



Islamabad, Kabul agree to reboot ties

- In one-on-one meeting with Afghan president, PM calls for qualitative transformation in relations
- Ghani also meets Shahbaz, Bilawal and Siraj

By Haqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Afghanistan on Thursday agreed to reboot their bilateral relations, which have remained mired in mistrust for long, by developing a "forward-looking vision" based on cooperation instead of political competition.

This commitment was reflected in a statement issued by the Prime Minister Office (PMO) after Prime Minister Imran Khan's one-on-one meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and delegation-level talks between the two sides in which the state of relations was reviewed.

President Ghani is on a two-day visit to Pakistan. The visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in political, trade, economic and security fields and forging stronger and multifaceted ties. The visit is, moreover, taking place amid hopes of progress in US Taliban talks leading to initiation of intra-Afghan dialogue, and ahead of Afghan presidential elections scheduled for September.

Prime Minister Khan, during the meeting, called for "a qualitative transfor-

mation" in ties, whereas President Ghani, in his speech at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), emphasised the need for developing "political alignment" between the two neighbours and taking "bold steps".

The agreement on improving relations apparently flows from realisation in both capitals that the two neighbours, who were once likened by former Afghan president Hamid Karzai to conjoined twins, could not progress without positively engaging with each other.

President Ghani said Loya Jirga, the traditional Afghan consultative gathering, held last month had authorised him to normalise ties with Pakistan and seek a political settlement with the Afghan insurgents. President Ghani had on May 5, a couple of days after the end of Loya Jirga, phoned Imran Khan. The telephone call paved the way for his current visit to Pakistan, which is his third while in office, but after a break of almost four years.

The Vice of America, meanwhile, issued a statement, stating a Pakistani official as having said: "While Afghanistan realises the importance of Pakistan in medium to long term, Pakistan also feels

that it is important to remain engaged with the government of Afghanistan regardless of who heads it."

The PMO statement said the two leaders had agreed to open "a new chapter of friendship and cooperation" based on "mutual trust and harmony" for the benefit of their countries and advancing the cause of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Mr Khan underscored Pakistan's respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and said Pakistan remained committed to a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. He expressed his government's desire to have stronger political, trade, economic, and people-to-people relations with Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to support the Afghan peace process and underlined that an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process was the only viable option to restore peace. He said Pakistan supported a result-oriented intra-Afghan dialogue.

According to AP, Afghan president praised Pakistan's efforts to

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ISLAMABAD: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani reviews a guard of honour at PM House on Thursday.—AP

Final version of budget to be shared with IMF by July 1

Govt expects NA to pass finance bill today

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The government is expected to transmit the final version of the National Assembly of the Finance Bill 2019-20 on Friday (today), after which the next step will be the International Monetary Fund (IMF) board meeting, which is currently scheduled for July 3.

The final budget measures passed by the assembly along with a report on completion with all prior Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217 prior IMF board meeting, which is currently scheduled for July 3. The board's decision to grant Pakistan's request for accession to a \$6 billion budget facility. The final, approved version of the

budget and finance bill are expected to be transmitted to the Fund by Monday, a senior government official familiar with the process told Dawn.

"Completion of all prior actions has paved the way for the board meeting on third of July. Sharing of budget approved by the parliament was one of the prior actions," said a senior official of the ministry of finance on condition of not being named in view of the board meeting's sensitivity. He said the budget approval was the final thing for Pakistan to deliver before the IMF meeting.

The latest exchange rate, SDR policy rate, electricity and gas rates and other key prior actions," the official said. Officials said the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) had already been trans-

mitted to the IMF in line with the staff level agreement reached on May 12. Pakistan will remain committed throughout the 30-month programme period to what the State Bank calls a "market determined exchange rate". However, if at any stage the central bank comes across reasonable evidence to suggest artificial exchange rate manipulation by outside factors, it will be free to intervene, a senior official said.

Also, the State Bank of Pakistan will maintain the corridor gap between its policy rate and the rate of inflation all along. At no time, and in any circumstances the difference between policy rate and inflation would not be allowed to fall below 1.5pc. That would mean the policy rate will stay 1.5pc higher than

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Tumult in NA over use of term 'selected PM'

Govt defeats opposition's all cut motions

By Amir Waqar

ISLAMABAD: The repeated use of the term "selected prime minister" by Opposition Leader Shahbaz Sharif in the presence of Imran Khan caused a ruckus in the National Assembly on Thursday during a debate on the opposition-moved cut motions on the budgetary demands for grants for various divisions and ministries.

The members from both sides of the aisle kept on raising slogans against each other until Speaker Asad Qaiser, in a fit of anger, expunged the word "selected" from the assembly proceed-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan attends the session of the National Assembly on Thursday.—AP

ings and issued directives to the lawmakers and the media not to use the expunged remarks.

The opposition members, however, continued to make fun of the speaker's directives as they kept on using the term "selected" tactfully while moving

Govt to collect additional taxes worth Rs56bn: Azhar — PT

their cut motions, which were defeated by the government members.

Soon after cuts returned to the house, the speaker gave floor to Abdul Qadir Pasi of the Pakistan Peoples Party who, while moving a cut motion, stated that he had "selected a cut motion". After Mr Pasi, a number of other opposition members moved their cut motions

while using the banned term. Sheikh Farazuddin of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, while moving a cut motion, used the term "selected" many times, saying that he would not use it since "you [the speaker] consider it an abuse" and then after presenting the motion, he told the speaker amid peals of laughter that "look, I have not used the word selected".

During voting on cut motions on a demand for grant for development expenditure of the interior division, the government achieved the magical figure of 374 votes, a minimum requirement for election of the prime minister, against 137 votes of the opposition.

Earlier, a demand for grants for power division had been approved by the house with 359-343 votes, thus proving

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PM hints at extension in amnesty scheme deadline

Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday hinted at an extension in the deadline for the Asset Declaration Scheme which is slated to end on June 30.

The prime minister was interacting with members of the business community on a special PTV News telethon via video link. Businessman Asad Karim Durrani had asked Mr Khan whether he would consider an extension in the deadline. "I think the number of people interested in the scheme could be much higher if there was some clarification on what the purpose of this is, whether people have to deposit cash by June 30, whether this deadline can be extended by a couple of months."

"For instance, if you could register first and make the 4 per cent penalty payment, but deposit cash in the bank later?" he asked. The prime minister said that although it appeared leaving things until the last minute was a Pakistani

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ON OTHER PAGES



Five more polio cases detected in KP

Refusals and misconceptions have been hampering the polio eradication drive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as five more cases are reported from various parts of the province. The tally for the first six months of the year 2019 reached 32 on Thursday (as compared to 12 cases in 2018 and only eight in year 2017). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone has recorded 26 cases so far, mostly from the highly-infected Barani division. Page 3

APPEAL

Mr. Shabbaz Zaidi
Chairman, F&C

Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh
President, F&C

Mr. Imran Khan
Prime Minister of Pakistan

Syed Murad Ali Shah
Chief Minister, Punjab

Mr. Hammad Azhar
Minister of State for Revenue

ARE WE TRYING TO SHUT-DOWN THE REAL-ESTATE BUSINESS / HOUSING SECTOR IN PAKISTAN?

- Almost 72 industries directly or indirectly related to the Real Estate / Housing Sector may stop their production thus causing an estimated loss of 1 Crore jobs eventually.
- Real Estate / Housing Sector is the chief source of Foreign Exchange inflow earned through the Overseas Pakistanis' Remittances, thus a major contributor in the Nation's Economy as well as a premium source of Foreign Investment & Job creation in Pakistan.
- Imposition of these New Taxes on Real Estate has left us in fear of losing around 50 Lac jobs across Pakistan and may also affect approximately 100 Lac families dependent thereon.
- The former period of Capital Gain Tax must remain intact i.e. 10% for the 1st year, 7.5% for the 2nd and 5% for the 3rd year.
- Transfer fees of the properties must be reduced down to 1% for Federal & 1% for the Province respectively.

Therefore, we earnestly **APPEAL** our honorable P.M, Mr. Imran Khan, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Mr. Hammad Azhar and Mr. Shabbaz Zaidi to kindly reconsider the whole plethora of over-taxation in the proposed Finance Bill-2019 and help save the Real Estate industry / Housing Sector of Pakistan.

The outrageous onslaught of these recently imposed Taxes is going to discourage the construction of high-rise buildings and will demoralize the builders / realtors

DEFENCE & CLIFTON ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS
(The largest Real-Estate Association of Pakistan)

Noor Abrejo (President DEFCLAREA)
Mezzanine Floor, Building # 21-C,
Sehar Lane-8, Phase-VII, D.H.A Karachi.
021-35348983-4

Four die in rain-related incidents

Dawn Report

TODA TEK SINGH: A farmer died when the wall of his house fell on him during heavy winds followed by rain on Wednesday night at Kamalia.

Winds from also uprooted hundreds of trees and several electricity poles at different places due to which electricity supply remained suspended in some rural areas for more than 12 hours.

The police said deceased farmer Naseem Ahmed (40) was injured critically when the mud wall fell on him. He was rushed to the Kamalia Tehsil Headquarters Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds on Thursday. He belonged to Chak Mohaleeda.

OKARA: A couple and a minor boy died in a roof collapse incident in heavy thunderstorm on Wednesday night in village 34/GD, some 15 kilometres from Okara.

The family was asleep in the house on Wednesday night when due to winds from the wall of the house collapsed on them. Villagers rescued them from the debris but Dalme, his wife Bhagwan Bibi and relative Adnan (eight) later died.

Minor girl Aliya was injured and shifted to the Okara District Headquarters Hospital. In another incident in village 33/28A on Okara-Faisalabad Road, a family of five people was buried under roof debris.

Villagers rescued Yousaf, his wife Sheerwan Bibi and three children minors who were later shifted to the hospital by Rescue 1122.

'Shahbaz govt signed expensive contract'

LAHORE: Health Minister Dr Fawaz Khan said the previous Punjab government signed a memorandum of understanding with the 'Mack' group company of 20 mobile health units and Rs2.5 million were monthly expenses of one mobile health unit, according to the contract.

"Now we're running these free mobile health units in only Rs1 million per month," she said, adding that free medical facilities through these mobile health units were being provided in Lahore, Multan, Bahawalpur, Sheikhupura and Faisalabad. Khan, says a handset.

More than 150 mobile patients have been provided free medical facilities through these free mobile health units in Punjab. Patients can get the free medical facility of X-ray, ultrasound, all blood tests, oxygen and medicines through these free mobile health units.

Japanese airline wants to start flights to Islamabad: envoy

ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador Kunikida Matsuda on Thursday said his country's airline wanted to start operations on the Tokyo-Islamabad-Islamabad route.

He stated this during a meeting with Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan, says a press release.

The ambassador said JAL had two weekly flights on Islamabad-Beijing-Tokyo route, so Japan Airlines also wanted to start flights on the Tokyo-Islamabad-Islamabad route.

An air service agreement (ASA) between Pakistan and Japan was initiated on Oct 12, 1961, and signed on July 12, 1962.

The ASA stipulates single airline designation with JAL being the designated airline of Pakistan and Japan Airlines being the designated carrier of Japan.

The minister thanked the ambassador for Japan's help through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Airport Security Force and Pakistan Meteorological Department.

The minister said ASF may be provided institutional-based technical training for the equipment. He also asked the ambassador for reducing the time span between planning stage for and executing the equipment's provision by JICA. — Staff Reporter



LAHORE: People enjoy a display of colourful dancing fountains at the Greater Iqbal Park on Thursday. — White Star

Maryam raps govt for disallowing visitors to Nawaz in jail

By Arisad Mahmood

LAHORE: Claiming that incarcerated Nawaz Sharif is suffering from recurring angina attacks, the ousted premier's daughter Maryam Nawaz says that only a limited number of visitors are being allowed to meet her father in jail.

In a series of tweets about her father's physical and country's economic health on Thursday, she said that despite recurring angina, Nawaz Sharif's doctor was not being allowed access to him.

"Despite recurring angina, MNS' cardiologist is not being given access to him. Even today he was made to wait outside jail for 2 hours & sent back without meeting. Shame on Justice Anwar."

On Thursday, the day allocated for visiting inmates at the Kot

Lahori Jail where Mr Sharif is serving his term in a corruption case, only five close relatives, including Maryam, were permitted to visit the ex-premier.

She protested that even the few meetings she had with her father were also strictly monitored in violation of the basic human rights and limited at street agitation on the issue.

"Today not only 5 members in close blood relations were allowed to meet MNS, that not under strict surveillance. This is violation of basic human rights. I am NOT going to be a passive spectator, therefore."

She said this in response to a tweet by one of her twitter followers in which it was suggested that Maryam should stage a strike outside the Kot Lahori Jail until personal physician of Nawaz Sharif was allowed to visit him.

"Now such a step seems imminent," Maryam added.

She said if the 'sham' government didn't allow MNS' cardiologist to meet him and if God forbade the disease aggravated, then hundreds of millions of voters of the PML-N should know who is to be held responsible for it.

The PML-N vice president said the denial of medical facilities to her father as political victimisation under direct supervision of Prime Minister Imran Khan after she turned social activist against the incumbent government.

"The victimisation increases as I am directly monitoring this. Would have been better if he had focused his energies on the sinking economy instead of Sharif family. What a petty, selfish man!"

Mr Nawaz's eldest son Khan

AJK assembly passes Rs121.56 billion budget

House approves 32 demands for grant in absence of opposition members

By Tariq Nazki

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the budget for 2019-20, amounting to Rs21.56 billion, including Rs6.92 billion for recurring expenditures and Rs14.64 billion for developmental activities.

Finance Minister Dr Najib Naji presented a total of 32 demands for grant which were unanimously approved by the treasury benches in the absence of opposition.

Many of the 11 opposition lawmakers had opted to stay away from the budget session for one or the other reason and the few who were present also staged a walkout on a trivial issue at the time of presentation of demand for grant.

Official sources claimed that the opposition lawmakers avoided moving out motions after the government agreed to some of their demands regard-

ing allocation of development funds for their constituencies at their discretion.

The house also accorded approval to the revised budget for 2018-19 to the tune of Rs109.175 billion, including Rs2.275 billion for developmental activities and Rs69.9 billion for recurring expenditures.

Besides, demands for grant for the additional expenditures beyond the approved budget for the fiscal years 2015-16 to 2017-18 were also approved.

Earlier, speaking on the floor of the house, Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haidar said the opposition could have played a better role by giving its suggestions for the next year's budget but it had missed the opportunity.

Claiming that he had lived an honest and clean life, he asked Speaker Shah Ghulam Qadir to commission an investigation into his personal life.

"Unlike other promoters, I am not claiming rent of my personal office. I don't have any personal vehicle and I am ready to be dragged on the streets from Muzaffarabad to Mirpur if corruption of a penny is proven against me," he said, asking his critics to look into their own conduct.

He asserted that he did not believe in victimisation and earnestly wanted to make the accounts-

ability process more transparent.

"If I believed in victimisation, many opposition leaders would either have landed in jails or would be seeking pre-arrest bail."

Mr Haidar said he was satisfied that most of the glitches his party had made before the 2016 elections (in AJK) had been met.

"We are striving to fulfill the remaining commitments and will be successful in a long before the end of our constitutional term."

Expressing gratitude to former premiers Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi for providing adequate resources to AJK, he said he also held Imran Khan in high esteem as prime minister of Pakistan.

"But I have also said bluntly that my leader in Nawaz Sharif and I cannot compromise on it."

He said he was grateful to PM Khan for giving clear directions for resolution of the problems caused by Neelum-Jhelum and Mangla power projects.

He paid tributes to his team for increase in revenue receipts.

"While in Pakistan, the revenue targets could not be met, how we generated more income than our target which speaks itself for the efficiency of my team."

Later, the chair prorogued the session sine die.

'Budget will have disastrous consequences for middle class'

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a press conference on June 27 and the club administration invited mediapersons to cover the event.

The invitation by the press club said the family of the girl along with their counsel would hold a news conference at 3pm about the abduction and murder case.

However, later the man called the press club and cancelled the news conference.

When contacted by Dawn, the man introduced himself as Nadeem Khan, a native of Mohmand Agency.

"On the request of the girl's family I had booked the press club for a news conference. The family and I had from Mohmand Agency and we knew each other."

He said the news conference was scheduled in the afternoon but officials of the capital police reached the house of the family

and took away the deceased girl's parents and a brother to prevent them from speaking to the media.

"As they did not return till the afternoon, I cancelled the press conference," he said, adding that the family was still in police custody and their mobile phones were switched off.

Replying to a question, Mr Khan said the family had reservations about the investigation of the abduction and murder case. The investigators told the family that there was no evidence found or available to establish the allegations against any suspect, he added.

Besides, reports of medical tests, including DNA, were negative, Mr Khan said, adding the recently arrested suspect had been sent to jail on judicial remand and so far challenge against him has not been submitted

to court.

He said the family had doubts and reservations about the investigation.

"They did not know who abducted and murdered Farishta. The police had claimed that the arrested man was the culprit."

Government officials had reached an agreement with the family when the latter held a protest after the murder, promising strict action against police officials for delaying registration of the case when the girl went missing. So far a case has been registered against only two police officials but action is yet to be taken against anyone, he added.

Despite repeated attempts, police spokesman Khurid Awan could not be contacted for his comments.

The inspector general of the police (IGP) was also not approachable.

Iqbal Nadeem, an economist's structural problems created incoherent growth patterns, regular transfer of government after monetary stabilisation.

Dr Nadeem recalled economic in Pakistan's economic history where the rupee had crashed but the economy found other ways of bouncing back.

"But without addressing economic fundamentals such as gross systemic inefficiencies across institutions, there is little chance that government will be able to break out of the debt-stabilisation trap."

They added, "Check and verify the relation and status of the man who booked the press club for a press conference and dig out his motive too."

An official at the Shabazz Town police said they had not met the family to brief them about the progress on the investigation.

Hamza's 'frontman' gets bail

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Thursday granted post-arrest bail to Mustafa Chohan, an alleged front man of Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly Hamza Shabbaz and his brother Salman Shabbaz, in a money loan during case instituted by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Representing the bail petition of Mr Chohan before a two-judge bench, Advocate Asad Mahmood Butt argued that his client had turned approver in the case against Hamza and Salman and recorded his confession in statements before the judicial magistrate concerned. Later, the trial court sent the petitioner to jail on judicial remand.

The counsel said the NAB no more required the petitioner in the case and keeping him behind the bars would serve no purpose. Therefore, he asked the court to release the petitioner on bail.

A NAB prosecutor told the bench that the prosecution would have an objection if the petitioner was released on bail.

The bench, comprising Justice Ali Raza Nadeem and Justice Nadeem Ahmad, allowed the petition and granted bail to Chohan subject to two surety bonds of Rs500,000 each.

Mr Chohan, in his conditional statement, had said that he had loaned over Rs100 million to Mr Hamza and his brother.

The approver said he had been working for the two brothers since they started looking after the family business of sugar in 2005.

He said he was a wholesaler dealer for Hamza Sugar Mills and that Hamza and Salman used to receive foreign remittances through bank accounts of his company — Mustaq & Co.

The NAB alleged that Mr Hamza maintained various accounts in different banks in which credit transfers of Rs500 million was observed from 2006 to 2017.

It further alleged that Hamza received fictitious foreign remittances of Rs151 million in one of his bank accounts, Rs2.11 billion in the accounts of his brother Salman, mother Nawaz, businessmen and employees of their companies.

Mr Hamza is on physical remand with the NAB in money loan case — Rameez Sugar Mills and assets beyond means/money laundering, while Salman is out of court.

In the mill's case, the bureau alleged that then chief minister Shabbaz Sharif approved construction of a dam in Chenna at a cost of Rs360m only to benefit Rameez Sugar Mills owned by his son Hamza and Salman.

It said public funds were misused for the benefit of the family business of the accused.



MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHAIRPUR

NO: GB/MC/KP/1864 OF 2019
DATED: 21-06-2019

TENDER NOTICE

It is informed to the intending parties that the Municipal Committee Khairpur desires to provide Utilities (details mentioned below) to Poor lower Staff for the Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2019-20 for the purpose stated tenders along with Trade Mark & Sample of Cloth are hereby invited. The estimated cost for the Year 2019-20 is Rs. 30,00,000/- only.

Sr. No.	Description of Article	Quantity	Rate
01	Blanket Kameez of Poshon Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	60 Pairs	Each Pair
02	Blanket of White Jersey Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	60 Pairs	Each Pair
03	Point Button of Khaki Jersey Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	20 Pairs	Each Pair
04	Point Button of Khaki Jersey Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	20 Pairs	Each Pair
05	Blanket Kameez of Poshon Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	144 Pairs	Each Pair
06	Blanket Kameez of Poshon Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	144 Pairs	Each Pair
07	Blanket of Khaki Jersey Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	144 Pairs	Each Pair
08	Blanket of Khaki Jersey Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	144 Pairs	Each Pair
09	Blanket of Khaki Jersey Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	144 Pairs	Each Pair
10	Blanket of Khaki Jersey Cloth (duty free) (Each Pair of 2 Meters)	144 Pairs	Each Pair

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Blank tender forms can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours from the date of publication of this notice on payment of tender fee of Rs. 5000/- only.
- The sealed tender forms must reach the office of the undersigned on or before 10.07.2019 at 2:00 pm which will be opened on the same day at 3:00 pm in presence of parties.
- The intending parties shall have to pay 5% of total estimated cost in shape of Cash Deposit from any scheduled bank in favour of Chairman Municipal Committee, Khairpur.
- The successful party shall have to pay Income Tax & Sales Tax according to Income Tax / Sales Tax Ordinances.
- Conditional tenders will not be entertained.
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Ref: KRY No. 340218

CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICER
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHAIRPUR

Buy No to Corruption



MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHAIRPUR

Address: Office of Municipal Committee Khairpur
Behind Phool Bagh Khairpur Mir's, Sindh Phone No. 9280233-34

No: GB/MC/KP/1867/2019 Dated: 21-6-2019

OUTSOURCING OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF (10) WARDS, 10, 11, 12, 14, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29 OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHAIRPUR

The Khairpur Municipal Committee entrusted to carry out the services of Solid Waste in (10) Ten Wards of Municipal Committee Khairpur through outsourcing. The Municipal Committee Khairpur is exclusively responsible for Urban Utility for Planning and Delivery of Municipal Services. Primary Solid Waste Collection in aforementioned wards of Municipal Committee Khairpur. Municipal Committee Khairpur in its endeavour to provide quality Municipal Services at par with the International Standard to the residents of Khairpur. The Municipal Committee Khairpur invites Tenders / Bids from well reputed National firms / JVs / Consortia. The Bidder must be financially sound.

Interested firms / companies may form a Joint Venture or general guidelines of JVs. The proposal shall consist of, but not limited to, the following five general guidelines. However, the details TCR's have been provided in the Evaluation Criteria of the Bidding Documents.

S. #	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Current Money	Tender Fee	Time allowed for Completion
1	Outsourcing of Solid Waste Management Services of 10 Wards 10, 11, 12, 14, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29 Municipal Committee Khairpur.	2,200 Million	2%	1000/-	12 Months

The Bidding documents containing the scope of project, evaluation criteria & other terms and conditions can be obtained on written request on company letterhead from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs. 1,000/- (One Thousand) in shape of Pay Order Demand Draft in the name of Chief Municipal Officer, Municipal Committee Khairpur upto any working day after issuance of this publication till closing date.

The last date of submission of sealed proposal as per instructions given in 11-07-2019 12:00 Noon.

The tenders will be opened on 12-7-2019 at 12:30 PM by Procurement Committee in the office of the undersigned in the presence of Bidders or their authorized representatives.

In case of absence of undersigned next date for opening will be 29-7-2019 at 2:00 (PM).

2% security of the total cost of the project in shape of Cash Deposit / Pay Order in favour of Chief Municipal Officer, Municipal Committee Khairpur must be accompanied with the proposal. The bid documents must be stamped and signed by an authorized person of the Contractor / Firm. Any delinquency, incompletion, irregularity in the Bidding shall be liable to rejection. All federal and provincial duties / stamp duties / taxes / Sales Tax will be recoverable as per directives of Government issued from time to time.

The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject any one or all tenders / bids with or without reason.

For any further clarification the office of the undersigned can be contacted at any working day during working hours.

Ref: KRY No. 340019

BUY NO TO CORRUPTION

CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICER
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHAIRPUR

Buy No to Corruption



Government of Pakistan Procurement Directorate PAKISTAN RAILWAYS

Adm. Block, P.R. Carriage Factory
Sector 11, Islamabad

Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

1. Workable tenders are invited from the manufacturers/authorized representatives of the manufacturers for the supply of 200 High Capacity Wagons and 25 Brake Vans as per following/bidding according to Two Stage Two Envelope bidding procedure vide Rule Study of PRR Rules 2004:

Type of Wagon	Procurement (C&U)	Manufacturing (C&D)	Total
Controlled Wagons	40	160	200
Controlled Wagons	20	230	250
High Sided Open Top Wagons	20	230	250
Brake Brake Vans	20	20	40
Total	200	620	820

2. Prospective bidder must follow the following schedule:

S. No.	Activity	Duration/ Date	Days/ Time	Place
1.	Sale / Purchase of tender document on payment of Rs. 5000/- (non refundable) through a bank draft / pay order in favour of P&R/CAO / M&S, P.R. Islamabad.	01.07.2019 to 10.08.2019	Monday - Saturday 09:00 hrs - 15:00 hrs	Office of the Director Procurement, Adm. Block, P.R. Carriage Factory Sector 11, Islamabad
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	24.07.2019	10:00 hrs	All tenders who purchased the Tender Document may attend.
3.	Submission / Receipt of tenders	20.08.2019	14:00 hrs	Office of the Director Procurement
4.	Opening of tenders	20.08.2019	14:30 hrs	—

3. This tender notice is also available on the websites of Pakistan Railways (www.pakrail.com) and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (www.ppra.org.pk)

(EJAZ AHMED SHEKH), DIRECTOR PROCUREMENT

Phone No. 051-9278351, 051-9278346, Fax No. 051-9278118, Email: dirproc@yahoo.com

"SONATE FOR GAMER BRADSHAW AND MOHAMMAD DANI" - SAY NO TO DRUGS



NED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CONSTRUCTION OF BOYS HOSTEL AT NED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, KARACHI

(GROUND FLOOR REMAINING WORKS)

Ref: DP/NEC/CO/119713/ET/65-19

Dated: 25.06.2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi invites sealed bids from interested bidders with valid license from Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category as mentioned below to carry out the following work at NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi:

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Tender Fee	Completion Period
1.	Construction of Boys Hostel NEC/ET/1 (Ground Floor Remaining Works)	21.00 (M)	Rs. 3000/-	10 Months

ELIGIBILITY:

Valid Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in category C-5 and above for 2018-2019, specification code CE-15 Registered with Sindh Revenue Board and FBR. Financial statement (Summary) and Income Tax return for the last 3 years.

Documentary evidence of similar work executed and works in progress. Affidavit that the firm has not been blacklisted or involved in any litigation by any Government, Semi-Government or Autonomous bodies on Non-Judicial Stamp Paper.

Details of available technical personnel (Engineer registered with PEC in required field).

Availability of machinery / equipment required for construction.

BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS

1. Tender documents will be issued from 20 July 2019 to 17 July 2019.

2. Last date of submission is 18 July 2019 at 10:30 AM.

3. Bids will be opened on 18 July 2019 at 11:00 AM.

4. Address: Assistant Director Procurement-II Office

5. FUNDING POSITION: Available under UNDP approved project

6. Under the following conditions, bid can be rejected:

(i) Incomplete, conditional, electronic and telegraphic bids / tenders.

(ii) Bids not accompanied by 3rd security of required amount and form.

(iii) Bid received after specified time and date.

(iv) Blacklisted firm / companies.

(v) Bid validity period: 90 days.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Tender documents may also be downloaded from NED Website: <http://www.ned.edu.pk> or Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (SPPRA) website: <http://www.sppra.org.pk>
- All the interested bidders are required to submit a letter of interest, to register their participation in Bidding for subject Tender, along with non-refundable tender fee in form of pay order / bank draft amounting to Rs. 3000/- drawn in favor of NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi on or before 17.07.2019.
- The tender shall be opened by procurement committee in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to be present.
- Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security minimum 2.5% of their Bid Price in the form of Bank Draft / Pay Order in favor of NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. Bids without Bid Security shall be rejected.
- In case of holiday in any month tenders will be obtained submitted on the next working day as per given schedule.
- Procurement agency may reject all or any bid subject to the relevant provision of SPPRA Rules 2010 amended up to date. All terms & conditions of SPPRA Rules shall be applicable.

Director Procurement

NED University of Engineering and Technology.

Tel: 021-99061261-44 (Ext. 2291)

Ref: KRY No. 333219

Buy No to Corruption

CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICER
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHAIRPUR

MISCELLANEOUS

PROJECT BASED VACANCIES

A public sector organization intends to invite application from suitable candidates who fulfill the basic qualification, experience and eligibility criteria, as stated against each post, for the following "CONTRACT BASED POSITIONS" in a public sector organization.

S.No	Post	No of Positions	Qualification/Experience
1	Chief Accounts Officer (BS-19 Equivalent) (Islamabad)	01	Position: As a key member of the Project Management Unit, this position reports to Project Director. CAO works in the capacity of Treasury Officer/DOO, while ensuring all regulation of GOP (including PPRA rules) for financial releases. CAO provides operational and programmatic support to the PMU. The CAO has a primary day-to-day responsibility for planning, implementing, managing and controlling all finance-related activities. This will include direct responsibility for accounting, finance, forecasting and strategic planning. Responsibilities: - Provide technical advice to the Project Director in all financial matters. - Participate in key decisions as a member of the Project Management Unit, through provision of advice on the financial implications of activities. - Manage the Finance and Audit Department. - In coordination with training functions in the Company, train the Finance Department, senior managers and other staff on raising awareness and knowledge of financial management matters and ADB guidelines on financial matters. - Ensure credibility of the PMU finances by providing timely and accurate analysis of budgets, financial trends and forecasts. - Ensure compliance with PPRA rules and ADB Guidelines and requirements. - Oversee the approval and processing expenditure and position control documents, department budgets, mass salary updates and account maintenance. - Develop and implement finance, accounting and billing procedures, and actively participate in provision of inputs to auditing procedures, upon request of the internal auditor. - Direct and oversee all aspects of the Finance, Audit & Accounting functions, including the preparation of financial statements, financial reports, special analysis and information reports. - Manage processes for financial forecasting, budgets and consolidation and reporting. - Ensure the financial record keeping, meets the requirements of auditors and government agencies. - Maintain relations with external auditors and investigate their findings and recommendations. - Provide technical advice to the Project Director in all financial matters. - Manage cheque books of the Project accounts. - Act as co-signatory for cheque-writing. - Consolidate all transactions, made at three BCP sites. - Maintain books of accounts of the project. - Prepare annual cash plan requirement for the next year. - Prepare financial statement of the project (monthly, quarterly, six monthly, annual and need basis). - Manage periodic audit of the project, by multiple agencies i.e. by GOP and ADB etc. - Liaise with PMC and CSC firms, for making release to the contractor. - Seek sanction from the Project Director, against payment to the contractors, ensuring all procedure and financial requirement of the GOP. - Liaise with all the banking channels (SBI, NBP and any other local/foreign bank) related to financial release for the ITTMS project. - Timely approval and release of compensation under LARIP. Qualifications and Experience Requirements: - Advance qualification in Management Sciences i.e., Public Administration, Finance, MBA, M.Com, ICMA, CA (with a minimum 16 years of education). - In-depth knowledge of Financial Management, Public Procurement and overall Public sector Management and knowledge of FIDIC. - At least 15 years of post-qualification progressive managerial experience with responsible financial leadership role, preferably in Public sector. Knowledge & Skills: - Training and Courses related to Financial Management, ADB Guidelines, Public Procurement, FIDIC, Public Administration
2	Audit Officer (BS-18 Equivalent) (Islamabad)	01	Qualification: At least a Bachelor Degree (14 years or more) in Business Administration, ICMA, ADCA, CA-Intermediate or SAS qualified from HEC recognized university. Preferably FIDIC, PPRA rules in the Public Sector Management. Eligibility Criteria: - Experience preferably with a donor-funded project. - Familiarity with the public sector is a must for the candidate. - Experience in designing tools and strategies for financial modeling and data collection, analysis and production of reports. - The candidate must be hands on in preparing the financial Risk Management Plan for the project. Age Limit: - Maximum Age Limit is 40 years. Experience: At least 5 years of progressive experience in Accounts/Audit and financial management, preferably in Public Sector.

How to prepare Application Package: Typed Applications containing a CV and NOC (in case of applicant from Govt. Service), addressed to the "Project Director" shall be sent to PO Box No. 3304, GPO Islamabad, within 15 days from advertisement. (Contact No. +923355846677 for information/queries). Applications received after this date shall not be entertained.

Note:

- The positions are purely temporary and on fixed monthly salary.
- Salary will be based on O.M. No. F-4 (S) R 14/2008, Dated 19th July 2017, issued by Regulation Wing of Finance Division, Government of Pakistan. No other allowance will be provided in addition to the package given under the above O.M. of Finance Division.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be called for written test/interview.
- Department reserves the right to reject, with-hold or not fill the position as advertised. In case of queries contact Administration Office at this number +923355846677.
- No TA/DA shall be admissible.

Buy no to Drugs

PM moves court for dismissal of disqualification petition

Claims plea not maintainable

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan has filed an application with the Peshawar High Court requesting to dismiss a petition, which seeks his disqualification from holding any public office on multiple grounds.

The application said the petition was not maintainable and it merited dismissal summarily.

It added that the petitioner had concealed the Supreme Court's declaration, which declared the applicant, Imran Khan, valid and amenable under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution.

The petition was filed last year by National Assembly candidate in NA-35 Bannu Imamullah Khan, who is a leader of Pakistan Justice and Democratic Party of former chief justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

A bench consisting of Justice Imamullah Khan and Justice Musarat Hidi on Thursday directed the petitioner to respond to the application filed on behalf of the prime minister.

The case was adjourned to the date to be fixed later.

The petitioner has claimed that during the last year general elections, Mr Imran had neither mentioned the name of his alleged daughter in his nomination papers nor he had disclosed the assets of his wife.

Muhammad Habib Qureshi sub-

mitted the application on behalf of senior lawyer Raza Aslam, who is the lead counsel for Imran Khan.

The applicant claimed that the petition was meant for blackmailing and suppressed facts, so it amounted to perjury for which he reserved the right to initiate proper proceedings against the petitioner under the relevant provisions of civil, defamatory and criminal law.

He said the petition was against the judgment of a reverting officer before elections and that the electoral laws, which provided remedies against grave election grievances, weren't availed by the petitioner, so the petition should be dismissed.

The applicant said Article 225 of the Constitution read with section 139 of the Elections Act con-

stituted remedies about pre-election and post-election stages, which, too, were never resorted to by the petitioner and in the presence of sufficient alternate remedies, discretionary constitutional jurisdiction of the high court could not be invoked.

He said the Supreme Court, after a detailed scrutiny of the assets of the applicant and other allied issues, declared Imran Khan valid and amenable.

The applicant said the petition was a blatant contempt of the Supreme Court judgment, so it merited dismissal summarily.

The petitioner contended that Imran Khan had concealed important facts in his nomination papers and therefore, he was not righteous and sagacious in terms of Article 62 and 63 of the Constitution.

He said the petitioner had raised important objections before the returning officer of the said constituency, who had rejected the same and accepted nomination papers of Imran Khan.

The petitioner said he had annexed important documents, including judgments of UN courts regarding the Sita White case, which proved that the latter was daughter of Mr Imran.

He added Mr Imran had also concealed the properties of his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the nomination papers.

The petitioner said the worth of the premier's Rangila mansion was declared Rs11.4 million, which was below its actual value and that even at the time of its purchase, the land's price was around Rs30 million.

KTH acting MD removed for misuse of powers

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The provincial government has removed Dr Mohammad Shoaib, acting medical director of the Medical Teaching Institution Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH), for alleged misuse of powers.

He has been replaced by Prof Inshad Ahmed, head of civil health department, KTH, according to a notification issued by the Board of Governors on Thursday.

Dr Shoaib, an orthopaedic surgeon, was made acting MD after resignation of Prof Rohul Muqim, a laparoscopic general surgeon, as he had refused to oblige political people in unlawful appointments.

Dr Shoaib has been removed allegedly on charges of misuse of powers, in an emergency meeting of BoG held on Thursday, according to the sources.

At the time of his appointment, the health department had claimed that the hospital would show improvement within three months, but the situation deteriorated as consultation fee at the BoG was raised from Rs400 to Rs1,000.

The sources claimed that he was bypassing the BoG in important decisions due to which prompt action was taken against him.

KTH spokesman Farhad said that a new MD had been appointed as the board wanted to improve the patient care and take decisions accordingly.

KP Assembly concludes discussion on Rs28bn supplementary budget

Opposition calls for end to re-appropriation of uplift funds

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Thursday concluded discussion on the Rs27.92 billion worth of supplementary budget for the financial year 2018-19 amid the opposition's call for end to the re-appropriation of development funds from one area to another.

The opposition members said the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf presented its seventh budget in the province but the presentation of supplementary budget exposed its socio-economic management and discipline.

Deputy Speaker Mahmood Khan chaired the sitting.

Starting debate on the supplementary budget, Awan National Party MPA Shaukat Buzdar Khan wondered if financial matters headed in the right direction, then why the government presented the supplementary budget.

He said the PTI had been talking about financial discipline and good governance in the province for the last seven years but despite that, supplementary budget was presented.

MPA Shagufa Malik said the

speaker on one hand claimed to have saved Rs110 million through austerity measures but on the other, Rs50 million had been given away to the assembly secretariat in the supplementary budget.

She said the practice of re-appropriation of development funds should end for good.

Opposing the supplementary budget, Khushali Khan advocated against the chair's ruling about whether the amount was supplementary or excess grant.

The chair referred that point of order to minister for law and parliamentary affairs Sultan Mohammad Khan for response.

The minister said Article 124 of the Constitution authorised the provincial government to present supplementary and excess budget.

He said the speaker had given a ruling on the matter last year, so there was no justification for fresh ruling.

The minister claimed the law-enforcement officials for challenging parliamentary matters in the court saying judiciary and parliament have separate mandates.

Muhammad Majid-Ahmad member Isayyatullah Khan expressed displeasure at the application of 'grievance' by Speaker Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani to kill debate on demands for grant.

He said the speaker violated parliamentary norms by exercising power

in absence of the opposition members to prevent debate on the demands for grant.

The MPA said the government needed supplementary budget to divert funds from one constituency to another.

PTI MPA Naeem Ahmad Abbasi demanded of the government to reconstruct school buildings in Bannu division, which were destroyed by the 2005 earthquake.

He said over 1,000 schools and other facilities had yet to be reconstructed.

Salahuddin Mahmood of the ANP said the work sanctioned by Peshawar Development Authority on 16 lakh roads in his constituency had long been awaiting completion.

He complained that the government had allocated only Rs1,000 for health unit in Atakhal area of Peshawar.

Local government minister Shahbaz Khan Tarakai in his concluding speech said the successive government had presented supplementary budgets.

He disputed the impression that supplementary budget was unconstitutional. The minister said the first technical university was being established in KP.

He said the deficiency of medicines in hospitals would be met by the government. The minister said the first technical university was being established in KP.

The sitting was adjourned till 10:30 am today (Friday).

Growers oppose massive cut in tobacco tax

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The growers have opposed massive cut to the advance tax on tobacco insuring the government's move will encourage the black marketing of the cash crop and harm economy.

They demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision to prevent their 'economic murder'.

The government has announced the revamping of the Rs300 per kg advance Federal Excise Duty on tobacco imposed to check the illegal tobacco trade to Rs40 per kg.

Addressing a news conference at the Peshawar Press Club on Thursday, local tobacco farmer Abdul Qayyum said massive cut to the advance tax on tobacco would promote the illicit tobacco trade and harm poor growers.

Accompanied by farmers Ali Ahmad and Gulzar Khan, he criticised the government for yielding to tax evaders. He said the tobacco sector could earn huge revenue through the Rs300 advance tax.

Abdul Qayyum said smaller growers claimed that the collection of advance tax on tobacco was exploitation and the demand for tobacco would decrease due to the imposition of the advance excise duty.

He said the Pakistan Tobacco Board Ordinance, 1968, protected tobacco growers and made it binding for tobacco manufacturing companies to purchase additional tobacco yield from growers.

Ali Ahmad said the farmers' associations were being used to pressure the government for withdrawing steps meant to curtail illegal trade to help the growth of tobacco crop.

He said growers were being exploited by the local illegal tobacco manufacturers since the levy not only forced them to pay the highest rate on production but also factories.

PASSCO

GYM INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED

Name of Post	Gym Instructor
Nature of Job	Regular (with the probation period of 06x months to 01x year)
Qualification	Graduation
Experience	More than 10 Years' experience in related field at National / International Level as Gym Instructor, Fitness & Diet Advisor and Weight Trainer for Federal/Provincial/Govt or any well reputed Fitness Gym in Private Sector
Age	25-35 Years
Basic Pay Scale	BS-15

Candidates should submit their applications along with CNs, attested copies of Educational Credentials / documents of experience to General Manager (HR), PASSCO, Head Office, 11-Kashmir Road, Lahore 042-99201461-62, 042-36302947 within 15 days of publication of this advertisement. Candidates meeting the above mentioned criteria shall only be shortlisted for interview, as TA / DA is admissible. HLL-400126-06-2019

Say No to Drugs: "DONATE FOR JAMSHED KANWAR AND MUHAMMAD DANI"

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER THARPARKAR AT MITHI

DATED: 26-06-2019

SITUATION VACANT

In compliance of the Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan Observation in Human Rights Case Number 8911-S of 2017 (CMA No. 566-K of 2017) and on approval from Competent Authority Applications are invited from Sindh Domicile eligible candidates for the walk-in-interviews for contract appointment against following vacancies in District Tharparkar:

S. No.	Name of Institution	Name of Post of MO (BS-17)	Number of Positions
01	GO Bortu Kuthi	Medical Officer	1
02	GO Jhangirpur	Medical Officer	1
03	GO Lakson	Medical Officer	1
04	GO Sanjiv Jy Wadhwa	Medical Officer	1
05	GO Sanjiv Jy Wadhwa	Medical Officer	1
06	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
07	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
08	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
09	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
10	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
11	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
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59	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
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61	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
62	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
63	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1
64	GO Dhan	Medical Officer	1

S. No.	Name of Health Facility	Name of Post of MO (BS-18)	No. of Positions
01	PHC Chhatra	Gynaecologist	1
02	PHC Chhatra	Physician	1
03	PHC Chhatra	Physician	1
04	PHC Kati	Gynaecologist	1
05	PHC Kati	Physician	1
06	PHC Kati	Physician	1
07	PHC Kati	Physician	1
08	PHC Kati	Physician	1
09	PHC Kati	Physician	1
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26	PHC Kati	Physician	1
27	PHC Kati	Physician	1
28	PHC Kati	Physician	1

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Applications will be entertained which are directly sent to District Health Officer, Tharparkar at Mithi within 15 days of advertisement.
- Applicant must have domicile of Sindh Province.
- Number of vacancies may vary at the time of interview.
- The vacancies are Health Facility specified. This will be non-transferable assignment, any influence in this regard will lead termination of services of Contract appointees.
- The Selected candidates will work on three months contract agreement. Renewable after every three months subject to satisfactory performance.
- Age limit for appointment on Contract basis of Medical Officer (BS-17) maximum age 30 yrs, Specialist (BS-18) upto 40 yrs and Staff Nurse (BS-16) maximum age 28 yrs (the age relaxation as notified by Government of Sindh, Notification No. SOR(SGAM/CD) 5-64/2011, Dated 14th September, 2018, shall also be applicable in addition to prescribed age limit). Prescribed minority Female (where applicable) & Disability Quotas will be followed.
- Each individual / applicant can apply against only two positions mentioned in the advertisement.
- Couples will be given preference.
- Contract based selected candidate will hold the post till the time of recommendations are received from Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC). The services of Contract appointment will be terminated immediately after recommendations of SPSC. However, he/she will have to appear before SPSC in Six Months from the date of contract employment.
- The appointment is purely temporary. The selected candidate will never claim any right for regularization, pensionary benefit as well as seniority.
- Contract appointment doctors (BS-17/18) & Staff Nurse (BS-16) in addition to regular Pay Package, will also be entitled to following Hard Area Allowance per month:
 - BS-17 Rs. 90,000
 - BS-18 Rs. 140,000
 - BS-16 Rs. 20,000
- Existing Sindh Civil Servant Rules 1986 shall be applicable for Contract appointees.
- Interviews may be conducted at or outside of Tharparkar (Karachi, Hyderabad, Newshah, Larkana) depending upon number of candidates.
- No TA/DA will be given for appearing in interview.

(DR. INSHAD AHMED MEMON)
DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER
THARPARKAR AT MITHI

Unimpressive MPC

THE opposition's multiparty conference in the capital on Wednesday proved nothing more than yet another exercise in rhetoric, with politicians once more announcing a rallying point in the future. This time they resolved to observe a 'black day' on July 25 — the first anniversary of the 2018 general elections — to protest against the alleged rigging during the polls. At a press briefing after the conference, political leaders from the country's main opposition parties sat together to reveal the opposition's 'strategy'. Shaukat Murtaza Farhan, Shabbaz Sharif, Mahmood Khan Achakzai and Yasir Raza Gilani shared the stage with scions Maryam Nawaz and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. Together, they presented a morass of ideas ranging from the removal of Sadiq Sanjani as Senate chairman, to the formation of a committee to implement the MPC's decisions. The parties also reiterated their rejection of the 2019-2020 federal budget and the government's proposed National Economic Council and debt inquiry commission.

This week's meeting marked the third time the opposition parties sat together to discuss politics and a joint course of action — a strategy that is yet to materialise despite efforts to build momentum. Their very first congregation held during Ramadan, at the invitation of Mr Bhutto-Zardari, saw them discuss the political situation and contemplate a future mode of protest. A follow-up invitation from Mr Nawaz to Rawalpindi, too, saw the leaders discussing everything from the judges' references to the government's economic policies; the meeting ended with a pledge to agree on a joint course of action. The latest gathering has resulted in a similar announcement of a 'mass contact campaign' to mobilise the people against government policies — a sign that these meetings are actually quite hollow when it comes to substance. Evidently, the opposition get-togethers have failed to yield concrete plans or create a sense of hope among the people suffering the consequences of a spiralling economy. With no clear strategy in view, it seems that the opposition is sitting together simply because political parties have common reservations about the ongoing accountability process. With Nawaz Sharif in jail and Asif Zardari in NAB custody, the PM, N and PPP appear to be actually avoiding a tangible plan — perhaps there is also concern that they may not be able to draw the crowds. Be that as it may, it is telling that these political figures do not seem to be able to offer a coherent plan even after numerous meet-ups.

Undoubtedly, the main role of opposition parties is to question the government of the day and challenge its policies in the interest of the public. In this spirit, the unity of the opposition and its meetings are intrinsic to forming a strategy. But alas for our opposition parties, despite the assembly of heavyweights under one roof, the outcomes of after-dinner meetings and hotel huddles have been rather anti-climactic.



BY FAISAL BARI

Hard times & little hope

Javed has never received any help from the state, nor does he expect any.

JAVED works as a driver. His monthly salary is Rs20,500. He and his wife have four children and his father to support. The seven of them live in a one-room house. He is lucky that he owns the house so there is no rent to pay. His two-older children work and make another Rs20,000 between them. He is trying his best to keep the two younger ones in school. The elder ones could not continue beyond middle school.

Life is hard and, though Javed has a very strong belief in God and destiny, he is not very hopeful that his lot is going to change in the near future. But he does hope that, if his younger children get educated, they may be able to have a better life.

He is able to make ends meet with the Rs40,000 that the family earns. But it is an unanticipated crisis that makes life hard. His 79-year-old father fell ill a couple of months ago. In the developed world, on average, he would still be in relatively good health. In Pakistan, he is already pushing the life expectancy average. His diabetes and heart issues landed him in hospital for a week, which put Javed in debt. He has not yet been able to pay his employer back.

A few months back, the hike in gas bills forced Javed to borrow from his friends. Last month, it was the electricity bill that played havoc with his budget. His accumulated debts are now starting to bother him. He does not know how long his creditors will wait, and he has no way of paying when he will have any extra income to pay back what he has borrowed.

Javed wants to build another room in his house. One room gives little or no space to the seven people who share it. His daughters are getting older and, since they are mostly house, post work and school, they also need more space. His sons spend most of their home-time in the veranda.

But one room will cost almost two months of sal-

ary for the household. There is no institution that will give Javed this kind of money. He cannot borrow it from his employer or friends. But, even if he could, he would have no way of paying it back, so how does he even ask anyone?

His eldest child is a motorcycle mechanic. He worked as an apprentice in a workshop for five years and is now quite trained. Ideally, he would like to open up his own workshop and become an entrepreneur rather than continue to work as an employee. But he does not have any capital with which to start his business. He has tried his luck with a number of government programmes and microfinance banks, but there has been no break-through so far. Part of the problem is his poor education.

Javed's eldest daughter works in a beauty salon in their locality. But the issue is the same: she has no capital with which to pay the advance for rent and to buy even the minimum amount of equipment that she will need.

Rising inflation, increasing fuel prices, increasing prices of electricity and gas have significantly raised Javed's level of anxiety. He no longer knows if the Rs40,000 the family earns will be enough to cover even the basics anymore, or what will come next. He has been in his current job for a year and his employer is quite satisfied with him, but there is no job security. The employer could fire him tomorrow if he wanted to. And finding a new job takes time. The last time Javed moved, it took him four months to find a new job.

Javed has never received any help from the state, nor does he expect any. He did not qualify for help from the Benazir Income Support Programme and does not think he is actually poor enough to qualify for that category of beneficiaries. But he also does not see how he can improve his

situation without help either.

He needs access to decent healthcare. This is the biggest source of his worry and the major source of recent shocks for him. His father needs regular medical attention. Javed and his wife have also turned 50. His high blood pressure is starting to bother him more. His wife has serious arthritis issues. Having health coverage could reduce uncertainties for him and his family substantially.

Access to subsidised loans or grants, for allowing his son and daughter to start small businesses could open up avenues for major changes in the life of this family. These loans would have to be carefully crafted to suit the needs of these small businesses, and might even have to be subsidised substantially, but they could result in potentially large gains for the family.

The younger children need access to quality education. If they are going to stay in schools, they need an education that will engage and challenge them. They have seen their elder siblings stay in school for seven or eight years and not even acquire basic numeracy, literacy, reading, writing and thinking skills. They feel that if they are going to 'grow' their time as the elder siblings did, they would be better off being at home and learning a skill. Can the state provide decent school education that this family can afford?

The government's stated aims include the provision of social protection for the poor and equal opportunities for all. The Ehsaas programme was launched with a lot of fanfare as well. The success of the government will be judged on the basis of real change for Javed's family. ■

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives, and an associate professor of economics at Lums, Lahore.

Rupee slides

AS the slides in the rupee continue unabated, some important questions are now coming to the fore. It is true that artificially holding the exchange rate at a level dictated by the political bosses makes for bad economic policy. But now that we are supposedly moving away from that regime towards what the State Bank calls a 'market-determined' rate, it is important to keep an eye on the volatility and ask whether the recent moves are indeed being determined by the market. Why is it that the exchange rate starts to see sharp slides just as an important IMF-related decision point approaches? The last slides happened when the staff-level agreement was coming up, and now that the board approval is due on July 3, we are again seeing sharp downward movements. There may not be anything to this, but it is worth bearing in mind that not so long ago the State Bank itself was telling us that the new level of the exchange rate is more in line with economic fundamentals. What fundamentals have changed since then to merit the more recent depreciations of the last few days?

There will no doubt be a public clamour for more stability in the exchange rate because it is central to the business operations of a large part of the country's services economy as well as manufacturing. Planning for the future is difficult in the face of sharp exchange rate swings that come like bolts of lightning from time to time. Now that the regime is moving towards greater flexibility and the new State Bank governor has retained some space for himself to intervene in the exchange rate markets, a great deal of concern is revolving around how and when that intervention might be triggered. It might not be possible to say what level the rupee is headed for in the months to come given the prevailing market-related uncertainties. But there is still a clear need for more communication on the direction of the exchange rate, or else the uncertainty may lead the wheels of the economy to grind to a halt. If there has been no commitment with the IMF on the value of the exchange rate, then more needs to be made clear, particularly what 'market determined' actually means. But if, contrary to official assertions, a value has indeed been agreed upon, the authorities should note that this fact will soon become impossible to conceal.

Time up for 'shoppers'?

SOMETIMES old ways of doing things were better for the collective good. Using cloth bags instead of plastic ones is among those; the ubiquitous 'shopper' bags the country's landscape — snaggled on branches, littering the ground and choking drains. In late April, the local administration banned the export, import, purchase and use of plastic bags in Hunza, reportedly the first district in South Asia to put the environmentally friendly measure into effect. The administration distributed 1,000 such bags among the residents of the scenic valley to encourage them to switch to cloth bags, and carried out awareness-raising activities about plastic waste pollution. These efforts demonstrated commitment; without talking the public on board, the ban would have been difficult to enforce or sustain.

Hunza attracts huge numbers of domestic tourists every year, and is touted among the top destinations for wooing international travellers to Pakistan. That is another reason why the ban in this area is so important: nothing defiles a stunning landscape as do 'shoppers' scattered about. Encouragingly, however, similar bans have recently been announced by the provincial governments as well in order to curb plastic waste pollution. Local administrations must ensure the restriction on non-biodegradable shopping bags is strictly observed — the country produces some 125 tonnes of solid waste annually, of which an estimated 9pc are plastics, including polythene bags. There will be some murmurs of discontent of course — from consumers because 'shoppers' have been a staple for so long, and from producers who will lose a steady stream of revenue. The country's largest city, Karachi, generates around 20,000 tonnes of solid waste daily but, shamefully enough, the authorities make no effort at waste collection. Nevertheless, this has not stopped the provincial government from repeatedly announcing a ban on polythene bags — empty words in the absence of follow-up action. Aside from clogging waterways that are the principal cause of urban flooding, the plastic waste that goes into the sea also endangers marine life. We must demonstrate far better civic sense.

MULTI-PARTY CONFERENCE



Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217



ZAHOCR

BY ASHA'AR REHMAN

It takes two to tangle



SIGNS are that the powers within the house of Sharif are finding it a wee bit tough to reconcile with each other's authority. The latest proof of a lack of, or a need for, adjustment came in the shape of a statement by Mr Maryam Nawaz that was found by the rightly inclined to be agitating against the considered view of her uncle, Mian Shabbaz Sharif.

Ms Nawaz had dubbed any possible 'monopoly-manifesto', or charter of economy, 'monopoly-manifesto' or a joke with the economy. This provided the channels with an opportunity, and they had a field day identifying the breach inside the Sharif fortress — not for the first, nor likely the last, time. The expected twist to this little rift that cast a long shadow over the Sharif dynasty's internal discipline was given by Ms Nawaz when, as predicted, she furnished a fresh statement of her belief in the leadership of Mr Shabbaz Sharif.

The PML-N would have behaved as if Ms Maryam Nawaz's oath of allegiance to her leader has resolved the small matter. But its desire to stay pole-balanced in the wake of the fresh realities aside, there are new centres of powers to be spotted inside the PML-N camp for anyone who cares to see.

The sequence where a remark is passed by one of the authorities within the PML-N and then with drawn on one pretext or the other has been played just too many times. The strain, or the causes that could lead to one, is increasingly showing.

To begin with, it is unnatural for anyone to believe that two leaderships, diametrically opposed to each other over not just strategy but, 'visibly', ideology as well can coexist in a party. Quite often, mistakenly, the Shabbaz-Maryam situation is compared to the old and successful formula where Mr Shabbaz Sharif and Mian Nawaz Sharif were supposed to be individually, and separately, providing leadership to the PML-N in the past.

The attempt to draw a parallel between that long-serving arrangement and the current understanding has been flawed from the beginning, since over all these years of spectacular PML-N victories and occasional setbacks, it was never in any doubt as to who the supreme leader was.

Mian Nawaz Sharif is still that supreme authority but his capacity to provide a bonding at every required moment has been grossly compromised by his incarceration.

Everyday decisions pertaining to running party policies have to be taken by the relatively more free mind existing outside the walls of Kot Lakhon. The process to reach these decisions is most definitely going to shackle the minds of those who make them, given the different directions that Mr Shabbaz Sharif and Mr Maryam Nawaz took as evident in this latest two-pronged, in fact two-faced, PML-N front.

Quite often, mistakenly, the Shabbaz-Maryam situation is compared to the old and successful formula where Mr Shabbaz Sharif and Mian Nawaz Sharif were supposed to be individually, and separately, providing leadership to the PML-N.

Over the decades, analysts, comprising both, the one with ill intent and the well-wishers, have struggled to break down the ingredients of what went into the solid and lasting partnership between the Sharif brothers. One easy explanation we all relied upon for years was that it was the presence of Mian Sharif, the Sharif dynasty founder, which had kept his sons united.

When the patriarch passed away during the Sharif exile after the 1999 coup, some readily described it as the moment that was to release Mian Nawaz Sharif and Mian Shabbaz Sharif from each other's bondage. It was thought that soon they would embark on their independent journeys determined by the difference in their respective personalities. It's been some years since the alliance has survived the worst wishes that have been directed its way.

Looking for ever simpler explanations, the major, if not the clinching, reason for the contin-

ued partnership between these two politicians with distinct styles was said to be Mr Shabbaz Sharif's belief in the ultimate peace and equity. It was said that he was able to easily replace his father with his elder brother as the leader, propped up on the basis of the respect that those with more recent origins must have for their elders.

In the most celebrated local tradition of *jasiri* or *chaos* or *pairs*, allegiance by the younger to the older statements is considered absolutely essential, and as recent trends go, the Nawaz-Shabbaz pair is the most steadfast and the hardest to crack. Many other pairings seemingly unbreakable at one time, have fallen by the wayside; usually such allies were seduced or devoured by interests around them.

Like items in a scheme, this allegiance business is complemented by other matters of convention. In times, when resistance is inevitable against the old forces holding the puzzle together many old things that are not being internally targeted do come under immense pressure to survive.

And a match between the reasonable and really desirable takes an altogether new meaning when the spotlight is put back on the PML-N in its present state.

Ms Maryam Nawaz is not to challenge — even if some old observers insist that what she has put up is a facade, and a longing for a deal with the establishment is not any less pronounced in her camp in comparison with other power-chasers in the country.

Her stance is going to repeatedly bring her in confrontation — before anyone else — with the much more softly moving Mr Shabbaz Sharif. And this despite the fact that for all practical purposes the Shabbazian command of the PML-N was replaced with a Maryam takeover of the party some time ago.

A Shabbaz Sharif having yielded to much authority in his typically flamboyant style... it is a picture that is most difficult to imagine. There will have to be rationalisation here. One plank will have to retreat.

The other option is the takeover of the PML-N by one of the two factions after a clash that will be difficult to paper over with high-sounding, conventional lines. ■

The writer is Dawn's resident editor in Lahore.

OPINION

BY NIKHAT SATTAR



Beauty of the Quran

ALLOWING our senses to open up to the majesty of the universe, we are struck with its beauty and grandeur.

The activity of humankind in pursuit of livelihoods during the day and its coexistence with other species, the silence and comfort of the night as darkness engulfs the world; the companionable sounds of birds with the change of seasons and the rustling of leaves as they swing in the wind; the rows of farms and the colors of fruit, cereal and vegetables that have been sown; the water bodies that provide the lifeline for all living beings; the hills and mountain peaks covered in snow in winter that melt and run down in fresh water, are but a few signs of the inherent beauty of this world.

In the galaxies, the Quran mentions seven skies, each with its own earth and the lowest sky has been named with "lampe", the sun, moon and stars. Each is set in its orbit and revolves within it according to a set of principles. While almost all sciences depict the beauty of God's creation, it is perhaps Surah Rahman that provides a magnificent picture of the favours of the Most Merciful.

According to a hadith, "God is beautiful and the loveliest of things is that which resembles Him". As per the contemporary scholar, Khaled Abu El Fadl, what is a temporary sign of God's beauty shall perish, but His perennial beauty is eternal (Quran 55:26-27).

What can be a more beautiful manifestation of God's beauty than the book, revealed to the Prophet (PBUH) to show the people of Makkah and to others the path to beauty, to the path to God? A miracle in itself, it is beauty encapsulated in the highest of books, revealed to God's beloved Prophet.

The creation of humans is upon a basic nature or fitra, an instinctive, intuitive understanding of the differences between right and wrong and a desire for justice. When this is developed and man's arrogance and Satan's temptations are controlled, humans demonstrate higher and higher levels of beauty.

The Quran entails us to do what (the best in morality), command the maruf (that which is right) and forbid the munkar (wrong deeds). In each of these commands, the Quran instills the spirit of beauty of our souls. It asks us to be on the side of justice and speak the truth, even if it goes against our families.

One of the most beautiful gifts of God to humans only is that of rationality and intellect. By using these qualities and honing them constantly, we gradually become conscious of the beauty of the Quran. Strange

as it may sound in an era when intellectual reasoning is anathema to Muslims, this is what God has enjoined humans to exercise. "He has taught him speech (and intelligence)" (55:4).

Even for Muslims who do not understand Arabic, the rhythm of the words is evident as they flow into each other, as waves of the sea, or as springs meeting at a point and then expanding into a larger spring. There is a melody, even without the gush, that strikes at the chords of the heart, immersing oneself in the verses brings a sense of peace and tranquillity, not to be found anywhere else.

As one begins to understand the structure of its surahs, its coherence, its links to the stages of the Prophet's life, how some verses are contextual and refer only to those times, and how some are universal and need to be understood with reference to each other, one begins to decipher the meaning of the Sharia being the righteous and beautiful way. Every word of the book holds deeper meanings which are revealed to the discerning heart and mind, again and again.

How beautiful is the verse describing wives and husbands as garments for each other, having been created for love and companionship!

In one single word, protection, confidence, safety and strength have been combined to produce the reason d'être for marriage. Yet, how many people would quote this, instead of insisting upon the juristic interpretation of husbands being managers of wives?

Islamic jurists sought to interpret the verses of the Quran through existing communal and cultural practices. Once these laws were established, they seemed to be set in stone.

Muslims no longer think, seek the truth or deliberate upon the words of the Quran. Fadl suggests that in its rituals of worship, we often use the political, legal and cultural aspects of religion, while ignoring the ethical, the moral and, by extension, the beautiful.

Weighted down by our biases, arrogance, hatred, we forget mercy and compassion. We forget our search for the beautiful, we forget our search for God. ■

The writer is a freelance contributor with an interest in religion.

BY AASIM SAJJAD AKHTAR



World Cup healing?

MUCH has been made of the monetary similarities between Pakistan's ongoing Cricket World Cup campaign and the ultimately successful side captained by the current prime minister in 1992. Then too the team had a pretty decent start and Pakistanis had given up on it halfway through the tournament. Cor Inran Khan's famous cornered tiger's mantra, some inspired performances, a healthy dose of good luck, and a few wins later Pakistan were world champions. We will know in a few days whether the current vintage will repeat the dose, but it is indicative of how far professional sport, cricket included, has evolved in the ensuing three decades that the Pakistani government has a chance of winning the tournament over Afghanistan and Bangladesh. The two countries weren't even on the roster in 1992.

For most Pakistanis, it scarcely matters how we have to get past the vexing cricket match alive. For me personally — and I dare say at least some others in this land of the pure — the fact that the World Cup schedule has thrown up a must-win match with Afghanistan and Bangladesh engenders a whole lot of gamut of emotions that transcend just a desire for victory.

During the 1992 World Cup campaign, I was a teenager growing up as part of the Pakistani diaspora. I was discovering my anti-establishment self, but I had as yet not been exposed to revisionist narratives of Pakistan's political economy and history. Today, I am a profoundly different being, unable to return to the ignorance of teen-hood, and feel a deep connection with Afghans, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and anyone else who has a commitment to speaking truth to power.

That Afghanistan is playing a Cricket World Cup is itself a remarkable feat. Large parts of the country remain in the throes of violence, more than four decades of virtually uninterrupted war having decimated an imitable culture. Pakistan's desire to win the World Cup is itself a remarkable feat. Large parts of the country remain in the throes of violence, more than four decades of virtually uninterrupted war having decimated an imitable culture. Pakistan's desire to win the World Cup is itself a remarkable feat. Large parts of the country remain in the throes of violence, more than four decades of virtually uninterrupted war having decimated an imitable culture.

So, recent events suggest that intelligence and independent-minded young people who seek to move on from the history of endless war and indoctrination are still considered a threat to the status quo.

high-end scholars of power. The fact that social and corporate media alike are awash with conspiracy theories about foreign intelligence agencies — Afghan and otherwise — confirms that much has yet to change.

When Pakistan plays Afghanistan in the World Cup, perhaps such propaganda will subside for a few hours, and we can be reminded that healing is the only way for societies to move on from the realpolitik of states. Those who call for truth and reconciliation are right to reject a never-ending spiral of hate and suspicion. It is another matter altogether whether the moral force being exerted by brave and principled voices of peace in both Afghanistan and Pakistan will compel those who would pose to truly move on from the past.

And then there is Bangladesh. It is remarkable that almost 50 years after the fact, the story of Pakistan — who were once born long after the secession of the eastern wing — are virtually useless about the shared histories of Pakistan and Bangladesh, and particularly what drove Bengali-majority East Pakistan to move on from the project of Pakistan nationalism.

This time is a story full of pain and suffering, and successive generations of Bangladeshis have certainly inherited their fair share of pain given that their country's official historiography continues to play down the role of Pakistan. Yet ordinary Bangladeshis and Pakistanis can find much common cause, and at an individual level, many have done so.

But scaling up, the imperative of truth and reconciliation — the desire to see our history books still require rewriting and there must be a serious reckoning with the exclusionary nature of official nationalism and Pakistan's political economy more generally (both topics of the eastern wing's secession). Meanwhile, Bangladeshis society too remains mired in a seemingly unending battle about the legacy of national liberation and the attribution of responsibility on "villains".

In the days after the World Cup, let us hope that Pakistanis will not recall the games with Afghanistan and Bangladesh more than any other. We will celebrate a win, and lament a loss. One hopes that whatever happens, these two games kick-start a long process of healing that all players desperately need. ■

The writer teaches at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

FROM THE PAST PAGES OF DAWN

1969 Fifty years ago

Unregistered orphanages

LABORE: Almost all of the 36 orphanages which are not registered with the Social Welfare Department are in a deplorable condition and are being run on commercial basis. A survey, conducted by the agency's correspondent, revealed that no reforms have been introduced in these institutions and no positive efforts have been made to register them either by the Social Welfare Department or management of these orphanages.

These orphanages are more or less commercial ventures and management of the most of these houses are reported to have been exploiting the goodwill of the people for their personal gains thus making money at the expense of the inmates of these institutions and the general public. Orphanages in these institutions are to go out for begging and attending charity fairs, despite that the same have been prohibited by the Social Welfare Department. Living conditions in these so-called orphanages are awful and inmates are not even provided with basic facilities of education, health and recreation. Prominent social workers, when contacted, expressed concern over the alarming state of affairs prevailing in these unregistered orphanages. — Agency

1944 Seventy-five years ago

"Rally around League"

PESHAWAR: After completing their tour of the Frontier Province, members of the Committee of Action of the All-India Muslim League returned to Peshawar today [June 27] and addressed their first public meeting there.

Newsman Liaquat Ali Khan said that in Pakistan alone they could live an honorable life. No power on earth, maintained the Newsman, could prevent the Muslims their objective of Pakistan which must be achieved at any cost. He appealed to the Muslims to rally round the Muslim League.

Dealing with the food situation he said that the entire responsibility for the shortage of food in the Frontier and other Muslim majority provinces rested with the Central Government which, he complained, consisted of a Hindu majority and had no sympathy with the Muslims. He added that in spite of the Frontier Minister's repeated efforts during the last six months the Central Government were not allowing the neighbouring surplus province of the Punjab to supply adequate quantities of wheat to the Frontier province. Circumstances such as these had compelled the India Muslims to work for Pakistan. The members were later entertained at a Tea Party by the Frontier Muslim Chamber of Commerce in the Shaligram. — Dawn File

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@dawn.com

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

Biometric chaos

THE instructions given by the State Bank of Pakistan to all banks to get biometrics of account holders by June 30 is causing difficulties to millions of account holders as either the information has not been properly disseminated or they are out of the country.

Some of the account holders have changed their mobile numbers or do not possess them. As a result, one can see chaos in many banks where customers are running from pillar to post to get biometrics done and are waiting several hours in this regard.

Some bank branches lack the capacity to entertain such a large number of customers as those who have not been able to get biometrics of their accounts will have their accounts blocked even before the deadline of June 30.

The Governor of State Bank and other high officials who imposed such a clumsy instruction to enforce biometrics are least mindful of the severe ordeals faced by millions of account holders. The SBP must review such a decision and instead of blocking the accounts of customers must extend the date till Dec 31. Instead of penalising account holders for the incompetence and irrational policy on biometrics, the SBP must get out of its comfort zone and see how millions of account holders are suffering.

Prof Dr Moinis Akbar
Karachi

(2)

As per the direction of the State Bank of Pakistan, all account holders are directed to get their biometric verification done — including senior citizens. The problem is that most senior citizens don't have finger prints or the impression is barely recognisable by the biometric machines.

As a result the elderly have become restless about the biometric verification. What is even more troubling is the fact that the last date to do this is June 30. This means if the verification is not done by that time, their accounts will get blocked the following day.

I wish those making these decisions in the corridors of power would take the pains of the senior citizens into consideration. It is not easy for them to go to the bank every day to sort out a problem that exists in the roads. I hope the SBP will reconsider its decision and exempt the elderly from the verification process.

Muhammad Asim
Khawarwal

(3)

THERE exists great confusion and anxiety among the bank account holders regarding the consequences of not having biometric

verifications of their bank accounts, especially senior citizens and Pakistanis in foreign countries. They have been maintaining joint accounts in Pakistan with their relatives or friends.

In most cases, the fingerprints of account holders over the age of 70 years do not give any impression which device meant for this purpose.

However, in the case of biometric verification of mobile phone users, such citizens have got their SIMs registered in the names of their relatives which they would not dare do for their bank accounts.

Nonetheless, the joint bank account holders have faced problems where one person's verification has been completed but the other person's verification is missing because either the other holder is a senior citizen or a non-resident Pakistani in a foreign land.

It is, therefore, suggested that for the guidance of public the State Bank of Pakistan should come out in the print media with the salient features of the scheme, repercussions for non-verification and the solutions for the problems.

After having the biometric verification done, account holders are still receiving text messages on their cellphones to have the biometric verification done.

This is because either the bankers are not properly equipped with the system or they do not issue any certificate or confirmation to the account holders in this regard after completing the process.

Zahid Hassan
Karachi

Sloppy budget

THE government has unveiled the new budget, which is its first. From a holistic point of view, it is a directionless document, containing elusive targets, protects some powerful groups from higher liability and fails to address the key economic challenges.

Tax on cigarettes and sugary drinks has been nominally raised. Tax on 2,000 cc cars is kept at mere five per cent and above 2,000 cc cars at 7.5pc.

No cap is fixed on import of luxury and unnecessary foreign consumer items which have flooded the market, displacing local products and is a burden on the country's reserves.

It maintains liberalised import policy, even being revisited in some of the advanced countries. There is little focus on correcting the current account deficit, which is the mother of all economic ills.

Despite the ambitious revenue target, the budget records a large deficit which will be bridged principally through foreign loans. The vicious debt cycle will further intensify as already 50pc of the budget is going into debt servicing.

The whole exercise, in hindsight, appears futile as the will, competence

and fervor are missing. It is a shoddy piece of work prepared in haste and fails to address the country's economic challenges.

Shoaib
Karachi

Fatal cylinders

THE other day three men were injured in a fire caused by an LPG cylinder in Lahore.

I was shocked when I realized how common these tragedies have become. Every other week I hear of similar incidents. Last month, in my hometown of Swabi, something sinister took place at an LPG refilling shop — a fire lit the shopkeeper's son severely injured. I heard that the child will never be able to walk again.

I feel such incidents can be avoided if certain precautions are taken by shopkeepers. We need to raise awareness about the issue and ensure that the manner in which they handle and store the cylinders is safe.

The government and departments concerned should not turn a blind eye to this issue. They should ensure that the cylinder manufacturing factories are maintaining quality checks.

Noman Raza
Swabi

Child labour

I WOULD like to draw attention of those in power to two important issues — child abuse and child labour. Unhappily these two evils are intertwined and co-exist in every corner of our society.

As far as child labour is concerned, I think it is unforgivable to make a child work in hazardous conditions. The money these children end up making is not enough for two meals a day. It pushes me to think of the harsh conditions these young ones have to work in. I hope the government takes steps to make amendments and help these kids. We should promote education instead of forcing these children into cheap labour.

Mehra Khurshid
Karachi

"GMO tug of war"

AFRONS the opinion piece "GMO tug of war" by Zubaida Mustafa (June 8). It is regrettable that the author has distorted and misstated facts while propagating an off-peddled anti-science propaganda.

The writer states that changes in the legal framework are enabling the GM crop introduction was at the behest of "biotech giants". The fact is that Pakistan has had a long-standing policy of embracing and

promoting R and D of biotech crops since 1980s, predating any of the so-called biotech concerns. Pakistan is a member of the indigenous biotechnology research institutes and academic programmes have been in existence since 1987, conducting research on GM wheat, maize, cotton, soybean and rice.

The notion that GM maize is being introduced through relaxations in laws and rules is incorrect. The regulatory process for this technology is in line with the latest Amendment Act 2015 and Biosafety Rules 2007, fulfilling all legal requirements over the past 20 years.

The yield figures quoted by the author are incorrect. Our average yield is 3.5 MT/acre, and 5 MT/acre. While record high of 5 MT/acre can be achieved by larger farmers, smallhold farmers will only realize the potential through GM maize. Philippines, US and Brazil are growing success stories exhibiting yield increase of 72pc, 56pc and 102pc, respectively.

Contrary to the author's claim, there is consensus amongst the scientific community, the smart and internationally, on GM crop safety. This was done after rigorous regulatory scrutiny and field trials in Pakistan and across the world. Food safety authorities in the US, EU, Canada, Japan, Australia, South Korea, South Africa, amongst many others assess and approve GM crops for consumption as food and feed. The EU alone is the second largest importer of GM grain, importing 32 million tons annually.

The writer raises the much-peddlized issue of glyphosate, referring to the erroneous assessment of glyphosate as a "probable" carcinogen by a WHO subcommittee. In reality, this programme has previously courted controversy for providing the same rating to red meat, night shift work and textile factory fumes. The classification is inconsistent with 40 years of scientific research and is at odds with the findings of three other WHO safety assessment programmes.

Rather than procuring a mere 9pc of total consumption, biotech crops are increasingly utilised for exports. Therefore, it is a very small stakeholder and can easily manage production of non-GM products.

Irfan Muhammad Aftab
Executive Director
CropLife Pakistan Association
Lahore

KDA pensioners

THE Karachi Development Authority has deliberately delayed releasing pensioners to retired employees living further away from the city. It is checking that the KDA has not released pensioners since January of this year nor has there been an increase in the amount of pension. We do not know if our pensions are frozen or, worse, if they are being misused. I appeal to higher authorities to

investigate what is going on and to release our pensions as soon as possible.

This is quite troublesome for those of us over the age of 75 and reside away from the city.

A retired employee
Khapar

K-Pop fans

I WOULD like to know how many people in Pakistan enjoy listening to K-Pop — Korean Pop. I feel like the strange kid in school when I talk about BTS and other K-Pop bands and no one knows what I am talking about.

For those of you who don't know — K-Pop is a genre of pop music from South Korea. Many people who listen to K-Pop also enjoy Korean dramas. This form of music can be traced back to the 1990s and early 2000s but I got interested after listening to Psy's Gangnam Style.

Musafir
Lahore

PIA: fake degrees

THIS refers to a statement by a Senator that some relaxation should be given to PIA employees who were found having fake degrees.

This is the height of moral sickness. May Allah have mercy on our country where such members are at the helm of government affairs.

Name withheld on request
Karachi

Correction

IN our issue of June 27 the letter titled "Biometric verification" was written by Dr Mansoor Hussain, whose name appeared mistakenly in the letter on "Polo virus", which was written by Yasira Manzoor. The mistakes are regretted.

Readers' Editor

IN keeping with the internationally recognised practice of giving journalists, Dawn has its own internal ombudsman — Dawn Readers' Editor (DRE). The idea is to attend to our readers' complaints, and to respond to them professionally. DRE is the investigating authority to whom all complaints are referred, and it is DRE who takes notice of any alleged violations of Dawn's code of ethics. Email: readers.editor@dawn.com Fax (021) 3568 9343

BUSINESS

Govt to collect additional taxes worth Rs516bn: Azhar

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Revenue Hassan Azhar on Thursday explained that of the total Rs1.5 trillion increase in tax target for the next fiscal year, the government has introduced additional taxes worth Rs516 billion.

The remaining amount will be collected through withdrawal of subsidies, rationalisation of exemptions and revival of taxes that were not collected due to different reasons in the past, he said while speaking in the National Assembly.

The government has set an anti-inflation revenue collection target of Rs5.5 trillion for the upcoming fiscal year.

He informed the assembly about the steps taken by the government to broaden its base including the integration of data on around 55 million individuals with the Federal Board of

Revenue (FBR) database in the 10 months. He said the data will be accessible on Nadra and FBR portals.

Moreover, he said the benami rules were also implemented and the government has successfully secured data of around 152,000 offshore accounts under Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD) agreement.

He said the valuation rates for property were also rationalised to bring them in line with the market rates.

Shortcomings in the Customs Department were removed to overcome the problem of undervaluation and overvaluation.

He said under the free trade agreement, FBR was getting real-time data for exports from China — Pakistan's biggest trading partner.

Azhar said the government is also

moving away from collection of withholding taxes and had reduced duties and taxes on thousands of industrial inputs.

He added that in the budget for upcoming fiscal year, duties were either abolished or reduced to three per cent on 1,650 industrial inputs.

The minister pointed out that FBR had failed to achieve the desired results from reforms in 2013-14, hence, this time around the revenue authority would again undertake a reworking project with the help of \$400 million from the World Bank and benchmarks with tangible performance-based targets.

He said the accurate figure for internal and external borrowings in the year was Rs2.40. He said the government has also reduced the current account deficit by 30pc.

He added that the government had taken away powers from FBR to attach accounts and withdrew millions of rupees from taxpayers besides it was also stripped of authority to raid houses and businesses without permission from their top officer.

Data integration of the FBR, implementation of benami rules, information on OECD offshore accounts and improved market evaluation would help collect taxes, he added.

He said the sales tax on sugar was increased from 11pc to 17pc which would result in an increase of Rs3.5 per kg price of one sugar bag.

On ending the distinction between filer and non-filer on transactions of more than Rs5m for purchases property, he said the government took the step to create a better environment for industries and businesses.

Azhar said the market exchange rate did not mean free float as the government would keep a vigilant eye on market fundamentals and would not allow depletion of reserves below a certain level.

The minister said that many road projects would be undertaken in South Punjab including Indus Highway connecting Rajapur and Dera Ghazi Khan and M. M. Alam Road connecting eight districts from Multan and Bahawalpur to Larkana.

He explained that it was wrong to say that the education budget was reduced as development expenditure of Higher Education Commission was lifted by 35pc and Rs14bn were allocated for knowledge economy, data connectivity and information technology in research institutes and universities.

He pointed out that the previous government gave a figure of Rs11bn on paper for health projects without conducting any feasibility as they only handed over Rs10m in provisions for immunisation programme and federal health programme was increased from Rs10bn to Rs14bn.

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SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING TACTICS

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'Trade tensions put energy transition at risk'

LONDON: Trade tensions risk throwing the global economy's transition to greener energy into disarray and could hurt energy companies' preparations towards it, BP Chairman Helge Lund said as leaders of the world's largest economies gathered in Japan.

Lund, in his first interview since taking office in January, said BP would rather see a rapid, orderly phasing out of fossil fuels than a delayed and disorganised transition.

The former chief executive of Norwegian oil group Equinor said BP as well as rivals such as Royal Dutch Shell and ExxonMobil would have a vital role to play to ensure a successful transition to low-carbon economies.

"It is better for us to see a path that goes rapidly," Lund said. "It will be very difficult for the oil and gas companies but that is a better and a preferred solution than an uncontrolled sudden change maybe 10, 15 years into the future."

Lund added BP, like some of its peers, has taken steps towards meeting the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement to limit global warming, including setting targets to reduce carbon emissions from its operations, link them to managers' pay and ensure that investments are in line with the accord.

But many investors say BP will have to do more, including tackling emissions from the fuels and products it sells to millions of customers daily, known as Scope 2 emissions, to prevent a catastrophic rise in global temperatures.

Lund said however that such Scope 2 targets would tie BP's hands to make future investments, whether in renewable energy or oil and gas. He nevertheless said the company's thinking around Scope 3 was likely "to evolve over time."

BP invested around \$500 million in renewable power, electric vehicle charging points and other low-carbon technologies last year, a fraction of its annual spending of \$15 billion.

A rise in the pressure on companies and governments to do more to curb greenhouse gases is rising as carbon emission levels show no sign of decreasing.

Investors managing more than \$34 trillion in assets, nearly half the world's invested capital, this week demanded target action from governments on climate change, piling pressure on leaders of the world's 20 big economies meeting this week.

France has said it will not accept a final G20 communiqué that does not mention the Paris climate change agreement.

"The long-term framework around the energy transition is important. Over time it is much harder for big companies like BP if we have a stable global framework for trade and investments," Lund said Reuters at BP's London headquarters.

Lund said an unprecedented level of cooperation was needed between companies and governments to bring greenhouse gas emissions to zero by the end of the century.

He urged governments to introduce a price on carbon emissions to allow phasing out fossil fuels, even though only a handful of such schemes have been introduced around the world.

Sound investment

BP has faced a wave of protests by climate activists, including a blockade on its London office and protests at events the company sponsors.

But investors, including Norway's sovereign wealth fund, are reviewing shareholdings in some oil and gas drillers, though not in BP and its largest rivals.

Lund, who took part in discussions on a climate resolution with a group of investors earlier this year, believes most investors understand that modern societies are almost built on hydrocarbons.

BP forecasts that even with a rapid increase in wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy, fossil fuels will account for the majority of energy supply for decades to come.

Lund also warned that attempts to curb fossil fuels too fast could harm societies.

"It takes time to change energy systems... If you try to build down the oil and gas industry quicker than you can build up a carbon neutral system you will pull societies back."

Lund said large oil companies would be vital for the transition due to their large balance sheets, technical expertise and innovation skills. "To be a strong contributor in the long term we have to stay financially strong, we have to be a good investment," he Reuters.

Gold rises to Rs81,500

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: With an increase of one dollar per ounce to \$1,405 in world gold price and further rupee devaluation against the dollar, the All South Asia Jewellery Association (ASJA) issued a new record price of Rs81,500 per tola and Rs69,572 per gram for local gold, up by Rs500 and Rs428 over Wednesday.

From Jan 1 to date, per tola and per 10 gram rates have moved by Rs12,780 and Rs11,744, respectively. A gold trader said trading in jewellery items continues to fade as persistent increase in price has kept buyers away from the markets.



US President Donald Trump arrives at Osaka International Airport in Osaka on Thursday — AFP

Feisty Trump sets tone as stormy G20 looms

Demand withdrawal of India's 'unacceptable' tariff hike

OSAKA: US President Donald Trump set the tone on Thursday for what promises to be a stormy G20 summit by leading out at friends and foes alike over trade tariffs and foreign policy.

The 43-year-old US-China trade war looked set to dominate the two-day meeting of world leaders in Osaka from Friday but clashes also loomed over climate and human rights including North Korea and Iran.

On board Air Force One en route to Japan, Trump fired off a characteristically belated tweet, chiding long-standing ally India for "unacceptable" tariffs on American goods.

"India, for years having put very high Tariffs against the United States, just recently increased the Tariffs even further. This is unacceptable and the Tariffs must be withdrawn," tweeted Trump.

India stepped higher duties on 28 US products after the United States on Wednesday raised duties on certain Indian goods.

Washington is also upset with New Delhi's plans to restrict cross-border data flows and impose stricter rules on e-commerce that hurt US firms operating in India.

"I look forward to speaking with Prime Minister Modi about the fact that India, for years having put very high tariffs

against the United States, just recently increased the tariffs even further," Trump said on Twitter.

"This is unacceptable and the tariffs must be withdrawn," said Trump, who will meet Modi at this week's G20 summit in Japan.

Government sources rejected Trump's argument, saying Indian tariffs were not that high compared to other developed countries and U.S. tariffs on some items were much higher.

India's trade ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters email seeking comment.

Trump's tweet came hours after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo left New Delhi after meeting Modi.

Pompeo had said the nations were "friends who can help each other all around the world" and the current differences were expressed "in the spirit of friendship."

In one tweet, though, Trump may have badly undermined Pompeo's efforts to reduce friction between the two countries.

Trump in May scrapped trade privileges for India under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), under which New Delhi was the biggest beneficiary that allowed duty-free exports of up to \$5.6 billion.

The US president had earlier taken aim at China, saying Beijing wanted to do a deal because the world's number two economy was "going down the tubes".

Furious at what he sees as an unfair advantage in the trading system, Trump has already hit Beijing with \$200 billion in levies on Chinese imports and appeared to threaten more.

"You have another \$325 billion that I haven't taxed yet — it's ripe for taxing, for putting tariffs on," he said in an interview with Fox Business Network.

Chinese President Xi Jinping touched down in Osaka several hours before Trump in driving rain as a potential typhoon edges towards Japan. The two leaders are expected to meet on Saturday in Beijing, commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said that China's attitude was "very clear".

"He consistently oppose the bullying trade tactic of unilaterally slapping on tariffs," said Gao.

Most experts say a formal deal is unlikely at the summit due to a lack of time to prepare the complex issues involved and believe a ceasefire and commitment to keep talking is the most likely outcome.

"I would be very, very surprised if they could work out all of these complicated disagreements in the next few days," said David Dollar, a China expert at the Washington-based Brookings Institution.

"I think if Xi Jinping and President Trump have some negotiations... that will have a very positive impact on the world economy," Naoyuki Yoshino, head of the Asian Development Bank Institute, said — Agencies

Industry lashes out at govt for rapid rupee dive

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Business community has expressed grave concern over the rapid rupee devaluation and termed it devastating to the country's economy.

"The surge in dollar price will badly affect manufacturing sector as raw material prices and cost of doing business continue shooting up," said Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) in a press release on Thursday.

The rupee devaluation is contributing towards high inflation and slowing down growth by adversely impacting all the important sectors of economy. The dollar price will lead to increased import costs and hike in fuel prices.

"The unhealed rise in the greenback rates is multiplying the cost of doing business and badly affecting industrial, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors as Pakistan has to import fertilisers, food items, oil, machinery and industrial raw material."

The LCCI issued a policy statement from the government on dollar price as heavy devaluations in a single day would hamper trade and economic activities, besides jacking up inflation to unsustainable level.

SBP reserves dip to \$7.28bn

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) fell by \$122 million to \$7.28 billion on the week ended June 21, said the bank in a news release on Thursday.

Of the total reserves in the country, the ratio of holdings with central bank and commercial banks has fallen to 51:49 per cent compared to 50:50pc on Mar 29.

The rising level of foreign exchange reserves with the commercial banks — at \$7,069m as of June 21 — indicates the interest among investors to buy greenback as the rupee continues to depreciate.

The rupee has lost more than 42pc since May 2018.

However, reserves with the SBP are declining mainly on account of debt servicing that has hit \$1.08bn by the end of this fiscal year to meet the huge current account deficit.

With the fall of 35:45m in the country's import bill, the current account deficit is expected to stay at \$1.08bn by the end of this fiscal year compared to \$1.19bn last year.

Currency dealers, who are reluctant to sell the greenback due to declining value of local currency, said that people want to buy dollars to save their reserves and get profits.

"We will sell dollars at this time while the price has been increasing every day," asked a dealer in the open market.

Stocks lose 314 points on economic concerns

By Our Equities Correspondent

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

THE TOP FIVE					ACTIVITY
GAINERS		LOSERS		LEADERS	
Suppine Fiber	37.00	Phep Morris Pak	198.33	K-Electric Ltd	25
Indus Motor Co	34.38	Nestle Pakistan	132.13	Pak. Election	8
Alkerm Ltd	16.07	Colgate Palmolive	29.99	Fed. Fert. Em. KD	6
Auctus Pak	10.50	Bata Pak	29.55	Bank of Punjab KD	6
EFU Life Ass	10.17	Mari Petroleum	21.49	Maple Leaf	5

(All share values in rupees)

(* denotes in millions of listed shares)

INDICATORS			
	Thursday	Previous	Change
KSE 100-SHARE INDEX (Points)	33,778.43	34,092.56	▼ 314.13
KSE 30-SHARE INDEX (Points)	10,079.80	10,083.37	▼ 3.57
MARKET CAPITAL (\$billion)	6,857.118	6,915.686	▼ 58.568
TRADING VOLUME (\$billion)	4.374	4.885	▼ 0.511

weighed in on industrial sectors. The federal government approved rise in gas tariffs by up to 19pc and electricity prices by Rs1.50 per unit to comply with the International Monetary Fund conditions.

Investors held their breath as IMF executive board is scheduled to meet on July 3 to consider three-year 'extended fund facility' of \$6 billion for Pakistan.

The overvalued local currency was the chief concern for the IMF.

the value of rupee against the dollar. Sector-wise, fertilisers, major bank, Suggs with Fertiliser down 9pc, Engro Fertiliser 2pc. Among automobiles, Honda Atlas Cars fell 4pc and Pak Suzuki fell 9pc. Lower bank, Banking sector saw price revision in heavyweights Habib and United Bank, with the former hitting its recent low.

The volume of 1.35 million shares, from 159.6m while traded value also declined by 7.5pc to \$27.7m.

Stocks that contributed negatively included Pakistan Petroleum, decreasing by 44 points, Fertiliser 40 points, Habib Bank 35 points, Pak. Power 29 points and Engro Corporation 25 points. Sectors that presided more losses included Indus Motor, increasing by 30 points, Auctus Pak 9 points, Fertiliser 8 points, Alkerm 7 points and Habib Metro 7 points.

COMMODITIES

Cotton market steady

By Our Staff Correspondent

MULTAN: Prices on the cotton market stayed stable on Thursday though the steady arrival remained down consecutively for the second day. The Karachi Cotton Association also kept its spot rate on fixed at Rs4,400.

Prices were recorded between the range of Rs3,500-4,100.

Cotton experts said gharri arrival remained limited as growers have halted the picking process due to low prices currently being offered. However, spot arrival has resulted in price stability.

According to experts, Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research in April had asked the government to set minimum support price for cotton to ensure that growers earn reasonable profit on their crop. However, so far the government has ignored the recommendations. The government should intervene to safeguard and protect the interests of cotton growers who are worried because declining trend in the prices of cotton, they added.

According to sources, growers in Punjab are retreating to realize while there is steady arrival for sugarcane. This is an alarming situation and will cause losses to the country's economy, the sources added.

Meanwhile the Punjab government has announced to constitute cotton retail committee which will comprise of cotton growers, cotton scientists, government officials and experts. The committee will devise both short and long-term policies.

The following transactions were reported to have changed hands on the weekly contract 400 bales, Sindh, Rs4,200; 2,000 bales, Baluchistan, Rs4,400; 200 bales, Baluchistan, Rs4,400; 200 bales, Hyderabad, Rs4,250; 600 bales, Sindh, Rs4,500; 5,000 and 1,400 bales, Tando Adam, Rs4,300-4,500.

The following are Thursday's Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) official spot rates for the crop (2018-19) local dealings in Pak rupees for base grade 3 staple length 1-1/16" moisture value between 5.8 to 6.5%:

Rate for	Ex-Gst Price	Upcountry Expenses	Spot rate Ex-Karachi
37.324kg	8,450	160	8,560
Equivalent 40kg	9,002	171	9,173

Palm oil drops

SINGAPORE: Malaysian palm oil futures slid for a sixth consecutive session on Thursday with prices trading near seven-month lows, weighed down by slowing demand.

The benchmark third month palm oil contract on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange finished down 9.2 per cent, or 5 ringgit, at 1,364 ringgit (\$474.93) per tonne. "Demand is slowing down but we don't see a major downside from here. Prices are likely to be locked in a range," said a Kuala Lumpur-based trader. "The focus going forward is the Indian monsoon and whether rains in the United States." Malaysian rains have covered most parts of state, cotton, and soybean fields in western India and some parts of rice-sowing areas in central and northern India, the country's weather office said. After a long dry spell, rains have covered nearly half of the country, Reuters.

PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Symbol	High	Low	Opening	Closing	Change
CLOSE-END MUTUAL FUND					
Colon Fund	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00
Colon Fund	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00
MODARABAS					
Modarabas	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Modarabas	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Modarabas	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Modarabas	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
LEASING COMPANIES					
Leasing	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Leasing	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Leasing	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Leasing	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
IN BANKS/IN COS/SECURITIES COS					
Bank	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Bank	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Bank	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Bank	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
COMMERCIAL BANKS					
Bank	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Bank	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Bank	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Bank	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
INSURANCE					
Insurance	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Insurance	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Insurance	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Insurance	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
TEXTILE SPINNING					
Textile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Textile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Textile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Textile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
TEXTILE COMPOSITE					
Textile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Textile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Textile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Textile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
SYNTHETIC & RAYON					
Synthetic	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Synthetic	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Synthetic	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Synthetic	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
SUGAR & ALLIED INDUSTRIES					
Sugar	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Sugar	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Sugar	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Sugar	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
CEMENT					
Cement	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Cement	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Cement	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Cement	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
TOBACCO					
Tobacco	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Tobacco	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Tobacco	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Tobacco	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
REFINERY					
Refinery	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Refinery	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Refinery	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Refinery	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
POWER GEN & DISTRIBUTION					
Power	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Power	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Power	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Power	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
OIL & GAS EXPLORATION COMPANIES					
Oil	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Oil	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Oil	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Oil	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
ENGINEERING					
Engineering	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Engineering	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Engineering	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Engineering	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
AUTOMOBILE ASSEMBLER					
Automobile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Automobile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Automobile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Automobile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
AUTOMOBILE PARTS & ACCESSORIES					
Automobile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Automobile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Automobile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Automobile	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
GLASS & CERAMICS					
Glass	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Glass	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Glass	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Glass	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
CABLE & ELECTRICAL GOODS					
Cable	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Cable	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Cable	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Cable	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS					
Miscellaneous	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Miscellaneous	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Miscellaneous	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00
Miscellaneous	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00

MARKETS

FOREX

	Interbank market*		Open market**	
	Buying	Selling	Buying	Selling
USA	163.80	164.50	163.50	164.50
UK	199.12	200.04	204.50	207.50
Euro	185.74	186.58	184.50	187.50
S.Arabia	43.55	43.84	43.30	43.80
UAE	44.50	44.66	44.30	44.80
Japan	1.4607	1.4674	1.4800	1.5200

BULLION

	Gold	Silver
KARACHI (24K)	69,672	780.17
MULTAN (24K)	68,700	763.00
LAHORE (24K)	70,730	745.00

OIL

	Spot rates (per barrel)
Dubai crude	64.32
Brish Brent	66.38
US WTI	59.36

KIBOR

	Rate	Other
Three months	12.71	12.96
Six months	12.65	13.10
One year	13.11	13.61

LIBOR

	Special US dollar
Three months	2.3298%
Six months	2.1997%

GLOBAL MARKETS

DOW JONES	26,515.42	0.06%
FTSE 100	7,402.33	0.19%
DAX	12,271.03	0.21%
CAC	5,500.72	0.00%
NIKKEI	21,338.17	1.19%
HSI	28,621.42	1.42%
BSE	39,586.41	0.01%

KARACHI PORT

BERTHO	DEPARTURES	TURNOVER
• Deepen Tugline	• George M	Total tonnage
• MT Shalimar	• James Rennie	Export cargo
		Import cargo

PORT QASIM

BERTHO	DEPARTURES	TURNOVER
• Fides	• Gemma	Total tonnage
• Parana	• Mignone	Export cargo
• Genovese	• Wapiti	Import cargo
• Commercial Bank	• Brown Bessie	
• Local	• Parana	

Controversial South America-Europe trade deal 'up in the air'

BRUSSELS: A blockbuster trade deal between Europe and South America remained uncertain on Thursday as key negotiators tried to shake a two-week stalemate and deliver a blow against Trump-led protectionism.

Ministers from the South American trade bloc known as Mercosur were locked into a second day of negotiations with top EU officials in hopes of sealing what would be one of the world's biggest regional trade deals.

The EU has been in talks with the countries of Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) for two decades, with talks stumbling repeatedly over the highly sensitive beef market, with cattle farmers in Europe furiously against any deal. "A political agreement today or

tomorrow is possible... There may also be no agreement at all. It's still up in the air," said a source close to the negotiations.

An EU spokeswoman said reports there have been "constructive exchanges", but refused to comment further given the sensitivity of the talks.

Anticipation of a potential deal comes amid increased political opposition in Europe, with beef farmers joined by activists in demanding an immediate halt to talks over fears of deforestation of the rainforest.

"And the growing unrest, cracks have emerged from within European governments with the leaders of France, Ireland, Belgium and Poland expressing their concerns for farming to European

Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

Pro-trade members meanwhile have staunchly backed the deal, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday insisting that a deal would boost Europe's economy and ultimately benefit the rainforest in Brazil.

"The political context is quite charged in Europe. The anti-trade rhetoric is strong in many countries, including pro-trade ones," said an EU diplomat.

The tricky discussions could also continue at the leader level at the two-day G20 summit in Osaka, Japan where Merkel was set to meet Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro.

The increasingly acrimonious debate resembled the pushback against a highly ambitious trade

deal with the United States, known as TTIP, that triggered mass protests in Germany, Austria and France a year ago.

The main obstacle since 1999 has been European reluctance to open its market to beef and other farming goods and more recently differences have emerged with Brazil over trading meat, sugar and automobiles.

EU sources said European await progress from the South Americans on geographical indications that protect European products such as cheese and Manchego cheese and especially on the opening up of their automotive sector.

The EU would very much like to see the deal passed before the end of the current commission's term later this year.—AFP

Spanish court rules Deliveroo riders are employees

MADRID: A Spanish court ruled on Thursday that online food delivery group Deliveroo wrongly listed 97 riders as self-employed contractors instead of as regular workers, which costs less for the firm.

Brought by Spain's social security system, the case involves riders in Valencia on Spain's eastern Mediterranean coast and is one of the several being fought by Deliveroo and other gig economy groups like Uber in Spain and various other countries over whether workers should be classified as employees.

Online food platforms have blossomed worldwide, allowing people to order from local restaurants via mobile phones, with dishes delivered to their homes or offices shortly afterwards, often by young bicycle couriers.

Spain's social security system had claimed unpaid social contributions from Deliveroo after tax inspectors ruled that the riders in Valencia were in fact employees of the British online food delivery firm.—AFP



AND SO THE INTELLIGENT CONVERSATION BEGINS...

SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS: EOS

PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIETY, CULTURE, IDEAS.

COVER: REVERSING REC REFORMS

Part of the problems of higher education here is to do with the government throwing money at problems rather than strategizing and making smart investments. A former Planning Commission member warns that an effort is underway to undermine much-needed reforms at the Higher Education Commission.

COMMUNITY: NEITHER HINDU NOR MUSLIM

Marginalized by the Hindu caste system, the Bheds of Adilpur have been ostracized in Muslim towns in their quest for belonging and identity.

ARTSPEAK: ART AND THE STATE

Bollywood has been on the margins of the art world and why it is still so-called.

BOOKS & AUTHORS: The Quince Library Festival and the

Audience Engagement Matrix, Mohd. Nasseem, Aliya A. Ghorshi and Nadeem Raza's The Economy of Madness Shafi and Syed Nazeem Haq on Whether All Rites Come to a End.

PLUS: Nadeem F. Paracha on Egypt and the Muslim Brotherhood, the

Salween's Colorful Past and Their First of Ramadan, Reclaiming Iraq 55 Years, Rahana and Shafiq's Personal Collection, Maryam Aslam's Tips for Raising, Deborah Neel's Gardening, Austin Agui and Scott Chong.

THE ICON INTERVIEW: ENHAB IRFANI

The model-turned-actress is adding blood to the rest of a blossoming TV acting career. But why does her last acting role not come naturally to her? And what does she want to do with her acting?

THE ICON REVIEWS: BAALI AND KATAKSHA

Our take on the latest Pakistani film releases.

PLUS: Reviews of Pinar's Joy Story 4, Luc Besson's Atonement and The Hindu, Con Michael Jackson's Legacy Endure!, The Expressions, The Tale and Peter Chong.

Australian student feared detained in North Korea

SYDNEY: Australia said it was "urgently seeking clarification" on Thursday over the fate of a 29-year-old tour guide and student feared detained in North Korea.

Alek Sigley — who speaks fluent Korean and is one of only a handful of Western students living in Pyongyang — is believed to have been detained sometime in the last three days.

In a statement, Sigley's family said there was no confirmation yet that he had been arrested. "The situation is that Alek has not been in digital contact with friends and family since Tuesday morning," the statement said.

Sigley, from Perth in Western Australia, had been studying Korean literature at Kim Il Sung University since 2018, while running a company specialising in tours of North Korea. He married a Japanese woman in a ceremony in Pyongyang last year.

Sigley has written various blog posts and articles about everyday life in Pyongyang — focusing on everything from the city's scenic views to the Korean app reviews and steering well clear of sensitive political issues.

Canberra said it was "urgently seeking clarification" on a man "who has been reported as being detained in North Korea".

Australia has no diplomatic mission of its own in Pyongyang and is represented in North Korea by the Swedish embassy.

The vast majority of foreign students in North Korea come from China, where education is significantly more expensive.

The son of an Anglo-Australian man and Chinese mother, he previously studied at Fudan University in Shanghai and in South Korea before moving to Pyongyang, according to his post.

"I'm enrolled in a master's degree in Korean literature in the university's postgraduate school. Because I am the only foreign student in this particular programme, my courses are all conducted one-on-one with the teacher," he wrote.

In contrast to popular perceptions about Pyongyang, Sigley described a life chatting with Chinese exchange students, drinking with Russian students and playing video games and going to rent apartments with students from Canada and Sweden.

In an article for the Guardian newspaper published in late March, Sigley said he had "nearly unimpeded access" to Pyongyang at a long-term foreign residence.

"I'm free to wander around the city, without anyone accompanying me," he wrote. "I can shop and dine almost anywhere I want," he wrote. —AFP

More arrests as Germany widens probe of pro-migrant official's murder

BERLIN: German police have made two more arrests related to the assassination-style murder of a pro-migrant politician, allegedly by a far-right extremist, federal prosecutors said on Thursday.

The killing of Walter Lübcke, who was shot in the head at his home on June 2, has sent shockwaves through Germany and raised fresh questions about the country's response to the rising threat from neo-Nazis.

In the latest arrest, a suspect identified only as Elmar J. 64, was detained for acting in 2016 the weapon — a .38 calibre handgun — allegedly used by murderer suspect Stephan Ernst, who has confessed to the crime.

The second man, Markus H. 43, is held on suspicion that he set up the contact between the gun-seller and Ernst.

The federal prosecutor's office said in a statement the two men, both Germans, were arrested on charges of "aiding and abetting murder" and would appear before an investigating magistrate at the Federal Court of Justice.

"The suspect that both of the accused knew about the far-right views" of the murder suspect, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office told reporters. "And we assume that they also thought it was possible and accepted that [Ernst] would use the weapon for a politically motivated killing at a later time."

But the spokesman said there was no indication that they knew Ernst, 45, was planning to murder Lübcke, who was head of the Kassel city administration.

Lübcke was an outspoken defender of Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to welcome refugees and in 2015 drew the wrath of right-wing extremists by telling German media that they could leave the country. —AFP



ABUJAN (Nigeria): Multiple literary prizewinner. French-born writer Alysia Edwards at a book fair. From the Rwandan genocide to the Ebola epidemic and the return of the diaspora to the African continent, the French-born writer has established herself in the literary landscape by capturing the major issues of her time. —AFP



BROOKLYN (New York, US): Alysia Edwards performs onstage during the opening ceremony of WorldPride 2019 at Barclays Center on Tuesday. New York's highly anticipated World Pride festivities officially opened with a benefit concert hosted by actor Whoopi Goldberg and featuring singer Cyndi Lauper. —AFP



TUNISIAN President Beji Caïd Essebbi. —AFP

Twin suicide attacks rock Tunisian capital

TUNIS: Double suicide attacks shook Tunisia's capital on Thursday, even as the country was plunged into uncertainty with the hospitalisation of President Beji Caïd Essebbi who was said to be "seriously ill".

The violence revived fears for the stability of the North African state, which is seen as a rare democratic success story of the Arab Spring uprisings but has been hit by repeated Islamist attacks.

Thursday's blasts — one on a central avenue and another against a security base — killed a police officer and wounded at least eight people including several civilians, the interior ministry said.

Body parts were strewn on the road around a police car after the first attack, which took place on Habib Bourguiba, a central avenue near the old city. The interior ministry said a policeman died from his wounds after that blast, while another policeman and three civilians were wounded.

"It was a suicide attack," interior ministry spokesman Sofiane Zeng said.

Half an hour later, the second attack targeted a base of the national

guard, judicial police and the anti-terror branch in the capital.

"An individual threw himself up outside the back door" of the base, wounding four security personnel, Zeng said, adding that both bombers were men.

Ambulances and emergency services vehicles quickly arrived on the scene as security forces tried to keep the curious away.

Body parts lay on the sidewalk near the police vehicle that was targeted, including the head and feet of the bomber. Just hours after news of the attacks broke, the presidency announced that Essebbi "was taken seriously ill and transferred to the military hospital in Tunis".

Key adviser Firas Ghafech described the 62-year-old leader as in "critical condition" and in a later tweet said that Essebbi was "stable", urging supporters to pray for his recovery.

Prime Minister Youssef Chahed said on Facebook he had paid a visit to the ailing president.

"I would like to reassure Tunisians that the president is receiving the necessary care," he said, warning against the dissemination of "false and con-

fusing information".

Essebbi, the country's first democratically elected president, came to power in 2014, three years after the Arab Spring uprising toppled longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and sparked results in several Arab nations.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks.

Upcoming elections

Sofiane Mili, spokesman for the anti-terror prosecutors, said the suicide bombers wore explosive vests.

The twin attacks also came ahead of presidential and legislative elections, scheduled for October and November.

In April Essebbi said he did not plan to stand for re-election in order to make way for someone younger.

The veteran politician and adviser to Habib Bourguiba, the father of Tunisia's independence from France, holding a number of key jobs under him and later under Ben Ali.

"Tunisia, the cradle of the Arab Spring uprisings, has been hit by repeated Islamist attacks since the 2011 overthrow of Ben Ali. —AFP

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Carroll's claims were published in an article published on Thursday that had told them about it at the time.

Speaking to The New York Times, they said Carroll told them Trump had overpowered her in a Berghel Goodman New York department store dressing room in late 1976 or early 1996 and penetrated her in an elevator lasting several minutes.

The women, author Lisa Randall and former news anchor Carol Martin, said they had given conflicting advice following the attack on Carroll, a long-time advice columnist for *Elle* magazine, on whether she should report the assault.

Trump has denied the accusation, saying the encounter never happened. More than a dozen women have accused Trump, 73, of making unwanted sexual advances in the

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Indonesian court upholds President Widodo's victory

JAKARTA: Indonesia's constitutional court on Thursday rejected a bid to overturn President Joko Widodo's re-election victory and dismissed his defeated challenger's claims of widespread voter fraud as groundless.

The court threw out the case lodged by opposition Prabowo Subianto, saying he did not prove he lost the April vote because of widespread cheating and voter fraud — allegations that sparked deadly rioting in the capital of the world's third-biggest democracy. "The plaintiff's case is legally groundless," said chief Justice Anwar Usman. "We reject [his] demand in its entirety."

The ruling paves the way for Widodo and vice-presidential running mate Ma'ruf Amin to be inaugurated later this year.

"Thank you to the Constitutional Court which has settled the election dispute openly and transparently," the 58-year-old Widodo said in a televised address. "I'm calling on all Indonesians to come together to develop our nation."

In the course of a hearing that stretched over nine hours, the panel painstakingly described many of the allegations — including vote buying and that biased civil servants favoured Widodo — as baseless.

The court, which questioned the quality of the evidence and credibility of witnesses, said voter-fraud claims were the responsibility of Indonesia's election supervisory agency and beyond its jurisdiction.

Subianto claimed the vote was plagued by "systematic, structured and massive" electoral fraud that cost him victory. His lawyers sought to overturn the official results that declared Widodo the winner with 55.5 per cent of votes, against Subianto's 44.5 per cent.

After the ruling, Subianto said he would consider his options. "This ruling is very disappointing for us and our supporters but we agreed we will comply with and follow the constitution," he said in a televised address. "I will consult with my legal team," he added.

For Subianto, who lost a similar court battle in 2014 when Widodo defeated him, has little recourse, according to constitutional law expert Rofly Harun. "If the claim is rejected, then it's game over," he said before the ruling.

Some 47,000 police and army personnel were deployed around the court and other parts of central Jakarta amid fears of more unrest, but there was little sign of violent demonstrations on Thursday. —AFP

Fresh protests hit Hong Kong

HONG KONG: Protesters in Hong Kong blocked roads and forced workers to leave the justice secretary's offices on Thursday in the latest unrest to rock the city over an extradition bill that has now been suspended.

Millions have thronged the streets in the past three weeks to demand that the bill, which would allow criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial in courts controlled by the Chinese Communist Party, be scrapped altogether.

"You know what every body has deep in their hearts — it is that this is about our future and it's very personal," said 53-year-old Brian Kwok, who was attending the protests.

In the early hours, riot police wielding batons and shields chased dozens of protesters as they broke up a stamp of police headquarters.

By nightfall on Thursday, only around 200 protesters remained. Black-clad and masked, they sat peacefully outside

government headquarters. The demonstrators have seized on this week's G20 summit of world leaders in Japan to appeal for Hong Kong's plight to be put on the agenda, a move certain to rile Beijing, which has vowed not to tolerate such disruption.

"We know that the G20 is coming. We want to grasp this opportunity to voice for ourselves," said Jacky Cheung, 36, a theatre technician who took a day off work to protest.

Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam, who has kept a low profile since her latest political apology over a week ago, bowed to public pressure and suspended the bill a day after the violent protests but stopped short of cancelling the measure outright and rejected repeated calls to step down.

Opponents of the extradition bill fear being placed at the mercy of a justice system rights group say is plagued by torture, forced confessions and arbitrary detentions. —Reuters

Two women back new assault allegation against Trump

WASHINGTON: Two women have backed up writer E. Jean Carroll's account of an alleged sexual attack by President Donald Trump more than 20 years ago, both saying in an interview published on Thursday that had told them about it at the time.

Speaking to The New York Times, they said Carroll told them Trump had overpowered her in a Berghel Goodman New York department store dressing room in late 1976 or early 1996 and penetrated her in an elevator lasting several minutes.

The women, author Lisa Randall and former news anchor Carol Martin, said they had given conflicting advice following the attack on Carroll, a long-time advice columnist for *Elle* magazine, on whether she should report the assault.

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GUADALAJARA (Mexico): A tourist takes a selfie in front of the neo-classical Mexican theatre Teatro Degollado. —AFP

Selfies: five times more deadly than shark attacks

SELFIES, which have become a global sensation in the last decade or so, have remarkably killed five times more people than shark attacks. And the death toll has crept up incrementally each year as smart phones become more sophisticated and selfie-sticks increase the range at which people can snap themselves, prompting them to take bigger risks for the perfect shot.

Between October 2011 and November 2017, at least 259 people died taking selfies around the globe, according to India's *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care*, compared to just 50 people killed by sharks in the same period.

While women take the most selfies, young men, who are more prone to take risks, make up three quarters of

the selfie deaths — in drownings, crashes, falls or shooting accidents. India, with a population of more than 1.3bn and 800m cell phones, holds the record for the number of people dying in the art of photographing themselves, with 159 recorded so far. India has seen selfie-snapping groups of youths die when they were hit by a train or drowning when their boat sank at the moment they were taking the shot. The situation has become so dire that India has set up "no selfie" zones — 16 of them in Mumbai city alone. The country came in far ahead of Russia (16 deaths), the United States (14) and Pakistan.

In January, Taiwanese social media celebrity Gigi Wei — known as the

"Bikini Climber" for taking selfies on top of mountain peaks dressed in a bikini — died when she fell into a ravine. She was 36. Even when they are not fatal, selfies can be extremely costly. In 2014, a Brazilian woman sparked rage online when she took a smiling selfie in front of the coffin of presidential candidate Eduardo Campos at his funeral. Facing the mad frenzy of online selfies, Vienna has launched a campaign for a digital detox. The Belvedere Museum has put up a large copy of Gustav Klimt's classic painting *The Kiss* near the entrance and added a giant red hashtag, so that visitors can take their selfie next to the facsimile and actually look at the real work of art. —AFP



LOS ANGELES (California, US): A giant Spider-Man balloon is seen above the red carpet outside the TCL Chinese Theatre for the world premiere of Marvel Studios' *Spider-Man: Far From Home* on Thursday.



SOMERSET (England, UK): A woman poses by a wing sculpture during the Glastonbury Festival of Music and Performing Arts on Worthy Farm near the village of Pilton on Thursday. —AFP

US-led coalition killed 1,319 civilians in IS war

WASHINGTON: The US-led coalition said on Thursday it had unintentionally killed at least 1,319 civilians in strikes during its fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria since 2014.

The figure is far lower than the death tolls given by groups that have monitored the conflict in the two countries.

The coalition conducted 34,514 strikes between August 2014 and the end of May 2019, it said in a statement. During this period, it "announced at least 1,319 civilians have been unintentionally killed by coalition strikes".

The coalition, which has repeatedly insisted it does all it can to avoid civilian deaths, said it was still assessing 159 additional reports of civilian casualties.

Airwaves, an NGO that monitors civilian casualties from air strikes worldwide, estimates more than 8,000 civilians have been killed in coalition raids.

In a report released in late April, Amnesty International and Airwars found that coalition air and artillery strikes killed more than 1,600 civilians just in the four-month battle to oust IS from the Syrian city of Raqqa.

IS jihadists seized large swathes of Iraq and Syria in 2014, declaring a "caliphate" in areas they controlled.

But several offensives with coalition backing chipped away at the "caliphate" until it was declared eliminated on March 23 of this year.

Ambushes and hit-and-run attacks have continued in both Iraq and Syria.

"The coalition will continue to work with partner forces to deny them any physical space and presence in the region as well as deny Daesh the resources they need to re-emerge," the coalition said, using an Arabic acronym for IS—AUP.

Huge crowd flocks to Istanbul mayor inauguration

ISTANBUL: A vast crowd gathered at Istanbul's town hall on Thursday to see the inauguration of new mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, whose landslide victory has boosted the reputation for the first time in years.

"Today is a celebration of democracy, a celebration of Istanbul," he said, a sea of Turkish flags in the city's historical centre.

None of Turkey's main television channels, seen as controlled by the government, showed Recep Tayyip Erdogan, carried Imamoglu's speech.

It is the second time this year that Imamoglu, of the Republican People's Party (CHP), has been handed the keys to the city.

His first election victory in March was annulled after controversial claims of rigging by Erdogan and the ruling AKP. But he won a decisive victory in the runoff last Sunday, increasing his margin of victory from just 11,000 in March to more than 180,000 against Erdogan's chosen candidate, Binali Yildirim.

"The people of Istanbul taught a lesson to a handful of people who wanted to harm democracy," Imamoglu said.

The 49-year-old former district mayor has electrified the nation by reversing the usual aggressive trash-talking of Turkish politicians.

Erdogan—who once said that winning Istanbul was like winning all of Turkey—appears to have accepted the victory. "We don't have the luxury of giving a defeat or... in the message given by our people," he said party members on Wednesday.

The defeat is seen as especially sensitive for the Turkish leader, who grew up in one of its working-class neighbourhoods and launched his political career as Istanbul mayor in the 1990s. It has been hailed as an economic shocker and double-digit inflation which analysts say contributed to the ruling party's losses in major cities including Ankara in the March local elections.

However, the results showed Erdogan's party remained the most popular nationwide, with the president still credited for the economic boom of the early 2000s and for giving religious conservatives a seat at the table.

There have been fears the government may try to curtail electoral powers in opposition-rich cities.

The opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper reported this week that Ankara had removed municipalities' power to appoint the heads of city-run companies, although this has not been confirmed. "Istanbul is a metropolis and has a real budget. It is possible that Erdogan may try to block funding opportunities for it, at the same time appointing to someone and develop its own funding," said Ural Ceritci, deputy head of the CHP—AUP.

Twitter announces action against politicians' rule-breaking tweets

WASHINGTON: Twitter said on Thursday it would label and "deprioritize" tweets from officials and politicians that violate its rules—a move potentially affecting the president's influence on the platform.

The new policy enables Twitter to move against rule-breaking comments on the shores of moving service while enabling messages and announcements that are important for public debate.

In these cases, users will see a notice about a tweet which violates the rules and must then tap or click through to see the message.

Twitter also will "take steps to make sure the tweet is not algorithmically elevated on our service as well as strike the right balance between enabling free expression, fostering accountability, and reducing the potential harm caused by these tweets," according to a statement from the Twitter safety team.

In the past, we've allowed certain tweets that violated our rules to remain on Twitter because they were in the public interest, but it wasn't clear when and how we made those determinations," the company said.

"In fact that, we've introduced a new notice that will provide additional clarity in these situations, and sharing more on when and why we'll use it," Twitter said.

Twitter said it expected these cases to be "rare" and that the new policy would only apply to verified political candidates and government officials with more than 100,000 followers. It will not affect tweets sent prior to the announcement.

Twitter has the ability to remove tweets and block users posting inappropriate or abusive comments, but has also insisted on allowing matters "affecting the public conversation".

To determine if a tweet violates the rules but must remain visible, Twitter will display "a cross-functional



US President Donald Trump.—Reuters

team" from its safety, legal and public policy departments to determine "if the tweet is a matter of public interest".

Trump's claim of bias

The move came a day after Trump doubled down on his criticism of Twitter, who has claimed the platform is biased and suppresses conservative voices, despite the president's following of 61 million users.

"What they did to me on Twitter is incredible," Trump said on Wednesday. "I have millions and millions of followers, but I will tell you they make it very hard for people to join me

on Twitter, and they make it very hard for me to get out the message."

Even as Trump attacks online platforms, his critics have claimed that he violates the terms of service of Twitter by attacking and insulting judges, media, sports figures and others with whom he disagrees.

In one instance, he retweeted a video that appeared to encourage violence against a Muslim lawmaker, and on another occasion praised a congressman for body-slaming a reporter.

Social media firms have been facing pressure to curb hate speech and extremist propaganda.

Blocking accounts of many conspiracy theorists, but Trump and his allies contend that the purge has also silenced conservative voices.

Earlier this week, Reddit said it had "governed" a popular forum of Trump supporters, claiming users repeatedly violated platform rules by promoting violence.

Facebook announced meanwhile it would soon open up nominations for a new 40-member oversight panel to make tough decisions on content moderation, saying it would be independent of government and management of the social networking giant—AUP.

535 'headphone walkers' killed by Dhaka trains

DHAKA: A total of 535 people have been killed since 2010 after being hit by trains while wearing headphones or using mobile phones in and around the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, police said on Thursday.

The mostly unregulated railways of the South Asian country of 165 million people are notoriously dangerous, with around 1,000 total accidents or suicides every year.

But police said in recent years "headphone walkers" have become a new menace as people walk on tracks listening to music or talking on mobile phones using earphones.

"Walking on railway tracks and putting on headphones is banned in the country. Still a lot of people ignore the ban and are killed by trains," said Dhaka rail police chief Yeasin Faroque Mozumder.

Fatalities hit a record high in 2014 when 109 people died.

Numbers have declined since thanks to an awareness campaign, but police said 54 people were still killed in this way last year.

Morshed Alam, the deputy railway police chief, said they have held awareness rallies and processions, distributing leaflets and warning people with loudspeakers.

"But people still walk on the tracks as if they were unaware of fatal consequences," he said. "Some dwellers also live on land next to railway tracks in shacks made of tarpaulin and bamboo. Alam said it is 'impossible' to secure the tracks unless people cooperate with them.—AUP

Russia releases first whales held in 'jail'

MOSCOW: A number of whales and orcas captured to perform in aquariums and held in cramped pens have been released into the wild, but experts warned the mammals may not survive after being held in captivity for months.

The release of six belugas and two killer whales into the Sea of Okhotsk in Russia's far east comes after a huge international outcry over the holding in captivity of nearly 100 of the marine mammals.

However, scientists and activists criticised the move, saying it was not transparent and did not follow a previously agreed roadmap. They also warned the orcas may not survive in the wild.

"The release took place in favourable weather conditions," said the AS-Russian Fisheries and Oceanography Institute (VNIRO), which led the operation. The marine mammals were in a good shape, it said in a statement.

Russia is the only country capturing wild orcas and belugas and selling them to aquariums, a controversial practice that has continued due to legal loopholes.

The controversy came to a head when images of what the media have nicknamed the "whale jail" were published this year.—AUP

Mass arrests in Ethiopia after coup bid

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopian security forces on Thursday rounded up scores of suspects believed to have links to a coup bid in northern Amhara state and the murder of the army chief in political crisis in the nation.

The weekend attacks have heated pressure on Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, already facing waves of ethnic violence which have displaced over two million people, as he pushes forward with democratic and economic reforms.

An ethnic nationalist party in Amhara, one of several political groupings gaining ground as political space opens up, said more than 25 of its members and supporters had been arrested.

The Amhara Abolish 56-year members and sympathisers have been arrested while dozens other Amhara National Amhara Movement sympathisers and members in Oromia have also been arrested, said party spokesman Christian Tadesse.

The National Amhara Movement was formed around a year ago as a hardline ethnic nationalist challenge to the Amhara Democratic Party (ADP)—one of the four alliance members in the national ruling

party, the EPRDF.

"It is pressing territorial claims on neighbouring Tigray region and asserting that it would stop the 'persecution' of Amharas living outside Amhara state."

The security chief, Assefaw Tege, who is accused of orchestrating the two attacks at the weekend, was seen as being appointed to his post in the ADP to appeal to the more hardline remnants of the region.

In 2018 he was released from almost a decade in prison over a 2009 coup bid. He opposed similar views to the Amhara, observers say, and was likely facing dismissal over his fiery rhetoric and efforts to form militia.

Christians massacred

Meanwhile, details emerged Thursday of a bloody attack in neighbouring Benshangul Gumuz state at the hands of what local officials believe are men trained by Amharas.

Aberra Bayeta, head of Benshangul Gumuz regional state police and security bureau, said that around 100 heavily-armed men had attacked a village at dawn on Monday, "killing more

than 50 civilians most of them women and children." AFP could not independently verify his claim.

Aberra said the perpetrators of Monday's attack managed to escape, but that 85 others believed to be involved in a similar assault were arrested on Thursday.

"We believe the Monday attackers and the 85 arrested men we apprehended were both trained by Amharas Tege, with the aim to eventually attack neighbouring communities," he said.

The violence is seen as a backlash to Abiy's efforts to lead democratic reforms in Africa's second-most populous nation.

Observers say the prime minister's crackdown on dissent has severely weakened the unity of the once all-powerful EPRDF.

His loosening of the reins in the long authoritarian state has stirred up ethnic-nationalist sentiment in Ethiopia's nine autonomous regions, which are divided along ethnic lines, and fuelled jockeying for power ahead of 2020 elections.

Internet services were partially restored across Ethiopia on Thursday after a near-total blackout for the past five days.—AUP

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION MIRPURKHAS
TELEPHONE / FAX NO. 021-5500717 / 021-5500718. E-MAIL ADDRESS: ehd@mirpurkhas.gov.pk
NO. T013120019 MIRPURKHAS DATED: 21-06-2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Public Health Engineering Division, Government of Sindh invites bids for Operation & Maintenance of water filtration plants installed in districts of Sindh under the following cluster. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders.

- Cluster comprises of water filtration plants under the following districts:
 - Mirpurkhas, Tando Allahyar and Sanghar.
- UP Plants (S1) & S.O Plants (224) Total (275).

SCOPE OF WORK

To carry out the operation & maintenance of water filtration plants under aforementioned Cluster. The contract to be awarded initially for a period of 1 year with quarterly monitoring and extendable on yearly basis up to a period of 4 years post-satisfactory performance based on certificate issued by the owner as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Procedure will be adopted SPPRA Rule 80(2) **Bidding procedure based on single stage two envelopes.**

The bidding is open to all firms that is local manufacturing, authorized representatives of international manufacturers, NGOs and SOGIs, invited extensively in PPH management having adequate technical staff, and engineering firms who are meeting the following criteria:

- Valid Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (applicable only for engineering firms).
- Number of intended staff / Engineer to be deployed by the bidder if the contract is awarded.
- List of member equipment if any; including transportation vehicles if any.
- Registration with FBR, SSB and other Government bodies where registration under the law is mandatory.
- Last three years audited financial statement for the companies and last three years Income tax return copies for the sole proprietorship companies etc.
- Latest certificate from the bank confirming that the company or the organization or proprietors are maintaining satisfactory account with the bank along with Bank statement for 1 year.
- Firm shall be preferred having similar experience of operation & maintenance of similar projects.
- Understanding (Affidavit) confirming that the bidder:
 - Not blacklisted.
 - Did not leave incomplete work in Government Department.
 - Provided true documents.
- Address of regional office (if any in Sindh Province).
- Technical Association or authorized distributor / JV arrangement with international manufacturer of water filtration equipment.
- NGOs and SOGIs must be registered with the concerned government authorities having valid authorization to work in Pakistan, as per provision letter permit to them for work / activities etc.

TENDER FEE & BID SECURITY

The tender fee is Rs. 5,000/- (Non-refundable) in shape of pay order / demand draft in the name of Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Mirpurkhas.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as per SPPRA Rule 37 in the shape of Pay Order or Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee for an amount of 2% of quoted bid price. The last date of issuance of bid document is 2 days prior to the submission date.

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME

All bids under said cluster must be submitted in the office of Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Mirpurkhas with information as specified in the Bidding Documents. The last date of submission of bid is **22.07.2019 at 1:00 PM**. The bids will be opened on same date at **02:00 PM**. The bids received beyond the schedule date and time will not be entertained or any delay in postage. If prior response is observed within due date and time of bid submission same may be extended to **22.07.2019**. In case procuring agency is not satisfied with response received it may be extended for **22.07.2019** at same time mentioned above.

The Competent Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the applications as per the relevant Rules of SPPRA 2015.

(Ghulam Qadir Memon)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION
MIRPURKHAS

Copy No. to Commission

Karachi Water & Sewerage Board
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT
PHONE NO. 021-9923464 / FAX NO. 021-9923462
(Water is Life - Save Water Save Life)

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR APPOINTMENT ON CONTRACT BASIS IN KWSB AS CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER FOR TWO YEARS PERIOD

The Commissioned Officers (Ret.) from Armed Forces, provided suitable candidates, may apply for appointment on Contract basis for a period of two years, as Chief Security Officer in KWSB subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Qualification: Graduate.
- Must be retired Commissioned Officer from Armed Forces (Lt. Col. / Col. or equivalent).
- Age limit: 50 to 55 years, with sound mental and physical health.
- Fixed remuneration: Rs. 150,000/- per month.
- The intending candidates may submit applications alongwith attested copies of Educational, Career — experience and Character Certificates, CNIC, Passport and PRC.
- Applications must be received in the office of undersigned the Dy. Managing Director HRD&A KWSB at the address mentioned below, positively on or before 10th of July 2019.
- Applications if any found incomplete or received after the due date shall not be entertained.
- Any sort of influence if made by or for any candidate shall deem to have been disqualified from candidature.
- The Selection Committee constituted for the purpose, reserves its right to accept any one or reject all.
- No TA / DA shall be admissible during course of application and selection.
- The contract appointment is terminable at any time without any notice during the specified period of contract or could be extended after said period, depends on performance of otherwise.
- Applications if any found incomplete or received after the due date shall not be entertained.

(SHEHAB TUGHLAQ)
Dy. Managing Director (HRD&A)
KWSB

KWSB/HRD/143/2019

Copy No. To (Info)

GC University Lahore
VACANT POSITIONS (REF. NO. 06/2019/CGU/L)
CORRIGENDUM

Respective advertisement (Ref. No. 06/2019/CGU/L) dated 16.06.2019 and "Daily Mail" dated 16.06.2019 regarding the above positions shall be "Daily Mail" dated 16.06.2019 and "Daily Mail" dated 16.06.2019.

GC University Lahore, 65, Sector 14, Phase 1, DHA, Lahore.

REGISTRAR

NIT ANNOUNCES BOOK CLOSURE

The registers of following funds under the management of National Investment Trust Limited will remain closed from July 01, 2019 to July 05, 2019 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of dividend entitlement (if any).

1) NQUT Fund	2) NQUT Money Market Fund
3) NQUT Government Bond Fund	4) NQUT Equity Enterprise Fund
5) NQUT Income Fund	6) NQUT Equity Market Opportunity Fund
7) NQUT Islamic Equity Fund	8) NQUT Islamic Income Fund

During the period of books closure, sale and repurchase of Units will remain suspended against the above mentioned funds.

National Investment Trust Limited
Investment Facilitation Center (IFC)
B-1, Liaqat Square Building No. 1, Sector 19/Phase 1, DHA, Karachi.
Opp. Karachi Press Club, Sector 19/Phase 1, DHA, Karachi.
Tel: 021-35840000 / Fax: 021-35840001
For: 021-35840002
Email: info@nit.com.pk / Website: www.nit.com.pk

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EY
EY Ford Rhodes
Chartered Accountants

PUBLIC NOTICE

RETIREMENT OF PARTNERS

We would like to inform that Mr. Tarek Tariq Aziz (Late) (Late) and Mr. Adnan Adnan (Late) (Late) have retired from the firm of EY Ford Rhodes Chartered Accountants, having reached their age of retirement, stand retired as Active Partners of the firm with effect from 01 July 2019.

EY Ford Rhodes, Chartered Accountants, Firm Registration No. 1005/1913, has its Principal Office located at House No. 401, 4th Floor, Progressive Plaza, Beaumont Road, Karachi and branch offices at Lahore, Islamabad and Kabul. If any individual, company or organization has any objection with regard to this notice, kindly contact the said firm or the Registrar of Firms, State Information Building No. 11, 2nd Floor, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. Upon conclusion of the period of seven (7) days, no objection would be acceptable or entertained and the firm and the aforesaid retired partners shall not be responsible thereof in any manner whatsoever.

AG suspends PBC's show-cause notice against law minister

Council's vice chairman describes decision as a 'glaring example of misuse of authority'

By Nisir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General Anwar Mansoor Khan has suspended a show-cause notice issued against Law Minister Dr Farooq Nawaz under the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) — the supervisory body of the legal fraternity — from considering the matter in its next meeting on Sunday.

The attorney general exercised his authority under Rule 84(a) of the Pakistan Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Rules 1976, read with Section 12(8) of the Pakistan Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act 1973. By virtue of his office, he acts as the chairman of the PBC.

Mr Khan took the decision on a petition of June 26, instituted by the law minister himself in which he sought the June 12 suspension of the show-cause notice issued by Dr Nawaz's resignation for his alleged role in the filing of references against two superior court judges.

In his five-page order, the attorney general also postponed further hearing on Dr Nawaz's petition till July 3 at 3pm but issued notices to PBC Secretary Muhammad Arshad and members of the council.

Mr Khan recalled that in his petition the minister had expressed apprehension that the PBC in its next meeting on June 30 might pass a resolution about the show-cause notice issued against him.

In his order, the attorney general observed that the June 26 application by the minister and the May 15 judgement of the Supreme Court had effectively ended the issue, hence the PBC resolution and show-cause notice were stale and without jurisdiction.

Referring to the allegation against the minister with regard to the Supreme Judicial Council, Mr Khan said that Dr Nawaz had acted as per the law and

the Constitution.

Explaining his authority, the attorney general stated that under Section 12(8) of the 1973 Act, both the chairman and the vice chairman had the required powers and functions. Rule 84(a) of the 1976 rules also provides that the chairman of the bar council will be responsible for ensuring due compliance with the provisions of the act and the rules.

The attorney general's decision drew a swift reaction from the PBC's vice chairman, Syed Anwar Shah, who said his office did not make the attorney general the council's appellate authority. Therefore, Mr Khan had no authority to suspend the PBC order.

In a statement, the PBC's vice chairman also described Mr Khan's decision as a glaring example of misuse of authority and interference in the affairs of an institution of which he holds an ex-officio office of chairman.

"Similarly, it has also been proved that the law minister has tried to play with the law in such an erroneous manner which is highly condemnable," said Mr Shah.

In his petition, the minister had recalled that PBC in its meeting of June 12 had requested to get his licence suspended under Rule 108-O of the Pakistan Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Rules, 1976. Since the licence has not been suspended, therefore by the operation of the law the licence stood suspended and therefore he ceased to be a member of the council, the PBC resolution had stated.

The council had also decided that in view of the second proviso of Rule 108-O, the minister had committed a professional misconduct by failing to get his licence to practice suspended within one month.

Earlier, through a Sept 26, 2015 notification the attorney general had held that he was not a member of the council as he was not a member of the council.

Against this decision, the PBC moved the Supreme Court, which rejected the petition on May 15. The court observed that it was unable to determine how the court could contain the petition when it does not involve the question of breach of any of the rights under Article 184-C of the Constitution.

Sizzling Europe battles wildfires, health risks

TARRAGONA (Spain) Wildfires raged across Catalonia and French authorities stepped up restrictions on water use and driving in cities as swathes of southern Europe remained gripped by a powerful heatwave.

Temperatures climbed towards 44 degrees Celsius in parts of northern Spain and southern France, driving many people to seek relief in the sea, rivers, lakes, fountains and swimming pools.

Spanish firefighters struggled to do battle with wildfires across nearly 10,000 acres in the north-eastern region of Catalonia. They warned that the affected area could increase as much as a fivefold because of the intense heat and wind.

Helicopters dumped water on the fires, which raged some 50km inland from the coastal town of Tarragona.

There were no reports of casualties, but the regional government said some 30 people had been evacuated from farmhouses in the area.

The wildfires are among the worst Catalonia has seen in 20 years, the regional government said.

In neighbouring France, authorities extended restrictions on vehicles, already imposed in Paris and Marseille, and Strasbourg in an effort to curb air pollution.

Some schools postponed summer examinations, and parts of southern France were put on drought alert, with water supplies to businesses, farmers and ordinary residents restricted.

Agronomist Didier Garlomme announced a ban on the transportation of animals until the heatwave subsided.

Grid operator RTE said French electricity demand on Thursday was close to a summer record as two-year-olds as people turned on fans and coolers to fend off the scorching temperatures.

The Mail Liberator newspaper reported that the heat had resulted in a student's death on beaches in the south of France as far this week because of the heat, though Health Minister Agnès Buzyn said on Thursday it was too early to give an accurate estimate of the death toll.

"Calls to the emergency services are on the rise nationwide. We are seeing the beginning of a clear impact of the heatwave," said Jerome Salamea, head of national public health. "For us the worst is still to come."

There was at least relief for motorists as the emergency services are on the rise nationwide. We are seeing the beginning of a clear impact of the heatwave," said Jerome Salamea, head of national public health. "For us the worst is still to come."

—Reuters



ROME: Ring-tailed lemur eat food to cool off at the zoo as temperature reaches 36 degrees Celsius on Thursday —AFP

ECP summons home secretary over arrest of candidates

By Ihtisham A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Disturbed by the arrest of two candidates from South Waziristan tribal district, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday summoned the home and tribal affairs secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The ECP ordered Secretary Ihtisham Khan to appear before it in person at 11am on Friday June 28.

"It has come to the notice of this Commission that one Mr Muhammad Arif (independent) contesting candidate from PK-141, South Waziristan-I and Mr Muhammad Iqbal (independent) contesting candidate from PK-114, South Waziristan-II, have been arrested by the Deputy Commissioner, South Waziristan on 19th June, 2019 and 20th June, 2019, respectively, allegedly under Section 3 of the West Pakistan Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960 (MPO) for one month and both the candidates have been sent to jails of Dera Ismail Khan and Haripur," the ECP said.

Rebuffed that the act of the administration prior to conduct of election was tantamount to subverting the election campaign and the constitutional duty of the Election Commission in respect of free, fair and transparent elections in accordance with Article 218-O of the Constitution.

The notice also refers to a meeting held at the ECP on June 12 where conduct of provincial assembly elections in sporadic federally administered tribal areas (FATA) was discussed and the polls were deferred for 18 days on a request of the provincial government.

The polls that were originally scheduled to be held on July 2 will now be taking place on July 20.

"During the meeting, while postponing the elections for further 20 days, this Commission directed the Provincial Government to implement by year end self to take other measures to improve security situation in the subject area for peaceful conduct of elections in order to meet the constitutional requirements in light of the 25th constitutional amendment," the notice pointed out.

In a related development, the ECP authorised the district returning officers and returning officers appeared for the conduct of elections in the 36 provincial assembly constituencies of the tribal districts formerly known as FATA to exercise the powers of a magistrate first class under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, with immediate effect and until the consolidation and announcement of official results.

"The provincial officers shall exercise the powers of a magistrate first class in respect of the offences defined in Section 169 and Section 171 punishable under Section 174 of Elections Act, 2017, and may take cognizance of any such offence under Section 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and shall try it summarily under Chapter XX of the Code," a notification issued on Thursday reads.

US-Taliban talks resume tomorrow

By Amir Iqbal

WASHINGTON: The next round of peace talks between the United States and Taliban began in Doha, Qatar, on Saturday and resumed on Sunday.

Both sides are hoping to finalise a draft text, addressing key issues like withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan, a nationwide ceasefire and intra-Afghan talks.

"Based on my recent visits to Afghanistan and Qatar, I believe all sides want rapid progress," US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad wrote in a tweet. He also confirmed that the next round of talks will start on June 29.

A Taliban spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, said US broadcasting network, VOA, that the Afghan peace process was progressing smoothly and gradually. He hoped that the process "may gain momentum, paving the way for the Afghans to sit together and chart a roadmap for a future political system and intra-Afghan talks."

In May, US and Taliban negotiators wrapped up the sixth round of talks in Doha, but failed to finalise the draft agreement, which will now be the main item on the agenda for the seventh round.

Ambassador Khalilzad, who leads the

US team in the talks, had tweeted after the sixth round that the talks were not "sufficient when so much conflict rages and innocent people are dying."

His statement led to the speculation that the talks had reached a stalemate. On Wednesday, two US soldiers were killed in a Taliban ambush in Afghanistan, raising fresh doubts about the future of the peace talks, but hours after the ambush, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said at a news briefing in New Delhi that the incident "drives home the need for (the talks) to be successful."

The top US diplomat, who made an unannounced visit to Kabul on Tuesday, said the US mission in Afghanistan was "to reduce the level of violence, to reduce the level of risk to Afghans, broadly, and the risk to American service members."

Earlier, he wrote in a tweet that in Kabul he met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, CEO Abdullah Abdullah, former President Hamid Karzai and others and held "productive discussions" with them "on the Afghan Peace Process and the need for credible elections."

He said he came back with the impression that "Afghans yearn for peace and so share their desire to end the conflict."

FBR must inform taxpayers about basis of their income's audit, LHC rules

By Waqar Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has ruled that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is bound to inform taxpayers about the parameters, if requested, on the basis of which they are selected for audit.

"The Board shall keep the parameters confidential. However, once parameters of selection are selected for audit under section 254C of Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, they shall be informed about the particular risk parameter applied to them for selection of audit, if demanded by them for their information," says a judgment pronounced by Justice Abul Azeem Sheikh on a set of petitions challenging the power of the FBR to keep the parameters confidential for being contrary to fundamental rights.

Advocate Muhammad Ahsan Khan, one of the counsel for the petitioners, argued that the provision of subsection (1A) of section 254C of Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, which required the FBR to keep the parameters for selection of case for audit confidential was ultra vires of provision of Articles 4, 8, 10-A, 19 and 25-A of the Constitution.

He said the decision of the board to keep the parameters for selection of

audit confidential was also against the law notified by the high court.

Another counsel, Naveed A. Andrabi, argued that the impugned section did not specifically restrain the FBR after selection from disclosing the specific parameter on the basis of which the taxpayer persons or classes were selected for audit. He said the board had been misconstruing the provision.

Advocate Usman Ali Chaudhary on behalf of the FBR argued that mere selection for audit did not cause any actionable injury to tax payers. He said guidelines for selection of audit were administrative in nature and meant only for internal consumption of tax authorities, therefore, no fundamental right of the petitioners had been infringed for not disclosing the guidelines.

He said the restriction through the impugned provision on right of information was reasonable to avoid tax evasion.

A deputy attorney general representing the federation adopted the arguments of the FBR and also questioned the maintainability of the petitions.

Justice Sheikh rejected an argument of the FBR counsel as baseless that parameters for audit selection was not a "matter of public importance"

and Article 25-A of the constitution was not applicable in the matter.

The judge observed that the right to information under Articles 19 and 25-A of the constitution was well entrenched fundamental right of every citizen and the people had the right to know every public act and everything done in the public way by public functionaries.

Rejecting another argument of the board, the judge ruled that the courts had already declared in number of cases that disclosure of parameters was never considered a threat resulting in evasion of tax or frustration of public policy. "Rather the courts have repeatedly held that risk parameters should be fair and publicly advertised for the sake of taxpayer convenience," added the judge.

Partially allowing the petitions, the judge declared that the impugned orders for not disclosing the specific parameters to petitioners for selection of audit for audit were illegal and without lawful authority.

"The FBR is directed to inform the petitioners forthwith if requested by them, the specific parameters on the basis of which their cases were selected for audit under section 254C of the Ordinance," the judge pronounced.

Federal Board of Revenue
Government of Pakistan

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Pakistan take identical path to strike parallel with 1992 campaign

BIRMINGHAM: Twenty-seven years and a generation apart, Pakistan's World Cup teams striking similarities with their 1992 campaign — when they started slowly but ended up lifting the trophy in Melbourne.

An identical sequence of wins and losses, and other eerie parallels, have struck a chord with millions of fans who believe that Pakistan could be set to come out on top once again.

In both World Cups, Pakistan started with a one-sided defeat to the West Indies, before recovering to win their second game — against Zimbabwe in 1992, and England this time around.

At both tournaments, their third game was rained off and they then went on to lose their next two games and win the following two.

Not only that, but the final win in both sequences was against New Zealand, who were unbeaten in both 1992 and 2019 until they ran into Pakistan.

It was, of course, the same sequence of results, points and then we wanted Australia to beat the West Indies for us to qualify," said legendary fast bowler Wasim Akram, who played for Pakistan in 1992.

Then also we beat New Zealand — who was unbeaten then too. A lot of similarities, I hope the end result is also similar now and we win the World Cup," said Waqar, now a TV commentator.

In another similarity, Wasim was the leading wicket-taker in 1992 with 15, and another Pakistan left-arm pacer, Mohammad Amir, is second on the bowler's chart with 16 so far.

I am not sure if players are following all these (discussions) but this should motivate them," said Wasim.

Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed played down any parallels with 1992.

"That's history but after we beat New Zealand someone told me that even in 1992 we chased down New Zealand's target with five balls to spare," said Sarfraz, whose team reached their 238-run target in 49.1 overs on Wednesday.

Fans are now hoping that the similarities don't end there, and even that they continue beyond the World Cup.

Imran Khan was Pakistan captain in 1992 World Cup and 26 years after that triumph he became prime minister, so Sarfraz should also join politics and become premier in 2045," said one comment on social media.

Leading the tributes to their winning tournament was Imran himself.

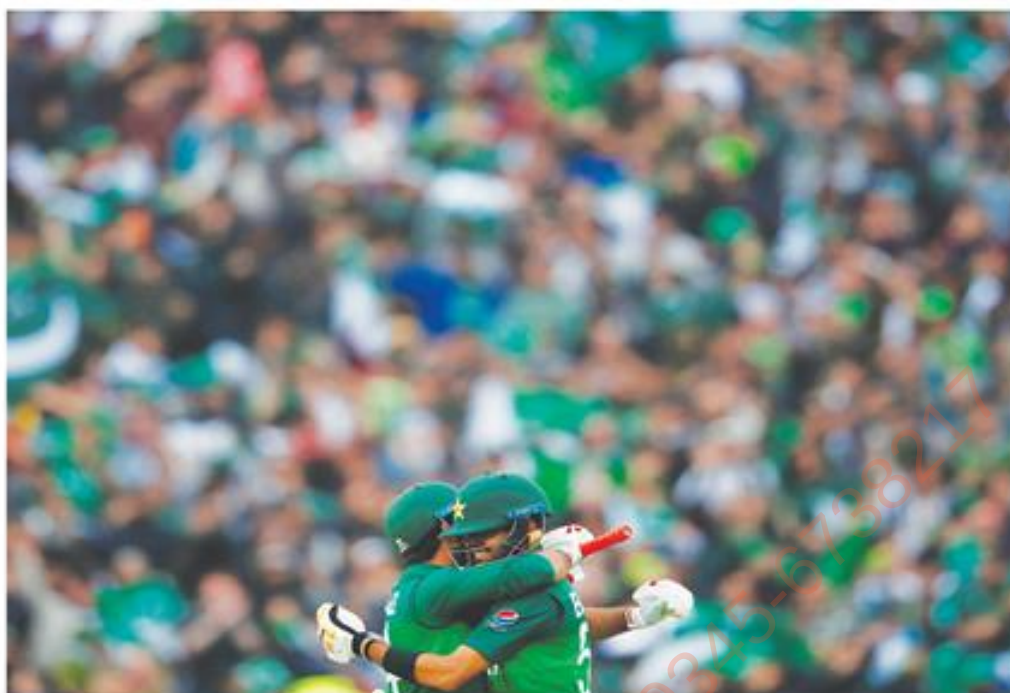
"Congratulations to our cricket team for a great comeback. Congratulations especially go to Babar, Haris and Shabaz for their brilliant performances," Imran tweeted.

Pakistan, currently sixth in the points table with matches against Bangladesh and Afghanistan to play, still have an uphill struggle to make the last four.

The spooky parallels have already spawned memes on social media, with some of their long-suffering fans beginning to believe that the storied run might culminate with their winning their second World Cup title next month.

Leading a side with a mix of old and new semi-finals, Sarfraz is naturally not getting too ahead of himself.

"We are not thinking about 1992, we are going match by match," the wicket-keeper said. —Agencies



BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan batsman Babar Azeem and captain Sarfraz Ahmed celebrate after winning the match against New Zealand at Edgbaston. —Reuters

Edgbaston turned green and Babar purple

Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217

By Sarfraz Ahmed

THERE is nothing beyond hope which guides you to the most difficult tasks and even when we lost in India in the crucial World Cup match, we did not lose hope.

Our belief was in our potential. We were convinced when we will turn our potential into performance, we can beat any team in the event.

After a two-day off, there seems to be a revival of the side, which looks rejuvenated. The most valuable and priceless thing for this side has been the support of its fans. If Lord's was 80 per cent green, Edgbaston was close to 100 per cent. It's the much-needed support of the fans that continues to drive and motivate us. As such, the support and appreciation from the media and all around the globe were the additional factors that contributed to our last two wins.

When we arrived at Edgbaston, there were dark clouds and a little bit of drizzle but we had no fears of a washout as weather forecast was clear. The covers

were on but we knew it will be a full 50-over per innings match but first, something I would have also done had I made the right call on the spin of coin.

Mohammad Asif got Martin Gough early but Kamran Williams was the key wicket. He is 10 as an in-form batsman, scoring heavily and turning the match on its head. With this form, an emphasis he has put required to dismiss him and I said that it came from Shahab Khan.

However, Jimmy Neesham and Colin de Grandhomme batted sensibly. They bring in their own brand of application of making full use of the quota of overs. We could have done better and kept them within 200 but some good stroke selection and a little offside bowling helped them to collect 85 in the last 10 overs, meaning Zealand reached 237 for six.

It will be unfair to talk and praise Shabaz Shah Afridi who was outstanding. He had struggled in the earlier matches but hard work in the training sessions backed up by a good temperament helped him to regain his

wicket-taking abilities. Once he starts taking wickets, we all know he can be lethal and that's precisely what he showed on Wednesday finishing with figures of 10-3-28-3. As just 19 years of age, I have no doubts this lad will continue regularly and consistently in Pakistan's future successes across all three formats.

Fielding was good overall and we caught everything that came our way, which should bring smile back on Grant Bradburn's face. After the last game when we dropped quite a few catches, he had reminded us to enjoy fielding and I am glad the message was received by the players.

We knew the 238-run target won't be easy. We lost two early wickets but Babar Azeem and Mohammad Hafeez steadied the innings. After Hafeez's departure, Haris Sohail played a highly mature innings to offer good support to Babar.

I don't remember seeing a better innings in chase than the one Babar played against New Zealand. I would dare say Babar is the best player of this generation. He is a class apart,

technically very correct and it's tough to get him out once he gets going. He looked in total command against a strong New Zealand attack. One of the best things about Babar's innings was he valued his wicket and hardly played a risky shot.

For the second successive time, Haris batted sensibly and solidly. He took the attack to the New Zealand bowlers. Let me remind that his clean stroke-play doesn't mean it was a batsman-friendly wicket. Contrary to this, it was an extremely difficult pitch to bat on as shown by Mitchell Santner.

New our focus is on the next match against Afghanistan and then we will think about Bangladesh. Afghanistan is a dangerous side with quality spinners, so we will not take them lightly and will have to go at our full strength.

There has been so much talk about the similarities between the 1992 World Cup and this one. We wish those similarities only culminate on July 14 at Lord's, but we have to keep our feet on ground and keep faith in God Almighty. —Courtesy PCB

England eye India, NZ games as quarter-finals: Root

BIRMINGHAM: Fourth-placed England will be playing two virtual "quarter-finals" at the World Cup when they face India and New Zealand in their last two round robin matches as they look to seal a semi-final spot, star batsman Joe Root said.

England's 14-run loss to Australia at Lord's on Tuesday left their qualification hopes in the balance with Bangladesh, Pakistan (both one point behind) and Sri Lanka (two points behind with a game in hand) breathing down their necks.

England have not beaten India or New Zealand in seven attempts at the World Cup since 1992 but Root is confident they can still reach the knockout stages.

"We'll see these two games as quarter-finals... which in a way when it comes round to the knockout stage should serve you well," Root told reporters.

"We believe we're still more than capable of qualifying for the semi-finals and when that happens, it doesn't really matter how you got there because that's when the tournament really starts to kick in.

When England walk out at Edgbaston, swathes of fans from Birmingham's big British Asian community will be backing India, heaping the pressure on the home side.

"I personally think we've got to be very calm about how we approach the next couple of games. The games themselves might get quite emotional, especially the atmosphere at Edgbaston against India."

Root also said that England had not adapted to the three pitches at the tournament, having played on batters' friendly surfaces at the same grounds during One-Day International bilateral series played in the buildup to the World Cup.

The hosts were criticised for not making most of the conditions against Australia despite winning the toss while their "one-dimensional" approach to batting during the tournament has been slammed by pundits.

"We've been turning up in some venues and things have been quite different throughout this tournament

so when we play one-day series there in the past and we haven't necessarily adapted as well as we could, Root added.

"You look at some of the past scores and they have been very different to when we have played there in bilateral series."

England hope that spinner Jason Roy, who has been badly injured in his three-game absence, will return from a hamstring injury in time to play at Edgbaston while they also have fitness concerns over bowlers Jofra Archer and Adil Rashid.

Rashid was pragmatic over the prospect of a hostile crowd, at the same ground where his close friend

Moeen Ali was booed during an India game in 2014.

"People will enjoy their cricket, have some fun and banter," he said. "We will not be fazed by that."

"It is disappointing sometimes, but it happened. The crowd does get involved but it does not bother us. We played India last summer at Edgbaston and we enjoyed it and did our job." —Agencies

'92 World Cup parallels are freaky'

LONDON: Former captain Wasim Waqar says it is becoming "impossible to ignore" the parallels between Pakistan's World Cup resurgence and their 1992 triumph.

Victories against South Africa and New Zealand in the past week have breathed new life into Pakistan's bid to reach the semi-finals in England and Wales after they won just one of their opening five fixtures.

Their trajectory through the tournament has so far mirrored that of their only World Cup triumph to date, when they started slowly in 1992 before picking up pace to lift the trophy.

"It is becoming impossible to ignore the parallels with 1992," said Waqar in a column for the ICC. "The similarities are freaky and even though the players won't have been thinking about it, there is no way they can put it out of their minds altogether."

Pakistan's chances of reaching the last four have been helped by England's defeats to Sri Lanka and Australia.

The hosts now need to win both their remaining group matches against India and New Zealand to hold off Pakistan, should Sarfraz Ahmed's men beat Afghanistan and Bangladesh in their final two matches.

"It's moving in the direction that they might qualify and, if it does, that would be something very special if they could win the World Cup," said Waqar.

The prolific fast bowler was robbed of his role in the tournament 27 years ago due to a back injury.

But he is hoping for a repeat of the scenes of joy witnessed when the team returned victorious to Pakistan, for a nation that has seen little international cricket since Sri Lanka's team bus was attacked in 2009.

"It was heartbreaking, especially when we won," said Waqar of missing the 1992 World Cup. "I was over the moon though and I still remember every second when the team came back from Australia. It was wonderful. I'm hoping and praying that something similar happens again." —AFP

Bring on the boo-boys, says Warner

LONDON: David Warner says he's living the dream playing for Australia at the World Cup and is not a moment too soon from England fans eager to remind him of his one-year ban for ball tampering is going to spoil his mood.

The left-handed batsman shared an opening stand of 121 with his captain Aaron Finch as the defending champions beat Bangladesh in their first match at Lord's on Tuesday to book a place in the semi-finals.

It was Warner's seventh match for Australia after returning from the ban for tampering with the ball. In his first innings of 53 runs took his tournament tally to 500 at an average of 83.33.

There were boos for Warner and his former captain Steve Smith when they took the field on Tuesday from the tough southeastern Sydney suburbs was not letting it bother him.

"At the end of the day people have the right to criticise in the eyes and just smile and if they want to boo us, they can," Warner told reporters at Lord's. "As I said before, I thrive on that stuff, I love it. I went out to the corner there... and topped it."

"At the end of the day you have to smile — they pay their money to come and watch us and we are grateful for them to come and sit down and watch us."

"I always just smile. I take my glasses off and smile in the eyes and just smile." "That is what it's about, I am living the dream. I am out here at Lord's, playing cricket for my country."

Warner said 12 months out of international cricket and returning to his Randwick-Petersham club had effected a change in his outlook on his sport.

"For me it is about enjoying the game," he said. "When it is taken away from you, you realise what it is all about. Going back to grassroots was fantastic."

"I really saw smiles on people's faces to be out there on a Saturday afternoon, all the volunteers that come down and put time and effort in, whether it is making the drinks, making the lunches."

"People's parents, my mum, my dad coming down, it is just great. You can't take that for granted. I am just grateful for the second opportunity to come back here and represent my country and do the country proud."

"You know I am just excited to be back here and playing World Cup cricket for Australia."

Australia's next match is back at Lord's on Saturday against New Zealand, who they beat in the final to win the 2015 World Cup. —Reuters

When miscalculation sent SA out of home World Cup

By Khalid H. Khan

KARACHI: South Africa, the perennial chokers of international cricket without any doubt, were knocked out of the 2003 World Cup — which they were co-hosting with Zimbabwe and Kenya — in bizarre circumstances by Sri Lanka after being tipped against the favourites.

In the do-or-die pool fixture at the Kingsmead in Durban, South Africa reached 229/6 in 45 overs in pursuit of a 269-run tar-

get just as light drizzle became heavier. At the conclusion of the 44th over a message was relayed to Mark Boucher by the dressing room that score needed to be 229 by the end of the 45th over assuming no further wickets went down.

After striking the fifth ball of the 45th over for a six to take the total to 229, Boucher chose to defend the last ball just before the umpires took the players off the field.

The climax in the South African camp soon turned to

despair because the wrong instructions had relayed to Boucher. Secure 229 only pointed to a tie and not a win for the Proteas, as the rain drenched the ground with no chance of any resumption.

Shane Pollock paid a big price for the blunder when he was later sacked as the captain, while Sri Lanka progressed to the Super Sixes.

From that tied encounter, South Africa had a clear advantage over Sri Lanka, winning three of their four World

Cup fixtures after losing the very first meeting against them — following the end of apartheid in the Rainbow Nation — during the 1992 tournament.

In the game at the Basin Reserve in Wellington, South Africa mounted 195 all out in 50 overs before Sri Lanka won by three on the penultimate ball of the match.

The teams then came face-to-face in the 1999 World Cup but defending champions Sri Lanka capitulated to an 89-run defeat at Northampton after the Proteas

only scored 299-9 in 50 overs.

Sri Lanka were denied again in the 2007 World Cup as South Africa clinched a thrilling one-wicket win on the second last ball of the Super Eight game in Providence.

Charl Langeveldt claimed 5-39 as Sri Lanka collected 209 in 49.3 overs. Lahiru Malinga then turned the match on its head by grabbing an incredible four wickets in as many deliveries in the space of two separate overs as the Proteas somehow hung on.

The last time Sri Lanka played

South Africa in the quarter final of the 2015 competition in Sydney when the islanders suffered a nine-wicket humiliation after folding up for 153 in 22.3 overs with Imran Tahir capturing 4-26 before Quinton de Kock batted a 57 to 58 to close out the match.

Read more news:
March 2, 1992 — *Wallpaper* (David Warner) Sri Lanka's first ever win over South Africa in the World Cup.
March 2003 — *Cricket*, South Africa won the 2003 World Cup.
March 18, 2015 — *Cricket*, South Africa won the 2015 World Cup.
March 18, 2015 — *Cricket*, South Africa won the 2015 World Cup.

KARACHI

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Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:44 am

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METRO

South



Kohli's India end West Indies World Cup hopes

Pg 24 SPORT



THE mayor presides over the City Council's budget session on Thursday.—White Star

Mayor presents Rs26.438bn surplus budget for 2019-20

KMC proposes an allocation of Rs9.47bn for various development schemes

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: City Mayor Waqar Akhtar presented on Thursday a Rs26.438 billion surplus budget of the municipal administration for the financial year 2019-20 in a meeting of the Council of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation.

The budget outlay is Rs26,449 million, with the expenditures estimated as Rs26,438m, targeting a Rs10.937m surplus. The KMC has proposed an allocation of Rs9.47bn for various development schemes.

The budget meeting would resume on Friday (today) at 2.30pm after which the council will give its approval to the next budget of the KMC.

Total receipts in the budget for 2019-20 are Rs26,449.825m, including Rs20,374.087m as current receipts and Rs6,075.738m as capital receipts. Funds for the provincial annual development programme (ADP) and district ADP will be Rs4,341.312m.

The total expenditure for the next fiscal year will be Rs26,438.888m, of which Rs14,462.326m is allocated for the establishment; Rs2,280.905m for contingent expenses and Rs2,222.649m for repair and maintenance. Besides, Rs5,132.305m has been earmarked for development projects and works, while expenditures from the provincial ADP and district ADP will be Rs4,341.312m. Grants from the government are estimated at Rs2,538.437m and the provincial ADP and district ADP are Rs4,341.312m.

Revenue from land and other departments is estimated as Rs3,091.125m and from MUCT it is Rs1,152.56m, whereas dues of the KMC against K-Electric are Rs4,609.94m.

The KMC allocated Rs3,314m for 700 development projects in the next fiscal year, of which Rs1,607.7m is allocated for 404 infrastructure (roads) projects and for 30 municipal services projects Rs2,656m, for seven transport and communication works Rs435m, for 62 health projects Rs270.1m, for 103 projects of culture and tourism Rs403.5m, for eight information technology projects Rs45.05m and for new schemes Rs83.3m is allocated in the budget for 2019-20.

Budget (Social Media Pakistan) 0345-6738217

Giving details of the budget, the mayor said the KMC budget was reduced due to curtailment of Rs4.67m by the provincial government, which was made despite an increase of Rs2m in the NFC Award.

"The KMC government curtailed the development budget despite the fact it collected revenue amounting to Rs300m, to Rs400m in Karachi," he said and added that it was hard to prepare the budget due to financial constraints and limited resources

as even staff salaries were difficult to pay.

The mayor said that in the current financial year 134 projects were completed and 134 could not be completed due to the non-release of the fourth quarter of the annual development programme.

"In the current year the Sindh government allocated Rs5bn for the ADP, but it released only Rs2.5bn to the KMC."

He said that the municipal administration had included 491 schemes in the last budget but only 167 of them could be finished

due to non-release of funds.

Mr Akhtar said that despite the decrease in the ADP funds from Rs5bn to Rs3.33bn, the municipal administration carried out the most urgent works in the city to provide immediate relief to citizens.

He also gave details of various development works which have been carried out during the current fiscal year in the city.

Deputy Mayor Syed Arshad Hassan and Metropolitan Commissioner Dr Syed Saif-ur-Rehman were also present on the occasion.

Ride-hailing service driver shot dead

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A driver of a ride-hailing service was shot dead at Sohrah Goth early on Thursday morning, officials said.

They added that Syed Shaukel Hussain, 26, was shot at and wounded by unknown gunmen within the remit of the Sachal police. He drove his car to reach hospital but died on his way in the Federal B Industrial Area police limits.

FB Industrial Area SHO Qamar Javed said the man was driving the vehicle when gunmen attacked him somewhere in the area. He sustained a single bullet wound on the neck. He accelerated the car despite being wounded, but probably fell unconscious after hitting a ramp of the Sohrah Goth bridge.

People sitting at a nearby restaurant rushed to the spot and called an ambulance to take him to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital but he died before reaching the hospital.

Mr Javed, quoting area people, said that they did not see any gunman nor heard any gunshot at the place. He said he believed that the man was attacked within the limits of the Sachal police and died in his jurisdiction.

Male SSP Irfan Bahadur, who visited the crime scene, said the victim was stated to be a driver of the Uber ride-hailing service. The officer said that so far it was a "blind" murder case for the investigators as they did not have any clues to the identity and motive of the killer.

Woman commits suicide

A young woman, estranged from her husband a few months ago, committed suicide on Thursday evening in the Manghopur area, police said.

They added that Barina Narsan, 22, hanged herself inside her parents' home in Gulshan-i-Tauheed, Orangi Town.

Area SHO Irfan Asif said she had developed differences with her husband and shifted to her parents' around six months ago. Relatives had tried to reconcile the couple, but their efforts failed.

On Wednesday, she asked her mother to prepare some drinks. As the mother went into the kitchen, she took her dupatta and hanged herself from a ceiling fan.

She was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital by her parents, where doctors confirmed her death. The police officer said that they received information from the hospital about the arrival of the woman's body. The police fulfilled legal formalities and handed over the body to the family.

The officer ruled out the possibility of any mischief behind the incident.

'Anti-drug unit' proposed

The city police are contemplating to establish an anti-drug unit to curb the growing use of drugs by the youth.

This proposal came under deliberation during a meeting chaired by city police chief Dr Amir Ahmed Shaikh at his office.

The meeting, attended by all DSOs and SSPs of Karachi, sought opinions from the officers to that effect.

Sindh Assembly passes tax-laden finance bill

The opposition leader demands concessions in taxes for Karachi

By Hassan Mansoor

KARACHI: The Sindh Finance Bill for the next fiscal year was passed on Thursday by a majority in the Sindh Assembly as the Pakistan

Tehreek-i-Insaf opposed it vociferously. Their colleagues in the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan proposed amendments to the bill, but they were rejected by the house.

The finance bill followed the Rs1,237bn Sindh budget which was approved by the house a day earlier.

Chief Minister Miral Ali Shah stuck to his stance that the tax regime introduced or changed by his government was the least as

compared to the ones implemented in other provinces. He said most such taxes would not affect the common people.

He accused the federal government of not transferring to Sindh its share, leaving the provincial government to levy taxes on certain sectors. However, he promised the people of Sindh that the government would convene a special session and lower the ratio of taxes if it received its share from Islamabad.

The opposition parties, however, would not buy the chief minister's assurances.

Mr Shah said his government had fixed 13 per cent sales tax on services in Sindh, which was the lowest as compared to other provinces. He said the cities would not be taxed more than what they paid last fiscal.

Dispelling the impression that the new tax regime had heavily affected the cities as created by certain speeches made by the

opposition benches, Mr Shah said Karachi is a part of Sindh and would remain so and "there is no need to further explain it".

He said certain lawmakers in the opposition benches tried to create the impression that differentiated Karachi from Sindh. He expressed his disappointment over the "aggressive" attitude of the opposition benches. He said the provincial government had

Continued on Page 17

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Prayer time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

IS THERE AN ELEMENT OF RISK AND SPECULATION IN EVERY TRADE AS WELL AS DANGER OF LOSS??

—HAZRAT ALI (R.S.)

78A427

METRO EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS



Inauguration of an exhibition of products of Bangladesh at Grand Ballroom, Pearl Continental Hotel, at 10am.



A collection of works by Hoor Inad Sherpao opens at the Full Circle gallery. The show titled 'Face it' will remain open till July 8.

MAKLI ART

Treasure Hunt of Makli with Q&A session by Khalid Soomro & Zain Mustafa at the Mohatta Palace Museum at 3:30pm.

CONDOLENCE REFERENCE



A condolence reference for Elmer Sajid at the Manzoor Akbar Hall, Arts Council, at 6:30pm.

KARACHI: As many as 5,029 vehicles had been checked across Sindh while 371 vehicles impounded and documents of 569 vehicles seized in the first three days of a road-checking campaign by the South Excise and Taxation department, said a statement on Thursday. —AFP

'Foreign policy towards India should be made by qualified individuals'

By Poozad Salim

KARACHI: After the Uri attack in India's Kashmir, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he would isolate Pakistan. Then India did not let the Sasee Summit take place. It is increasingly becoming an extremist society. Foreign policy towards India that should be based on research made by qualified individuals, the kind of policy that should not sound desperate to talk to India but effective enough to bring it back to the dialogue table.

This was said by former dean, faculty of social sciences and meritorious professor at the department of international relations, University of Karachi Dr Moazz Ahmad in his lecture titled 'What should Pakistan's India policy be?' at the Jamiah Medical and Dental College on Thursday evening.

Dr Ahmad said we should learn from history, and raised the question whether Qasbi-Ahmad Muhammad Ali Janab, Sardar Patel, Nehru and Gandhi had ever thought that once the two cities (India and Pakistan) came into being, the between them would remain tense and

communication difficult — disputes such as those of Kashmir, Sindh still exist.

Highlighting the matters related to policy, Dr Ahmad said two educational institutions (Jamia Millia and Jawaharlal Nehru University) in India had departments where research on Pakistan was done. Then there is the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis which has so far published four reports on Pakistan. Five scholars there regularly study Pakistani print and electronic media to keep themselves abreast of the goings-on across the border. On the other hand, while we have a rich culture, the culture of research in Pakistan is not that strong. Whenever a conflict or crisis has raised its head, there is no institute that has done proper research on it. Then there are certain NGOs active for civil governments, and India is top of that list. However, there is an India desk at the ministry of foreign affairs which does work, but a lot more is required. In that context the scholar touched upon the different institutes such as the Institute of Strategic Studies and the Centre for South Asian Studies at Peshawar University which are there, but there is still a gap, and that gap is filled by the security establishment.

Dr Ahmad then shifted his focus on why we have an India-centric policy. He said India is our eastern neighbour, but the tension between us haven't allowed the two countries to progress. Save for the 1970 elections in Pakistan, India has never been an issue in Pakistani elections, whereas in India, for the past 30 years, that's not the case — they have a threat perception. Rajiv Gandhi came up with a suggestion about Sindh which the Indian army vetoed. Pakistan offered to demilitarise the zone, but India did not accept that either. After the Uri attack, Modi said he would isolate Pakistan and did not let the Sasee Summit happen. India has also been standoffish about the resumption of the comprehensive dialogue.

Coming to the last part of his talk, Dr Ahmad said Pakistan has six options vis-à-vis its policy for India. The first is to take input from those who have a command over foreign policy issues. Second, we should establish India studies centres and researchers in it should be hired on merit. Third, Pakistan should have a proactive policy based on strengths and weaknesses of the other side. Fourth, unless India reciprocates our gestures, we shouldn't move ahead.



Dr Moazz Ahmad delivers the lecture on Thursday —Tahir Jamal / White Star

Fifth, foreign policy must be the domain of the ministry of foreign affairs. Six, Pakistan can give India trade and reach its facility, but only to get something concrete in return, such as resumption

of the comprehensive dialogue. Earlier, Dr Jaffer Ahmad introduced the speaker to the audience. The lecture was organised by the Institute of Historical and Social Research (IHSR).

ATC defers indictment in policemen's bus attack case

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday deferred indictment of 52 detained accused persons in a case pertaining to an armed assault on a bus carrying policemen in Chakri, South on Aug 19, 2018 in Korangi.

Charged with killing four people, including three policemen, and wounding 30 others in the deadly attack, the accused included Raees aka Mama, M. Qasim, Asif Iqbal aka Lamba, Usair Javed aka Qasimkhan, Raheel Lodhi, M. Iqbal, Iqbal Heng, Asad Ahmed aka Taha, M. Iqbal aka Wari, M. Asif, Gul Muhammad aka Shahid Kala and M. Iqbal aka Lamba. On Thursday, the court was fined for framing the amended charge before the link judge of the anti-terrorism court concerned, who was currently on summer vacation.

The detained accused persons, including the alleged "hitman" Raees aka Mama believed to be the mastermind behind the attack, Qasim Movement (MQM), were produced from prison. However, the judge put off the hearing and fixed the matter for framing the amended charge against them on July 6. The Rangers had moved an application pleading to frame amended charge in the present case, claiming that some more suspects had been arrested.

Earlier, in January the court indicted 11 detained suspects in the present case. The case of five absconding suspects, including the former in-charge of MQM's Karachi, Taseem, Commander, Hamid Siddiqui, who had been declared as proclaimed offenders in the present case, was bifurcated.

According to the prosecution, three policemen and another person were killed and 30 others wounded in the bus attack carried out by a group of 25 to 30 gunmen (shooting members in Karachi).

The police charged around 11 detained accused while some of their accomplices were shown in absconders. Two accused, Shahid and Asif Chishti, were killed in retaliatory fire, it added.

The prosecution alleged that Karim Masuma, a former member of the MQM, was involved in the attack on the bus in order to cause a sense of terror and maintain his hold in Korangi. It claimed that the accused Raees Mama had confessed to his involvement in the incident.



CARABAGE trucks of the Binch Solid Waste Management Board are parked in a park off Marine Promenade in Clifton. Though the authorities have failed to come up with a satisfactory explanation for using a public park as a parking yard for garbage trucks, sources privy to the board's recent move say that it was decided to use the "abandoned facility" for parking off its trucks "temporarily". —Faris Siddiqi / White Star

Study depicts threat posed by plastic pollution

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Plastics are impacting our air, soil and water quality and polluting our food systems. They are even posing our aquatic and other life as extinction and damaging ecosystems. The issue of plastics has become so pervasive globally as well as in every city of Pakistan that a collaborative and proactive approach is needed to address it.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) shared these concerns on Thursday in the light of a recent study which finds that an average person in the world could be ingesting approximately five grams of plastic every week, which is the equivalent weight of a credit card.

The study was commissioned by the WWF International and carried out by the University of Newcastle, Australia, on the impacts of microplastics on humans.

It's the first global analysis to synthesise data from over 50 studies on the ingestion of microplastics by people.

According to experts, its findings are an important step towards understanding the impact of plastic pollution on humans. It also further confirms the urgent need to address the plastic issue so that it does not pollute ecosystems in the first place.

According to the study, the largest source of plastic ingestion is drinking water with plastic found in water (groundwater, surface water, tap water and bottled water) all over the world.

Inhalation, it says, estimates represent a negligible proportion

of microplastics entering the body but may vary sharply depending on the environment.

"Plastic pollution is a major threat to wildlife, not only through microplastic ingestion, but via entanglement and habitat destruction. Plastic pollution also has damaging economic consequences, with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) estimating its annual economic impact on the ocean economy at US\$4.8 billion," it says.

Of the consumables studied, those with the highest recorded plastic levels include shellfish, beer and salt. Leakage of plastic into our environment and food chain has been met so far with an inadequate global response by governments.

"The long-term effects of plastic ingestion on the human body are not yet well documented. But studies have shown that beyond a certain exposure level, inhalation of plastic fibres seems to produce mild inflammation of the respiratory tract. In marine animals, high concentrations of microplastics in their digestive and respiratory system can lead to early death."

"Research studies have demonstrated toxicity in vitro to lung cells, the liver, and brain cells. Some types of plastic carry chemicals and additives with potential effects on human health," it says.

Sharing his concerns, Hamid Naeq Khan, director general, WWF-P, emphasised the need to promote alternatives as well as to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure zero plastic waste in Pakistan.

"Policies about banning plastic products should be implemented in letter and spirit and community

awareness programmes can be helpful to reduce our use of plastics in our daily lives," he said.

Pakistan could learn from the examples of countries like Rwanda where such bans have been introduced, he added.

Muhammad Moazzam Khan, technical adviser on marine fisheries, WWF-P, said the current study depicted a realistic picture of how plastics were damaging the environment and harming human life.

Referring to a recent local study, he said it found that more than 300 pieces of microplastics were found in one gram of sand along the Clifton beach.

"This is alarming as microplastics consumed by marine animals find their way to humans through seafood," he said, suggesting the need for more research to assess the situation of plastics including microplastics in Pakistan.

Shoring some data, he said around 13,000 tonnes of garbage was generated in the city and only 8,000 tonnes was lifted by the civic agencies to the dumpsites. However, the remaining 5,000 tonnes of garbage was unaccounted for which went into the sea or remained on land.

"The large quantity of garbage becomes part of the ecosystem and pollutes the urban environment," he said.

The present study, he said, would serve as a wake-up call to governments. "Not only are plastics polluting our oceans and waterways and killing marine life — it's in all of us and we can't escape consuming plastics. Global action is urgent and essential to tackling this crisis," said Marco Lambertini representing WWF International.

CM orders operation against water theft to irrigate tail-end areas

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the irrigation department to ensure equitable distribution of water in the command areas of all three barrages and 14 canals and adequate water must be released to the command area of the Kotri Barrage where early crops of Kharif are planted.

"Nobody could be allowed to disturb water distribution system," he said and directed Irrigation Minister Syed Nasir Shah to launch an operation against water theft.

The chief minister issued these directives on Thursday while presiding over a meeting regarding equitable distribution of water particularly to the tail-end areas of Badin, Sujawal and Thatta.

The meeting was attended by Irrigation Minister Syed Nasir Shah, Agriculture Minister Iqbal Rabbu, Deputy Speaker of Sindh Assembly Rehman Leghari, special assistant to the CM on irrigation Ashtage Memon, special secretary of irrigation Ashtage Memon, elected representatives (MPAs) of Badin, Sujawal and Thatta.

The chief minister said that in April and May substantial discharge of 12,000 cusecs water was provided to Rahvi and Sara canals to facilitate cotton sowing.

He said and directed the irrigation minister to launch an operation against water theft in the circles has been achieved to the extent of 90 per cent, he added.

Besides, he said, it was also decided to provide adequate water to Kotri Barrage with priority to Akram Wah and Phooli Canals to encourage sowing of dry crops and this was done properly. Now, early sowing of Kharif crops has been started downstream Kotri, therefore adequate water must be released, he added.

Mr Shah said that adequate water would reach the tail-end areas of Badin, Sujawal and Thatta.

"I will not allow anybody to disturb water distribution system," he said and directed the irrigation minister to launch an operation against water theft/filling water lifting through different means.

He directed the commissioner of Hyderabad and the DGG of Hyderabad to provide police force and participate in the operation being launched by the irrigation department.

Mr Shah also urged the irrigation department to provide adequate supply of water to the right-bank canals off-taking from Sukkur Barrage such as Rice, SW and Dada Canals.

Special secretary of irrigation Ashtage Memon told the meeting participants that overall there was around 38 per cent water shortage. At this the chief minister directed him to ensure equitable supply of water all over Sindh and special attention must be given to the tail ends.

Minister Nasir Shah said that he would personally monitor operation against water theft and would acquire services of Pakistan Rangers, if required. He assured the elected representatives of Badin, Sujawal and Thatta that water would be provided to their districts equitably.

Water schemes

Meanwhile, presiding over a review meeting of the public health engineering department, Chief Secretary Syed Murtaza Ali Shah emphasised the need for ensuring water supply and drainage facilities in all districts of Sindh.

He stressed the need for maintaining reverse osmosis plants and making ultra-filtration plants 100% functional by December 2019. The chief secretary also instructed that 273 schemes of drinking water supply and sanitation of Tharphar should also be completed this year.

He also directed that the commissioners/deputy commissioners extend their cooperation to the PHED department.

Earlier secretary of the department Roshan Shakh briefed the meeting participants that the water supply and drainage model projects were being processed in six districts of Sindh.

LEAs put on notice in missing persons' cases

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday issued notices to police, Rangers, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and other respondents on a set of identical petitions about missing persons.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice Syed Hameed Akbar Rizvi also asked the federal defence secretary and provincial home secretary to submit their comments in the next hearing.

Relatives of the missing persons appeared to be very disturbed and complained against police, informing the bench about their sufferings. Justice Rizvi observed that police were doing nothing for the recovery of the missing persons, but summoning the petitioners repeatedly and holding futile sessions of the joint investigation team.

When the court asked a law officer of Rangers about the detention of suspects for investigation, he replied that in the past, they kept the suspects under 90-day preventive detention under the anti-terrorism law, but now this provision was no more available and currently the paramilitary force handled over suspects to police for investigation.

The law officer also contended that the paramilitary force has nothing to do with the cases of missing persons. The bench put the respondents on notice and also directed police and other law enforcement agencies to make efforts for the recovery of the missing persons.

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NAB holds public hearing

KARACHI: In compliance with National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman's initiative, Zero Tolerance Against Corruption, the director general of NAB Karachi, along with his team conducted a public hearing by receiving complaints from general public at NAB Karachi office between 11am and 1pm.

A large number of complainants submitted their applications regarding land fraud committed by officials in collusion with private persons, said a statement on Thursday.

A number of people also lodged their complaints against various officials' management.

The director general issued orders for complaint verification against various departments for initiation of prompt action as per the law.

The complaints were filed against Pakistan Post Office Cooperative Society, Irrigation department, Sindh, Soudagran Housing Society, Sindh land and revenue department, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation and Karachi Development Authority.

The DG also transferred complaints which did not come under the ambit of NAB to departments concerned with the directions to resolve grievances of complainants according to law.

The public hearings will be conducted on every last Thursday of every month at the NAB office. —AFP

Cloudy weather, drizzle forecast

KARACHI: The weather would remain partly cloudy in the city and in many ecosystems drizzle in the evening hours of Friday (today) or in the next few days, Met department forecast on Thursday.

The maximum and minimum temperature recorded in the metropolis on Thursday was 35.5°C and 28.3°C, respectively.

Humidity ranged between 70 per cent and 80 per cent in the morning and evening respectively.

"The city would continue to experience its normal weather pattern, which is the hallmark of this time of the year; partial clouds with sea breeze," said Met director Sardar Sarfaraz.

The maximum temperature in the city would likely remain between 34°C and 35°C in the next few days, he said.

Other districts, however, experienced hot weather on Thursday with maximum temperature of 47°C recorded in Dadu followed by Larkana and Bannu, where temperatures went up to 45°C, Jacobabad and Sukkur (44°C), Mirhi, Choke and Hyderabad (43°C), Badin (39°C) and Thatta (36°C). —Staff Reporter

Headway made in probe into journalist's death case

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The Cantonment police are believed to have held an acquaintance of senior journalist, Iqbal Warsi, who was found dead in his apartment under mysterious circumstances on June 15. It was learnt on Thursday that the suspect, whose identity is being kept secret, was being brought to Hyderabad from Karachi.

The police are not sharing details of the probe but it was learnt that the suspect was a friend of a close friend of Warsi's.

The suspect, who was facing some problem with police, came across Warsi through their common friend some time back to seek the journalist's help.

Police were also trying to pick up more suspects in the mysterious death case, a police source said.

The post-mortem examination identified nine injuries around Warsi's skull and it was believed they were caused by scissors. His younger brother, Ghani Warsi, had lodged a case at the Cantonment police.

The suspect was being interrogated at the CIA Centre, a police source said, adding:

"The SSP himself is going to interrogate him as he is not confessing [to have caused any harm to Warsi]."

UTP acquitted after 13 years in jail

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: The third additional sessions judge of model criminal trial court in Sukkur on Thursday acquitted an undertrial prisoner of murder charges after 13 years in jail and ordered his immediate release.

The model court gave the verdict after hearing the case of Mohammad Hashim Hanif, a resident of Kandhara near Rohri, who was arrested on charges of involvement in the triple murder of his brother, nephew and brother's wife in 2006.

The UTP's counsel Imad Ali Malik presented forceful arguments in favour of his client and proved him innocent before the judge, which led to his immediate release.

NAB seeks details of Siyal family's assets

By Our Correspondent

SUKKUR: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Sukkur, has sought details of assets belonging to the family members and certain close relatives of former home minister Siyal Anwar Siyal from the departments/organisations concerned in an inquiry into alleged misappropriation of over Rs50 million from the provincial kitty.

According to sources in Sukkur NAB, an inquiry against the Siyal family regarding their assets beyond known sources of income is in an advanced stage and permission from the NAB chairman is being sought to go ahead with the inquiry.

Further details of such plots, agricultural lands and other properties/assets were being sought from the departments concerned as well as the Larkana commissioner, and deputy commissioners of Qambar-Shahdadkot, said a Sukkur NAB official on Thursday.

They said NAB investigators believed that the Siyal family, through Asad Khaliq and Abdul Sattar Khaliq, amassed assets through occupation of government lands and transferring plots in Sindh Town, Gulshan-i-Mansoor, Gulshan-i-Saeed and other housing schemes in the names of his father, brother, wife and other family members.



MOTORCYCLISTS struggle with strong winds as a dust storm sweeps through Hyderabad on Thursday.—Dawn

Badin may face desertification if not supplied water, moot warns

By A Correspondent

BADIN: Speakers at a conference on water held on Thursday warned that if the Sindh government did not take urgent corrective measures to ensure fair distribution of water, major parts of Badin and other areas in lower Sindh would gradually turn into deserts.

Former irrigation secretary and head of Save Lark Action Committee Mir Mohammad Fakhri said at the moot that water problems started appearing after 1965 when political governments began exerting pressure on irrigation department officials to provide water to their farmhouses through illegal outlets.

"The political figures asked officials to divert flows of water even to desert areas against the design capacity of canals of Sukkur Barrage," he added.

He said that all water problems originated in the area between Sukkur and Kotri barrages from where water was being taken from river through big pumping stations. A pumping station with a capacity of lifting 400 cusec was being built near Meer-Dadu bridge to directly take water from the river to irrigate lands occupied by influential persons of the area in flagrant violation of relevant laws, he said.

He said that all such projects were carried out without consultation with experts and growers of the respective areas only to steal water of farmers living in lower Sindh, particularly Badin.

Mr Fakhri said that as per laws of Indus River System Authority, tail-end areas of Badin, Thatta and Sujawal and other areas ought to be supplied water by the first week of April for early cultivation of Kharif crops including rice while the area of Sukkur Barrage should be given water after the lower riparian had received their share in the beginning of May in accordance with decades old practice.

He said that when officials of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) were planning to build blockages in the bed of Pindli Canal near Allpur regulator to divert water to lands falling within command area of Sukkur Barrage, the irrigation officials had raised serious objections but SIDA officials did not pay heed to them in

their "greed for huge corruption".

He said that officials concerned were not ready to disclose real allocation for Thatta and Akram Mah-canal to hide their corruption and incompetence. The officials should have spent the huge amount of Rs1 billion on the maintenance of the two canals instead of wasting it on the construction of blockages, he said.

He demanded the Sindh government announce relief package for farmers by providing seeds and fertiliser at half the price so that they could survive through this difficult time.

Mr Fakhri said that all farmers organisations were ready to launch a decisive movement for fair distribution of water and asked robots to stand writing on the wall and giving content among people.

Mr Fayaz Hussain Tankhail, chief of Sindh Akhbar Tanzeem, said that rampant corruption, mismanagement and political interference were fast turning Badin into a desert where people were forced to dig wells for drinking water and the land was becoming barren for lack of water.

Mohammad Khan Sarjo, vice

president of Sindh Akhbar Board, said that rulers' major mills had caused widespread destruction in the district and held them responsible for the worsening state of affairs in the district.

Zabair Ahmad Fiall, leader of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Furqan, demanded that all lawmakers who had kept their mouth over the issue should tender resignation.

Turn short over water shortage

A complete shutdown was observed in Karachi's Ghazwa area on Thursday on a protest call given by farmers against severe water crisis in the area for past many months.

The farmers staged a demonstration at Shabher Eazi Rahu Chowk on Gharcho-Hyderabad road in which traders also participated after shutting their shops.

Later, Assistant Commissioner Zulkif Ali Nizami and irrigation officials held talks with the protesters' leaders and persuaded them to end the protest. Meanwhile, farmers in Malkani Shari town resumed their protest for the 12th consecutive day against water shortage.

He, however, said that the E&ACE acted on CM's direction and no coercive action was initiated against him.

Mr Riazuddin contended that the petitioner was handling public finances and this made him liable to be treated as a public servant. He said that a show cause notice dated March 22 issued to him had been withdrawn. The new inquiry committee, he added, was being notified under Section 13(3) of the University of Sindh Act, 1972, as amended through Sindh Universities and Institutions Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018 to initiate the process of investigation.

The SBAU secretary said that this court had on June 30 suspended the operation of the May 30 and May 31 notifications and both of them had since been withdrawn. He said that action was to be taken in accordance with law to avoid deviation from statutory provisions in the probe against the petitioner.

Petitioner's counsel, Advocate Raza Kalwar, argued that it was a third attempt by respondents against his client, Justice Nadeem Akhtar told him how could he [the counsel] present respondents from issuing a notification?

The counsel was told that if there was any legal defect in the notification, he could seek legal remedy.

The court disposed of the VC's petition after the statement and notification was filed.

Sindh Assembly passes finance bill

Continued from Page 15

changed the valuation table of the tax net.

Concessions sought for Karachi

Leader of the Opposition Firdous Nagri, before walking out of the house in reaction to the chief minister's bitter statement, said that since the provincial capital was the key source of revenue for the Sindh government, it should enjoy exemption in taxes in certain sectors.

He said the tax regime introduced for the next fiscal would be detrimental to various businesses.

He said the sparse avenues of entertainment had been taxed, which was not justified in a city where people were starved for fun and leisure.

He demanded that the government tax the rich instead of the poor. He said the tax document should have carried a section highlighting the impact of the taxes on the people.

Choice of wording

CM Shah objected to Mr Nagri and certain other members' choice of words that gave the impression that they differentiated between the sprawling city and the rest of Sindh.

The opposition leader, however, clarified that when he spoke specifically about Karachi, it did not mean that he and his colleagues thought the city was not a part of Sindh.

"But we think Karachi should be given concessions in certain sectors for being the highest earner for the province," he said.

Social Media: Pakistan 0345-6738217

between leaders of the house and the opposition, the members belonging to the PFI started bawling their heads.

They would hear their desks whenever the chief minister began speaking.

Revenue and Taxation Minister Mubashir Chaudhry informed the house that tax on 3,000cc luxury cars was being increased to Rs250,000 as the federal government had increased the rate of tax on commercial vehicles.

The provincial government, he added, had designed a table according to which tax by seats would be collected on commercial vehicles.

Amendments to finance bill

Mohammad Hussain, the MQM-P's seasoned parliamentarian, was the only member on the opposition's side who filed five amendments to the finance bill.

He furnished his argument for each of his amendments, though the house rejected all of them with a majority.

Mr Hussain made the chief minister concede that an amendment in the finance bill showed the government's ill-preparedness while finalising the tax document.

Mr Shah admitted that the government made a mistake, yet, he added, the amendment was duly considered and approved by the provincial cabinet.

Mr Hussain said property taxes had been increased many times as the government would now tax immovable property on actual valuation instead of the Board of Revenue's rates.

On motor vehicle tax, he said the govern-

ment had increased its target by more than Rs500m to last year's Rs4,000m target, which would overburden the people.

He demanded that such amendment should be withdrawn, saying, instead of increasing motor vehicle tax, the government should improve its transport system.

He said Rs250m had been increased under the head of professional tax while another Rs250m would be collected through the increased tax on stamp duty.

He was not amused with the government's taxing of food courts, saying eating out did not fall in the bracket of entertainment, while Rs200m had been increased on entertainment tax.

Mr Hussain said these taxes would directly affect the common man, opposing five per cent tax on ride-hailing services, indoor game centres, insurance agents and waste collection. He said Karachi would be affected by such taxes more than the rest.

PTV's Arsalan Taj spoke on tax on gas and petrol stations.

The opposition benches said the government had taxed mosques and other places of worship, and increased the rate of tax on properties owned by charities.

A lawmaker demanded that the chief minister apologise for his attitude towards the opposition leader at which Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani reminded him of the day when opposition members' demonstration was also "objectionable".

After all amendments moved by the opposition were rejected by the house, the finance bill was passed with a majority of votes.

New body set up to probe charges against SU VC, SHC told

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: The Sindh High Court, Hyderabad bench, on Thursday disposed of a petition filed by Sindh University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Fatah Mohammad Barilvi when it was informed that the provincial government had set up a new committee to look into the allegations of inefficiency, corruption and mismanagement against him.

The statement was made by Sindh Boards & Universities (SBU) secretary Mohammad Riazuddin in response to the VC's plea against his suspension.

The bench comprised Justice Nadeem Akhtar and Justice Imad Ali Shah.

The secretary submitted the statement through Additional Advocate General (AAG) Allah Bachhu Bhatti along with the June 26 notification regarding the setting up of the committee.

Mr Riazuddin informed the court that, in fact, action was taken against petitioner on charges after approval of chief minister/vice-chancellor under rules of business of government and Universities and Institutions Laws (Amendment) Act 2018.

According to the notification, the planning and development board (P&DB) chairperson, Nadeem Shah Durrani, will head the probe committee.

Home secretary Abdul Kabir Kazi and additional irrigation secretary Ghulam Ali Bhattani will be its other members. The committee will complete its probe in one month and submit its report to the Sindh chief minister.

He said that as regards continuation in part of petition the VC wholeheartedly took steps to improve standard of university, it did not absolve the petitioner from his involvement in illegal use of public money.

The court said the matter was sub-judice.

He, however, said that the E&ACE acted on CM's direction and no coercive action was initiated against him.

Mr Riazuddin contended that the petitioner was handling public finances and this made him liable to be treated as a public servant. He said that a show cause notice dated March 22 issued to him had been withdrawn. The new inquiry committee, he added, was being notified under Section 13(3) of the University of Sindh Act, 1972, as amended through Sindh Universities and Institutions Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018 to initiate the process of investigation.

The SBAU secretary said that this court had on June 30 suspended the operation of the May 30 and May 31 notifications and both of them had since been withdrawn. He said that action was to be taken in accordance with law to avoid deviation from statutory provisions in the probe against the petitioner.

Petitioner's counsel, Advocate Raza Kalwar, argued that it was a third attempt by respondents against his client, Justice Nadeem Akhtar told him how could he [the counsel] present respondents from issuing a notification?

The counsel was told that if there was any legal defect in the notification, he could seek legal remedy.

The court disposed of the VC's petition after the statement and notification was filed.

SOYEM
Soyem of
Mrs. Kausar Hussain
on Friday, 28th June 2019
between Asr & Maghrib
at 69, Khayaban-e-Mujahid, Phase 5,
DHA, Karachi.
Sogwanan:
Faisal Hussain, Amna Hafeez & Ali Hussain

CHEHLUM
With profound grief we announce the demise of
Late Syed Muhammad Ali Raza
(Ex. Pakistan Railways, Karachi, Entry, 1982)
a/o Syed Saeed Hussain Rizvi
Who left us on Friday, 24th May, 2019 (1st Muh-e-Qadr,
Rabi-ul-Thani-e-Mawla-e-Ghairat, Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib (A.S.),
15th Ramadan Mubarak, 1440 H)
Guren Khawari / Majlis-e-Chehlum for the departed soul will
be held today, Friday, 28th June, 2019, at 4 pm,
At Imambagh Madina-e-Nadim, off. Rashid binhas Road,
Near Nipa Choorang, Block 3, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi.
Mourners:
M/s. Mrs. Syed Saeed Hussain & Family
0333-7162101

SOYEM
Our beloved Mother
Mrs. Kausar Hussain
Passed away on 26 June 2019
Soyem will be held on
Friday 28 June 2019
Between Asr & Maghrib at
House No.69 Khayaban-e-
Mujahid Phase-V DHA
Karachi.
Mourners:
Faisal Hussain, Amna Hafeez & Ali Hussain
03468224630 - 03008255285

HYDERABAD
July 6 & 7, 2019
At the Continental Hall, Indus Hotel

SUKKUR
July 9, 2019
At the Banquet Hall, Hotel One
Timings: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

THE DAWN SINDH EDUCATION FAIR 2019

- Meet representatives from 20+ leading colleges and universities from Pakistan and overseas
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UAN: 111-444-777 Website: www.dawn.com

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)
CORRIGENDUM
TENDER TO RUN & OPERATE ACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE
WEIGHING FACILITY AT PCAA AIRPORTS

1. Reference PCAA advertisement published on 19th June 2019 regarding Tender for "To Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility at PCAA Airports". It is notified for the information of all that the Revenue License Fees of the concerned have been revised, as follows:

Sr. No.	Concession Name	Revenue License Fee (Rs. 1000/-)
1	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in Domestic Departure (Shifting Area), at Jinnah Airport	1,688,267/-
2	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in Domestic Departure (Shifting Area), at Jinnah Airport	2,388,268/-
3	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in International Departure (Shifting Area), at Jinnah Airport	2,188,838/-
4	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in Domestic Departure, at MAF Lahore	376,364/-
5	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in International Departure, at MAF Lahore	66,344/-
6	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in Domestic Departure, at MAF Multan	67,500/-
7	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in International Departure, at MAF Multan	584,126/-
8	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in Domestic Departure, at FWP Faisalabad	66,830/-
9	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in International Departure, at FWP Faisalabad	662,115/-
10	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in Domestic Departure, at SROF Peshawar	121,386/-
11	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility in International Departure, at SROF Peshawar	236,196/-
12	Grant of License to Run & Operate Accompanied Baggage Weighing Facility, at DND Airport Lahore	17,320/-

2. All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

Director Commercial & Estates
Headquarters Civil Aviation Authority
Terminal-I HQCAA, Jinnah, Karachi
Website: www.pcaa.gov.pk
Telephone: 021-99242531

FOR PAKISTAN AIRWAYS AND AIRPORTS
www.pcaa.gov.pk

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHAIROPUR
No. GB/MC/KHP/1888 of 2019 Dated 21-6-2019

TENDER NOTICE

For purchase of electric material for maintenance of Street Lights for Municipal Committee, Khairpur for the fiscal year 2019-2020, the sealed tenders (with or without) are invited from the interested parties. The details and specifications of the material will be provided with the Tender Form.

Sr. No.	Description of Article	Budget Provision
01	Electric Material for Street Lights	Rs. 11.5 Million

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Tender Form can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours on payment of tender fee of Rs. 300/- within 14 days after publication of this notice.
- Sealed tenders in tender forms should reach the office of the undersigned on or before _____ at 2:00 pm which will be opened on the same day at 3:00 pm in presence of interested parties.
- Each tender form should contain a self deposit of Rs. 2,00,000/- only (two lakh only) as earnest money in favour of Chairman, Municipal Committee, Khairpur.
- The intending parties should have NTN and also registered with Sindh Revenue Board.
- The successful party should have to pay Income Tax / Sales Tax according to Rules.
- The successful party will supply material on daily basis as required and payment will be made on expiry of every month according to supplied material.
- Other terms & conditions of SPPRA Rules will also apply.

CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICER
MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHAIROPUR
SMP-KHP No. 2428/19 **Bay No to Corruption**

MISCELLANEOUS

SHAIKH ZAYED FEDERAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL INSTITUTE, LAHORE
ADMISSION NOTICE SESSION JULY, 2019

Applications are invited from eligible Pakistani National candidates for admission in the following Postgraduate Medical Training Programs for the Session July, 2019.

Applications are invited from eligible Pakistani National candidates for admission in the following Postgraduate Medical Training Programs for the Session July, 2019:

FCPS-II SURGERY & ALLIED TRAINING DISCIPLINES					
S.No	SPECIALTY	S.No	SPECIALTY	Eligibility Criteria	
I.	Gen. Surgery	VI.	Plastic Surgery	- Candidate must possess MBBS/or equivalent degree registered by PMDC. - Must possess one year House Job from a PMDC recognized Institution. - Permanent valid registration with PMDC. - Candidate having two years experience certificate for Level-III Year-3 training specialty will be preferred.	
II.	E.N.T	VII.	Neurosurgery		
III.	Ophthalmology	VIII.	Paediatric Surgery		
IV.	Gynae & Obst	IX.	Orthopaedic Surgery		
V.	Anaesthesia	X.	Cardiothoracic Surgery		

FCPS-II MEDICINE & ALLIED TRAINING DISCIPLINES					
S.No	SPECIALTY	S.No	SPECIALTY	Eligibility Criteria	
I.	Int. Medicine	V.	Cardiology	- Candidate must possess MBBS/or equivalent degree registered by PMDC. - Must possess one year House Job from a PMDC recognized Institution. - Permanent valid registration with PMDC. - Candidate having two years experience certificate for Level-III Year-3 training specialty will be preferred.	
II.	Paediatric Medicine	VI.	Nephrology		
III.	Radiology	VII.	Neurology		
IV.	Haematology	VIII.	Histopathology		
IX. Rheumatology & Immunology/Level-IV 2 nd Qualification				- Basic criteria of Level-III training Disciplines. - Must possess experience certificate of Int. Medicine. - Must possess FCPS-II Medicine Degree.	

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Appointment of Financial Advisor for the Privatisation of Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad

The Privatisation Commission (PC) intends to hire services of Financial Advisor(s) for the privatisation of Jinnah Convention Centre (JCC) (Transaction). JCC is located in Islamabad at a prime location near Constitution Avenue, comprising 7.59 acres of land with a built-up area of 4.13 acres (the "Property"). The advisory services shall include review of legal and regulatory framework; detailed due diligence of the Property; alternative transaction structures; valuation of property; preparation and implementation of marketing strategy / plan; pre-qualification of prospective investors etc.

To act as Financial Advisor (FA) for the Transaction, PC invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Real Estate Development Advisory Firm(s) or Corporate Finance Firm(s) with the requisite demonstrable experience of strategic commercial Real Estate Advisory Services. The FA is expected to associate reputable and experienced Law Firm and Valuer(s), as sub-contractors and will be responsible for advising the PC on all matters leading to successful completion of the Transaction.

The Interested Parties (IPs) are required to submit following requisite information / documents:

- Detailed profile of the Firm(s) including core area of expertise, incorporation document(s), income tax and sales tax status (tax filer), contact information and management structure etc;
- Overall experience of providing Advisory Services in Real Estate sector during the last 15 years, with details of (clients);
- Proof of at least three (03) similar completed projects worth Rs. one billion or above by providing Transaction Advisory Services, during last 5 years;
- Profile of Law Firm and Valuer(s) with relevant experience, along with letter of exclusive consent.

IPs are advised to submit EOI's (5 copies), not exceeding twenty-five (25) pages including annexures, along with a non-refundable processing fee of Pak Rupees 70,000/- in the form of a bank draft / Pay order / Banker's cheque in favour of the Privatisation Commission, Government of Pakistan, payable at Islamabad at the address mentioned in the advertisement.

The last date for the submission of EOI's is **July 19, 2019 by 3:00 pm.**

EOI's shall be opened on the same day at 4:00pm in the presence of representatives of IPs, who may opt to be present.

Detailed scope of work / TOR will be shared with the shortlisted firms an integral part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) Package. The RFP Package is available only to the shortlisted IPs, who submit an EOI showcasing the above listed credentials and processing fee.

For further information/queries, please contact:

Director General Banking & Utilities
Ph: (+92-51) 9201955
Fax: (+92-51) 9203076
dgmn@privatisation.gov.pk

Government of Pakistan
Privatisation Commission
5-A, EDB Building, Constitution Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-9205146-47
Fax: +92-51-9203076
www.privatisation.gov.pk

Attach Attested Photocopies of the Following Documents with the Application:-

- Matric Certificate, F.Sc Certificate or equivalent.
- MBBS Degree with detail marks certificates of all professional.
- Attempt Certificates.
- PMDC valid permanent registration Certificate.
- House Job certificate with exact dates from the concerned Medical Superintendent as well as Professor/Head of the Department of concerned Hospital (Both are necessary).
- Domicile Certificate.
- Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC).
- Attach experience certificate (if any).
- Three passport size photographs duly attested on front/back (paste on the admission form).
- Those having foreign qualifications are required to submit HEC/PMDC equivalency certificate.

Important:

- Application forms are available from account section of FPGMI, Lahore on Payment of Rs. 2000/-.
- Application with incomplete documents will not be considered for admission.
- Admission is liable to be cancelled during the training if any discrepancy found in the submitted documents.
- Applications received after due date or with incomplete information shall not be considered.
- Those applicants in service and desirous for admission on deputation basis must apply through proper channel.
- For further information please contact with the office of Medical Education Department (Phone 042-35865731-35 Ext. 2329 & 2323) of SZFPGMI, Lahore.

Date To Remember:

- Only short listed candidates will be called for an interview.
- Last Date for submission of applications 12th July, 2019 (01:00PM).
- Interviews will be held:- FCPS-II Faculty of Medicine & Allied Disciplines 22nd July, 2019 (09:00AM).
- FCPS-II Faculty of Surgery & Allied Disciplines 23rd July, 2019 (09:00AM).

PROF. DR. MATEEN IZHAR
CHAIRMAN & DEAN
SHAIKH ZAYED FEDERAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL INSTITUTE, LAHORE

DAWN
the complete newspaper

TODAY'S DIARY
A complete daily diary for all professions

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION KARACHI

Opposite Mashriq Centre, Sir Shah Suleman Road Gulshan-elqbal Karachi
Phone No: 021-99231945

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Karachi Dated: 25/06/2019

Sealed tenders under single stage Two Envelope Process bidding process are hereby invited from all the contractors / firms who are registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant field and appropriate category in separate sealed envelopes in accordance with SPPRA Rules 2012 (Amended 2017).

Sr. No.	Description	Estimated Cost	Earliest Maturity %	Tender Fee	Completion Time
Rehabilitation Phase - I					
01.	Repair of C/W/T & Providing installing Pumping Machinery 30 BHP 2 Sets Providing Jarring Jarring Test P. Pipe 6" Dia Rising Main for Water Supply Scheme at Astar Shah Bin Qasim District Mabi Karachi	81,69,579	4.08,878	3000	05 Months
02.	Repair of C/W/T, Pump House and providing laying jarring Test P. Pipe 6" Dia Conveyance Main & Distribution System 12" dia, 3" Dia for Water Supply Scheme at Astar Shah Bin Qasim District Mabi Karachi	84,19,021	4,20,361	3000	05 Months
ADP					
03.	Providing installing pumping machinery 30 BHP (2 sets) for Rural Drainage Scheme Daud Goth Rural Goth Bada Town (Rural) Karachi	45,06,000	3,25,000	3000	05 Months
04.	Providing & installing Diesel Generator 150 (kVA) for Rural Drainage Scheme Daud Goth Rural Goth Bada Town (Rural) Karachi	30,06,000	2,50,000	3000	05 Months
05.	Providing Laying, Jarring & Testing R/C Sewer 12" Dia in Markets for Rural Drainage Scheme Daud Goth Rural Goth Bada Town (Rural) Karachi	80,06,000	4,00,000	3000	05 Months
06.	Providing Laying, Jarring & Testing R/C Dia R/C Sewer & Collector at C.C. Pavement in various streets of Channaray & Khattar & Surrounding Area for Rural Drainage Scheme Channaray & Khattar Goth Ghatap Tyan Karachi	8,25,00,000	6,25,000	3000	05 Months

- Providing Laying, Jarring & Testing 12" R/C Pipe 12" dia (Rising Main) & Providing & installing Pumping Machinery 30 BHP & 150 (kVA) for Rural Drainage Scheme Channaray & Khattar Goth Ghatap Tyan Karachi
- The bank tender form / proposal documents for above stated work can be obtained from the office of the undersigned situated at office of the Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Karachi Near Mashriq Centre Sir Shah Suleman Road District East Karachi, on any working day upto 25.07.2019 at 12:00 PM on submission of written request and payment of prescribed Tender Fee (non-refundable) in shape of pay order in favour of Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Karachi. The last date of issuance of bid document is 3 days prior to the submission date.
- The Tender proposal and Financial Proposal must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes with clear marking of "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" AND "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" & will be received back on 25.07.2019 upto 1:00 PM from the issuing office. Technical proposal of the participating firms will be opened on 25.07.2019 upto 2:00 PM by the Tender Opening Committee in presence of participating contractor firms or their authorized representatives who wish to be present.
- The TECHNICAL PROPOSAL opened shall be evaluated for technical qualification of the firms. Financial bid / proposals of the technically qualified firms shall be opened and publicly announced on the date and time that will be communicated in writing to all the qualified contractors / firms in advance. Financial bid / proposal of technically unqualified contractors shall be returned to them unopened.
- Tenders shall be carefully & neatly filled and signed by the bidders. Each bid must accompany the Earnest Money as mentioned below in shape of Cash Deposit in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Karachi. Bid Security shall be submitted with technical proposal. Incomplete tender submission or conditional tender shall not be entertained.
- Registration certificate from Pakistan Engineering Council on appropriate category to the name of each work for the year 2018-19: CE-08, CE-16, EE-04, EE-06, EE-08, EE-11.
- Registration with Income Tax Department (NTN Copy) and Sindh Revenue Board (Sales Tax Registration) and copy of CNIC of owners / proprietors.

DATE OF RECEIPT AND TIME AND ATTEND:
Date of issue upto 12.06.2019 at 1:00 PM & will be received back on same day upto 12.06.2019 at 1:00 PM & opened upto 12.06.2019 at 2:00 PM.

- TECHNICAL PROPOSAL**
- List of completed work of Water & Sewerage jobs with documentary evidence along with satisfactory completion certificate of work from employer and details of ongoing works.
- Details of machinery and equipment available for execution of work with documentary evidence.
- Qualification and experience of technical personnel and key site management staff.
- Bank statement of last 6 Months.
- The instructions to bidders, bidding date, conditions of contract, contract data mentioned in SBO are applicable.
- Affidavit regarding not included in litigation and abandoned works.
- Affidavit that the firm is not blacklisted by any procurement agency.
- Affidavit that the given information, documents and data is absolutely true and correct.
- In case of unavoidable circumstances on submission / opening date and time or if Government declares Holidays the tender shall be submitted / opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The procurement agency reserves the right to reject any or all tenders subject to provision of SPPRA rules 2012.
- No tender will be accepted posted by courier.
- Conditional tenders will not be entertained.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION KARACHI
SMP-KHY No. 2428/19 **Bay No to Corruption**

8	9	1	7	6	5	0	8	2
6	7	2	9	5	4	1	9	3
9	5	7	2	6	3	0	4	1
7	1	6	8	2	4	5	0	9
4	6	9	5	0	8	2	1	7
2	5	3	1	6	7	9	4	8
1	9	2	8	5	6	8	7	3
5	7	4	0	3	2	9	1	6
6	8	3	4	5	7	2	5	0
9	8	9	1	3	5	7	2	4
4	1	2	9	3	7	5	3	6
7	3	5	2	4	6	0	5	8
5	7	3	4	1	2	6	8	9
8	6	4	0	3	5	1	9	7
3	4	9	5	7	1	8	6	2
3	2	5	8	3	9	0	4	7
1	8	7	6	2	4	5	0	9

ISLAMABAD

Sunset 07:25pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:57am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 26°C
Maximum 40°C
Outlook Hot and Dry

METRO
North

Kohli's India end West Indies World Cup hopes

Pg 24 SPORT



A PAINTER gives final touches to a truck at his workshop along T.J. Principal Road in Rawalpindi. A large number of shops in the area specialise in truck art and decorations. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Police pick family of Farishta before their scheduled presser

Social Media Pakistan 9345-673217

Girl's parents wanted to brief media on their reservations about investigation into the abduction, murder case

By Munawar Azeem

ISLAMABAD: The family of the 10-year-old girl, abducted and murdered in the capital last month, was allegedly taken away by the capital police on Thursday to prevent them from holding a press conference.

Farishta went missing from outside her home in Aligarh on May 15. Four days later, her decomposed body was recovered from Tanana village.

A man booked the National Press Club for a press conference on June 27 and the club administration invited mediapersons to cover the event.

The invitation by the press club said

the family of the girl along with their counsel would hold a news conference at 5pm about the abduction and murder case.

However, later the man called the press club and cancelled the news conference. When contacted by Dawn, the man introduced himself as Nadeem Khan, a native of Mohmand Agency.

"On the request of the girl's family I had booked the press club for a news conference. The family and I had from Mohmand Agency and we know each other."

He said the news conference was scheduled in the afternoon but officials of the capital police raided the house of the family and took away the deceased girl's parents and a brother to prevent them from speaking to the media.

"As they did not return till the afternoon, I cancelled the press conference," he said, adding that the family was still in police custody and their mobile phones were confiscated.

Replying to a question, Mr Khan said

the family had reservations about the investigation of the abduction and murder case. The investigators told the family that there was no evidence found or available to establish the allegations against any suspect, he added.

Besides, reports of medical tests, including DNA, were negative, Mr Khan said, adding the recently arrested suspect had been sent to jail on judicial remand and so far challan against him has not been submitted to court.

He said the family had doubts and reservations about the investigation.

"They did not know who abducted and murdered Farishta. The police had claimed that the arrested man was the culprit."

Government officials had reached an agreement with the family when the latter held a protest after the murder, promising strict action against police officials for delaying registration of the case when the girl went missing. So far a case has been registered against only two police officials but action is yet to be taken

against anyone, he added.

Despite repeated attempts, police spokesman Khalid Awan could not be contacted for his comments.

The inspector general of the police (IGP) was also not approachable.

Other officials in the police public relations office were also contacted but they refused to speak on record.

However, two senior police officers told Dawn: "If you want to talk to the girl's father, we can put him on the line."

They added: "Check and verify the relation and status of the man who booked the press club for a press conference and dig out his motive too."

An official at the Shahzad Town police said they had not picked the family while the CIA also expressed ignorance about the matter.

The investigators conducted a polygraph on the suspect and collected samples for his DNA test, an officer said.

He said the police had met the family to brief them about the progress on the investigation.

Japanese airline wants to start flights to Islamabad: envoy

RAWALPINDI: Japanese Ambassador Kunio Matsuda on Thursday said his country's airline wanted to start operations on the Tokyo-Bangkok-Islamabad route. He stated this during a meeting with Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan, says a press release.

The ambassador said JAL had two weekly flights on Islamabad-Bangkok-Tokyo route, so Japan Airlines also wanted to start flights on the Tokyo-Bangkok-Islamabad route.

An air service agreement (ASA) between Pakistan and Japan was initiated on Oct 17, 1961, and signed on July 12, 1962.

The ASA stipulates single airline designation with JAL being the designated airline of Pakistan and Japan Airlines being the designated carrier of Japan.

The minister thanked the ambassador for Japan's help through Japan International Corporation Agency (Jica) for Airport Security Force and Pakistan Meteorological Department.

The minister said ASF may be provided institutional-based technical training for the equipment. He also asked the ambassador for reducing the time span between planning stage for and executing the equipment's provision by Jica.

A specialised medium range weather forecast centre costing Rs2.5 billion has been established in Islamabad through the Japanese aid. Japan also helped in installation of weather surveillance radars at Karachi, Multan, Lahore and Sukkur.

The ambassador said Japan wanted to invest in the textile and vehicle industry. He said his country was also interested in Pakistan's skilled manpower in the fields of industry, construction, agriculture, fishing, food, beverages and aviation. — Staff Reporter

Three of a family burnt

RAWALPINDI: A mother and her two children were burnt critically in a gas leak fire in their house in Dhari Hassanabad on Thursday, police and rescue services said.

Fire erupted after Ms Rukhsana, 28, along with her two sons, Rohan, 5 and Sudaisa, 3, came to the kitchen and showed a matchstick to the gas stove to prepare breakfast. An explosion occurred which was followed by fire.

The woman and her sons were badly injured after being trapped in the fire. The victims, who received 85 to 95pc burns were shifted to PIMS where their condition was described to be critical.

ASI Sajid Mahmood, who is leading the investigation, told Dawn that Mohammad Shabbir, a green grocer, was living with his wife and sons in a rented basement of a house in Dhari Hassanabad.

The IO said preliminary investigation suggested that Ms Rukhsana had forgotten to switch off the stove properly when she left the kitchen Wednesday night. As a result gas continued to leak throughout the night. — Staff Reporter

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75A/427

Tributes paid to poet Dr Jafri

ISLAMABAD: A large number of people reached the Pakistan Academy of Letters on Thursday to pay tributes to poet Prof Masood Jafri.

Addressing on the occasion, Dr Jafri said he was born in Occupied Kashmir on Sept 20, 1947 and just a few days after his birth his family migrated to Pakistan. "I did matriculation from Muslim High School Sadiq, Rawalpindi and then did my intermediate, graduation and masters in English from Gordon College.

As far as poetry is concerned it is a feeling which pushes a person to do poetry and everyone doesn't get that feeling," he said.

He said that according to him a great poet played a role to address the issues of the society and poetry made a person a good citizen.

Director General PIA, Dr Rashid Hameed said that Dr Jafri was one of the most famous poets of current era and he had over 30 books on his credit.

"That is why we had decided to invite him to 'Meet a Writer'," he said.

One of the speakers Jabbar Mirza said Dr Jafri had always guided people and has a proper way to say poetry. — Staff Reporter



PEOPLE cool themselves in a canal in Wah Garden. The weather remained hot and humid on Thursday. — Photo by Anjad Iqbal

AJK assembly passes Rs121.56 billion budget

House approves 32 demands for grant in absence of opposition members

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the budget for 2019-20, amounting to Rs121.56 billion, including Rs97 billion for developmental activities and Rs24.56 billion for revenue activities.

Finance Minister Dr Najeeb Naqi presented a total of 32 demands for grant which were unanimously approved by the treasury benches in the absence of the opposition.

Many of the 31 opposition lawmakers had opted to stay away from the budget session for one or the other reason and the few who were present also staged a walkout on a trivial issue at the time of presentation of demands for grant.

Official sources claimed that the opposition lawmakers avoided moving out motions after the government agreed to some of their demands

regarding allocation of development funds for their constituencies at their discretion.

The house also accorded approval to the revised budget for 2018-19 to the tune of Rs109.575 billion, including Rs22.275 billion for developmental activities and Rs87.3 billion for revenue expenditures.

Besides, demands for grant for the additional expenditures beyond the approved budget for the fiscal years 2015-16 to 2017-18 were also approved.

Earlier, speaking on the floor of the house, Prime Minister Raja Farooq Balidar said the opposition could have played a better role by giving its suggestions for the next year's budget but it had wasted the opportunity.

Claiming that he had lived an honest and clean life, he asked Speaker Shah Ghulam Qadir to constitute, if the house wished so, an investigation team to probe his resources.

"Unlike other premiers, I am not claiming rent of my personal abode. I don't have any personal vehicle and I am ready to be dragged on the streets from Mouzaffarabad to Mirpur if corruption of a penny is proven against me," he said, asking his critics to look into their own conduct.

He asserted that he did not believe in victimisation and currently wanted to make the assembly

policy process more transparent.

"If I believed in victimisation, many opposition leaders would either have landed in jails or would be seeking pre-arrest bail."

Mr Balidar said he was satisfied that most of the pledges his party had made before the 2015 election (in AJK) had been met.

"We are striving to fulfil the remaining commitments and will be successful in it long before the end of our constitutional term."

Expressing gratitude to former premier Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khan Abbasi for providing adequate resources to AJK, he said he also held Imran Khan in high esteem as prime minister of Pakistan.

"But I have always been clearly that my leader is Nawaz Sharif and I cannot compromise on it."

He said he was grateful to PM Khan for giving clear directions for resolution of the problems caused by Nishkam, Jhalam and Mangla power projects.

He paid tribute to his team for increase in revenue receipts.

"While in Pakistan, the revenue targets could not be met, here we generated more income than our target which speaks itself for the efficiency of my team."

Later, the chair presided the session sine die.

'Budget will have disastrous consequences for middle class'

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a roundtable said the federal budget 2019-20 and the government's stabilisation policy will have disastrous consequences for Pakistan's middle income class which is expected to face a 40pc compression in disposable income as taxes, inflation.

The roundtable, 'Austerity budget: assessing the impact on development and pro-poor growth' was held at Jinnah Institute.

Former member of the prime minister's economic advisory council Nadeem Sherazi said the rising current account deficit and an overvalued rupee had resulted in a debt trap.

He said overvaluation of the rupee over the last five years meant that Pakistan ran a huge current account deficit, the largest in all emerging markets.

He said the rupee had been falling because external financing gap was over \$23 billion in 2018.

"The only way out for Pakistan from the severe currency crisis at the moment is through pursuing stabilisation," he added.

He said Pakistan's exports were not only the lowest among all emerging markets at 8 per cent but also continued to shrink.

Dr Faisal Bari, academic and member of the Economic Advisory Council, said the government was underestimating the consequences of the budget 2019-20.

"Jobs are vanishing, inflation is hitting people very hard and currency prices are pushing people in debt," he said adding, "There is absolutely no guarantee that three years of pursuing stabilisation policies will yield any benefits or lead to a growth path."

He said Pakistan needed over seven per cent sustainable growth but there was no vision for growth.

Another member of the council, Dr Iqbal Nadeem, said the government's structural problems created inconsistent growth patterns, regular trends of regression after momentary stabilisation.

Dr Nadeem recalled moments in Pakistan's economic history where the rupee had crashed but the economy found other ways of bouncing back.

"But without addressing economic fundamentals such as gross systemic inefficiencies across institutions, there is little chance that governments will be able to break out of the stabilisation-bankruptcy-stabilisation rut that they find themselves in," Dr Nadeem said.

Former Board of Investment (BOI) chairman Hameed Sharif observed that both the budget and broader economic policy of the government were signs of a lack of vision that Pakistan does not have a medium or long term strategy or vision.

Business interests dispute the drafting of budgets whose review process is poor and there is clear elite capture over budgetary approvals.

The speakers suggested that decision makers should consider the strategic opportunities available to Pakistan through CPEC and utilise the country's human resource for growth.

Police to launch suspects e-profiling system in Attock

By Our Correspondent

TAXILA: Police are going to launch e-profiling system in Attock district to maintain data of suspected elements and the project would soon be initiated from Hassanabad city.

This was stated by District Police Officer Attock Syed Shahid Nadeem Boshkari while talking to newsmen here on Thursday.

Mr Boshkari expressed the hope that the compilation of data would be completed in phase wise in all sub-districts and towns of the district and it is expected that it would be operational in three months.

He said e-profiling is a step towards public friendly policing where suspected people database would be maintained by the police to keep an eye on them.

With the launch of the project people living in sensitive areas would get rid of routine door to door checking, combing operations and other checking. Responding to a question regarding local residents' problems while visiting their respective homes located around Sikh temple Panja Sahib on the eve of Sikh pilgrims visit, he said that police in coordination with other law enforcement agencies would issue permanent cards so that the residents would come and get their houses without any hassle.

Responding to a question about security measures regarding Sikh pilgrims visit to the city on July 1, the DPO said although the number of the visiting Indian Sikh pilgrims was a few hundred, over 1,000 policemen would be deployed for the safety and security of the pilgrims.

The DPO said a multi-layer security plan had been devised for the pilgrims to avoid any untoward situation during their three-day stay at the Gurdwara Panja Sahib.

He said well-lit cameras would be installed at the entrance of the temple.

Meanwhile, District Police Officer Attock Syed Shahid Nadeem Boshkari along with deputy commissioner Isharullah Khan held a meeting with the officials of Revenue Trust Property Board (RTPB), tehsil municipal administration (TMA) and the Attock Department to review the arrangements for upcoming visit of Indian Sikh pilgrims on July 1.

Man held on charge of defrauding Pims patient

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A man was arrested on the charge of defrauding a patient at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), police said on Thursday.

The case was registered on the complaint of Waqar Nawaz, a resident of Jhelum. He alleged that the man, who later turned out not an employee of the hospital, collected samples from patients for medical tests advised by doctors and charged more than the prescribed lab fee, the police said.

The complainant also alleged that some doctors also had share in the fee he had collected from patients that was why they advised unnecessary tests. He said the suspect got the samples tested from a private laboratory.

The complainant was an attendant of his cousin, admitted to the Ward VI of the hospital, the FIR said.

On June 24, the alleged defrauder came and collected samples for the medical tests advised by the doctors, but did not deliver the report despite collecting the laboratory fee, the FIR said, adding in response Nawaz approached the laboratory where he came to know that these medical tests had already been done.

The cost of the test was Rs3,400 whereas the facilitator had charged him Rs4,000, the FIR said.

Earlier, the man filed a complaint in a medical test of his cousin for which the lab fee was Rs25,000 to Rs30,000 but he allegedly charged Rs50,000.

When the facilitator returned, the complainant asked him why he had charged him more for the test, but he started giving lame excuses and later tried to escape. But other attendants caught him.

When contacted, Karachi Company SRO Bahadur Rehman said that after registration of the case the police had arrested the suspect and produced him in court which sent him to jail on a judicial remand.

During interrogation, he said the police that some doctors were also involved in the practice, the SRO said, adding investigation was in progress to establish the facts.

People had rejected civil dictators on July 25: PTI leader

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Information Secretary Omar Sattar Farhan Chaudhary on Thursday said July 25 will always be remembered for dawn of democracy in the political history of Pakistan.

"It is the day when people of Pakistan rejected the corrupt and incompetent civil dictators," he said.

While commenting on joint opposition's All Parties Conference he said if there was a threat of conscience left in opposition leaders, they should seek forgiveness from public over the massive corruption and failed policies that have brought country's economy on the verge of collapse.

"Instead of working out plans for the restoration of economy, the corrupt lot is whitening over the ongoing accountability," said the PTI leader.

He said for opposition leaders, the only way out was to return the looted wealth or to present documented evidences of their amassed wealth.

Mr Chaudhary said for the first time in country's history, accountability was in full swing across the board without any discrimination and state institutions and judiciary were functioning independently.

"There's no room for 'Muk Muk' and 'Nocua Kushi' in the country anymore," he remarked. — Staff Reporter

غیر رجسٹرڈ

اطلاع!

برائے غیر رجسٹرڈ چنگچی (QINGQI) رکشہ مالکان

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Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority

(پاکستان اسٹینڈرڈ اینڈ کوالٹی کنٹرول اتھارٹی) اور

(EDB) Engineering Department Board

(انجینئرنگ ڈیپارٹمنٹ بورڈ) سے سرٹیفیکیٹ ہو، ان کی رجسٹریشن کا عمل شروع ہو چکا ہے اور پریم کورٹ آف پاکستان کے حکم کے مطابق غیر رجسٹرڈ چنگچی (Qingqi) رکشہ ڈرائیور اور مالکان سے درخواست ہے کہ جلد از جلد اپنے غیر رجسٹرڈ رکشے متعلقہ موٹر رجسٹریشن اتھارٹی میں رجسٹر کروائیں، بصورت دیگر ان غیر رجسٹرڈ رکشوں کے خلاف سخت قانونی کارروائی کی جائے گی جس میں رکشہ کی تھگی اور قرقی شامل ہے

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Small industrial outlets in residential areas pose threat to residents

Civil Defence Department survey shows over 4,000 illegal factories operating in thickly-populated areas, official says

By Asim Yasir

RAWALPINDI: The mushroom growth of illegal factories in the residential areas is creating noise and air pollution besides endangering the life and health of the residents. Establishment of small industrial units in the thickly-populated areas of the city is against the local government laws but the district administration and the civic agencies concerned remain oblivious of the issue.

Under the law, residential areas cannot be used for commercial activities.

Most of the factories are preparing polythene bags, plastic chapels and other products. During the process, smoke coming from these illegal outlets creates air as well as noise pollution.

A senior official of the district environment department said Dawn that air and noise pollution had increased in the city and there was a need to stop such activities.

He said the waste generated from the factories was also being dumped in Loh Nudh without adopting safety measures which could pollute the ground water. He said for the establishment of a factory or other units, permission from the environment department was required.

The Civil Defence Department conducted a survey in the city last month and found more than 4,000 illegal factories in the thickly-populated residential areas, including Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, Bangash Colony, Eboke Dahi, Bagh Sardaran, Mohanpura and Sattigarh.

These small-scale factories manufacture and prepare goods using chemicals and other inflammable material and any untoward situation could occur as they do not adopt any safety measures.

The report said shortage of facilities in these factories posed a risk of fire incidents as most of them have no fire fighting system. Besides, these outlets were established in narrow streets.

According to the building by-laws, essential safety measures are basically required in commercial, industrial and public buildings to ensure the safety of occupants in the event of a fire or emergency.

Apart from this, godowns have also been established in residential areas especially around Mori Bazaar, Bura Market, Raja Bazaar, Urdu Bazaar and Morrie Road.

When contacted, Civil Defence Officer Talib Hussain said that there were about 4,000 illegal small industrial units in different parts of the city and his department had so far issued notices to more than 300 outlets.

He said such illegal industries should be shifted outside the residential areas.

He said houses were being used for commercial purposes and in case of a fire people living in the vicinity of these units would suffer.

About the increasing trend of converting residential houses into godowns, he said it was illegal. He said the traders did not adopt fire safety measures and many fire incidents had occurred during the last few years.

When contacted, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Chairman Araf Abbasi said illegal factories should be removed from the residential areas.

He claimed that the RDA had removed all illegal factories set up in 13 housing schemes under the administrative control of the civic body before Ramadan. He said the RDA wanted to clear residential areas from illegal factories.

He said Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation (RMC) failed to remove illegal factories from its area and it created problem for the RDA. He said there was a need to clear the city of such outlets immediately.

By Our Correspondent

Man kills bridegroom's brother over marriage row

SAHJWAL: A man along with his five accomplices allegedly opened fire on wedding guests, killing younger brother of bridegroom and injuring others over rejection of his proposal here on Thursday near Jahan Khan locality at village 117-9-L on Sahjwal-Pakistan Road.

Reports said main suspect Ahsan Ali wanted to marry daughter of Liaquat Ali who rejected his proposal. Liaquat arranged marriage of his daughter with Shabbir Khan, a resident of village 38-D.

According to eyewitnesses, on Thursday (when) the wedding party (baraat) arrived at the residence of Liaquat, six men opened fire as a result two brothers of bridegroom - Ahsan Khan and Haroon Khan - suffered injuries. Ahsan succumbed to his injuries on the spot while Haroon was shifted to DHQ Hospital. Some guests overpowered one of the suspects and handed him over to police. The suspects managed their escape.

Yousafzai police have registered a murder case on the suspicion of bridegroom's elder brother Shabbir Khan.

DISPOSED OF: The regional ombudsman has disposed of a sexual harassment application and cleared the principal of Sahawal Medical College (SMC) of allegations owing to lack of evidence.

Reports said a nursing college staff nurse was transferred because of her alleged misconduct and she (on Oct 22, 2018) accused the principal of sexually harassing her.

The nurse had also filed a petition against the principal's decision with the Multan bench of the Lahore High Court. The bench had turned down her application for lack of evidence.

All political parties have made blunders: speakers

By Ibrahim Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: In a country where voices of social segments of society go unheard, how that of the invisible could be heard. Moreover, all political parties in the country made blunders.

These views were expressed by most of the speakers at a 'Media for all' national conference on pluralism and diversity in Pakistani media on Thursday.

The event was jointly organised by Institute for Research, Advocacy and Development (IRAD), Press Commission on Minorities Rights (PCMR) and Koodh Commission on the Status of Women (KCSW).

Speaking on the occasion, former senator Farhatullah Bahar agreed that political parties made mistakes but he said it happened because of the overall failure of society.

"Unfortunately, we privatised jihad due to which intolerance in society increased.

Whatever happened with [late governor Punjab] Salman Taseer, the same happened with [former interior minister] Ahsan Iqbal, who was attacked over the issue of blasphemy. Besides, it was ignored that Mr Iqbal's mother had played a role in getting the death penalty included in the blasphemy law," he said.

"Parliament can make laws but cannot get it implemented. Similarly, Supreme Court can announce judgements such as the one regarding minority rights in 2018 but cannot get it implemented," he said.

Mr Bahar said space for the civil society was shrinking. He suggested the voice should be raised against the visible and invisible censorship on the media.

He said the state played fraud with non-Muslims when former military dictator Ziaul Haq deleted the word "freedom" from the objectives resolution in the Constitution regarding their right to profess their religions.

Haman Rights Commission of Pakistan

Students' artwork carries message of peace, harmony

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan National Council of Arts opened its doors to a national exhibition featuring works by students from two dozen universities from across the country.

The show was held under the banner of Pakistan Peace Collective (PPC), which is a project of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Aashiq Awan inaugurated the event as the chief guest.

Conceived and executed under PPC's District Level Engagement Programme (DLEP), the exhibition highlighted the need for intervention in four thematic areas such as promoting safer charity, interfaith harmony, tolerance and enhancing resilience in the society to counter violent extremism.

The exhibition received over 3,000 entries from across the country and a jury of judges selected 70 best for display at the PNCA. The show included works finished in various genres such as abstract and expressionism as well as mediums such as oil and acrylic on canvas.

The exhibition attracted crowds of art enthusiasts who appreciated the talent, drive and imagination of the young artists, who spread important messages for peace, harmony and resilience against extremism through their paint and brush.

Academics, religious scholars, social journalists, policy makers, government officials, students and people from different walks of life attended the exhibition.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Information and Broadcasting, Dr Firdous Aashiq Awan said: "Arts is an effective source of expression. Art is an equally effective medium of communication and medium that leaves lasting impressions on hearts and minds."

She emphasized the need for educating the future generations about all forms of knowledge and media of expression.

"Our children need both religious as well as contemporary education," she said adding, "We should be abreast with technology and modern innovation to be able to compete with contemporary world."

Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Peace Collective (PPC) Shabbir Awan told the visitors to the show about his organisation's initiatives aimed at building peace and countering terrorism and violent extremism in the country. He expressed the hope that the event will work towards achieving PPC's long term



ambition of creating a peaceful and harmonious Pakistan.

Director General PNCA, Jamil Shih, said: "Art has long been known as a medium of conveying human emotion, aspiration and experiences. The excellent art pieces displayed in this exhibition are

reflective of how our younger generation has been able to make their artistic endeavour a vehicle for disseminating constructive messages for societal wellbeing."

The top two best painting chosen by the jury were given cash prizes and certificates of appreciation.

PPC's District Level Engagement Program (DLEP) reaches out to different sections of the society to sensitize them against violent extremism and terrorism. The art exhibition is an extension of its student engagement programme in universities from Gilgit to Quetta.

MCI, CDA at odds over transfer of officers

Mayor refuses to enforce CDA posting orders

By Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) and Capital Development Authority (CDA) are once again at loggerheads over the transfer and posting of officers made by the civic agency as the mayor has refused to implement the posting orders in the directorates under his control.

The CDA had recently transferred several of its officers working under the administrative control

of MCI. However, MCI refused to accept the transfer without the corporation's management on board.

The CDA officials said the authority had every right to transfer and post its employees in CDA/MCI directorates in the best interest of the city as these employees working in MCI are temporarily placed there and their human resources affairs are solely being dealt by CDA.

The CDA has transferred director water supply, a deputy director water supply and assistant director water supply to various directorate of CDA. However, MCI has decided not to accept new posting and sources said that mayor did not allow the

new director water, transferred to CDA, to join new assignment.

Meanwhile, Mayor Sheikh Anwar Ahsan, in a letter dated June 21 addressed to the CDA chairman, stated: "It was understood and decided that CDA would make no posting, transfer or give additional charge in the MCI formations without prior approval of the chief metropolitan officer or the mayor."

However, it has been observed with great concern that recently the human resources department of CDA, issued posting/transfer orders of directors, deputy director, assistant director water supply and assistant director City Sewerage Division without any consent/approval of the mayor in violation of the law.

MCI is responsible for providing potable water to the citizens and cannot afford these posting/transfer in summer season, which will definitely disturb the smooth supply of water to residents of Islamabad," read the letter of mayor.

It further said that the transfer and posting orders should be withdrawn otherwise the MCI will not implement it and consider the directive null and void.

The letter said: "This is for your record and for your guideline that any posting and transfers made by the CDA in MCI would be a violation of the provision of ICT Local Government Act 2015. Therefore, no further posting/transfer shall be made without the explicit approval of MCI."

When contacted, CDA spokesperson Syed Saddam Ali said: "The civic authority under prevalent rules and regulations can post its employees. It is clarified that CDA staff at MCI are neither on deputation nor absorbed as yet. Therefore, one officer can be posted from one department to the other, keeping in view the city's interest."

Mr Ali further added that no reshuffle had been carried out in the MCI and only a director had been posted out from the corporation to the CDA and a replacement has been provided in his place. As a goodwill gesture, the CDA management had decided to consider any request from the MCI on merit and in accordance with rules.



METRO buses did not ply on the Faisalabad-Pak Secretariat on Thursday. — White Star

Metro bus service to Islamabad remained suspended on Thursday

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Metro Bus Service between Rawalpindi and Islamabad was suspended for a day in connection with the arrival of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Islamabad on Thursday.

The buses plying from Saddar to Faisalabad but not beyond. The passengers had to go to Islamabad on public transport vehicles. Commuters for Blue Area Secretariat suffered due to the closure of the bus service.

Taxis and wagons cashed in on the situation and charged higher fares.

Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMA) Rawalpindi in charge Shamshul Mohsin told Dawn that the bus service was closed for a day due to security concerns and it would be restored for Islamabad section on Friday.

She said the bus service was closed on the directives of the government, adding that the commuters had been informed about the suspension at the ticket counters.



FORMER senator Farhatullah Bahar speaks at the conference on Thursday. HRCP Secretary General Hiris Khalique, Singh Commission on the Status of Women Chairperson Nuzhat Shriv and Shaque Chaudhry are also present. — White Star

(HRCP) Secretary General Hiris Khalique said Pakistan was British India's successive state.

"We inherited the judiciary, army and bureaucracy. However, people of Pakistan made three institutions: civil society, independent press and political parties," he said.

"Unfortunately, society has been radicalised. Moreover, all political parties made blunders. I suggest more compassionate engagement of religious minorities in the mainstream, including policymaking, rights activism and affirmative inclusivity," he said.

Former member National Commission of Human Rights Shaque Chaudhry alleged that successive governments tried to keep independent institutions weak.

"On the one hand, human rights activists have been suffering and on the other religious minorities are facing a decline. The quality of

Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) is not the same as it used to be in the 1980s. There is a greater need for policy action to address shortcomings for the rights of minorities."

NCW Chairperson Nuzhat Shriv said discrimination against women in society was rife and being both a woman and a minority member was a double jeopardy.

She advocated greater affirmative action for emancipation of minority women members.

PCMR chairman Peter Jacob was of the view that greater representation of religious minorities in the media would promote greater social inclusivity.

Findings of a study, 'Narrative of marginalisation - reporting religious minorities in Pakistani media' were also shared with the participants.

It showed that hate speech against religious minorities on social media and their online harassment were growing threats to freedom of expression in Pakistan.

LAHORE

Sunset 07:13 pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 04:38 am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum 27.5°C
Maximum 41.5°C
Outlook Partly Cloudy

METRO

Central



Kohli's India end West Indies World Cup hopes

Pg 24 SPORT

Hamza's 'front man' gets bail

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Thursday granted post-arrest bail to Moshir Cheeni, an alleged front man of Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly Hamza Shabbaz and his brother Salman Shabbaz, in a money laundering case instituted by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Representing the bail petition of Mr Cheeni before a two-judge bench, Advocate Asad Manzoor Butt argued that his client had turned approver in the case against Hamza and Salman and recorded his confessional statement before the judicial magistrate concerned. Later, the trial court sent the petitioner to jail on judicial remand.

The counsel said the NAB no more required the petitioner in the case and keeping him behind the bars would serve no purpose. Therefore, he asked the court to release the petitioner on bail.

A NAB prosecutor told the bench that the prosecution would have no objection if the petitioner was released on bail.

The bench comprising Justice Ali Razaq Najafi and Justice Saeed Ahmad Nazam allowed the petition and granted bail to Cheeni subject to two surety bonds of Rs500,000 each.

Mr Cheeni, in his confessional statement, had said that he had laundered over Rs600 million for Mr Hamza and his brother. The approver said he had been working for the two brothers since they started looking after their family business in 2005.

He said he was a wholesale dealer for Ramadan

Continued on Page 16



PEOPLE enjoy a display of colourful dancing fountains at the Greater Iqbal Park. — White Star

Maryam raps govt for disallowing visitors to Nawaz in jail

By Amjad Mahmood

LAHORE: Claiming that incarcerated Nawaz Sharif is suffering from recurring angina attacks, the ousted premier's daughter Maryam Nawaz says that only a limited number of visitors are being allowed to meet her father in jail.

In a series of tweets about her father's physical and country's economic health on Thursday, she said that despite recurring angina, Nawaz Sharif's doctor was not being allowed access to him.

"Despite recurring angina, MNS' cardiologist is not being given access to him. Even today he was made to wait outside jail for 2

hours & sent back without meeting. Shame on Jail-e-Azam."

On Thursday, the day allocated for visiting inmates at the Kot Lakhpat Jail where Mr Sharif is serving his term in a corruption case, only five close relatives, including Maryam, were permitted to visit the ex-premier.

She protested that even the few meetings she had with her father were also strictly monitored in violation of the basic human rights and hinted at street agitation on the issue.

"Today too only 5 members (close blood relatives) were allowed to meet MNS, that too under strict surveillance. This is violation of basic human rights. I am NOT

going to be a passive spectator. Beware."

She said this in response to a tweet by one of her Twitter followers in which it was suggested that Maryam should stage a sit-in outside the Kot Lakhpat Jail until she was allowed to visit him.

"Now such a step seems insane," Maryam added. She said if the 'shame' government didn't allow Mian Sahib's doctor to meet him and if God forbid the disease aggravated, then hundreds of millions of voters of the PML-N should know who is to be held responsible for it.

The PML-N vice-president sees the denial of medical facilities to

her father as political victimisation under direct supervision of Prime Minister Imran Khan after she turned vocal against the incumbent government.

"The victimisation increases as I become more vocal. Jail-e-Azam is directly monitoring this. Would have been better if he had focused his energies on the sinking economy instead of Sharif family. What a petty, spiteful man!"

Mr Nawaz chided Imran Khan government for rapid slide of Rupee against dollar and other negative economic indicators.

Referring to the negative rating

Continued on Page 16

Four die in rain-related incidents

Dawn Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: A farmer died when the wall of his house fell on him during heavy rain on Wednesday night at Kamalia.

Windspeed also uprooted hundreds of trees and several electricity poles at different places due to which electricity supply remained suspended in some rural areas for more than 12 hours.

The police said deceased farmer Naseer Ahmad (40) was injured critically when the mud wall fell on him. He was rushed to the Kamalia Tehsil Headquarters Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds on Thursday. He belonged to Chak Mohalewala.

OKARA: A couple and a minor boy died in a roof collapse incident in heavy rain on Wednesday night when windstorm, the wall of the house collapsed on them. Villagers rescued them from the debris but Dalmir, his wife Bhagyan Bibi and relative Adnan (eight) later died.

Minor girl Aliya was injured and shifted to the Okara District Headquarters Hospital. In another incident in village 33/291A on Okara-Faisalabad Road, a family of five people was buried under roof debris.

Villagers rescued Yousuf, his wife Sheeraz Bibi and three minor children who were later shifted to the hospital by Rescue 1122.

'Shahbaz govt signed expensive contract'

LAHORE: Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid says the previous Punjab government signed a memorandum of understanding with the 'Medi Urge' company of 20 mobile health units and Rs2.5 million were monthly expenses of one mobile health unit, according to the contract.

"Now we're running these free mobile health units in only Rs1 million per month," she said, adding that free medical facilities through these mobile health units were being provided in Lahore, Multan, Bahawalpur, Sheikhupura and Rahim Yar Khan, says a handout.

More than 150 million patients have been provided free medical facilities through these free mobile health units in Punjab. Patients can get the free medical facility of X-ray, ultrasound, all blood tests, oxygen and medicines through these free mobile health units.

Suppl budget debate reduced to mudslinging

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The general debate on supplementary budget on Thursday went so "general" that the treasury completely forgot that it was about the budget as well, stubbornly refusing to outgrow the opposition syndrome, it kept reminding the House what the PML-N did during its tenure rather than justifying budgetary allocations it made.

It took Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, spokesman for the PML-N, to get up and tell the Treasury: "If you really wish to tell what you have done, then what are you there for? As once Margaret Thatcher, first woman prime minister of the UK, said don't remind me what I did because I know what I did. Tell me what you are doing."

The Treasury, however, refused to listen. One after another speaker, including cabinet stalwarts like Murrat Huss and Aslam Iqbal, kept recounting what happened between 2008 and 2018 — the PML-N stints in Punjab. "How can you criticise the sup-

plementary budget when the PML-N itself had presented so many. These supplementary budget allocations were used for political purposes: to win by-elections, to promote mafias, to promote corruption and make money. After all, who promoted sugar mafia, cement mafia or steel mafia? It was the PML-N and supplementary budgets were used for this purpose."

This prompted Sheikh Ahsanuddin to take the mike and challenge Aslam Iqbal, provincial minister for industries, in proving what he said: how the PML-N promoted

(sugar) mafia? When the PML-N left the government, sugar was sold at Rs44 per kilogram. Now, after nine months of the PTI rule, the price has gone up to Rs80 per kilogram. The entire sugar making process is local. Then how price is allowed to increase by Rs36 per kilogram, or by a whopping 81 per cent? Is the PML-N promoting the sugar mafia or the PTI?

"The House should form a committee to fix the responsibility and I will prove who is

Continued on Page 16

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Girls school building 'turned into cattle shed'

By Gulzar Baig

VEHARI: The building of a girls' primary school at village Shada Laddan has allegedly been converted into a cattle shed by some influential people.

The locals said that after years of negligence by the education department, the people and the dog-pubers took away windows and doors of the building. All the walls and roofs of classrooms are badly cracked and building was in a shambles.

Taking advantage of the situation, some influential people of the village started using the building as a shed for their cattle a year back and they were keeping their cattle, including buffaloes, cows, goats and donkeys, in it besides storing their food in the classrooms.

The village is situated in the constituency (NA-251) of Daudkhana and Khokhri families.



Groom's brother killed over marriage row

By Our Correspondent

SATIWAL: A man along with his five accomplices allegedly opened fire on wedding guests, killing younger brother of bridegroom and injuring others over rejection of his proposal here on Thursday near Jahan Khan locality at village 11/9/1, on Satiwala, Pakpattan Road.

Reports said main suspect Ahsan Ali wanted to marry daughter of Liaquat Ali who rejected his proposal. Liaquat arranged marriage of his daughter with Shabbir Khan, a resident of village 11/9/1.

According to eyewitnesses, on Thursday (when the wedding party [bride] arrived at the residence of Liaquat, six men opened fire as a result two brothers of bridegroom — Asad Khan and Haseeb Khan — suffered injuries. Asad succumbed to his injuries on the spot while

The social and political circles of Laddan have expressed grave concern over the situation and the negligence of the education department. They urged Chief Minister Usman Buzdar to look into the matter and make efforts to retrieve the school building.

When contacted, education deputy district officer Aslam Sargani said the department knows the real situation of the building. "The school was closed due to low attendance of students and it was merged with the nearby primary school at village Ali Din some months back."

Mr Aslam denied that any group of people had taken hold of the building. He said the school building was being used as literacy school with about 50 students studying there while the education department had also set up an office in a room. He said the animals were being tied outside the school, not on the school premises.



LAHORE: A little boy helps his father (not in the picture) sell balloons in Johar Town. — White Star

Traders see PTI MPA behind relocation move

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A number of middlemen (commission agents) of Pakpattan have alleged that the government's plan of shifting the grain market outside the city is a bid to benefit an MPA of the ruling party.

"The plan is not to facilitate the middlemen, but to benefit the MPA, as a shop, which was earlier of Rs5 million, is now Rs5 million," Ras Khalidullah, Pakpattan Challa Mandi Association chief, told journalists here on Thursday.

Flanked by other office bearers — Han Ishaq Ahmed, Abdul Haq, Ahmad Hassan Chaudhri, Rana Riaz, Tariq Bhatta and others, he said the Punjab government was under

immense pressure from local politicians. He said that since there was no issue at the existing market, why the government was in a hurry to execute the plan. "At 70 per cent of the middlemen are unable to purchase a Rs5 million shop, National Accountability Bureau and Anti-Corruption Establishment must take notice of the situation," he demanded.

The Pakpattan district administration dispelled the impression, stating that some commission agents have been creating hurdles in the way of new market for years.

"The plan was envisaged in 2007, as the then government was of the view that grain, fruit and vegetable markets should be outside the city areas. They cause traffic congestion, environmental and

other issues. So the government acquired 25 acres for the grain market whereas the existing market is on seven acres," Deputy Commissioner Kamal Maan told Dawn.

He said in 2010/11, the government paid compensation to the people whose land was acquired under the land acquisition act. Later, a massive litigation started on this issue that continued till last year.

The middlemen raised two issues — parking and linking of the new market to main Sahiwal road. "Accepting their demands, the government planned to acquire seven acres more," he added.

He said the plan didn't benefit politicians from any part, as it only facilitates a huge population living in Pakpattan and its suburbs.

Punjab govt considers ban on plastic bags

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: While the Federal Capital Territory will ban all plastic bags from Aug 14 this year, the ban is also being seriously considered by the Punjab government, albeit in phases.

At a meeting on Thursday, Environment Protection Department Secretary Salman Ijaz spoke about the ban on the use of plastic bags. The meeting was held at the EPD.

EPA Director General Taseer Jafar, UET Professor Dr Yaseen Gill, Polymer Labs PCMR, Sahiwal, Dr Saira Taj, representatives from the WWF and the Plastic Bags Manufacturers Association attended the meeting.

Mr Ijaz said the use of plastic bags comes with a very high cost to the environment and negatively affects human health. Countries around the world have begun banning the use of plastic bags while some have enforced restricted laws against the use of plastic bags because of the negative effects of their usage.

"One of the main causes of pollution is the use of these plastic bags," he said and added that he was initiating three committees — legislative committee, technical committee and committee to look after the social and economic impacts of the use of plastic bags. These committees will give their recommendations in order to ban the use of plastic bags.

Meanwhile, ten petitions have been filed in the Lahore High Court, one regarding a ban on plastic bags, while the other regarding a ban on all plastic products. The cases are still ongoing.

Special bench to hear overseas Pakistanis cases

LAHORE: A delegation of the Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) of Punjab, led by Vice Chairperson Chaudhry Waqar Akhtar, met Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Saeed Muhammad Shamim Khan on Thursday.

The matters pertaining to judicial cases of overseas Pakistanis pending in the LHC and their subordinate judiciary were discussed in the meeting. Justice Jawad Hassan, LHC registrar, was also present.

OPC Commissioner Syed Javed Iqbal Bokhari briefed about the working of the OPC, number of cases pending in various courts and other challenges faced by the OPC. The chief justice assured his full support for the redressal of the genuine issues and complaints of overseas Pakistanis.

A special bench, headed by Justice Jawad Hassan, will be constituted to hear the cases of overseas Pakistanis for expeditious disposal of the cases.

A monitoring cell, under the supervision of the additional registrar, will also be established to monitor the pending cases at the district level. The secretary of the Overseas Pakistanis Cell will also be working in coordination with the OPC.

It was also decided in the meeting that LHC Portal and web portal of the OPC will be linked to that complainants' data can be shared to address the grievances of Pakistani expatriates. Moreover, the chief justice assured that necessary steps would be taken to facilitate Pakistani expatriates.

Probe finds IO guilty of helping robbery suspects in their escape

By Mohammad Saleem

FAISALABAD: A departmental probe has found an assistant sub-inspector guilty of helping three robbery suspects in their escape from police custody.

According to the probe findings, three suspects — Anwar, Anjum and Amin — all residents of Depalpur, Okara district, had been arrested by the Sialkot police in connection with two robbery cases (FIRs No 600/19 and 601/19).

Police claimed that during the investigation the suspects confessed to have robbed the people in the remit of the Sialkot police station on May 11 last.

On June 11, the investigation officer, ASI Abdul Rauf, took physical remand of the suspects for further investigation and recovered Rs50,000 from them, besides two pistols.

On June 22, Rauf produced the three suspects in a court and obtained their 14-day judicial remand.

However, instead of sending the suspects to the district jail, the ASI kept them in Khairanwala police lockup on temporary remand.

Next day, he told his seniors that when he was shifting the suspects to the district jail from Sialkot police lockup, they snatched his official weapons, handcuffs, key and his mobile phone from him and held him hostage near Chak 211-KB.

He claimed the suspects took him to Depalpur area, snatched their case record from him and fled.

However, the probe found that the ASI took the suspects from the lockup, left the police station without any police guard and used a private car to transport them, declaring Rauf guilty of helping the suspects in their escape.

It also found front desk officer and mosharraf negligent. It also mentioned poor monitoring by officers who were unaware of the escape for 24 hours until the ASI himself informed them of the matter.

Trader injured over property row

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: A trader was shot at and injured here on Thursday after a property dispute.

Gojra city police said trader Sheikh Muhammad Naqam had litigation with Haji Abdul Wahed, an iron merchant of Main Bazaar, over the ownership of a shop.

On Thursday, when Abdul Wahed was opening his shop,

Naqam fired at him with his pistol as a result he received four bullets.

He was rushed to Gojra Tehsil Headquarter Hospital where doctors referred him to Faisalabad Allied Hospital. Police are conducting raids to arrest the suspect who remained his escape.

KIDNAP CASE: Gojra city police registered on Thursday a kidnap case of two young brothers who allegedly were taken away by four suspects from their house some three months ago to provide them

with jobs in Peshawar.

The first information report registered on the complaint of Rameez Bibi of Green Town locality, Gojra, said her sons Usman and Qasim were taken away by Noman Terra of Toba Road, Rohail Bhatta and Ishaq of Chak 302 JB and Aziz Akhtar of Soral Town to Peshawar with the promise to provide them with jobs. She said she had in contact with her sons since they went. Police are looking into the matter.

Blind murder solved in six hours

By Our Correspondent

GUJRANWALA: A joint investigation team (JIT) resolved a blind murder case within six hours on Thursday and arrested a man who confessed to killing his pregnant wife over a domestic issue.

City Police Officer Muneer Mansoor told media that Bilal Arshad, a resident of People's Colony, made a call at 11 that unidentified robbers had shot

dead his wife Tehmina. A heavy contingent of police rushed the scene.

A joint investigation team was formed under the supervision of SSP Operations Saqib Sultan, while SSP Investigation Ali Waqar, SP Civil Lines Usman Tariq Butt, DSP Hashim Gujjar, DSP CIA Inam Abbas Chaudhary were its members.

During interrogation, Bilal confessed that he had killed his wife over a domestic issue.

Stray dogs injure four of family

By Our Correspondent

DERA GHAZI KHAN: Stray dogs attacked and injured four people near a cement factory on Thursday.

Ghulam Vaseem, 55, along with Shabana, 30, Kehmat Bibi, 5, and Babia, 5, was going somewhere when a pack of stray dogs attacked them. A team of the Rescue 1122 shifted the injured to the trauma centre of the Ghazi Khan Medical

College teaching hospital.

KILLED: A man was killed during motorcycle snatching incident.

Robbers stopped Amara Rakhsh and tried to snatch his motorcycle but he put up resistance. The robbers shot dead the motorcyclist and fled. A team of the Rescue 1122 shifted the injured to the trauma centre of the gangsters. — Correspondent

By Abid Mehdi

SIALKOT: A good number of people on Thursday visited border-area Charwah village along the Sialkot Working Boundary to pay homage to Baba Chaambliyaal on the opening day of his annual Urs.

The three-day celebrations begin on the fourth Thursday of June every year at a man's land at Talsiger Charwah village about 14 kilometres away from the city. The shrine is located in Ramgarh sector of India's Punjab district.

All manner of men, women and children visited the no man's land by private vehicles and even on foot. They show eagerness to have a glimpse of the shrine of Baba Delp Singh Manhas commonly known as Baba Chaambliyaal. They also enjoy arrangements at the fair besides participation in

devotional activities.

The devotees perform rituals and collect the holy 'sherbet' (sweet water) and 'shakkar' (saffron) from the shrine. The administrative on both sides of the border make arrangements for the visitors.

Local social workers Aashiq Ayub and Usman Haider say people have a firm belief that 'shakkar' and 'sherbet' they use have healing and medicinal value. They use them to rid themselves of skin ailments.

Although the devotees from Pakistan are not allowed to cross over to India, they gather at Charwah village.

"The border has divided the land into two parts but the blessings of Baba Chaambliyaal enable us to mingle at the festival," said Tajamul Hussain, a devotee. "Humanity knows no borders," said another devotee, Naveed Akhtar.



— Dawn

PESHAWAR

Sunset 07:32pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow) 05:03am

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Minimum 27°C
Maximum 42°C
Outlook Sunny

METRO

North



Kohli's India end West Indies World Cup hopes

PG 24 SPORT



A NOMAD woman and her daughter drive their herd of sheep near Choha Gujar bridge, Peshawar, on Thursday. — White Star

PM moves court for dismissal of disqualification petition

Claims plea not maintainable

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan has filed an application with the Peshawar High Court requesting to dismiss a petition, which seeks his disqualification from holding any public office on multiple grounds.

The application said the petition was not maintainable and it merited dismissal summarily.

It added that the petitioner had conceded the Supreme Court's declaration, which declared the applicant, Imran Khan, sadiq and ameen under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution.

The petition was filed last year by National Assembly candidate in NA-35 Bannu Imranullah Khan, who is a leader of Pakistan Justice and Democratic Party of former chief justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

A bench consisting of Justice Ijazatullah Khan and Justice Mansoor Ali Khan on Thursday directed the petitioner to respond to the application filed on behalf of the prime minister.

The case was adjourned to the date to be fixed later.

The petitioner has claimed that during the last year general elections, Mr Imran had neither mentioned the name of his alleged daughter in his nomination papers nor he had disclosed the assets of his wife.

Mohammad Habib Qureshi submitted the application on behalf of senior lawyer Babar Awan, who is the lead counsel for Imran Khan.

The applicant claimed that the petition was meant for blackmailing and suppressed facts, so it amounted to perjury for which he reserved the right to initiate proper proceedings against the petitioner under the relevant provisions of civil, defamatory and criminal laws.

He said the petition was against the judgment of a returning officer before elections and that the electoral laws, which provided remedies against pre-election grievances, weren't availed by the petitioner, so the petition should be dismissed.

The applicant said Article 225 of the Constitution read with section 179 of the Elections Act provided remedies about pre-election and post-election stages which, too, were never resorted to by the petitioner and in the presence of sufficient alternative remedies, discretionary constitutional jurisdiction of the high court

could not be invoked.

He said the Supreme Court, in the detailed scrutiny of the assets of the applicant and other allied issues, declared Imran Khan sadiq and ameen.

The applicant said the petition was a blatant contempt of the Supreme Court judgment, so it merited dismissal summarily.

The petitioner contended that Imran Khan had concealed important facts in his nomination papers and therefore, he was not righteous and sagacious in terms of Article 62 and 63 of the Constitution.

He said the petitioner had raised important objections before the returning officer of the said constituency who had rejected the same and accepted nomination papers of Imran Khan.

The petitioner said he had annexed important documents, including judgments of 138 courts regarding the 5th White case, which proved that the latter was daughter of Mr Imran.

He added Mr Imran had also concealed the properties of his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the nomination papers. The petitioner said the worth of the premier's Rawalpindi mansion was declared Rs11.4 million, which was below its actual value and that even at the time of its purchase, the land's price was around Rs50 million.

PA concludes discussion on Rs28 billion supplementary budget

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Thursday concluded discussion on the Rs27.92 billion worth of supplementary budget for the financial year 2018-19 and the opposition's call for end to the re-appropriation of development funds from one area to another.

The opposition members said the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf presented its seventh budget in the province but the presentation of supplementary budget exposed its so-called financial management and discipline.

Deputy Speaker Mahmood Khan chaired the sitting. Starting debate on the supplementary budget, Awan National Party MPA Shaukat Bashir Khan wondered if financial matters headed in the right direction, then why the government presented the supplementary budget.

He said the PTI had been talking about financial discipline and good governance in the province for the last seven years but despite that, supplementary budget was presented.

MPA Shaukat Malik said the speaker on one hand claimed to have saved Rs10 million through austerity measures but on the other, Rs50 million had been given away to the assembly secretariat in the supplementary budget.

She said the practice of re-appropriation of development funds should end for good.

Opposing the supplementary budget, Khushali Khan advocate sought the chair's ruling about whether the amount was supplementary or excess grant.

The chair referred that point of order to minister for law and parliamentary affairs Sahar Muhammad Khan for response.

The minister said Article 124 of the Constitution authorised the provincial government to present supplementary

Continued on Page 17

KTH acting MD removed for misuse of powers

PESHAWAR: The provincial government has removed Dr Mohammad Shoail, acting medical director of the Medical Teaching Institution Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH), for alleged misuse of powers.

He has been replaced by Prof Irshad Ahmed, head of child health department, KTH, according to a notification issued by the Board of Governors on Thursday.

Dr Shoail, an orthopaedic surgeon, was made acting MD after resignation of Prof Rohul Muqim, a laparoscopic general surgeon, as he had refused to oblige political people in unwise appointments. Dr Shoail has been removed allegedly on charges of misuse of powers, in an emergency meeting of BoG held on Thursday, according to the sources.

At the time of his appointment, the health department had claimed that the hospital would show improvement within three months, but the situation deteriorated as consultation fee at the KTH was raised from Rs600 to Rs1,000. The sources claimed that he was bypassing the BoG in important decisions due to which prompt action was taken against him.

KTH spokesman Farhad said that a new MD had been appointed as the board wanted to improve the patient care and take decisions accordingly. — Bureau Report

24,000kg fake spices seized

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Hygiene Authority, Peshawar, has seized 24,000 kgs of fake spices and sealed eight spice production units during a crackdown on the adulterators.

Speaking at a press conference here on Thursday, the food authority director general Riaz Khan Mahsud said that spices business was one of the hubs of adulteration across the province. He said that during the two-day crackdown over eight production units of spices were raided where 14,000 kilograms of adulterated spices were seized while about 10,000 kilograms of husk (bark of rice) was recovered.

"We formed three teams headed by director operations to inspect these eight production units. The teams recovered 20 sacks of broken ice to be used in adulteration, more than 400 litres of rancid oil, 160 kilograms of non-food colour and 500 kgs of China salt," the official said.

He said that these operations were carried out in the limits of Charsadda road and Mirch Mandi of Peshawar and Nowshera district. He said that the production units set up inside houses was a major hurdle to controlling adulteration. He said that all the eight production units were dismantled and FIRs filed against them in respective police stations. — Bureau Report

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SNGPL severs 231 illegal gas connections

PESHAWAR: The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited has claimed to have seized 1,566 feet illegal gas pipeline network and severed 231 gas connections besides removing 76 tampered meters during raids for curbing gas theft.

According to a statement, FIRs were also lodged against many people, including Arif Khan, Roshan Amin, Ajah Khan, Mir Adil, Azeemullah, Ihsanullah and others. It was stated that during the recent operations conducted by Peshawar SNGPL, task force teams along with FIA Peshawar and district administrations in several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa many illegal gas connections of industrial, commercial and private housing societies were disconnected as part of its drive to overcome gas theft.

It said that in Katak district the SNGPL disconnected illegal gas connections of two phases of Paris factories besides three commercial connections and three of power generation units. FIRs were lodged against owners of these industries and commercial units and two people were arrested. — Bureau Report



A MAN carries a solar panel on a motorcycle as demand for solar-powered UPS has increased in Peshawar with the start of badshedding. — White Star

Incorrect translation of holy verse in textbook angers PHC

Summons federal education secretary to explain his position

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A Peshawar High Court bench on Thursday expressed anguish over mistranslation of a verse of the Holy Quran in textbook of Islamiat and summoned the federal secretary education for explaining his position.

The bench of Justice Qaiser Rashid and Justice Abdul Shakoor Khan observed that the translation given in the textbook for 7th and 10th grade was tantamount to tarnishing Islamic history and appeared to be part of

any agenda to misguide students.

The bench directed that the federal secretary education should appear on July 10 and explain how the blunder was committed and why an FIR should not be registered against the responsible persons.

The bench was hearing a writ petition jointly filed by Advocate Deen Hassan and several others, who have requested the court to take action against the persons responsible for mistranslation of a verse of the Holy Quran related to collection of booty in during war.

Advocate Akhtar Younis appeared along with other lawyers and contended that in the controversial translation of a verse related to the collection of booty during war by Muslims at the time of Holy Prophet (PBUH) had been termed as "loot and plunder", which was distortion of Islamic history.

He stated that the mistake had been committed in the Islamiat course book for 7th and 10th grade in schools under supervision of different educational boards in the province.

When the bench took up for hearing the petition, it directed an additional advocate general, Syed Sikandar Shah, to call provincial education secretary Arshad Khan and representative of KP Textbook Board to turn up before the bench.

When the secretary and representatives of textbook board appeared, the bench observed that it was shameful on part of the board and education department that such like mistranslation had been done and it remained unnoticed. The bench insisted from

the secretary what sort of messages they had been imparting to the students.

The secretary said that they had received the said curriculum from federal government and had printed it.

He added that the translation was taken from Tafseer (interpretation of the Holy Quran) of a prominent religious scholar.

The bench observed here came a religious scholar was making wrong interpretation of Islamic practices. It was inquired how collection of "Mali Ghazwanah" could be termed as "loot and plunder".

The bench asked when the province was having its own textbook board then why it had been relying on courses from federal government. It was added that even religious scholars had not noticed the mistake.

Growers oppose massive cut in tobacco duty

PESHAWAR: The growers have opposed massive cut in the advance tax on tobacco insisting the government's move will encourage the black marketing of the cash crop and harm economy.

They demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision to prevent their "economic murder".

The government has announced the reverting of the Rs300 per kg advance Federal Excise Duty on tobacco imposed to check the illegal tobacco trade to Rs20 per kg.

Addressing a news conference at the Peshawar Press Club on Thursday, local tobacco farmer Abdul Qayyum said massive cut in the advance tax on tobacco would promote the illicit tobacco trade and hurt poor growers.

Accompanied by farmers Ali Akhtar and Gular Khan, he criticised the government for yielding to tax evaders. He said the tobacco sector could earn huge revenue through the Rs300 advance tax.

Abdul Qayyum said some growers claimed that the collection of advance tax on tobacco was exploitation and the demand for tobacco would decrease due to the imposition of the adjustable excise duty.

He said the Pakistan Tobacco Board Ordinance, 1968, protected tobacco growers and made it binding for tobacco manufacturing companies to purchase additional tobacco yield from growers.

Ali Akhtar said the farmers' associations were being used to pressure the government for withdrawing steps meant to curtail illegal trade to help the growth of tobacco crop.

He said growers were being exploited by the local illegal cigarette manufacturers since the levy not only forced them to pay the adjusted tax on processed leaf but also provided the FIR with least purchase data for all manufacturers.

"This tax is advance and adjustable and is applicable to manufacturers and does not hurt farmers in any way, whereas local illegal cigarette manufacturers continue to misguide farmers of KP for their own benefits," he said.

The grower said the commerce ministry had fixed the minimum indicative price of tobacco every year after proper consultation with the representatives of tobacco growers.

Another farmer, Ahmad, said local cigarette manufacturers avoided tobacco purchase in the open market just to evade tax and that they also postponed farmers by delaying payments and rejecting tobacco on the pretext of low-quality leaves.

He said the local companies met their demand by using tobacco for purchase of tobacco and not according to quality and other facilities to farmers, while noted taxpaying companies supported growers. — Bureau Report

Protesting traders demand withdrawal of new taxes

PESHAWAR: The traders on Thursday set up a protest camp at Chowk Yagdar against the new taxes imposed in the provincial and federal budgets and urged the government to control price hike and stop raids for recovery of taxes otherwise they would announce shunter down strike for indefinite period.

The representatives of traders unions from different areas of Peshawar participated in the protest camp. The traders, meeting like assemblies, also displayed black banners at prominent places to highlight their demands.

Speaking at a joint press conference, the trader leaders said that scores of new taxes were imposed in the new budgets without taking the business community into confidence. They said that they recorded their protest to press the government for resolution of the issues through peaceful negotiations.

Markati Tanzeem Tajirun president Malik Meher Isha, Tajir Ishaad Peshawar chairman Khalid Ayub, Tanzeem Peshawar president Banoosh Hakeem and others said that they were not ready to pay any additional tax as they did not have financial resources to fulfil the government's demands.

They said that government was harassing traders through crackdowns for collection of different taxes but it would not succeed to achieve its unrealistic targets through use of force. They said that all the segments of the society including vendors were taxed. They added that in the past the tax exemption amount was up to Rs120,000, which was decreased to 400,000.

Meher Isha said that government also imposed professional tax on traders, who had nothing to do with it. He said that the business community was already paying trade tax, which included different taxes. He said that most of the people did not know names of the additional taxes and the departments collecting the taxes.

Mr Isha said that government was supposed to take traders on board and incorporate their suggestions in the budget documents to collect the taxes and provide services to the citizens. He also condemned the raids conducted by officials of customs department on different shops and godowns in Saddar Bazaar and described the action an attempt to create unrest among the business community.

On the occasion, a unanimously adopted resolution demanded of the government to resolve their issues through talks otherwise they would announce shunter down strike and protest for indefinite period and the officials concerned would be responsible for the consequences.

Meanwhile, Haji Sharaf Ali Mubarak, the president of his own faction of Markati Tanzeem Tajirun, and Mujeeb Rehman, the president of Tajir Ishaad Peshawar, in a statement demanded of Peshawar Cantonment Board to review the property tax, water charges, conservancy tax and property tax and provide relief to the business community and residents of the cantonment as well.

They said that different taxes were increased by 100 per cent. They urged the executive officer of CRP to include representatives of traders in the official committees to resolve these issues amicably. — Bureau Report

غیر رجسٹرڈ

اطلاع!

برائے غیر رجسٹرڈ چنگچی (QINGQI) رکشہ مالکان

پیریم کورٹ آف پاکستان کے فیصلے کے مطابق وہ تمام رکشے جن کے مینوفیکچرر (PSQCA) (رکشہ بنانے والے کارخانے)

Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority

(پاکستان اسٹینڈرڈ اینڈ کوالٹی کنٹرول اتھارٹی) اور

(EDB) Engineering Department Board

(انجینئرنگ ڈیپارٹمنٹ بورڈ) سے سرٹیفیکیٹ ہو، ان کی رجسٹریشن کا عمل شروع ہو چکا ہے

اور پیریم کورٹ آف پاکستان کے حکم کے مطابق غیر رجسٹرڈ چنگچی (Qingqi)

رکشہ ڈرائیور اور مالکان سے درخواست ہے کہ جلد از جلد اپنے غیر رجسٹرڈ رکشے متعلقہ

موٹر رجسٹریشن اتھارٹی میں رجسٹر کروائیں، بصورت دیگر ان غیر رجسٹرڈ رکشوں کے

خلاف سخت قانونی کارروائی کی جائے گی جس میں رکشہ کی ضبطی اور قرقی شامل ہے

ڈائریکٹر جنرل

محکمہ ایکسائز، پیکیجس اینڈ ٹریڈ کانس کنٹرول خلیجہ ریجنل

60 police personnel from Khyber get service cards

LANDI KOTAL: The Central Police Office of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has issued service cards to at least 60 police personnel in Khyber tribal district.

Landi Kotal DSP Saeed Zaf Khan said here on Thursday that it was for the first time that service cards were issued to the police officials from Khyber tribal district after their conversion into police from Khasadar force. Those who received their service cards included sub-inspectors, assistant sub-inspectors and constables, he said.

Regularisation of services was one of the major demands of erstwhile Khasadar personnel, who were inducted into the police force. He said that he had sent a list of 1,490 police personnel to the KP HRP for issuance of service cards alongside a demand for provision of 30 vehicles for the police patrol in Landi Kotal.

He said that the HRP had promised them to meet their demands in due course of time as the police grew top priority to maintenance of law and order in the merged tribal districts.

Mr Khan said that so far only six FIRs had been registered in Landi Kotal tehsil while he had helped in resolving over 60 major and minor issues at his office while taking both the rival parties into confidence.

ROOF COLLAPSE: A man and his wife along with their teenage son received injuries when roof of a room of their house collapsed here on Thursday.

Hospital sources said that Fazal Qayyum, his wife and son Shihab Faisal were brought to the hospital with head, shoulder and back injuries, while the condition of Fazal was stated to be critical. He was later taken to Peshawar for treatment.

Meanwhile, residents of Saddukhel area have been facing acute shortage of water as the town's supply of water to the locality has been cut off for last 10 days. Malik Ashraf, a Saddukhel resident, said that the public health department could not repair the faulty machine during the last 10 days despite complaints. — Correspondent

Judicial complex made functional in Bajaur

KHAR: The first-ever judicial complex in Bajaur tribal district had been made functional here on Thursday.

Sources in the district administration and residents said that the judicial complex had been set up in the civil colony near the district administration's compound in Khar, the headquarters of Bajaur district.

They said that the complex having several courts and halls was made functional on Thursday when the district and sessions judge of Bajaur, Nazirullah Khan Gandapur, reached here from Timergara along with a team of judicial officials and assumed charge of their respective responsibilities.

It was said that the district and sessions judge and other relevant officials stayed at the judicial complex for several hours and studied a number of cases.

CATTLE HEADS PERISH: Several cattle heads perished when fire broke out in a house in Utmankehel sub-town of Bajaur district on Thursday.

Local people said this ardent that the incident occurred in the house of a resident in Qanai area, some 10km from Khar.

They said that five cows were killed on the spot and seven others suffered burn in the incident. People of the area reached the spot and rescued seven cows. They put out the fire before it could spread to other parts of the house. — Correspondent

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Court seeks govt's response in Eid declaration case

Petitioner seeks disqualification of CM, minister on matter

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A Peshawar High Court bench on Thursday sought reply from the provincial government over a petition seeking disqualification of the chief minister and information minister over announcement for Eidul Fitr celebration a day before the conclusion of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Justice Iqbalullah Khan and Justice Musarat Hali issued the order after holding preliminary hearing into the petition of freelance journalist Shaukat Durrani, who requested the court to declare that the decision to abruptly terminate the month of fasting in the province was an overt violation of articles 2 and 29 of the Constitution, which declare Islam as the state's religion and speak about glory of Islam.

The petitioner said CM Mahmoood Khan and information minister Shaukat Yousafzai were responsible for that 'unconstitutional act', as they should be disqualified for any constitutional office in the province.

He requested the court to direct the provincial governor to inform the federal government about it and seek direction about it under Article 149 of the Constitution. The respondents in the petition are the CM, information minister, governor, and provincial government through advocate general.

Mr Durrani said the information minister officially announced the termination of Ramadan in the province on June 3. He said the fasting month ended in the province on its 28th day in utter violation of the Quranic Commandment and ironically, the decision about it was made by the provincial government on Saturday.

"No agency or department of the state, provincial or federal was involved in the pre-announced sighting of the Ramadan moon," he said.

The petitioner said the minister had literally converted Ramadan into the month of Fitr without ever thinking about its constitutional and impact on the federal structure of the Islamic republic, while in a prudent move, the governor and speaker of the provincial assembly did not endorse that decision.

He said the high court should ask the CM if he or the decision about Eid celebration and that if the decision was communicated to the governor as required under Article 105 of the Constitution and if the governor informed the federal government about the controversial move or rejected it.

The petitioner said practically, the province was detached from the rest of Pakistan and its sizeable population in particular in Hazara and DE Khan divisions over Eid decision.

He, however, said the move was apparently made without the approval of the governor and that only the governor should state the facts and the facts were clarified.

The petitioner said until the facts were clarified, there was a question mark on the oath taken by the governor, CM and information minister.

Higher rates okayed for Dasu dam land

MANSEHRA: The water and power ministry and provincial chief minister have approved increase in the prices of houses and land being acquired for the 4300 megawatts Dasu hydropower project.

"As we are in the process of acquiring land for Dasu dam, the federal water and power minister and provincial chief minister have given approval to increase in land prices. However, the final decision about it will be made by the federal government," deputy commissioner of Upper Kohistan district Hamid Rehman told a World Bank desk official in his office here.

The delegates led by Michael Jon Parsley and Penelope Ruth Ferguson visited the dam site and attended a briefing given by the deputy commissioner in his office.

Mr Rehman said work on Dasu dam for which the World Bank had pledged 10 percent of the total cost was in full swing.

"We have removed all hurdles to the project's smooth execution, while the landowners have been cooperating with us since we suggested increase in land rates to the steering committee as decided," he said.

The IDC said though the steering committee having the water and power minister and chief minister as members had approved land rate increase, the Executive Committee of National Economic Council would finally decide about it in the next meeting.

"The government wants to expedite work on this mega energy project for which the hiring of additional revenue officials and other staff members is in final stages," he said.

SEALDED: The district education officer sealed certificates of 2019, annual examinations of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Mardan, by obtaining 3,065 marks.

The BISE controller of examinations, Rashid Gul, announced the results of examinations of grade 10th and 9th at a ceremony here on Thursday.

Senior provincial minister for tourism and sports Mohammad Aftab Khan was the chief guest on the occasion. The students who got top positions attended the function along with their teachers and parents.

Announcing the results, Mr Gul said that Aftab Khan of Karnal Sher Khan Cadet College, Swabi, secured top position by getting 3,065 marks, Mohammad Nabeel Khan of Qasid-Azam Public School Zaida, Swabi, stood second with 3,064 marks and Mah Nour Imam of Al-Badar Model School Shewa Adha, Swabi, got the third position. He said that all the top three positions were grabbed by students of the science group.

In humanities group, two sisters, Manisha Umair and Iqra Usair who appeared in the SSC examinations as private students, secured the first position with 978 marks and second position with 950 marks, respectively, while Humera Hassan of Government Girls High School Kori, Swabi, secured third position by getting 948 marks.

Mr Gul said that a total of 45,323 candidates of science group appeared in the examinations of which 41,363 were declared successful. He said that

a total of 26,236 candidates of arts group appeared in the exams of which 13,897 were declared successful.

Speaking on the occasion, the senior minister said that the provincial government was committed to boosting education system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that consultation was going on among the stakeholders to appoint a permanent chairman of BISE, Mardan.

Correspondent

SEALDED: The district administration here on Thursday sealed four factories producing plastic bags in Gadsan Amarsi Industrial Estate, according to sources in the local administration.

They said that the raiding party was led by assistant commissioner, Tuzi Rehail, in Dhesham.

When contacted, officials in the district administration said that during the raid plastic bags had been seized and factories sealed in Gadsan estate. They said that during the operation Royal Plastic Factory, Mehran Plastic Factory, Star Gold and Marwan Plastic Factory were sealed and about 35 tons of plastic was seized.

They said that warehouse and wholesale shops of plastic bags had been closed down. Meanwhile, the traders here said that if the government wanted to fully enforce the ban on polystyrene bags it should give an alternative solution.

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Correspondent



A PAINTER gives final touches to a truck at his workshop along I.J. Principal Road in Rawalpindi. A large number of shops in the area specialise in truck art and decorations. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Little donation of corneas makes wait of blind people longer

Patients want govt to import corneas through official channels

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: Patients with blind eyes are awaiting corneal transplantation at the city's hospitals to gain vision but donations received from abroad are too little to cater to the needs of all the patients as there is no culture of organ donation among the local people, according to sources.

Patients also want the government to import corneas through official channels from developed countries to help restore their eyesight.

A majority of the people with their eyes damaged by trauma, pressure cooker explosion, injuries etc have registered at the eye banks at Hayatabad Medical Complex and Khyber Teaching Hospital to be transplanted with corneas but the ophthalmologists performing the procedures receive small quantity of corneas compared to the number of

patients. Since the establishment of Medical Transplantation Regulatory Authority, corneal transplants have taken momentum but shortage of corneas has been affecting people waiting to get their eyesight restored.

"In past one year, we have received 173 corneas donated by Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APFNA), which were transplanted to blind people, including 45 children, free of cost," Dr Yasir Meral, the assistant professor at Pakistan Institute of Community Ophthalmology, HPMC, told Dawn.

He said that Meral has received around 350 patients waiting for their turn to undergo corneal transplants but APFNA is not a permanent source of corneas. We are, however, regularly in touch with the corneal banks abroad and hope that we can give relief to the patients on our waiting list as early as possible," he said.

Dr Yasir, the focal person for Mutual Eye Bank, set up in the memory of known ophthalmologist in 2007, said that waiting

list of patients was increasing faster than the supplies.

At the ophthalmology department of KTH, where 100 persons have got free transplants in last one year, 400 others are waiting to be able to regain vision. The supplies are slow.

"So many letters have been received by KTH from doctors in other cities of the country to get training under the transplant surgeons," Zaman Shah, assistant professor, told Dawn.

Prof Zafar Iqbal at LRH said they had operated upon 100 patients and 300 others awaited their surgeries.

Prof Zafar Iqbal, former president of Ophthalmological Society of Pakistan, said that Sri Lanka was famous for supplying free corneas but now it has been commercialised completely, he said.

He said that people could get free corneal transplants if they had Zakat funds and eligible for Baitul Maal funds only at the government hospital. He said that cost in private sector for quality cornea was Rs200, 000 that was not affordable for most of the

patients.

"We have requested some charity organisations to send more donations to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after infrastructure for corneal transplants," said Prof Zia.

The MTRA, which has accorded recognition to LRH, KTH, HPMC and two private hospitals for corneal transplants, has planned to carry out advocacy in favour of organ donations among the people.

However, it is short of funds to continue its campaign.

The experts said that programme for training in cornea by Khyber Medical University or College of Physician and Surgeons Pakistan should further develop specialties of organ transplants. They said that 16 organs transplantation were conducted worldwide and they needed small speeches regarding transplantation by religious scholars to convince people for donation and control and prevent blindness.

"As far corneal transplants are concerned, these are different from other organs as the donor tissue is taken after the death of a person, upon her/his consent in lifetime," said the experts.

Swabi students get top positions in Mardan board exams

MARDAN: Asif Iqbal of Karnal Sher Khan Cadet College, Swabi, has secured top position in the results of secondary school certificate, 2019, annual examinations of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Mardan, by obtaining 3,065 marks.

The BISE controller of examinations, Rashid Gul, announced the results of examinations of grade 10th and 9th at a ceremony here on Thursday.

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Khan of Qasid-Azam Public School Zaida, Swabi, stood second with 3,064 marks and Mah Nour Imam of Al-Badar Model School Shewa Adha, Swabi, got the third position. He said that all the top three positions were grabbed by students of the science group.

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Correspondent



PROVINCIAL minister for sports and tourism Aftab Khan hands over certificate to a position holder in Mardan on Thursday. — Dawn

Students throng book fair in Mingora

Organisers say event to promote reading culture

By Our Correspondent

MINGORA: A large number of students and book lovers thronged a book fair here on Thursday to buy reading material of their choice at a reasonable price.

The fair titled 'Maga Book Fair' was organised by National Book Foundation in collaboration with district administration to promote reading culture among people.

Thousands of books on various topics and subjects were showcased at the fair for purchase at discount.

Apart from book lovers of all ages, many students from different schools and colleges visited the fair to buy books of their choice.

"It is one of the best and healthiest initiatives because in Swat we cannot find every book of our choice. Sometimes we have to go to Peshawar or Islamabad to purchase general books on different subjects," said Abdullah, a student of engineering, who was searching for books of his choice in the fair.

The visitors said that organising such event also increased interest in reading and books. They said that such events must be organised in every district.

Many schoolchildren were seen sitting through the books with keen interest to find new books and titles of stories at the fair.

"I got excited when I saw so many story books here. I selected

some story books and few books of Allama Iqbal's poetry which I am going to buy and then read them in my free time," said Haya, a student of a private school.

The students said that they loved general books and were surprised to see such a large number of books at one place.

"It is my first time to visit a book fair. I could not believe in my eyes to see so many books on different subjects and topics at one place. Usually my father brings books from the market for me but today I am happy that I can buy book of my choice at discount," said Komal, another student of a private school.

Assistant Commissioner Amir Ali Shah, who inaugurated the book fair, said that the sole objective of organising the event was to promote reading culture among students as well as other people.



STUDENTS examine books at the fair. — Dawn

"It is said that book is the best friend of a person as it not only increases knowledge but also brings positive changes in the behaviour and personality of a

reader. We want our new generation to make friendship with books to become positive and useful citizens for this country," he said.

اگر آپ سوشل میڈیا پاکستان گروپ میں ایڈ ہونا

اور مندرجہ ذیل مواد حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں

- ۱۔ تمام پاکستانی اخبارات
- ۲۔ نوکریوں کی اشتہارات
- ۳۔ ہر گھنٹے کی خبریں
- ۴۔ تعلیمی اور معلوماتی کتابیں
- ۵۔ انگلش اور سنڈے میگزین
- ۶۔ کرکٹ ایڈٹس
- ۷۔ پاکستانی ٹی وی شوز،
- ۸۔ پاکستانی ٹی وی ڈرامے
- ۹۔ پاکستانی نیوز چینلز کا شوز
- ۱۰۔ پاکستانی گیم شوز،
- ۱۱۔ انڈین ٹی وی ڈرامے
- ۱۲۔ تعلیمی نوٹس اور گیس پیپرز
- ۱۳۔ پاکستانی فلمیں،
- ۱۴۔ انڈین فلمیں
- ۱۵۔ انگلش فلمیں
- ۱۶۔ ترکی کے تمام سیریز ڈراموں کی روزانہ 05 اقساط اپلوڈ کی جائیں گی۔

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نوٹ: جازکیش اور ایزی پیسہ کے علاوہ ایزی لوڈ بھیجنے والا میمبر گروپ میں ایڈ نہیں کیا جائے گا

نوٹ

- ۱۔ نقالوں سے ہوشیار رہیں اور پردیے گئے نمبرز کے علاوہ کسی دوسرے نمبر پر فیس ادا نہ کریں
- ۲۔ اگر کوئی میمبر سوشل میڈیا پاکستان کے نام پر گروپ بنا کر فیس لے رہا ہے ایسے کسی فرد سے سوشل میڈیا پاکستان کا کوئی تعلق نہیں۔
- ۳۔ ایسا میمبر گروپ سے بنا کسی وارننگ کے ریموو کر دیا جائے گا
- ۴۔ آئیے واٹس ایپ کے سب سے بڑے گروپ کا حصہ بنیں

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