in "refreshing to look at."

**Words you live by?**

**AAK:** Optimism is the only way to live one's life, everything else is more survival in



▶ WIDE ANGLE

## THE ALLURE OF FRIENDS

It's been 30 years since the day the US sitcom first aired on US television and 20 years since it stopped. Why did it end up becoming an enduring global sensation?

By Richard Howells

**I** have to be honest — I didn't actually watch the first episode of the classic TV series *Friends* when it originally aired in the US on September 22, 1994. Nor did I bother when it first turned up on British television the following spring.

But the final instalment was a different matter. I was on a road trip in the US at the time and checked into a motel on the outskirts of Cincinnati, Ohio, especially to catch the concluding episode (*The Last One*), on May 6, 2004.

Room service arrived in the nick of time. My burger and beer only fuelled my appetite for what was to come — and the anticipation of guessing what the final line would be.

So why the big change? How did my attitude evolve from indifference to the sitcom to excitedly pulling off the intercom to the waitstaff? The answer is key to the show's success — and why it remains so popular today.

Back in 1994, the initial premise of *Friends* seemed so lacklustre. The plot revolved around six not especially interesting characters, and none of the cast was especially famous (at best to non-Fans the show was set mainly in two adjacent



The cast of *Friends* (L-R) Jennifer Aniston, David Schwimmer, Courteney Cox, Matt LeBlanc, Lisa Kudrow and Matthew Perry. (© Everett Collection Inc.)

apartments in Manhattan and a coffee bar called Central Perk, in which the characters remained almost every episode and in which (in the best sitcom tradition) the best seats were always available. Crucially, not a lot actually happened.

### THE POWER OF THE ENSEMBLE

So why did it work? The first important thing is that *Friends* was not so much a situation comedy as a character comedy. That meant it did not need a remarkable premise or dramatic incidents to drive the

show. It was an ensemble piece, in which we gradually get to know the characters and the friends because our friends.

The show was built around everyday storylines — crushes, romances and misunderstandings, or maybe something as gently amusing as Ross oversteering the tooth whitener. Viewers began to identify with individual characters ("see you a Monica or a Rachel?") or to take sides on the issues of the day. What, for example, are the relationship rules of being "on a break"? *Friends* was, of course, very, well

produced, cast and written. As it became even more successful, it survived the naturally perilous inclusion of celebrity guest stars and — vitally — it never "jumped the shark" (industry-speak for giving one of its initial premises or building up its dramatic, but ultimately silly, plot gimmicks from which it is impossible to recover). Ultimately, and hearteningly, the six characters all remained friends.

Beyond the professional craft and production polish of *Friends*, it is the concept of friendship, underscored by the viewer's sense of affection, which ultimately captures the series' success then and now.

One of the functions of popular culture is to provide a better (magical) world than the one we actually inhabit. In some ways, this is simply compensation for the reality of the everyday, we dream of that which we do not have. It's what the great US sociologist Erving Goffman called "wishful images in the mirror" — except that the mirror here is a television screen.

The world of Monica, Rachel, Joey, Chandler, Phoebe and Ross is, certainly, a wistful one for many. They live in impossibly nice apartments for their jobs or lack of them, and they are defined by their personalities rather than their careers. They are good looking and well dressed, and the series centres on their simple losses and

social ills. Unlike reality, arguments are always overruled and — most importantly of all — friendship always triumphs.

What a contrast this vision provides to the actual lives of so many people today. The real world is beset with isolation, loneliness, economic intractable problems, recessionally-fueled and certainly drudgery, but with *Friends*, as the clappy theme song reminds us, there is always someone "there for you" — if only in our dreams.

Some critics today carp about the show's lack of diversity and outdated attitudes to the cultural issues of the present day. While this may be true, like TV series, criticism also dies. And series which have long gone into reruns, repeats, unending and syndication are virtually immortal, in that they are recommended by word-of-mouth rather than increasingly ideologically centred reviews. Viewers just want it to be funny.

Oh, and in case you were wondering, the final line to the whole of *Friends* went to the last Member Perry as Chandler Bing. When Rachel suggests they all go for one last coffee, Chandler quips: "Sure. Where?"

The author is an Emeritus Professor of Cultural Sociology at King's College in London in the UK.

Reprinted from *The Conversation*

Once a thriving city during the Kushan Empire and a place of great religious significance for Buddhists, Simhapura suddenly vanished from the map. Archaeological efforts over the past two centuries have tried to rediscover the whereabouts of this lost city in Pakistan and the secrets that it holds

# THE LOST CITY OF SIMHAPURA

By Muhammad Huzafa Nizam



**T**he basin of the Indus River and its tributaries has a long history of being at the centre stage of many civilisations. From the Bronze Age Indus Valley Civilisation, right down to modern times, hundreds of cities, towns and settlements have undergone centuries of expansion, followed by sudden regress and, in this process, left their mark on the region's identity.

However, within this list of historic sites lies a mysterious city that has, for all intents and purposes, completely vanished from the face of the earth — a city that fell out of record as a seemingly never-ending saga of invasions gripped the land, a city whose last mention is present in a 1,400-year-old account of a wandering Buddhist monk. The City of the Lion: Sindhupalana.

## THE KUSHANS, THE HUNS AND THE TURKS

The subcontinent lasting from the start of the 1st century CE to the end of the 10th century CE was one riddled with changes of civilisation, thanks to the Indus Valley. On multiple occasions, pre-existing social orders were disrupted, new empires made their mark, various religions competed for ascendancy, and languages and peoples of all sorts appeared at the forefront of the region.

The very firsts of this saga of migrating groups to cross the waters of the mighty Indus in this new millennium were the Kushans. The Kushans were one branch of a massive tribal confederation known as the Yuezhi who, upon being ousted from Western China, had wandered towards Bactria in today's Northern Afghanistan and used it as a base from which to reinvade the Indus Valley.

Over the course of the next three centuries, the Kushans rising up a massive empire, stretching from the Oxus River in Central Asia down to the Ganges in South Asia, and they supplanted this region with a massive network of roads and trade routes connecting far-off regions with one another. As well connected as it was internally, eventually it was connected with China, Central Asia and beyond, through the Silk Road, and to the Roman Empire through sea routes running from Roman Egypt to India.

This new era of connectivity and prosperity for the next three centuries resulted in the rise of new

art forms, fresh cultural norms and altogether new religious trends, with Buddhism taking the forefront in the region. The Kushans' refined-diplomatic ties with other vast empires and tolerance for change welcomed missionaries, artists, pilgrims, philosophers, architects, teachers, and scholars of all sorts that enriched their realm.

This influx of people led to various new settlements appearing on the map of their territories, as new cities were made and older cities were expanded. Much of the urban sprawl associated with this era was concentrated in the heartland of Gandhara (from Swatgarh to Taxila and its neighbouring regions in Punjab, Kashmir and Kabul).

Cities like Peshawar grew exponentially, as monasteries and stupas of all kinds started popping up between Swat and Northern Punjab, and new cities and settlements were erected from Swatgarh till Taxila. It is argued that, under the umbrella of Kushan prosperity, the mysterious city of Sindhupalana flourished too. This was the golden age of the First Kushans.

This golden age of the Kushans eventually saw its end in the middle of the 4th century, when the Sassanid Empire of Persia defeated the Kushans, snatched much of their territory and reduced them to mere vassals. This event was followed by the western borders of the Indus valley being overrun by vast hordes of nomads with terrifyingly large ribbed heads due to ritual manipulation: the Huns.

The conquest of the Huns left the region perpetually crippled, with many a city and settlement in their path plundered and its people put to the sword. An immense number of Buddhist monasteries, stupas and devotional complexes fell into a desolate state, either due to a planned campaign or as a natural consequence of the barbaric invasion.

Buddhism, though still persisting, became the victim of the policies of some Hun rulers. The role of the Huns finally met its end due to the combined efforts of the Sassanid Empire and the Yuezhi — the new tribal confederation now emerging from beyond Central Asia — who together put an end to their rule and subsequently annexed their territories.

It was during this era of confusion following the decay and disaster left in the wake of continuous military expeditions, when only a few remnants of the



A depiction of the Chinese monk Xuanzang on his journey across South Asia. Xuanzang's travelogue became one of the most accurate and detailed 7th century accounts of Central and South Asia.

once glorious days of the Kushans remained, that the last visitor to Sindhupalana and the protagonist of our story emerges: a traveller by the name of Xuanzang.

## A VISITOR FROM CHINA

Xuanzang was a young man from Eastern China who had joined the ranks of a Buddhist monastic order and retained himself a monk at the age of 20. As his proficiency as a monk grew, he slowly started to worry with time a great worry about the source of Buddhist texts present in China and the partial or manipulated knowledge being dispersed on account of improper translations of those texts.

Xuanzang eventually sought to travel to South Asia himself, the region from where many Buddhist texts and traditions were originating, to collect as many traditions as he could to bring back to China.

Xuanzang's travels, later known as *The Great Tang Records of the Western Regions*, became one of the most accurate and detailed accounts of Central and South Asia in the 7th century. He started his journey around 629 CE, beginning from western China and travelling deep through the many cities, kingdoms and trade routes of modern Xinjiang into Central Asia. There, after exploring the sites of Buddhist significance between Bactria and Jaldak, he finally crossed the Khyber Pass and entered today's Pakistan.

Xuanzang left extensive commentaries on various parts of the region of Gandhara, stretching from Swatgarh to the west to Taxila in the east — a region that occupied the position of utmost significance amongst many Buddhists. This was because it had served as an important vehicle for the transport of Buddhism from South Asia into Central Asia and China, with Gandhara monks going as far as being the first to travel to the Korean peninsula and introducing its people and rulers to Buddhism.

In his south-eastward trek, Xuanzang first came to Peshawar. Here, he started by chalking out an image of the destruction of the once-great capital of the Kushans, where new iron towns and villages were desired.

He wrote at length about the destroyed Kharidka stupas of Peshawar, which was once amongst the tallest

# IN SEARCH OF SIMHAPURA

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structures of the world, and the raised great mystery of the city. On alongside the tales of desolation, he also spoke of how, what's now called the 'city of flowers', had a wonderful variety of flowers and fauna even back then. This region, which now produces the best jaggery in the country, was, even then, filled with people fond of consuming sugarcane juice in order to create 'solid sugar'.

Passing by Charanada, Swate and Marhan, Xuanzang then reached Swat, where he learned how there exist 1,400 monasteries on each side of the Swat River which once housed nearly 18,000 monks but were now in a desolate state, with very few monks left in the valley. From there, he descended upon the plains of Punjab and the erstwhile city of Taxila.

Xuanzang penned only a few lines about the climate and people of Taxila in his writings, but he dedicated many pages to what he saw during his wandering in the regions around the city, as he explored many of the great stupas and monasteries around Taxila, and the great tales associated with them. It was here, in the wanderings around Taxila, that he came upon a city called Simhapura.

### SIMHAPURA

On May 21, 631 CE, Xuanzang departed from the city of Taxila and, according to his own estimates, walked nearly 180 miles southwards before finally coming upon a kingdom in the Salt Range, known as Simhapura.

This kingdom, which was subject to the rulers of Kashmir, was estimated to be nearly 1,000 miles in circumference, with its western borders lying upon the Indus River. Within these borders lay the capital city, also known as Simhapura, which he described as being 48 li (a li is a Chinese unit of distance) in extent, which equates to nearly three miles in circumference.

This measurement, if correct, would make the city larger in size than the ancient city of Taxila which, at the time of Xuanzang, largely consisted of the 500-year-old structures established by the Kushan kings and which happened to be a mile square in circumference.

Xuanzang once again left his work devoid of details regarding the interior of this vast city, but he spoke at length about the natural outlook of the region and important sites in the vicinity of the city. He mentioned the city's advantage of being constructed in the midst of tall cliffs and crags that imparted to it a natural defence, against invading armies — an advantage greatly exploited later on by the five tribes of the Salt Range who used these natural defences to oppose imperial rule as late as the time of the Delhi Sultanate.

He mentioned the climate being cold and the land, as a consequence, not belonging to a stock that could be highly cultivable. Yet still, the region was high in produce. The people of Simhapura he regarded as being fierce. They greatly valued the quality of cowrie and respected the cowrie-gods.

Xuanzang's account then naturally directs towards the existence of a cross-regional trade route south of the city, which was established by Ashoka the Great himself and was further augmented by a monastery. But both the names of the monastery and of the stupa's intricate decorations and of the monastery being largely abandoned point towards the trend of Buddhism's decline in the region.

In the role of another of Ashoka's wonderful stupas and a monastery existing south of the city. This stupa, made of stone, was 200 feet in height and was in close proximity to a collection of 10 interconnected ponds, with lotus flowers blooming on their surface and mosquitoes swarming towards them and which, according to Xuanzang, housed various kinds of fish and dragons — the dragons being a reference to the mythical Naga creatures that feature heavily in Buddhist literature.

### ALONG COME THE EUROPEANS

In 1843 CE, Xuanzang returned to China and, in the subsequent years, through imperial patronage, he was able to publish the accounts of his travels. This collection of his travels, *The Great Tang Records of the Western Countries*, became one of the most popular and well-read texts in China at the time, and it later went on to inspire some of the greatest epics of Chinese literature.

But unbeknownst to the Chinese at the time, over a millennium after Xuanzang's visit, this text that contained a collection of Xuanzang's keen eye for detail, impressive recollections of distances travelled and precise directions, would become a handbook for colonial archaeologists and their hunt for uncovering the history of the regions falling under their dominion.

As early as the 1870s, British Punjab's Indian Napoleonic general, James Ramage Ventura, in former Napoleonic soldiers, was partaking in archaeological excavations across significant historical sites in the Salt Range. But his excavations only yielded a small collection of ancient coins. Much more significant than the scanty



Katas Raj (pictured above) has long been considered by some as the site of Simhapura, since ancient times, the story of a saddened Shiva's teardrop falling on this piece of land in the Potwar and forming a pond has attracted Hindus towards Katas Raj

discoveries of his excavations was how his excavations and later writings on his findings were able to inspire the British officers serving in neighbouring British India — in particular, a Scot named Alexander Cunningham.

An engineer and soldier of the East India Company (EIC), with a keen interest in the antiquity of lands now colonised in his employ, Cunningham had taken his leave from the service after an illustrious career and had dedicated the remainder of his days, making great impression from Ventura, in carrying out excavations in British India, in order to uncover the unknown parts of its history.

In 1861, a department to overlook excavations and antiquities, the Archaeological Survey of India, was established, with Cunningham at its head. Even though the relevance of his body of work and work with him, the services, respect and authority given Cunningham through it led to a significant amount of discoveries of archaeological sites across British India, and allowed for him to release extensive commentaries on his findings.

Discussing the antiquity of Punjab in his book *The Ancient Geography of India*, Cunningham mentioned that if one were to trek beyond a hundred miles south from Taxila, following Xuanzang's directions, one would inadvertently arrive at the village of Saugoh in Ghazni, Nangra, despite its name bearing a tinge of resemblance to Simhapura, could not be the city. Xuanzang was talking about here, since Saugoh was located in a plain region and wasn't surrounded by cliffs.

However, the further existence of a set of ponds and stupas and religious structures took Cunningham's eyes elsewhere. "The vicinity of ten ponds of limpid water," wrote Cunningham, "with surrounding temples and sculptured pillars towards the body tanks of Kanakpur or Katin, which are still visited by crowds of pilgrims from all parts of India."

Cunningham believed that, even though Xuanzang's estimated distance from Taxila to the city he recorded the location of Katas (modern day Katas Raj), the region was still a perfect candidate for the site of Simhapura, an account of how only this region in the small tract of land south of Taxila could both satisfy the cold climate of Simhapura as well as have a set of ponds or water tanks nearby.

Even though Cunningham was never able to conduct proper excavations in Katas Raj to verify his claim, later scholars also went on to argue that the peculiar lack of detail given to the proposed distance, and the



Alexander Cunningham pictured alongside Buddhist artefacts in 1861, the Archaeological Survey of India was established to oversee excavations and archaeology, with Cunningham as its head | The British Empire in India: Volume 6

absence of details of the interior of the city, could mean that Xuanzang perhaps himself never visited the city but rather relied on information of the city procured by a native in Taxila.

Cunningham's research still managed to define the possible existence of the city in a singular tract of land in the Chakwal district of Punjab, between the three sites of Dardial, Marri and Katas.

### NEW DISCOVERIES

The 20th century was marked by colossal archaeological breakthroughs regarding the Indus Valley. Archaeologists discovered networks of extensive cities and proposed the existence of a massive Bronze Age civilisation that once thrived in the region.

They discovered and catalogued nearly all the major

stupas, temples, settlements and sites in the (Illustrated) Buddhist heartland of Gandhara in Punjab and the erstwhile North-West Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), thoroughly excavated an entire ancient Greek settlement in Taxila.

In the 1970s, with the construction of the Karakoram Highway, archaeologists discovered the ancient highway that once carried people across Central and South Asia. They also discovered more than 30,000 petroglyphs near Chilas.

To all the believers present behind these massive breakthroughs, many of which took help from Xuanzang's work, not much thought was given to the stories of Simhapura, a city now relegated more to myth than reality. Yet in 2024, nearly 130 years after Cunningham's initial report in his book of the city having existed somewhere in the Salt Range of Punjab, a group of Pakistani archaeologists began a survey in the Salt Range, to search the area for any clues that could point them to the location of the city.

They deduced three candidates in the Salt Range, owing to the presence of certain elements mentioned by Xuanzang, as having a potential connection to the lost city. These were Katas Raj, Marri and a set of unexplored mounds called Sherawali Sarkaar.

Since ancient times, the story of a saddened Shiva's teardrop falling on this piece of land in the Potwar and forming a pond had attracted Hindus towards the site of Katas Raj, which houses a large complex of Hindu temples built around the pond, but hidden amongst the splendour of the temples, the site also displays the remains of a square base of a Buddhist stupa that, inadvertently, according to the Pakistani archaeologists, was one of the two stupas mentioned by Xuanzang to be at the south of the city.

Sitting nearby, the other site of Marri also contains the remains of a Hindu temple as well as a Buddhist stupa and, though any standing body of water there is now used for sewage purposes, there were a set of three water ponds there for all at least the 1970s.

Over time with excavations and research in the former two places, the archaeologists finally came to the very last site, the shrine known as Sherawali Sarkaar. Present in the form of a newly built shrine, the site exists in the shadows of two large mounds that are home to a collection of graves from an unknown period.

The name of the shrine references a lion (sherv), much like the 'sherv' in Simhapura. Some locals still refer to the place as 'Sherv', which archaeologists debate could either be a reference to a lion or to a lioness, in support for a Buddhist monastery, or simply a word for a corporation.

However, far beyond the structuralist of monumental and linguistic, the most compelling links the site could possibly have with Simhapura are established due to two discoveries. Firstly, the animals chronologically exhibit a look reminiscent of the early stages of the region that were circular in shape with a dome-like appearance, and were, for the most part, present in and around large settlements and cities. The second link, according to Gandhara archaeologists, is that this site of Sherawali Sarkaar was north of Katas Raj — where Xuanzang's first stupa is believed to be — and northwest of Marri — the site of Xuanzang's second stupa — and therefore could be the most likely location of Simhapura. These coordinates would also almost completely align with the directions that our Chinese friend had left behind 1,400 years ago.

Unfortunately, little work has occurred since the publication of the findings of these archaeologists, though through no fault of their own, as excavations of this scale haven't been seen in Pakistan for decades. To unearth an entire city requires greatly skilled manpower and extensive planning.

In this grand saga spanning 1,400 years, where people of every epoch have revealed more and more about this lost city, our generation has also made its contribution in helping us inch closer to discovering Simhapura. However, whether we get to see Simhapura unearthed in our lifetime, only time will tell.

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A 2nd century Kushan relief from Buner depicting Phrygian dancers, indicating the multi-cultural character of the region. It is argued that under the umbrella of Kushan prosperity, the mysterious city of Simhapura flourished | Credit: Wikimedia Commons



SOCIETY

# THE SHERLOCK OF THE SUBCONTINENT

The police in Pakistan have a reputation for being unreliable and brutal, and the *thanaidar*, often the first point of police contact for the public, is seen as the embodiment of these traits. A serving policeman reflects on the excessive, oftentimes contradictory, demands of the role that engenders this reputation...

By Mahar Murrawat Hussain

**W**e know much about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, but are aware of the Sherlock from our own land. While Doyle's character is a fictional creation and renowned as the finest detective of his time, ours is a living figure, with a reputation somewhat muddled by history.

The, unlike Doyle's Sherlock, is not a private detective living off his wits, but a government-paid employee, juggling many roles: detective, investigation officer, keeper of law and order, and whatever else the day throws at him. He goes by the name of *Thanaidar*.

The meaning of the word likely brings up a description in many a mind of a middle-aged man with a large face, a heavy black mustache, and an intimidating and sturdy figure. Why? Many of us know him either through Hollywood movies or anecdotes, when he is, more often than not, portrayed this way.

However, the personality of our Sherlock has a multitude of shades that have remained unexplored and unacknowledged. He is much a character, dare I say, that if Doyle were familiar with him, he might have preferred him over Sherlock Holmes as his great character. That, to the dismay of our Sherlock, Doyle is not around to see beyond this way.

No, in the absence of Doyle and with the team of knowledge of the day augmented in the character, the task of unravelling the intricate web of his personality falls to me, and I, with all my characterisation shortcomings, am daring to lean into the task. Here we go.

### THE THANAYDAR'S HISTORICAL ROOTS

The word *Thanaidar* (ثانی دار) itself has meanings in Persian and two words, *Thana*, which means police station or jurisdiction, and *dar*, meaning keeper or holder, have been combined to form this term. It came into use in India during the Mughal era, which introduced two different roles for the maintenance of law and order. One was *Amildar*, who was responsible for upholding order in urban areas, while the other was *Thanaidar*, who was tasked with managing law and order in a rural area of his jurisdiction.

The word is also documented in historical texts. For example, Mughal historian Abul Fazl described the role and responsibilities of the *thanaidar* in *Akbar Nama* in these words: "The Emperor appointed *thanaidars* in various regions to maintain peace and order. These officials were responsible for the safety of the inhabitants, the security of the roads, and the collection of revenue. They had to ensure that the subjects were protected from thieves and murderers and that justice was administered fairly."

Later, the British, through their introduction of a number of changes to the overall policing system of the Subcontinent, redefined the concept of *Thana* and *Thanaidar*, and went on to formalise it with the establishment of proper *Thana* or police stations, the backbone of the police as we know it today.

Historically, the role of the *thanaidar* has been known for authority and power and, of course, as with other powerful figures, for their arbitrary use — which has much to do with the enduring infamy affixed to the character he carries till this day.

An oft-told story has it that, once, a poor, elderly man who had got entangled in a criminal case. When acquitted by the judge after a lengthy trial spanning over five years, he prayed for the judge to be promoted to the position of *thanaidar*. The judge, smiling, told the elderly man that he was already in a position superior to the



*thanaidar*. "How could you be higher in authority," the elderly man quipped, "when it took you five years to let me off the hook, while the *thanaidar* offered me the same release instantly, for just a few hundred rupees?"

The anecdote apart from its comic relief, effectively satirises how odious and undignified a character the *thanaidar* has historically been. The role is no longer as substantive as it used to be during the Mughal or British eras, yet its necessity is intact for plenty of reasons.

### ROLE IN THE PRESENT DAY

In the present time, the *thanaidar* is no longer strictly used to refer to the in-charge of a police station, as it was in the Mughal and British eras; rather, it has been employed for two ranks in the police department: Assistant Sub-Inspector and Sub-Inspector.

In the current scheme, he is a small cog in an otherwise intricate hierarchical structure, yet he serves as a linchpin, as he is the first person in the hierarchy of the police who comes into contact with the general public. Thus, his role is as vital as it was in the past.

As far as his responsibilities are concerned, these are too numerous to be perfectly performed by a mere mortal, as these include, but are not limited to, patrolling his area of jurisdiction, attending to crime scenes, listening to the grievances of victims, interrogating criminals, and investigating crimes. The number of responsibilities requires him to be a multitasker or, should I say, a jester, simply to manage the sheer volume of tasks expected of him.

Even, in the pre-Partition era, when the population boom had not yet exploded, being up to the duties assigned to the role was a hard row to hoe. An anecdote has it that once a local complainant about the authenticity of a *thanaidar*, he responded with a touch of humour, saying, "It is not that I am slow — it is that I am handling seven cases that there are lesser in a day."

This remark brings home the extent to which someone today in this role would be

“Fear being his hallmark, he comes to the great benefit of both state and the government of the day in securing 'national interests.' Whenever the need arises, he rises to the occasion, adeptly pulling the plug on protests and movements that come into the crosshairs of the state. His loyalty to the state is so unwavering that he views orders from his political masters as divine decrees and, thus, he feels no qualms about giving short shrift to statutes while executing these orders.”

stretched, given the substantial increase in population and diversity in the nature of crime.

### LESS COP MORE ACTOR

Today, the *thanaidar* is less a cop and more an actor, not just a simple actor playing his assigned role, but a character actor, who switches between different roles at the drop of a hat. And it's not occasional but the very nature of every other minute.

It is not that he does it out of his own volition, but it is a requirement of his job. People seem to see in him different personalities in different situations. As a complainant, one expects him to be a tough guy who, upon seeing the alleged accused, would impulsively grab him into the path. However, as a revenue collector, one wants him to be an effusive and cultured man, who refuses to give in to violent tendencies.

And, here, the character actor inside him plays out, and — look at that — off go both complainant and accused, warmly and grinning, believing the *thanaidar* to be on their side when, in reality, he is on neither's. In fact, by dint of this acting process, the *thanaidar* gets through situations.

Such performances are repeated by him every single day, and that too, improvised and unscripted, but the good cop's performance goes unnoticed by the members of the Academy Awards.

Otherwise, he would have walked away with an Oscar for the category of Best Actor every year.

The *thanaidar* is expected to be on duty around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. His responsibilities are relentless: he spends his nights patrolling his area, attends court hearings during the day, and listens to public grievances in the evenings. Any remaining time is typically consumed by mandatory appearances before senior officers.

The demands of the role have long little time for basic needs, such as eating regular meals, let alone for any leisure or recreational activities. In many police stations, even access to public water is a rare luxury. As a result, health issues, such as infections and diabetes are prevalent among those in this role. The joke within the fraternity is that only the fortunate few make it to retirement age; many succumb to death with illness or due to the pressures of the job, long before their official retirement. Thus, he has only dreams and no rights.

But he never minds if he has no rights, he knows others did not enjoy theirs. He, a lowly man in power and before his superiors and the sign of authority, all of a sudden turns out to be a tiger when it comes to dealing with individuals belonging to an underprivileged class, ethnic minorities and marginalised communities. He does not shy

away from swatting, beating, threatening, and even harming them, only if he is sure about their weak status in society.

### A SELF-FINANCING FUNCTIONARY

All negative aspects notwithstanding, the good thing about him is that he does not burden the national kitty and takes nothing out of it except a meagre salary. He meets all expenditures incurred in the service of people, such as investigations, travelling, and providing of the arm, from his own pocket — or should I say, he is expected to pay from his pocket.

Managing these and many other expenses from his salary, which normally does not exceed a four-figure amount, is, of course, next to impossible for him. Here, his talent comes to his aid, and he, without complaining or making any fuss, manages these funds from 'other sources.' And, of course, these 'other sources' funds flow from the commissions or 'a branch of respectable' within his jurisdiction.

Ever being his hallmark, he comes to the great benefit of both state and the government of the day in securing 'national interests.' Whenever the need arises, he rises to the occasion, adeptly pulling the plug on protests and movements that come into the crosshairs of the state. His loyalty to the state is so unwavering that he views orders from his political masters as divine decrees and, thus, he feels no qualms about giving short shrift to statutes while executing these orders.

What's more, he is so skilled at performing these tasks that he rarely falters, let alone how challenging the terrain may be. Recently, he demonstrated his prowess by effectively winning the so-called 'unthinkable' following the prime event of May 9th. But don't be mistaken — he has many such features in his cap. Indeed, he stands among the most celebrated state apparatuses, carrying out the 'will of the state' with remarkable flair.

### THE MOUSTACHE MYSTIQUE

Among his captured styles, the handkerchief remains the most iconic. The groomed mustache in a certain style, to project bravery and masculinity. The handkerchief mustache is always a badge of honour for the *thanaidar*, symbolising masculinity, authority and a no-nonsense attitude. It serves as a visual cue that he is authoritative and fears. Thus, he spends more time twirling and grooming his mustache than doing anything else.

Though one finds the character of the *thanaidar* a blend of authority and authority, yet, in the broader picture, whether the *thanaidar* is a hero or a villain is a matter of perspective. He may be a hero for one and a villain for the other, but what remains indisputable is that he is an emblem of the complex realities of law and justice in Pakistan — flawed yet indispensable, navigating a labyrinth of expectations and constraints with a blend of dedication and moral ambiguity.

Moreover, within this characterisation lies a deeper truth about the systemic issues plaguing the police force in Pakistan. The *thanaidar*'s very existence, the daily challenges faced by police officials at the lower ranks and everywhere their unwavering commitment to their duties despite overwhelming odds. His multifaceted role not only reflects the personal struggles of these officials but also exposes the systemic rot within the policing system.

Ultimately, the *thanaidar* stands as a symbol of resilience and dedication, amid a backdrop of institutional dysfunction.

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Members of the Karachi Police survey the site of the attack at the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi in 2020; investigation is part of the job of the police | Reuters



Police officers outside the Karachi Press Club to stop protests following PTI leader Imran Khan's arrest in 2023; police are often called upon to follow the orders of the government | Reuters

WOMEN'S CRICKET

With the ICC Women's T20 World Cup right round the corner, Eos speaks to the head coach of the Pakistan's women side to guess their chances in the event

# OVERHAULING A MINDSET

By Ahsan Iftikhar Nagi

**P**akistan's preparations for next month's ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Dubai and Sharjah have been far from ideal. The Pakistan team have lost 11 of the 15 T20s since the start of this year, and the seismic changes in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have resulted in the change of the entire backroom staff, just three months from the all-important tournament. It has also seen the appointment of a 25-year-old as captain just a little over a month from the upcoming match.

Pakistan are placed in the toughest group of the 10-team competition. Three of their opponents — Australia (expanding and defending champions), India (third) and New Zealand (fourth) — are among the top four sides in the International Cricket Council rankings, and Sri Lanka (fifth) are two places above them on the table. Pakistan women have never gone beyond the group stage of a T20 World Cup and that their performances have remained abysmal this year gives little hope to the fans.

Since his appointment as the head coach of the women's side, former Pakistan Test cricketer Muhammad Wasim has set in motion specific plans to overhaul his team. It has brought Pakistan three of their first wins of the year in the last seven matches, across the Asia Cup and a three-T20 series against South Africa.

"It is a different challenge altogether," he tells Eos on the eve of the team's departure for Dubai for the T20 World Cup. "The dynamics of the women's dressing room are different and it is very important to understand that."

Wasim, who is working in the women's set-up for the first time, comes in the job with solid coaching credentials. He led Northern, a side largely comprising young domestic cricketers, to the National T20 title in 2020 before taking them to consecutive finals of the first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. He has also served as a chief selector of the national men's side.

Wasim has a plan to turn his new team into a modern-day women's side. He shares it with Eos at a Lahore hotel.

"The skill is there," he says. "But the lack of physical fitness and ability to handle pressure has held us back. We have been working on those two areas, and you must have seen its impact in our batting approach in the recent series against South Africa."

Pakistan posted their highest-ever T20I score (190) in the second of the three T20s against South Africa in Multan, with the team hitting as many as six sixes. Pakistan — in this T20 World Cup cycle — have hit just one six every 114 balls on average. This was a welcome change for a side that has struggled with power hitting.

"We identified this as a major area for improvement," Wasim says about Pakistan's poor boundary-hitting record.

One of Wasim's assistants in the coaching staff is Haider Malik. The two come from the most data-driven Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise, Multan



Pakistan's women's cricket team from the 2022 World Cup. Inset: Muhammad Wasim

Sultans and Islamabad United, respectively. When they crisscrossed the members in their first camp together, ahead of the Asia Cup, they found Pakistan lagging behind other sides by great margins.

"The players had the capability to hit boundaries and sixes, but they were holding themselves back," says Wasim. "We worked on shifting their mindset towards a positive brand of cricket."

"Now, Musheba Akbar has started to go for boundaries more often. Gul Hameed has shown in Pakistan her power-hitting abilities. Naira (Anwar), Ahsan Iftikhar and Nida Faris all have the ability to clear the ropes. Haider has worked immensely with the girls in power-hitting. There will be a change in how we bat in the T20 World Cup."

During the recent South Africa series, the players were stressed when they were discouraged from any type of physical training on the off days. A few weeks before, they had gone through a rigorous working fitness camp in Lahore. To the players' surprise, they did not skill work in that camp.

These measures, Wasim says, are in line with effective workload management practices. "I cannot make those players busy overnight, but I have started the process of achieving the desired fitness standards. We have designed proper workload management plans for the players — as any professional team does — with the help of our strength and conditioning coach and physiotherapist."

"We demanded a lot from these girls during the Lahore fitness camp. I was unsure how they would respond, but they responded really well. The players now realise the importance of improving their fitness, and I can see their commitment in the gym and during balls, which is pleasing to see."

One conversation even concerns data — one of the most divisive topics in Pakistan cricket. "This is different from the men's cricket," Wasim says with a grin. "The women players are more receptive and understand the importance of data in cricket. They have made my life easy."

The Pakistan digital now feeds its captain with

Team	Run rate	Balls per boundary	Balls per sixes	Average
AUS Women	294	5.26	34.38	26.25
ENG Women	264	5.63	64.37	23.41
SA Women	236	6.39	47.60	26.45
IND Women	305	6.06	46.09	26.08
SL Women	6.75	6.55	43.00	27.22
WI Women	6.38	7.42	75.95	23.55
NZ Women	6.31	8.72	114.24	19.25
SCO Women	5.98	9.02	100.41	18.66
PAK Women	5.95	8.84	114.27	19.39
BAN Women	5.07	11.28	145.50	14.94

\*During the current T20 World Cup cycle — from February 27, 2023 until September 23, 2024. Sorted by run rate

information about favourable match-ups through numeric codes.

"That is not rocket science," Wasim claims. "It encapsulates what has transpired historically and provides you information that you are not aware of... Initially, some players did not fully comprehend the idea of data in cricket, but the players started to get the hang of it during the Asia Cup."

"To tell you how much players have started to buy into the idea of using data in cricket, our sponsor Nike (India) even asked us about our favourable match-ups in T20I series matches."

Fatima Sana, Pakistan's new captain, has also been open to the use of data-driven strategies. "Fatima understands the demands of the modern-day game," Wasim says. "She is young, has a lot of energy, and inspires the team with her performance."

Though Pakistan lost to South Africa 2-1 in what was their last series before the T20 World Cup, Wasim is satisfied with the preparations. Pakistan begin their tournament campaign on October 5 — the day the T20 World Cup begins — by playing Sri Lanka in Sharjah. But, all eyes will be on the T20 World Cup, when they play India in Dubai.

"Regardless of the venue or the level at which it is played, a match against India always has its pressure," Wasim says. "We did not win against them in the Asia Cup and the result truly comes across as rather one-sided. We lacked better than India in certain phases, but we could not capitalise on those opportunities and they were too good for us in the end."

"But, considering the form our players are in, the preparations we have had, the improvements in our batting, and the fact that our approach is one of the best in the world, I am sure the result will be different this time."

Though Wasim's appointment continues to be on a series-by-series basis, there are indications that he will land the job for the long term. The Wasim-Fatima duo could yet herald a new era of women's cricket in Pakistan.

"Everyone wants to win and I want to win too," he says. "But, you need to set realistic goals. In the short-term, I want to limit India that we can win against any side. In the medium-term, we have to develop batsmen and increase the pool of players through domestic competitions. In the long-term, we have to enhance our batting strength and develop that bowler. We do not have enough fast bowlers in the set-up, which is a concern."

"We also have to introduce two-day cricket, rather than this season of the men, as it will definitely improve the skills of our players. We also need to have a women's PSL, but, we don't have enough cricketers in our pool for that at this stage. Whenever it happens, the women's PSL will be a game-changer."

"I will keep banging on the door to make this happen in Pakistan," he says. ■

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GOVERNANCE

# RIGHT OF REFUSAL

Right to information legislation is expected to improve transparency and accountability in public bodies. But more than two decades since it was first introduced in Pakistan, the law continues to fail to deliver the desired results...

By Saddia Mazhar

**T**he right to information (RTI) in Pakistan is enshrined as a fundamental right under Article 19-A of the Constitution, designed to empower citizens with access to government-held information. But like many other fundamental rights in the country, it remains largely unfulfilled.

Despite the legal framework in place, the enforcement of RTI laws is hampered by inadequate implementation, under-resourced commissions and a lack of public awareness, leaving citizens in the dark.

The journey of RTI in Pakistan began with the Freedom of Information Ordinance in 2002, marking the country's first attempt to legislate transparency. Although a step in the right direction, this law was widely criticised for its inefficiencies.

Over the years, Pakistan made strides in strengthening its RTI laws. The 18th Amendment in 2010 was a turning point, introducing Article 19-A. This was followed by significant legislative efforts at both the federal and provincial levels.

In 2015, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) passed robust RTI laws, setting a new standard for transparency. Sindh followed suit in 2017 and Balochistan in 2023, each adopting stronger laws to replace their earlier, weaker versions. This included the establishment of information commissions in each province, except Balochistan, and at the federal level, to decide on complaints over RTI and to expedite the process.

EMPTY SLOTS

While the legislation paints a promising picture, the reality on the ground is starkly different.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission has been operating with only one commissioner since July 2022, and the posts of two information commissioners remain vacant. Similarly, the federal Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has been without a civil society representative since January.

The situation in Sindh is equally grim, where a key position has been vacant since one of the two information commissioners was allocated to the Sindh Assembly. Punjab is no exception, the posts of chief information commissioner has been vacant since the retirement of Mubshoh Qadir Shahan May.

For Mubshoh Ahmad Akbar, who has previously served as an information commissioner in Punjab and is currently the executive director of the Centre for Democratisation Studies in Islamabad, the lack of timely and merit-based appointments in the commission is a major issue.

"This not only undermines the law, but also erodes



public confidence in the system," Akbar tells Eos.

ENTER THE LABYRINTH

The process of attempting to obtain information through an RTI request can be frustrating.

Weeks after the general election of 2024, I filed an RTI request with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). The request sought details on who gave the order to shut down mobile networks on February 8, the day of the election.

In response, the PTA redirected me to the Ministry of Interior, claiming the matter fell under their jurisdiction. On March 8, the same information request was sent to the interior ministry, but it went unanswered.

As a result, I filed an appeal with the PIC. On July 10, the commission dismissed the appeal, saying that the requested information had been classified as "sensitive" due to "national security concerns." The commission's decision failed to provide any reference to relevant legal sections for turning down the request. Furthermore, no justification from the interior minister declaring the information as sensitive was shared.

On July 23, I submitted written objections to the PIC, requesting a review of the decision of issuance of a detailed order, explaining the legal sections. In due course, the commission has neither issued a detailed decision nor responded to the objections raised.

Under Section 16 of the RTI Act, 2017, the federal minister must provide reasons for exempting information and explain how it could pose a threat to

national security rather than serving the public interest. This provision clarifies that information cannot be exempted merely by issuing a notification.

NO RECOURSE AGAINST REFUSAL

Muhammad Awan, a resident of Islamabad, also faced similar challenges. Awan had filed a request with the Senate Secretariat, seeking copies of the minutes of a meeting of the Senate standing committee on energy. However, the PIC dismissed his appeal as well, declaring the requested information as classified.

"Like other laws in Pakistan, RTI laws also lack implementation, and practising these laws for public interest matters is research in just a waste of time," a frustrated Awan tells Eos. He says that three further appeals he filed to the PIC were also dismissed "without any valid legal grounds."

Another critical issue is the lack of an effective appeals process. Citizens dissatisfied with the decisions of the information commissions have no choice but to take their cases to the high courts, further burdening an already overburdened judiciary.

Ahmed Akram, a prominent RTI advocate, stresses that, for RTI to work, citizens must actively use the law. "Currently, the number of appeals filed annually in the four commissions do not exceed 50,000 — a meagre figure compared to neighbouring countries," he tells Eos.

Akram also highlights the role of civil society in holding the commissions accountable. "Citizens must challenge restrictive interpretations of RTI laws by the commissions and courts," he continues. "Without

public pressure, the commissions will continue to operate as a state of paralysis, and the fundamental right to information will remain a distant dream."

A CRIPPLED AND COMPROMISED SYSTEM

But the challenges facing the information commissions are not just about vacant positions.

Saddia Jahan, the spokesperson for the KP Information Commission, outlines several structural issues. "The budget allocated in 2021 has not been increased despite rising operational costs, and we lack adequate resources to handle the influx of complaints," he tells Eos.

The KP commission's complaint statistics tell a troubling story. In January 2024 alone, over 5,700 complaints were filed, with around 500 still pending. The flood of complaints, often filed by just a few individuals, has overwhelmed the commission's limited staff, leading to delays in resolving cases.

Fawad Malik, a former information commissioner at the PIC, tells Eos that the commission faced numerous challenges initially, primarily related to resource constraints. However, as the commission began to work, it grew stronger and made several landmark decisions, including the Torba Khana case and a ruling against the Islamabad Club.

"Despite these achievements, government attempts to influence the commission persist," he says. He says public bodies often fail to comply with the commission's orders. "Even Supreme Court decisions are often not implemented, leaving other departments in a similarly difficult position," he points out.

Last year, information requests were filed to sweep through 18 provincial departments in Sindh, with no response from 12 departments. Complaints were lodged to the Sindh Information Commission (SIC), which issued detailed decisions on all complaints within 15 days, ordering the departments to provide the requested information within 10 days. Despite this, no department has complied, and the SIC has taken no action to enforce its decisions.

On January 29 of this year, I requested the SIC, via email, to take action to enforce its decisions, but like the PIC, the commission in Sindh has remained silent. These incidents highlight the growing challenges in enforcing the RTI Act, 2017, and ensuring transparency and accountability in Pakistan's public bodies.

The promise of RTI in Pakistan is being stifled by the very institutions meant to uphold it. The information commissions, which should be the pillars of transparency, are instead becoming obstacles due to mismanagement, underfunding and political neglect in

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EXHIBITION



The Last Supper, Jacopo Bassano

Masterpieces from the 15th and 16th century, housed at Galleria Borghese in Rome, are currently on display in Paris

# FROM ROME WITH LOVE

By Zafar Masud

**J**acquemart-André Mousseau, barely a 15-year-old with long hair, is an unusual presence in every corner of the world. Built in the 19th century as a private residence for a rich couple that was clearly about art, it was later turned into a museum and art centre, in accordance with the couple's last request.

The mansion has increasingly attracted large crowds but, a year-and-a-half ago, much to the frustration of art enthusiasts, it was closed down for an extensive interior renovation and an improvement of the garden. This project finally ended in August this year. To celebrate this, the organisers have taken the unprecedented step of transferring to the Jacquemart-André Museum the entire collection of paintings and sculptures from the famed Galleria Borghese in Rome.

It is a mind-boggling experience to visit the show in this now magnificently remodelled museum that is filled with masterpieces created by 15th and 16th century art legends and a number of masters of the Renaissance and Baroque movements.

The unusual arrangement between the two above-mentioned institutions offers art enthusiasts, tourists as well as a large

number of foreigners, the unique opportunity to watch and admire the work of masters of Italian art from the Renaissance and Baroque ages, which have never before been normally exhibited in Paris.

The first, a few words here about the Borghese Gallery itself. The gallery owes its existence to a millionaire art lover but to a sacred religious figure named Cardinal Scipione Borghese (1577-1633) who, despite his restricted church obligations, was an art collector and who did not hesitate from taking advantage of his religious authority to collect a large number of paintings and sculptures as well as antique furniture pieces.

Inspired by his taste for art and an insatiable curiosity for newer techniques, Cardinal Borghese went on acquiring artistic creations and thus became one of the most prominent collectors of the era. He turned his own personal residence, named Villa Borghese at the time, into a museum. Interestingly though, this venture was carried out a long time before the modern notion of an art museum, open to the masses and not restricted to the nobility alone, came into being.

Following Cardinal Borghese's wish, the collection was passed down from generation to generation of the Borghese family. In 1902, at three and a half million francs, the family decided to hand over their entire residence filled with artworks to the Italian government,

thus transforming it into a national institution.

Now, thanks to this unusual arrangement between the Jacquemart-André Museum and the Borghese Gallery, which is currently undergoing its own year-long renovation project, the exhibition is on display in Paris.

Such an adventure was unimaginable only a year ago, but what a pleasure it is now to stand here to face near to the chief discoverer of Raphael, Antonelli de Monsia, Parmigianino, Michel Tassi, Lorenzo Lotto, Titian, Veronese, Il Caravaggio, Bernini and even a few truly European painters who had decided to live and work in Rome for the rest of their lives — artists such as Peter Paul Rubens, Jan Goyenck, Jan van Noort and Gerrit van Honthorst, to name only a few!

Based on these names alone, you can probably deduce that the artworks on display here are far too numerous and decided to turn up here, hence, these select images will have to do their justice — unless, of course, you can plan a quick trip to Paris!

*Masterpieces from the Borghese Gallery' is on display at the Jacquemart-André Museum in Paris, France from September 6, 2024-January 3, 2025*

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ARTSPEAK



# Step Back to Move Forward

Western powers justified colonisation as a 'civilising mission.' Now, as global voices reclaim their real histories, new narratives that reflect the rich legacies of non-Western civilisations must be written

By Durriya Kazi

America was the first colonialist country to gain independence in 1776, followed by Haiti and Brazil. Most Americans and Brazilians were Europeans who sought independence from Europe, while the Haitians who fought for independence from France were slaves, mostly from Africa. The indigenous populations of all three were all but wiped out.

Most countries that carry the tag of decolonisation today were native populations that achieved independence between the 1940s and the 1970s, across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. These countries remain trapped between colonial and traditional values.

Along with military might and brutal suppression of resistance, the more subtle instruments of subjugation have been education, language and culture. Ironically, it has been these very instruments that have allowed voices of protest to turn colonial monologues into a dialogue. From Dadabhai Naoroji in the late 19th century, to Frantz Fanon and Edward Said in the 20th century, to Michel Hissari and Shafiq Tharoor in the 21st century, the whippers of protest have become student and boat, as the Empire speaks back.

The plunder and looting of human and natural resources was justified as a 'civilising mission' to uplift and develop a supposedly backward people. Author Casey Wolf says the Anglo-American invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003 were also presented as civilising missions, and to protect the people of the civilised world.

Historians such as Paul Fergusson believe the US should have been the rational heir to British colonialism, arguing that Woodrow Wilson's requirement of the Age of Empires with the Age of Nations at the 1919 Versailles peace conference was the most cause of global justice. In the London-based *Intelligence Squared* debate in 2007, the audience voted 665 to 268 in favour of the statement: "We should not be reluctant to assert the superiority of Western values."

The identities of 'independent' nations are kept tightly reeled by defining them exclusively by their colonial era as post-colonial or third world or developing nations, rather than individual repositories of cultures that evolved over centuries. Colonial powers created a native elite as administrative supports, while curbing their power to address the needs of their communities. Laws such as the Permanent

Settlement Act, which created the Jirga system in India in 1793, led to a lasting social instability and oppression.

However, one can argue that the majority population was never truly colonised. Before the radar, people continued to celebrate their religions, culture and traditions. They followed their own medical treatments, legal systems, poetry, songs, dance and crafts, and shared their stories, whose sounds are now reverberating, especially into the circles of the intellectual elite.

Historians are being invited to reveal the lie of 'civilising missions.' Africa was not the 'heart of darkness', but a rich tapestry of kingdoms and empires. The assumed uniqueness of Western rationality, technology, rights of citizens or capacity for capitalism is challenged by revisiting histories of non-Western civilisations.

Confucius' theories of education and moral-political philosophy are still followed today. Socratic dialogues were scientific texts exploring logic, moral-political thought and astronomy. The Mayas had extensive libraries of manuscripts produced over three centuries, many translations and exchange of knowledge, flourishing trade, smoothly run administrations, legal systems, diplomacy and arts and architecture of a high culture.

The European colonial empires are not the only empires the world has known. The Roman, Persian, Chinese, Mongol and Islamic empires each had a powerful and lasting impact on the nations they occupied. Civilisations were constantly being replenished with new cultures that were absorbed and the conquerors too were, in turn, changed.

The Modern empire evolved culturally by adopting the best practices of the lands they conquered. As the Martinique poet Aimé Césaire wrote, colonialism 'de-colonised' those responsible. When violence was justified and normalised by European beneficiaries of colonial rule, "a person was debilitated in the veins of Europe and, slowly but surely, the continent proceeded towards savagery."

Nationalism merely survives through storytelling, religious practices, cultural ceremonies and the arts. *Sankofa* is a Ghanaian word that means, "to go back and get it." It carries the idea of taking from the past in order to enrich the present or looking back in order to move forward. From it comes the proverb, "It is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot!"

*Durriya Kazi is a Karachi-based artist. She may be reached at durriyakan2024@gmail.com*

## SMOKERS' CORNER



# The Paradox of Tolerance

Some are accusing Pakistan's judiciary of becoming overtly politicised and 'intolerant' towards parliament, while others are alleging the ruling coalition is undermining the judiciary's independence. So, who exactly is in the wrong?

By Nadeem F. Paracha

**I**n his 1945 book, *Open Society and its Enemies*, the Austrian philosopher Karl Popper described a paradox, which he called the "paradox of tolerance." Popper wrote that a society that is highly tolerant becomes vulnerable to the irresistible domination of intolerant forces. Therefore, Popper suggested that, if intolerant forces continue to overshoot national lines of communication or action, the tolerant should have the right to become entirely intolerant towards these forces.

Popper was positing that intolerance that has become a danger to a tolerant society should be dealt with an equal measure of intolerance. Otherwise, such a society will be swamped by intolerant forces. Popper was extremely perturbed by the violence and crimes of the Nazi regime in Germany. To him, before the rise of the Nazis, German democracy was too tolerant towards them.

Had the Nazis been dealt with through former laws or even banished for imposing democratic freedoms, in a bid to destroy the republic, their rise to power could have been avoided. So, was Popper, who was a staunch liberal, pointing out the limitations of liberal democracy? Was he suggesting that excessive freedom of speech and action needs to be curbed to safeguard these freedoms?

Popper advised that rational means should be adopted to engage with intolerant forces. It is only when such engagements are 'met with fists' that the tolerant segments of the society should have the prerogative to formulate laws that are intolerant towards intolerance.

Popper feared that if this were not done, intolerant forces would continue to accumulate and overwhelm a society's tolerant disposition. To Popper, the best way to avoid despotism was to curb the forces that become the source of despotic rule.



difference between Popper and Rawls in this regard is minor. The latter did not explain the curbing of intolerant forces as intolerance but as a possible means in certain conditions.

Popper's paradox continues to instigate heated philosophical and political debates. It is also present in the recent debates in Europe and the US on the current state of democracy in these regions. When, from the early 2010s, right-wing populists began to breach mainstream politics and accumulate electoral support, they were seen as destructive forces that were manipulating the tolerance inherent in liberal democracy to undermine it, in a bid to shape an intolerant order.

Some political thinkers are of the view that democracy should be regulated in such a manner that those who are using it to come to power (to impose liberal policies) are kept out of the mainstream. Of course, critics of this kind of thinking can't help but point out the contradiction in this. Liberal democracy using liberal means to curb forces that it claims of being liberal, isn't this, actually exhibiting the failure of liberal democracy, they ask?

But one can evoke Rawls here. If democratic tools and mechanisms fail to integrate or neutralise an existentialist threat posed by

certain forces, it is not really the failure of democracy as such, but of the limited means available in constitutions to address this threat. The solution then lies in finding up constitutional means so that the threat can be tackled in a more democratic manner.

Currently, Pakistan is in the midst of a war between the parliament and a major section of the judiciary. The parliament, and/or the ruling coalition, is being booed by the military establishment (ME), whereas the segment of the judiciary is using the shoulders of the jailed former prime minister Imran Khan to assert its independence.

The populist former PM has willingly allowed this because he sees the judiciary as reflecting his supposedly 'anti-establishment' disposition and of the possibility of it providing him his get-out-of-jail card. All protagonists in the tussle are claiming to be fighting for the 'sanctity' of the constitution. The ruling coalition has accused the judiciary of 'reversing the constitution' on various occasions to oust the 'destructive' Khan and to undermine the parliament.

Khan and the activist judges have accused the coalition of passing legislation and ordinances to "clip the wings" of the judiciary, undermining

its independence, and bench a popular former PM from politics. So, which of these is the intolerant force? Historically speaking, and inherently, they all are.

For example, historically, the ME, the parliament and the judiciary can all be accused of tolerating certain strands of (religious) intolerance that have swamped the country. Instead of being intolerant towards this nature of intolerance, these institutions not only tolerated it but actively asked it for cynical political purposes, realising what was once a 'moderate' society. So, keeping this in mind, one will have to analyse the current crisis in an historical vacuum.

It is the parliament's prerogative to write or amend the constitution. If need be, the Supreme Court (SC) can interpret it (judicial review). But as tensions between the parliament and judiciary intensify, some SC judges have clearly overstepped certain lines in interpreting the constitution. They have done this in such a manner that it has attracted accusations of them rewriting the constitution to aid Khan and their own positions and cliques.

The ruling coalition is planning to introduce amendments in the constitution to shield itself from activist judges. Indeed, this is a cynical, self-serving move. But this move can be justified as a way to mitigate the alleged politicisation of the judiciary. The legislative and the executive branches insist that they cannot tolerate the judiciary's intolerance towards the parliament's constitutional prerogatives.

The ruling coalition has accused certain high court and SC judges of trying to undermine the parliament and of going out of their way to facilitate the position and narrative of a 'destructive' force (Khan who, allegedly, wants to return to power and install a despotic, one-party rule).

I believe the activist judges could have presented their case in a more convincing manner had they not used a controversial politician's shoulders. Khan has become the controversial and polarising a figure. And why do the activist judges need such a figure? This is only strengthening the perception that these judges have become overtly politicised and intolerant towards the parliament, a



# B&A

BOOKS & AUTHORS

► FICTION

A debut novel from Pakistan revolving around multiple plotlines and characters caught in their own tragedies, showcases its author as erudite and as good a literary craftsman as he is learned

## The invisible ghosts of history



**The Pigeons**  
By Muhammad Asif Nawaz  
Liberty Publishing  
ISBN: 978-827-7626-290  
235pp.

Reviewed by Nadya Chishty-Mujahid

**S**ometimes when asked the what makes *poetry so popular*, given that it is basically just chance noise, I responded that, when something is well-made, and sprinkled with desirable trappings, one can understand its popularity without having to question it.

Muhammad Asif Nawaz's debut novel *The Pigeons* is fundamentally a love story, peppered with myriad historical and mythological allusions and references, which reflect an authorial intellect that is both erudite and brilliant.

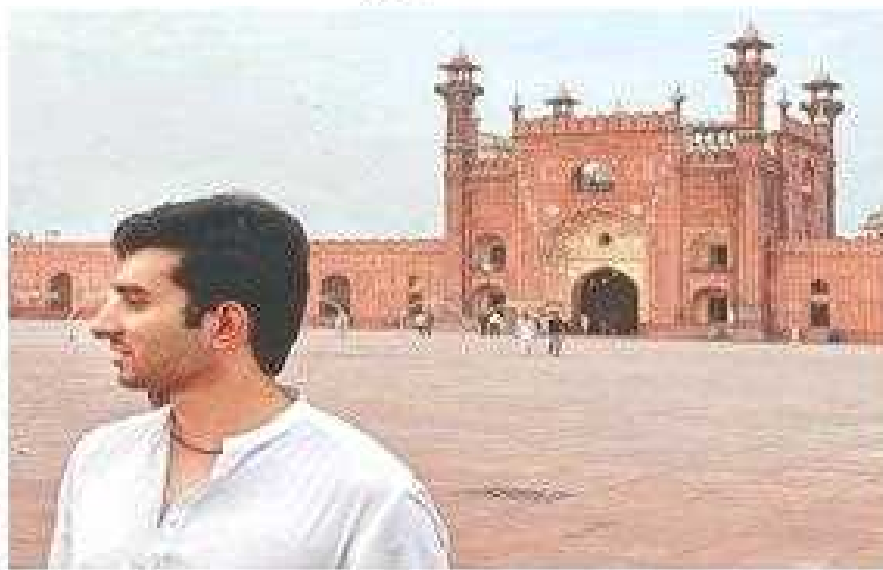
Although troubled by the jacket blurb as being set in, and featuring, Old Lahore, a fair bit of the novel's vital interactions take place in South, where Farooq, the son of a feudal family, and Hina — literally the Hindu girl-next-door — have grown up.

A capable medical doctor, Hina was friends with a girl named Mehru while at medical school. Mehru came from a low-income family, and had the ill-fortune of being wedded to a cruelly abusive husband. Trapped in a brilliant marriage, she was able to get out of the relationship in one piece when her husband, Ahmad, divorced her after seven years.

In order to figure out the real reason as to why Ahmad filed those blessed divorce papers at her one day, one needs to be patient and read the novel carefully till the very end.

There are so many unexpected twists (Nawaz is as good a literary craftsman as he is learned) that it is difficult to review a book of this nature without giving away a number of them. I will, therefore, protect the novel's plotlines and mechanics by speaking in general terms, while still enabling readers to explore this unique and fascinating book themselves.

Asif, a friend of Hina, Mehru and Farooq was close to his father, Old Papa, while growing up. His mother had died when the child was very young, and his stepmother outlived Asif's father. She remarried, and Asif was treated shabbily by his stepfather who abused him. These traumatic experiences left deep psychological scars on the hapless Asif.



Asif Nawaz in Lahore | Instagram

He sought refuge in travel and memories of Old Papa and, although he was left to a considerable inheritance, money never truly made up for the lack of love in his life. At the commencement of the novel, he returns to Pakistan from Dubai, and one is made privy to Asif's memories of a deeply soulful father-son relationship, which is the polar opposite of what the wretched Farooq had with his feudal father.

To be fair to Farooq's concept, overbearing, and socially male parent it is true that this moment comes across as victimless, but everyone deserves a defence: the land-grabbing and unscrupulous aspects of his family had very deep roots in the post-independence fabric of the society Farooq hails from.

As the novel begins, Farooq is left bewildered as to what his own role should be within the framework of this establishment. We are told that his cricketering dreams were mostly smothered out by his disappointing parent when Farooq was young. The character's tragedy is that he is terrified of turning into his father but, like a genetic disease, it appears as if abuse of power runs in his very blood.

Although Farooq cared deeply in his own meaningful way for Hina, they fell out over a personal matter that had political overtones. It is at points such as these that Nawaz departs from straightforward storytelling towards, expanding the scale and scope of his writing, by referring to things such as the horrors of Partition, the Kashmir conflict, and the central role played by Lahore in these matters.

I found myself chuckling at the fact that, although a brief yet adequate glossary of Urdu terms is provided, the author might have been equally well-served by footnoting his references. By then I realised that the novel would have ended up being twice as long.

This meta-universe of references within the novel can best be described as the invisible ghosts of history being given visible form and shape by means of authorial narrative. In fact, there is, quite literally, a some deliriated wraithly ghosts of famous personalities buried in Lahore (such as Amarkant, whose soul spends eternity imprisoned in archival documents) are

The intimacy they shared couldn't be comprehended by many. It went beyond the carnal desires, and knocked at the realm of the unknown. Their bond was special, almost ancient. It was a bond that men have had with their angels, that the believers have had with their souls, that the Sufis have had with their hearts. It was so much and so little. *An escape as well as homecoming.* It was a bond so complete that it would always remain incomplete. Both enjoying each other's shadows but never sharing their stems.

— Excerpt from the book

gives voices by the author.

Lazy readers will complain that going back and forth between present-day reality and an overreaching heritage of myths and historical snippets gets confusing, but the novel is worth the mental effort of careful perusal. However, there is no denying that, for many readers, the pathos of Mehru's story will steal the show and one is happy that she gets a much-needed break later in the novel, even if it is brief and fleeting.

The memories of Muhammad commemorated honouring the immortals of Urdu fiction are beautifully penned, and Nawaz is to be commended on writing with genuine sympathy when it comes to tragic aspects of Urdu readers in his book.

**THE INVISIBLE GHOSTS OF HISTORY, PAGE 07**

► FICTION

A debut science fiction novel from Pakistan deals with heavy issues of colonialism and imperialism but is a rollicking adventure escapade as well

## Going up against Grand Design



**Sector 47**  
By N.N. Azhangir  
The Book Guild Publishing  
ISBN: 978-9953-66865-76  
300pp.

Reviewed by Sara Danial

**N.** Azhangir's debut novel, *Sector 47* delves into an imaginary world full of science fiction elements. The book swings between two different times: the troubled past in Sector 47, where Saada and her guardian, Uncle Abbas, face constant attacks from invaders, and the exciting present, where Saada and her robot Rodok set out on a thrilling mission to save Abbas.

The historical parts are filled with serious themes such as injustice, with the Grand Design, a dictator, managing the exploitative mining of Uranium — known locally as Radon, and which has unique properties — with the help of his followers, the Redlocks. And then there are the modern adventures, full of promise and excitement.

Young Saada finds herself in one difficult situation after another with the Redlocks. One night, a tragic event separates her from Uncle Abbas, forcing her to leave the planet for her safety. The only option for escape comes from an unlikely ally she met underground — a robot named Rodok.

In the galaxy under the iron grip of the malevolent Grand Design, Saada emerges as a resilient, brave leader, her sole purpose intertwined with a decade-long pursuit: liberating her cherished

work from the clutches of their colonised homeworld, Sector 47. Alongside her stalwart android companion, Rodok, whose aid was indispensable in her own escape from Sector 47, Saada embarks on a difficult journey.

Their mission hinges on securing a fabled medicine, the elixir key to undoing the damage back to Sector 47. The mission serves a dual purpose: first, to seek justice for her incarcerated uncle and, second, to find people who possess items and critical information that could lead to his release.

Yet, as they navigate through this high-stakes pursuit, they must face treacherous adversaries and daunting challenges. Foremost among them are the omnipresent Grand Design. The enemies are not solely the external forces, Saada grapples with the weight of her oath to her uncle and, as they push onward, the question persists: does Saada's self-serving pledge to her uncle warrant a showdown against the galaxy's most formidable power?

In the face of these overwhelming odds, Saada and Rodok press on, their resolve unyielding, their determination unswerving. For them, the journey isn't merely about reclaiming what was lost, it's about confronting the very forces that seek to control their destinies and forging a path to freedom no matter the cost.

The story has a clear science fiction vibe, with a fast pace and lively interactions between Saada and Rodok that engaged the reader of genres such as *Friday* and *Scorpio*. The mix of history and science adds a certain charm, keeping readers hooked from start to finish. Saada and Rodok stand out as strong characters, well-developed within a detailed, imaginative world.

Saada embodies heroism, peppered with shades of complexity rather than simple righteousness. As the story, her journey is fuelled by love, propelling her through encounters with allies, antagonists and adversaries alike across the cosmos. Meanwhile, her android companion, Rodok, evades genuine concern with charm, wit and warmth, bringing life into every scene. This deserves N.N.

Azhangir's talent for crafting fascinating characters.

In the realm of science fiction, creating believable characters and worlds can be a real feat. However, Azhangir achieves this with his work. He crafts a compelling universe that feels real and complex, with a relentless enemy, various oppressed groups, and a hero that everyone can sympathise with.

However, amid its strengths, there are some deserving of scrutiny. Despite its thoughtful examination of colonialism, the narrative occasionally falters in its portrayal of justice, by sometimes oversimplifying the characters, dividing them too clearly into heroes and villains, which takes away some of the story's complexity. Additionally, while the tale brims with charm and humour, there are moments where the pacing feels uneven, detracting slightly from its overall impact.

Having said that, *Sector 47* remains a highly commendable read, brimming with excitement and full of space odyssey, spacebattles and even a space battle. It's a scathing critique of settler colonialism and imperialism, with racism, classism, sexism, and disability lying bare, their appalling repercussions.

All of this makes it a relevant read, especially with what's happening currently in global politics. Yet, it is also refreshingly grounded with doses of humour. Beyond its socio-political commentary, the novel morphs into a rollicking escapade, seasoned with a dry wit, and emerging as a quest within a galaxy prepared for disaster.

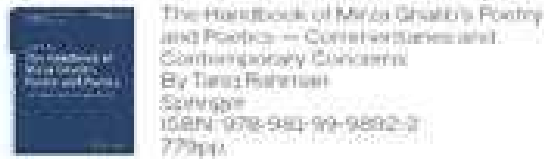
N.N. Azhangir's debut in the realm of science fiction and history is a remarkable achievement, standing out as one of the best. With a distinctive flair and a prose honed to precision, Azhangir crafts an immersive narrative that captivates and provokes thought. It heralds the arrival of a promising new voice in the SFF (Science Fiction, Fantasy) landscape. ■

The reviewer is a content lead at a communications agency.

► NON-FICTION

Dr Tariq Rahman's book on Ghalib is an exceptional scholarly work that might prompt new thinking on a few themes in classical poetry

# Ghalib for English-speakers



The Handbook of Mirza Ghalib's Poetry and Poetics — Contemporary Concerns  
By Tariq Rahman  
Scribner  
ISBN-978-94-99-9892-2  
779pp.

Reviewed by Nasir Abbas Nayyar

**T**he last Lord T. B. Macaulay was, in the third decade of the 19th century, envisioned producing a new hybrid class — Indian in blood and culture, and English in taste and knowledge.

Later, Sir Abdul Qadir realized, in the closing years of the 19th century, that this new class had become alienated from the Indian way of life and literature, particularly Urdu literature. Mirza Asad Qadir didn't question the colonial logic of creating such a class. He followed the cultural consciousness that class was destined to have.

Thus, in his book *The New School of Urdu Literature*, Qadir endeavored to blur this alienation by writing in English about the new students of Urdu literature, such as Halil, Asad, Abdul Hakim-Shamir and Nawaz Afzal. He had realized that the English language, the cause of the alienation, could cure the alienation.

This hybrid class has continued to thrive, as has the sense of alienation. Notorious scholars, from Hayatullah A. Nicholson, to Abdul Latif and Hamid Husayn Sabzwari to Dr Muhammad Saifur-Rahman, Khairuddin Islam, as well as David Mathews, Francis Pritchard, Mulla Adnan Farooqi, Michael R. Burch and now Tariq Rahman, have made efforts to introduce Urdu literature to English-speaking audiences through history books and translations.

Dr Tariq Rahman, a distinguished linguist and author of several books on diverse topics ranging from cosmology to war studies, has published a remarkable book on Mirza Ghalib in the introduction of *The Handbook of Mirza Ghalib's Poetry and Poetics — Contemporary Concerns*. He states that the book is intended to make Ghalib's Urdu poetry understandable and enjoyable for people who are not familiar with Urdu literature and, possibly, not even with the Urdu language. Rahman begins by outlining the life and works of Ghalib and provides a detailed survey of classical Urdu ghazal.

In the first chapter, Rahman emphasizes the recurring themes that may appear challenging for English-speaking audiences. He seems to be aware of the various misconceptions surrounding the moral values and aesthetic conventions of Urdu ghazal, and even the definition of ghazal as a genre of poetry.

He explains that the notion that the ghazal is a unique literary genre, originating from a specific geographic Indo-Muslim culture. Its distinctiveness cannot be comprehended in terms of Western poetry genres. Although ghazal is lyrical, it is neither similar to a lyric nor a sonnet. Unlike the lyric and the sonnet, a ghazal is not about a single subject, theme or argument. Ghazal is also distinct from a sonnet, which focuses on a single theme.

Some critics have termed this unique aspect of the ghazal as *zayā' al-hayati*, which means life-oriented, immanent thinking. It is intriguing to note that a few critics, who have been educated in Western literary traditions, have come to view this *zayā' al-hayati* as the downside of ghazal. For instance, Kalimuddin Ahmad, a noted Urdu critic and a graduate of Cambridge, declared that this *zayā' al-hayati* is the hallmark of the barbarian mind. Therefore, the ghazal writer experiences an incoherent, disoriented state of mind, which is unique to barbarian people.

In contrast to a ghazal, the sonnet deals with a single theme, so it is coherent, focused, consistent, and indicative of a cultured, civilized mind. Ahmad borrowed this argument from George Santayana, an American philosopher, poet and critic who ridiculed Browning and Walt Whitman as being barbarian poets. Ahmad's critique of the Urdu ghazal was a continuation of the colonial-cultural context reading or misreading of the Urdu ghazal by colonial European reformers and their Indian acolytes. Rahman has dedicated many pages of the book to analyzing the objections against the ghazal.

Outlining objections against the Urdu ghazal, Rahman points out that the theme of eros/love in the ghazal particularly upset Victorian and other evangelical British officials, and stirred discontent among Muslim reformers, from Halil to Nawaz Afzal and Ahmad Ali Khan.

However, there was another significant source of concern. In the classical Urdu ghazal, the most prevalent theme is the rebuke of the *shair* (poet), the *shaykh* (intellect), the *malik* (Muslim cleric) and the *mufti* (Hindu cleric), as well as a robust critique of the separation of *masjid* (mosque) and *masdar* (market).

Under the influence of *Wahabi al-Waqif* (Unity of Being), the poets espoused the belief that the higher reality is pervasive,

particularly in the human heart. Consequently, *Ufaq* (presence) does facilitate a connection to the higher reality.

*Amshiq-e-shair qadri' ustad  
Bawshiq-e-shaykh ustad mufti  
— Dagh Dehli*

[O presence, God can be found through ardent love, not through worship]

But it was perceived that questioning the authority of the ghazal could potentially lead to dangerous consequences. Such questioning might have provoked poets to challenge the legitimacy of colonial rulers.

Rahman says that, in Urdu ghazal, the beloved has been depicted as a lady, a concubine, a young man, and even a deity. He thinks that, in all cases, Indian Muslim society made it seem like love between young people was wrong. The argument is interesting. It suggests that poetry reflects everyday life.

This is why Rahman says that ghazal poets engaged in *psychopathia* and *hysteria*. We must address this accusation. In classical ghazal, we find couples that express a desire to meet with young, beautiful boys and also depict sexual harassment. Can we read them as reflecting true events or just an imaginary woman (theme of ghazal)? It is pertinent to explain that this kind of interpretation of Urdu poetry started in the late 19th century, influenced by the introduction of Western realism.

Classical Urdu ghazal poets followed a convention of *ma'niyat* (approved [praising themes]) and *mu'niyat* (censuring [censuring]). *Ma'niyat* was a statement about the world, and it was something that poets had in common. They would seek new dimensions of old *ma'niyat*, common among poets, new meanings, and a unique style of writing.

Rahman has affirmed that the Urdu ghazal was not intended to portray social reality in its raw form, but his overall stance on the Urdu ghazal is characterized by a belief in realism. The debate about *psychopathia* and *hysteria* stems from a reliance on the authority of the canon of realism.

A major part of the book is dedicated to translating and providing commentary on Mirza Ghalib's Urdu ghazal. It includes Urdu and Roman versions of *ishq* (compassion), along with a glossary of keywords. Ghalib is considered a *mushtak* (poet/complexion) poet who leans to depict into complexity. His *mushtak* (poet) doesn't lean only to his Persianized poetic style but also to the sophistication and intricacy of his diction. In a couplet, Ghalib states that his poetry is "*zayā' al-hayati* (in fullness of the meaning of meanings).

Hence, it has been a gigantic task for Rahman to meticulously translate the meanings of such verse in Ghalib's ghazal and to provide commentary on it. While providing commentary, Rahman always keeps his target audience in mind. He aims to explain the meanings of each couplet in a simple, clear and elegant manner. It has been his preference to make Ghalib's Urdu also accessible to the non-Urdu speaking world.

Except for a few explanations of Ghalib's poetry, Rahman refrains from delving into differing interpretations of Ghalib's poetry, provided by renowned Urdu critics such as Halil, Nazim Tabatabai, Jash Malayani, Younis Saleem Chishti, Agha Badai, Farooq Raza, Rafiq Husain, Shamir Rahman Farooqi, Anwar Alam and others. It must be noted that Rahman has extensively studied and utilized all the available resources on Ghalib in Urdu and English. He has mentioned the dates of the composition of Ghalib's ghazals where necessary.

In most instances, the commentary is concise, well-articulated and to the point. However, infrequently, the author aims to provide commentary that is reflective of common social realities. He appears to hold the view that Ghalib's poetry offers insights that are pertinent to understanding the complexities of the modern world.

As the author intends to make Ghalib's poetry accessible to those unfamiliar with Urdu language and literature, he avoids indulging in pure formal, literary and hermeneutic issues, such as differentiating between the voice of the poet and a traditional narrator of classical poetry.

We don't find a detailed discourse about *ghazal* itself, an Indian style of Persian poetry employed by Ghalib in Urdu ghazal, which aims to create a world of fantasy interpreted with multiple meanings. In the words of Ghalib, he is *astakhsh-e-qadim* (a nightingale of an ancient garden).

To sum up, this is truly an exceptional scholarly work that might prompt new thinking on a few themes in classical poetry. It's well worth reading in full.

*The reviewer is a Lahore-based Urdu critic and short story writer. Currently, he is working as Head of Publications at the German Centre, UMS. He is the author of Sage Sangal Ki Naam Kharid and Urdu Adab Ki Tadqiq-e-Ibtidai.*

## CONTINUATIONS

### THE INVISIBLE GHOSTS OF HISTORY, PAGE 06

Asif Nawaz's knowledge of Western mythology is as good as his comprehension of the rich heritage of the East. He informs and educates as much as he entertains. For instance, many of us are aware of the importance of Medusa's hair, but Nawaz makes sure that we also get clued into how important the ancient archaeological site of Lakkisheeran (in the Sialkot district) was to its time.

That he is a writer of ready wit is evident from the clear attention he pays to both plot development and structure, as well as the inner stream of consciousness of every single one of his four main characters. I grinned at the fact that, like Thomas Hardy who appeared to rejoice in making his characters come to tragic ends, Nawaz holds on the promise of happy denouements to us like fruit-bellied bananas, and these matters things seem determined.

However, this isn't because the author is being perverse or sadistic. It appears as if he genuinely believes that what makes humanity beautiful is its struggle. Every single one of his characters is or has been a prisoner to some sense of the word. Melior was trapped within an ugly marriage. Hina got locked in people's prejudices. Aariz embarked on harrowing childhood memories, and Farooq arguably the most tragic of the four, shackled by the trappings of wealth and status.

There are many brilliantly sketched

scenes and episodes in the book, and the beauty of it is that Nawaz's writing, while completely original, seems the reader's memories of great books to walk into the consciousness.

For instance, when writing of a couple's bond, he says that they were "both enjoying each other's shadow but never sharing their suns." On reading this, anyone who is familiar with Khalid Ghazanvi's *The Prophet* will hear the spiritual echo of "And thy cut, too, and the tyrant's/Urns not in each other's shadow."

One of my favourite scenes was when a Hindu girl gets married and does the seven pheras (rites of betrothal) around a sacred fire with her husband. An obsessed, phob boyfriend who is trying to locate her makes seven pheras (rites) that each coincide with one of the pheras.

It is significant moments such as these, among other things, that make me appreciate that Asif Nawaz's talent is such as to have already made a notable impression, and one looks forward to reading more of his creative endeavours in the future.

*The reviewer is associate professor of social sciences and liberal arts at the Institute of Business Administration. She has authored a collection of short stories, Tinklers College Tales, and a play, The Political Chess King*



## COLUMN



# Humanising through culture

By Harris Khalique

During the 1970s and 1980s, some popular slogans among politically-charged progressive students in Pakistan included *Jamhooriyat ke jinn nishani*, *Zalim, machoor aur Ansoo* [The three markers of democracy: Students, labour and peasants] and *Loch khaseef ke raj ko hadko* [Change your current leadership] [Change the system of loot and plunder]. Don't change faces, change the order! In Urdu, these slogans rhyme perfectly well.

Those were the times when the struggles for democracy and economic justice were waged in union by students, labour movements, journalist federations and artists and writers' associations. The Women's Action Forum (WAF) came about in the early 1980s to challenge the anti-women laws that were enacted under Gen Zia's martial rule and then to continue the struggle for the restoration of women's fundamental rights, leading to their empowerment. WAF joined the growing fold of labour and student activists.

We saw a sharp divide in this unity between different class and identity movements after trade unions were suffocated to the level that now less than two percent of our labour is left with collective bargaining agency. Student unions were banned during the same martial rule and journalists and writers were systematically divided within their ranks.

Consequently, the link between literary writers and artists, journalists, labour and students became weaker and weaker. In present times, there is a demonstrated desire in some quarters to strengthen that link, but it still needs a lot of painstaking effort.

Among the very few activists of the old school left from the 1970s and 1980s who remain equally active now, one prominent name is that of Akram Karmkhan. He was a left-wing student leader in Karachi and a pro-democracy activist after Gen Zia's coup d'état.

Karmkhan was born in Tharparkar and moved to Karachi with his parents at a young age. He studied at Jamia Mills College, Male, and the University of Karachi. Karmkhan's polo-injured leg, which limited his ability to run away in case of a police raid, neither had an effect on his own fervour nor inspired any sympathy in the hearts of the martial law operators, who tortured him and kept him in prison.

After getting political asylum in the UK, Karmkhan worked hard to make ends meet. Over the years, he managed to raise his family in a decent, respectable way. Now in his mid-50s, he continues to work long hours to run his household with dignity. At the same time, nothing could stop him from contributing to just political and social causes in Pakistan and the UK, and towards peace and development in the South Asian region.

Born supporting struggles for democracy and economic justice to being a key volunteer for organisations such as the Edhi Foundation in London, he has exercised his time, energy and finances beyond the extent of any normal person. Karmkhan was a part of street politics and also remained a close confidante of both Muzaf Muhammad Khan and Benazir Bhutto, among other political leaders from Pakistan.

Some years ago, Karmkhan realised that he should focus more of his energies towards promoting art, culture and literature, because they have the innate ability to humanise people of different ilk, which confrontational politics can seldom do. He had always been committed to promoting a culture of dialogue to strengthen democracy and the larger wellbeing of society.

Therefore, he spearheaded the establishment of the Fao Foundation Trust, along with his friends from the Pakistan diaspora in the UK. They organised some outstanding cultural and literary events in pre-Covid 19 years, and brought together people from different countries, who were provided an opportunity to further the dialogue and deliberate upon issues that concern people in South Asia and the developing world face.

Recently, Karmkhan, along with pod-caster Yousaf Akbar, chartered accountant Anam Raaz and physician Dr Umar Daraz mobilised political workers, artists, writers, journalists, culture aficionados and professionals of South Asian origin, along with his other British comrades, to establish the Voices of South Asian Art and Literature (VSAAL) in London.

VSAAL, after coming into being, took only a few months to organise, on September 14, the first South Asian festival at the prestigious Bloomsbury Theatre in the heart of London, which I too attended. The Bloomsbury Theatre was filled to capacity for the event. Leading Indian dance and theatre curator and promoter Mira Muzaf Kaushek managed the event.

There was a panel discussion on the composite heritage of South Asian languages, involving writer Jami Chando, British-Pakistani academic Prof Professor Oran and poet Usha Asif. It was candid and sharp. Veteran journalist and trade unionist Mazhar Abbas spoke to another accomplished journalist and broadcaster, Javed Siddiqui, on current politics, journalism and censorship in South Asia.

There was a discussion led by British-Indian broadcaster Feroze Alam on a book by Dr Salman Akhtar, which does a psycho-literary analysis of four modern poets. Akhtar is related to — Muztar Khan, Shadi, Jon Nisar Akhtar, Javed Akhtar and Anwar-Ul-Haq Nazki. There was a launch of a book of poetry by Dr Rizwan Muhammad. Author and lawyer Saif Mehmood from Delhi made an exquisite presentation on Urdu poet Mir Taqi Mir and Bangali poet Qazi Nazim Islam.

A session was dedicated to veteran journalist, filmmaker, author and former secretary general of the Progressive Writers Association, Hamid Akhtar, to mark his 100th birth anniversary. Leading actor Carol Akhtar's (daughter) Saba Hammed and poet Bhikhar Arif recounted their memories of the times when Hammed Akhtar lived a life with pure ideological commitment and spent three terms in prison. Saba Hammed also read excerpts from her father's witty pan portrait, written by himself.

The conversations on languages, literature and culture were followed by music performances of singers from South Asia. The mood in the crowd confirmed that it is the composite South Asian cultural heritage that unites us across our ideological divides. If pursued consistently, it can perhaps make leading states in the region shed their ego and come together for the sake of common people and their long-lasting prosperity.

*The columnist is a poet and essayist. His latest collections of verse are Hazaarin-Sair-e-Bastar and No Fortunes to Tell*

► EPICURIUS



Shrimp Mozambique showcases piri-piri, the African chilli that has captured the heart of the foodie world

# A BURST OF PIRI-PIRI

By Maliha Diwan

**T**he only exception to the litany of odious alienation brought with it — brutal oppression, erasure of culture, languages and even people, the deep interweaving of violence and capitalism — is the globalisation of ingredients. It was the Spanish and Portuguese colonisers, after all, who introduced vegetables from South America to their new African colonies, and which are now a staple of local cuisines, such as potatoes, tomatoes and green chillies.

The one thing we can thank the Portuguese for, it seems, is our staple chicken dishes: chiken churrasco, chiken tikka. The food we eat would look (and taste) very different, if it weren't for the unmythical indigenous peoples of South America, who cultivated vegetables that were native to the Americas, such as green and red chillies, tomatoes and potatoes as well as avocados. In the wake of trade and colonisation, these vegetables found their way to every corner of the world, manufacturing our cuisines and our daily lives.

The history of African bird's eye chilli or piri-piri (also spelled peri-peri) is as different. Made from piri-piri chillies with garlic, vinegar and lemon as the other main ingredients — piri-piri sauce is where the stories of colonisation, globalisation and intergroup histories. While the origins of the name are contested — both the Mozambicans and Portuguese claim it as their own — what is agreed upon is that the sauce emerged around the time of the Portuguese colonisation of Mozambique.

Many Portuguese citizens, encouraged by their government, moved to their African colonies, such as Mozambique, Angola and Guinea. By the 1960s, freedom movements and wars for independence had broken out in each of these countries. In the wake of the 1974 overthrow of the dictatorship in Portugal, all these countries were finally granted their independence. Many of the Portuguese left these countries and while some returned to Portugal (where they were dubbed 'retornados'), others chose to move to a country closer to their former colonies, to South Africa.

The retornados introduced Portuguese dishes such as Shrimp Mozambique and piri-piri chicken, which mixed Portuguese and local elements of the cuisine of their former colonies, and were very popular. In South Africa, many Portuguese migrants started restaurants — Portuguese takeaway became popular in cities such as Johannesburg. For example:

One such restaurant, Chackoland, was bought out by Fernando Duarte and Robert Heaton, which eventually grew into the popular global chain Nando's. The restaurant chain introduced piri-piri chicken and, in turn, the alluring piri-piri sauce, across the globe. A testament to the restaurant's impact can be seen in Pakistan where piri-piri sauce is simply known locally as Nando's sauce.

**SHRIMP MOZAMBIQUE**

While nothing comes close to the perfection that is piri-piri chicken, Shrimp Mozambique highlights the spice and zing of piri-piri sauce in a different way and holds its own, if you're craving something hands-on, but want something different or Zaru-futur, then this dish fills the spot. Traditionally served with bread (to soak up the dish's lovely spicy, buttery sauce), serve with salad and rice or pasta/pasta to make it a meal. The key to getting the dish as flavorful as possible is to marinate the shrimp overnight — the more time there is for the spices to soak into the shrimp, the better it will taste.

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 pound (30-40g) shrimp
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon piri-piri sauce (for the marinade)
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic



Photo by the author

- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons salted butter
- 1 tablespoon tomato/cumin seeds
- 1 onion/medium onion, finely chopped
- 1-2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1-2 tablespoons piri-piri sauce (for the sauce/gravy)
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2-3 tablespoons coriander leaves, finely chopped
- Lemon

**METHOD**

1. Throw the shrimp and marinade overnight. In a bowl, add the soy sauce, one tablespoon of the piri-piri sauce, the minced garlic, pepper and salt, and stir well. Add the shrimp and mix/rub the marinade into the shrimp. Cover the bowl and refrigerate.
2. Make the tomato sauce: simply take 2-3 small-to-medium tomatoes in a blender. Add to taste salt and pepper.
3. In a saucepan, melt the butter. Then add the cumin seeds. Sauté the chopped garlic and onions. Then add the marinated shrimp. Cook on low heat until the shrimp are done. Now add the tomato sauce, the piri-piri sauce and the chopped coriander leaves/coriander. Stir well and cook for five minutes more.
4. Squeeze lemon juice on the shrimp. Serve hot with rice, salad, bread or all three.

► GARDENING



All your gardening queries answered here...

# 'WHY IS MY JAMUN TREE NOT BEARING FRUIT?'

By Dr. Ktiwaja Ali Shahid

**Q. My Jamun tree's growth is very slow and it is not fruiting, although it is almost 10 years old. Please advise what should be done.**

**A.** Black plum or Java plum, locally known as jamun, is a small, purple-black, round fruit that grows on relatively bigger trees. It would have been much easier for me to respond if you had mentioned the city where this 10-year-old tree is being grown. The Java plum thrives in the tropical region, with its growth slow during the winters. Thus, from India to China, and in every city in between, the impact of adding nitrogen or continued watering of a Jamun tree would vary drastically. However, I would still broadly summarize the issues or solutions that may change the fruiting status of your tree.

Hopefully, your tree is planted in a place that has maximum exposure to sunlight and enough irrigation. Both these aspects ensure that the tree thrives and there are minimal chances of any diseases or pests infesting the tree, and thus for a reason of delayed fruiting. Watering regularly goes a long way in better tree growth, but overwatering can also result in root rot. Therefore, the soil should be well-drained and it is always better to maintain the nutritional status of the soil, by using it with organic and balanced fertilizers.

**Q. How can I grow my money plant as it is taller and has bigger leaves?**

**A.** There are a number of varieties of the money plant, or the golden plant, as it is also known. There are polka plants with large round leaves and others with smaller ones, while most of these leaves have shades of white and yellow going across the green. The shape and colour of a money plant leaf may primarily depend upon the original variety being grown.

However, as a rule of thumb, the more growing space the roots of a plant get — in the form of a container or in open ground — the better it thrives. This means it will come up with bigger leaves. Similarly, the plant also needs a balanced feed of fertilizer for better growth.

Lastly, avoid direct sunlight. There is



Money plant in a pot | Photo by the author



Java plum or jamun tree

also a popular habit of keeping the plant in indirect light helps to increase the leaf size of a money plant. Many other factors may also benefit the plant, including a size supporting stick or trellis, regular pruning and better aeration of the leaves.

**Q. I am a regular reader of your gardening column. But I usually come across tips about flowers. I want to learn more about growing vegetables at home.**

**A.** It is always interesting to cover across-mails from those seeking advice about growing and producing their own fruits, herbs and vegetables. As far as your suggestion and query is concerned, I try to come up with a mix of topics. For instance, on the last Sunday of every month, this column features selected questions and tries to answer them.

Similarly, we try to share the major topics, including the life cycle — from seed germination to eventual

harvest — of vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruits. The column also features articles on decorative ornamental plants and vines, pots and pots/containers, organic pesticides and insecticides, and how to make different soil-bearing organic fertilizers at home. Finally, the column also covers a variety of gardening-related activities, natural processes, gardening techniques and tips, and the means to support and sustain your plants.

You will soon come across a series of articles on growing callabags at home. From sowing seeds to harvesting it, this is likely to be followed by articles on other aspects of gardening mentioned above. Keep reading and gardening!

**Q. Please can you tell me where to buy seeds for flowers and vegetables? They usually do not sprout. I also want safe/healthy flower seeds.**

**A.** You can easily get seeds from any

of the plants or seeds stores in your vicinity. Similarly, many online sellers and local nurseries also sell seeds of herbs, fruits, vegetables and flowers of all kinds. As far as your concern of seeds not sprouting, I would suggest to always ask for fresh stock.

Instead of purchasing packed seeds yourself, you may inquire about the latest seeds availability from the seed sellers. It is also beneficial to seek other gardeners' advice regarding the timing and feedback of the seeds sellers. Thankfully, many sellers tend to be ethical sellers, but not all. Thus, getting a peer review may go a long way too.

Please send your queries and results to [ali@www.dawn.com](mailto:ali@www.dawn.com). The writer is a physician and a host for the YouTube channel 'The Fine Gardening' providing organic/healthy gardening



ADVICE



AUNTIE AGNI

# 'My Wife Despises Me'

Dear Auntie,

I am a government servant. My wife doesn't like me. She gets bothered every time I come close to her. She uses insulting language, which are not appropriate for a wife to use for her husband. She is interested only in household chores, especially cleanliness. She has a keen interest in shopping, travelling and staying at hotels.

She has never expressed her love for me. She has never come forward for intimacy. She always expresses her hatred and disgust. She has always rejected me in all my affairs and suggestions. She doesn't care for me in any matter. I don't know what I should do. I am very disturbed. Kindly guide me on how to handle the situation.

Feeling Rejected

Dear Feeling Rejected,

It sounds like you're going through a really difficult and painful situation, and it's understandable that you're feeling disturbed. It might help to try and talk openly with your wife about how you're feeling. Share how her behaviour affects you emotionally and ask her if there's something deeper bothering her — whether it's stress or something about your relationship.

If talking on your own doesn't lead anywhere, seeking help from a marriage counsellor or therapist might be a good idea. Sometimes, having a neutral person to help mediate can open up communication in ways that might be difficult on your own.

At the same time, take some time to reflect on what you need from your relationship and whether you're getting that. It's important that both partners feel respected, valued and loved.

She has never expressed her love for me. She has never come forward for intimacy. She always expresses her hatred and disgust. She has always rejected me in all my affairs and suggestions.

Giving each other some space might also reduce the tension. It could give both of you some room to think about the relationship and maybe come back with a clearer perspective.

Don't forget to take care of yourself in the midst of all this. Do things that help you feel better, whether it's spending time with friends, hobbies or just taking time to clear your mind.

If nothing changes and the situation continues to take a toll on you emotionally, you might need to consider what the future looks like for you both. Sometimes, when all efforts fail, you have to think about whether the relationship is still working in a healthy way for both of you.

Take your time with this, and don't hesitate to reach out for professional support, if you feel it would help.

Disclaimer: If you or someone you know is in crisis and/or feeling suicidal, please go to your nearest emergency room and seek medical help immediately. Auntie will not reply privately to any query. Please send advice queries to [auntieagn@gmail.com](mailto:auntieagn@gmail.com)

## STATIC CLING



PAKISTANIS, AS PPP CHAIRMAN BILAWAL BHUTTO ZARDARI REALISED TO HIS CHAGRIN, CAN FIND PLENTY OF HUMOUR IN METAPHORS ABOUT FINGERS. SOME MOCK THOSE WAITING FOR THE UMPIRE TO RAISE HIS. OTHERS CAN FINGER THOSE WHO SLIP UP IN REFERRING TO GIVING ONE TO OTHERS.



# ADVERTISER

## WINDOWS

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**RESIDENTIAL - OFFICE INVESTMENT PROPERTY**  
**CLINTON BLOCK 7 - 1000 SQ FT**  
**BRAND NEW - LUXURY HOUSE**  
**IN EXCLUSIVE ZONE - 3 Sleep**  
**ROVING**  
 Current - 1.80 Crores/year  
 Proposed rent - 4.25 Crores/year

**ANNUAL**  
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 Property appreciation - 18%  
**FINAL PRICE - 28.78 Crores**  
**CONTACT - 0302-2008-858-1033**

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**AGRICULTURE ZONE**  
 Get will be started with the amount of Rs. 20,000,000/-  
 Plot Size: 20 Guntas (200 Acres) situated near 1000 Pumps, lined Hussain Road, Mirpurkhas District.

**Interested buyers may please contact**  
**Mr. Anwar Ali**  
**0233-0280116**  
**0332-2818021**

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**SPECIALIST DOCTORS**  
**Villas - Villas**  
 For sale in North Town, South Town, East Town, West Town, etc. 1000 sq ft, 1500 sq ft, 2000 sq ft, etc. 1000 sq ft, 1500 sq ft, 2000 sq ft, etc. 1000 sq ft, 1500 sq ft, 2000 sq ft, etc.

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 Abdul Wahid (Since 1978)  
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### INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR SALE OF PROPERTY

Faysal Bank Limited (the "Bank") invites all to property (the "Property") situated at the following address and hereby invites the public to submit their sealed bids for the property before the date specified below.

#### Description of the Property (s):

Plot No. 10-B-02, Gateway Tower, Floor: 1 & 2, GDA Road, Peoples Colony, District: District Capital, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Total Area: 1347 sq ft (approximately)

(Reference is made to the "Property(s)")

#### Terms & Conditions:

The Property (s) will be sold on "as is where it" basis on the following terms and conditions:

- The bids should reach the sealed bids of the address mentioned before not later than October 11, 2024 (11:00 AM) on the date.
- The bids should be accompanied by a cash value of demand draft in favor of "Faysal Bank Limited" for an amount equivalent to the price (10%) of the offered price, as per terms, along with the original copy of the title deed of the property as per the number of the property. Bids are returnable for depositors. The bank has the right to accept or reject any bid.
- Successful bidder(s) will be invited in writing that their bid has been accepted by the Bank and the full amount of the successful bid(s) will be refunded within 30 days after from the date of submission.
- The Bank may, at its sole discretion, reject all or any bids without assigning any reason whatsoever. The Bank's decision will be final and not challengeable in any court of law.
- The successful bidder(s) shall be required to deposit a further 90% amount (10% of the offered price) through any mode of demand draft, as required through the bank's account to be set within 10 days from the date of acceptance of the bid. The bank may, at its sole discretion, reject the bid if the bidder fails to deposit the balance amount of purchase price to be paid through any mode of demand draft, within thirty (30) days of signing the sale agreement. In case of failure to sign agreement to sell within stipulated time the bid amount shall be forfeited.
- All expenses and costs, including but not limited to the registration charges, stamp duty, development charges, advance tax at the rate of 10 percent and 10 percent from the bid and other legal requirements, shall be the responsibility of the bidder at the time of sale of property (s) (including the cost of the bid) of the bidder. For information, GST and any other applicable taxes, costs and expenses with respect to the preparation of documents (s) and other documents of a lawyer for the transfer of the Property (s) shall be borne by the successful bidder(s).

Address for sealed bids: **MANAGER-CRIS**, Faysal House, 5742, Shaheed Rafiq Road, Karachi. **811-0000001**, 111-111-111-111-111. Please refer to the website for further information or arranging a visit to the Property. [www.faysalbank.com](http://www.faysalbank.com)



### TENDER NOTICE Proposal for the Supply of Generator ICAP Offices in Karachi & Hyderabad

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) invites Sealed Bids on prescribed Form from financially sound and reputed company's dealing in supply of Generator.

Item Description	Forecast Month	Tender Bid Collection (Date/Time)	Tender Bid Submission (Date/Time)	Technical Bid Opening (Date)
<b>Supply of Generator (30 / 35 KVA) including Commissioning</b>	27% of Total Bid Amount	30.09.24 to 15.10.24 10:00 am to 05:00 pm	11.10.2024 09:00 pm	18.10.2024

The BFP document contains detailed specifications of Generator with terms and conditions can be obtained from below mentioned address on submission of request in Official Letterhead of the Bidder during working hours on any working day (Monday to Friday) against Tender fee of Rs. 2,000/- (non-refundable) in the form of Demand Draft/Credit Card. Pay Order/Demand Draft drawn in favor of 'The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan'. Sealed Bids in Envelopes marked as "Proposal for Generator" must reach the under mentioned address on or before advertisement due date and time. Attachment of earnest money with proposal is a must. Bids/Proposals submitted after the stipulated time mentioned above shall not be accepted. ICAP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage without incurring any liability. **Shumaila Maqsood, Manager Procurement**, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan, Chartered Accountants Avenue, Block-B, Clifton, Karachi-75600. UAN # 021-111 000 422 Ext: 302 E-mail: [procurement@icap.org.pk](mailto:procurement@icap.org.pk)

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### INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids are invited through S.A.F. from all registered contractors with adequate past work experience and financial capabilities for the below specified address:

S.N.	ITEMS/DESCRIPTION	TAKE OFF	ESTIMATE PRICE/UNIT	FORM AVAILABLE
1	Hydroelectric installation of 500 MW capacity. Site work including foundation, dam and related works for 1000000	03-0000-01		Bids should be submitted through S.A.F. till the date mentioned.
2	Construction of Office Block, 10000 sq. ft. 4/75, Floor 10000000	03-0000-02		
3	Services and support for Application of Power of 100 MW capacity. 10000000	03-0000-03		
4	Contract for Electrical Power Service for 100 MW capacity. 10000000	03-0000-04		
5	Supply and installation of 100 MW capacity. 10000000	03-0000-05		
6	Rehabilitation of 100 MW capacity. 10000000	03-0000-06		
7	Rehabilitation of 100 MW capacity. 10000000	03-0000-07		

ENR 100 MW Hydroelectric Project (for 10000000) in the form of Pakistan State Oil Company Limited. For 10000000.

ITEMS/DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME
SEALING AND COLLECTION THROUGH S.A.F. FORMS	From 10/10/2024 to 15/10/2024	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
BID SUBMISSION THROUGH S.A.F. FORMS	16/10/2024	10:00 AM
OPENING OF BIDS THROUGH S.A.F. FORMS	16/10/2024	10:00 AM

NOTE: The bidders must follow the bidding procedure, commercial bid opening, bid and bid will be conducted under the following guidelines:

- The bidders must submit a copy of their bid, valid PTC certificate of company. On or before the required date of bid submission.
- The bidders must submit a copy of their bid, valid PTC certificate of company. On or before the required date of bid submission.

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Sealed copy of the bid, signed and stamped request on affidavit of the bidder shall be submitted to S.A.F. till the date. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. \_\_\_\_\_". (Please mention the address of the bidder and the name of the bidder).
- Request shall be accompanied by a copy of the following:
  - Valid PTC certificate of company, valid PTC certificate of company. Tender shall be in the name of the bidder.
  - Copy of the bid, signed and stamped request on affidavit of the bidder shall be submitted to S.A.F. till the date. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. \_\_\_\_\_". (Please mention the address of the bidder and the name of the bidder).

### INVITATION TO BID FOR SUPPLY OF POLY PRODUCTS

Sealed Bids through S.A.F. form, are invited from reputed industrial suppliers for supply of Poly products for the following items:

S.N.	PRODUCT	QUANTITY/MEASUREMENT	MARK
01	HDPE	10000000 KG	178
02	BT 4.1	10000000 KG	

FORM NO./NAME	DATE	TIME
SEALING AND COLLECTION	16/10/2024 TO 20/10/2024	10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
BID SUBMISSION	21/10/2024	10:00 AM
OPENING OF BIDS	21/10/2024	10:00 AM

Instructions for supplier interested in participating in any of the tenders: Bids and to request to tender documents in the following manner:

- Sealed copy of the bid, signed and stamped request on affidavit of the bidder shall be submitted to S.A.F. till the date. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. \_\_\_\_\_". (Please mention the address of the bidder and the name of the bidder).
- Request shall be accompanied by a copy of the following:
  - Copy of the bid, signed and stamped request on affidavit of the bidder shall be submitted to S.A.F. till the date. In the subject request letter, please mention "Tender Documents Collection Request - Tender No. \_\_\_\_\_". (Please mention the address of the bidder and the name of the bidder).

Bid documents will be available and shall be submitted through S.A.F. till the date.

For any queries, contact the person in charge at the address below: **Personnel and Service Department**, 20/10/2024, Karachi. UAN: 111-111-111-111-111. Email: [procurement@icap.org.pk](mailto:procurement@icap.org.pk)

The advertisement is also available on PTC website: [www.ptc.org.pk](http://www.ptc.org.pk) and on the website: [www.icap.org.pk](http://www.icap.org.pk)

Please note that the bidders must follow the bidding procedure, commercial bid opening, bid and bid will be conducted under the following guidelines:

- The bidders must submit a copy of their bid, valid PTC certificate of company. On or before the required date of bid submission.

For any queries, contact the person in charge at the address below: **Personnel and Service Department**, 20/10/2024, Karachi. UAN: 111-111-111-111-111. Email: [procurement@icap.org.pk](mailto:procurement@icap.org.pk)

### KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS LTD.

### APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY AUDITORS FOR AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR FY 2024-25

KSEAW invites reputable Chartered Accountant firms to submit proposal for Audit of Accounts pertaining to Financial Year 2024-25 (including verification of statutory schedules), in accordance with Companies Act 2017, State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act 2023, Public Sector Corporate Governance Rules 2013, International Standards on Auditing and Financial Reporting along with relevant rules and regulations. Only firms having satisfactory QCR rating from ICAP are eligible to apply.

Firm which itself, or any partner thereof is non-compliant with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Guidelines on Code of Ethics, as adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan is ineligible to apply. Firm having audit experience of Shipbuilding Industry would be given preference.

Tender documents can be obtained from Accounts Department on normal working days (Monday to Friday) from 09:00 Hrs to 16:30 Hrs, against payment of Tender Fee with application on firm's letterhead up to 13-10-2024. The tender will be opened at 11:30 Hrs on 15-10-2024 in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives, who may wish to be present.

Interested firm who wish to participate, may purchase the Tender documents by paying Rs. 5,000 in office hours.

**DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (ACCOUNTS)**, KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS LTD.

DAWN the complete newspaper

### ISLAMABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (ESCO)

Islamabad Electric Supply Company (ESCO) is a leading power distribution company in Pakistan serving more than 2.8 million customers with annual revenue base of over PKR 500 billion having operational jurisdiction that covers six districts namely Islamabad, Faisalabad, Multan, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Okara.

The Company is actively looking for highly capable team leader for the position of **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** who has the demonstrated capability and potential to lead and inspire the company in the field of operational growth and creating value for the good of its customers. We seek positive, self-motivated professional with established credibility and performance record, who can take challenging assignments. The candidate is required to have strong leadership, team building, change management, interpersonal and communication skills with the high degree of performance targets on the terms and conditions given here under.

Qualification	Minimum Qualification:
	The candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (Electrical/Electronics).
Additional Qualification	A Master Degree in Engineering, Business Administration, Management, Economics or Finance.
Experience	The candidate must have at least 25 years of overall experience, including demonstrated experience of not less than 20 years as a Chief Executive in a senior management level in the Power Sector.
Age Limit	Up to 60 years at the time of application.
Registration Package	The Position is offered on a contract-based remuneration package.
Term of Contract	The initial contract shall be for a period of three (3) years with annual evaluation to be conducted by the Board of Directors (BoD) ESCO. The contract may be extended for a term of 2 years on the basis of satisfactory performance.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- The candidate must comply with the Bid and Proposal Terms and other conditions as mentioned in the State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Guidelines 2024, the Companies Act 2017, and the State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act 2023.
- The candidate must be a Pakistani citizen.
- Selected candidate shall be required to submit updated resume early on or before the contract term with parent department immediately before joining ESCO.
- Additionally, candidates are required to download the attached application form and Declaration Form at available on ESCO website and submit to the HR Dept.
- Applicants will submit signed printed copy of the online application form through courier service registered mail service through the following documents:
  - Copy of Detailed CV
  - Copy of CNIC
  - Declaration on non-judicial stamp paper of requisite value (PKR 100) or affidavit in per specimen available on the ESCO website confirming that the candidate is not engaged to act as Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the provisions of the company's act, rules and the supporting guidelines.
  - Copies of Degree/Professional body worked by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) or the professional body of association whichever is relevant.
  - Applicant will provide academic qualification must have HEC/Professional certificate.
  - Attested copy of registration with professional governing body or PTC.
  - All pages of the application should be numbered and signed by the applicant.
- The application must reach at the below mentioned address within 15 days from the date of publishing of advertisement.
- Application received in any respect or received after the date will not be entertained and no claim whatsoever thereof shall be entertained.
- The candidates already working in Government/State-Owned Enterprises Public Organizations can also apply through proper channel through HRD of their department based on its Letter Head.
- If the applicant possesses experience of working in the Public Sector or Public Sector Company, his experience in a position of 05-20 or equivalent to 05-20 whether on substantive basis or on additional charge or acting charge or current charge or both after been or appointed in PS-20 shall qualify as Senior Management Experience.
- To ensure integrity of Senior Management Experience, candidate will be required to submit their reporting hierarchy, charter of account, substantive job title of post and date of appointment (if any).
- Candidates shall produce all original documents at the time of interview.
- ESCO reserves the right to withdraw/cancel the whole recruitment process at any stage without assigning any reason.
- Candidate should apply only if he/she fulfills the eligibility criteria.
- Only short-listed candidates will be invited for interview/selection process.
- No TADA will be applicable for representation process.

ESCO Head Office, Level 40, Sector 5-D4, Islamabad. Tel: 011-3500000 Fax: 011-3500001

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Digital Marketing Lead

Women are encouraged to apply

### CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Established in 2004, the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under Section 40 with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Our volunteer-based Board of Directors includes distinguished professionals from various sectors, along with representatives from the Federal Government and the Government of Sindh. During these two decades, NAPA has established itself as the leading institution in Pakistan for training and educating talented individuals in drama, stagecraft, acting, direction, music, singing, and cultural productions. Our alumni play pivotal roles in enhancing the cultural landscape across multiple domains.

As part of our expansion, we are seeking applications for the position of **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

- Following are the key responsibilities:
- Manage daily operations, focusing on staff development and departmental growth.
  - Draft, update and implement policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
  - Design and implement creative initiatives that align with NAPA's mission and vision.
  - Lead fundraising initiatives to ensure financial sustainability and growth.
  - Coordinate with federal and provincial governments for compliance and reporting requirements.
  - Work closely with senior management and the Board of Directors to elevate NAPA's impact.

**QUALIFICATIONS**  
Pakistan citizen, aged 55 or younger.  
Preferably hold a Master's degree in an Arts discipline or Business Administration from a recognized university.  
At least 5 years of experience in a senior management position, with supervision of administrative, financial, and marketing functions, ideally within the education or non-profit sectors.  
Strong artistic sensibility and a passion for promoting arts education and training.  
Experience in a cultural or arts institution and a deep understanding of the local art scene will be considered advantageous.  
Exceptional written and spoken English skills, complemented by strong public speaking abilities.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**  
We invite interested candidates to submit their resumes in confidence to [hr@napa.org.pk](mailto:hr@napa.org.pk) by October 15, 2024. NAPA is committed to diversity and respects gender equity. Diverse women and people from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

**napa**  
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS  
M. R. Kamil Road, Civil Lines, Karachi, Tel: 021-2668071-4



## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

"The Nation's Bank", National Bank of Pakistan aims to support the financial well-being of the Nation along with enabling sustainable growth and inclusive development through its wide local and international network of branches, being one of the leading and largest banks of Pakistan, National Bank of Pakistan is contributing significantly towards socioeconomic growth in the country with an objective to transform the institution into a future-fit, agile and sustainable bank.

In line with our strategy, the Bank is looking for talented, dedicated and experienced professional(s) for the following positions in the area of Information Technology based in Karachi.

The individuals who fulfil the below basic eligibility criteria may apply for the following positions:

Position / Job Title	Systems Administrator - AIX / Linux (AVP / VP)
Reporting to	Unit Head - Systems Administration (AIX / Linux)
Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Bachelor's degree in IT / Computer Science / Engineering or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>Candidates having a Master's degree in IT / Computer Science / Engineering or equivalent and / or relevant certification(s) will be preferred.</li> </ul>
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 05 years of experience in Systems Administration, out of which 03 years of experience in AIX and / or Linux Systems Administration, preferably in banks.</li> </ul>
Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong knowledge of systems architecture and recovery, security setup, performance optimization &amp; implementations, scaling, patching, proactive monitoring, health checks and alerts / notification setup.</li> <li>Excellent command on systems architecture and its administration concepts, server virtualization (VMware Hyper-V and KVM) and shell / bash scripting etc.</li> <li>Passion to learn, grow, succeed, and to be challenged.</li> <li>Excellent analytical, decision-making, problem-solving team, and time management skills.</li> <li>Proficient in MS Office suite (Outlook, Excel, Word and PowerPoint)</li> </ul>
Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage systems administration with maintaining and managing AIX / Linux platforms and perform day to day maintenance and monitoring of production, development, and testing environments.</li> <li>To manage AIX / Linux environments for upgrade, migration, maintenance &amp; patching activities.</li> <li>To troubleshoot critical issues on Linux servers to provide ad-hoc support for systems' resources.</li> <li>To perform back-up &amp; recovery activities of AIX / Linux Operating Systems.</li> <li>To automate technical and operational tasks involving creation and management of shell / bash scripts.</li> <li>To be able to manage principal support, Service Level Agreements and renewals.</li> <li>To conduct research and recommend solutions for operational improvement.</li> <li>To provide 24/7 database support, provide quick resolutions and escalate issues / incidents to line manager and vendor(s).</li> <li>To conduct routine hardware and software audits of AIX &amp; Linux servers to ensure compliance as per the standards, policies, security and OMI configuration guidelines.</li> <li>To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s).</li> </ul>
Position / Job Title	Senior Network Engineer (DG-1 / AVP)
Reporting to	Unit Head - Security Operations (Network and Cybernet)
Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Bachelor's degree in IT / Computer Science / Engineering or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>Candidates having a Master's degree in IT / Computer Science / Engineering or equivalent and / or relevant certification(s) will be preferred.</li> </ul>
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 05 years' experience in IT networking, that includes switching / firewall and / or routers, out of which at least 02 years of experience in Network Security and / or related field, preferably in banks.</li> </ul>
Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good expertise in network protocols (e.g., TCP/IP, DNS, DHCP), routing and switching technologies, and subnetting.</li> <li>Proficiency in firewall administration (e.g., Cisco, Fortinet and Huawei), VPN technologies (IPsec, SSL/TLS), IDS/IPS solutions and endpoint security controls.</li> <li>Good understanding of security assessment tools, such as Nessus, Nmap and Wireshark.</li> <li>Strong analytical and problem-solving skills with the ability to dissect complex security issues and develop effective solutions.</li> <li>Good understanding of managing security projects and initiatives, from conception to completion.</li> <li>Ability to thrive in a fast-paced, dynamic environment, prioritize competing demands, and adapt to evolving business requirements and security threats.</li> <li>Able to learn &amp; work with proactive approach toward resolving issues and handle pressure.</li> </ul>
Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain the network and security architecture of the organization.</li> <li>To assist in network security design, performance improvement &amp; automation and network implementation strategy.</li> <li>To oversee the configuration, monitoring, and fine-tuning of network security devices and systems to uphold optimal performance and efficacy.</li> <li>To ensure troubleshooting of complex security issues, including network connectivity problems, malware infections, and anomalous behavior.</li> <li>To implement and continuously enhance network security infrastructure, encompassing firewalls, Intrusion Detection / Prevention Systems (IDS / IPS), Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), and endpoint security controls.</li> <li>To develop comprehensive network segmentation strategies to isolate critical assets and mitigate lateral movement by potential attackers.</li> <li>To be responsible for security solution setup, routing, routing policies, NAT, Access-list, multi-Ang.</li> <li>To ensure administration of firewalls and monitoring tools to report network activities and build comprehensive statistics.</li> <li>To develop, review, and enforce network security policies, ensuring alignment with industry standards, regulatory requirements, and organizational objectives.</li> <li>To conduct regular audits and assessments to evaluate policy effectiveness and identify areas for improvement.</li> <li>To ensure compliance with relevant regulatory mandates and industry frameworks (e.g., NIST Cybersecurity Framework).</li> <li>To maintain documentation of security controls, conduct periodic reviews, and support audit activities to demonstrate compliance.</li> <li>To conduct thorough forensic investigations to determine the root cause of security incidents, preserve evidence, and recommend remediation measures to prevent recurrence.</li> <li>To document incident response procedures and facilitate post-incident reviews to identify lessons learned and improve incident response capabilities.</li> <li>To maintain comprehensive documentation of network security configurations, policies, procedures, and incident reports.</li> <li>To generate regular reports on security metrics, trends, and compliance status for executive management and stakeholders.</li> <li>To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s).</li> </ul>
Position / Job Title	Business Analyst (DG-1 / DG-2)
Reporting to	Senior Business Analyst - AIC, Senior Business Analyst - Enterprise, Senior Business Analyst - ERP
Educational / Professional Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Bachelor's degree in IT / Computer Science / Engineering or equivalent from a local or international university / college / institute recognized by the HEC</li> <li>Candidates having a Master's degree in IT / Computer Science / Engineering or equivalent and / or relevant certification(s) will be preferred.</li> </ul>
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 03 years' experience in the field of IT, out of which at least 02 years in Business Analysis / Delivery and / or Project Management and / or Application Support, preferably in banks.</li> </ul>
Other Skills / Expertise / Knowledge Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to effectively communicate both verbal and written, with technical and functional audiences across various levels within the Bank (including executives, management, individual contributors).</li> <li>Ability to share relevant technical and / or industry knowledge and insights with team members.</li> <li>Strong understanding of requirement gathering and documentation tools.</li> <li>Excellent analytical, decision-making and problem-solving skills.</li> <li>Comprehensive awareness of different Change Management methodologies.</li> <li>Proficient in MS Office suite (MS Project, Outlook, Excel, Word, PowerPoint)</li> <li>Proficient with diagramming, visualization, data analysis and reporting tools.</li> </ul>
Outline of Main Duties / Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To define and articulate the product vision, strategy, and roadmap in alignment with the Bank's goals and business needs.</li> <li>To develop and maintain a detailed product roadmap outlining key features, milestones, and priorities.</li> <li>To prioritize product features and enhancements based on business value, customer impact, and resource availability.</li> <li>To gather and document detailed business requirements into BRDs, FRDs etc.</li> <li>To oversee the product development lifecycle, including planning, development, testing, and deployment.</li> <li>To monitor and manage the progress of product development, addressing any issues or roadblocks that arise.</li> <li>To collaborate with project stakeholders, including Business, Development, Quality Assurance, Information Security, IT Operations, Project Management Office, IT Audit &amp; Governance.</li> <li>To provide post-deployment support to Business and relevant teams.</li> <li>To perform any other assignment as assigned by the supervisor(s).</li> </ul>
Assessment Test / Interview(s)	Only shortlisted candidates strictly meeting the above mentioned basic eligibility criteria will be invited for test and / or panel interview(s).
Employment Type	The employment will be on contractual basis, for three years which may be renewed on discretion of the Management. Selected candidates will be offered compensation package and other benefits as per Bank's policy / rules.

Interested candidates may visit the website [www.nbp.gov.pk/careers](http://www.nbp.gov.pk/careers) and apply online within 10 working days from the date of publication of this advertisement as per given instructions.

Applications received after due date will not be considered in any case. No TA / DA will be admissible for test / interview.

National Bank of Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, regardless of gender, religion, or disability.

NBP/2024

## HALCROW PAKISTAN CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Halcrow Pakistan is seeking highly competent technical professionals for its increasing national and international workload. The Company has undergone vibrant growth founded on the principles of excellence, value addition for its clients and well-established tradition of teamwork. The Company prides itself on supporting its staff at every level in their career development. As one of the leading consulting engineering companies in Pakistan, Halcrow Pakistan has business interests in Structures, Environment, Highways, Bridges, Water Resources, Water Supply and Sanitation, Mechanical Electrical & Plumbing, Rural and Urban Development and Oil & Gas Sector. Opportunities exist in the following disciplines at our offices in Islamabad and Karachi:

WET UTILITIES (Islamabad)

**Model (TSE, Foul, Drainage) - 3 Positions (Exp 15 Yrs)**

BE/BSc in Civil Infrastructure Engineering. Expertise in hydraulic modeling and design of wastewater, drainage, and treated sewage effluent (TSE) systems on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in AutoCAD, Civil3D, InRoads WS, InRoads ICM, StormCAD/Cloudform, SewerGems, WATS, WaterCAD, ACC, GIS, FEFLOW.

**Effluent (TSE, Foul, Drainage) - 3 Positions (Exp 10 Yrs)**

BE/BSc in Civil Infrastructure Engineering. Expertise in the design and optimization of Treated Sewage Effluent (TSE), Foul Water, and Drainage Systems on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in AutoCAD, Civil3D, InRoads WS, InRoads ICM, WaterCAD, ACC, GIS, StormCAD/Cloudform.

**CAO Technicians - 2 Positions (Exp 10 Yrs)**

Diploma in Civil Infrastructure Engineering. Expertise in wet utilities design, including water, wastewater, and stormwater systems on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in AutoCAD, Civil 3D, ACC, Revit / MEP / FrontPage, Micro station, Adobe Acrobat.

ROADWAYS (Islamabad)

**Engineer (Roads) - 4 Positions (Exp 10-15 Yrs)**

BE/BSc in Civil Infrastructure / Transportation Engineering. Expertise in design and analysis of roadways, road alignment, pavement design and drainage system. Should have strong understanding of traffic engineering, road safety standards, and construction methods of large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in Civil 3D + AutoCAD (Bluebeam Revu).

**Traffic Modeler - 1 Position (Exp 10-15 Yrs)**

Qualification: BE/BSc in Civil Infrastructure / Transportation Engineering. Expertise in traffic modeling and analysis, emphasizing the development and implementation of transportation models for urban and regional projects, along with a solid understanding of traffic flow theory and capacity analysis on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in InRoads, Visum, Synchro, Sida, HCS, AutoCAD.

**CAO Technician - 3 Positions (Exp 10-15 Yrs)**

Diploma in Civil Engineering in Highway Design is essential, with a strong understanding of highway engineering principles, including alignment, drainage, and traffic management on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in AutoCAD, Civil 3D, FrontPage, Micro station, Adobe Acrobat, Bluebeam Revu, Sign DesignPro, Line DesignPro.

DRY UTILITIES (Islamabad/Karachi)

**Electrical Engineer (Pumping, Network) - 2 Positions (Exp 10-15 Yrs)**

BE/BSc in Electrical Engineering. Expertise in the design of electrical systems for various types of pump/electrical networks on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in AutoCAD, ETAP, AutoCAD.

**Mechanical Engineer (Pumping) - 1 Position (Exp 10-15 Yrs)**

BE/BSc in Mechanical Engineering. Expertise in design, analysis, and optimization of mechanical components for various types of pumps. Should have a strong understanding of fluid dynamics, materials selection, and manufacturing processes related to pumping applications on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in AutoCAD, ETAP, AutoCAD.

**CAO Technician (Electrical) - 1 Position (Exp 10-15 Yrs)**

Diploma in Electrical Engineering in producing detailed electrical schematics, layouts, and wiring diagrams. Should possess good understanding of electrical systems, including power distribution, lighting design, and control systems on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in AutoCAD, Revit / MEP / FrontPage, Micro station, Adobe Acrobat, Bluebeam Revu.

**CAO Technician (Mechanical) - 1 Position (Exp 10-15 Yrs)**

Diploma in Mechanical Engineering in developing mechanical drawings and models including HVAC, plumbing, and piping systems on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in AutoCAD, Revit / MEP / FrontPage, Micro station, Adobe Acrobat, Bluebeam Revu.

QUANTITY SURVEYING (Islamabad)

**Quantity Surveyor - 1 Position (Exp 10-15 Yrs)**

BE/BSc in Civil Infrastructure / Transportation Engineering. Candidates with Diploma in Civil having relevant experience will also be considered. Expertise in cost estimation, budgeting, and financial management is essential, along with expertise in preparing BOQs, conducting feasibility studies, and managing contracts on large-scale infrastructure projects. Software expertise in CostX, AutoCAD, Excel.



Halcrow Pakistan offers excellent training and growth opportunities and one of the best compensation and benefits packages in the market. Candidates with relevant postgraduate degrees will be preferred. All eligible candidates should submit their applications and CVs ONLY through email on [hr@halcrowpk.com](mailto:hr@halcrowpk.com). The email subject line MUST contain the name of position for which the candidate is applying. Closing date for receipt of applications is 13 October 2024. Only short listed candidates will be invited for interviews. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Halcrow Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer committed to equity in the workplace.



## ISLAMABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

ہم بے حد فخر و محبت کے ساتھ اپنے ملک کی ترقی اور بہتر بنانے کے لیے محنت سے کام لیتے ہیں۔  
 We are proud to contribute to the development and progress of our country through our dedicated efforts.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Islamabad Electricity Supply Company (IESCO) is a leading power distribution company of Pakistan serving more than 3.88 million customers with annual revenue base of over Rs. 822 billion having operational jurisdiction that covers its districts namely Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal.

IESCO is seeking to fill on contract basis high caliber professionals for the following position to lead the respective department. This is senior level career based position that provides a unique opportunity to be part of the management team of a leading Power Distribution Company of Pakistan. The candidates are expected to have demonstrated capability/potential for its respective responsibilities and proactive management style.

Name of Post: Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	Job Profile	Qualification Experience	Salary Package, Tenure, Age Limit
	<p>This is a senior level management position directly reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Directors of IESCO. The incumbent shall be responsible for leading and managing the Finance, Treasury and Accounts Department, ensuring that appropriate advice is given to the Board on all financial matters, keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining an effective system of internal financial control.</p> <p>Highly qualified candidates should have strong business acumen and judgment capabilities and experience of working in Senior Management positions primarily with listed level institution.</p> <p>The candidate should have complete knowledge of Corporate Governance System of Public Sector Companies and their compliance requirements. The incumbent shall have the following specific professional experience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have worked in an ERP operating environment implementing and integrating ERP systems would be given additional consideration. He should have in depth understanding of internal Audit function in ERP environment, risk systems and controls that meet SA standards.</li> <li>2. Implement treasury management and control systems, including policy and implementation of treasury/investments solutions, assets liability/regulatory/compliance and treasury (debt/equity) and with other related treasury strategy tasks and frequency of treasury inspections in the field and in-warehouse.</li> <li>3. To maintain and implement treasury management control functions including an advanced processes/strategy and associated financial controls system.</li> <li>4. An understanding of the Pakistan electricity market, regulatory and regulatory authority, tariff structure of the various segments of the supply and Distribution Companies is desirable, and the working changes under consideration must be an added advantage for the candidate.</li> <li>5. Work effectively with external and internal auditors of the Company to ensure the continuing financial integrity of all systems and data judgments and recommendations to improve the systems and the financial health of the company.</li> <li>6. To develop a competent and high performing team of individuals to achieve the required high standards of work in the Department.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A member of recognized body of Professional Accountants with at least ten (10) years relevant experience, in case of public sector companies having total assets of 25 billion rupees or more. OR</li> <li>A person holding a master degree in Finance from a university recognized by the Higher Education Commission with at least fifteen (15) years relevant experience, in case of public sector companies having total assets of 25 billion rupees or more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market based competitive salary package with Company maintained car and medical coverage.</li> <li>Initial contract shall be for a period of three years, extendable on satisfactory performance. There will be a one month probation and contract will be continued after the performance review shall be conducted after the benefits of experience for contract continuation.</li> <li>Age limit upto 55 Years.</li> </ul>

**HOW TO APPLY:**  
 Application forms are available on IESCO website. Applications should be submitted through internet on IESCO website [www.iesco.com.pk](http://www.iesco.com.pk) and through post along with detailed CV, attested copies of testimonials, minimum three references and a recent photograph to the undersigned. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

**NOTE:**

1. No application will be accepted by hand.
2. Departmental candidates are required to apply through proper channel.
3. IESCO is an equal opportunity employer, females are equally encouraged to apply.
4. The competent authority reserves the right to cancel the advertisement or withhold the recruitment process without assigning any reason.
5. Last date for submission of application is 15-days from the date of advertisement.



**Director General (HR)**  
 IESCO Head Office, Street-40, Sector: G-7/4, Islamabad,  
 Tel: 051-9252080 Fax: 051-9252927

IESCO/2024

# Career Opportunities

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### COMPANY OVERVIEW

Our Client, a Karachi-based company, seeks to appoint experienced and seasoned professionals for the following roles:

### JUNIOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS - FINANCE PROFESSIONALS

#### Education

- Minimum 10 years of education, preferably Master's from a renowned HEC recognized university or institution/equivalent foreign degree holder preferably in Finance, Accounts, Commerce, Business Administration, or qualified ACCA/CIMA/CAEW/IBS in Accounting and Finance (or relevant qualification).

#### Experience

- Possess minimum 7 years of post-qualification experience either in Tax, Budgeting, Reporting, Insurance, Treasury/Accounting, Audit or related Finance Functions.

#### Requirements

- Preference will be given to the candidates having working knowledge of SAP along with excellent analytical, articulation and presentation skills.
- Excellent presentation, problem solving, decision making and analytical skills.

#### Age

- The candidate should be preferably not more than 35 years of age as of the last date of submission of application.

### CA PROFESSIONALS

#### Education

- Qualified Chartered Accountant (Candidate shall be a member of the Institute)

#### Experience

- Freshly qualified or having post-qualification experience either in Tax, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, Treasury or related Finance Functions
- However, experienced candidates will be preferred.

#### Requirements

- Preference will be given to the candidates having working knowledge of SAP along with excellent analytical, articulation and presentation skills
- Well versed with IFRS, International Accounting Standards and applicable local laws such as Companies Act/Tax laws

#### Age

- The candidate should be preferably not more than 40 years of age as of the last date of submission of application.

### JUNIOR MANAGEMENT POSITION – COMPANY SECRETARIAT

#### Key Responsibilities

- Preparing agendas and papers for board meetings, committees, and annual general meetings (AGMs) and follow-up on action points
- Convening and servicing AGMs, drafting minutes, resolutions, and lodging required forms and annual returns with appropriate departments
- Ensuring policies, regulatory, or statutory changes that might affect the organization are up to date and approved
- Ensuring that the company complies with all applicable codes, in addition to its legal and statutory requirements
- Maintaining statutory books, including registers of members, directors, and secretaries
- Handling correspondence, co-ordinate information, writing financial reports, and communicating decisions to relevant company stakeholders
- Liaising with external regulators and advisors such as lawyers and internal/external auditors
- Filing statutory forms in accordance with Companies Regulations, 2024 with SEC within prescribed period
- Timely and accurate reporting of all items to PSX through PUCARs as per requirements of PSX Rule Book and in accordance with correspondence manual
- Planning and managing Board's budget, monitoring actual expenses against budget and ensuring recording of monthly accruals

#### Education

- Minimum 10 years of education preferably masters from a renowned HEC recognized university or institution / equivalent foreign degree holder, preferably in the discipline of Accountancy & Finance/Business and Management Sciences/Law/Certified in Accounting & Finance (CAF) would be an added advantage.

#### Experience

- Minimum 3-4 years of professional experience, preferably in a large national/multinational organization with at least 1-2 years of related functional experience in a similar role or a senior equivalent position or one position below.

#### Requirements

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to liaise effectively with senior management, board members, and external stakeholders
- Ability to identify legal and regulatory issues, assess risks, and propose practical solutions
- Detail-oriented with strong organizational skills, capable of managing multiple priorities and deadlines effectively
- Proficient user of MS Office along with adequate level of IT literacy
- Discretion when handling confidential information
- Maintains diplomatic approach towards issues
- Excellent organization and time management

#### Age

- The candidate should be preferably not more than 35 years of age as of the last date of submission of application.

If you have the required experience and educational qualification to take up the challenging role, you are requested to apply by **October 13, 2024** at <http://jobs.hrsi-int.com/>

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

[www.hrsi-int.com](http://www.hrsi-int.com)



## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### COMPANY OVERVIEW

Our Client, a Karachi based newly established FinTech company, seeks to appoint experienced professionals for the following roles:

### MANAGER IMPLEMENTATION

As the Manager Implementation, you will report to Head of Technology & Data Management and will be responsible to play a pivotal role in facilitating seamless integrations between the company and technology platform and within the ecosystem of digital alliance partners.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Work closely with the technology service provider for development and implementation of complete payment system platform
- Design and develop scalable and secure payment systems architecture to handle financial transactions efficiently
- Design wireframe diagrams and customer journey process flow keeping convenience at the forefront
- Coordinate with multiple partners for developing and maintaining APIs for seamless integration with third-party services, financial institutions, and merchants
- Implement robust security measures for payment systems, including encryption, tokenization, and secure authentication
- Ensure that payment systems comply with industry regulations, payment card industry standards, and other relevant financial regulations
- Implement transaction monitoring mechanisms to detect and prevent fraudulent activities
- Work closely with software developers to ensure the seamless integration of payment system components into FinTech applications
- Work closely with QA teams for UATs and SITs
- Create and maintain comprehensive documentation for payment system architecture, APIs, and integrations

#### Education

- Minimum 10 years of education preferably masters from a renowned HEC recognized university or institution/equivalent foreign degree holder preferably in Business Administration, Computer Science or related fields.

#### Experience

- Minimum 5-8 years of professional experience, preferably at a startup or a large national / multinational organization with at least 3-6 years of demonstrated related functional experience.

#### Requirements

- Ability to excel in a dynamic, evolving and fast paced start up environment
- Must have prior experience and understanding of payment systems including card and wallet management, app development, hosting, gateway and network architecture
- Strong understanding of financial systems and technologies, with knowledge of FinTech trends and best practices
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively across teams and stakeholders
- Analytical mindset with a focus on problem-solving and continuous improvement

#### Age

- The candidate should be preferably not more than 40 years of age as of last date of submission of application.

### TEAM LEAD COMPLIANCE

As the Team Lead Compliance, you will report to Head of Finance & Compliance and you will play a crucial role in developing compliance and risk strategy and ensure all allied policies, procedures, tools and systems are in place to monitor and oversee the implementation.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Lead the development and implementation of comprehensive compliance strategies to ensure adherence to all relevant regulations and guidelines
- Act as the focal person on behalf of the company for State Bank of Pakistan, facilitating all queries and audits from SBP
- Ensure the partners and systems meet the regulatory compliance requirements
- Ensure the reports submission and reconciliations at a pre-agreed frequency and as per the regulators' requirements
- Report to Senior Management promptly on any material incidents of non-compliance. Collaborate with cross-functional teams to create and update compliance policies and procedures, ensuring alignment with industry standards and best practices
- Implement proactive and efficient compliance monitoring systems tailored to the scale and pace of a startup operation
- Develop risk management strategies to safeguard the company's interest. Prepare the team for audits, ensuring readiness to demonstrate compliance effectiveness in our dynamic startup setting

#### Education

- Minimum 10 years of education preferably masters from a renowned HEC recognized university or institution / equivalent foreign degree holder preferably in Accounting, Finance, CA/ACCA or related fields.

#### Experience

- Minimum 5-8 years of professional experience, preferably at a FinTech start up or a large national / multinational organization with at least 3-6 years of demonstrated related functional experience.

#### Requirements

- Ability to excel in a dynamic, evolving and fast paced start up environment
- Proven experience in compliance roles within the financial services or FinTech industry, with a strong understanding of regulatory requirements and frameworks
- Exceptional leadership and communication skills, with the ability to inspire and motivate team members towards achieving compliance objectives
- Strong analytical and problem-solving abilities, with a keen attention to detail and a proactive approach to addressing compliance challenges
- Ability to thrive in a fast-paced, entrepreneurial environment and adapt quickly to changing priorities and business needs

#### Age

- The candidate should be preferably not more than 40 years of age as of last date of submission of application.

If you have the required experience and educational qualification to take up the challenging role, you are requested to apply by **October 13, 2024** at <http://jobs.hrsi-int.com/>

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

[www.hrsi-int.com](http://www.hrsi-int.com)



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### REQUIRED ENGINEERS / EXPERTS

For large infrastructure Development Projects for Road and Power

- **Senior Environmental Specialist** 10+ Years Experience.
- **Senior Planning Engineer (Civil Engineer)** 10+ Years Experience.
- **H.S.E Specialist** 5+ Years Experience
- **Social Safeguard Specialist** 5+ Years Experience.
- **Gender Specialist** 5+ Years Experience.
- **Senior Manager (Accounts & Finance)**
- **HR / Admin Assistants**
- **Resident Engineers Civil** 10 - 20 Years Experience.
- **Site Inspectors O&E** with 5+ years Experience.
- **Site Surveyors O&E** with 5+ years Experience.
- **Design Engineers (Water Supply, Sewerage System, Hydraulics, Irrigation)** 10 with 5+ Years Experience.

Email your application along with detailed CV to [expertwanted@yahoo.com](mailto:expertwanted@yahoo.com)

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

#### FACILITY POSITION HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

Faculty of Health Administration (FHA), Search for 01 filled of **Senior Ombuds Officer**, a senior & dynamic and experienced individual to join our faculty team as an Ombuds Officer at Associated Hospital for its ongoing MH Healthcare Management program.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Design and manage health care management program under the
- Collaborate with high quality research healthcare management.
- Train and mentor students in the MH Healthcare Management program.
- Contribute to the administration and coordination of academic programs.

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested candidates must apply online at <http://www.fha.edu.pk> and also send the application form of the position to the HR Director, Associated Hospital, Karachi. All applications are subject to interview. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted to apply. The shortlisted candidates will be contacted on a separate basis.

Resumes are encouraged to apply.

021-3571-2111/2112

The information provided herein is confidential and intended solely for the individual named. If you have received this e-mail by mistake, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Our client, Government Holdings (Private) Limited (GHPL), one of the largest oil & gas companies in Pakistan, is seeking to recruit dynamic and self-motivated professionals for the following positions:

Sl. #	Position Title	No. of Post	Sl. #	Position Title	No. of Post
1	Manager Drilling	01	3	Deputy Manager Joint Ventures (Commercial)	01
2	Deputy Manager Internal Audit	01	4	Analyst New Ventures (Commercial)	01

Details of the above positions are posted on our website [www.sidathyder.com.pk/careers](http://www.sidathyder.com.pk/careers).

Interested candidates may apply online by **October 13, 2024**.

Director Human Resource Consulting

**SIDATHYDER MORSHED**

**ASSOCIATES (PVT) LTD**

Management Consultants

Beaumont Plaza, Beaumont Road, Karachi

Email: [human\\_resource@sidathyder.com.pk](mailto:human_resource@sidathyder.com.pk)