

NEWSCLIPPINGS

JANUARY TO JUNE 2025

LAW AND ORDERS, NGOs AND GOVT NEWS



Urban Resource Centre

A-2, 2nd floor, Westland Trade Centre, Block 7&8, C-5, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Karachi.
Tel: 021-4559317, Fax: 021-4387692, Email: urckhi@yahoo.com, Website: www.urckarachi.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/URCKHI Twitter: <https://twitter.com/urckhi>

Police action to clear Karachi roads of protesters sparks violence



Pitched battles between police and groups of youth broke out on multiple spots in the city on Tuesday as law enforcers fired tear gas to remove protesters staging sit-ins on the call of the Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen (MWM) against the blockade and killings in Parachinar.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah told reporters during the day that "an administrative action" was launched at 8am on Tuesday during which the sit-ins at eight locations had been removed because they were "causing inconveniences to the people".

Initially, the police did not face resistance when they dismantled tents and dispersed protesters at around half a dozen locations



in the city.

However, they used force at Abbas Town, Numaish and Malir 15 to clear Abul Hasan Ispahani Road, M. A. Jinnah Road and the National Highway.

By Tuesday night, protesters returned to Numaish and Abbas Town to resume their sit-in, while a clash between police and agitators in Malir 15 resulted in bullet injuries to four protesters and two policemen.

Malir SP Saeed Rind told *Dawn* that the protestors blocked the National Highway at Malir-15 and when the police took action some of them resorted to firing causing injuries to two policemen.

The MWM condemned the police action and claimed that its over two dozen workers were picked up by law enforcers. The party held the Sindh CM responsible for what it called "police brutality".

MWM spokesperson Syed Ali Ahmer Naqvi told *Dawn* that in the morning the police fired tear gas shells and baton charged protesters at 10 places, including Abbas Town and forcefully ended their sit-ins.

'Police tried all means to peacefully end protests'

Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon told *Dawn* that police made all-out efforts to resolve the issue of sit-ins "peacefully".

He said the Sindh government also made concerted efforts by sending delegations to the organisers for resolving it peacefully.

He said the sit-ins had resulted in serious problems for smooth flow of traffic, causing inconvenience to a large number of citizens.

"Ultimately, the police took an action today during which almost all roads, barring one or two places, were cleared for traffic," he told *Dawn*, before the clashes in Malir began.

Regarding the police action at Numaish, the IGP said two police officers were injured and the protesters had also torched some police motorcycles. He said the police had made 'some arrests'.

'MWM leader hurt'

The MWM spokesperson in a statement claimed that the law enforcers manhandled the elderly scholar, Allama Syed Hasan Zafar Naqvi, at Numaish.

The spokesperson vowed to continue the protest.

He alleged that the Sindh government had used 'state force', causing injuries to "dozens of protesters" at Numaish.

The MWM alleged that the government and certain 'black sheep' were conspiring to trigger sectarian violence in Karachi by allowing "outlawed groups" to stage protests on main roads.

Allama Mukhtar Imami of the party claimed that "an attempt on the life of Allama Hasan Zafar was made at Numaish" and he held the chief minister and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari responsible for it.

"Under orders of the CM, shelling and lathi-charge were carried out against peaceful participants, including women and children, of sit-ins" he said and vowed to continue the protest in support of the victims of Parachinar.

Govt ready to give permission

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah while talking to media at Hub said that Parachinar was facing an issue of "human tragedy" where the people were dying due to shortage of food and medicines.

He recalled that initially the organisers of the sit-ins had informed them (authorities) that they would hold a peaceful sit-in at Numaish only.

Later on, they increased the number of sit-ins and started blocking smooth flow of traffic, the chief minister said.

"This issue belongs to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and its solution may be found there," opined Mr Murad, adding that the Sindh government was providing medicines to them.

"After 8am on Tuesday we took an administrative action and got eight sit-ins out of 12 sit-ins ended," he said, adding: "There may be 'chaos' but we do not intend to cause any difficulty to anyone.

He said that if the organisers wanted to talks, the Sindh government was ready to sit with them but they should not cause any difficulty to citizens.

"The Sindh government is willing and ready to give permission for a peaceful protest," said the CM, adding that "if people would face any difficulty, then the government would take action to rectify the situation."

Traffic chaos in city

Meanwhile, citizens continued to endure traffic jams on most city roads on Tuesday while the banned Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) also started counter-protest sit-ins at several places.

In a statement, ASWJ said they staged sit-ins at 60 places in Karachi, demanding military operation in Parachinar and provision of compensation to the heirs of the victims and damages to the property there.

Despite the police action, several roads remained closed for traffic at 18 places in the city on Tuesday evening because of protest sit-ins of the MWM and ASWJ.

A traffic police spokesperson confirmed that by 8:30pm as many as 18 places were closed for vehicular traffic "due to protests of religious parties".

Protesters belonging to the MWM blocked Abul Hasan Ispahani Road, Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan Road Chowrangi in Nazimabad, Kamran Chowrangi, Numaish and Sharah-i-Pakistan at Ancholi to stage sit-ins.

The ASWJ blocked the main Manghopir Road at Habib Bank Chowrangi, Business Recorder Road, Gulbai, Sharea Faisal's service road near Baloch Colony, Sharah-i-Liaquat near Fresco Chowk, main University Road near Safoora, Nagan Chowrangi bus stop, Sharah-i-Orangi near Metro, Quaidabad towards Malir and Tower Chowk near Jilani Centre.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 01/01/2024)

Killing women

EVEN as the UN's 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (Nov 25 to Dec 10) was being observed across the globe, including in Pakistan, a young female lecturer and mother of three was brutally murdered by her husband in an incident of so-called honour killing in village Bakr Jamali, Sindh. The horrifying incident sent shockwaves across the area.



The victim had passed the Sindh Public Service Commission examination and was working as a lecturer in the village. She belonged to a well-off and educated family. The culprit was arrested. He admitted to his crime and said he killed his wife out of 'ghairat' (honour). The family of the victim claimed the man killed her out of greed for money and property. The victim's family had provided her with a good education, and allowed her to marry the person of her choice. Tragically, they received her bullet-riddled body,

while three innocent little children cried for their mother.

Another young woman was subjected to horrific torture before being murdered by her husband in a village in Chakwal. Two sisters were killed by their father and brother in Vehari last year for contracting free-will marriages. In Swat, 20 women were killed in the first five months of 2024. Out of these, 10 women were murdered in the name of 'honour'.

According to a recent UN report titled Femicides in 2023: "Some 51,100 women and girls were killed at home by people closely related to them in 2023, accounting for 60 per cent of all female homicides. In too many cases, victims of femicide had previously reported violence and their killings could have been prevented." The report mentioned that, on average, 140 women and girls were killed every day by someone in their family worldwide. "This suggests that the home remains the most dangerous place for women and girls in terms of the risk of lethal victimisation."

There is no honour involved in cold-blooded murder.

The murder of women is taken as a mere statistic; no report, no data can capture the humiliation, pain, trauma and torture a woman goes through before she is killed by a family member. The very few cases mentioned here are enough to highlight the severity of the issue of women killed in the name of honour in Pakistan; even more painful is society's acceptance of the practice, thus normalising murder.

To address the issue, the Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences in the name or pretext of Honour) Act, 2016, was passed. The qisas and diyat laws provided an option to families to forgive the culprit, who, usually, was a family member or relative, allowing criminals to go unpunished. This legal gap was addressed by the Honour Killing Act, 2016, which eliminated the possibility of family members forgiving those who had committed the crime.

This new law fixed a loophole that allowed killers to be spared punishment if the family (father, son, or brother) forgave them. The law makes the crime of honour killing a non-compoundable offence. The law included taazir as a prerogative of the court, despite the waiver of qisas by the victim's legal heirs, with a minimum lifetime sentence.

Lack of support mechanisms, family support, and shelter homes/ protection centres are contributing factors to the scourge. In such a patriarchal society, women survivors are reluctant to report cases in hostile, gender-insensitive police stations or file a case in court.

A major reason for this crime is the acceptance of gender-based violence in society and systemic gender bias in the state machinery, including the police, judiciary, and prosecution.

Honour crimes and femicide should be declared crimes against the state. When the family does not pursue the case, the state must pursue it till justice is done. Along with legal amendments and effective implementation of the laws, a strong police and community-level mechanism of prevention of the crime must be developed and enforced. Institutions responsible for protecting women and providing justice can themselves be discriminatory and have biased gender representation.

Women recruits form less than 2pc of Pakistan's entire police force. Representation of female judges in the judiciary is very low. Till recently, according to the Law and Justice Commission, there were 3,142 judges and judicial officers in the country, the vast majority (2,570) being male; of the 572 female judges and judicial officers, 565 are in the district judiciary, and seven in the superior courts. Needless to say, more women should be inducted.

Changing anti-women mindsets and behaviour will take generations. What can be done immediately is to implement reforms in the police and judiciary. Crimes against women are a gross violation of the Constitution. The state must take full responsibility to protect its women as equal citizens of Pakistan.

(By Shazia Nizamani Dawn, 07, 02/01/2024)

MWM packs up sit-ins in Karachi

The Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM) ended its nine-day long sit-ins in Karachi on the call of its central leader Raja Nasir Abbas from Islamabad.

Late on Wednesday night, the MWM central leadership had announced the conclusion of the protest sit-ins after the peace deal reached through a Grand Jirga among the warring tribes of the Kurram area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Earlier, MWM leader Allama Hassan Zafar Naqvi, addressing a press conference at the Numaish Chowranghi dharna had stated that MWM had observed a Black Day on Wednesday against alleged state oppression to disperse demonstrators participating in its protests in Karachi.

Naqvi said that MWM strongly condemns the violence by the administration on peaceful sit-ins. "The Sindh government used force on peaceful protesters, as a result of which a young man named Shabih Haider was martyred in Malir and several others were injured. Women, children and the elderly were lathicharged, shelled and fired upon. The police also registered an FIR against 19 people who participated in the sit-in at Numaish Chowranghi."

Meanwhile, MWM leaders and supporters attended the funeral prayers of Shabih Haider, a protestor at Malir sit-in who was hit by two bullets to the stomach on Tuesday night.

Home minister's presser

Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, addressing a press conference at the Karachi Police Office regarding the violent protests on Tuesday night said: "An impartial investigation is underway to determine who is responsible for injuring police personnel through gunfire and their affiliations." He said that nine police personnel were injured ensuring the safety and security of citizens.

19 sent to jail on judicial remand

The Anti-Terrorism Administrative Court on Wednesday remanded the 19 suspects, arrested from sit-in protest at Numaish Chawranghi, to jail under judicial custody.

The arrested suspects included four boys under the age of 18. IO Iftikhar Ahmad mentioned that a policeman was injured in firing by the accused, while three policemen were injured when accused pelted stones on the police party. The court inquired who gave the stones to the protesters. Did they carry a bag full of stones?

The court remarked that protest does not allow taking law into hands. Everyone is bound to respect the law as well as the law enforcers.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 02/01/2025)

Young man shot dead by robbers in Korangi

A young man was shot dead by armed robbers in the Korangi area, police said on Saturday.

They added that Sahil, 28, was shot and killed outside his home in Korangi No 3, Madina Colony near the Family Park late on Friday night.

Zaman Town SHO Rizwan Qureshi said that the victim and his aunt were standing near their home when two robbers, riding a motorbike, emerged there, held them at gunpoint and snatched his cell phone.

As he put up resistance, the robbers opened fire on him and rode away, the SHO said, adding that Sahil sustained a single bullet wound in the chest and died on the spot.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for a post-mortem examination.

The area SHO said that a case was registered against unknown persons and the police launched a probe.

He complained of lack of cooperation from witnesses. He said there was no CCTV footage available.

Meanwhile, police claimed that a man shot dead by unknown suspects in Cattle Colony turned out to be a criminal.

Police said that a man, said to be the accomplice of the deceased, was taken into custody and he confessed that Azhar Mehar was killed when he tried to shoot a robbery victim on Jan 2.

The police claimed to have recovered the murder weapon.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 05/01/2025)

Crypto trader's abduction probe leads to removal of decorated officer

The kidnapping of a crypto trader for a hefty ransom has led to the removal of a long-time counterterrorism official from his post, it emerged on Tuesday.

DSP Raja Umar Khattab, who remained associated with the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) for the past many years, was removed from his post by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon.

According to an order, "Raja Umar Khattab, DSP-Intelligence, CTD Karachi, has been transferred and directed to report to the Central Police Office (CPO) with immediate effect and until further orders."

Furthermore, Raja Farrukh Younus, DSP-Special Protection Unit (SPU) of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was removed from office and directed to report to the CPO.

While the orders did not cite any reason behind their transfer, sources linked their removal with the recent kidnapping of a crypto currency trader who was released after he paid a huge ransom in foreign currency and transferred the amount to several other accounts.

Talking to Dawn, the IGP said: "They have been transferred because there is an enquiry pending against them."

Mr Khattab, a recipient of Sitara-i-Shujaat and Tamgha-i-Shujaat, had solved many high-profile terrorism cases during his long career in the CTD.

He confirmed the development and said that he was transferred "without any charges".

The removal of the two officers came after CTD policeman Ali Raza, along with six others, was arrested by the Anti-Violent Crime Cell (AVCC) for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of the crypto currency trader. They were booked and arrested for kidnapping the victim and releasing him after he transferred \$340,000 in their accounts from his 'Binance account'.

Without mentioning the kidnap incident, Mr Khattab questioned whether it was advisable to "punish the whole unit if one sepoy of the CTD committed any mistake".

He said he wanted a proper inquiry into the allegations and demanded that his honour be restored if it was proved that he had not committed any crime.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 08/01/2025)

Woman killed 'execution-style' in Karachi's Orangi Town

An unidentified young woman was killed in an execution-style shooting in Orangi Town, police said on Wednesday.

A police statement said that two men brought a young woman to a street near the ZMC park late on Tuesday night on their motorbike.
"They got off the vehicle, shot her twice, and rode away," it said.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for a post-mortem examination. She remained unidentified on Wednesday as no one has so far approached the police to claim the body.

Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said the woman, aged between 18 and 20, sustained a single bullet wound in the head.

The crime scene unit collected two spent bullet casings fired from a 9mm pistol, the statement added.

Mominabad SHO Shahbaz Yusuf told *Dawn* that CCTV footage obtained from the crime scene was blurred. He said that the victim probably did not have a record with the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra), as her fingerprints could not be matched with their database.

SSP-Investigation (West) Arib Mahar said that a witness saw the victim and the suspects arguing with each other and later shots being fired.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 09/01/2025)

Crypto trader picks out two alleged abductors before magistrate in Karachi

A crypto trader, who was kidnapped and released after paying around \$340,000 worth of digital coins, rightly picked out two men as those who had abducted him during an identification parade conducted by a judicial magistrate on Saturday.

Investigating officer Makhdoom Moinuddin brought the two suspects — Mohammed Rizwan Shah and Tariq Hasan Shah — said to be private persons, before Judicial Magistrate (West) Hasnain Gul, who conducted the identification parade after completing legal formalities.

The suspects were lined up along with dummies and the complainant rightly picked them out.

He assigned Rizwan's role and said that he had threatened him with dire consequences. The victim also picked out Tariq Shah and told the magistrate that he had interrogated him during captivity.

A couple of days ago, two constables of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) among eight suspects were booked and arrested for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping of the trader and releasing him after he transferred the ransom into their digital wallets.

Earlier, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) had remanded the eight suspects in police custody as the IO informed the court that their absconding accomplices —Hamad, Zaman, Muzamil, Ali Raza, Rasheed Lodhi, and others — had yet to be arrested.

A case was registered at the Manghopir police station against eight suspects under Sections 365-A (kidnapping or abducting for extorting property, valuable security) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 12/01/2025)

Rights watchdogs fail to investigate violations

For the protection of human rights, various official organizations are working in Sindh, among which the Sindh Human Rights Commission, Sindh Commission for the Status of Women and the Sindh Child Protection Authority are at the top. However, none of these have the authority to take direct action against human rights violations.

"There are so many government institutions working on human rights in Sindh, but despite this, many incidents of human rights violations are not taken notice of," claimed Advocate Sadruddin Jatoti, a human rights activist and a member of HRCP, who suggested that all human rights organizations run by the Sindh government should be merged into one organization to bolster their efficacy.

Although the Sindh Human Rights Commission has the authority to investigate the violation of human rights in the province, according to Chairperson Iqbal Dithu, the commission is a non-judicial body that does not have the authority to directly take action against anyone or implement any of its recommendations.

"In countries like Nepal and Malaysia, the Human Rights Commission has the authority to take direct action. There should be necessary amendments in the relevant law therefore, I am preparing a draft which will be sent to the Sindh government for approval. At the moment, the commission can only recommend action to the relevant authorities over the incidents reported," regretted Dithu.

It should be noted that the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) was established in 2013, with the aim of inquiring into complaints received regarding human rights violations and recommending necessary steps to the Government of Sindh. Apart from this, monitoring the human rights situation in the province and giving suggestions to the government by reviewing the prevailing laws and policies was also a part of the duties of the institution. Subsequent amendments further empowered the SHRC to review the condition of workers in the province's industries. However, despite this, the SHRC can still only make recommendations and suggestions to the Sindh government and legally it does not have the authority to take action or register a case against anyone on its own.

Meanwhile, a significant difference has also been found in the official and unofficial statistics related to human rights violations in the province. For instance, as per data obtained from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, a non-governmental human rights organization, 172 cases of rape were reported in 2023, which increased to 184 in 2024. However, according to the Sindh Human Rights Commission only 23 cases of rape were reported in 2024.

Asad Iqbal Butt, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, explained the primary reason behind such a big difference between the official and non-official data on human rights violations. "Government institutions operate through offices in a bureaucratic manner while non-governmental organizations collect data through fieldwork. Even the work of fact-finding related to human rights violations is not done in government institutions," claimed Butt, while talking to the Express Tribune at the Karachi Press Club.

It is also worth noting that the Sindh Commission for the Status of Women, a government body established for the protection of women's rights, has become virtually inactive since the past year due to the absence of a chairperson. Even though more than a year has passed since the tenure of the former Chairperson Nuzhat Shireen ended in September last year, no chairperson has been appointed in her place yet. The Women Development Department had called for applications in this regard, but no decision has been taken on the applications received so far.

(By Razzak Abro The Express Tribune, 04, 12/01/2025)

Luxury car, Rs12.9m recovered in Karachi trader kidnap case: investigating officer

An antiterrorism court was on Monday informed that investigators had recovered Rs12.9 million and a "luxury" car allegedly purchased with the ransom paid by a cryptocurrency trader to his kidnapers to earn freedom.

The investigating officer of the case informed the court that the suspects held in the case, including two Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) officials, had transferred the ransom money to a bank and later used the amount to purchase a luxury sedan (Mercedes-Benz), which had been recovered.

On Monday, the IO brought the eight suspects — CTD constables Ali Sajad and Muhammad Umer, along with Haris Ashar, Mohammed Rizwan Shah, Noman Riffat, Tariq Hasan Shah, Muzamil Raza and Umer Jilani — before the administrative judge of the ATCs in Clifton for extension in their remand.

The IO informed the court that the police had recovered a Mercedes Benz purchased with the ransom money and an amount of cash from the suspects.

He also informed the court that complainant Arsalan Malik had identified the two suspects before the judicial magistrate (West) and assigned their roles in the commission of the offence.

The IO requested the court to extend their physical remand as he needed to interrogate them and apprehend the absconding suspects — Hamad, Zaman, Muzamil, Ali Raza, Rasheed Lodhi and others.

After hearing the IO, the court extended their police custody for five more days.

Meanwhile, according to a press statement, a team formed by the AVCC to apprehend the suspects and recover the ransom amount, approximately \$340,000 in digital coins, paid by a cryptocurrency trader for his release, has recovered around Rs12m in cash, Rs900,000 in prize bonds and a Mercedes-Benz vehicle from the suspects.

According to the FIR, the crypto trader was abducted on Dec 25, 2024 at 1:40am in a police mobile without number plate by five men in plain clothes. They brought him near the FIA Saddar office, forcibly got opened his Binance account and transferred coins worth \$340,000 into different digital wallets/accounts.

They reset his cell phone, handed it back to him and dropped him near the mausoleum of the Quaid-i-Azam at 4am. Later, eight suspects were booked and arrested for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping of the trader and releasing him after he transferred the ransom into their digital wallets.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 14/01/2025)

'Missing' teenager found shot dead

The body of a teenage boy, who went missing on Jan 15, was found in a mangrove forest in the Machhar Colony area on Friday, police said.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that 16-year-old Mohammed Sameer was found shot dead at around 11am near the seashore.

The corpse was shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi for medico-legal formalities. Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said the victim had suffered two bullet wound in the head.

Victim Sameer had been reported missing for the past three days. According to initial information, he had gone to work to the fisheries area but did not return home, said the DIG.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 18/01/2025)

Families protest as police find no clue to whereabouts of abducted children

Family members of two children, who were kidnapped from the Garden area three days ago, staged a protest demonstration outside the Karachi Press Club (KPC) on Friday and also met with Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori for the safe recovery of the minor boys as police have failed to make any progress in the case so far.

On Jan 14, five-year-old Aliyan and six-year-old Ali Raza were playing outside their homes on Siddique Wahab Road in Garden West when a couple on a motorcycle arrived there and took them away at around 1:30pm.

The police registered a kidnapping case on complaint of one of the missing children's mothers and initiated an investigation but so far, no breakthrough has been achieved.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that so far, the families had not received any ransom call.

He conceded that there was no 'progress' in the case.

The parents and other relatives on Friday held a demonstration outside the KPC, urging authorities for safe recovery of the kids.

On Thursday night, the parents of both the children also met with Governor Tessori and told him that he was the "only hope" for them. Earlier, the family members of another boy Sarim, who went missing on Jan 7 in North Karachi, also called on the governor and told him their ordeal.

The governor announced establishing a "special cell" at the Governor House for help of the families.

He also made telephone contact with the inspector general of police and Citizen-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) chief, according to a press statement.

He directed the police to utilise all resources to recover the boys safely. He assured the parents that their children would soon be with them.

Separately, Home Minister Sindh Ziaul Hassan Lanjar talked to City SSP Arif Aziz on phone about the kidnapping of the two children from Garden, a spokesperson said.

The minister directed the police to share pictures of the children with all districts' police. He also issued directions for strict monitoring at railway stations, bus terminals and all entry and exit points of the metropolis while searching and combing operations were launched in areas in light of intelligence information.

Mr Lanjar also directed the police to share progress reports about the case on a daily basis, added the statement.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 18/01/2025)

25 protesters held as police break up BYC rally in Lyari

Over two dozen leaders and workers of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) were on Saturday taken into custody in Lyari when law enforcers used force to foil their rally, organisers and police said.

City SSP Arif Aziz told Dawn that 25 protesters, including women, were detained as they were "involved in an anti-Pakistan activity".

He denied that the police tortured any protester.

However, the BYC said in a statement that law enforcement agencies had launched a "violent crackdown on peaceful Baloch citizens" and participants of an awareness march.

The BYC had planned a campaign in Lyari to mobilise the masses for their January 25 event in Dalbandin.

However, when the BYC members and participants arrived at Miran Naka near Lyari, the police resorted to "baton charge and arrests".

"Several BYC members were illegally arrested, including Lala Wahab Baloch, the central deputy organiser, Sammi Deen Baloch, Fouzia Baloch and Amna Baloch," the BYC said, adding: "This incident is part of a broader pattern of repression against the Baloch people and human rights defenders."

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) demanded immediate release of BYC protesters including women.

In a statement, the rights body also asked the authorities to withdraw charges against peaceful protesters taken into custody by the Sindh police.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 19/01/2025)

Assets worth \$220,000 recovered in Karachi's crypto trader kidnap case, ATC told

An anti-terrorism court on Saturday was informed that investigators had recovered digital assets of a crypto trader equivalent to \$220,000 in the form of digital coins, Pakistani currency, bonds and a luxury sedan from the alleged kidnapers.

The investigating officer of the case, Makhdoom Moinuddin, brought the eight suspects — Counter Terrorism Department constables Ali Sajad and Muhammad Umer, along with Haris Ashar, Mohammed Rizwan Shah, Noman Riffat, Tariq Hasan Shah, Muzamil Raza and Umer Jilani — before the ATC in Clifton, seeking to extend their police custody as he claimed they were willing to pay the recovery amount.

At the outset of the hearing, the counsel for crypto trader, Barrister Uzair Ghouri, informed the court that out of \$340,000 paid by his client to his kidnapers to earn freedom, \$220,000 had been recovered in the form of digital coins USDT — a stable coin equivalent to a dollar — Pakistani currency, prize bonds and a Mercedes-Benz.

He requested the court to extend their police remand as the investigators have yet to recover the remaining USDT coins worth \$120,000.

Police remand extended to recover remaining coins worth \$120,000

Barrister Ghouri contended that digital assets are not declared illegal in Pakistan, and that all over the world digital currencies are used and even in some countries they are used for transaction purposes.

Meanwhile, the defence counsel opposed the request to extend physical custody of the suspects.

After hearing the prosecution and defence side, the court extended their remand in police custody for a further five days.

At the last hearing, the IO informed the court that he had recovered around Rs12 million in cash, Rs900,000 in prize bonds and a Mercedes-Benz vehicle from the suspects.

He also informed the court that complainant Arsalan Malik had identified two suspects before the judicial magistrate (West) and assigned their roles in the commission of the offence.

According to the FIR, crypto trader Arsalan Malik was abducted on Dec 25, 2024 at 1:40am in a police mobile bearing no number plate by five men in plain clothes.

They brought him near the FIA Saddar office, forcibly got opened his Binance account and transferred USD coins worth \$340,000 into different digital wallets/accounts.

They reset his cell phone, handed it back to him and dropped him near the mausoleum of the Quaid-i-Azam at 4am. Later, eight suspects were booked and arrested for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping of the trader and releasing him after he transferred the ransom into their digital wallets.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 19/01/2025)

Overcrowded prisons

Prisons are supposed to serve as rehabilitation centres rather than cramped, filthy and neglected cages where the inmates are stuffed like birds and animals. Unfortunately, prisons across Pakistan are no more than such dungeons. According to a recent report titled 'Pakistan's Prison Landscape: Trends, Data, and Developments in 2024', prisons across the country are housing 152 per cent of their authorised capacity – which means if the prisons can accommodate 100 inmates, they have been packed with 152. The situation is far worse in some of the prisons that have been fed with 200 to 300 per cent of their official capacity. In terms of actual numbers, 102,026, prisoners are housed in 128 operational facilities in the four provinces as well as AJK and GB.

Massive delays in disposal of cases has a direct bearing on overcrowding. It's mind-boggling that three-quarters of the total inmates are either awaiting or undergoing trial, says the report prepared by the National Commission for Human Rights, the National Academy of Prison Administration, and Justice Project Pakistan. There are too many other challenges too, according to the report, including: insufficient access to clean water and nutritious food, inadequate healthcare facilities, exploitative labour practices, limited contact with family and legal counsel and a lack of an effective complaint mechanism.

Since overcrowding is a major root cause of too many problems facing the inmates, there is need to work on this particular aspect under comprehensive judicial reforms. Overcrowding in prisons can be dealt with through measures, like: adoption of non-custodial sentencing options for minor offences; operationalisation of parole and probation system; shifting persons with psychosocial disabilities to mental health facilities; and treating individuals charged with drug-related offences rather than keeping them behind bars. Remember, prisons should serve as places for the inmates to turn their lives.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 20/01/2025)

Seven-year-old Karachi boy raped before being murdered, autopsy reveals

Investigators are now treating the death of a seven-year-old boy, whose body was found in an underground water tank of the high-rise building he lived in 11 days after his disappearance, as a murder case after a post-mortem report confirmed that he was subjected to a sexual assault before being killed.

On January 7, Mohammed Sarim had gone to a madressah on the premises of the same apartment complex he lived in but did not return. On Jan 18, he was found dead in the underground water tank of the same complex.

Doctors who performed the autopsy had said that the marks of injuries on the body suggested that it was "not an accidental death".

The police had expressed the possibility that the water tank was not properly covered and that may have caused the boy to fall inside if he was playing nearby.

However, the report of a post-mortem examination, a copy of which is available with *Dawn*, has concluded that the minor boy was subjected to a sexual assault.

The report, prepared by Medico-Legal Officer Dr Ghazanfar Ali Shaheryar of the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, stated that the victim had suffered 12 different injuries/wounds on various parts of the body and "all are ante-mortem" (prior to death) except one injury (number four)".

Although the body was found 11 days after his disappearance, the autopsy report stated that the boy had died "approximately four to five days" before the post-mortem examination.

The fresh findings cast doubt on investigators' efforts to recover the child, as it appeared that he was alive at least a week after his kidnapping.

However, DIG-West Irfan Ali Baloch told *Dawn* that the exact cause and time of the death was yet to be ascertained by doctors and he had not received the reports in this regard.

The officer added that a teacher of the seminary where the victim studied was already in custody of the police and his DNA samples were being taken for cross-matching with the samples of the victim boy.

No tangible progress in abducted boys' kidnap case

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that three suspects had been detained for interrogation in a case pertaining to the kidnapping of two minor boys in the Garden area.

Five-year-old Aliyan and six-year-old Ali Raza, both friends and neighbours, were abducted by a couple riding a motorcycle when they were playing outside their homes on Siddiq Wahab Road in Garden West on Jan 14.

The DIG said a five-member investigation team was taking every possible effort for the safe recovery of the children.

Moreover, with the help of technology, it had transpired that the children were taken away from the Dhobi Ghat area of Garden and their last location was traced at Kashti Chowk in Lyari, the DIG said, adding that the investigators had also conducted geofencing of the area.

Meanwhile, Karachi police chief Additional Inspector General Javed Alam Odho on Monday met senior investigators to review progress of the boys' kidnap cases.

He issued directions for safe recovery of the missing children, said a police spokesperson in a statement.

He also asked the officers to expedite the investigation and provide every possible help to the families.

The meeting was attended by DIGs, district SSPs of both operation and investigation wings and the chief of the Anti-Violent Crime Cell

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 21/01/2025)

Three women among 19 BYC activists booked for sedition

Police on Monday registered a terrorism and sedition case against 19 activists of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), including three women, for allegedly chanting "slogans against national institutions" during a rally in Malir on Sunday.

The Sharafi Goth police lodged an FIR on behalf of the state under Sections 123 (condemnation of the creation of the state, and advocacy of abolition of its sovereignty), 124-A (sedition), 147 (punishment for rioting), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object), 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act..

Sammi Deen Baloch, Fauzia Baloch and Amna Baloch are among 19 activists named in the FIR. Eight of them had been arrested, the police said.

According to the FIR, the BYC had staged a rally without permission from Malir district administration. The rally participants 'violated laws' while speakers delivered anti-government speeches and "instigated around 200-250 participants for chaos, sedition and terrorism".

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/01/2025)

Two suspects killed, three passers-by hurt in Karachi 'encounter'

Two suspected robbers were shot dead while three citizens wounded in a shoot-out in North Karachi on Monday evening, police and hospital officials said.

SSP-Central Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said that some armed robbers were looting the citizens in the 5-C-3 area within the remit of the Khawaja Ajmer Nagri police station when a police patrol arrived there.

On seeing the police, the robbers resorted to firing and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire two suspects were killed and another was arrested in wounded condition.

The police said three passers-by — Jehanzeb Ibrahim, Subhan Ibrahim and Khurram — also suffered bullet wounds due to the firing of robbers.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said the bodies and wounded suspect were brought to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital. She said that the wounded suspect was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre due to his critical condition.

Regarding injured citizens, she said one of them sustained bullet wounds in the neck and his condition was serious. He was referred to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi. She said that other two citizens sustained bullet wounds in the legs.

Young man shot dead at NIPA

A young man was shot dead in Gulshan-i-Iqbal on Monday afternoon.

Aziz Bhatti SHO Saeed Ahmed Dharejo said that the victim, Muhammad Zubair, was riding a motorcycle. As he was moving towards Hasan Square, a lone suspect, who was also riding a bike and apparently chasing him, opened fire from behind and fled. Zubair suffered a bullet on his chest and died.

The officer ruled out the possibility of any robbery attempt. He said it appeared to be a targeted killing.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/01/2025)

Malik Riaz to face extradition in £190m case

After former prime minister Imran Khan was convicted by a court for corruption in the Al-Qadir Trust case, the National Accountability Bureau has swung into action against his co-accused Malik Riaz — a real estate tycoon who was declared an absconder in the same matter — to bring him back to Pakistan from the United Arab Emirates.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the accountability watchdog said: "The government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is reaching out to the government of the United Arab Emirates for the extradition of Malik Riaz through legal channels."

According to NAB, Malik Riaz is an absconder in the case related to the repatriation of £190 million through the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency (NCA), and is wanted by the court.

"NAB has already frozen innumerable assets of Bahria Town and Malik Riaz," it said, adding that he had illegally occupied public and private land to build his Bahria Town housing schemes.

Malik Riaz, no stranger to Pakistan's power corridors before his fall from grace, is currently in the UAE, where he plans to develop 'Bahria Town Dubai', a luxury housing project that also came under scrutiny in the NAB statement.

The bureau has asked citizens not to invest in this project, since that may be considered 'money laundering' by the government.

"The general public at large is hereby advised and warned to refrain from investing in the stated project. If the general public at large invests in the stated project, their actions would be tantamount to money laundering, for which they may face criminal/legal proceedings," the statement said.

As the federal government tightens the noose around the real estate tycoon, it remains to be seen how he will be extradited from the UAE, given his purported links with several influential figures and power mongers.

Pakistan and the UAE do have an extradition treaty, and Islamabad can legally request the Gulf country to extradite the real estate mogul. When asked, a NAB spokesperson said they were not aware whether Malik Riaz would be extradited through Interpol, or if any red warrants had been issued in this regard.

Inquiries against Bahria Town

Sharing details of inquiries against the Bahria Town owner, NAB said it was conducting "inquiries/investigations against the owner of Bahria Town (Pvt.) Ltd., Mr Malik Riaz and the people associated with him for fraud, deceptive practices and cheating public at large".

The statement said that NAB possessed cogent and credible information about the fact that Malik Riaz and his accomplices had not only "illegally possessed/occupied state-owned land but also land belonging to private persons situated at Karachi, Takht-Parri, Rawalpindi, and New Murree".

"He is using these lands for developing housing societies without obtaining mandatory/required regulatory permissions/no objection certificates and has committed fraud against the state and general public at large to the tune of billions of rupees," it added.

The statement said that in a duplicitous manner, Malik Riaz had been developing housing societies under the name of Bahria Town in other cities, including Peshawar and Jamshoro, by illegally occupying land and failing to procure the mandatory regulatory permissions and NOCs.

"Neither does Mr Malik Riaz nor Bahria Town have a good/clear title to any of the lands in these illegal housing societies," the statement said.

Last week, Imran Khan and his spouse were sentenced in the £190 million case involving Al-Qadir Trust.

In its reference against Mr Khan, NAB had alleged that the then cabinet approved a confidential deed in 2019 to give £190m — seized by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and returned to Pakistan — back to real estate tycoon Malik Riaz.

The bureau had said that Mr Khan and Bushra Bibi got billions of rupees and land measuring hundreds of kanals from Bahria Town for "legalising" the money.

As per the reference, Malik Riaz's son transferred 240 kanal of land to Farhat Shahzadi, while Zulfi Bukhari received land under a trust, which NAB argued did not exist at the time of transfer.
(By Syed Irfan Raza Dawn, 01, 22/01/2025)

Karachi police back to square one in Garden boys' 'kidnapping' case

The case of the two children who went missing from the Garden area last week took a new turn on Wednesday when investigators discovered that the couple seen in a CCTV footage "kidnapping the boys on a motorbike" was, in fact, taking their own children to a clinic and that the boys in the video were not those who are missing.



The minor boys, Aliyan and Ali Raza, went missing while they were playing outside their homes and since then, their whereabouts are not known as police have failed to make any meaningful progress in the case.

The officials had earlier claimed that they had obtained a CCTV footage which showed a man and a woman taking away the children on a motorcycle.

On Wednesday, however, DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that investigators had obtained another CCTV footage which showed that the couple on the bike were actually taking their own children to a clinic and were also seen returning with them. Contrary to the initial assumptions based on the first footage, those were not the children who have gone missing, the DIG clarified.

New CCTV footage reveals couple thought to have kidnapped the boys was in fact taking their own children to clinic; police and rescue services launch search operation

Following this, police and rescue services had initiated search operations in Garden and surrounding areas to find any further clues about the missing children, the officer added.

Meanwhile, the city police spokesperson in a statement said that a combing/search operation was launched in Garden Dhobi Ghat and adjoining areas. Rescue-1122 and Edhi Foundation volunteers also conducted searches in Lyari River while house-to-house search was also conducted.

City SSP Arif Aziz also met with the families of the missing children and assured them that the children would be recovered soon. Some suspects were taken into custody for interrogation, he added.

Protest against police for failing to nab Sarim's killer(s)

Parents and area residents on Wednesday held a protest outside an apartment complex in North Karachi from where seven-year-old Muhammad Sarim was kidnapped, raped and then murdered, and whose body was found from an underground water tank after 11 days of disappearance.

The grief-stricken family and the locals staged the sit-in on the main road, causing disruption of traffic. The parents told the media that they were not satisfied with the investigation of the police. They said that from the very first day of the disappearance of Sarim on January 7, no outcome of the probe had emerged.

They said that some suspects had been detained by the police but no concrete result had emerged in terms of arrest of the killer(s). They announced to continue the protest till the provision of justice.

Meanwhile, the police said that DNA samples of the held suspects had been taken and sent to a lab at the University of Karachi.

West-DIG Irfan Ali Baloch said that he had formed a Special Investigation Team comprising a DSP and three police inspectors to solve the case with immediate effect. The team will make 'hectic efforts and utilise all available resources for the arrest of the involved accused person(s) at earliest.' The team had been directed to furnish progress reports on a daily basis, he added.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 23/01/2025)

UC offices burgled; laptops, records missing

Unidentified burglars stole laptops, cash, and sensitive government records from the Union Council (UC) office in the Lines area. The incident took place on the night between Wednesday and Thursday when the criminals broke the locks of UC 9 and 11 and stole laptops, approximately Rs70,000 in cash, and government 10-year records and escaped.

The police reached the location and summoned the crime scene unit who gathered the evidence and handed it to the police.

The police have revealed that no CCTV cameras were installed within the UC offices. Efforts on to acquire footage from cameras in the area.

Authorities are working to ascertain the specific government documents that were stolen. An investigation is underway.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 05, 24/01/2025)

Child killed by celebratory gunfire

A minor girl was killed when some guests of a wedding fired into the air in celebration on Abul Hasan Ispahani Road on Sunday evening, police said.

Sachal SHO Aurangzeb Khattab identified the victim as seven-year-old Azeela Ali.

He said that as a result of celebratory gunfire near the Fancy View Apartments, a bullet hit the girl in the chest. She was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where she died during treatment.

The officer said the police rushed to the spot and arrested two suspects, Janzada Hashim and Jamal Shah.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 25/01/2025)

Home minister says Chinese nationals approaching SHC on police harassment 'against protocol'

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar on Monday expressed disapproval for a petition filed by six Chinese nationals in the high court against police harassment and restrictions on their movement, saying that the move was "against protocol".

Xu Hui, Deng Huan and four other Chinese nationals have petitioned the Sindh High Court through their counsel Peer Rehman Mehsud and submitted that they, along with thousands of other Chinese citizens, came to Pakistan after fulfilling all required legal formalities and invested a significant amount of money and resources in various business ventures and sectors in Pakistan.

The petitioners said that the Sindh police had engaged in "repeated acts of harassment" over the last six to seven months, including unjustifiably restricting movements of Chinese nationals in Karachi and Sindh, particularly while they had also been subjected to unjustified detentions within their residences on the pretext of "security issues" without any clear legal grounds or specific incidents that warranted such actions.

The high court's constitutional bench issued notices to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other respondents on the matter last week while the Sindh government ordered an inquiry into the allegations on Saturday.

Talking to the media outside the Sindh Assembly today, Lanjar said: "Foreign nationals should follow the Foreigners Act. Chinese nationals should also have followed the procedure. The petition filed by the Chinese nationals is not legally valid."

He said the Chinese nationals should have approached the matter through their consul general or foreign office, and added that the petitioners were in Pakistan in a private capacity and did not have any foreign investment in the country.

“We have respect and honour for Chinese citizens. We provide foolproof security to them. But when someone does not follow the SOPs (standard operating procedures), the situation worsens,” he said, reiterating that the matter should have been approached through the Chinese consulate.

“Police officials have met the Chinese consul general. I will also meet the Chinese consul general in this regard so that he can come up with a policy statement.”

Meanwhile, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Special Protection Unit (SPU) Dr Muhammad Farooq Ahmed told *Dawn.com* that since the Karachi airport attack on Chinese citizens on October 6 last year, foreigners arriving at the airport were taken to their destinations, residences and projects as per the SOPs.

He said five flights tended to arrive at the airport in a week, carrying 20 or up to 60 Chinese citizens, adding that as per the SOPs, they were not taken to their destinations collectively.

DIG Ahmed said the Chinese personnel were transported after a gap of three to four hours in bullet-proof vehicles with police squad and jammers as well.

He said in contrast to Chinese personnel working on projects unrelated to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), those associated with CPEC projects were taken to their destinations by authorities after a gap of six-12 hours as per SOPs.

He said the security of non-CPEC Chinese investors was also the responsibility of local investors but some of them did not provide the mandatory bullet vehicles for travelling, thus police tended to arrange such vehicles for their security as the foreigners would not be allowed to go in private taxis.

Regarding any complaint about bribery, the SPU head said that if any such complaint was received, the concerned policemen were taken to task and suspended from service.

DIG Ahmed said the police had moved Chinese personnel from Thatta, Sukkur and Kotri to Karachi hospitals in cases of health emergencies.

He said there was one complaint against a policeman who had pelted stones at Chinese nationals when he tried to prevent them from free movement after two days of an attack on Chinese in Site area, adding that action was already taken against the individual.

The DIG further said the policeman claimed that the foreigners had used “abusive language” against him.

DIG Ahmed said a few projects were sealed in Malir due to violation of security protocols, adding that he personally visited such projects in Malir and advised the foreigners to at least raise the boundary walls of the projects.

He added that Chinese citizens working on non-CPEC projects were advised to take security concerns seriously given threats by sub-nationalists and militant groups, however in one month alone, 41 SOP violations were committed by the personnel working on non-CPEC projects.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 25/01/2025)

Probe ordered into Chinese investors’ complaints against police

The Sindh government on Saturday ordered an inquiry into allegations of six Chinese investors who had moved the Sindh High Court against alleged police harassment.

Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar while taking a notice of the Chinese investors’ decision to approach the SHC, directed the inspector general of police (IGP) to immediately appoint a senior inquiry officer for a comprehensive investigation into the matter.

IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon told Dawn that in view of attacks on Chinese by the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) in Karachi, the police were taking the issue of Chinese security more seriously by addressing any possible gap or lapse in the security. “We cannot put it on the back burner,” he added.

He added that the police had close coordination with an association of Chinese and the Chinese consulate in Karachi and a meeting with them was expected to take place on Monday.

He said probably certain Chinese associated with projects unrelated to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) wanted ‘free movement’ but “we cannot compromise their security thus standard operating procedures (SOPs) are strictly followed”.

IGP Memon said certain local sponsors or hosts were also not willing to bear the cost of security thus they avoid providing bulletproof vehicles to Chinese or construct walls or barbed wires and install CCTVs.

He said the Chinese had filed petition on Dec 6, 2024 and the court had taken up the plea after a gap of one and half months.

He said the police wanted to maintain element of surprise in travelling of Chinese to avoid vulnerability to any attack.

Meanwhile, the home minister said in a statement that the Sindh government was committed to ensuring security to Chinese nationals according to set SOPs, and it was a top priority for the government to ensure all related matters and actions were properly executed.

"Therefore, it must be ensured that at the provincial level, the 'foolproof security' of Chinese nationals involved in both CPEC and non-CPEC projects is a joint responsibility of the Sindh government, Sindh police, and local sponsors or hosts."

He further emphasised that the goal of the Sindh government and Sindh police was to facilitate and provide security to Chinese investors through mutual cooperation.

However, it was also essential that sponsors were regularly informed and that officers of the SPU (Special Protection Unit) take steps to monitor security measures.

"Additionally, it is necessary to address any potential gaps, shortcomings, or deficiencies in the security measures for Chinese nationals. Implementing the measures outlined by law and SOPs is critical to eliminating any security gaps."

He stressed that if Chinese nationals faced security-related complaints, senior officers must not only review the situation but also ensure a prompt resolution, as Chinese citizens turn to the Sindh police for assistance regarding security concerns.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 26/01/2025)

Robbery resistance takes another life

Armed bandits riding a motorcycle killed a citizen on his resistance during a robbery in Joharabad, Federal B Area on Saturday. The body was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where the victim was identified as Abdul Moiz, 40, who was a UPS installer at a company near PIDC.

Moiz, the father of three, had just stepped out of his house when armed men approached him and demanded mobile phone and wallet from him. On his resistance they opened fire killing him on the spot. The bandits fled the scene while brandishing their weapons.

Local residents have sounded concern on rising incidents of robbery and housebreaking in the area. The police presence is virtually nonexistent, with no patrols on the streets to curb such crimes. Despite repeated complaints to the police station, the residents' concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

The police are, however, claiming a decrease in street crimes in the city while robbers continue to wreak havoc, killing and injuring citizens without any fear.

Celebratory firing victim dies

A child who was critically injured in celebratory firing in Taiser Town on Friday succumbed to his injuries during the treatment at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital on Saturday. One injured person is under treatment. The firing incident took place during a wedding reception outside a house in Sector 35C, Surjani Town, resulting in the death of a young child and injuries to two others, including another child.

The deceased child was identified as 6-year-old Banjo, while the injured included 6-year-old Allen and 30-year-old Robin, who were rushed to the hospital. Unfortunately, Allen succumbed to his injuries during the treatment the next day of the incident. The police have arrested three persons involved in firing.

Man crushed under crane

An elderly pedestrian was crushed to death under a crane in Naya Golimar, within the limits of Rizvia Police Station. Body of the deceased was shifted to Civil Hospital where he was identified as 60-year-old Haqman Gul. Driver of the crane fled the scene while the police impounded the crane and launched a search for the driver and the owner of the crane. The deceased was a resident of Nazimabad. After completing medico-legal formalities, the police handed over the body to the heirs.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 26/01/2025)

Panel to probe alleged land record corruption

The Sindh government has constituted a high-powered committee to probe alleged widespread corruption in land records across the metropolitan city, particularly focusing the sub-registrar offices.

The five-member committee has been formed in light of the recommendations of the Chief Minister's Inspection Team and aims to address the malpractice that has plagued the land registration process.

As part of the investigation, the Sindh government has ordered the removal of all sub-registrars who have served in Karachi for over five years. The committee, headed by Umar Farooq Bullo, a member of the Goth Abad Wing of the Sindh Board of Revenue, will review the revenue records from sub-registrar offices across the city over the past five to 10 years.

Other members of the committee are: Ahsan Ali Qureshi, Chief Inspector of Stamps; Ghulam Qadir Khan Talpur, Inspector General of Registration; Khadim Husain Jarwar, Deputy Chief Inspector of Stamps; and Khalid Hussain Chohan, District Registrar of the Registration Wing in Mirpurkhas.

The committee has been tasked with completing the investigation within 90 days. It is expected to identify any officials involved in corrupt activities. Sindh Chief Secretary Khalid Haider Shah has instructed the Enquiries and Anti-Corruption Establishment (E&ACE) to file references against any guilty officials for appropriate action.

Meanwhile, the revenue board has been directed to take steps to rectify injustices done to legitimate landowners by reaching out to the courts under the prescribed legal procedures.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 02, 02/02/2025)

Shopkeeper shot dead by robbers

A shopkeeper was shot dead by robbers in Mehran Town on Saturday evening, police said.

Korangi Industrial Area SHO Amir Rafiq said that two armed robbers arrived at the shop of Ameer Khan, 55. Sensing danger, Khan took out his pistol and opened fire on them. He tried to overpower the fleeing robbers and one of them opened fire and escaped.

He suffered critical bullet wounds and died on the spot.

The body was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for a post-mortem examination.

Two minor brothers go missing in Korangi

Two minor brothers went missing after they were taken away by a suspect, who was ostensibly familiar with them, in Korangi on Friday, police said.

Zaman Town SHO Ateeq Rehman said during an initial probe, it had transpired that the suspect visited the children's home near the Coast Guard Chowrangi, called both the brothers by their names, and took them away.

Regarding the children's family, the officer explained that the parents had been separated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the Peshawar High Court had awarded custody of the children to their mother only one month ago.

The incident appears to be linked to a family dispute over custody, the SHO believed.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 02/02/2025)

Crackdown on criminals ordered

A spokesperson for the CM House said that Mr Shah took notice of the killing of a shopkeeper by robbers in Korangi and asked the city police chief to take action against the killers. "All district SSPs should ensure law and order in their respective areas," he said.

He also directed the traffic and municipal authorities to ensure smooth flow of traffic and removal of encroachments from the roads.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 03/02/2025)

Crackdown on underage bike-riders in Karachi

Traffic police fined 820 underage motorcyclists in a single day as part of a campaign to highlight the risks of riding motorbikes without a valid licence.

DIG-Traffic Ahmed Nawaz Cheema said on Monday that the traffic police had taken action against the pupils who ride motorbikes while going on their way to schools or returning from there.

He stated that motorcycles were being seized from underage riders, while bikes belonging to individuals without driving licences were also being impounded.

He added that these vehicles were being returned to the riders' parents after obtaining written assurances from them that their children would not ride the bikes again.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 04/02/2025)

Home secretary, Sindh IGP issued notices over plea against promotion rule for ASIs

The Sindh High Court on Monday issued notices to the home secretary, inspector general of police (IGP) and others on a petition filed by six assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs) challenging their promotion method.

The petitioners submitted that the promotion method for the ASIs serving in Karachi was made different from those serving in other zones of the Sindh police in violation of Articles 25 and 27 of the Constitution.

They asked the court to set aside an order issued by the IGP regarding the promotion method.

A two-judge constitutional bench of the SHC comprising Justice Mohammad Karim Khan Agha and Justice Adnan-Ul-Karim Memon issued the notices for a date to be fixed by the court office after four weeks.

Petitioners say 2,873 SIs serving in Karachi and 454 posts are still vacant

The petitioners submitted that they had passed the requisite exams for ASI (BPS-9) along with other candidates who were appointed in their respective police zones across Sindh, but not the successful candidates of the Karachi zone. They were appointed as ASI in 2016 after they moved the high court, they added.

They contended that many of their batchmates had been promoted to the post of sub-inspector and a few of them have become SHOs, but despite having spotless service record, they had not been promoted.

They also stated that currently, 2,873 SIs had been serving in Karachi zone against a total strength of 3,327, as 454 posts were still vacant.

The petitioners said that they were hoping to be considered for promotion as per law, but surprisingly, the IGP had passed an order on Jan 3, in which "upper school course for promotion of ASI to SI has been declared mandatory".

They argued that the order was against the definition of Chapter 19 and Sub-chapter 25 of the Police Rules 1934, which can only be amended/change by the provincial assembly.

The petitioners contended that the impugned order was passed for the officials of the Karachi zone only as nine ASIs had been promoted in the Hyderabad zone without complying with the IGP's order.

They asked the SHC to overturn the impugned order and also sought directions for respondents to consider them for promotion. (By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 14, 04/02/2025)

Prime suspect in crypto trader kidnap case held, remanded

The prime suspect in the crypto trader kidnapping case was arrested and remanded in police custody by an antiterrorism court on Tuesday.

Ali Raza, said to be a head constable in the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), was produced before the ATC for remand.

The investigating officer informed the court that the suspect's police custody was required to conduct an identification parade and recover the remaining digital currency worth \$120,000. The court remanded him in police custody for seven days.

Statement of kidnap victim recorded

A judicial magistrate recorded the statement of Arsalan Malik, the kidnap victim and complainant of the case, under Section 164 of the criminal procedure code in the presence of all suspects.

Complainant's counsel Barrister Uzair Ghouri told *Dawn* that the police had failed to record the "exact verbatim" statement of his client, which is why he sought to have his statement recorded before the magistrate.

Mr Malik was abducted on Dec 25, 2024 in a police mobile bearing no number plate by five men in plain clothes. They brought him near the FIA Saddar office, forcibly got opened his Binance account and transferred digital coins worth \$340,000 into different digital wallets/accounts and released him.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 05/02/2025)

Cops threaten to quit over lawyers' 'highhandedness'

The standoff between lawyers and Hyderabad police which seemed to have died down after announcement of SSP Farrukh Ali Lanjar's transfer resurrected on Wednesday with cops threatening to leave police stations in protest.

Dozens of policemen submitted applications seeking permission to leave their charges for month-long leaves in reaction to announcement of the SSP's removal under pressure of the legal fraternity.

At around 3am on Wednesday a video was shared on social media showing DIG Hyderabad Tariq Razzak Dharejo standing next to Karachi Bar Association's President Amir Nawaz Waraich who announced Lanjar's removal. "The SSP is being transferred and the DIG will visit the district bar on February 6," Waraich said, addressing the protesting lawyers on the premises of the SSP office where the protest continued for around 14 hours.

The DIG said on the occasion that during his visit to the bar he will listen to the lawyers and will also try to address their grievance. The lawyers chanted slogans in the background as Waraich and Dharejo spoke. The development, however, did not go well with the district police officials who felt demoralised at the hands of lawyers.

The quarrel started in reaction to impounding of a car, owned by an advocate, at PS Bhitai Nagar for using fancy number plate and tinted glasses. The legal practitioners asked the police to cancel the FIR and release the Suzuki Mehran car, bearing registration number BQC-508. As the police refused to oblige, the lawyers gathered at the SSP office on Tuesday in large numbers. The gathering soon turned into a protest which lasted past Wednesday midnight.

"In view of the illegal act of the lawyers at the SSP office, I am unable to discharge my duty and I also feel dejected," wrote inspector Munir Abbassi, SHO Market police station, in his application.

"The unnecessary protest by lawyers, use of inappropriate language against police and threats give to the cops have damaged reputation of police among the public," stated Inspector Muhammad Sagheer Fateh, in charge of Anti-Terrorism Force, while seeking leave from work.

Earlier till the morning an impression was created that SSP Lanjar will be forced to quit from Hyderabad under duress of the legal fraternity. But, as the city's police officials put their weight behind the district police chief, the situation changed in the afternoon.

Talking to the media outside SSP's office DIG Dharejo, who was wearing a track suit, explained that following the terrorist attack near Karachi airport, the Sindh police decided to enforce the ban on use of police lights, fancy number plates and tinted glasses in private vehicles. He claimed that the ban is being enforced without discrimination as vehicles of even influential persons and police officers have been booked in FIRs.

He told that Hyderabad police booked a car which was owned by a lawyer in consequence to which the situation pitting the cops against lawyers had developed. He said they are trying to solve the situation.

The DIG, however, took a mild exception to use of objectionable words allegedly by the lawyers against policemen saying the manner did not suit their profession. SSP Lanjar, meanwhile, said more than 50 FIRs have been recently lodged in Hyderabad against such vehicles. He added that many vehicles were owned by government officers and one was owned by a police officer currently posted in Jamshoro district.

(By Z Ali The Express Tribune, 05, 06/02/2025)

Alarming rise in robberies in Gulshan-e-Hadeed

Alarming rise in the incidents of robberies in Steel Town, Gulshan-e-Hadeed, District Malir, has caused strong resentment among the residents and shopkeepers of the area.

A group of robbers riding motorcycles snatched cash, mobile phones and the weapon of security guard during of a private superstore in Gulshan-e-Hadeed and fled. They escaped while firing shots in the air.

A large number of residents and traders gathered outside the supermart after the incident and expressed anger and grief over the incident. They said robbing citizens in Gulshan-e-Hadeed has become a routine.

Last month, robbed a car showroom owner's house and looted cash, gold jewellery and other items worth more than Rs9.5 million in Gulshan-e-Hadeed and fled.

Meanwhile, the CCTV footage of a grocery store robbery in Steel Town, Gulshan-e-Hadeed Phase-1, District Malir, has gone viral on social media. In the video, muggers can be seen brandishing both heavy and light weapons.

The incident took place on February 5 at approximately 8:15pm as customers were shopping in the store. During the robbery, the armed assailants took the security guard hostage at gunpoint and forced him inside the grocery store.

A group of bandits, including one wearing a shalwar kameez, a mask, and a handkerchief on his shoulder, along with a large weapon and a helmet, stormed into a grocery store in Gulshan-e-Hadeed, Phase-1. They took shoppers, including women, hostage at gunpoint. One bandit, with the handkerchief on his shoulder, handed his large weapon to his accomplice wearing helmet and went to another room near the counter. He climbed onto stacked goods, reached the cash counter, and quickly filled his handkerchief with cash. In a matter of seconds, and fled the scene with his accomplices.

It also can be seen that customers inside the store sit on the ground in fear. The footage also shows the store owner running outside with a weapon, but to no avail.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 07/02/2025)

Sindh traffic police under fire over surge in deaths by heavy vehicles

An alarming rise in fatal accidents involving dumper trucks and water tankers has sparked widespread outrage against the traffic police, with opposition parties, the governor and Karachi mayor all calling for restrictions on the movement of heavy vehicles in the metropolis in the daytime to prevent further loss of precious of lives.

The opposition Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) have accused the traffic police of taking bribes to allow heavy traffic to move freely in the city during daytime.

The strong criticism came following the tragic death of as many as nine persons, including a couple and an employee of the Pakistan Navy, who, according to the traffic police, were killed in six traffic accidents across the city during the past 24 hours.

Governor Kamran Tessori expressed his anger over the growing fatal accidents and unchecked movement of the heavy traffic and asked the Sindh government, provincial ministers and the police to take decisive action against "bloodthirsty dumper trucks".

"Do not force me to stand in front of these dumpers. The Sindh government, the provincial ministers, and the inspector general of police Sindh must take action against the deadly dumpers. Those playing with lives should be brought to justice," he told a press conference on Thursday.

Mayor's letter to traffic police

Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab wrote a letter to the DIG-traffic and expressed "great concerns" over the growing traffic accidents and called for immediate measures to control the situation.

The letter also "recommended" specific timings for the movement of heavy traffic.

"It is a source of great concern that a large number of citizens have lost their lives and countless have sustained injuries due to unregulated movement of heavy vehicles (dumpers and trucks) across the city," the letter stated.

"The present situation is unacceptable and needs intervention of all relevant civic agencies. The mayor, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and the City Council have taken notice of the situation and directed that all possible efforts be made to address the issue," it said.

The mayor asked the traffic police to allow heavy vehicles to ply on city roads during late hours, preferably between 8pm and 6am. "Vehicles performing essential and municipal services be allowed to operate during regular hours, but they may be made subject to constant screening by traffic police," it added.

City's deteriorating infrastructure also blamed for accidents

The opposition parties, however, blamed the Sindh government of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for the surge in fatal accidents as they argued that the deteriorating road conditions and crumbling infrastructure are just as much to blame for the rising fatalities.

The opposition also accused the police of failure and focusing more on "bribes" than enforcing traffic laws.

Talking to reporters in Malir at the funeral of a man and his wife who were run over and killed by a dumper truck on Rashid Minhas Road, JI-Karachi chief Monem Zafar questioned the performance of the traffic police and said how come it's possible that dumpers were roaming in the city during the daytime despite restrictions.

Commenting on the mayor's letter to the traffic police, he said: "The mayor has written a letter to the police high-ups, but he couldn't shrug off the responsibility of the prevailing situation from his shoulders by just writing a letter. The PPP is directly responsible for the situation."

89 citizens killed in traffic accidents in January: MQM-P

Also on Thursday, provincial lawmakers belonging to the MQM-P criticised the traffic police for its "failure" to control the heavy vehicles that claimed over 80 lives in January alone.

"According to statistics, 89 citizens died in traffic-related accidents in the month of January alone," they said in a joint statement. "However, the traffic police officers are seen accepting bribes, allowing tankers and trailers to move freely during the daytime."

They also blamed the dilapidated condition of the city's roads for the surge in traffic accidents and demanded an immediate action to address the traffic issue.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 07/02/2025)

Governor seeks SHC's intervention to help stop killings by reckless truck drivers in Karachi

As the traffic police remain under fire over unabated killings of people by reckless driving of truck drivers in the city, Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has sought the Sindh High Court's intervention to address the growing crisis of fatal accidents by heavy vehicles.

In a letter to the SHC chief justice, the governor expressed grave concern over the increase in accidents involving heavy vehicles in the city.

"The alarming frequency of such incidents reflects administrative negligence and lack of regulatory enforcement," he said.

Mr Tessori said that the SHC had recently ordered that the movement of heavy vehicles be restricted from 7am to 11pm, with violators facing impounding of vehicles.

"However, reports suggest that enforcement remains inconsistent, which has intensified public safety concerns," he added.

"Given the severity of the situation, I urge honourable high court to ensure strict implementation of its directives and take notice of administrative lapses contributing to these fatal accidents. The loss of innocent lives is unacceptable, and immediate corrective measures must be taken to regulate heavy vehicles' movement and hold violators accountable," he wrote.

Court asked to ensure implementation of schedule of heavy vehicles' movement in city

He said in the letter that the people look up to the judiciary for decisive action in ensuring public safety. "I trust that the high court will take immediate cognizance of this pressing issue and provide necessary directives to address this crisis effectively," he concluded.

Besides, the governor also ordered the provincial police chief to deal with the issue of heavy traffic in the city as a top most priority and submit a report to him in this regard.

The principal secretary to the governor, in a letter to the IGP, informed him of the governor's concern on the issue.

"Given the severity of the situation, it is expected that the law enforcement agencies, including the Sindh police, will ensure strict implementation of the high court and apex court's order, removing any administrative lapses contributing to the fatalities," the letter said.

Earlier, Mr Tessori had suggested that anyone operating heavy traffic in Karachi should hold a Karachi-issued driving licence, saying that drivers from other provinces operated heavy vehicles in the metropolis but they are unfamiliar with the city's traffic rules.

He had asked the provincial government to come up with a plan of action against the truck and tanker mafia within a week and warned that if the Sindh government did not take action, he would start playing a proactive role.

His sharp reaction to the recent incidents followed a directive from the Excise Minister Mukesh Kumar Chawla for the seizure of all illegal and unregistered dumper trucks in the city.

Similarly, the opposition parties, including the Jamaat-i-Islami and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, have also called for restrictions on the movement of heavy vehicles in the metropolis in the daytime to prevent further loss of precious lives.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 08/02/2025)

Karachi shopkeeper dies in police custody under controversial circumstances

A shopkeeper, who was arrested on trivial charges on the complaint of a police constable, died in custody under controversial circumstances as an autopsy found "injury marks" on the body on Saturday.

After the family of victim Waqasuddin, 35, staged a protest and accused the law enforcers of torture, nine police officers, including the Preedy SHO, were suspended.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that three people, including Waqas, were arrested on Friday night by the Preedy police and booked in a rioting case registered on the complaint of Constable Mohammed Osama who alleged that he was beaten by the trio.

He said that at around 1:30am on Saturday, Waqas' health "suddenly deteriorated" and the police took him to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi where doctors declared him dead.

He said a post-mortem examination was carried out under the supervision of a judicial magistrate and the autopsy report would determine the exact cause of the death.

However, according to the autopsy report, seen by *Dawn*, there were "injury marks on his face and ear, and blood was oozing from the wounds".

Following his death, relatives of Waqas took to the streets to demand justice. They told the media that Constable Osama's bike had hit Waqas' motorbike and he had him and his two other friends arrested because of this issue.

Waqas was then subjected to "torture" and when he died the police quietly released his two friends.

The victim was a shopkeeper in a mobile market in Saddar and his colleagues also joined the protest by suspending their commercial activities.

On Saturday evening, an order issued by DIG Raza stated that Preedy SHO Pervez Solangi and eight other policemen were suspended and an inquiry had been initiated into their conduct in connection with the death of the shopkeeper.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 09/02/2025)

City tense amid protests against 'killer' trucks

Protests against the increasing number of fatal accidents involving speeding dumpers, trucks, and tankers intensified on Wednesday across Karachi.

The unrest follows a series of accidents, including the puncturing of tanker tyres on Tuesday and a fresh wave of arson attacks on heavy vehicles. On Wednesday, groups of youth set fire to four dumpers and trucks in different areas, particularly in Landhi, raising alarm and prompting the home minister to address the situation. The protests in Landhi began Tuesday night, following earlier demonstrations against the presence of heavy vehicles in the area. On Wednesday morning, angry protesters set two freight trucks ablaze near Landhi 4 Al-Razi and Landhi 6. Police arrived at the scene promptly, and firefighters from the local brigade managed to extinguish the flames.

Malik Shehzad, SHO of Landhi police station, reported that police used tear gas and aerial firing to disperse the crowd, leading to the protesters' retreat and the restoration of traffic flow. To ensure public order, additional police personnel have been deployed in the area. The unrest comes amid growing concerns over the deadly impact of heavy traffic.

Landhi police conducted a series of raids that led to the arrest of 10 suspects believed to be involved in the arson attacks. Police investigations are ongoing to identify those behind the protest and the violent act

Afaq Ahmed arrested

Police on Wednesday evening arrested Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) Chairman Afaq Ahmed allegedly over inciting the people.

Afaq Ahmad during two press conferences on Tuesday and Wednesday had condemned the Sindh government's response to the fatalities caused by speeding dumpers.

He accused the government of indifference towards the loss of lives and called on the youth of the Mohajir community to step up and take action.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 12/02/2025)

Two truck drivers get bail

A judicial magistrate on Tuesday granted bail to two dumper drivers, who were arrested for violating a ban on movement of heavy vehicles during the daytime.

The SITE-B police arrested drivers Jawaid Ullah and Salamat Khan for bringing their dumper trucks on road between 1pm and 2pm near Shershah and booked them under Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The investigating officer produced the drivers before Judicial Magistrate (West) Rehana Shar, who declined to grant their physical remand and enlarged them bail against surety bonds of Rs15,000 each.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 12/02/2025)

MQM-H's Afaq picked up in DHA raid after four trucks, water tankers torched

Police on Tuesday evening picked up Mohajir Qaumi Movement-Haqiqi chairman Afaq Ahmed after unknown persons torched four heavy vehicles in the city during the day in what appeared to be incidents of vigilante justice.

Recently, the Sindh government had announced that heavy traffic could only be plied on city roads between 11pm and 6am. Following this announcement, unknown persons had started stopping heavy traffic found violating the ban during daytime in different parts of the city and checked driving licences and vehicles registration documents.

On Monday, the MQM-H chief had told a press conference that instead of relying on government promise of implementing the ban on movement of heavy vehicles during daytime "Mohajir youth should prepare themselves as the people will assume their responsibilities from Tuesday".

Police said on Tuesday morning, unknown persons torched a trailer, two water tankers and a dumper trucks in Landhi, Awami Colony, Surjani Town and Sharifabad areas between 8am and 11:30am and set the vehicles on fire.

A Rescue-1122 official told *Dawn* that a vehicle carrying goods was set on fire in Landhi at around 8am while a 22-wheeler trailer was torched in Sharifabad at 9:45am. People also set fire to a water tanker within the limits of Awami Colony police at 10:10am while another was torched at Abdullah Mor in Surjani Town at 11:30am.

As a result of the loss of their vehicles, transporters and owners took to the street and blocked the National Highway in Bin Qasim and Northern Bypass in protest over the violent incidents.

The protesting drivers also gathered at the Jinnah Bridge but did not block the road.

Transporter Liaquat Mehsud blamed MQM chief Afaq Ahmed for the violent incidents and demanded the police to register a criminal case against him.

DIG-Traffic Ahmed Nawaz Cheema told *Dawn* that the traffic was adversely affected on both highways for some time.

He added that the police held successful talks with them after which they dispersed and the roads were opened for vehicular traffic.

DIG Cheema said water tanker operators also announced suspension of their operations in the metropolis, but he held talks with them and persuaded them to end their protest.

He said he held talks with office-bearers of three different associations of the heavy vehicles and they agreed to follow instructions of the government.

In a late-night development, a heavy contingent of police raided the Defence residence of the MQM-H chief and took him into custody.

Confirming this to *Dawn*, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon said that the MQM-H chief was arrested on charges of "instigating people for torching heavy vehicles in the metropolis this morning".

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 12/02/2025)

Journalist killings reach record high in 2024

A surge in global conflicts and political crackdowns has made 2024 the deadliest year for journalists in over three decades, new figures from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reveal. At least 124 media workers lost their lives across 18 countries last year, a sharp increase that reflects the growing threats to press freedom worldwide.

Nearly 70 per cent of those deaths were linked to Israel's military campaign in Gaza, where 85 journalists were killed, including 82 Palestinians. The data, compiled by the New York-based press freedom watchdog, points to a broader deterioration in journalist safety, as political unrest and armed conflicts escalate in multiple regions.

Sudan and Pakistan tied for the second-highest number of journalist killings in 2024, with six each. Sudan's deaths stemmed from the country's devastating civil war, which has left thousands dead and millions displaced. Pakistan, which had recorded no journalist fatalities since 2021, saw a spike in killings amid political unrest and increasing media censorship.

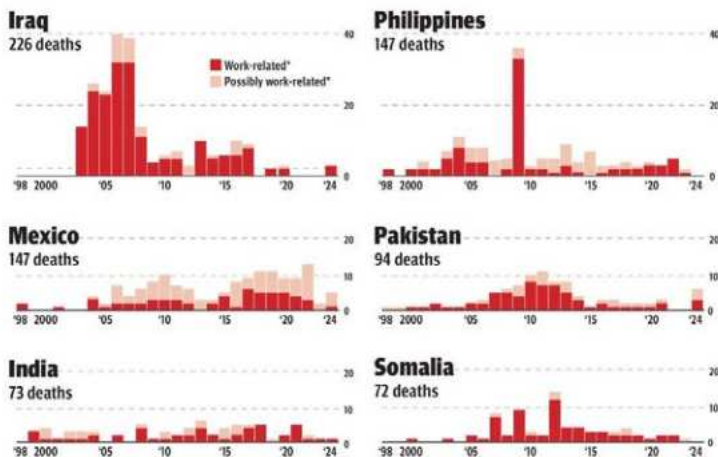
"It's very clear from our latest report that today is the most dangerous time to be a journalist. The number of journalist deaths in 2024 marks the deadliest year on record since CPJ began tracking fatalities in 1992," Beh Lih Yi, CPJ's Asia Program Coordinator, told the Express Tribune.

Over the last twelve months, she explained, the media watchdog had documented the highest number of work-related killings, with freelancers accounting for close to a third of all cases. She noted that this troubling trend reveals the global nature of the crisis and the need for swift intervention.

Beh emphasized that government officials and local authorities have a duty to investigate journalist killings and ensure justice is served. "What we want to stress is that they are responsible for these investigations," she said. However, she noted that there is often little willingness to hold those responsible to account, which creates a chilling effect on the media.

Consistently deadly

Countries with a steady stream of journalists killings, 1998-2024



Pakistan, three of the six journalists killed in 2024 were murdered. Two others were killed after covering militant activity. India, which has long faced criticism for its treatment of the press, recorded the killing of at least one journalist last year, while continued threats and attacks against media workers have fueled an atmosphere of fear.

Referring to the recently passed Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act, which critics say is an attempt to stifle the press, Beh voiced concern over its implications for journalists. “Just last month, Pakistan passed a bill criminalizing false news,” she said, warning that the measure grants the government sweeping authority over the press. “We are very concerned about such legislation because it gives governments broad powers to silence journalists.” Under the law, she noted, individuals convicted of intentionally spreading false information that could incite public fear or unrest may face up to three years in prison, fines of up to two million rupees, or both. “Using ‘fake news’ laws to criminalize journalists threatens press freedom and the public’s right to information,” Beh cautioned. “At the same time, news organizations have a responsibility to ensure the safety of journalists. Every time a journalist is killed, we lose a truth-teller,” she added.

Elsewhere, Mexico remained one of the world’s deadliest places for journalists, with five reporters killed in 2024. The press freedom watchdog has consistently flagged the Mexican government’s failure to protect journalists, despite having mechanisms in place that are supposed to provide security.

When asked about the methods used to silence journalists, Beh said it was a combination of various tactics. Censorship, CJP’s Asia Program Coordinator noted, remains a key tool, with governments using legal and regulatory measures—sometimes unrelated to journalism—to target reporters. “Increasingly, we see financial and regulatory charges used to create a chilling effect on newsrooms,” she added.

Beyond legal measures, Beh pointed out that officials often use hostile rhetoric to erode public trust in journalists, which in turn increases the risk of violence. “When authorities fail to properly investigate journalist killings, it signals that such crimes are tolerated,” she said. “Killing a journalist is the ultimate form of censorship,” she cautioned, stressing that these tactics together create a highly repressive media environment.

Deadliest region

According to the New York-based press freedom group, North Africa and the Middle East accounted for more than 78 per cent of all journalist killings in 2024, with Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq among the most dangerous places to report. In Lebanon, three journalists were killed in an Israeli airstrike, while at least 10 Palestinian journalists were murdered in targeted attacks, CPJ found. Iraq and Syria, both long-standing danger zones for journalists, saw deadly attacks resume in 2024. In Syria, four journalists were killed following the December 8 ousting of president Bashar al-Assad, raising concerns about the future of press freedoms in the country.

Beyond the Middle East, journalist killings were documented in Myanmar, Mozambique, and Sudan, where ongoing civil unrest has made reporting an increasingly lethal profession. The report also notes that in some cases, journalist killings are not isolated incidents but part of a broader effort to silence dissent and restrict press freedoms.

Rising contempt for press

President Donald Trump’s return to the White House earlier this year has posed a significant challenge to press freedom. The president frequently berates journalists and accuses news organizations—particularly CNN—of spreading false information.

Asked whether Trump’s hostility toward independent reporting could have broader consequences, Beh Lih Yi, the Asia Program Coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists, warned that such rhetoric undermines journalist safety and weakens press protections worldwide.

Consistently dangerous

Beyond the dangerous spike last year, CPJ data reveals another troubling pattern – six countries—including Pakistan and India, which calls itself the world’s largest democracy—have remained consistently dangerous for journalists since 2000. Alongside Mexico, Iraq, Syria, and the Philippines, these nations have repeatedly recorded journalist deaths, with little to no accountability for those responsible.

Describing the killing of journalists as “one of the world’s safest crimes—a crime to silence the truth,” CJP’s Asia Program Coordinator stressed that the lack of accountability allows these attacks to continue, urging governments, including those in Mexico, India, and Pakistan, to take decisive action to prosecute those responsible and put an end to journalist killings.

According to the media advocacy group, in

70 %
of journalists killed in 2024
died at the hands of Israel

124
journalist deaths in 2024
surpass the previous record of
113 killed in 2007

The death tolls in Mexico,
Pakistan, India, and Iraq
reinforced the extreme
dangers journalists face in
these nations

"These attacks on journalists' credibility and their reporting contribute to an unsafe environment," Beh said. "When such rhetoric is used in established democracies, it can send a message to less mature democracies that this kind of behavior is acceptable. This, in turn, emboldens regimes to adopt similar tactics to silence the press," she warned. (Hammad Sarfaraz The Express Tribune, 02, 13/02/2024)

DIG Traffic transferred

Deputy Inspector General of Police/Traffic Ahmed Nawaz, an officer of Police Service of Pakistan (BS-20), on Thursday was transferred and directed to report to the Services and General Administration Department, according to a notification issued by the chief secretary of Sindh.

Syed Pir Muhammad Shah, 20-grade police officer awaiting posting, was posted with immediate effect as the DIG Traffic of Karachi.

Meanwhile, Omar Shahid Hamid, 20-grade officer, was posted with immediate effect as DIG Special Branch while Fida Hussain Mastoi transferred and posted as DIG Traffic Hyderabad. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 14/02/2025)

Murad opens model police station

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has declared that the modernisation of police is his top priority.

He said this after inaugurating the Sharea Faisal Model Police Station on Friday.

He said a total of 33 police stations across the province were being upgraded, including eight in Karachi, and the government had allocated Rs288.41 million for their renovation.

"I envision police stations as safe spaces where citizens feel heard, secure, and confident that justice will be served," he said and acknowledged the current hesitancy some people feel about visiting police stations.

"This perception must change," he said, underscoring the police's fundamental duty to serve the public. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 15/02/2025)

Policeman shot dead in 'targeted attack' in Manghopir

A policeman was shot dead in a suspected targeted attack in the Khairabad area of Manghopir on Saturday.

Police said that Constable Imran, who was posted at the Manghopir police station, was on a motorcycle when three assailants, also riding a motorbike, opened indiscriminate fire on him at Amn Chowk. He suffered critical bullet wounds and was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

He was in uniform and posted for the security of the annual gathering of the Tableeghi Jamaat in the area.

Investigators had collected seven spent bullet casings from the crime scene.

During the initial probe, it had transpired that the assailants had chased him.

DIG-West Irfan Ali Baloch told Dawn that it appeared to be an incident of targeted killing but the exact motive was being ascertained. He said the police had lately conducted raids against criminals in the area and the killing might be a reaction by them.

While a militant group had claimed responsibility for the murder on social media, the DIG ruled out the possibility of involvement of banned outfits in the incident. "I think it's fake," he opined.

Counter-Terrorism Department's Raja Umer Khattab also said that the claim appeared to be fake as the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan did not issue any such statement. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 16/02/2025)

Five water tankers torched in Karachi

Five water tankers were torched by enraged people after a bike-rider was killed by a dumper truck on University Road near Jail Chowrangi on Monday night.

Police and rescue services said that a large number of people gathered on the road after the heavy vehicle ran over and killed the motorcyclist.

They said that enraged youth torched five water tankers passing through the road. Both tracks of the main road were closed for traffic after the incident. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 17/02/2025)

Sindh IGP recounts obstacles in Mustafa kidnap, murder investigations

Three junior police officers, including the SHO of the Darakhshan police station, were suspended and demoted to lower ranks over their 'unprofessional conduct' while probing the Mustafa Amir kidnapping and murder case, officials said on Sunday.

The 23-year-old youth had left his DHA residence on Jan 6 in his car but did not return back. His mother filed a report and two weeks later the case was transferred to the Anti-Violence Crime Cell (AVCC) when she received a ransom call. However, the slow pace of investigation could be gauged from the fact that the police failed to trace the prime suspect, Armaghan, until the first week of February.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon confirmed to *Dawn* that three officers of South police had been suspended and demoted over their "attitude which was not professional".

However, he defended senior police officials responsible for the investigations, saying they did face certain 'handicaps' due to a host of factors during initial probe of the case.

SHO among three policemen suspended over 'unprofessional conduct'

Elaborating, he said that the victim, Mustafa Amir, did not use any local SIM, which made him technically untraceable for police.

Second issue was that the victim had been arrested and charge-sheeted by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in a drug case. Initially, the police suspected that he might have been taken away by law-enforcement agencies, but it transpired later that he was not in their custody, he added.

Moreover, the IGP said that the family also received the ransom call unexpectedly very late.

He said usually when someone goes missing, the police used to consider this factor whether the victim was kidnapped for ransom or something else was involved. After several days, the family received a ransom call, which now appeared to be a deliberate move on the part of the prime suspect to divert attention of investigators.

After the call, the case was transferred to the AVCC, which in collaboration with Citizens-Police Liaison Committee initiated efforts to recover the youth. However, it transpired that he had been killed on the very first day of his kidnapping.

He said there was a "dispute" between "friends" upon which the "extreme action" was taken leading to Mustafa's killing.

The IGP said after the murder, two suspects in the case left the city initially for Lahore and later on they went to Skardu. He said the prime suspect came back to Karachi three-four days prior to his arrest. The other suspect, Sheraz, aka Shavez Bukhari, came back to Karachi two days before his arrest.

He said after the arrest of Armaghan, the investigators faced another problem as the court concerned did not give his remand to police for investigation. Rather it sent him to jail. Now, the police have filed a revision plea before the Sindh High Court to get remand of the prime suspect.

"Now, our focus is to ensure better investigation of the case to bring the culprits to justice," the IGP said, adding that a better team of investigators had been formed, who would work under the supervision of the prosecutor general of Sindh for better results.

The IG urged the family to cooperate with the investigators.

Another officer, DIG South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that three officers had been suspended because they did not achieve any "breakthrough" in the case.

Replying to a question about a reported video of the mother of Mustafa Amir, Mr Raza said he was aware of the video in which the grief-stricken mother had blamed the South-SSP (Investigation) over "victim blaming".

He added that an inquiry would be conducted into such allegations.

According to two orders issued by DIG Raza, SHO of Darakhshan police station sub-inspector Abdul Rasheed Pathan and SIO (station investigation officer) of Darakhshan (Investigation) SI Zulfiqar Ahmed and Investigation officer ASI Iftikhar Ahmed have been suspended and demoted to the ranks of ASI and head constable, respectively, with immediate effect, pending inquiry/departmental proceedings into their conduct in connection with the Mustafa Amir kidnapping case.

They have been sent to police headquarters Garden where they shall attend daily roll call/parade. They shall draw pay and allowances as admissible under the rules.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 17/02/2025)

Right to know

IT is an unfortunate paradox that while on paper Pakistan has some of the most impressive right to information laws, their execution is anything but. Institutional inertia and a culture of secrecy are to blame, according to Fafen's latest policy brief. It reveals that federal bodies proactively disclose only 42pc of the information they are legally required to share. It is painfully clear that Pakistan's RTI framework requires more than just well-crafted legislation. Fafen proposes a range of legal reforms — from setting strict disclosure timelines to removing ambiguities in exemption clauses. These suggestions have merit. The current system suffers from convenient escape hatches, with Section 7 of the RTI Act providing broad exemptions and ministers wielding discretionary powers to classify records. The problem, however, runs deeper. The Information Commission's current structure and authority level is problematic on two fronts. First, as Fafen notes, it functions primarily as an appellate body rather than a

proactive enforcer of information access, lacking the authority to enforce strict compliance. Second, the commission's staffing presents a serious conflict of interest. What should be a watchdog institution has become a comfortable retirement home for bureaucrats, transforming oversight positions into cushy post-retirement jobs. Rather than challenging government departments to comply with RTI obligations, they appear more interested in appeasing officials — perhaps in the hope of securing tenure extensions. As a result, citizens' right to information is routinely sidelined.

Fafen is right to call for greater autonomy and financial independence for the commission. However, a more basic reform would be to ensure that at least two of the information commissioners come from civil society rather than government circles. These individuals must be properly trained and committed to transparency, rather than simply filling a bureaucratic seat. Additionally, clear performance metrics should hold commissioners accountable for their role in ensuring public access to information. To bridge the gap between policy and practice, Fafen also advocates for leveraging technology. It proposes the development of an online platform where citizens can submit and track information requests in real-time. This would prove useful in keeping track of which ministries are failing to comply with RTI requirements. The stakes are high. In an era where misinformation fuels political polarisation, an effective RTI framework would provide good defence against destabilising narratives.
(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 18/02/2025)

Woman kidnapped for ransom two days ago found murdered in Karachi's Surjani

A woman, who was kidnapped for ransom two days ago, was found murdered in Surjani Town on Monday, officials said.

They added that the body of Saher Fatima, 42, was found in a rented house on a lead provided by two suspects, identified as Waseem Raza and Nexon Imtiaz, after they were arrested in an intelligence-based raid.

A Rangers spokesperson said that the raid was jointly conducted by the paramilitary force and Anti-Violent Crime Cell (AVCC). The Rangers had received information that some kidnapers had abducted Saher Fatima from Gulberg Town and were demanding Rs10 million as ransom for her release.

During an initial probe, the held suspects revealed that they kidnapped the woman on February 15 and kept her at a rented house in Hasan Brohi Goth. They tied her hands and legs, made a video, which was sent to her father, and demanded the ransom from him.

Law enforcers recover trussed-up body from a rented house on lead provided by two held 'kidnappers'

"The suspects killed her brutally over non-payment of ransom," said the statement by the paramilitary force. The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said that her hands and feet were tied with zip ties. Cause of death was reserved while all relevant samples were taken.

Surjani SHO Ghulam Husain Pirzada said the suspects had got the house on rent a few days ago in Christian Mohalla from where the woman's body was found.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said that the victim's husband complained to Yusuf Plaza police and an FIR was lodged. He said when the family received voice note demanding ransom and video from the suspects, the case was transferred to the AVCC.

According to the contents of the FIR, complainant Ghazi Abbas said he lives in F.B. Area, Block-16 and runs a shop at Maritime Museum, Karsaz where his wife Saher Fatima also worked in the evening shift. He said when he phoned his wife at 3pm on February 15, she did not receive his call despite several attempts. At 6pm, he talked with his son and daughter who informed him that their mother had left the home at 12:30pm to purchase some food/ration but did not return.

She was also not receiving the call and at 9:30pm, the complainant said, his sister-in-law phoned him by saying that her father had received a video from cell number of Saher Fatima in which she could be seen with her hands and legs tied while her mouth was gagged with tape and she appeared to be 'unconscious'.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 18/02/2025)

Young man gunned down by robbers in Ittehad Town

A young man was shot dead by suspected robbers in Ittehad Town late on Wednesday night, police said on Thursday.

Area SHO Javed Akhtar said the deceased, identified as 28-year-old Muhammad Umar, was sitting outside his home along with his cousin when armed pillion riders arrived there and tried to snatch cell phone from him.

However, as he put up resistance, the robbers opened fire on him and fled. As a result, he suffered a critical bullet wound on his abdomen. He was initially taken to the nearby Murshid Hospital where he was given first aid. Later on, he was shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi where he died during treatment on Thursday, the SHO added.

The officer said that at the time of the incident, there was no electricity in the area. However, the police were still trying to obtain CCTV footage to ascertain the identity of the killers.

The victim's cousin, Khalil, told the media that Umar had come to the city from Dubai a few days ago.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/02/2025)

A petition from judges!

The executive's obsession to 'manage' the superior judiciary is now taking a toll on the rule of law. The unrest prevalent among senior judges, who are being denied their right of promotion as per law and the Constitution, is highly unfortunate. Regrettably, they are not being heard. This injustice against the Justices themselves is squarely evident at the Supreme Court as well as the IHC, as the controversial 26th amendment has been used as a ploy to supersede judges on the premise of the plausible leaning of the junior jurors with the government of the day.

Another letter from five senior most IHC judges has once again laid bare the arm-twisting by the executive. The judges have openly questioned the rationale behind the transfer of three judges to the IHC from other High Courts and the out-of-turn elevation of Justice Sarfraz Dogar as IHC's senior puisne judge. The letter, addressed to the Supreme Court, has also been converted into a petition, wherein the five IHC judges have prayed that the "president does not have unfettered and unbridled discretion to transfer judges from one high court to another, under Article 200(1) of the Constitution, without a manifest public interest, and in a manner that hampers the principles of independence of judiciary and separation of powers."

Will the contents of this letter be heard by the Chief Justice and the Constitutional Bench? Or will this letter also be buried beneath the carpet as has been the case with an earlier letter from six IHC judges who complained against "blatant interference in their domain"? What cannot, however, be denied is the fact that these incursions from the executive have created an atmosphere of cooption and coercion, which is detrimental not only to the principle of separation of powers as enshrined in the Constitution but is also in contravention of the independence of judiciary.

This condemnable convention of sidelining eligible judges, and undermining stipulated norms of the Constitution is disgusting and must be shunned. The prevailing discontent among judges must be addressed instantly.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 22/02/2025)

Young actor held in DHA, drugs seized

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a young actor and recovered narcotics in the Defence area.

"The actor has been arrested in connection with a drive against drugs after the Mustafa Amir's murder case in DHA," CIA DIG Muqaddus Haider said, adding that the police had launched a crackdown against such those involved in supplying drugs to parties and students.

He identified the suspect as Sahir Hasan and claimed that 500 grams of weed was recovered from his home.

He said the held suspect imported narcotics from the US through different channels. He was also involved in supplying drugs to parties, he added.

Meanwhile, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-London has alleged that its two activists were taken away by law enforcement agencies after raids on their houses.

It identified the activists as Anwar Khan Tareen, a senior member of the party, and Ziauddin Baqai, son of senior leader Aftab Baqai.

However, law enforcers were reluctant to share any information about the "missing" activists.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 14, 23/02/2025)

Clash erupts as police try to break up nationalists' rally

Activists belonging to different Sindhi nationalist parties clashed with law enforcers on Sharea Faisal on Sunday after their rally towards the Karachi Press Club was stopped near the FTC flyover, causing injuries to many policemen, officials said.



Different groups of the Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mazahz (JSQM), in collaboration with some other parties, had launched a "foot march" from Sukkur to Karachi around four weeks ago.

They entered Karachi on Sunday and the participants had planned to march on the KPC via Sharea Faisal to end their rally.

On the way to the press club, the march participants clashed with police on Sharea Faisal near the Finance & Trade Centre (FTC).

Law enforcers retreat to defuse situation; protest march culminates at Karachi Press Club; terrorism case registered against JSQM leaders

Some of the protesters allegedly beat police officers. The traffic on the main artery, which links the city with the airport and National Highway, was disrupted, according to officials and witnesses.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that around 500-600 participants of the rally, including women and children, arrived at the FTC.

He said there had been an 'understanding' with the organisers of the rally that from the FTC they would move towards Lucky Star for their onward march on the KPC. But they violated this undertaking and started moving towards the former Regent Plaza building.

He said the policemen deployed there tried to stop them from moving further. But some of the protesters attacked the policemen with stones and sticks, resulting in injuries to the South-SSP, the SSP's gunman, Saddar police station SHO and other policemen.

The protesters also allegedly attacked vehicles of the police and private persons.

The DIG said that since it was 'difficult' to push back the protesters without taking extreme action, the police allowed them to proceed towards the KPC in order to avoid further escalation.

He said they had registered an FIR against 14-15 nominated leaders of JSQM groups on charges of terrorism, etc.

Protest against canals project

The rally turned into a public meeting when it reached the Karachi Press Club, where speakers demanded an end to the controversial canals project, corporate farming, religious extremism, forced conversion of Hindu girls and 'enforced disappearances' of youths amid tight security.

Leaders of several Sindhi nationalist parties and civil society representatives, including Aslam Khairpuri, Niaz Kalani, Ismail Nautkani, Abdul Sattar Channa, Waheed Sindhi, Taj Joyo, Illahi Bux Bikak, Munir Haider Shah, Soriha Sindhi, Maher, and others, demanded the federal government to end the proposed six canals project on the Indus River.

They condemned religious extremism and influx of what they described as "outsiders" in Sindh.

The leaders and activists also called for ending the alleged "enforced disappearances" of political workers of Sindh and demanded their release.

The nationalist groups also sought 'expulsion' of law enforcers from educational institutes of Sindh so that students did not face any "humiliation".

Some speakers said that the authorities tried to prevent their march near Gora Qabristan but they foiled the government's attempt and succeeded in their march.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 24/02/2025)

Sense of closure as family buries Mustafa Amir in Karachi

The family of 23-year-old Mustafa Amir, who was kidnapped and murdered in cold blood weeks ago, finally found closure when they buried him on Sunday after receiving the body exhumed a couple of days ago from an unmarked grave in a cemetery for unclaimed bodies.



The funeral prayer was held at a local mosque in DHA and he was laid to rest in the DHA, Phase VIII graveyard.

Earlier, the body was handed over to his relatives after fulfilling required legal formalities.

Saad Edhi, spokesperson for the Edhi Foundation, told *Dawn* that they handed over the body to the family for burial on Sunday with the approval of police and doctors, who said no further tests were required for legal proceedings.

The young man was kidnapped from DHA on Jan 6 and two weeks later his mother received a ransom call. As a result of investigation, police had arrested two suspects — Armaghan and Sheraz — who disclosed that Mustafa was killed in DHA and they torched his body and his car in Hub.

The Balochistan police had found the body in the torched car and handed it to the Edhi Foundation for burial in their graveyard for unclaimed bodies.

Later, the body was exhumed from the graveyard by a medical board on Friday for collection of DNA samples for his identification. Later, a Karachi University lab concluded that the DNA samples from the body were matched with Mustafa's mother.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 24/02/2025)

Police arrest seven for beating two men after video of assault goes viral

Police on Friday claimed to have arrested seven suspects, who were seen in a viral video attacking two occupants of a car in the Boat Basin area.

The viral video showed a four-by-four vehicle bumped against an Alto car at Boat Basin. As seen in the video, several armed men got off the vehicle and began hitting Barkat Soomro and his friend, Waqas.

According to the police, the incident took place on Feb 19 at 3am. With the help of the CCTV footage of the scene, the police were able to identify the suspects and conduct raids to arrest them after Mr Soomro, an office-bearer of the Sindh Peoples Youth, lodged an FIR with the Boat Basin police station.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza said police "raided two different places and arrested seven guards," adding that "modern weapons" had been recovered from their possession.

He said that the recovered weapons were being examined to see whether they had licences.

He said that prime suspect was identified as Shahzain Marri, a grandson of late Nawab Khair Bux Marri. He said he had fled to Balochistan, but the police managed to seize the vehicle which was not registered in his name.

They said that investigators had already contacted the Balochistan government to arrest Marri, while operations were also underway to arrest other people involved in the incident.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 01/03/202)

Pre-arrest bail plea of dumper driver rejected

A sessions court on Friday dismissed the pre-arrest bail application of a driver in a case pertaining to three young bike riders who were killed after his recklessly-driven dumper crushed them on Feb 8.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (East) Shahid Ali Memon dismissed the plea of Saeed Umer, a dumper driver, after hearing the defence and prosecution.

"This court is fully cognisant about the law of the land, in fact, Section 322 [punishment for qatl-bis-sabab] PPC provides sentence only diyat, but it does not mean that every irresponsible driver is given a license for running the vehicles without taking safety measures and care," the court observed.

"Due to great negligence on the part of the dumper driver, a tragic incident took place which deprived the lives of three youngsters without their fault," it added.

The court remarked: "It may not be forgotten that the incident in hand is not an ordinary incident in which three youngsters have lost their lives, but the incident is against the entire society."

It added that the families of three youngsters had been deprived of their natural right to see their future happiness in terms of their marriages, jobs and earnings, adding that the dumper driver had not only deprived the youngsters of their lives but also deprived their families.

"As such, he is not entitled to bail before arrest being an extraordinary relief which is always given in extraordinary circumstances. Even then, at this stage and under such circumstances, if the bail is confirmed, then it would amount to encouraging the accused and like others for committing similar crimes fearlessly and it would also amount to provide him a safe passage either to abscond or tamper the prosecution evidence."

"It was noticeable that the incident was stated to have been taken place in a day time, thus under such a situation, the accused is not entitled for any relief," the order said.

Regarding the negligence of the concerned authorities, the judge observed: "I have also noted with great concern that the traffic incidents/ accidents always occur due to great carelessness and negligence of the concerned state functionaries and the frequent occurring of such unpleasant/ traffic/ shocking accidents reflect failure of the concerned authorities for regulating the heavy traffic."

The judge hoped that the authorities concerned would learn from the sacrifices of the three youngsters and the worries of their families, and issue strict directions to the concerned quarters for regulating the heavy traffic so that such incidents might not occur.

According to the prosecution, the suspect driver hit a motorcycle near Korangi Creek on Feb 8 in the morning on which three youngsters — Shoukat, his cousin Amjad and Muhammad Asif —lost their lives on the spot.

A case was registered at Zaman Town police station 322 (punishment for qatl-bis-sabab), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 01/03/2025)

Three cops hurt in Karachi's Preedy police station grenade attack

Three policemen were injured in a grenade attack on Karachi's Preedy police station late on Friday night, police said.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn.com* that unidentified people hurled a grenade at the police station, injuring three police personnel, namely Riaz Ahmed, 36, Amir Zafar Iqbal, 34, and Mohammed Arshad, 52.

The injured policemen were moved to a hospital where their condition was stated to be out of danger.

Quoting Bomb Disposal Squad experts, the official said it was a grenade attack.

He added that grenade attacks in Karachi's South District were either carried out by the outlawed Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) or Lyari gangs.

The police official linked previous attacks — one in 2024 and another this year — to the BLF.

The DIG said that the Lyari gangs were also notorious for grenade attacks on the police. However, in the recent past, no major attack on law enforcement agencies had been carried out by the Lyari gangs.

The DIG said that apart from the BLF, they also suspected the involvement of separatist elements of the Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army.

DIG Raza also said that *Fitnah Al Khawarij* – a term used to describe the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, have recently made videos in Karachi, and some of the suspected militants were also apprehended in the city.

He recalled that in the past, three major terror acts had also taken place in the jurisdiction of the Preedy police.

In 2014, one policeman and a private citizen were injured in a terror act, he said.

In 2015, a police mobile was attacked with a bomb, resulting in the martyrdom of an assistant sub-inspector and constable.

The third major terror act took place in Daudpota Road in Saddar, in which a bomb-fitted bicycle was used, killing one citizen and injuring nine other persons recently.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 02/03/2025)

Four granted bail in credit card data theft case

A judicial magistrate granted a post-arrest bail to four suspects in a case pertaining to the theft of credit card data through 'spoofed calls'.

Advocate Mian Rafiu Ahmed Tunio had filed applications on behalf of Yateer Gill, Muhammad Kashif, Philemon Johson and Sharoon before the judicial magistrate (South), seeking the bail.

After hearing the prosecution and defence, the court granted bail to the suspects against a surety bond of Rs100,000 each along with personal bonds. The court ordered the jail authorities to release them if they were not required in any other case.

According to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), they received a complaint regarding an illegal call centre, data theft and electronic fraud. After getting approval, the FIA Cyber Crime Reporting Centre raided a bungalow in Khayaban-i-Jami, DHA Phase IV, and apprehended the suspects.

During the raid, the FIA team seized electronic equipment. They found that the suspects were allegedly involved in making fraud calls by impersonating themselves as representatives of foreign banks for unauthorised illegal balance transfers and extracting personal and critical information without the intimation of the US card holders.

The agency claimed that they (suspects) were allegedly extracting personal information, including social security numbers, cell phone numbers, etc. They further stated that after getting their confidential details like bank accounts/ credit cards, those details were transferred to different merchants, and they (suspects) got paid.

The defence counsel submitted that his clients were falsely implicated in that case and highlighted the lacunas in the investigation and procedural contradictions before the court.

Advocate Tunio contended that his clients had remained in the FIA custody for 12 days, but the investigation officer had failed to produce concrete evidence linking his clients to the alleged crime.

"The digital and physical evidence seized from the alleged call centre has not yielded any incriminating data directly connecting the applicants to the fraud or identity theft," the counsel argued.

The FIA registered a case against the suspects under Sections 3 (unauthorised access to information system or data), 4 (unauthorised copying or transmission of data), 13 (electronic forgery), 14 (electronic forgery), 26 (spoofing) of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, read with Section 419 (punishment for cheating by personation), 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 467 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) and 109 (abetment) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 03/03/2025)

Police baton charge two groups clashing over mosque control

Police have fired tear gas shells and resorted to baton charge to restore public order after members of two groups belonging to different schools of thought clashed with each other over 'control' of a mosque in Saddar, officials said on Sunday.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza said that members of the two groups clashed over possession of Jamia Masjid Allah Wali within the remit of the Preedy police station late on Saturday night. They attacked each other with stones.

The police intervened to control the situation and resorted to tear-gas shelling and baton charge to disperse them. However, no one was taken into custody.

"The matter was resolved by police and district administration as well as the Auqaf department officials late on Saturday night," he said.

Feud settled after groups agreed to hold separate Taraweeh prayers

According an agreement seen by Dawn, one group would perform Taraweeh at the ground floor of the mosque while the other would perform Taraweeh on the upper portion of the mosque in peaceful and cordial atmosphere.

It was also decided that after Eidul Fitr, the Auqaf department would decide the fate of the incumbent Imam (prayer leader) of the mosque.

Moreover, both the sides also agreed that whatever decision would be taken by the Auqaf department, they would abide by it in letter and spirit.

Both the sides have also given assurances that they would maintain law and order and follow the rule as per the agreement.

Suspected robbers shot dead in 'encounter'

A suspected robber was shot dead in an alleged encounter on Mauripur Road.

The Kalri police said that one suspect was gunned down while another managed to escape near Behram Chowrangi.

The officials said two suspects were looting the citizens when two constables riding a motorcycle arrived there. An exchange of gunfire took place after which one suspect was shot at and wounded. However, he died during treatment at the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi. He was identified as Abdul Manan. His accomplice managed to flee.

The police claimed to have recovered one pistol from his custody. He had a past criminal record as there were three FIRs registered against him at Mochko police station, officials added.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 03/03/2025)

Robbers loot, kill textile mill cashier in broad daylight in Karachi

Robbers gunned down the cashier of a textile mill and took away a bag "full of cash" as well as the weapon of a security guard in broad daylight in Shah Latif Town on Tuesday.

Police identified the deceased as Imran Feroz, 50, and said that he was shot and killed during a robbery at Quaidabad Bridge near Bismillah Hotel.

Area SHO Raja Abbasi said that Feroz, accompanied by a security guard, went to some bank branches to draw cash in a company van. When they were returning, they stopped at a gas cylinder shop where three armed men riding a motorcycle intercepted their vehicle and held them at gunpoint.

He said that the robbers overpowered the guard, snatched his gun and a cash bag from Feroz. As he put up resistance, the robbers opened fire on him and rode away, he added.

In another incident, jewellery, foreign currency worth Rs100m stolen from DHA bank's safe deposit box

The SHO said that Feroz suffered a critical bullet wound in the chest and was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

He said that the police were waiting for the mill management to inform them about the looted cash as only the victim knew the exact amount.

It may be noted that this was the second murder by robbers in the first three days of Ramazan. Since January 1, robbers have killed as many as 14 people during incidents of street crime in the metropolis.

Gold, foreign currency worth Rs100m looted

Five employees of a private bank in DHA were booked in a case registered by a businessman against the theft of jewellery and foreign currency worth Rs100 million from his safe deposit box.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* on Tuesday that the Darakhshan police registered the case on the complaint of Daniyal Ahmed Shaikh, a resident of DHA, under sections 380 (theft in dwelling house, etc) and 34 (common intention) of Pakistan Penal Code

Mr Shaikh told the police that he had a locker at Dubai Islamic Bank branch on Shahbaz Commercial, where he stashed gold ornaments, diamond jewellery and foreign currency. He said that the estimated value of the deposited valuables was Rs100 million.

On February 19, he said, his wife, Sahrish, visited the bank and found that the safe deposit box inside her locker was missing. She immediately informed bank's operation manager Syed Irfan and locker custodians, Farhat and Usman, who came to the locker area and started searching the iron safe box.

The complainant said that the staff found the iron safe box along with other boxes but it was empty. He said the staff recovered empty jewellery pouches from the false ceiling in the lockers area.

He said two days later, he visited the bank where the staff gave him some jewellery boxes and one wristwatch box, which he had kept at the bank.

He said he suspected that bank manager Zaigham Mirza, Syed Irfan, Rashid Lodhi, Osama, Farhat and some others were involved in the theft.

The DIG said that the police launched a probe and investigators were examining CCTV footage and bank records.

He stated that so far, no one has been arrested, but the two custodians of the locker were being questioned.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 05/03/2025)

Man jailed for three years in rape case

A sessions court has sentenced a man to three years in prison for raping a 13-year-old boy.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdul Zahoor Chandio, who is also presiding officer of Gender-Based Violence Court (South), found Sunil Anthony, alias Sunny, guilty of committing the offence under Section 377 (rape) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

"In cases involving charge under sections 377 of PPC, the statement of the victim can be sufficient for conviction, provided it is credible and corroborated by other evidence. It is also settled law that the testimony of a victim, especially in cases of sexual offences, holds significant weight. There is no any enmity or malafide at the part of the victim or complainant to falsely implicate the accused and the identity of the accused is also well established," the court observed.

The court also imposed on the convict a fine of Rs30,000, on default of which he would serve additional imprisonment in jail.

According to state prosecutor Irfana Qadri, the prosecution examined eight witnesses, including the survivor. The teenage boy testified before the court that on Oct 30, 2023, he was going to his friend's house when the accused intercepted him, made allegations against him, and dragged him to his house.

The boy said that the convict forcibly committed the offence; however, when he resisted, he was threatened to be killed.

"It is evident that the victim being a teenager of 13 years old boy provided a direct and detailed account of the incident while identifying the accused to be the same. His testimony remained largely consistent during cross-examination. Said victim boy reported the incident immediately to his mother who then informed his father/complainant, which strengthens the credibility of his evidence," the court noted.

During the trial, defence counsel denied the accusation and claimed his client's innocence. He submitted that the FIR was registered with a delay.

He argued that the DNA report showed a negative result, which meant his client had no involvement in the crime.

However, the court rejected the defence plea and noted that while the DNA report was negative, the absence of matching DNA did not prove the convict's innocence, especially when the victim has provided a clear and consistent testimony implicating him.

A case was registered at the Mahmoodabad police station under Section 377 (rape) of the Pakistan Penal Code.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 06/03/2025)

Mob lynches suspected robber after trader's murder in Karachi's Quaidabad

A trader was shot dead by a robber in the Quaidabad area on Wednesday afternoon, police said.

DIG-East Usman Ghani told *Dawn* that a lone armed robber entered the office of a beverage firm dealer in Quaidabad, held some people there at gunpoint and demanded their valuables.

He said that the people put up resistance to which the robber resorted to firing, resulting in bullet injuries to the shop owner, Babar Gul, 35, who died on the spot.

He said that the robber was about to flee when the people captured him and subjected him to a severe beating. He suffered serious injuries and was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), where doctors declared him dead.

DIG warns police will not tolerate vigilante justice; says criminal case will be registered against people involved in suspect's killing

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said the trader's body was taken away by his relatives without allowing doctors to carry out a post-mortem examination. He suffered a bullet wound in the chest, she added.

There were reports that the suspected robber was alive when he was brought to the JPMC, from where the victim's relatives took him away.

DIG Ghani expressed his ignorance about any such incident and said that the robber was expired at the JPMC.

However, DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that the suspected robber was severely beaten by the mob and was presumed dead when he was brought to the emergency of the JPMC by a rescue service.

He said that when a large number of people, including the victim's heirs, arrived there, volunteers from the rescue service apprehended that the mob might get hold of the suspect's body and mutilate it, so they drove it away.

Later, the ambulance driver, along with the police, brought back the body for medico-legal formalities, he said.

Case to be registered against mob

DIG Ghani said the police have adopted a 'zero tolerance' policy against vigilante justice.

He said that a criminal case would be registered against all those people who were involving in the lynching of the suspected robber.

He said that the police were already filing FIRs against the people who set heavy vehicles on fire after any fatal accident.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 06/03/2025)

Tensions ease around Lal Masjid amid signs of rapprochement

Tensions began to ease around Lal Masjid in the G-6 sector of Islamabad on Wednesday after the blockade of roads leading to the mosque was relaxed by the capital police following an apparent patch-up between the government and the mosque management led by Maulana Abdul Aziz.



Not only Maulana Abdul Aziz has toned down his 'jihadist' rhetoric against the government but the followers of his wife Ume Hassan have also apparently turned their faces from the root cause of the trouble that led to her arrest, sources said.

Mr Aziz said a day earlier that the operation by the Capital Development Authority (CDA), which razed portions of the Jamia Hafsa seminary adjacent to Lal Masjid, was part of a deal for the release of Ume Hassan and around eight of her

students.

The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad on Wednesday granted bail to Ume Hassan and others in a case related to interference in government affairs and intimidating government officials.

During the hearing, the accused were presented before the ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra.

The police requested an extension of the remand for further investigation, but the court rejected the request and instead ordered judicial custody. Following this decision, the defence lawyers filed a post-arrest bail application on behalf of Ume Hassan and the other accused.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court approved the bail against surety bonds of Rs5,000 each and ordered their release.

Later in the afternoon, police lifted the blockade of the roads in G-6 where around 150 police personnel had been posted for almost 10 days, restricting Maulana Abdul Aziz from gathering a sizeable crowd and pressuring the government for the release of his spouse.

Following Wednesday's rapprochement, the residents of G-6 breathed a sigh of relief and welcomed the reopening of roads.

"Everything gets off the track. Even going to the market is a challenging task due to either roadblocks by the police or by the seminary students," said Shahid Khan, a local resident.

Ume Hassan was arrested on the night of February 19 from Margalla Town after she and a group of around eight female students tried to occupy a mosque recently allocated to a group affiliated with the Jamiat Ullema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F).

The mosque was being allocated to the JUI-F-affiliated group by the ICT administration instead of a mosque established illegally on a green belt on the main Muree Road.

During the events leading up to the arrest of Ume Hassan, the firebrand cleric reached Margalla Town to occupy the said mosque and place an administrator of her choice. But the female police personnel arrested her.

Later, Maulana Abdul Aziz tried to instigate the residents of Islamabad as well as invite seminary students from other areas to hold mass protests in Islamabad.

As Ume Hassan's bail was rejected on February 24 for the second time, female students from the Lal Masjid held a sit-in at Aabpara Chowk and blocked the traffic at two spots on Khayaban-i-Suharwardy Road and Srinagar Highway.

However, as the government remained firm, Maulana Aziz toned down his aggressive rhetoric. Meanwhile, the mosque in Margalla Town was handed over to the JUI-F-affiliated group.

(By Kaibe Ali and Malik Asad Dawn, 04, 06/03/2025)

Karachi policeman involved in car snatching held

The Anti Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC) on Thursday claimed to have arrested a policeman, who is said to be a 'ring leader' of a gang involved in snatching of luxury vehicles from upscale areas of Karachi, said AVLC SSP Bashir Ahmed Brohi.

He added that a famous TV actress's snatched Toyota Fortuner and another vehicle stolen from Ferozabad had been recovered along with an official weapon and narcotics from the possession of the held policeman identified as Rana Kashif.

"The suspect is a police constable posted at the Foreign Security Cell of the police," the officer added.

"The held suspect has confessed to have snatched over two dozen vehicles from posh areas," added the officer.

The stolen vehicles were sold to people in Balochistan, he added.

The suspect along with his accomplices had snatched a Toyota Fortuner from Darul Salam Society in Korangi on June 26, 2024, whose clear footage was available with authorities.

The suspect along with his accomplices had also snatched another Toyota Fortuner in Bukhari Commercial, Phase-VI, in DHA on Oct 7, 2024.

The Quetta police after an encounter had arrested one suspect of the gang, identified as Ayub Lala, and recovered the said vehicle from them.

The suspect along with his accomplice had snatched a Toyota Fortuner from a famous TV actress on Street-26, Khayaban-i-Muhafiz on February 6, 2025, which had been recovered.

Another vehicle, Suzuki Alto which was snatched at gunpoint from Ferozabad last year was also recovered.

Besides, the held policeman had also revealed snatching over two dozen luxury vehicles.

"Efforts are underway to arrest remaining members of the gang," said the SSP.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 07/03/2025)

Landlord in a fix for renting to Chinese

Renting a house to Chinese nationals in Defence Housing Authority has proved costly to the landlord.

Hearing a petition, filed by a citizen against the demand of the police to provide boarding and lodging to cops on security duty of Chinese tenants, the Sindh High Court has summoned SSP Security One.

The property owner says that police demand space and other facilities in the name of providing security to his Chinese tenants, which is totally uncalled for. Police is a government department and the government should make arrangements for them and bear their expenses.

Petitioner's counsel, Raj Ali Wahid Kunwar Advocate argued that police officials were harassing his client.

Officers are demanding that space for them be allocated inside the house and that the landlord cover their daily expenses.

The lawyer further submitted that the petitioner's house is not listed as a sensitive location, and therefore, the demand to accommodate police officials inside the residence is unconstitutional. He argued that landlords cannot be deprived of their fundamental rights for the sake of tenant security.

During the hearing, the court remarked, if the petitioner does not want security, it may be waived. The lawyer clarified that his client had not refused allowing security to his Chinese tenants but objected to police personnel residing inside the house and demanding daily expenses. He suggested that the police personnel could set up a tent outside the residence instead, as their presence inside the bungalow would compromise the privacy of residents.

The court summoned SSP Security One on the next hearing and extended the stay order until April 8.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 07/03/2025)

FIR lodged against over two dozen Ahmadis on TLP complaint; six held in Karachi's Surjani Town

Police on Friday registered a criminal case against over two dozen members of the Ahmadiyya community and arrested six of them on the complaint of a Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) activist in Surjani Town on Friday.

Earlier in the day, the police took into protective custody 25 Ahmadis after TLP activists gathered outside their place of worship in Surjani Town to prevent them from offering "Friday prayers".

Officials said that an FIR was lodged on the complaint of local TLP office-bearer Irfan Gujjar against 19 named and over a dozen unknown members of the community under Section 298 (uttering words, etc, with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

DIG-West Irfan Ali Baloch told *Dawn* that several workers of TLP gathered outside a house in Sector-4-A, Surjani Town. They demanded that the members of the Ahmadiyya community present inside be prevented from offering Friday prayer and using 'signs of Islam'.

He said apprehending the law and order situation, the police took 25 Ahmadis into 'protective custody'.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the Ahmadiyya community, Amir Mehmood, claimed the police have detained 25 Ahmadis, including eight children, and taken them to the Khawaja Ajmer Nagri police station.

He said TLP workers had been gathering outside their place of worship for quite some time and were demanding the arrest and sealing of their centres.

He said the members practised religious rites inside closed buildings and wondered how this could be a "crime". He said that detaining them for performing their rituals "was a grave violation of human rights and Pakistan's Constitution, which allowed freely practicing faith".

According to the FIR, the complainant nominated over 20 members of the Ahmadiyya community and stated that the police had arrested six of them. He said that he came to know that Ahmadis have been offering Friday prayers at a house in Yousuf Goth, and after monitoring the activities there for over a month, he called the TLP leaders and then Madadgar-15 on Friday so that they could be stopped from offering Friday prayers.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 08/03/2025)

Hostage to the Dacoits

In a haunting video circulating on social media, Rajesh Kumar Keswani sits shackled in chains on the floor, his body battered, his beard unkempt, and his legs bloodied from relentless beatings.

A dacoit looms over him, forcing him to face a mobile camera, his voice quivering as he delivers a desperate message to his family — an appeal dictated by his captors.

Keswani, a rice trader from Kashmore, pleads in his recent video, his voice laced with pain: “Please, just end this. It is now the 50th day of my abduction. Do not trust anyone. Fulfil their demands.”

He was kidnapped in November from his office. Despite repeated strikes and protests by civil society and Hindu groups in Kashmore, there is no sign of his rescue. His family, under immense pressure, has been asked to pay a ransom reportedly as high as Rs 10 million.

Keswani’s plight is not an isolated case. It is a grim reflection of a larger crisis that has gripped northern Sindh for decades. However, the menace of dacoits has grown more ruthless, brazen and sophisticated in recent years. Dozens of dacoit gangs, armed with sophisticated weaponry and emboldened by weak governance, operate with impunity. Kidnappings for ransom, extortion rackets that cripple local businesses, brutal killings and looting people on the major highways have become a grim, daily reality.

These acts of terror are not mere statistics; they are seismic events that shatter families, dismantle communities, and erode the very fabric of the society of northern Sindh. Viral videos of kidnapped victims — faces etched with terror, bodies shackled and bruised — serve as chilling reminders of the dacoits’ cruelty and the state’s apparent powerlessness.

Armed with increasingly sophisticated weapons and bolstered by greater networking, northern Sindh dacoits operate with near impunity — kidnapping, extorting and terrorising communities at will. With roots stretching back to colonial times, once loosely organised gangs have become structured criminal syndicates that leverage tribal loyalties and state inefficiency to their advantage...

The Indus Highway, once a vital artery for commerce and travel, transforms into a no-go zone after sunset. Buses and trucks avoid the route in darkness, while smaller vehicles, clustered together in desperate convoys, rely on a lone police escort — an unsettling symbol of the region’s fragile security.

Yet, even the police, meant to uphold law and order, find themselves outgunned and outmanoeuvred. When they attempt crackdowns, they face adversaries with advanced weapons and an intimate knowledge of the terrain. On February 28, dacoits in Shikarpur ambushed a police patrol, killing one officer and injuring another, allegedly in retaliation for a gangster’s killing by police days earlier.

Imdad Khoso, a council member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) from Kashmore, who organised a protest outside Karachi Press Club in late February to draw attention to their plight, says, “The situation has now become unbearable. Traders are extorted, people are kidnapped, and robberies are rampant — yet the government remains silent. How long can we live under this shadow of fear?”

For generations, Sindh’s Katcha [riverine] area, which lines the banks of the River Indus for thousands of acres — from Kashmore to Dadu on one side and Ghotki to Moro on the other — has been infamous for its criminal activity and serves as a haven for high-profile dacoits. The Katcha area is characterised by its riverbed, which remains dry for most of the year but floods during monsoons, and is divided into ketis [tribal land] controlled by powerful landlords.

Historical Context

Like many parts of the Subcontinent, northern Sindh has long grappled with the scourge of dacoits or ‘*dharials*’ as they are called in Sindhi — an issue dating back to the Arab period, according to experts.

In his book *Decade of Dacoits*, Imdad Hussain Sahito, a former professor at Shah Abdul Latif University in Khairpur, traces their presence through the Delhi Sultanate, the Arghun and Tarkhan period, the Samma dynasty, the Mughal era, the Kalhora era, the Talpur period, and British colonial rule.

The British colonial period also saw a new generation of dacoits, whose legacy extended beyond Pakistan’s independence in 1947. Sahito notes that the rural landscape of Sindh saw dramatic changes after 1954. In 1966, military ruler Gen Ayub Khan sought the help of Pir Pagaro as some dacoits were reportedly his disciples. Pagaro ordered their surrender, and those who refused were eliminated by the Hurs themselves.

The 1970s and 1980s marked a turning point, as dacoits adopted modern techniques and sophisticated weaponry. Growing socio-economic disparities and political turmoil fuelled their expansion, with young and educated criminals resorting to kidnappings for ransom. The situation worsened during the 1983 Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) against Gen Ziaul Haq’s dictatorship, triggering a surge in abductions.

Sahito’s research, focusing on 1984–1994, reveals a staggering 11,436 kidnappings in Sindh during that period. In March 1986, a jailbreak at Sukkur Central Jail saw 34 dacoits on death-row escape, forming new gangs that unleashed terror — burning villages, destroying crops, and driving thousands, mostly Hindus, to flee.

In 1991, an unprecedented spike in kidnappings compelled then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to launch a military operation. Although it didn’t fully eradicate the dacoit gangs, the crackdown did liberate the region extending from Hyderabad and Jamshoro to Sukkur, where they had operated freely for almost three decades. This effectively pushed the dacoit strongholds into northern Sindh, primarily confining them to the area between Sukkur, Ghotki and Kandhkot-Kashmore.

The Current Situation

However, the dacoit problem in northern Sindh has escalated to alarming levels in recent years, posing a serious threat to the region's security and stability. Analysts attribute this surge to multiple factors, including police inefficiency, political patronage and economic decline, all of which have created an environment conducive to organised crime.

"What were once loosely organised groups of dacoits operating in remote areas have now evolved into highly structured criminal networks, equipped with sophisticated weaponry and advanced tactics," says a district administration official in Ghotki, who recently reviewed drone footage captured by police to monitor dacoit hideouts in the Sindh's Katcha area. "These criminals have reinforced their defences by digging trenches and erecting large mud barriers, leaving only narrow escape routes for motorcycles," the official says.

The region's difficult terrain and the heavily armed dacoits make it nearly impossible for the under-equipped police to counter these criminals, who possess military-grade weapons. Videos recorded by dacoits during police operations show them moving fearlessly near armoured vehicles. Some footage even captures attacks on armoured personnel carriers (APCs) in Kandhkot-Kashmore, Shikarpur and Ghotki, with dacoits dismantling them.

HRCP's Khoso highlights the evolution of their tactics. "In the 1990s, they preyed primarily on the wealthy people, targeting highways," he says. "Now, they engage in indiscriminate kidnapping and extortion, targeting victims indiscriminately — whether wealthy or poor, Muslim or Hindu, child, woman or elderly." He cites the harrowing cases of the kidnapping of four-year-old Rafay Malik and Nazia Bibi with her two-year-old child for ransom.

Irfan Ali Samo, a senior superintendent of police in the Sindh Police, recently wrote in *The News* that some of the most notorious dacoits in Kashmore include the gangs of Nawab Jagirani, Khadim Bhayo, Arsla Sabzoi and Malook Bhagwar. In Shikarpur, criminal groups such as Bello Teghani, Sonaro Teghani, Sukhio Teghani, Dodo Badani, Noor Hassan Badani, Popat Badani Jatoi and Katoo Kursi remain active. Meanwhile, Ghotki faces significant security challenges due to the presence of gangs led by Rano Shar, Sanu Shar, Rahib Shar, Sooharo, Huso Shar, Lalu Phugi, Ali Hassan Jagirani and Riaz Jagirani.



Dacoits showcasing their arms and ammunition online: these gangs brazenly display their firearms on social media platforms, particularly on Facebook and TikTok | Facebook

Kidnapping For Ransom

Dacoits in northern Sindh have increasingly modernised their operations, with kidnapping for ransom becoming one of their most lucrative crimes. Fearful for their loved ones' lives, families often pay exorbitant sums, further strengthening these criminal networks.

Dacoit groups meticulously plan abductions, first conducting surveillance on potential targets. Using local informants, they gather intelligence on an individual's wealth and routine before executing the kidnapping.

Once abducted, victims are forced to record distressing videos, often depicting physical abuse, to pressure families into paying ransom. In some cases, dacoits resort to extreme brutality, including filming sexual assaults and sharing the footage online to intensify coercion.

Rather than turning to law enforcement agencies, many families negotiate with dacoits through influential tribal chieftains, particularly those from the same tribe as the criminals. A deep-seated distrust of the police discourages victims' relatives from reporting kidnappings, as law enforcement is often seen as either ineffective or complicit. While the police frequently claim credit for 'rescuing' victims, families and community leaders disclose that most hostages are released only after hefty ransom payments.

Dacoits of northern Sindh are also linked with the criminal networks operating in the rest of the province and country. In some cases, abductees are even sold to dacoits of Katcha, who then escalate ransom demands. These gangs employ ruthless negotiation tactics, often seeking payments ranging between one to five million rupees, making abduction a highly profitable enterprise.

Among the most frequent targets is the Hindu community, primarily due to its economic prominence. In districts such as Ghotki, Jacobabad and Kandhkot-Kashmore, Hindu traders, particularly from upper-caste families, dominate local commerce, transportation, and land ownership.

A notable incident occurred in January last year when Retak Kumar, a Hindu trader from Mirpur Mathelo in Ghotki, was abducted by dacoits. While the Ghotki police claimed to have rescued him after 44 days, community leaders later revealed that his family had been forced to pay a significant ransom to secure his release.

A Hindu community leader says, "In many cases, kidnappings for ransom go unreported in the media. Often, Hindu community leaders negotiate discreetly through influential tribal chieftains, paying ransoms ranging from five million to 10 million rupees to ensure the safe return of their loved ones."

Fearing further abductions, many families, including those from the Hindu community, are fleeing dacoit-infested regions and migrating to urban centres such as Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur, as well as abroad, including Europe and India.

Similar to the 1990s, criminals tend to avoid abducting individuals from "warrior" tribes (those tribes whose chieftains wield significant influence and retaliate by mobilising their armed tribesmen), as these groups are well-armed and capable of mounting retaliatory operations. Instead, they focus on middle and lower-middle class individuals, especially from peaceful and socially respected communities, as these victims are more likely to pay ransoms quickly and without provoking tribal conflicts.

A relevant example occurred in May last year when Wadera Jalal Bugti, a tribal chief of a Bugti sub-clan, led a deadly raid in Rawanti, Ghotki, targeting Shar tribe dacoits, whom he accused of murdering his son who was travelling on the highway in Ghotki.

According to a *Dawn* report citing police sources, the raid followed a jirga [assembly of leaders] in Balochistan's Sui area, where the Bugti tribe vowed revenge, specifically naming the Shar clan chieftain, who is also a Pakistan Peoples Party leader, as responsible. While the Shar tribe chief attempted to de-escalate tensions, the Bugtis remained firm. When Ghotki police, citing limited weaponry, refused involvement, the Punjab police stepped in to support the Bugtis to launch the crackdown on the dacoits.



orchestrated by criminal gangs to lure victims into kidnappings for ransom.

Initially dismissed as exaggerated, the warning has gained credibility amid a surge in such incidents in recent years. These gangs have refined their tactics, using social media and phone calls with a woman's voice to entrap unsuspecting individuals. This digital expansion has allowed them to target victims beyond their traditional areas, broadening their reach and influence.

"Instead of abducting victims by force, dacoits now lure them in, making them unknowingly walk into their own kidnappings," says Allah Warayo Buzdar, a veteran journalist in Ghotki, who covered dacoits for years. While residents of northern Sindh are generally aware of these schemes, Buzdar says that the people from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh's urban centres, such as Karachi and Hyderabad, remain vulnerable.

Some abductees said that they were deceived through false promises of relationships with women or lucrative business opportunities. Initially invited to bordering towns in Punjab, such as Sadiqabad and Rahim Yar Khan, they were further enticed to cross into Ghotki or Kashmore, where they were abducted and taken to the Katcha region.

On February 26, Ghotki police claimed to have rescued three entrepreneurs kidnapped on January 3. Lured by a fake carpet-cleaning contract on Facebook, they travelled from Hyderabad to Kashmore, where they were abducted.

Sindh police data reveals that, in 2024 alone, authorities have prevented 618 honey-trap kidnappings, including 337 in Kashmore and 243 in Shikarpur, underscoring the scale of this crisis.

Extortions

In a shocking incident in recent months, Dr Sundar Das, a physician from Ghospur town near Kandhkot, received an extortion demand attached to a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) shell. The chilling message warned him of dire consequences if he failed to pay. Fearing for his safety and that of his family, Dr Das abandoned his business and relocated to Karachi, leaving behind his home and livelihood.

According to residents, dacoit groups in northern Sindh have adopted a more brazen approach, moving beyond traditional kidnappings to direct extortion. They now issue threats through phone calls and deliver parcels containing RPG shells or bullets as warnings.

"This is a new and dangerous development," says HRCP's Khoso. "It shows that these gangs are no longer afraid of law enforcement and are operating with impunity."

The increasing frequency of extortion cases has instilled fear among business owners, traders and professionals, many of whom are being forced to either comply with the gangs' demands or flee their hometowns. Those who refuse to pay face violent reprisals, including targeted attacks on their homes and businesses.

Nexus Between Dacoits and Tribes

The intricate nexus between dacoits and tribal structures in northern Sindh forms a formidable barrier to effective law enforcement, where criminal networks thrive under the protective umbrella of tribal patronage.

Dacoit gangs, numbering in the hundreds, secure arms, protection and safe havens through their tribal affiliations. In return, tribal chiefs exploit these gangs for their own interests — deploying them in inter-tribal conflicts, to enforce jirga rulings, to intimidate rivals, and to influence elections while maintaining plausible deniability.

A 2023 HRCP fact-finding report revealed that this patronage extends beyond tribes to include feudal landowners and even elements within state institutions, granting dacoits police protection and access to sophisticated weaponry. A police officer in the

Civil society activists from Kashmore protest outside the Karachi Press Club in February against rising lawlessness in northern Sindh: despite years of police operations, efforts to dismantle dacoit gangs in northern Sindh have largely failed | Courtesy the writer

Honey Traps

A viral video circulating on social media has drawn widespread attention, showing a policeman at the Sindh-Punjab border — likely in Punjab's Rajanpur district — warning bus passengers about a rising threat. He cautions travellers against answering calls from unknown individuals in northern Sindh, particularly women posing as loved ones or sellers of vehicles and goods. These, he claims, are sophisticated honey-trapping schemes

region adds that local officers often face fines imposed by jirgas for targeting dacoits from influential tribes. “They consider them ‘qaumi’ or tribal dacoits,” he says.

Sher Ali Khalti, a Lahore-based journalist who has extensively covered dacoit activities in south Punjab draws a crucial distinction: “Northern Sindh’s dacoits operate within a patronage system controlled by tribal chieftains, while some south Punjab gangs, such as Shahid Lund’s, have openly defied tribal influence, even launching attacks near tribal leaders’ deras [guest houses].”



(Left) A screen-grab from a video shows Rajesh Kumar Keswani, a Hindu rice trader kidnapped from Kashmore, appealing to his family to pay the ransom to his abductors. (Right) A note demanding a ransom amount, placed on an RPG shell, sent by dacoits in Ghouspur

Modern Weaponry and Training

In 2023, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari claimed that Katcha dacoits had acquired advanced American weapons left behind in Afghanistan. These weapons, likely originating from the post-US withdrawal chaos in Afghanistan, have significantly widened the weaponry disparity between these gangs and the Sindh police.

Historically, the introduction of the Kalashnikov rifle changed the dynamics of crime in Sindh. “In Sindh, dacoits were the first to use this weapon, giving them a significant advantage over the police, who only obtained Kalashnikovs much later,” writes Sahito in his book. Over time, their arsenal has expanded exponentially, including rocket launchers, RPGs, and even anti-aircraft guns, procured through the black market.

The gangs’ brazen displays on social media platforms, particularly on Facebook and TikTok, showcasing firearms with gun straps adorned in traditional Sindhi embroidery, highlight this disparity. While the Sindh police primarily rely on G-3 rifles and Kalashnikovs, they are increasingly outmatched.

A police officer in Shikarpur says, “Dacoits have powerful weapons that even armoured vehicles cannot withstand. Our senior officers, including DSPs and inspectors, have been killed inside APCs (armoured personnel carriers) because their rockets can pierce through them.” He cited a 2019 incident when DSP Khanpur Rao Shafiullah was killed after dacoits fired a rocket at his APC during a mission to rescue folk singer Jigar Jalal and his band.

HRCF’s Khoso raises a crucial question: “Northern Sindh neither shares a border with Afghanistan or Iran, nor does it have tribal areas. So how are these dacoits acquiring such advanced weapons? That is the real issue.”

The Cross-Provincial Nexus

The growing ties between dacoit networks in northern Sindh and southern Punjab have significantly complicated efforts by law enforcement agencies to curb their activities. Intelligence reports indicate that these groups actively exchange weapons, resources and logistical support, forming an interconnected web of organised crime that extends across provincial borders.

“These are no longer just local gangs — they have transformed into well-coordinated criminal syndicates with deep cross-provincial links,” says a local government chairman from Kandhkot, who himself received a threatening phone call from dacoits. “The state’s inability to dismantle them has only allowed them to grow stronger.”

Khalti notes that criminal groups in both provinces are increasingly competing in brutality and sophistication. He explains that many of these dacoits belong to tribes that reside on both sides of the Sindh-Punjab border. “Most of them are related by blood and provide shelter and assistance to each other when provincial police initiate crackdowns,” Khalti says.

Movement between these regions is seamless for the dacoits. “On motorcycles, they can easily travel from Rajanpur in Punjab to Kashmore in Sindh,” Khalti adds. “They are deeply familiar with the terrain, having been born and raised in this environment. They can swim for hours and cross the river easily.”

Even when simultaneous crackdowns are launched in the border districts of Sindh and Punjab, these criminals effortlessly relocate to Balochistan, which also shares a border with the region.

The State’s ‘Failed’ Response

Despite years of police operations, efforts to dismantle dacoit gangs in northern Sindh have largely failed. In 2024, Sindh police reported 559 encounters in the Katcha region, covering Sukkur, Ghotki, Kashmore and Shikarpur, resulting in 73 dacoits killed, 120 injured, and 378 arrested. However, these operations have not significantly weakened the gangs. The cost to law enforcement has been steep, with 19 policemen killed and 31 injured, underscoring the extreme risks involved in confronting heavily armed dacoits.

A Rs2.79 billion joint operation plan and a specialised Katcha police force, mirroring the HRCF’s recommendation for a well-equipped, politically independent police unit for the region, were proposed in 2023 to combat the dacoit menace. Yet, both initiatives failed to materialise.

In June last year, President Asif Ali Zardari proposed rehabilitating gang members willing to surrender. A month later, Sindh home minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar claimed that 80 to 100 dacoits had surrendered in Katcha. However, violence persists. Following the August ambush that killed 15 policemen in Machka, a Punjab town bordering Sindh, the Sindh government once again vowed to intensify its crackdown — an all-too-familiar cycle of reactive measures.

Analysts argue that decades of politically motivated police appointments have severely weakened law enforcement. Officers frequently face transfers due to political pressure, making it difficult to act against influential tribal leaders who provide sanctuary

to dacoits. The dense riverine terrain of Katcha serves as a natural fortress for criminal activities, allowing dacoits to evade large-scale operations and slip across district and provincial borders.

Adding to the challenge is pervasive corruption within the police force. Some officers, deeply embedded in tribal networks, provide critical intelligence to criminals, sabotaging operations and perpetuating the cycle of lawlessness.

National Security Threat

The continued reign of dacoits in northern Sindh casts a long shadow over the region, where fear eclipses security, and lawlessness thrives in the absence of firm governance. The state's reluctance to address the issue as a national security threat — unlike its stance against Taliban militants in KP and banned ethno-separatist groups in Balochistan — downplays the severity of the crisis.

Daily incidents of kidnappings, extortion, honey traps and highway robberies paint a bleak picture of a region held hostage by criminal elements. This ongoing lawlessness exposes a profound failure of governance, particularly for the PPP, which has ruled Sindh for most of the past four decades. Many tribal chieftains, once independent power brokers, are now part of the PPP, raising serious questions about political complicity.

Over the past three months, authorities have used technological advancements, such as drones and mobile tracking systems, to monitor dacoit movements, pushing them into a defensive position, police officials and journalists say. However, the journalist Buzdar, who has covered police crackdowns for years, warns that sustained pressure is essential: "These dacoit gangs resurface the moment government focus weakens, making a long-term, comprehensive strategy crucial."

He aptly concludes, "Until the state decides that enough is enough and proves it with consistent action, the dacoits will continue to rule the Katcha."

(By Zia ur Rehman Dawn EOS, 01, 09/03/2025)

Three 'robbers' shot dead by citizens in Karachi

Three suspected robbers were shot dead by citizens in two separate incidents in the metropolis on Monday, police said.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said two suspected muggers were gunned down by a citizen near the Matric Board Office.

Area SHO Amjad Kiani said that the citizen, Danish, was talking with his friend outside his home when muggers arrived there, snatched a cell phone, cash and other valuables from one of them. As they were fleeing, Danish took out a pistol from his car and asked his friend to ride his bike to chase the suspects.

They approached them from behind and Danish opened fire on them. The suspects suffered critical wounds and died on the spot.

Police surgeon Summaiya Syed said that the suspects were shot in the chest.

The SHO said the both killed suspects had a past criminal record and they were released from jail on bail around four days ago.

In another incident, a suspected robber was gunned down by a citizen in F.B. Industrial Area.

Area SHO Shahid Baloch said that an unidentified robber was gunned down by the firing of the citizen during a robbery in Block-22 near Shafiq Mor.

Meanwhile, a suspected robber was shot at and injured by the firing of a citizen during a robbery near Shahbaz Commercial, DHA, the Gizri police said.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 11/03/2025)

Armaghan's father advised him to flee after Mustafa's murder: IO

An anti-terrorism court was on Tuesday informed that Armaghan, the prime suspect in Mustafa Amir murder case, had informed his father about the killing but he allegedly advised the son to go into hiding.

The disclosure was made by the investigating officer (IO) of the case before the ATC-IV, which extended the remand of the prime suspect for another seven days.

IO Muhammad Ali produced the suspect before the ATC Judge-IV at the judicial complex inside the central prison after completing his physical remand and sought extension for further seven days.

At the outset of the hearing, the IO informed the court that he had recovered a self-defence stick, which was allegedly used to attack Mustafa Amir on Jan 6.

He stated that a network video recorder (NVR), a digital video recorder (DVR) — installed at Armaghan's residence in DHA — and two smartphones, including an iPhone, were also recovered and needed to be sent for forensic examination.

He submitted that during interrogation, the suspect allegedly confessed that after killing Mustafa Amir, he informed his father, Kamran Qureshi, about the incident and his father allegedly advised him that "for now, leave Karachi and go into hiding. Later, we will shift the software house business elsewhere".

On his father's advice, the IO said, the suspect along with his accomplice, Shiraz, went into hiding in Lahore, Islamabad and Skardu.

The IO informed the court that prior to his arrest in the murder case, Armaghan was booked in at least eight other cases. He added that for the cases in which the suspect is an absconder, information has been conveyed to the concerned stations through the police control station.

Meanwhile, defence counsel Abid Zaman argued that since all recoveries have been made and the seized items will be sent for forensic examination, there is no need for his client to remain in physical custody.

He further submitted that it has been over a month since the FIR was registered, yet the IO has not even submitted an interim charge sheet. The counsel moved an application under Section 173 (i) (b) of the criminal procedure code before the court.

He pleaded that the suspect should be sent to jail on judicial remand.

Special Public Prosecutor Zulfiqar Ali Arain opposed the defence counsel's request and argued that the prosecution required the suspect's physical custody to obtain the password to access the recovered cell phones and other devices.

He stated that other agencies, including the Counter Terrorism Department, were interrogating the suspect in a case related to the possession of illicit weapons, which were recovered after an encounter on Feb 8.

He added that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) were also questioning the suspect.

After hearing both sides, the court extended the suspect's physical custody for further seven days.

It also allowed the suspect's parents to meet him within the court premises on the defence counsel request.

The court noted in its order that Armaghan did not reply in the affirmative when asked whether he has been maltreated by police. (By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 12/03/2025)

Race to rescue Jaffar Express hostages in Balochistan



An unprecedented hostage situation unfolded on Tuesday after terrorists attacked the Jaffar Express in a rugged part of Balochistan, taking more than 400 passengers hostage, including a sizeable number of security personnel.

Although hampered by the remoteness of the area, security forces said they had launched a massive operation in the Dhadar area of Bolan Pass to rescue the hostages, killing at least 16 of the attackers.

There was no confirmation of the total number of casualties, but officials said that at least 10 people, including the driver of the locomotive, had perished in the attack.

Security forces claimed to have rescued over 100 passengers — including women and children — from the attackers, who had taken the hostages into the treacherous mountains of the Bolan range.

It was not immediately clear whether these people had been freed as the result of kinetic military action, or were among those allegedly freed by the armed assailants.

An operation to recover the rest of the missing passengers and bring the attackers to justice continued in the area around the Mushkaf Tunnel. Due to the sensitive nature of the action underway, *Dawn* will not report any critical operational details until the situation has been resolved.

The hijacking is a first of its kind event, as terrorists had never attempted to attack or take an entire train and its occupants hostage earlier.

The banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack, and claimed to have taken a large number of people hostage. The group also claimed that they had freed a number of people — including women and children — but these reports could not be independently verified.

Attack near tunnel

Railway officials told *Dawn* the train left Quetta for Peshawar around 9am, with 450 passengers in nine bogies. Around 1pm, they received information that the train had come under attack between the Paneer and Peshi railway stations, near Railway Tunnel No 8, located near Mushkaf.

“Armed men fired rockets at the locomotive and opened fire, which caused the train to stop. The driver of the locomotive was seriously injured,” officials said, adding that a heavy exchange of fire took place between security personnel and the attackers.

Reports suggest that the attackers martyred a number of security personnel and hijacked the train. They then started checking passengers' identities and took some passengers hostage before they fled.

Sources said that a large group of armed attackers, carrying automatic weapons and rocket launchers, were sheltered in the mountains. They also damaged the railway line with explosives.

“According to security sources, terrorists split into small groups due to security forces’ operation. Injured passengers have been shifted to nearby hospital while additional security squads are taking part in the operation in the area,” reports aired on state media said.

‘Extra care’

According to Imran Hayat, the Railways Divisional Superintendent (DS) in Quetta, ten people — including the driver of the locomotive and eight security personnel — had lost their lives.

Security officials said that the rescue operation was being executing with extra care, due to the presence of hostages in the terrorists’ captivity.

Around 104 passengers who were recovered by security forces were shifted to the nearby Paneer railway station, including 58 men, 31 women and 15 children. A relief train had evacuated them to nearby Mach station, while efforts are underway for the safe recovery of the remaining passengers.

Railway officials said that around 750 passengers were booked to travel in the Jaffar Express, but the train left Quetta with around 450 people onboard.

Sources said that over 200 security personnel were also travelling on the same train.

According to the government’s statement, an emergency has been imposed at the Sibi hospital, while ambulances and security forces were on their way to the site of the incident.

“The scale of the incident and the possibility of terrorist elements are being determined. The Balochistan government has ordered that emergency measures be taken, and all institutions remain active,” Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind said.

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry told *Geo News* that many people had been taken off the train and were being used as human shields by the terrorists.

The state minister said security forces were treading carefully because of the lives involved, saying that the operation was still underway.

“They are cowards. They [pick] soft targets. They attack while hiding,” he said.

Condemnations

President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the incident and paid tribute to the security forces for their “effective action” and rescuing passengers.

“Attacks on innocent citizens and passengers are inhumane and heinous acts. Those who attack passengers are against Balochistan and its traditions.

“The Baloch nation rejects those who attack and take hostages innocent passengers, elders and children. No religion or society allows such heinous acts,” he was quoted as saying in a statement from the Presidency.

A statement from the Prime Minister’s Office said PM Shehbaz Sharif lauded the security forces for pushing back the terrorists towards a retreat with their “timely action and bravery”.

He added that they would complete the operation soon and “bring the cowardly terrorists to their end”.

“The beastly terrorists who carry out the cowardly attack do not deserve any concession. Terrorists are the enemies of the development of Balochistan,” he said as he pointed out that the targeting of “innocent travellers” in the holy month of Ramazan was a “clear reflection of the fact that these terrorists have no connection with the religion of Islam, Pakistan and Balochistan”.

“We will continue the war against the monster of terrorism until it is completely eradicated from the country. We will thwart every conspiracy to spread insecurity and chaos in Pakistan.

“We will never allow the evil intentions of anti-national elements to succeed. The entire nation stands by its security forces in this war against terrorism,” the premier was quoted as saying.

(By Saleem Shahid Dawn, 01, 12/03/2025)

Cache of weapons found by labourers in park at Surjani

A cache of rusted arms and ammunition was recovered from a park in Surjani Town during digging by labourers on Tuesday afternoon.

Police said that the digging was under way in Sunrise Ground located on L-1 Sector for developing a walking track by the union committee.

The UC staff informed the police, who rushed to the spot and recovered five sub-machine guns, one light machine gun, 10 magazines and a huge quantity of bullets.

The recovered weapons would be sent to a lab for a forensic analysis, the officials added.

Suspect shot dead in ‘encounter’

A suspected robber was shot dead in an alleged encounter in Surjani Town on Tuesday morning, police said.

SSP-West Tariq Illahi Mastoi said that some muggers were looting passers-by on a road in Sector-36. A robbery victim informed a police patrol, which reached the spot and challenged the muggers.

He said that the criminals resorted to firing in their bid to flee. In an ensuing exchange of gunfire, one suspect was arrested in wounded condition while his accomplice managed to escape.

He said that the suspect was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors declared him dead. His identity could not be ascertained till late in the night.

The police claimed to have recovered a pistol, spent bullet casings, two snatched cell phones, a purse and one motorcycle from him.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 12/03/2025)

Man in Karachi held in child pornography case on US complaint

A judicial magistrate on Wednesday remanded a man in the custody of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in a child pornography case.

The US consulate general, through its special agent Christopher Peterson, had filed a complaint against the suspect, accusing him of extorting minors in the United States.

Later, the FIA Cyber Crime Reporting Circle had booked the suspect for offences under Sections 16 (tampering with communication equipment), 22 (spamming) and 26 (legal recognition of offences committed in relation to information systems) of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016.

On Wednesday, the investigating officer of the case, Ameer Ali Khoso, brought the suspect before Judicial Magistrate (East) Yusra Ashfaq and sought his 14-day physical custody for interrogation.

The IO informed the court that the suspect was held over his alleged involvement in child pornography as he misused the personal objectionable data of minor US citizens.

After hearing the IO and examining the remand papers, the court handed over the suspect into FIA custody for five days.

According to the FIR, after getting a search warrant, the FIA team raided the suspect's house in Gulzar-i-Hijri and seized his personal electronic devices, including his mobile phone, laptop. An initial technical analysis of the seized devices revealed that it possessed child pornographic material/videos and threatening messages.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 13/03/2025)

Two muggers shot dead in city

A suspected robber was shot dead and his accomplice wounded by a citizen while another mugger was gunned down by police in an 'encounter' in separate incidents in the city on Wednesday.

Sharafi Goth SHO Sadaruddin Mirani said two armed robbers attempted to loot citizens on the main road near Millat petrol pump. However, one of the citizens put up resistance and resorted to firing, resulting in bullet wounds to both the suspects.

The wounded suspects were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where one of them, identified as Gulzar Wahid, was declared dead while the other, Arif, was admitted for treatment. He was in critical condition, the officer added.

In another incident, a suspected car-lifter was gunned down in an 'encounter' in the Site area on Wednesday.

SITE-A police said that the encounter took place between the Anti-Vehicles Lifting Cell (AVLC) and the suspects near Habib Chowrangi where after an exchange of firing, one suspect, identified as Abdul Wahid, was killed.

One pistol and a Suzuki hi-roof were recovered from his custody.

AVLC SSP Bashir Ahmed Brohi said the killed suspect was an 'active' member of the notorious Lashari gang. He had snatched/stolen several vehicles from Karachi. He was also arrested in murder, robbery and police encounter cases several times.

The recovered car was stolen from the remit of the Sharea Noorjehan police, the SSP added.

There were 25 FIRs registered against the killed suspect at Uch Sharif Bahawalpur police station from the year 2022 to 2024, a police statement said.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 13/03/2025)

Civil courts amendment: legal practice in Karachi set to change

The legal system in Karachi has been shaken up by enactment of the Sindh Civil Courts (Amendment) Act, 2025. The legislation strips the High Court at Karachi of its original jurisdiction to hear civil suits valued at Rs65 million or more. Prior to this legislation, the High Court at Karachi enjoyed a unique position as being the only High Court in Pakistan having original jurisdiction to hear civil suits. In other parts of the country a civil suit is instituted before District Courts. The position in Karachi is now the same.



A civil suit is filed under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and is the ordinary route taken when approaching a Court for enforcement of civil rights. Procedurally, a civil suit may be filed with interlocutory applications seeking that the Court pass temporary orders aimed at preserving the rights of the parties until determination after trial. These applications may be for various orders including injunctions, inspections and receiverships.

Given that orders pursuant to these applications are to be of a temporary nature, the applications are ordinarily determined prior to trial. This means that positions of parties are taken at face value from the pleadings, in absence of cross-examination, and documents relied upon are considered without being subject to the standards of evidence law.

After the interlocutory orders are passed, a trial is undertaken where parties have an opportunity to produce evidence and cross-examine opposing witnesses. The plaintiff has the burden to establish their case through evidence which must meet the evidentiary standards prescribed by law. Opposing parties have opportunities to cross-examine witnesses and produce contra evidence. Based on all the evidence the Court renders a judgment.

In true essence, the focus of a civil suit is meant to be the trial. The interlocutory application stage is simply a preliminary stage aimed only at ensuring rights are preserved during a trial, or orders are passed to ensure the trial is fair.

While both the High Courts and District Courts in Karachi follow the same civil procedure, practically civil suits have been prosecuted in each Court differently. The practice before the High Court at Karachi was to focus on the preliminary application stage rather than trial. Most suits were filed along injunction applications aimed at securing without notice ad-interim injunctions i.e. Court orders restraining a defendant from doing something. Someone trying to back out of a deal? Go to the High Court and get a stay. High Court Judges as opposed to District Court Judges were always more amenable to pass these ad-interim orders; being temporary orders aimed at preserving rights until the injunction application could be decided after hearing all parties.

While in principle this is a correct approach, the problem began when it started taking years to reach those final determinations.

Two main causes for this can be highlighted.

Firstly, abuse of process by litigants. Given the immense workload of the High Court and the restricted number of Judges, some litigants took advantage of faults in the system whereby ad-interim orders would be obtained and thereafter steps taken to delay proceedings. Sometimes this exploitation got so bad that opposing parties were found bound by injunctive orders at the preliminary stage for years without a hearing. This meant that parties benefitting from injunctive orders could coerce opposing parties, without ever having to establish their case on standards prescribed by evidentiary laws.

The second problem was that even where a preliminary injunction application was decided, trial and conclusion of the case remained a far-fetched dream. Rather than evidence being recorded by a Judge (being the ordinary course in the civil procedure), the High Court at Karachi would commission out the process to lawyers. The problem here was that these commissioners lacked authority to compel litigants to record evidence expeditiously. Further recording of evidence was always undertaken in informal settings i.e. consultations rooms of bar associations or offices of the commissioner, resulting in lax attitude of all involved. Moreover, given that the commissioners were lawyers themselves, with a sense of camaraderie, they were often amenable to requests of fellow counsels to adjourn matters.

Since this was a reality, the application stage became the focus of civil suits before the High Court. Once injunction applications were decided either way, it became as good as a final determination.

Problem with this was that it goes contrary to the principles of adjudication after fair trial and enabled parties to circumvent the burdens of evidentiary standards and cross-examination while also obtaining orders which for practical purposes were as good as final decisions.

Due to this the legal market in Karachi, along with how litigants approached disputes had also developed as such that the focus was on the preliminary stage and obtaining a "stay". Reputation of lawyers is premised on their ability to "obtain a stay" and some firms even restricted practices to accepting briefs only for the preliminary injunction application stage. Even businesses conducted themselves in a manner having expectations of being able to obtain a stay when needed and thereafter negotiating disputes without having to face trial.

As opposed to the above, the practice before the District Court has remained quite different i.e. District Courts placing less focus on the preliminary application stage and more focus towards final determination after trial. Furthermore, unlike the High Court, given that the cohort of Judges in the District Courts is far larger, cases are fixed and heard more frequently leaving lesser opportunity for a litigant to delay the same.

Since now the District Courts have become the court of first instance for civil suits, one can expect a revolution in the way the legal market works with lawyers and litigants in Karachi having to change their outlook towards suits and focus strategy on results in final determinations rather than the stage of interim injunctive relief. Instead of structuring suits with aim to simply demonstrate a prima facie case, obtain a stay and force settlement, litigants and counsel will have to be mindful of how to frame their cases for trial. Litigants will also have to become more ready to enter the witness box, face cross-examination and produce evidence which meets the evidentiary standards as prescribed.

Whether or not this amendment is better for the system can be debated both ways. However, regardless of its merits, how this change affects legal practices in Karachi in the coming years will be interesting to see.

(By Hamza H Hidayatallah The Express Tribune, 15, 14/03/2025)

Ex-Afghan soldier held for street crimes

A former Afghan soldier, who is allegedly involved in street crimes, was arrested in Orangi Town on Thursday, police said.

West-SSP Tariq Illahi Mastoi said that the held suspect, Sher Husain, was an “illegal” Afghan. He was arrested from Bijli Nagar, Sector-4. An illegal pistol, snatched cell phone and cash were recovered from his possession.

During interrogation, the suspect revealed that he was a trained soldier of the Afghan army, a police statement said.
(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 14/03/2025)

Angry mob lynches suspected mugger

A suspected robber was lynched by an angry mob in North Karachi within the remit of the Sir Syed Town police station on Saturday evening, police said.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi told Dawn that two armed men entered a shop in Shadman Homes near Anda Mor for robbery. However, the shopkeeper overpowered one of them. His accomplice resorted to firing and a bullet hit the shopkeeper.

While the suspect who opened fire managed to escape, a large number of people gathered there and started beating the suspect, the SSP said, adding that by the time police arrived there he was already dead.
(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 16/03/2025)

'Melon extortion' lands cops in hot water

In a brazen incident of police high-handedness, four cops forcibly took fruits from a street vendor — and when he protested, they hurled abuses and threats and seized his weighing scale. The police high-handedness might have gone unnoticed like scores of such incidents, had it not been filmed by an onlooker.

The video clip immediately went viral on social media, forcing police high-ups to take departmental action. The four cops involved in the incident belonging to Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan police station have been suspended and further departmental action has been ordered against them. The incident took place on a street vendor near Qalandria Chowk.

As per details, the policemen, who were riding in a police mobile van, were caught on camera using foul language, making threats, and seizing the vendor’s weighing scale. The vendor, who was accompanied by his young daughter, protested and requested that the police at least ask before taking the melons.

After the viral video triggered public outrage, SSP Central Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqui launched an investigation and took decisive action. The officers involved in the incident have been identified as Constables Zafar, Zulfiqar, Naseem, and Abdullah, the driver of the police mobile. SSP Siddiqui condemned the officers’ behaviour, saying that such actions are unacceptable and harm the reputation of the police force.

The vendor, who was visibly distressed, said that the officers should have at least asked if he was willing to give away the melons for free. When the vendor protested, one of the officers aggressively responded, claiming that the melons were being taken for personal use at home. Despite attempts by bystanders to intervene, the cops left the scene with the items they had taken.

Following an internal inquiry, Officer Zafar was dismissed from service, while the other three officers remain suspended pending further departmental proceedings.
(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 16/03/2025)

Woman dies after falling from fourth floor during police raid in DHA

A woman, who was living alone in Defence Housing Authority, died after falling from her fourth-floor apartment during a police raid, officials said on Sunday.

Darakhshan SHO Shahid Taj said that they had arrested a man, identified as Ubaid, in a drug case as part of an ongoing crackdown on narcotics.

During interrogation, the suspect disclosed that a woman, Afsheen, was his partner in the alleged drug business.

On the information extracted from him, a police party raided Afsheen’s flat in Muslim Commercial Area to arrest her on Saturday night. The policemen knocked on the door several times but she did not open it.

The SHO said that the raiding team called her parents and a few of her friends also reached there, but she did not surrender herself to police and tried to escape from the balcony.

He claimed that she tried to climb down from a “water pipe which collapsed and she fell”.

The woman suffered critical injuries and was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where she died during treatment.

Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said that her father took away the body without allowing an autopsy.

The area SHO said that she lived alone at the flat after separation from her husband some five years ago.

He claimed that drugs were recovered from the flat.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 17/03/2025)

NAB moves against more Malik Riaz properties, accounts

Intensifying its crackdown on Malik Riaz, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Monday claimed to have sealed "numerous" commercial and residential properties and frozen hundreds of bank accounts of the property tycoon across the country in connection with corruption cases against him, including the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust reference.

"In recent actions, numerous commercial and residential properties of Bahria Town in Karachi, Lahore, Takht Pari, New Murree/Golf City, and Islamabad have been sealed, including multi-story commercial buildings," said an official press release issued by the NAB headquarters.

Additionally, it added, hundreds of bank accounts had been frozen, and vehicles belonging to Bahria Town seized, with further actions underway. "NAB will continue its legal actions against Bahria Town Pakistan without any delay or pressure to fully protect the rights of the citizens of Pakistan," the anti-corruption watchdog said.

On Jan 21, NAB warned the public against investing in Bahria Town's Dubai project and said it was seeking Malik Riaz's extradition. Later, NAB began extradition efforts for the property tycoon and his son.

In February, NAB filed a reference against Malik Riaz, former Sindh chief minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, minister Sharjeel Memon and others over the transfer of land to Bahria Town.

The watchdog also filed two corruption references regarding illegal land occupation in Rakh Takht Pari and New Murree.

NAB said in its press release that it "once again informed the public that several cases of fraud and deception against Malik Riaz Ahmed, owner of Bahria Town, and others are currently under investigation".

The premier anti-corruption body stated that it had filed multiple references against Malik Riaz and others in accountability courts in Karachi and Islamabad, which have summoned all the accused.

"In these cases, there are allegations and irrefutable evidence against Malik Riaz Ahmed and his associates for illegally occupying not only the government but also private land in the name of Bahria Town in Karachi, Takht Pari Rawalpindi, and New Murree, establishing housing societies without permission, and defrauding people of billions of rupees.

"Malik Riaz Ahmed, who is currently residing in Dubai as a court absconder in the NCA [UK's National Crime Agency] case, has recently launched a new project of construction of luxury apartments there," it added.

"NAB has prima facie evidence that certain individuals from Pakistan are criminally aiding Malik Riaz Ahmed in this process by transferring their money to Dubai for investment in this project," it said. "Since NAB has also strong evidence of money laundering against Malik Riaz Ahmed and his associates, these funds have been sent to foreign countries through illegal means. Any funds transferred from Pakistan for this project will be considered money laundering, and legal action will be taken against the involved elements without discrimination," the press release read.

"The public is informed to avoid any attractive inducements from Bahria Town and to protect their hard-earned savings," it added. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 01, 18/03/2025)

Prime suspect confessed to police about Mustafa Amir's murder, Karachi ATC told

The prosecution in the Mustafa Amir murder case claimed before an anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday that prime suspect Armaghan Qureshi had recorded his confessional statement before an SSP admitting to having killed the 23-year-old youth in January.

Armaghan, who was produced before the ATC-IV judge, said he wanted to confess his guilt. However, Special Public Prosecutor Zulfiqar Ali Arain submitted that the suspect had already recorded his "confessional statement" before a senior police officer under Section 21-H (conditional admissibility of confession) of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Also, the ATC extended the prime suspect's remand for the fifth time.

According to remand papers, the IO informed the court that since the suspect claimed to have told his father about the incident and his father allegedly advised him to go into hiding, the police needed to interrogate Kamran Asghar Qureshi.

He added that a USB, laptop, and other devices had been sent for forensic analysis to the Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) in Lahore, and he was awaiting the results.

He further submitted that other agencies, including the Federal Investigation Agency, Anti-Narcotics Force, and a special committee formed for the investigation, were also interrogating the suspect.

On the other hand, the defence counsel, Tahir-ur-Rehman, opposed the IO's request and pleaded that the suspect be sent to jail in judicial custody.

During the remand proceedings, the situation became tense when Kamran Qureshi asked his son Armaghan to sign the *vakalatnama* of Advocate Khurram Abbas.

However, upon his son's refusal, an altercation broke out between them as a result Kamran Qureshi shouted in the courtroom which led the security staff to escort him out of the premises.

After hearing both sides, the court extended the suspect's physical custody till March 24 and directed the IO to submit a medical examination report in three days through the medical superintendent of a government hospital, as the suspect had complained of maltreatment before the court.

On Tuesday reporters were not allowed to enter the ATC premises by security staff, who claimed that they were following directives to restrict "unauthorised or irrelevant persons" from entering the judicial complex.

However, acting Prosecutor General Muntazir Mehdi told *Dawn* that they did not restrict media personnel from entering the ATC premises. "Today, it was the police who restricted reporters on their own," he said.

He added that in the last hearing, the suspect's father misbehaved with the prosecutor, but the police did nothing to handle the situation. During Tuesday's proceeding, he pointed out that journalists were standing outside the ATC while the suspect's relatives were inside the court premises.

The prosecutor general explained that they had written to the registrar regarding security and the reason was that the suspect's father tends to create trouble there.

A day earlier, the prosecutor general office had directed the ATC registrar to arrange security measures and restrict "unauthorised or irrelevant persons" from entering the judicial complex on a request by special prosecutor Arain claiming that the father of Armaghan had abused and threatened him with dire consequences within court premises.

After obtaining physical custody in the Mustafa Amir case, the suspect, Armaghan, was produced before the ATC administrative judge by IO Aamir Altaf.

The case pertained to Armaghan allegedly opening fire on a journalist and injuring him within the jurisdiction of the Bahadurabad police station in November 2024.

After the hearing, the court remanded him in police custody for seven days also on grounds for further interrogation, recovery of alleged weapons and to collect CCTV footage.

The court directed the IO to conduct the investigation "strictly in accordance with the law and ensure that the accused is not subjected to any undue coercion or maltreatment".

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 19/03/2025)

Visually impaired lawyer set to become judicial magistrate

The Sindh High Court's constitutional bench has ordered the appointment of a visually impaired lawyer as a judicial magistrate under the Sindh Judicial Services Rules.

A two-member SHC constitutional bench, headed by Justice KK Agha and also comprising Justice Nisar, gave the orders while adjudicating a petition filed by the lawyer, Sadiq Hussain, seeking a relaxation of the medical fitness requirements for judicial appointments due to his visual impairment.

The bench ruled that Sadiq, a practicing lawyer, is eligible for the position of judicial magistrate despite his visual impairment. The decision requires the implementation of the appointment within four weeks, or upon the next available vacancy.

In its written order, the bench ruled that Sadiq has been able to sustain himself through his legal practice. The bench further directed that copies of its decision be sent to the provincial law secretary and the SHC registrar for implementation. Sadiq's legal counsel, Advocate Haseeb Jamali, had argued that his client underwent a medical examination upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee, but his medical certificate was withheld due to his visual impairment. The Selection Committee had advised him to approach the SHC for relaxation of the medical fitness requirement.

The petitioner had submitted his application to the SHC registrar, but no action was taken. The petitioner's counsel then approached the constitutional bench requesting that he be granted the same benefits as recommended by the Selection Committee in 2015. The matter, pending since 2016, was brought before the SHC again in 2024 by Advocate Jamali.

Sadiq, who had been struggling for nine years to achieve his goal, shared his gratitude. He revealed that his late father had always wanted him to become a judge and had supported him throughout his journey. Sadiq's father passed away in 2018 before seeing the fruition of his son's dreams.

(By Nasir Butt The Express Tribune, 04, 20/03/2025)

Armaghan's father held in drugs, arms case

Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested Kamran Asghar Qureshi, the father of prime suspect Armaghan in the Mustafa Amir murder case, and recovered drugs and an unlicensed pistol from his possession.

Acting on a tip-off, the Anti-Violent Crime Cell (AVCC) conducted a raid on a house on Khayaban-i-Momin, Defence Housing Authority, Phase-V, and arrested Mr Qureshi.

In a statement, the AVCC claimed to have recovered 200 grams of "ice" (methamphetamine) and a 9mm pistol along with two magazines and 10 bullets from his possession.

This arrest was a part of a crackdown underway on drug peddlers, it added.

The police registered a case against the held suspect under relevant sections of the Control of Narcotics Substances Act and the Sindh Arms Act.

Mr Qureshi came into the limelight after his son, Armaghan, was arrested in a police raid on his DHA residence on Feb 8.

Armaghan was booked and arrested for kidnapping and murdering Mustafa Amir. The police said that Armaghan and his friend, Sheraz, aka Shavez, Bukhari, stuffed his body in his car's trunk and torched it in Hub, Balochistan on Jan 6.

While suspect Sheraz has been sent to prison by a court, Armaghan's physical remand extended for the fifth time on Tuesday till March 24.

The prosecution had told an anti-terrorism court that Armaghan confessed to killing Mustafa Amir before a police officer. He had also revealed that his father knew about the murder and advised him to go into hiding and leave Karachi.

Meanwhile, DIG Muqaddas Haider told the media that Mr Qureshi had bought the weapons Armaghan used to attack law enforcers during the raid on his home.

He said the weapons were purchased from Peshawar. He added that investigators had obtained several videos from suspect Qureshi's cell phone, showing him buying weapons from dealers.

The DIG said that Qureshi was also booked in a case registered against his son following the DHA encounter. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/03/2025)

Armaghan sent to prison after refusing to confess before magistrate

The prime suspect in the Mustafa Amir murder case on Saturday was sent to prison after he refused to record his confessional statement while a magistrate observed that the suspect was not in stable condition to record his confession.

The administrative judge of the anti-terrorism courts sent Armaghan to prison on judicial remand since he said that it was mandatory to send a suspect in judicial custody whether he makes or refuses to make a confession before magistrate.

Armaghan has been booked for allegedly kidnapping and murdering 23-year-old Mustafa Amir in the Defence Housing Authority and torching his body along with the victim's vehicle in Hub in January.

The investigating officer, inspector Mohammad Ali, filed an application before the magistrate concerned to record confessional statement of the suspect under Section 164 of the criminal procedure code and brought him before the court.

Court rejects IO's application to record confessional statement of prime suspect in Mustafa Amir murder case

The judicial magistrate (South), Asim Aslam, in his order noted that the suspect was made to sit in his chamber after removing handcuffs and the police officers were directed to leave the premises and one-hour reflection time was given to him.

It also said that the suspect seemed to be tired and lazy and the magistrate informed him that he was not bound to make a confessional statement as the same may be used against him as evidence.

Initially, the suspect said that he wanted to confess his guilt and he murdered Mustafa Amir due to previous grudge, but did not kill him with any planning rather it happened in a sudden outburst, the magistrate in its order added.

However, it also said that when the suspect was informed that he will be remanded to jail custody whether or not he makes the confession, he refused to record his confession and asserted that he was being framed by the "Jewish mafia and the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad".

The suspect contended that the intelligence agency in question was after him since long and the complainant of the case was also the part of such mafia, it added.

The order further said, "Then again the accused said that he did not kill Mustafa Amir rather left him in the car and burnt only front side of car, he/accused left it to Allah to decide fate of Mustafa Amir. Further, the accused said that the political parties of our country are part of Jewish mafia and they all want to sideline him/accused because he is outspoken against the Jewish lobby".

In view of foregoing reasons, the magistrate was of the opinion that the suspect was not in stable condition as to record his confession and thereafter, he was declining the application filed by the IO to record confession.

The magistrate also said that the law bound the court to send the suspect to prison, but he was not authorised to decide the custody of the suspect since he was in police custody by the order of the administrative judge of ATCs and directed the IO to immediately produce the suspect before the relevant court.

Thereafter, the suspect was brought before the administrative judge of ATCs Karachi, who sent him to prison on judicial remand.

The judge said that police have also produced the medico legal certificate of the suspect.

It may be recalled that Syed Shiraz Hussain Bukhari, another suspect and alleged accomplice of Armaghan, was also remanded to jail in similar fashion on March 3, when he had also refused to record his confessional statement before a magistrate.

At a previous hearing, the ATC was informed that the main suspect Armaghan, who was in police custody since Feb 18, and he had already recorded his "confession" before a senior superintendent of police under Section 21-H (conditional admissibility of confession) of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

As per the relevant provision, "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Qanoon-o-Shahadat, 1984 or any other law for the time being in force, where in any court proceedings held under this Act the evidence (which includes circumstantial and other evidence) produced raises the presumption that there is a reasonable probability that the accused has committed the offence, any confession made by the accused during investigation without being compelled, before a police officer not below the rank of a District Superintendent of Police, may be admissible in evidence against him, if the Court so deems fit".

It was also provided that the police officer before recording any such confession, had explained to the person making it clear that he is not bound to make a confession and that if he does so it may be used as evidence against him and that no such confession could be recorded unless the police officer had reason to believe it was made voluntarily.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 23/03/2025)

Three shops burgled despite tight security

A burglary incident at three shops near Empress Market, despite strict security measures, has exposed the flaws in the police's foolproof security arrangements. The shops and markets accessible through the passageway were sealed after a thorough search and sweep by the police to ensure the security of the main procession commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Ali (RA). However, despite this, the incident of looting millions of rupees, mobile phones, and other goods from the three shops raises questions about the police's performance.



The targeted shops included a mobile phone store and a dry fruit shop. The suspects broke the shutters and locks to enter the shops. President of the Karachi Mobile and Electronics Dealers Association Minhaj Gulfam expressed strong resentment over the incident, calling it highly shocking. He demanded immediate arrest of the accused and the recovery of stolen cash, mobile phones, and other valuables.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, Minhaj Gulfam revealed that thieves made off with Rs2.8 million in cash, mobile phones worth Rs four million, and other goods. He lamented that traders in the city are frequently targeted by robbers and thieves. On Friday afternoon, robbers also snatched Rs550,000 in cash from a trader on Abdullah Haroon Road in the Preedy police station jurisdiction.

Despite foolproof security for the central procession, the burglary has shocked traders, proving that criminals have no fear of the police and law enforcement agencies.

The shopkeepers have contacted the police, and legal proceedings are underway. Minhaj Gulfam warned that if the police fail to provide protection and traders continue to suffer losses, they will stage a protest against the authorities.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 23/03/2025)

Street criminal jailed for 14 years

A sessions court has sentenced a street criminal to a total of 14 years in prison in a robbery and illicit weapon case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (East) Shahid Ali Memon found accused Farhan guilty of looting a couple at gunpoint in Gulshan-i-Iqbal in April 2024 and awarded seven-year imprisonment for robbery and seven-year term for possessing an illicit weapon.

In the verdict, the judge remarked: "Nowadays, the street crime is on up-rise and no one could feel secure at the hands of merciless muggers and under such circumstances, release of accused based on minor or slight contradictions would not be better for the society, as such criminals have created terror in the city, due to which, many innocents have even lost their lives and valuable belongings."

According to state prosecutor Syed Khursheed Bukhari, on April 25, 2024, two street criminals intercepted a man and his wife riding a motorbike, held them at gunpoint and attempted to snatch the woman's purse. However, she resisted and raised alarm and as a result, area people gathered at the scene and apprehended Farhan. However, his accomplice, Nabeel, managed to escape from the spot.

Regarding the co-accused, the court stated that the case against absconder Nabeel has been placed on the dormant file and will be reopened upon his arrest and production before the court.

The court noted that the witnesses produced in court had presented important and direct evidence against the accused, which the defence failed to shake them.

It added that no personal enmity between the accused and the complainant was brought on record. However, it observed that the prosecution had presented the accused's previous criminal record, which showed that he had been implicated in multiple FIRs registered for offences including robbery, assault on policemen, and attempted murder. For these reasons, the court observed that he did not deserve any leniency.

A case was registered at the Sharae Faisal police station under Sections 393 (attempt to commit robbery) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 23/03/2025)

Gridlock in city centre as police close key roads to stop protests

Sudden closure of major roads in the metropolis, done by police in order to stop the activists of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) from reaching the Karachi Press Club on Monday, triggered a massive traffic jam in the city centre.



The abrupt closures of one road after another caused severe disruptions to traffic flow during the latter half of the day. By 4pm, the South district and downtown areas of the city were in chaos. Hundreds of vehicles were lined up in long queues along key routes such as I.I. Chundrigar Road, Dr Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Aiwan-i-Sadar Road, Club Road, and other arteries nearby.

Traffic officials said that after 3pm, when most of the offices on I.I. Chundrigar Road and surrounding commercial areas closed early due to Ramazan, the roads experienced a sudden surge in traffic which led to thousands of vehicles becoming trapped in a jam. With no alternate routes available, the traffic jam spread to other roads, including MR Kayani Road, Sarwar Shaheed Road, Abdullah Haroon Road, Napier Road, Hasrat Mohani Road, Burns Road, Shahrah-i-Liaquat, and Saddar.

Asif Inam, a banker who works at I.I. Chundrigar Road, expressed frustration over the situation. He said that it took him nearly an hour to travel just two kilometres from Shaheen Complex to the Karachi Press Club Roundabout on his motorbike.

People suffer for hours as almost all key arteries in district South experience severe traffic congestion

Traffic DIG Pir Mohammed Shah said that the traffic congestion occurred at 3:45pm when protests near the KPC led to the closure of three major roads: Aiwan Sadar Road, MD Wafai Road, and Sarwar Shaheed Road. He added that the timing of the disruptions, during peak hours and on the first day of the workweek, made the situation worse.

"The traffic mess occurred because three key arteries were closed by the police in preparation for the BYC rally," the DIG stated.

It adversely affected the flow of traffic on I.I. Chundrigar Road and other adjoining areas. He said though the roads were opened at 6:15pm, the situation turned normal at around 7pm. The DIG Traffic said he and all SSPs and DSPs of traffic broke their fast on roads as they were also stuck in the traffic jams while attempting to clear the roads.

Apart from protest, DIG-South Syed Asad Raza cited another reason behind the traffic mess. He said the Sindh governor had organised "swings and rides" outside the Governor House for children to break their fast but did not inform the district and traffic police. When traffic was choked on Aiwan-i-Sadar Road, it affected the flow of traffic on other roads. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 25/03/2025)

Protest plunges older Karachi into chaos

A Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) protest in Karachi on Monday plunged some older parts of the country's economic hub into disorder including roadblock and traffic jams ahead of iftar.



The BYC staged a protest at Fawara Chowk of the city, near the Sindh Assembly building, demanding release of its arrested leaders including Dr Mahrung Baloch.

In response to the protest, the police blocked multiple roads paralyzing traffic in the surrounding areas. Heavy congestion was reported, with traffic police unable to manage the situation effectively.

Many citizens, stuck in gridlock near the Karachi Press Club and Fawara Chowk, had to break their fast on the streets. Frustrated commuters criticized the traffic police for their persistent inability to handle such situations.

In a crackdown, the police also detained several individuals, including a female BYC leader, for allegedly violating Section 144. Protesters responded with a rally against the arrests.

According to traffic authorities, the closure of Karachi's Deen Muhammad Wafai Road and Sarwar Shaheed Road "for security reasons" slowed movement on I.I. Chundrigar Road, Shaheen Complex Chowk, Dr Ziauddin Ahmed Road, MR Kiyani Road, Aiwan-e-Sadr Road, and Fawara Chowk. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 02, 25/03/2025)

Many booked in Karachi as police break up BYC protest

As the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) continued its protests against rights violations and the arrest of its supporters, Karachi police on Monday detained BYC leader Sammi Deen Baloch and several others for violating Section 144 and used force to break up their demonstration.

On the other hand, BYC Chief Organiser Dr Mahrang Baloch was not produced before a court, despite the lapse of more than 24 hours since her detention, while protests against her arrest continued in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan, with police using tear gas to disperse protesters in some cases.



In Karachi, Artillery Maidan police booked Sammi Deen Baloch and five other detained activists under Section 188 (disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public servant) for violating Section 144, South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn*.

Other detained protesters were identified as Abdul Wahab, Mustafa Ali, Shahzad Rab, Hamza Iftikhar and Sultan Hamal.

The FIR registered on the complaint of a policeman stated that about 35-40 men and women arrived at Fawara Chowk and attempted to enter the Red Zone. The complainant said the police tried to prevent them, but the protesters allegedly

entered the sensitive area forcibly.

The police took action and detained Sammi Deen Baloch, Abdul Wahab and four other nominated persons, while others fled.

Ahead of the protest, the commissioner imposed Section 144, and all roads leading to the Karachi Press Club — the venue of the protest — were blocked with the help of temporary barriers. This caused massive traffic jams in the city centre, where citizens remained stuck for hours and many of them were seen breaking their fast on the road.

Counter-protests

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan's Qazi Khizar, one of the participants of the protest, told *Dawn* that the civil society groups, certain political figures and a large number of young people, particularly women, arrived near the press club, but three routes leading to it were blocked.

Thus, they were compelled to gather at Fawara Chowk near Zainab Market, he said, adding that when they attempted to move further, the police contingents prevented them from moving forward in light of Section 144.

The HRCPC activist claimed they agreed to disperse, but suddenly, the police started manhandling the activists, including women.

"The police adopted a brutal way to deal with the protestors," he alleged, adding that 13 women were taken away and the number of men arrested by police was unknown.

He said it was strange that in contrast to their peaceful protest, there were several persons who claimed to represent a religious group and others were seen chanting slogans and demonstrating against the Baloch activists under police protection. The counter-protests were held at the KPC and in the vicinity of the same area.

Talking about counter-protests that were also staged alongside the BYC's demonstration, the DIG said that 'pro-state' groups had also organised a counter-protest at Fawara Chowk. They were also dispersed, he claimed, adding that no one was allowed to organise public protests or assemblies in light of the commissioner's notification.

Protests in Balochistan continue

In Balochistan, protests and sit-ins against the arrest of BYC leaders and supporters continued in some areas. In Quetta, the BYC activists tried to block Brewery Road, but police dispersed them using tear gas.

The BYC claimed that some workers were arrested during the crackdown, but police said they had not arrested anyone. The BYC workers later gathered in the Qambrani Road area and staged a sit-in while blocking the road, but police used tear gas and vacated the area.

BYC claimed that the police picked a woman activist, but the police denied this claim too.

Meanwhile, a constitutional petition has been filed in the Balochistan High Court against the arrest of Dr Mahrang under MPO, her lawyer Imran Baloch said. He added that the court would take up the petition today.

"All BYC activists, including Dr Mahrang and others people were arrested under 3-MPO," Advocate Imran Baloch said, adding that the BYC leader was detained in the district jail, Quetta.

Meanwhile, Advocate Nadia Baloch, the sister of Dr Mahrang Baloch, had a meeting with her in the district jail on Monday. She said, "She went to jail to meet Dr Mahrang along with my brothers, but the jail authorities refused to give permission, but after two hours of protest, they allowed me to meet the BYC chief organiser."

In Panjgur, a shutter-down strike continued on the third day.

In Turbat also a protest rally was organised by the BYC which marched on various roads in the town before its culmination. (By Imtiaz Ali and Saleem Shahid Dawn, 01, 25/03/2025)

Plan to recruit 2,000 ASIs in police investigation wing

In a significant move to enhance the investigative capacity of the Sindh police, the provincial government has decided to appoint 2,000 Assistant Sub-inspectors (ASIs) in the investigation wing.

The initiative aims to strengthen the police force's ability to effectively handle criminal cases and improve conviction rates, said a press release issued on Tuesday.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah and attended by Additional Chief Secretary-Home Muhammad Iqbal Memon, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Finance Secretary Fayaz Ahmed Jatoi, Services Secretary Ghulam Ali Brahmani, Law Secretary Ii Ahmed Baloach and others.

The home department, following consultation with the police and finance department, had submitted a detailed proposal seeking approval for these posts. To manage the financial implications, 2154 existing posts will be surrendered to accommodate the newly created ASI Investigation positions.

The chief secretary said that strengthening the investigation branch had been a longstanding challenge for the Sindh police. He emphasised that investigation is a crucial component of policing and must be adequately equipped to ensure justice is served. He added that the creation of these posts is a significant step by the Sindh government to address this gap and improve investigative efficiency.

Briefing the meeting, the IGP explained that the police force had historically focused heavily on recruiting constables, who now make up approximately 92 per cent of the total force. This imbalance had hindered the growth of the investigation branch. He stated that the induction of ASI Investigation officers will play a vital role in improving investigation standards, ensuring thorough evidence collection, and enhancing conviction rates.

In addition to creating new posts, the home department has also sought approval for the re-appropriation of 1,038 posts, including 2 SPs, 17 DSPs, 114 inspectors, 308 sub-inspectors, and 587 constables from non-investigation to investigation units within Karachi range.

This reallocation is aimed at better utilising resources without imposing any additional financial burden.
(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 26/03/2025)

Court allows FIA to grill Armaghan in money laundering case

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday allowed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to interrogate Armaghan in prison, who was booked in a money laundering case.

The federal agency booked Armaghan, the prime suspect in Mustafa murder case, for offences under Section 3 (offence of money laundering) and 4 (punishment for money laundering) of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010 (Amended 2020).

On Wednesday, FIA Assistant Director Shahid Ali filed an application before the ATC-IV judge, seeking permission to interrogate Armaghan in prison in a money laundering case.

After examining the application, the court allowed the FIA's plea and noted that it had no objection to granting permission for the suspect's interrogation inside the jail for nine days, from sunrise to sunset, between March 26 and April 3.

The court also directed the FIA to submit a progress report to the relevant authorities.

According to the FIR, during a raid on Feb 8 at the bungalow of Armaghan, the law enforcement agency recovered multiple laptops, weapons and instruments specifically intended for online financial fraud.

It added that the Anti-Violent Crime Cell (AVCC) later referred the matter to the FIA's Anti-Money Laundering Circle.

The FIA claimed that it conducted an authorised search at the bungalow, seizing 18 laptops and copies of scripts used to defraud victims.

These scripts contained detailed instructions for calling agents — employees of Armaghan — who impersonated officials from internationally recognised bodies such as the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to unlawfully extract sensitive personal and financial information from victims.

It added that the staff allegedly admitted to the FIA that, as per instructions from their employer, Armaghan, they called US citizens and collected their personal and financial information while posing as officials from USPTO and WIPO.

Later, the calling agents allegedly instructed victims to make transactions into an account linked to Armaghan as a purported fee, while their personal information was passed on to him as per his instructions.

Fraudulent operations

The FIA stated that the suspect had started his career from 2015 till 2017, while working with multiple IT companies. Later, he established his own illegal call centre operation in 2018, internationally structured to conduct fraudulent activities. He also registered an entity in the US, strategically positioning himself to channel illicit proceeds internationally.

The suspect employed at least 25 calling agents at a time, each with a target of defrauding at least five victims per shift. As each victim was charged between \$400 and \$999, evidence suggests that Armaghan accrued approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000 per month from his illegal call centre, it added.

The FIA further claimed that the suspect also illicitly routed derived funds in cryptocurrencies via platforms like Paxful and NoOnes (online cryptocurrency trading/P2P platforms), effectively disguising their criminal origin. The suspect sold the cryptocurrencies on a need basis through Paxful and NoOnes and other platforms. He purchased expensive cars and paid for them through proceeds of cryptocurrency sales.

He made the cryptocurrency buyers to transfer funds directly from their respective bank accounts to the accounts of showrooms or vehicle sellers.

It also found that the suspect had opened bank accounts using identity information of his servants Abdul Rahim and Rahim Bakhsh, adding that debit cards had been issued against these accounts which were used by Armaghan to meet his day-to-day expenses. These accounts were replenished with crime proceeds from third-party accounts, it claimed.

The FIA listed eight cars belonging to Armaghan, of which five had already been sold by the suspect. It added that the initial probe found assets worth approximately Rs154 million, allegedly acquired by Armaghan through criminal proceeds.

The agency also claimed that the suspect, Armaghan and his father, Kamran Asghar Qureshi, had allegedly set up companies in the US as front businesses, which were reasonably believed to be linked to their money laundering operations.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 14, 27/03/2025)

Underage Karachi driver remanded in police custody for mowing down couple

A judicial magistrate on Friday remanded in police custody an underage car driver, who hit and killed a couple on Sharea Faisal two days ago.



The investigating officer (IO), Syed Shujhat Haider, brought Muhammad Aneeq Imam before Judicial Magistrate (East) Khalique Zaman. The IO claimed that the suspect was found to be an underage boy who did not possess a driving licence.

He informed the court that during interrogation, the suspect disclosed that the car involved in the accident belonged to the father of his friend Saad, identified as Asad. He further stated that he had booked car owner Asad on the suspect's lead and he would arrest him.

The IO informed the court that the suspect's age was 17, whereas upon inquiry by the court, the teenage boy stated that he was 16 years old.

The court asked the suspect whether he was driving the car, to which the teenage boy replied that he was driving while two to three of his friends were also present in the vehicle.

On the other hand, the defence counsel, Abid Zaman, opposed the physical remand, arguing that as per the Child Registration Certificate (CRC), also known as B-Form, the suspect was underage.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court remanded the suspect into police custody for three days to conduct an ossification test to determine his actual age. It also directed the IO to apprehend the car owner.

A case was registered at Sharae Faisal police station under Section 322 (punishment for qatl-bis-sabab) of the Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of victims' relative Naseem Ahmed Ansari.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 29/03/2025)

Robbers gun down young man in city

A young man was shot dead by suspected robbers off Superhighway early on Saturday morning, police said.

The SITE-Superhighway Industrial Area police said that Abid Ramzan, 30, was shot at New Subzi Mandi near Jamali Pul by robbers when he put up resistance.

Area SHO Khalid Abbasi said the victim sustained a bullet wound to his right leg and died apparently due to excessive bleeding.

He said that the victim was a junk dealer. He said the murder was being investigated as they had certain doubts about the claims of a robbery. The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, a policeman was arrested on Saturday for the death of a 17-year-old boy during the crossfire between law enforcers and robbers in Sohrab Goth on Friday evening.

Area SHO Sohail Khaskheli said an FIR had been registered and Constable Mumtaz Ali had been arrested.

According to the FIR, complainant Arshadullah said his cousin, Umaidullah, was taking care of his ailing mother, who was admitted to Insaf Hospital in Scheme-33 near Jamali Goth. He was purchasing milk near the hospital when a bullet "fired by the arrested constable who was travelling in a police mobile" hit him in the back and proved fatal.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 30/03/2025)

Two 'muggers' killed by off-duty policeman

Two suspected robbers were shot dead by an off-duty policeman on main Sharea Faisal near Karsaz, officials said on Saturday.

Bahadurabad SHO Naveed Soomro said Constable Hasnat, posted at the SSP-East office, was returning home after doing some shopping along with his friends. He was on a motorcycle and stopped near a famous restaurant to make a phone call.

In the meantime, two robbers riding a motorcycle arrived there, held him at gunpoint and demanded his cell phone. However, the policeman took out his pistol and opened fire on them, as a result of which both the suspects died on the spot.

The police said that they were identified as Aizaz and Javed Allahyar.

The bodies were shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

SHO Soomro said that around a month ago, suspect Aizaz had killed a citizen during a robbery on M.A. Jinnah Road within the jurisdiction of the Soldier Bazaar police station.

Meanwhile, a driver of a ride-hailing service was found shot dead in Clifton on Saturday evening, police and rescue services officials said.

They added that the body of a man with gunshot wounds was recovered from the car near Bilawal House Chowrangi. The deceased was identified as Sajid Sanaullah, 30.

South-SSP Mahzoor Ali told Dawn the deceased was a driver for an online taxi service and that a patrolling police party had found the body with a bullet wound on his chest. A spent bullet casing was recovered. The police also recovered a .30-bore pistol from the car's trunk. The officer said the deceased's cell phone and other valuables were not taken.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 30/03/2025)

Man unable to buy new clothes for kids commits suicide

A heartbroken father unable to buy new clothes for his children on Eid decided to end his life.

The family of Muhammad Siddique Khan was left screaming in the pain of loss and betrayal when they found him hanging with a rope around his neck in his room at their humble home in the Kala Pull area.

The neighbours in the closely-knit slum community rushed in the house, and took control of the situation. Someone called the police helpline 15 and a squad rolled in after a few minutes. Siddique's body was moved to JPMC for legal formalities.

His children were devastated for Siddiq having ended his life for a few dresses. His neighbours told the police that Siddiq was unemployed and was struggling hard to make ends meet. Of late, they were surviving on handouts and could barely afford a square meal.

Siddiq's death shows a dark side of the society where professional beggars thrive on looting alms but men of honour, who dare not spread their palms for alms prefer to die rather than beg.

Speeding car kills couple

A couple, riding a motorcycle, was killed in a collision with a car speeding near the railway gate of Mai Kolachi Road in Docks area on Sunday. Their two-year-old granddaughter was injured in the accident.

The bodies of the deceased and the injured child were shifted to Jinnah Hospital by Edhi ambulance. According to the police, the deceased woman, 50-year-old Amina, and the man, 65-year-old Abdul Sattar, were husband and wife.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 31/03/2025)

Angry mob lynches suspected mugger in Orangi Town

A suspected robber was lynched while another wounded by a mob in Orangi Town on the first day of Eid, police said on Wednesday.

Pak Bazaar SHO Inayatullah Marwat said that angry citizens got hold of two suspects, who were fleeing after coming a robbery, in Gulshan-i-Bihar near Allah Waris Chowk, and subjected them to severe beating. The police arrived there and took the wounded suspects into custody who were then shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for treatment. However, one of them was declared dead by doctors while his accomplice was admitted.

A police spokesperson in a statement said the deceased was identified as Sher Ali and the wounded as Ali Imam.

They had snatched valuables from a citizen named Ferozuddin in sector-14 and while fleeing, they resorted to aerial firing. But as the robbery victim raised hue and cry, the citizens caught the muggers and subjected them to severe beating.

The police said the bike recovered from their custody was stolen from Pakistan Bazaar. On March 28, the same suspects had shot and wounded a citizen namely Alamgri, 30, over resistance in sector 11 ½. Both suspects had a past criminal record and they were arrested by the police earlier. There were three cases registered against them in Paposh Nagar and Pakistan Bazaar police, respectively.

Also on the first day of Eid, another young man was gunned down in Ibrahim Hyderi.

The police said that Kareem Bux was shot and killed by unidentified assailants in Ilyas Goth.

They suspected some personal enmity behind the incident.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 03/04/2025)

Customs clearing agent shot dead by robbers in Karachi's DHA

A man was shot dead by robbers in the Defence Housing Authority area on Wednesday afternoon, police said.

They said that 35-year-old Amir Sultan was shot and killed in Phase I near Tooba Masjid when he resisted a robbery bid.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza said Sultan was standing in front of his apartment building when two muggers on a motorbike emerged there, held him at gunpoint and demanded his cell phone.

"The victim tried to get hold of one of the muggers and during the scuffle he was fatally shot in the head," the DIG said.

Defence SHO Bhai Khan told *Dawn* that the man was gunned down in front of his teenage son.

He said CCTV footage showed the victim was approaching towards his parked car when one of the muggers got off the motorbike and demanded his cell phone. He put up resistance and overpowered the mugger, but his accomplice shot Sultan in the head.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities. The victim was a customs clearing and forwarding agent and originally hailed from Abbottabad.

The DIG said that investigators examined CCTV footage that showed the muggers fled towards Korangi Industrial Area after the fatal shooting. He said that the police were trying to trace their escape route to ascertain their whereabouts.

Man killed by robbers on Eid's first day

A man was shot dead and another wounded by armed muggers off Superhighway on the first day of Eidul Fitr on Monday.

Police identified the deceased as Rahat Gul, 37, and wounded as Kashif Rafiq, 23.

They were shot when they resisted a robbery bid in Faqera Goth near Pareshan Chowk, the police said.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 03/04/2025)

2 arrested in Karachi for impersonating police, carrying out online robberies, kidnappings

Two people have been arrested in Karachi for impersonating the police and committing robberies and kidnappings via an online platform, it emerged on Thursday.



The suspects used to steal data from a private digital site and contact customers to receive deliveries, according to a press release by Karachi District East Police spokesperson.

"After contacting customers, the suspects would wear fake police uniforms and reach the doorsteps of the customers to commit house robberies and kidnappings," the statement said.

Gulshan-e-Iqbal Station House Officer (SHO) Naeem Rajput arrested two of the suspects after identifying them through CCTV footage obtained from several crime scenes.

Two illegal 30 bore pistols with ammunition, mobile phones, and stolen watches, among other items, were recovered from the suspects during their arrest.

The vehicle used by the suspects, which had a fake number plate BKY-361, was seized by the police, and information is being obtained based on the car's records, the statement further added.

Following the interrogation, the arrested suspects identified the items looted during the house robberies. They included three police uniforms, eight stolen mobile phones, dozens of mobile phone covers, dozens of uniform badges, various mobile SIMs and 20 bags.

They confessed that the items were stolen during the following robbery incidents.

On March 6, after entering a house in Gulshan-e-Iqbal Block 1, they looted four mobile phones, an LED TV, gold ornaments, watches and cash. They then kidnapped the victim and took him to ATMs at different locations in Karachi to withdraw money, after which they escaped. The case related to the incident was registered under charge number 202/2025 at the Gulshan-e-Iqbal Police Station.

In another incident on February 8 in Gulshan-e-Iqbal Block 13/D, they entered an apartment after introducing themselves in the above-mentioned police uniforms and took the victim's mobile phone, ATM card and car documents. They then put him in the car and drove him to various ATMs and EasyPaisa shops in Karachi, forcing him to withdraw money.

They then fled with the vehicle. The case of the incident has been registered under charge number 80/2025 at Gulshan-e-Iqbal Police Station.

During interrogation, the suspects revealed that they had committed several incidents inside and outside Karachi, the details of which are being obtained.

Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the code of conduct, while more cases have been handed over to the investigating authorities for arrest and investigation.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 04/04/2025)

Sub-inspector arrested for vehicle theft

A third incident of the involvement of police personnel in vehicle snatching in the city has come to light.

The Anti Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC) arrested Sub-Inspector Muhammad Urs Solangi, posted at Malir Cantt Police Station, recovering a car stolen from the limits of Shahrae Faisal police station. The arrested officer was also providing protection to his son's car lifting gang.

On March 30, AVLC Baldia Division police arrested two members of the inter-provincial car snatching Solangi gang, Qasim alias Amir, and Shoaib alias SK, who were injured during the encounter. However, the leader of the Solangi gang, Danish Solangi alias Mir, fled the scene with two other accomplices.

Police had recovered a Toyota Corolla car which was stolen from the Firozabad area, along with weapons, from the possession of the suspects on March 27. The recovered vehicle was snatched by the accused on Shaheed-e-Millat Road after the accused brutally dragged out the family in the car.

During interrogation of the injured accused, it was revealed that the leader of the Solangi gang, Danish Solangi, is a former army personnel, and the son of the sub-inspector, who was arrested after this revelation.

Fake officers nabbed

Gulshan-e-Iqbal Police arrested two fake police officers, Bilawal Khilji and Syed Waqas Hussain, who stole data from digital sites, contacted customers, then committed kidnapping and robbery after reaching victims' homes in fake police uniforms.

Two illegal 30 bore pistols with ammunition, three police uniforms, eight mobile phones, dozens of uniform badges, watches, mobile SIMs and 20 bags were recovered from the possession of the arrested suspects. The vehicle number BKY-361 with a fake number plate used by the suspects was also seized.

The accused revealed during investigation that they entered a house in Gulshan-e-Iqbal on March 6, looted mobile phones, gold jewelry, watches and cash, then kidnapped the victim and had him withdraw money from ATMs, before fleeing with the loot.

Further, the accused entered a flat in Gulshan-e-Iqbal on January 2 by introducing themselves in police uniform to the victim, before looting the victims mobile phone, ATM card and vehicle documents, thereafter making the victim withdraw money from various ATMs and Easypaisa shops, before fleeing with the vehicle.

Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the code of conduct, with investigation authorities conducting further inquiry into the cases.

Cops run for life

Two police officers on motorcycle patrol had a narrow escape when they encountered robbers in the Korangi Industrial Area. The robbers opened fire on the officers, who were unarmed and not wearing bulletproof vests.

According to eyewitnesses, the officers were passing through the area when they stumbled upon three robbers fleeing from a warehouse they had just robbed. The robbers panicked and started firing at the officers, who quickly fled the scene.

One of the officers abandoned his motorcycle and took cover in a nearby warehouse, while the other officer fled on foot. The robbers, who were also on a motorcycle, crashed and fled on foot, leaving their vehicle behind.

The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras, and the footage has gone viral on social media. The Korangi SSP has suspended both officers and launched an investigation into the incident.

According to SHO Korangi Industrial Area, Inspector Muhammad Ali Naizi, the officers were unarmed and not wearing bulletproof vests when they encountered the robbers. He added that the officers were lucky to have escaped unharmed.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 04/04/2025)

Woman opens fire after trailer hits her car

A routine traffic dispute took a dramatic turn late Friday night in PIB Colony when a woman, enraged after a trailer truck collided with her car, pulled out a gun and fired shots into the air. The shocking outburst prompted police to arrest both the truck driver and the woman involved.

According to the complainant, ASI Sher Ahmad, he was on patrol duty when he observed a trailer truck and a car speeding near Isa Nagri cut at around 1am on Friday.

During this time, the truck driver attempted to overtake the car but ended up colliding with it, causing damage to the car. In retaliation, the woman exited her vehicle, drew a pistol, and fired shots into the air in a fit of rage.

The police arrested the truck driver, Zafar Iqbal, and also took the woman, Alisha into custody. They seized a 9mm pistol, a loaded magazine, and nine live rounds from her. When asked for her weapon licence, Alisha produced it on the spot, and the police took it into their possession along with both vehicles.

Subsequently, both the truck driver and the woman were transported to the police station. The police registered a case against the truck driver under sections 279 and 427 for reckless driving and carelessness.

The woman was charged under section 337-H for firing shots into the air. The PIB Colony police filed the case and handed it over to the Investigation Police for further inquiry.

The SHO of PIB Colony, Ashfaq, stated that the woman's weapon licence was issued in Quetta but had expired in 2024. The Investigation Police presented both the woman and the truck driver before court, where they were remanded to jail custody.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 06/04/2025)

Woman driver who fired shots in road rage incident granted bail

A judicial magistrate has granted bail to a woman car driver who was arrested for firing shots following a road rage incident in Esa Nagri within the remit of the PIB Colony police station.

According to the FIR, while patrolling near Esa Nagri on the night between Friday and Saturday, an assistant sub-inspector witnessed a trailer driver attempting to overtake a car, resulting in a collision. However, the car driver, in retaliation, took out her licensed pistol and fired shots into the air in a fit of rage.

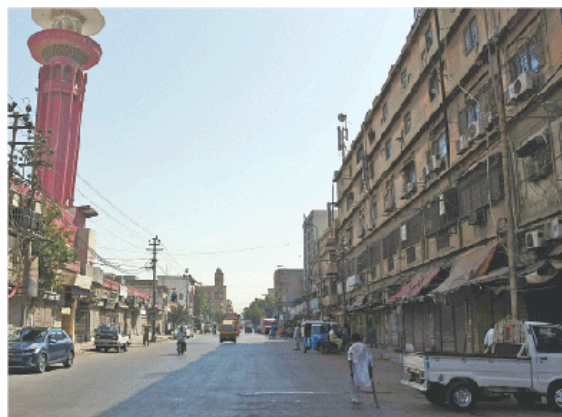
Later, the police arrested truck driver Zafar Iqbal and woman driver, Alisha, and registered an FIR at the PIB Colony police station for offences under Sections 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way), 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees), 337 H2 (punishment for hurt by rash or negligent act) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The investigating officer brought both suspects. However, after hearing both sides, the court remanded both suspects to prison in judicial custody as the offences were bailable. Subsequently, the woman filed a bail application, through her counsel, which was allowed by the court against a surety bond of Rs20,000 along with a personal bond.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 07/04/2025)

Traders shut markets to show solidarity with Palestinians

A shutter-down strike was observed across the metropolis on the call of traders in connection with the global strike call given by



Hamas to show solidarity with Palestinians and denounce the genocide by Israel.

Almost all major markets were closed in Saddar, old city areas, Tariq Road, Clifton, and other areas.

A visit to the major markets in Saddar showed that a few shops were open, while major markets were closed. Outside some shops, only guards were seen, while the commercial centres were closed.

Sharjeel Goplani, head of the All City Tajir Ittehad

Association, an organisation representing hundreds of markets in the metropolis, told Dawn that the traders received calls from leaders of religious parties on Sunday night. Hamas had given a global strike call against the genocide of Palestinians, at a time when Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was scheduled to visit and meet with US President Donald Trump, he added.

He added that several traders' associations also held a demonstration at the electronic markets in Saddar, where representatives of the associations decided to collect donations to support their Muslim brethren in Palestine.

Mohammed Rizwan Irfan, president of the Karachi Electronics Dealers Association, said that they had decided to boycott Israeli products and products of Zionist companies as a protest against the "barbarism and cruelty against Palestinians." They wanted to record their protest against the genocide of Palestinians and show the world that they would not remain silent over such tyranny, he added.

All Karachi Tajir Ittehad Chairman Atiq Mir told Dawn that the traders and shopkeepers had voluntarily announced the closure of their businesses. He said there were an estimated 3000 small and large markets in the city. Over 600 major markets dealing with clothes, jewellery, machinery, etc were closed. However, vegetable and meat markets, particularly on the outskirts, remained open.

Mr Mir said Karachi was the only city in the country where such a strike was observed to show solidarity with the Palestinians while protest rallies were also held by the traders. He said the traders also urged the government of Pakistan to take effective action at international forums to protest the killings of children and women by Israel as it violated international humanitarian laws and principles of warfare.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 08/04/2025)

10 held after mob ransacks fast-food restaurant in Karachi's DHA

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that the incident occurred at around 6pm when a group of 40-50 activists of the TLP, armed with sticks and stones, attacked an international fast-food outlet on Korangi Road and tried to vandalise it.

"Police responded immediately and dispersed the crowd," he said, adding that 10 suspects had been apprehended.

Regarding the possible aim of the attack, the officer said "their motive was to protest against US / Israel policies in Gaza".

DIG Raza said that the situation had been brought under control and authorities are focusing on arresting the remaining protesters and their organisers.

He said the police had also beefed up security at other outlets of international fast-food chains.

Earlier on Monday night, another branch of the same fast-food chain was attacked by TLP workers in Mohammad Ali Society, said Bahadurabad SHO Naveed Soomro.

He added that they had attacked the restaurant when a party rally was passing through the area.

The restaurant manager lodged a rioting case FIR against over a dozen unknown persons at the Bahadurabad police station. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 09/04/2025)

Crime stats paint bleak picture

Despite repeated claims by police officials of a decline in crime, the harsh reality on the ground paints a very different picture.

According to the latest report released by the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC), the streets of Karachi remained dangerous and unpredictable during March 2025, as hundreds were killed and thousands of citizens were deprived of their vehicles, motorcycles, and mobile phones in snatching and theft incidents.

In the month of March alone, Karachiites suffered major financial losses as, 160 vehicles were either snatched or stolen, 4,179 motorcycles were taken away in similar crimes and 1,312 mobile phones were snatched from citizens at gunpoint.

The situation becomes even more alarming when looking at the first three months of 2025. From January to March, the numbers were even more staggering, during which, a total of 537 vehicles were lost, 12,182 motorcycles disappeared from roads and parking lots and 4,300 mobile phones were snatched from citizens.

Similarly, in the same month, one incident of kidnapping for ransom and 9 incidents of extortion were reported. During this time, 42 citizens were also killed during the targeted killings in the city.

According to the report, during the same period, 132 people were killed in murder and vandalism incidents in the city, five kidnappings for ransom, and a total of 24 extortion incidents were reported.

These crimes have cost the public billions of rupees. Police officer's claims of a reduction in crime are valid, but the looting of citizens is still ongoing in the city.

The claims of police officers about a decrease in crime are in place, but the series of robberies from the citizens are still ongoing. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 09/04/2025)

Mob attacks on fast-food chain in Sindh continue as miscreants torch outlet

Mob attacks on outlets of a global fast-food chain continued in different parts of Sindh as miscreants attacked a restaurant in Mirpurkhas and set it on fire late on Tuesday night, officials said on Wednesday.

In Karachi, the Gadap City police said that over a 100 activists of a religious party attempted to ransack another outlet of the fast-food chain on M-9 motorway on Wednesday evening, but the police thwarted their plan.

The officials said that 20 suspects were arrested in Mirpurkhas while nine apprehended by police in the metropolis and separate FIRs had been lodged against miscreants.

They said that hundreds of people gathered in front of the fast-food outlet on Hyderabad Road in Mirpurkhas and held a demonstration against Israeli aggression in Gaza.

Some of the protesters entered the outlet, ransacked the furniture and set it on fire. A heavy contingent of police arrived at the scene, but the protesters started pelting stones, causing injuries to some policemen.

Later, a case was registered with the Town police station on behalf of state.

Sindh police authorities claimed that they had intensified security around all outlets of the fast-food chain across the province.

The fresh incidents came after mob attacks on two outlets in Muhammad Ali Society and Defence Housing Authority on Tuesday. The police said that they had booked and arrested around a dozen activists of the Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) for the two attacks.

(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 10/04/2025)

19 held after angry mobs set 10 trucks on fire in North Karachi

A total of 10 dumper trucks and water tankers were set on fire by angry mobs on Wednesday night near Power House Chowranghi and 4-K Chowranghi after a truck driver hit a motorcyclist, injuring him in North Karachi.

Taking prompt action, the police conducted raids and arrested 19 suspects and alleged arsonists with the help of CCTV footage. The suspects have been booked under terror and other charges.

The city has lately witnessed a rise in traffic accidents — especially involving dumpers and water tankers — which killed nearly 500 people and injured 4,879 were in 2024, according to hospital data.

The incidents prompted protests over citizens' deaths, following which the provincial government banned the movement of heavy vehicles during the daytime in Karachi while also mandating them to obtain a vehicle fitness certificate.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Edhi Foundation said that a dumper hit a bike rider, namely Dayan Adil, 22, who suffered "minor injuries" on a road linking Power House Chowrangi to UP Mor. Subsequently, an enraged mob torched several dumpers.

Karachi Traffic Police Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Pir Mohammed Shah told Dawn that an accident took place in North Karachi last night in which a youth suffered bruises.

He said that rumours then spread that claimed that a woman was also killed by a dumper, resulting in five dumpers and four water tankers getting torched.

West Zone DIG Irfan Ali Baloch told Dawn that they have no reports of injury or death caused by the accident, adding that "we can't rule out the possibility of pre-planned arson acts".

He said that they have confirmed reports of eight dumpers and tankers torched on the main road leading to 4-K Chowrangi.

Police have conducted raids and arrested 19 suspects with the help of CCTV footage, DIG Baloch said. He added that they have been booked under terror and other charges.

Rescue 1122 spokesperson Hassaan Khan told Dawn that they received a call at 12:43am and the caller informed their control room that one dumper had been set on fire in North Karachi after it hit a bike rider at Nagan Chowrangi.

Consequently, he said that people then followed the dumper, stopping and torching it. He said that the mob also attacked their fire tenders with stones after they arrived at the scene.

Later on, contingents of police and Rangers arrived at the scene, he said, adding that after they arrived, they saw that not one but five dumpers were torched at Power House Chowrangi.

Under the police's protection, the firemen extinguished the fire. While returning, they were informed that another dumper was torched at Baba Morr in North Karachi.

Mr Khan said a total of 10 dumpers and water tankers were torched in different areas of North Karachi within three hours, adding that the heavy vehicles were badly damaged in the fire.

The Central police spokesperson, in a statement, said that after torching of the dumpers at Power House, contingents of police rushed to the spot, but the miscreants managed to escape.

Crackdown on miscreants

Central Senior Superintendent of Police Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi ordered a crackdown on the miscreants.

As a result, the police conducted raids in different areas, arresting 19 suspects with the help of CCTV footage, mobile phone videos and other sources.

All the held suspects have been booked under terror charges, and five separate FIRs have been registered at the Sir Syed, Bilal Colony, New Karachi and Khwaja Ajmer Nagri police stations.

Truck drivers protest at Shorab Goth

Meanwhile, dumper operators threw garbage on the main Superhighway near Shorab Goth in a protest, said Shorab Goth police station SHO Sohail Khaskheli.

He said both tracks of the highway were blocked for traffic, adding that they managed to remove the garbage and cleared the highway at 3:30am.

The East police spokesperson in a statement said the highway remained closed for an hour, and the police persuaded the dumper drivers to end their protest through negotiations.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Sindh Ziaul Hasan Lanjar and Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tesoori took notice of arson acts.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 11/04/2025)

Two more fast food outlets come under mob attack in Sindh

Mob attacks on branches of an international fast food chain persisted in Sindh as two of its outlets were attacked in Larkana and Karachi by large groups of religious activists, officials said on Thursday.

The Larkana police registered an FIR against 60 suspects and claimed to have arrested eight of them. In Karachi, the law enforcers detained 10 suspects.

Korangi SSP Mohammed Tariq Nawaz said around 40-60 suspects stormed the restaurant in the Korangi Industrial Area and tried to ransack it. He said that the police took swift action, resorted to a baton charge against the suspects and detained 10 of them. However, other suspects others managed to flee.

He said an extra police contingent had been deployed at the outlet to ensure its security.

Police arrest 18 suspects in Larkana and Karachi

In Larkana, the police claimed to have thwarted an attempt by a large group of protester to ransack an outlet of the fast food chain on Wednesday night.

They said they received information that a large mob carrying stones and pistols was moving towards the outlet located on Station Road.

Larkana SSP Ahmed Chudhry told reporters that around 100 people, who were protesting against Israeli atrocities in Gaza, turned violent when they reached the outlet and started pelting stones at it.

A policeman, Waqar Ahmed Jalbani, suffered a head injury after he was hit with a stone and was taken to the Chandka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

The police registered a case against 60 suspects under Sections 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Sections 6 (terrorism) and 7 (punishment for acts of terrorism) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 at the Dari police station.

Eight held suspects were produced before the Anti-Terrorism Court, which remanded them in police custody for three days.

Earlier this week, dozens of TLP activists had been arrested for their alleged involvement in ransacking multiple outlets of the fast-food chain in Karachi. An outlet in Mirpurkhas was torched by miscreants a day before.
(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 11/04/2025)

Riots erupt over dumper rampage

Enraged mobs set afire at least nine heavy vehicles on the night between Wednesday and Thursday after a dumper hit a biker and the driver tried to escape.

Police later arrested over a dozen people identified with the help of CCTV and video footages.

Police high-ups also warned the tanker owners leader who had come to the site of a torched vehicle with heavily armed men challenging the arsonists.

Though the situation in the Central and East districts is under control with mainstream political and religious parties urging people to abide by the law, anger runs high in many sensitive areas.

The roads in the metropolitan city have become increasingly perilous as the Traffic Police have failed to stem the tide of deadly road accidents involving heavy vehicles, triggering protests and arson attacks.

According to statistics from the Chhipa Foundation, 80 lives have been lost in road accidents in just 99 days this year. Among the victims, 18 were killed by dump trucks, 31 by trailers, 17 by water tankers, five by Mazda trucks, and nine by speeding buses. These stats represent not just numbers, but shattered families - each one mourning the loss of a loved one.

In the latest road tragedy, a motorcyclist was run over by a speeding trailer in Mansehra Colony of Landhi. The victim, identified as 25-year-old Masood Khan, died the spot. The body was later shifted to JPMC for medico-legal formalities. The driver of the trailer, Muhammad Safdar, was arrested by the Sharafi Goth police. Separately in Surjani Town, a teenage boy, Muhammad Saad Baig, was injured after being hit by a Mazda truck. He was rushed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for treatment. The boy's family settled the matter with the driver on the spot and didn't pursue any legal action.

Since the Traffic Police seem helpless, people have started taking the law into their own hands to dispense "vigilante justice." In one such incident, a mob set fire to five dumper trucks near Power House Chowrangi in North Karachi; four water tankers were also torched. The arson attack was triggered by an accident in which a man was run over and injured by a dump truck. As tensions escalated, an angry mob chased the vehicle and set it ablaze. The mob then targeted other passing dumpers, pelting them with stones, smashing windows, and setting them on fire.

When Fire Brigade personnel arrived to put out the fire, they were met with intense stone pelting, injuring one of their drivers, Sabir, and damaging the fire engine's windshield. The situation escalated quickly, with protesters blocking the roads and engaging in rioting.

A huge police contingent was deployed, but even they couldn't control the situation. The area, particularly from Nagan Chowrangi to 4K Chowrangi, remained volatile, with reports of gunfire and continued stone pelting throughout the night.

The unrest continued for hours, with sporadic outbreaks of violence.

The District Central police later registered five cases and arrested 19 people involved in setting fire to dump trucks and water tankers.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 11/04/2025)

Another tanker set on fire in city

An angry mob set a water tanker on fire near Sakhi Hassan Five Star Chowrangi on Friday. The incident occurred when a tanker allegedly hit a citizen, after which the situation turned tense.

According to police, a water tanker was coming from Paposh Nagar and allegedly hit a citizen named Imran near Chandni Chowk, causing him minor injuries. Eyewitnesses said that after the accident, local residents chased the tanker and the driver sped up the vehicle in panic, and while trying to flee hit a footpath at high speed and overturned on the road near Five Star Chowrangi, within the limits of Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan Police Station.

Eyewitnesses stated that as soon as the tanker overturned, angry people set it on fire. However, the driver and cleaner managed to escape from the scene. In videos of the incident, one person can be seen being beaten while trying to flee.

After the incident, police from Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan station reached the scene and collected evidence. According to SHO Abid Shah, an investigation is underway and CCTV footage is being obtained to identify those involved. However, the tanker driver, Irfan, who sustained minor injuries, reached Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where he is receiving medical treatment after formal legal procedures.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 12/04/2025)

Mob sets another water tanker on fire in Karachi

A water tanker was torched by an angry mob in North Nazimabad late on Thursday night, police and rescue services officials said on Friday.

Shahrah-i-Noor Jehan SHO Abid Husain Shah told *Dawn* that the tanker driver had struck a motorcyclist near Paposh Nagar. The bike rider was injured but the tanker driver fled the scene along with the heavy vehicle.

However, a group of 10-12 people chased and intercepted him near Five Star Chowrangi. They initially attacked the driver and damaged the vehicle's windows. Thereafter, they set the heavy vehicle on fire.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Khan told *Dawn* that as soon as they received the information, they rushed to the spot and controlled the fire. However, the front portion of the tanker was badly damaged in the blaze, he added.

Police said they were waiting for the complainant to lodge an FIR to initiate legal proceedings.

On late Wednesday night, around 10 dumpers and water tankers were also torched after one of the heavy vehicles hit and injured a bike-rider but rumour had spread that a woman had been killed.

The police conducted raids and arrested 19 suspects who were booked under terror charges. The police have termed the incidents as "pre-planned arson acts."

One held as mob tries to attack fast-food outlet

A man was apprehended as a mob attempted to attack the outlet of an international fast-food chain in Gulshan-i-Iqbal on Friday.

Gulshan SP Ahmed Iqbal Memon told *Dawn* that some religious activists tried to attack the restaurant near Disco Bakery, but the police foiled their attempt and arrested one suspect.

Area SHO Mohammed Naeem Rajput said the suspects were aged between 16-17 years.

He added that no case had been registered so far.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 12/04/2025)

Four accused sent on judicial remand in dumper arson case

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) has remanded four suspects to judicial custody in connection with two separate cases involving the arson of dump trucks in New Karachi.

The accused - identified as Syed Fardeen, Muhammad Muneeb, Muhammad Fahad, and Muhammad Moaz Siddiqui - were produced before the ATC by New Karachi police. The cases involve the alleged burning of two dumpers, one at Power House Chowrangi and another around 1.5 kilometres away, during the same time period.

During the proceedings, the court raised serious questions regarding the investigation. Referring to the police remand papers, the court remarked, "According to the timeline, the accused are alleged to have set fire to two vehicles at different locations simultaneously. Is that even possible? Are they supermen?"

The investigating officer (IO), Inspector Sufiyan, admitted there had been a typographical error in the remand documents and assured the court that it would be rectified.

The court further questioned the basis of the arrests, to which the IO stated that the suspects were detained on the tip-off of an informant. The IO acknowledged that while CCTV footage of the incidents exists, he had not yet reviewed it.

The court also expressed displeasure over the absence of the complainant, who was supposed to identify the suspects. The court reprimanded the IO, questioning how suspects could be presented without proper identification procedures.

In its written order, the court noted that the IO failed to provide satisfactory answers to the court's inquiries. Consequently, the accused were remanded to jail on judicial custody, and the court directed the IO to submit the case challan at the next hearing.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 13/04/2025)

Policeman shot dead in ‘targeted attack’

A policeman was shot dead in the old city area on Sunday, officials said.

The Eidgah police said Constable Muhammad Ayub Ghanghro was killed by an assailant riding a motorbike with a woman as a pillion rider near Ghousia Biryani.

He suffered critical injuries and was taken to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi where he died during treatment.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that the victim posted at the Chakiwara police station. He was in police uniform and heading towards the eatery to buy lunch when he was targeted.

He said investigators obtained CCTV footage and were recording statements of witness.

The DIG said CCTV footage showed a young man, accompanied by a burqa-clad woman, opened fire on the policeman. When the officer fell, the man took the policeman's pistol and fled with the woman on a motorcycle parked nearby.

He said that police were investigating the case with all possible angles including a robbery gone wrong, targeted killing and personal enmity.

The deceased policeman originally hailed from Larkana. His family will take the body to their hometown for burial, he added.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 14/04/2025)

Dumper driver who eluded police on Sharea Faisal granted bail

A judicial magistrate on Monday granted bail to a dumper driver who fled while traffic police signalled him to stop his vehicle on Sharea Faisal.

Investigating officer (IO) Rasool Khan brought suspect Shafiqur Rehman before Judicial Magistrate Rashid Ali Ujjan and sought his physical custody for further interrogation.

The IO informed the court that the suspect, who was driving recklessly, did not stop despite the traffic police had signalled him.

He requested the court to grant his physical remand for further interrogation.

He added that Sharea Faisal police had registered a case against the suspect under Sections 279 (Rash driving or riding on a public way) and 186 (Obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

On the other hand, the defence counsel opposed the request and argued that the sections invoked in the FIR were bailable, therefore, the driver should be granted bail.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court allowed the defence plea and granted bail to the driver against a surety bond of Rs100,000.

According to the contents of the FIR, Traffic Police Section Officer Rajab Ali stated that on April 11, around midnight, he was patrolling on Sharea Faisal when an unidentified dumper driven recklessly sideswiped the traffic police vehicle and fled the scene. The incident was also captured on video which went viral on the social media.

Trailer driver remanded in police custody

A judicial magistrate (South) remanded a trailer driver, Abid Ali, in police custody for two days as the IO of the case informed the court that he added Section 322 (Punishment for qatl-bis-sabab) of the PPC in the FIR.

Previous weekend, police had apprehended the driver who hit and killed two young men identified as Zaid Ali, 25, and Noor Mohammed Aslam, 27, at New Chali.

According to the police, two young men were heading someplace on their motorbike when a fast-moving trailer coming from I.I. Chundrigar Road towards Techno City hit them. They both died on the spot.

A case was registered at Mithadar police station under Sections 320 (Punishment for qatl-i-khata by rash or negligent driving) read with 322 (Punishment for qatl-bis-sabab) of the PPC.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 15/04/2025)

Killings inside Iran

Pakistan has been a victim of faceless unscrupulous actors who are out to spoil relations with its neighbours. The mushrooming of extremist elements and their nefarious agenda to breed discontent is now taking a toll. While incursions from the western frontiers of Afghanistan are a new normal, the Iranian southwestern borders are also simmering. The daredevil killing of eight Pakistani nationals near the border in Sistan last Saturday is a case in point, and is solely meant to stir up sectarian-cum-lingual unrest.

The modus operandi of the attack hints at ethnic profiling, as the victims are from the province of Punjab. This can be widely deciphered in the context of parochialism that is evident in Pakistan's province Balochistan, now a theatre of foreign and local militancy. This criminal act is surely meant to fracture cordiality between the two countries. The most alarming point, however, is that it has been carried out inside the Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan, and this is where the plot thickens.

In a damage-control exercise, Iran has already taken a strong exception to this criminal act, and this is where it should closely work with Pakistan to unmask the dreaded elements. An inquiry and arrest of killers, as demanded by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is the way to streamline state-centric confidence, and to send the right messages that bilateralism cannot be deterred by cross-border terrorism. While the borders with Iran are quite porous and act as a lifeline for the informal economy, a stringent security and intelligence check is inevitably desired.

The gravity of confusion at times has even led to flying of missiles and drones on each other, and the January 16, 2024 strikes on Balochistan by Tehran to target Iranian-Baloch militant group Jaish al-Adl is a case in point. The fact that the revulsion was fixed within days and diplomacy worked is a worth-emulating exercise in adversity. One hopes Iran will crack down on the sleeping cells to usher in harmony and regional proactivity.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 15/04/2025)

Man pays hitman to kill father

Police investigating the blind murder of a sexagenarian man have arrested his son, daughter-in-law, and a female acquaintance. Syed Muhammad Mateen Khan, 61, was killed on February 18 in Korangi No 6, Sector 51C, within the jurisdiction of Zaman Town police station.

According to police investigators, the victim's son, Danish, planned the murder after a dispute stemming from financial disagreements and family tensions. Danish reportedly hired hitmen for Rs300,000, paying Rs50,000 in advance. Investigators said that the arrest was made based on a combination of human intelligence and technical surveillance. The suspects - Danish, his wife Tooba, and his female friend Aiman - were arrested in a coordinated operation led by Inspector Ghulam Nabi Afridi, SHO PS Zaman Town. A motorcycle was also seized from the accused.

SHO Afridi revealed that Khan, who owned a cable business, had expelled his son from both the business and the family home due to his alleged misappropriation of funds. Although Danish was later allowed back into the house following family intervention, he was kept away from the business and told to find a job to support his family.

Investigators uncovered that Danish had been stealing money to support his female friend, Aiman. Following a severe reprimand from his father two months before the murder, Danish made a plan to eliminate him. He gave the hitmen specific details about the family home and surrounding area.

The first attempt to murder Khan on February 16 reportedly failed. However, two days later, the hitmen returned and opened fire, fatally wounding Khan and injuring his son-in-law, Muhammad Kamran. Police registered the case on the complaint of Kamran, and launched a thorough investigation.

Police say the involvement of all three arrested suspects has been confirmed through evidence gathered during investigation. Efforts are ongoing to arrest the hitmen.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 16/04/2025)

Saddar Bird Market embroiled in dispute

Recently, the Chief Secretary Sindh ordered strict action against the Bird Market in Saddar. In a meeting held in the second week of February, he tasked the relevant agencies to end the business within 15 days. However, the implementation of this order is not as simple.



Five days after the orders of the Chief Secretary Sindh, the authorities had attempted to close the bird and animal shops located at the market. Although the shops remained closed for a few hours, they were soon reopened after negotiations with the shopkeepers' leaders and local administration.

Every Sunday, a large number of pet buyers and sellers visit the Bird Market from various parts of the city. While the sellers are spotted carrying different types of birds, dogs, cats and rabbits, the buyers are seen observing the animals and negotiating their prices with their owners.

"This market offers a source of income for many people hailing from poor localities, who sell their animals and earn money. For this purpose, they have set up small nurseries at their homes. Hence, this market is a Sunday Bazaar of pets," said Abdul Rehman, a shopkeeper at the market, who has been involved in this business since the past ten years.

When the 40 bird shops located in Saddar's Bird Bazaar opened after 12 noon, The Express Tribune asked the shopkeepers' leader Badshah Khan about the agreement that had been reached with the administration. Badshah Khan revealed that it had been decided that the shopkeepers would not encroach there and would keep their birds and animals inside their shops.

Area Magistrate Rana Sufyan, who was present at the bird market, told The Express Tribune that the primary problem was illegal encroachment and the gathering of a large number of people every Sunday. "Due to this, people living in the nearby apartments were facing a lot of trouble. We have been coming here since last Sunday. Whatever orders we receive in the future, we will implement them," assured Sufyan.

Sharing their discontent, Muhammad Khan and Ali Ahmed, residents of Rambo Centre, a residential apartment building located adjacent to the bird market, opined that this problem will continue as long as the bird and animal shops remained. "It is not possible for the police or the local administration to be present here every Sunday with the necessary personnel to ensure that illegal encroachments do not happen again," they scoffed.



On the other hand, Khan, the leader of the shopkeepers, maintained that all the bird shops located in Saddar were legal. "We have permits from the local administration to run our shops here. If the residents around these shops have any problems, they can go talk to the administration. If an alternative location is provided, we can consider shifting but we can't believe the government's claims since a few years ago, when these shops were removed from the Empress Market, the bird sellers were promised an alternative place, but this has not been implemented till date," criticized Khan.

When inquired about the legality of the bird business, Javed Mehar, Chief Conservator of the Wildlife Department, shared some rules. "It is mandatory to have a license from the Wildlife Department and permission from other relevant agencies for the breeding and trading of certain wild birds or animals. Along with this, they also have to follow the conditions imposed to keep the birds or animals in good condition. Similarly, the people living in the place where these bird shops are established should not object to it," said Mehar.

(By Razzak Abro The Express Tribune, 04, 16/04/2025)

Five-year-old girl raped, murdered, dumped in drain

Endemic sexual violence targeting young girls shows growing perversion and frustration in society.

In the latest disturbing incident, a five-year-old girl was murdered after being subjected to sexual abuse in Liaquatabad. The body of the girl, who went missing from Sikandar Goth, was found dumped in Gujjar Nullah on Wednesday. According to police, a missing report had been filed at Sachal police station a day earlier.

Police Surgeon Dr Samia Tariq confirmed that the postmortem examination revealed signs of sexual abuse. Forensic samples have been collected and sent for chemical analysis, with details expected upon receipt of the reports.

The girl's father stated that his daughter's body was discovered with her hands and feet tied. He expressed anguish over the delayed search efforts, claiming that timely action could have saved her life. The family, who deny any personal enmity, demanded the immediate arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators. Police have launched an investigation, reviewing CCTV footage from Sikandar Goth to identify suspects. The girl's family and relatives blocked Abul Hassan Isphahani Road near Paradise Apartment in protest, causing traffic disruptions. They alleged that some of her body parts were missing.

Meanwhile, unverified reports suggest that CCTV footage shows a woman leading the child away. Police are verifying these claims and have assured the family of a thorough investigation.

In a separate incident, a 17-year-old girl was abducted and allegedly gang-raped in the Malir City area. Police have registered a case against Faizan, a school student, and three unidentified accomplices.

According to the victim's father, the incident occurred on April 14 when his daughter was taken at gunpoint near the main gate of Laila Town. The accused allegedly drugged and assaulted the girl before abandoning her. She returned home via an online taxi at 10pm and narrated the ordeal.

Police registered the case under Sections 376 (rape) and 342/34 (wrongful confinement) of the Pakistan Penal Code. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 18/04/2025)

UC chairman of PPP shot dead in 'targeted attack'

A Pakistan Peoples Party activist, who is the elected chairman of a union committee (UC) in Orangi Town, was gunned down in a suspected targeted attack on Thursday evening, police said.

The Pakistan Bazaar police said that Amir Abdul Kalam, 32, was shot and killed by armed motorcyclists near Bismillah Chowk.

A police spokesperson said that Kalam was sitting at his office in Gulshan-i-Zia when armed assailants opened indiscriminate firing on him and rode away.

He sustained critical bullet wounds and was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where he died during treatment.

Investigators have collected six spent bullet casings from the crime scene.

SSP-West Tariq Illahi Mastoi told Dawn that it appeared to be a targeted killing incident. PPP-Sindh general secretary Waqar Mehdi and PPP-Karachi division president and Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani visited the hospital.

Mr Mehdi confirmed to Dawn that the victim was an elected UC chairman and local party leader. He said he was very active in the area.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 18/04/2025)

PPP UC chairman gunned down in office

Pakistan People's Party's Union Council Chairman, Amir Bhashani alias Amir Bhutto, was gunned down in a target killing incident in Orangi Town's Gulshan-e-Zia area on Thursday night. Unknown assailants on a motorcycle opened indiscriminate fire inside his office, leaving him fatally wounded. Law enforcement agencies, including police and Rangers, arrived at the scene and collected forensic evidence, including multiple bullet casings.

According to police, an FIR has been registered at Pakistan Bazaar police station under sections of murder and anti-terrorism. The complaint was filed by the victim's father, Mohammad Kalam, who stated that Amir Bhutto was sitting in his office with a coordinator when three armed men arrived on a motorcycle. Two of the attackers entered the office and opened fire while the third waited outside. Amir sustained multiple bullet injuries and was rushed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds.

The funeral prayers were held after Friday prayers at a local mosque in Gulshan-e-Zia, attended by family members, residents, and a large number of PPP supporters. Senior leaders including Sindh Local Government Minister and PPP Karachi President Saeed Ghani, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Special Assistant to CM Waqar Mehdi, and other party officials were present.

Later, the burial took place at Gulshan-e-Zia graveyard. Speaking to the media, Saeed Ghani expressed deep concern over the incident, calling Orangi Town a historically challenging area for the party. "Our workers are still being targeted by terrorists," he said. "This is a great loss for the party. I am confident that the killers will soon be arrested and the motive behind the killing will be uncovered."

Amir Bhutto, a father of three, had his office adjacent to his home. PPP leadership has categorically termed the incident as a case of targeted killing and demanded swift action from law enforcement.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 19/04/2025)

11 TLP activists arrested over murder of Ahmadi man

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested 11 activists of the Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) nominated in a case pertaining to the murder of an Ahmadi man during an attack on a place of worship of the Ahmadiyya community.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that an FIR was lodged on the complaint of victim Laeeq Ahmed's cousin at the Preedy police station under Sections 302 (premeditated murder), 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act against 15 TLP activists.

On Friday, a mob had beaten to death Laeeq Ahmed Cheema at Hashu Centre in Saddar following an attack on Ahmadiyya Hall.

His cousin Abdul Naeem stated in the FIR that after getting some information and through social media, he came to know that 15 men — Abdul Qadir, Mohammad Saleem, Mohammad Noman, Mohammad Irfan, Mohammad Shahid, Ghulam Akbar, Mohammad Shahbaz, Mohammad Mobin, Inayat Rehman, Riaz Raza, Yasir Akhtari, Ilyas alias Pardesi, Riaz Ahmed, Inayat and Hamza Ashrafi — had brutally murdered Cheema.

He told the police that his cousin was a witness in a case against some of the nominated suspects. He said he had appeared in court on Friday morning, where the named individuals threatened him of dire consequences.

While the FIR did not mention political affiliation of the suspects, the DIG told Dawn six of the named suspects belonged to the TLP.

He said that the deceased was the sole witness in a 2023 vandalism case against the same set of suspects.

On Saturday, the police carried out several raids and arrested 11 suspects, said to be members of the TLP.

The DIG said that the prime suspect in the case was identified as Inayat Rehman and efforts were underway to arrest him.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 20/04/2025)

Father of two shot dead resisting robbery

In a brazen daylight robbery in Gulshan-e-Hadeed on Monday, three motorcycle-borne assailants ambushed 28-year-old Alam Khan and his two companions moments after they withdrew Rs890,000 from a bank. They then shot Khan dead.

According to eyewitnesses, the bandits intercepted Khan's vehicle, demanded the cash at gunpoint, and opened fire when he resisted, killing him instantly, while his companions miraculously escaped unharmed. The perpetrators then fled with both the cash and Khan's licensed pistol. The deceased's body was shifted to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC).

Rahmat Jan Mahsood, cousin of the deceased, revealed that Khan was a father of two, and was running his own car business. He had recently purchased a car from a Gulshan-e-Hadeed resident whom he was heading to pay when he was ambushed. Expressing concerns about the city's safety, Rahmat said "People are being forced to sacrifice their lives for their own money." He alleged that the bandits likely had inside information about Khan carrying money, possibly from associates near the bank. Khan's relatives demand an investigation into the incident, appealing for the swift arrest of the killers.

With this incident, the number of citizens killed resisting robberies in the city this year hit 30.

Khan's killing sparked immediate protests, with family members, local residents, and car showroom owners blocking both tracks of the national highway, causing traffic congestion on the Karachi-Thatta road. To alleviate the situation, traffic police diverted traffic from Port Qasim and Link Road to the inner areas.

The protest, which lasted for more than five hours, not only brought the traffic system to a standstill but also caused massive traffic jams, putting commuters in a nerve-wracking situation.

Several citizens trapped in the severe traffic congestion said that a day earlier, on Sunday evening, a large number of area residents had also staged a demonstration against the rising incidents of street crimes and the poor performance of the police. During that protest as well, both tracks of the National Highway were blocked, causing serious difficulties for the general public.

"On one hand, citizens are being robbed at gunpoint, and on the other, they are losing their lives to the robbers' bullets," lamented one protester. The protest over the car showroom owner's killing by robbers was finally called off by the demonstrators at 7:45pm, after which traffic was restored.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 22/04/2025)

Robbers kill car dealer, take away Rs800,000 in Gulshan-i-Hadeed

A young car dealer was shot dead by robbers, who took away Rs800,000 he drew from a bank branch in Gulshan-i-Hadeed on Monday, police said.

They said that the family and relatives of the deceased and area residents staged a protest against the killing and blocked National Highway for hours.

The Steel Town police in a statement said 28-year-old Alam Khan was shot and wounded by the robbers over resistance near Bab-i-Rehmat Masjid. He was shifted to a nearby hospital where he died during treatment. The deceased was a car dealer.

Malir SP Mansoor Gulzar told Dawn that Khan had drawn cash from a bank and was driving to his car showroom when armed motorcyclists intercepted him. They tried to snatch the cash and shot him when he put up resistance. The robbers rode away with the looted money.

Victim's relatives and JUI-F workers block National Highway for five hours to protest killing

The SSP added that the victim also possessed a licensed pistol.

While the police expressed ignorance about the looted money, the victim's relatives told the media that the muggers took away Rs800,000.

The deceased was a cousin of a local leader of Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl, whose workers and relatives of the deceased blocked the National Highway near Steel Town Mor to protest the against the killing, rising incidents of robberies in the city and the failure of law enforcers to control street crime.

A traffic police spokesperson said that both tracks of the highway towards Thatta and Quaidabad were closed due to the protest. The blockade started at 2:53pm and continued till 7:45pm, he added.

Man shot dead off Superhighway

A man was shot dead off Superhighway on Monday.

Gadap City SHO Sarfraz Jatoti said that Khursheed Qasim, 45, was shot and killed by unidentified assailants near Angara Goth.

The officer attributed some personal enmity behind the incident.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 22/04/2025)

UC chairman among four TLP workers held for murder of Ahmadi man

A union committee (UC) chairman and three others belonging to the Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) were arrested for their alleged involvement in the Friday murder of an Ahmadi man in Saddar, police said on Monday.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that Kharadar UC chairman Yasir Akhtari, who went into hiding following the incident, was arrested on Monday morning from a warehouse in New Karachi.

He added three more suspects —Bilal, Amir and Hamza — were also arrested from different parts of the metropolis.

"They belong to TLP," the DIG said, adding: "In total, 15 suspects have been arrested so far with help of CCTV footage and technical data. They were present at the crime scene and they took part in the murder of Laeeq Ahmed."

However, he said two suspects — Inayatullah Rehman and Riaz — were still at large and efforts were underway to apprehend them.

The DIG said that during a preliminary probe, it transpired that some people belonging to the religious party had conspired to eliminate Laeeq Ahmed as he was a star witness of an earlier vandalism case against them.

He said that these elements had "hidden their real intentions and raised alarm that a robber had been caught. They wanted to give the killing a colour of vigilante justice," he said.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 22/04/2025)

Armaghan sent to jail in money laundering case

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday remanded Armaghan in judicial custody in a money laundering case.

After completion of his physical remand, FIA Assistant Director Shahid Ali brought the suspect on Thursday before the administrative judge of the ATCs — who also serves as the presiding officer of the ATC-17 at the judicial complex inside the central prison — and informed that the suspect's physical custody no more required in money laundering case.

The FIA also informed the court that it had booked Armaghan, the prime suspect in the Mustafa murder case, in a separate case pertaining to the credit card data theft.

The agency also submitted an application seeking a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the court to interrogate him in a spoofing case.

After hearing the investigating officer (IO), the court remanded Armaghan to prison in the money laundering case. As for the credit card data theft case, the court allowed the NOC application and directed the FIA to approach the court concerned to obtain physical custody of the suspect in this case.

A new case was registered against Armaghan under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 read with Sections 468 (Forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (Using as genuine a forged document) and 109 (abetment) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

According to the FIR, Armaghan was booked in a new case after completing enquiry on the complaint of sub-inspector at the FIA Cyber Crime Reporting Centre.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 25/04/2025)

Karachi teenager killed in crossfire between robbers and citizen

A teenage Hafiz-i-Quran was killed in an exchange of gunfire between robbers and a citizen in Orangi Town, police said on Thursday.

Pakistan Bazaar SHO Inayatullah Marwat told *Dawn* that two muggers snatched valuables from Shahenshah Hasan in Sector-16-B.

As they were fleeing, the citizen took out his pistol and opened fire. The robbers also retaliated and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire both suspects and a 14-year-old passer-by, later identified as Hafiz Hussain Ali, suffered bullet wounds.

He said that while one suspect died on the spot, the boy was taken to a hospital where he died during treatment. The second robber managed to escape in wounded condition.

A relative of the deceased teenager, however, presented a different version. He told the media that Hussain was standing outside a mosque when two robbers attempted to snatch his cell phone and shot him when he put up resistance.

However, SHO Marwat rejected the version of the relatives.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 25/04/2025)

Clash between YDA groups leaves three injured

A clash between two factions of the Young Doctors Association (YDA) at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) left three injured while the police have detained several doctors from both the groups.

In the incident two doctors and a security officer were injured during the altercation.

The conflict stemmed from Dr. Yaseen's transfer and a previous incident on April 18, in which family members of a patient assaulted doctors. In response, Dr. Farrukh Rauf's group protested by staging a demonstration in front of the administration block and completely boycotting the OPD.

The protesting doctors rejected assurances from the Sindh Health Department and demanded action against those responsible for the April 18 attack on medical staff.

On the other hand, Dr Ammar Danish's group opted to cooperate with the hospital administration, based on the assurances from the Health Secretary, and resumed OPD services.

The hospital administration appointed Deputy Director and In-charge Adil Samo to oversee the full restoration of the OPDs.

However, attempts to mediate between the two groups led to further clashes.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 25/04/2025)

Life in Karachi, other Sindh cities comes to standstill on JI strike call

A countrywide shutter-down strike called by Jamaat-i-Islami to show solidarity with the people of Palestine and condemn Israeli brutalities received an overwhelming response from across Sindh on Saturday.

Major cities, including the business capital of Karachi, witnessed a near-complete halt to commercial and daily activities.



The strike call saw widespread participation from traders, transporters, and the general public.

In Karachi markets, shopping centres, and business districts remained closed throughout the day.

The private transport services were largely off the roads and the usually bustling city wore a subdued look, reflecting a rare display of unity among various groups, trade bodies and civil society responding to the call.

The businesses in other Sindh cities, including Hyderabad, Badin, Sukkur, Nawabshah, Umarkot, Jamshoro, Larkana remained closed.

Jamaat leadership thanks business community for showing solidarity with people of Gaza

In Karachi, major commercial areas, including Saddar, Tariq Road, Clifton, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Bolton Market, Burns Road, and Hyderi in North Nazimabad, remained shut from early morning hours.

Traders and businessmen in Jodia Bazaar, Kharadar, and Timber Market also observed the strike with shopkeepers voluntarily keeping their shutters down.

Although there was no announcement of support from the transporters body for the strike, a few public transport vehicles and rickshaws were available on roads.

With a reduced number of vehicles on the roads due to the strike, commuters faced difficulty in reaching their offices and workplaces.

However, after remaining completely closed during the regular business hours, the shops and stores were reopened in residential areas in the evening.

The Jamaat-i-Islami thanked the city's business community and described the response as a reflection of true sentiments of Karachiites in support of people of Gaza.

The party's Karachi chief, Monem Zafar, along with other leaders and representatives of the traders' fraternity in Karachi, held a press conference in Saddar at a market.

The JI leader said that the countrywide strike was an eye-opener for those who are at the helm of affairs.

He said that from Karachi to Chitral, the strike had made it clear that the nation stands with the people of Gaza and Palestine, and demand that the leaders take immediate steps to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza by the Zionist state.

"All the big and small markets, wholesale markets, fruits and vegetables markets, fuel pumps, and even courts are closed in solidarity with Gaza against Israel and the United States," he said adding that Israel committed the worst kind of crimes against humanity in Gaza, whereas the United States was helping Israel.

He also criticised Muslim countries over their inability to act decisively.

On the occasion, the JI leader also condemned the Indian terrorism in the aftermath of a false-flag operation in the occupied Kashmir.

He said that the Modi government had unmasked its own face by suspending the 1960's Indus Waters Treaty by taking hostile measures.

He also highlighted the issue of Kashmir and human rights violations on the part of Indian forces.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 27/04/2025)

Violence ensues as police attempt to move protesters from roads in Karachi, Kandhkot

Over a dozen people received injuries when police attempted to dislodge camps set up by lawyers in protest against the canals project in Karachi and Kandhkot, on Sunday.



Lawyers are staging sit-ins at Babarloi in Khairpur and Gulshan-i-Hadeed in Karachi for the past several days against the plan to construct six canals on the Indus River.

The protests have caused many problems for road users and transporters as thousands of vehicles have been stuck for days in several areas of the province due to closure of roads.

While the protest camp set up in the metropolis was dismantled by police in the early hours, activists and lawyers managed to hold their ground later

in the day.

The legal fraternity and the Save Indus River Movement strongly condemned the police action against the protesters and announced that the sit-ins over the controversial canals project will continue at all places including Babarloi, Khairpur.

Home Minister Zia Lanjar said that the Sindh government recognises the right to peaceful protest. He urged lawyers to remain peaceful and assured them that no action would be taken against those protesting peacefully.

Eight hurt in Karachi

In Karachi, eight people, including two policemen and a lawyer, were injured and a police vehicle was set on fire in Gulshan-i-Hadeed on Sunday after a police party clashed with members of the legal fraternity in order to end their five-day sit-in against the canals project, according to officials and witnesses.

A participant in the Karachi sit-in said that early in the morning, when only a few protesters had gathered on the road linking the National Highway with the Superhighway near Gulshan-i-Hadeed, the police took the action, resulting in injuries to one lawyer and detention of several protesters.

"The police removed the tents set up for the sit-in and cleared the road for vehicular traffic. However, lawyers and political workers mobilised their supporters through social media, urging them to join the protest," he said.

"Over 200 protesters resumed the sit-in, blocking the link road again," he added.

Sources said that some lawyers visited the Steel Town police station and met Malir SSP Kashif Abbasi, who informed them that the government had decided to open the highways and roads and remove the protesters.

DIG-East Usman Ghani told Dawn: "The police were removing tents blocking the main road in Gulshan-i-Hadeed for the past several days when they came under an attack by a lawyer, injuring a policeman."

The police retaliated in which the attacker was injured.

The officer added that the police "dislodged the tents from the road and registered an FIR against the violent members of the crowd".

He said that the police and Rangers were deployed at the site. However, later on the police also came under stone pelting and baton charge by a mob, the officer claimed. Responding to a question, DIG Ghani confirmed that six protesters had been detained, who were injured. "We sent them to hospital for treatment."

He clarified that no one was in police custody, but an FIR was being registered against them.

Meanwhile, Steel Town SHO Allan Khan Abbasi told Dawn: "One policeman was injured in the morning while another was injured in the afternoon. "A police mobile was torched by the mob," he claimed.

Rescue 1122 spokesperson Hassaan Khan told Dawn that when the riot police attempted to disperse the protesters, they set the police mobile alight.

"It was completely destroyed by the time firefighters reached the scene," Hassan said. "The remains of the torched vehicle were also destroyed by the mob."

Action in Kandhkot

Several protesters fainted when police fired shots and tear gas at protesters who had blocked the road at the Gola-Mor (turning) along Kandhkot Bypass on Sunday morning.

The police took the action to clear the road after long queues of Punjab-bound heavy vehicles were formed on the highway.

According to detail, the sit-in organised by the Lawyers' Alliance and the All Parties Movement against the construction of the canals continued on the ninth day.

Late in the night, a police party fired shots and used tear gas to disperse the protesters.

Four protesters, including the district bar president and leader of the sit-in Abdul Ghani Bijarani fainted due to heavy tear-gas shelling.

However, the police left the area when lawyers and nationalists' parties workers did not clear the road and continued the sit-in.

When the news spread that the police were preparing to take another action against the protesters, a large number of nationalist parties' workers and activists, carrying clubs and sticks, joined the protect sit-in.

(By Imtiaz Ali and Waseem Shamsi Dawn, 13, 28/04/2025)

221 booked for arson anti-canals protests

People involved in rioting, vandalism and burning a police mobile during a violent anti-canals protest on Sunday have been identified via video footage, a police spokesperson said on Monday.

At least 221 have been booked in separate FIRs for attacking police, disturbing peace and rioting.

Clashes broke out between police and protesters during a demonstration against the construction of canals on the Indus River, held on Link Road, National Highway on Sunday.

When police officers approached the demonstrators to negotiate, the crowd turned violent and attacked them. Enraged protesters damaged police vehicles and set a mobile police van on fire. Several officers were injured in the confrontation.

In response, two FIRs were registered at the Steel Town police station and one at the Bin Qasim Town police station against protesters, including lawyers and members of nationalist parties. The FIRs name 21 individuals and list over 200 unidentified persons accused of attacking police, damaging and burning official vehicles, and injuring officers.

Violence, looting mar protest rally

A protest rally was held near Mausmiyat Scheme 33 on Sunday to express solidarity with ongoing demonstrations by lawyers and nationalist parties across the province, who oppose the construction of canals on the Indus River. However, the rally turned violent, and several shops were looted under the guise of the protest.

CCTV footage has surfaced showing protesters armed with sticks causing chaos and looting shops. Citizens and shopkeepers were reportedly beaten with sticks outside their stores.

One video shows a woman in a burqa running away with a baby girl in her arms. Throughout the ordeal, police were noticeably absent, a gap in law enforcement that the unruly protesters exploited.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 29/04/2025)

Hotel staff attack police officer, citizen

A dozen individuals, including hotel staff, brutally assaulted a police officer and a citizen in DHA phase five, leaving both victims severely injured and bloodied. The police have arrested seven suspects in connection with the attack, while several others remain at large.

According to authorities, the incident occurred when multiple individuals attacked Officer Adnan as he stepped out of his residence. Hotel staff and their accomplices assaulted him using fists, sticks, and metal pipes. A citizen who attempted to intervene was also attacked and sustained serious injuries. Witnesses reported that the assailants hurled verbal abuse at the officer during the assault.

The altercation reportedly began with a verbal dispute between the officer and hotel staff, which escalated when the staff summoned a group of individuals, leading to a violent confrontation.

Police arrived at the scene shortly after and transported the injured officer and the citizen to Jinnah Hospital for medical treatment. A case has been registered at Derakhshan Police Station based on a complaint filed by a resident of DHA phase five, Shaukat Hussain Shah.

The case includes charges of rioting, vandalism, inciting violence, and causing public disorder. More than ten individuals, including hotel staff and the hotel owners, have been named in the case. The seven individuals arrested from the scene include Abdul Aziz, Samiullah, Arz Muhammad, Bashir Ahmed, Muhammad Islam, Shahid, and Zainul Ain.

The hotel owners, identified as Muhammad Ali, Waheedullah, and Nawab, are currently absconding. Police have launched a manhunt to apprehend the remaining suspects.

Authorities confirmed that tensions between local residents and the hotel staff had flared up two days prior but were temporarily resolved following police intervention. However, on Sunday night, the conflict escalated when the hotel owners and staff allegedly attacked neighbourhood residents again.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 29/04/2025)

Three suspected muggers shot dead in two Karachi 'encounters'

Three suspected robbers were gunned down in two alleged encounters in the metropolis, police said on Monday.

In the first incident, Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said that after snatching a cell phone and other valuables from a citizen in Hyderi Market, two muggers were roaming near Café Piyala on a motorbike, ostensibly to commit another crime, when a police patrol signalled them to stop late on Sunday night.

But, they resorted to firing and fled towards Rasheedabad within the remit of the Khawaja Ajmer Nagri police station. Police chased them and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire, both suspects suffered bullet wounds and died on the spot.

They were identified as Sajjad Ali Chandio and Mohammed Tahir.

The police said that they had a past criminal record as Sajjad was arrested by the Artillery Maidan and Brigade police over dacoity and possession of an illegal pistol in 2018, while Tahir was arrested by the Liaquatabad police twice in 2014 and 2020.

Two pistols, snatched valuables and a motorcycle were recovered from their custody. The bodies were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

In the second incident, a suspected mugger was gunned down while his accomplice arrested on main M.A. Jinnah Road near Jail Chowrangi on Sunday night.

The Jamshed Quarters police said that a police patrol spotted some suspects and signalled them. However, they opened fire and tried to escape. In an exchange of gunfire, one suspect, late identified as Ashir Faraz, was killed, while his accomplice, Farhan Shafiq, was arrested.

One unlicensed pistol, a motorcycle and snatched cell phones were recovered from their possession.

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

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 29/04/2025)

Accused in airport suicide attack case gets bail

The Sindh High Court has granted bail to the accused in the case of funding and facilitating terrorists in the airport suicide bombing.

The court has given a short judgment on the bail plea of the accused Bilal, who was allegedly involved in the case of funding and facilitating terrorists in the airport suicide bombing. The court ordered the accused Bilal to submit a surety bond of Rs0.2 million.

According to the prosecution, the CTD had registered a case of funding and facilitating terrorists against the accused. The accused allegedly paid money for the purchase of a vehicle used in the suicide attack. The accused Bilal was an employee of a private bank.

The commanders of the banned organisation, Basheer Zaib and Rehman Gul, are absconding in the case.

Road cutting by utility companies

The Sindh High Court heard a petition filed against the utility companies for cutting roads in Mehmoodabad and sought arguments on the admissibility of the petition.

The petitioner's lawyer, Usman Farooq Advocate, submitted that the Town Municipal Corporation issued road cutting permits to the utility companies without consulting the Chairman UC. After the cutting, the condition of the roads has deteriorated. Under the Sindh Local Government Act, consultation with the chairman of the union committee is necessary for development works. The funds for road repair are being used elsewhere.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 30/04/2025)

HRCP report highlights decline in civic freedoms, deteriorating law & order

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan's annual report, released on Wednesday, highlighted a troubling decline in civic freedoms, deteriorating law and order, and a marked strain on federalism.



State of Human Rights in 2024 noted that the general elections in February 2024 were compromised by allegations of electoral manipulation. Amid the ensuing political instability, the fate of a major political party and its allocation of reserved seats were left undecided.

The government that took office subsequently ceded space to undemocratic forces in the form of several hurriedly passed and flawed laws.

Of particular concern was the spike in militancy in 2024: related fatalities reportedly surged to over 2,500, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan accounting for the bulk of such attacks. At least 24 deaths were attributed to vigilante mobs, some of which were linked to allegations of blasphemy in Swat and Sargodha.

Says 2024 polls compromised by poll manipulation charges; fate of major political party, allocation of its reserved seats left undecided; govt cedes space to undemocratic forces

Speaking at the launch, HRCP chairperson Asad Iqbal Butt drew attention to continued state-sanctioned violence in 2024, with at least 379 officially reported new cases of enforced disappearance, two extrajudicial killings of persons suspected of blasphemy and 4,864 staged police encounters in Sindh and Punjab alone.

Former HRCP chairperson Hina Jilani said that enforced disappearances were not justified in any circumstances, "including war or insurgency", adding "No cause can justify violence or acts of terrorism. The human rights community insists that all acts of violence be dealt with in accordance with the law," she said.

Over 1,200 individuals were imprisoned on charges of blasphemy, having been entrapped by far-right groups into sharing allegedly blasphemous content online. The beleaguered Ahmadiyya community reported at least six faith-based killings and the desecration of over 200 graves and worship sites. Such developments are symptomatic of escalating radicalisation and the state's capitulation to far-right political parties.

The continued ban on social media platform X, arrests of journalists reporting on politically sensitive issues, repeated imposition of Section 144 to prevent public gatherings, the ban on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement and the use of disproportionate — and on occasion, lethal — force against assemblies reflected a state not prepared to brook criticism or dissent.

Criticising the government's law making in 2024 and its impact on freedom of expression, HRCP co-chair Munizae Jahangir said that public officials should not be shielded from legitimate criticism by ordinary citizens.

With 2.4 million cases pending nationwide, Pakistan's judicial system remained heavily burdened during the year. Although at least 174 death sentences were reportedly handed down by the courts, no executions occurred. The country's jails accounted for an overcrowding rate of almost 228 per cent.

HRCP Secretary-General Harris Khalique pointed out that miners, sanitation workers and polio workers faced heightened safety risks, with at least 172 work-related deaths in 2024 in these sectors alone. Violence against women and children remained pervasive, with at least 405 honour killings, 4,175 cases of rape, 1,641 domestic murders, and 1,630 instances of violence against children. The government continued to repatriate Afghan nationals amid concerns that such deportations did not meet

international standards of consent and dignity. Education and health outcomes remained poor, while recurring extreme weather events and hazardous air quality marked parts of the year.

HRCP Islamabad vice-chair Nasreen Azhar concluded the event by expressing concern that the 26th constitutional amendment had resulted in executive overreach in the affairs of the judiciary.
(By Jamal Shahid Dawn, 13, 01/05/2025)

Suspect shot dead in Clifton ‘encounter’

A suspected robber was gunned down in an alleged encounter in Clifton early on Wednesday morning, police said.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza said a police patrol signalled two men roaming suspiciously in the area on a motorcycle near the Sunrise Apartments in Block-1. However, they opened fire and tried to speed away. Police returned fire, after which one suspect, identified as Mohammed Qasim alias Maani, was arrested in wounded condition while his accomplice managed to escape from the spot.

The DIG said that the held suspect was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where he died during treatment.

Later, it transpired that the killed suspect had murdered a citizen, Shakir Sultan, in the presence of his teenage son on the third day of Eidul Fitr in DHA, the DIG said, adding that the pistol used in the murder had also been recovered.

Boat Basin SHO Malik Riaz said Maani had a past criminal record and there were three FIRs registered against him in 2017, 2020 and 2021. He was enlarged on bail.

Woman gunned down in Ahsanabad

A woman was shot dead in Ahsanabad on Wednesday, police and rescue services officials said.

They added that Salkho Nisa, 44, was shot and killed by the firing of two unknown motorcyclists inside her home in Phase-III.

East police spokesperson in a statement said that the suspects opened straight fire on her face and chest. They did not take away anything.

(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 01/05/2025)

Mob lynches ‘robber’, torches body in New Karachi

A suspected robber was lynched by an angry mob, which also set the body on fire, after he shot and wounded two brothers during a robbery in New Karachi on Friday afternoon, police said.

New Karachi Industrial Area SHO Mohammed Nawaz Gondal told Dawn that two suspects had attempted to loot a general store in Sector-11-G. Two shopkeeper brothers, Mohammed Faisal and Mohammed Faizan, put up resistance but the robbers opened fire and wounded them.

As the suspects attempted to flee, area people captured one of them and subjected him to a severe beating with hard and blunt objects, leading to his death on the spot.

The police said that some charged youth also torched the body.

The officer said the suspect was identified as Mohammed Akram, who originally hailed from Pishin. He had a past criminal record.

The officer added that the condition of the injured brothers, who were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, was out of danger as they had sustained bullet wounds to their legs.

Police Surgeon Dr Summayyah Syed told Dawn that the alleged robber had sustained multiple injuries to the head, face, and upper torso, and that his body had also been burnt.

She added that Faizan had sustained multiple firearm wounds to his legs while Faisal had received a single bullet wound.

(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 03/05/2025)

Rights group sounds alarm over law and order in rural Sindh

Members of Tehrik-i-Niswan, a women’s organisation that uses performing arts as a medium for giving rights messages to working class women and the marginalised communities, raised serious concerns over the deteriorating law and order in rural areas of the province and urged the government to ensure the safety, security and protection of human life and property all over Sindh.



Speaking at a press conference at the Karachi Press Club on Saturday, classical dancer, activist and Tehrik-i-Niswan founder Sheema Kermani shared the trauma her team went through at the hands of bandits near Ghotki.

She narrated their ordeal of three days ago while travelling back to Karachi by road, after a 25-day tour of performing plays across rural Pakistan on youth mental health issues.

"We did 36 performances, in small towns and villages — in open grounds, schools, courtyards and other open spaces — where rural people got the chance of watching a play for the very first time in their lives," Kermani said.

Sheema Kermani recounts ordeal of robbers' attack on Tehrik-i-Niswan team near Ghotki

"Then, on our way back to Karachi, we were ambushed and attacked by armed dacoits near Ghotki. One of our team members is badly wounded, with gunshots in his arm and leg, which requires surgery. Other members are also hurt and traumatised," she added.

"Our van is badly damaged and non-functional now. It was a miracle that the team managed to escape and get away without loss of life. As Pakistani citizens, we believe in our constitutional right to live without fear and to travel everywhere in safety and security. But unfortunately, the absence of law and order in rural Sindh demonstrates just the opposite," she added.

"Why is this so? We ask the Sindh government, especially the Sindh police, what specific actions are being taken to address the dire situation of daily reports of dacoities, kidnapping for ransom, and senseless killing? How long will this go on? Why are the police not able to control this out-of-control law and order situation? Why is poverty, unemployment, deprivation and consequent desperation rising exponentially in rural Sindh," Kermani questioned.

She continued: "We demand that the Sindh government, especially the Sindh police and the local administration investigate this incident transparently and publish their findings.

"We demand judicial justice and compensation from the Sindh government. We demand safety, security and protection of human life and property all over Sindh, both rural and urban. We demand concrete visible measures to address climate change, agriculture and water issues; along with eradication of poverty, unemployment and under-development in rural Sindh," she added. (By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 13, 04/05/2025)

Robbers in police uniforms loot Rs9.5m from butchers

Armed robbers impersonating policemen looted Rs9.5 million and other valuables from more than a dozen butchers travelling from Orangi Town to Mirpurkhas near the Toll Plaza on Superhighway in the early hours of April 30. The robbery took place near the shrine of Saint Jalal Shah Bukhari in Gadap Town, within the jurisdiction of Gadap City police station.

As per police report, the butchers were intercepted at around 2.45am by suspects travelling in a white Vigo SUV which didn't have a licence plate. Four of the eight robbers were dressed in police uniforms. They were heavily armed and forcibly stopped the butchers' Hiace van, which was en route to the Mirpurkhas livestock market.

The butchers, hailing from Urdu Chowk, Orangi Town No 10, were on a weekly trip to purchase cattle in Mirpurkhas. Police registered the FIR on the complaint of Farhan, son of Muhammad Aslam Qureshi, a resident of Orangi Town. Farhan recounted that the robbers held the butchers at gunpoint and looted cash, mobile phones, and other valuables from them.

According to the FIR, the robbers looted amounts ranging from Rs17,000 to over Rs1 million, alongside valuable smartphones, documents, and personal belongings.

Victims expressed concern over the police conduct, saying that an ASI in a black Vigo appeared on the scene immediately after the robbers fled and inquired about the incident. The ASI gave the robbers chase but never returned or spoke again to the victims.

The butchers alleged that although they informed Duty Officer ASI Liaquat Ali about the suspects being dressed in police uniforms, this crucial detail was omitted from the initial police report. Although, victims had no phones to contact police, a Madadgar 15 mobile van reached shortly after the robbery, raising suspicions about how police were alerted.

The victims have appealed to senior police officials to take notice of the incident, investigate the apparent impersonation of police, and recover the stolen money and valuables.

Fake cops arrested

The Surjani Town police conducted a raid in Sector 5D, New Karachi and arrested two fake police officials, identified as Shoaib and Saeed Jalal.

According to SSP West Tariq Elahi Mastoi, the suspects were wearing police uniforms and harassing innocent people. Upon receiving information, the police took action and arrested them, recovering police uniforms, cash, and other documents from them. A case has been registered against them, and an investigation has been initiated.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 04/05/2025)

Firefighters who perished in line of duty honoured

City Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday inaugurated a monument at the Central Fire Station in memory of the slain firefighters who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Speaking at a programme attended by the families of the martyred firemen, Mr Wahab said that the brave firefighters are the pride of the nation, who not only save lives but also ignite the light of hope.

"We are proud of the services of our ever-ready firefighters. Their courage and spirit of sacrifice are a beacon for all humanity," he said.

The city mayor said that firefighters are silent heroes who risk their own lives to save others.



"The first martyr of the Fire Brigade in the Karachi Municipality was in 1955. To date, 34 of our firefighters have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty," he said.

Mayor Wahab inaugurates 'martyrs' monument at Central Fire Station; says 34 firemen have laid down their lives since 1955

"We have not only ensured the payment of fire allowances but have also honored Fire Brigade employees through the "Tamgha-e-Karachi". As a responsible society, we must salute not only the armed forces and police but also the firefighters," he added.

Mr Wahab also emphasised the need to equip the fire department with modern tools and resources to match the scale of emergencies in a growing metropolis like Karachi.

"It is our duty to not only remember the fallen but also to empower the living. The better we equip our firefighters, the more lives we can protect," he said.

He added that strategic upgrades in training and equipment are underway to strengthen the fire brigade's response capabilities.

Later, talking to reporters, he said that a regular cleanliness drive of storm water drains will begin in June and that the operation would be completed within the stipulated timeline to meet the challenge of the monsoon season.

He also announced a ban on the use of plastic bags from June 15, calling it crucial for an environmentally friendly operation and the cleanliness of storm water drains.

In a bid to prevent urban flooding and improve drainage during the upcoming monsoon season, he emphasised the urgent need to prepare the city's drainage infrastructure ahead of heavy rainfall.

"Karachi has faced serious waterlogging issues in the past due to choked drains. This year, we are taking early action to ensure a smoother monsoon," he said.

The operation will target major nullahs and storm water drains across all city districts, including those in flood-prone areas.

The cleaning work, he said, will be carried out in coordination with the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), and other relevant agencies.

Mayor Wahab also appealed to Karachiites to cooperate with the administration and avoid dumping garbage into drains.

"Public awareness and civic responsibility are crucial for the success of this initiative," he added.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 06/05/2025)

SHC outraged by involvement of police in citizens' kidnapping for ransom

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday observed that incidents of police officials abducting innocent citizens to extort money were rising unchecked in society.

The two-judge bench, headed by Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput, also noted that short-term kidnappings were not only unlawful but it also undermined the very essence of the rule of law.

The bench further said that the law enforcing agencies were duty-bound to maintain law and order, and safeguard the life, liberty and property of citizens.

"If those responsible for enforcing the law are themselves involved in such serious offences, it naturally reduces public trust in these institutions. If this trend continues, it could seriously harm civil rights and the credibility of law enforcement agencies," it added.

The bench made these observations while turning down the bail applications of three officials of the excise police.

Turns down bail pleas of three excise police officials in kidnap case

Applicants Javed Khan, Nawab Khan and Amjad Hussain have been facing trial before an anti-terrorism court for allegedly kidnapping Majid Ali in the Defence Housing Authority in April last year, confining him to the excise police station and demanding ransom for his release.

The detained officials approached the SHC after the trial court had dismissed their post-arrest bail pleas.

After hearing the arguments, the bench dismissed the bail applications and observed that apparently, prosecution had sufficient evidence against the applicants to connect them with the offences.

It also noted that as per record, the names of applicants were not mentioned in the FIR, but they had been named in the charge sheet and had been assigned their specific roles in committing short-term kidnapping of the complainant, detaining him at their police stations, demanding ransom and forcibly transferring money from the bank account of the captive.

The bench in its order also said: "It may be observed that short-term kidnapping of innocent citizens by police officials for the purpose of extorting money is now-a-days increasing in the society in an uncontrolled way."

Chinese nationals' security

The same bench on Thursday directed the provincial and police authorities to act as per the standard operating procedures (SOPs) about providing security to Chinese nationals.

A petition was filed by two people and submitted that Chinese nationals were their tenants and police personnel, providing security to them, were breaching the privacy of the petitioners.

Additional advocate general Sagheer Ahmed Abbasi and ASP Manisha Ropeta filed some documents including SOPs for foreigners working on non-CPEC projects.

The police officer also informed the SHC that the petitioners were approached for providing security to their Chinese tenants as per SOPs, but they were reluctant to cooperate with the police.

The counsel for petitioner argued that the petitioners cannot give inside house access to police as it will breach their privacy.

Thereafter, the bench directed the respondents to act as per SOPs in the case of petitioners and their Chinese tenants and if they do not need protection as per SOPs, they may submit such undertaking to police that they would arrange requisite security to themselves and such undertaking be sent to embassy and consulates of such foreign citizens.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 09/05/2025)

Normality returns as nuclear-armed neighbours step back from the brink

Normality returns to the Subcontinent after Pakistan and India agreed on Saturday to a full and immediate ceasefire after days of deadly jet fighter, missile, drone and artillery attacks — news surprisingly announced by US President Donald Trump, who congratulated them on using "common sense".



Officials from Islamabad and New Delhi confirmed the development minutes after Mr Trump posted the announcement on his Truth Social network, as the conflict between the nuclear-armed neighbours appeared to be spiralling towards a full-blown war.

"After a long night of talks mediated by the United States, I am pleased to announce that India and Pakistan have agreed to a FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and

Great Intelligence," Mr Trump posted.

In a statement on X, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said: "Pakistan and India have agreed to a ceasefire with immediate effect. Pakistan has always strived for peace and security in the region, without compromising on its sovereignty and territorial integrity," he added.

Indian foreign secretary Vikram Misri said the two countries' military operations chiefs had spoken to each other and agreed that all fighting would stop at 5pm Indian time (1130 GMT), without using the word "ceasefire". He said the two DGMOs would speak to each other again on May 12.

Mr Dar told *Geo News* that military channels and hotlines between India and Pakistan had been activated, and three dozen countries had actively helped to facilitate the agreement.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked US President Donald Trump for his "leadership and proactive role" in helping Pakistan and India achieve peace in the region. "Pakistan appreciates the US for facilitating this outcome, which we have accepted in the interest of regional peace and stability," he said in a post on X.

The ceasefire comes after four days of attacks and counter-attacks by both sides that killed at least 60 people and saw thousands of civilians flee their homes along their border as well as in Azad and occupied Kashmir.

The fighting was touched off by an attack last month in the India-held Kashmir town of Pahalgam that killed 26 tourists, which Delhi blamed on Islamabad.

Pakistani military sources said armed forces had shot down at least 77 Israeli-made high-tech drones, while Indian officials claimed they had destroyed hundreds of Pakistani drones, many Turkish-made.

Pakistan also says it downed five Indian warplanes — including three French Rafale fighter jets — although New Delhi has not confirmed any losses.

This was the first time the two nations used drone attacks on a large scale against each other. Both countries have been developing their own drones, and they also import them.

Punitive measures in place

Despite the truce, two Indian government sources told Reuters that the punitive measures announced by India and reciprocated by Pakistan, such as trade suspension and visa cancellations, would remain in place for now.

The sources also said the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, a critical water-sharing pact that India suspended after the Pahalgam attack, would continue to remain in abeyance.

Meanwhile, in contradiction to Mr Misri's statement that the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of Pakistan and India would "talk again on May 12 at 12pm (11:30am Pakistan time)", the Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting reported that "there is no decision to hold talks on any other issue at any other place".

Quoting its Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian information ministry tweeted that the "stoppage of firing and military action between India and Pakistan was worked out directly between the two countries".

"The Pak DGMO initiated the call this afternoon after which discussions took place and understanding reached," it added.

Positive step

"The ceasefire is a positive step," said Bilal Shabbir, an IT consultant in Muzaffarabad. "In war, it's not just soldiers who die, it's mostly civilians — and in this case, it would have been the people of Kashmir."

Ehsan Malik, CEO of the Pakistan Business Council, said both Pakistan and India "need to lift their large populations on virtually every measure of socio-economic development. We are happy that a ceasefire will help both governments to focus on this priority".

Shuja Nawaz, distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council's South Asia Centre, said the Indus treaty would figure prominently in the impending talks "after a decent interval, which allows both governments to claim credit for what they've achieved until now".

However, within hours after the ceasefire, violations were reported from both sides of the Line of Control (LoC).

Blasts were heard in Srinagar and Jammu and projectiles and flashes were seen in the night sky over Jammu, similar to the events of the previous evening, according to authorities, residents and *Reuters* witnesses.

Residents in the city of Barnala, in Azad Kashmir, reported hearing exchanges of fire along the line dividing the region, according to the *New York Times*.

Military spokespeople in both countries did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Separately, occupied Kashmir's chief minister Omar Abdullah posted on X: "What the hell just happened to the ceasefire? Explosions heard across Srinagar!!!"

There were also reports from different border regions of skirmishes. Some reports also said that drones were spotted hovering over Bahawalpur.

Dawn learnt that the drones were spotted after Isha prayers, prompting citizens to come out of their homes. However, sources said the presence of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) is not a matter of concern as it may happen for a few days after a truce is brokered.

When contacted the district emergency officer, Police Emergency 15, Rescue 1122 Emergency Office and other security institutions, it was told that the situation was being cleared.

Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Dr Farhan Farooq told this scribe, via WhatsApp message, that "all intercepted" and no damage so far, Alhamdulillah".

Rubio lauds PMs

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio later revealed that he and Vice President JD Vance had been in direct contact with senior Pakistani and Indian officials, including Prime Ministers Shehbaz Sharif and Narendra Modi, over the past two days.

In a statement released by his office, Mr Rubio said: "Over the past 48 hours, Vice President Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik."

He added, "I am pleased to announce the governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site."

He also commended PMs Sharif and Modi on "their wisdom, prudence, and statesmanship in choosing the path of peace."

Mr Vance, who had earlier said the conflict was "fundamentally none of our business", also endorsed the deal by reposting Mr Trump's statement on X.

"Great work from the president's team, especially Secretary Rubio," Mr Vance wrote. "And my gratitude to the leaders of India and Pakistan for their hard work and willingness to engage in this ceasefire."

In a separate statement, State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that Mr Rubio spoke with Mr Dar. "Secretary Rubio reiterated that both parties must find ways to de-escalate the current situation and re-establish direct communication to avoid miscalculation. He also offered US assistance in starting constructive talks in order to avoid future conflicts," she added.

Ms Bruce said that Mr Rubio also spoke with the Indian foreign minister and "emphasised that both sides need to identify methods to de-escalate and re-establish direct communication to avoid miscalculation".

Secretary Rubio "further proposed US support in facilitating productive discussions to avert future disputes", Ms Bruce added.

PM calls for dialogue

Hours after the ceasefire was announced, PM Shehbaz on Saturday expressed hope that a process of peace dialogue would take place to resolve all contentious issues between the two nuclear states, including fair distribution of water resources and the Kashmir issue.

In his address to the nation, the prime minister said Pakistan responded positively to the option of ceasefire for international and regional peace and for the sake of millions of people in the subcontinent.

He thanked opposition parties, political forces and friendly nations, including the United States, for their constructive and effective role in de-escalating tensions.

"We responded positively to the option of ceasefire for the sake of international and regional peace and millions of people," PM Shehbaz said.

The premier extended special thanks to China and President Xi Jinping, saying, "China stood by Pakistan without concern for any personal gain or loss."

He also expressed gratitude to other world leaders, including the US President Donald Trump, Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad, and UN Secretary General António Guterres.

The prime minister congratulated the whole nation and armed forces for the victory in the standoff with India and said: "Today we got a historic victory. It is the victory of our principles."

The premier said India played a shameful role in these days and Pakistani nation and armed forces gave a befitting response to the enemy what it deserved.

"In the pretext of Pahalgam incident, India imposed war on us and attacked our civilian population through drones and missiles. Then we decided that the issues which should have been resolved through dialogue, will be settled in battlefield," he added.

Dar engages counterparts

Foreign Minister Dar also talked to his counterparts in China, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye and apprised them of the current situation in the region following last night's Indian aggression and Pakistan's subsequent response.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi acknowledged Pakistan's restraint and reaffirmed that China would continue to stand firmly by Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan expressed condolences over the loss of innocent lives and appreciated Pakistan's measured response.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan also lauded Pakistan's restrained response.

*Anwar Iqbal in Washington contributed to this report
With input from AFP, Reuters and APP
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 01, 11/05/2025)*

Stray bullet kills five-year-old boy in Korangi

A five-year-old boy was killed when a stray bullet hit him in his home in the Korangi area early on Saturday morning, police and rescue services said.

Awami Colony SHO Abdul Sattar Magzi identified the boy as Shahzain Azam and said that the incident took place at around 5:30am.

He said he was asleep in the courtyard of his home in Irfani Goth near Bagh-i-Korangi when a bullet fired from an unknown direction hit him in the chest. He died on the spot.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Suspect killed in 'encounter'

A suspected carjacker was shot dead in an alleged encounter in Orangi Town on Saturday.

Anti-Vehicles Lifting Cell (AVLC) SSP Bashir Ahmed Brohi said that the deceased was identified as Saeed Abbasi alias Ayaz. He claimed to have recovered a pistol and a stolen car from him.

The suspect was involved in theft of government-owned vehicles, which he later sold in Balochistan, he added.

He was arrested six times and booked in 31 cases registered in Karachi, Larkana and Hyderabad.

The AVLC said that the suspect had on May 5 stolen a Toyota Corolla in the Defence Housing Authority area. He was traveling in the same stolen car when the police spotted him on the National Highway.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 11/05/2025)

Clash over land dispute claims woman's life

A woman caught in the crossfire between two groups who traded gunfire over a property dispute in the Manghopir area on Sunday evening, police said.

They said that Nasreen Naseebzada, 40, was shot and killed at Mullah Jam Goth near Ghazi Villas.

Area SHO Imran Ahmed Khan said that two groups fought with each other over the possession of a plot in the morning when neighbours intervened and pacified them.

In the evening, they again started fighting and this time used firearms, he said, adding that Nasreen was passing through the area when a bullet hit her. She died on the spot.

The body was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The area SHO said the police identified three suspects involved in the murder and efforts were underway to arrest them.

Stay bullets hit five in city

Five persons, including three women, were hit and wounded by stray bullets in separate incidents in the metropolis on Sunday, according to police and rescue services officials.

They added that these incidents took place in the Jamshed Quarters, Orangi Town, Sharafi Goth, Quaidabad and Ittehad Town areas.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 12/05/2025)

10 years on, Safoora bus carnage perpetrators remain unpunished

A decade after the Safoora Goth bus attack that killed 47 members of the Shia Ismaili community, the counterterrorism official who arrested the terrorist gang expresses concern over the inordinate delay in executing their sentence, warning that failure to deliver justice to the victims' families could embolden similar militant groups.

Meanwhile, the lawyer for the five convicts sentenced to death by a military court in 2016 says he has been representing his clients before the high court, arguing that they were not given a fair trial.

On May 13, 2015, a group of armed militants had stormed into a bus ferrying members of the Shia Ismaili community near Safoora Goth, opened indiscriminate fire, killing 47, including 18 women, and wounding six others.

A few days later, a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) team, headed by Raja Umer Khattab, had arrested five militants — Tahir alias Minhas alias Sain, Saad Aziz alias Tin Tin, Hafiz Nasir Ahmed, Mohammad Azhar Ishrat and Asad Rehman. They were said to be inspired by the militant Islamic State (IS) group, and involved in multiple incidents of targeted killings.

In 2016, a military court had sentenced them to death in the Safoora bus carnage case. However, 10 years after the attack, the case against the militants has yet to reach a logical conclusion due to their appeals pending hearing before the high court.

Talking to Dawn, Mr Khattab has expressed concern that the failure to deliver justice could embolden other likeminded militant groups, warning that it could lead to a serious crisis.

He questioned why, even after a decade, the sentences had not been implemented.

Mr Khattab fears that the delay in executing their sentence could enable their accomplices in other militant groups to plan their release by orchestrating a hostage crisis.

He is convinced that these militants would pose a grave threat to society, witnesses, those who imprisoned them and their families if they secure their release. He believes that executing their sentences would have neutralised this threat.

Recalls success in dismantling militant group

Recalling how he succeeded in tracing the militant group, Mr Khattab said that he had visited the crime scene, where he came across a crucial lead during the search — a lead he had long been seeking, which eventually led him to the militant group's leader, Tahir Sain.

"I was inside the bus, and due to the blood spilled all over, I slipped and that's when my hand landed on the very lead I had been searching for over a long period," Mr Khattab recalled, adding that it was through this lead that he became certain about the involvement of a specific group in this incident.

The CTD official revealed that before the incident, terrorist groups had been under surveillance for years, during which several militants were arrested and valuable information was obtained from them.

He stated that the gathered intelligence indicated that a local wing of Al Qaeda was operating in Gulistan-i-Jauhar, where young men were engaged in translation work for propaganda purposes and were also involved in the preparation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

When asked how they discovered that the local IS group was involved in several terrorist activities in Karachi, Mr Khattab said they had been monitoring a suspect in the Banaras area but failed to apprehend him as he managed to flee.

However, while searching his house, they removed a wall frame and found a taped-over hole in the wall. As they removed the tape, a USB drive was there which contained a video, revealing that the local Al Qaeda militants were planning to declare themselves as the local chapter of IS.

He emphasised that after the disappearance of the suspected militant, IED attacks in Karachi stopped for some time. However, a few months later, members of the Bohra community were targeted in the Dhoraji area where, for the first time, a pamphlet bearing the name of Daesh, the Arabic acronym of IS, was found at the crime scene.

He recalled that a series of terrorist activities began, including targeted attacks on law enforcement agencies, a private school, American educationist Debra Lobo, rights activist Sabeen Mahmud, and finally the Safoora Goth bus carnage.

Mr Khattab disclosed that during the planning of the Safoora Goth massacre, internal disagreements emerged among the militants, with some suggesting that the victims be set on fire after being killed. However, since it was to be the first attack on the Ismaili community, that part of the plan was eventually put on hold, he added.

He claimed the group was planning to attack some fashion designers in the metropolis but failed as they were caught by the CTD.

My clients denied fair trial: defence counsel Senior lawyer Hashmat Habib has been representing the five convicts after a military court sentenced them to death in 2016.

He filed five identical applications, which are still pending before the Sindh High Court.

In the applications, Advocate Habib submitted that there was no concrete evidence against his clients, who allegedly faced maltreatment during interrogation.

He also stated that the accused were denied a fair trial and were not allowed to engage a defence counsel of their choice at the time of the trial by a military court.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 13/05/2025)

One held for killing woman, kidnapping her daughter

The police arrested a suspect on charges of killing a woman and kidnapping her daughter over a plot dispute in Jam Goth, Manghopir, and recovered the kidnapped girl. Four suspects, including the main suspect, involved in the incident, are absconding, and efforts are being made to nab them.

According to the details, unidentified armed suspects opened fire and killed a 40-year-old woman, Nasreen, wife of Naseebzada, in the Jam Goth area of Manghopir police station on Sunday night.

After killing the woman, the suspects took the 8-year-old daughter Ayman of the victims with them. A case of murder of the woman and kidnapping of her daughter was registered at Manghopir police station on the complaint of the murdered woman's son, Usman.

Manghopir police conducted an intelligence-based operation and arrested Noman, son of Sher Khan, and rescued the kidnapped minor girl. The arrested accused Noman, revealed during the investigation that he killed the woman and kidnapped her daughter over a plot dispute.

Four persons, including Habib, Waqari, Zarkhavi and his cousin were also involved in the killing of the woman and kidnapping her minor daughter. Police are making efforts to apprehend the absconding culprits.

The accused told during the investigation that the weapon used in the incident was brought by Habib and it was Habib who shot and killed the woman.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 13/05/2025)

Mama Gang ringleader, lieutenant behind bars

Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan police arrested the main accused of the 'Mama Gang', along with his accomplice, in an alleged police encounter in North Nazimabad. The main accused was arrested in an injured condition, identified as Zahid Hazrat alias Mama, while his accomplice was identified as Muhammad Arshad Aminullah. Zahid was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital (ASH) for medical treatment.

Meanwhile, on Sunday night, Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan police arrested three accused of the gang, including two injured, after an alleged police encounter in Shadman Town. The arrested suspects include 40-year-old Tahir Khan Firdous, and 24-year-old Nadir Ali Qadir Bakhsh, while the third suspect identified himself as Waseem Ghulam Sarwar.

The injured suspects were shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital (ASH) for medical treatment. As part of the gang, which consists of five accused, the suspects were involved in the robbery of milk shops and bakeries, street crimes, among other various offences. The suspects used a Corolla car to carry out their crimes, with other accomplices providing backup on motorcycles.

The arrested accused confessed to dozens of crimes in Sharifabad, Liaquatabad, Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan, Taimuria, and New Karachi; also confessing to opening firing upon robbery resistance in the limits of Samanabad. One of the suspects, Nadir, also confessed to using a police uniform in some incidents.

CCTV footage of the gang's crimes was obtained, and during arrest, three 9mm pistols, two 30 bore pistols, 21 stolen mobile phones, a stolen motorcycle, and a stolen Corolla car, were recovered from the possession of the accused.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 05, 13/05/2025)

Shooting in eatery leaves one dead, four hurt; gunman takes his own life

A young man was killed and four others wounded when a lone gunman, before shooting himself to death, opened indiscriminate fire at people dining at a restaurant on Rafiqi Shaheed Road near the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) late on Sunday night, police said on Monday.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that investigators were working on the case to ascertain as to whether the assailant, identified as Zahir Ali, was "mentally deranged" or motivated by some personal reasons.

He said the suspect appeared to be targeting two individuals at the restaurant. One of them, Imran Rasheed, was killed on the spot, while the other, Mohammad Ali Tanoli, Rasheed's brother-in-law, managed to escape.

Two restaurant employees, a JPMC staff member and a customer were also wounded. After the attack, the suspect went to the roof of the restaurant and shot himself. He later died during treatment at the JPMC.

The wounded were identified as Kaleem Sadiq, 25, Abu Bakr, 27, Haroon Latif, 20, and Afzal Aqeel, 35.

Deceased Rasheed had been at the National Institute of Child Health, where his wife had recently given birth to a baby girl. He and his brother-in-law, Mr Tanoli, were having a meal at the nearby restaurant when Zahir opened fire on them.

DIG Raza said that the deceased Zahir was stated to be "emotionally disturbed." He originally hailed from Mardan.

The police were trying to trace his relatives to seek information about his medical condition and other details. He did not carry any cell phone.

A case was registered under section 302 (murder) and 324 (attempted murder) against him on the complaint of Mr Tanoli. The complainant told the police that they did not have any enmity with anyone.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 13/05/2025)

DIG prisons lodges complaint against his own IG

DIG Prisons, Muhammad Hassan Sahito has lodged a complaint with the provincial chief secretary against IG Prisons Kazi Nazeer Ahmed, accusing him of using abusive language through messages on officials WhatsApp group. Members of the group include Minister Prisons, Ali Hassan Zardari and all the DIGs, SSPs and SPs. Sahito has also blocked the cell number of the IG.

The Express Tribune has obtained the copy of the complaint while the DIG has also confirmed that he has submitted the complaint against the IG Prisons.

According to him, the IG Prisons sent 'abusive and offensive' messages twice in the group, first on May 1, and second on May 3. This led to shutting down of the WhatsApp group as the group admin was compelled to do it due to sensitivity of the situation.

The DIG claimed that after he blocked IG's number, the IG started sending direct messages to him and continued his 'abusive verbal assault'. Sahito mentioned in his complaint that he received such messages while he was with the family.

In his complaint the DIG Sahito has also expressed his apprehension that some senior prison officers might be 'provoking and manipulating' the IG Prisons against him. "The behaviour exhibited by the IG is not only unprofessional but also a blatant violation of ethical standard on part of such a high-ranking officer," he stated in his complaint.

The DIG has requested the chief secretary to conduct an impartial inquiry into the matter and take disciplinary action against the IG Prisons. According to him he has also informed about the matter to Provincial Minister for Prisons, Ali Hassan Zardari.

The Express Tribune tried to contact the IG Prisons, Kazi Nazeer Ahmed for his comment but he did not respond to multiple calls and WhatsApp message.

When contacted the Minister Prisons, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari termed the issue unwanted and said that he has also recommended an inquiry.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 14/05/2025)

SHC sees 'total anarchy' if honour killings not stopped

The Sindh High Court has expressed concern over the killing of innocent people in the name of so-called honour and ordered the state to stop this "uncivilised, barbaric and abominable practice" and deal with perpetrators sternly.

Terming honour killing a severe type of domestic violence, a single bench of the SHC said that such practice was unabatedly increasing with every passing day and there was a dire need to stop it immediately "before it gets out of hand and creates total anarchy in society".

Justice Nisar Ahmed Bhanbro of the SHC stated that the offence of "karo-kari" had been declared as *Fasad fil Arz* (mischief on earth), which is a serious offence under Islamic teachings and described as disobedience to God. "Thus to avoid *fasad* on earth, perpetrators are required to be dealt with iron hands," the court said.

"The honour killing has stained the society where the woman is even not given right of defence to prove her innocence against the false charges of developing illicit relations," it added.

The bench made these observations while dismissing an appeal against life term of a man who killed his wife in the name of so-called honour.

A sessions court had sentenced accused Ghulam Mustafa to life in prison in September last year for killing his wife on the pretext of honour in Kashmir in April 2023.

Besides maintaining the life term of the appellant, the SHC also sentenced him to 14 years in prison for 'karo-kari' and ruled that both sentences would run consecutively since the nature of offence was gruesome and cruel.

The bench in its order noted that the motive behind the murder was the so-called practice of "karo kari" and the reason for growing tendency of such offences was the lack of accountability.

"The practice of taking the law in their hands by citizens is becoming increasingly common these days. In this part of world thousands of innocent people are being killed every year in the name of family honour on the flimsy ground of suspicion of 'Karo-Kari'," the judge wrote in the verdict.

It stated: "It is even observed that in order to settle the scores of enmity with rival man, the woman is killed and the said person is also killed without reasons and thereafter the male members of the community sit together and conduct a *faisla* declaring that since the murder was committed to save the honour, therefore, the perpetrator should not face its consequences through punishment by the court of law.

"Islamic law under any *Fiqh* does not permit any citizen to take the law into his own hands and obligates the State to protect the life and liberty of every citizen and severely punish the person who does so," the judge stated.

"This uncivilised, barbaric and abominable practice must be stopped immediately before it gets out of hand and creates total anarchy in society. Under Islamic teachings the *Fasad Fil Arz* has been treated as a serious offence and has been described as disobedience to God, thus to avoid *Fasad* on earth, perpetrators are required to be dealt with iron hands," it noted.

Regarding the merits of the appeal, the bench observed that the trial court had convicted the appellant on a single count of murder under Section 302 (b) read with Section 311 (Ta'zir after waiver or compounding of right of qisas in qatl-i-amd) of the Pakistan Penal Code for imprisonment of life as ta'zir.

However, the charge regarding the offence of "karo-i-kari", which has been declared as *Fasad fil Arz*, was separately framed since it was an offence in addition to the murder. "Therefore, the conviction for the offence has to be recorded separately and it cannot be compounded or waived," the bench ruled.

"The sentence of qatl-i-amd was awarded for the charge of murder whereas sentence under Section 311 PPC was awarded for spreading *fasad* on earth and the prosecution has established the guilt of accused for charge of both the offences in the present case," it said, convicting the appellant.

"The appellant in the given circumstance is also convicted and sentenced for the charge of offence punishable under Section 311 PPC to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 14 years and conviction and sentence awarded by the trial court for the charge of offence punishable under section 302 PPC is maintained. Since the nature of offence is gruesome and cruel, therefore both the sentences are ordered to run consecutively," it concluded.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 14/05/2025)

Judicial surrender

"THE facility of suo motu may no longer be available," remarked Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan. It was a quiet comment, dropped not with alarm but with the composure of someone watching an era slip gently away.



But there is little quiet about what it truly signals: not procedural modesty, not democratic maturity, but a cold and deliberate retreat. A judiciary once imagined as the final sentinel of rights now appears content to fold its robes, clasp its hands, and wait.

Let us not forget what Article 184(3) was designed to do. It was not built to serve the powerful. It was not sculpted for the whims of the bench. It existed so that the voiceless — the disappeared, the dispossessed, the disenfranchised — could be heard even when they lacked the strength to shout. When no one else would act, the court could.

That was the moral architecture behind suo motu.

And yes, it needed fixing. Suo motu was used erratically, sometimes politically, and too often without restraint. But the answer was never abandonment. The answer was reform. Regulate the criteria. Make reasons for taking cognisance. Institute appellate oversight. But do not quietly watch as the most important judicial power in our constitutional order is procedurally euthanised.

This institutional deadening did not happen overnight. It was slow, bureaucratized, wrapped in the velvet glove of reform. Earlier, the Supreme Court Practice and Procedural Act, 2023 clipped the chief justice's powers, constituted a three-member committee consisting of the chief justice and the two most senior judges, and granted the right to appeal. Last year, the 26th Constitutional Amendment, touted as a step towards balance, simply codified hesitation.

Therefore, within the judiciary, clarity is no longer a virtue. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar has remarked that since suo motu is a constitutional provision, it must now be exercised through the constitutional bench.

Even though the 26th Amendment explicitly states that the constitutional bench shall exercise original jurisdiction, a hypothetical risk still remains embedded in the constitutional design. It fails to address whether the same procedure — introduced through earlier amendment — will continue to apply.

Will it now be exercised solely on the authority of the head of the constitutional bench? And more importantly, if the procedure is so clear, why did Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan feel compelled to make his remark? The 26th Amendment, in its eagerness to limit discretion, has instead created a jurisdictional paradox — a court that may have the power, but not the means, to act.

When no one else would act, the court could.

But before this sleepwalking becomes doctrine, let us remember the path we strayed from.

In 'Darshan Masih vs the state', the court broke new ground by recognising that the Constitution demanded action even in the absence of formal petitioners. It was a time when the court, flawed as it may have been, stood tall.

Today, the jurisprudential tide has turned inward. We are told that restraint is a virtue. That neutrality is nobility. But when power consolidates, when dissenters vanish, and when laws twist into weapons, neutrality becomes complicity.

Elsewhere in South Asia, the story unfolds differently. In India, Articles 32 and 226 empower the courts to issue writs without formal procedure. In Bangladesh, where the constitution doesn't explicitly allow suo motu, the judiciary carved its own path through what it called constitutional transplantation, inspired by India's Public Interest Litigation regime.

In both countries, courts embraced a moral reading of their role, recognising that justice must not be held hostage by procedural orthodoxy. And yes, the path has been uneven, sometimes misused, but never muted. Pakistan, meanwhile, codifies caution.

This is not to romanticise judicial activism. But it is to say: rights cannot wait for consensus.

And even on a more theoretical level, suo motu has always been used to keep the executive in check. So, if judicial activism is exercised within reasonably guarded metrics, there is no trade-off between rights and democracy. In fact, on the contrary, it may add to the beauty of it.

What Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan has said, and what the court now risks endorsing, is not just legal regression. It is a human one. It tells those who have no voice that even the court — their last recourse — has put up a sign that reads: 'come back later'.

But history does not wait. It watches. And one day, it will ask why the court, in its ceremonial wisdom, let go of the one power that allowed it to stand between the citizen and the leviathan. Not to decide outcomes. Not to dictate policy. But to ensure that when the Constitution cried out, someone was still listening.

Let us not count this silence as wisdom. Let us name it for what it is: abdication.
(By Ahmed Maudood Ausaf Dawn, 07, 14/05/2025)

Campus drug deliveries

The rising trend of using delivery services to acquire drugs has led to Islamabad's top court intervening with a ban on direct deliveries to students in campus, meaning that any package or food deliveries must be checked by campus officials. However, who will check the deliveries, how they will do it, and how intensively they will check is still unclear.

Still, in most cases, checking is unlikely to be particularly complicated — anecdotal evidence suggests the contraband is not particularly well-hidden or disguised, and in the vast majority of cases, the drugs are directly handed off by the courier. By simply adding a layer between couriers and students, educational institutes could significantly reduce the amount of contraband getting into students' hands.

Recently reported data shows that drug use among students has become so common that up to 53% of students in some elite institutes admitted to using drugs ranging from hashish to heroin and methamphetamine. While any use of drugs is bad, a more pragmatic view is that it will always occur at some level. The goal is to ensure that it never goes beyond nuisance level.

International research has shown that the only effective way to reduce consumption is to reduce demand. That, in turn, can only be done through awareness and attitude changes that encourage health habits and constructive recreational activities, both of which can be hard to access for young people on a budget.

It thus falls on the government and educational institutes to ensure that students have access to extracurricular activities that are healthy and educational, or at least fun and harmless. Unfortunately, both sides are failing — most schools and colleges, especially private schools, lack adequate sports facilities and extracurricular clubs, while the government has still not formalised a comprehensive policy in this regard.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 15/05/2025)

Two held for killing father in Karachi after he asked them to study hard

Two young brothers were arrested on Wednesday morning on charges of allegedly murdering their father who insisted they study hard.

Jauharabad SHO Rashid Rehman told *Dawn* that the youths were riding a bike when a police patrol signalled them to stop for checking in F.B Area, Block-15 at 3:45am. They were carrying a suspicious bag. Upon checking, the body of a man, later identified as Khawar Anjum, 60, was found in the bag.

The police took Mohammed Ibrahim, 24, and his brother, Afzal, 21, into custody. During grilling, the suspects disclosed that they did not want to pursue their studies. Therefore, their father had asked them to go to their native place in Mirpurkhas to look after their agricultural land and animals, but they also did not want to return to the village life.

They said that around 15 days ago, they decided to kill their father. On Tuesday night, after dinner, they laced a cold drink with pesticides and gave it to their father, who fell unconscious after drinking it. Then they stabbed him to death and put his body in a gunny bag. They were taking it to dump somewhere when the police caught them.

The body was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said that there were multiple injuries all over the body. Death occurred due to loss of blood. A rope around the neck was also found.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi told *Dawn* that the investigators had obtained the CCTV footage, which showed three people along with the body bag and a motorcycle.

The video showed one person was walking the motorcycle, on which there was a bag, and the second person was supporting the bag while walking along the bike.

The third one could be seen in the footage opening the gate of the seminary from which they came out and went away.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 15/05/2025)

Young man shot dead by robbers in Gulshan

A young man was shot dead by robbers in Gulshan-i-Iqbal on Wednesday morning, police said.

Area SHO Mohammed Naeem Rajput said that at about 8am Kamran Abbas, 26, was heading to his workplace on his motorcycle when armed men, also on a two-wheeler, intercepted him on main Rashid Minhas Road near Dhaka Sweets and demanded his bike and cell phones.

Abbas offered resistance and tried to overpower one of the criminals, but he fired on him, snatched the motorbike and two cell phones and fled with his accomplice.

He suffered critical bullet wounds and was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The area SHO said that investigators were utilizing technology and reviewing CCTV footage to trace and arrest the killers.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 15/05/2025)

SHC sets aside conviction of bus driver in drug case

The Sindh High Court (SHC) has overturned a conviction handed down to a bus driver by the trial court in a drug case.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput observed that the entire exercise of the arrest of the appellant and recovery of 'ice' (methamphetamine) under his seat was highly doubtful.

A sessions court had sentenced Hafeez Murad to seven-year imprisonment in March last year for concealing/transporting two kilogram of ice under his seat in a passenger bus coming from Turbat and the same was recovered after the vehicle was intercepted by police on the Hub River Road near Mochko police post in October 2023.

The convict through his counsel impugned the conviction before SHC and after hearing both sides and examining the record and proceedings of the case, the bench allowed the appeal and set aside the conviction order.

The bench in its order observed that the bus/coach in question has not been produced before the trial court at the time of recording evidence of prosecution witnesses while the investigating officer visited the place of incident along with complainant and prepared such memo, but he did not bother to inspect the coach in order to verify as to whether was there sufficient space under the driver seat to keep the alleged recovered ice and non-production of alleged coach before sessions court had casted serious doubts.

As per prosecution's claim, the alleged vehicle reached the pointed place from Turbat without any passenger, co-driver and conductor, it noted and said the same did not appeal to a prudent mind that a passenger carriage would start its travel from Turbat to Karachi without boarding any passenger and having no other co-driver or conductor and would not be stopped at any police, customs and excise posts in its route of more than 650 kilometers for checking.

"Aforementioned facts of the case lead to inference that the entire exercise of arrest of appellant and recovery of the Ice from his possession in the instant case is highly doubtful."

"It is now well-settled principle that there is no need to be multiple circumstances creating doubt. If a single circumstance creates reasonable doubt in a prudent mind about the guilt of the accused, then accused will be entitled to such benefit not as a matter of grace and concession, but as a matter of right", it concluded.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 15/05/2025)

Minor boy killed in firing by fleeing robbers in Landhi

A 10-year-old boy was gunned down and a woman wounded by robbers over resistance in Landhi on Thursday evening, police said.

The deceased was identified as Mohammed Ameen and the wounded as Nasira Rizwa, 35.

Landhi SHO Owais Warsi told Dawn that two armed pillion riders snatched a cell phone from a citizen in Khurramabad near Rangers' headquarters. As they were fleeing, the victim chased them on his bike and raised alarm. Seeing that, other people also joined in and tried to catch the muggers.

However, the SHO said, when they reached near Landhi-89, the robbers, ostensibly in a panic, resorted to firing. The people chasing them remained unhurt but a minor boy and a woman sitting outside their homes sustained bullet wounds.

They were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where the boy was pronounced dead and the woman admitted for treatment. The suspects managed to escape from the spot.

'Robber' gunned down in Shadman Town

Police on Thursday claimed to have killed in an "encounter" a suspected robber who had recently shot dead a citizen during a robbery in North Karachi.

The Sharea Noorjehan police said that the "encounter" took place in Shadman Town where after an exchange of firing, one suspect, Muzafar Ali Magsi, was gunned down while his accomplice, Aijaz Sultan, was arrested in wounded condition.

The police had recovered two pistols along with rounds, mobile phones and a motorcycle, stolen on May 4, from their custody.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said the killed suspect was involved in the killing of a 24-year-old citizen, Anas Shakeel, in Shadman Town, Sector-14-A, on May 11.

The officer added that the suspects were identified with the help of CCTV footage. Both the killed and wounded suspects were "habitual criminals" who were arrested in Central and West districts several times over robberies and other criminal activities.

In the recent past, killed suspect Magsi was also apprehended in wounded condition by the Sharea Noorjehan police.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 16/05/2025)

Policeman among three shot dead by robbers in Karachi as street crimes continue

As street crimes continued unabated in the metropolis, robbers went on a rampage in different areas on Monday, killing two citizens, a policeman and wounding many others.

Over 40 citizens, including law enforcement personnel, have been killed by robbers in the city since the start of the year and the tally is still growing.

In Surjani Town, armed robbers shot dead a policeman and wounded another.

SSP-West Tariq Illahi Mastoi said that private security guards of the Kaneez Fatima Society informed the police about the presence of four robbers there.

He said when a police team arrived there, the armed robbers resorted to indiscriminate firing, resulting in bullet injuries to two police constables —Mohammed Farooq and Safdar.

More than 40 people killed by muggers in Karachi in less than five months

He said that the robbers managed to escape from the spot by resorting to firing.

He said that both the wounded policemen were shifted to the Aga Khan University Hospital, where Constable Farooq died. He said he suffered a bullet wound in the chest, while Safdar was hit in the abdomen.

Shopkeeper shot dead by robbers in Orangi

In Orangi Town, a shopkeeper was shot dead by robbers, but he managed to kill one of them on Monday morning, police said.

Pakistan Bazaar SHO Manzoor Lashari said that two armed robbers arrived at a shop in Sector-13 near Disco Mor. As the shopkeeper put up resistance, the robbers opened fire and the bullet hit one of the employees, identified as Abid Arshad, 20.

The police said that the other shopkeeper returned fire and a bullet hit one of the fleeing robbers.

The police said that Abid and the robber died on the spot. The bodies were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The dead suspect was identified as Mohammed Adnan Ali. The police said he had a past criminal record.

Man shot dead in Korangi

A young man was gunned down by robbers in Korangi on Monday afternoon, said a police spokesperson.

In a statement, the spokesperson identified the victim as Faisal Mehmood and claimed that he was killed when he resisted a robbery bid near a school.

Awami Colony SHO Abdul Sattar Magsi said that the victim came to the school on a motorcycle to pick up his children.

He said that a witness told the police that she saw two young men sitting on a street near the school. When she inquired as to why they were sitting there, they told her that they are waiting for someone.

The area SHO said the police were probing as to whether the murder took place during robbery or it was a targeted attack since the killers did not take away anything.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Suspect shot dead in 'encounter'

Later in the evening, police claimed to have killed one suspected robber and injured two others in an alleged encounter in Korangi.

The police said that some suspects were roaming in Zia Colony when a police patrol signalled them to stop. However, they resorted to firing and tried to escape. In an exchange of gunfire, one suspect was killed while his two accomplices were arrested in wounded condition.

The police identified the deceased as Mumtaz. The wounded suspects were identified as Sajid and Shabbir.

Three pistols and one motorcycle were recovered from their custody. The body and injured were shifted to the JPMC for medico-legal formalities.

Woman shot dead

Separately, a married woman was shot dead in her Shah Latif Town home on Monday.

Area SHO Sadaruddin Mirani said Parveen Waseem, 25, was shot and killed by her relatives, who came to target another woman who had recently tied the knot on her free will in Shikarpur and came here to live with her.

The police claimed to have arrested a suspect, identified as Chaman. They said that the second suspect was identified as Rasheed and efforts were underway to arrest him.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for a post-mortem examination.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 20/05/2025)

'BLA man' held in Karachi's Lyari raid

Security forces on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a suspect linked with the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) from Lyari.

Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) and police conducted an intelligence-based raid and arrested the suspect, Darvesh alias Sagar, and recovered one grenade, arms and ammunition from his custody.

A spokesperson for the paramilitary force said in a statement that the held suspect had joined the Baloch Students Organisation (BSO-Azad) in 2015 and later joined the proscribed group in 2018.

"The suspect along with his accomplices, Farooq Baloch and others, had been facilitating the banned BLA and BLF [The Baloch Liberation Front]," said the Rangers statement.

During interrogation, the held suspect "confessed" that he, along with Hayam Baloch, had "brainwashed" a female suicide bomber, Mahal Baloch. He also facilitated medical treatment of suspected militants.

Three die in accidents

Three people were killed and one was injured in two separate incidents in the metropolis on Tuesday, adds *APP*.

A rashly driven dumper hit a person who was on a wheel-chair near Steel Mill area of Karachi. As a result, the man was killed on the spot.

In the second incident, a dumper collided with a van passing through the Superhighway area. As a result of the collision, two persons died on the spot and one was injured.

Rescue teams shifted the victims to a hospital.

The police team after receiving reports conducted a raid and arrested the driver of the dumper.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/05/2025)

Suspect attempting to steal PMT in Karachi's Keamari shot dead by security guards

A suspected thief was shot dead by security guards in the Keamari area early on Wednesday morning, police said.

The Jackson police added that around five-six thieves attempted to steal the pole-mounted transformer (PMT) of Pak Shaheen Yard near Ziauddin Hospital. The PMT fell on the floor which created a loud bang.

As a result, the yard's manager and guards came out. On seeing them, the suspects resorted to firing. The guards returned fire, after which one suspect was killed on the spot while another sustained a bullet wound to his back. Their other accomplices managed to escape from the spot.

The body and the wounded were shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi.

The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained till late in the night.

Policeman injured by suspect dies

A policeman who was injured by a suspect on a roadside died during treatment on Wednesday, officials said.

The Docks police said a man was riding a motorcycle when two policemen, also on a two-wheeler, indicated him to stop in Machhar Colony on Tuesday night. However, the suspect tried to flee and hit the policemen's motorcycle with his own. As a result, the policeman, Abdul Wajid, fell on the road and suffered injuries to his head.

He was initially taken to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi from where he was shifted to Aga Khan University Hospital where he died during treatment.

The fleeing suspect was arrested by the police with help from the public.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 22/05/2025)

Man killed as residents attack builder's office in Manghopir

A man was killed and five others were injured when security guards posted at the office of a local builder in Manghopir opened fire to stop a mob from storming the office on Friday, police said.

Manghopir SHO Imran Ahmed Khan told Dawn area residents stormed the office of the Tasman Construction company, beat the employees and ransacked the property and damaged five motorcycles parked there.

He said the private guards resorted to firing, resulting in bullet injuries to two persons, identified as Shoaib and Muhammad Shah.

Four others, said to be employees of the builder, sustained injuries caused by hard and blunt instruments. One of them, identified as Abu Talib, 42, died at the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

The police claimed to have arrested two suspects.

The SHO said that a 'personal dispute' had erupted between the builder and the residents around three months ago and the police were investigating the case to ascertain the exact nature of the dispute.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 24/05/2025)

'Informer' gunned down in suspected targeted attack

A man, said to be an informer of law enforcement agencies, was shot dead in a suspected targeted attack in Korangi on Monday, police said.

Zaman Town SHO Ghulam Nabi Afridi said that the victim, Noor Mohammed Farooqi, 45, was walking past Ghaus Park Road in Korangi No 3 when armed pillion riders arrived there and asked him to accompany them, to which he agreed.

They covered some distance and then asked him to get off near the Jalaludin ground and then to run. And as he started running, the assailants opened fire on him from behind and he fell on the ground. The assailants then came near and fired five more shots at him and rode away.

The officer said the victim was an "informer" of law enforcement agencies and the killing appeared to be a targeted attack.

The family of the deceased told the police that he hardly visited home. His other family members were religious persons engaged in Islamic teaching, said the officer.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Man shot dead at Nagan Chowranghi

A young man was shot dead near the Nagan Chowranghi area on Monday.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said that Hamza, 30, was standing in front of Nadeem Arcade when some armed pillion riders opened fire on him and fled. He sustained a bullet wound in the abdomen and was shifted to a hospital where died during treatment.

The police had collected eight spent bullet casings from the crime scene. SSP Siddiqi opined that the incident might be an outcome of some personal enmity.

Shahrah-i-Noor Jehan SHO Abid Husain Shah said the deceased originally hailed from Waziristan.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 27/05/2025)

33 citizens killed in Karachi by robbers in five months, police data shows

Although figures collected by independent organisations suggested that 47 people have been killed by robbers since January, a senior police officer on Monday claimed that, to date, a total of 33 persons were shot dead in incidents of street crime, as per data maintained by the law enforcement agency.

Special Investigation Unit (SIU) Chief SSP Mohammed Shoaib Memon said that out of them, 23 cases have been detected through the arrest of culprits involved in these heinous crimes, while 10 cases are under investigation.

He said this while speaking at a press conference at his office. The officer said the detection rate of street crime cases stood at 70 per cent. He mentioned that last year, none of the street criminals arrested by the SIU were granted bail by any court.

However, he did not agree with the questionnaire's claim that 47 persons had been killed by the street criminals in the city during the past five months.

The SIU chief admitted that the lack of establishment of drug courts had 'benefited' suspects arrested in narcotics cases in terms of securing bail. However, he said the Sindh cabinet had recently taken up the matter and decided to establish drug courts for the trial of narcotics dealers.

SIU SSP rejects independent toll of 47 fatalities; claims 23 cases solved thus far

He recalled that following the Amir Mustafa murder case, the unit was assigned the task of cracking down on narcotics, particularly three types — ice, weed and cocaine.

SSP Memon said they had busted a gang involved in "smuggling" weed from California and more recently, another gang smuggling weed from Iran through Hub to the city was busted following the arrest of a drug dealer, Sajjad.

He said weed worth Rs12 million was recovered from his custody, while concerted efforts were underway to arrest the remaining members of the network. He maintained that the main dealer of weed from Iran is Hasnain Baloch.

SSP Memon also announced the arrest of two suspects who gunned down a citizen, Gulzar, over resistance during a robbery in Mominabad in June 2024, in which their accomplice was also killed by their firing.

Regarding the case of actor Sahir Hasan, he said no 'relief' was given to the accused in the chalan (charge sheet), but the accused was granted bail by a court due to the non-existence of drug courts.

He said they had nominated three accused in the Sahir case, including a bank manager, and efforts were underway to arrest them as they had gone into hiding.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 27/05/2025)

Seniority list of DSPs raises eyebrows

The Sindh government has released a seniority list featuring 500 police officers promoted to the rank of deputy superintendent of police (DSP). The notification, issued with the approval of Additional Chief Secretary Muhammad Iqbal Memon, has sparked unease within the provincial police force and triggered scrutiny over alleged irregularities related to age eligibility, appointment dates, and alleged out-of-turn promotions.

A review of the list reveals inconsistencies. Several officers appear to have been under the legal minimum age of 18 at the time of their recruitment — contrary to established government employment rules.

For instance, Muhammad Arshad Afridi's official records indicate a date of birth of November 11, 1973, and a recruitment date of September 14, 1991, making him 17 years and 10 months old at the time of appointment.

Similarly, Rana Nasrullah, born on March 2, 1970, reportedly joined the police force on June 11, 1988, at the age of just 18 years and 3 months. His swift appointment - only a few months after becoming eligible for a national identity card - has raised concerns about procedural irregularities.

The Sindh government's guidelines stipulate that candidates must be between 28 and 32 years old for direct recruitment as DSPs. However, the seniority list includes several officers who were appointed at an age beyond this range, under what has been described as "special circumstances," a justification that has not been clearly explained.

The list also includes 10 female officers, reportedly recruited between 1993 and 1994. Among them are Zille Huma, Zeena Chandio, Sultana Mehdi, Afroza Chauhan, Najam-un-Nisa, Zaib-un-Nisa, Uzma Hafeez, Zain Manzoor, Saeeda Begum, and Zakia Malik.

Interestingly, no officers - male or female - recruited in the year 1992 are featured in the list, while select female officers recruited in adjacent years were included, raising questions over the selection criteria and possible favouritism.

These developments have revived concerns over the violation of the Supreme Court's 2016 directive, which imposed a strict ban on out-of-turn and "shoulder" promotions.

At the time, Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali stressed that such practices compromise the rights of eligible officers, while Justice Amir Hani Muslim deemed them discriminatory and unconstitutional.
(By Shahmir Khan The Express Tribune, 05, 28/05/2025)

Motorbike snatcher in Karachi jailed for 14 years

A sessions court has sentenced a street criminal to 14 years in prison for snatching a motorbike from a citizen at gunpoint near Aladdin Park on Rashid Minhas Road and for possessing an illegal weapon.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (East) Shahid Ali Memon found Muhammad Bilal guilty and sentenced him to seven years in prison on each of two counts: for possessing an illicit pistol and for snatching a motorbike from a citizen at gunpoint while he was on his way home.

"The street crimes have promptly been increasing day by day and none from the society feel secure at the hands of merciless muggers. It has also been noticed that the merciless muggers looted the innocent public at large, including men, women, students etc and also caused their murder and injuries on resistance.

"Thus the muggers on the one hand had not only deprived the innocent people from their valuable belongings, dignity and honour and on the other hand they also caused them injury or murder without their fault.

"Thus under such circumstances, the persons so involved in such like cases do not deserve any leniency and if any leniency is shown then it would amount to bring the lives, liberties, honors, valuable properties of the innocent public at the mercy of unbridled looters," the court remarked.

Meanwhile, the court acquitted the co-accused Hammad Ali, as the prosecution failed to establish the case against him.

According to the prosecution, on Oct 16, 2024, a man was returning home from work when two muggers on a bike intercepted him near Aladdin Park. At gunpoint, they snatched his motorbike and fled.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 28/05/2025)

Before conviction comes online humiliation

"Our lives have totally changed. We can never be the same afterwards ... and it's very painful," lamented Nida Javed while talking to a private news channel.

She was discussing the reaction to her videos, which had gone viral on social media. The videos were recorded by cops inside a police station after she was arrested on April 4, from what police called an illegal rave party in Kasur. Ms Javed, a social media influencer, claimed it was a music concert.

The 55 men and women arrested from the event were brought to the Mustafabad police station, where videos were recorded with their faces clearly visible and uploaded to social media.

Faced with criticism over the unlawful action, Kasur District Police Officer Essa Khan Sukhera suspended five cops for allegedly filming and publishing the videos and tipping off the organisers about the raid.

The incident also drew the ire of the Lahore High Court, which reprimanded the police for violating the law and sought a report from the Punjab police chief regarding the force's use of social media.

Common practice

Punjab Police rules explicitly prohibit officers from recording videos that might reveal the identity of suspects and under-trial prisoners.

In 2020, Punjab Police issued a policy for the use of social media by its officers. It said, "No police personnel shall share anything in violation of the legal provisions dictating the anonymity of arrested accused, anonymity of police personnel involved in a police operation or investigation and confidentiality of investigations".

Despite clear guidelines, videos of accused and suspects are recorded in police stations across Punjab with their faces clearly visible.

An analysis by *Dawn* found that while these videos are not posted to official social media accounts, they still find their way online, often uploaded by anonymous accounts, local crime reporters and small news outlets.

Several videos online were recorded inside police stations prominently featuring local police officers alongside the suspects, whose faces were clearly identifiable.

More than 50 such videos have been posted to multiple TikTok accounts and Facebook pages since 2021. These videos were reportedly recorded inside police stations in Rawalpindi, Attock, Mailsi, Hattian, Sialkot, Lahore, Fateh Jung, Vehari, Kahrur Pakka, Nankana Sahib, Jhelum, Sahiwal, Gujar Khan and Sargodha.

A Punjab Police spokesperson told *Dawn* that the department has a strict policy against recording interviews and videos of under-trial prisoners.

"We don't allow interviews of under-trial prisoners," said Syed Mubashar Hussain of the department's Directorate of Public Relations.

He said any officer who violates this policy faces departmental action.

'Nexus'

Lawyers and crime reporters told *Dawn* that these videos are recorded by police officers and then disseminated for personal projection.

Two Lahore-based crime reporters, who wished not to be named since they regularly work with the police, said station-level officials — constables and SHOs — usually record and circulate these videos "to showcase their performance and garner public support for their actions".

A crime reporter, who shared several videos of accused persons recorded inside police stations on TikTok, told *Dawn* that they "receive press releases from the police" which they post online.

"When police arrest a gang, they specially request us [for coverage]."

Advocate Vishal Ahmed Shakir says there is a nexus between police officers and reporters, where either the cops call reporters for their own publicity or the reporters pay police officials to record interviews of under-custody prisoners.

In 2023, Mr Shakir filed a public interest litigation in the LHC against the airing of interviews with under-custody prisoners.

Justice Ali Zia Bajwa, who heard the petition, ordered the police not to facilitate actions that violated the right to privacy, dignity and respect of a citizen.

'Harm to dignity'

Tariq Khosa, a former top police officer, said these videos not only violate the law but also the orders issued by provincial police chiefs.

He pointed out that videos of suspects can only be recorded during interrogation to submit them as evidence in court. Even those videos have to be recorded in the presence of a witness — a second police officer or any other person — and with the suspect's consent.

Most videos posted on social media included suspects arrested for gambling, flying kites, smoking sheesha and prostitution — crimes that infrequently result in conviction, according to Mr Shakir.

At least 27 videos seen by *Dawn* included women suspects with their faces clearly visible. They were said to be arrested during alleged raids on parties, hotels, brothels and massage centres and charged with prostitution and obscenity.

These videos put women at a greater risk when they go back into society after getting bail or an acquittal, which is the result of 90 per cent of prostitution cases, according to Mr Shakir.

He said most accused are discharged on the first hearing since prostitution can only be proven when there is an exchange of money.

Mr Khosa, the former police chief, said that in cases involving women such videos are used for blackmail and extortion. "It is all an ulterior motive."

Mr Shakir said these videos cause irreparable damage to a person's dignity. They also violate Article 14 of the Constitution, which says the dignity of a person is "inviolable".

He added that courts have repeatedly upheld the notion that an acquittal is akin to never having committed the crime. "These videos mean even after acquittal, my reputation and dignity in society can not be repaired."

(By Abdul Moiz Malik Dawn, 01, 29/05/2025)

50pc CCTV cameras in City Courts not working, SHC told

The Sindh High Court was informed on Thursday that 246 out of 503 closed-circuit television cameras installed on the City Courts premises were dysfunctional and three scanning machines were also out of order.

A report filed by senior superintendent of police concerned also said that three delta barriers at as many entry points at the City Courts have not been functioning and one out of eight walkthrough gates was also found out-of-use and needed urgent repairing or replacement.

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation also placed a report before the SHC about encroachments on the premises of district courts, parking issues and maintaining the surrounding roads.

A two-judge constitutional bench of the SHC comprising Justice Agha Faisal and Justice Abdul Mobeen Lakho was hearing a petition seeking establishment of a centralised judicial complex in the city and upgradation of judicial infrastructure.

Earlier, a committee was formed on the recommendation of the bench under the chairmanship of advocate general of Sindh to chalk out a plan for subject issues and focal persons of chief secretary of Sindh, registrar of SHC, inspector general of Sindh police, Karachi mayor and representatives of legal fraternity were also made part of the committee.

In its first meeting, the committee had formulated a short-term roadmap which can be given effect immediately within the current fiscal year and other points will also come under consideration to keep the roadmap going forward.

At the outset of hearing on Thursday, a provincial law officer filed a statement along with minutes of the inaugural meeting of the committee held on May 6 and various reports prepared by KMC, SSP City and SSP Traffic concerned.

The bench in its order noted that such reports demonstrated the security, parking and encroachments issues at the City Courts as well as proposed steps including the issue of touts and beggars.

However, it expressed resentment as the focal person of registrar of SHC did not file a report and said that apparent delay in such regard by the functionary was noted with regret.

The bench also directed the registrar to ensure that the report was submitted on or before the next hearing with advance copy to the parties.

Adjourning the hearing till June 13, it further asked the registrar of the SHC that he may also consider whether it may be expedient to appoint another focal person.

The SSP City in his report said that there were 503 CCTV cameras installed at the City Courts and only 257 were operational while 246 were not working.

The access to such cameras is mainly at the disposed of the SHC as City Courts police station has access to only 16 cameras installed at three entrances gates, it added.

The police report also recommended that non-functional CCTV cameras be made operational and access may be given to the police station concerned for foolproof security to avoid any law & order situation.

It further stated that baggage scanning machines installed at three main entry points have also been out of order and three delta barriers, used to stop unlawful entries of vehicles at main gates, were not working and additionally there was no structural steel one-way barrier at entrance/exit points which allowed many unauthorised vehicles to enter the court premises.

The revolting exit gates, installed at two main entrances are also not working properly and have enough space for allowing illegal entries and there are many beggars, sellers /vendors of books, coats and other items and they were selling with permission of Karachi Bar Association which was a severe threat and must be discouraged.

The KMC in its report also said that there were soft encroachments on the premises of courts including stalls of stamp vendors, oath commissioners, shops, cabins, counters and huts, etc.

There is also double and triple line of cars and bikes parking on footpath and service road, the report said and asked the chief engineer judicial works Sindh to provide site/master plan of City Courts and formulate a plan to removal encroachments in coordination with anti-encroachment department of KMC.

Advocate Zia Awan had filed the petition in January and asserted that there were various flaws in the judicial infrastructure of the city, which needed to be addressed to ensure efficient and swift delivery of justice to the people.

The petitioner also contended that there were several critical issues within the city's judicial infrastructure and functions, including poorly distributed courts, rampant corruption, slow & ineffective bailiff system, pathetic security arrangement, lack of fire safety equipment, insufficient restrooms and inadequate provisions for differently-abled individuals.
(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 30/05/2025)

Ransom plot foiled in dramatic late-night police operation

Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan Police arrested four alleged kidnappers, including one injured, after an exchange of fire late Wednesday night, recovering weapons, a vehicle, mobile phones, cash. The abducted victim was rescued.

According to a police spokesperson, the suspects were involved in short-term kidnappings for ransom. The operation unfolded near the KDA Chowrangi bridge. Police said the shootout began after officers attempted to intercept the suspects, who responded by opening fire.

The injured suspect, identified as 25-year-old Muhammad Ashar, son of Muhammad Ashfaq, was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for treatment. The other arrested suspects were identified as Kamran, Irfan, and Danial.

Two of the suspects were arrested following the exchange of fire, while the remaining two were caught shortly afterward by additional police personnel who had surrounded the area.

The police had received intelligence that a man named Muhammad Shakeel had been kidnapped and the suspects were demanding ransom. The kidnappers had instructed Shakeel's brother to bring the ransom to Sakhi Hassan Chowrangi. Acting on this tip, police, dressed in plain clothes, laid a trap at the location.

As the suspects arrived, police attempted to arrest them, but the kidnappers opened fire and tried to flee. A chase ensued, culminating in their capture near KDA Chowrangi bridge. Shakeel was recovered unharmed during the operation.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 30/05/2025)

Kidnapped infant found miraculously alive from gutter

An infant girl, who was kidnapped from her home in Juma Goth, Ibrahim Hyderi, was recovered from a gutter near the house.

SSP Malir, Kashif Abbasi, told The Express Tribune that on the night between Thursday and Friday, eight-month-old Hina went missing from her home. The girl's family first searched for her on their own, but contacted the police after failing.

On the complaint of Hina's father, police registered a kidnapping case under charge number 25/270, section 34/363, against unknown accused and started searching for the girl. They were able to recover her alive, on Friday morning, from a one-foot wide sewer line inside the gutter. She was miraculously safe as her head and neck remained out of water. Police arrested three of four suspects involved in the kidnapping, identified as Shaukat Ahmed, Allah Dino Ahmed alias Nana, and Kamran Pir Muhammad; they confessed to the crime. The fourth accused, identified as Sajjad Allah Dino, is absconding and police are conducting raids to apprehend him.

Further, SSP Malir revealed that the accused also tore off gold earrings that the infant was wearing, injuring her ears. Further investigations are ongoing.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 31/05/2025)

Another Karachi policeman gunned down in Sohrab Goth targeted attack

In less than one week, armed assailants shot dead another policeman in what police described as a targeted attack near Sohrab Goth on early Sunday morning.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said that Constable Shaharyar Ali, 28, was heading some place on his motorbike at around 3:05am when armed assailants, also on a motorcycle, targeted him on Shahrah-i-Pakistan near near Kashti Chowk within the remit of the Yousuf Plaza police station.

He sustained a single bullet wound in the abdomen and was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where he died during treatment.

Police sources said that the investigators have obtained CCTV footage near the crime scene. The footage is blurred but it showed that the policeman had stopped his motorbike on the road. In the meantime, two assailants riding a motorcycle emerged there, fired at him and rode away without taking any valuables from him.

No breakthrough made in murder investigation of traffic constable shot dead on May 27, says CTD

The victim was posted at the Anti-Vehicles Lifting Cell (AVLC) and a resident of the Buffer Zone area. He was not in uniform at the time of the incident.

It appeared to be an incident of targeted killing, but police were investigating the matter to find out the exact motive, the SSP said.

He said the murder did not seem to be robbery related as the killers did not take away slain constable's pistol, his cell phone, cash and motorbike.

Area SHO Iftikhar Khanzada told *Dawn* that no case was registered till late in the night as the family was busy in making funeral arrangements.

In a short span of five days, it is the second incident of targeted killing involving a policeman.

Earlier on May 27, an on-duty traffic policeman, Zain Ali Raza, was shot dead within the remit of the Boat Basin police station. Later, a little known group had claimed responsibility for the targeted attack on its Telegram channel.

The police had registered a terrorism case and transferred the investigations to the Counter-Terrorism Department as senior police officers feared resurgence of some banned outfits. Investigators suspected involvement of their sleeper cells in the killing.

So far, no arrest has been made in connection with the May 27 targeted killing case.

CTD DIG Asif Ejaz Sheikh told *Dawn* that they launched an investigation into the killing of the AVLC policeman.

He, however, said it would be premature to say anything concrete at this moment about the exact motive of the murder.

Regarding the Boat Basin incident, he said that the CTD was working on many leads, but so far, no concrete evidence had emerged about the involvement of any militant group.

He said that the group that had claimed responsibility on Telegram just used its name as 'Mujahideen' without naming any specific faction of the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

The DIG said that the outlawed TTP or Balochistan Liberation Army had used their own social media handles to claim responsibility for their attacks.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 02/06/2025)

'Robbers who killed minor girl, policeman' arrested

Police on Monday claimed to have arrested two suspected robbers who had shot dead a minor girl and a policeman in separate incidents in the metropolis recently.

Korangi SHO Adeel Afzal said they conducted an intelligence-based raid in Korangi and arrested the suspect, Yaseen, who had shot dead a minor girl during a robbery in Korangi. A pistol and motorcycle had been recovered from his custody and an investigation launched.

The officer said that three robbers riding on two motorcycles were committing a robbery in Zaman Town police limits on May 26 when a citizen, Wajihuddin, raised alarm. The suspects resorted to firing on him but the bullet missed its target and hit a passerby girl, Arifa Waqar, 12. She sustained a bullet wound on her hip and was transported to a nearby government hospital in Korangi where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Separately, West-SSP Tariq Illahi Mastoi claimed to have arrested the main suspect along with his accomplice over charges of killing of police constable Mohammed Farooq in Kaneez Fatima Society on May 19.

He said the police took an action over presence of five suspects in Mir Khan Goth on a tip off where, in an ensuing exchange of firing, two suspects namely Mohammed Sufiyan and Sagar Ali were arrested while others fled.

Held suspect Sufiyan said that in order to avoid being arrested, they had resorted to firing, which resulted in the killing of constable Mohammed Farooq and injury to another constable, Safdar.

He also "confessed" to have killed a man, Ghulam Akbar, and wounded his nephew, Mohammed Kaleem, over resistance on May 8, 2025 in Mir Khan Goth.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 03/06/2025)

Biker assaulted in front of sister; influential tormentor held

In another incident of lawlessness in the metropolis, siblings from the impoverished Marwari Lane area of Ranchhore Lines were subjected to violence by an influential businessman, Salman Farooq, and his guards after a minor traffic accident.

The attack was caught on video and went viral on social media leading to Farooqi's arrest in DHA by the Gizri police.

The incident unfolded following a collision between a motorcycle and a car.

The boy's bike had put a scratch on the luxury car of the media mogul.

In viral footage, Salman Farooqi, owner of Bionic Films, is seen holding the hands of a young man named Dhun Raj while his bodyguards, inside the vehicle, violently slapping him.

Dhun Raj's sister, Kalpana, is seen and heard pleading for mercy with folded hands, begging Farooqi to stop the beating and humiliation. Her pleas were ignored, and the man intoxicated with power continued to pound the boy from the vulnerable minority community.

Kalpana reportedly works at a nearby beauty parlour and was being picked up by her brother on Saturday night when the incident occurred. The video, filmed on a mobile phone, triggered public outrage online, forcing law enforcement to act.

DIG South confirmed that Farooqi was arrested in connection with the public assault near Ittehad Commercial in DHA Phase VI. An FIR was registered at the Gizri police station under case number 25/278, based on the complaint of eyewitness Muhammad Saleem.

The FIR includes charges of issuing death threats, physical assault, harassment of a woman, and verbal abuse.

According to the FIR, Saleem had gone to Ittehad Commercial on May 31, where he witnessed a minor accident between a Land Cruiser and a motorcycle. Farooqi, identified by onlookers, allegedly ordered his armed guard and driver to trap the motorcyclist inside the vehicle at gunpoint, beat him, and hurl threats and abuse.

The altercation reportedly stemmed from the motorcyclist braking suddenly. Bystanders filmed the disturbing scene, and the footage quickly spread across social media platforms.

The complaint accuses Farooqi and his associates of violating the dignity of the motorcyclist and his sister through physical and verbal abuse and demands strict legal action.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 03/06/2025)

Three held for assaulting bike rider in DHA after video goes viral

Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a businessman, his driver and a guard for their alleged involvement in an assault on a motorcyclist in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) after a video of the incident went viral on social media.

The main suspect, identified as Salman Farooqi, said to be the chief executive officer of a private firm, was arrested from DHA and his vehicle was impounded, said DIG-South Syed Asad Raza.

Travelling in his jeep, suspect Farooqi had allegedly assaulted a motorcyclist — who was accompanied by his sister — on Khayaban-i-Ittehad road following a minor accident.

The DIG said that the victim motorcyclists had not approached the police by late Monday evening to lodge a formal complaint. He said efforts were under way to contact his family.

Some TV channels while identifying the victim as Sudheer and his sister as Kalpana said that they left their home in Ranchhor Lines for an undisclosed location.

However, the Gizri police registered a case against the suspect, his armed guard and driver on the complaint of an eyewitness, Mohammad Saleem, under Sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 342 (wrongful confinement), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506-B (threat to cause death or grievous hurt) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The complainant told the police that he had gone to the Ittehad Commercial area for some business at around 8.35pm on Sunday when a minor accident occurred between a motorcyclist and a Land Cruiser.

He said that the prime suspect held the bike-rider hostage at gunpoint inside his vehicle, after which he beat him, used abusive language and threatened him as well. He added that when his sister pleaded for leniency, the suspect contemptuously pushed her away.

DIG Raza said the police were taking the matter "extremely seriously" and had launched an investigation.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 03/06/2025)

Karachi jailbreak

A THOROUGH audit of correctional facilities in Sindh — as well as other parts of the country — is in order after the recent jailbreak in Karachi's Malir District Prison. Over 200 inmates escaped from the facility after the city experienced slight tremors late Monday and early Tuesday.

Prisoners were allowed into the jail's courtyard after the minor quakes and from there all hell broke loose, as the inmates overpowered the guards and made for the exits. As per news agencies, there were only 28 guards on duty to watch over 2,000 prisoners, while the jail's security cameras were also reportedly not functioning. At the time of writing, a significant number of escapees remained at large.

As the Sindh chief minister said, the jailbreak represented a "complete breakdown in communication and preparedness". The Sindh government says the escaped prisoners were involved in "minor offences". The threat to public safety would have been considerably higher had these escapees included hard-core militants, or those involved in heinous crimes.

The episode reveals that our penitentiaries are woefully underprepared for emergency situations. The jail staff should have been trained to safely evacuate prisoners in case of natural disasters or other emergencies, while also ensuring they remained under the watch of law enforcers. Instead, what was witnessed was panic and a state of total unpreparedness. The incident again underscores the need to speed up jail reforms countrywide.

In many instances, our jails are still run under colonial frameworks. Overcrowding is common, while facilities contain under-trial prisoners as well as convicts. When jails have far more inmates than they can safely accommodate, mismanagement and chaos are natural corollaries. Speeding up trials and keeping probation options open for those involved in minor crimes should be considered. It is a fact that a broken legal and criminal justice system results in overcrowded and poorly managed jails.

Jail security also needs to be beefed up. The episode in Malir has shown that there are major lacunae concerning prison security. The Sindh authorities need to ensure that all the escaped prisoners are recaptured soon. In the past, the massive Bannu jailbreak showed that when the state lets its guard down, violent elements exploit loopholes — with terrifying consequences.

The chief justice of Pakistan is leading efforts to reform penitentiaries. These efforts must examine all proposals designed to ensure prisoners' welfare and rehabilitation, as well as address loopholes in the security of prisons. Once these recommendations have been finalised, the chief justice should ensure that the federal and provincial governments implement them without delay.

The Malir jailbreak cannot be ignored, and should lead to visible changes in jail security and management.
(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 05/06/2025)

ATC refuses police remand of 115 inmates recaptured after Malir jailbreak

As many as 115 prisoners escaped from District Jail Malir have been rearrested and booked in a terrorism case along with remaining fugitives, a police officer informed an anti-terrorism court on Thursday.

Officials said that the Shah Latif Town police station registered a case pertaining to the jailbreak and escape of 216 inmates under different sections of the Pakistan Penal Code and the Anti-Terrorism Act on the complaint of prison official Zulfiqar Ali Peerzada.

On Thursday, the investigating officer of the case produced 115 prisoners recaptured following the jailbreak before the administrative judge of the ATCs at the judicial complex inside the central prison.

He informed the court that 115 fugitives were apprehended outside the prison and sought their physical remand for 14 days to arrest remaining 101 inmates.

However, the court sent the recaptured the undertrial prisoners (UTPs) to prison on judicial remand as it did not find any reason to hand over the custody to the police.

"Firstly that the accused persons are already UTPs in other cases, secondly no specific or individualised role has been attributed to each of the accused person, thirdly no fresh recoveries or evidence are shown to be dependent upon custodial interrogation.

"It is further noticed as it is seem that IO has brought this matter so haphazardly as nor he brought proper jail record duly signed by the concerned jail authorities showing all UTPs as listed in this FIR and surprisingly he initially submitted the record of one hundred eighteen (118) arrested UTPs but then altered with his own pen the number as one hundred fifteen (115) UTPs, whereas memo of arrest showing one hundred eighteen (118) arrested UTPs and IO also altered too one hundred fifteen (115) UTPs," the judge stated in the order.

It added that the IO failed to produce the case diaries, witnesses, recovered case property, and the medical record of the injured police official.

The court observed that the IO's claim appeared to be unconvincing that such a large number of UTPs were arrested outside the prison after the jailbreak.

When the court inquired from the detained UTPs about the circumstances of their arrest, they unanimously stated that they did not escape.

According to them, during the earthquake, the roof of the jail collapsed and a wall was partially damaged. In the chaos that ensued, they sought help from the jail authorities, who themselves were attempting to reach a safe location.

The inmates further informed the court that they had exited the premises temporarily but returned once the situation normalised. They alleged that the jail police later falsely showed them arrested.

The court observed that these statements created ambiguity, casting doubt over the alleged offence.

The court directed the IO to submit a report under Section 173 of the criminal procedure code along with all relevant record and proper list of arrested UTPs and their role on or before July 1.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 06/06/2025)

Picnickers stopped from visiting five 'unguarded' beaches in Karachi

The city administration has imposed an eight-day ban on visiting five unguarded beaches due to high tides and rough sea conditions. The ban will remain in place till June 13 and it is applied to the Kannup, Sunerah, Mubarak Village, Turtle and Dua Chowk beaches.

Official sources said there was no restriction on people to visit other city beaches, including Sandspit, Hawkesbay, Paradise Point and Seaview, as these beaches were guarded by lifeguards and law enforcers.

Commissioner Syed Hasan Naqvi imposed the ban under Section 144 of the criminal procedure code on the request of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC).

The order authorised the SHOs concerned to register FIRs under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code against violators of the ban.

The officials said that a ban on swimming at other beaches might be imposed in view of the monsoon season, when there was comparatively high tide there.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 07/06/2025)

Guard abets Eid break bank heist

Armed suspects, aided by an on-duty security guard, looted gold ornaments worth billions of rupees from a microfinance bank in North Nazimabad during the Eid holidays.

The robbers cut open 22 out of 30 lockers using gas cutters, escaping with the gold, CCTV DVR, and other security equipment.

According to police officials, the heist occurred between the night of June 7 and the early hours of June 9 at a bank located in Block D, North Nazimabad. The suspects also took the DVR of the bank's CCTV cameras, the security guard's pistol and repeater shotgun, and a mobile phone before fleeing the scene.

Upon being informed, officers including SP Gulberg Division, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) North Nazimabad, and SHO reached the scene. The Crime Scene Unit and Special Investigation Unit (SIU) were also summoned for collecting evidence.

Police took Amanullah, the night-shift security guard posted at the bank, into custody.

During the preliminary investigation, Amanullah confessed to unlocking the bank's gate to let 10 to 12 armed men enter. The suspects reportedly arrived in a white car and a blue rickshaw, carrying welding equipment used to cut through the lockers.

SSP Central Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqui said that the suspects had brought a complete set of welding tools and iron rods. He claimed that the arrests will be made soon as the detained security guard is cooperating in identifying his accomplices. The police also revealed that prior advisories had been issued to banks, including the affected microfinance bank, regarding holiday security protocols.

A case of robbery has been registered based on a complaint from bank manager Amir Iqbal. According to the FIR, the bank operates a gold-backed loan service and stores customer collateral in lockers on the ground floor. During the Eid holidays, security personnel from a security guard company were deployed in shifts - two guards from 8am to 8pm and Amanullah from 8pm to 8am.

The complaint details that on the night of June six, five individuals entered the bank via the ATM booth entrance after Amanullah opened the door. Although Amanullah later claimed he was tied up with his own trouser drawstring, investigators believe this may have been staged. The robbers then used gas cutters to break open 22 lockers and remove the gold inside. They attempted to cut into two safes containing additional gold and cash but failed.

While the cash remained untouched, the robbers escaped with a significant quantity of gold jewellery. The suspects also tried to erase evidence by stealing the CCTV DVR system and the guard's weapons.

Police continue their investigation, with surveillance and intelligence teams working to trace the gang's movements and recover the stolen property.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 10/06/2025)

After nightfall, robbers prowl Shahrah-e-Bhutto

Incidents of street crimes on the newly constructed Shahrah-e-Bhutto (Malir Expressway) during night hours are on the rise.

Modus operandi of armed criminals is that they place logs and other obstacles on the highway to stop the motorists and rob them at gunpoint.

In a similar incident, took place recently, a motorist was made to stop and armed bandits attempted to rob him. However, the citizen opened fire on the outlaws with his licensed pistol and thwarted their attempt. The suspects ran away. Malir district police were informed who reached the scene after several hours of the incident.

A video statement of the citizen, who escaped the robbery attempt, has emerged in which he said that armed suspects tried to rob him by placing logs and other barriers on the road. He defended himself using his licensed pistol and foiled their robbery attempt.

The citizen further stated that as soon as the motorists stop, armed criminal appear and snatch mobile phones, cash, and other valuables from them. He urged law enforcement agencies to increase patrolling on Shahrah-e-Bhutto. He also appealed citizens to avoid using this highway during night hours. The police are trying to contact the citizen.

Development work is also ongoing at the reported crime scene, and it is suspected that the criminals may have come from the nearby areas, the police said and increased the patrolling.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 13/06/2025)

Mobile phone snatcher jailed for seven years

A sessions court sentenced a street criminal to seven years in prison for mugging a citizen at gunpoint in Mehran Town.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (East) Shahid Ali Memon found Zubair guilty for snatching a mobile phone from a woman at gunpoint while she was going to a market near Chapra Hotel in Sector 6-B, Mehran Town, in 2023.

"I must express my thoughts that nowadays, the street crimes are on high peak and public at large could not feel secure themselves at the hands of merciless muggers. Thus under such circumstances, the release of accused based on minor or slightest contradictions would not be better for the society. Thus, the criminals who have created terror among the society and due to such kind of crimes, many innocents have even lost their lives and valuable belongings," the judge observed.

According to State Prosecutor Syed Khursheed Abbas, after lodging an FIR on the day of the incident, the investigating officer of the Korangi Industrial Area (KIA) police station received information from the Landhi police station that they had apprehended an accused, Zubair, and recovered a mobile phone from his possession. The accused allegedly confessed to the police that he had snatched the phone from a woman, along with his accomplice Waqas, who died in a road accident due to speeding.

During the trial, the defence counsel contended that the complainant had wrongly identified the accused at the behest of the police. He also argued that the prosecution failed to produce any independent witness in whose presence the accused snatched the mobile phone. The recovery had been foisted on the accused merely to show police efficiency, he said.

However, the court rejected the defence plea and noted that nothing had been brought on record — apart from a mere claim of innocence — that could establish the accused's innocence. It added that the defence evidence was insufficient to exonerate the accused from the offence.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 14/06/2025)

Rs179.7bn allocated for maintaining law and order in Sindh

The Sindh government has made a hefty allocation of Rs179.7 billion for law and order including security, law enforcement and prisons in Sindh for the financial year 2025-26.

In the outgoing fiscal year, the government had allocated Rs172bn and the current budget shows an increase of 4.5 per cent.

According to the budget document, the proposed Rs179.7bn budget for law and order has substantial portion — Rs117bn — for police, underscoring the government's prioritisation of security in the provincial capital, which continues to face challenges ranging from street crime to high-profile incidents.

Besides, the government has proposed an allocation of Rs9.92bn for prisons in the fiscal year 2025-26, marking a 20 per cent increase from the Rs8.21bn allocated in the outgoing fiscal year.

This proposed rise in the prisons budget came days after the Malir jailbreak earlier this month when more than 200 inmates escaped.

In his budget speech, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah stated: "We have proposed the budget estimates of Rs179.7bn for next financial year for the security and law enforcement activities in Sindh."

"In conclusion, it is to reaffirm the unwavering commitment to maintain law and order across the province. In pursuance of such commitment, Sindh police are being equipped with the resources, training, and reforms they need to meet today's challenges."

Rs200m for provincial intelligence centre

The CM also stated that this year his government had established the Provincial Intelligence Fusion & Threat Assessment Centre (PIFTAC), which is a platform to collect intelligence reports from all relevant intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

In this regard, funds Rs200 million has been provided to start with, he said, adding that a sum of 400m has been provided for procurement of bulletproof vehicles for extending security to the foreign nationals, especially Chinese engineers, delegates and nationals.

Among other plans, the chief minister referred to a new proposed unit under "Organisational Upgradation" calling it "top priority" of the government of Sindh.

"In order to inculcate a sense of security in people commuting on highways, a new unit namely Sindh Police Highway Patrol is established as a pilot project by deployment of 1,200 personnel patrolling in 71 vehicles on 40 beats covering major highways. The detailed proposal is being worked out to formally start coverage of 2,153-kilometres of highways with 92 vehicles (including 13 APCs) by 1,900 personnel," he added.

The CM also spoke about "successful" execution of different initiatives during 2024-25.

He rejected the impression of a growing trend of street crime in Karachi and referred to a data which suggested a sharp decline in the number of criminal activities in the metropolis.

"Overall law and order situation in Sindh remained peaceful during the past year and efforts are underway to ensure effective control on crime," said Mr Shah.

"Effective strategy and efficient deployment against street crimes in Karachi have resulted in considerable control." He said vehicular snatching and theft this year had reduced by 67 per cent and violent street robberies declined by 54 per cent when compared with previous year.

"Sindh police is focused on detection by using advanced investigation techniques consequently detection rate is improved, which remained at 81 per cent."

He said implementation of "comprehensive set of counter-terrorism measures" by Sindh police in 2024-25 were aimed at ensuring public safety and neutralising threats posed by extremist elements.

"These efforts are combined with intelligence-led operations, advanced training, and inter-agency coordination to combat terrorism effectively across the province," he said.

"As a result, no significant act of terrorism has been carried out in Sindh except a suicide attack on the convoy of Chinese nationals near the Jinnah International Airport in October 2024. The high profile incident was efficiently worked out by the CTD Sindh in a very brief time."

In its counter-terrorism drive, he said that Sindh police had arrested 210 terrorists belonging to various banned outfits in year 2024 and 42 during current year while four terrorists were neutralised during "encounters" with the law-enforcement agency. (By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 14/06/2025)

Two friends drown, one rescued near Sandspit

Two young men drowned in the sea within the remit of the Mauripur police station on Sunday, police and rescue workers said.

Keamari SSP Faizan Ali told Dawn that three friends, who were swimming in the sea near Sandspit, were swept away by strong currents.

An Edhi Foundation spokesperson said in a statement that Ali Hasan and Farhan Kamran were rescued and taken to a nearby medical centre, where doctors declared Hasan dead. Kamran was moved to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi for treatment in an unconscious condition.

The spokesperson said their third friend, Jamil Naveed, is feared drowned and a search for him will resume on Monday morning.

The incident took place at around 9:30am. The youths came to Sandspit beach for picnic from the North Karachi area.

The Keamri SSP said that the police would approach the city commissioner for announcing a ban on swimming in the sea to avoid such tragedies in the future.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 16/06/2025)

Woman shot dead in Orangi

A woman was shot dead from a point blank range ostensibly over some personal enmity in Orangi Town on Tuesday.

According to Pakistan Bazaar SHO Manzoor Ali Lashari, the woman, Mrs Farida Riazuddin, 43, was attacked while she was returning home after dropping her daughter at a bus stop within the area. Her husband, Mr Riazuddin, told the police that their daughter, Laraib, worked with a lawyer at his office in City Courts. He said that his wife was on her way back home, in Orangi's Sector 15, after dropping Laraib at a bust stop when she was shot by some unknown assailant(s).

He said his wife received a bullet on her temple. Upon receiving the information, he rushed to the spot and found her lying on road and profusely bleeding, the complainant said, adding that she was rushed to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors pronounced her dead on arrival.

The SHO believed that the murder might be an outcome of some personal enmity. But, he said, an exact motive could be determined after a proper investigation.

He said that the complainant could not guess who might be the killer(s).

The SHO said that a murder case against unknown suspect(s) had been registered on the complaint of Mr Riazuddin, who said he worked in the audit department of a textile company.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 18/06/2025)

Extortion shadow looms over the metro

The extortion mafia has once again raised its head in the city, with 32 cases reported over the past five months.

The highest number of incidents — 10 — were reported in District Central, where extortionists not only targeted individuals but also caused loss of life through gunfire.

Taking notice of the rising number of extortion cases, Karachi Police Chief Javed Alam Odho has formed a 13-member team comprising the SSP of New Karachi Division, CPLC, SIU, technical team members, and officers from the operations wing of the District Central police.

So far this year, 11 extortion cases were reported in January, four in February, nine in March, five in April, and three in May.

According to reports, hotel owners, food centres, paan shopkeepers, and street vendors were blackmailed and threatened with dire consequences if they did not pay extortion money.

In the New Karachi area of District Central, a young boy and a social worker — who was providing iftar to citizens during Ramadan — were killed in firing by extortionists. Additionally, several shopkeepers have reported cases to the police in which they paid extortion money.

It is worth noting that investigations have revealed evidence of the involvement of the Lyari gang war's Wasiullah Lakho and Samad Kathiawari groups in these extortion cases. Police have already arrested several members of both groups.

The special team formed to crack down on extortionists will be headed by SP New Karachi Division Salman Waheed, and will include Assistant Chief Operations of CPLC Kashif Iftikhar, Deputy Chief District Central Sheikh Faraz, and Naveed Hashmi. Other members include DSP Operations Wasif Qureshi and DSP Investigation Nasir Afridi from the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of the CIA Police, SHO SIU Inspector Malik Mazhar Awan, and technical team members Sub-Inspectors Qadir Jalali and Zeeshan, along with area Head Constable Faraz. The team also includes the SDPO of New Karachi from the Operations Wing of District Central and the technical team of District Central.

In addition, the team may seek assistance from any police officer within the Karachi Range as needed. The Karachi Police Chief has tasked the team with preventing further extortion cases in District Central and arresting those involved.
(By Munawwar Khan The Express Tribune, 04, 20/06/2025)

Tragedy hits family welcoming Hajjis

Two members of a family were killed and as many injured when a speeding dumper truck overturned onto their vehicle on Rashid Minhas Road in the early hours of Thursday.

The victims were part of a convoy heading to Jinnah International Terminal to welcome relatives returning from Hajj.

The deceased were identified by their family as 55-year-old Shaheena Naeem and her seven-year-old niece, Ayesha, daughter of Khurram Kareem. The injured included Khurram's wife, Anam, 30, and Khurram himself, who was driving the double-cabin pickup.

The victims, residents of ROC Cooperative Housing Society, Scheme 33, were en route to receive their uncle, Kashif Kareem, and his family, who had just performed Hajj.

Saud Khan, Shaheena's son, recounted the incident, saying that their convoy of four to five vehicles had stopped at the COD signal when a heavily loaded dumper truck, speeding recklessly, overtook from the left, lost control, and toppled onto their vehicle.

"The dumper crushed our car under its weight, burying it in sand and gravel. The driver fled immediately, leaving us helpless," Saud said, his voice trembling with grief and anger.

Family members and witnesses expressed severe frustration over the slow and disorganised rescue operation. Saud lamented that it took over three hours to extract the victims, with rescue workers forced to manually remove sand using shovels due to the absence of heavy machinery.

"There were no oxygen cylinders available—rescue teams claimed they had run out. We kept begging for help, but the administration's response was shameful," he said. By the time the crushed vehicle was finally pulled out with the help of cranes, Shaheena and young Ayesha had already succumbed to their injuries.

The tragedy has sparked outrage over the negligence of dumper truck drivers, who often flout traffic laws with impunity. Police confirmed that the driver escaped and remains unidentified, though witnesses alleged he appeared to be under the influence of drugs.

Traffic was severely disrupted for hours as officials struggled to clear the wreckage. Family members, overwhelmed by grief, reportedly clashed with media personnel at the scene, with one allegedly assaulting a cameraman.

This tragedy has also brought attention to Karachi's illegal sand and gravel trade. Despite Section 144 being imposed in Malir district to curb unauthorised extraction, trucks continue to operate at night, transporting material from Gadap, Memon Goth, and other areas.

Chhipa Foundation spokesperson Chaudhry Shahid confirmed the accident occurred around 3:15am, attributing it to the driver's reckless speeding. SHO Gadap City, police station Sarfraz reiterated that illegal mining persists despite the ban, raising questions about enforcement.

The funeral prayers for Ayesha were held in Buffer Zone, while Shaheena's took place in Liaquatabad. Both were laid to rest in the C-1 Area Graveyard.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 20/06/2025)

Karachi DHA road rage suspect, co-accused granted bail

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday granted bail to a detained businessman, Salman Farooqi, and the co-accused, Awais Hashmi, in a case pertaining to an assault on a motorcyclist in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) after the other side did not oppose it.

However, the SHC also ruled that if the applicants/suspects misused the bail concession during trial proceedings, the trial court would be competent to cancel their bail without making any reference to the high court.

Salman Farooqi and Awais Hashmi were booked and arrested for allegedly assaulting a motorcyclist, who was accompanied by his sister, on Khayaban-i-Ittehad a couple of weeks ago following a minor accident with a Mercedes car the suspects were travelling in.

The suspects through their lawyers had approached the SHC after a sessions court had dismissed their post-arrest bail applications.

After hearing arguments from the lawyers for applicants, additional prosecutor general and the complainant as well as perusal of material available on record, a single-judge bench of SHC headed by Justice Arshad Hussain Khan granted a bail against a surety bond of Rs100,000 each.

The bench in its order noted that the victim, Dheeraj, and complainant Mohammad Saleem had filed affidavits raising no objection for grant of bail to the suspects and their case called for further inquiry under Section 297(2) of CrPC.

It also observed that the suspects were neither previous convicts nor hardened criminals and they were behind the bars since their arrest and were no more required for any investigation. The prosecution had also not claimed any exceptional circumstances which could justify keeping them in jail for an indefinite period pending determination of their guilt.

Consequently, while taking into consideration the affidavits of no objection filed by the complainant and victim, the bench said that the suspects were admitted to post-arrest bail.

It further stated that any observation made in this order was tentative in nature and must not affect the determination of the facts at the trial or influence the trial court in reaching its decision on the merits of the case.

"It is, however, made clear that in the event if, during proceedings, the applicant/accused misuse the bail, then the trial court would be competent to cancel their bail without making any reference to this court", it concluded.

The police had registered a case against the suspects and arrested them after a video of the incident had gone viral on social media.

Complainant Muhammad Saleem was present at the scene when the incident took place and later reported the matter to the police.

A FIR was registered at the Gizri police station under Sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 342 (wrongful confinement), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506-B (threat to cause death or grievous hurt) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 14, 20/06/2025)

Body of veteran actress found days after her death

She died alone, forgotten — until the stench of her decaying body forced the world to remember.

The tragic discovery of TV artiste Ayesha Khan's body, lying unnoticed for days in her own home, has exposed the cruel fickleness of fame and the chilling reality of how quickly the spotlight fades.

Neighbours, driven to desperation by the unbearable odour of death, finally called police-unveiling a grim end for a star the world had left behind.

Ayesha Khan, 77, a celebrated figure of the drama industry, was found dead in her Gulshan-e-Iqbal apartment on Thursday evening. Police sources confirmed that the actress had likely passed away nearly a week before her discovery, with neighbours only informing police after a foul odour emanated from her residence.

According to officials, Ayesha, who lived alone, was believed to have died in her bathroom. Her children, who reside outside Karachi, were informed. The body was shifted to JPMC for medico-legal formalities before being moved to the Edhi morgue in Sohrab Goth.

Dr Summaiya Syed, the police surgeon, said that a post-mortem examination is pending, awaiting the arrival of her legal heirs. Police have classified the case as an unnatural death but found no immediate signs of foul play.

Born in 1948, Ayesha Khan was a pioneering actress of Pakistan Television (PTV), renowned for her compelling performances in classic dramas. Her career spanned over five decades, during which she played strong, nuanced female characters that left an indelible mark on the industry. She was also the elder sister of the late actress Khalida Riasat.

Ahmed Shah, President of the Arts Council of Pakistan, expressed deep sorrow over her demise, calling it a "great loss for Pakistani drama." Funeral arrangements will be announced once her family completes legal formalities. Ayesha's tragic and solitary passing has sparked debates about the welfare of aging artistes, raising questions about the industry's responsibility toward its veterans once the limelight fades.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 21/06/2025)

Security guard kills two 'muggers'

Two suspected robbers were shot dead by a private security guard and citizens in Bhains Colony on late Thursday night, police said.

Sukhan SHO Adeel Shah said that four armed suspects looted valuables from citizens on Road-3. As they were fleeing, the security guard and the citizens opened fire on them. As a result, two suspects were shot dead on the spot while two others, including one in wounded condition, managed to escape from the spot.

The bodies were shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

The officer said one of the deceased suspects was identified as Jamshed who belonged to a dacoit gang as there were several FIRs against him registered at different police stations. The identity of other suspect could not be ascertained immediately.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 21/06/2025)

Man held for burning 10-month-old son

A dispute between a husband and wife has landed their 10-month-old baby boy in the hospital due to alleged torture and burns inflicted by his father. Amir's father, Amir, allegedly tortured and burned him during an altercation with his wife, Nasima, at their residence in Liaquatabad.

The infant was admitted to the National Institute of Child Health (NICH) in critical condition. According to police, the incident occurred a few days ago when Amir got into an argument with his wife and brutally beat their son before placing him on a burning stove. The baby suffered severe burns and was initially rushed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital before being shifted to NICH.

The authorities were informed about the incident, and the in-charge of the Woman and Child Protection Cell Sobia Nazir visited the hospital and recorded the mother's statement. The doctors attending to the baby said that the child was subjected to severe physical abuse and is currently fighting for his life.

The police registered a case against Amir based on the complaint filed by Nasima, who had married Amir two years ago. She alleged that on June 11, Amir physically abused their son and threatened to kill him by placing his hands and legs on the burning stove, causing severe burns.

Amir was arrested by the Woman and Child Protection Unit. During the initial investigation, he claimed that his wife was demanding a divorce, which led to the altercation. However, further investigation is underway to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 21/06/2025)

Suspected robber shot dead in 'encounter'

A suspected robber was shot dead in an alleged encounter in Korangi, police said on Thursday.

Korangi SHO Adeel Afzal said a patrolling police party signalled pillion riders to stop for checking in Sector 33-E near the Gharib Nawaz police post.

Upon the signal, the suspects resorted to firing, and in the ensuing exchange of fire, one armed man, identified as Waqar Ali, was gunned down and his companion, Taj Mohammed, was arrested.

Police claimed to have recovered two pistols and one motorcycle from their custody.

SHO Afzal said the killed suspect was involved in robberies in Defence, Awami Colony, Quaidabad and Zaman Town, and had also been arrested by the police in the past.

He mentioned that there were 11 FIRs registered against the deceased suspect at different police stations.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

'Robber killed by associate'

A suspected robber was killed in firing allegedly by his fellow to avoid being captured by a mob after a robbery in the SITE area on Thursday, police said.

SITE-A SHO Imran Afridi said that two suspects riding a motorcycle snatched a mobile phone from a citizen within the limits of their police station. The same suspects also looted another citizen within the vicinity.

As they were fleeing, their bike hit a four-wheeler near Metroville, ostensibly due to over-speeding. Both suspects fell off the bike. As people tried to capture them, one suspect resorted to firing, and a bullet hit and killed his companion on the spot while he managed to flee, the officer added.

The police recovered five mobile phones and one motorcycle from his custody.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal proceedings, where the deceased was identified as Noman Khan alias China.

The officer said the killed suspect was a habitual criminal, as there were five FIRs registered against him, including one pertaining to a robbery-cum-murder.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/06/2025)

NAB freezes 457 properties over BTK land scam

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has ordered the freezing of over 450 immovable properties owned by various individuals named in the Bahria Town Karachi land grab case.

NAB has also restrained these individuals from creating any third-party interest in respect of the said properties and warned that, in case of any violation, the individuals responsible may face proceedings under the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999.

The order, passed by NAB's Director General Sindh, Javed Akbar Riaz, states that it will remain in force for a period of up to 15 days. In the meantime, it will be placed before an accountability court for confirmation, as required by the law.

"Further, the said freezing order shall continue to subsist (even after passage of fifteen days) till the Hon'ble Accountability Court adjudicates upon the same as held by Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan in its judgement reported as 2019SCMR 1106," it adds.

An inquiry was initiated by NAB in 2015 after it received complaints regarding the alleged usurpation of government land by Bahria Town for its 'Bahria Town Karachi' project in Malir, near the M-9 Motorway. The inquiry was subsequently upgraded into an investigation in 2016.

In a reference filed some five months ago, the anti-graft watchdog alleged that the entire hierarchy of the executive, the revenue board, the MDA and others conspired to cede valuable public property to Bahria Town. It named 33 individuals as the accused, including Bahria Town Chairman Malik Riaz, senior PPP and Sindh government figures, and others.

It said the accused, acting in connivance, grabbed around 17,000 acres of public property for Bahria Town under the grab of adjustment/ exchange/ consolidation in 2013-14 in sheer violation of the law, causing a colossal loss of over Rs708.08 billion to the national exchequer.

Over the years, Dawn has played an important role in shedding light on the Bahria Town Karachi land scam through a series of detailed investigative reports. In April 2016, it had published an exposé titled "Bahria Town Karachi: Greed Unlimited", which invited the public's attention to the alleged collusion between Bahria Town and land authorities in Malir. The investigation had documented irregularities in land acquisition and the displacement of local communities.

This was followed by "Greed Unbound", published in September 2019, which examined how frontmen, forged land records and administrative manoeuvring enabled the illegal consolidation of thousands of acres of public land. In March last year, Dawn ran a fresh investigation under the title "Catch Me If You Can", detailing how Bahria Town continued to expand its footprint beyond the limits set by the Supreme Court.

Properties frozen

According to the freezing order, Waqas Riffat, a nephew of Malik Riaz and general manager sales of Bahria Town (Pvt) Limited, owns more than 400 properties in Defence Housing Authority Rawalpindi, Bahria Town and DHA Islamabad, which are now subject to the freezing order.

Similarly, a former secretary of the Land Utilisation Department, Muhammad Javed Hanif Khan, owns multiple properties in DHA City Karachi, Lyari Development Authority (LDA) and Malir Development Authority (MDA). Similarly, multiple properties are registered in the name of former director general Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) Agha Maqsood Abbas in the LDA and MDA. Two properties each are in the names of Ahmed Ali Malik, son of Malik Riaz and chief executive officer of Bahria Town, and Zain Malik, son-in-law of Malik Riaz and former vice-chairman Bahria Town, in the federal capital. All of the aforementioned properties now stand frozen.

The order also notifies two properties in LDA and MDA owned by the former DG SBCA Manzoor Qadir, and two properties each in the names of former additional director Town Planning in MDA, Syed Nishat Ali Rizvi, and director Town Planning, Muhammad Siddique Majid, in the MDA and LDA as subject to its freezing order.

Former deputy commissioner (East) Kazi Jan Mohammad has been connected to two properties in DHA Karachi; the Utilisation Department Secretary Saqib Ahmed Soomro has one property in DHA Karachi; former MDA director general Muhammad Sohail to a property in DHA City Karachi; while former mukhtiar Taluka Murad Memon Malir Tufail Ahmed Khaskheli and deputy chief CEO of M/s Bahria Town to one property each in DHA City Karachi and Islamabad, respectively.

The freezing order states that all 457 properties in question have been frozen by the DG NAB Sindh in exercise of his powers under Section 12 read with Section 34A of the NAO. A submission will be made before a judge of an accountability court in Karachi for its confirmation, as required under Section 12(c) of NAO, it adds.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 01, 22/06/2025)

Probe into threats to boxer Aliya Soomro ordered

Police on Monday ordered an investigation after boxer Aliya Soomro alleged that she and her family were being threatened and harassed by a "facilitator of the Lyari gang war" who was "impersonating a media worker", Dawn.com reported.



Earlier this year, Ms Soomro had made history by becoming the first Pakistani woman to win a world boxing title. She defeated her Thai opponent in just 45 seconds in Bangkok to win the WBA Asia 105-pound title.

On June 22, she shared a video on Instagram and complained that she and her family were being harassed by someone pretending to be a journalist. She claimed that the suspect was linked to the Lyari gang war.

"Don't drag me into political and ethnic disputes and conflict between boxing institutions. Why is the entire machinery being used against me? My family and I are facing life threats," she said.

She alleged that some people were spreading unfounded information about her and feared that she might be physically harmed. She had appealed to the Sindh police chief and other officials for protection and legal assistance.

Following her post, a statement from South DIG Syed Asad Raza said he has taken immediate action and asked City SSP Arif Aziz to investigate the matter and take legal steps against those responsible.

"South Zone Police contacted Aliya Soomro and assured her of full cooperation," the statement said, adding that "the boxer is a representative and a shining example of the courageous women of Pakistan."

"Women have the right to move forward in every field of life. The police will provide all possible protection to Aliya Soomro," the statement quoted the DIG as saying.

Recently, the Sindh government had announced a Rs4.7 million sponsorship to help Ms Soomro compete in a boxing event in Dubai this August, where she will fight an Indian boxer.

(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 24/06/2025)

Firing during brawl between councillor, cop leaves man dead

A young passer-by was shot dead when two groups allegedly exchanged fire over a tenancy dispute in Pak Colony on Tuesday evening, police said.

They said the victim, identified as 20-year-old Zubair Sadiq, was caught in the crossfire during a clash between two groups over a personal dispute near Dhobi Ghat in Mianwali Colony.

Pak Colony SHO Malik Mumtaz said that initial investigations revealed the clash was between groups led by policeman Hameedullah Niazi and councillor Akram Niazi. The two parties had exchanged heated arguments earlier in the morning.

The officer said the disagreement was over tenants. The councillor had rented out his property to someone, but the policeman reportedly objected to the tenants.

The quarrel escalated by the evening, leading to an exchange of gunfire. The group led by the policeman allegedly opened fire first, resulting in the death of the passer-by.

Police said they had collected evidence from the scene and initiated legal proceedings against both groups.

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

Two injured as factory roof collapses

Two workers sustained injuries, including one seriously, when the roof of a textile factory collapsed in the SITE Superhighway Industrial Area on Tuesday, rescue service officials said.

They added that the roof of Al-Hadi Industries, located in Scheme-33 near Al-Karam Textile, suddenly collapsed.

As a result, one worker sustained injuries and was immediately rescued and sent to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), said Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan.

However, another worker, identified as Nazeer Hasan, 18, was trapped under the debris. He was rescued after hectic efforts. He sustained serious bone injuries and was also in a state of trauma. He, too, was shifted to the JPMC for treatment.

Mr Khan said the exact cause of the roof collapse could not be ascertained immediately. However, people present at the site told the rescue team that some drilling or construction work might have contributed to the incident.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 25/06/2025)

Four 'RAW agents' arrested, weapons seized in Karachi's Quaidabad raid, police say

Four suspected Indian agents were arrested in a raid carried out in the Quaidabad area, police said on Wednesday.

The Special Investigation Unit of the Sindh police and an intelligence agency conducted the raid on a tip-off, SIU SSP Mohammed Shoib Memon said, adding that they had links with the Indian intelligence agency — the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

He identified the suspects as Mohammed Khan alias Gullu, Yameen Malah, Akhter Thaheem and Ghulam Qadir alias Akash, and claimed that they were found involved in espionage activities.

With their arrest, a plot to carry out terror attacks in the country was foiled, he said.

SSP Memon said that two hand grenades, a Kalashnikov, a rifle, two pistols and mobile phones were seized from them. The mobile phones, believed to be containing sensitive digital material, have been sent for a forensic analysis, he said.

"The suspects had made videos and captured pictures of the country's sensitive installations, which they used to send to RAW using specialised software," the SIU officer claimed.

According to him, the suspects admitted that they used to meet officers of RAW and Indian Border Security Force in border areas.

They received large sums of cash, liquor and valuable gifts from Indian agencies' personnel, the SSP said.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 26/06/2025)

Two suspected robbers killed in 'encounter'

Police on Wednesday claimed to have killed two suspected robbers after an alleged encounter.

The encounter took place near Khuda Ki Basti in Surjani Town, where, after an exchange of fire, two suspects, namely Mohammed Arif and Khan Mohammed, were arrested in a wounded condition.

They were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries during treatment.

The police claimed to have recovered two pistols with ammunition, three mobile phones and cash from their custody.

West-SSP Tariq Illahi Mastoi, in a statement, stated that the suspects were trying to snatch a motorcycle from a citizen when the police party arrived there.

The SSP said both killed suspects were habitual criminals, as there were several FIRs registered against them.

They were also seen committing a crime in CCTV footage last year. They had been arrested in four and five cases each in the past and sent to prison.

The senior officer said they had reports that the suspects had snatched cash and other valuables from citizens, mainly in Surjani Town, multiple times.

Tortured body of woman found

The body of a woman bearing torture marks was recovered off the National Highway on Wednesday, police and hospital officials said.

Shah Latif Town police said that the tortured body of a woman, aged between 35 and 40 years, was recovered from bushes near a church in Scheme 25-A.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 26/06/2025)

Charred body of policeman recovered from house

The burnt body of a serving policeman was recovered from a rented house in North Karachi on Friday, police said.

Sir Syed Town SHO Farrukh Hashmi said that the charred body of constable Hajan Jumman, 55, was found at a residence in Sector 7-A.

The officer said neighbours had alerted the police after seeing smoke emanating from a window of the house. Upon arrival, law enforcers found the body lying under a bed while clothes and other household items were on fire.

It was suspected that the deceased may have fallen from the bed when the fire broke out. A spent bullet casing from his pistol was also recovered from the scene, although neighbours said they did not hear any gunshot.

The deceased had two wives. His first wife and children live in his native town of Larkana. He had recently married another woman in Karachi, with whom he had no children. He had dropped her off at her parents' house three days earlier as he was relocating, the officer added.

The SHO said the police were investigating the incident from the two possible angles of suicide and murder.

The constable was posted at the police headquarters in the West zone. The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 28/06/2025)

Two women among four remanded to police custody in robbery case

A judicial magistrate on Friday remanded four suspects in police custody in a case pertaining to allegedly looting over Rs130 million, mobile phones and expensive watches at gunpoint from a house in PECHS.

The investigating officer (IO) produced the four suspects — including two women — before the judicial magistrate (East) and sought their 14-day physical remand for further interrogation.

During the proceedings, the IO submitted that the custody was required to verify the suspects' credentials and criminal records. He added that their interrogation was necessary to recover the looted valuables, including cash and to apprehend other accomplices.

After hearing the IO, the court granted five-day physical remand and directed the IO to produce the suspects at the next hearing along with a progress report.

According to the FIR, the complainant, Muhammad Salik, stated that he deals in the purchase and sale of vehicles on Khalid Bin Walid Road. On June 26, at around 3am, he returned home to the PECHS area and was parking his car when a black double-cabin Revo intercepted his vehicle.

He said that two men and three women stepped out from the vehicle. One of the suspects was dressed in a uniform resembling that of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the monogram was visible and then he took out his pistol.

The suspects allegedly entered the complainant's house at gunpoint and looted Rs130m cash, mobile phones, expensive watches and other valuables, the FIR added.

The complainant added that the suspects identified themselves as FIA officials before fleeing the house.

A case had been registered at the Ferozabad police station under Section 395 (punishment for dacoity) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 28/06/2025)

Gang robs car showroom owner's house

A brazen robbery was committed at the residence of a car showroom owner in PECHS Block 2, on the night of June 25-26.

The victim Muhammad Salik returned home at around 3:30am and parked his vehicle outside his residence. A black car pulled up in front of him as he was parking. Two men and three women clad in burqas, got out of the car. One of the men was in FIA uniform. The robbers brandished pistols and forced Salik to lead them to his house.

They asked him to open the door, and when his family members heard his voice, they opened it. Once inside, they ransacked the premises, demanding cash and keys to the wardrobe.

The thieves made off with a staggering Rs130 million in cash, which they stuffed into bags, along with nine high-end mobile phones, including iPhones and Google Pixels, 20 luxury watches, a smartwatch, 25 exclusive perfumes of different brands, and two laptops.

The Ferozabad police registered a case on Salik's complaint against unknown armed robbers at the. The police have obtained CCTV footage and launched a search operation to track down the culprits.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 28/06/2025)

SHC raises alarm over adding terrorism charge in ordinary criminal cases

The Sindh High Court on Friday voiced concern over the alarming increase in the registration of ordinary criminal cases under terrorism charges and observed that such a high number of terrorist incidents negatively impact the country in the comity of nations.

A two-judge bench of the SHC headed by Justice Omar Sial made these observations while overturning a death penalty handed down to two appellants in a case pertaining to kidnapping for ransom and murder of a woman.

An antiterrorism court had sentenced Mehboob Akhtar Mian and Abbas Bangash to death in December 2022 for kidnapping for ransom a woman, Aziz Akhtar, in October 2020 from Gulshan-i-Hadeed and later killing her. The body was recovered from a well at a farmhouse in Dhabeji.

The convicts through lawyers Mohammad Farooq and Iqbal Khattak challenged the capital punishment before the high court and after hearing both sides and examining the record and proceedings, the bench allowed the appeals and exonerated the appellants.

The bench in its judgement said that the charge of terrorism was not proved in this case while a case of kidnapping for ransom was also not established and an ATC has exclusive jurisdiction to hear and adjudicate cases that fall within the schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act, but that does not necessarily mean that it must also convict someone under the terrorism law.

The terrorism charge must be proved using the standards extensively and intensely analysed by the Supreme Court in the case of Ghulam Hussain vs the state, it added.

The bench also noted that the trial court was not appropriately assisted as the apex court judgement in question was not brought to its attention since a substantial number of conditions stipulated by the Supreme Court were not adhered to in this case.

The SHC further said: "It must also not lose sight of the fact that branding every case as a terrorism case without the requirements of terrorism being proved has a negative impact on the country among the nations of the world.

"The world looks at these statistics before making many decisions. The country is also embarrassed when such a high number of terrorist cases in our country is cited to us," it added.

The bench in its order also observed that the prosecution was unable to reveal and prove the true facts of the matter which created doubt in its case and the benefit of the doubt must go to the accused persons.

It noted that identifying the body from the well was also not without doubt as it was apparent from the evidence that the identifying object, i.e., the ring, was an afterthought while the divergence of prosecution witnesses' accounts on the state of the body when recovered also created doubt.

It also stated that absence of important witnesses raised a presumption that they would not have supported the prosecution's case had they appeared at trial court.

The discovery of the body on Bangash's lead from land possessed by Mahboob, a retired army officer, was not devoid of doubt, it added.

The bench further noted that the investigators had evidence that the woman, Aziz, may have gone to Sanghar to see her mother, but same was not investigated like many others.

Apart from linking Mehboob with the murder by alleging that the guard on the farmhouse was his, there was no other evidence against him and one can consider the allegation made by co-appellant in his Section 164 CrPC statement, but the same was not admissible as evidence.

In any case, Bangash at trial told the court that the police had tortured him to make a statement accusing Mehboob and there appeared to be an element of truth in this assertion, it added.

One of the areas that is most unusual is Bangash being taken out of judicial custody and the next day showing the body and then making a confession and blaming Mehboob for all the evil and such conduct baffles a reasonable mind, it added.

The bench said that both appellants have come out as hard-talking and rough men and it also seemed that they capitalised on Mehboob's former career in the army to gain an edge in their "areas of business interest". That would, however, not mean, ipso facto, that they kidnapped and murdered Ms Aziz and they had no reason to do so.
(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 28/06/2025)