

QUETTA VOICE

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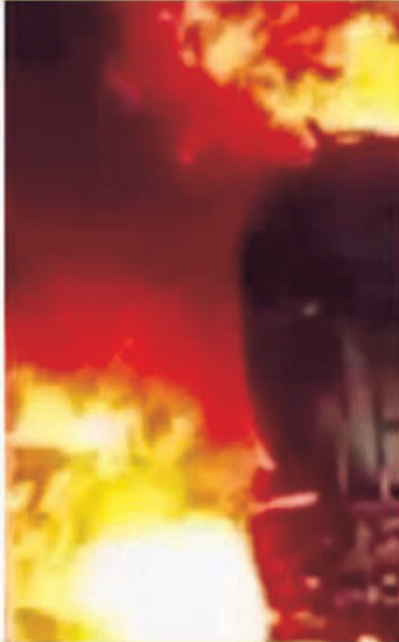
PM orders tax abolition for export industry's raw material



Imran Khan says 'will give Islamabad march call in few days'

Despite flames smoke Quetta driver saved lives by driving burning tanker

Syed Ali Shah, Manan Mandokhail
QUETTA: "All I had in mind was to save human lives", Muhammad Faisal, a tanker driver who saved by driving a burning tanker on Quetta's Qambrani road said. The video of Faisal driving fast in a burning oil tanker went viral on social media in Quetta and other parts of the country. "I thought now the tanker will explode and I will die", Faisal recalls the dangerous movement of his life.
The oil tank parked at a petrol pump on Quetta's Qambrani road suddenly caught fire. "When I saw the fire I rushed and drove away from the tanker despite roaring flames", Faisal said as his voice cracked. He belongs to a poor family living in one of the poorest and marginalized neighborhoods of Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan province.
"My primary concern was to save human lives"
The video, which widely went viral on social media shows thick black



smoke rising from the tanker and roaring flames of fire. People are shouting at the driver to stop it. "My primary concern was to save human lives", the driver with the black-trimmed beard said.
"I thought I would die but I was concerned about the population", he said. Faisal drove away the burning oil tanker carrying more than 10,000 liters of petrol for around 2 kilometers to save human lives. Faisal is a driver for the last five years and his monthly salary is only Rs. 18000. "Yes I was thinking of my parents and kids when I felt the heat of flames", Faisal narrated the ordeal.
"Provincial government should announce a special prize for this bold driver"
Scores of people in the area rushed toward the burning tanker and extinguished the flames of fire. "Provincial government should announce a special prize for this bold driver", Afaq Ahmed, a resident of the Qambrani road demanded. He demanded of Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus

Bizenjo to announce a special prize for the driver who saved precious human lives.
"All I had in mind was to save the people, to save the pump, and to save the owner," he said. In return, if I know, If I go (die)", I was mentally prepared", Faisal said.
I had to drive a tanker wrapped in flames for two kilometers to reach the empty field
According to Muhammad Faisal, after going some distance, he decided to stop the tanker, then two vehicles came in which people were riding, so I decided to go further, then shops and population came, people were also there. I had to drive a tanker wrapped in flames for two kilometers to reach the empty field. "When I saw this empty place, I parked and thanks to God the door was opened", he said.
On Wednesday, police, and the owner of the tanker were present on the spot and shifted the burnt tanker to the garage for repair. A crowd of the people was also present on the occasion to witness the burnt oil tanker.

Police constable injured in a firing incident in Khuzdar

From Our Correspondent
A police constable was injured in a firing incident in Balochistan's Khuzdar district on Wednesday. Police sources said the armed accused opened fire on the police constable on Sultan Ibrahim road Khuzdar.
The police constable identified as Inayatullah was seriously injured. The injured policeman was rushed to civil hospital Khuzdar for medical treatment.
The attackers escaped unhurt from the spot. Police reached the spot of the incident as an investigation into the incident went underway. There was no immediate



claim of responsibility for the attack. In the past, militants have repeatedly attacked security personnel and pro-government politicians in Khuzdar.

22 dead as passenger van falls into a ravine near Killa Saifullah

Nafi Kakar, Mohib Khan

At least 22 people died and a child was seriously injured when a passenger van fell into a deep ravine in Balochistan's Killa Saifullah district on Wednesday. "We have evacuated 22 dead bodies from the spot", Hafiz Qasim Kakar, Deputy Commissioner Killa Saifullah said. Nine victims belong to one family, Mr. Kakar mentioned.
For medical treatment, the injured child was shifted to the district headquarters hospital Killa Saifullah. The condition of the injured child is serious, Mr. Kakar said. The dead include 12 men, 5 women, and 5 children. The passenger van was on its way from Loralai to Zhob when it abruptly fell into a deep ravine in the Akhtarzai Viala area of the Killa Saifullah district. The Medical Emergency Response Center (MERC) personnel also reached the spot and evacuated the dead bodies from the ravine. The injured child was later rushed to the trauma center civil hospital Quetta



for medical treatment. The van was completely destroyed in the deadly accident. Tribesmen and MERC officials face difficulties. A large number of the tribesmen from neighboring villages reached the spot to evacuate the dead bodies from the passenger van.

Tribesmen and personnel of the MERC faced difficulties in retrieving the dead bodies from the van. Traffic accidents have claimed scores of precious human lives in various parts of Balochistan. Road accidents have become the order of the day on Quetta-Karachi, Zhob, Chaman, Sibi, and Taftan highways. Reckless driving and narrow roads are considered as the underlying reason behind increasing incidents of traffic accidents. Balochistan being the areawise largest province of the country has no single-kilometer motorway despite repeated appeals to the federal government. CM Quddus Bizenjo expresses sorrow over the accident.
Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo expressed grief and sorrow over the deadly traffic accident. In a statement issued after the traffic accident, he expressed sympathies with the broken families. Mr. Bizenjo directed the local administration to make sure provision of proper medical treatment to the injured and support the heirs of the victims.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs National Economic Council (NEC) meeting.

PM orders tax abolition for export industry's raw material

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to abolish all taxes on the raw materials of the export industry, as part of his government's vision to develop an export-oriented economy.
The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of the American Business Council, also directed the formation of task forces to attract investment in multiple sectors.
The task forces would be formed in the fields of tourism, pharmaceuticals, information technology, e-commerce, large-scale manufacturing, and agriculture.
He told the delegation that the government was making efforts to ensure the production of export quality agricultural products.
He said it was for the first time that the government was calling for the consistency of the policies as the subjects of the national economy and public welfare were above politics.
The delegation comprised representatives from pharmaceuticals, food processing, IT, e-commerce, retail, textile, sports, and logistics sectors.
The participants said the government's policies had helped revive the investors' trust and the pre-budget consultation with the stakeholders was a welcoming step.
The prime minister directed the secretary of commerce as well as the secretary of the Board of Investment to ensure immediate resolution of the issues faced by the investors and sought a compliance report within a week.
Federal ministers Syed Naveed Qamar, Makhdoom Murtaza Mahmood, Marriyum Aurangzeb and senior officers attended the meeting. INP

Work on Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway to be started after ECNEC's approval: NA told

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Wednesday informed the National Assembly that work on the Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M-6) would be started after getting approval of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).
Responding to a Calling Attention Notice regarding inordinate delay in start of Hyderabad-Sukkur motorway, he said, "The project was approved in 2017, but Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government during its three and half years had not given priority to it." He said "the six-lane Rs 307 billion public-private partnership project had been forwarded to the ECNEC for approval, and after getting its nod, design of the project would be finalized in six months." The minister said the government of Pakistan would pay about Rs 9.5 billion for the 306 kilometer Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway and it would complete in two and half years after the work started. INP

Govt will provide relief to people in budget: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Shazia Marri has said that the government will provide relief to people in the budget being announced on Friday.
Talking to reporters in Islamabad on Wednesday, she said 28 billion rupees are being provided to people through Benazir Income Support Programme. She said that six million people have recently been included in ambit of the BISP to curtail poverty. The Minister for Benazir Income Support Programme said two thousand rupees are being given to those whom monthly. INP

Imran Khan says 'will give Islamabad march call in few days'

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan Wednesday alleged that efforts are underway to ensure the success of the present rulers in the upcoming general elections. Addressing PTI's National Council meeting in Islamabad, Imran Khan said, the incumbent government is allegedly doing delimitations to benefit themselves in the upcoming general elections. He said the main object of elections is to elect competent people who can run the country. Democracy is based on meritocracy, not on imperialism. Pakistan's history shows the country was ruled by dictators and then by two families, he added. Criticising PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the former prime minister said, Bilawal did a long march towards Islamabad when Rs4 per litre was increased by his government. Where is he now when the fuel prices have been jacked up by Rs60 per litre? In the ruling tenure of the PTI government, the petrol was jacked up by Rs55 per litre, but the "imported government" has raised its prices by Rs60 in just 15 days, he was quoted. He asked the masses to get ready as he will give a call for 'Haqiqi Azadi March' in a few days. He reiterated his resolve that the government was ousted over a 'foreign conspiracy'. The rulers came into power only to give themselves relief from the corruption cases. "Celebrations were held in Israel and India over the ouster of PTI government." Recalling the worst shelling and torture over the participants of the Azadi March, Imran Khan said his government did not stop anyone from doing a long march towards the federal capital, neither hurdles were created. "Fazlur Rehman, Bilawal did long marches towards Islamabad, but PTI government did not stop them." INP

Supply of flour at Rs40 per kg started in KP: Marriyum Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, supply of flour at rupees 40 per kilogram has been started in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.
In a statement on Wednesday, the Information Minister said that 100 mobile stores were set up to fulfill the promise of providing flour to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at affordable price.
Marriyum Aurangzeb said for this purpose, the province has been divided into Abbottabad and Peshawar zones. She said the supply of inexpensive flour will be gradually extended to the whole province. INP

3,919 pilgrims arrived in Saudi Arabia in 3 days: Ministry

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Wednesday said that 3,919 pilgrims arrived in Saudi Arabia in the last three days.
Talking to media, the ministry's spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt said that 1,710 pilgrims were scheduled to leave for Medina on Wednesday by eight flights, including four from Islamabad and one each from Karachi, Lahore, Quetta and Multan. He further said that on Thursday 1,330 more pilgrims would leave for the holy land through five Hajj flights. Hajj operation consisting of 106 flights would continue till June 30, he said. Umar said that accommodation had been arranged in Hajj camps for the convenience of pilgrims coming from far flung areas of the country. He said that vaccines, tickets, visas, identity pendants and passports were being provided to the pilgrims at the camps. INP

Govt all set to present progressive budget on Friday

ISLAMABAD: The incumbent coalition government is all set to present its first pro-people, business-friendly and progressive budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 in the Parliament on June 10 (Friday), with special focus on fiscal consolidation to contain budget deficit. The budget would be presented by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail. The budget had been formulated while considering the existing challenges being faced by economy at domestic and international fronts. Hence, mitigating people's sufferings, transforming agriculture sector, promoting Information Technology (IT), boosting industrial and bolstering businesses would be the main focus of the document, sources said. In addition to fiscal management, revenue mobilization, measures for economic stabilization and growth, reduction in non-

development expenditures; boosting exports besides job creation and people friendly policies for the socioeconomic prosperity of the country would feature in the budget. It would also focus on social sector development besides introducing reforms for improving governance and boosting private sector investment. On the revenue side, the government would introduce measures for bringing improvements in the system of tax collection, broadening the tax base, and facilitation to tax payers. Keeping in view the robust growth of revenues during the current fiscal year (2021-22), the government is likely to set the revenue collection target at over Rs.7 trillion for the fiscal year 2022-23. Sources said the preparations for the announcement of the federal budget for fiscal year 2022-23 continued in full swing in accordance. INP

Proposal to shut markets at 8:30pm across country under consideration

A proposal to shut down markets at 8:30pm in an effort to conserve energy came under discussion on Wednesday during a meeting of the freshly reconstituted National Economic Council (NEC).
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired today's meeting, which was attended by the chief ministers of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan did not attend the meeting and Chief Secretary Shehzad Bangash represented the province instead.
According to a handout issued after the meeting, all four provinces agreed in principle on the proposal to close down markets by 8:30pm. However, the chief ministers of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab sought two days to consult trade bodies and business communities in their respective provinces.
During the meeting, the chief ministers were consulted on the national strategy for tackling the energy crisis. The participants were also informed about the federal cabinet's decisions and proposals for conserving energy, the statement said.
On the other hand, KP Finance Minister Taimur Khan Jhagra said on Twitter that the province had not agreed to close down markets. "KP has not agreed to this. It was put forward that KP will decide after consultation with the CM," he said.
Meanwhile, Minister for Power Khuram Dastgir said the government had planned a number of measures to conserve energy, including two weekly offs and work-from-home for one day of the week. He also



said that the government was taking practical steps to address the energy crisis.
Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the minister said inefficient and expensive power plants would be gradually phased out.
He said the country's total power generation was 22,010MW while the demand was 26,227MW, adding that the shortfall stood at more than 4,000MW on June 7.
The minister said the government had decided that power plants which used imported fuel would no longer be set up. Massive investment will be carried out in the solar energy sector in order to increase its output to 10,000 MW, he said.
He went on to say that the demand for electricity had increased due to the increase in temperature. The minister added that the government had implemented a zero-loadshedding policy in the industrial sector.
The decision comes as Pakistan is currently facing an energy shortfall, with parts of the country witnessing hours-long loadshedding.
A day earlier, the federal cabinet decided that priority would be given to holding government meetings virtually till an energy conservation plan was approved. The cabinet also decided to cut the consumption of utilities at the government level and in offices by 10 per cent.
On Monday, former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said the government had taken steps that would reduce power shortfall to three-and-a-half hours by Tuesday.

'Karachi's crime ranking better than new Delhi, Dhaka, Chicago'

KARACHI: Inspector General (IG) Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon has said that Karachi has a better crime index ranking than many major cities including Chicago, Kuala Lumpur, Dhaka and New Delhi.

Talking to a private TV news channel, Ghulam Nabi said that they have emphasized quick judgments on street crime cases to curb the situation.

The IG said that Karachi's crime index rating has improved over time. Karachi is currently ranked 129 on the world crime index, at one time Karachi's ranking was 13, he added.

Nabi said that the metropolitan's ranking is better than its contemporary cities such as Kuala Lumpur, Dhaka, Chicago and New Delhi. Street crime cases should be decided on priority, all stakeholders should talk about this issue, he added.

Talking about the media's outcry on the spike in cases Ghulam Nabi said that when the cases arise, the media criticizes and we are ready to bear any constructive criticism. We will have to move toward FIR-free registration to make the process easier for the people, he added.

The IG Sindh added

that they want the legislation of property act so that the stolen property can be handed over to the owner after recovery. We are doing our best to control the law and order situation of the city via better policing, he added.

He said that Karachi should be as safe as possible, which is why we are trying to increase the number of policemen in the city, improve our investigation branch, and 44,000 cameras have been installed throughout the city with the help of citizens. Sindh Government's safe city project would also be completed soon, he added. INP



ISLAMABAD: Delegation of Japanese Association of Commerce & Industry led by Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan, Mitsuhiro Wada in a meeting with Additional Secretary (Incharge) Ministry of IT & Telecom, Mohsin Mushtaq, and Senior Officers of Ministry.

IHC approves TikTok Nosheen Saeed's pre-arrest bail in forest fire video case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday approved TikTok Nosheen Saeed alias Dolly's pre-arrest bail application in a case related to a forest fire at the Margalla Hills last month.

Saeed, who has more than 11 million followers on TikTok, had posted a clip of herself walking playfully in a silver ball gown in front of a burning hillside, presumably the Margalla Hills in Islamabad, with the caption: "Fire erupts wherever I am." Her video was immediately criticized on social media as people initially assumed that she had started the blaze herself at a time when a devastating heat-wave was under way in Pakistan causing forest fires.

Within hours after it was uploaded, the video was taken down from the application.

Later, Saeed said in a clarification released by an assistant that she did not start the fire and there was "no harm in making

videos". She had applied for pre-arrest bail after registration of a first information report by Kohsar Police under various sections of the Environment Protection Agency and Islamabad Wildlife Ordinance.

After the preliminary hearing, the court granted her interim bail till June 8 (today).

During today's hearing, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri asked the police if they had evidence that proved that the blaze was started by the TikTok. "And what is the worth of the trees damaged in it," he further inquired.

The investigating officer responded that the authorities yet still determining the total loss incurred in the blaze.

Subsequently, the court approved Saeed's request for pre-arrest bail and instructed the police to include her in the investigation of the case.

The Islamabad Police had registered two separate FIRs after

two videos went viral on social media, one showing two young TikTokers setting the forest on fire with a lighter on Margalla Hills. Another video that went viral on social media showed a model and TikTok Dolly performing in front of a fire. She had applied for pre-arrest bail after registration of a first information report by Kohsar Police under various sections of the Environment Protection Agency and Islamabad Wildlife Ordinance. After the preliminary hearing, the court granted her interim bail till June 8 (today). During today's hearing, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri asked the police if they had evidence that proved that the blaze was started by the TikTok. "And what is the worth of the trees damaged in it," he further inquired. The investigating officer responded that the authorities yet still determining the total loss incurred in the blaze. INP

Budget for next fiscal year will be tough, warns Faisal Subzwari

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Faisal Subzwari has warned that the budget for the next fiscal year will be tough.

Addressing a ceremony on Wednesday, he said that each government getting the levy tax should reduce the petrol price. "Development expenditures are increasing at a fast pace. The prime minister has rightly called for a grand dialogue," he maintained.

The minister claimed that the government is providing jobs to 2,000 fishermen. "We have to further expand business to support the economy. We have clarified that the local bodies elections should be held after a fresh census," he added.

He said that the country is facing water shortage. "There is less water in the rivers and the tails are also receiving less water."

Subzwari thanked the World Bank and other partners for supporting the country for the blue economy. "We will have to pay attention to the blue economy," he added. INP

Sikh pilgrims from India arrive in Pakistan to attend death anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev Singh

ISLAMABAD: One hundred fifty Sikh pilgrims from India arrived at Wagah Border, Lahore, today (Wednesday), to attend the death anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev Singh.

Sikh yatrees will return to their homeland after completing their 10-day visit to Pakistan. INP

Sindh LG polls: 946 candidates elected unopposed

KARACHI: At least 946 candidates from 14 districts have been elected unopposed in the first phase of the LG polls in Sindh.

According to details, 946 candidates have been elected unopposed from 14 districts of Sindh in the first phase of the local body elections in Sindh. Data issued by the ECP shows that a total of 96 candidates from Kashmir, 135 from Jacobabad, 94 from Shikarpur, and 11 from Larkana, 65 from Mirpur Khas and 65 candidates from Umerkot have been elected unopposed. Moreover, 18 candidates from Tharparkar, 34 from Sukkur, 48 from Ghotki, 67 from Khairpur, 105 from Shaheed Benazirabad, and 48 from Noshero Feroz and 87 candidates from Sanghar have been elected. INP

Belt and Road Arts Festival to offer Pakistani youth platform to show talent

ISLAMABAD: The 2022 Belt and Road Online Arts Festival was launched both online and offline recently at the Northwest Minzu University, China, providing a platform for Pakistani youth to showcase their talent. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

To participate in the event, youth in Pakistan and other countries can prepare music or dancing videos and share them on designated channels that will be announced soon. Selected videos will be broadcast on mainstream international and Chinese media platforms.

The event, under the "100 Sister Schools Initiative", is hosted by Gansu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Education Department of Gansu Province, organized by Northwest Minzu University, China and co-organized by the Gansu Association of 100 Sister Schools Initiative and Gansu UNESCO Association.

100 Sister Schools Initiative Belt and Road Online Arts Festival 2022 launching ceremony [Photo from website of the People's Government of Gansu Province]

"The 100 Sister Schools Initiative opens an avenue for people-to-people exchanges by enabling the middle and primary schools in partner countries to connect and communicate with one another", said Liu Xiaolin, Vice President of Gansu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, on the launching ceremony.

A number of representatives of institutions in the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Belarus, Chile, Poland, Pakistan, Thailand, Maldives, Uzbekistan, etc. felicitated the launching of the event via video. "I hope Pakistani youth can have a better understanding towards Gansu Province through this event", said Ma Bin, President of China-Pak Educational Center and Chairman of Overseas Chinese Association of Pakistan in his video message.

Ms. Wang Junyi from Gansu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries told CEN that in the past two years, 100 Sister Schools Initiative art exhibitions were held to promote cultural exchanges.

"In the previous ses-

sions, we collect drawings or photographic works. Among the over 500 pieces of work from 15 countries, many works from Pakistan were selected as outstanding ones. This time, we expand the forms from graphic arts to videos", she said.

Gansu Province has been enhancing trade, economic, and agricultural relations with Pakistan. At the end of last year, Lanzhou City, the capital of the province, and Jiuquan City formed sister ties with Quetta and Faisalabad respectively. A number of representatives of institutions in the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Belarus, Chile, Poland, Pakistan, Thailand, Maldives, Uzbekistan, etc. felicitated the launching of the event via video. "I hope Pakistani youth can have a better understanding towards Gansu Province through this event", said Ma Bin, President of China-Pak Educational Center and Chairman of Overseas Chinese Association of Pakistan in his video message. Ms. Wang Junyi from Gansu Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries told CEN that in the past two years. INP

More Chinese investment expected in Pakistan soon: Minister

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said on Thursday that more Chinese investment was expected in Pakistan soon, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

He mentioned that during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Balochistan and his meeting with Chinese investors, the Chinese companies had shown interest in investments in Gwadar.

The minister reiterated that the government was according topmost priority to speeding up work on projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Briefing the journalists on dif-

ferent projects approved by Central Development Working Party (CDWP), he informed that a power project at Diamer Bhasha dam worth Pakistani Rs900 billion had also been approved.

Iqbal remarked that work on water supply scheme in Gwadar will be completed by September this year while the 1.2 million gallon per day desalination plant work will be completed by October to solve water issue in Gwadar.

He elaborated that 65 percent funding of the project will be made by the federal government while 35 percent will be borne by the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He underlined that the new Gwadar International airport will also be completed by March next year.

Ahsan Iqbal said CDWP had also accorded approval to a project for provision of water to southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Minister stated that Chaman-Quetta, and Karachi road N-25 dualization project had also been approved. He said roads infrastructure in Balochistan has been prioritized in the upcoming budget which was aimed at providing a well laid network of roads in the province to help provide people with better health, employment and education opportunities. INP



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah presenting a souvenir to Nawaf bin Said Al Malki, Saudi Ambassador in Pakistan who called on him.

Terrace farming helpful in increasing yield in hilly areas

ISLAMABAD: Skillful terracing can turn hilly areas of Pakistan into cultivable lands and farms to increase the yield of crops and prevent soil erosion.

An expert told WealthPK that 'terrace farming' was successful in mountainous areas. He added that terracing was a useful tool for increasing grain output, preventing soil erosion, preserving soil fertility and ensuring long-term production stability. Bench terraced farmland, sloping terraced farmland and the combination of level terraced farmland and natural slope land are three famous types of terracing. In the mountains, a bench terrace is the most common type of farming. With its flat platform and projecting or ridged rim, a bench terrace can preserve rainwater for the purpose of irrigation.

In the areas having more

water, a proper drainage system should be set up at the farm. Only riser dikes and no land levelling are used in sloping or retention terraced farmlands. Deep plowing will gradually flatten the soil surface over the years. The natural slope affects the spacing between riser dikes. The riser dikes are raised in tandem with the sitation of sloping terraces.

However, in terms of soil and water conservation, the sloping terrace is less effective than the bench terrace. It is usually used in areas where land availability per capita is high. The quality of water can be improved with the help of technology.

Terracing has been known since long to decrease soil loss in sloped hills. The method was used to manage soil erosion in different countries, particularly in Africa dur-

ing the colonial era.

Dr Ijaz Ali from the National Institute of Agriculture and Research said that terrace farming was useful in the area where the terrain was steep and landholding capacity was limited. "The livelihoods of small farmers have been badly impacted by recent temperature swings and high rainfall as they rely on natural resources," he said.

He said that terrace farming became an obligation for farmers in mountainous areas. "Terrace farming involves carving steps into steep hills and edging the slope with stone walls known as "bunds". The bunds prevent water and soil from escaping," he added.

Dr Ijaz said that the Ministry of National Food Security and Research launched a project titled "Water Conservation. INP

Istisqa prayers offered in DI Khan for rainfall

PESHAWAR: Like other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Istisqa prayers were offered on Wednesday in Dera Ismail Khan district on the direction of the forest department secretary.

According to the official sources, the first Istisqa prayers were offered at the SDFO office in Dera Ismail Khan.

District Forest Officer (DFO) Shahid Noor and the Wildlife Department officials attended the prayers.

It is learnt that the forests and agriculture are in the grip of a severe drought due to lack of rainfall in the KP province.

People and cattle heads in different areas of the province are forced to migrate due to water scarcity.

Therefore, the provincial government has appealed to the people and government officials to offer Istisqa prayers for three consecutive days for rainfall.

Like other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Istisqa prayers were offered on Wednesday in Dera Ismail Khan district on the direction of the forest department secretary. According to the official sources, the first Istisqa prayers were offered at the SDFO office in Dera Ismail Khan. District Forest Officer (DFO) Shahid Noor and the Wildlife Department officials attended the prayers. It is learnt that the forests and agriculture are in the grip of a severe drought due to lack of rainfall in the KP province. INP

400 fake social media accounts being reported daily, PTA tells PAC

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Wednesday shared that 400 fake accounts are being reported on a daily basis in the country in a bid to quell disinformation campaigns in the country.

He shared these details before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting which was headed by dissident PTI leader Noor Alam Khan.

During the meeting, the PAC chairman asked the PTA chairman regarding their actions against fake accounts on social media. "One person is operating 2000 fake accounts and defaming the institutions from them," he said.

The chairman PTA said that they report fake accounts and currently 400 accounts are being reported on a daily basis.

Responding to a query from Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed regarding the number of internet users in the country, the PTA chairman said that there are a total of 115 million internet users in the country of which 113 are using it with their mobile phones.

It is pertinent to mention here that recently, Twitter Inc estimated in a filing that false or spam accounts represented fewer than 5% of its monetizable daily active users during the first quarter. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmad Shah along with Secretary Information Pakistan Peoples Party Faisal Karim Kundi and Senior leader of PPP Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmed speaks during a press conference at PID.

Top PML-N leaders dejected over getting ignored in SAPM appointments

ISLAMABAD: Top Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders have expressed their resentment over not being accommodated as special assistant to prime minister (SAPM) after the prime minister notified four new SAPMs today.

According to details, four PML-N lawmakers including Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din, Romina Khurshid Alam, Hafiz Abdul Kareem were appointed by the prime minister as SAPMs. The appointments irked top PML-N leaders Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha, Muhammad Zubair and Talal Chaudhry. The estranged leaders said that they were disappointed with the attitude of party leadership and asked what services have been rendered by those who have been appointed as special assistants today. "Did they appear alongside party leaders

during their hearings in the courts," they asked. The PML-N has faced criticism from the party with recently over favouring those who had not supported the party during its. INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2022 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Bid Security 2%, Tender fee Rs. 2% and Time Limit 30-06-2023 for the work. TSE-212206111663.

S.No	Name of works	Estimated Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF FUTSAL STADIUM AT GOVT GIRLS DEGREE COLLEGE TURBAT	29,702,963

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan-Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work: Turn over of at least 20,792,074 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. 4. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2,000 PKR. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 24 June, 2022 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 24 June, 2022 @ 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 1:00 PM. Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER URBAN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT MAKRRAN DIVISION. Phone no: 0852414060 Fax no: 0852414060. Email: xenurbanmakran@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Urban Planning & Dev. Department
Makran Division at Kech

PROJ No.4298/08-06-2022
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Alibaba Group's Daraz wins prestigious gender diversity award

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's biggest online marketplace Daraz PK came out as the winner of the 'Employer of Choice for Gender Diversity Awards', Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday quoting an announcement of International Finance Corp. (IFC).

The Awards were jointly organized by IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and Pakistan Business Council (PBC) with an aim to improve economic opportunities for women.

The second and third places were awarded to the K-Electric and Engro Fertilizers Ltd, respectively, while seven companies received honourable mention awards. IFC said in a statement sent to Gwadar Pro.

South Asia's leading online retailer Daraz PK was acquired by Alibaba Group in 2018. The Pakistan-based Daraz Group operates online marketplaces in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Nepal as well.

According to IFC, the awards celebrate private-

sector employers in the country committed to empowering women in the workplace. Companies are judged on five key gender principles i.e. promoting gender equality at leadership and policy level, ensuring a diverse workforce, eliminating gender pay gaps, creating an optimal workplace culture and providing coaching and mentoring for women employees.

The awards aim to recognize firms that have not only implemented strong gender diversity policies, but also com-

municate them in annual reports, websites, or through social media to encourage others to do the same, it added.

Daraz PK received the highest score using the scorecard developed by IFC and Pakistan Business Council, the statement said.

Ehsan Malik, CEO of Pakistan Business Council, congratulated Daraz PK on winning the award for their commitment to gender-equal workplaces.

"Public information on gender-related policies is increasingly

important for investors, potential employees and other stakeholders when evaluating companies," said Zeeshan Sheikh, IFC's Country Manager for Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"We have been working closely with Pakistan Business Council to help firms implement gender diversity policies and targets and disclose this information to affirm their commitment. This award ceremony is an important recognition of companies leading the way in this regard", Sheikh said. INP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Najy Benhassine, Country Director, World Bank for Pakistan.

World Bank approves \$258m to support healthcare in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank has approved \$258 million to strengthen primary health care systems and accelerate national efforts towards universal health coverage in Pakistan, a press release issued by the international financial institution said on Wednesday.

The National Health Support Programme "Complements ongoing investments in human capital and builds on health reforms that aim to improve quality and equitable access to healthcare services, especially in communities lagging behind national and regional-level health outcomes."

It identified three areas of focus for healthcare reforms under the initiative: healthcare coverage and quality of essential services, governance and accountability and healthcare financing.

Elaborating on these areas, the statement said the programme focused on healthcare coverage and quality of essential services to ensure availability of adequate staffing, supplies and medicines and to enhance patient referral systems for expediting emergency and higher-level care.

Similarly, the focus on governance and accountability was intended to strengthen oversight and management of primary healthcare services through real-time monitoring of available supplies and essential medicines.

The statement further explained that initiatives in this area included setting up a central information platform for provincial authorities to assess gaps in service delivery across public and private healthcare facilities.

Moreover, the focus on healthcare financing was to improve the financial management of primary healthcare centres for better expenditure tracking and budget forecasting to sustain quality healthcare services and delivery.

"The programme will benefit all communities through improvements to provincial primary healthcare systems, particularly [those] in approximately 20 districts that suffer from having the least access to health and nutrition services," the press release read.

According to the press release, the NHSP is co-financed by the International Development Association (\$258 million) and two grants (\$82 million) from the Global Financing Facility (GFF) for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF), including a \$40 million grant for protecting essential health services amid multiple global crises.

"The partnership between the GFF and the government of Pakistan focuses on building sustainable health systems while ensuring that all women, children and adolescents, especially in the most vulnerable communities can access the services they need amid multiple crises," the statement quoted Monique Vledder, head of secretariat at GFF as saying.

"By investing in primary health care, strengthening the health workforce and equipping community health centres to both respond to emergencies and deliver quality services, Pakistan can drive a more equitable and resilient recovery," she added.

World Bank Country Director for Pakistan, Najib Benhassine explained that "by strengthening provincial health systems, this programme is foundational to building the country's human capital and improving health and nutrition outcomes for its citizens."

"Pakistan continues to make strides in health reforms toward ensuring access to primary healthcare services, especially for children and women during pregnancy and childbirth," he said.

Hnin Hnin Pyne, task team leader for the programme, said: "NHSP creates a national forum for the federal and provincial governments to exchange lessons and collaborate on achieving sustainable health financing and high quality and coverage of essential services. INP



RAWALPINDI: Major General (Pilot) Jassim Mohamed Ahmed Al-Mannai, Commander Qatar Emiri Air Force called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ.

FIA arrests 12 men trying to travel abroad on fake visa

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Wednesday, arrested 12 men from the Jinnah International Airport Karachi for trying to travel abroad using fake visas.

According to FIA sources, the FIA Immigration cell arrested 12 people in multiple operations in May for travelling on fake visas. The accused were offloaded from the planes and arrested at Jinnah International Airport Karachi, FIA sources said.

The detained passengers were moved to the passport cell where further investigations are underway.

Some days back, another man trying to travel abroad using a fake visa was arrested at the Jinnah International Airport in March. The passenger was trying to use a fake Afghan passport to travel to Belgium via a private airline, FIA reported.

On June 7, FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Cell Lahore has arrested the most wanted outlaw named in the FIA's Red Book.

According to FIA officials, the proclaimed offender named Kashif Rafique was wanted in eight cases of human trafficking. The suspect was involved in sending people through illegal means to Australia and earned millions of rupees. INP

IHC rejects PTI's Haleem Adil Sheikh's protective bail plea

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday rejected the petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leader and Leader of the Opposition in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh for protective bail.

IHC Chief Justice (CJ) Athar Minallah, in his remarks, said that the court had already granted 'protective bail' to the petitioner for a period of three weeks. "During that period, Haleem had to appear in the Sindh High Court (SHC) since his case fell in its jurisdiction," the CJ said, and added, "The IHC could not interfere in the SHC's domain. The petitioner is advised to go to the SHC."

The petitioner's counsel had told the court that the Sindh government wanted to arrest his client in false and fabricated cases so that he could not attend the provincial assembly's budget session. INP

Construction work of dam projects stepped up, says Khurshid Shah

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah has said that the government will import three million tonnes of wheat to meet domestic need.

Talking to media, Federal Minister for Water Resources, said that the work on construction of dams has been stepped up and will be rapidly completed.

He said the work on the projects, suspended for last four years, has been resumed and Mohmand Dam work is expected to be completed in year 2023. Chief Minister is expected to meet the prime minister today and briefed him about the water shortage and power load shedding in Sindh. INP

Dua Zehra meets parents; family claims she wanted to go with them

KARACHI: Teenage girl Dua Zehra on Wednesday met with her parents after directives from the Sindh High Court (SHC) as the family later claimed that she expressed her desire to go with them. The girl along with her alleged husband appeared before the court after a medical examination which stated that she is aged between 16 to 17-year-old. During the hearing, the counsel representing the father of the girl said that they wanted to present some documents to prove her age at 14. The SHC judge, however, rejected the plea and said that the case pertains to her recovery and now the matter should be raised with the trial court. The court also allowed the parents to meet the girl. INP

Foreign woman raped by security guard in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: A foreign woman was allegedly raped by a security guard, deployed for her security, in Islamabad's G-6/4 area.

According to details, the incident occurred on Tuesday night within the limits of Abbpara police station.

According to FIR registered with Abbpara police station, a security guard, who was deployed for the security of a foreign national woman, raped her and fled the scene.

Police have launched further investigation into the case and started a search operation for the arrest of suspect.

It is pertinent to mention here incidents of rape and sexual assault against women have been reported time and again amid calls for strict action against the culprits.

In one such incident, a Karachi woman was gang-raped by two ticket-checkers and their in-charge on board the Bahauddin Zakariya Express.

According to FIR, the incident occurred on May 27 when the victim, who hails from Karachi's Orangi Town, boarded the train from Multan railway station for Karachi.

The FIR stated that the woman passenger purchased an economy class ticket for Karachi and when the Bahauddin Zakariya Express reached Rohri station, two ticket checkers and their in-charge allegedly lured her into a trap of offering a seat in the AC bogie.

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Pakistan faces upto 8-hour loadshedding as shortfall reaches 6,500

LAHORE: Electricity shortfall in Pakistan has reached 6500 along with power outages of upto eight hours in the country, despite an announcement from the government to bring down loadshedding to three and a half hours.

According to sources in the power division, the demand for electricity peaked at 28,000 MW against the available supply of 22,000 MW, bringing the shortfall to 6500 MW.

They said that some of the urban centres and rural areas are experiencing loadshedding between six to eight hours, contrary to the government's claim of reducing the duration.

Moreover, the electricity quota of LESCO has been raised to 5000 MW against an existing demand of 5,700 MW, resulting in a shortfall of 700 MW. The LESCO has issued a loadshedding duration of a three-and-a-half-hour.

Meanwhile, the sources shared that an improvement in supply of gas, and furnace oil have been witnessed to the power plants and the duration of loadshedding will be reduced in the coming days.

It is pertinent to mention here that former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has announced that the power loadshedding would be reduced to 3.5 hours from Tuesday. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad flanked by federal ministers, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that the country's electricity demand has exceeded 25,000MW.

He pointed out that when the current government assumed charge, the electricity generation capacity was at 17,000MW which was increased to more than 21,000MW. INP

Gillani challenges Senate chairman election in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gillani has challenged the election of Sadiq Sanjrani as Senate chairman in the Supreme Court on Wednesday. Gillani has filed appeal in the apex court against the decision of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking the court to declare the high court's verdict as void.

"The decision of the single and division bench of the IHC has been against the law and the facts of the matter," Gillani pleaded in his appeal to the Supreme Court. "The high court's verdict is against the parameters fixed by the supreme court in its decision over the case pertaining to the ruling of the deputy speaker," according to the appeal.

"Yousaf Raza Gilani bagged maximum votes in the March 2021 election of the Senate Chairman and his seven votes were rejected wrongfully," according to the plea. "The presiding officer rejected his seven votes with malicious intent," he pleaded.

A division bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) dismissed a petition filed by PPP senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in April this year.

The division bench, comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri had reserved the judgement on December 22, 2021. Gilani, a former prime minister of Pakistan, in his petition sought the court to abrogate the presiding officer's decision of rejecting seven votes polled in favour of him in the Senate chairman's election. Initially, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah had dismissed the petition filed by Mr Gilani against the result of the election of the Senate chairman, noting that proceedings of the upper house of parliament. INP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Naseer Khan Kashani calls on Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch.

"Culprits involved in Saudi diplomat's murder to be arrested soon"

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah has asserted that the culprits involved in the assassination of Saudi diplomat Hassan al-Qahtani in 2011 would be brought to justice soon.

The Interior Minister made these remarks during a meeting with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki who called on him in Islamabad today.

During the meeting, Rana Sanaullah said that security cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would be further enhanced.

"Both the countries would jointly fight internal and regional security challenges," he said, adding that any conspiracy to mar Pak-Saudi relations would be foiled jointly.

He also pointed out that culprits involved in the assassination of Saudi diplomat Hassan al-Qahtani in 2011 would be brought to justice soon. "Red notices had been issued by FIA for the culprits involved in the murder," he said, adding that all available resources would be utilized to nab the culprits.

Sanaullah thanked the Saudi government for rolling over \$ 3 billion for Pakistan's economic stability. "Roll over of \$ 3 billion by the Saudi government was crucial to stabilizing Pakistan's economy", he added.

He said Pakistan enjoyed cordial and fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia. "The people of Pakistan had immense devotion and love for the custodian of the Holy mosques", he added.

He said Saudi Arabia had always been generous in helping and assisting Pakistan in hour of odd. "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Saudi Arabia would be an important milestone in further strengthening Pak-Saudi relations", he added.

Speaking on the occasion, the ambassador congratulated minister on assuming the office of Interior Minister. He said over 81,000 Pakistani pilgrims would perform Hajj this year.

The Saudi Ambassador further said best arrangements for the Hajj had been made this year. "Road to Makkah project for Pakistan had also been launched", he added. During the meeting, Rana Sanaullah said that security cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would be further enhanced.

"Both the countries would jointly fight internal and regional security challenges," he said, adding that any conspiracy to mar Pak-Saudi relations would be foiled jointly.

He also pointed out that culprits involved in the assassination of Saudi diplomat Hassan al-Qahtani in 2011 would be brought to justice soon. "Red notices had been issued by FIA for the culprits involved in the murder," he said, adding that all available resources would be utilized to nab the culprits. Sanaullah thanked the Saudi government for rolling over \$ 3 billion for Pakistan's economic stability. "Roll over of \$ 3 billion by the Saudi government was crucial to stabilizing Pakistan's economy", he added. He said Pakistan enjoyed cordial and fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia. "The people of Pakistan had immense devotion and love for the custodian of the Holy mosques", he added. He said Saudi Arabia had always been generous in helping and assisting Pakistan in hour of odd. "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Saudi Arabia would be an important milestone in further strengthening Pak-Saudi relations", he added. INP

FS urges int'l community to take cognizance of rising Islamophobia in India

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood met the OIC Ambassadors in Islamabad and briefed them about the developments after the highly derogatory remarks by two senior officials of India's ruling party BJP about Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Noting the condemnation issued by the General Secretariat of the OIC in this regard, the Foreign Secretary highlighted OIC's role in promoting the rights and fundamental freedoms of the Muslim Ummah around the world.

The Foreign Secretary added that the strong reaction from the OIC countries to such totally unacceptable actions was natural, given the Muslims' love and reverence for the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The Foreign Secretary stressed that the international community should take cognizance of the rising tide of Islamophobia in India.

He added that India must be held accountable for stifling the rights of its religious minorities, especially the Muslim population, which is the victim of hate speech, persecution and violence perpetrated under state patronage.

The Foreign Secretary highlighted the special role of the OIC in this regard. INP

PIA Hajj operation from Karachi begins, first flight departs

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has begun its flight operation for Hajj from Karachi and the first flight departed carrying pilgrims on Wednesday.

The PIA flight, PK-743, carrying Hajj pilgrims will land in Madinah. PIA officials, Adviser to CM Sindh on Religious Affairs Fayyaz Butt and Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) officials met the departing pilgrims and distributed umbrellas as a gift from the government.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) announced a schedule to begin Hajj operation flights from Jinnah International Airport Karachi on June 8. The national flag carrier will use Boeing 777 aircraft for pre-Hajj operations from Karachi, he said. In this connection, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has completed all arrangements at Jinnah airport for the Hajj 2022 operations. It is pertinent to mention here that the first flight of the Hajj operation under the "Road to Makkah" initiative departed from New Islamabad Airport in the wee hours of Monday. The first flight of the Hajj operation under the government scheme departed from Islamabad at 03:30 am. Meanwhile, a private airline flight carrying 220 intending pilgrims also left Allama Iqbal International Airport for Madina on Sunday night. Punjab Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman bade farewell to the pilgrims at the Lahore airport. According to spokesperson of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, 32,000 pilgrims will be flown to Saudi Arabia through 106 Hajj flights. The spokesperson said 42 flights will be operated from Islamabad under Road to Makkah project. Hajj pilgrims are also being informed about the flights. INP

Senior Consultant and Radiologist, DR. Ayesha Isani Majeed called on Federal Minister for Human Rights, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada.



Dua Zehra's father objects to medical test verifying her age

KARACHI: A counsel representing the father of Dua Zehra, Mehdi Kazmi, has raised objections over the medical certificate determining her age and demanded to form a medical board for it.

The counsel, Advocate Altaf Khoso, said that a medical board should be established to determine her age as determining the age through a bones' test could not be considered efficient.

"The NADRA record is a documentary proof that carries the date, time and year of the birth," he said and added that they have challenged the legal status of the medical examination.

A medical board constituted to ascertain the age of Dua Zehra has finalised its report and sent it to the Karachi police, which will submit it before the Sindh High Court (SHC) bench hearing the case.

"Dua Zehra is aged between 16 to 17 years," the medical board report said according to the sources. As per

Dua's father, her age is 14 years, while Dua Zehra in her statement before the SHC said she is 18 years old.

The medical tests to verify the age of the allegedly 14-year-girl, who had run away from her house and reportedly married a boy from Lahore, were conducted on the orders of the SHC.

According to the Anti Violent Crime Cell (AVCC), multiple tests including the bone were conducted in the Civil Hospital Karachi.

Dua Zehra and her reported husband were presented before the Sindh High Court on June 6, 2022. Dua had refused to meet her parents amid the hearing of the case.

During the hearing, the girl denied being abducted by Zaheer Ahmed and said that she has married him willingly. "I am 18-year-old," replied Dua when a judge asked her about her age. The court had sent her to a shelter home, ordering medical tests to determine her age. INP

SHC announces verdict in Dua Zehra case

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday announced a reserved verdict in Dua Zehra case, allowing the Karachi teenage girl to decide whether she wants to live with her parents or go with husband. The SHC had reserved its verdict earlier Wednesday.

A two-member bench, headed by Justice Muhammad Junaid Ghaffar, issued written order in Dua Zehra case, the Karachi teenager girl who had gone missing from her hometown Karachi and later surfaced in Punjab.

The SHC, in its written verdict, observed that no evidence was found that the girl had been abducted and stopped authorities concerned from registering abduction cases. "No evidence was found of the girl's abduction," the court ruled.

The three-page written verdict ordered the investigation officer (IO) to submit interim challan and medical record of Zehra.

The court ruled that it was the responsibility of Sindh government to produce Dua Zehra before Lahore High Court (LHC). "The trial court will continue investigation as per the law in the case," reads the verdict.

The SHC also disposed of the petition filed by parents into the alleged abduction of Karachi teenage girl.

During today's hearing, the girl along with her alleged husband appeared before the court after a medical examination which stated that she is aged between 16 to 17-year-old.

As the hearing went underway, the counsel representing the father of the girl said that they wanted to present some documents to prove her age at 14.

The SHC judge, however, rejected the plea and said that the case pertains to her recovery and now the matter should be raised with the trial court. The court also allowed the parents to meet the girl. INP