

NEWSCLIPPINGS

JULY TO DECEMBER 2025

LAW AND ORDERS, NGOs AND GOVT NEWS



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Six Karachi policemen get life imprisonment for trafficking drugs

A sessions court on Monday sentenced six policemen to life imprisonment after 77 kilograms of charas were recovered from their official police van as the contraband was being transported from Jamshoro to Karachi for illegal supply.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (South) Abdul Hafeez Lashari found six police officials of CIA Jamshoro — Ghulam Abbas, Muhammad Yaqoob, Aijaz Ali Mallah, Abdul Hameed, Rahib Hussain and Ahmed Nawaz — guilty of possessing a total of 77kg of charas. He sentenced them to life imprisonment and awarded an additional two-year sentence under Section 155-C of the Police Order, 2002.

“Evidence available on record established that all the accused, were serving police constables, and they misused their official position, uniform, weapons, and a government-issued police mobile to transport a huge quantity of Charas. This act directly attracts the offence under Section 155(c) of the Police Order, 2002, which deals with misuse of authority by a police officer for wrongful gain or to cause wrongful loss to any person.

The investigation officer produced official documents showing that the accused were posted at CIA Centre Jamshoro and that the mobile used in the offence was officially allotted to the Incharge CIA. Furthermore, the contraband was recovered from the government vehicle, and the accused were in police uniforms at the time of arrest. These facts establish that the accused committed an offence under Section 155(c), as they clearly abused their lawful authority to engage in illegal drug trafficking,” the court noted.

The judge observed: “This case strikes at the very heart of public trust, when those sworn to uphold the law instead betray it, the damage reverberates far beyond the courtroom. Police officers are not merely enforcers of justice but they embody the covenant between the state and its citizens. Their participation in criminal acts fractures that covenant, eroding faith in institutions meant to protect society.

It is a profound violation, for when guardians of law became agents of corruption, the belief of people in justice itself fades. This betrayal demands more than legal consequences. It calls for systemic reckoning. For a society to heal, institutions must not only punish the guilty but restore their own integrity through transparency, accountability, and an unrelenting commitment to the rule of law. Only then can the shattered trust begin to mend.”

The court also imposed a fine over 500,000 each, on default they would serve additional imprisonment.

According to state prosecutor Shakeel Ahmed Abbasi, in July 2021, the Boat Basin police had received a tip-off that a police mobile was transporting a large quantity of charas for illegal supply. Acting on the information, a patrolling team intercepted the vehicle and apprehended six policemen. Two sacks containing charas, weighing a total of 77 kilograms, were recovered from the official police van.

During the trial, the defence contended that the seized narcotics produced in court had melted and were not in their original condition. However, the court observed that this objection held no legal merit and noted that charas is a substance that can melt or deform due to heat or pressure.

The accused, in their statements recorded under Section 342 of the Criminal Procedure Code, claimed they had been arrested by the Rangers personnel at the Jamshoro Toll Plaza. The court dismissed their claim, stating it lacked any supporting evidence.

The court noted that the prosecution presented consistent and credible evidence — including the FIR and witness testimonies — clearly establishing that the arrests were made near Khayaban-i-Sahil, opposite Sunrise Apartments in Clifton, as mentioned in the FIR.

A case was registered at the Boat Basin police station under Sections 6/9(C) of the Control of Narcotic Substances Act.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 14, 01/07/2025)

‘Over 540 Safe City cameras generating real-time alerts’

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon on Monday reviewed the progress, performance, and technical issues surrounding the Safe City project and associated surveillance initiatives.

A meeting held at the Central Police Office was informed that 542 cameras had been installed across Karachi, generating real-time alerts. Twelve emergency response vehicles and nearly 300 policemen have also been deployed to enhance response capabilities.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Citizen-Police Liaison Committee, the Safe City project leadership and other senior officers.

Multiple departments including traffic, highway patrol, and IT presented separate briefings during the session.

Their briefings highlighted that alerts are effectively helping intercept vehicles with fake number plates, though some delays in alert generation and dispatch have been noted during testing phases. The Safe City administration is working to resolve these technical lags.

The DIG-Traffic reported the introduction of an e-challan system, now being integrated with the Safe City network, and a proposal has been sent to the Sindh government for increasing fines for traffic violations.

The IGP reiterated that the provincial government seeks immediate implementation of Safe City and related projects. He formed two committees to address alert system improvements and data management, and to oversee deployment planning and response mechanisms.
(By APP Dawn, 13, 01/07/2025)

Violence drops 32% in Q2 2025

Pakistan has witnessed a significant 32% drop in overall violence in the second quarter of 2025, according to a report released by the Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS).

The report highlighted key trends in the country's security landscape, including a marked reduction in fatalities, strategic improvements in counter-terrorism efforts, and concerning signs of militancy spreading into previously calmer regions.

The report revealed that fatalities from violence dropped to 615 in Q2, 2025, down from 900 in Q1, indicating a clear trend toward a safer environment. The 273 incidents recorded included terrorist attacks and counter-terrorism operations, with a total of 388 injuries reported.

The report further highlighted that fatalities declined by 32% compared to Q1 2025, with the number of fatalities from violence dropping by 285, from 900 in Q1 to 615 in Q2. This shift reflects more effective counter-terrorism efforts, with a higher percentage of outlaws dying in security operations.

While violence receded in traditional conflict zones, the CRSS report showed that Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and Balochistan provinces continued to bear the brunt of the violence, although incidents declined significantly.

K-P saw a 32% reduction in violence, with fatalities dropping from 567 in Q1 to 389 in Q2. This is attributed to successful state-led military operations against terrorists such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Similarly, violence in Balochistan decreased by 40%, with fatalities falling from 317 in Q1 to 190 in Q2. However, Balochistan remains a hotbed of unrest due to separatist militancy and ongoing targeted violence, especially against state forces.

Despite these gains, K-P and Balochistan accounted for over 94% of all fatalities and 93% of the recorded violent incidents in Q2 2025.

One concerning trend noted in the report is the spread of violence into previously quieter regions.

Punjab saw a sharp 162% rise in fatalities, from 8 in Q1 to 21 in Q2. Although the number of fatalities remained relatively low, this surge in violence raises alarms about the spread of militancy beyond the usual conflict zones.

Similarly, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), which reported zero fatalities in Q1, recorded six deaths in Q2, a worrying sign of instability in this traditionally peaceful region.

The report also shed light on the troubling reality that civilians continue to bear the brunt of violence. While the terrorists suffered the majority of fatalities, civilians were the most targeted group in terms of attacks and injuries. Of the 107 terror attacks, civilians were the victims in the majority of cases. They also sustained 249 injuries, a stark contrast to the 120 injuries suffered by security personnel.

The report underscored the disturbing trend that terrorists are aiming to disrupt daily life and instil fear among civilians, rather than focusing on more precise, strategic strikes against specific targets.

A key positive development highlighted in the report is the significant progress made in counter-terrorism operations. Terrorists, including militants and insurgents, suffered a greater percentage of fatalities compared to civilians and security personnel.

The percentage of fatalities among outlaws surged to 55% by Q2, 2025, compared to 35% during 2021-2024, reflecting the increased effectiveness of state-led counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.

(By News Desk The Express Tribune, 02, 01/07/2025)

20-year-old shot dead by bike-snatchers in Sachal

A young man was shot dead by robbers in the Scheme-33 area, police said on Wednesday.

They said that 20-year-old Moosa Wasiullah was shot and killed when he put up resistance in Abdullah Shah Ghazi Goth. Sachal Station Investigation Office (SIO) Gulbahar Rind told Dawn that he was riding a new motorbike when armed men intercepted him, held him at gunpoint and snatched his two-wheeler.

Before riding away, the robbers also demanded his cell phone, he said, adding that the victim tried to overpower one of them but his accomplice opened fire and a bullet hit him in the chest. He died on the spot. The bike-snatchers fled with the two-wheeler and his cell phone.

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

Woman wounded in firing over land dispute

The Pakistani wife of a Chinese national was shot at and wounded in Mauripur on Wednesday, police said.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that Shaista Lee owned a warehouse in Mauripur. He said that another person, identified as Mir Hassan, also claimed ownership over the piece of land.

On Wednesday morning, Mir Hassan and his accomplices tried to forcefully occupy the land and Ms Shaista resisted him, the DIG said, adding that the suspects resorted to firing and a bullet hit her in the shoulder.

She was initially taken to the Civil Hospital Karachi from where she was referred to the Aga Khan University Hospital for further treatment.

The police are trying to arrest Mir Hasan and other suspects, he said.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 03/07/2025)

Man in Karachi held for murdering son over 'friendship' with transpersons

A 21-year-old man was killed allegedly by his father in Orangi Town on Wednesday, police said.

Iqbal Market SHO Sher Mohammed told Dawn that the police arrested Abdul Ghaffar Khan for killing his son, Ali Khan, with a shovel in Raja Tanveer Colony, Sector 11 ½.

The officer said the father told police that his son had developed a "friendship" with members of the transgender community and used to meet them frequently. He said he had repeatedly warned his son to stay away from the transpersons but he won't listen.

The father claimed that he initially gave electric shocks to him and later killed him with a shovel. The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The suspect is known to be religiously inclined and showed no remorse over the killing, the SHO said, adding that the police were waiting for medical confirmation regarding the alleged electric shocks.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 03/07/2025)

Delays in dispensing justice akin to 'unauthorised punishment': SC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed regret over the inordinate delays plaguing the country's criminal justice system, warning that such inefficiencies are eroding public confidence in the judiciary and amount to a form of "unauthorised punishment".

In a detailed judgement, Justice Athar Minallah called for the urgent completion of appeal processes and said the abysmal conditions in overcrowded prisons across the country add to the unimaginable suffering of prisoners — especially those on death row. These conditions become "a form of unauthorised punishment not intended by the legislature", he wrote.

He emphasised that it was the constitutional duty of every organ of the state — the executive, the judiciary and the legislature — to take urgent steps for ensuring that the criminal justice system serves the people of this country and they repose their trust and confidence in its fairness, impartiality and independence.

Justice Minallah presided over a three-member bench hearing the appeal of Tahir alias Tahri, who had challenged a 2014 Lahore High Court (LHC) decision upholding his conviction and death sentence for the murder of five individuals.

Justice Minallah observed that a weak and compromised criminal justice system undermines the rule of law and thus encourages corruption, authoritarianism and the rule of the powerful and privileged instead. "An effective and responsive criminal justice system, free from political interference and corruption, is a fundamental right of every citizen, while inexpensive and expeditious justice is a commitment of the state under the Constitution," he wrote.

He conceded that judiciary was also responsible when the process of appeal exceeds the necessary and reasonable time required for its completion, but other branches of the state — the executive and legislature — were equally responsible for ensuring that the conditions in the prisons were humane and that the treatment of prisoners was not cruel, inhumane and degrading.

In the case at hand, Justice Minallah regretted that the appellant was sentenced to death by the trial court on Sept 3, 2008, and the appeal was preferred within time. The LHC decided the appeal on Sept 18, 2014, and the reference was answered in the affirmative, and thus, the sentence of death was confirmed.

But there was a six-year delay in deciding the appeal of a prisoner who has been handed down a death sentence, which cannot be justified when the necessary time for taking up the appeal and its ultimate disposal should not have been more than a year, Justice Minallah bemoaned.

The appellant had then sought leave by filing a petition before the Supreme Court, and the necessary and reasonable time required for its final disposal should not have been more than 12 months, he wrote.

The petition, which was filed in 2014, was fixed for hearing for the first time after seven years — on March 22, 2021 — and finally on Jan 29, 2025. It took more than 17 years to complete the appeal process from the date when the death sentence was handed down, the judgement regretted.

Throughout this time, the prisoner remained in a death cell, despite having no role in the delay nor any control over the procedural hurdles. Justice Minallah said such delays grossly exceed the “necessary and reasonable” time that should be required for appellate procedures.

(By Nasir Iqbal Dawn, 03, 04/07/2025)

Three shot dead over ‘monetary dispute’ in Karachi’s Orangi Town

A man and his two friends were shot dead in Orangi Town on Thursday morning, police said.

The Mominabad police identified the victims as Ghausuddin, 40, Gul Khan, 45, and Mohammed Ameen, 25, and said that they were killed at Zia Colony.

They said the incident occurred when Ghaus and his two friends visited his daughter’s house, where a scuffle broke out between them and family members of his son-in-law Abdul Hameed, which ultimately resulted in the triple murder.

West SSP Tariq Illahi Mastoi told *Dawn* that the primary target was Ghausuddin, alias Imran while the other two victims were his friends. The bodies were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told *Dawn* that all three victims were shot in the head.

The SSP said that Ghaus was targeted by his son-in-law, along with his other relatives, over a monetary dispute.

He said that the police arrested two suspects, identified as Shahjehan and Rehmat, and efforts were ongoing to apprehend Hameed and other suspects. A 9mm pistol recovered from the scene had been seized for investigation.

The officer said that held suspect Shahjehan was the father-in-law of Ghaus’s daughter.

A case was registered on the complaint of Ghausuddin’s brother, Bahauddin, who told the police that his niece, Ayesha, had married Hameed about six months ago. Ghausuddin, along with his two friends, had gone to resolve “some domestic issues” with Hameed around 1:30am on Thursday. The victims were standing outside the house when the suspects “misbehaved” with them, which led to a heated exchange, after which the suspects opened fire, killing all three of them.

The complainant added that he was informed over a phone call at 6am by a relative that TV channels were reporting the deaths. He and other family members rushed to the hospital, where they were told the bodies had been moved to a morgue near the FTC flyover. They went there and identified the victims.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 04/07/2025)

SHC stops police from harassing overseas Pakistani

The Sindh High Court (SHC) has restrained the police from harassing an overseas Pakistani in a property dispute case.

The court also granted time to a police officer to settle the issue with the petitioner.

Zafarullah Merchant had petitioned the SHC and submitted that he was an American citizen and had a property dispute in the Garden area of city.

Citing home secretary and various police officers as respondents, the petitioner submitted that he had executed limited power of attorney in favour of a woman to represent him before the court, but she turned dishonest and used police officers to help her to usurp the subject property.

He also alleged that sub-inspector Nadeem Akhtar of Special Investigation Unit and constable Asif Noor posted at Jamshed Quarter police station had so far obtained over \$ 80,000 as a bribe from him and were issuing him threats and causing harassment.

When the a single-judge bench headed by Justice Nisar Ahmed Bhanbhro took up the case for hearing, the sub-inspector was in attendance while the constable was produced by the police officers in court despite last court order and submitted that they were unable to trace out the policeman.

However, the SI said that the policeman was residing at police headquarters and he did not communicate such information to the central police office. Thereafter, the bench said that apparently, the police officer was in league with the constable and was protecting him, which amounts to misconduct.

It warned to refer the case of SI Akhtar to the provincial police officer to initiate disciplinary proceedings against him. However, the police officer sought one week’s time and submitted that he will approach the petitioner to settle the dispute and also conduct himself strictly in accordance with law.

A DSP also assured the court that both police officials in question will not cause any harassment to the petitioner and the central police office will also issue appropriate direction to the police officers concerned on the subject issue.

The bench granted the time and warned that the matter will be sent to IGP Sindh if the policemen concerned failed to settle the dispute.

(By Isaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 04/07/2025)

2009 Ashura blast perpetrators got their comeuppance: anti-terror cop

Sixteen years after the December 2009 bomb blast that ripped through the main Ashura procession on M.A. Jinnah Road, a senior law enforcement official has claimed that most of the perpetrators of the heinous crime were either killed in encounters with police or in drone strikes by the US forces in Afghanistan where they had taken refuge.

However, these suspects are still listed as absconders in the case file that remained dormant in an anti-terrorism court.

On December 28, 2009, over 45 people, including children, were killed when a bomb exploded in the central procession of Ashura in Karachi.

A month after the bomb blast, Special Investigation Unit (SIU) arrested four suspects — Murtaza, alias Shakil; Muhammad Shakeeb Farooqui; Wazir Mohammed and Murad Shah, said to be associated with the banned militant outfit Jundullah, for their alleged involvement in four cases pertaining to a series of attacks on Muharram processions in December 2009.

Later, the suspects had been brought to the City Courts in June 2010 in connection with a robbery case. After the hearing, the suspects were freed from police custody by their accomplices following an armed attack on the city courts premises and one of the four suspects, Murad Shah, was killed while fleeing.

Since then the case files were gathering dust and no one had been implicated in this case so far.

Speaking to Dawn, Counter Terrorism Department's Raja Umar Khattab, who had arrested and interrogated the alleged facilitators of the Ashura bombing when he headed the SIU, claimed that the one of the key suspects — who escaped from police custody in 2010 — had been killed in an encounter in Orangi Town, while two other suspects Wazir and Farooqui, fled to Afghanistan, where they were also killed in a drone strike in 2016.

Elaborating further, Mr Khattab said the suspects' families, who returned back to Pakistan had been interrogated and they disclosed and confirmed to him that both the suspects had been living near the Pak-Afghan border, where they were involved in assembling improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and later they were killed in a drone strike.

Speaking about the mastermind behind the Ashura blast, Mr Khattab said that the militant outfit Jundullah was founded by former Al Qaeda commander Hamza Jufi, alias Haji Mumtaz, in Waziristan. He added that Haji Mumtaz — who was also behind several major terrorist acts in Karachi — was also killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan in 2012.

He said that in 2009, a series of small explosions took place in various areas starting from the 6th of Muharram. However, the most devastating attack was carried out on the 10th of Muharram when explosives were allegedly planted inside a box, he added.

Mr Khattab stated that a few days after the blast, police apprehended several individuals from the jurisdiction of the Shahrah-i-Noor Jahan police station and recovered IEDs from their possession.

The evidence recovered from the suspects showed that the Ashura blast had been orchestrated by the banned outfit Jundullah, he added.

On the other hand, the Sindh prosecutor general's office stated that as per last order issued by an anti-terrorism court, the case file of the 2009 Ashura bombing remain dormant, as the suspects are still listed as absconders.

According to the office, on October 10, 2010, the judge of the ATC-III issued non-bailable warrants for life time for arrest against the absconding suspects, and directed the case file be kept dormant.

Legal expert says that unless the investigating officer of the case or authority concerned submit a report before the court — such as statements from the legal heirs, death certificates, or any other proof confirming the suspects' deaths — the case file will remain dormant.

(By Sumari Abdullah 13, 06/07/2025)

Actress found dead in Karachi flat

Actress and social media celebrity Humaira Asghar Ali, 35, was found dead in her apartment in the posh neighbourhood of the metropolis nearly 20 days after her passing, police confirmed on Tuesday.

The grisly discovery was made when the landlord, accompanied by a court bailiff and police, arrived to execute a court-ordered eviction due to non-payment of rent. Humaira had reportedly not paid rent since 2024, despite having lived in the third-floor flat

located in Ittehad Commercial area of DHA Phase VI, since 2018. According to Farooq Sanjrani, SHO Gizri police station, the flat's main door was locked from the inside, raising suspicions.

After breaking open the main door, police found Humaira's body lying inside one of the rooms. The body was in an advanced state of decomposition, and initial estimates suggest that she had been dead for 20 to 25 days. The Crime Scene Unit was called to collect forensic evidence, and the body was later moved to JPMC for a postmortem examination. The flat has since been sealed by authorities.

SHO Sanjrani stated that no signs of forced entry or immediate foul play were observed, and the initial assumption is that she may have died of natural causes. However, the exact cause of death will be confirmed following the postmortem report.

Police have not yet been able to locate or contact any of Humaira Asghar Ali's family members. She was believed to be living alone and had limited interaction with neighbours or acquaintances, which contributed to the delay in discovering her death.

An investigation is currently underway to determine the circumstances surrounding her death. Police have urged anyone with information about her family or recent activities to come forward. Humaira Asghar Ali was known for her presence in showbiz and on social media platforms, where she had a modest following and frequently shared lifestyle content.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 09/07/2025)

Notices issued on plea for FIR over Lyari building collapse

A sessions court on Tuesday sought a report from police on an application seeking registration of an FIR against the city mayor, director general of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) and others over the collapse of a five-storey building in Lyari last week.

Advocate Muhammad Haroon has filed the application under Sections 22-A and 22-B of the criminal procedure code (CrPC) for registration of an FIR against Mayor Murtaza Wahab, the SBCA chief, heads of utility companies and officials of other public departments for their alleged wilful misconduct and "criminal negligence" in connection with the collapse of the Lyari building.

The applicant also requested the formation of a joint investigation team (JIT) under the supervision of the court to probe a "pattern of illegal constructions, building collapses, forged approvals and loss of life across Karachi".

After a preliminary hearing, the additional district and sessions judge (South) issued notices to the SSP complaint cell (South) and the SHO of the Baghdadi police station to submit their respective reports.

Referring to the tragic incident in which at least 27 people lost their lives and several others sustained injuries, the applicant contended that an FIR should be registered under relevant sections of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) against officials of public departments responsible for enforcing building safety regulations, as well as those who approved utility connections from K-Electric, Sui Southern Gas Company, Sindh Environmental Protection Agency and others.

He also held the fire department responsible for failing to conduct inspections or ensure emergency access in high-density areas.

The applicant alleged that, despite repeated written complaints by residents, no action was taken by the SHO of the concerned police station or the SSP South, claiming that police officials had been "routinely providing protection to builders and land grabbers involved in illegal constructions."

He also claimed that it was a matter of public knowledge that bribes were allegedly collected by police officials and SBCA personnel on a per-floor basis to permit unlawful vertical expansion.

"These systemic corrupt practices have directly contributed to repeated building collapses, including the tragic incidents in Lyari, Ranchor Line, and Usmanabad," he submitted.

Citing a Supreme Court ruling in a suo motu case on illegal construction in Karachi, the applicant asked the court to direct the police to record his statement and register an FIR against the proposed accused.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 14, 09/07/2025)

Actor Humaira Asghar may have died months ago: Karachi police

Model and actor Humaira Asghar Ali, whose partially decomposed body was found a day earlier in her rented DHA apartment, may have died several months ago, police said on Wednesday.

The 32-year-old actor was found dead when police, accompanied by a bailiff, broke open the door of her fourth-floor apartment in Ittehad Commercial, Phase VI.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that police surgeon Summaiya Syed along with SSP-South Mahzoor Ali visited her flat and they suspected that she might have died around six months ago.

Elaborating, he said that the date of expiry of the bread and packaged milk kept in the refrigerator was September 2024.

Similarly, two SIMs in her cell phone were dead /inactive since September 2024 as per the call data record obtained by investigators. Besides, he said that power supply to her flat was disconnected in October 2024 reportedly by the KE ostensibly over non-payment of dues.

The police said the adjacent flat was empty during the period in which she was believed to have died.

Family refuses to take body

The DIG said that her family lived in Lahore and when the police approached them they, particularly her father, refused to take the body for burial.

Later, he said, the deceased's brother-in-law approached the police and he was expected to arrive here on Thursday (today) to meet with the police.

As people learned that her father refused to take the body, prominent showbiz personalities approached the police, expressing their willingness to perform the last rites and arrange the burial, the DIG said.

"We shall hand them the body in case the family refuses," he added.

He said that the cause of the death could be ascertained only after receiving chemical examiner's report.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 10/07/2025)

Plaintiff told to make Sindh govt party in suit for Rs37m damages

A civil court has directed the counsel for a plaintiff to add the Sindh government as a defendant in his lawsuit seeking over Rs37 million in damages from the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) over alleged negligence, after his brother-in-law drowned in an uncovered drain during rainfall in February 2024.

The direction came on an application filed by a KMC official, who sought the removal of the municipal body as a defendant in the lawsuit.

The official contended that the cleaning, desilting and rehabilitation of the drain located near Hub River Road during 2023-24 was undertaken under the Sindh government's Mega Project, and that the said drain had not yet been handed over to the KMC after the completion of the works.

Widow moves court against KMC over uncovered drain that claimed her husband's life in February 2024 rains

After hearing arguments, the senior civil judge (West) dismissed the plea to remove KMC as a party to the suit and directed the plaintiff to "add the government of Sindh as defendant No. 2 in the suit".

In its order, the court noted that the KMC, through its senior director, submitted that the drain had not been handed over to the municipal body by the Sindh government. On the other hand, plaintiff's counsel Advocate Usman Farooq argued that the non-transfer of the nullah did not absolve the KMC of its responsibility, maintaining that under the relevant provisions of the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013, the KMC remained liable.

"Such fact neither does absolve the defendant [KMC] from its responsibility rather it is a question of fact whether the responsibility fixed upon the defendant [KMC] or the government of Sindh. In such circumstances, I am humble opinion that the defendant [KMC] is necessary party to the suit; however, in order to determine the responsibility of the incident the government of Sindh may also be added as party to the suit," the order reads.

According to the plaintiff, on Feb 3, 2024, the 55-year-old Syed Fakhr-i-Alam had left his workplace and was on his way home in Baldia Town when he slipped and fell into the nullah within the jurisdiction of SITE-B police station. Later, the body was found a short distance from the place of the incident. He was the father of five children.

Subsequently, victim's widow Noorul Ain filed a lawsuit and sought over Rs37m as damages under the Fatal Accidents Act, 1855, from the KMC over the death of her husband due to their alleged negligence.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 14, 10/07/2025)

Eight SBCA officials arrested in Lyari building collapse case

Eight officials of Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) were arrested on Thursday for manslaughter, criminal negligence, etc following registration of an FIR about collapse of a five-storey dilapidated building in the Lea Market area of Lyari on July 4. Owner of the building was also arrested.

The tragic incident, occurred within the remit of the Baghdadi police station, had claimed the lives of 27 people, including women and children.

South-DIG Syed Asad Raza said that nine officials, besides the present owner of the building, were nominated in the FIR one of them was not arrested due to his poor health.

He said the FIR was registered on the complaint of an official of the local government department.

Present owner also taken into custody

The DIG said that the arrested SBCA officials were its directors and deputy directors. He identified the current owner of the building as Raheem Bux Khaskheli.

One senior official, who wished not to be named, told Dawn that the officials were arrested from the SBCA head office at Civic Centre, where they were called to appear before an inquiry committee to submit their version about the circumstances leading to the collapse of the building.

An inquiry committee led by the commissioner of Karachi was formed by the chief minister of Sindh, which had begun its work.

The body's meeting was held at CM House on Wednesday.

A member of the body had asked the SBCA to call the concerned officials of Lyari / district South for a meeting at their head office at Civic Centre on Thursday. The official said that a police party arrived at the SBCA head office and informed the management that detention of SBCA officers was required for investigation into the building collapse case.

"The police officers said that they had 'directions from the above' to detain the officers," said the official.

According to contents of the FIR, complainant Hamadullah, a section officer of the Local Government, Housing & Town Planning Department said that the building Phota Mansion spread over 527.3 square yards was constructed in 1986.

Its owner got built the five-storey plus ground floor building in two portions and for a considerable period, both portions had been in a dilapidated condition and became unliveable.

One portion, having 20 flats collapsed on July 4 due the criminal negligence of the SBCA officials and the owner, resulting in loss of 27 precious lives.

According to the FIR, six directors namely Syed Asif Rizvi, Syed Zaram Haider, Syed Irfan Haider Naqvi, Ashfaq Husain, Jalees Siddiqi and Faheem Murtaza and other nominated officers were aware of the dilapidated condition of the building.

But the said officers completely failed to perform their official duty during the 2022 to 2025 period, and committed negligence and carelessness by not taking any "serious steps".

The FIR said the said officials "deliberately" did not mention in the official record that the said building was dilapidated. Because of their negligence, one portion of the building collapsed and 27 people lost their lives.

The present owner of the building Raheem Bux Khaskheli and other unknown owners also knew that the building was no more liveable.

The complainant said he wanted legal proceedings against the SBCA officials and owners of the building.

The FIR was registered under Sections 34 (common intention), 217 (public servant disobeying direction of law with intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture), 218 (public servant framing incorrect record or writing intent to save person from punishment or property from forfeiture), 288 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings), 322 (punishment for qatl-bis-sabab), 337-Ai (whoever, by doing any act with the intention of thereby causing hurt to any person, or with the knowledge that he is likely thereby to cause hurt to any person causes shajjah-i-khaffah) and 427 (mischief causing damage amounting to Rs50) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 11/07/2025)

Constable killed, Rangers man hurt in gunfight over personal dispute

A gunfight between a police constable and a Rangers man resulted in the death of the former in the SITE area on Friday, police said.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza said Constable Waseem Ahmed Abro was killed and Rangers sepoy Mohammed Noman suffered a bullet wounds in the thigh.

He said that the Rangers man had claimed that he shot the constable as he attempted to rob him. However, investigations revealed that the incident was a result of a personal dispute between the two.

DIG Raza added that a preliminary probe suggested "a personal motive involving a girl" as the likely cause of the conflict between the two.

Providing details, he said the men were in civvies and they arrived at the scene near Habib Bank Chowk in SITE at around 10:45am on their motorbikes.

Quoting eyewitnesses, he said an argument escalated into a physical scuffle between the two men, who quickly took out their pistols and fired at each other. As a result, the constable sustained two bullet wounds and died on the spot. The Rangers personnel was hit in the thigh, he said.

The police arrived there and shifted the constable's body to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital while the Rangers personnel himself reached at Rangers Hospital in North Nazimabad for treatment.

He was reportedly in stable condition and in Rangers custody.

A case would be registered on the complaint of the slain constable's father, a sub-inspector at the Landhi police station, the DIG added.

The police recovered two 9mm pistols and as many motorcycles, both without number plates, from the scene.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 12/07/2025)

Rangers man booked over constable's murder

A Rangers sepoy was on Saturday booked for his alleged involvement in the murder of a police constable in the SITE area on Friday, officials said.

Constable Waseem Akhter, 30, was killed and Rangers sepoy Mohammed Noman wounded in a gunfight between them over some personal issue.

Nazeer Hussain, father of deceased constable, registered a case under Section 302 (premeditated murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code at the SITE-A police station

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that the paramilitary force had so far not given the custody of the suspect to the police for investigation. He said that the wounded man was still admitted at the Rangers Hospital in North Nazimabad.

He said the police was likely to get the custody on Monday (tomorrow).
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 13/07/2025)

Eight SBCA men among 10 sent to prison in Lyari building collapse case

A judicial magistrate on Monday remanded eight officials of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) and two owners of a building that collapsed in Lyari in judicial custody.

Investigating Officer (IO) Zahid Hussain Shah produced the 10 suspects before Judicial Magistrate (South) Kalsoom Mustafa Sahto and sought an extension in their physical remand for another 11 days.

At the outset of the hearing, the IO informed the court that further custody was required to obtain technical evidence and to coordinate with the relevant department for collection of documents and related reports. He added that the extension of physical custody was also necessary to apprehend remaining suspects in the case.

However, the defence counsel opposed the plea and requested that the suspects be sent to jail on judicial remand.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the magistrate turned down the IO's request and sent all 10 suspects to prison on judicial remand.

According to the FIR, the five-storey building was constructed in two portions, and for a considerable period, both portions (buildings) were in dilapidated condition and unliveable. It added that one building with 20 apartments collapsed on July 4 due to the "criminal negligence" of the SBCA officials and the owner.

The FIR said the SBCA officials were aware of the condition of the building over years till its collapse. It added that the officials "completely failed" to perform their duty and "committed negligence and carelessness".

It also said the officials "deliberately" did not mention in the official record that the building was dilapidated. It also added that the present owner of the building and other unknown owners also knew that it was not liveable for humans. Despite this, the owners gave several flats on rent to members of the Hindu community and committed negligence.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 15/07/2025)

Sindh cancels licences of 36 private security firms over rule violations

The Sindh government has cancelled the licences of 36 private security companies and issued show-cause notices to 41 others for failing to comply with the requirements set by the provincial home department, it emerged on Monday.

A meeting, chaired by Home Minister Zia Lanjar, was informed by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Muhammad Iqbal Memon that there are currently 302 private security companies registered at the provincial level.

Speaking to *Dawn*, Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon, who also attended the meeting, said that private security companies operate under specific rules and regulations in the province.

"If they fail to fulfil these obligations, the Home Department is empowered to cancel their licences," said the provincial police chief, adding that the companies in question had not been adhering to the prescribed rules, and therefore their licenses had been cancelled."

The IGP further informed that the process of inspecting private security companies under the Sindh police was ongoing.

Meeting decides to revise SOPs, review law governing 302 private security agencies in province; tasks committee to complete inspection within 30 days

He added that the Employee Verification Management System (EVM) was being used to verify the credentials of security guards. Under the system, it has been made mandatory for every private company to register and verify the complete data of its security personnel.

Minister sets up body

During the meeting, the home minister stated that the existing legislation concerning private security companies was under review and that efforts were under way to introduce necessary amendments.

He emphasised the need to formulate fresh standard operating procedures (SOPs) for all private security companies.

"It must also be determined where security guards will receive formal training," he said, adding that he aimed to bring all activities and operations of private security companies within a legal and regulatory framework.

The home minister announced the formation of a committee to streamline the functioning of private security companies. The committee will include the special secretary (Home), the coordinator to the home minister and representatives from the Special Branch and other law enforcement agencies.

Mr Lanjar said the committee would submit a report on the complete inspection of private security companies within 30 days.

He also directed the establishment of a dedicated desk for private security companies, adding that he would personally monitor the desk set up in his office.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 15/07/2025)

Suspect shot dead in 'encounter'

A suspected robber was shot dead and his accomplice was arrested after an alleged encounter in Korangi on Monday, police said.

Zaman Town SHO Ghulam Nabi Afridi said that a police patrol spotted some suspects riding on a motorbike and they signalled them in Sector-50-A.

He said that one of the suspects opened fire and ran. He entered a house in the street and went to its roof. The police chased him and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire, the suspect was killed. His accomplice, identified as Rehan Faheem, was arrested. The SHO said that the deceased was identified as Ali Nadeem, 30.

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

The police claimed to have recovered one pistol and a motorcycle from their custody.

Meanwhile, the Karachi police claimed to have arrested over 543 suspects and recovered unlicensed weapons and stolen goods during a crackdown in different parts of the city last week, adds PPI.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 15/07/2025)

Navy employee shot dead

A Pakistan Navy (PN) employee was shot dead in Saeedabad on Tuesday.

Keamari SSP Faizan Ali told Dawn that Mohammed Nadeem, 50, was on his way home on a motorcycle after completing his duty when unknown assailant(s) opened fire on him near Sector 14-C and fled. He was taken to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, where he was pronounced dead.

The officer ruled out the possibility of a robbery and suggested that a personal enmity could be a possible motive.

The victim was a civilian employee of the navy.

Man killed, Coast Guard employee wounded in 'gunfight'

A man was shot dead and another wounded in a gunfight over a personal dispute in Baldia Town on Tuesday.

Ittehad Town SHO Rao Shabbir told Dawn that Habib Raheem, 35, was killed and Naseeb Shah, 35, was wounded after they both opened fire on each other.

The officer said the police were waiting for a statement from the wounded suspect, who is an employee of the Pakistan Coast Guards. He sustained a bullet wound to the neck and was admitted to PN Shifa Hospital.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 16/07/2025)

Order refusing police remand of SBCA men challenged

The prosecution on Tuesday moved to a sessions court against the refusal of a judicial magistrate to grant police remand of eight Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) officials and two owners in the Lyari building collapse case.

A day earlier, Judicial Magistrate (South) Kalsoom Mustafa Sahto had rejected the investigating officer's (IO) request seeking an 11-day extension in the physical remand of the held suspects and sent them to prison on judicial remand.

On Tuesday, the prosecution approached the sessions court and sought physical remand of the suspects for further investigation.

After a preliminary hearing, the additional district and sessions judge (South) issued notices to the prosecution, defence counsel and the IO for Wednesday (today) to hear the revision application.

In the application, the prosecution stated that the investigation with the suspects remained incomplete, as the court had earlier granted a three-day remand during which a public holiday also fell, hindering the progress of the investigation, state prosecutor Rana M. Khaliq Jammu told Dawn.

He added that the suspects had allegedly concealed relevant documents required for the investigation, and therefore their physical custody was essential for the recovery of those documents and to apprehend the remaining suspects.

Hearing of post-arrest bail applications today

Meanwhile, the sessions court is also set to hear on Wednesday (today) the post-arrest bail applications filed by five SBCA officials.

In the applications, counsel for SBCA Director Mirza Zargham Haider argued that the FIR was lodged five days after the incident without any plausible explanation, which cast doubt on the prosecution's case.

He contended that the FIR and subsequent inquiry failed to assign any specific or wilful role to the applicant in connection with the tragic incident.

The counsel further submitted that from 2022 to 2025, the SBCA had issued multiple public notices warning occupants of various dilapidated and dangerous buildings, including the one in Lyari that unfortunately collapsed.

He maintained that no incriminating document or item had been recovered from the applicant, and that all relevant official records were already in the possession of the prosecution, eliminating any risk of tampering with evidence.

Another official, Ashfaq Hussain Khokhar, submitted that he had been suspended from his position as SBCA director on May 6, 2025, and therefore could not be held responsible for the incident, as he had already been relieved of his duties by then.

The applicant further stated that the collapsed building had been constructed in 1986, whereas the SBCA was established in 2011, adding that prior to the SBCA, matters relating to building permissions fell under the jurisdiction of the Karachi Building Control Authority.

All five applicants claimed innocence, maintained they had been falsely implicated in the case, and prayed to the court to grant them post-arrest bail.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 16/07/2025)

Blasphemy probe

Few issues in Pakistan are as sensitive as allegations of blasphemy — where a single accusation can carry irreversible consequences. It is in this context that the Islamabad High Court's directive to form a commission to investigate the recent spike in online blasphemy cases must be viewed with seriousness.

Since 2022, dozens of young men have reportedly been arrested for alleged blasphemy, often tied to messages shared in WhatsApp groups. Families have raised alarm over how these arrests are taking place, prompting the court to take notice. Rights groups and police sources have also pointed to the involvement of private law firms and online volunteers who actively search for content deemed offensive, raising concerns about how such cases are being detected and pursued.

In light of this, the proposed committee has been mandated to complete its findings in four months. It goes without question that this probe must be carried out carefully — scrutinising not just the content in question, but also the process through which it is flagged, reported and acted upon. If there is in fact an organised effort behind these arrests, it must be brought to light through proper legal means, not speculation.

What is needed now is a clear, rules-based framework that ensures any digital content flagged for such charges is handled through proper channels, with safeguards to prevent misuse. The commission's mandate must focus on ensuring that

constitutional rights are upheld and that investigations are grounded in due process. Simultaneously, the investigation must avoid contributing to an environment of fear or suppression, and instead help reaffirm confidence in the rule of law.

This is not a matter to be approached with haste. The proposed commission's work must be deliberate, impartial and, above all, respectful of the sensitivities involved.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 17/07/2025)

FIRs ordered against cops recruited in Sindh police on 'fake' domiciles

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly directed the government on Wednesday to register criminal cases against several policemen who had been recruited to the Sindh police using fake domiciles.

The PAC meeting, headed by its Chairman Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, also expressed grave concern over the mere issuance of show-cause notices to such personnel instead of dismissing them from service.

During the examination of the audit records of the police department, it was revealed that as many as 19 police officers were recruited to the Sindh police on the basis of fake domiciles and domiciles from other provinces, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and the former Fata.

An investigation into the matter was conducted on the orders of the PAC after the Audit Department raised objections to the disbursement of salaries amounting to Rs17.4 million to police personnel domiciled in other parts of the country but posted in Karachi.

According to the inquiry report submitted to the PAC, 15 personnel were found to have been recruited on fake domiciles, and four of them had already retired.

The PAC was informed that the domiciles of 13 other police personnel were still under verification by the respective deputy commissioners. It was further revealed that nine police personnel had been recruited on the basis of domiciles from outside the Karachi region.

As per the Sindh Civil Servants Rules, posts in grades 1 and 2 are to be filled on a local basis, while those in grades 3 to 15, who serve only within a particular region or district, should be filled by persons domiciled in the district concerned.

The PAC meeting, attended among others by committee members Khurram Karim Soomro and Taha Ahmed, Additional IG Muzaffar Ali Sheikh, DIG Finance Tanveer Odho, and DIG Traffic Pir Muhammad Shah, reviewed the audit reports of the police department for 2020 and 2021.

DG Audit Sindh raised objections, saying that individuals holding identity cards from KP, FATA, Punjab, Balochistan and Islamabad were receiving salaries amounting to Rs17.405m from the Sindh provincial police department.

DIG Finance Tanveer Odho told the PAC that these recruitments had taken place between 1979 and 2015 and that the police department had inquired into the recruitment of 196 personnel.

The PAC chairman said that recruitment on fake domiciles would not be tolerated under any circumstances. "Why have the police personnel with fake domiciles or domiciles from other provinces not been dismissed from service?" he asked.

DIG Odho informed the PAC that departmental action had been initiated against such officials and show-cause notices had been issued to them. "However, they will be dismissed from service after the procedure is completed," he assured the committee.

The DG Audit also raised concerns about irregularities in petrol expenditures for vehicles used by the DIG Traffic and subordinate offices.

The traffic police chief informed the PAC that a petrol budget of Rs85m had been allocated, which was spent through Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and that complete records of the vehicles for which petrol was used were available. The committee ordered an inquiry into the use of such amount of petrol allocation.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 17/07/2025)

Karachi University teacher 'assaulted by armed personnel' over garbage burning

The Karachi University Teachers' Society (Kuts) has expressed deep concerns and regret over what it called an unfortunate incident in the varsity's Staff Town where a senior professor "faced verbal abuse and alleged physical assault by an armed personnel".

In a statement, Kuts expressed concern over the attack on Prof Afaq Ahmad Siddiqui of the faculty of pharmacy and called for an impartial investigation into the matter.

"It is deeply troubling that a respected academic, who has dedicated his life to education and research, was subjected to such behaviour," it said.

The teachers' body demanded an appropriate action against those responsible and urged the Rangers' top leadership to take a serious notice of the incident and play its role in maintaining a peaceful and respectful environment on the campus.

Kuts demands Rangers leadership to take notice of attack on Prof Afaq Siddiqui

"The teachers of the University of Karachi have always respected state institutions and we expect this respect to be mutual so that a relationship of trust and cooperation between institutions and men of knowledge is established," the statement concluded.

The incident came to light when Prof Siddiqui narrated his ordeal to the Kuts leadership and university administration via a WhatsApp voice message on Tuesday night.

Prof Siddiqui, who lives in KU Staff Town for the past many years, said his next-door neighbour was a senior Rangers official. He said that for the past some time, garbage was being burnt regularly outside his residence as a means to "repel mosquitoes affecting goats kept on the premises".

He added that on the evening of July 15, he returned home after Maghrib prayers and saw burning garbage. He approached a guard posted at the residence and requested him not to burn the garbage and cited health concerns due to the smoke.

However, a verbal exchange ensued, during which the guard misbehaved with him and then slapped him on the face, damaging his spectacles and causing an injury to his eye, the professor said, adding that other residents gathered and he was taken to the university clinic, where a doctor examined his eye.

When contacted, Prof Siddiqui confirmed the incident. However, he was reluctant to share more details.

The KU campus security adviser and a spokesperson for the Sindh Rangers did not respond when Dawn reached out to them for their version.

However, a KU official told Dawn that Vice Chancellor Prof Khalid Mahmood Iraqi met Prof Siddiqui and following that, the university administration held a meeting with senior officials of Rangers, asking them for an immediate and strict action against those involved.

(By Waqas Ali Ranjha Dawn, 13, 17/07/2025)

'Honour' kills

MURDER for 'honour' is craven compliance with customs that derive sustenance from blood. The most despicable form of gender violence is seen when a woman dares to love and, in doing so, violates family pride. She and her partner face death as a consequence.

A harrowing video depicting the execution of a young couple last month in Balochistan's Jaffarabad district recently went viral on social media and sent shockwaves across Pakistan. In the gruesome footage, a young woman is shot down as several men look on. A terrorism case has been registered on behalf of the state, and a dozen suspects, including a tribal elder who allegedly ordered the killing, are under arrest.

The case has been transferred to the Serious Crimes Investigation Wing, while the Quetta judicial magistrate has ordered that the woman's body be exhumed. Two men in Attock also decided to restore family 'honour' with bloodshed: a mother of an infant took multiple bullets over doubts about her 'character' by both her husband and father-in-law. In Lower Dir, communal honour devoured a couple suspected of having illicit relations.

The persistence of such a scourge has sparked outrage about parallel justice systems and the fragile state of women's liberties in Pakistan. These acts should be stripped of all traditional context that valorises them. In 2016, the government moved to plug loopholes that made it easy for 'honour' killers to walk free: Section 311 of the PPC, which addresses 'fasad fil arz', ensures that the state can intervene when 'honour' killing occurs and if the complainant forgives the perpetrator. Despite the amendments, punishment for murder, including 'honour' killings, can be set aside by the victim's legal heirs.

Courts rarely exercise the discretion to overrule settlements between perpetrators and the kin, thereby perpetuating a culture of impunity. The state must show resolve to protect its citizens from the cancer of patriarchy.

The path to stem the rise in such murders over the last two years — HRCP data from January to November 2024 shows that 346 people were killed for 'honour' — lies in reforms to uphold justice, constitutional guarantees, and accountability. It does not help that activists focus on the courage of a woman facing the barrel of the gun. No life should be lost to toxic control. Women are not the family's social currency.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 22/07/2025)

Eight SBCA officials held over Lyari building collapse get bail

In less than two weeks after their arrest, a sessions court on Tuesday granted post-arrest bail to eight officials of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) in the Lyari building collapse case.

The multi-storey building in Lyari's Baghdadi area collapsed on July 4, killing 27 persons. On July 10, the eight officials of SBCA, along with two owners of the building, were arrested for manslaughter and criminal negligence.

Their counsel moved bail applications and on Tuesday Additional District and Sessions Judge (South) Muhammad Aslam Shaikh granted them bail against a surety bond of Rs1 million each after hearing arguments from prosecutor Rana M. Khaliq Jammu and defence counsel.

The prosecutor opposed the bail plea and contended that the suspects were implicated in the case after an inquiry report that defined their specific roles.

Defence questions delay of five days in registration of FIR

He argued that the suspects had shown negligence by failing to issue notices or inform the building's residents and that it was premature to release them on bail.

On the other hand, one of the defence counsel Javaid Ahmed Chhatari argued that the incident did not fall under Section 322 (Punishment for qatl-bis-sabab) of the Pakistan Penal Code as his client, Asim Khan, had neither a direct nor indirect role in it.

The building was constructed in 1986, at a time when his client was not part of the department, he said.

He argued that the SBCA only took action against a building when a complaint was received and if the condition of the building was dilapidated, it was the responsibility of the local administration to act.

He added that a building's collapse was not necessarily due to a weak foundation; factors such as sewerage issues and a borehole can also lead to such incidents.

Counsel for suspect Mirza Zargham Haider argued that the FIR was lodged five days after the incident without any plausible explanation, which cast doubt on the prosecution's case.

He contended that the FIR and subsequent inquiry failed to assign any specific or wilful role to the applicant in connection with the tragic incident.

The counsel further submitted that from 2022 to 2025, the SBCA had issued multiple public notices warning occupants of various dilapidated and dangerous buildings, including the one in Lyari that collapsed.

He maintained that no incriminating document or item had been recovered from the applicant and that all relevant official records were already in the possession of the prosecution, eliminating any risk of tampering with evidence.

Suspect Ashfaq Hussain Khokhar submitted in the application that he had been suspended from his position as SBCA director on May 6, 2025, and therefore could not be held responsible for the incident, as he had already been relieved of his duties by then.

The applicant further stated that the collapsed building had been constructed in 1986, whereas the SBCA was established in 2011, adding that prior to the SBCA, matters relating to building permissions fell under the jurisdiction of the Karachi Building Control Authority (KBCA).

All eight applicants maintained they had been falsely implicated in the case and asked to the court to grant them post-arrest bail. (By Sumari Abdullah Dawn, 13, 23/07/2025)

19-year-old girl dies in coma after alleged marital rape: Karachi police

A 19-year-old girl in Karachi's Lyari succumbed to her injuries after an alleged marital rape at the hands of her husband, police said on Wednesday.

Earlier this month, the newlywed girl was admitted to Civil Hospital Karachi in critical condition after allegedly enduring "brutal sexual violence" from her husband, who was arrested by the police.

The victim was in a coma and her physical examination findings were "consistent with sexual violence", police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed had stated.

"The rape victim, 19, passed away at the trauma centre of the Civil Hospital Karachi at 10:45am today," Syed said today.

She was admitted to the trauma centre in a "critical condition", having undergone a surgical procedure at another hospital, she added.

"Her initial findings were positive for sexual violence," she said.

The police surgeon told *Dawn.com* that the hospital informed police and family to conduct a post-mortem examination of the body and was waiting for their response.

Baghdadi police Station House Officer Majid Alvi also confirmed her death to *Dawn.com*.

He said that the girl got married on June 15. "Two days later, the husband subjected her to sodomy" and assaulted her with a metal pipe, leading to deterioration of her health condition.

The brother of the victim had registered a first information report (FIR) at the Baghdadi Police Station on July 5 under Sections 324 (attempt to commit murder) and 376-B (punishment for rape) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

“On the third day of her marriage, my sister was subjected to brutal sexual violence allegedly by her husband. She remained admitted at a private hospital in the city and was later taken to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Trauma Centre of Civil Hospital Karachi in a critical condition the other day,” the FIR read.

In the FIR, the complainant said his 19-year-old sister married the suspect on June 15. Her health condition deteriorated on June 30, compelling the family to bring her back home. She informed the parents that on July 17, her husband subjected her to an “unnatural sexual act”.

He said that the husband also sexually assaulted her with a foreign object. Subsequently, the husband subjected her to sexual violence, leading to bleeding. As per the FIR, the suspect threatened his wife with “dire consequences” if she disclosed anything to anyone.

Despite the presence of anti-rape laws — with punishment for rape either resulting in the death penalty or imprisonment of between 10 and 25 years — cases continue to prevail in the country.

In May, two sisters were subjected to a sexual assault in their home in North Karachi, police and doctors had said.

In April, in a rare verdict, an additional district and sessions judge in Gujranwala handed down 10-year rigorous imprisonment to a man for subjecting his wife to an unnatural sexual offence.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 24/07/2025)

Newly formed executive council of CPLC reappoints Zubair Habib as chief

The executive council of the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) has reappointed Zubair Habib as the head of the CPLC for the next three years, it emerged on Wednesday.

The decision was taken during the inaugural meeting of the newly formed council, which was constituted in accordance with the Police Act of 2019 and chaired by the Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar.

“The home minister, in consultation with the executive council, directed CPLC chief Zubair Habib to continue in his position,” said an official statement issued on Wednesday.

Mr Habib told Dawn that the CPLC had previously operated under police rules. However, after the Sindh Assembly passed the Police Act in 2019, the CPLC was declared a “statutory body”, necessitating a new configuration.

Home minister chairs maiden meeting after replacing governor as head of top forum

Earlier, the Sindh governor served as the head of the advisory council, but under the new arrangement, the home minister became its chairman, he said.

Now, the home minister will chair the executive council, whose members include the home secretary, law secretary, inspector general of police, secretary of the public safety commission and the CPLC chief. The operational head of the CPLC will be its chief nominated by the executive council.

Mr Habib said this was the first meeting of the executive council, during which he was appointed as the CPLC head for the next three years.

The meeting also appointed five members from the private sector: former Additional IG Saleem Vahidy, two businessmen, Ziad Bashir and Saqib Sheerazi, Advocate Qurban Ali Malano and Panjwani Foundation chairperson Nadira Panjwani.

The participants of the meeting also established a “finance committee”.

It appointed Shabbar Malik as the deputy chief of the CPLC for operations.

The home minister also instructed the submission of recommendations for increasing financial assistance to the CPLC in the 2025-26 financial year.

Mr Lanjar noted that Sindh was the only province where the CPLC had been established and had functioned successfully. He termed it a model of public-private partnership in combating crime and addressing citizens’ grievances.

The minister also directed the CPLC chief to expand its network into Upper Sindh, assuring that the provincial government would support the provision of office space and other resources.
(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 24/07/2025)

Mother of five murdered ‘by husband’ in Orangi Town

A mother of five children was killed, allegedly by her husband, in Orangi Town on Thursday, police said.

They said that Milkiyat, 45, was murdered by her husband, Shoaib, in their home situated in Frontier Colony.

Pirabad SHO Anees Rehman Shaikh said the suspect first hit his wife with a concrete block on her head. He then stabbed her and fled the home.

The officer said the incident took place in the presence of their children.

The injured woman was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead.

The officer attributed the murder to the couple's domestic issues.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said that a post-mortem examination of the victim was conducted at the ASH. She said the body was almost completely decapitated.

Armed clash leaves man dead

A man was shot dead and two others sustained bullet injuries in a clash between two rival groups off Superhighway on Thursday, police said.

Sohrab Goth DSP Aurangzeb Khattak told Dawn that the armed clash took place in Ahsanabad. During the exchange of fire, one man, identified as Mohammed Ali, 30, was killed, while two others — Zain Ahmed, 25 and Shahbaz, 22 — were injured.

Police rushed to the scene and apprehended three suspects.

The officer said the rival sides were neighbours and had some personal enmity.

The body and the injured were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

PN employee killed on road

A Pakistan Navy employee was killed in Malir on Thursday after being hit by a speeding vehicle, police said.

Malir City SHO Farasat Shah told Dawn that Zeeshan, 30, was riding a motorcycle when a 4x4 vehicle struck him in Gulshan-i-Qadri.

He sustained critical injuries and was transported to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 25/07/2025)

Three suspected robbers shot dead in two 'encounters'

Police on Friday claimed to have killed three suspected robbers in two alleged encounters in Korangi and Quaidabad areas.

Officials said that a Korangi police patrol indicated three suspects riding two motorcycles to stop for checking. However, the suspects resorted to firing in their bid to flee and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire, two of the suspects were killed and their third accomplice was arrested in wounded condition.

The killed suspects were identified as Mehran Bahadur and Hameed, alias Munna, while the wounded was identified as Nisar, alias Faisal.

Area SHO Adeel Afzal said that they had murdered police constable Mohammed Umair on July 2 when he resisted their robbery bid in Awami Colony.

He claimed that the suspects were involved in around 80 robberies.

The police claimed to have recovered three pistols, two motorcycles and three mobile phones from their custody.

The bodies and wounded suspect were shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC).

In the Quaidabad area, a police patrol signalled two suspects in Swati Mohalla but they resorted to firing on them. The police retaliated, killing one of the suspect, later identified as Amir Kohati. His accomplice managed to escape.

The police claimed to have recovered an unlicensed pistol, cash and a mobile phone.

The killed suspect had a past criminal record as he was arrested and sent to prison in more than 16 criminal cases.

The body was shifted to the JPMC for a post-mortem examination.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 26/07/2025)

18 illegal aesthetic centres sealed

The Sindh Healthcare Commission (SHCC) has stepped up its crackdown on unregistered and illegal aesthetic clinics operating in the metropolis, sealing at least 18 facilities over the past month in different neighbourhoods, including Clifton, DHA, Saddar, Ittehad Town, and Rancho Line.

In most cases, the clinics were operating without qualified medical professionals, with procedures being administered by untrained staff, including a sociology graduate running a clinic in DHA. SHCC officials reported widespread violations such as unhygienic conditions, improper disposal of medical waste, and the use of unverified techniques, including skin-whitening drips and anti-aging treatments.

"We have inspected more than 80 suspect clinics so far, and the crackdown will continue until such illegal practices are rooted out," Ahmer Abbas Saldera, Assistant Director of SHCC's Anti-Quackery Wing, told The Express Tribune.

In a recent raid, SHCC sealed a clinic in DHA Phase II despite efforts by the owner to intervene via phone calls. Video footage of the raid, along with disturbing visuals of unsanitary conditions at other clinics, has been shared with the media, revealing the grave risks posed by these clinics.

SHCC Chief Executive Officer Dr Ahson Qavi Siddiqi urged the public to avoid unverified aesthetic centres and stressed that all procedures, including skin therapies, injectables, facials, and beauty drips, must be administered only under the supervision of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC)-certified dermatologists.

"There is currently no PMDC-recognised qualification in aesthetics in Pakistan. Many so-called 'aesthetic experts' are either physiotherapy graduates or those without any formal medical background. Their operations, often marketed on social media and morning TV shows, are misleading and medically unsound," he said. Dr Siddiqi added that some clinics prominently display large promotional billboards featuring fake designations and celebrity endorsements. He warned that such practices not only violate the law but also endanger the lives and well-being of unsuspecting clients.

The SHCC is now in the process of drafting technical guidelines to regulate the aesthetics sector, with an aim to allow only certified, evidence-based practices.

CEO Siddiqi also expressed concern over the role of mainstream media, particularly morning shows, where unqualified people are frequently introduced as "doctors" dispensing beauty advice and medical tips without proper credentials.

He pointed out that, due to a legal grey area, SHCC is currently unable to inspect salons offering aesthetic services unless a formal complaint is received. He called for comprehensive legislation to bring such services under regulatory oversight.

Among the procedures being offered at these clinics are PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma) therapy, Botox and dermal fillers, LED light therapy, micro-needling, chemical peels, and laser treatments - all of which require trained medical oversight. Without proper regulation, these services can lead to serious health complications.

(By Dua Abbas The Express Tribune, 04, 27/07/2025)

Gutka sales continue amidst police complicity

For any illegal activity, be it extortion, theft, or drug smuggling, strict enforcement of laws through the police is crucial to delineate the boundary between acceptable and deviant behaviours. However, when the law enforcers themselves are complicit in the crimes, little can be done to fix society.

Recently, the Inspector General (IG) Sindh Police issued a circular to all divisional and district police officers, expressing concern over the widespread addiction to gutka among police personnel and instructing the initiation of rehabilitation efforts. The circular called for action against those who failed to comply, including potential dismissal from service.

Syed Atif Ali, a resident of New Karachi, felt that the sale of gutka in the city was impossible without the complicity of local police. "Gutka is freely available at shops and paan stalls, and even Indian gutka is sold in the city," said Ali.

Gul Muhammad Baloch, a social activist working in Karachi's Baldia Town, opined that although gutka was banned by the law, it was not yet perceived as a social evil. "As a result, its use remains common in homes and neighborhoods. Adults consume gutka in front of children, while people offer it to each other at social gatherings. Gutka should be recognized as a social vice. For this, an effective public awareness campaign should be launched with the involvement of schools, mosques, and community organizations," stressed Baloch.

According to a report published by the World Health Organization (WHO), Pakistan ranks highest among countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region for the use of smokeless tobacco, which includes gutka, paan, betel nut (chhalia), and naswar. This widespread usage has contributed to a dangerous rise in cases of oral cancer, which has become the second most common cancer after breast cancer in Pakistan. Karachi is the most affected city in terms of the number of cases of oral cancer, with the majority of gutka users belonging to the lower middle-class areas of the city.

The WHO report further claimed that after paan, gutka was the second most commonly used form of chewable tobacco in Karachi. Although the preparation, sale, and use of gutka is legally banned under the Sindh Prohibition of Preparation, Manufacturing, Storage, Sale and Use of Gutka and Manpuri Act, 2019, the law appears to be ineffective in practice. Even though a special task force consisting of police officials from various departments was established in March last year, its impact has been limited.

Taha Ahmed Khan, Deputy Parliamentary Leader of MQM-Pakistan in the Sindh Assembly, revealed that the Sindh Assembly had passed a law against gutka however, there has been no meaningful enforcement. "It seems that there is no government presence in Karachi and the city is being run by mafias, including the water mafia, builder mafia, hydrant mafia, and gutka mafia," said Khan.

Sadia Javed, a member of the Sindh Assembly from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and spokesperson for the Sindh government, claimed that the Sindh government was considering amending the law to impose stricter penalties against the sale of gutka. "Tackling major gutka dealers is essential for curbing its spread. IG Sindh Police is personally monitoring the issue," said Javed.

The Express Tribune attempted to contact Superintendent of Police (SP) Samiullah Soomro, a member of the task force, to inquire about the number of offenders arrested and punished over the past one year, however, he did not respond. Similarly, Sindh Police spokesperson Syed Saad Ali was also sent several questions via WhatsApp but he too did not send a reply. (By Razzak Abro The Express Tribune, 04, 28/07/2025)

'Mastermind of Chinese engineers attack' among three gunned down

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Monday claimed to have killed three suspected militants belonging to the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in a shootout in the Manghopir area and recovered arms, explosives, suicide vest and a list of targets.

The CTD said that one of the killed suspects had masterminded the November 2024 attack on two Chinese engineers in a Karachi textile mill.

Giving details of the operation, CTD chief Additional Inspector General Azad Khan told Dawn that an intelligence-based operation was carried out by the CTD in collaboration with an intelligence outfit in the Manghopir.

"The operation targeted a hideout of the proscribed Fitna-al-Khawarij [TTP]. Upon reaching the location and attempting to breach the premises, the raiding team was met with armed resistance. In a heavy exchange of gunfire, three terrorists were neutralised," he said.

The deceased were identified as Zafran, 24, Qudratullah, 25, and Matiullah, 29.

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

Police surgeon Summaiya Syed told Dawn that suspect Zafran and Matiullah sustained three bullet wounds each in the chest, while Qudratullah sustained five bullet wounds in the chest and abdomen.

Officials said that no personnel of police or the intelligence agency suffered any injury in the "heavy exchange of gunfire".

'Rs20m bounty'

The CTD chief said that the government had announced a reward of Rs20 million on the arrest of suspect Zafran as he was involved in the high-profile attack on Chinese nationals in SITE.

He said that suspect Zafran had masterminded the attack. He did not directly take part in the shooting as a private security guard, identified as Sharifullah, targeted the two Chinese engineers working at the Karachi textile mills on Nov 5, 2024.

The officials said that suspect Sharifullah is still at large.

Hit list recovered

The CTD claimed to have recovered two grenades, as many suicide jackets and arms and ammunition. It also said that the sleuths also found a diary detailing a list of their potential targets.

"The diary contains the militants' attack plans and reconnaissance notes," the CTD chief said, adding that one of the killed terrorists was trained for carrying out suicide bombing.

He said intelligence operatives were examining the seized materials, which might yield further actionable leads.

"This successful operation is a significant blow to the operational capability of Fitna-al-Khawarij in urban Sindh," he observed. (By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 29/07/2025)

Man, woman shot dead 'in the name of honour'

In what apparently seems to be a case of honour killing, a young woman and man were found shot dead along the city's remote coastline on Monday. They were killed in execution style with a single bullet to the head - point blank range.

The victims, identified as Sana Muhammad Asif and Sajid Masih - both aged between 25 and 30 - hailed from the same village, Dakhkhana Lala Pul Abdullahpur, in Nausheran Virkan area of the Gujranwala division of Punjab.

According to SSP South Mahzoor Ali, the bodies were discovered in a deserted area near the China Port in the Boat Basin locality. The victims were shot in the head at close range by unknown assailants, he said. The crime scene yielded two spent 9mm pistol shells, which have been secured by the police as evidence.

Personal belongings recovered from the scene included a mobile phone, some cash, and passport-sized photographs, believed to be of the victims. SSP Ali said that the victims were likely brought to the site and executed during the night or in the early hours of the morning.

The bodies were moved to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for post-mortem examinations to confirm identity and collect further forensic evidence.

Senior police and Rangers officials, including DSP Clifton Manshiya Rupita and DSP Darakhshan Imran Jakirani, rushed to the scene following the incident. A crime scene unit was also called in to assist with evidence collection.

Police have launched a full-scale investigation into the double murder, exploring various motives including personal enmity, honour-based violence, or other possible factors. So far, no arrests have been made, and the motive remains unclear. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 29/07/2025)

Couple who wed of 'own free will' in Gujranwala found shot dead

A couple who reportedly married of their own free will in their native village in Gujranwala recently, were found shot dead in the city on Monday, police said.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that the bodies of a man and woman, aged around 25 to 30 years, were recovered from the China Port area. The victims were later identified as Sana Asif and Sajid Masih.

Both bodies bore gunshot wounds and spent bullet casings were also recovered from the crime scene. The corpses were shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told Dawn that both the victims suffered gunshot wounds to their head and face.

The DIG said he was in touch with the Gujranwala police and contacted the family and friends of the victims.

"Both seemed to have been targeted by someone close to them who enjoyed their trust," opined Mr Raza.

He said that during an initial probe, it had transpired that the couple had married of their own free will in their village in Gujranwala recently and had come to Karachi. He suspected involvement of the woman's relatives in the killings.

He pointed out that deceased Sana's brother, Waqas Ali, had registered an FIR against Sajid and others, accusing them of kidnapping his sister in Gujranwala on July 16 under section 365-B of the Pakistan Penal Code.

"We are working on suspect Riaz alias Fauji, who is a friend of deceased Sana's brother Waqas," the DIG said.

The DIG said that an FIR would be registered on behalf of the state against the killer(s). (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 29/07/2025)

IGP says 77 'top-tier' drug dealers arrested

The Sindh police chief on Monday claimed that 77 out of 137 "top-tier drug dealers" had been arrested, and that law enforcement agencies were making all-out efforts to crack down on "gangs" involved in drug trafficking.

Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon said this while speaking to journalists on the premises of the Sindh High Court (SHC), where he appeared before a two-judge bench comprising Justice Zulfiqar Ali Sangi and Justice Nisar Ahmed Bhambhro in a matter pertaining to the non-establishment of special courts under the Sindh Control of Narcotic Substances Act, 2024.

Responding to a question about the rising use of drugs in schools and colleges, the police chief said the force was actively working to curb narcotics.

IGP Memon further stated that the Special Branch had identified 137 "top-tier drug dealers" across Sindh, of whom 77 had already been apprehended, while efforts were under way to arrest the remaining suspects.

Earlier, the SHC division bench heard a case pertaining to the non-establishment of special courts and the appointment of judges under the new law — an issue that was earlier raised before the court during a bail application of a suspect.

On Monday, the court adjourned the hearing till July 31, after it was informed by the secretary of excise, taxation and narcotics control that the amendment bill was scheduled to be tabled in the provincial assembly the same day (July 28), and an undertaking was given that a separate notification under Section 27 of the Sindh Control of Narcotic Substances Act, 2024 would be issued. (By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 29/07/2025)

Slain Gujranwala man embraced Islam before marrying Muslim girl: police

Investigators probing the Gujranwala couple's murder case have found that the deceased man had embraced Islam before marrying the Muslim girl.

Police registered an FIR regarding the murder of Sajid Masih and Sana, whose bullet-riddled bodies were found at Clifton beach on Monday.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that during the investigations the police found documents that showed Sajid had embraced Islam at a local seminary in Karachi.

He said that the deceased's father Arif Masih had provided a nikahnama and conversion certificate to the police.

He said that Sajid's father told the police that he had left Gujranwala on July 14 after his son and Sana eloped. He claimed that his house was set on fire by Mustansar, a friend of the deceased girl's brother Waqas Ali.

Bodies of Sajid Masih and Sana were found a day earlier; murder case registered

In Karachi, the DIG said Sajid met his cousin Babar Islam, who told the police that Sajid called him on July 18 and asked him for some money. Babar met and brought him, Sana and Waqas' friend Ehtisham home, where they stayed till July 27.

On July 27, Sajid's father came to Babar's home and took all three to a nearby house owned by Nadeem Anwar. The son and father had an altercation but they later had dinner together.

According to Arif Masih, Sajid and Ehtisham left the house at around 2:00am on July 28 and returned at 4:00am. Then they took Sana with them and the next morning their bodies were found, the DIG said.

'Two involved in shooting'

The DIG said it was revealed that at least two men were involved in the shooting, as two different bullet casings, one from a 9mm pistol and the other from a 30-bore pistol, were recovered from the crime scene.

The officer said the victims had been neighbours in a Gujranwala village and had left their homes on July 15 on their own free will.

Waqas had lodged an FIR there and accused Sajid of kidnapping his sister. He said he had two sisters, one married, while the other, Sana, was unmarried. He added that their parents had passed away.

According to the FIR registered by ASI Mohammed Gulzar of Boat Basin police, the two bullet-riddled bodies were found in a ditch near Clifton beach.

They were identified through fingerprints via the Talash device of the police and sent to Chhipa morgue after medico-legal formalities at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 14, 30/07/2025)

Two acquitted in 1997 KESC MD murder

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday acquitted Minhaj Qazi, former security in-charge of Nine Zero, the former MQM headquarters, and Mahboob Ghafran in the high-profile 1997 murder case of former Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) managing director Shahid Hamid.

The verdict was announced at the Anti-Terrorism Complex inside Karachi Central Jail. The court extended the benefit of the doubt to both accused, declaring them not guilty due to insufficient evidence.

Defence counsel Mushtaq Ahmed contended that the FIR only mentioned the presence of convicted killer Saulat Mirza in the car used in the attack. He argued that Minhaj Qazi was not initially linked to the crime and was implicated much later without substantive grounds.

He further pointed out that Shahid Hamid's widow, Shahnaz Hamid, altered her statement nearly a month after Qazi's arrest in 2016. In her revised account submitted to the Supreme Court, she said she had not witnessed the murder, undermining earlier claims that had formed part of the prosecution's case.

According to the prosecution, Shahid Hamid was gunned down in 1997 in a targeted attack. Saulat Mirza, a former MQM activist, was convicted in 1999 and executed in 2015. Police later arrested Qazi and Ghafran in 2016 and charged them with involvement in the killing. The Defence police registered the case against all three.

After years of legal proceedings, the court found the prosecution's evidence against Qazi and Ghafran to be inconclusive, leading to their acquittal.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 30/07/2025)

Lasbela couple, minor son axed to death in Karachi years after free-will marriage

A man and his wife, who had married of their own free will in their native town of Lasbela over five years ago, and their minor son were murdered on the outskirts of the metropolis on Wednesday, police said.

They identified the victims as Abdul Majeed, 30, Sakina, 25, and their four-year-old son, Abdul Nabi, and said they were axed to death in their home in the Ghaghar Phatak area within the remit of the Steel Town police station.

Area SHO Aslam Billu told *Dawn* that an alleged killer phoned Majeed's brother, Imam Bux, telling him that they had killed the family and that he should go there and bury them.

He said that Imam Bux and Majeed's other brother, Qurban, had been living with the victims in Karachi but had recently returned to their home in Lasbela for agricultural purposes.

Qurban phoned his friend, Munawar Abro, to visit his brother's home and ascertain the facts. When Abro reached there, he found the three family members brutally murdered inside their home. He informed the brothers and the police, who arrived at the scene and shifted the bodies to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Investigators collected two axes used in the murders and other evidence from the crime scene. SHO Billu said they suspected that the couple and their son might have been given sedatives before the killing, as neighbours told police that they had not heard any cries or sounds.

He said that during the initial probe, it transpired that the couple had married of their own free will in Lasbela a couple of years ago and Sakina's parents were reportedly against the marriage.

The couple, along with their son, had moved to the city around eight months ago, he said.

The SHO added that there were also reports that Sakina's family had reached an "understanding" and they had also visited them in the city around a month ago.

He said that Sakina's brother had also been seen shopping with the couple in the Ghaghar Phatak area on Tuesday.

However, it appeared that the relatives had not truly resolved their differences with the couple as preliminary investigations revealed the triple murder was allegedly carried out by Sakina's relatives, the SHO said.

The police were awaiting for legal heirs to lodge an FIR and initiate formal legal proceedings.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah took notice of the incident and ordered an immediate inquiry and the arrest of the killers, said a spokesperson.

Separately, Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar also ordered an inquiry to ascertain every possible aspect of the gruesome murder and the immediate arrest of the killers.

The home minister also directed that peace in the area be ensured, the spokesperson added.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 31/07/2025)

'Honour killing' victim couple's burial in Lasbela resisted

The couple and their minor son, allegedly murdered in the name of honour, were laid to rest near Ghaghar Phatak on Thursday after relatives of the women strongly resisted their burial in Lasbela, Balochistan.

The bodies of Abdul Majeed, 40, his wife Mrs Sakeena, 28, and their three-year-old son, Abdul Nabi, were recovered from their home near Ghaghar Phatak on Wednesday.

The couple had married of their own freewill about seven years ago. The police believed that the gruesome incident was linked with their marriage. The victims bore multiple injuries apparently caused with sharp-edged weapon, like axe.

The couple hailed from Lasbela where coffins were taken to but the relatives of the woman did not allow the burial in their area. Eventually, the bodies were brought back and laid to rest near Ghaghar Phatak, according to police and rescue services officials.

An Edhi Foundation spokesperson said in a statement that they had transported the bodies by ambulances to Lasbela but the couple's relatives resisted their burial there. The bodies had to be brought back to the Edhi morgue at Sohrab Goth, he said.

Steel Town SHO Aslam Billu said that Imam Bakhsh, the brother of the deceased Abdul Majeed, had come to Karachi from Lasbela on Wednesday night to lodged an FIR against the deceased woman's brother Shahzad alias Raja in the triple murder case.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 01/08/2025)

Man jumps into sea along with two children at Karachi's Do Darya

A man jumped into the sea along with two young children near Do Darya on Thursday afternoon and all of them remained unaccounted for till late in the evening.

Police and rescue services carried out a hectic search & rescue operation immediately after receiving the information. Pakistan Navy personnel also joined in but the operation had to be put off for the day as darkness fell.

South-SSP Mahzoor Ali, speaking to *Dawn*, quoted some eyewitnesses as telling the area police that they saw a man aged around 40, along with a girl and a boy aged seven/eight, passing by a seaside high rise and then jumping into the sea.

South-DIG Syed Asad Raza quoted one of the eyewitnesses, Junaid Ahmed, as saying that the man aged about 35-40, accompanied by the two children, was seen running towards heavy stones along the beach uttering words 'pani, pani (water, water)' before jumping into the sea along with the two children.

He said the identity of the man and his relation with the children could not be ascertained immediately.

He said that initially, Edhi Foundation volunteers carried out a two-hour search and rescue operation but could not trace out any of the three persons. Subsequently, lifeguards and PN personnel joined in the operation but without any success. He appeared no more optimistic about rescuing them alive, saying that strong currents might have taken them far away into deep sea.

The DIG observed that Do Darya, the beach area between a graveyard and Golf Club, had become a more popular picnic spot. Keeping in view the possibility of drowning incidents, it was decided to approach the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) for making arrangements to restrict free movement of people towards dangerous zone of the beach by raising a wall or install a fence, he said.

SSP Mahzoor Ali had earlier said that on the police helpline, Madadgar-15, a call was received about the incident at about 3pm. When a police team reached the spot, some eyewitnesses told them that a man wearing black shalwar kameez jumped into the sea along with two children, the police officer said.

The police were groping in the dark about the nature of the incident.

CM grieved

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed his grief and sorrow over the incident. According to his spokesperson, the CM described the incident as 'heart-wrenching'.

The CM has ordered the south district administration and police to conduct a thorough inquiry into the incident, said the spokesperson.

At the initial stage, the CM had called for expediting the rescue operation in an effective manner.

Mr Shah urged people to ensure precaution while visiting beach areas. He also asked them to strictly heed the directives from the authorities concerned to avoid such tragic incidents.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 01/08/2025)

Bodies of two drowned Karachi siblings found; search on for missing father

Bodies of a nine-year-old boy and his five-year-old sister, who along with their father jumped into the sea near Do Darya and drowned, were fished out at Seaview on Friday.

Officials said that the search for their missing father, a private schoolteacher and resident of Orangi Town, was still underway.

On Friday, when the rescue operation was resumed, the body of the boy was found floating on the sea near Nishan-i-Pakistan. A few hours later, the girl was also found near Clock Tower at the beach.

They were identified as Ahmed, 9, and Ayat, 5, and their father as Aurangzeb Alam.

The bodies were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Losing custody battle led to extreme action: police

The officials believe that the man, along with his two children, tried to take their lives by jumping into the sea on Thursday afternoon, after losing the legal custody battle with his estranged wife.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza said their relatives — the grandfather and brothers of the deceased man — arrived at Seaview in the morning. They identified the boy and the girl as siblings and the missing man as their father.

The officer said that he and his wife often quarrelled about domestic issues and started living separately. He said the estranged wife had filed an application before court seeking custody of the children. The hearing of the case took place on Thursday and the judge gave the ruling in favour of the mother.

In the meantime, the father managed to take his son and daughter for lunch at an eatery on Burns Road. From Burns Road, they came to the Seaview, where he jumped into the sea along with the kids, he added.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 02/08/2025)

Renowned advocate Shamsul Islam shot dead in Karachi

A senior lawyer Advocate Khawaja Shamsul Islam was shot dead, and his son Daniyal was injured on the footsteps of Quran Academy in DHA phase VI when they were coming out after Friday prayers and a funeral.

Renowned for his expertise in civil law, he was particularly active in litigation of high-value properties across Karachi. Notably, he served as the counsel in a high-profile case involving the conversion of Fatima Jinnah's residence into a girls' hostel and dental college.

According to police, incident appears to be the result of personal enmity. In the initial investigation, Imran Afridi, son of former gunman Nabi Gul Afridi, has been named as the prime suspect, and efforts are underway to arrest him.

A murder case of Nabi Gul had been registered at Boat Basin police station in 2021, and the family reportedly held Islam responsible for the killing.

The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of Darakhshan police station, at Quran Academy. The slain lawyer had attended the funeral prayer of Muzammil Paracha, a businessman associated with the shipping industry. It is worth noting that Paracha had purchased the most expensive "1" number plate in an Excise Department auction a few months ago.

Eyewitnesses reported that the assailant was dressed in a shalwar kameez and a blue waistcoat, with a mask covering his face. While firing at the lawyer, the assailant reportedly said that he was taking revenge for his father's murder.

Police recovered two spent 9mm pistol shells and a slug from the scene. Islam sustained a bullet to the chest, while his son sustained a gunshot to the lower back.

DIG South Syed Asad Raza, SSP South Mehroz Ali, and other officials reached the spot, and crime scene unit collected evidence.

Speaking to the media, SSP confirmed that the deceased had also been targeted in an earlier attack in November 2024, which is now being linked to the present case. A route map is being prepared using CCTV footage to trace the suspect's escape path.

Meanwhile, in the Sikandarabad area of Keamari, police detained two suspects and have begun interrogating them in connection with Afridi. According to CTD in-charge Raja Umar Khattab, the incident appears to stem from a personal enmity, though further investigation is ongoing.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has expressed grief over the death of Advocate Islam and extended condolences to the deceased's family. CM Sindh, in a statement, ordered an immediate investigation into the incident and directed the authorities to bring the killers to justice as soon as possible.

Karachi Bar Association General Secretary Rehman Korai strongly condemned the incident and announced a strike on Saturday in protest over the murder. He said that the lawyers' community will continue to protest until the accused are arrested.

He further said that the incident raised question mark on the performance of police. Karachi Bar Association has also begun reaching out lawyers across the country. He demanded the immediate arrest of the accused involved in the incident. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 02/08/2025)

Senior lawyer gunned down in Karachi's DHA: police

A senior lawyer was shot dead while his son was hurt in a suspected targeted attack in Karachi's Defence Housing Authority on Friday afternoon, according to police.

South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn.com* that the firing took place after a funeral prayer at a mosque in DHA Phase 6.

"As advocate Khawaja Shamsul Islam and his son [Khawaja Daniyal, 25] were about to leave the mosque, a lone gunman apparently resorted to firing on them and fled," the DIG said. "Both father and son were shot and transported to a private hospital in Clifton, where Islam succumbed to his injuries."

The DIG added that during the preliminary investigation, it transpired that a complainant nominated the slain advocate in a murder case, while in a later incident, Islam sustained injuries in Clifton.

Elaborating on the cases, DIG Raza recalled that in 2021, the complainant filed a first information report (FIR) with Boat Basin police against six to seven unidentified suspects for allegedly killing his father.

"The complainant also attempted to nominate Khawaja Shamsul Islam, but he failed to provide evidence. Thus, the case was disposed of as 'A' Class (untraced) by Investigation DSP Clifton division Jahanzaib Khan," the DIG told *Dawn.com*.

Regarding the second incident, which occurred in 2024, the DIG said that the complainant, another advocate, filed an FIR alleging that while heading for Isha prayers with Khawaja Shamsul Islam in Zamzama neighbourhood of Karachi, they were "ambushed by the complainant in the first case along with 15-20 armed accomplices".

"The attackers used firearms, iron rods and sticks, injuring Khawaja Shamsul Islam," he alleged, adding that the attackers had gathered outside the mosque.

DIG Raza pointed out that a preliminary investigation of last year's attack was conducted by Inspector Maqbool Meher and some suspects were also arrested by the police. However, the case was later transferred to the Special Investigation Unit (SIU)/Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) Karachi as an "extortion matter".

The official elaborated that one police security guard had been provided to Islam. "Incidentally, the police guard was outside the mosque at the time of the attack. The lawyer and his son were targeted inside the mosque."

The DIG added that the private security guards of the mosque have been detained for questioning.

The body of the slain lawyer was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for legal formalities. Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told *Dawn.com* that the advocate sustained "firearm injury to his chest, damaging vital organs and leading to irreversible hemorrhagic shock".

The DIG has constituted a special team under the supervision of the South SSP to arrest the people, who murdered the advocate and injured his son.

The official said the prime suspect was the son of a police constable deployed for Islam's security in the past as witnesses heard him saying that he had taken "revenge" for the murder of his father.

In a statement issued today, the Karachi Bar Association condemned the murder of Islam and announced that its members will not appear before any court on August 2 (Saturday) to express their solidarity with the slain senior lawyer.

In April this year, a judge and a lawyer were shot dead in an armed attack on the motorway in Nowshera district.

Nowshera Deputy Commissioner Irfanullah Mehsud told *Dawn.com* that one of the slain, Mohammad Hayat, was working as a civil judge in Mardan and belonged to the Swat district.

"The other person was identified as Khalid Khan, a lawyer, belonging to Rustam area of Mardan, who was accompanying the judge."

Mehsud said that they died on the spot and the bodies were moved to Qazi Hussain Ahmed Medical Complex.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 02/08/2025)

Property dealer shot dead in 'targeted attack'

A property dealer was shot dead in what police described as a suspected targeted attack near Five Star Chowrangi in North Nazimabad.

The Hyderi Market police said on Tuesday that Izzat Khan was shot and killed by a lone assailant near Jhumar Banquet late on Monday night.

They said that he was going towards his car parked on a service road when the assailant targeted him from behind. He was a resident of Federal B Area, but originally hailed from Bannu.

The body was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital (ASH) for a post-mortem examination.

SSP-Central Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said it appeared to be a targeted killing incident, but the exact motive behind the incident was yet to be ascertained.

Hyderi Market SHO Nadeem Haider ruled out the possibility of a robbery bid as the killer did not take away anything.

He said the victim was involved in property dealing. His relatives registered a murder case against unknown persons. They told the police that they did not have any enmity with anyone, the SHO said.

Woman's body found

The body of a woman, stuffed in a box, was found near a graveyard in the SITE area on Tuesday, police and hospital officials said.

Area SHO Javed Akhter told Dawn that the victim was identified as Shazia Afzal, 35, who worked at a garment factory in New Karachi.

Her relatives told the police that she had gone to work on Monday morning but could not return till evening.

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

In honour's name

THE blood of women continues to be spilled in the name of honour and still, the state remains a spectator. A recent high-profile killing involves Bano Bibi and Ehsan Ullah Samalani, killed in Balochistan, reportedly on the orders of a jirga. The murders, filmed

and widely circulated online, showed Bano being shot allegedly by her own brother. The footage went viral and triggered national outrage, forcing the authorities to act. Sixteen individuals, including a tribal leader and Bano's mother, were arrested, though the gunman remained at large. The Balochistan chief minister has called this a "test case", pledging to dismantle illegal tribal courts. Yet many suspect this urgency stems more from public pressure than genuine resolve, and worry it may fizzle out once media attention wanes. In Rawalpindi, 18-year-old Sidra Bibi was allegedly suffocated after marrying by choice, again reportedly on the orders of a local council. Her body was buried in a concealed grave until a post-mortem confirmed foul play. Nine suspects, including her father and ex-husband, were arrested. These are but two out of an unknown number of such tragedies. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, 405 'honour' killings were reported in 2024, up from 226 the year before. Rights groups estimate the real toll to be closer to 1,000 annually, as most cases go unreported or are misclassified.

Despite a 2016 amendment that removed the loophole allowing families to pardon the killers in such cases, enforcement remains patchy. Jirgas continue to pass unlawful rulings, especially in tribal and feudal areas, and police are reluctant to act. Convictions are rare. Survivors receive little state support. Witness protection mechanisms are almost non-existent, and families who resist such customs face ostracisation or violent reprisals. It begs the question: how many more women must have their fate sealed by a bullet fired in the name of honour before the state cracks down? The 2019 Supreme Court ban on jirgas must be enforced without delay. Informal courts must be dismantled and replaced with accessible legal institutions. 'Honour' killings — a rash of which have been reported lately — must be prosecuted swiftly and both the killers and those who sanction the murder brought to book. A national database to document gender-based violence is essential for transparency and accountability. Outrage alone cannot deliver justice. The law — not custom — must dominate.
(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 04/08/2025)

Karachi man held for killing father, brother and sister-in-law

A retired professor, his young son and daughter-in-law were gunned down allegedly by his other son in their Hyderabad Colony home on Tuesday evening, police and rescue officials said.

They identified the victims as Prof Naimatullah, 74, Ameer Naimat and Sualeha and said that the suspected killer, identified as Aijaz, was arrested.

Jamshed Quarters SHO Anser Ahmed Butt told *Dawn* that the suspect opened fire on the three family members and critically wounded them. They were shifted to a hospital where doctors pronounced them dead.

He said a police team rushed to the scene and saw the armed suspect attempting to flee. "On seeing the police, he opened fire but fortunately, no one was injured. We managed to arrest him and recovered the pistol used in the crime," he added.

Regarding the possible motive, the officer said the suspect had done an MBA from a prestigious institute in Karachi and had been working in Dubai before recently returning home with his family.

During the initial investigation, the suspect claimed that his family had performed magic/sorcery on him. "We will determine whether the alleged killer was suffering from emotional or psychological disturbances," the SHO said.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 06/08/2025)

Lawless Karachi

In a city of over 20 million, the rule of law appears increasingly irrelevant, replaced by a climate of unchecked violence and impunity, creating an aura of fear and desperation. From the bustling streets of Gulistan-e-Johar to the seemingly secure lanes of DHA, no corner of Karachi is safe from the creeping rot of targeted killings and criminal audacity.

In one shocking incident this week, two men were gunned down and three others injured outside a shop in Gulistan-e-Johar. The assailants, reportedly on motorcycles, opened fire with chilling precision before fleeing the scene. Initial reports suggest that the shooting was a targeted attack. As forensic teams collect bullet casings and statements are issued, the public is left asking the same question: what good are investigations when no one is ever held accountable?

Even more jarring was the assassination of senior lawyer Advocate Khawaja Shamsul Islam in DHA Phase VI. He was shot dead while exiting a mosque with his son, who was also injured. The police claim the attack stemmed from personal enmity, yet the sheer brazenness of the murder carried out in broad daylight in one of the city's most 'secure' areas lays bare the alarming reach of violence in Karachi. What these incidents represent is a breakdown in policing and the collapse of deterrence. The city's criminals have grown bolder, more strategic and far more lethal. They strike with precision, confident that the system will either not catch them or, worse, protect them.

While statements about collecting forensic evidence and forming special teams may be procedurally correct, they mean little in the absence of results. The provincial government and police hierarchy must acknowledge the erosion of public trust and work to rebuild it — not through token measures, but by strengthening policing and improving investigative capacity.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 06/08/2025)

Two shot dead, three wounded in ‘targeted attack’

Two men were gunned down and three others wounded in a suspected targeted attack in Gulistan-i-Jauhar on Monday evening.

While police claimed that the incident was a result of some ‘personal dispute,’ a spokesperson for the Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen said that it was a targeted attack on sectarian grounds.

Gulshan SP Ahmed Iqbal Memon told Dawn that unidentified assailants opened indiscriminate fire on five persons sitting outside a shop in Pehlwan Goth near the Sindh-Balochistan Housing Society and fled.

All of them sustained bullet wounds and area people shifted them to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared two of them dead on arrival. Later, the wounded persons were moved to the Aga Khan University Hospital for treatment.

While the SP said the exact motive behind the incident was being investigated, SSP-East Dr Farrukh Raza said in a statement that police were getting ‘different information’ from the area about the possible motive.

Later, a police spokesperson said in a statement that the incident appeared to be an outcome of a “personal dispute”.

However, the MWM spokesperson told Dawn that it was a targeted killing incident and all dead and wounded persons were Shia.

He identified the deceased as Syed Mazhar Abbas and Ali Waris and wounded persons as Ali Hasan, Muhamamd Ali and Habib Ali.

He said deceased Ali Waris was son of Maulana Rajab Ali Bangash, who is a prayer leader at an area.

The spokesperson said all the victims originally hailed from Gilgit-Baltistan.

MWM leader Allama Sadiq Jaffery strongly condemned the incident and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

He said that increasing incidents of targeted killings put a question mark on the performance of law enforcement agencies in the metropolis.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 05/08/2025)

Rallies for Imran’s release face crackdown; scores held in Sindh

Dozens of activists of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf were picked up in Karachi and other cities of Sindh as law enforcers broke up rallies staged by the opposition party in protest against continued detention of party founder Imran Khan.

While police are yet to give an official number of those taken into custody from rallies, a PTI spokesperson claimed that the law enforcers detained more than 200 workers across the province.

“Despite the peaceful nature of our protests, police across Sindh resorted to violent crackdowns, using batons, tear gas, and mass detentions to break up the demonstrators. Several workers were injured, and over 200 PTI workers and leaders were arrested,” the spokesperson added.

He said that PTI workers, including women, staged rallies and held demonstrations in Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Sukkur, Ghotki, Daharki, Mirpur Mathelo, Ubauro, Kandhkot, Pano Aqil, Qambar, Shahdadkot, Sanghar, Thatta, Sujawal, Nawabshah, Umerkot, Shahdadpur, Kashmore, Badin, Matiari and other cities and demanded immediate release of Imran Khan and restoration of constitutional supremacy.

A top-ranking police officer, who wished not to be named, confirmed to Dawn that the police took action and arrested “many PTI workers who were not peaceful”.

He said cases would be registered against the held workers for rioting, etc.

In Karachi, a large number of PTI workers converged on Hasan Square, from where they started marching to the Mazar-i-Quaid. However, when they reached near Jail Chowrangi, a heavy police contingent attempted to disperse the crowd using batons and tear gas.

A PTI spokesperson alleged that around 25-30 workers, including women, were injured who took shelter in nearby homes where the residents provided them first aid. Around 15-20 participants were arrested, the spokesperson added.

He said similar actions were also taken by law enforcers in other parts of Sindh with over “200 workers” having been arrested.

Justifying the action, the police said the protesters had no permission for the rally, and “blocking” of roads created a law and order situation.

Additional IGP of Karachi Javed Alam Odho told Dawn that when protests took place against power shortages, the law enforcers took action over the road blockade and violence.

Without going into details of the police action, he said “the [PTI] rally was taken without permission from the authorities concerned. They blocked the road and created a law and order situation, necessitating police action”.

However, the PTI spokesperson told Dawn that when other parties like PPP, MQM-P and JI took out rallies, they did not take any permission and wondered as to why such discriminatory attitude was meted out to the PTI.

He said they did not block University Road, instead they only took out a rally at one side of the road.

Meanwhile, speaking to the rally participants, PTI's Sindh president Haleem Adil Sheikh condemned the arrests of workers, saying that more than 200 PTI activists had been picked up and taken to undisclosed locations.

"These unjustified arrests prove that this is not a democracy, but a dictatorship, who is afraid of PTI's growing public support."

He said that Imran Khan's two-year "unjust and politically motivated" imprisonment had exposed the state of the justice system in Pakistan.

"Fake cases have been filed against our leader and his wife Bushra Bibi has also been targeted as part of a revenge campaign," he said. "Many PTI leaders have been sentenced without trial, and thousands of workers remain imprisoned."
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 06/08/2025)

Eight workers injured as fire destroys factory, damages three others in Landhi

Eight workers were injured after a huge fire reduced a five-storey garments factory to ashes and caused extensive damage to three adjacent industrial units in Landhi's Export Processing Zone on Thursday.

It was stated that the fire was caused by the sparks produced during welding works in the basement of the factory.

According to firefighters, there were around 1,200 people, mainly workers, present inside when the building caught fire.

The factory-owners dealt in second-hand garments business, police and rescue service personnel said, adding that the eight workers suffered burn and other injuries while they kept salvaging goods inside and ignoring warnings from the firemen. The blaze swiftly spread to three adjacent factories due to strong winds causing extensive damage to two of them.

The fire that erupted in the morning was brought under control by over 20 fire tenders. Cooling work was continued after flames were put out by the evening.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan told Dawn that the agency received the information about the fire at the 'Masha Allah Factory' at about 10am. Initially, a couple of fire tenders were dispatched to the site but realising the gravity of the situation, more were employed and some more were called from the KMC Fire Brigade. A total of 20 fire tenders, two snorkels, five ambulances and water bowsers were engaged in the firefighting operation that ended at about 4pm," he added.

Mr Khan said the factory was one of the four similar industrial units sharing one compound.

He quoted some factory workers as telling the firemen that some welding work was being carried out in the basement of the five-storey building, which triggered the fire. Some repair or construction work was also going on at the factory.

Because of thick smoke and impact of the fire, the five storey-building collapsed, causing injuries to eight workers, he said, adding that they were probably forced by the management to salvage goods and shift the same to a safe place. It was a vast area and strong winds were blowing which caused rapid spread of the fire, Mr Khan said.

The Rescue-1122 spokesperson estimated that there were 1,200 workers present inside and evacuated safely.

He said that the compound was stretched over an area of 2,000 square yards and housed four factories. "One of them was completely destroyed; two others suffered up to 50pc damage while the fourth one was partially damaged," he said.

He also said that firefighters faced hardship in their operation due to a lack of constant water supply. Initially, two small fire tenders of the EPZ (Export Processing Zone) tried to handle the situation, and then the Rescue-1122, KMC and Port Qasim Authority sent their fire tenders to the site. He said one firefighter was also fainted and injured but was provided timely medical assistance.

Mr Khan recalled that it was the third incident of major fire in the EPZ within a year, which necessitated measures to strengthen fire safety protocols in the zone.

An Edhi Foundation spokesperson identified seven of the injured victims as Shahzad, 30, Rizwan, 36, Mian Siddiq, 40, Mohammed Altaf, 48, Abdul Rasheed, 26, Imran, 23, and Mohammed Arsalan, 31. They were shifted to the Aga Khan University Hospital for treatment.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 15, 08/08/2025)

Property dealer shot dead by robbers on Mauripur Road

A property dealer was gunned down by robbers in the Mauripur area late on Saturday night, police said on Sunday.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza said that 48-year-old Jameel Husain was travelling in a car when four muggers riding on two motorcycles intercepted and held him at gunpoint.

As he put up resistance by coming out of the car, the muggers opened fire on him and rode away with looted cash.

Jameel sustained a single bullet wound in the head and was taken to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi where he died.

The DIG said that the victim, who was coming from Lyari Expressway, had Rs3 million cash in two bags as he sold a plot in Safoora Goth.

He said that one cash bag was taken away by the robbers. He said another bag was handed over to the widow.

"We have not reached a final conclusion as we don't have concrete evidence as to whether it was a robbery incident or targeted killing masked as a dacoity," the DIG said.

He said a cousin of the victim was also shot dead a couple of days ago in Gulistan-i-Jauhar.

He said the police were trying to obtain CCTV footage to identify the killers.

Man shot dead by 'in-laws'

A man was allegedly shot dead by his in-laws in Machhar Colony, police said on Sunday.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza said that Ahmed (the deceased) had married his neighbour Fatima through a "court marriage" around three months ago.

The officer added that Ahmed and his wife were asleep inside their house in Machhar Colony when four suspects, including the girl's father, Sher Khan, shot at and critically injured Ahmed early on Saturday morning. He sustained two bullet wounds to the head and was taken to the Civil Hospital Karachi, where he died during treatment.

Docks police registered a murder case against the girl's father and three other nominated suspects on the complaint of the victim's father, Hafiz Noorul Hakeem.

The DIG said a special police team was tasked with arresting the suspects, and, acting on a tip-off, the police conducted a raid in Machhar Colony on Sunday and arrested one nominated suspect, Asghar Ali. He added that concerted efforts are under way to arrest the remaining suspects.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 11/08/2025)

Doctor shot dead during walk in Lyari park

A doctor was shot dead in Lyari in a suspected targeted attack on Monday evening, police said.

They said that unidentified assailants riding a motorcycle intercepted Dr Shambho Lal, 60, inside a park on the Mirza Adam Khan Road, opened fire on him and rode away.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza said the doctor was on his routine walk when he was targeted.

He said the doctor sustained three bullet wounds and was rushed to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, where he died during treatment.

The Crime Scene Unit visited the scene and collected evidence, including three spent bullet casings fired from a 9mm pistol. The casings were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for analysis, the police said.

City SSP Arif Aziz said investigators were trying to collect CCTV footage from the surrounding area.

'Monetary dispute'

DIG Raza said the killing appeared to be the result of a personal enmity.

He elaborated that initial investigation revealed the deceased doctor was involved in an over Rs6 million dispute with certain individuals.

He said that the victim had previously lodged two FIRs at the Darakhshan and Napier police stations against three individuals.

A case has been registered on the complaint of victim's son Dr Deepak Lal against three unknown persons under Sections 302 (premeditated murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code at the Kalakot police station.

He told the police that his father had a monetary dispute with some people and he suspected their involvement in the murder.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 12/08/2025)

US designates BLA as foreign terrorist outfit

The United States on Monday formally designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its combat wing, the Majeed Brigade, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO), adding the latter as an alias to BLA's existing Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) status — a move Pakistan has long desired.

"Today, the Department of State is designating the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its alias, the Majeed Brigade, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO), and adding the Majeed Brigade as an alias to BLA's previous Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) designation," the State Department said in its statement.

The statement recalled that "BLA was designated as an SDGT in 2019 following several terrorist attacks. Since 2019, BLA has claimed responsibility for additional attacks, including by the Majeed Brigade."

Among the recent incidents cited were the 2024 suicide bombings near Karachi airport and at the Gwadar Port Authority Complex, and the March 2025 hijacking of the Jaffar Express train from Quetta to Peshawar, which killed 31 civilians and security personnel and took more than 300 passengers hostage.

"Today's action taken by the Department of State demonstrates the Trump Administration's commitment to countering terrorism. Terrorist designations play a critical role in our fight against this scourge and are an effective way to curtail support for terrorist activities," the statement added.

The designation follows the second US visit by Army Chief Gen Asim Munir, in less than two months, during which he traveled to Tampa (Centom headquarters) and Washington. His earlier visit in June 2025 marked a turning point in US–Pakistan relations, which have improved rapidly since then.

Recently, Pakistan's Foreign Office reaffirmed the country's long-standing stance, stating it has "effectively and comprehensively dismantled" terrorist outfits and condemns terrorism in all forms. The FO emphasised that cooperation and international coordination are cornerstones of its policy — reflecting alignment with the US move on the BLA.
(By Anwar Iqbal Dawn, 01, 12/08/2025)

Another young man shot dead by robbers in Karachi's Korangi

A young man was gunned down by robbers in Korangi in the early hours of Tuesday morning, police said.

The Zaman Town police said that Ghulam Mohammed, 24, was shot at and wounded when he put up resistance to a robbery bid near Chiniot Hospital.

He sustained critical bullet wounds and was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where doctors pronounced him dead.

His relatives told the media that he had left home to buy some bakery items when armed robbers killed him.

Ghulam worked for a pharmaceutical company and was supposed to get married soon, they added.

Over 50 people, mostly youths, have been killed by robbers in the metropolis this year.

Meanwhile, a man was killed in the crossfire between robbers and a citizen near Lasi Goth within the remit of the Sohrab Goth police station.

Area SHO Mumtaz Marwat told *Dawn* that two robbers were looting a citizen at gunpoint and they started firing when the victim said he knew them.

He said that the citizen also took out his pistol and challenged the robber. During an exchange of gunfire, 22-year-old Jan Sher, who was sitting at a nearby resultant, sustained a bullet wound in the head and died.

The SHO said the citizen came forward to the police and an investigation was underway to ascertain whose bullet caused the death.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

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

Six held in dumpers' torching case

Police on Tuesday continued their crackdown for a second consecutive day against those involved in torching a dumper on Rashid Minhas Road after a deadly accident.

Officials said six suspects have so far been arrested — four from Yousuf Plaza and two from the FB Industrial Area — while more than 20 others are already in custody for interrogation. Over 30 people have been detained during raids over the past two days, with around a dozen later released.

Cases have been registered under charges of arson, damaging property, incitement to violence and sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act. A special investigation team, headed by the AIG police, is probing the matter.

Police said CCTV footage of the incident has been secured and further evidence is being collected. SSP Investigation Anum Tajammul said arrests were being made strictly on the basis of evidence and no innocent person would be implicated. Meanwhile, Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah visited the residence of the accident-affected family to offer condolences and recite Fateha.

Nasir Hussain also conveyed to the family that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the Sindh Chief Minister had approved financial assistance for them.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited the grieving family and expressed condolences with Muhammad Shakir over death of his son and daughter in the ghastly accident caused by an unlicensed dumper driver.

During a media talk, Tessori emphasised the need for legislation to address the issue. Tessori said, "Humanity is lost when brutality becomes rampant." He added that the dumper driver responsible for the accident did not have a license and was unaware of the lives he was destroying. Tessori called for accountability and urged the Dumper Association to take responsibility for their vehicles.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 14, 13/08/2025)

'Robber' gunned down by citizen

A suspected robber was gunned down by a citizen on Shahrah-i-Pakistan in the small hours of Wednesday morning, police said.

Azizabad SHO Waqar Kaiser told Dawn that the citizen, identified as Shaharyar, closed his spare parts shop at the Water Pump market at around 1:15am and was on his way home on a motorcycle. When he reached near Ayesha Manzil flyover, armed robbers intercepted him. However, he didn't stop, and when the robbers tried to stop him forcibly, he fell but pulled out his licensed pistol and fired shots.

As a result, one suspect, later identified as Mohammed Raja, 30, suffered a bullet wound in the chest and died on the spot. His accomplice managed to escape from the scene, leaving behind their bike, the SHO said, adding that the recovered motorcycle was stolen.

He said the killed suspect was arrested several times in several cases pertaining to robberies, encounter with police, possession of illegal weapons, bike lifting, etc. A pistol and a cell phone were also recovered from custody of the deceased.

The body was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 14/08/2025)

Police get seven-day remand of 12 youths held for torching seven dumpers in Karachi

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday remanded 12 men held for their alleged involvement in setting seven dumpers on fire following the death of two siblings in a fatal accident.

On Aug 10, a fast-moving dumper hit a motorcycle and crushed to death Mahnoor, 22, and her brother Ahmed Raza, 14, on main Rashid Minhas Road near the UBL Sports Complex. Enraged people took to the streets and set to fire seven dumpers within the remit of the Federal B Industrial Area and Yousuf Plaza police stations.

On Wednesday, the investigation officers of the two cases produced the suspects before the administrative judge of the ATCs at the Judicial Complex inside the central prison.

They requested the court to grant their 14-day police remand for interrogation and to arrest other absconding suspects.

The court remanded all 12 suspects in police custody for seven days and directed the IOs to submit progress reports at the next hearing.

Remand of dumper driver extended

A judicial magistrate on Wednesday extended the physical remand of a dumper driver booked and arrested for killing the two siblings in the fatal accident.

IO Fida Hussain brought dumper driver Firdos Khan before Judicial Magistrate (Central) Farman Ali Tager and sought an extension of his police remand, stating that more time was needed to verify the suspect's documents.

During the hearing, the IO informed the court that the suspect had claimed to possess an HTV (Heavy Transport Vehicle) licence issued from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. For verification, he said, a letter had been sent to the relevant authority in the province.

However, the IO added that the licence had not yet been verified, which was why Sections 322 (punishment for qatl-bis-sabab) and 109 (abetment) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) had been added to the case. He requested more time as he awaited a response from the authorities concerned.

After hearing arguments from the defence counsel and the IO, the court extended the suspect's physical remand for three more days and directed the IO to submit a progress report at the next hearing, scheduled for Aug 16.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 14/08/2025)

Bank employee accuses two men of rape

A 26-year-old woman working at a private bank has accused two men of raping her after luring her under the pretext of facilitating a credit card. The incident reportedly took place in Dhoraji, Sherpao Colony, and an FIR has been lodged at the Bahadurabad police station on her complaint.

According to the complainant, who is employed in the vehicle leasing and credit card services department of a bank, a man identified as Mahzoor contacted her on July 7 regarding a credit card application. On the night of August 10, she was called to a location near a private hospital in Dhoraji at around 8.15pm.

She alleged that Mahzoor took her to a nearby house where a man and a woman were present. There, she was allegedly offered juice, after which she felt semi-conscious. Another man allegedly tied her to a bed while both men subjected her to sexual assault and recorded the act.

She further stated that they threatened to release the video and kill her if she refused to meet them again.

The woman told police she left the premises and went straight to JPMC by rickshaw. PS Bahadurabad SHO Naveed Soomro said police were informed of the incident by the hospital's medico-legal officer. Her statement was recorded at the hospital, after which a case was registered.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 15/08/2025)

Celebratory firing

The bullets were fired in celebration often return as bullets of mourning. Once again, Karachi's skies on Independence Day rang not just with fireworks, but with gunfire, claiming innocent lives and reminding us of how deep this reckless tradition runs. This year, a minor girl was among three people killed, while over a hundred suffered bullet wounds from aerial firing. Police records show at least 67 injured, while hospitals report 109 — proof of the chaos that blurs the line between festivity and tragedy.

Aerial firing is neither patriotism nor joy. It is violence disguised as celebration. The bans on this act, reiterated on every major occasion, have clearly failed to deter offenders. Arrests and seizures tell part of the story with 86 suspects in custody, 68 illegal weapons recovered and 111 cases registered. Yet, every year, the toll of dead and wounded tells us these actions are reactive rather than preventive. We mourn the dead after every celebration, and then wait for the next round of gunfire.

What is needed is not just enforcement on the night of the event, but year-round awareness and deterrence supported by community accountability. Laws must be backed by swift convictions under stringent charges. Police presence on known trouble spots should be overwhelming, with real-time monitoring and zero tolerance for illegal arms possession. Equally critical is public education.

Key community stakeholders must relentlessly repeat the message that firing a weapon into the air is as good as firing at a person. Until our society accepts that a gun in celebration is a loaded death sentence, we will keep marking national milestones with both flags and funeral processions. Do we truly want to celebrate our hard-earned independence with more bloodshed?

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 15/08/2025)

Three killed, 81 injured by aerial firing on Independence Day in Karachi

At midnight, the city reverberated with the crackle of gunfire as hundreds of people resorted to aerial firing to celebrate Independence Day.

Unrestrained aerial firing and fireworks disrupted the city's peace, turning festivity into tragedy. Three people, including an eight-year-old girl and a 70-year-old man, lost their lives, while 81 others sustained injuries.

According to police, 51 men, 23 women, six boys, and one girl were among the injured. Police arrested 39 suspects across various areas of the city and recovered a variety of firearms used in the illegal celebratory firing.

In a particularly heart-wrenching incident, eight-year-old Naaha was shot and killed by stray gunfire in Azizabad Block Eight. She lost her life while standing on her balcony with a Pakistani flag pinned to her chest.

According to a family friend, Naaha sat down in fear as gunshots rang out but was fatally struck in the back of the head. Her family rushed her to a nearby hospital, where staff reportedly declined to register the case. She was later taken to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where doctors confirmed her death.

Moreover, 35-year-old Stephen, a resident of the Christian settlement near Zaman Town Police Station, was killed in a similar incident in Korangi. His body was shifted to Jinnah Hospital.

Seventy-year-old Jumma was also killed by aerial firing in Lyari's Kalri neighbourhood near Agra Taj Colony. His body was taken to Civil Hospital.

Injured individuals were reported from nearly every part of the city — North Nazimabad, Malir, Korangi, Orangi Town, Liaquatabad, Surjani, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Lyari, and beyond.

Victims ranged in age from seven to over 50, with injuries varying in severity. These include Umar, 11, injured in North Nazimabad; Ramzan, 48, wounded in Gulshan-e-Baloch; Isa, eight, shot in PIB Colony; Florence, 16, injured in FC Area; and Sidra, wounded in Bilal Colony.

Hospitals including Abbasi Shaheed, Jinnah, and Civil received a continuous stream of victims throughout the night.

The city police confirmed that 57 suspects were apprehended for involvement in aerial firing. Weapons of varying calibres were confiscated during citywide raids. Authorities have pledged stern action against those responsible and appealed to the public to refrain from dangerous celebratory gunfire in the future.

Family members and local residents expressed anger and grief, criticising provincial authorities for failing to curb aerial firing despite repeated incidents in previous years.

"Every year we fear this night more than we celebrate it," said a resident of Liaquatabad. "This is not independence but chaos." (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 15/08/2025)

Three killed, over 100 wounded by 'celebratory firing' in Karachi

Three people, including a minor girl, were killed and over 100 others wounded in celebratory gunfire across the city at midnight on Independence Day, officials said on Thursday.

In Hyderabad, eight people, including four women, were wounded in separate incidents of celebratory firing. The wounded persons were aged between five and 60.

Many believe the number of casualties highlights the widespread presence of weapons, licensed or unlicensed, in the metropolis and other parts of Sindh and raises serious questions about the efforts of police and Rangers to eradicate the menace.

The Karachi police claimed to have arrested 86 individuals for firing in the air and registered as many as 111 FIRs against them.

Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told Dawn that a minor girl, an elderly man and a young man, who suffered gunshot wounds from aerial firing, were brought to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital (ASH), Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi (CHK) and the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) from Azizabad, Lyari and Korangi, respectively.

She added that a total of 109 people with bullet wounds were brought to these three government hospitals from various parts of the metropolis. The condition of three wounded individuals was "unstable," she said.

IGP wants state's gun policy reviewed

Talking to Dawn, Sindh Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon acknowledged the so-called gun culture and said this was mainly because of an easy access to both licensed and unlicensed weapons.

"This is so unfortunate that people celebrate every important day — Chand Raat, Independence Day, New Year — with aerial gunfire," he said.

He conceded that despite enacting tough laws to curb the menace of illicit weapons in society, "such criminal activity is not reducing".

"I think we need to review our gun policy so that violence can be reduced," he said. He confirmed the death of three people in aerial firing, but said that the number of wounded persons was 67.

About police action, he said as many as 86 suspects had been arrested and 111 cases registered against them. He said that suspects in 75 cases were booked on attempted murder and possessing illicit weapons charges.

Azizabad SHO Waqar Kaiser told Dawn that seven-year-old Mirha Waqas was killed by a stray bullet that struck her inside her home.

He said she was standing in the gallery on the second floor of her house in Block-8, apparently watching fireworks at midnight while standing on a stool, when a bullet hit her in the head. She fell silently and no one heard her cry. Some time later, her mother saw her lying unconscious and bleeding.

Her uncle rushed her to a nearby private hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead. The body was later shifted to the ASH.

The officer said the bullet was fired from a 9mm pistol. Police have detained four suspects involved in aerial firing and recovered two 9mm pistols from them to determine whether one of them was used in the killing.

Septuagenarian dies in Lyari

A 70-year-old man was shot dead by a stray bullet in the Kalri area of Lyari.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that Jumma Salman was sitting outside his home in Agra Taj Colony near Ibrahim Masjid on Wednesday night when a bullet struck his head. He was taken to CHK, where he died during treatment.

City SSP Arif Aziz said 12 suspects had been taken into custody for interrogation following the incident.

Meanwhile, Awami Colony police reported that a man, Stephon John, 35, was killed by a stray bullet in Korangi No. 3½ near Model Colony Park.

His body was shifted to the JPMC for medico-legal formalities and further investigation was underway.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 15/08/2025)

Man, his son gunned down in Azam Basti

A man and his son were shot dead while four others were wounded, allegedly by close relatives, due to a personal dispute in Azam Basti within the remit of the Mehmoodabad police station on Thursday evening, police said.

They added that Ghulam Rabbani, 50, and his son, 27-year-old Jalal Rabbani, were killed while four others — Faisal, Maham Faisal, Abu Bakr and Aaliya Javed — were wounded in their home near Punjab Bakery.

Mehmoodabad DSP Khushnood Javed told Dawn that the main suspect, identified as Malik Fatah Ali, is the brother-in-law of one of the killed men, while the wounded persons were the suspect's maternal nephew/nieces. He said both the victims and the suspects lived in the same place and they had a "family dispute" going on for a considerable time.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 15/08/2025)

'Car dealer' found shot dead in North Karachi graveyard

A man, said to be associated with sale and purchase of cars, was found shot dead inside a graveyard on Saturday, police said.

They said that the body stuffed in a drum was found in the Muhammad Shah graveyard in North Karachi.

The corpse was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities. The victim was later identified as Ali Asghar, 41, a resident of Orangi Town, Sector 14-B.

His family told the police that he left home at 1am on Saturday but did not return.

Sir Syed SHO Farrukh Hashmi told *Dawn* that it appeared that he was killed someplace else and later his body was dumped in the graveyard. He said he was shot in the head.

He said that his relatives told the police that he had some monetary and property disputes as he was involved in property dealing and sale/purchase of cars.

Man gunned down in Korangi

In Korangi, unidentified assailants shot dead a 30-year old man on Saturday.

Police said Dildar Mola Bux was killed near Ghosia Masjid, Sector 41B, Korangi.

A police officer said the victim left his workplace, a factory's canteen, to purchase something when armed motorcyclists shot him and rode away. He suffered bullet wounds in the head and face and died on the spot.

The police ruled out the possibility of a robbery attempt as his cell phone and cash were not taken.

They suspected some personal enmity behind the incident.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 17/08/2025)

'Gangster' shot dead in Pak Colony

A suspected gangster was gunned down and his friend critically wounded in an attack allegedly carried out by his rival gang members on Manghopir Road within the remit of the Pak Colony police station, police said on Sunday.

They added that Asif Ali, 30, and Rizwan Suleman, 35, were heading to Old Golimar on a motorbike late on Saturday night when they were targeted by unknown assailants.

The police said that Asif died on the spot while Suleman was shifted to a hospital in critical condition.

Pak Colony SHO Anwar Ali said the family nominated two suspected gangsters in the murder FIR.

Fire in scrapyard

A huge fire erupted in a scrapyard in Bin Qasim on Sunday, officials said.

A Rescue-1122 spokesperson told Dawn that the blaze broke out in the scrapyard of the firms where various items were stored. He said the fire spread over one and a half acres of land near the railway crossing in Bin Qasim.

Six fire tenders managed to bring it under control after hectic efforts lasting several hours, he said and added all goods stored there were destroyed.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 18/08/2025)

Drug addicts cripple Natha Khan Bridge

The Natha Khan Bridge on Sharae Faisal, the city's main artery, has once again fallen into disrepair due to the theft of steel rods (rebar) by drug-addicted individuals. Damage to the bridge's beam has created a large pothole, prompting repair work. Traffic flow has been severely affected, causing journeys that would take minutes to now take over an hour. Daily commuters continue to suffer due to recurring damage and repair work.

Reportedly, the beams of the Natha Khan Bridge have been damaged by addicts who have cut and stolen steel bars from inside the bridge beams, compromising structural support and causing cracks in the beams. The entire underside of the bridge has been damaged as a result, and the middle lane of the bridge has caved in.

Traffic police informed relevant authorities, after which the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) began repair work on Monday. Workers opened up an eight-foot wide and 15-foot long section in the middle of the bridge, leading to major disruption in traffic. Long lines of vehicles formed, causing distress to commuters rendered stuck under the scorching heat.

Workers explained that the cracked beams will be repaired first, followed by road resurfacing, stating that the repairs could take 10 to 15 days to complete. They argued that drug addicts continue to cut steel rods in broad daylight without any interference from anyone, including the police; however, if a common citizen were to do the same, police would immediately arrest them.

In-charge of the Airport Traffic Section, Inspector Rehan Zaib, told Express in an exclusive conversation that traffic pressure will increase in the evening due to the pothole on the Natha Khan Bridge.

He urged citizens to avoid Sharae Faisal during peak evening hours and use alternate routes. People heading to the airport are advised to take the Malir Expressway, while others can use Karsaz Road, Drigh Road, and Rashid Minhas Road, to reach their destinations, reducing the load on the bridge.

(By Sajid Rauf Dawn, 04, 19/08/2025)

Police officer martyred in 'targeted attack' in Karachi

A police officer was shot dead in a suspected targeted attack in Bin Qasim Town on Monday evening, officials said.

They identified the martyred officer as Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Mohammad Khan Abro.

Bin Qasim SHO Faisal Rafiq told Dawn that the ASI reached home and when he got off his car, assailants riding on a motorcycle emerged there, opened indiscriminate fire and rode away.

He sustained critical bullet wounds and was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The SHO said it appeared to be a targeted killing incident. However, it was being investigated as to whether the incident was motivated by terrorism or some personal enmity, he added.

The deceased ASI had served as the officer in charge of the Ghaghar Phatak police post. Presently, he was posted at the Steel Town police station.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah took notice of the murder of ASI Mohammed Khan Abro and sought a detailed report from the inspector general of police.

A CM House spokesperson said that Mr Shah directed the police chief to take all-out measures to ensure immediate arrest of the killers.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 19/08/2025)

Four ANP men hurt as gas explosion leads to building collapse in Karachi's Orangi Town

Four workers of the Awami National Party (ANP) were injured and one of them suffered severe burn wounds when a loud explosion caused the collapse of their office in Orangi Town on Wednesday, police and hospital officials said.

West SSP Tariq Illahi Mastoi told the media that the ANP office was situated in a dilapidated building. The explosion occurred when one of the workers switched on a fan, which likely triggered a blast caused due to gas leakage.

The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) was called in to determine the cause of the explosion. BDS West in-charge Abid Farooq confirmed that the blast was caused by a leakage from an LPG cylinder, which ignited due to an electric spark.

He added that the two-storey building was completely destroyed in the explosion.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb said the victims were pulled from the rubble and transported to a hospital.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said that one of the injured, Latifur Rehman, sustained 84 per cent burn injuries and is in critical condition. The other three victims also suffered injuries, including burns.

Charred body found in sack

The charred burnt body of a young man was found on Northern Bypass opposite Labour Colony on Wednesday, police said.

Gadap City SHO Sarfraz Jatoi said it appeared that the man was set on fire at someplace else and the body, stuffed in a sack, was dumped here.

The corpse was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities and identification.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/08/2025)

Blast at fireworks warehouse rocks MA Jinnah Road

At least two people were killed and 34 others injured when a massive explosion ripped through a fireworks store and warehouse at Al-Amna Plaza on MA Jinnah Road, opposite Capri Cinema, Thursday afternoon.

The powerful blast was heard several kilometers away and triggered a fire that damaged surrounding shops and structures, and left a nearby school building in ruins. Eyewitnesses reported that fireballs shot out in different directions at the moment of the explosion, hitting passersby and leaving several injured. After the blast, remnants of fireworks were scattered all around the site.

Scenes of devastation were witnessed during the search operation inside the building. Various shops located within the plaza were completely gutted, and nearly a dozen parked motorcycles were reduced to ashes.

The blast damaged the stairways leading up the building as well as its roof. Shopkeepers, whose businesses had been destroyed, gathered outside the plaza in grief, their eyes filled with tears as they watched their livelihoods and goods burn before them. They said the explosion had caused them losses worth millions of rupees.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah sought a detailed report from Jinnah Hospital Executive Director Prof Dr Shahid Rasool and directed doctors to ensure the best possible medical care for all victims.

Deputy Commissioner South said that between six to eight, agencies issue NOCs (No Objection Certificates) for such businesses, with explosives allowed only in limited quantities. Al-Amna Plaza's operators reportedly last obtained an NOC in 2024. "The Explosives Department's technical team will determine the exact amount of material stored, and strict legal action will follow if violations are proven," he said.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director of the Explosives Department revealed that no permission had been obtained from his office to store fireworks material at the site. "If the storage is under 50kg, the DC office issues the NOC. Anything beyond requires authorisation from the Explosives Department. From what we have seen so far, it appears more than 50 kg of material was kept inside," he added.

Police and Counter-Terrorism Department teams are probing whether safety protocols were violated in storing and handling fireworks material.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 22/08/2025)

Two killed, 33 injured in blast at fireworks shop

A man and a teenage boy were killed and 33 others were injured in a huge explosion that ripped through a firecracker warehouse and shop, operating in the basement of a three-storey commercial and residential building on M.A. Jinnah Road, near Taj Medical Complex on Thursday afternoon.

The blast was so powerful that it damaged pillars and walls of the building and cement blocks were hurled through the air, falling onto parked vehicles nearby. Windowpane of the nearby buildings and vehicles were also smashed.

Police Surgeon Summaiya Syed told Dawn that the police brought the body of 16-year-old Asad Wakeel, who was killed in the firecracker store. While one of the critically injured patients, Kashif, also died during treatment at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC).

The police surgeon said that the autopsy of Asad was held who had sustained burns. He had died due to inhalation of toxic gases produced from the explosive material.

The police surgeon said 20 other injured people were also brought to the JPMC, including two with critical wounds while 14 other men were taken to the Trauma Centre of the Civil Hospital Karachi with two in critical condition.

She said the condition of other wounded people was being evaluated. South DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that the blast occurred at Al-Amna Plaza.

"The blast occurred in the fireworks stock of 'Hanif Patakha', which were stored in the warehouse where two 'display centres' were also located," said the senior official.

He said "preliminary" reports suggested that the fire was triggered due to an "electric spark".

He said approximately 20-25 individuals, including Hanif (the owner) were injured while some others had been rescued.

Fire brigade vehicles and personnel of the bomb disposal squad, and law enforcement agencies were present at the scene and took part in rescue and fire control efforts and investigations.

"A similar incident had occurred about two years ago on the same premises in the parking area due to the similar causes," the DIG recalled.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan told Dawn that there was a ground-plus three-storey building named Al-Amna Plaza on M.A. Jinnah Road near Taj Complex where families lived on upper floors.

A warehouse named Super Fire Works was operating in its basement. He said raw material used for preparation of firecrackers was also stored there.

He said during the initial probe, it appeared that a short circuit triggered the fire and a huge explosion took place because of the presence of explosive material.

Mr Khan added that 12 fire tenders were sent for firefighting.

He said that because explosive materials were stored there, the fire kept reigniting due to the heat.

The firemen were facing difficulties as there were fumes and smoke in the basement. He said the fire was controlled up to 60-70 per cent and efforts were underway to it put out completely.

Licence 'expired'

The DIG said as per relevant laws, the federal interior minister gives a licence for over 50kg firecrackers storage while for under 50kg storage, the provincial government gives licences.

Under explosive related laws, it is mandatory for relevant officials to carry out inspections of storage sites of fireworks and in case of any violations of the laws, the authorities can seize the material, and take action against violators.

He said the DC South had given a licence for keeping fireworks not exceeding 50kg, but the owner had allegedly stored more than 50kg of fireworks material.

He said the owner claimed that they had been working for 'entertainment' fireworks since 1958 with the name of Super Fire Work International. The official added that the licence given to the fireworks store by the DC South had already expired on December 31st, 2024.

'Illegal' fireworks store

Counter-Terrorism Department's senior official Raja Umer Khattab, who visited the spot, told journalists that people call it firecracker material, but there was "explosive material".

He said as per relevant laws, up to 50 kilograms of firecrackers material may be stored or kept in a shop with certain conditions and standard operating procedures.

Elaborating further, the counter-terrorism expert said that it was mandatory that the firecracker material shops/stores should be away from a petrol pump and residential areas.

He said firecrackers were imported and manufactured as well in Pakistan. In Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, only licensed-holders can manufacture or import firecrackers.

Mr Khattab claimed that there was no "industry or factory for manufacturing firecrackers" in Sindh.

He estimated that over 50kg of firecracker material might be stored in the basement and termed the presence of such a huge quantity in a residential area as highly dangerous.

"The people do not consider it hazard as they just call it entertainment fireworks," lamented the CTD official, adding that this warehouse was 'illegally' established in the residential area.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 22/08/2025)

Blast-hit building still contains five tonnes of explosive

As the death toll from Thursday's explosion at a fireworks shop on M.A. Jinnah Road reached six, police authorities are taking measures to safely dispose of around five tonnes of explosive material stored in three warehouses in the blast-hit building, it emerged on Friday.

Two people were killed and 33 others suffered burns when a huge blast ripped through a fireworks shop located in a ground-plus-two-storey building near Taj Complex on M.A. Jinnah Road. The blast followed fire that broke out in the building.

Officials said that the fire at the building was put out but the cooling work was still underway.

Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed told Dawn that four more injured persons died during treatment.

She said the deaths occurred because of "multiple crush injuries and suffocation".

- *DIG says efforts underway to dispose of huge quantities of explosives stored in three warehouses*
- *Death toll climbs to six as four more die in firecrackers shop explosion incident*

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn the bomb disposal squad had examined Al-Amna Plaza ground floor shop where the fireworks were stored.

He said about "5,000kg" of fireworks material was still lying in the building's three warehouses in two containers while other material also lying outside the building in an open place in "dangerous condition".

There was an urgent need to neutralise the hazardous stockpile of the fireworks, as per findings of the bomb disposal squad team, he added.

"We are removing and disposing of the rest of the explosives with the help of agencies concerned," said the DIG.

They said that a case was registered against two brothers, who are the proprietors.

During the inspection of the warehouse named Super Fire Works, it transpired that nearly 300 cartons of the fireworks, weighing around 500 kilogrammes, were burnt due to "mishandling". The building was also badly damaged while the explosion had serious effects extending up to 180 meters in the surrounding area.

The Preedy police have registered an FIR over manslaughter and other charges against two brothers, who are the owners of the warehouse, namely Hanif, alias Patakha, and Mohammed Ayub, on behalf of state through a police officer.

As per the FIR, the suspects had stored fireworks in 'excessive' quantities in a haphazard manner without any precautionary measures and their negligence and carelessness caused loss of precious human lives. Hanif was injured in the incident while Ayub managed to escape from the spot in his car.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 23/08/2025)

Death toll rises to six in fireworks store blast

Rescuers pulled three more bodies from the rubble of the collapsed Al-Amna Plaza on MA Jinnah Road, raising the death toll from Thursday's fireworks warehouse explosion to six. Four of the injured are said to be in critical condition.

The blast occurred at a warehouse and storeroom used for storing and selling fireworks, located inside Al-Amna Plaza. The explosion triggered a massive fire, which was brought under control before rescue teams launched search operations.

Late Thursday night, rescuers recovered the second body from the debris. The charred and unidentifiable corpse was shifted to Civil Hospital. Bystanders, however, recognised the victim by his beard as 32-year-old Hamza. Married two and a half years ago, Hamza was the father of a young daughter. He ran a surgical instruments shop in Al-Amna Plaza, supplying equipment to hospitals. Goods worth millions of rupees were destroyed in the blast.

During the early hours of Friday, a third body was recovered and taken to Civil Hospital. The deceased was identified by his family as 40-year-old Shehzad Ali. Shehzad owned a hearing-aid shop named "Karachi Hearing" in the plaza, and was a resident of Korangi No. 5 with two children. His relative Dilshad said that despite searching several graveyards, they struggled to find space for his burial. Finally, after much effort, he was laid to rest in Chakra Goth cemetery, Korangi, following Friday prayers.

Later in the evening, rescue workers recovered a fourth body from the debris. officials identified the deceased as 20-year-old Sikandar, son of Rizwan. With his death, the toll from the explosion climbed to six. Four of the bodies were pulled from the rubble, while two of the injured had succumbed to their wounds at Jinnah and Civil hospitals on Thursday night.

Rescue 1122 officials said search operations at the site are still under way. Police have cordoned off the area and deployed additional personnel. Shopkeepers at Al-Amna Plaza told Express that it was still unclear how many people may remain trapped. They said a man named Ayaz, who was present at the plaza at the time of the blast, has been missing since, with his family desperately searching for him without success.

District South SSP Mahzoor Ali, accompanied by a Bomb Disposal Squad team, was present at the site.

He said that police had nominated the warehouse owner, Muhammad Hanif — known locally as Hanif Patakha — and his brother, Muhammad Ayub, in the case. Hanif is currently in police custody, while efforts are under way to arrest Ayub, who was reportedly his business partner. It was unclear whether Ayub was present at the warehouse at the time of the blast.

SSP Ali, stated that the warehouse of fireworks destroyed in the explosion was quite old. Investigations are underway to determine how long they had held a license and how its renewal process was managed.

He mentioned that the warehouse's license has not been issued recently—it was very old. Since the warehouse existed, it implies that they previously held a license. He added that whatever findings emerge during the investigation will be thoroughly examined. He also said that the remaining fireworks in the warehouse are being inspected by the Explosives Department and the Bomb Disposal Squad, and their report will be released soon.

Chief Fire Officer Humayun Khan said the explosion was so powerful that it damaged the structural pillars of the building and shattered the windows of nearby shops and houses.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 23/08/2025)

Plan to recruit 2,000 ASIs finalised

The Sindh government has decided to recruit 2,000 assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs) to modernise and reinforce the investigative capacity of the Sindh police.

Presiding over a meeting held to review measures for improving the law and order and strengthening the investigative capacity of the police, Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah directed authorities to remove all hurdles to ensure a transparent, efficient and timely recruitment process.

He 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, which must be adequately equipped to ensure delivery of justice.

The meeting was attended by Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional Chief Secretary-Home Muhammad Iqbal Memon and other senior officials.

(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 23/08/2025)

Fireworks tragedy

Till now, six lives have been claimed by the explosion at a fireworks warehouse in Al-Amna Plaza on Karachi's M.A. Jinnah Road. The blast not only destabilised structural pillars and shattered windows of nearby shops and homes, but exposed the lethal consequences of regulatory neglect in densely settled areas.

Official statements confirm the warehouse had once held a licence - yet it had not been renewed for years. This lapse compels deeper scrutiny. Was there ever a follow-up inspection? Why was the licence's expiry not flagged? And how was hazardous material permitted to remain in the heart of the city without oversight? The absence of rigorous enforcement reflects the broader administrative malaise that Karachi is interspersed with storerooms and godowns storing combustible high-risk goods, embedded in both residential and commercial quarters. These pose latent risks that are underestimated at our peril.

Licences issued without due diligence and perfunctory safety assessments are symptomatic of a governance culture that normalises danger. While an inquiry has now been convened, its efficacy hinges on its ambitions. It must move beyond assigning blame and towards structural reform. Authorities should conduct a comprehensive inventory of such hazardous installations and revoke stale or questionable licences. Moreover, dangerous elements should be relocated to designated industrial zones equipped with proper safety infrastructure.

One cannot pin down such acts on fate or chance. They are the outcome of negligence and weak enforcement. Each preventable blast claims innocent lives and leaves families in anguish. Those who issued the licence in the first place, and those who allowed the facility to continue unchecked, cannot be absolved. The warehouse owner too must be held accountable. However, structural reforms are as important as punitive measures.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 24/08/2025)

Robbers hit bonanza

In a city increasingly under siege by armed criminals, not even police officers and government officials are safe anymore. In one of the most high-profile incidents in recent months, five armed robbers broke into a house in DHA Phase V, holding the family hostage and escaping with over Rs 200 million worth of foreign currency, jewellery, cash, and other valuables.

The targeted residence belongs to Sindh Police officer SSP Tauheed ur Rehman Memon and Sindh government spokesperson Syeda Aqraba. The robbers looted \$90,000 (approx Rs nine million), Rs one million in cash, Rs 110 million worth of gold jewellery, and a mobile phone before vanishing into the night. The armed intruders entered the house in Khayaban-e-Mujahid, around 4:45am on Saturday. They first overpowered the armed guard stationed at the gate, Faisal Altaf, and forced him inside the house at gunpoint. Once inside, they held all family members hostage and began ransacking the house with chilling ease.

The robbers spent around 30 minutes inside before fleeing after warning the residents not to follow or alert anyone. "They said if we came after them, they would shoot us," the guard told police later.

Faisal Altaf, who filed the complaint at Darakhshan Police Station, said he had fallen asleep during the night shift with his government-issued rifle hidden under a pillow. He was woken by three armed men and taken inside, where he found his employer's family already held hostage. According to the FIR, three of the robbers searched the house while two stood guard over the family. The robbers left calmly after completing the loot, locking the doors behind them.

After confirming the missing items with SSP Tauheed, the FIR was filed. The police handed over the case to the investigation unit, which is now looking into the incident.

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar has taken serious notice of the robbery and demanded an initial report from the SSP South. He directed police to review and share details of the current security plan for District South and ensure robust intelligence efforts to trace and arrest the culprits swiftly.

Minister Lanjar also instructed investigators to obtain and examine CCTV footage from the surrounding area and keep him updated on the investigation's progress.

(By Munawwar Khan The Express Tribune, 04, 24/08/2025)

Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani's brother held, remanded in police custody for 'assaulting govt employee'

Chanesar Town chairman Farhan Ghani, younger brother of senior Pakistan Peoples Party leader and local government minister Saeed Ghani, was booked, arrested and remanded in a terrorism and attempted murder case for allegedly assaulting a government employee overseeing fibre optic network laying work on Sharea Faisal.

Police got one-day remand of Farhan from a duty magistrate on Sunday. He will be produced before an anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday (today).

In a statement, Saeed Ghani, who is also the president of the PPP Karachi division, said that a dispute occurred on Sharea Faisal within the remit of the Chanesar Town and a First Information Report (FIR) was registered against his brother Farhan and some others. "Soon after, Farhan and his associates voluntarily surrendered themselves to the authorities.

"This is a legal matter, not a political one, and we will address it through legal means," the elder Ghani said.

Earlier, the Ferozabad police registered a case under Sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 324 (attempted murder), 342 (wrongful confinement), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 379 (theft), 506-B (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Without identifying his department, complainant Hafiz Sohail Jadoon told the police that he is a "government employee" and was supervising fibre optic network laying work on Sharea Faisal on Aug 22.

He stated at around 4:47pm, around 20-25 persons, including Chanesar Town chairman Farhan, in three vehicles arrived there and asked him whether he had permission to dig up Sharea Faisal. He said he told them that he had all permissions but some of them misbehaved with him and asked him to stop the work immediately. The complainant said when he insisted that he had all required no-objection certificates, they started using smear language and beating him.

He said they dragged him at gunpoint to a room of a nearby fuel station where they kept him in illegal confinement and continued beating him. In the meantime, a police team arrived there, rescued him and took him to the police station where he lodged the FIR.

On Sunday, the investigating officer (IO) produced three suspects, including Mr Farhan, before Judicial Magistrate (East) Waseem Abbas and sought their one-day police custody.

The IO informed the court that the suspects had been arrested on terrorism charges and their custody was required to apprehend their remaining accomplices with their help and to check their criminal record.

He further submitted that since the case was registered under terrorism charges and ATCs remained closed on Sunday, he was seeking their one-day custody to produce them before the concerned anti-terrorism court for remand.

After hearing the IO, the duty magistrate granted one-day physical custody of the suspects and directed him to produce them before the administrative judge of the ATCs on Monday (today).
(By Imtiaz Ali and Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 25/08/2025)

Police get custody of PPP leader's brother for four more days

A day after the expiry of his transit remand, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday remanded Chanesar Town chairman Farhan Ghani, younger brother of senior Pakistan Peoples Party leader and Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, in police custody in a terrorism and attempted murder case for allegedly assaulting a government employee overseeing laying of fibre optic network along Sharea Faisal.

The investigating officer (IO) of the case produced suspects Farhan Ghani, Qamar Ahmed and Shakeel Chandio before the administrative judge of the ATCs at the Judicial Complex inside the Central Prison Karachi.

The IO informed the court that the suspects had allegedly beaten the complainant, a government employee, who was overseeing the fibre optic network laying work being carried out on Sharea Faisal.

He added that after the registration of an FIR, the suspects had surrendered themselves to the police, after which they were formally arrested in the present case.

The IO sought their physical remand from Aug 25 to Sept 6 for interrogation and to apprehend their accomplices.

State Prosecutor Ali Raza Abbasi contended that since the work was being carried out to install a fibre optic cable in the national interest, the interruption caused by the suspects attracted Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA).

He argued that police remand was necessary to thoroughly investigate the acts allegedly committed by the suspects, while also undertaking before the court that if the suspects were found innocent, the appropriate provisions of law would be applied.

On the other hand, a large number of lawyers appeared before the court supporting Mr Ghani. However, none of them filed power of attorney on behalf of the suspects, the court noted in its order.

It added that upon inquiry, the suspects informed that they had not engaged any counsel. However, the suspects had denied the allegation against them.

After hearing both sides, the court remanded the suspects in police custody for four days and directed the IO to produce them at the next hearing along with a progress report.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 26/08/2025)

No trace of robbers who looted Karachi police officer's DHA home

Police on Sunday made little headway in investigating an armed robbery at the house of a senior police officer and his politician wife in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA).

The incident took place late on Friday night at the residence of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Tauheed Rehman and his wife, Aqraba Fatima, who is one of the spokespersons for the Sindh government and a member of the Pakistan Peoples Party.

Sources said that during the initial probe it transpired that the robbers had arrived in an SUV. They added that in recent weeks, two to three groups of robbers have emerged in the city's posh areas, travelling in luxury vehicles to commit crimes.

Five armed men held the senior police officer and his spouse hostage at their home in DHA and made off with a large amount of cash and gold ornaments, it emerged on Sunday.

As per the contents of the First Information Report (FIR), the complainant, Faisal Altaf, a policeman posted as gunman at a bungalow (No. 2/9) on Street-32, Khayaban-i-Mujahid, Phase-V, stated that he was asleep in the guardroom at around 4:45am on August 23, when three armed men woke him up. They took him inside the house where he saw that SSP Rehman's family had already been held hostage, while two other armed men stood guard.

SSP and his wife 'held hostage', deprived of Rs1m cash, US dollars worth Rs9m, jewellery worth Rs10m and mobile phone

The complainant stated the robbers demanded keys from him, to which he replied that the keys were kept beside the cooler.

Subsequently, two armed men held "all of us hostage" while three others searched the house. The suspects left around 5:15am after a thorough search of the residence, warning that anyone who tried to follow them would be shot. They locked the door as they left.

Later, SSP Rehman informed them that the robbers had taken away US dollars worth Rs9 million, Pakistani currency amounting to Rs1m, gold ornaments valued at over Rs10m, and a mobile phone.

The FIR quotes the complainant as stating: "Now, under the direction of my master (the officer), I seek legal proceedings against the five unidentified armed suspects for entering the house, holding us hostage and looting the cash and valuables."

Police have registered a case under Section 395 of the Pakistan Penal Code.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 25/08/2025)

Police arrest 'robber' who slapped, humiliated Karachi citizen after video goes viral

A viral video showing robbers stopping a motorcyclist in Rizvia Society, snatching his mobile phone and cash, slapping and humiliating him, has sparked questions over the role of the police, who reportedly turned the youth away when he went to the police station to lodge an FIR.

As the footage circulated on social media, Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar took notice of the incident, prompting police to claim the arrest of one of the street criminals.

"When the citizen approached Rizvia Society police, the duty officer asked him to come the next day to register a complaint," said the minister, who ordered the Central SSP to submit details about the SHO Rizvia and his performance against crime.

The home minister asked why the complainant's FIR had not been registered. He directed all SSPs to ensure FIRs were registered without delay. He also questioned where the police had been when citizens were being looted and "brutally" beaten by the robbers.

According to the video, four suspects intercepted a bike-rider, snatched his mobile phone and other valuables, and beat him. In the meantime, passers-by arriving at the scene were also looted.

On Tuesday evening, the police claimed to have arrested one of the suspects, identified as Kashif Karim.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 27/08/2025)

Suspect shot dead, policeman hurt in shootout

A suspected robber was gunned down and a policeman was wounded in an alleged encounter off National Highway on Wednesday.

Shah Latif Town SHO Zamir Ahmed Khuhawar said two armed robbers were looting citizens in Abdullah Goth when a patrolling police party reached there. On seeing the police, the suspects resorted to firing. In an ensuing exchange of firing, one suspect, identified as Mohammed Ansar, 23, was gunned down while his accomplice managed to escape from the spot.

Policeman Zubair Butt also suffered a bullet wound in the shootout. His was stated to be out of danger.

The police claimed to have recovered one motorcycle, snatched cell phones and wallets from their custody.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for medico-legal formalities.

Man killed near Nagan Chowrangi

A 40-year-old man was gunned down near the Nagan Chowrangi flyover in North Karachi on Wednesday evening.

The Gabol Town police said that Fazal Rehman was shot and killed by unidentified assailants.

According to initial statements, the victim was traveling with his uncle, Arif, on a motorcycle. Arif remained unharmed. He told the police that two men on another motorcycle opened fire on Fazal from behind and fled. Fazal sustained bullet wounds to the head and died on the spot. The attackers wore masks.

Police ruled out robbery and said the incident appeared to be a targeted killing. However, the exact motive is still being ascertained. The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Woman stabbed to death in Korangi

A 42-year-old woman was killed and a man injured in a stabbing incident in Korangi on Wednesday evening.

The Zaman Town police said the incident occurred inside a house in Sector 48-A, where the woman and a 45-year-old man, Mohammed Ali, were critically injured during a personal dispute.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 28/08/2025)

Karachi police release PPP leader Saeed Ghani's brother for want of evidence

Police on Saturday released Chanesar Town chairman Farhan Ghani, younger brother of Sindh Local Government Minister and PPP leader Saeed Ghani, and two other suspects, claiming that no evidence was found against them during investigation and the complainant was also not willing to proceed with the case

The investigating officer of the case submitted this in a police report filed before the administrative judge of the anti-terrorism courts.

The suspects were on police remand in a terrorism and attempted murder case for allegedly assaulting a government employee overseeing laying of fibre optic network along Sharea Faisal on Aug 22.

On Saturday, the IO Inspector Waseem Anees was supposed to produce the arrested suspects before the court, but he came up with a report informing the court that detained suspects were released under Section 497(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Incident did not fall within ATA ambit, IO tells ATC; court issues notices to Farhan Ghani, complainant for Sept 2

The investigation report stated the complainant, Hafiz Sohail Jadoon, failed to produce any no-objection certificate before police about laying of fibre optic network or placed any record to prove his credentials as a government employee.

He stated that the police could not find the CCTV footage of the incident, while two independent witnesses testified that it was a simple scuffle between the complainant and suspects which lasted for only two to three minutes.

He claimed that there was no evidence to suggest that the complainant was a government servant and that the case did not fall within the ambit of Anti-Terrorism Act.

The IO submitted in the report that the complainant told the police that he did not want to proceed further with the case since "some respected elders have mediated and the issues in question have been mutually resolved".

During the hearing, the administrative judge was informed that the suspects were released on personal bonds of Rs1 million.

While issuing notices for Sept 2, the administrative judge remarked that the court will examine whether the relief provided by police to the suspects was justified under the law or otherwise.

A case was registered at the Ferozabad police station on the complaint Hafiz Sohail, who said Farhan Ghani and others had dragged him at gunpoint to a room of a nearby filling station where they kept him in illegal confinement and subjected to maltreatment.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 31/08/2025)

Two men shot at by gangsters over protection money

Two men were shot at and wounded allegedly by extortionists linked with gang warfare in the Garden area on Saturday, police said.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza said two suspects riding a motorcycle arrived at an under-construction high-rise building, Iqra Sky Land, in Garden at 8am.

One of them went inside and opened fire, resulting in bullet wounds to a contractor, Jameel Akbar, 30, and a labourer, Jehangir Asghar, 40.

The wounded men were shifted to the Dr Ruth Civil Hospital Karachi. Their condition was stated to be out of danger. Investigators collected four spent bullet casings fired from a 30-bore pistol.

Before fleeing, the suspects also threw some extortion slips and WhatsApp contact numbers.

The DIG said that around one year ago, the building owner, identified as Danish, had also received an extortion slip. The builder had then lodged an FIR at Soldier Bazaar police station. Subsequently, one alleged extortionist was gunned down, while another was arrested in wounded condition after an "encounter."

The officer believed that, apparently, the same criminals associated with the Lyari gang war might be involved in this incident.

He said they suspected the involvement of a gang led by Jameel alias Changa. One member of this criminal gang was released from jail around 20 days ago, the DIG said and recalled that the Jameel Changa gang had carried out an armed attack on the same builder's under-construction Hira Tower in Garden West in 2023, in which a watchman, Shakirullah, was gunned down.

The Soldier Bazaar police had registered a case against Jameel Changa and others on the complaint of the victim's cousin, Mohammed Bishmal, under charges of murder, extortion and terrorism.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 31/08/2025)

Applicants can now deposit cash in govt treasury as SHC simplifies bail process

The Sindh High Court has made easy the process to furnish bail sureties as applicants, or their family members, can deposit cash in designated bank accounts after getting bail from subordinate judiciary, officials said.

Known as the deposit slip mechanism, the move is hailed by the legal fraternity, which said that it will make the process more transparent and expeditious.

The mechanism has been enforced at the City Courts, which house four district courts of the city — South, East, West and Central — as well as the District Courts in Malir.

When contacted, SHC Registrar Suhail Muhammad Laghari told Dawn that initially, this initiative has been enforced in the district judiciary of the provincial metropolis and this facility may be extended to facilitate litigants in other districts, keeping in view the difficulties faced there.

Surety bonds replaced by cash deposit slip mechanism in city's subordinate judiciary

The court officials said that the deposit slip procedure was enforced at the SHC and the same was familiarised in the City Courts to replace surety bonds/national savings certificates only in order to expedite the process.

The practice of submitting documents of vehicles and properties as surety in courts is still in place, but verification and valuation of such papers is a time-consuming task, they added.

In January, the then chief justice of SHC, Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, had granted permission for enforcing the deposit slip mechanism in place of surety bonds of the government securities in the branch of a private bank at the City Courts on the pattern of the SHC, in order to avoid inconvenience to lawyers and litigants.

The registrar SHC had issued letters to the district and sessions judges concerned for enforcement of such a mechanism.

Thereafter, the district judges had issued necessary instructions to all the judicial officers concerned for enforcement of such a procedure.

In March, the SHC also issued letters to the district judges concerned on account of the shifting of the private bank's branch from the City Courts and nominated the National Bank of Pakistan City Courts branch for such a purpose.

Therefore, the drawing and disbursing officers of the judicial districts concerned had opened an account for each district under the title of "Surety Account" with the NBP City Courts branch.

As per the procedure, the surety desirous of depositing an amount as surety in the bank accounts in question may receive a voucher from the respective court, duly signed by the clerk of court (COC) with the seal of the court, which may be presented to the bank, and the receipt of the bank after depositing the amount may be considered as surety after proper verification from the bank by the respective court.

The court officials said it is also being ensured that deposits are made through the provided mechanism and that necessary documentation is completed. The bank vouchers also contain the names of relevant courts, details of offences, case number, police stations, FIR number and other requisite details, they added.

On Aug 6, the registrar SHC had issued another circular introducing the same mechanism for the District Courts Malir.

It said, "In continuation of this court's letter dated 06.03.2025, on the subject noted above, I am directed to state that the Hon'ble Chief Justice [Muhammad Junaid Ghaffar] has been pleased to grant permission for enforcing deposit slip mechanism in place of surety bonds of the government securities in the NBP Malir City Branch for the District and Sessions Court Malir on the pattern of judicial district Karachi-South, East, West and Central".

The general secretary of the Karachi Bar Association (KBA), Rehman Korai, said that the KBA had requested the SHC to introduce the deposit slip procedure at the City Courts.

Besides, as cases of fake sureties were reported, the lawyers and their clients had also been facing hardship in obtaining surety bonds/national savings certificates and it was also taking a great deal of time, he added.

Mr Korai was of the view that the new mechanism was more transparent and expeditious, and that litigants and lawyers were benefiting from such a facility.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 01/09/2025)

Owner of fireworks warehouse granted pre-arrest bail

A sessions court on Tuesday granted interim pre-arrest bail to the owner of a fireworks warehouse on M.A. Jinnah Road in a case pertaining to the death of at least six people in a fire last month.

Mohammed Ayub, who managed to escape from the spot in his car when the fire broke out, had filed an application before the additional district and sessions judge (South) and sought pre-arrest bail.

After the preliminary hearing, the court granted him interim bail against a surety bond of Rs50,000 and issued notices to the prosecutor and the investigating officer for appearing in person along with police papers on Sept 5 for confirmation or otherwise.

In the application, the owner submitted before the court that there was a delay of one day in lodging the FIR and no reason was given by the complainant or prosecution about such delay which makes the case allegedly doubtful and requires further inquiry.

The application contended that the sections invoked in the FIR were bailable, while Section 109 (abetment) does not apply to the content of the FIR.

It claimed that the alleged offence does not fall within the ambit of the prohibitory clause of Section 497 of the CrPC.

The Nabi Bux police station had registered an FIR after the incident under Sections 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 286 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance), 109 (abetment) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code against two brothers, who are the owners of the warehouse, namely Hanif, alias Patakha, and Mohammed Ayub, on behalf of state through a police officer.

As per the FIR, the suspects had stored fireworks in "excessive" quantities in a haphazard manner without any precautionary measures and their negligence and carelessness caused loss of precious human lives. Hanif was injured in the incident while Ayub had managed to escape from the spot in his car.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 03/09/2025)

Three private school employees booked for manslaughter in Karachi

Three employees of a private school were booked in a manslaughter case after the death of another employee who took his own life due to alleged mental torture, officials said on Wednesday.

On Sept 1, Usman Ali, 25, ended his life by jumping from the eighth floor of the building housing the school's campus near Saddar.

His brother, Faizan Ali Ansari, registered a case at the Brigade police station, nominating three school employees — Irfan, Hasan, and Talha — who he said were named by Usman in a Facebook post for allegedly subjecting him to severe "mental torture".

He claimed that the harassment by these individuals led Usman to take his own life.

Police have registered a case under Sections 322 (manslaughter) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

A resident of North Karachi, complainant Faizan stated that on the morning of Sept 1, Usman left home at around 8:15am for duty.

However, at around 9:35am, he was informed by a caller that his brother's health had deteriorated and that he was being shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC).

When he arrived at the JPMC, Faizan found staff members from the private school already present. He was told that Usman had fallen from the eighth floor of the building and died.

Man found tortured to death

In a separate incident, a man was found murdered near Safoora late on Tuesday night, police said.

Sachal SHO Mohammed Ameen Khoso said the body of 38-year-old Arshad Qadir was recovered near Saadi Garden. He had been brutally tortured before being killed. Police believe that the victim was murdered elsewhere and his body was dumped there.

Quoting witnesses, the officer said that unidentified suspects driving an Alto car were seen discarding the body. The corpse was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for a post-mortem and later handed over to his family.

The deceased was a resident of Landhi and originally hailed from Balochistan. The family informed police that they would file an FIR after completing the burial rituals in their hometown.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 04/09/2025)

Bandits kidnap 10 after motorway ambush

Outlaws from the riverine areas kidnapped 10 people from different vehicles on the Sukkur-Multan Motorway (M-5) near Nawazabad in tehsil Sadiqabad, in the early hours of Thursday.

The bandits resorted to firing at vehicles around 2am to force them to stop at the Azampur Rest area and Guddu interchange.

As a result, traffic remained suspended for more than four hours before it was finally restored at dawn.

The injured, identified as the crew of a bus, were shifted to the emergency department in Sheikh Zayed Medical Hospital in Rahim Yar Khan. South Punjab Additional Inspector General (IG) Kamran Khan told Dawn.com that between 20 and 25 suspects attacked vehicles on the motorway.

"Three people were injured in the incident," he said. "Two of them suffered minor injuries, so they were discharged. One remains admitted in hospital with gunshot wounds to the waist and leg."

Additional IG Khan added that 10 people were abducted from the scene by the suspects and that no money or valuables were stolen.

Sheikh Zayed Medical College Hospital (SZMCH) spokesperson Rana Ilyas Ahmed confirmed to Dawn.com that three injured people were admitted to the facility. He later said that two of the injured had been discharged, while one was "receiving treatment for a gunshot wound to the leg".

"The injured were aboard the same coach and hail from Sheikhpura," Rana Ilyas said.

In its FIR, registered at the Bhong police station, the police said Sub-Inspector Muhammad Shahid Riaz, with almost a dozen officials, was present at the Mahi Chowk in an armoured vehicle. The police had received information that 31 Katcha dacoits, including key targets, headed by Tanvir alias Dodu Indhar were planning to attack a police picket with heavy weapons.

In light of this information, all the police pickets were on high alert. Around 1am, the police were informed that the dacoits had attacked vehicles at M-5 near Nawazabad. But when the police reached there, the dacoits started firing at the police, which continued for half an hour and they managed to get away with 10 hostages.

The motorway incident came amid a police operation against the Katcha criminals. Earlier this week, the police used drones in an intelligence-based operation in Ronti near the Punjab-Sindh border and destroyed the hideouts of Katcha criminals. On the same day, Indhar Dacoit Gang ringleader Dodoo Indhar, in a video message, threatened the police with retribution.

It may be noted that the number of kidnapped persons by the Katcha criminals this year has reached 72. This is not the first time that criminals have targeted the M-5. After several such incidents in the past, the police had escort vehicles in convoys. (By Irfan Haq Dawn, 01, 06/09/2025)

Gangs in Sindh's riverine area mulling surrender due to impending flood

Amid an ongoing operation against gangs operating in riverine areas, more than 260 dacoits have contacted police and expressed their willingness to surrender along with their weapons, on the condition that the government facilitates their reintegration into society, it emerged on Monday.

Well-placed sources told *Dawn* that the present flood situation in the riverine areas was one of the key factors behind the dacoits' willingness to surrender.

They said that the development was discussed during the inaugural meeting of the Katcha Areas Monitoring Committee (KAMC), which reviewed the ongoing anti-bandit operations, the security situation and the provincial government's broader strategy.

The sources said that the Larkana police have informed their high-ups that more than 260 dacoits in the Katcha area have expressed their willingness to surrender in view of the impending flood threat.

Over 260 dacoits contacted Larkana police, sought reintegration support from govt, meeting told

Talking to *Dawn*, Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, who chaired the KAMC meeting, said that the surrender process would be handled strictly according to the law. "The law is already there empowering the government to deal with those who are willing to surrender," he added.

He also said that the Sindh government was "extremely" sincere and determined to eliminate the bandits in the Katcha area. "However, any bandit or group of bandits surrendering peacefully and presenting themselves before the law will strictly be subject to rules and regulations, as the law is clear on matters of surrender," he added.

Plan underway to ensure dacoits' surrender

Informed sources said that the authorities were working on a plan to provide an exit route for those willing to surrender, while hardened criminals involved in serious crimes like murder and kidnapping for ransom may face strict action.

They said that a plan was also under deliberation to encourage dacoits and their abettors in the riverine areas to surrender, provided they give up their sophisticated weapons unconditionally.

A report on this development has been submitted to the provincial government, which is currently examining the legal framework for handling hardened criminals in the Katcha area involved in serious offences like murder and kidnapping for ransom, said the sources.

They said that the provincial government was exploring possible legal provisions that could offer a way out for these outlaws if they choose to surrender.

They also said that some law enforcement agencies were considering offering a general amnesty to dacoits who agree to surrender. However, the provincial government was reportedly hesitant to extend leniency to hardened criminals involved in serious crimes like multiple murders and kidnapping for ransom.

Police seek equipment, weapons to combat bandits

During the KAMC meeting, Additional Inspector General of Police Zubair Nazir Sheikh provided a briefing on the law and order situation and ongoing operations in the Katcha areas. He emphasised the urgent requirement for modern equipment, advanced weapons, and secure vehicles to effectively combat the bandits.

Additionally, he highlighted the need to enhance facilities at existing checkpoints in the riverine areas and outlined plans to equip police with cutting-edge technology and professional training to boost their capabilities.

The home minister directed that detailed and practical recommendations for providing necessary resources to the police be submitted promptly.

He stated that after the construction of bridges at Dadu, Moro, Larkana and Khairpur, crimes had decreased, but it is vital to accelerate work on the Ghotki and Kashmore bridge projects so they are completed at the earliest. The construction of these bridges on this route will also significantly reduce crime.

Mr Lanjar also asked the schools & education and health departments about the number of schools, educational institutions, hospitals, and dispensaries in the Katcha areas.

He said the purpose of this inquiry was to establish temporary campuses during operations to ensure that the provision of education and health facilities does not get interrupted.

He acknowledged that delays in the past had prevented the operation from being completed but emphasised that the anti-bandit operation must be brought to a successful conclusion under all circumstances.

He appealed to all stakeholders to demonstrate collective determination and stand as strong partners.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the IGP Sindh, senior members Board of Revenue, education and law secretaries, representatives of the health and forest departments, Additional IG of CTD and Special Branch, and representatives of Sindh Rangers and other security agencies.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 09/09/2025)

Floods and katcha dacoits

Despite years of operations and countless claims of "decisive action", the dacoit menace in Sindh's riverine belt remains as entrenched as ever. It is only after nature unleashed its devastation through the recent floods that these criminals have been compelled to lay down arms and express willingness to surrender. This in itself is a telling indictment of the state's failure that the gangs bowed before floodwaters and not the writ of the state.

The development, discussed during the inaugural meeting of the Katcha Areas Monitoring Committee, offers an opportunity to bring some respite to long-suffering communities. More than 260 dacoits have indicated readiness to surrender - provided they are facilitated in rejoining society. But here lies the danger. A blanket amnesty would not only absolve years of extortion, kidnappings and murders, it would also embolden others to follow the same path in the expectation of eventual pardon. Justice must not be bartered away for expediency.

The provincial government has rightly stated that any surrender must comply strictly with legal protocols. Those guilty of heinous crimes must face trial, while avenues of rehabilitation can be considered only for low-level offenders or those coerced into complicity. Without this distinction, the line between accountability and appeasement blurs. At the same time, policing alone will not resolve what has become a generational problem. The Katcha has for too long remained disconnected and neglected. Joint operations may weaken gangs temporarily, but the absence of resources ensures the cycle of violence is never truly broken.

This moment should not be squandered. The floods may have forced the dacoits' hand, but it is the law that must have the final say. No blanket pardons, no shortcuts - only justice, coupled with development, can deliver lasting peace in the Katcha. (By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 10/09/2025)

Mobile phone snatcher sentenced to 27 years in prison

A sessions court sentenced a street criminal to a total of 27 years in prison for snatching mobile phones from citizens on University Road before being apprehended in a police encounter.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (East) Shahid Ali Memon found Muhammad Sohail guilty and pronounced multiple sentences: 10 years for the offence under Section 324 (attempted murder), seven years under Section 397 (robbery or dacoity with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt), two years under Section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of duty), and one year under Section 186 (obstructing a public servant in discharge of public functions) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

"The current situation of Karachi city is not so good for every man because the street crimes have promptly been increasing day by day and none from the society feel secure at the hands of merciless muggers and the unlicensed weapon is the mother of all crimes, therefore, in the betterment of the society, such offenders do not deserve any leniency and they are liable to be strictly punished in accordance with law, so that no one could commit such kind of crimes," the judge observed.

The court also awarded an additional seven years' imprisonment for possessing an illicit 30-bore pistol recovered after the encounter and imposed a fine of Rs20,000.

According to the prosecutor, in October last year, the complainant along with his friends was travelling on University Road when their motorcycle stopped after running out of fuel. In the meantime, two men on another motorcycle intercepted them at gunpoint and snatched their mobile phones and cash.

As the robbers tried to flee, a police mobile arrived at the scene. On seeing the police, the robbers opened fire on the law enforcement personnel. During the exchange, the robbers sustained injuries and later the co-accused, Muhammad Mir, succumbed to his injuries.

The court noted that the accused denied the allegations and claimed innocence; however, he failed to produce any substantial evidence in his defence.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 10/09/2025)

Karachi school sweeper arrested for 'molesting child'

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested an employee of a school over the allegation of a criminal assault on a minor girl.

"The Gizri police took an immediate action and arrested the suspect [a sweeper] of the school," said the police spokesperson.

The incident took place in a P&T Colony school where the held suspect allegedly subjected the seven-year-old girl to molestation.

After receiving information about the incident, the police conducted an inquiry and interrogated the suspect. The minor girl also identified the suspect, who has reportedly confessed to the crime.

The police have registered a case against him and he was handed over to the investigation branch of the police for further legal proceedings, said a spokesperson for the SSP South.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 10/09/2025)

Split court

THERE is a growing sense of unease over what fresh ignominies the future has in store for the Pakistani judiciary.

Once again, some of the senior-most justices of this country have publicly voiced their dissatisfaction with how the courts have been functioning. No matter what their detractors say, these are men and women who have spent their careers working with the law and constantly weighing its implications for society. Their complaints, no matter how wilfully ignored and scornfully derided, still hold meaning and weight. Unless they are addressed, the judiciary will continue to lose its legitimacy and credibility in the eyes of the public.

And the alarm is certainly not misplaced: laws, rules and justice are not merely tools of governance. They provide the architecture which holds together trust, fairness and the possibility of peace in human society. And it seems that that architecture is being dismantled bit by bit, often with the assistance of the judiciary itself.

It is rather alarming when a globally respected judge publicly regrets that the Pakistani Supreme Court has itself not been playing by the rules. The senior puisne judge's recent letter to the chief justice, which surfaced shortly before a full-court meeting earlier this week, highlights six major instances in which norms and regulations were bypassed or overruled by the latter.

The most striking among the objections raised pertains to the Practice and Procedures Committee, which was ushered in with much fanfare by the current chief justice's predecessor as a step to promote collegiality, and which seems to have been abandoned as soon as it became an irritant for the chief justice's office.

The senior puisne judge made it clear his letter was not about personal grievances, but rather objections arising from concerns about the judiciary's independence and integrity. Yet, there has been no explanation forthcoming from the chief justice as to why those decisions were taken.

On the day of the full-court meeting, four senior justices, including the senior puisne judge, declined to attend. The approval of the Supreme Court Rules, 2025, had been on the agenda. The new rules had been notified by circulation earlier, to the disappointment of the recusing judges, who wanted them debated before the full court and approved after deliberation. This was certainly not an unreasonable expectation, given that these rules will govern the highest court of the land, and there should have been more transparency in their implementation.

"We see no point in attending a meeting that is premised on amending rules which, in our respectful view, already suffer from illegality both in substance and in process," the judges regretted.

The Supreme Court is clearly fractured from within. It is unfortunate that matters have come to this point, but the judges have only themselves to blame.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 10/09/2025)

'Drug addict' slays two nieces, nephew's wife in Jauhar

A man, said to be drug addict, was arrested after he attacked his nieces and a woman neighbour with a knife, leaving three of the women dead and two others seriously injured on Thursday. He inflicted a deep knife injury on himself too before being arrested.

The suspect, Ajay Ram, attacked all of his victims on their necks when he went berserk at his home in Bhitai Colony of Gulistan-i-Jauhar on Thursday, the area police said, adding that a motive behind his gory act was being ascertained.

Agha Abdul Rasheed of the Malir Cantonment police told Dawn that the suspect started stabbing his nieces, Nandni Raju, 22, and Tania Raju, 20, and the wife of his nephew, Meena Shan. Priya was attacked when she intervened, he said.

Subsequently, he apparently attempted to kill himself with the same knife, he added.

Quoting one of the injured women, Nandni Raju, the officer said their maternal uncle [Ajay Ram] started stabbing them. She said when she attempted to escape, he chased her to kill her. She said she suffered injuries on her neck and a hand.

Another injured woman, Priya told the police that she lived in a nearby home and entered Ram's after hearing the women's screams. She said she attempted to flee the home after seeing what was going on there but the suspect chased and stabbed her on her neck. She said a cut was also inflicted on her hand.

The officer said that during the initial probe, it transpired that the suspect was a drug addict. However, the exact motive behind the gory act incident was being probed, he added.

The bodies were shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for a postmortem examination and legal formalities. The injured victims were provided medical treatment.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed identified the deceased women as Mrs Meena Shan, Ashi Raju and Tania Raju.

Besides Ajay Ram, the two surviving women were Nandni Raju and Priya. Dr Summaiya said the condition Ajay was critical.

Malir SSP Dr Abdul Khaliq Pirzada visited the spot where he told the media that the suspect was taken into custody while being admitted to the JPMC for treatment.

He said that Ajay's other family members were in a state of shock and, therefore, their statements would be recorded later.

Cop martyred

A policeman was gunned down in Malir district on Thursday.

The Shah Latif police said that head constable Abdul Kareem was gunned down by unidentified attackers at Usman Khaskheli Goth. The martyred officer was posted at the Memon Goth police station.

This was the third killing of a policeman in the district as earlier two policemen had been gunned down in the Bin Qasim area.

The police authorities claimed to have arrested one of the victim's killers and described the killing as the result of an encounter with criminals.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 12/09/2025)

Suspected 'serial rapist' who targeted minors nabbed in Karachi

In an explosive revelation, police on Thursday claimed to have apprehended one of the suspected members of a ring of child abusers, who have allegedly perpetrated heinous acts against minor girls and boys for at least a decade.

One suspect is currently in custody, while another of his alleged accomplices have been identified and efforts are underway to arrest him, DIG South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn*.

The suspect, a fruit vendor, was apprehended by Defence police from Qayyumabad with the help of locals, the officer said.

Investigations are underway, and police are said to have obtained video evidence of multiple incidents of sexual assault against minor boys and girls. Although it is too early to say just how many victims the suspects have assaulted, investigators think they could number over a hundred.

"Police have recovered a mobile phone from his custody containing hundreds of videos filmed in his room that show graphic scenes involving children," DIG Raza said, adding that he was being interrogated further.

DIG South says efforts underway to track down his accomplices; scores of videos unearthed from phone, USB drive suggest suspect had been preying on children for years

According to police, the suspect came to Qayyumabad in 2016 and started luring and trapping children around 2019. He first opened a grocery shop, and then a juice cart.

When asked how he managed to keep his activities clandestine for such a long period of time, DIG Raza also expressed surprise, saying that the matter came to the authorities' attention after one of his alleged victims managed to obtain a USB drive from the suspect.

The victim then took the USB to a video shop for the purpose of downloading music onto it, but the shop owner detected the presence of explicit content on the drive and informed area residents, who apprehended the suspect and beat him up before handing him over to the police.

"A USB and the mobile phone are in police custody which contain many such videos," said the DIG.

Police then approached the parents of the victims, who came to the police station and lodged three FIRs against the suspect. A special team — led by DSP Defence Dr Saifullah — has been set up to investigate the case. The committee also includes the Defence SHO, SIO Defence, and the SIO Women Police Station.

"The team shall make hectic efforts into the cases by utilising all available resources and shall submit reports on a daily basis," according to a police order.

The FIRs, registered on the complaint of the father of a couple of victims, states that the two girls, aged 10 and 12, had been upset for some days and complained about pain in their body. When quizzed by their mother, they revealed that the suspect had sexually assaulted them.

Another complainant, a labourer, has filed a case on behalf of his 10-year-old sister, who also complained of pain after the suspect took her to his residence on Sept 4, and assaulted her. The act was also filmed, according to the FIR.

A third complainant said that his seven-year old daughter had been silent for one week and also complained of pain.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 12/09/2025)

Suspected Karachi serial rapist remanded in police custody

A judicial magistrate on Friday remanded a suspected serial rapist in police custody for five days in cases pertaining to subjecting minor girls to sexual assaults.

The suspect, a fruit vendor, was arrested by the Defence police from Qayyumabad a day before.

The matter came to the authorities' attention after one of his alleged victims managed to obtain a USB drive from the suspect, took it to a video shop for the purpose of downloading music onto it. However, the shop owner detected the presence of explicit content on the drive and informed area residents, who apprehended the suspect and beat him up before handing him over to the police.

On Friday, the investigating officer of the case produced the suspect before a judicial magistrate (South) and sought his physical custody for further interrogation.

Suspect initially booked in four FIRs for sexual assault on five children

He stated that the suspect was initially booked in four FIRs regarding rape of four girls and one boy. He added that Section 22 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, pertaining to child pornography, had been added to the case after police seized his mobile phone and a USB containing over a hundred explicit videos.

The IO requested the court to grant police custody of the suspect for further interrogation and for conducting the medical examination of both the suspect and the survivors.

After hearing the IO and examining the remand paper, the court remanded the suspect in police custody for five days and directed the IO to submit a progress report at the next hearing.

According to the prosecution, the suspect told investigators that he had moved from Abbottabad to Karachi in 2011. In 2016, he shifted to the Qayyumabad area, and started luring and trapping children around 2019. He first opened a grocery shop, and then a juice cart.

Police have claimed to have recovered a mobile phone from his custody containing hundreds of videos filmed in his room that show graphic scenes involving children.

The parents of the five victims registered four FIRs against the suspect.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 13/09/2025)

Groom disappears hours before wedding

A groom went missing just hours before his wedding ceremony in Korangi's Madina Colony. The young man, Jehanzaib, was scheduled to be married on September 11. On the evening of the wedding, he left home around 5pm to visit a nearby salon for final preparations but never returned.

Jehanzaib's brother, Waseem, filed a report with Zaman Town Police Station, stating that Jehanzaib had left his mobile phone at home before heading out. The family suspects that he may have been abducted.

SHO Nafeesur Rehman of Zaman Town Police confirmed that they are in contact with the family and a formal FIR will be registered soon. He added that efforts are underway to locate the missing man, but no breakthrough has been achieved so far.

Jehanzaib was reportedly employed at a private factory. His sudden disappearance has turned what should have been a joyful occasion into one of anxiety and distress for the entire family.

'Police involvement' in kidnapping-for-ransom

Serious allegations have surfaced against the city police officers in another kidnapping-for-ransom case. Shah Latif Town residents apprehended a man allegedly sent to collect ransom and recorded the confrontation on video.

The suspect, who identified himself as Basit, claimed he was part of a "private party" working under SHO Zamir Khawar of Shah Latif Police Station. In the video, which has gone viral, Basit admitted that he and an associate, Saleem Chandio, had kidnapped several citizens and held them near the police station.

Basit also confessed that the victims were abducted two days prior and that no formal FIR had been registered against them.

According to the victims, individuals posing as police officials had even instructed them to transfer the ransom money into a bank account.

Following the video's circulation, SSP Malir Khaliq Pirzada issued a show-cause notice to the concerned SHO, and DSP Malir City has been tasked with conducting a formal inquiry. SSP Pirzada said that if any officer is found involved, strict legal action will be taken.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 14/09/2025)

Policeman among eight 'carjackers' arrested in Karachi

A serving policeman and seven other suspects have been arrested for their alleged involvement in a series of carjacking incidents in the metropolis, said city police chief Javed Odho on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at his office, Mr Odho described the arrested individuals as members of an "organised and coordinated" inter-provincial gang of car lifters.

He said the suspects had set up a workshop in Baldia Town where they tampered with stolen vehicles and sold them as non-custom paid cars, not only in Karachi but also in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Among those arrested is Ayaz Jameel, a serving policeman from Madadgar-15, who allegedly facilitated the gang by helping transport the stolen vehicles to other provinces.

Mr Odho also shared that five policemen have been shot dead in Karachi so far this year. Initial investigations suggest these killings were acts of terrorism, and the Counter Terrorism Department is currently investigating the cases.

He announced that in a bid to modernise enforcement, an e-challan system for traffic violations would be introduced from October 1. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between the police and the public.

Commenting on the city's crime situation, Mr Odho revealed that 53 people were killed by robbers during robberies this year. Of these cases, 70 per cent have been "solved", with police arresting 52 suspects and killing 11 others in encounters.

During the same period, 189 people were injured in robbery-related shootings. Police claim to have solved 65pc of these cases by arresting 158 suspects and killing five in encounters.

Admitting that street crime remains a major challenge, the Addl IG said there had been a significant decrease in violent incidents. Killings during robbery resistance have dropped by up to 45pc over the past year. Meanwhile, incidents of mobile phone snatching, carjacking, and motorcycle theft have also declined, he added.

He further claimed that kidnapping-for-ransom cases have dropped by 49pc, with 55 abducted victims recovered safely.

Mr Odho also shared that narcotics worth Rs11 billion had been seized in recent police operations.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 14/09/2025)

Undergraduate SHOs serve in defiance of court order

The Sindh police chief has once again failed to remove undergraduate Station House Officers (SHOs) from their posts, despite repeated court orders. After ignoring two earlier orders, the IG Sindh Police issued yet another notification on Sept 9, but the situation on the ground remains largely unchanged.

According to the fresh notification, specialised training workshops have been made mandatory for appointment as SHOs and DSPs. The directive, which takes immediate effect in all police ranges of the province, has created unease among serving officers, particularly those nearing retirement in the next one to two years.

Police officers say that even after clearing departmental exams and interviews, it remains "nearly impossible" to be posted as SHO without political or personal connections. Many police stations in the province continue to be headed by undergraduate officers, in defiance of the IG's order. Senior officers point out that in earlier decades, constables were recruited with only middle school education and ASIs with intermediate qualifications. Many of these "ranker officers" gradually rose through the service to

become sub-inspectors, inspectors, and even DSPs. Now in the twilight of their careers, some of them continue to serve as SHOs in their home districts - despite a standing order issued on October 15, 2024 prohibiting such postings under the Police Rules 1934.

"Serving in this department has become increasingly difficult," one officer said while speaking to The Express Tribune. "Whenever an incident occurs, blame is shifted onto the SHO to shield senior officers. Has an SSP or DIG ever been held accountable?" (By Yaseen Jabalपुरi The Express Tribune, 04, 14/09/2025)

'Nearly 70pc of safe city cameras installed'

As many as 891 surveillance cameras, out of total 1,300, have been installed under the first phase of the Safe City Project, marking nearly 70 per cent progress in the current phase.

A meeting chaired by Inspector General of Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon reviewed the progress on the Sindh Safe City Project, e-challan system and police emergency response.

The meeting was informed that the first phase of the Safe City Project is nearing completion and the second phase of the project is scheduled to commence this year.

The IG said that as part of the Safe City Project, Police Madadgar-15, Shaheen Force, Sindh Police Highway Patrol, AVL, and other police units will be integrated, and Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) will be deployed at various strategic locations.

He said that system-generated messages will be conveyed not only to ERVs but also to all field formation units.

The DIG Traffic informed the meeting that the e-challan system has been introduced at select locations in Karachi on an experimental basis.

After the completion of the second phase, the challan system will be implemented on all roads across the provincial capital, he added.

The IG observed that with the introduction of the e-challan system, physical contact between police and the public will be minimised.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 16/09/2025)

Another policeman martyred in 'targeted attack'

Another policeman was martyred in the metropolis on Wednesday, increasing the death toll to six during the current year, officials said.

West-Zone DIG Irfan Ali Baloch told Dawn that Police Constable Saddam Husain was targeted by unidentified assailants in Gulshan-i-Maymar.

He said the victim was a guard of PPP MNA Shahida Rehmani, who lives in Gulshan-i-Maymar. He said after ending his duty he was heading to his quarters in the Gulshan-i-Maymar police station when his motorbike developed some fault.

The DIG said that the constable, who was in police uniform, reached a mechanic where four assailants travelling in a car emerged, fired at him and fled. He died on the spot.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The deceased was single and originally hailed from Jacobabad.

The DIG said that it appeared to be a targeted killing incident. He said this was the first killing of a policeman in the West Zone.

However, Saddam became the sixth policeman who had been gunned down in the metropolis since January. All the cases are being investigated by the Counter-Terrorism Department.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 18/09/2025)

SHC abolishes 10 ATCs, converts them into anti-narcotics courts

The Sindh High Court (SHC) has abolished 10 anti-terrorism courts (ATCs) in the province and converted them into anti-narcotics courts to decide an alarmingly high number of drug cases.

In September 2024, the provincial assembly passed the Sindh Control of Narcotics Substance (CNS) Act by repealing the federal law (CNS Act of 1997) to the extent of the province.

In May this year, the SHC directed the provincial government to immediately establish special CNS courts across the province after it was informed that the special courts to try such offences under the 2024 law had not yet been established despite having exclusive jurisdiction to try such offences.

In July, the home department approached the SHC for the re-designation of ATCs into CNS courts.

The SHC has abolished 10 ATCs, including eight in Karachi and one each in Hyderabad and Sukkur, and re-designated them in a manner that created five CNS courts for Karachi division and one CNS court each for the five divisional headquarters.

According to a communication made to the secretary of the home department on behalf of the SHC registrar, the department, through the registrar ATCs had sent a letter to the SHC on the subject matter.

"The honorable chief justice has been pleased to accord conditional concurrence, for time being, to abolition of 10 antiterrorism courts (eight in Karachi, one in Hyderabad and Sukkur each) and re-designation in the following manner, and creation of 5 CNS courts for Karachi and 1 CNS court for each divisional headquarter i.e. Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Shaheed Benazirabad and Larkana", it added.

The letter also stated that ATC-I, II, III, VI, VII, IX, X and XIV in Karachi, ATC-III in Hyderabad and ATC-II located at Central Prison in Sukkur had been abolished and re-designated as provincial CNS courts.

After such conversion, the provincial metropolis will have 12 ATCs, whereas two in Hyderabad and one in Sukkur. Eight of the 10 ATCs in Karachi converted into CNS courts had long remained vacant.

Initially, three ATCs were set up in Karachi after the enactment of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, and two more ATCs were later established in the provincial metropolis. Subsequently, ATC-IV and V were shifted to Larkana and Badin.

In 2014, seven new ATCs were set up in the city, and 10 more were established during the Karachi operation in 2016.

SHC moved for recovery of two 'missing' MQM-L leaders

The Sindh High Court was moved on Wednesday for recovery of two Muttahida Qaumi Movement-London leaders, including a former lawmaker, who have reportedly gone missing.

Citing the ministry of interior, director general of Rangers Sindh, provincial police chief and others as respondents, petitioner Hassan Nisar contended that his father Nisar Panhwar along with his friend Anwar Tareen had been picked up on Sept 16 by the law enforcement agencies and since then their whereabouts were unknown.

He asserted that his father had been a victim of enforced disappearances on multiple occasions by law enforcement agencies and it was the fourth such incident highlighting a pattern of illegal abductions targeting political dissidents.

The petitioner further maintained that Mr Panhwar had served as a Member of the National Assembly from 2003 to 2007 and Provincial Assembly of Sindh from 2008 to 2013.

He argued that his father was an elderly individual and was known to be suffering from diabetes, which required consistent and specialised care while the petitioner had approached the police to locate the whereabouts of his father, but to no avail.

He asked the SHC to direct the respondents to make sincere efforts in order to trace the whereabouts of both missing persons. (By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 18/09/2025)

14 policemen shot dead in city this year

The unabated wave of attacks on police in Karachi has emerged as a major challenge for the law enforcement agency.

Following the martyrdom of Constable Saddam, who was gunned down in Gulshan-e-Maymar by assailants in a car on Wednesday night, Police Chief Javed Alam convened a midnight meeting. The city's top cop questioned senior officers about the measures taken so far and directed them to expedite efforts to trace and arrest the culprits.

A wave of deadly assaults on law enforcement has claimed the lives of 14 policemen, including an assistant sub-inspector, in Karachi since the beginning of this year. The alarming rise in targeted killings and ambushes has raised questions over the effectiveness of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and other intelligence networks, as attackers continue to strike at will and escape unchallenged.

The first such incident occurred on February 12 in Steel Town, Malir, where Constable Khameso Khan was gunned down. Just three days later, on February 15, CTD Constable Imran Khan was targeted and killed in Manghopir, District West. On April 13, Constable Mohammad Ayub was shot dead while resisting a robbery in Eidgah, District South.

The series of killings continued in May: Constable Farooq was martyred in Surjani Town on May 19, while Constable Abdul Wajid lost his life during an encounter in the Docks area of Keamari on May 22. On May 28, Constable Zain Ali Raza was shot dead in a targeted attack near the Boat Basin traffic police checkpoint.

On June 1, Constable Shehryar Ali was killed in Yusuf Plaza, District Central, while on June 27, the charred body of Constable Hajjan was recovered from Sir Syed Bilal Colony's katchi abadi. Police later arrested two suspects in connection with his murder.

On July 2, Special Protection Unit technician Umair Ali was killed in Awami Colony, Korangi, followed by the murder of Constable Waseem Akhtar in Site-A, Keamari on July 11. On August 20, ASI Mohammad Khan Abro of Steel Town police station was gunned down in Bin Qasim, with suspects later arrested. Just a week later, on August 27, Head Constable Methro Khan was shot dead while riding his motorcycle in the same district.

In September, violence escalated further. On September 11, Head Constable Abdul Karim was martyred in Shah Latif Town while heading to duty. On September 17, armed assailants opened fire on Constable Saddam in Gulshan-e-Maymar, killing him on the spot.

Meanwhile, on September 14, gunmen opened fire on a Gizri police mobile. The driver and another constable survived. Hours later, another police vehicle came under attack near Seaview's Do Darya, where assailants kidnapped one policeman. The abducted officer was later released near the New Sabzi Mandi on the Super Highway and managed to return to Sahil police station the following morning.

These back-to-back attacks highlight the vulnerability of law enforcement personnel, who continue to be targeted with impunity. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 19/09/2025)

Four minor girls identify suspected Karachi serial rapist before magistrate

Four minor rape survivors identified a suspected serial rapist before a judicial magistrate while recording their statements on Thursday.

Investigating officer (IO) Muhammad Sajjad produced the suspect before Judicial Magistrate (South) Kalsoom Mustafa Sahto, while the survivor girls also appeared before the court to record their statements.

According to the prosecution, the four victims identified the suspected rapist before the magistrate while recording their statements under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The victim girls stated that the suspect had lured them to his house, where he subjected them to a sexual assault, it added.

The statements were recorded in the judge's chamber in both written and video form, in the presence of the state prosecutor, the suspect and the complainant's counsel.

The prosecution added that out of the six FIRs registered against the suspect for rape, statements from the survivors have been recorded in only three cases so far.

The victim girls were produced before the judge one by one, and each narrated their ordeal. Among them was the victim who had taken a USB from the suspect's house which contained over a hundred explicit videos.

She took that USB to a video shop for the purpose of downloading music onto it, but the shop owner detected the presence of explicit content on the drive and informed area residents, who apprehended the suspect and beat him up before handing him over to the police.

The prosecution claimed that the videos have been sent to Punjab for forensic examination, while the suspect is in police custody till Sept 19 for further interrogation.

At least six separate cases have been registered at the Defence police station under Sections 376 (iii) and 377 of the Pakistan Penal Code, while another FIR was lodged on the complaint of the state against the suspect under Section 11/3 of the Sindh Information of Temporary Residents Act.

The police said that the suspect had been residing in a rented house without any tenancy agreement, which constituted an offence under the Act.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 19/09/2025)

Elderly man killed in house robbery

An elderly man was killed and his family left traumatised when a gang of armed robbers carried out a brutal raid on a house in private housing society within the remits of Bin Qasim police station, officials and relatives said on Saturday.

The incident took place at House No B-58 in Gulshan-e-Falahnaz, located on the National Highway, Gulshan-e-Hadeed Phase-II Extension, between Friday night and Saturday morning. Police identified the victim as Muhammad Javed, who later succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital. However, family members identified him as Rao Javed Ali Khan, a former deputy manager at SMD Pakistan Steel.

The victim's son, Abdul Rauf, told reporters that around 10 to 15 armed men barged into their house at 3:45am, took the family hostage, and subjected them to violent beatings for over two hours. He added that his father was struck in the nose with an iron rod, which later proved to be fatal. The robbers also assaulted his wife and mother during the raid.

The attackers looted valuables, including gold jewellery, cash, mobile phones, wristwatches, a builder's file for the plot, the CCTV DVR, batteries, and other items of value, before fleeing the scene.

The Bin Qasim police detained six employees of the society, including security guards and administrative staff, for questioning, as part of the investigation. Inspector Faisal Rafiq, the SHO of Bin Qasim police station, confirmed the incident.

The victim's relatives claimed they had an ongoing dispute with the society's management and indicated that they would take legal action following the funeral.

The victim's family also raised concerns about a disturbing trend, alleging that 63 people had been killed in similar robbery-related incidents since the beginning of this year. They accused authorities of complacency in addressing the rising violence.

SSP Malir Dr Abdul Khaliq visited the crime scene and ordered a detailed inspection. Crime scene and technical teams have been deployed to collect evidence, and special joint teams have been formed to track down the culprits.

Elsewhere in the metropolis, three persons, including a 14-year-old boy, were injured in two separate attempted robberies on Saturday, police confirmed.

The first incident occurred near Samama Mall on University Road in Gulshan-e-Iqbal, where armed muggers opened fire on two men who reportedly resisted their attempted robbery. The victims were identified as 14-year-old Nisar Khan and Zubair, 35. Both were rushed to a private hospital in Scheme 33. Police stated that the gunshot wounds resulted from the victims' resistance to the robbers.

In another incident, a man was shot during a robbery attempt near the 51-C Route No 55 minibus stop in Surjani Town. The victim, identified as Muhammad Qasim, 35, was injured by the robbers' firing when he attempted to resist the mugging. He was rushed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 21/09/2025)

KBA can't prohibit its members from taking cases involving lawyers or their relatives, SHC rules

The Sindh High Court (SHC) has ruled that the Karachi Bar Association (KBA) cannot prohibit its members from representing the clients in cases involving lawyers and their family members.

A two-judge constitutional bench of the SHC, headed by Justice Mohammad Karim Khan Agha, said that such a ban violates various constitutional provisions, specifically the fundamental rights to a fair trial, freedom of association and freedom to practice one's profession.

It also advised the lawyers to file a complaint before the SHC if the KBA harassed or prevented them from handling such cases and the court will review these complaints to determine whether such restrictions violate Article 10-A of the Constitution.

The bench in its order said, "We pass this order in an effort to maintain a balance between the parties. Any member of the Karachi Bar Association who wishes to act in cases involving the murder or rape of a family member of an advocate shall not be prevented from doing so, as under the law they have every right to represent such cases."

Ban on representing people in cases against member of legal fraternity violates constitutional provisions, bench remarks

It was hearing a petition filed by a lawyer against the KBA and others and the petitioner contended that he was forced to withdraw his vakalatnama (power of attorney) from a bail application for his client since a lawyer was complainant in the case side and petitioner was pressured by the KBA and other lawyers, who were allegedly using their positions to extort money from people by lodging false FIRs.

He also submitted that a resolution passed by the KBA in March last year, barring its members from pleading the cases against the lawyers and their family members, was unconstitutional because it discriminated against litigants who were up against advocates.

The bench in its order also noted that KBA president Amir Nawaz Warraich turned up and acknowledged that the resolution passed by the KBA on March 12, 2024, apparently to violate fundamental rights outlined in the Constitution, particularly Articles 10-A, 17 and 18.

He further emphasised that members of the KBA cannot be prohibited from appearing in such cases.

"If a member of the Bar chooses to act in a case involving other members of the bar, they cannot be restricted or prevented from doing so and shall remain free to act according to their own discretion and the mandates of the Constitution under Article 10-A, which specifically provides that an accused has the right to appoint counsel of their own choice. We place our faith and trust in the words of the President KBA", the bench in its order added.

It also directed the KBA not to pass any resolution in future restricting any member from acting in a case where other members of the KBA were involved and no coercion or threats must be made against any member who chooses to act for such accused.

The KBA president also assured the bench that if any member of the KBA attempted to pressure or intimidate a lawyer who acts against the March 2024 resolution, the association would take disciplinary action against them.

The bench said, "In view of the above facts and circumstances of the case, and based on the statement of the President of KBA, it is ruled that the Karachi Bar Association (KBA) cannot prohibit its members from taking on cases that involve other KBA

members. Such a ban violates the Constitution of Pakistan, specifically the fundamental rights to a fair trial (Article 10-A), freedom of association (Article 17), and freedom to practice one's profession (Article 18)".

"The KBA President admitted the unconstitutionality of the previous resolution and committed to ensuring lawyers can act freely. He also promised to take disciplinary action against any member who harasses or pressures a lawyer for handling such a case", the bench concluded.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 21/09/2025)

Suspected serial rapist confesses before Karachi magistrate

A judicial magistrate on Saturday recorded the confessional statement of a suspected serial rapist in six cases pertaining to subjecting underage girls to sexual assaults.

The investigating officer (IO) moved an application before a judicial magistrate (south) and submitted that the suspect was willing to record his confessional statement under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) before the court.

After completing the legal formalities, the magistrate recorded the statement of the suspect in which he confessed to having raped minor girls in these cases.

After recording the confession, the magistrate sent him to prison on judicial remand and directed the IOs to complete investigations.

The prosecution said that the suspect was arrested from Qayyumabad on Sept 11 as the matter came to the authorities' attention after one of his alleged victims managed to obtain a USB drive from the suspect and took it to a video shop where shop owner detected the presence of explicit content on the drive and informed area residents, who apprehended the suspect and beat him up before handing him over to the police. The videos have been sent to Punjab for forensic examination.

Six cases have been registered against the suspect at the Defence police station under Sections 376 (punishment for rape) and 377 (unnatural offence) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

A separate FIR was also lodged on the complaint of the state against the suspect and estate agent Ijaz Awan, who provided him accommodation on rent, under Section 11/3 of the Sindh Information of Temporary Residents Act and the court on Saturday also sent the suspected rapist to jail in this case, while the estate agent was on pre-arrest bail.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/09/2025)

Justices vs IHC

THE judiciary's decline will be underwritten by the apathy of those it depends on to fight vigorously for its integrity and independence.

It is this realisation, perhaps, that prompted five senior judges of the Islamabad High Court to march to the Supreme Court on Friday. There, they lodged separate but similar petitions against what they, and many in the legal community, consider serious issues undermining the IHC's integrity and independence.

Images of the five justices, seated around a table, waiting — as ordinary petitioners do — while court staff processed their paperwork quickly made their way to social media. They were shared widely as the nation processed with growing trepidation the most visible symptom yet of what seems to be the judiciary's hastening collapse. The petitioner judges themselves framed it in similar terms: "The demolition of the IHC and its independence, that is being witnessed today, is only because the petitioner judges dared to object to the executive's interference in their judicial work and uphold their oath as judges of the IHC."

This is an alarming development. The judiciary, one of the pillars of the state, has signalled that it may be too divided to be able to keep the constitutional order stable. The implications of this will not be lost on the public. Nor should they be lost on the powerful. The authorities should not need reminding that the Constitution envisions a tripartite separation of powers whereby each branch of the state is supposed to be independent.

The doctrine is meant to keep any institution from accumulating so much power that the prospect of political tyranny becomes a possibility. Worryingly, Pakistan seems to be making itself quite comfortable with absolutism. Where once ideals like civil liberties and independent institutions found spirited champions willing to fight for them, one now sees a complacency that too often resembles complete surrender.

Perhaps it was frustration with the status quo that pushed five serving judges to take such an extreme step. When justice becomes hard to come by, it must be fought for. That this fight has been taken to a court is a sign that, perhaps, not all is lost. As long as the courts can be expected to do justice, there is hope for course correction. It is when hope is lost that anarchy takes over.

Other countries in this corner of the world have seen violent upheavals in recent years over different strains of state dysfunction. All those with power, political or any other kind, must therefore work to prevent any such crisis from unfolding in Pakistan. The constitutional order and the boundaries it demarcates must be respected, and the law should remain above all other considerations. It is time justice is done, and is seen to be done.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 21/09/2025)

Two held for savagery in Sukkur after camel's leg chopped off

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two of the three suspects allegedly involved in chopping off the leg of a female camel in the Januji area in taluka Salehpat, Sukkur.

The injured camel, named Sumi, was handed over to a private animal shelter in Karachi for treatment, Dawn.com reported.

Some camels were returning after drinking water from a pond, when the suspects hit one of them with an axe, breaking its leg. The suspect even dragged the camel with his tractor.

Officials said that the Sukkur police launched an operation and apprehended two suspects, Qurban Brohi and Rasool Bux. Raids are underway in different areas to trace and arrest the third suspect nominated in an FIR, they said.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has strongly condemned the gruesome incident.

He termed the act of animal cruelty as "intolerable", and directed the Sukkur police to arrest the perpetrators and ensure exemplary punishment to them immediately.

A case was registered at the Kandhra police station under Sections 114 (abettor present), 428 (mischief by killing or maiming animal with value of Rs10 or more), 429 (killing or maiming cattle, etc, of any value), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) on the complaint of Ghulam Mustafa.

The incident took place at 2pm on Friday, according to the FIR, wherein three suspects have been nominated.

According to the complainant, when his camels were returning after drinking water from a pond on the land, one of the suspects hit one of them with an axe, breaking its leg. Then he dragged the camel with his tractor. The complainant said he kept pleading with the suspects to spare the camel, but they did not listen to him. According to the FIR, the suspects reacted angrily, saying that the camel had "destroyed their crops".

Sukkur commissioner Abid Saleem said that the camel was taken to Karachi after coordination with a private sector organisation that deals with such cases of injuries, Dawn.com reported.

He said the camel would undergo surgery on its leg, adding that she had also sustained injuries on her jaw.

A statement from the CM office said the camel was moved to the Comprehensive Disaster Response Services (CDRS) shelter and named "Sumi".

It added that as per the shelter administration, her leg was crushed, jaw was broken, tongue was burnt and there were serious injuries on her body. The chief minister was told that she could not eat and was being administered intravenous fluids.

"On the instructions of the Sindh CM, Livestock Secretary Kazim Jatoi has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing the best treatment for Sumi," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the CDRS Benji Project for Animal Welfare in Karachi, which had helped another mutilated camel stand back with a prosthetic leg, said on Saturday that their veterinary doctors would examine the camel.

"On Friday, September 19, a two-year-old female camel suffered unspeakable abuse in Sukkur. She had wandered onto land in search of water, where the landowner viciously broke her leg and then dragged her with a tractor," the CDRS project wrote in a post on Instagram.

The organisation said they "immediately began coordinating with the Government of Sindh to rescue her", adding that they were extremely grateful to PPP leader Faryal Talpur, Sukkur MPA Awais Shah and MPA Sumeta Syed "for their efforts in helping us secure this camel [...] and for so vehemently taking action".

"Once our vets have examined her properly, we will share an update," CDRS said, affirming that their team would try their "very best to give her love, comfort, and some semblance of peace".

"There are no words left to explain the cruelty we continue to see. It is unimaginably painful to witness these beautiful, voiceless beings — created in such perfection and innocence — suffering at the hands of humans who were meant to protect them. All we can do is keep standing up for them and take one day at a time," CDRS wrote.

The recent incident brings back painful memories of a similar incident involving a camel, affectionately called Cammie. Her front leg was severed by a landowner after she strayed onto his property in search of food in June 2024 as punishment.

She was taken in by the CDRS Benji Project, where she got her prosthetic leg in July, 2025, and is still in care.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/09/2025)

56 transgenders killed in two years in Sindh

In a telephonic conversation with Express News, Gender Interactive Alliance (GIA) President Bindiya Rana, condemned the murder of the three transgender individuals and claimed that since 2022, a total of 56 transgender people have been killed across

Sindh. Calling this "the height of cruelty," Bindiya claimed that transgender people are among the most marginalised in society and continue to face issues related to housing, food, access to identity cards, and employment.

She lamented, "people have now stopped inviting transgender people to celebratory events. In the past, transgender individuals used to earn a livelihood by performing dance and music at such functions, but that source of income has nearly vanished. Now, more than 90 per cent of transgender people are surviving by begging."

Further, the GIA president said that just a few days ago, a transgender person was stabbed and injured at Sea View, and now three more transgender people have been murdered. She asked, "what was the fault of these individuals who were so mercilessly killed?"

She stated that consultations among the community are ongoing and that they would soon announce their course of action at a press conference. She also revealed that provincewide protests will be held.
(By Aamir Khan The Express Tribune, 04, 22/09/2025)

Three trans persons found shot dead on city outskirts

Three trans persons were found shot dead on the outskirts of the metropolis within the remit of the Memon Goth police station on Sunday, police said.

They said that at around 1pm the police were informed about three bodies lying in the bushes near Nagori Society off Superhighway, now called M-9 motorway).

A police team arrived at the scene, found the three bodies and shifted them to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for a post-mortem examination.

The police and hospital officials said it appeared the bodies had lain there for 12 hours, suggesting they were shot around midnight on Saturday.

Investigations underway to identify killers, their motive; Murad says state will not tolerate killing of vulnerable individuals

They said that one of them was shot in the head, while other two sustained bullet wounds in the chest. One victim also suffered a bullet wound to the hand, suggesting the individual might have put up resistance, they added.

A Memon Goth police officer said that no identity papers were found on their persons. However, two of them were later identified as Mohammed Jael, 28, and Alex Riasat Masih, 20.

'Not an act of terrorism'

Malir SSP Dr Abdul Khaliq Pirzada, who visited the crime scene, told the media that he did not think the incident as an "act of terrorism".

He said personal enmity or a dispute over an issue might be the possible motive behind the triple murders.

He said two spent bullet casings fired from 9mm pistols were recovered from the scene of crime and this suggested that the victims were killed at the same place.

The SSP said investigators were trying to obtain CCTV footage from the road leading to the scene.

He said the investigators came to know that the victims frequently visited the area.

'Hate crime?'

Although the motive for the killing was yet to be established, trans rights activists suspect the brutal incident a hate crime.

"When hate speech and campaigns are carried out so openly, outcomes like this are inevitable," activist and PPP councillor Shahzadi Rai said, according to an AFP report. "Even though the state and police are on our side, killings are still occurring, which indicates that deep-rooted hatred against trans people persists in our society."

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah condemned the brutal incident and directed the inspector general of police to arrest the culprits immediately.

In a statement, he said the trans community is among the most marginalised groups of society and must be given dignity and respect. "The state will not tolerate the killing of any innocent or vulnerable citizen," he emphasised.

Sindh Home Minister Zia Lanjar, however, ordered police authorities to find out the exact motive behind the incident and arrest the culprits.

He asked law enforcers to get technical help from intelligence agencies to bring the perpetrators to justice.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 22/09/2025)

Three trans-persons shot dead

The bodies of three transgender people were recovered on Sunday, from bushes in a secluded area near the Nagori Cooperative Housing Society, adjacent to the Superhighway M-9 Motorway. The identities of the victims were later confirmed through fingerprint matching.

Upon notification of the finding, Memon Goth police, Rangers officials, and rescue teams reached the scene. Police cordoned off the area and began a search operation, while the Crime Scene Unit (CSU) was called in to collect evidence.

After inspecting the crime scene, SSP Malir, Abdul Khaliq Pirzada told media representatives that all three individuals were shot and killed. Reportedly, each was shot once, with two of them shot in the chest and one in the head. Further, the SSP reported that the scene suggests the victims were killed at the same location, as two bullet casings were found nearby. Two bodies were found together, while the third was found a few feet away, suggesting the third victim may have tried to escape. Additionally, the SSP revealed that the condition of the bodies suggests they had been lying there for only a few hours, however, the exact time of death is to be confirmed by the Medical Legal Officer (MLO).

Police recovered two 9mm bullet casings, a torch, a roll of tissue, and other items from the scene. The recovered casings are to be cross-matched to determine whether a single weapon or multiple weapons were used in the attack. SSP Pirzada revealed that no CCTV cameras were located in the vicinity, but stated that surrounding cameras are being reviewed for any possible footage. He also noted that there are indications the victims frequently visited the location, with some recovered, used, items supporting this theory.

The SSP reported that no items were found on the bodies that could help identify the victims, and no mobile phones were recovered from the scene either. However, SHO Memon Goth, Javed Abro, revealed the identities of the deceased, confirmed through fingerprint matching. The victims were identified as 20-year-old Alex Riyasat alias Aini, son of Riyasat Masih, originally from Sheikhpura, 28-year-old Muhammad Jeel alias Sameera, son of Muhammad Murad, originally from Khairpur, and an unidentified person known by the alias Asma.

Gender Interactive Alliance issues statement

The Gender Interactive Alliance (GIA), a transgender rights organisation, issued a statement noting that the three murdered individuals, Asma, Sameera, and Aini, were residents of areas around Bilawal Goth and Safora Town. Their means of livelihood was begging, and they had left their homes to beg for alms and earn a living, but never returned.

The GIA claimed that these repeated incidents of violence against the transgender community stands as evidence that the community is being systematically targeted. In this regard, the alliance stated "this is not just about the murder of a few individuals, it is an attempt to intimidate and silence the entire community."

The alliance appealed to the Sindh government and the police to conduct a transparent investigation aiding the swift arrest of all those involved in the murders. The GIA also demanded that a special protection unit be established for the safety of transgender people, calling for strict legislation and enforcement to prevent hate crimes and violence against the community.

Trans community stages protest

In response to the triple murder, the transgender community staged a protest outside Jinnah Hospital. The demonstration was led by transgender rights leader Bindiya Rana who strongly condemned the incident, announced a press conference and province-wide protests. Stating "these events have created immense fear among the community," Bindiya questioned "should we stop leaving our homes altogether?"

CM orders inquiry

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah also took notice of the murders and issued orders to IG Police to immediately arrest the killers. Murad said that the killers should be arrested at all costs and ordered for a report to be submitted to him. The CM stated, "Transgenders are an oppressed section of society," and said that the state will not tolerate the killing of any oppressed and innocent citizen.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 22/09/2025)

FIR registration delays, refusals can't be justified, rules SC

Noting widespread and systematic refusals or delays in the registration of first information reports (FIRs), the Supreme Court has ruled that no reason can justify the dereliction of the mandatory statutory duty of the police, as violations would erode public trust in the criminal justice system.

A three-judge bench of the apex court, comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Salahuddin Panhwar, also noted that the registration of an FIR under Section 154 of the criminal procedure code (CrPC) was exclusively an executive function and violation of the statutory duty has profound consequences for the parties involved in a criminal case.

"A dysfunctional criminal justice system for citizens who are not privileged or powerful manifests lack of constitutional governance. The onus is on the respective governments to establish that every citizen is dealt with in accordance with the obligation enshrined under Article 4 of the Constitution," it added.

The bench made these observations while deciding a criminal appeal filed by two murder convicts, impugning a judgement of the Sindh High Court.

Denial of FIRs erodes trust in justice system, notes Justice Minallah

Authored by Justice Minallah, the SC verdict said that a functional and effective criminal justice system was premised on the foundation of fairness, integrity and impartiality of FIRs about the commission of a cognizable offence under Section 154 of CrPC and pursuing investigation.

It also noted that these two executive functions were so crucial that they ultimately determine whether justice would be served and whether the actual perpetrator will be held accountable, or rather making an innocent person suffer the unimaginable agony of carrying the stigma of being an accused.

"The bedrock of constitutional governance and rule of law is profoundly undermined when there is dereliction of the two aforementioned statutory duties vested exclusively in the executive branch of the State. It is an onerous duty of the State and its functionaries to protect the fundamental rights of the citizens by protecting them from being victims of crime and if a crime takes place, then to hold the perpetrator accountable," it added.

The bench further observed that various factors may contribute to the failure or refusal by a police station in-charge to register a criminal FIR for a cognisable offence. These may include attempts to avoid adding to an already heavy workload, concealing the deterioration of law and order, inability to prevent crime, or even corruption and misuse of statutory powers to benefit, or act at the behest of, politically or socially influential individuals or groups in the area, it said.

However, the bench emphasised that no reason can justify the dereliction of the mandatory statutory duty imposed under Section 154 of the CrPC. "A violation of this duty not only undermines the fundamental rights of citizens but also severely erodes public trust in the criminal justice system."

"A citizen would be justified in perceiving that the criminal justice system merely serves the interests of the privileged and those who wield political and social power. The phenomenon also gives rise to the perception that the registration of a criminal case is subject to seeking permission from the superior officials or the politically or socially powerful persons of the area. If so, then it erodes the rule of law and amounts to a grave violation of a mandatory statutory duty," it added.

The apex court also stated that it was an onerous task of each provincial government to dispel such perception by ensuring that in each case there must be no dereliction of the statutory duty imposed under section 154 of CrPC and in case of violation, to take such appropriate action which creates deterrence for the future.

About the systemic phenomenon of refusal or delay in registration of FIR, the bench further observed that this phenomenon appeared to be widespread because it has been persistently observed in most of the criminal cases and it has also been witnessed that this phenomenon was generally prevalent in cases relating to vulnerable and marginalised classes.

The bench directed its office to send copies of this judgement to the secretary of the ministry of interior and chief secretaries of the respective provinces for placing the same before the competent forums for consideration of these observations and taking effective measures regarding the mandatory statutory duties highlighted in the judgment.

It also acquitted both the appellants by overturning the orders of the SHC as well as the trial court.

A sessions court in Shikarpur had sentenced Mir Muhammad alias Kuraro and Allah Wadhayo to death for killing a man named Ghulam Qadir in May 2013. In 2021, the SHC had converted the capital punishment into life term and the convicts had challenged the same before the apex court.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 23/09/2025)

Tortured camel undergoing treatment

Chandni, a female camel brutally abused by a landlord in Sukkur, is currently undergoing treatment at a shelter home in Murad Memon Goth, Karachi. After suffering severe injuries, including a broken hind leg and deep wounds from being dragged by a tractor, Chandni's condition remains critical but stable.

The camel's painful journey to recovery has been supported by a specially designed harness made from strong fabric, which helps her stand and receive necessary leg massages. This stage of treatment is essential to prevent life-threatening complications such as bloating and impaired blood circulation.

The incident, which took place when Chandni entered farmland in search of water, sparked outrage after video footage showed her screaming in agony while being dragged by the landowner's tractor. This act of cruelty led to immediate intervention by the Sindh government, local community members, and animal welfare groups, who ensured her swift transfer to Karachi for care.

Veterinarians explain that Chandni had been sitting continuously for two to three days, risking severe medical issues. To combat this, the shelter home's team crafted a harness from cloth and padding, allowing her to stand briefly despite the pain. The shelter is now seeking donations of strong materials such as parachute or denim fabric to build a more comfortable and durable support system for Chandni.

Prominent PPP leaders, including Faryal Talpur, MPA Awais Shah, and Samita Syed, have urged law enforcement agencies to register a formal complaint and take custody of the camel. Veterinary experts have confirmed that while Chandni's health is fragile, she is under close medical supervision and receiving round-the-clock care.

This heartbreaking case has ignited widespread public anger and calls for stricter enforcement of animal protection laws in Sindh. Social media users have expressed deep sorrow and condemnation, demanding justice for Chandni and accountability for those responsible for her suffering.

The shelter home and local authorities continue to work hand in hand to ensure Chandni's recovery and safety. The incident underscores the urgent need for greater awareness and compassion towards animal welfare, as well as the importance of community support in protecting vulnerable creatures.

CM orders urgent treatment

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has received a medical report on the two-year-old injured camel "Chandni" from Sukkur, with experts recommending urgent surgery and intensive care. The report, submitted by Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Kazim Jatoi, was prepared by a special medical board at the CDRS shelter in Malir.

Chandni, originally named Summi in Shah Patti, Sukkur district, was brought to the shelter on September 19, 2025 in a severely injured state. The medical board - comprising Dr. Zulfiqar Haider Otho, Dr. Javed Khoso, Dr. Shehla Hayat, Dr. Muhammad Ali Gopang, and Dr. Muhammad Ali Ayaz - concluded that the camel's right hind leg must be amputated due to loss of sensation and swelling, which threatens septicemia. The board also recommended jaw surgery, as fractures are preventing the animal from eating properly and risk causing dehydration, pneumonia, and other complications.

The report highlighted Chandni's fragile condition, citing anemia, parasitic infection, and dehydration as immediate health threats. Daily blood tests and a planned blood transfusion are part of her treatment plan.

CM Murad Ali Shah directed the medical team to ensure Chandni's recovery is given top priority, with all modern veterinary resources made available. He further instructed the Fisheries and Livestock Department to closely monitor progress, provide regular updates, and seek additional expert consultation if required.

The CDRS team said Chandni remains under close observation, with efforts underway to stabilize her condition.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 23/09/2025)

Same guns used in multiple cop killings

A terrifying new chapter of targeted terror is unfolding in Karachi as policemen continue to fall prey to ruthless gunmen. Investigators now believe not one but two militant groups are actively hunting down law enforcers, carrying out a string of deadly ambushes across the city.

Explosive revelations suggest the same weapons are being recycled in attack after attack. Ballistic evidence links the killing of Constable Saqib in Defence Phase I and a shooting in Malir to one firearm, while the brazen assault on a police mobile in Gizri was carried out with a gun already tied to earlier strikes.

Sources fear the two groups may be working in tandem, deliberately unleashing fear in the ranks of Karachi Police. Yet, shockingly, the city's multi-million-rupee ballistic testing machine has been lying dead for months, forcing detectives to match bullet casings manually — a process slow, unreliable, and crippling critical investigations. Not a single suspect has been nabbed, while 14 policemen martyred this year alone.

(By Shahmeer Khan The Express Tribune, 04, 24/09/2025)

Violence against trans persons

The recent discovery of three transgender women shot dead and left on a roadside in Karachi is another brutal example of how dangerous life is for transgender people. Despite progressive legal steps, including the landmark Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018, there is still a massive gap between law and reality.

The state's failure to provide genuine protection and justice has created a climate of impunity where such killings continue with horrifying regularity. In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa alone, 267 cases of violence against transgender individuals were reported between 2019 and 2024, resulting in only one conviction. This abysmal conviction rate signals to perpetrators that they can act without fear of consequence. This violence is embedded in widespread social stigma and discrimination that ostracises transgender people, often from their own families, forcing many onto the streets, begging to make enough money to get by, or working as dancers or sex workers, which leaves them even more vulnerable to abuse, rape and blackmail.

There has also been noticeable backsliding in terms of legal protections for transgender people, most notably the 2023 Federal Shariat Court decision to strike down key sections of the 2018 Act. These included revoking the right to self-perceived gender identity and expression, a decision activists derided as unscientific and having the potential to further marginalise transgender people and exacerbate transphobia.

The dignity and safety of every citizen are paramount. The continued assault on transgender people is a national crisis that demands immediate and decisive action. Unfortunately, the scale of failure illustrates how long it will take to change cultural attitudes towards transgender people. However, at the most basic level, the state can and must do more to protect the lives of transgender people and ensure that victims of crimes have access to justice.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 24/09/2025)

Eight held after gunfight at call centre in Gulshan

Eight people were arrested after a gunfight broke out between two groups at a call centre in Gulshan-i-Iqbal, it emerged on Wednesday.

The complainant in the case, registered at the Gulshan-i-Iqbal police station, said the incident stemmed from prolonged harassment faced by his daughter, who is an employee at the call centre.

He said his daughter had been harassed by the branch manager for three years. Frustrated, she confided in her brother and their nephew later warned the manager to stay away.

However, he said the situation escalated on the night of Sept 23, when the branch manager called his nephew. The complainant, along with his sister and nephews, went to the office around 9pm but found the doors locked.

"They were holding my daughter inside," he alleged. "When we broke down the door, the manager started abusing us. One person drew a gun and opened fire."

The complainant claimed his nephew returned fire, and the office security guard also pulled out his weapon and began shooting.

Police arrived and arrested five individuals involved in the shooting, while three others were taken into custody for instigating the incident.

An FIR was lodged at the Gulshan-i-Iqbal police station under sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapons), 149 (unlawful assembly), 337-A (assault), 337-H(ii) (hurt by rash or negligent act), section 342 (wrongful confinement), 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 506 (criminal intimidation), and section 25 of the Sindh Arms Act, 2013 (use of a firearm to commit a criminal offence).

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 25/09/2025)

Two bike snatchers sentenced to 14 years in prison

A sessions court has sentenced two men to a total of 14 years in prison for snatching a motorbike from a citizen and possessing unlicensed firearms.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (East), Shahid Ali Memon, found M Usman guilty in two separate cases and awarded him seven years of imprisonment for each. The second accused, M Ayaz, was convicted in one case but acquitted in another due to the prosecution's failure to substantiate the charges.

Both convicts were also handed additional imprisonment for possessing unlicensed pistols recovered from them at the time of their arrest.

"I must express my thoughts that nowadays, the street crimes have promptly been increasing day by day and none from the society feel secure at the hands of merciless muggers, who almost not only looted the innocent but also caused their murder and injuries 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 at the mercy of unbridled looters," the judge observed.

According to state prosecutor Syed Khursheed Abbas, two robbery cases under separate FIRs had been registered against the convicts.

He said the first incident took place on May 17, 2024. A 37-year-old driver was on his way home when four men riding motorcycles intercepted him, held him at gunpoint, looted his valuables and snatched his motorbike before fleeing. As the victim, who is the complainant in this case, resisted, one of the muggers opened fire and wounded him.

The prosecution added that a week later, on May 23, 2024, another complainant reported that as he was going to collect a delivery on his motorbike, three armed men intercepted him on foot, held him at gunpoint, snatched his bike and escaped.

Later, police arrested the two convicts at a bus stop in the Landhi area and recovered pistols from their possession. (By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 25/09/2025)

Wounded anchorperson Imtiaz Mir dies during treatment

Journalist and anchorperson Imtiaz Mir, who was shot at and wounded in an armed attack a week ago, died during treatment at a local hospital on Sunday evening.

Mir, who was associated with the Metro News television, was heading home in a car driven by his elder brother when six assailants riding two motorcycles fired a volley of bullets on the vehicle on the National Highway. The anchorperson sustained multiple bullet wounds and was taken to a private hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds on Sunday, his brother Riaz Ali said.

The Karachi Union of Journalists strongly condemned the inaction by police for failing to arrest the attackers and demanded their immediate arrest.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, many members of his cabinet and leaders of political parties expressed their sorrow over the sad demise of Mir.

The CM directed the inspector general of police to take steps for immediate arrest of the killers. "The killers of Imtiaz Mir will be brought to justice," he promised.

While a hitherto little known militant group had claimed responsibility for the attack on Mir, investigators had said it lacked credibility.

Later, Mir's brother Ali registered a case under Section 324 (attempted murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code at the Saudabad police station, nominating a man and his sons for the attack.

The complainant said that the attack was carried out at the behest of Umer Daraz and his two sons — Ahmed Bux and Aftab — with whom they had a land dispute in their native town in Jacobabad.

Saudabad SHO Ateequr Rehman had told Dawn that both parties belonged to the same tribe. He recalled that the late anchorperson had also lodged an FIR against the same suspects at the Shah Latif Town police in 2023.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 29/09/2025)

Robbers kill young man in front of his children in Karachi's Orangi

A young man was shot dead by robbers in front of his home in Orangi Town late on Sunday night, police said on Monday.

Iqbal Market SHO Sher Mohammed Sangi told *Dawn* that Sajjad Shaukat, 25, was standing outside his home along with his two children when two unidentified muggers riding on a motorcycle emerged there.

He said CCTV footage obtained by police showed that the victim was using his cell phone when one of the robbers got off and demanded his phone. As he put up resistance, the robber opened fire on him and rode away with his accomplice without snatching the cell phone.

Shaukat sustained critical bullet wounds and was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The CCTV footage, which also went viral on social media, showed that the deceased was carrying his infant son while another son was standing near him when the incident occurred.

West Zone DIG Irfan Ali Baloch ordered the suspension of the SHO concerned for failing to curb incidents of street crime in his jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, a 45-year-old man was shot dead on Sharea Faisal near Nursery on Monday, police said.

Tipu Sultan SHO Yasin Gujjar said Mohammed Zada was a labourer and the murder appeared to be an outcome of some personal enmity.

He said that the victim had left his native town in Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a year ago due to enmity and had been living in Karachi since then.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 30/09/2025)

SHC declares Own Pay and Scale postings of govt officials violation of law

The Sindh High Court has ruled that the practice of appointing civil servants on 'Own Pay and Scale' (OPS), or acting charge, basis is a violation of the law and against public interest.

"Discretion of this nature, if allowed to be vested in the competent authority, will offend valuable rights of the meritorious civil/public servants besides blocks promotions of the deserving officers," remarked a constitutional bench of the SHC.

The judges made these observations while allowing a petition filed against the OPS appointments in the Council for Works and Housing Research.

The two-judge bench comprising Justice K. K. Agha and Justice Adnan-ul-Karim Memon observed that the OPS appointment/posting did not have any sanction of law and "it impinged on the self-respect and dignity of civil/public servants who were forced to work under unduly appointed junior officers.

Appointments on own pay and scale or acting charge basis block promotions of deserving officers, rules constitutional bench

The bench noted that an appointment on a "current charge" basis was purely temporary in nature or a stopgap arrangement, which remained operative for a short duration until a regular appointment was made against the post.

"It is crystal clear that there is no scope of the appointment of a civil /public servant on an OPS basis except in exigencies appointment on an acting charge basis can be made, subject to conditions contained in the relevant rules," it added.

Referring to various judgement of the Supreme Court, the bench noted that such practice had always been discouraged by the superior judiciary and it was not legally permissible.

The order stated: "Appointment on OPS/acting charge basis can neither be construed to be an appointment by promotion on regular basis for any purposes including seniority nor it confers any vested right for regular appointment.

Citing the Ministry of Science & Technology and others as respondents, petitioner Syed Muhammad Mehdi Raza Taqi submitted that he was an official of the Council for Works and Housing Research.

He alleged several irregularities about appointment and subsequent assigning the additional charge in a higher grade to Ali Ghor Baloch and stated that Mr Baloch was initially hired on a contract basis and later regularised as a PA in BPS-16 on November 17, 2017, with the condition that he will obtain a typing/shorthand certificate within three months.

Despite this, he was given the additional charge of Assistant Director (BPS-17) on an "OPS basis" in August 2021 without approval of the ministry concerned, he maintained.

The petitioner argued that the appointment in question has violated recruitment rules notified in January 2021, as it was a promotional post that required seniority and proper authority approval.

The bench set aside the impugned order of appointment and directed the authorities to fill the same post on a regular basis strictly under the recruitment rules.

Notices issued to railways

Another SHC bench issued notices to the Railways secretary and other officials on a petition filed against an appointment in the Railway police on an OPS/acting charge basis.

Raja Mohammad Shafiq, an official in the Railway police, petitioned the SHC and impugned the appointment of DSP Ameen Alam as the superintendent of railways police.

Citing a judgement of the apex court, the petitioner stated that the DSP was presently holding the post of SP in BS-17 despite the fact that many senior police officers were available for such posting, but they were overlooked.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice Sana Akram Minhas issued notices to the respondents as well as a federal law officer for a date to be fixed after two weeks.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 02/10/2025)

Karachi in shock after two murdered and dismembered

Two separate murder cases have shocked the city, with dismembered bodies being found in different areas.

Gulistan-e-Jauhar police have solved the mystery of a human head found near a garbage dump in Pehlwan Goth. According to police, the victim was identified as 32-year-old truck driver Imdad Hussain. His torso was later recovered from the house of one of the suspects in Mughal Hazara Goth. Investigators revealed that the two arrested suspects, Mudassar and Ali, were close friends and neighbours of the deceased.

Police said both the suspects and the victim were drug addicts and often consumed crystal meth (ice) together. On the day of the crime, the suspects invited Imdad to their home under the pretext of drug use, where they brutally killed him. They dumped his severed head in a garbage site in Pehlwan Goth while keeping the torso hidden in Ali's house.

SP Investigation East confirmed that the suspects have confessed to the murder but failed to provide a satisfactory motive. Further interrogation is underway. The case has been registered at Gulistan-e-Jauhar police station on the complaint of the victim's father, who had also nominated his daughter-in-law, former daughter-in-law, and three others in his FIR.

In another incident, a severed human head found near a drain in Hyderi was later matched with a torso discovered a day earlier from a drain in North Nazimabad's Block L. Police said the victim, identified as 35-year-old Muhammad Yousuf, worked at a tandoor (clay oven shop) and had recently moved to Karachi from Mansehra. His brother, Jannat Gul, confirmed the identification.

Reportedly, Yousuf had been living in shared quarters with four others in North Nazimabad. Authorities are now investigating his background and questioning relatives for leads. Police sources confirmed that in both cases, the killers attempted to cover up their crimes by discarding the body parts at different locations.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 03/10/2025)

Sindh police seek more details from British authorities about Range Rover stolen in UK, spotted in Karachi

The Sindh police have requested Interpol and the British police to share the detailed log of a tracker fitted in a high-end vehicle reported stolen from the United Kingdom and recently spotted in Karachi.

The black Range Rover Sport was stolen on Nov 11, 2022 from Harrogate, UK, and in February this year, with the help of its tracker, it was located in Karachi on Korangi Road.

Later, Interpol sent a letter to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Islamabad, the Karachi police and the Anti-Vehicles Lifting Cell (AVLC), alerting them about the stolen vehicle.

Talking to *Dawn* on Friday, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon said that the Interpol's letter was received two days ago at the office of AVLC SSP.

"We have sent an email to the UK police and asked them to send us a detailed log of the tracker fitted in the vehicle," he said.

Interpol says the SUV was last tracked on Korangi Road in February

The IGP said that the police also sought the source of the active location of the vehicle from the tracker, as the vehicle was last spotted in Karachi on Feb 11, 2025.

According to the Interpol's letter, the black Range Rover Sport was stolen from UK on November 11, 2022. The vehicle was fitted with a tracker, and it was last spotted in Leeds, where it was lost.

It said that the UK police requested cooperation from Pakistani authorities to trace and locate the vehicle.

Earlier in 2022, another luxury vehicle, Bentley Mulsanne, stolen from the UK was recovered from Karachi after a British intelligence agency tracked down the exact location of the car and informed Pakistani authorities.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, *Dawn*, 13, 04/10/2025)

State of injustice

THE state has faltered on its promise of ensuring justice for the victims of the Jaranwala incident of 2023, when mobs — incited by allegations of blasphemy — burnt down churches and homes of Christian families in the Punjab town. Apparently, the investigating officers did not show up to inspect the damaged sites or contact the victims. Five FIRS were 'sealed' by an ATC judge, forensic tests were not run on video footage and police were not made a witness in any case. Despite evidence to the contrary, the revenue department concluded in one case that an affected site did not have a church. Meanwhile, the committee constituted to assess the damage failed to seek input from the harmed parties. After two years, countless court appearances and a JIT, a sole accused, out of mobs of hundreds, is in custody. Minority Rights Movement members provided these details at the 'Jaranwala tragedy of Aug 16, 2023: Condition of minorities in Punjab, government steps and our strategy' conference at the HRCP.

The Jaranwala episode is a stain on the nation's conscience, but not a test case. Today, victims believe that any group can launch an assault with impunity. The justice system has forgotten that it is duty-bound to employ all measures to foil crimes of persecution. Any commitment to combat bigotry is hollow without accountability for the law enforcers, as shoddy investigation and prosecution invites further violence. Every perpetrator must be brought to justice to convey that no citizen is unequal, and that the state's actions exist beyond news cycles. The grievances highlight the callousness of the criminal justice system and the victims' loss of trust in it. This must be redressed, along with fair compensation to the affected. The police should be compelled to cooperate with the vulnerable to establish long-term safety. Exclusion is the deepest cut. It is, therefore, crucial to hold the state to account for the way it treats the weak.

(By Editorial, *Dawn*, 06, 04/10/2025)

Shopkeeper gunned down by robbers in Orangi Town

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

The Iqbal Market police said that two armed robbers arrived at a gas cylinder filling shop in Khalil Market, held the shopkeeper at gunpoint and demanded cash.

The shopkeeper, identified as Noor Alam, 35, put up resistance and one of the robbers shot him. Despite being seriously wounded, the shopkeeper grabbed the robber's pistol and shot him. His accomplice managed to escape.

Area people rushed to the scene and shifted both shopkeeper and the robber to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for treatment.

The police said that the shopkeeper died during treatment.

The wounded suspect was identified as Abdul Rahim and the police said he had past criminal record as he was arrested in connection with murder and robbery cases.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, *Dawn*, 13, 05/10/2025)

Two passers-by killed in crossfire between two groups

Two passers-by were killed in a crossfire between two parties which clashed at Khyber Chowk in the Ittehad Town area on Saturday evening.

South-DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that armed men from Mehsud and Afridi tribes resorted to firing on each other after a quarrel between their children.

The officer said two passers-by, identified as Hazrat Khan, 30, and Ibrahim Abdul Hakeem, 18, were wounded in the crossfire. They were shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, where they died during treatment.

The clash triggered fear and panic among the residents. Contingents of police rushed to the spot and controlled the situation. Raids are being conducted to arrest the suspects, the officer added.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 05/10/2025)

Suspected extortionist shot dead in 'encounter'

A suspected gangster accused of firing shots at a shopping centre to demand protection money was gunned down in an alleged encounter in the Malir area, police said on Sunday.

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) identified the suspect as Ghulam Qadeer and said that he had demanded Rs50 million from the management of the shopping mall.

SIU SSP Amjad Sheikh said that acting on a tip-off the police carried out a raid on the city outskirts late on Saturday night to arrest criminals. However, they opened fire on the police and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire, one of the suspects was killed, he added.

He said that a cell phone and a pistol were recovered from him. The body was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for medico-legal formalities.

The police said that on Sept 29 four suspects riding on two motorbikes emerged at the Jilani Shopping Centre in Malir City and resorted to indiscriminate firing. Later, a mall official got a WhatsApp call and the caller demanded Rs50m as extortion and warned of dire consequences if their demand was not fulfilled within a week.

Young man found shot dead

A young man was found shot dead on the outskirts of the city on Sunday, police and rescue services officials said.

They said that the body of the unidentified youth was found from bushes off Superhighway.

SITE-Superhighway Industrial Area police SHO Wilayat Shah said it appeared that the man was shot someplace else and the body was thrown here as no spent bullet casing was recovered from the spot.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 06/10/2025)

Traders getting bullets with extortion notes

Once again the extortion mafia has become active in the city. Leading businessmen and prominent figures of the economic hub of the country are getting extortion threats, causing unrest among the law abiding citizens.

The Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has issued a high-alert security advisory to its members and the city's business community in response to a disturbing surge in extortion threats.

The advisory follows multiple reports of traders receiving extortion slips accompanied by bullets - a menacing tactic that has raised serious concerns about public safety and the city's stability.

According to the KCCI, several members of the business community have recently been targeted with these threats, which signal a dangerous escalation in criminal activity. The Chamber fears that such incidents could severely impact Karachi's peace and economic environment.

In a circular issued to its members, the KCCI has strongly recommended the installation of high-quality CCTV cameras at both commercial establishments and private residences. These systems should include reliable backup storage to ensure that any footage can be preserved and shared with law enforcement in the event of an incident.

"Immediate action is necessary to protect lives, businesses, and property," the advisory stated. "Recorded video evidence can play a crucial role in identifying and apprehending perpetrators."

The Chamber emphasized that member cooperation is essential for the successful implementation of these precautionary measures. It also reaffirmed its commitment to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the business community and maintaining close coordination with law enforcement agencies to ensure traders' safety.

"Through awareness, unity, and preparedness, we can collectively overcome this dangerous situation," the KCCI declared.

The advisory reflects growing anxiety among Karachi's traders, many of whom have faced similar threats in recent months. As extortion tactics become increasingly brazen, the KCCI's proactive stance aims to galvanize the business community into taking defensive measures and supporting efforts to restore law and order.

Most recently three members of a criminal gang were arrested for extortion threats to JDC Foundation head Zafar Abbas. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 06/10/2025)

Another suspected extortionist killed in 'encounter'

Another suspected member of an extortion gang was killed in an alleged encounter in Surjani Town on Monday, just a day after one of his accomplices was gunned down in a similar shootout with police in Malir.

The police said that an encounter took place between the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) and suspects within the jurisdiction of Surjani Town. After an exchange of gunfire, one extortionist, identified as Ehteshamuddin alias Asif Burger, was shot dead.

The police recovered a pistol with rounds and a motorcycle from the scene.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

In a statement, SIU SSP Amjad Shaikh claimed that the gang of extortionists led by Samad Kathiawari has been dismantled. He said the deceased suspect was the "shooter" for the gang. He had a prior criminal record with more than 13 FIRs registered against him at various police stations for crimes including extortion, robbery, possession of illegal weapons and street crimes.

He was an accomplice of another extortionist, Ghulam Qadir, who was shot dead by police in an encounter in Malir on Sunday. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 07/10/2025)

Move fireworks warehouses away from residential areas: SHC

The Sindh High Court directed on Monday that all fireworks warehouses and factories be relocated away from residential areas.

A two-member bench, led by Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro and comprising Justice Abdul Rehman, took up a petition filed in connection with the deadly explosion in Al-Amna Plaza on Karachi's MA Jinnah Road last August, which had claimed at least six lives and injured another 30.

According to Karachi South Deputy Commissioner Javed Nabi Khoso report, submitted before the court on Monday, the first licence or a fireworks shop in the building was issued in 1971 by then assistant commissioner of Karachi Cantonment.

The Civil Defence No Objection Certificate (NOC) allows only retailers to keep only 25-30 kilograms of fireworks. But the warehouse in question stored much larger quantities, in violation of the conditions, the court was apprised. The large cache of fireworks directly resulted in the explosion, the bench was told.

All active firework licences and NOCs in the South District were revoked after the explosion at Al-Amna Plaza, Khoso informed the court. Besides, he added, explosives were seized and destroyed by Bomb Disposal Squad while the Karachi Cantonment Board was tasked with examining the damaged structure.

Financial compensation for the victims falls under the Sindh government's jurisdiction, said Khoso.

At least six people were killed and another 30 injured in the blast. The petitioner, mother of one deceased young man, contended through her counsel that illegal godowns in crowded neighbourhoods were a threat to citizens' lives. The authorities have repeatedly ignored complaints against them, maintained the petition.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel, advocate Usman Farooq, maintained that Explosives Act 1884 does not permit licences for manufacturing or storing fireworks in public or residential areas. He stressed that locating such warehouses next to schools and densely populated housing blocks was unlawful and dangerous. The court disposed of the petition after recording the DC South's reply, and issued clear directions that fireworks warehouses and factories be shifted "out of" residential areas. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 07/10/2025)

Karachi man sentenced to life imprisonment in rape case

A sessions court has sentenced a man to life imprisonment in a case pertaining to the rape of a teenage girl.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (Central) Mirza Tauseef Ahmed convicted Naseeb Gul alias Imran, who appeared on bail, of committing an offence under Section 376-III (rape of a minor or a person with a mental or physical disability) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The judge passed the order after recording evidence and hearing arguments from state prosecutor Shaikh Hina Naz Shams and defence counsel.

"It is also pertinent to note that the victim in this case is a girl under the age of 18 years. As per her statement and the medical evidence, she was subjected to repeated acts of rape by her real maternal uncle. The nature of the offence, the age of the victim, and the relationship between the parties squarely attract the provisions of Section 376 (3) of the Pakistan Penal Code [PPC], which prescribes enhanced punishment for rape committed against a minor," the court noted.

It's an unfortunate reality that sexual assault victims often bear the burden of shame despite being innocent, judge observes

It also imposed a fine of Rs100,000, and in default, he would serve additional imprisonment.

During the trial, prosecutor Hina Naz submitted before the court that the accused, being the maternal uncle of the survivor, committed the rape repeatedly by exploiting the absence of the survivor's mother. She emphasised that the survivor was minor at the time of the offence.

The prosecutor maintained that the survivor disclosed the matter to her mother, who then caught the accused in the act and called police in 2021. She contended that the survivor's statement before the magistrate corroborated the FIR and implicated the accused, and she remained firm during cross-examination.

On the other hand, the defence counsel claimed innocence of the accused and submitted that the case was registered falsely at the behest of the complainant's mother over the alleged family dispute. The counsel denied the allegations and stated that his client did not commit the offence with his niece.

But the court rejected the defence plea and observed: "It is highly improbable that she would falsely implicate her real maternal uncle in such a heinous crime and subject herself to lifelong stigma. The unfortunate reality of our society is that victims of sexual assault often bear the burden of shame, despite being innocent. Therefore, it is unreasonable to believe that the victim would fabricate such allegations merely at the behest of her mother, as alleged by the accused. Rather, it is proved that the accused has taken advantage of his fiduciary relationship with the victim and absence of her parents, and has subjected her to rape for several times over a period of two years."

A case was registered at New Karachi Industrial Area police station under Sections 376 (rape) of the PPC.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 07/10/2025)

Extorting businesses

Pakistan's economic trajectory continues to raise alarm as signs of corporate retreat and business insecurity multiply. The decision by P&G to exit Pakistan and Philip Morris to delist from the PSX reflects a deepening loss of confidence in the country's governance and economic management. When multinationals that have long operated in volatile conditions begin to scale down or withdraw, it indicates that the business climate has become untenable even for the most resilient investors.

This decline in confidence coincides with a disturbing resurgence of street-level criminality. The Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has issued a high-alert advisory following a rise in extortion threats to members of the business community. Reports of traders receiving bullets alongside extortion slips have rekindled memories of a darker period when Karachi's commerce operated under constant threat. The sense of fear now gripping the city's traders threatens to undo years of effort to stabilise its economic core.

Implications of this extend beyond Karachi. Investors, both local and foreign, are increasingly deterred by a mix of insecurity, arbitrary taxation and policy inconsistency. An environment where law enforcement falters and regulatory decisions shift without warning cannot sustain investment or growth. The slow exodus of major firms is a shaking reminder that stability and rule of law are the true prerequisites for economic revival.

Responsibility rests squarely with the government. Reassuring investors requires more than administrative fixes. Law enforcement agencies must decisively dismantle extortion rackets and restore public confidence in Karachi's security. Restoring confidence will take time, but the first step is visible action. Policymakers must actively engage with the private sector to understand their challenges and demonstrate that Pakistan remains committed to protecting legitimate enterprise. The state must be seen unmistakably as the guarantor of security and stability, not a bystander in its erosion.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 08/10/2025)

Karachi business community concerned over 'alarming surge in extortion cases'

City's business community has expressed serious concerns over an alarming surge in cases of extortion and demanded the provincial government and law enforcement agencies to ensure fool-proof security to traders and industrialists.

The Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (Kati) and All City Traders Ittehad Association have issued their separate statements, expressing profound concern over the escalating crisis, calling upon the government and law enforcement agencies to implement immediate and effective measures to combat the serious issue.

"The climate of fear and insecurity is not only alarming for the business community but poses a serious threat to the entire industrial structure," said Kati President Mohammad Ikram Rajput.

He stated that industrialists in Karachi, already grappling with business challenges, now face a growing sense of uncertainty and instability that threatens to paralyse economic activity.

Kati, traders' alliance urge govt, law enforcers to make joint strategy to dismantle extortion networks

He highlighted the severe intimidation tactics being used, noting that traders and industrialists are receiving constant threats. In several instances, extortion slips have been dispatched with bullets, creating a pervasive fear that prevents many victims from filing official complaints.

"This situation is a red alert not only for entrepreneurs but for the entire industrial framework, as an environment of fear and uncertainty is poison for both investment and employment," he warned.

Citing reports, the Kati president provided a breakdown of the 96 extortion cases registered this year, with district Central being the most affected (37 cases), followed by district West (20), district East (15), and district City (12). The data also indicated five cases in district Malir and three in Korangi.

In response, security and police operations have led to the arrest of 33 alleged extortionists, while four suspects were killed in police encounters.

The atmosphere of dread is particularly palpable in industrial zones, including Korangi, where factory owners are operating under a constant shadow of fear. Recent incidents, such as firings at under-construction buildings, demonstrate the audacity of these criminal elements.

Mr Rajput remarked that the business community had previously alerted the government to the worsening situation, but a lack of decisive action has allowed the menace to grow.

"The extortion networks in Karachi are reportedly operated by various organised groups. There are also reports suggesting that the illicit funds extorted from the business community are being transferred abroad, adding another layer of complexity to the criminal enterprise," he said.

Describing the situation as deeply troubling, Mr Rajput cautioned that if timely and concrete steps are not taken, the productivity of Karachi's industries will be severely impacted, leading to negative consequences for the national economy.

He formally appealed to the Sindh governor, the chief minister, the director general of Rangers and the inspector general of police to devise a joint strategy to dismantle these extortion networks. He urged them to provide fool-proof security to traders and industrialists and to take stringent action against those involved in such crimes.

The Kati president affirmed that the business community stands ready to fully cooperate with the government to restore Karachi's status as a secure hub for business, employment and investment.

Separately, patron-in-chief of the All City Traders Ittehad Association Sharjeel Goplani said in a statement that extortion in Karachi had never truly ended and continued to exist in different forms.

He stated that various business organisations and traders are still being forced to pay extortion money, and recently, the head of a major institution also received threats.

Mr Goplani said this ongoing situation reflects the failure of the system, the weakness of the police, and the negligence of law enforcement agencies. "Influential criminals continue to receive protection, while victims are pressured instead of being supported," he added.

He revealed that affected traders are compelled to pay bribes at multiple levels — from the police to special task forces, and even during court proceedings.

"It seems as if extortion has become Karachi's destiny. What was once settled for thousands has now reached demands of crores," he remarked.

He urged the government and law enforcement authorities to take serious and practical measures to eliminate extortion and restore a sense of safety for the business community.
(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 08/10/2025)

Mayor, KDA issued contempt notices for not complying with SHC order on park rentals

The Sindh High Court on Tuesday issued notices to the mayor of Karachi and others on an application seeking contempt proceedings against them for not enforcing a court order issued against renting out nine parks in the city.

A divisional bench of the SHC headed by Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhoro directed the respondents to file replies till Oct 21.

The opposition leader in the City Council, Advocate Saifuddin has filed the application seeking contempt proceedings against the mayor, director general of parks of the KMC, director general of the Karachi Development Authority, and others.

The applicant argued that the contemnors have yet to comply with a judgement handed down by the bench last month about nine parks as commercial activities were still being carried out on the premises of these parks.

The applicant submitted that the SHC in its judgement had overturned the impugned resolution of the City Council regarding renting out parks and playgrounds under public-private partnerships and had ruled that conversion of amenity parks and playgrounds for commercial use and renting them out under the public-private partnerships was illegal and without any lawful authority.

He also said that the SHC had also set aside agreements inked between the KMC and private parties for renting out nine parks and playgrounds of the city, including Jheel Park, Hill Park, Umer Sharif Park, Bagh Ibne Qasim, KMC Sports Complex, Hosh Muhammad Shaheedi Park in KDA Scheme 5, Karachi and three parks/amenity plots located in Block 2 Clifton, and ruled that the same owned by the Karachi Development Authority or the ministry of housing and the KMC has no right to administer such parks and playgrounds.

The opposition leader in the City Council further submitted that the SHC's order also said that the KMC did not have the right to regulate amenity plots which were designated as parks or playgrounds under the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013 and it also lacked jurisdiction under the Karachi Development Authority Order.

The SHC had passed the judgement in question on a petition filed by Mr Saifuddin, along with Jamaat-i-Islami's chairmen of TMCs, including New Karachi, Liaquatabad, Gulberg, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Model Colony, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Jinnah, and Landhi, as well as a member of the City Council, in July challenging the City Council's decision to allow the conversion of amenity park plots for commercial use on a rental basis allegedly in collusion with private parties.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 08/10/2025)

Out of 118 extortion complaints, 44 found to be genuine: police

The menace of extortion appears to have returned to haunt the financial hub of the country. As many as 118 extortion-related complaints have been reported in the metropolis so far this year, according to a report submitted to the provincial police chief.



Of the 118 complaint, only 44 have been found to be genuine, while the rest were linked to business or personal disputes and financial transactions, reads the report submitted by the additional inspector general (AIG) Operations.

The report further stated that out of the 44 confirmed extortion cases, police cracked 39, achieving 87% clearance rate. During investigations, 78 suspects were identified, 43 of whom were arrested, while five were killed during police encounters.

The report, which also includes a comparative review of crime statistics from the previous and current year, highlights the Sindh police's resolve to ensure a secure environment for economic activities, in close coordination with the business community.

IG Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon stated that strict and indiscriminate action has been, and will continue to be, taken against elements involved in extortion and other crimes that undermine economic stability. He praised the cooperation of traders in supporting police efforts, particularly through the installation of CCTV cameras at commercial locations, following a public appeal by police.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 09/10/2025)

Passerby killed by fleeing robbers in Karachi's Orangi Town

A man was killed and another wounded when fleeing robbers resorted to indiscriminate firing in Orangi Town on Wednesday afternoon, police said.

They identified the deceased as Hashim Qasim, 28, and the wounded as Mohammed Sohail alias Shoaib, 53.

Orangi Town SHO Mehar Yusuf told *Dawn* that two suspects snatched a motorcycle from a citizen. They were fleeing on that bike when the citizens chased them. However, the robbers resorted to indiscriminate firing in their bid to escape.

Victims Hashim and Sohail were sitting on a street near the Monday Bazaar and as they stood up after hearing gunshots, they were hit by the bullets, the SHO added. The suspects managed to escape from the spot with the snatched motorcycle. Both the wounded men were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where one was pronounced dead while the other was admitted for treatment.

Man shot dead by estranged wife

A man was shot dead allegedly by his estranged wife in Orangi Town early Wednesday morning.

Iqbal Market SHO Shahbaz Yusuf told *Dawn* that Mohammed Husain, 35, was gunned down by his estranged wife inside her home in Sector-11 ½.

The officer said that the couple often quarrelled with each other, which prompted the woman to approach a court for dissolution of marriage, and the case was still pending. However, it infuriated the man, who attacked his in-laws around 10 days ago and wounded his father-in-law and two others.

The SHO added that the same suspect attempted to shoot his wife with his pistol but she snatched the weapon from him and shot him dead.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 09/10/2025)

Three Lyari gangsters running extortion rackets from abroad

As the city's trade and industry leaders voiced concern over an alarming surge in cases of extortion in the metropolis, police authorities have identified three organised gangs whose ringleaders and members are allegedly operating from abroad using foreign SIMs.

According to police, the three gangs are led by Lyari-based gangsters — Wasiullah Lakho, Samad Kathiawari and Jamil Chhanga — who fled Karachi a couple of years ago and are now residing overseas.

"These gang leaders are reportedly settled in Iran and are using Iranian phone numbers to carry out their operations," police officials said.

Crime statistics shared by police says 118 incidents of extortion have been reported in Karachi this year. However, only 44 (37 per cent) of the total cases were found to be genuine, while 74 complaints turned out to be related to business or personal disputes.

Regarding the detection and investigation of these cases, the police report noted that the detection rate stood at over 88pc, as 39 out of 44 genuine cases had been detected, with 43 suspects arrested and five killed in encounters, while 30 suspects remain at large.

Police investigations have identified the involvement of the three organised gangs in 12 of the 44 genuine cases. The authorities have completed the necessary paperwork for the issuance of red notices against the gang leaders, and all procedural requirements have been fulfilled.

Police officials added that the Wasiullah Lakho and Samad Kathiawari gangs had "reportedly merged their operations," intensifying extortion activities in recent months.

"These gangs have recently begun targeting builders — including members of the Association of Builders and Developers (Abad) — as well as other businessmen," the report said.

Over the past 10 days, four alleged extortionists have been killed in police encounters. They included two suspects, Abdul Hadi and Saeed, involved in the Mateen Food case; Ghulam Qadir, an extortionist/financier/handler linked to the Jillani case; and Ehtisham alias Asif Burger, an extortionist/shooter associated with the Kathiawari gang.

IGP reiterates resolve to protect economic activities

Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon reaffirmed the police department's commitment to ensuring full protection of economic activities across the province in collaboration with the business community.

He said the Sindh police, with the support of traders, were determined to eliminate elements disrupting the smooth functioning of the economy.

"We have taken strict action in the past against those hindering economic stability, and similar indiscriminate action will continue in the future," said the IGP.

Mr Memon praised the installation of CCTV cameras at business centres by traders in response to the police's appeal, terming it a "commendable initiative" that would strengthen overall security.

He added that the Sindh government, law enforcement agencies, and the business community were working in close coordination to sustain and promote economic stability in the province. The IGP said the Sindh police, utilising resources provided by the provincial government, were conducting daily operations against criminal elements across the province.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 09/10/2025)

Peace, finally!

After nearly two years of relentless bombardment, ruin and unimaginable loss, a sliver of light has emerged from the rubble of Gaza.

Yesterday, the first phase of a ceasefire agreement — brokered under US President Donald Trump's much-anticipated 20-point peace plan — officially took effect. The deal, mediated by Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye, marks the first serious step toward ending a war that has claimed tens of thousands of lives and decimated a population already under siege for decades.

This is, without question, a breakthrough moment. For the first time both sides have consented to a structured roadmap toward de-escalation. Under the agreement, Hamas will release 20 living captives in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. In return, Israel has agreed to pull back its troops to a mutually determined line, allowing desperately needed humanitarian aid to flood into the besieged enclave. While Trump's plan has courted skepticism, the diplomatic choreography behind this deal cannot be dismissed.

The convergence of Qatari pragmatism, Egyptian leverage and Turkish influence has produced what no single actor could achieve alone. Yet, this moment of hope remains fragile. The world has seen ceasefires before - brief pauses that gave way to renewed violence and political posturing. For this agreement to evolve beyond symbolism, it must be implemented with transparency and monitored with resolve. Crucially, both Israel and Hamas must see this first phase not as an end in itself but as a gateway to dialogue on deeper issues. If this process stalls or is derailed by mistrust, the consequences will be devastating.

For now, though, hope deserves its due. After years of destruction, Gaza's skies may finally hold a promise other than drones and despair. The challenge for the world is to ensure that this ceasefire becomes more than a pause in war and becomes the foundation for peace. History rarely offers such chances.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 10/10/2025)

SHC directs NCCIA to act 'without fear or favour' in cybercrime cases

The Sindh High Court (SHC) has directed the director general of the National Cyber Crime Agency (NCCIA) to ensure that his officers perform their duties without fear or favour and in a professional manner.

The single-judge bench headed by Justice Omar Sial also expressed serious resentment towards the DG and other officials of the NCCIA for not appearing in a case concerning the dissemination of personal photos and videos and for showing little progress in locating or arresting the accused.

It further deplored the misrepresentations made by certain officers before the court as well as their lethargic and unprofessional conduct. The DG and a director of the NCCIA did not turn up before the court.

"If such is the conduct of the senior officials of the NCCIA then one should not be surprised by the poor and substandard work done by their junior colleagues", it added.

The bench issued these directives while hearing a criminal miscellaneous application filed by a woman against her former husband, an advocate by profession, for uploading her personal pictures and videos on social media and other digital platforms.

At the outset of the hearing, the bench noted that the DG was put on notice after misrepresentations were made by certain officers as well as their unprofessional and lethargic conduct.

However, it noted that unfortunately, not only the DG NCCIA but the director concerned also did not turn up and instead sent an additional director to the court.

The additional attorney general (AAG) Mohsin Shahwani contended that the DG was unable to appear since he was needed in the Lahore High Court. Thereafter, the bench again put the DG on notice with a direction to appear at the next hearing.

However, the AAG requested the bench to exempt the presence of the DG NCCIA and also assured it that the NCCIA in Karachi would perform its duties professionally, promptly and without fear or favour.

The federal law officer also maintained that progress had been made in search and seizure efforts in the present case and that perpetrators would be apprehended shortly.

The bench said that the court has always restrained itself from interfering in any manner with the duties of the executive and has never interfered with ongoing investigations and inquiries.

"The need to summon the DG arose because of misrepresentations made to the court by the NCCIA sleuths and their complete lethargy, unprofessional attitudes and conduct. A girl is being continuously humiliated and for reasons best known to the NCCIA investigators, they have entirely failed in locating the alleged culprit. It sounds rather unbelievable, as the named accused is a lawyer and is frequently seen in court", it added.

The bench exempted the DG from appearance after the AAG assured it that the DG NCCIA would personally review the case and that a meaningful inquiry report would be placed before the court at the next hearing.

Adjourning the hearing till Oct 13, the bench directed its office to send a copy of this order to the DG NCCIA to ensure that his officers/colleagues must perform their jobs without fear or favour, professionally and in accordance with the law.

It also said that utmost care should be taken to ensure that victim is not embarrassed or humiliated in any manner and that the facts of the matter/case should be revealed without any bias or leaning towards either side.

At an earlier hearing, the bench had also said that the NCCIA was a premium law enforcement agency against cybercrime and that it must have internal controls to prevent any of its officers from unnecessarily seeking search warrant from magistrates in the cases of dissemination of personal photos and videos.

The SHC had also observed that apart from the fact that valuable data/equipment may be lost due to delayed searches, it was also not appropriate to put a victim through additional hassle and humiliation of appearing before a magistrate to record a statement for issuance of search warrant in such cases.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 14, 10/10/2025)

'Web portal' to register extortion complaints: minister

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar announced on Friday that a web portal was being developed to help traders register their complaints online against extortion threats and other crimes in the city.

The initiative is being taken as traders have reported facing 'inconvenience' when visiting police stations to lodge FIRs.

"All complaints submitted through this portal will be addressed promptly, and police action will be taken immediately to ensure redressal," said the minister while speaking at a press conference at the Karachi Police Office.

Flanked by Inspector General of Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, the minister said any complaint related to extortion chits or threats submitted through the new web portal would lead to immediate registration of an FIR, and all legal measures would be ensured against those involved.

"Protecting the business community and providing them with a safe and free business environment are among the top priorities of the Sindh government," said the minister.

He said that Karachi is Pakistan's economic hub and it was the foremost priority of the government to provide a peaceful environment to the business community of the city.

He claimed that the issue of extortion was blown disproportionately, however, the Specialised Investigation Unit (SIU/CIA) and the district police were committed to eradicating the menace and were conducting effective and coordinated operations

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 11/10/2025)

Youth killed in crossfire on M9

A 22-year-old youth was killed and his brother injured during an exchange of fire between police and carjackers on the M9 Motorway on Friday. The escaping carjackers were shot dead by Jamshoro and Hyderabad police in an encounter in Jamshoro district a few hours later.

The slain youth, Adnan son of Akbar Magsi, had been abducted by the suspects after they snatched the double-cabin SUV he was driving near his home in the KDA Scheme 33 area.

Reportedly, suspects traveling in a white Corolla intercepted a double-cabin vehicle in Gulzar-e-Hijri and snatched it, with the youth inside. As the culprits fled towards the Super Highway, police intercepted them and signaled them to stop. In their attempt to escape, the suspects' car rammed into concrete blocks along the road, forcing them to abandon the vehicle.

The gunmen then took control of the snatched double-cabin vehicle and opened indiscriminate fire on the police. During the chaos, they allegedly shot and killed the captive youth before throwing his body onto the road and escaping.

Police recovered the suspects' abandoned white car and called in the Crime Scene Unit to collect evidence. Officials are checking the registration details, suspecting the vehicle carried fake number plates.

Meanwhile, Adnan's brother, Anas, who had chased the suspects in another car, was injured when the robbers fired at him. He was rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Following the incident, residents of Scheme 33 and the victim's relatives staged a protest on the Super Highway, expressing anger over the killing.

Suspects shot dead in Jamshoro

The four suspected outlaws of a notorious gang who escaped after killing Adnan in Karachi, were shot dead in an encounter with Jamshoro and Hyderabad police in Jamshoro on Friday. The encounter, in which no policemen casualty was, occurred near a crush plant in village Ishaq Khoso along M9-Motorway.

Two of the deceased have been identified as Haider Mehar alias Haideru and Punjabi Pitafi while the other slain suspects are still unidentified. Haideru was said to be the leader of the notorious gang which was named after him.

(By Munawar Khan Ali The Express Tribune, 04, 11/10/2025)

18-year-old alimony case settled through mediation in court

A man has agreed to pay Rs2.5 million to his former wife and daughter in an 18-year-old maintenance case after a judicial magistrate allowed a plea of a compromise between both the parties.

Nearly two decades ago, plaintiff Ms Imtiaz had filed a suit against her ex-husband Shafqat Ali, seeking maintenance for herself and her daughter, as well as recovery of her dower amount. The suit was decreed ex parte in 2007.

Later, in 2016, the plaintiff filed an execution application, which was dismissed by court on grounds of being time-barred.

She challenged the decision before a sessions court and subsequently before the Sindh High Court; however, both courts upheld the trial court's order.

After years of litigation between the two parties, including defendant, the Supreme Court in 2023 remanded the case back to the trial court with directions to decide the matter afresh.

In its detailed order, Judicial Magistrate (South) Naeem Akhtar noted: "On the very first date of hearing before this court post-remand, both parties through the able assistance of their learned counsel engaged in constructive dialogue and agreed to explore mediation. Three sessions of mediation were held under the guidance of the court and counsel, during which both sides exhibited goodwill and intent to resolve their protracted dispute amicably."

However, the judge added that during the final mediation session, both sides submitted a joint application for compromise, under which the defendant agreed to pay a total amount of Rs2.5m to the plaintiff in five equal instalments of Rs500,000 each by October 2026.

"Before parting, this court deems it appropriate to record its appreciation for the able assistance and commendable efforts of the learned counsel for both parties, whose cooperation and mediation skills have led to the amicable resolution of one of the oldest pending matters on the docket of this court," the judge wrote in its order.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 14, 11/10/2025)

Police constable arrested in bike theft cases

The Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC) has arrested a serving police constable allegedly involved in several motorcycle thefts. The arrested officer, identified as Waryam Khan, son of Deenu Magsi, was posted at the Gulshan-e-Iqbal police station, a spokesperson for AVLC of Gulberg Division confirmed on Saturday.

A stolen motorcycle, a weapon, and master keys reportedly used to unlock motorcycles were also recovered during the arrest. CCTV footage from two separate incidents reportedly shows the constable stealing motorcycles with professional precision.

The spokesperson added that Waryam Khan had previously been arrested in a case related to illegal weapons. Police alleged that the suspect used to sell stolen motorcycles to drug dealers.

Seven separate cases of motorcycle theft have been registered against him at different police stations, and further investigation is under way.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 12/10/2025)

Rangers, police devise strategy to improve law and order in city

A security conference was held at the headquarters of Pakistan Rangers Sindh on Saturday to review security arrangements and improve the overall law and order situation in the metropolis.

According to an official statement issued by the spokesperson for the paramilitary force, the meeting was chaired by Director General Sindh Rangers Maj Gen Mohammed Shamraiz and Inspector General of Sindh Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon.

Additional IGP Karachi, Additional IGP CTD, Additional IGP Special Branch, all DIGs, the Joint DG Intelligence Bureau, and senior officials of the Rangers and intelligence agencies also attended the meeting.

It was decided to further strengthen joint operations of the Rangers, police, and intelligence agencies against terrorists and miscreants, and to enhance checking at the entry and exit points of the provincial capital.

The law enforcement agencies also chalked out a strategy to curb extortion, targeted killings, illegal display of arms, and other crimes. Under the plan, foolproof security would be provided to the business community and foreigners through effective patrolling and snap checking.

The participants also emphasised the need for inter-provincial cooperation among law enforcement agencies to eliminate anti-state activities.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 12/10/2025)

Karachi fishermen share tales of horrific torture in Indian prisons after May flare-up

Some 42 of the 48 Pakistani fishermen released from Indian jails and handed over to Pakistani authorities through the Wagah Border reached Karachi on Monday after a long wait of over a month because of the uncertain situation in Lahore. There are still six of them awaiting government clearance in Lahore.

The expected time of arrival of the fishermen reaching the city by road from Lahore, thanks to the Edhi Foundation, was 12 noon, though they reached the Edhi Centre at Kharadar after 2:30pm. Still, the media gathered there already felt like they knew each and every one of them, as they had heard so much about them from their family members waiting for them there since morning.

What's common is the story of the horrible torture they endured in custody after the May conflict between Pakistan and India. They were routinely subjected to physical abuse just for being Pakistani citizens.

There was Shamsa from Malir waiting for her elder brother Habibullah with his 10-year-old son Faizan. Every now and then her eyes would pool up with tears.

Hanif Katiyar was waiting for his son Sattar and brothers Ahmed, Hassan and Ghulam Hussain. "My brothers' families cannot wait to see them, just like I cannot wait to see my son," he said.

Noor-ul-Amin from Machhar Colony was waiting for his brother Noor Hussain with his five-year-old daughter Areeba Noor, wearing pink goggles and a shimmery blue dress. "My brother has been languishing in an Indian jail since 2013. He has several new family members to meet now, starting with my little girl who can't wait to meet her uncle," he said.

There was also Mohammed Hussain from Keamari Town waiting for his son-in-law Akhtar Ali, father of four. "His two older sons are already working at Karachi Fisheries. He can find work there too. He doesn't need to go out to sea again," the father-in-law said.

The wait was finally over. Very moving scenes were witnessed all around as the fishermen were reunited with their families.

The returning fishermen also had horrible stories to share. They said they were beaten up and burned with iron plates and rods in Indian jails.

Abdul Rehman's entire left side was paralysed. He was on a stretcher and could not speak very well as he gestured with his right hand.

Abdul Rasheed said that he was made to do hard labour in the Indian jail. "They made me lift huge rocks. If I faltered, they beat me badly. If I asked for food, they beat me more and only gave me stale food to eat," he said while picking up his young son Asim, whom he held close to his heart. The rose garland that others had put around his neck, he put around his son's neck and kissed his cheeks.

Ghulam Hussain also said that he had to lift heavy construction material. "I only lifted heavy rocks and bricks and took heavy beatings and abuses," he said.

"I was arrested three years ago, and things were not as bad as they got this year. The jail staff told me that I deserved all the beatings I got because I belonged to the enemy country, Pakistan," he added.

Mujeebur Rehman and Akhtar Ali pointed to their burnt feet and legs. "They had hot iron rods and plates to hit us with if they thought we were being lazy," said Rehman.

"I was arrested by the Indian coastguards four years ago. Earlier, things were normal, but this year I was told by the jail staff that I deserved a fate worse than death because I was Pakistani," he shared.

Showing charcoal-coloured scars on his legs, Akhtar Ali said that he will carry the scars he received on his body and his heart in India all his life. "Are they not human beings? They treated us worse than animals. Hurling abuses at us, they would tell us that Pakistanis are worse than animals," he wept at the memory.

Fishermen's Cooperative Society chairperson Fatima Majeed Motani, who was also there to receive the fishermen and present them with some cash, said that fishermen on both sides, Pakistan and India, are innocent.

"They unknowingly cross the invisible boundaries at sea in search of livelihood," she said.

"It is sad that India treats Pakistani fishermen harshly, while Pakistani authorities behave politely with Indian fishermen caught on this side for unknowingly crossing over to our side," she added.

"I urge the United Nations to come up with some kind of international law for the release of these innocent people," she said.

According to Ahmed Edhi, the maternal grandson of the late Abdul Sattar Edhi, the Edhi Foundation has always taken the responsibility of facilitating Pakistani as well as Indian fishermen.

"We transport Indian fishermen released from jails in Sindh to the Wagah Border with gifts from Pakistan, and we bring Pakistani fishermen handed over to Pakistani authorities at Wagah to their cities of residence.

In the process, we take good care of their needs and requirements such as food and stay," he said, adding that there are still some 64 Pakistani fishermen languishing in Indian jails who should also be returned soon.
(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 13, 14/10/2025)

Bail plea of man who 'shared images of ex-wife on social media' dismissed

A judicial magistrate has dismissed the bail application of a man in a case pertaining to allegedly sharing his ex-wife's personal photos and videos on WhatsApp after the woman filed a suit for dissolution of marriage through Khula.

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) had booked the suspect under Sections 20 (offences against dignity of a natural person), 21 (offences against modesty of a natural person and minor) and 24 (cyber stalking) of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), 2016.

According to the complainant, after she filed a suit for Khula (separation) from her husband, he allegedly began harassing, stalking and intimidating her.

She further alleged that the suspect shared her personal pictures and videos with her brother on WhatsApp to threaten her.

During interrogation, the suspect claimed that his mobile phone had been stolen on a public bus. However, the FIR stated that the NCCIA's initial technical analysis report found that the WhatsApp number and account used to share the material belonged to the suspect, and that the offence had been committed from his account.

After hearing both sides, Judicial Magistrate (Central) Muhammad Jameel dismissed the post-arrest bail application, observing that the suspect had failed to make out a case for the grant of bail.

"The nature of allegations against the accused is grave and pertains to cyber harassment, transmission of objectionable material, and blackmailing of the complainant and her brother. The recovery of obscene content from the complainant's brother's mobile phone raises serious concerns regarding the misuse of digital platforms and the malicious intent behind such actions," the court observed.

State Prosecutor Shiraz Rajper opposed the bail plea, arguing that the WhatsApp number from which the content was sent was registered in the suspect's name. He submitted that the allegations against the suspect were of a serious nature.

On the other hand, the defence counsel contended that his client had been falsely implicated. He claimed that before the filing of the Khula suit, the complainant was living with the suspect and had herself shared her photos and videos from his number to her brother to falsely implicate him in the case.

However, the court noted that the defence claim that the videos were sent by the complainant herself to frame the suspect was without merit.

"No illegality or irregularity can be inferred from the forensic process and submission of devices," the order stated.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 15/10/2025)

Karachi man fatally burns neighbour's two children, takes his own life

A man in his 50s, said to be a drug addict, set four of his neighbour's children on fire, killing two of them, and then took his own life with a knife, officials said on Wednesday.

They said that the man took the extreme step because the children used to "tease" him about his drug addiction.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that at around 2pm an incident of fire took place inside a house in Mowach Goth in which four children sustained burn wounds.

The officer said during the initial probe it emerged that a drug addict named Yunus used to live alone in Kachela Goth near Ghousia Masjid.

After a quarrel with the children, he sprinkled a blanket with oil, set it on fire, and threw it into his neighbour's courtyard. He also threw a bottle of petrol, which accelerated the fire, causing burn injuries to the four children.

The kids were taken to Burns Centre of the Civil Hospital Karachi where two of them died at night during treatment.

The DIG told *Dawn* that the girl Fahmida Shaukat Ali, 13, and two-year-old Ayaz Qurban succumbed to their wounds while two of the children — Faraz Qurban, four and Soni Hasan, six — were still under treatment with severe wounds.

The police surgeon said that Ayaz had suffered 100pc burns.

The DIG said the suspect attempted to flee by scaling a wall of a near-by brick warehouse. Later, he slit his neck with a knife. He was taken to the CHK where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 16/10/2025)

Karachi's decades-old Afghan camp emptied as land mafias clash with police

As tensions between neighboring countries escalate, land grabbers swiftly moved in to occupy the homes and shops of Afghan nationals who had been repatriated from Karachi's Gulshan-e-Maymar Afghan Refugee Camp.

The families left on an emergency basis, triggering a large-scale anti-encroachment operation. The repatriation of Afghan refugees from the camp led to a confrontation when squatters, accompanied by women and children, began moving into the vacated houses.

The operation, launched by various civic and law enforcement agencies, turned violent when illegal occupants resisted and attacked police officers with stones. In response, authorities used baton charges and detained several suspects.

During the day-long operation, dozens of unoccupied houses were demolished. The operation was carried out jointly by the Malir Development Authority (MDA), Anti-Encroachment Department, Police, Rangers, Deputy Commissioner (West), and Revenue officials.

Land mafia seizes vacant homes

Witnesses reported that as Afghan families prepared to return to their homeland, organised land mafia groups and miscreants began claiming the vacated homes.

These groups spray-painted ownership marks on walls and moved in with household items. In some areas, groups—including women and children—set up barriers to block police entry, even setting fires to deter demolition teams.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Afghan families continued loading their belongings onto trucks bound for Afghanistan. Others were seen selling household goods at very low prices, attracting large crowds of local buyers. Labourers were also seen extracting steel rods and materials from demolished structures.

Joint operation to clear state land

Authorities launched an operation early Wednesday morning, using heavy machinery to remove illegal constructions from more than 200 acres of government-owned land. This land contains around 3,000 housing units. Officials stated that the operation will continue until all unauthorized structures are razed.

MDA Director of State and Enforcement Mohammad Farooq Bugti explained that the operation was part of a broader government policy linked to the Afghan repatriation.

"The Afghan camp was established in 1984 after the war. Now, under federal policy, Afghan nationals are being repatriated. Over 50% of the 3,000 houses have already been vacated, and the remaining will be cleared soon," he said.

He emphasised that the land belongs to the state and must be returned to government control. "There were some clashes between police and land grabbers who tried to create law and order problems, but the joint forces acted swiftly to restore control," he added.

Law enforcement response

West SSP Tariq Elahi Mastoi stated that the operation was in line with national policy. "For over five decades, Pakistan has hosted our Afghan brothers, sharing our homes, land, and food," he said. "Now, in accordance with the new policy, they are being repatriated with dignity."

Mastoi also mentioned that of the approximately 15,000 registered Afghan refugees who once lived in the camp, more than 8,000 have already returned to Afghanistan.

"The vacated houses are being demolished as they were illegally constructed on state land. No major protests have been reported, as the residents were informed about the policy," he added.

West Anti-Encroachment SHO Shayan Anjum explained that once Afghan families began leaving, land mafia groups tried to take over. "They spray-painted the walls and attempted to claim ownership. We received complaints on Tuesday night, and by 6 am Wednesday, the operation was underway," he said.

He confirmed that over 250 houses and permanent structures had been demolished so far. "Around 1,300 Afghan residents remain, pending verification or short-term extensions," he added. The land, part of MDA's Taiser Town ballot sector, cannot be privately occupied.

"The situation was chaotic, with several groups dividing plots among themselves. However, the operation has restored control, and more demolitions will follow," Anjum concluded.

As the state enforces its repatriation policy and reclaims public land, Karachi's decades-old Afghan refugee settlement is rapidly emptying. Although about 1,300 Afghans remain in the area, officials expect the camp to be completely vacated soon. This will mark the end of one of the city's largest and longest-running refugee communities.

(By Sajid Rauf The Express Tribune, 04, 16/10/2025)

Demolition of empty Afghan refugee homes continues at Karachi's Northern Bypass

The demolition of vacated houses at the Northern Bypass Afghan Refugee Camp continued smoothly on Thursday, following the repatriation of Afghan refugees from the area. Under the supervision of the Malir Development Authority's Anti-Encroachment Department and with the presence of heavy police contingents, more than 200 empty houses were demolished during the day.



Officials said the operation is proceeding without resistance, and structures identified for demolition will be cleared by Friday. They added that viral videos on social media - showing encroachers marking and occupying empty homes in the settlement - prompted swift action from authorities. In the past two days alone, over 400 illegal structures have been razed with the help of heavy machinery.

Police officers at the site confirmed that the process of reclaiming state land is progressing in an orderly manner and that the situation is now under control, with no likelihood of unrest.

Meanwhile, several Afghan families remain in the settlement, packing up their belongings as they prepare to leave. Many have been seen selling scrap materials such as iron rods, doors, and window frames from their homes to local dealers, while taking household goods with them for their journey back to Afghanistan.

Fifty-year-old Abdul Samad, one of the long-time residents, shared his mixed emotions: "We came here as children and are now leaving in old age. Pakistan has been our home, and leaving it brings both sadness and hope.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 17/10/2025)

Cost of violence

FINANCE Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's acknowledgement that Pakistan's financial stability hinges on curbing militancy is a rare moment of candidness in our economic policy discourse. For too long, policymakers have refrained from admitting how militant violence and political instability drive away foreign investment. At a media briefing in Washington, Mr Aurangzeb stated that sustained economic development and investor confidence depended on domestic peace and political cohesion. "From a financial angle, this action [against militant groups] is necessary," he said, underscoring a reality long known but rarely spoken of — Pakistan's economic prospects are deeply intertwined with its ability to effectively curb militancy. During his weeklong visit to the US, the minister faced recurring questions from credit rating agencies, international bankers and institutional investors, who asked if Pakistan's security environment had finally begun to align with its economic ambitions. The question was a valid one.

Security concerns have emerged as the biggest constraint to potential Chinese investment despite a friendship touted as 'higher than the Himalayas and sweeter than honey'. The very fact that such worries weigh heavily on foreign investors shows how inseparable Pakistan's image as an investment destination is with its domestic security landscape. No wonder, the interior minister often finds himself trying to reassure foreign investors of their protection amid terrorist violence. While terrorist attacks are reported from across the country, militant violence has particularly surged in KP and Balochistan. The numbers speak for themselves. In the third quarter — July to September — of this year, the numbers show how high violence has soared as compared to the previous quarter due to increasing militant attacks amid intensified counterterrorism operations. This year is on track to be deadlier than 2024, and is already the most violent one in a decade. The political polarisation referred to by Mr Aurangzeb, further complicates the environment needed for sustained investment and economic growth. Our long-term economic ambition and ability to attract foreign investors depends on restoring the authority of the state and tackling the root causes of militancy — not just through the use of kinetic force against extremists but also through engaging with disillusioned segments of the populace where possible, as well as establishing the rule of law. In short, domestic peace, governance and economic progress are interconnected and interdependent, and, therefore, must move together.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 21/10/2025)

Two ASWJ men gunned down in 'targeted attack'

Two activists of the outlawed Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) were shot dead in what police described as a targeted attack apparently on sectarian grounds in North Karachi on Monday evening.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi told Dawn that assailants riding a motorbike emerged at a shop close to Masjid Siddique-i-Akbar near Nagan Chowranghi, opened indiscriminate fire and rode away.

As a result of firing, shop owner Shah Ahmed Awais Pirzada, 32, and his employee, Abu Bakar, 30, suffered critical bullet wounds. They were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors pronounced them dead on arrival.

He said investigators collected five spent bullet casings fired from a 9mm pistol and also obtained CCTV footage from the spot.

West-Zone DIG Irfan Ali Baloch told Dawn that the double murder appeared to be an outcome of targeted killings linked with possible sectarianism.

He said a murder case was registered and the investigation had been handed over to the Counter-Terrorism Department.

He said CCTV footage showed both assailants wore masks.

Condemning the incident, an ASWJ spokesperson said that deceased Pirzada was a religious scholar and originally hailed from Gilgit.

He said that their party's head office was located at Nagan Chowrangi, but the police did not provide them any security.

However, the DIG said it was the domain of the threat assessment committee to decide about provision of security.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/10/2025)

Jobless man in custody 'for murdering 2 daughters' in Karachi

An unemployed man, said to be suffering from financial problems, allegedly killed his two daughters in Block-G of North Nazimabad on Tuesday, police and rescuers said.

They added that Akbar Sattar, around 50, killed Aliya, 15, and Zainab, nine, by cutting their necks with a knife at their home in Kausar Niazi Colony.

The police arrested the suspect, seized the murder weapon and booked him in a murder case. The officials stated that during the initial probe it transpired that the man was suffering from financial problems. He had borrowed money and was unable to repay his debt.

There were arrears of "different committees" against him.

The police said the suspect was the father of six children: one son and five daughters. The two deceased daughters were the third and fourth children by birth order.

Hyderi Market police station SHO Adeel Ahmed told *Dawn* that the suspect appeared to be a "shrewd man" as he was frequently changing his statements.

He said the suspect claimed that he killed his elder daughter because she used to talk to someone on the cell phone. He said there was no one else present at the time of the incident at the residence.

The bodies were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

A murder case has been registered against Akbar at the Hyderi Market police station on the complaint of his married son, Arsalan.

According to FIR, the complainant said that he was present at his in-laws' house in the same Kausar Niazi Colony when his aunt Sakeena informed him at 7am that his father had killed his two sisters.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 22/10/2025)

Three suspects arrested for trans persons' triple murder

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested three suspects for allegedly killing three transgender persons on the outskirts of the city last month.

The Memon Goth police, acting on a tip-off, conducted a raid and apprehended Sikander, Sohail and Sikander Ali.

During the interrogation, the suspects said that they were under the influence of narcotics and they opened indiscriminate fire, killing three transgender individuals on the spot at midnight between September 20 and 21 within the remit of the Memon Goth police station.

Malir SSP (Investigation) Asif Ahmed Bughio told *Dawn* that the suspects had brought the trans persons at a desolate place for what he described as "immoral acts". They were under the influence of narcotics. A quarrel erupted between them and after a heated argument, the suspects opened fire, resulting in the deaths of the three trans persons.

The police said they arrested the three suspects while there were two more suspects involved in the gruesome murder and efforts were underway to arrest them.

One held suspect Sohail belongs to Karachi while two other suspects were residents of other districts of Sindh, according to a police statement.

The police claimed that the arrested suspects were members of a gang involved in street crimes and other criminal activities in the city.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 22/10/2025)

No armed group will be allowed to operate in country, declares Naqvi

In a strong message, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi made it clear on Tuesday that the federal government would take decisive action against any armed group operating in the country, regardless of its location or affiliation.

He also issued a firm rebuttal to the growing perception on social media, clarifying that the federal government was not targeting any specific religious sect.

The interior minister held a meeting with leaders of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan at the Sindh Governor House.

Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, MQM-P Chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and senior leaders Dr Farooq Sattar and Aminul Haque lauded Mr Naqvi's recent role in handling the law and order situation and in upholding the writ of the state across the four provinces.

Later, accompanied by the MQM-P leaders the interior minister told reporters at the Governor House that the ongoing actions were solely against armed groups, not peaceful religious communities.

"No one carrying weapons or operating in the form of armed jathas [groups] will be allowed to function under any circumstances," he said when asked about the possibility of a ban on Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), without directly addressing the question. "Wherever an armed group is found — in any province — there will be action. That is non-negotiable."

Mr Naqvi expressed "immense respect" for religious leaders, scholars and clerics, emphasising that the government's actions were not aimed at any particular sect or group but only at those challenging the writ of the state.

"There was a perception being built on social media that the federal government is targeting a particular religious sect," he said. "Such claims are completely false. We respect all our ulema, and this government has always stood by them. Pakistan was founded in the name of Islam, and our support for religious scholars and clerics remains firm. But anyone who comes armed will, under no circumstances, be allowed to operate."

Naqvi meets religious scholars, clerics to address reservations

Before arriving at the Governor's House, Mr Naqvi, accompanied by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, met prominent scholars and clerics at the residence of Mufti Muneebur Rehman.

Both sides agreed to convene a comprehensive meeting in Islamabad in the coming days to address key concerns raised by religious leaders. The scholars and clerics were assured that all legitimate and genuine issues presented by them would be addressed on a priority basis. A statement issued after the meeting said that a detailed discussion took place regarding "recent developments", and the scholars expressed their viewpoints on various issues.

Mr Naqvi reiterated that the government remained committed to non-interference in the affairs of religious seminaries (madaris) and mosques.

"The government will not interfere in the affairs of madaris and mosques," the statement quoted him as saying.

To ensure continued engagement, it was also agreed that a dedicated focal person would be appointed to maintain constant communication and coordination between the government and religious leadership, the statement added.

Other participants of the meeting included Allama Syed Muzaffar Shah, Mufti Abid Mubarak, Allama Liaqat Hussain Azhari, Allama Rehan Azhar Naumani, Mufti Rafiur Rehman Noorani, Allama Ashraf Gormani and Allama Ahmed Rabbani.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 22/10/2025)

The 'hard state' approach

AS the administration expands its dragnet around the TLP, there is once again talk in official circles of applying the 'hard state' approach to tackling extremism. It is clear that after the TLP's latest gambit failed — marching on Islamabad in supposed solidarity with Gaza — and resulted in deadly showdowns with the law, the state is giving no quarter to the hard-line outfit.

In the latest developments, along with mulling a ban on the party, the Punjab government says around 3,800 financiers of the TLP have been identified. The federal interior minister, while on a visit to Karachi on Tuesday, also said that armed groups would not be tolerated.

However, meeting with senior Barelvi clerics in the city, the minister assured them that the crackdown was not targeted at any particular sect. When Defence Minister Khawaja Asif was asked about the ban on TV, he did not confirm the decision. Yet he reiterated that Pakistan must act as a "hard state" to crack down on extremism.

The TLP's tactics over its decade-long existence have been largely indefensible, as it has resorted to the use of violent agitation as an organisational tool, taking on the state at multiple junctures. Moreover, its campaigns of targeting minority groups have borne deadly results. In fact, it can be asked what took the state so long to notice its illegal, violent activities.

Yet it is also true that in the guise of fighting extremism, the state must not crack down on all opposition, and trample on civil liberties. This is all the more important when some representatives of the state use overly broad definitions of extremism, and lump together political opponents with bloodthirsty militants and hatemongers.

There is genuine concern that in their excitement to build a 'hard state', the rulers may further smother fundamental rights, while justifying crackdowns on opposition parties, going after dissenting journalists and restricting peaceful protests — all in the name of fighting 'extremism'. While violent groups must be put out of business, constitutional safeguards need to be upheld, and civil liberties protected.

As this paper has stated, instead of banning groups, the best way to proceed against outfits such as the TLP would be to prosecute them under relevant sections of the law, for example, those that deal with inciting violence and promoting hate speech. Sadly, proponents of the hard state overlook the root problems that have fuelled militancy in the country. In those parts of Pakistan that have been hardest hit by terrorist activity — KP and Balochistan — poverty, injustice and underdevelopment have helped militant groups increase their ranks.

Therefore, while those who promote violence must be prosecuted, the state's long-term goal should be to promise justice, inclusivity and prosperity across the country, particularly in its deprived areas.
(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 23/10/2025)

Youth mistaken as robbershot dead by hotel owner

A 24-year-old man was shot dead when the owner of a restaurant in Lyari's Old Haji Camp opened fire, mistaking him for a robber. Police later confirmed the deceased, Muhammad Mustafa, was a police informant and that the shooting occurred during a search operation targeting illegal foreign residents.

The incident took place around 12:40 am at Al-Hafeez Meezan Restaurant, commonly known as Bhutto Hotel. CCTV footage showed the staff dining when two plainclothes men entered, causing panic. The owner, Sanauallah son of Azizullah, drew his licensed 9mm pistol and fired, hitting Mustafa in the head. He was rushed to Civil Hospital Karachi but succumbed to his injuries.

According to police, Sanauallah believed the men were robbers or target killers after hearing shouting outside. He claimed cash was kept at the counter and he acted in fear. Co-owner Saeed Ahsanullah said they did not know the plainclothes men were working with the police and mistook them for attackers amid Karachi's deteriorating law and order situation.

Napier SHO Ali Baqar reached the scene, detained the hotel owner, and recovered the weapon. Two FIRs have been registered - one for murder on the complaint of Mustafa's father, and another under the Arms Act.

Police sources confirmed that Mustafa and his companion were assisting the police in locating illegal foreign residents in the area. The shooting, they said, was a result of a tragic misunderstanding during the operation.

The victim's uncle, Tariq Mahmood, appealed to senior officials for justice, saying, "My nephew was innocent. He was wrongly killed - strict action must be taken against those responsible."
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 23/10/2025)

Two suspected robbers shot dead in Keamari 'encounter'

Two suspected robbers were gunned down in an alleged encounter in the Keamari area on Wednesday evening, police said.

Jackson SHO Rana Khushi Mohammed said that two robbers riding a motorcycle intercepted an SUV but the driver hit their bike.

As a result, both suspects fell and in the meantime, a police patrol arrived at the scene and challenged them. On seeing the police, the suspects resorted to firing and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire, both the suspects were killed on the spot.

Two pistols, cash and one motorcycle were recovered from their custody.

Suspect lynched by mob

In another early morning incident in Korangi, a suspected robber was shot dead and another critically wounded by an angry mob during an attempted robbery, police and rescue officials said.

They said the two suspects tried to rob a place in Noorani Basti of Chakra Goth. Local residents resisted, apprehended the suspects, and began beating them. The mob also opened fire, killing one suspect on the spot and critically wounding the other. Police from Zaman Town arrived, took custody of the body and the wounded suspect and transferred them to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for treatment and medico-legal formalities.

Their identities could not be ascertained till late in night.

Restaurant owner kills man he 'presumed was robber'

A young man was killed allegedly by a restaurant owner after he mistook him for a robber in the Lyari area, police said.

Kalakot SHO Agha Mashooq said that two friends entered the restaurant to purchase food. The owner, assuming they were robbers, opened fire on them. As a result, 24-year-old Mustafa Sikander was critically wounded. He was rushed to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, where he died during treatment, the officer added.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 23/10/2025)

CTD arrest two ‘militants linked to banned outfit’ over sectarian killings

The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Thursday claimed to have arrested two members of an outlawed sectarian group in connection with recent targeted killings based on sectarianism.

Speaking at a press conference, CTD DIG Azfar Mahesar said that in an intelligence-based operation two suspects linked with the Zainabiyoun Brigade (ZB) — Israr Husain Gilgati and Masoom Raza, alias Amirullah, alias Imran Mota — and recovered two 9mm pistols and two grenades from their possession.

Flanked by CTD SSPs Irfan Ali Bahadur and Malik Sanghar, DIG Mahesar said that during initial probe the held suspects revealed that they had been involved in recent terrorist acts linked with sectarianism in Karachi.

The suspects stated that they had carried out targeted killing of Qari Anas on University Road in Gulistan-i-Jauhar near Samama Shopping Centre recently.

DIG claims held suspects received list of targets, funding from handlers in neighbouring country

They further revealed that they had killed Qari Abdul Rehman in Sherpao Colony in May 2025 on “sectarian grounds”, added the counter-terror force official.

Masoom Raza’s name was also included in the terrorists’ most wanted list (Red Book), the officer added.

During interrogation, it transpired that the held suspects were ‘active members’ of the ZB who had carried out planning for terrorism to further the group’s interests in Karachi.

The suspects also disclosed their “foreign links”, saying that the outfit’s main leader lived in a “neighbouring country” from where they received financial assistance and a list of targets. However, the CTD DIG did not disclose the name of that neighbouring country.

The suspects also told the interrogators that their other accomplices were also involved in killings linked with sectarianism in Karachi.

The officials said “concerted efforts” were underway to arrest them.

“The suspects and their facilitators involved in recent targeted killings in Karachi have been identified,” said the CTD DIG, adding that teams had been formed for their arrest.

Meanwhile, CTD SSP Irfan Ali Bahadur told Dawn that Masoom Raza was a resident of Karachi. He had remained associated with the ‘Mehdi Force’ of the outlawed Sipah-i-Mohammed Pakistan.

The SSP recalled that Masoom Raza was also involved in deadly armed attack on a caravan of banned Ahle Sunnat Waljamaat leader, Maulana Aurangzeb Farooqi in Gulshan-i-Iqbal in year 2012 in which seven people, including four policemen, were killed while five others, including Maulana Farooqi, were injured.

Masoom Raza had fled to a neighbouring country where he stayed for a long time. He had recently come back to Karachi to carry out killings.

The SSP said another suspect Israr had come to Karachi around eight months ago for the identical purpose of targeted killings linked with sectarianism.

Responding to a question, the SSP Bahadur clarified that the held suspects were not involved in recent targeted killings of two ASWJ activists near Nagan Chowrangi.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 24/10/2025)

Manslaughter FIR lodged against seven policemen over death in custody

A manslaughter case was registered against seven policemen, and two of them were arrested on Saturday for their alleged involvement in the custodial death of a young man.

Muhammad Irfan died in the custody of the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) after he, along with his three friends, was picked up from the Federal B Area on Oct 22. The cause of death is yet to be ascertained by doctors, but police claimed that he died of a heart attack.

While the case was registered on behalf of the state, the victim’s relatives on Saturday took his coffin and staged a sit-in outside the Edhi morgue in Sohrab Goth, demanding that the FIR be registered on their complaint.

Their protest caused one of the worst traffic jams on Shahrah-i-Pakistan, as long queues of vehicles were seen trapped in traffic on the track leading to Sohrab Goth.

Family's protest outside Edhi morgue in Sohrab Goth causes traffic mess on Shahrah-i-Pakistan for hours

A traffic police spokesperson in a statement said that movement of traffic from the Edhi Centre in Sohrab Goth towards Shafiq Mor on Rashid Minhas Road was stopped due to the protest.

Traffic coming from Gulshan-i-Iqbal was being diverted to Shahrah-i-Pakistan from under the bridge, while vehicles coming from Water Pump were being diverted towards Al-Asif Square.

Meanwhile, the Saddar police registered the case under Sections 319 (manslaughter) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code against nominated SIU officers on behalf of the state through Inspector Mumtaz Ahmed.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that the SIU police had handed over the custody of two suspects nominated in the FIR — ASI Abid Shah and Constable Asif Ali — who had been arrested.

"If need be, we shall convert the case to 302 [premeditated murder] and arrest more SIU officials if they were found involved," the DIG added.

He also confirmed that "preliminary post-mortem report [of the victim, Irfan] establishes torture".

Family's protest. Meanwhile, a large number of relatives and community members staged a sit-in outside the Edhi morgue, carrying the coffin of Irfan, whose body was kept at the morgue.

They blocked the main road. A senior journalist and one of the protesters, Shahid Jatoi, told Dawn that they were protesting because the case had been registered on the complaint of the "killers".

He said when the relatives had held a protest at the same venue on Friday night, police authorities had promised them that an FIR would be registered on the complaint of the heirs of the victim.

Subsequently, Mr Jatoi added, the relatives visited the SIU/CIA centre on Friday night to lodge an FIR, but the police had already registered a case on behalf of the state.

They were informed that since an FIR had been registered, a second FIR could not be registered for the same offence.

He said that since the three other people, who had been detained along with Irfan, had been released and cleared of any wrongdoing, they believed that the victim and the others were "innocent", but they had been tortured in the police custody, leading to the death of the young boy.

The protesters urged the chief minister of Sindh and the IG of police to provide them justice.

Meanwhile, a traffic police spokesperson in a statement said that movement of traffic from the Edhi Centre in Sohrab Goth towards Shafiq Mor on Rashid Minhas Road was stopped due to the protest.

Traffic coming from Gulshan-i-Iqbal was being diverted to Shahrah-i-Pakistan from under the bridge, while vehicles coming from Water Pump were being diverted towards Al-Asif Square.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 26/10/2025)

Judicial inquiry ordered into death of youth in SIU custody

The Sindh government has decided to order a judicial inquiry into the death of a young man after his family and relatives staged a prolonged protest sit-in against Special Investigation Unit (SIU) officials and demanded that they be booked in a murder cases.

Muhammad Irfan was arrested by the SIU police party along with his three other friends on October 22. He died under controversial circumstances inside the SIU Centre on the same day.

While the preliminary findings of a post-mortem examination conducted in the presence of a judicial magistrate concerned at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre suggested multiple injuries on the body, the police insisted that the youth died of heart attack.

The police had registered a manslaughter case against seven policemen and claimed to have arrested only two of them.

However, the case was rejected by the relatives who held an hours-long sit-in near the Edhi morgue at Sohrab Goth, demanding that the case be registered on their complaint.

Against this backdrop, Sindh Home Minister Zia Lanjar on Sunday took notice of the incident and asked the home secretary to initiate the process of a judicial inquiry into the case.

A spokesperson said in a statement that a thorough forensic examination and investigation of the incident should be carried out and whoever is involved must be taken to task.

The case should be taken to a logical conclusion with the help of modern techniques, he said, adding: "I feel sorry that the child has died in the custody of the police."

The hours-long protest sit-in by relatives and community members ended on Saturday night after assurances from higher police authorities that justice would be provided to them, said senior journalist Shahid Jatoi, one of the protesters.

He said that the body was taken to his native village, Bait Ahmed, in Ahmedpur East on Saturday night, where thousands of people attended his funeral prayer.

He said that on Saturday night, the DIG and SSP SIU spoke with the relatives and himself and promised that after receipt of the final report of the doctors, Section 302 (premeditated murder) would be incorporated in the FIR.

The journalist said it was the demand of the heirs that the FIR should be registered on their complaint. However, he said they would welcome a judicial inquiry into the incident.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 27/10/2025)

Weapon displays

IT is commendable that the Punjab government is moving to eliminate illegal weapons from the province. It now remains to be seen how effective and equitable the crackdown proves to be.

The decision, taken during a Friday meeting presided over by the provincial chief executive, entails the introduction of new laws in the province, integrated security measures and the regulation of licensed arms through strict scrutiny of their bearers. Separately, the provincial police chief has announced the Punjab Surrender of Illegal Arms Act, 2025, which is to be implemented in a phased manner.

The first phase will seek the surrender of all illegal weapons, which will then be destroyed in the second phase. Finally, the provincial police force will move to enforce more strictly various arms-related laws. It appears that its recent confrontation with a religio-political party has shaken the Punjab government into action, and it now wishes to reassert the state's monopoly over violence.

This is all well and good, and the initiative must be supported if the intention is to secure peace for the province. At the same time, it must be highlighted that Punjab Police itself has recently been at the centre of a serious controversy involving extrajudicial killings. If the bearing of arms is to be strictly regulated, it follows naturally that those who are allowed to carry deadly weapons should be held to a very strict standard of conduct.

The Punjab government and its police force seem keen to enforce strict standards on civilians, as they should, but what seems missing is any standard for self-accountability, even as the number of deadly police 'encounters' continues to rise. It is here that the Punjab government must demonstrate that the measures being taken to prevent gun violence are meant for everyone's protection. It must hold errant officers to account as well.

That said, the other provinces would do well to also pay attention to the problem. Gun-toting guards have become a sought-after symbol of power in urban areas, especially Karachi, and the rapid proliferation of this practice has made it very difficult to ascertain who bears arms rightfully and who bears them just to intimidate others. Ideally, no display of weapons in public should be allowed at all, but given the country's perennially troubled security environment, armed guards may be necessary in some contexts.

For such cases, apart from extensive checks and scrutiny of arms licences, as well as mandatory psychological examinations of those who seek to bear them, the state must also consider measures like requiring private guards to wear a universally recognisable uniform so that it is easier for the public to feel more at ease among those carrying arms openly. Peaceful citizens should feel safe wherever they go. Much needs to be done to ensure that.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 27/10/2025)

Premeditated murder?

The custodial death of Muhammad Irfan, a teenager from Karachi, is neither the first, nor will it be the last. Unfortunately!

Excesses on the part of law enforcement agencies, especially the police, have become a new normal, proving the bitter reality that the rule of law is missing and authorities are unaccountable. Such incidents are occasionally reported from across the country and end up in the footnotes of filework without any retribution.

The arrest of a couple of youngsters from a locality in Karachi on charges of video-recording ATMs, in this incident, ultimately graduated into a custodial killing. The only solace is that the seven policemen allegedly involved have been booked, and one hopes law will take its course in ushering timely justice. As has become a routine, the FIR of the incident was not registered on behalf of the victim's family, and the state authorities were instead recognised as complainant.

This is travesty of justice and fair play, and constitutes the first obstruction on the path of dispensation of justice. It is bothersome as to why the police are always reluctant in registering cases on victim's complaint when stipulation from law is obvious. This proves the ill-will at inception in an attempt to hoodwink the entire process.

The courage exhibited by Irfan's family and supporters by staging a protest sit-in is laudable, and has provided an opportunity to unmask the culprits. The police's claim that Irfan died of heart attack makes the entire episode fishy. Moreover, the torture marks evident on his body confirm high-handedness. The police must carry out a thorough probe into the allegations of torture and subsequent death of the accused in lawful custody.

This custodial death of a teenager underscores the undeniable need for abiding by the SOPs so that greedy and egocentric officers do not go over the brink. Irfan's case should be registered under PPC 302 (premeditated murder) and his family be taken on board as probe gets underway. The accused in the grab of uniform should not go off the hook.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 27/10/2025)

Banned outfit targeted journalist Imtiaz Mir: home minister

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar on Monday announced that four suspected militants were arrested for murdering journalist and anchorperson Imtiaz Mir.

On Sept 21, Mir had left his office and was travelling in a car driven by his elder brother when armed men on motorcycles opened fire on the vehicle near Malir Kala Board. The journalist sustained multiple bullet wounds and died during treatment. At that time, the police claimed that the murder was motivated by some personal enmity.

Speaking at a press conference at the Karachi Police Office, the minister said that Karachi police and two intelligence agencies had jointly carried out a raid and apprehended the four suspects belonging to a banned militant outfit.

The suspects were identified as Ajlal Zaidi, Shahab Asghar, Ahsan Abbas and Faraz Ahmed. They are said to be associated with "Lashkar Sarullah", which is part of the banned Zainabiyoun Brigade.

He said the suspects, all residents of Nazimabad, were taking directions from their handler(s) living abroad.

Lanjar announces arrest of four suspected hitmen; says mastermind living in 'neighbouring country'

Flanked by Inspector General of Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon and city police chief Javed Alam Odho, the minister termed the arrests a breakthrough in the murder case. He added that the motorbikes used in the attack had also been recovered.

Mr Lanjar claimed that the slain journalist was targeted because the killers regarded him as an alleged sympathiser of Israel.

The arrested suspects were "educated" individuals, and their ringleader was living in a neighbouring country, he said, without naming the country.

He said that the investigation into the case had been completed. Two federal intelligence agencies had jointly worked with Karachi police during the investigation, and all held suspects had "confessed" their involvement in the murder. One of the suspects also had a previous criminal record, he added.

IGP Memon said that spent bullet casings recovered from the crime scene in Kala Board, Malir, had matched with pistols seized from the custody of the arrested suspects.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 28/10/2025)

State & religious extremism

PAKISTAN has banned the TLP again. It is the second time in four years that the violent religio-political group has been outlawed. The action has been taken by the federal government after the group had turned Lahore into a virtual battlefield, destroying public property and attacking law-enforcement agencies. Several people, including policemen, were killed and wounded.

It was the worst incident of violence perpetrated by a religious group in Lahore in recent times. The government says the state will not succumb to any kind of threat or blackmail this time. The crackdown on the group, which has strong mass support in Punjab, has been intensive. But given its past record of appeasement, there are still doubts over the seriousness of the latest government action.

There is also the question of the policy dealing with violent extremism that is now so deeply entrenched in society. The TLP is just a symptom of a menace that threatens our social fabric and the state's unity. The rise of religious extremism in Pakistan is, to a large extent, the result of the state's own policies.

In fact, the TLP is a product of the impunity allowed by the state to extremist ideology. Has there been a genuine shift in state policy towards religious extremism? Just banning the TLP won't solve the problem of religious extremism in the country. There is no indication of the state willing to completely root out violent extremism.

It is necessary to address the root causes of religious extremism in the country.

A TLP ban in 2021 lasted for only a few months before the state caved in under pressure of the extremist group. Not only was the ban lifted, the party, which was accused of mutiny and killing policemen, was allowed to participate in the general elections. It emerged as the country's fourth largest party in terms of the number of votes, with its main support in Punjab.

That shows how deeply religious extremism has seeped into the mainstream. A party which was born of a movement in support of the killer of a governor of Punjab, who was accused falsely of blasphemy and murdered in 2011, has turned into a major political force in Pakistan's biggest and most powerful province. It could not have happened without the state allowing it impunity. The group saw a meteoric rise after its infamous dharna in Islamabad in 2017 that left the federal capital paralysed for more than a month over a law passed by parliament.

It is curious that the state appeared helpless before a mob of few hundreds challenging parliament and the government's writ. The dharna ended after the administration accepted their demands. Interestingly, the agreement also had the signature of a senior ISI officer. A Supreme Court observation in the case questioned the role of the intelligence agency in the TLP protest. It became quite a scandal when a picture of a senior army officer distributing money among the dispersing crowds after the agreement appeared in the media.

Most alarming was the role of the TLP in weaponising the blasphemy law. There has been a marked increase in mob lynchings on false blasphemy accusations. The lynching of a Sri Lankan employee at a garment factory in Sialkot some years ago, the burning to death of a man in Swat, as well as the shooting of a doctor by a police officer in Mirpurkhas are just a few examples of the misuse of blasphemy laws.

There is also question about the Election Commission's decision to not only register a group with a violent record as a political party but to also allow it to contest elections. The decision violated the law. With its more extremist religious ideology, the TLP managed to eat into the vote bank of other moderate mainstream religio-political parties.

Now the government has decided to ban the TLP and delist it as a political party. The reference is being sent to the Supreme Court for its approval, and it could be that the court won't object to the government's action. But there is still the question of whether merely banning the party can tackle the issue of violent religious extremism. The government action against the TLP was in response to the group's violent protests and not because of its extremist ideology and attacks on religious minorities and their places worship, which have become rampant particularly in Punjab. All that has been happening for a long time without any action by the administration against the perpetrators.

Just banning a party will not be effective if the state is not fully committed to enforcing the law against all religious extremist forces. The real issue is not the group but the extremist ideology it espouses. We have many examples of banned outfits resurfacing under different names. That could also happen in the TLP's case.

It is necessary to address the root causes of religious extremism in the country. Support for the TLP and other extremist groups largely come from semi-educated and deprived sections of society, which are easily swayed. It does not mean, however, that other sections are not influenced as well by radical groups.

A country where over 40 per cent of the population live below the poverty line and 25 million children are out of school provides fertile ground for extremist religious groups to mobilise support. Moreover, the TLP and other extremist groups try to legitimise their actions through some faulty provisions in the law. Exploitation of religion for political gains also provides sustenance to extremist groups.

If the state is sincere about eradicating religious extremism, it needs to address socioeconomic issues. The growing population is adding to the ranks of the unemployed in the country, which means it is also providing easily swayed recruits to extremist groups. Our education system itself creates extremist mindsets. Just banning the TLP without addressing these issues is not going to solve the problem of religious extremism.

(By Zahid Hussain Dawn, 06, 29/10/2025)

'Habitual offender' arrested for looting woman in Karachi's Gulistan-i-Jauhar

A man who had previously been arrested in more than two dozen cases of robbery and rape, and was convicted in 2015, has been arrested again, this time on charges of looting a woman outside a private university in Gulistan-i-Jauhar, police said on Wednesday.

Suspect Mohammad Ali Hajano of the White Corolla Gang was notorious for robbing DHA houses and allegedly assaulting women during 2008-09. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2015 by a sessions court. However, it is unclear whether he was released from prison on bail, as a result of some acquittal or after completion his sentence.

The police only confirmed that Hajano was arrested and convicted in the past.

They said that suspect had snatched a wristwatch, a purse and ornaments from a woman who was waiting in her car along with her husband after attending a function at Habib University on Oct 25.

However, as the suspect was fleeing after the loot, the woman chased him and hit his bike with the car, after which he fell and a mob caught him. Subsequently, the police arrived and took him into custody.

The complainant told the police that she had gone to attend a programme at Habib University along with her husband. She was waiting for someone inside her car when the lone suspect emerged there at 11:20pm on a motorbike and asked her to lower the windowpane. When she did not, the suspect showed a pistol to her, forcing her to comply with his orders.

He then snatched a purse containing cash, a wristwatch and jewellery at gunpoint from her. But as he was fleeing, she started the car and hit his bike. When the robber fell, she raised alarm and informed the area people that the suspect had looted her. The area people caught the suspect and handed him over to police.

Interestingly, the suspect had a licensed 9mm pistol and the Sharea Faisal police also registered a case against him under the Sindh Arms Act for "misusing" the weapon.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 30/10/2025)

Discriminatory authority

At all ages, throughout their personal and their professional lives, women have to combat rigid gendered stereotypes that seek to confine them in boxes of what society deems a woman to be. One stereotype that remains consistent calls for both young girls and women to be placable and subservient. Anyone who defies this norm is treated as a rowdy outcast, determined to disrupt the 'natural order of the universe.'

In workplaces, this stereotype is often coupled with blatant ageism, when women who refuse to act maternally towards their counterparts are labelled "unstable", allegedly "causing... problems for others." This quote verbatim belongs to the Vice Chancellor of the Federal Urdu University (FUUAST), Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari, whose remarks have recently been declared as workplace harassment by Pakistan's Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment.

The accuser, a lecturer at the same university, claimed that Dr Shinwari repeatedly cited "hormonal issues" for women over 35 as cause for their assertive behaviour. For this, the Vice-Chancellor has incurred a minor penalty of censure, alongside the University Syndicate being directed to monitor his behaviour.

According to a study conducted by a leading global organisation, Women of Influence+, nearly 80 per cent of women across the world have encountered age-related discrimination in their careers. Similarly, a top UC Berkeley professor found out that male professors encounter consistent evaluations over time, while female professors experience a quick decline after their 30s, and are usually termed as "unfriendly" or not "warm".

It is almost as if workplaces expect women to liven up a place, instead of exerting confidence, competence and skill. Such remarks, that too from an administrative body, reflect the culture of an institute, guiding several thousand students to act the same. Universities must work to dispel such stereotypes, instead of being active participants in the degradation of women.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 30/10/2025)

Karachi's late-night tea spots, fast food hangouts in hot water

The bustling late-night tea stalls and fast food hangouts of Karachi are under fire as Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi has ordered a sweeping crackdown on roadside encroachment.



Acting on his directives, deputy commissioners across South, East, Central, Malir, Korangi, and Keamari districts launched aggressive operations on Wednesday to clear footpaths and roads of portable chairs, tables, and counters placed by eateries operating deep into the night.

In District Central, popular spots like New Quetta Bismillah Hotel, Zahid Jamalo Hotel, Daniyal BBQ, and Baithak Ice Cream were among dozens targeted in Nazimabad, Hyderi, and Liaquatabad.

In Gulberg Subdivision, the stretch from Ayesha Manzil to Mukka Chowk was cleared of outdoor furniture, stools, and counters from 15 food outlets obstructing traffic flow and pedestrians.

Three roadside hotels near Super Market, Liaquatabad, were also targeted, while encroachments near Buffer Zone Degree College were removed to improve traffic flow. Further drives took place in Kiryana Market and Liaquatabad No. 10, with goods belonging to encroachers confiscated.

South district sealed two tea stalls near PIDC and several shops on Nishtar Road and Burns Road. Stalls and carts were removed from Mansfield Street, Dr Daud Pota Road, and Shahrah-e-Iraq.

In East, operations stretched from the Meteorological Department to Safoora, and from Hassan Square to Essa Nagri, clearing carts and illegal setups. Malir's Bin Qasim area saw demolition of unauthorised structures near Hadeed Market and Steel Town.

Crackdown in Model Colony led to FIRs and sealing of an auto shop, while Shah Faisal Town saw over 100 stalls and 20 cabins removed. In Keamari, SITE Subdivision cleared Manghopir and Masan Roads of multiple stalls, carts, and illegally set up counters.

The administration has warned that all goods confiscated by the district authorities will not be returned without legal proceedings.

The commissioner's office reaffirmed that the campaign will continue across the metropolis to reclaim public spaces, ensure smooth traffic flow.

"The use of public pathways for private business will not be tolerated," the commissioner's office said in its statement, warning that strict legal action will be taken against repeat offenders.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 30/10/2025)

SHC slams state failure to protect kids from drug trade

The Sindh High Court (SHC) has observed that criminal networks are exploiting children, often through poverty, lack of education or coercion, and that stronger child protection laws and rehabilitation programmes are needed to combat it.

A two-judge bench, headed by Justice Omar Sial, also remarked that the state has indeed failed to fulfil its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and noted that if a child was involved in drug selling, it might indicate neglect, lack of supervision and even direct involvement or exploitation by adults in the household.

The bench made these observations while granting bail to a 14-year-old girl in a drug peddling case and ordered police to arrest her parents and investigate them for using the child in drug selling.

It also ordered the magistrates and superintendents of police (investigations) concerned to ensure that parents/elders of a child caught selling narcotics are included in the investigation and, if found involved, be prosecuted.

Bench grants bail to 14-year-old girl held for carrying 510 grams of heroin; directs police to investigate her parents

Police had arrested Sadia in a Malir locality in May this year for allegedly carrying 510 grams of heroin. The suspect, through her counsel, filed a bail application in the SHC.

After hearing both sides and examining the record, the bench in its order said that it was a regrettable and distressing case, as a 14-year-old child had been apprehended for selling heroin and she told the police that it was given to her by her mother to sell.

It also noted that the girl's mother, Asia alias One Ten, was very much alive, but when the court summoned her parents, the girl's father, Akhtar Ali, claimed that his wife had passed away.

An additional prosecutor general submitted that, as per the investigating officer, Asia was alive and there was a strong possibility that the parents were using their daughter as a drug mule.

The bench observed that parents played a crucial role in a child's upbringing, supervision and moral development, and they were legally and morally responsible for providing guidance, monitoring activities and protecting their children from harmful influences.

If a child becomes involved in drug selling, it may indicate neglect, lack of supervision or even direct involvement or exploitation by adults in the household, and in such cases authorities often investigate whether the parents fulfilled their duties of care and control, it added.

However, it also observed that, regrettably, the police had not interrogated the parents to determine their involvement in this case.

The order further said, "This court, in the very recent past, has seen an exponential rise in cases in which minors are involved in drug selling. There is every likelihood that children are being exploited, just in the way that women have been in the past. Narcotics exploitation of vulnerable children is a global issue affecting communities worldwide."

"Criminal networks exploit these children, often through poverty, lack of education or coercion. They face physical and psychological harm, perpetuating crime and poverty cycles. To combat this, stronger child protection laws, community education and rehabilitation programmes are needed. The state has indeed failed in its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child", it added.

The bench ordered the release of the detained underage girl and directed the jail authorities to hand her over to her paternal aunt, who will furnish a surety of Rs5,000. If no one comes forward to provide the surety, the case should be relisted before the bench for further directions, it added.

The SHC also directed the police to immediately arrest the parents of the juvenile suspect and investigate them about their involvement in narcotics selling and using their child for this purpose.

The bench ordered the IO to make regular visits to the minor girl's home to ensure her well-being and safety.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 30/10/2025)

Mobile phone snatcher jailed for 23 years

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday handed down a total of 23-year imprisonment to a street criminal for attempting to snatch mobile phones from two policemen in plain clothes

After hearing arguments from state prosecutor Nasrullah Majeed and the defence counsel, the judge of the ATC-XV, who conducted the trial at the Judicial Complex within the premises of the Central Prison Karachi, found Allah Rakha guilty and awarded him sentences on five counts — seven-year imprisonment under Section 397 (robbery or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt), five years each for offences under Section 324 (attempted murder), possession of an illegal weapon, and terrorism charges, and one year for the offence under Section 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

"In this metropolitan city the crimes of snatching mobile phones, motorcycles and other valuable articles on the force of deadly weapons are increasing day by day. Recently more than hundreds persons, young boys, men and women have been murdered during snatching mobile phones, motorcycles and valuable articles from them.

"It has also been observed that during the course of encounter police personnel have been also murdered by the accused persons. In such circumstances of law and order situation, if the criminals are not punished in such type of cases, the crime ratio shall be increased in future. Crime thrives in society where there is no deterrence," the judge observed.

The court also imposed a total fine of Rs200,000; on default, he would serve additional imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, on April 12, police constables Waqar and Umer Khan were heading to the SIU/CIA office on their motorcycle for duty when two street criminals intercepted them near Iron Bridge, main National Highway, Quaidabad, Malir, and attempted to snatch their mobile phones and other valuables at gunpoint. However, when Waqar resisted, the accused opened fire, injuring him. In retaliation, one of the robbers also sustained a bullet wound to his shoulder.

After hearing the gunfire, local residents gathered at the spot and assisted the policemen in apprehending the accused. During the scuffle, one of the accused, Allah Rakha, was arrested, while his accomplice, Shakir, managed to flee.

In its detailed order, the court noted that the investigating officer had submitted the previous criminal record of the accused. However, the accused contended that he had been acquitted in those cases.

The court observed that each criminal case is to be decided on its own facts, circumstances, and merits. It further remarked that the criminal record of the accused reflected his mens rea and inclination towards committing offences against the state and society.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 14, 31/10/2025)

Stolen bike resurfaces in Karachi via e-challan

A Karachi resident was shocked to receive an electronic traffic fine for a motorcycle that had been stolen from him several years ago, raising questions over the effectiveness of police surveillance and theft recovery systems.

The facial recognition-based e-challan, issued on October 27 for Rs5,000, indicated a traffic violation involving the stolen vehicle, including riding without a helmet.

The motorcycle owner had filed a theft case at Tipu Sultan Police Station at the time of the incident.

"The authorities have not recovered my stolen motorcycle, but they have managed to send me a fine for its violation," the owner said.

The incident has also highlighted concerns about the active circulation of stolen vehicles in Karachi despite police checkpoints and Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC) operations.

The owner urged police officials to use the image in the e-challan to trace the rider and recover his vehicle.

Similarly, Speed limits have been fixed on all main roads of Karachi, said Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Traffic Police, Pir Muhammad Shah.

The speed limit for motorcycles and light transport vehicles (LTVs) has been set at 60 kilometres per hour, while for heavy transport vehicles (HTVs), the limit has been set at 30 kilometres per hour.

Speed-monitoring systems equipped with cameras are also being installed across the city to track vehicle speeds, Shah announced.

Further, trackers are being installed in 10,000 heavy vehicles, which will be connected to TRACS for real-time monitoring.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 02/11/2025)

Inquiry blames jail officials for mass escape

The high-level inquiry into the dramatic jailbreak of June 2, when 225 inmates escaped from the District Malir Jail, has concluded that the incident was enabled by "gross negligence, inadequate security and failure of command and control," rather than being solely a reaction to the mild earthquake tremors felt that night.

Following the findings, Shah Latif Town Police have registered a criminal case against three jail officers - Superintendent Arshad Hussain, Deputy Superintendent Zulfiqar Pirzada and Assistant Superintendent Abdullah Khaskheli - under multiple Pakistan Penal Code sections. The case has been transferred to the In-Charge Investigations, CIA Malir Division.

The FIR - filed by Assistant Superintendent of District Malir Jail, Mola Bakhsh Sehto - states that between 11:30pm and 1:30am on June 2, mild tremors were felt in Karachi. During this time, 225 prisoners - including suspects in heinous crimes - took advantage of weak perimeter fencing and broken barriers and escaped due to the jail's "grossly inadequate security measures."

According to the complainant, police rearrested 80 inmates shortly after the incident from different parts of the city, while 188 were later recaptured over the following weeks. However, 37 prisoners remain at large, raising serious concerns over public safety.

A three-member inquiry committee, comprising the Chairman Commissioner Karachi and the Additional IG Karachi, found that the jailbreak represented a "complete collapse" of internal and external surveillance, a total lack of emergency preparedness, and failure to maintain command and control at gates and watchtowers. These failures were directly attributed to the three nominated officers responsible for overseeing that section of the prison.

The Home Department, through a notification dated October 8, 2025, adopted the inquiry report, which held the officials responsible for endangering citizens, facilitating dangerous inmates' escape, and violating mandatory security protocols.

The complainant requested strict legal action, stating that the accused officers' negligence allowed convicted and under-trial criminals an opportunity to evade punishment:

"Their carelessness and failure to act put public safety at risk and resulted in one of the most serious jailbreaks in Karachi's history," the FIR reads.

(By Munawwar Khan The Express Tribune, 04, 04/11/2025)

Sindh police announce 50% discount on e-challans, tougher penalties for non-payers

Adopting a carrot-and-stick policy, the Sindh Police have offered motorists a 50 per cent discount on e-challans paid within 15 days, while warning of stiffer penalties for those who ignore fines despite repeated awareness drives.

The initiative, aimed at promoting timely payments and greater compliance with traffic laws, was revealed during a review meeting on the faceless e-ticketing system and traffic law enforcement. The meeting, held at the Central Police Office, was chaired by Inspector General (IG) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon.

Additional IGs of Karachi, Welfare, Training, Safe City, Headquarters, Sindh Police Highway Patrol, Establishment, Driving Licence Branch, Traffic Karachi, IT, and Finance attended the meeting. AIGs, Divisional DIGs and district SSPs participated in the meeting via video link.

During the session, IG Memon directed district traffic officers to ensure uniform enforcement of the new traffic laws and penalties across Sindh. He emphasised that violations such as driving without number plates and other breaches of traffic regulations must be dealt with strictly under the revised legal framework.

Under the new system, fines for 50 types of violations have been set up to Rs5,000. However, motorists paying within the 15 days, will be eligible for a 50 per cent discount, effectively reducing the fines for most common violations to between Rs2,000 and Rs2,500.

The IG warned that motorists failing to pay fines despite prior warnings and awareness drives will face progressively higher penalties. He instructed all districts to intensify public awareness campaigns and to establish facilitation centres for handling traffic-related complaints at the district level.

Briefing the meeting, DIG Traffic said that 59 violations are currently being monitored and fined, while nine serious offenses — including one-way violations, underage driving, one-wheeling, drifting, driving without lights, driving unregistered vehicles, reckless driving, signal violations, and illegal overtaking — carry penalties exceeding Rs5,000. He clarified that social media reports linking heavy vehicle fines to those for motorcycles and cars are misleading.

To assist citizens, 11 facilitation centres have been established in Karachi where SPs, CPLC representatives, and DSPs or concerned officers will address public complaints. The time taken to resolve a complaint will not be counted towards the challan payment period.

The DIG added that citizens are being informed about fines via Pakistan Post, SMS, and a mobile application, ensuring transparency in the e-ticketing process. He further said that road safety initiatives have begun in Karachi in collaboration with the district administration from Monday.

Last week, the Sindh government rolled out e-challans in Karachi as the faceless Traffic Regulation and Citation System (TRACS) automatically generated more than 2,600 e-tickets amounting to over Rs13 million for various traffic violations within just six hours of its launch.

According to DIG Traffic Police Peer Muhammad Shah, the new automated system utilises cutting-edge surveillance technology, including Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), Intelligent Transport System (ITS), and Facial Recognition (FR) cameras, all integrated under the Safe City Authority to identify and fine traffic violators.

He added that modern surveillance cameras have so far been installed in 30 per cent of the city's areas, with work in the remaining zones expected to be completed soon. Currently, major arteries and areas — including Sharah-e-Faisal, Sir Shah Suleman Road, Rashid Minhas Road, Shahrah-e-Pakistan, Gulshan-e-Iqbal Chowrangi, and Qayyumabad Chowrangi — are covered. The total number of advanced cameras is expected to reach 12,000 in the coming phase.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 05, 04/11/2025)

Case registered against ex-MPA for 'inciting violence'

Police on Wednesday registered a case against former MQM-Pakistan MPA Kamran Farooqui under Section 506-B of the Pakistan Penal Code and the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 for allegedly issuing threats and inciting violence via social media.



The FIR was lodged on the complaint of police officer Muhammad Shah Rukh, who stated that while on duty with Sub-Inspector Zafar Iqbal, he came across a video on the Facebook page "Zarai News" in which Farooqui allegedly made threatening remarks. The video reportedly referenced an incident involving Liaquat Mehsud, President of the Dumpers Association, stating, "it was his good luck that he left a few moments earlier, otherwise he would have burned along with his vehicle — this is public reaction."

The complaint links the video to a fatal road accident that occurred on November 4, when a dumper truck ran over biker Shahzaib and injured wife on Nishtar Road in the Ramswami area. Enraged public set the dumper ablaze. Later, Mehsud and his armed associates reportedly arrived at the scene. According to the FIR, Farooqui's remarks were seen as a direct threat to Mehsud and an attempt to provoke violence.

MQM-P's Haqqarast members of the PA have condemned the registration of an FIR against former MPA Farooqui following the death of a young man in a heavy traffic accident in Garden. They termed the move an act of oppression and injustice by the government.

The lawmakers expressed solidarity and heartfelt condolences with the bereaved family, stating that Karachi's citizens are being crushed daily under heavy vehicles while the provincial government and administration remain indifferent to the menace of reckless drivers and the heavy traffic mafia.

They alleged that instead of taking action against those responsible for such fatal incidents, the Sindh government is targeting public representatives who raise their voices for justice and stand with the people.

Separately, District City Police on Wednesday arrested a gunman of Liaquat Mehsud in connection with a firing incident that spread panic in the area. The suspect, identified as Meraj, was found in possession of the weapon allegedly used in the shooting. Police said raids are ongoing to apprehend Mehsud and other suspects.

The firing incident followed the November 4 crash. As per another FIR filed by social worker Abdul Qadir, Mehsud and 20-25 armed men arrived at the scene in multiple vehicles and opened indiscriminate fire before fleeing toward Garden.

Driver gets bail

A judicial magistrate on Wednesday approved bail for dumper truck driver Niazullah in the case of a fatal accident in Garden, where a young man named Shahzaib was killed. The bail was set at Rs3 million.

During the hearing, police presented the accused before the court. However, due to non-submission of the bail amount, the court ordered that Niazullah be sent to jail until the surety is deposited. Defense counsel Nazirullah Mehsud Advocate stated that the bail amount would be submitted later today.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 06/11/2025)

Ex-Muttahida MPA booked for 'cyber terrorism'

Police on Wednesday registered a case against a former Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan lawmaker for allegedly issuing threats to dumpers' association president Liaquat Mehsud following a deadly accident.

The case was filed on behalf of the state through an assistant sub-inspector, who claimed he came across a video on social media in which a man, identified as Kamran Farooqi, could be heard saying that "he was fortunate to have left moments earlier, otherwise he would have been burning along with his vehicle due to the public's reaction".

The complainant claimed that Farooqi's comments referred to Mr Mehsud, who had arrived on the scene of the incident and was accompanied by his guards.

Two separate FIRs had been registered at the Garden police station under Section 10 (cyber terrorism) of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, and Section 506-B (criminal intimidation) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Meanwhile, the police claimed to have arrested a private security guard of Mr Mehsud for allegedly opening fire on citizens following the accident.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 06/11/2025)

Karachi Safe City cameras nab 11 suspects, recover 31 vehicles in 19 days

With the help of advanced cameras installed under the Safe City Project in Karachi, 11 suspects were arrested in 16 days. With the help of the modern cameras installed in the city, 31 vehicles that were stolen, snatched, had fake number plates, or had "Applied For Registration" status were also seized in 19 days.

Details show that the results of installing advanced cameras under the Safe City Authority in Karachi have started emerging. With the help of modern cameras, 11 suspects were arrested in 16 days. Director General (DG) Safe City Authority Asif Ejaz Shaikh told *The Express Tribune* that with the help of facial recognition (FR) cameras installed under the Safe City Project in Karachi and the Safe City Emergency Response Vehicle, 11 suspects were arrested and handed over to the concerned police between October 20 and November 6.

The arrested suspects include absconding suspects Abdul Azeem son of Liaquat Khan, Syed Sajjad Hussain son of Muhammad Akram, Abdul Manan son of Muhammad Arshad, Ali Abbas son of Ghulam Abbas, Athar Hussain son of Muhammad Hussain Khan, Shoukat Ali son of Shakir Muhammad, Wajid Khan son of Sahib Roz Dad, Khadim Hussain Chandio, Faizan son of Noor Muhammad, Shahid Ullah son of Naimat Ullah, and Noman son of Abdul Majeed.

He added that the arrested suspect, Abdul Azeem, was arrested with the help of the Safe City Emergency Response Vehicle and handed over to Aram Bagh police. A case was filed against the arrested suspect in 2024 for rioting, damage, death threats, and Telegraph Act violations, and the suspect is highly wanted by the police. He said that when the suspect's previous record was checked, it was found that six cases had been registered against him between 2022 and 2025 in Alfalah, Zaman Town, City Court, Sharafi Goth, and Awami Colony police stations, including terrorism, attempted murder, police encounter, rioting, and damage.

He further said that the arrested suspect, Syed Sajjad Hussain, was spotted with the help of a facial recognition camera and was arrested and handed over to Aram Bagh police after an alert was received by the team in the Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV). Two cases were registered against the suspect in 2017 in Nabi Bux and Garden police stations for kidnapping, robbery, and illegal arms, for which he was wanted.

He added that the arrested suspect, Abdul Mannan, was arrested with the help of a facial recognition camera along with a stolen motorcycle and handed over to Aram Bagh police.

The arrested suspect, Ali Abbas, was arrested after an alert was received in the Emergency Response Vehicle and handed over to Aram Bagh police. A case of forgery and other charges was registered against him at the Khokhrapur police station.

The arrested suspect, Athar Hussain, was spotted with the help of a facial recognition camera and arrested after an alert was received in the Emergency Response Vehicle, and was handed over to the Aram Bagh police. Two cases of terrorism, police encounter, attempted murder, and illegal weapons were registered against him in the Baghdadi police station, and he was wanted by the police.

The arrested suspect, Shoukat Ali, was spotted with the help of a facial recognition camera and arrested after an alert was received in the Emergency Response Vehicle, and was handed over to the Aram Bagh police. A drug-related case was registered against him at the Shah Faisal Colony police station.

The arrested suspect, Wajid Khan, was spotted with the help of a facial recognition camera and arrested after an alert was received in the Emergency Response Vehicle, and was handed over to the Mithadar police. A theft case was registered against him at the Jamshed Quarters police station.

The arrested suspect, Khadim Hussain Chandio, was spotted with the help of a facial recognition camera and arrested after an alert was received in the Emergency Response Vehicle, and was handed over to the Aram Bagh police. Three cases were registered against him in 2004, 2010, and 2019 in Darqah, District Qambar, for murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, and other charges, and he was highly wanted by the police.

The arrested suspect Faizan, was spotted with the help of a facial recognition camera and arrested after an alert was received in the Emergency Response Vehicle, and was handed over to the Mithadar police. Two cases of drugs and attempted murder were registered against him in Ittehad Town and Chakiwara police stations, and he was wanted by the police.

The arrested suspects Shahid Ullah and Noman, were spotted with the help of a facial recognition camera and arrested after an alert was received in the Emergency Response Vehicle and were handed over to Aram Bagh police. Drug-related cases were registered against them in Peerabad, Mominabad, and Sohrab Goth police stations, and they were wanted by the police.

DG Safe City Authority Asif Ejaz Shaikh said that with the help of the ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) modern cameras installed under the Safe City Project in Karachi, 31 vehicles that were stolen, snatched, had fake number plates, or were "Applied For Registration" were also seized. The seized vehicles include passenger Mazdas. The vehicles were identified by modern cameras installed at Shaheen Complex, Data Corner, People's Square, Avari Towers, Stock Exchange, PIDC, and Tower.

He reported that a stolen bus was also caught that had been roaming on the road. The seized vehicles were taken between October 13 and October 31. The DG Safe City said that according to records, nearly 150,000 absconding suspects are wanted by the police in various cases. He added that with the modern cameras being installed in the city, it will be difficult for all criminals to hide.

(By Sajid Rauf The Express Tribune, 04, 07/11/2025)

Karachi judge rejects police report on custodial death, orders FIA to launch probe into suspect's killing

While rejecting the opinion of an investigating officer (IO) in a case pertaining to the custodial death of a man detained on charges of motorcycle theft, a judicial magistrate has directed the Sindh police chief to take departmental action against the officials of the

Kalakot police station allegedly involved in torture, negligence, and abuse of authority and referred the case to the FIA for further investigation.

The direction was made by Judicial Magistrate (South) Naeem Akhtar, who referred the case to the Federal Investigation Agency under Section 5 of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, for an impartial and transparent investigation into the matter.

In its detailed order against a final charge sheet submitted by the IO in which he had suggested to take cognizance against private persons and attempted to "cover up a custodial killing", the court noted that it disagreed with the final report submitted under Section 173 of the CrPC.

"The inquest and post-mortem findings conclusively prove that Sikander's death was a custodial homicide, resulting from torture, unlawful confinement and gross negligence," it added.

Regarding the delay and concealment of facts, the judge wrote in its order that the record reflects that the incident allegedly occurred in March, 2025 when some private persons accused the deceased (Sikander) of motorcycle theft and later the police registered a case against the suspect under Section 381-A of the Pakistan Penal Code.

"It is important to note that at the time of receiving the custody, a memo of arrest and recovery dated 13.03.2025 at 06:30 hours was prepared. A careful examination of this memo reveals that there is no mention whatsoever that the accused was in an injured or critical condition. Likewise, no roznamcha entry has been produced to indicate that Sikander was brought to the police station in such a condition.

"It further appears that after arrest, the accused was directly confined in the lock-up, and no intimation was made to the Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC), although the alleged offence under Section 381-A of the PPC exclusively falls within the jurisdiction of the AVLC for investigation. No record has been produced showing that the mandatory information was conveyed to the AVLC or that custody was transferred.

"Instead, Sikander continued to remain in the lock-up of police station Kalakot until his health deteriorated to a gasping state, ultimately resulting in his death. Sikander died on 13.03.2025. However, the FIR regarding his abduction and subsequent events was lodged belatedly on 18.03.2025 at 21:30 hours — almost six days after the incident. This inordinate and unexplained delay strongly indicates an attempt to conceal the true circumstances, alter the timeline, and manipulate the sequence of events surrounding Sikander's illegal detention and custodial death. Such delay is wholly inconsistent with transparency and raises serious doubt regarding the bona fides of police action," the court observed.

The court noted that the police claimed that Sikander was brought to the police station by the private persons in an already injured and critical condition. However, the court rejected their contention as it was not supported by any credible evidence.

"The deceased was detained from 06:30 hours on 13.03.2025 until 15:18 hours on 13.03.2025, when he was finally shifted to Civil Hospital Karachi in a gasping condition. He was declared dead at 15:30 hours. This amounts to 07 hours of unlawful confinement without medical treatment. If he was indeed critical upon arrival, the failure to transfer him to a hospital immediately reflects culpable negligence and intentional disregard for human life," the court observed.
(By Sumari Abdullah Dawn, 13, 08/11/2025)

Notices issued on JI petition against e-challan system

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday issued notices to the Sindh chief secretary, the secretary of the home department and others on a petition filed by leaders of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) against the recently introduced e-challan system in the metropolis.

A two-judge bench of the SHC, comprising Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhoro and Justice Syed Fiaz Ul Hassan Shah, also put the Advocate General on notice for Nov 25.

JI Karachi chief Monem Zafar Khan, opposition leader in the City Council Advocate Saifuddin and party's MPA Muhammad Farooq asked the SHC to suspend the operation and implementation of the e-challan system and restrain respondents from issuing, processing or recovering any penalty till the final disposal of their petition.

They submitted that the AI-based e-challan system was implemented in Karachi without ensuring necessary road infrastructure, a vehicle ownership verification mechanism and installation of proper speed limit and other essential traffic signboards.

They contended that they were aggrieved by the arbitrary notification imposing the e-challan system with exorbitant and discriminatory fines as the impugned system operated through CCTV and AI-enabled cameras, automatically detecting alleged traffic violations and issuing challans to the registered owners of the vehicles.

They also argued that coercive measures were being taken as a drastic increase in fines, blocking of CNICs, suspension of driving licences and impounding of vehicles over non-payment amount to punishment without due process of law.
(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 08/11/2025)

Police rescue muggers from lynch mob

Two suspected robbers were caught and beaten by an angry mob in Orangi Town on Friday after allegedly snatching a mobile phone from a woman.



The assailants were injured in the attack, and their motorcycle was set ablaze by the crowd. Police arrived at the scene and, after considerable effort, managed to rescue the injured suspects from the mob and shift them to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medical treatment. According to SHO Shehbaz of Iqbal Market, initial investigations revealed that three robbers on two motorcycles had snatched a mobile phone from a woman.

Bystanders chased and apprehended two of the suspects, while the third managed to escape.

The arrested suspects, identified as Saddam and Murtaza, were found in possession of two pistols. Saddam was later confirmed to be a habitual offender with a criminal record.

The third accomplice, Waqas, fled the scene and is currently being sought by police. Authorities have launched further investigations into the incident.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 08/11/2025)

Havoc on Tariq Road as raid goes awry

A late-night customs raid at a shopping mall on Tariq Road turned violent when shopkeepers attacked officials during an operation to seize smuggled fabric. The situation quickly escalated as protesters hurled stones and opened fire on customs personnel, prompting retaliatory gunfire. The area plunged into chaos, resembling a battleground, while two people sustained bullet injuries.

According to police, the raid was conducted at Mimar Plaza Shopping Centre on Sir Syed Road, adjacent to Tariq Road, to recover a large consignment of smuggled cloth. Customs teams, backed by heavy contingents of police and Rangers, cordoned off the area, restricting media and public access to the site.

Officials said the confrontation began when shopkeepers tried to prevent customs personnel from entering the mall. As they were stopped, the crowd turned violent, pelting stones and firing shots. Law enforcement personnel responded with aerial firing to disperse the mob. The crossfire spread panic among nearby residents, while enraged shopkeepers blocked Liberty Chowk by burning tyres and set a Shahzor truck ablaze.

Rescue sources said two men - 21-year-old Share Masih, son of Patras Masih, and 36-year-old Sameer, son of Dost Mohammad - were injured in the crossfire and shifted to Jinnah Hospital by Chhipa ambulances.

Police said customs officials later seized a large quantity of smuggled fabric, loading it onto trucks. They told traders that anyone with valid customs receipts could visit the office to reclaim their goods, while those without documentation would be required to pay duties before collection.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 11/11/2025)

Trader shot dead in 'targeted attack' at Azizabad shop

A young trader was shot dead in a suspected targeted attack in Azizabad, police said on Wednesday.

They said that Hassan Ali Bantva, 23, was gunned down in Block-3, F.B. Area.

Azizabad SHO Waqar Kaiser said that the victim had a mobile phone shop in Saddar electronics market. He usually closed his shop between 10:30pm to 11pm and returned home.

On Tuesday night, he arrived at his brother's cell phone shop in Siddiqabad, Azizabad at around midnight. As his brother went home, he stayed at the shop for around 10 minutes and in the meantime three assailants riding two motorcycles emerged there, the SHO said.

He said the pillion rider on one of the bikes resorted to indiscriminate firing and they all rode away.

Bantva sustained four bullet wounds and was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The officer said the murder appeared to be a targeted killing incident but the exact motive would be ascertained after investigations.

The officer said the police are waiting for relatives to lodge an FIR to formally initiate legal proceedings.

Investigators have collected four spent bullet casings fired from a 9mm pistol at the crime scene.

His funeral prayers were held in Bantva Nagar and he was laid to rest at the Sakhi Hasan graveyard on Wednesday.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 13/11/2025)

Karachi Police finds distribution box for Safe City cameras earlier gone missing from Clifton

A non-functional distribution box of Safe City cameras installed near a residential apartment in Karachi's posh Clifton area was found on Thursday after reportedly being stolen, police said.

"This was a non-energised/non-operational pole site near Sea Rock Apartments at Seaview, where the theft of a distribution box was reported to local police on November 6," South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn*.

Later, the DIG confirmed, "The distribution box has been recovered from a nearby plot."

He asserted that the police were "developing a strategy in coordination with Sindh Safe City Authority to prevent such incidents in future".

Quoting a staff member from a nearby hotel earlier today, the South police chief said, "A vehicle with a crane was witnessed working on the pole hours before the theft was reported.

"Since then, a few switches and the battery are missing," the DIG added.

The officer said the distribution box was installed at an "extreme height", adding that it would not have been possible for one person to steal it. He noted that the cameras were also not functional.

The location of Sea Rock Apartments in Clifton. — screengrab via Google Maps

DIG Raza observed that the locality was a "completely blacked out area" and there were neither street lights nor any CCTVs installed by private restaurants.

"Only a single camera installed at Sea Rock Apartments is available, which offers a limited coverage of the parking area," he said, adding that the police had written letters to the Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC) and the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) to install street lights in the area to no avail.

According to DIG Raza, there was no alarm system installed at the "non-operational" pole, which made it difficult to ascertain when the distribution box was removed. Further investigation of the matter was under way, he said.

The first phase of the Karachi Safe City Project, aimed at enhancing public safety and security, was launched on May 31, 2024. Under that phase, 891 surveillance cameras had been deployed across Karachi.

Last month, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah approved the expansion of the project to more high-risk commercial and residential areas of Karachi, including the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and the districts of South, East, and Malir.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 14/11/2025)

Journalists' safety

JOURNALISTS and media professionals may, perhaps, have been more enthusiastic about the announcement, but the past continues to weigh heavily on the community. The 12-member commission constituted by the government to oversee their protection is, without a doubt, a welcome step, but Pakistani journalists have also witnessed a long history of persecution, often exercised with impunity, that has left many unable to trust such initiatives. They will wait and see whether the newly constituted commission, comprised mainly of leaders and representatives of various journalists' bodies, can meaningfully change that trajectory. Formed to exercise the powers and functions laid down in the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021, the commission will act with the authority of a civil court trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure when investigating journalists' complaints against harassment, threats, torture, etc. It is hoped the government will strengthen its hand and give it the breadth it needs to exercise those powers.

It is only fair to point out at this juncture that many past cases, some concerning serious crimes like abduction, torture, harassment and even assassinations of journalists, have still not been closed. Despite efforts by rights activists and the media community, these cases were never investigated or prosecuted with the seriousness they deserved. Until the impression that journalists can be targeted with impunity is dispelled, no commission, no matter how high-powered, can be expected to act as an adequate safeguard against violence targeting journalists and media workers. While this commission has been granted the powers of a civil court, recognising those powers and complying with the commission's requests for assistance should not be left 'optional' for state institutions. It is vital for the health of any society that its media be able to speak truth to power without fear of violent or financially devastating reprisals. The government must commit fully to that principle to be taken seriously.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 17/11/2025)

Judges and arbitration

ARBITRATION is the buzzword these days in legal and business circles. A few decades ago, regarded as the esoteric pursuit of a few commercial lawyers, today it is everywhere. It is promoted as a viable and expeditious alternative to litigation. It promises to reduce the burden on overloaded judicial dockets. In investor-state disputes, it is projected as enabling good governance.

Some days ago, it reared its head in an unlikely place: the hearing of applications for constituting a larger bench in the 26th Constitutional Amendment case. A learned judge contradicted the submission by counsel that judicial failure to conform to international norms is impeding foreign investment. According to the judge, what investors primarily want are speedy decisions by commercial courts and early enforcement of arbitration awards.

This is true. Expeditious enforcement by courts is of little consequence, however, where judges are found wanting in impartiality and independence. If that was not so, denial of justice or of fair and equitable treatment would not be international standards to which states must conform. Gone are the days when it was, perhaps, arguable that judicial conduct cannot be attributed to the state.

Now, international law is to the contrary. The International Law Commission's 'Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts' put this beyond doubt. But for this we may have escaped liability in two major international investment-arbitration cases. The breach of international law obligations in both was, to a significant degree, occasioned by Supreme Court judgements.

Arbitration is not a silo. Those who think in silos come to grief early.

Arbitration is not a silo. Those who think in silos come to grief early. At several stages, from commencement to enforcement, its success depends on robust judicial conduct. It is also not self-contained. Every young lawyer, eager for a career in international arbitration, is taught that the first step is to acquire a thorough understanding of the laws of contract and of civil and commercial rights.

Hon. Judge Charles N. Brower's recent readable and learned book *Judging Iran: A Memoir of the Hague, the White House and Life in the Front Lines of International Justice* is a treasure trove of information about the world of international arbitration and the challenges for domestic courts. It shows how all-round experience as a lawyer helps launch a successful international career.

At Harvard, he did not take more than one international law course, fearing it would diminish his job prospects with leading law firms. Later, he worked for a Wall Street law firm, while also appearing pro bono to defend indigent litigants. In time, he worked with the Ford, Carter and Reagan administrations on diverse issues. He appeared both for states and investors, in international arbitration and domestic litigation, and was appointed by the United States government as a judge to the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal. A successful career as a much-sought-after international arbitrator followed.

His book highlights the advantages of international arbitration. Investor-state arbitration is a significant development in international law. Unlike the past, it facilitates an individual to directly sue a foreign state, without the intervention of his home state.

The message is that being anti-business is not smart economic strategy. He is, however, conscious of its limitations. While a state can be sued by a foreign investor, it cannot counterclaim for human rights violations or for environmental damage. Rich in anecdote, the book is a wonderful starting point for anyone thinking of a career in international arbitration and a treasure trove of knowledge for experienced practitioners.

The Iran-USCT jurisprudence is rich in insight. From truncated tribunals to judges assaulting judges, from the value of precedent to bone-headed challenges to arbitrators, from principles for determination of state liability to the measure of freedom for states to regulate, in the public interest, a wide range of issues were raised and determined. Its decisions strengthened the foundations of international commercial law.

Devoted to the subject, which combines his passion for law with an interest in international affairs, Judge Brower rightly asserts that foreign investors are suspicious of a judiciary which lacks a solid reputation to dispense impartial justice. Without an independent judiciary, there cannot be a predictable and stable legal system for dispute resolution.

Its absence leads to shoals, where not only challenges to bench formation but also international arbitrations run aground. It signals that those who venture forth irrespective do so at their own peril. Sensible foreign investors naturally steer clear.
(By Makhdoom Ali Khan Dawn, 07, 18/11/2025)

Crime and punishment

THE trial and conviction of Sheikh Hasina Wajed must come as a lesson to all authoritarian rulers who see themselves as 'god on earth'. The once all-powerful leader who governed Bangladesh with an iron fist for 15 long years — in the second stretch of her rule — and eliminated opposition with brute force, was driven out of power last year by a people's movement. The disgraced leader who fled the country has now been convicted and sentenced to death for committing "crimes against humanity" though the sentence may never be implemented.

Such is the irony of history that the deposed leader was convicted by the same special tribunal which she had created to persecute her rivals. Some half a dozen political leaders, many of whom had served in previous administrations, were executed after dubious trials. Thousands of people were disappeared or thrown into dungeons for years. She retained power through controversial elections and had virtually established a one-party state.

But ultimately, the coercive power of the state could not withstand the power of the people. The ending was steeped in blood. A UN report said up to 1,400 people may have been killed during the 2024 protests, most from gunfire by security forces; it cited evidence that it was official policy to attack and violently repress anti-government protesters and sympathisers. But even such a display of repression could not save her from losing power.

Ultimately, the coercive power of the state could not withstand the power of the people.

She might have saved her life by fleeing the country but could not escape the criminal proceedings conducted in her absence. After months of being tried in absentia, a three-member International Crimes Tribunal pronounced her guilty on several charges including incitement, orders to kill and inaction to prevent atrocities as she oversaw a crackdown on anti-government protesters last year.

Announcing the verdict in a courtroom packed with the relatives of the victims, the tribunal said the “accused prime minister committed crimes against humanity by her order to use drones, helicopters and lethal weapons” against the people. Sheikh Hasina said that the tribunal was a “politically motivated charade”. Her former home minister has also been convicted.

The UN human rights office described the sentencing as “an important moment for victims” but said Sheikh Hasina should not have been sentenced to death. “We have been calling for perpetrators — including individuals in positions of command and leadership — to be held accountable in accordance with international standards,” said a UN spokesperson, adding: “We ... regret the imposition of the death penalty, which we oppose in all circumstances.”

But Muhammad Yunus, the head of the provisional government of Bangladesh has defended the convictions saying it reaffirmed the principle that “no one, regardless of power, is above the law”. He called the verdict “vital, if insufficient, justice” to the thousands affected during the crackdown, including the families of those killed during the uprising.

This is the first time in Bangladesh that a former prime minister has been sentenced to death by the court though the country has seen some leaders meeting a violent end while in power. Among them was Sheikh Hasina’s father and Bangladesh’s founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was assassinated along with most of his family members on Aug 15, 1975, by a group of Bangladesh Army personnel who invaded his residence as part of a coup d’état. Sheikh Hasina escaped death as she was out of the country at that time. She lived in India for some years before returning to Bangladesh in the 1980s after being elected to head the Awami League. She was elected as prime minister for the first time in 1996 after the ouster of Gen Ershad’s government. But after the end of her first stint, she had to wait for almost a decade to return to power and then she stayed put for 15 long years.

One of the major reasons for her dictatorial control was the remarkable economic progress achieved by Bangladesh during that period. From a basket case, Bangladesh became an international success story with the fastest economic growth rate in South Asia. In the Human Development Index too, Bangladesh did very well as compared to other underdeveloped countries. This new prosperity and economic potential encouraged Sheikh Hasina to consolidate her authoritarian stranglehold, as she stocked state institutions with party loyalists.

But she failed to see the growing political unrest that was simmering beneath the surface. Her government crushed all voices of protest. Protests broke out in 2013 against the execution of some political leaders for alleged collaboration with the Pakistan military during the 1971 war. The protest was crushed with the full power of the state. The protest was a warning to her authoritarian rule but instead of heeding it, she consolidated more power and started building a personality cult around her father. Life-size portraits and sculptures of herself and Sheikh Mujibur Rehman adorned the capital’s streets and city squares.

The rigged elections of January 2024, when Sheikh Hasina won her fifth consecutive term in office, heightened political discontent in the country. The Awami League claimed a two-thirds majority in the elections, which had been boycotted by the opposition. Many of the remaining seats had also been won by ruling party members standing as independent candidates. The seething political discontent turned into a mass movement in July 2024 when students took to the streets to demand the removal of government job quotas for the descendants of those who participated in the 1971 independence movement. Soon, the movement brought down the government, with Sheikh Hasina fleeing the country.

The conviction and death sentence for the fugitive leader has once again brought Bangladesh into the spotlight. The tribunal’s judgement has heightened the prevailing tension in the country, which has not yet fully recovered from last year’s political upheaval.

It is unlikely that India will extradite its trusted ally. Sheikh Hasina had virtually turned Bangladesh into a satellite state of India. Her ouster came as a huge geopolitical setback to New Delhi. The growing relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan under the new administration in Dhaka have added to the ire of the Narendra Modi government in New Delhi. Any Indian attempt to destabilise Bangladesh can have far-reaching geopolitical consequences.
(By Zahid Hussain Dawn, 06, 19/11/2025)

Four ‘LJ militants’ held in CTD operation

The Counter-Terrorism Department claimed to have arrested four suspected militants belonging to the outlawed Lashkar-i-Jhangvi for their alleged involvement in targeted killings on sectarian grounds.

A CTD spokesperson said in a statement that acting on a tip-off an intelligence-based operation was conducted in the city in which Amin, alias Munnah, Asim Ahmed, Zainul Abidin and Mohammed Afroz were arrested.

It said that they belonged to the outlawed LJ's Hafiz Qasim Rasheed group. Four pistols were recovered from their custody, the statement added.

During initial investigations, held suspects disclosed that they had killed many people including police informers in Orangi Town.

Regarding their past criminal record, the CTD statement said the suspects were booked in several cases pertaining to terrorism and other heinous crimes.

The suspects also told investigators that they were involved in contract killings.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 19/11/2025)

Karachi hotel gets e-challan after number plate mix-up

The automated, faceless e-challan system recently introduced by the traffic police has triggered confusion after a technical mix-up sent a traffic violation notice to an unexpected recipient — a hotel in Karachi- for an offence committed by a vehicle registered in Quetta.

According to officials, the system wrongly issued an e-challan meant for a Quetta-registered vehicle to the hotel's address. The hotel management was taken aback upon receiving the notice, only to discover that the number plate on the vehicle matched that of their own car - a vehicle stolen nearly three decades ago.

The hotel's vehicle, bearing registration number AAR-540, had been stolen from the parking lot of Fayyaz Centre in May 1997, with an FIR lodged at the Saddar police station on May 22, 1997.

The challan, however, was actually issued to a vehicle owned by Rehmatullah, a resident of Rehmat Colony, Quetta, after traffic personnel at the Hub Toll Plaza flagged the driver on October 27 for not wearing a seatbelt.

Upon receiving the unexpected notice, the hotel contacted the Traffic Police Facilitation Centre and informed officials about their decades-old theft case. After verification, the traffic police cancelled the challan.

A spokesperson for Karachi Traffic Police clarified that misleading reports on social media had suggested the police had recently challaned a stolen vehicle. "In reality, the challan was from an early testing phase of the system, when full integration with AVL's crime database was still underway," the spokesperson said.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 20/11/2025)

Man held for hacking women's WhatsApp accounts remanded

A judicial magistrate on Wednesday remanded in police custody a man booked for his alleged involvement in hacking WhatsApp accounts of some women and using them to blackmail them.

The Eidgah police on Tuesday arrested the suspect and registered a case against him under Sections 506 (criminal intimidation) and 294 (obscene acts and songs) of the Pakistan Penal Code, read with Section 25-D (penalty for causing annoyance) of the Telegraph Act.

On Wednesday, the investigating officer (IO) of the case brought the suspect before Judicial Magistrate (South) Asim Aslam and sought his police custody for interrogation.

The IO informed the court that a woman approached the police and stated that on Nov 12 she had received a message on her WhatsApp from the number of her daughter's friend, and later an unknown person began speaking to her using the same number.

The same person started sending her indecent messages, after which she approached the girl's mother, who informed her that her daughter's WhatsApp account had been hacked and that others had also received similar messages from the same number.

She said she informed her husband, who advised her to continue talking to the person and asked him to come to the Rancho Line area. Later, the suspect walked into the trap, where residents apprehended him and handed him over to the police.

According to the FIR, during initial grilling, the suspect disclosed that he hacked various people's social media accounts through malicious links and contacted women, offering them money in order to engage in inappropriate acts. He further confessed that he recorded their videos and later used them for blackmail.

The police claimed to have recovered multiple videos of different women from the suspect's mobile phones.

After hearing the IO, the court remanded him in police custody for three days.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 20/11/2025)

Sindh cabinet abolishes 14 anti-terrorism courts in Karachi, Hyderabad amid low caseload

In view of low caseload and improved law and order, the Sindh government has decided to abolish 14 Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATCs) across the province and re-designate them as anti-narcotics courts to try rising drug-related cases.

The decision was taken during a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

The cabinet approved a proposal from the home department to abolish 13 of the 20 ATCs in Karachi and one in Hyderabad, converting them into special courts to expedite narcotics-related cases.

The re-designation will establish special courts across Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur and Larkana divisions. The remaining ATCs in Sindh will be reorganised to ensure efficient handling of pending cases.

Re-designates them as anti-narcotics courts; \$15m grant cleared for JPMC's new tower

The proposal aligns with Section 13 of the Anti-Terrorism (Sindh Amendment) Act, 2025, which allows the provincial government to increase, decrease or abolish courts as needed.

Centre to counter violent extremism

The meeting also approved the establishment of the Sindh Centre for Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism under the home department.

The move follows the enactment of the Sindh Centre for Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism Act, 2025, aimed at preventing violent extremism, terrorism, militancy and subversive activities in the province.

In addition, the cabinet approved the establishment of a community health company and the creation of a Sindh government cloud.

The chief minister announced that cabinet meetings will now be held every fortnight, with the next session scheduled for Dec 2.

The cabinet approved a \$15 million grant for the new Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) Emergency Tower.

It approved a grant-in-aid of \$15m (or its equivalent in PKR) to the Patients' Aid Foundation (PAF) for utilities and medical equipment for a proposed 12-storey Emergency Tower at JPMC, Karachi.

The total estimated cost of the tower is \$35 million. A consortium of PAF-JPMC donors has committed \$20m for the construction, while the remaining \$15m is being sought from the Sindh government for equipment and utilities.

The proposed grant will be released in two equal instalments of \$7.5m.

The cabinet received a briefing from the Science and Information Technology Department regarding the proposal to procure the Habib Insurance/HBL heritage building on M.A. Jinnah Road for establishing the Sindh IT Tower.

The cabinet approved the proposal in principle and directed the IT department to obtain the necessary assessments from relevant departments, including the Board of Revenue for price assessment, NED University for structural strength and condition assessment, and the Culture Department for heritage evaluation under the Sindh Cultural Heritage law.

The cabinet also reviewed the allocation of 639 additional residential plots for members of the Karachi Press Club (KPC).

The proposal included the Lyari Development Authority's (LDA) request for authorisation to plan, allocate and develop the plots on 125 acres in Hawksbay Scheme-42, along with approval for the release of necessary funds.

The Local Government Department informed the cabinet that the lists of 1,271 existing allottees and 639 proposed beneficiaries had been submitted by the LDA and incorporated into the revised summary. The cabinet approved the proposal.

Additionally, the cabinet approved the allotment of residential plots to KPC members in New Malir Housing Scheme-I (Block 12) and Taiser Town Scheme-45 (Sectors 22 and 23) under the already approved 80/20 cost-sharing policy.
(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 21/11/2025)

Karachi's transport body chief escapes from City Courts after bail dismissal

Dumper Truck Owners Association President Liaquat Mehsud managed to escape the premises of City Courts after a sessions court dismissed his pre-arrest bail application in a rioting case on Saturday.

Mehsud, along with his other associates, has been booked in a case pertaining to opening fire on people protesting against a fatal accident involving a dumper on the night between Nov 3 and Nov 4 in the Nishtar Road area. On the next day, the suspect had moved the court and got interim pre-arrest bail.

On Saturday, Additional District and Sessions Judge (South) Irshad Hussain rejected the pre-arrest bail application and also recalled his interim bail after hearing both sides and examining the record.

The court noted that the act of indiscriminate firing on people by a guard of the applicant was an act of terrorism and the case should be exclusively tried by an anti-terrorism court.

The suspect appeared in court and as soon as the order was announced he managed to escape from the court premises and police as well as the investigating officer (IO) failed to arrest him.

In its order, the court stated that as per the footage produced by the IO, the applicant along with his guard was present at the scene and the latter opened straight fire at the people, which created terror, fear and insecurity among the public.

It also noted that the permit of the weapon used in the crime was also not valid as it had expired in September.

The court observed that although no one sustained firearm injuries, the act of indiscriminate firing on the people amount to use of lethal force in public.

It said that the case came within the ambit of Section 6 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 and there were reasonable grounds to believe that the suspect has committed the offences of terrorism, rioting and attempted murder.

Initially, the FIR against Mehsud was lodged under Sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed) and 337-H (ii) (rash or negligent act to endanger human life) of the Pakistan Penal Code against the dumpers association's head at Garden police station.
(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 23/11/2025)

Man gets life term for sexually assaulting teenage girl

A sessions court has sentenced a man to life imprisonment in a case pertaining to the kidnapping and rape of a teenage girl.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (Malir) Syed Ghous Ali Shah Jillani found Muhammad Kaleem guilty and sentenced him on two counts: 10-year imprisonment under Section 364-A (kidnapping or abducting a person under 14 years) and life term under Section 376 (rape) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

"This case presents a tragic instance of abuse of trust and commission of heinous sexual violence against a young girl. The accused, Muhammad Kaleem, who had social and business interactions with the victim's family, exploited the trust placed in him to perpetrate acts of extreme violence and violation against the victim," the court observed.

It added: "The victim in this case has shown remarkable courage in coming forward, reporting the assault, undergoing medical examination, and testifying in court despite the social stigma and trauma associated with sexual violence."

Judge hopes conviction will provide rape survivor 'some measure of justice and closure'

"This court commends her bravery and hopes that the conviction in this case will provide her some measure of justice and closure. The sentence of life imprisonment reflects the gravity of the offence and serves the purposes of both punishment and deterrence," the judge observed.

The court imposed a fine of Rs500,000. It also directed the convict to pay Rs1 million as compensation to the survivor, and in the event of default, he would serve additional imprisonment.

According to state prosecutor Kashif Noor Khan, on March 29, 2021, the accused forcibly took the survivor from her home in Saadi Town, drove her to a desolate location and subjected her to sexual assault, including forcible rape.

He added that the survivor's testimony, corroborated by medical evidence of sexual trauma and the circumstances of her recovery from the accused's custody, fully supported the prosecution's case.

"The accused initially attempted to justify his custody of the victim by falsely claiming marriage, demonstrating consciousness of guilt. All of these circumstances, when viewed together, lead to the irresistible conclusion that the accused committed rape upon the victim," the court noted.

Highlighting lacunas in the probe, the court noted that the investigation in this case was marred by procedural irregularities and negligence, particularly in the preservation and timely forwarding of forensic evidence. These investigative failures do not benefit the accused when the substantive evidence of guilt is otherwise established, it added.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 24/11/2025)

Woman killed in firing by 'fleeing robbers' in Nazimabad

A woman was killed when she was hit by a bullet while travelling in a taxi along with her family in the Nazimabad area, police said on Monday.

Central SSP Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqi said two robbers riding a motorcycle resorted to firing on a street near Annu Bhai Park at around 10pm on Sunday. As a result, one of the bullets hit Samina, 35, who was seated in the back seat of the taxi.

While her husband, mother-in-law and three children remained unhurt, the woman sustained a critical bullet wound in the face and was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital (ASH), where she died during treatment in the small hours of Monday morning.

The SSP hinted at the possibility that the killers might be robbers who were fleeing a crime scene.

He said that no attempted robbery incident had taken place with the family.

On Monday, the Nazimabad police registered a murder case against unknown persons on the complaint of the victim's husband, Mohammad Adnan, a resident of Tauheed Colony in Orangi Town.

Meanwhile, a suspected robber was gunned down in the Korangi Industrial Area on Monday.

Korangi SSP Fida Husain Janwari ruled out the possibility of a robbery bid as the killers attempted to give it a colour of robbery by taking away the victim's bike.

The police said Niaz Ahmed was standing at a hairdresser's shop near his home in Gulzar Colony when armed pillion riders shot and killed him.

The SSP said that after killing him, the suspects took away his bike. They did not attempt to snatch anything from him. He said the deceased was himself involved in the lifting of motorcycles.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 25/11/2025)

Robbers loot UC chairman, polio workers in Karachi

A union committee (UC) chairman, along with his friend, was looted by armed robbers when he was inspecting an uplift work in the busy Bottle Gali in the old city area on Tuesday.

According to the police, Saddar Town's UC-8 Chairman Mohammed Salman Khan was inspecting the development work in Bottle Gali with his friend Syed Ramzeez Shehzad at around 5:45pm when armed robbers riding a motorbike intercepted them and held them at gunpoint. They snatched four cell phones, cash and other valuables from them and rode away.

The Aram Bagh police have registered an FIR on the complaint of the UC chairman under Sections 392 (punishment for robbery) and 397 (robbery or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Separately, two polio workers were robbed of their valuables by six robbers in the Sukkan area.

A police source confirmed the incident and added that the suspected robbers also "misbehaved with female polio workers".

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 26/11/2025)

SHC refuses to stop govt from issuing e-tickets

Refusing to restrain authorities from issuing e-challans over traffic violations in the city, the Sindh High Court on Tuesday directed the provincial government and traffic police to file comments on a set of petitions challenging the recently introduced AI-based e-ticketing system.

A two-judge constitutional bench (CB) of the SHC comprising Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry and Justice Muhammad Jaffer Raza took up for hearing four identical petitions filed by the Jamaat-i-Islami, Pakistan Markazi Muslim League, Karachi Bus Owners Association and a citizen against the e-challan system introduced last month.

The petitioners requested the court for an interim relief to suspend the operation and implementation of the e-challan system till the final disposal of their petitions.

The lawyer for bus owners' body, Munsif Jan, submitted that buses operating on intra-city routes were being fined under the impugned system and pleaded for an interim relief.

However, Justice Chaudhry remarked that an interim order could not be passed at this stage and the court will decide the matter after hearing both sides.

It directed a provincial law officer to ensure that the comments must be filed on behalf of the respondents — the Sindh chief secretary, home secretary, excise and taxation department, DIG of traffic police — by Dec 11.

The petitioners submitted that the AI-based e-challan system was implemented in the city without ensuring necessary road infrastructure, vehicle ownership verification mechanism and other allied facilities.

They argued that the state cannot demand compliance and impose heavy pecuniary sanctions while failing to provide the basic infrastructure necessary for lawful driving and that the impugned e-challan system was arbitrary, oppressive and discriminatory.

They stated that despite providing better facilities on motorways and highways, the federal government was not imposing such hefty fines on the public transport while in Punjab, similar traffic violations under the e-challan system had attracted comparatively nominal penalties.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 26/11/2025)

E-challan system brought visible improvement: DIG

The e-challan system has brought a visible improvement in traffic discipline in the metropolitan city, with a growing number of motorists adhering to helmet and seat belt rules and stopping at traffic signals, claimed Traffic Police DIG Pir Muhammad Shah on Tuesday.

Speaking to members of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), he shared the latest data to dispel widespread misperceptions. In the past month, 58% of all e-challans were issued to luxury vehicles, while motorcycles, which constitute nearly 60% of city's traffic, accounted for only 23% of the tickets, he added.

About criticism regarding fine amounts, he dispelled the perception that Sindh imposes much higher penalties than Lahore. A motorcycle challan costs Rs2,000 in Lahore and Rs2,500 in Sindh, he said, adding that although Sindh has set Rs5,000 as the formal challan rate, a 50% discount is available if the payment is made within 14 days - a concession not available in Lahore.

DIG Shah also announced that a traffic information chatbot will be launched on Monday to assist citizens with challan-related queries and general traffic guidance. He added that he has proposed establishing a Karachi Traffic Management Company, which would receive a portion of the challan revenue to repair the city's infrastructure and address public grievances.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 27/11/2025)

SHO's minor son, nephew gunned down in Kandhkot targeted attack

Unknown assailants shot dead the 10-year-old son of a police officer and his nephew in a targeted attack in Kandhkot when they were heading towards their school from their village in a rickshaw on Wednesday, police said.

They said that victim Muzammil and Gul Hassan were the son and nephew of Bakhshapur SHO Sikandar Panhwar.

Four men riding on motorcycles intercepted their rickshaw and sprayed it with bullets on a section of the Ghouspur Road along the Abdul Hakeem Bijarani village within the remit of the Jamal police station near Tangwani town.

The bodies were shifted to the Civil Hospital for medico-legal formalities. Later, the corpses were handed over to the heirs.

The police said that the criminals had previously threatened SHO Panhwar and had also attacked his house in the past.

SHO Panhwar had served at various police stations and was constantly taking action against criminal elements. He was at the forefront of operations against criminals, and though he had been receiving threats for a long time, he continued his fight against them.

The funeral prayers for Muzammil and Gul Hassan were offered in their village, Abdul Haq Panhwar. SSP Muhammad Murad Ghanghro, various police officers, political, religious leaders, social activists and a large number of people attended their last rites.

The deceased were laid to rest in their ancestral graveyard amid moving scenes.

The police said an operation was launched and soon the killers would be brought to justice.

(By Waseem Shamsi Dawn, 13, 27/11/2025)

'Drunk' guest opens fire at wedding party

A wedding ceremony in Baldia Town turned into tragedy late Sunday night when a guest opened indiscriminate fire following an argument, killing one person and injuring eight others, including a child. The shooter fled the scene amid chaos, while local residents vandalised his car in anger, shattering its windows with stones.



According to police and rescue officials a heated dispute escalated, prompting a guest, Amir, to pull out a handgun and fire multiple rounds into the gathering.

The victim was identified as 35-year-old Noroz Khan, son of Feroz Khan, a resident of the same neighbourhood and an invited guest. The injured were shifted by Chhipa ambulances to Civil Hospital Karachi, where police took additional security measures due to tensions among relatives of the victims.

Eyewitnesses claimed the suspect was heavily intoxicated and opened fire in a drunken state. At least five spent 9mm casings were recovered from the crime scene.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 29/11/2025)

Relief for Sri Lankan woman who spent 18 years in Pakistan in legal limbo

After going underground in Pakistan as an illegal alien for 18 years, a 65-year-old Sri Lankan woman, will now be able to return home to her children in Colombo, thanks to concerted efforts by Edhi Foundation, Saylani Welfare Trust and human rights advocate Zia Ahmed Awan.

Speaking at a press conference at the Edhi headquarters at Meethadar on Friday, Rashina could not hold back her tears as she thanked all for coming to her aid. "I'm a poor woman. The government of Pakistan had imposed a 22 lac rupees fine on me for illegally overstaying in Pakistan. I didn't even have money to pay for my return ticket to Sri Lanka, what to say of the heavy fine," she said.

"But God is great. God sent me help in all these people who made it possible for a destitute widow to reunite with her orphaned children," she said.

Sharing her story, Rashina said that she is a born Muslim from Sri Lanka, who found employment as a telephone operator at a travel agency in Kuwait. It was there that she met Javed Iqbal of Mian Channu, Punjab. "We fell in love and got married. Later, we moved to Saudi Arabia where we lived for some 15 years. We have three children, two daughters, Mumtaz and Aneesha, and a son Mohammed Rafay," she said.

In Saudi Arabia, later, when her husband lost his job, he desperately tried to find another but being unable to do so he was deported to Pakistan while Rashina was deported to Sri Lanka with their children. "Leaving my children in the care with my family in Colombo, I came to Pakistan on a visit visa to meet my husband in Mian Channu. But his family would not accept me. We left Punjab to come to Karachi where we found a small rented place. I know I should have returned to Sri Lanka when my visa expired but by then my husband had become seriously ill. His liver was failing. Then he passed away. That was in 2007. I have tried to return home to my children since then but I couldn't without first paying a 22 lac rupees fine imposed on me for overstaying my welcome," she informed.

Rashina set to reunite with family in Colombo following legal aid and charity support

"Having no place to go I would turn up at Saylani Welfare Trust for meals. There I met a volunteer, Anis Abdul Hafeez, who offered me a place to stay with his family in Surjani Town because I had no place to stay. When I fell sick, I reached out to Saylani again, and their chief trustee Arif Lakhani arranged for my heart bypass surgery. My hospital stay and medical bills were also taken care of by Saylani. They also tried to find me legal help. But we were getting nowhere. Not knowing what else to do, I started protesting outside the Karachi Press Club," she said.

Speaking on the occasion, Faisal Edhi said: "That was when some journalists alerted my son Saad Edhi about Rashina's plight. I then reached out to our regular legal counsel Advocate Zia Ahmed Awan for help," Faisal Edhi told *Dawn*.

Advocate Zia Awan said that they reached out to the Ministry of Interior but to no avail. "Hope finally came when we approached the Constitutional Bench of the Sindh High Court which ordered for the Interior Secretary to appear before it. That was when Rashina's hefty fine was waived and she was ordered to leave Pakistan within 15 days," the able advocate reported.

As Arif Lakhani of Saylani had already got her Sri Lankan passport renewed, it was only a matter of him buying her a one-way air ticket to Colombo. With that arranged, Rashina is now all set to board her flight back home from Karachi on December 2.

"You are all welcome to Colombo. You will stay with me there. My children, who are half Pakistani, and I will love to have you," Rashina told Zia Awan, Faisal Edhi, Arif Lakhani, Anis Abdul Hafeez and even the members of the media who had come to cover her story.

Speaking on the occasion, Faisal Edhi and Advocate Awan urged the government to look into waiving off the hefty fines imposed on aliens stuck in this country only because they don't have money to pay the fines.

"When they want to go home we should also not let such hurdles come in their way," Faisal Edhi said.
(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 13, 29/11/2025)

Suspect held for rape and murder of woman in Clifton

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a man for his alleged involvement in the murder of a woman whose body was found in Clifton earlier this week.

On Nov 25, the body of the woman, identified as Shehnaz Arshad Gill, was recovered in Clifton near Urban Forest with visible marks of torture. Later, an autopsy found that she was sexually assaulted before being murdered. South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that a resident of Akhtar Colony, who was familiar with the victim, had been arrested.

During grilling, the suspect told investigators that the victim was his friend and they both met on Nov 22 near Clifton. However, a scuffle broke out between them over a monetary issue. In the ensuing scuffle, she snatched his phone. That made him furious, and he killed her by repeatedly hitting her head and face with a boulder. Later, he fled the scene after stealing her phone as well as some cash from her purse.

The DIG said the suspect had confessed to the crime. He said that in order to hide her identity, the suspect smashed the victim's face with a heavy stone and blackened her fingers with a cigarette lighter.

The stolen mobile phone was recovered from him, he added.

Gill was a resident of Saeedabad, Baldia Town, but originally hailed from Mian Channu in Khanewal district of Punjab. She had been missing since Nov 22, and a report regarding her disappearance was registered at the Madina Colony police station by her son.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed had said the woman's body, with disfigured facial features and in the early stages of decomposition, was found in an open area within the jurisdiction of the Boat Basin police station.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 30/11/2025)

Courts and justice

THE legal system in Pakistan does not serve its people. The systemic problems of our courts are widely acknowledged. Civil disputes remain pending for decades. By the time many civil disputes conclude they cease to matter much to the people who initiate them.

Legal proceedings do not follow rules. The process is arbitrary and almost always bewildering for the parties involved. Because rules for admissibility of cases are not enforced, frivolous litigation is admitted rather than dismissed at an early stage. Such litigation is either filed by the party to harass another or gain some bargaining advantage. Sometimes it is filed because a lawyer, in search for a brief, has wrongly advised a client that their case has merit.

Criminal courts regularly violate the fundamental rights of defendants. Our criminal courts are not independent from the executive as they work with law-enforcement agencies to deny the right to fair trial. Police torture and fabrication of evidence are common practices that are acknowledged and accepted by judges. Defendants are convicted on the basis of weak or made-up evidence. Human rights violations are even more severe in antiterrorism courts that are supposed to try terrorists but mostly conduct trials of regular crimes.

Poor men comprise the vast majority of criminal defendants in Pakistan. Many cannot afford legal representation or put down surety for bail. Hence, over 70 per cent of our prison inmates are not convicts but under-trial detainees. Occupancy in most of our prisons is double or triple the actual capacity.

Lawyers often exploit litigants without consequences. A common complaint one hears from litigants is that their lawyer periodically asks for more money during the course of lengthy trials but does not provide any comprehensible information regarding case progress. Little wonder then that many continue to approach informal justice mechanisms such as jirgas, in spite of their many flaws, to resolve disputes.

Our professional bar associations do not act as regulatory and disciplinary bodies. Bar associations here have an admirable record of fighting against constitutional subversion. It is important to inquire how effective they can be in these important endeavours if they consider themselves above the law.

The judiciary hasn't used its powers to redress social injustices.

Our courts do not enforce the many laws passed in recent years to protect women and children, the most vulnerable groups. Provincial domestic violence laws allow women facing imminent violence from family members to obtain protection orders. They also allow women to obtain residence orders restraining spouses or other family members from forcing them out of the family home. Courts often deny these protection and residence orders to the few women who approach them or delay the hearing for so long that they become pointless for women facing immediate threats.

More than 90pc of sexual violence cases end in acquittal. Courts almost always allow out-of-court settlements exonerating persons accused of 'honour' killings. The Constitution gives high courts and the Supreme Court the power to enforce fundamental rights. These provisions allow citizens and civil society organisations to approach courts to challenge human rights violations. With some sporadic exceptions — a judgement here and there — the superior judiciary has not used this power to redress grave social injustices (enforced disappearances, for example). Instead, some Supreme Court judges used this power to encroach on other branches of government. Extreme examples of this include the disqualification of two sitting prime ministers in 2012 and 2017 by the Supreme Court.

High courts monitor the appointment and performance of the district judiciary. Even prior to the 26th and 27th Amendments, when the high courts exercised greater autonomy, they didn't or couldn't improve access and quality of justice before the district courts.

We should not assume that the recent amendments will lead to a dramatic change in the quality of justice for better or for worse. The independence of the Supreme Court and the high courts is an important principle. But we shouldn't focus disproportionately on constitutional design changes in the appointment of superior court judges and the superior judiciary's structure.

Constitutional design doesn't determine distribution of power between institutions. This is especially so in the case of Pakistan where, to quote justice Athar Minallah, an "unelected elite" has large influence on judicial and political affairs in spite of constitutional design. We shouldn't lose sight of the systemic political and social factors that prevent social justice and make our courts ineffective. It is these factors that determine freedom and independence of all, including the judiciary.

(By Sara Malkani Dawn, 07, 01/12/2025)

Detainees' rights

IN a system where mistreatment, torture and even death of individuals in custody are not uncommon, the Rights of Persons Arrested, Detained or under Custodial Investigation Bill, passed by the Senate on Monday, should help address many of the ills related to the abuse of detained persons. Of course, much depends on the implementation of provisos, as Pakistan has passed many a noble law over the decades, yet abuses remain rife because administrations have not felt the need to enforce the legal requirements. Moved by PPP Senator Farooq Naek, the bill is inspired by Article 14 of the Constitution, which states that the dignity of every person is inviolable. Amongst its major features, it seeks to ensure that individuals are informed about the reason for their arrest in writing and for them to have access to family members and counsel. The bill further calls for producing an arrested individual before a magistrate within 24 hours, while also barring torture and cruel treatment. A law criminalising torture — the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022 — is already on the books, and the scope of the legislation just passed by the Upper House seems to be wider where the rights of detained persons are concerned.

That the rights of detainees are routinely flouted within the Pakistani criminal justice system is widely known. From former prime ministers and lawmakers to lesser mortals, the state has made it a habit to deny detainees their fundamental rights. Hopefully, with this legislation spelling out the rights of detainees, and the punishments of officials who flout the law, things could change for the better. Moreover, the proviso calling for production before a magistrate after arrest could also reduce the grim trend of enforced disappearances. Yet as rights activists have observed with respect to other similar laws, those who work in the criminal justice system, such as police officers and prison officials, need to be sensitised about what the document actually says, for example about the rights of detainees. Furthermore, they need to be aware of the penalties they could face if they fail to ensure the rights of persons in custody. The provincial administrations could work with rights organisations to sensitise the relevant officials and help create a just and accountable system that respects fundamental rights.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 03/12/2025)

PA panel to probe child's death in sewer

The death of three-year-old Ibrahim in a manhole echoed in Sindh Assembly with the Local Government minister saying, "the cries of the grief-stricken mother have shaken everyone's conscience."

Speaking on the floor of the House, LG Minister Nasir Hussain Shah said Ibrahim's death in manhole at Nipa saddened every person with a compassionate heart.

He said an investigative committee comprising the representatives present in the Sindh Assembly is being constituted. "Some reports regarding the Nipa tragedy have been received, but we are not satisfied with them," he told the Speaker.

Shah assured that strict action will be taken against whoever was found responsible. "We will try our best to ensure that no mother loses her child in the future. A mechanism is being developed to prevent the theft of manhole covers." Similar incidents have occurred in the past as well, but no permanent solution was implemented, due to which such tragic incidents continue to occur repeatedly.

Speaker rejects motion against e-challan

The Sindh Assembly greenlit several opposition-sponsored resolutions, though a Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) motion regarding the new e-challan system of the traffic police was struck down by the speaker, who ruled the matter is sub judice and ordered all related remarks expunged from the record.

Sharjeel Memon said e-challans were essential for road safety. He said helmet use, lane discipline, and respect for one-way rules were hallmarks of civilised societies. "No civilised nation permits persistent violations of traffic laws," he remarked.

During the Private Members' Day on Tuesday, gas load-shedding in Sindh, particularly in Karachi, took the centre stage as MQM-P lawmaker Aamir Siddiqui moved a resolution condemning persistent gas shortages in the metropolis. The government supported the motion, which was later amended to extend its scope to the entire province and subsequently adopted unanimously.

MPA Siddiqui accused the SSGC of providing Rs14 billion to Karachi's town administrations "yet leaving roads unrepaired." He urged the chief minister to raise the matter at the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon backed the resolution, calling the crisis a province-wide challenge. PPP legislators Ghulam Qadir Chandio and Jamil Soomro also urged widening the resolution's applicability to all of Sindh.

MQM-P's Rashid Khan cited severe shortages in Hyderabad near the Tando Alam gas field, while PTI's Shabbir Qureshi demanded the temporary closure of CNG stations to divert gas to households. MQM-P's Sabir Qaimkhani argued that Sindh, which contributes 27% of Pakistan's natural gas, must be guaranteed its fair share.

Provincial Minister Jam Khan Shoro informed the House that Sindh produces roughly 2,000 mmcf but at times receives only 900 mmcf. The House passed the resolution unanimously.

The assembly also approved MQM-P MPA Farah Sohail's resolution calling for enhanced skills training for women. Women Development Minister Shahira Shahid Ali told the House that her department, in collaboration with Toyota, was providing technical training to women-including inmates and shelter home residents. PPP's Saadia Javed and MQM-P's Kiran Masood also voiced support.

MQM-P's Sabir Qaimkhani raised a privilege motion complaining that an earlier resolution regarding Hyderabad's Niaz Stadium had not been implemented. Sharjeel said Sindh govt would take up the matter with the Pakistan Cricket Board to restore international cricket at the venue.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 03/12/2025)

Police honour boy who found child's body

As social media was flooded with praise for a teenager who spotted and pulled out the body of three-year-old Ibrahim, the Karachi police on Tuesday formally acknowledged his role, leaving a question mark over the city administration and rescue services' claim of finding the corpse as a result of a 15-hour-long operation.

SSP-East Dr Farrukh Raza Malik on Tuesday called the teenager, Tanveer, along with a relative, to his office.

"I met the boy who discovered the body of the minor on Monday near Nipa," SSP Malik said in a brief statement. "He [Tanveer] is a brave and well-mannered boy," he added.

The meeting came against the backdrop of social media criticism at some policemen who reportedly slapped the boy instead of acknowledging his role. The civic bodies concerned also failed to give credit to the boy as they highlighted only their efforts.

When contacted, Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan told *Dawn* that Tanveer is a "scavenger" who was collecting items near an open drain at Sir Syed University.

He said two civic employees had already been deployed at the spot, having identified it as one of several points where the body might surface. He said the staff discovered the body in an open drain under a flyover near Sir Syed University and informed the rescue team stationed about one kilometre away, he added.

In the meantime, Mr Khan said, the staff asked Tanveer to go inside and check. As the teenager entered, he recovered the body, which was placed in a van and brought near the departmental store.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 03/12/2025)

Notices issued on plea for FIR over child's manhole death in Karachi

A district court on Wednesday issued notices to the Karachi mayor, managing director of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, Gulshan Town chairman and Red Line contractor on an application seeking registration of a case against them over their alleged negligence in the tragic death of a three-year-old boy.

The district and sessions judge (East) directed the proposed accused persons to file their comments/report till Dec 11.

Citing the SHO of Aziz Bhatti and superintendent of police complaint cell as respondents and impleading mayor, town chairman Gulshan-i-Iqbal and MD of KWSC and contractor of Red Line as accused, Advocate Sheikh Saqib Ahmed filed an application under Section 22-A of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The court fixed the matter on Dec 11 and said: "You are required to submit your report/comments without fail, failing which the same application shall be decided in your absence."

The applicant submitted that three-year-old Ibrahim had drowned in an open manhole near Nipa in Gulshan-i-Iqbal on Nov 30 and his body was recovered after 15 hours which demonstrated blatant failure of local authorities and emergency services.

He also argued that the tragic death of the child was not an isolated incident, as at least 23 people had lost their lives in Karachi in 2025 due to falling into open manholes.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 04/12/2025)

Hearing put off on plea for judicial probe into child's manhole death

The Sindh High Court on Thursday directed a lawyer to come prepared to advance arguments on a petition seeking independent judicial inquiry into the tragic death of a three-year-old child in an open manhole.

After a preliminary hearing, a two-judge constitutional bench of SHC headed by Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry adjourned the hearing till Dec 11 as the counsel for petitioners sought time for arguments.

Citing secretary of home department, the Karachi mayor, managing director of Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation, chairman Gulshan-i-Iqbal town and others as respondents, petitioner advocate Gulzar Nigar and former MNA Alamgir Khan petitioned the SHC and sought directives for the mayor and all 25 town chairmen to file detailed reports about uncovered manholes, trenches and pits in Karachi.

The petitioners further asked the SHC to direct the respondents to formulate and implement citywide municipal safety and hazard prevention framework, including mandatory inspection, emergency response protocols, rescue mechanisms, public hazard reporting system and strict disciplinary action against negligent officers.

At the outset of the hearing, the bench asked the lawyer for the petitioners to apprise it about the relevant rules & regulations to adopt protective measures during the uplift projects.

The counsel sought time to prepare arguments on the subject matter.

The bench in its order said: "Counsel for the petitioners seeks time to assist the court with relevant regulations. To come up on 11-12-2025".

The petitioners also sought departmental and disciplinary action against the delinquent officials of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, district municipal corporation and other civil bodies for their failure to maintain public safety which caused tragic death of the child.

They submitted that three-year-old Ibrahim had drowned in an open manhole near Nipa in Gulshan-i-Iqbal on Nov 30 and his body was found after 15 hours which reflected blatant failure of the authorities concerned and emergency services.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 05/12/2025)

Noted artist 'manhandled' as police accost Aurat March activists

A rights activist was 'briefly detained' from outside the Karachi Press Club, ahead of a press conference by Aurat March on Thursday over the alleged "abduction" of two Baloch girls.

The organisers said classical dancer and human rights activist Sheema Kermani was also manhandled by police, while other women participants were also "mistreated" by women officers on their way to the KPC.

They claimed women activists were not allowed to reach the press club.

While the authorities refused to give any official account of the incident, a police officer who wished not to be named, said that "extreme vigilance and heightened security measures" had been put in place in the Red Zone, particularly around the KPC, because of security concerns.

The officer said there was a "terrorist threat" and that security had therefore been tightened. The officer denied the arrest of any woman activist.

Protesters roughed up; police claim security tightened due to 'terror threat', deny any arrests

However, the activists eventually managed to reach the KPC, where they addressed a press conference.

They said they were set to hold a press conference at the KPC over the alleged "abduction" of 15-year-old Nasreen Baloch and 24-year-old Mahjabeen Baloch. As they arrived, they were pushed and pulled around and were "stopped by the police" at the gate of the KPC.

Rights activist Sheema Kermani spoke with journalists in excruciating pain as she held her right arm.

"We were not being allowed to hold this press conference," she told journalists.

"I was harshly pulled and pushed around today by the police even though I am a peaceful citizen who only came here today to raise my voice against injustice being done in the form of abducting young Baloch girls," she said.

She questioned the treatment hurled out at her and the other women.

Sheema wondered aloud "whether this is the working of a fascist government or do we still have a liberal, democratic government? Did we just witness state terrorism on our streets? Why were unarmed peaceful citizens picked up?"

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) member Qazi Khizar said an activist named Sara was taken by the police from outside the KPC.

Within a few hours, Aurat March confirmed to Dawn that she had been released. He expressed disappointment over how the police surrounded the press club.

Moneeza Ahmed of Aurat March said that they were all there at the KPC to protest the abduction of Nasreen Baloch from Hub last month.

She said that earlier this year, another girl, Mahjabeen Baloch, who is also a victim of polio, was taken from Quetta. "Earlier, there were missing persons who were grownups but now underage girls are also being taken away. Here, too, Sindh police, who otherwise claim to safeguard women, are picking them up illegally."

On the occasion, Aurat March Karachi also shared four demands while pointing out that the abduction of young Baloch girls was not simply a human rights issue but a feminist and political issue.

“The forced disappearance of women and girls is an attack on their autonomy, activism and their right to exist safely within their own homeland.”

The demands included the immediate recovery and safe return of Nasreen Baloch and Mahjabeen Baloch and an end to the “enforced disappearances” of Baloch people, including the “targeted abduction” of women, minors and persons with disabilities.

They also demanded transparency from state institutions and accountability for every agency involved in the abductions.

Lastly, they wanted protection for families and activists who face retaliation for seeking justice and visibility.

Imtiaz Ali also contributed to this story
(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 13, 05/12/2025)

Threat to Karachi

DURING a recent visit to the Ravi River in Lahore, I heard stories of how the recent flood had taken back what once belonged to the river. Fields that had been turned into housing schemes were swallowed overnight. It was a reminder that the river, once thought tamed, was only waiting for its moment to return. That same story could easily unfold hundreds of kilometres south — not along a riverbank, but on the Arabian Sea’s restless shores in Karachi, where the sea seems to be inching forward.

In coastal settlements around Karachi, the water creeps further inland each year. Areas that were once playgrounds, courtyards and open spaces are submerged during high tides. What was once a seasonal nuisance has now turned into a constant threat, with seawater pushing into the city.

The rise of the concrete jungle as a consequence of unplanned urbanisation has made matters worse. Just as encroachments squeezed the Ravi, Karachi’s shoreline has been steadily eaten up by real estate projects. Luxury housing blocks rise where mangroves once stood. These mangroves were not just trees, they were the city’s armour, absorbing waves, sheltering fish nurseries, and shielding coastal communities.

Now, with the protective green belt disappearing, every storm tide reminds Karachi that the sea is not passive. Like the Ravi, it has a memory. Who will pay the price? When land along Clifton and Defence Housing Authority (DHA) is reclaimed, it is celebrated as ‘development’. But when the sea reclaims land in Korangi Creek, Rehri Goth or Machar Colony, it is called a ‘disaster’. The reality is that the sea makes no distinction — it simply moves where space is left for it to return.

Scientists warn that by 2050, parts of Karachi, like Korangi Creek, Hawkesbay and even sections of DHA Phase-VIII, could be permanently underwater if sea levels continue to rise. But the warning is not abstract. The advance of the sea is already visible, step by step, and tide by tide.

There must be a way forward, and there, indeed, is. Those at the helm must rethink the city’s relationship with the Arabian Sea. Protecting mangroves, halting reckless reclamation, and planning with climate change in mind are not luxuries; they are survival strategies.

The matter needs immediate attention because, whether it is Punjab or Sindh, water always comes back for its land.

Kundan Kumar
Karachi
(Published in Dawn, 07, 05/12/2025)

Visa fraud and students

The recent decision by several UK universities to restrict recruitment from Pakistan and Bangladesh is a policy born of legitimate concern, but executed with a punishing lack of precision. The move is reportedly in response to UK government concerns over increasing visa fraud and questionable asylum claims by Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

In a nutshell, the British government is refusing an increasingly larger number of student visa applications from Pakistan - about 18%. Because visa applications occur towards the end of the admissions process, universities that have reserved spots for successful Pakistani applicants might not be able to offer the spot to another student if the Pakistani’s visa is rejected and they cannot attend.

Even if they can get another student to accept the spot on short notice, the student will likely be British and thus pay lower fees. This would cause universities a substantial net loss, even if the seat were filled. Instead of absorbing those losses, universities are looking to offer seats to students from other countries who are more likely to actually get their visas and attend.

While we must unequivocally condemn those who abuse student visas, the British government and universities must not allow their actions to derail the dreams of an entire generation of genuine scholars. For its part, the Government of Pakistan also needs to do more to punish unscrupulous education agents who falsify documents to help unqualified students get student visas.

Another option may be to work with the UK and other countries on a system where substantial bonds or other guarantees can be used to increase the likelihood that students return — some countries require students to prove they can pay for the full cost of their education and stay abroad, even if they have scholarships that would reduce the actual amount needed.

What is most important is to find a workable solution — rigorous vetting, clearer communication, and prosecuting individual fraud rather than presuming guilt by nationality.
(By The Express Tribune, 14, 06/12/2025)

Man held for 'killing wife, daughter over honour' in Gizri

A woman and her teenage daughter were killed in the name of so-called honour in their Gizri home, police said on Saturday.

The Clifton police said that Kulsoom, 43, and her daughter Maryam, 11, were stabbed to death allegedly by her husband, Samiullah, late on Friday night.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that the suspect stabbed and injured his wife and daughter inside their home near Noorani Masjid.

They were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where they were pronounced dead.

The DIG said the double murder appeared to be an outcome of an honour killing. He said the suspect had been arrested and the knife used in the double murder had also been recovered.

The police have registered a murder case against the arrested suspect on the complaint of the victim Kulsoom's brother, Faisal Khan.

The DIG said the suspect has "confessed" to the crime.

The suspect claimed that he had "doubts about the character of his wife", while he killed his daughter as well because she was supporting her mother, he added.

However, the DIG said during the initial probe, it transpired that the suspect was arrested around two-and-a-half months ago in an unrelated case and was released on bail around three days ago.

He said the suspect was "angry" as his wife, Kulsoom, was allegedly not arranging surety for his bail.

The police are further investigating the case, he added.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 07/12/2025)

45 held as police stop rally participants from marching on Red Zone

Police on Sunday resorted to tear gas shelling to prevent participants of one of the many rallies taken out to mark Sindhi Cultural Day from moving towards the Red Zone via Sharea Faisal and detained several workers, officials said.

The police had already blocked a portion of Sharea Faisal near FTC flyover by parking heavy vehicles there. In view of certain past untoward incidents, the law enforcers were asked to ensure that no participant was allowed to move beyond FTC under any circumstances, as the area ahead leads into the Red Zone, which contains sensitive installations.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told Dawn that the law enforcers asked the rally participants to use the Lines Area route towards Saddar and subsequently the venue of the rally at Karachi Press Club (KPC), but "they were bent upon using the Sharea Faisal from Jinnah Bridge".

"They allegedly pelted stones at the police when they were stopped, resulting in injuries to five policemen," he said, adding that this prompted the police to resort to tear gas shelling to disperse them.

The officer said that 45 people were detained.

The police action caused traffic chaos on the main artery.

When asked why the law enforcers had blocked the road at the FTC flyover, the DIG said that an advisory was issued pertaining to the cultural day, as multiple rallies and cultural processions were expected to assemble at the FTC and intended to move towards the KPC via Sharea Faisal.

He said that around 10-12 rallies came from different parts of the metropolis and reached Fawara Chowk/KPC with around 17,000 to 18,000 participants.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 08/12/2025)

'Migrant robbers' from Punjab confess to weekend crime sprees in Karachi

Members of a gang arrested from Defence Phase 7, have made significant revelations during interrogation. According to police officials, the suspects would travel from Punjab to Karachi during weekends and festive occasions to commit robberies and snatchings and then return.

The getaway car as usual was a popular brand's sedan of white colour. Police said the arrested men targeted citizens at airports, railway stations, and other crowded places.

Investigations further revealed that all the detained suspects belong to Punjab, where they were also involved in dozens of criminal incidents. Officials stated that the vehicle seized from the gang had been rented from Punjab and was brought to Karachi for carrying out the robberies.

During interrogation, CCTV footage of several of their crimes has also come to light. Police added that the arrested suspects are experts in changing IMEI numbers of mobile phones. They would alter the IMEI of snatched phones and then sell them.

It is noteworthy that three days ago, five members of a criminal gang were arrested after an alleged police encounter. Weapons, laptops, mobile phones, and a car were recovered from their possession. Police confirmed that further interrogation of the newly arrested suspects is ongoing.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 08/12/2025)

Cop's son caught for car snatching in Karachi

The Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC) has arrested a three-member gang- including the son of a police officer - allegedly involved in a series of car thefts and snatching incidents across the city. The police also recovered four stolen and snatched vehicles, along with weapons, during the raid.

According to details, the AVLC carried out the operation using Safe City camera footage, mobile data analysis and intelligence-based information. The suspects were allegedly involved in thefts and snatching incidents reported in the jurisdictions of Bahadurabad, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Hyderi Market and North Nazimabad police stations.

Those arrested were identified as Muneer, son of Muqaddar Khan; Danish Ali alias Mir, son of Muhammad Aroos; and Moazzam Balti, son of Azam. SSP AVLC Khalid Mustafa Korai said the gang was led by Danish alias Mir, who is the son of a police officer. The group had allegedly been operating for several months, targeting various areas in Karachi's East and South districts. The suspects would rent vehicles and then use them to snatch cars from citizens. Police said multiple CCTV clips of the suspects committing crimes had already been obtained.

During interrogation, the gang members confessed to several incidents, revealing that they used to sell the stolen vehicles in Kuchlak, Balochistan.

Cases have been registered against the suspects, and further investigation is under way.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 09/12/2025)

Judge berates IO for treating Section 144 violation as 'act of terrorism'

The administrative judge of the anti-terrorism courts (ATC) on Monday removed the provision of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) invoked by the Karachi police in an FIR registered against hundreds of participants of a Sindhi Culture Day rally that turned violent on Sharea Faisal on Sunday.

Police had on Sunday resorted to tear gas shelling to prevent participants of the rally from moving towards the Red Zone via Sharea Faisal in violation of a ban on gatherings due to the imposition of Section 144 of the criminal procedure code (CrPC). The law enforcers detained 45 people, but released 33 of them.

Later, a case was registered against 12 held individuals and "300-400" unidentified individuals on behalf of the state under Sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 341 (wrongful restraint), 144 (joining unlawful assembly armed with deadly weapon), 324 (attempted murder), 186 (obstructing public servants), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant), 427 (mischief causing damage) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Section 7 (punishment for acts of terrorism) of the ATA at the Saddar police station.

On Monday, the investigating officer (IO) of the case brought the suspects before the administrative judge of the ATCs for remand.

However, the administrative judge came down hard on police for invoking the ATA in the FIR and questioned as to how the IO declared it an act of terrorism when the case was a mere violation of a ban on gatherings under Section 144 of the criminal procedure code.

After hearing the IO, prosecutor and defence counsel at some length, the administrative judge removed the ATA provision from the FIR.

The judge observed that the IO had failed to satisfy the court on the subject issue, and referred the matter to the area magistrate.

Magistrate questions insertion of attempted murder charge

Thereafter, the IO produced the 12 suspects before a judicial magistrate (South), who also questioned the insertion of Section 324 (attempted murder) of the PPC in the FIR.

The IO requested the magistrate to grant at least one- or two-day remand of the suspects on the ground that the case was registered some hours ago and he has to record statements of witnesses.

The defence counsel argued that no one was wounded in the protest and no weapon was recovered from their clients, who were staging a peaceful rally to mark the culture day.

The counsel requested the court to discharge the 12 suspects.

After hearing both sides, the magistrate remanded the suspects in police custody for one day and directed the IO to produce them again on Tuesday (today) along with a progress report. Earlier, the complainant, Inspector Abdul Majeed Abro, said that he and other police personnel were present near the FTC flyover on Sharae Faisal at 2:30pm on Sunday when a rally, consisting of around 300-400 people on motorcycles and cars, appeared from the direction of the airport, heading toward Saddar.

"Keeping in view the ban on gatherings due to the imposition of Section 144 in the province, police personnel attempted to stop the participants of the rally," he said. However, the participants of the rally blocked the main thoroughfare on both sides and began pelting police with stones while also opening fire, he said.

He stated that they also damaged cars that were passing by, including a rescue ambulance and a police mobile, adding that they were also shouting "anti-state" slogans.

"Subsequently, police personnel, with the help of officers present on the scene, fired tear gas at the participants to prevent them from damaging property," he stated in the FIR.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 09/12/2025)

Mass suicides: head of family, son arrested as plot unravels

The case of discovering the bodies of three women from a flat in Gulshan-e-Iqbal has taken a new turn. Police have formally arrested the head of the family and his son on charges of murdering the women.

Iqbal and his family had allegedly mutually agreed to commit mass suicide, but the final suicide was to be carried out by Iqbal himself, however, he became afraid of death.

According to police, the five-member family of Iqbal had planned the entire sequence of suicides in advance. The first death was that of Iqbal's daughter-in-law, Maha. In her suicide note, Maha addressed her brothers, apologised for marrying against their wishes out of love, and added a will that she and Yaseen should be buried side by side.

PS Gulshan-e-Iqbal SHO Rao Naeem Rajput stated that the entire mass suicide plan was devised by Iqbal, who, after the deaths of his wife, daughter, and daughter-in-law, gave his son Yaseen a juice laced with sleeping pills. Iqbal had written four letters. In one letter, he wrote the names and mobile numbers of his brothers and sisters, instructing that these relatives should be contacted for the burials after his death.

The second letter was addressed to the administration of Harmain Residency, mentioning outstanding dues and explaining which of his belongings should be sold to repay which debts.

The third letter was written to his relatives, in which he complained that they did not help him during his difficult times.

In the fourth letter, Iqbal drew markings of five graves and indicated which grave belonged to which family member.

From the flat, police recovered rat poison (liquid form) and more than a dozen strips of sleeping pills used in the killings and suicides.

According to SHO Naeem, an FIR had initially been registered under murder charges on behalf of the police, but now these sections will be changed. Under court orders, the case will now be registered under attempted murder and suicide-related provisions.

(By Abbas Naqvi The Express Tribune, 04, 11/12/2025)

Mob torches 'killer' tanker

Fatal road accidents involving heavy vehicles continue unabated in the provincial capital. Abid Raees, a 17-year-old first-year student, was on his way to class in uniform when his life was tragically cut short as a speeding water tanker crushed him under its wheels in North Karachi on Wednesday morning.

The incident occurred near the K-Electric office on the route from Baba Mor to Four-K Chowrangi, within the jurisdiction of Khawaja Ajmer Nagri police station. Police said the tanker ran over the teenager, killing him instantly. His body was shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Following the crash, enraged residents vandalised property and set the tanker on fire. Police and the fire brigade quickly brought the blaze under control. The front portion of the tanker was completely destroyed.

Abid, a first-year student at Usman Public School and College, was wearing his college uniform and likely on his way to class when the accident occurred, according to SHO Sarfaraz. Witnesses, including workers from a nearby puncture shop, told police that the tragedy unfolded after two motorcycles collided, causing Abid to fall, where he was immediately run over by the tanker. The driver fled the scene.

Police have taken the burned tanker into custody. The vehicle was not registered in Karachi, and investigators are checking whether it had a dashboard camera or GPS tracker. Raids are underway to arrest the driver and the vehicle owner. After legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family.

According to rescue officials, 806 people have been killed and 11,596 injured in traffic accidents across Karachi so far this year. 244 deaths involved heavy vehicles. Despite the introduction of automated e-challan systems, fatal accidents continue unabated.

Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar condemned the tragedy, expressing profound grief and highlighting that deadly tankers and dumpers claim innocent lives daily.

The MQM-P spokesperson also expressed deep sorrow, criticising the Sindh government for leaving citizens helpless. He pointed to recent fatal tanker accidents on Kashmir Road and Nagan Chowrangi as evidence of government inefficiency and a failing traffic management system.

He noted that despite hundreds of cameras and thousands of e-challans, the tanker mafia remains uncontrollable. He urged the government to enhance monitoring at dangerous intersections, install clear signboards and speed-control systems, increase traffic police capacity, and implement permanent safety measures to protect citizens. The party emphasised that immediate and effective action is essential to prevent further tragedies on Karachi's roads.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 11/12/2025)

17 arrested as police raid Sunni Tehreek head office on extortion charges in Karachi

The Special Investigation Unit, in coordination with the police, raided Qadri House — the Nazimabad residence of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek chief Sarwat Ejaz Qadri — and detained 17 people, including two key suspects allegedly involved in extortion. Of those detained, eight were found to have prior criminal records.

SSP SIU Dr Imran Khan said the raid was carried out on the basis of intelligence information. During the raid, two suspects, identified as Jawad Qadri, alias Wajah Qadri, and Mulla Shahzaib, were arrested for their alleged involvement in extortion activities.

SSP Khan further stated that the suspects were associated with an extortion gang led by most-wanted criminals Abdul Samad Kathiawari and Wasiullah Lakho. A large cache of weapons, including three rifles, sub-machine guns (SMGs) and handguns, was also recovered from the premises.

The SSP said the arrested suspects were involved in several extortion cases. He clarified that PST chief Sarwat Ejaz Qadri was not arrested during the raid. Legal proceedings against the suspects are under way, and so are further investigations.

In a separate statement, the SIU said the raid was conducted on the identification of Rehanuddin, an extortionist who had earlier been arrested in an injured condition following a police encounter.

Rehanuddin was also involved in extortion and firing incidents in the Jamshed Quarters area. Acting on information provided by him, SIU/CIA police raided Qadri House and detained several suspects, including Jawad Qadri, alias Wajah Qadri and Mulla Shahzaib.

SSP Khan said heavy weapons were recovered from the arrested suspects, many of whom have previous criminal records. He added that the suspects were operating an extortion network run by Abdul Samad Kathiawari and Wasiullah Lakho and were wanted by police in several cases.

SSP Khan went on to add that Rehanuddin had earlier spent four years in jail in an extortion case and had also contested the general elections as an independent candidate.

He said that among the five to six extortion groups currently operating in the city, this gang was the most active, and its arrest is expected to help curb extortion incidents.

Sunni Tehreek condemns police raid on Qadri House

Strongly protesting the police raid on Qadri House, Pakistan Sunni Tehreek termed it unlawful and a violation of the sanctity of the home.

Addressing a news conference, Qadri alleged that the police had breached the sanctity of the four walls and behaved disrespectfully towards women during the raid. He said the PST leadership strongly condemned the police action, describing it as unacceptable and unconstitutional.

He claimed that the weapons recovered from the house were licensed and legal, adding that had any person been involved in criminal activity, they would have fully cooperated with law enforcement agencies.

"My family was dishonoured. We have always condemned terrorism and have rendered sacrifices for the country," he said, demanding action against the entire police team involved in the raid.

He warned that protests would be held nationwide if action was not taken. He also thanked the state authorities who contacted them immediately and assured full cooperation, saying, "We are peaceful and will remain peaceful, but we cannot tolerate injustice against our people."

Speaking alongside Qadri, PST Central Secretary General Sahibzada Allama Bilal Saleem Qadri Shami reiterated that the recovered weapons belonged to them and were licensed and legal. He said the party had always cooperated with law enforcement agencies and would have facilitated the arrest of any of its members found involved in criminal activity.

He strongly condemned the raid on Qadri House and said that if the Sindh government intended to take action against them, it should have brought fresh allegations instead of reviving cases dating back 15 to 20 years.

He alleged that police firing during the raid created fear and panic, adding that such actions would not intimidate the party leadership. "We are patriotic people," he said, while announcing nationwide protests.

He further claimed that Sarwat Ejaz Qadri's son and nephew, along with members of the household staff, were taken into custody during the raid.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 14/12/2025)

Nine suspects held in raid on Sunni Tehreek chief's residence

Police on Sunday claimed to have arrested nine suspects during a raid at the residence of Pakistan Sunni Tehreek (PST) chairman Sarwat Ejaz Qadri late on Saturday night.

Special Investigation Unit (SIU) SSP Imran Khan told a press briefing that the action was taken on a lead provided by held suspect Rehanuddin.

He said the police also recovered nine weapons, including G-3 rifles, sub-machine guns and pistols.

He clarified that PST chief Qadri was neither wanted by police nor arrested. He also said police had found no evidence linking the suspects to any political party.

About the suspects, he said they were part of an "extremely wanted and dangerous extortion network being run by Wasiullah Lakho and Abdul Samad Kathiawari, both currently hiding abroad".

The SSP added that a total of 17 individuals were taken into custody during the operation, out of which eight were found to have previous criminal records.

Replying to a question, SSP Khan said that action would be taken against anyone found to have provided shelter or assistance to the suspects.

Meanwhile, PST leaders alleged that police had violated the sanctity of Qadri House. They claimed that the weapons recovered from the house were licensed and legal.

Speaking at a press conference, they said if any worker had been involved in a crime, the party would have cooperated with law enforcement agencies.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 15/12/2025)

Rickshaw driver shot dead by robbers in Gulshan

A rickshaw driver was shot dead by armed robbers in Gulshan-i-Iqbal on Monday, police said.

They said that unidentified muggers riding a motorbike intercepted the rickshaw driver, identified as Muhammad Jameel, in Block-3, held him at gunpoint and demanded his cell phone. The driver put up resistance and the muggers opened fire. He sustained a bullet wound in the head and died on the spot.

The police said after the shooting, the armed muggers fled the scene with the victim's mobile phone.

The deceased was a resident of North Nazimabad and originally hailed from Lodhran in Punjab. He was the sole breadwinner of his family and the father of two daughters, they added.

The police said efforts were underway to obtain CCTV footage from nearby cameras to determine the exact sequence of events and to help identify the muggers involved in the killing.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 16/12/2025)

Suspected gangster shot dead in 'encounter'

A "key operative" of the Lyari gang war was killed in an alleged police encounter during a late-night operation in the Garden area, police said on Monday.

The killed suspect was identified as Ahsan alias Sohail Pappu, who was reportedly a close associate and shooter for Lyari gang war commander Jameel Changla. According to City district police, Ahsan was killed in an exchange of fire during a joint operation conducted by the City District police and a law enforcement agency.

SSP City Arif Aziz said the suspect was wanted in dozens of murder cases and had a long criminal history. He was also involved in a recent firing incident at an under-construction plot in Shalimar Garden area two days ago.

The police claimed that Ahsan was a hardened criminal and an active shooter for his group. A pistol was found on him after the encounter, and his previous criminal record has been obtained.

The SSP also stated that the suspect was the main accused in an extortion-related firing incident at Good Luck Hall in Garden area in August. He was also responsible for killing police constable Sohail Shah in 2018, while injuring another officer during the same incident.

In 2019, Ahsan allegedly murdered Hafeez Baloch in Pak Colony and Siddique Baloch in the Chakiwara area of Lyari. In the same year, he reportedly issued an extortion slip to a well-known eatery in Soldier Bazaar.

The police said the suspect was first arrested in 2019 and remained imprisoned till 2021. He was again arrested in 2021, along with his accomplice Liaquat, in a drug trafficking case. He remained behind bars from 2021 to 2025 and had been released only in August this year. SSP Aziz added that Ahsan was also involved in distribution of narcotics in Golimar and Tharu Lane areas. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 16/12/2025)

Karachi SIU suspends officers over alleged sale of seized drugs

In December, the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Karachi Police suspended officers involved in the alleged sale of part of a 508 kg narcotics consignment, valued at Rs280 million. The consignment included 468 kg of hashish and 40 kg of crystal meth. It was seized during an earlier operation, the largest till date according to officials, leading to 14 arrests. The arrests included an assistant excise and taxation officer, Javed Rasheed, after 50 kg of hashish and 10 kg of crystal meth were recovered from his house. The SIU launched an inquiry led by West Zone DIG Irfan Ali Baloch, the findings of which have been released as of Thursday.

Statements were collected from police officers and the 14 suspects arrested in the initial crackdown.

DSP Wasif Qureshi and Sub-Inspector Aijaz Butt faced allegations of taking bribes from a convicted drug dealer and an excise officer in exchange for leniency in the case. They were suspended immediately by AIG Karachi Javed Alam Odho, and an inquiry committee was formed.

The inquiry report confirmed that all seized drugs are still in the laboratory and have not been sold. DSP Wasif Qureshi has been cleared of both the alleged drug sale and bribery charges. It also indicated that the suspended Sub-inspector Butt and Police Officer Rehmat took bribes from a drug dealer and an excise officer. While the charge of drug sale has been dropped against the sub-inspector, the bribery charge remains against him and the police officer.

DIG Baloch compiled the report and submitted it to Karachi Police Chief Odho, who will oversee the case.

On December 1, Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar, Excise Minister Mukesh Kumar Chawla, AIG Karachi Odho, DIG West Irfan Baloch, and DIG CIA Muqaddas Haider announced a major narcotics seizure at a joint press conference. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 17/12/2025)

Builders allege intimidation by 'foreign gangs' amid surge in extortion cases in Karachi

The country's real-estate developers on Wednesday alleged that the city's business community has been facing an unprecedented rise in extortion and harassment cases from organised criminal gangs, and warned that they will shut down their business activity after January 15, 2026, if authorities fail to curb the unchecked reign of fear gripping the city.

The warning by the Association of Builders and Developers (Abad) came only two months after the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (Kati) and All City Traders Ittehad Association had expressed serious concerns about the growing cases of extortion and urged the Sindh government and law enforcement agencies to ensure foolproof security for traders and industrialists.

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Abad office-bearers accused criminal networks operating both locally and from abroad of systematically targeting builders, developers and businessmen through extortion calls, threats and shooting incidents.

According to Abad Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, extortion calls have surged over the past five months, with at least 10 of its association members formally reporting threats.

"We are receiving calls from Iranian and Dubai-based numbers, demanding up to Rs50 million in extortion. Those who refuse are shot at. This is not speculation — it is happening on the ground," he said.

He alleged that "known criminals," including Ahmed Ali Magsi, Jameel Chhanga and Wasiullah Lakho, were openly involved in extortion, land grabbing and intimidation.

He said extortionists even send threatening notes, bearing their names, phone numbers and bank account details, yet no effective action has been taken against them. "Sixty cases are already registered against Wasiullah Lakho. The question is why is he still free," he said, adding that Abad officials had submitted written complaints to President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Sindh chief minister, leaving "no excuse of ignorance".

"The law and order is not a favour but a constitutional duty of the state. We can't understand how five or six individuals are holding Karachi hostage. They are traceable, they are known, yet they are free. If by January 15 the situation does not improve, Abad will be forced to shut down business in Karachi," he added.

The association's patron-in-chief, Mohsin Sheikhani, said the real estate section was left with no option but to consider shutting down operations.

The situation, he said, had deteriorated to the point where police appeared "helpless". He appealed "directly to the army chief to intervene, warning that the economy will collapse" otherwise.

"Unless the federal government takes up this issue and red warrants are issued against extortionists, including those operating from Iran, nothing will change. Our properties, investments and even lives are at stake. If the state cannot protect us, how can we continue doing business?" he asked.

Senior Abad member Syed Afzal Hameed said he had never paid extortion and never would, calling the developing situation a conspiracy to sabotage the economy. He asked the authorities to move "before it's too late."

"Karachi's share in national revenue has already fallen from 62 per cent to 50pc. If real estate collapses, remittances and tax collection will also suffer," he added.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 18/12/2025)

SHC issues notices on plea for enforcement of law to curb wall chalking, defacement of public property

The Sindh High Court on Wednesday issued notices to the Sindh government, Karachi mayor and others in a petition seeking enforcement of the law against defacement of public property.

Advocate Tariq Mansoor moved the SHC against the defacement of government buildings, parks, playgrounds, roads, utility-service poles, etc and submitted that the menace had been growing in the form of wall-chalking, affixing posters, banners, hoardings and advertisements.

Citing the chief secretary, local government secretary, Karachi mayor and commissioner, inspector general of police and prosecutor general as respondents, the petitioner argued that the Prevention of Defacement of Property Act (PDPA) was enacted in 2013, but it had not been implemented yet.

A two-judge constitutional bench headed by Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry put the respondents, as well as the advocate general, on notice for Feb 10.

Bench asked to order formation of task force, frame rules mandated under Prevention of Defacement of Property Act

The petitioner submitted that the law was enacted around 12 years ago to prevent defacement of private and public property, but the same has not been enforced in its letter and spirit.

He stated that an anti-property defacement task force, mandated in the law, had not been constituted so far and as a result defacement of public property was persistently continuing.

The petitioner argued that the subject matter was not only linked with the right of life as provided in Article 9 of the Constitution, but also associated with various other constitutional provisions.

He submitted that the law had prohibited defacement of any property in any manner whatsoever with an intention to attract public attention and provided punitive action with imprisonment in case of contravention of its provisions.

He maintained that in addition to the task force, the act also provided preparation of a comprehensive anti-defacement programme and removal of existing defacement from the property.

The petitioner asked the SHC to issue directives for the respondents to immediately enforce the law in its letter and spirit without any exception across the board.

He also pleaded for constitution of the task force and preparation of a comprehensive anti-defacement of programme as provided in Section 4 of the act.

He further sought directive for respondents to frame rules under the act within 30 days.
(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 18/12/2025)

MQM-P worker gunned down in New Karachi 'targeted attack'

An activist of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) was shot dead in a suspected targeted attack in New Karachi on Wednesday, police said.

They said that three masked men riding a motorcycle emerged at a roadside tea shop in Bilal Colony, opened indiscriminate fire and rode away. As a result, 'joint UC organiser' of the MQM-P in the area Muhammad Shehzad Khan suffered multiple bullet wounds and died on the spot.

The police said that the victim, a resident of the same area, was father of four children. He was an employee of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation.

Following the incident, a heavy police contingent along with the Crime Scene Unit reached the spot and collected forensic evidence.

The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

SSP-Central Zeeshan Shafiq Siddiqui visited the hospital and met with the victim's brother. He assured the family that those involved in the killing would be arrested soon and brought to justice.

The police said that investigations were underway and multiple angles, including targeted killing, were being examined.

Later, the funeral prayers for the slain worker was held at the Makki Masjid and he was laid to rest in a local graveyard amid moving scenes.

Talking to reporters after the funeral, senior MQM-P leader Dr Farooq Sattar called upon the chief minister and inspector general of police to arrest the killers forthwith.

In a statement, MQM-P Chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui condemned the incident and said that due to the failure of the Sindh government in maintaining peace, targeted killings, firing and lawlessness had become a routine in the metropolis.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 18/12/2025)

Extortion capital?

The business community of Karachi is desperately crying for help, having been let down by politicians and law enforcement alike. Builders and property developers are threatening to shut down the city next month if the government does not take meaningful action against extortionists behind the city's 'bhatta culture'. They even went as far as naming several people who, according to them, are directly or indirectly running the criminal networks fleecing billions from wealthy businessmen in the country's biggest city and largest revenue generator.

Extortionists are operating with terrifying impunity, brazenly targeting people for tens of millions of rupees via calls from Dubai and Iran. Some of the victims claimed their employees were shot dead for not complying with the extortion demands, and afterwards, they received text messages warning them that those incidents were only "trailers" for what could happen.

And the extortionists often do not even try to hide their crimes, with some reportedly openly providing bank details for traceable transfers. Yet, no cases are registered against them. Coming at a time when the PPP is expressing outrage at a fictional Bollywood film that portrays a connection between the party and Karachi's gangs, it will be interesting how the very real failure of provincial and city leaders to take any action against extortion networks would be painted as "malicious distortion", rather than the reality that corruption and incompetence are hitting the city at its core, several years after the gangs were supposedly decommissioned after a series of violent operations.

We must also note that because of the raw amount of information available about the ringleaders and their finances, resolving the problem may not require an operation, or even a single bullet to be fired. Proper enforcement of financial laws and international agreements could freeze accounts and any assets associated with those accounts, forcing criminal elements into the open, whether in Pakistan or the Middle Eastern countries where they supposedly hold property and other fixed assets worth billions.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 19/12/2025)

Sindh CM Murad promises 'decisive action' against extortionists based abroad

A day after the Association of Builders and Developers (Abad) complained of increasing incidents of extortion in the metropolis, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah held a meeting with a representative delegation on Thursday and assured them that his government would take a decisive action against those involved in orchestrating extortion calls from abroad and land grabbing.

"We have decided, with the support of the federal government, to proceed against those who sit abroad and make extortion calls," he told the delegation.

The delegation, led by Hasan Bakshi, handed over to the CM copies of extortion slips (parchis) they had received, along with the telephone numbers of those demanding protection money from abroad.

A press statement issued from the CM House said that the meeting decided that the police would take strict action on every single complaint lodged by Abad.

"I will also talk to the federal government so that those extortionists sitting abroad can be arrested," the chief minister said. "We had wiped out extortionists from this city before, and we will once again ensure they are brought to account."

Mr Shah said he had listened to Abad's press conference a day earlier and felt the matter should have been brought directly to him instead of being raised in the media.

The Abad delegation included Afzal Hameed, Hanif Gohar and other office-bearers, while Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, Karachi Commissioner Hassan Naqvi, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon also present.

The IGP briefed the meeting that, on builders' complaint, three men linked to an extortionist operating from abroad had been arrested. The chief minister also made it clear that land grabbing would not be allowed anywhere in Sindh. "Under no circumstances can encroachment on land be permitted," he asserted.

The Abad representatives said they were ready to work jointly with the government to remove any old encroachments that might still exist, and a consensus was reached to move forward together in this regard.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 19/12/2025)

FIA offloads 23 Malaysia-bound passengers at Karachi airport

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Friday claimed to have offloaded 23 passengers bound for Malaysia at the Jinnah International Airport.

The agency said the passengers were attempting to travel on visit visas with the intention of seeking illegal employment abroad with the assistance of agents. They were prevented from departing after it was found that they lacked sufficient funds and had failed to provide the mandatory bank statements required to cover the visit visa expenditure.

"The FIA Immigration conducted an action at Karachi Airport and offloaded 23 passengers who were supposed to go to Malaysia," a press statement said.

It added that they were going to Malaysia on flight number D7-109. The held passengers were in contact with different agents. As per the initial probe, the passengers have "confessed" that they were going on a visit visa to get "illegal" employment in Malaysia.

They belonged to Karachi, Lower Dir, Madran, Swat, Bajaur, Bannu, Gujrat and Peshawar.

During immigration profiling, it transpired that they had "insufficient" cash as they could not provide the required money to be spent on a visit visa there. Besides, they had also not submitted the mandatory bank statements. They were travelling along with an agent, Mohammed Awais.

The FIA said the agent revealed that visit visa arrangements were made by one Waseem Khan with the help of another agent named Stephen while payments to this effect were made through bank accounts.

The suspects were handed over to the FIA anti-human trafficking circle for further investigation.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 20/12/2025)

Judge calls for criminalisation of 'abetment of suicide' due to domestic abuse

Expressing concern that the country lacks any specific law for holding a person legally responsible for creating circumstances that compelled someone to take the extreme step of suicide, a judge has asked lawmakers to enact legislation to protect vulnerable women.

"The absence of a specific provision criminalising abetment of suicide due to domestic cruelty reflects a serious gap between Pakistan's constitutional guarantees, its international commitments, and its domestic legal framework," remarked Additional District and Sessions Judge Mirza Tauseef Ahmed, who is also the presiding officer of the Gender-Based Violence Court (Central).

In his verdict in a case registered by the brother of a woman, 32-year-old Saba Anjum, who committed suicide and left a note holding her husband and in-laws responsible, the judge lamented that Pakistani law did not address cases where domestic abuse by a husband or in-laws forced women to take her own life.

"It is therefore high time that the legislators consider enacting similar legislation, as has been done in India, to protect women who remain in a highly vulnerable position in our society. We frequently hear and read reports of wives committing suicide due to domestic violence, and such tragedies can only be curtailed if strict laws are introduced prescribing deterrent punishments," the judge wrote in the verdict.

The court acquitted Anjum's husband Faraz Ahmed Mughal and his brothers, Sheeraz and Ayaz, since they did not "commit any offence punishable under the Pakistan Penal Code [PPC]".

However, the judge made strong observations in the verdict, stating: "It is the husband of the deceased, accused Faraz Ahmed Mughal, who is held responsible for the suicide of the deceased. His acts and omissions, coupled with his failure to protect his wife from the persistent cruelties of his family, directly contributed to her death.

"Although an FIR was lodged under Sections 322/34, PPC, and the accused persons were charged accordingly, such provisions of law do not appear to be applicable in cases of suicide, as per the definition of Qatl-bis-Sabab provided in Section 321, PPC. The said offence is attracted when a person commits any unlawful act without the intention of causing death or harm to another person.

"However, in the case of suicide, it cannot be said that the perpetrator of domestic violence had no intention of causing death. At the same time, the act of suicide necessarily involves the deceased own intentional act in achieving death. In contrast, under Qatl-bis-Sabab, the deceased does not perform any intentional act of taking his or her own life. Therefore, a suicidal death cannot be brought within the ambit of Qatl-bis-Sabab," the judge explained.

Referring to the Indian Penal Code, the judge noted that Section 306 of the IPC made punishable offence if any person commits suicide. The law also prescribes punishment for the husband, his relatives, or any other person who subjects a married woman to cruelty, under Section 498-A of the IPC, which criminalises acts of cruelty by the husband or his relatives.

Mentioning the Domestic Violence Act in Sindh, the judge observed that it did not address situations where suicide occurred as a consequence of such violence as it provided only a meagre punishment of six-month imprisonment.

According to state prosecutor Hina Naz Shams, it was Anjum's second marriage, which lasted for about seven months. She said she left a suicide note in which she stated that the accused persons "made her life miserable through domestic violence, which included physical and mental torture, insults by her in-laws, and the neglectful and non-protective behaviour of her husband".

However, the defence counsel rejected the claims in the suicidal note and maintained that the accused persons were falsely implicated in this case.

However, the court noted: "The sorrowful episode of the deceased's seven months of married life reflects the cruelties of her in-laws, which, unfortunately, many women in our society often endure. Some continue to bear such cruelties throughout their lives with the hope that circumstances may improve; some manage to escape; while others, finding no refuge or support, are driven to take their own lives. The present case falls within the latter category. The deceased, who had already suffered one divorce, was married a second time by her parents. However, she found no happiness in her second marriage.

"Instead, she was subjected to persistent cruelties at the hands of her in-laws, and her husband himself indulged in such cruelties at the behest of his mother and sisters. Being divorced once before, and her husband also having been divorced, she endured these cruelties for seven months. Finding no way out of the situation, and fearing that if she returned to her parents' home she would not be believed, she anticipated the harsh societal stigma of being divorced twice. These cruel realities of our society compelled her to take the ultimate step of ending her life," the verdict stated.

(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 23/12/2025)

Shopkeeper injured in gunfight with bandits

A shopkeeper was shot and injured during an exchange of fire with a gang of robbers in Korangi's Mehran Town late Sunday night. The victim, identified as 37-year-old Abdul Wali, a father of eight, was wounded while attempting to foil a burglary at his grocery store.

The incident occurred near Muawiyah Mosque in Sector 6-D. According to the victim's friend, Muneer, vegetable vendors returning from the market noticed five to six armed men breaking into Wali's shop. They alerted Wali, who arrived at the scene with his licensed pistol and opened fire on the intruders. The bandits retaliated, striking Wali in the abdomen before fleeing the scene.

The victim was rushed to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), where he underwent surgery. Doctors have not yet cleared him to provide a formal statement to the police.

Muneer revealed a disturbing pattern, claiming that Wali's shop has been targeted by robbers every December for the past four years. He criticized the local authorities, alleging that the area has become a "haven for criminals" who loot homes and businesses at will. He further claimed that despite the police having knowledge of the criminals' identities and whereabouts, no effective action has been taken to curb the rising lawlessness in the neighborhood.

Korangi Industrial Area police have registered the incident and launched an investigation into the shooting and the repeated targeting of the store.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 23/12/2025)

Man held for killing brother in Baldia

A young man was killed allegedly by his brother in Baldia Town on Monday, police said.

They said the body of 30-year-old Khalid Noor was recovered from a house in Sector-13-A.

Ittehad Town SHO Asad Illahi said during initial probe, it was transpired that Khalid had a fight with his brother, Waseem, over some dispute, which led to the murder.

He said the suspect was taken into custody.

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

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 23/12/2025)

Resurgent extortion

IN a city that generates much of the nation's wealth, extortion rackets are never far from the surface, as criminal gangs in Karachi seek to target commercial concerns. Over a decade ago, extortion rackets were rampant, and action by the state during the so-called Karachi operation helped address the problem. But it appears that criminals are once again emboldened enough to restart this deadly business. The Association of Builders and Developers held a presser last week in this regard, where it announced that members would shutter their businesses by next month unless extortionists were reined in. The builders said their associates were receiving calls from foreign phone numbers, while warning shots had been fired at people who refused to pay up. They claimed that criminals had shared their names, phone numbers and bank details, and questioned why the state could not trace these elements. In October, two other trade bodies, representing old city merchants and Korangi industrialists, had raised similar concerns. In response to Abad's complaint, the Sindh CM has promised to take 'decisive action' against extortionists.

From humble neighbourhood stores to business tycoons, extortion gangs target everyone, and demand protection money. Many traders pay up out of fear for their safety and that of their families. Before the 2015 operation, as per figures released by the Rangers, there were over 1,500 reported cases of extortion in Karachi in 2013. This figure dropped considerably after LEAs took action. The Sindh police claims that in the current year, 171 cases have been reported, out of which 75 were 'genuine'. The federal and Sindh government need to work together in order to address this racket, and security agencies should use technology to trace and apprehend the heads of extortion gangs, and their foot soldiers. The business community needs to be assured they will not face such violence and harassment, and that extortionists will be brought to justice.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 23/12/2025)

Five extortion networks active in Karachi from abroad: Sindh home minister

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar said on Tuesday that five major extortion networks operating from abroad were active in Karachi and that efforts were underway to have their ringleaders extradited and arrested.

Speaking at a press conference at the Central Police Office, the home minister identified the ringleaders of the five networks as Wasiullah Lakho, Jameel Changa, Bahadur PMT, Gul Sher Jagirani and Azeem.

Accompanied by Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon and Karachi police chief Javed Alam Odho, the minister said the Sindh government had approached the federal government for extradition of the ringleaders of the five gangs.

Speaking on the occasion, IGP Memon said that gangster Lakho topped the list of those involved in extortion rackets.

He disclosed that the government had sent a request to Interpol for issuance of 'red notice' against Lakho.

He added that necessary documents regarding two other gangsters — Ahmed Ali Magsi and Samad Kathiawari — had been sent to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), which already forwarded the relevant letters for issuance of red notices against them.

The IGP clarified that the preparation and verification of documents to meet international legal requirements took some time.

Talking about police action against extortion rackets, the minister said law enforcers had recently conducted several operations against these gangs, arrested 37 members and killed one of them in encounters.

In a veiled reference to a raid on the house of Sunni Tehreek's chief, he said recently an action was also conducted at an "important residence" in the metropolis and eight suspected extortionists were arrested with weapons.

To a question, the home minister, without naming the head of the religious party, said legal action would be taken against him for providing "shelter to criminals".

He said these arrests were made within seven days after the Association of Builders and Developers raised concerns over incidents of extortion at a press conference and during a meeting with the chief minister.

He said a WhatsApp group had been created where the builders and traders could directly lodge their complaints to senior police officers.

Surrender or face consequences, dacoits warned

Talking about a recent joint police-Rangers operation in riverine area to recover over one dozen Quetta-bound passengers abducted in Ghotki district, he said that four hardened bandits were killed and 'military-grade' weapons were recovered from them.

He said these joint operations by Sindh and Punjab police and the paramilitary force were conducted in "hard-to-access riverine areas".

The minister declared that they had adopted a policy of "surrender or face the consequences" for riverine bandits.

To a question, the home minister said that at least 11 arms dealers who provided sophisticated weapons to riverine area gangs had been identified and the Sindh government had asked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to take action against them.

He hoped that after action against such dealers, flow of arms to the riverine areas would be reduced, which would lead to further improvement in law and order there.

To a question, the home minister said IGP Memon is going to retire on Dec 30. However, he evaded questions as to whether Sindh and federal governments finalised a name to be appointed as the new police chief.
(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 24/12/2025)

Karachi's killing pits

The Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) recently released harrowing statistics regarding road accident victims in Karachi that serve as a grim indictment of the state of road safety in the city. With over 15,000 accident victims brought to a single healthcare facility in a single year, 800 of whom lost their lives, the city is trapped in a cycle of systemic carnage that has become an accepted tax on urban existence.

The state of road infrastructure, as well as public awareness, indicates that these are not merely 'unfortunate accidents'. These accidents are the cumulative result of administrative neglect, mismanagement and public apathy, which is turning the city's roads into killing pits. When 800 lives are lost at a single hospital, it is a sure sign of a catastrophe that is eroding citizens' basic right to safe passage. The government must move beyond mere surveillance to enforce uncompromising accountability.

Most victims of these accidents are young men, who are often the sole breadwinners for their families and whose deaths or even permanent disabilities trigger a domino effect of generational poverty. By failing to regulate our roads, we are consequently also losing the very backbone of our labour force and the future potential of our youth.

And while the government must take immediate action to improve the road situation in the city, citizens must also realise that without their input and their strict adherence to the law, better infrastructure will merely be able to make a dent in the larger problem. Our habits of taking shorter yet illegal routes, cutting off other vehicles, violating traffic signals and driving against the traffic must be replaced with a better sense of safety and security. These cumulative actions, coupled with unsafe roads, ultimately lay the groundwork for tragic accidents and lost lives.
(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 25/12/2025)

Bodies of woman, 3 children found hanging in a house in Karachi's Sohrab Goth: police

Bodies of a woman and three children have been found hanging inside a house near Machhar Colony in Karachi's Sohrab Goth, police said on Sunday.

A statement issued by Sohrab Goth police said a crime scene unit had visited the site and further investigation was under way.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said Sohrab Goth police brought the bodies of the woman, 35 and her children, aged 10, 3 and 2, for post-mortem examination at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital.

"We have collected all samples for chemical analysis," said Dr Syed, adding that the cause of death has been reserved until reports are issued.

East Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Zubair Nazir Shaikh told *Dawn* that there was no sign of a quarrel at the site of the incident, nor did neighbours say they heard a struggle.

"The husband told police that he worked at New Subzi Mandi and had left for work at around 4am on Sunday," SSP Shaikh said. "When he returned several hours later, he saw his wife and three children dead."

The SSP said police are waiting for post-mortem findings, "as it would be premature at this stage to reach any final conclusion".

Another police officer, Sohrab Goth Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Aurangzeb Khattak, told *Dawn* that the woman allegedly killed the children by hanging them, before ending her life over domestic issues.

"The woman was an Afghan national, while her husband originally hailed from Punjab. She was reportedly emotionally disturbed [and] allegedly used to beat the children," DSP Khattak said.

"Her husband sometimes, in a fit of anger, used to threaten her that he would marry another woman if she did not stop beating the children."

The DSP clarified that police have not detained the husband, but said he was being questioned.

"The man told police that when he returned from his job at New Subzi Mandi and knocked on the door, he did not receive any response," the officer said. "When he climbed the wall, he saw their bodies hanging inside the room."

Meanwhile, Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar took notice of the incident and sought details of the case from the East senior superintendent of police (SSP), a statement by the minister's office said.

According to the statement, he directed the official to investigate the case from all angles.

The reasons behind the crime should be identified and suspects should be dealt with in accordance with the law, Lanjar was quoted as saying.

He added that the suspects should be identified and arrested at the earliest.

Moreover, justice for the affected family and a transparent investigation into the matter should be ensured, he said.

Earlier this month, three women were found dead in an apartment in Karachi's Gulshan-i-Iqbal. Police had declared the mysterious deaths a case of homicide.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 29/12/2025)

Woman, three children found hanging in Karachi home; husband detained

A woman and three children were found hanging inside their home near Gunah Mandi in Karachi's Sohrab Goth area on Sunday, police said.

The woman's husband was taken into custody for questioning.

Police identified the deceased as 35-year-old Fatima, 11-year-old Sonam, 3-year-old Arzoo and 2-year-old Arman.

Fatima and Sonam were found hanging together in the centre of the house. Arzoo and Arman were found separately suspended from the ceiling on either side of the residence.

According to police, Fatima was an Afghan national and the second wife of Najibullah, a vegetable market worker originally from Punjab.

Arzoo and Arman were Fatima's children. Sonam and Najibullah's 12-year-old son are from his first marriage.

Senior Superintendent of Police East Zubair Nazeer said Najibullah left home before dawn with his 12-year-old son to go to the vegetable market. He returned home in the afternoon and found the bodies, Nazeer said. He then contacted police.

A forensic team and the Crime Scene Unit were called to the scene to collect evidence.

Najibullah was taken into custody for questioning, police said.

SSP Nazeer said no visible signs of resistance or injury were found on the bodies. However, he said police could not yet determine whether the deaths were a murder or a suicide.

Police officers who visited the scene believe the positioning of the bodies suggests a planned murder made to look like suicide. SSP Nazeer said the couple had argued a few days earlier.

He said Najibullah's first wife wanted to return to him, which had caused tension between the spouses.

Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar has taken notice of the incident.

He contacted SSP Nazeer and directed police to conduct a transparent investigation to determine the motive behind the deaths. SSP Nazeer told the minister that all aspects of the case are being examined.

He said further facts would emerge after the post-mortem and forensic reports are completed.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 29/12/2025)

Lawyers stage sit-in after colleagues booked for ‘assaulting’ YouTuber Rajab Butt

Lawyers stormed the City Courts police station and then staged a sit-in on M.A. Jinnah Road on Tuesday after counsel for YouTuber Rajab Butt registered a case against their colleagues for manhandling his client a day ago.

On Monday, Mr Butt was roughed up by some lawyers at the City Court premises during the hearing of his bail plea in a case registered against him for allegedly hurting religious sentiments.

Mr Butt’s lawyer, Mian Ali Ashfaq, registered a case against Advocate Riaz Ali Solangi, Advocate Abdul Fatah and “another 15-20 lawyers” under Sections 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 382 (theft after preparation made for causing death, hurt or restraint in order to the committing of the theft), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 337-A (Punishment of shajjah) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

Mian Ashfaq stated in the FIR that his client had arrived at City Courts at 9am to seek bail, but when he reached the inner premises near the West building, lawyers Solangi and Fatah, along with 15-20 other lawyers, attacked and started beating the YouTuber, causing him injuries. “The attackers assaulted me as well and other lawyers from my office,” he added.

He alleged that during the attack, Mr Butt was holding a bag containing Rs300,000, which was snatched from him. He said that Advocate Solangi later returned the bag, but the cash was missing.

He also said that his client was then forcibly taken to the additional district and sessions judge (Central), where they “threatened to kill my client”.

DIG-South Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that so far no one had been arrested.

Later, a group of lawyers stormed the City Courts police station demanding a case against the YouTuber and others. A large number of lawyers, including Karachi Bar Association (KBA) President Aamir Nawaz, staged a protest on M.A. Jinnah Road outside the City Courts against the SHO of the City Courts police station for allegedly failing to register their FIR.

The protesting lawyers claimed that the police had earlier registered a case against their two colleagues, but declined them to register an FIR against the YouTuber when they approached the police station to record their statements and lodge a counter complaint.

However, the lawyers ended their sit-in after police convinced them to do so by the police, said DIG Raza.
(By Imtiaz Ali and Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 31/12/2025)

NGOs, CBOs INGO



PAC orders blacklisting of eight NGOs

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly has ordered the blacklisting of eight non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for failing to provide audit records, invoices, and expenditure details related to over Rs800 million in funding under the Community Development Programme.

The decision came during a PAC meeting on Tuesday, chaired by Nisar Khuhro, with committee members Khurram Karim Soomro, Makhdoom Fakhar-uz-Zaman, and Taha Ahmed in attendance, alongside Planning and Development Secretary Sajjad Abbasi and other officials. The meeting reviewed audit paras from 2019 and 2020 related to the Planning and Development Department.

Officials disclosed that 16 NGOs received funding in 2018 for health, skills development, and education projects. However, eight of them have not submitted any audit documentation.

PAC Chairman Nisar Khuhro directed the Social Welfare Department to cancel the registration and licenses of these NGOs.

During the session, another issue surfaced involving SRSO, which reportedly charged 8-10% interest on Rs10,000 micro-loans given to widowed and impoverished women in 100 union councils across Kashmore, Jacobabad, and Shikarpur - despite funds being allocated as interest-free under the UC-Based Poverty Reduction Programme. A letter submitted by SRSO's CEO acknowledged the interest but claimed it was mistakenly documented in the minutes, clarifying that loans were issued through village organisations.

The PAC ordered a fact-finding probe into this alleged malpractice.

Separately, the PAC was informed that SRSO had not yet returned Rs380 million in interest earnings to the government from the Rs9.67 billion it received for projects in six Sindh districts between 2018 and 2024. SRSO's CEO stated the funds were intact and would be returned once a formal request is made by the Planning Department.

PAC directed a fact-finding investigation into SRSO's spending and retention of the interest amount. The committee also reinstated Pervez Ahmed, the suspended Project Director of the People's Poverty Reduction Programme, after he apologised for the delayed audit submission.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 16/07/2025)

NGO chairperson arrested for alleged child trafficking

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Karachi has arrested the chairperson of a private NGO, identified as Mubeena Qasim Agboatwala, for her alleged involvement in the illegal smuggling of children to the United States under the pretext of adoption.

According to FIA officials, the arrest was made following a formal complaint lodged by the US Consulate. The accused was allegedly running a fraudulent operation where children were unlawfully trafficked abroad in the name of international adoptions.

The FIA confirmed that the suspect had been involved in forging documents and misusing her position to facilitate the transfer of minors out of the country through illegitimate means.

Mubeena was taken into custody after her pre-arrest bail was rejected by the Special Judge Central, Karachi. Authorities have initiated further investigation into the matter to uncover the full extent of the alleged trafficking network.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 05/08/2025)

'Structural exclusion' deepening alienation of minorities, moot told

The Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights (PCHR) has called for renewed national efforts to build an inclusive society where citizens of all faiths and backgrounds can participate equally in national building.

Reaffirming its commitment to tolerance and respect, the PCHR on Thursday emphasised that social cohesion and national progress were only possible when no one was left behind.

The speakers collectively urged policymakers, parliamentarians, and civil society to reclaim the founding vision of Pakistan as articulated by Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah in his historic August 11, 1947 address about a country where religion would remain a personal matter and every citizen would enjoy equal rights as a citizen of Pakistan.

Executive director of PCHR Shafique Chaudhry highlighted that Pakistan's Constitution provides a strong foundation for safeguarding equality and inclusion. Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees that "all citizens are equal before the law and that they are entitled to equal protection of law," while also prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, sex, residence, or place of birth.

Policy makers, civil society asked to reclaim Quaid-i-Azam's vision in the light of his August 11 speech

Article 27 ensures that all citizens have equal access to public offices and the civil service, regardless of their religion.

Article 36 further ensures that the state shall provide special safeguards to minorities and take measures to protect their legitimate interests. Yet, despite these constitutional guarantees, systemic barriers continue to undermine equal participation. There is an urgent need to ensure full compliance with the Supreme Court (SMC No 1 of 2014) landmark judgment, which provides clear directions and guidelines for safeguarding the rights of religious minorities in Pakistan. If these directions had been implemented in true letter and spirit, the state of religious minorities in the country in general and Sindh in particular would have been significantly improved, ensuring their protection, dignity, and equal participation in society.

Member of the Provincial Assembly, Sindh Mahesh Kumar Hasija drew attention to the persistent gaps between promises and practices, noting that minorities remained systematically excluded from equal opportunities. He pointed out that the five per cent public sector job quota for minorities remained largely unfulfilled, with more than 70 per cent of reserved posts lying vacant. Many minority citizens, he added, continued to be confined to sanitation jobs regardless of their qualifications, with some job advertisements explicitly restricting them to low-grade posts.

On the issue of education, Mr Kumar said that nearly 60 per cent of minority students reported discrimination, including denial of enrolment, classroom segregation and being compelled to study religious subjects irrelevant to their faith. In Sindh, 44 per cent of minority children are out of school, compared to the national average of 27 per cent, which he described as a glaring example of structural exclusion.

He further noted that university quota seats for minorities often remained underutilised due to financial barriers, low awareness, and weak enforcement mechanisms hence preventing minorities from accessing higher education and professional advancement.

“These figures,” Mr Kumar concluded, “speaks to the fact that there is an urgent need for real action to make equality and inclusion a lived reality rather than just a constitutional promise.”

President of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Afzal Butt highlighted incidents where sane voices had been silenced. He emphasised that a society that curbed freedom of expression could not ensure the protection of religious minorities’ rights and for that matter rights of any citizen of the state.

Father Shehzad Asher of the National Commission for Justice and Peace acknowledged that there had been positive steps by the state to create opportunities, such as holding a separate CSS exam for minority candidates and providing academic preparatory courses to help them compete in competitive examinations. However, he stressed that such measures must be institutionalised, expanded, and paired with broader structural reforms to ensure long-term inclusivity.

The speakers also expressed concern over recurring incidents of forced conversion and violence against minorities. Referring to the September 2024, case of Dr Shahnawaz Kunbhar, who was accused of posting blasphemous contents and subsequently killed by police in a staged encounter, they noted that such incidents deepened political alienation of minorities and eroded their trust in state institutions.

“The only way to bridge this trust deficit is through swift, transparent and impartial investigations and by bringing the perpetrators to justice,” the speakers stressed.

They further urged the media and journalists to play their part by responsibly highlighting issues faced by religious minorities, amplifying their voices, and showcasing their positive contributions to Pakistan’s progress. Such coverage, they emphasised, can counter stereotypes and foster greater understanding and inclusion.

They reiterated that inclusivity is not only about protecting minority rights, but about building a stronger, fairer, and more united Pakistan for all.

Advocate Safia Qadir, Advocate Tara Chand and minority rights activist Kapil Dev, MPAs Rooma Sabahat, Sham Sunder, Mukesh Kumar Chawla and Coordinator, National Commission for Human Rights, Chandan Malhi also spoke.
(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 13, 29/08/2025)

Equal citizens

PAKISTAN is found wanting when it comes to preserving the constitutional freedoms and dignity of its minority citizens. Reiterating its commitment to an inclusive society, the Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights recently cited Article 27 of the Constitution — equal access for all citizens to public offices and the civil service irrespective of religion — and Article 36 — the state shall provide special safeguards to minorities and protect their legitimate interests. It urged policymakers and civil society to reclaim the founder’s vision of a country that upholds equal rights for all. Sadly, an indifferent state, along with large sections of society, has, through discriminatory laws, allowed prejudice to persist. Hence, constitutional securities, and the apex court’s landmark judgement in 2014, which provided a blueprint for maintaining the freedoms of religious communities, stand virtually abandoned.

The struggle for recognition will not end unless measures are taken to ensure equal participation through education, employment and interfaith harmony. The message to eradicate religious discrimination must come from the pulpit. Educational reforms focused on acceptance are also necessary. As Sindh MPA Mahesh Kumar pointed out, nearly 60pc of minority students reported bias, including refused enrolment, isolation in class and coercion to attend lessons in the majority faith. In Sindh, 44pc of minority children are out of school. Besides, there are other issues — for instance, the 5pc public sector job quota for minorities is mostly unfulfilled; often members of the minority community are relegated to sanitation services or restricted to other inferior positions. This approach is structural and does not bode well for societal health. Racism can only be curtailed if the government resolves

to reverse the injustice. Monitoring, media campaigns, security, enforcing legal guarantees, etc, will create inclusivity. The power elite must also pledge to protect the marginalised. Changing mindsets is integral for progress.
(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 31/08/2025)

Society scrutiny

THE ongoing floods, which have swept away homes and livelihoods across vast swathes of the country, have once again highlighted the perils of unchecked development. Many families have seen their life savings buried under mud and debris simply because housing societies were allowed to spring up in places where they should never have been allowed to build. The question is not only why their construction was permitted, but also why a nexus between the land mafia and regulators seems to thrive. The rot runs very deep. Pakistan's real estate sector has for years functioned with minimal regulatory or legal oversight, leaving even those who purchase land in ostensibly safe areas vulnerable to financial ruin. Unscrupulous developers routinely defraud citizens, while regulators, whose primary task is to protect the public, often look the other way or feign ignorance.

Take the federal capital, for instance. A recent report has revealed that the Capital Development Authority has known since February 2024 that housing scheme sponsors have not been sharing allotment records through a digital platform, as it had mandated the previous year. This requirement was meant to ensure that the CDA could verify transfer letters and restrict approvals to plots within CDA-approved plans. Yet, despite recognising the risks to buyers, the authority has failed to act. The result has been fraudulent practices, such as over-invoicing and the 'sale' of a single property to multiple buyers, even in the country's most regulated city. If this is the situation in Islamabad, one can only imagine the vulnerabilities faced elsewhere. It is clear that the state has abdicated its duty to protect citizens and their property. Until regulators are compelled to enforce their own rules, and until illegal and fraudulent practices are met with real consequences, the public remains exposed to exploitation. The authorities can no longer afford to ignore an industry that affects millions of families. Strict action is needed.
(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 02/09/2025)

Anwar Maqsood praises old-age home project

While praising a project for the elderly, eminent writer Anwar Maqsood has said an old-age home, 'Safaid Posh Ghar' will soon be opened in the North Karachi area.

Located near Nagan Chowrangi, Safaid Posh Ghar is an eight-storey building and it will house more than 200 people. There are separate floors and rooms for single women, single men and married couples.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr Maqsood, said he's known Iqbal Shah, the man behind the project, for decades. "In 2015, I went to meet him in his office (car showroom) and saw that there was a cabin on which Safaid Posh was written. I asked him about it. He replied that in his office, 400 people have food on a daily basis, out of which 100 stay the night over. So in 2015, he started feeding the underprivileged from a cabin. During that period, he met with (old) people who were faced with a variety of problems. It was then that he decided to get a piece of land to build an old home on by the name of Safaid Posh. Soon he found that land. You'll be surprised to know that in three years the building was constructed."

He said Iqbal sahib once asked him to make a video about the project, which he did. "You won't believe that after that people from all over the world got in touch with him to lend a helping hand. The expenditure here will be on the higher side, after all, more than 200 people will live here who will have all kinds of facilities (meals, a room for exercise, doctors etc)."

Mr Maqsood said the facility is completely functional and will be launched in a month's time.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Shah said he could say with conviction that there is no old home in the world like Safaid Posh.

He said a lot of cruelty was being meted out to old people in the country. "Our first target are those individuals who are more than 65 years of age, are penury-stricken and healthy. We need more funding now."

(By Peerzada Salman Dawn, 14, 14/10/2025)

ABAD opens arms and hearts to hire ex-cons

A delegation of the Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD), led by Chairman Hassan Bakshi, visited the central jail and met with the Inspector General of Prisons, Fida Hussain Mastoi.

Bakshi held detailed discussions with the IG regarding prisoners' welfare, and donated 100 laptops to support their education, training, and rehabilitation, aiming to help them rebuild their lives after release from incarceration. Chairman ABAD stated that, through technological education, imprisoned individuals may become productive members of society. Further, he emphasised the need for systemic improvements that provide prisoners dignified lives. Here, the chairman remarked that if the judicial system is improved, up to 80 per cent of crimes may be reduced. "A society becomes stronger when we guide those who have gone astray. We want these individuals to become exemplary citizens for the country," he said.

Bakshi also announced that ABAD, in collaboration with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC), will provide vocational training and employment to 500 young individuals.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 18/10/2025)

GOVT NEWS



105 development schemes worth Rs11bn to be launched soon, says mayor

In a significant push towards enhancing urban infrastructure, the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) is set to launch 105 development schemes worth Rs11 billion during the month of July.

The announcement came during a meeting held on Tuesday at the KMC head office, chaired by Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, to review the progress of ongoing and upcoming development initiatives for the current fiscal year.

The session was convened in light of the recently passed KMC budget for the fiscal year 2025-26, which prioritises infrastructure rehabilitation, drainage improvements, road reconstruction and civic services across Karachi's urban sprawl.

The KMC's development budget, amounting to Rs42.2bn, reflects a strong developmental agenda, with a substantial portion earmarked for capital expenditure and infrastructure uplift.

KMC's Director General Technical Services, Tariq Mughal, briefed the mayor and senior officials on the comprehensive development roadmap.

He revealed that the corporation had secured a record Rs29 billion worth of development schemes from the Sindh government for the current fiscal year — an affirmation of provincial support for Karachi's municipal needs.

"One hundred and sixty-six schemes will be completed within this fiscal year without delay," Mr Mughal assured, adding that KMC had successfully completed 73 development schemes in the previous fiscal year. He further noted that 45 additional schemes are currently under way and are expected to reach completion in the coming months.

The Rs11 billion worth of schemes scheduled for July include major roadworks, drainage improvements and other civic infrastructure initiatives spanning multiple districts of the city.

The month-long execution drive is expected to significantly accelerate the pace of development and provide visible relief to citizens grappling with poor urban infrastructure.

Only last week, the KMC approved its Rs55.28 billion budget for the fiscal year 2025–26 through a majority vote during the City Council session chaired by Mayor Wahab.

However, despite the approval of the budget, the political divide within the council remained evident, as members on the opposition benches abstained from voting, voicing serious concerns over what they described as discriminatory and uneven allocation of development schemes.

During the Tuesday meeting, the mayor appreciated the efforts of the technical services team and underscored the need to ensure high standards of construction, fiscal transparency and timely delivery.

"Our commitment is to deliver tangible results to the people of Karachi," the mayor said. "There can be no compromise on quality. Every development scheme must be executed with full accountability and strict quality control."

The mayor also issued directives for heightened vigilance during the ongoing monsoon season. He stressed the importance of proactive planning and field monitoring to prevent waterlogging, road damage, or risks to public safety.

"We cannot allow rain-related disruptions to derail progress or endanger citizens. Every department must remain alert and responsive," he said.

The meeting was also attended by key municipal officials, including Municipal Commissioner S. M. Afzal Zaidi, Financial Advisor Gulzar Abro, Director Media Daniyal Siyal and senior members of the technical and planning departments.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 02/07/2026)

Number plates with Ajrak design: don't be slapped with fine, apply online

As traffic police continue to issue eye-watering challans, to drivers and take strict action against vehicles not affixed with new Ajrak-designed registration number plates, people have complained that the Sindh government should have launched an awareness campaign to educate citizens about how to acquire the new retro-reflective number plates.

The awareness campaign is necessary keeping in view the cumbersome process and the limited capacity of the excise and taxation department to deal with hundreds of thousands of owners of commercial and private vehicles applying for new number plates.

Dawn has learnt that due to lack of correct information among the public regarding the required process and documentation for the issuance of new number plates, transfer of ownership, and smart cards, many vehicle owners are either compelled to make multiple visits to government offices or fall prey to "agents" operating near these facilities due to overcrowding at information desks.

"This is my second visit to this branch, but the registration still hasn't been completed," a woman told *Dawn*, who had come at the newly established executive motor registration facility in Clifton, along with her husband to transfer the ownership of her vehicle.

She added that during her last visit, she was not aware of the required Rs1,000 sale deed or e-stamp, along with the original file, claiming that no such information was available on the department's website.

Dawn spoke to Jamshed Ali Memon, in charge of the facility in Clifton, to get information regarding what documents and steps are required for individuals looking to avail these services.

The official said that people seeking to avail any service related to their vehicle must first clear their tax dues.

"There is no need to visit any facility for this purpose," he explained. "Car owners can pay their taxes online through the department's official website or mobile applications," he added.

Transfer of vehicle

The official said that generally, for the transfer of vehicle ownership — which is mandatory, otherwise the vehicle may be seized or a new number plate would not be issued — the original file must be brought along with the vehicle for physical inspection.

The buyer is also required to be physically present at the facility for biometric verification, he added.

In addition, a Transfer of Ownership (TO) form — which can either be downloaded from the official website or obtained at the facility — must be submitted along with copies of valid CNICs of both buyer and seller, and a Rs1,000 sale deed or e-stamp, which can be acquired from any branch of Sindh Bank.

When asked whether the seller is also required to appear for biometric verification, Mr Memon clarified that right now there is no condition for the seller to visit the facility — only a copy of their valid CNIC is required.

However, he added that in case where an individual is transferring the vehicle to their children (blood relation), the seller must be present for biometric verification to ensure that the transfer is being made with their consent.

Smart card

Now, if someone wishes to obtain a smart card against their old registration book, they are required to submit the original registration book along with the complete original file, with a filled-out form — which can be obtained from the facility — and a copy of their CNIC and required to pay Rs1,600 by using online payment or submitting challan in a bank.

Ajrak number plates

For those who have paid their taxes and have their vehicles registered in their name, there are two options to obtain the new Ajrak-designed number plates. The first option is to apply by visiting any facility nearby and the second is to apply online.

To do so, they need to visit the official website (<https://excise.gos.pk>) or mobile app, click on the "Quick Online Pay Taxes" option, and enter their mobile number along with the vehicle's registration number. A new window will then pop up, allowing them to apply for a replacement number plate and selecting the facility to collect the number plate.

For four-wheelers, the fee is approximately Rs2,450, while for two-wheelers, it is around Rs1,850. The payment can be made through online banking or any supported digital payment platform or paying challan in bank.

For those who have already applied for the replacement of a number plate, they can check the current status by visiting the department's official website and clicking on the "Check Your Number Plate" option.

And if you are lucky enough that your number plate has been delivered to your selected excise branch, you will need to bring the original file and old number plate regardless it was in any condition with you to collect the new Ajrak-designed number plate. However, if you had lost your old number plate then you need to apply for duplicate number.

Mixed signals confuse public

According to the excise ministry, the deadline for mandatory Nadra biometric verification for vehicle owners applicable to sellers has been extended till August 14.

However, many vehicle owners who had applied for replacement number plates months ago complained that they had yet to receive them.

In the meantime, a growing number of vehicle owners have turned to locally made number plates to avoid action by the traffic police, claiming that officers are allowing the use of white-background plates with Ajrak patterns until the originals are issued.

This has further contributed to the confusion and a communication gap between the two government departments, forcing vehicle owners to spend additional money on locally made number plates that resemble the government-issued ones.

Conflicting announcements

The traffic police, through their official social media platforms, have announced that only "government-issued or closely resembling number plates" will be accepted. Otherwise, vehicles will be subject to challans or seizure.

On the other hand, the excise department has maintained that aftermarket number plates will not be accepted under any circumstances, as allowing them would undermine the objectives of the Safe City initiative.

Responding to a question about the backlog at excise facilities in Karachi, Atif Ali Bhatti — in-charge of the motor registration facility at the Civic Centre — said that applicants who submitted requests for the new design number plates in mid-February had already received them or delivered at their selective branch. However, the backlog that developed afterwards had yet to be cleared as of the first week of July, he claimed.

Mr Bhatti also acknowledged a video circulating on social media in which traffic police personnel were seen encouraging people to use “government-issued or closely resembling number plates”. He clarified that it is incorrect to use aftermarket plates — which lack any security features — as doing so would undermine the very purpose of the Safe City initiative.

He further stated that the newly designed number plates are embedded with multiple security features, enabling surveillance cameras to detect and read them clearly, even at night.

Show the receipt

The excise ministry has advised vehicle owners that if their new number plates have not yet been issued, they should carry the official receipt of the replacement of plates and present it to traffic police or any concerned authority when asked.

“If someone has the official receipt and the original old number plate installed to their vehicle, then morally, the traffic police should not issue a fine,” said ministry spokesperson Shabbir Ali Babar.

Speaking to *Dawn*, a traffic police spokesperson, Mr Sohail, said that if vehicle owners have been issued the Ajrak-themed number plates, they should install them. However, if the plates have not yet been issued, then owners may use aftermarket plates to avoid using fancy ones.

When asked about the excise department’s statement that until the new plates are issued, vehicle owners can install the original old number plate along with the replacement receipt, he said he was not aware of any such statement issued by the excise department and could not comment at this time.

Dawn attempted to get comments from the DIG Traffic Karachi but did not receive his response.
(By Sumair Abdullah Dawn, 13, 02/07/2025)

Sindh govt promises foolproof security for Muharram processions

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has announced that the provincial government has taken foolproof security arrangements for peaceful observance of 8th, 9th and 10th Muharram across the province.

Speaking at a press conference here, he said that a total of 49,662 police personnel will be deployed across Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas, and Shaheed Benazirabad from 8th Muharram till Ashura to prevent any untoward incidents.

He said that 14,546 police personnel would be deployed for security of majalis, while 35,116 to protect Muharram processions. He said that over 14,000 additional personnel had been assigned to ensure security of all events.

He said that recently Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah held meetings with scholars belonging to different schools of thought and reviewed the security plan for majalis and processions during the mourning period.

Defends curbs on rickshaws

Mr Memon, who holds the portfolios of information, transport and mass transit said that the Karachi commissioner had issued a notification on April 15, imposing a ban on the movement of rickshaws on 11 major roads in the metropolis.

He clarified that the ban did not apply to all of Karachi but was limited to specific main roads.

This measure has been implemented under the Sindh Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1965 and it is the administrative authority of the government to regulate traffic and ensure convenience for citizens, he added.

Sharjeel says 50,000 police being deployed in Sindh from today

He questioned as to whether rickshaws operate on major roads in any other part of the country.

Speaking about the education sector, Mr Memon said that the Sindh government had recruited 93,118 teachers across the province, including 31,075 women.

He said that 2,100 teachers were appointed under the minority quota, while 1,330 positions were given to differently abled persons.

He said that the recruitment process carried out through the Sukkur IBA test with complete transparency, leaving no room for criticism.

As a result of these measures, 5,000 previously closed schools had been reopened.

Currently, 5.5 million children are enrolled in government schools across Sindh, four million in private schools, and one million in Sindh Education Foundation schools, he said.

The minister stated that the Sindh government had taken revolutionary steps in health, energy, infrastructure and climate change.
(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 04/07/2025)

Another plan

FAILING to plan is planning to fail, as the old saying goes. This seems to have occurred in the case of Karachi, a city, quite literally, left to the dogs. A new master plan has now been promised for the metropolis: the ambitious Greater Karachi Regional Plan 2047. Officials say the blueprint will be ready in two years. Given the city's troubled planning history, one cannot help but be sceptical. Six plans were drawn up since 1923 — the latest of which expired in 2017 — but Karachi continues to grow haphazardly and dangerously. The tragic collapse of a multistorey building in Lyari last week, which left dozens dead and injured, is sadly one example too many. Hazardous structures continue to rise unchecked, despite the presence of building authorities and existing regulations. It is clear there is not only weak enforcement but also the absence of political will to crack down on powerful mafias profiting from the city's dysfunction.

Given this context, such lofty promises of a future-ready Karachi can only be taken with a grain of salt unless backed by genuine reform. The plan may look good on paper but will mean little if not implemented as envisioned. As experts have warned, this planning should not be treated as just another contract handed to consultants and run by officials behind closed doors. It must be a continuous, inclusive process that draws upon the extensive work already being done by civil society, urban researchers and affected communities. Groups like Shehri, Karachi Bachao Tehreek and the Urban Resource Centre have long documented the city's unregulated growth and offered viable solutions. But past planning exercises have often ignored such voices in favour of top-down approaches. If the new plan is to have any impact, that must change. The Sindh government intends to include all relevant stakeholders in the development of the plan. For Karachi's sake, this time they must keep their word.
(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 09/07/2025)

OBITUARY: Zubeida Mustafa: adieu to a trailblazer

She was recognised for her professional work through various local and international awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award presented to her by the International Women's Media Foundation in 2012.

A PIONEER in women's journalism in Pakistan and a dedicated voice for the marginalised, Zubeida Mustafa passed away on Wednesday evening in Karachi. She was 84.

Known to her colleagues at *Dawn* as 'Mrs Mustafa' or 'ZM', she spent 33 years at the paper, retiring in 2008 after serving as assistant editor.

During her over three-decade tenure at *Dawn*, Mrs Mustafa helped bring out numerous supplements and satellite publications such as the education page and Books & Authors, the first dedicated English-language magazine focusing on book reviews and literary matters brought out by a mainstream paper in the country.

ZM was educated at St Joseph's Convent in Karachi, and later attained a Master's degree in International Relations from Karachi University. She also attended the London School of Economics, but could not complete her studies at that institution.

She began her professional life at the Karachi-based Pakistan Institute of International Affairs, and was later approached by *Dawn's* editor Ahmad Ali Khan to work at the paper. She considered Khan Sahib a major influence, and in an interview with *Newsline* termed him "a very progressive man and a champion of women's rights".

But as Zohra Yusuf noted in a review of ZM's autobiography, "in her own quiet way, [she] exercised a significant influence on the newspaper's journey". This included bringing the "women's perspective" to the paper's editorials. Zubeida Mustafa's editorials, and later columns, focused on a wide variety of subjects, including international affairs, education and issues of the marginalised and the downtrodden.

As *Dawn's* op-ed editor Ayesha Azfar, who worked with Mrs Mustafa noted, "Her last column for op-ed appeared in March this year, after which she was finding it increasingly difficult because of her failing health. She was legally visually impaired, and it is remarkable the way she managed to do her columns, to regularly attend seminars, and keep up her interest in education — she wrote a book on that — women, and health amongst other subjects."

ZM edited numerous books and wrote two: her aforementioned biography *My DAWN Years — Exploring Social Issues and Reforming School Education in Pakistan & the Language Dilemma*. She was recognised for her professional work through various local and international awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award presented to her by the International Women's Media Foundation in 2012.

Pakistan Herald Publications Limited had launched an award named after her in 2013, titled the ZM Award For Journalistic Excellence to recognise her contribution "both to *Dawn* and to the field of journalism in Pakistan".

Activist and columnist Naeem Sadiq said he knew Zubeida Mustafa for 30 years. "She was a good friend. She had lunch with us about a month ago and wanted to come again. She was a great woman, it is the nation's loss. She taught us values and professional ethics.

She was a very progressive lady. She wrote on human rights, issues of the handicapped. She set standards in ethics and morality," he observed.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan mourned her loss and observed that she "championed social, cultural and language rights like few. She was a comrade-in-arms and stood by the disadvantaged and oppressed".

A condolence statement from the Karachi Press Club noted that she "was not just a journalist; she was an institution".

"Her work on social issues, education, and health was particularly impactful, demonstrating her deep empathy and dedication to improving the lives of ordinary citizens," KPC President Fazil Jamili and Secretary Sohail Afzal Khan said, adding that she leaves a "legacy that will continue to inspire generations of journalists".
(By Qasim A. Moini Dawn, 03, 10/07/2025)

Plea for free number plates with Ajrak design filed in SHC

A petition was filed in the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday, seeking directives for provincial authorities to issue new Ajrak-designed vehicle registration number plates to citizens free of cost.

The petitioner also requested the SHC to restrain the respondents from seizing vehicles and imposing hefty fines during the ongoing crackdown on old number plates.

Citing the secretary excise & taxation department, deputy director motor vehicle registration wing and deputy inspector general of traffic police as respondents, Faizan Hussain petitioned the SHC and submitted that he was a social worker and chairman of Karachi Nojawan Party and Nojawan Foundation.

He said that thousands of helpless individuals had been deprived of their legal and constitutional rights due to the influence of powerful individuals and the harsh attitude of the authorities. Citizens, he argued, were being forced to purchase expensive new number plates and were facing harassment.

He further submitted that the excise and taxation department had ordered the replacement of the old yellow number plates on all private and commercial vehicles with newly designed plates featuring the Ajrak pattern and set a deadline of May 3.

The petitioner maintained that vehicles were being seized and heavy fines imposed for failing to replace the number plates, despite the fact that the old registration plates had also been issued by the government for a fee. He argued that there was no legal justification for penalising citizens or depriving them of the right to use their vehicles.

He contended that if a new policy for number plates had been introduced, the plates should be issued free of cost, as citizens had already paid fees for registration. He claimed that the respondents' actions were in violation of principles of natural justice and constitutional provisions.

The petitioner also alleged that the issuance of new number plates had turned into a commercial activity which was causing hardship and financial strain on citizens. Despite collecting significant fees, the authorities had failed to issue the new plates in a timely manner, forcing many people to wait for months.

He further claimed that the official plates were not being issued through proper channels but were instead being produced by unauthorised individuals operating roadside stalls, who were minting money from citizens illegally.

According to the petitioner, the respondents were charging Rs500–700 for motorcycles, Rs1,500–2,000 for private vehicles, and Rs2,000–3,000 for commercial vehicles. He argued that such costs were financially burdensome, especially for people already struggling to afford petrol, food, school fees and other basic necessities.

He also alleged that in addition to the fixed fees, officials were demanding bribes and harassing citizens during the ongoing crackdown, including seizing vehicles and imposing excessive fines without justification.

The petitioner argued that these actions, particularly by traffic police, were illegal, amounted to abuse of power and were creating fear and harassment among law-abiding citizens, including himself.

He urged the court to direct the respondents to act in accordance with the law, refrain from harassing citizens, issue the Ajrak-designed number plates free of cost and facilitate the public by extending the deadline.

The petitioner also pleaded to restrain the respondents from seizing the vehicles and imposing hefty fines upon the owners/drivers of such vehicles.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 10/07/2025)

Top Sindh govt depts face heat in ombudsman's report 2024

Sindh Police and the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) are among the top nine government departments that received the highest number of public complaints in Sindh, according to the Provincial Ombudsman's Annual Report for 2024. The report strongly recommends curbing political influence in the recruitment, transfers, and postings of government employees.

Provincial Ombudsman Sohail Rajput recently submitted the report to Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah. Other departments on the list include the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, Accountant General Sindh, Health, School Education, Revenue, and Local Government departments.

According to the report, over 50 per cent of the total 9,151 complaints received in 2024 were directed at these nine departments. A staggering 6,620 grievances were lodged against them.

The primary complaint against SBCA was its failure to control illegal constructions, particularly in the city's residential areas. "People continuously seek redressal for these issues, which have grown significantly over time especially in Karachi, the country's economic hub," the report stated.

To tackle the problem, the Ombudsman recommended halting frequent transfers and postings within SBCA to ensure accountability. It also advised encouraging construction on the city's outskirts to reduce unauthorised development within the urban core.

The police department came under heavy criticism for not registering FIRs in cognisable offenses, making illegal arrests, corruption, abuse of power, and difficulties in obtaining driving licenses. The report stated that the department remains "highly politicised and under the control of politicians."

To address this, the report urged the provincial government to minimise unnecessary transfers and removals of police officers and to ensure merit-based recruitment. It also recommended setting up Citizen-Police Liaison Committees in all districts.

The School Education Department was also flagged for political interference in appointments and postings. "Such influence results in the selection of personnel based on loyalty rather than merit," the report noted.

Complaints against the education sector mainly concerned teacher shortages in remote areas, absenteeism, misuse of School Management Committee (SMC) funds, and the lack of basic amenities such as drinking water, electricity, bathrooms, furniture, and boundary walls particularly in girls' schools.

(By Razzak Abro The Express Tribune, 04, 11/07/2025)

Sindh govt crackdown over new number plates draws flak from opposition

The criticism by the opposition parties against a government move to replace vehicle number plates with new Ajrak-themed designs and allow traffic police to issue hefty fines against ordinary people gained momentum as they demanded that the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) stop law enforcers from taking extreme action and waive the fees for the new number plates.

On Sunday, the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) organised a "bike rally" and hundreds of motorcyclists took to the streets, protesting against the PPP government and accusing it of "enabling corruption and creating new opportunities for law enforcement officials to demand bribes".

The protesters also questioned the priorities and policies of the provincial government, accusing it of "failing" to provide basic necessities and essential public services while focusing instead on vehicle registration plates.

The bike rally kicked off from Five Star Chowrangi in North Nazimabad and concluded near Fresco Chowk, off Burns Road, drawing a large crowd, with the majority of participants being young riders.

Addressing the participants, the JI Karachi chief Monem Zafar strongly lambasted the PPP government over its "wrongful" approach and priorities aimed at "minting money", instead of bringing some ease to Karachiites.

"The Karachiites are facing multiple daily life crises. They are facing acute water shortage, the roads in the city are broken, garbage has become a big issue and health risk in a large number of areas. There are only 400 buses for 35 million people, infrastructure has gone, load-shedding is still a problem in several towns, but the PPP government has chosen number plates to keep its focus on," he added.

In this backdrop, he said, bikers were halted at every nook and corner of the city, and the number plates campaign was being used as a "trap for bribery" by the "corrupt" elements in the traffic police.

He urged the government to reconsider its decision and immediately halt the campaign, warning that failure to do so would provoke a strong public protest from the people of Karachi.

The growing controversy over the fresh campaign of the government and the imposition of a new fee for culturally-themed plates has started attracting criticism from almost all political parties in Karachi.

Muttahida demands review of fee

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has directed its Sindh Assembly members to urgently meet with the provincial Excise Minister to address the public's concerns.

In a statement, the MQM-P central committee highlighted that over 3.3 million motorcycles and 2.3 million vehicles are registered in Karachi, yet their owners — despite applying and paying online — are not receiving number plates on time.

"Complaints remain unresolved, and citizens face harassment from traffic police for not displaying plates, even though they have already paid the required fee during registration," it said.

The party demanded that mobile camps be set up on main roads for plate distribution and that plates be couriered directly to applicants, to eliminate long queues and exploitation by agents.

It has also called for a review of the plate fees and rebates for those who have already paid under the old system.

Afaq calls it 'Ajrak tax'

Separately, Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM-Haqiqi) chairman Afaq Ahmed strongly condemned the Sindh government's decision to issue new Ajrak-themed number plates for motorcycles, charging Rs1,850 per vehicle.

Calling it a discriminatory "Ajrak tax," he warned that such policies could lead to dangerous ethnic divisions within the province.

"We do not want Sindh's division, but if this injustice continues, a strong public reaction is inevitable," he said.

He also accused the Sindh government of treating Karachi like a "colony", "exploiting" its resources while "denying" residents basic infrastructure, transport, education and law enforcement.

He demanded equal compensation for victims of traffic accidents in Karachi, similar to that provided in interior Sindh.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 14/07/2025)

Friends, colleagues and mentees remember Zubeida Mustafa

Friends, colleagues and mentees of senior journalist Zubeida Mustafa gathered to pay rich tributes to her at a gathering organised by Idara-i-Taleem-o-Agahi (ITA) and Pakistan Learning Festival here on Friday.

While speaking on the occasion, ITA CEO Baela Raza Jamil said that Zubeida Mustafa may have left but not before showing the way to so many.

Artist, educator and writer Rumana Husain said that Zubeida Mustafa brought her to writing some 30 years ago when she asked her to interview the Kathak dancer Fasih-ur-Rehman for Dawn Images. "I realised that I really enjoyed writing so I did several more interviews of well-known showbiz personalities for the magazine. Later, I also interviewed artists for Dawn's art magazine Gallery," she remembered.

Journalist and author Sumera Naqvi said that while working under Mrs Mustafa in Dawn she got to learn a lot. She said that she was also touched to see her mentor attend her book launch in May despite poor health.

Educator Shahid Siddiqui joined online from Riyadh said that he had written an article about history back in the year 2000 and was amazed to find it published followed by an email of thanks along with invitation to contribute more articles to Dawn. "The email was from Mrs Mustafa, who was a very senior editor in Dawn, and yet she found the time to write to contributors," he marvelled.

'She lived, preached, promoted and inspired to speak the truth to those in power'

Theatre and dramatics teacher Atif Badar said that he came to know Mrs Mustafa while working with the Pakistan Learning Festival. "She really cared about children and their learning," he said. "She was like a fairy godmother or an angel here to light our way," he said.

Senior journalist Afia Salam said that she was in awe of Mrs Mustafa. "Her columns in Dawn would be like lessons. She would take pains to understand each issue before writing about it," she said.

Senior journalist Afia Salam remembers Zubeida Mustafa. — Photo by author

Kalmeshwar, an educationist from Hyderabad, said that Mrs Mustafa's research carried great depth. "We would be on the phone for hours to discuss education matters in Sindh's schools," he said.

Author and public policy expert Kazim Saeed was grateful for the encouragement he got from Mrs Mustafa after he wrote his book Dou Pakistan. "She said that my treatise was an important piece of work," he said.

Educationist Hawa Haji Mohammad said that Mrs Mustafa was an institution from whom everyone could learn a thing or two.

Raheela Baqai, formerly of OUP, recalled how her professional relationship with Mrs Mustafa slowly turned to a personal relationship while marketing her book.

Educationist Abbas Husain remembered Dawn having an entire weekly page dedicated to education, which Mrs Mustafa had started. He also reflected on Mrs Mustafa's life, saying that she lived, preached, promoted and inspired to speak the truth to those in power.

Senior journalist Ghazi Salahuddin remembered the time when Mrs Mustafa joined Dawn as a young journalist in 1975. "She brought with her a new perspective of a research writer. She was an academic person," he said.

Classical dancer and activist Sheema Kermani said that she wrote a personal story about living with a health condition for supplement which Mrs Mustafa was bringing out. "After the publication of that supplement, I found out that she had sent clippings of my article to various health magazines," she said.

Author Shama Askari, Educationist Sadeqa Salahuddin, Professor of Physics Gauri Leela Ram, Teachers' Trainer Rasheeda, educationist Humaira Latif from Islamabad, senior journalist Khursheed Haider, publisher Ameena Saiyid and educationist Zakia Sarwar, also spoke.

Mrs Mustafa's elder sister Dr Fatema Jawad was also present on the occasion.

(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 14, 19/07/2025)

NADRA launches 24/7 registration centres in Karachi

The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has announced the establishment of three new 24/7 National Registration Centres (Big NRCs) in Karachi, aimed at streamlining identity-related services and enhancing public access. The new centres will be located in Malir Cantt, Malir, and Surjani Town, offering citizens round-the-clock assistance with CNICs and family registration issues.

Speaking at a press briefing at NADRA's Karachi headquarters, Director and Spokesperson Syed Shabahat Ali detailed a series of policy reforms - the most significant overhaul of Pakistan's identity registration system since 2002. The changes are focused on preventing fraudulent entries in official family records and addressing widespread citizen concerns about the system's reliability and accessibility.

Under the revised regulations, child registration certificates (B-Forms) will now require photographs and biometrics for children above three years, while simplified registration remains in place for those under three. Each child will receive a separate B-Form, and these updated forms will be mandatory for passport applications, as older versions will no longer be accepted.

The Family Registration Certificate (FRC) has also been upgraded and will now be recognised as a legally valid document for inheritance claims and other legal matters. Citizens can make corrections or adjustments to their family records using NADRA's mobile application.

In a move to encourage accountability, individuals found in possession of fraudulent identity cards are being urged to voluntarily surrender them without the threat of immediate legal consequences.

NADRA also announced a relocation of services previously offered at post offices - which saw poor public response - to 1,200 union councils nationwide. This includes 100 union councils in Sindh and 20 in Karachi, where services such as CNIC renewals, marital status changes, and lost card replacements will now be available.

Director Shabahat Ali emphasised that the Pak-ID mobile application will continue to charge standard fees equal to those at NADRA offices and remains especially popular among overseas Pakistanis for its convenience.

(By Aftab Khan The Express Tribune, 04, 22/07/2025)

Veteran journalist tracks 'ups and downs' of media in Pakistan

On the occasion of awarding certificates to students on completion of courses and internships at the Urban Resource Centre (URC), senior journalist Mahmood Shaam was invited as a guest lecturer as part of the URC Forum Series of Lectures here on Tuesday.

Choosing to speak on 'The Ups and Downs in the Life of a Journalist', Mahmood Shaam shared that he was only five years old when he came to Pakistan in 1947 from East Punjab to settle down in Jhang.

"Jhang was famous because of the folklore of 'Heer and Ranjha'. Today it is famous for Lashkar-i-Jhangvi," he quipped.

Speaking about the start of his journey into journalism, Mr Shaam said that he dreamt of being a publisher as a child. And he started contributing to children's magazines of the time. In fact, it was his writing which got him admission to the prestigious Government College Lahore, because the college principal Dr Nazir Ahmad had read of his poetry in a magazine. While in college, Mr Shaam also took over the editorship of their in-house publication 'The Ravi'.

"I did not come from a wealthy or influential family but I was able to achieve much academic success through my writing," Mr Shaam said.

Mahmood Shaam says he was able to achieve academic success through his writing

By 1963, he was also able to bag a proper newspaper job with Nawa-i-Waqt.

Though he was enjoying being a fulltime journalist in Nawa-i-Waqt, he also got to witness difficult times as the salary to employees there used to be paid in instalments. "Our cashier was also moonlighting as a tailor to make ends meet," he laughed.

"Soon we witnessed war with India in 1965. This was also a time to see the nation unite," he said.

"I remember that there was a letter box fixed outside Radio Pakistan in Lahore to encourage poets to pen inspiring songs. I wrote one song for the Pakistan Air Force and one for our Navy. The Air Force song was selected and recorded in the voice of Saleem Raza," he beamed.

The year 1967 saw Shaam move to Karachi to join the Jang newspaper. "This was the Ayub era when we had the sword of the Press and Publication Ordinance hanging over our heads," he said.

"Then we had the Gen Yahya's martial law when we had the freedom to criticise all politicians but not the army. Then came the elections in 1970. What followed is history. The only Pakistan left was on the West," he said.

Changing the sad subject of the Fall of Dhaka, Mr Shaam spoke about the challenges but also the benefits of journalism. "I got to travel a lot all over the world, including China and the United States," he said.

Remembering the 11 years of General Zia, he spoke of the Official Secrets Act of those days and the time he spent in jail for publishing something.

"At first I did time at Karachi's Central Prison, then the central jail of Hyderabad, where we got to stay in an upgraded B class cell with attached bathroom," he smiled.

He also remembered the Prepublication Censorship of Zia after Bhutto's hanging. Then he also witnessed the musical chairs of the PPP and Muslim League-N in the late 1980s and 90s.

"By that time I had also taken over as the Group Editor of the Jang newspaper," he said, before wrapping up with the slow but steady decline of the print media, reading news on smart phones and the arrival of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

"But I think AI has been present in this country since 1947. We are all slaved to machines. Still, those who can use their heads can find their way," he concluded.

(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 14, 23/07/2025)

PFC Award controversy leaves governance in limbo

Every couple of years, the Sindh government complains to the federal government that it is not receiving its due share of funds under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award. However, the provincial government itself behaves no differently when it comes to allocating funds to its own local government bodies.

Just as the NFC Award governs the distribution of financial resources from the federation to the provinces, the Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) Award is meant to ensure the fair distribution of financial resources among local bodies within a province. While Sindh complains about the federal government's failure to implement the NFC Award, local bodies across the province, including the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), have long-standing grievances against the Sindh government regarding the non-implementation of the PFC Award.

According to the Constitution, the federal government must announce a new NFC Award every five years, and similarly, provinces are constitutionally bound to issue a new PFC Award every five years to ensure proper financial distribution among local governments. In Sindh, however, the last NFC Award was announced in December 2009 and came into effect in July 2010. Its term ended in June 2015, but no new award has been issued since. Similarly, the last PFC Award was issued in 2002, and it expired in 2007. Nearly 17 years have passed since the last award expired.

Despite this, the Sindh government has yet to announce a new PFC Award, and funds are still being distributed based on the outdated award, creating mounting financial pressures on local bodies. KMC, the province's largest municipal institution, is also facing serious financial challenges due to the delay in the new PFC Award. In its latest budget documents, KMC has specifically highlighted this issue, formally requesting the Sindh government to issue a new PFC Award without further delay.

According to KMC's recent budget report, it contributes towards 60 per cent of the octroi tax revenue generated in Sindh but does not receive its share accordingly. Its expenditure, on the other hand, continues to rise. For instance, in the 2023-24 fiscal year, KMC required Rs28.93 billion for non-salary expenses but received only Rs17.98 billion from the Sindh government, leaving a deficit of over Rs11.19 billion for this category alone.

While the provincial government fails to allocate the required funds to KMC, it continues to increase the salaries of government employees every year, adding to the corporation's financial burden. Official figures show that while KMC's revenue from octroi taxes has increased by 95 per cent over the past few years, its expenditure on salaries and pensions has gone up by 255 per cent.

Naseer Memon, a political economist, opined that the PFC Award was a genuine issue across all provinces. "The provinces force the federal government to devolve powers to the provinces but are not in favour of transferring those powers to the local governments, which are at the foundation of a democratic system. There should be a fair criterion for the distribution of resources through the PFC Award. Unlike the NFC formula where population is the major criteria for distribution of resources, the PFC should have multiple criteria for distribution among local governments including resource collection and backwardness," suggested Memon.

On the other hand, Dr Kaiser Bengali, a renowned economist, revealed that the Provincial Finance Commission still did not have constitutional protection. "Until this issue is resolved, the PFC award controversy will continue. Just as the Constitution clearly mentions the functions and powers of the federation and the provinces, it is also necessary to include the functions and financial matters of the local government separately," noted Dr Bengali.

When The Express Tribune reached out to Sukkur Mayor and Sindh government spokesperson Arsalan Islam Shaikh regarding the delay in the new PFC Award, he stated that Sindh had been severely affected by natural disasters like COVID-19 and floods over the past several years, which has delayed the announcement of the new PFC Award. "Issuing a PFC Award is a constitutional obligation and it will be finalized soon," assured Shaikh.

(By Razzak Abro The Express Tribune, 04, 25/07/2025)

Heated debate in PA on Ajrak number plates

The opposition and treasury benches, during the Sindh Assembly session on Friday, traded verbal barbs over the issue of Ajrak-themed number plates of the vehicles.

The opposition asserted, they were not against the cultural and heritage status of Ajrak, but forcing people to pay exorbitant penalties for not installing the said number plates was unjustified. Moreover, the drive to implement the Ajrak number plates was limited to Karachi only, while in the rest of the province, vehicles ply even without number plates.

Several MPAs expressed serious concerns over public issues and criticised harassing citizens over new number plates. They also expressed strong reactions over the notices issued to residents of derelict buildings in Gulistan-e-Jauhar and Hyderabad.

MQM member Shabbir Qureshi raised objections to traffic police unjustly issuing fines and harassing citizens over Ajrak number plates. In response, Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani clarified that Ajrak number plates have been in vogue for the last two to three years and include security features. He stated that motorcycles are often used in thefts and crimes, hence having registered and identifiable number plates is essential.

These number plates are readable by the Safe City Cameras and have helped in apprehending persons illegally using official vehicles and government number plates. Excise Minister Mukesh Kumar Chawla said that since 2022, new number plates have been installed on one million motorcycles, and it is a reflection of the culture of Sindh. He said that the Punjab government adopted the Ajrak design on its flyovers, but it has been made controversial in Sindh, which is unfortunate. MQM member Najm Mirza said that Ajrak is not the issue, but people are being troubled under its guise, with traffic police issuing fines amounting to thousands of rupees.

Najam Mirza recommended forming of a special parliamentary committee on this issue, which should also include the opposition. Saeed Ghani welcomed the proposal. He said, he accepts full responsibility for the recent building accident in Lyari in which 27 people lost their lives. He said that the affected building was constructed illegally in 1980s. Following the accident, the DG of the Sindh Building Control Authority was removed and cases were registered against 11 officers, many of whom have been arrested.

He said that assistance was delayed due to the victims not having identity cards, but now Rs90,000 per family is being given as three-month rent. A total 45 families were living in the affected building in Lyari, most of whom were tenants.

He added that 66 dangerous buildings in Karachi and 87 across Sindh have been vacated, and further action is being taken under the new committee.

Home Minister Sindh Ziaul Hassan Lanjar said regarding police recruitment that 50,000 youth passed the written examination under the advertisement given during the caretaker government, out of which 11,000 were recruited on merit and all the details are available on the website. The Sindh Assembly unanimously passed a resolution condemning the double murder incident in Balochistan, demanding the strictest punishment for the accused involved in the murder. The resolution was presented by Pakistan Peoples Party member Sadia Javed.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 26/07/2025)

193 schemes proposed by MNAs cancelled

More than 193 development schemes worth billions of rupees, proposed by MNAs from Karachi and Hyderabad, have been cancelled following allegations of serious irregularities in the tendering process, sources told The Express Tribune.

The Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company Limited (PIDCL) — now responsible for executing these projects — scrapped all the tenders issued two months ago, citing concerns over corruption linked to former officers of the now-defunct Public Works Department (PWD).

According to sources, the development schemes had been initiated on the recommendations of MNAs from both cities and were previously handled by the PWD. After the department's dissolution, the execution of such federally-funded schemes was transferred to PIDCL. However, the company reportedly enlisted the help of several ex-PWD officials to oversee the tendering process, which led to the awarding of contracts through e-tendering.

Senior contractors allege that the process was marred by serious irregularities and contract trading. In response, PIDCL CEO Waseem Bajwa and General Manager Shafi Chachar took strict notice and ordered the cancellation of all awarded tenders.

Sources further revealed that PIDCL plans to issue fresh advertisements for re-tendering the schemes. However, the cancellations have brought development work in Karachi and Hyderabad to a standstill, raising concerns among lawmakers over the future of their constituency funds.

Insiders also noted that PIDCL lacks the engineering capacity required to manage such a large volume of development projects - a shortfall that could jeopardize the timely utilisation of MNA development funds.

Despite repeated attempts, the PIDCL general manager could not be reached for comment.

(By Naeem Khanzada The Express Tribune, 04, 31/07/2025)

Betrayed citizens

THE measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members — and by that measure, Pakistan is failing its sanitation workers. A new report by Amnesty International — which collaborated with the local human rights group the Centre for Law & Justice on the project — reveals the entrenched caste- and faith-based discrimination that continues to define this essential yet stigmatised profession. Despite being the backbone of urban hygiene, sanitation workers are routinely subjected to degrading treatment, dangerous working conditions and systemic exclusion. Many of these citizens belong to minority communities that placed their faith in the promise of equal rights in this country after Partition. They have been let down. Government ads openly require applicants to be non-Muslim for sanitation posts. Workers are often denied formal contracts, paid below minimum wage and made to clean sewers without protective gear. Many endure verbal abuse, exclusion from shared spaces and even social segregation — all while risking injury or death on the job. A woman worker in Lahore captured the injustice simply: “They can cut us open and see that we bleed like them, so why do they call us these hateful words?” In some cases, the social marginalisation is so deep that workers have been vulnerable to blasphemy allegations, as witnessed in the 2023 Jaranwala violence sparked by accusations against two Christian sanitation workers.

The state must not only outlaw caste-based discrimination in its Constitution, it should also end discriminatory hiring practices and ensure equal protection under labour laws. Manual cleaning of sewers must be phased out and replaced with machinery. Regularisation of workers, provision of safety equipment and universal access to healthcare and social protections must follow. Until this country treats sanitation work with the dignity it deserves — and those who perform it with the respect they are owed — it will remain complicit in a silent, daily violence against some of its most vital citizens.
(By Editorial, Dawn, 07, 31/07/2025)

SHC suspends ombudsman's order against KE CEO

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Tuesday suspended the provincial ombudsman's order to remove K-Electric Chief Executive Officer Moonis Alvi and impose a Rs2.5 million fine in a workplace harassment case filed by a former company executive.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Faisal Kamal Alam and Justice Hassan Akbar issued the order while hearing a petition filed by Moonis Alvi, who challenged the [ombudsman's ruling](#) on grounds of jurisdiction and procedural flaws.

The petitioner appeared in court with his counsel, Barrister Abid Zuberi, who argued that the provincial ombudsman had no legal authority to decide the case, as K-Electric is an inter-provincial organisation supplying electricity beyond Sindh to areas including Lasbela, Hub, and Winder. Barrister Zuberi further contended that such cases fall under the jurisdiction of the federal ombudsman, not the provincial one.

He also questioned the legal soundness of the ombudsman's findings, citing previous precedents where jurisdictional conflicts arose in similar cases involving the National Industrial Relations Commission (NIRC) and labour courts. Zuberi pointed out that the complaint relied heavily on WhatsApp messages and that the proceedings lacked due process.

Justice Alam inquired about the legal basis of the provincial ombudsman's decision, to which the petitioner's counsel responded that both the removal order and the monetary penalty were unlawful. He prayed the court annul the decision and grant interim relief.

The bench suspended the implementation of the ombudsman's decision and directed the petitioner to deposit the Rs2.5 million fine with the SHC registrar. The court did not grant the petitioner's plea for a reduction in the amount. It also issued notices to the provincial ombudsman and the complainant, Mehreen Zehra — former Chief Marketing Officer at K-Electric — for August 8.

Later in the day, the SHC issued a written order noting that the provincial ombudsman lacks jurisdiction over complaints involving inter-provincial institutions, and that such matters fall within the federal ombudsman's purview.

The written order directed the Deputy Attorney General, the Advocate General Sindh, and other relevant parties to submit their replies before the next hearing. The court also warned that failure to deposit the Rs2.5 million by the petitioner would result in the revocation of the interim relief.

On Thursday, the provincial ombudsman had found Moonis Alvi guilty of harassment and ordered his removal from office, along with the imposition of the penalty. The court will take up the case again on August 8.
(By Nasir Butt The Express Tribune, 04, 02/08/2025)

Centre revives Rs20b uplift projects in Karachi, Hyderabad

The federal government has decided to restart stalled development projects in Karachi and Hyderabad using federal funds, with a firm commitment to transparency and merit-based tendering. The move aims to eliminate interference from corrupt networks and parallel administrative systems that have historically undermined infrastructure development.

The Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company Limited (PIDCL) has announced the revival of 193 development schemes, previously cancelled due to irregularities and lack of competition. These projects, worth billions of rupees, were originally approved for constituencies represented by MNAs of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P).

PIDCL has finalised two major funding packages - Rs15 billion for Karachi and Rs five billion for Hyderabad — under which infrastructure development will be carried out in line with strict merit-based procedures. According to the new guidelines, tenders will be awarded without the customary commission cuts, kickbacks, or political interference.

"Contracts will no longer be sold, and all payments will be made transparently. Projects will be completed on time and according to the approved standards," said PIDCL General Manager Shafi Chachar.

He added that contractors who quote rates more than 10% below the lowest bidder may be required to complete the work at their own expense to prevent manipulation through unsustainable bidding. All awarded contracts must be backed by valid bank guarantees, and no project will proceed without meeting these financial safeguards.

To further strengthen transparency, PIDCL will implement an e-procurement system, which is expected to reduce favouritism and ensure that tenders are awarded purely on merit. Independent consultants will be appointed to monitor project execution and adherence to quality standards.

Out of 410 development schemes initially proposed by MQM-P MNAs, 193 were previously cancelled due to the presence of single bidders or unhealthy competition. PIDCL plans to reissue tenders for these schemes in the coming days.

In response to concerns over billing fraud, Chachar said PIDCL will coordinate with relevant departments at the initiation and completion stages of each project. Signboards displaying project details will also be installed at construction sites to ensure public visibility and accountability.

"The federal government has released the required funds, and development work has already begun under the supervision of PIDCL. Citizens of Karachi and Hyderabad will start seeing tangible improvements once the schemes are completed," he added.

The move to conduct "system-free" development - without political brokerage or corrupt intermediaries - marks a crucial shift in the approach toward urban infrastructure in Sindh's two largest cities. PIDCL officials expressed hope that the initiative would restore public confidence in development programmes and bring long-overdue relief to residents.

(By Naeem Khanzada The Express Tribune, 04, 03/08/2025)

Senate panel concerned over allotment of 'undisputed' Pakistan Steel Mills land by Sindh govt

The Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production has expressed serious concerns over allotment of what it called "undisputed land" of the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) by the Sindh government and observed that the matter should be referred to the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

The committee — headed by its chairman Senator Aon Abbas and comprising Senators Syed Masroor Ahsan, Khalida Ateeb and Husna Bano — visited the PSM and reviewed its existing challenges of debts, delayed payments and expenditure.

They were given a detailed briefing by the PSM management led by its chairman Asad Islam Mahni regarding key issues being faced by the organisation.

"The committee was told about arbitrary allotment of PSM land by the government of Sindh in the past few years," said a press release issued after the visit of the committee.

"It expressed reservations on the allotment of PSM's undisputed and entitled land to the goths [villages] by the Sindh government and desired that such allotment cases should be referred to the CCI," the press release added.

'Govt considering two plans for PSM'

The PSM chairman Mahni briefed the committee that the mills had a cumulative loss of Rs600 billion till 2024 and it paid Rs20bn interest annually on the existing debt.

He also briefed the committee that PSM owed Rs89bn to the National Bank of Pakistan as most of the loan was being provided by the NBP for expenditure including salaries of its 934 existing employees.

The committee was informed by PSM officials that the government was considering two plans simultaneously regarding the organisation.

They said that the first plan was to seek revival of the PSM through the Russian Industrial Engineering LLC, which will use Arch Furnace and Blast Furnace to revive the mill.

The other option, they told the committee, was to seek liquidation of the PSM after hiring an evaluating firm.

The committee also suggested to speed up the process of liquidating moveable assets being no longer in working condition or have aged their life.

The members toured different plants of the PSM and suggested that the government should expedite the process to decide the fate of the organisation.

Body formed to address employees' concerns

The Senate standing committee also heard the concerns raised by employees' unions.

The members met with the employee union representatives, who apprised the committee about the hardships of retrenched and current employees of the PSM.

It formed a subcommittee to review the reservations of the employees and held talks with the management to address their grievances.

The committee appreciated the efforts of the current management to reduce the expenditure of the PSM.

However, the committee showed displeasure over frequent incidents of thefts in the PSM and directed the authorities to evaluate the losses due to theft.

(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 03/08/2025)

1,300 surveillance cameras to improve traffic policing in Karachi: IGP

Public complaints and misunderstandings involving traffic police will be resolved once 1,300 surveillance cameras under the Safe City Project become operational in Karachi, said Inspector General of Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon on Sunday.

He was speaking to the participants of a five-kilometre race, titled Shuhda Run, held in memory of 2,500 police martyrs. Over 1,000 participants, including prominent personalities, women and children, took part in the run.

He said that the purpose of the walk was to raise awareness among citizens about physical health and traffic laws, and to ensure compliance with the law.

The IGP noted that citizens often faced inconvenience when being physically checked by the police, but with the implementation of the first phase of the Sindh government's Safe City Project across the metropolis, they would be spared such checks.

He stated that the "issues" arising from physical checks between the police and the general public would also be eliminated, while tickets (challan) for traffic violations would be sent directly to citizens' residences.

"Definitely, it would put an end to complaints and criticism against the police," he said, adding that it would ease the process of checking of vehicles and improve overall policing.

He added that the smart cameras would enable the police to monitor citizens and vehicles using modern technology, while fines for traffic violations would be delivered to violators at their homes.

He lamented that unnecessary criticism could dampen the morale of even the most dedicated officers.

Commenting on the city's complex demographics, he said Karachi, being a mega city, attracts people from across the country seeking employment — some of whom also bring with them personal disputes or enmities.

However, he claimed that due to effective and results-oriented policing, the number of killings had been reduced by up to 500 per cent compared to previous years.

He highlighted that over 2,500 police personnel had been martyred in Sindh while fighting crime over the past some decades.

"At the provincial level, every year on August 4, we remember and pay tribute to our martyrs. The purpose of organising such programmes is to ensure that we never forget them and their memories will always be an asset to us," he said.

Karachi police chief Additional IG Javed Odho, DIG Traffic Pir Mohammed Shah and other senior officers also participated in the run.

(By Imtiaz Ali Dawn, 13, 04/08/2025)

CJP urges Sindh govt to raise allocation for judicial sector in upcoming budgets

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi has asked the Sindh government to significantly enhance the budgetary allocation for the judiciary in the province to meet the requirements of a modern judicial system.

He noted that the judiciary is a fundamental pillar of the state, but its budgetary allocation in Sindh remains disproportionately low.

He observed that the district judiciary in Sindh was not only overburdened but also under-resourced in terms of logistics, infrastructure and modern facilities, and added that, as per comparative statistics of budgetary allocations for the judiciary across provinces, Sindh was lagging behind in this regard.

The CJP also underlined the need for targeted investment in judicial infrastructure, digital integration and resource enhancement, particularly in the district judiciary of Karachi, to enable faster and more efficient dispensation of justice.

He was chairing a strategic meeting held at the Supreme Court Karachi Registry on strengthening coordination between the legal fraternity and justice sector institutions to enhance service delivery and promote participatory law and policy reforms.

Sindh High Court (SHC) Chief Justice Muhammad Junaid Ghaffar, Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput and Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhoro of the SHC, Federal Law Secretary Raja Naeem Akbar, Sindh Law Minister Zia ul Hassan Lanjar, Registrar SC Mohammad Salim Khan, Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah, Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoi, provincial Law Secretary Ali Ahmed Baloch, Planning and Development Board chairman Sindh Najam Ahmed Shah and several other officials also attended the meeting.

According to the statements issued by the apex court, based on consultations with the district judiciary and legal fraternity, CJP Afridi identified gaps such as inadequate court facilities, insufficient solarisation and limited digital integration (including e-libraries) in certain districts of Sindh.

SHC Chief Justice Ghaffar also provided an overview of the district judiciary, highlighting existing facilities and the financial constraints it was facing, and emphasised that increasing litigation rates and population growth must be factored into budget planning to ensure adequate resourcing.

The CJP underscored that the justice sector is a fundamental pillar of the state, yet in Sindh, its budgetary allocation remained disproportionately low, amounting to only 0.3 per cent of the Annual Development Plan (ADP).

He urged the provincial government to significantly enhance this allocation to meet the requirements of a modern judicial system, noting that such a commitment must be reflected in future ADPs.

The statements also said that the CJP presented comparative statistics of budgetary allocations for the justice sector across provinces and observed that Sindh lagged behind in this regard. He also emphasised the urgent need to review and enhance the ADP allocation for the justice sector.

He further stressed that targeted investment in infrastructure, digital integration and resource enhancement, particularly in the district judiciary of the provincial metropolis, would enable faster and more efficient dispensation of justice and called upon all relevant stakeholders to collaborate in developing a comprehensive plan for the uplift of district-level judicial facilities in the province.

The CJP acknowledged the vital role of the bar in ensuring access to justice and pointed out the existing coordination gap between bar associations and the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) in advancing justice sector reforms.

He also reaffirmed the LJCP's decision to post senior-level representatives in every province, stationed at the high courts, to serve as focal points for liaison with district bar associations.

The CJP further urged the leaders of the bar to sensitise their members about these initiatives and to proactively submit proposals for infrastructure and capacity-building projects through the respective district development committees headed by district and sessions judges.

He directed that government-provided support to bar associations be streamlined, structured and duplication-free to ensure efficiency and optimal utilisation of resources.

The federal secretary law informed the meeting that allocations to bar associations were generally determined based on the number of registered lawyers.

In the case of Balochistan, the allocation has been increased from 6.3pc to 10pc, exceeding even its NFC formula share. The CJP said that the allocation for Sindh should likewise be reconsidered in light of its larger case volume and requirements.

Lawyers' delegation calls on CJP

Meanwhile, the CJP also met with a delegation of lawyers from across Sindh comprising representatives of the Pakistan Bar Council, Sindh Bar Council and High Court Bar Association.

He also unveiled a legal aid programme designed to ensure that no litigant is left without representation.

Under this initiative, financially vulnerable litigants will be provided legal counsel at state expense at every tier of the justice system, and bar associations will be invited to nominate capable lawyers for such assignments in coordination with the judges concerned.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 07/08/2025)

Cabinet decides to reassess buildings declared 'protected heritage' in Sindh

The Sindh government on Thursday decided to reassess 3,371 "Protected Heritage" buildings in Sindh through committees of experts, following reports that some have deteriorated so severely that they pose safety risks and no longer retain their original heritage value.

The decision was made in the Sindh cabinet meeting which was chaired by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah which discussed host of issues ranging from launch of the CNIC-based vehicle registration to the transfer of MDCAT examination responsibility to IBA-Sukkur.

Among the key decisions included the formation of "a committee or multiple committees of experts" to reassess the 3,371 buildings currently declared as Protected Heritage across the province.

These heritage sites were originally identified and notified under the Sindh Cultural Heritage (Preservation) Act, 1994. Earlier, an Advisory Committee was constituted to guide preservation efforts. Subsequent surveys — including one by NED University in 2008-9 and a departmental re-survey in 2017-18 — concluded with 3,371 sites being declared Protected Heritage due to their architectural and historical significance.

Key govt decisions include launch of CNIC-based vehicle registration; transfer of MDCAT responsibility to IBA-Sukkur

“However, over the years, many of these buildings have faced structural decay due to environmental exposure, unauthorised alterations, and lack of maintenance—especially in the case of privately owned properties,” said a statement issued by the CM House after the meeting.

“Some structures have deteriorated to the point of becoming dangerous and may no longer retain their original heritage value. Given this, the culture department proposed three options for reassessment committees, each comprising experts in architecture, conservation, urban planning, history, and structural engineering. The cabinet approved the constitution of committee (s) to assess the buildings and submit their report with recommendations to the government.”

Alongside the approval of the reassessment initiative, the statement said that the cabinet also sanctioned Rs20 million for the execution of this important project, which aims to revisit, re-evaluate, and re-categorise the declared heritage sites across Sindh.

The cabinet also finalised a comprehensive MDCAT Admissions Policy for the MBBS and BDS programmes across public and private medical and dental colleges in the province, in compliance with the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) Act, 2022 and a Sindh High Court directive.

“Sukkur IBA Testing Agency (SIBA) has been designated as the current testing agency due to its satisfactory performance in MDCAT-2024, but future selections will remain performance-based,” said the statement.

“The health department retains the authority to conduct the admissions process directly or through any nominated medical university. A supervisory committee will be notified by the department to oversee the process when handled by a university.”

The MDCAT policy, it said, includes strict adherence to PMDC rules for merit determination, pass percentages, and eligibility. Sindh domicile is mandatory for applicants, with verification through Juvenile Cards and Biometric authentication.

The seat allocation and distribution for all medical colleges and universities will be published in the Annual Prospectus, which cannot be altered by the admitting universities, said the statement.

The provincial cabinet also approved “in-principal” the CNIC-based vehicle registration model and its legal amendments to bring Sindh’s system in line with global best practices and recent reforms in the Islamabad Capital Territory.

Before the approval, the statement said, the cabinet reviewed the proposal forwarded by the excise department to introduce a CNIC-based vehicle registration system, along with Personalised Registration Marks (PRMs).

“The new system will link registration marks directly to a vehicle owner’s CNIC rather than the vehicle’s chassis, allowing owners to retain and reuse their personalised number plates even after selling their vehicle. The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) will now be based on the chassis number, which remains the permanent identifier of the vehicle,” said the statement.

The PRMs, it said, can be retained, reused, or surrendered by owners. The system enables real-time traceability of vehicles and aligns with international standards. The CNIC-linked registration promotes easy tracking of taxpayers’ assets and improves administrative convenience, added the statement.

“The CM directed the Excise & Taxation Department to develop the CNIC-based system and then begin its testing, followed by amending the necessary law. The CNIC-based vehicle registration would not be implemented immediately, but the CM would hold follow-up meetings to oversee its implementation once it has been properly tested,” said the statement.

The cabinet also approved amendment to the Sindh Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (Amendment) Act, 2025, enabling the appointment of BS-19 and BS-20 officers as Chairmen of the education boards across the province. The amendment comes in response to administrative challenges and the limited availability of BS-21 officers, who were previously eligible for these roles.

“The new amendment to Section 15(1) now permits the appointment of BS-19/20 officers by transfer as chairmen,” said the statement.

“The chairmen will continue to serve a three-year term, with eligibility for reappointment. The Controlling Authority retains the power to make appointments either by direct recruitment or transfer. The latest amendment aims to ensure smoother appointments and more effective governance of Sindh’s education boards.”

(By Newspaper’s Staff Reporter, Dawn, 15, 08/08/2025)

CJP wants modern infrastructure for district courts

The Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi on Thursday underlined the need for equipping district judiciary with modern infrastructure and institutional support to enhance the overall effectiveness of the judicial sector.

He also noted that the government was actively engaged in addressing infrastructural requirements of the judiciary in line with contemporary standards.

Given Karachi's status as the economic hub of the country, the CJP further underscored the urgency of establishing a judicial infrastructure that can meet the city's expanding legal and commercial demands.

He made these observations during a meeting with president of Karachi Bar Association Amir Nawaz Warraich and secretary Abdul Rehman Korai at the Supreme Court Karachi Registry.

The additional resident secretary of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan Sohail Ahmed Mashori was also present during the meeting.

To improve coordination and implementation of reforms, the CJP said, the additional resident secretary had been appointed in each province to serve as a liaison with the district judiciary. The initiative aims to bridge the gaps through meaningful collaboration between the bench and the bar, he added.

The CJP said that the district judiciary remained central to the ongoing priority agenda, as it served as the primary forum for interface between the public and access to justice.

According to a statement issued by the apex court, the visiting representatives of the KBA expressed their appreciation to the Chief Justice of Pakistan for his time and addressing the pressing issues faced by the legal fraternity in the provincial capital.

They also expressed gratitude for the CJP's vision and leadership.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 15, 08/08/2025)

Major reforms in transport, education win cabinet's nod

The Sindh cabinet on Thursday approved a string of key policy measures and development initiatives aimed at improving administrative efficiency, ensuring road safety, reforming education governance, and preserving the province's heritage.

The cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, granted in-principle approval to the Excise and Taxation Department's proposal for launching a new vehicle registration system linked to Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs). Under the proposed model, personalised registration numbers will be assigned to vehicle owners rather than chassis numbers, allowing owners to retain their number plates even after selling their vehicles.

Officials said the initiative, which aligns with international practices, would enhance tracking, facilitate tax compliance, and improve vehicle ownership records. The cabinet also approved the necessary legal amendments to implement the CNIC-based registration framework and directed the department to launch a pilot project before rolling it out across the province.

The cabinet also approved the establishment of vehicle fitness centres for commercial vehicles across the province. The centres will be set up by Wah Industries Limited, with the first phase covering Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur. More centres will be established in other districts in subsequent phases.

Legal amendments will be introduced to make fitness certification mandatory for commercial vehicles, while private vehicles will not be subject to the same requirement.

The cabinet also gave nod of approval for a procedural mechanism for registering government vehicles with modified chassis or confiscated units, allowing federal and provincial agencies to register such vehicles under designated series. A committee headed by the excise minister will finalise the legal framework.

The cabinet sanctioned a fresh resurvey of 3,371 historical buildings across the province, many of which are said to be in poor condition.

An amount of Rs20 million has been allocated for the initiative. Expert committees will be formed to assess the status of each site and recommend necessary restoration and conservation measures.

The cabinet also okayed an amendment to the rules governing educational boards, allowing officers of BS-19 and BS-20 to be appointed as chairpersons. Earlier, only BS-21 officers were eligible for the position. The move aims to ease recruitment bottlenecks and improve administrative efficiency in the education sector.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 08/08/2025)

PAC orders sacking of 19 fake KDA employees

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly has ordered the dismissal of 19 Karachi Development Authority (KDA) employees after it was confirmed that their appointments were fake.

The directive came during a PAC meeting held on Thursday under the chairmanship of senior PPP leader Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, which reviewed audit paras of the Karachi Development Authority (KDA), Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) and the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA).

Attendees at the meeting included PAC member Taha Ahmed, KDA Director General Asif Jan Siddiqui, HDA DG Asghar Ali Ghanghro, and the WASA CEO.

The committee was informed that although the KDA has 4,000 sanctioned posts, only 2,200 employees are currently working. An internal inquiry identified 53 suspected fake employees, of whom 19 were confirmed bogus, while the verification process for the remaining staff is still underway.

Taking serious notice of the delay in action, Khuhro questioned why disciplinary proceedings had not been initiated against the confirmed cases. The KDA DG informed the committee that the case had been referred to the Local Government Department and assured that termination letters would be issued shortly.

The parliamentary corruption watchdog also expressed concern over the absence of a biometric attendance system in the KDA. The DG admitted that no digital attendance mechanism exists at present, although barcodes are used for tracking files and property-related transactions. He said steps were being taken to introduce a biometric system.

The committee took strong exception to the reclassification and commercial allotment of amenity plots, which it termed a violation of Supreme Court orders. Audit officials told the PAC that several plots reserved for public amenities were leased out to private commercial entities, including Sindbad Park and South City Hospital.

The KDA DG informed the committee that a 28,000-square-yard plot was leased to Sindbad Park between 1981 and 2016 at a nominal rate of Rs5 per square yard, with a monthly rent of Rs1 million. A revised agreement in 2016 increased the rate to Rs18 per square yard, raising the monthly rent to Rs1.5 million.

In the case of South City Hospital, a 3,000-square-yard plot initially allotted to Marvi Medical Centre was reallocated following the cancellation of the earlier allotment in 2023. The new allotment was made at a rate of Rs37,000 per square yard on court orders. Khuhro questioned why the land was not leased at prevailing market rates, raising concerns about loss to the exchequer.

The PAC directed the provincial chief secretary to constitute a special inquiry committee to thoroughly investigate the matter and determine whether the allotments were made in accordance with rules and regulations.

The PAC also expressed concern over the alleged diversion of Rs527 million from pension and General Provident Fund (GPF) accounts to meet salary shortfalls. The matter has been referred to the Local Government secretary for a detailed probe. (By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 05, 08/08/2025)

Bill on salary and perks unites Sindh MPAs across party lines

In a display of cross-party harmony, the Sindh Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a bill, paving the way for a fresh framework to govern the perks and privileges of its members.

The Sindh Assembly Members (Salaries and Allowances) Bill 2025, presented by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Zia ul Hasan Lanjar, is aimed at replacing the existing law with "a more structured approach" overseen by a newly constituted Parliamentary Committee.

Under the bill, the Speaker will establish the Parliamentary Committee through an official gazette notification.

The committee's membership will be determined by the Speaker based on proportional representation, ensuring fair representation. The committee will be empowered to oversee and recommend MPAs' salaries and allowances, with its recommendations binding on the government.

Under the newly passed bill, key provisions include a consolidated salary for an MPA as determined by the committee, alongside a range of allowances such as sumptuary, house rent, utilities, daily, conveyance, subsidy, accommodation, and travelling and mileage allowances.

Additionally, the Leader of Opposition will receive a salary, allowances, and privileges equivalent to those of a Provincial Minister.

Chairpersons of various parliamentary committees will be eligible for multiple allowances but are limited to using one government vehicle during their tenure, with petrol and maintenance allowances provided.

They must return the vehicle within three days of leaving office.

Meanwhile, lone Jamaat-i-Islami MPA Muhammad Farooq, who is in Saudi Arabia and not part of the PA proceedings, told *Dawn* his party was against the increase in lawmakers' salary as it would be a burden on the provincial exchequer.

He said that the current salary of an MPA is Rs152,000 and after the passage of this bill it would become Rs575,000.

Bureaucrats can head educational boards

During the session, the parliamentary affairs minister also presented the Sindh Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill 2025 and the Anti-Terrorism Sindh (Amendment) Bill 2025, both approved by a majority vote.

Regarding the education boards amendment, Mr Lanjar explained that the original 1972 ordinance equated the board chairman's post to grades 20 and 21, but the new bill allows officers of grades 19 and 20 to be appointed as chairmen of boards.

The minister said that the bill is aimed at paving the way for more officers to be appointed in the education boards.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's (MQM-P) Qaimkhani supported the need for better board management but criticised what he called the lack of "consideration" for his party's suggestions.

The MQM-P lawmaker proposed sending the bill back to the committee for further discussion, a suggestion Lanjar opposed.

The speaker put it to a vote, and the house approved the bill by majority of votes.

Earlier, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon praised police force for safeguarding law and order, and protecting life and property of citizens.

Speaking during the session, Mr Memon addressed the long-standing criticism and ridicule faced by the police.

"When we seek a target for blame, the police are an easy choice," he remarked. "Yet, we rarely reflect on the constable who endangers his life daily for a modest wage, only to face criticism instead of appreciation."

He praised the Sindh Police for their "exemplary service" since 2008, noting their "historic success in restoring peace" under a democratic government.

He said once-dangerous areas, where residents avoided venturing out after dark, have now returned to normalcy, crediting the force's efforts.

He lauded their courage in tackling terrorism, citing the Karachi airport attack where then-Inspector General Iqbal Mahmood led the response in plain clothes.

Later, the house was adjourned to Monday.
(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 09/08/2025)

Lawmakers award themselves hefty pay, perks increase

The Sindh Assembly on Friday passed three pieces of legislation, including a bill increasing the salaries and privileges of its members, the Sindh Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill 2025, and the Anti-Terrorism Sindh (Amendment) Bill 2025.

The bills were moved by Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Ziaul Hassan Lanjar during a session chaired by Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah.

The House unanimously approved the salary and allowances bill, which was earlier cleared by the provincial cabinet on August 7. The new law equalises privileges for MPAs — both from government and opposition — covering hospitality, house rent, utilities, daily and conveyance allowances, accommodation, travel and mileage, telephone and medical facilities, as well as office maintenance.

The leader of the opposition will now receive the same salary and perks as a provincial minister. Parliamentary committee chairpersons will be entitled to use an official vehicle — with fuel and maintenance — but must return it within three days of vacating the post.

The Sindh Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill 2025, passed by a majority vote, allows the appointment of BPS-20 and 21 officers as chairpersons of education boards.

Lanjar said the move aimed to induct competent officers for better board performance.

MQM-Pakistan's Sabir Qaimkhani, however, called for sending the bill to the relevant committee for further deliberation to safeguard board autonomy - a suggestion that was rejected by the House.

The assembly also adopted the Anti-Terrorism Sindh (Amendment) Bill 2025. Details of the changes were not immediately debated on the floor. Speaker Shah announced that a special sitting will be held on August 11 at the old assembly building to mark Minority Day, with representatives of minority communities invited to participate.

A privilege motion by MQM-Pakistan's Ammar Siddiqui on gas supply issues was rejected on technical grounds.

During the question hour for the Auqaf Department, Parliamentary Secretary Shazia Sanghar replied to written and supplementary questions from members.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 09/08/2025)

Perks for MPAs

At a time when Sindh's public services are strained, inflation is biting and development priorities remain underfunded, the provincial assembly has chosen to unanimously pass a bill that increases the salaries and privileges of its members. The legislation, swiftly cleared by the provincial cabinet and now law, equalises perks for government and opposition lawmakers alike,

covering hospitality, housing, utilities, travel, communication and medical facilities, in addition to extending official vehicles to parliamentary committee heads. Even the leader of the opposition will now enjoy the same benefits as a provincial minister.

That elected representatives across party lines can agree so readily on boosting their own comfort, while so many pressing issues languish unresolved, reflects a troubling consensus. Teachers and healthcare workers have repeatedly protested for fair wages and timely payments, often met with indifference. Flood rehabilitation remains incomplete in many districts, while education and health budgets fail to meet the province's needs.

Yet, in this instance, lawmakers have shown remarkable urgency and unity. Public office is meant to be a trust, not a shortcut to personal privilege. Reasonable remuneration for legislators is justified, but increases should be tied to performance as well as the fiscal realities of the province. Sindh's people expect their elected representatives to share in their hardships, not insulate themselves from them. Without a visible commitment to austerity, such self-awarded perks will only deepen people's disillusionment with politics and confirm suspicions that when lawmakers come together, it is too often to serve themselves, not those they represent.

Any revision to lawmakers' salaries should be preceded by reforms that directly benefit citizens. Moreover, an independent commission, not the lawmakers themselves, should determine any adjustments, aligning them with the province's fiscal realities. Until then, the message from the assembly should be one of shared sacrifice, not self-indulgence.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 10/08/2025)

'Shehbaz speed' turns slow on Karachi's uplift, Bilawal quips

PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has once again taken aim at the federal government — particularly Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif — criticising his style of governance with remarks that when it comes to the development of Karachi, the famously fast-paced "Shehbaz Speed" becomes a sluggish "Shehbaz Slow".

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the new Hub Canal project on Wednesday, the PPP chairman openly expressed his disappointment, stating that PM Shehbaz did not give the country's business capital, Karachi, the same importance he gave to his hometown, Lahore.

"We had hoped for 'Shehbaz Speed' when it came to the K-IV project, but instead, we got 'Shehbaz Slow'," he quipped while referring to his nickname Shehbaz Speed, which was often referred to the prime minister's fast, efficiency-focused management style, especially in infrastructure and public sector projects.

"It cannot be that Lahore gets Shehbaz Speed while Karachi gets Shehbaz Slow. I will, therefore, specifically urge the prime minister to fulfil the promises made regarding the K-IV project and ensure that they are completed without further delay."

The PPP chairman's criticism came in the wake of the federal government's budget allocation for the long-delayed K-IV water project, where only Rs3.2 billion was earmarked against the required Rs40 billion.

This stark shortfall has raised serious concerns that Karachi may be forced to wait another decade — or even longer — for the project's completion.

'Efforts on the extend canal's benefits to Lyari residents'

Mr Bhutto-Zardari said that water has remained a chronic issue for the people of Karachi and must be resolved on a priority basis.

He noted that alongside the construction of the new canal, renovation of the old Hub Canal is also in progress, which will further enhance the city's water supply.

He added that the new canal, which is set to supply an additional 100 million gallons of water per day to Karachi, will serve districts Central, West and Keamari, while a PC-I has already been prepared to extend the project's benefits to the residents of Lyari.

He further said that work was also underway, under the public-private partnership model, on a seawater desalination project.

He also claimed that for the first time, the local governments in Karachi and Hyderabad — both from the PPP — were serving the public instead of spreading hatred.

He said the people of both cities had grown politically mature and could now clearly identify those who previously thrived on divisive politics.

He said that the people of the two cities had already rejected "hate-mongers" in both local government and general elections. "The people of Karachi and Hyderabad have chosen progress over prejudice," he said.

Slams Modi for 'imitating Netanyahu'

Turning his guns towards India, the PPP chairman accused Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi of imitating Israeli PM Netanyahu in relation to water.

He claimed that India had launched an attack on Pakistan's water resources by planning to block the flow of the Indus River.

"Modi says he will build a dam on the Indus River and stop our water. We will show him that the people of Karachi know how to defend their river," the PPP chairman asserted that Pakistan was ready to counter any aggression — even on the battlefield, if necessary.

He said that India had already faced defeat at the hands of Pakistan both militarily and diplomatically, and now, it was rattled by its own failures.

Mr Bhutto-Zardari vowed that Pakistan would ensure India respect the Indus Waters Treaty. "And if Modi refuses to abide by the treaty, I will take back all six rivers and give them to the people of Karachi," he said to the roar of the crowd.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that the project was a major gift for Karachi on Independence Day.

The new canal, he said, would bring an additional 100 million gallons per day (MGD) of water to the city, doubling the capacity previously carried by the old canal.

He explained that the old canal could not transport even 60 MGD effectively, but the new infrastructure would overcome that limitation. "We built this canal within the fixed time and budget, without any cost escalation," he stated.

The chief minister announced that the restoration of the old canal would be completed by December, further boosting the city's water capacity to 140 MGD.

He added that the provincial government was negotiating with the federal government to increase Sindh and Balochistan's water quota, citing improved water availability due to climate change.

Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the new canal was built at a cost of Rs12.8bn in a record time of only nine months.

(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 14/08/2025)

Colonial-era laws prioritise executive supremacy over justice, says ex-AGP Makhdoom Ali

The British legal system that is still followed in Pakistan was originally designed not to serve public justice, but to enforce executive supremacy and keep Indian citizens as well as politicians under control.

This view was expressed by senior lawyer and former Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Makhdoom Ali Khan at a talk titled "Pakistan's Judicial System Now and Then", where he stressed the need to reform the very structure of the legal system in order to bring about positive change in the judiciary and make it fully independent.

The talk was organised by the Danish-o-Ramish Institute on its premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Khan said that most of the legal system and civil laws introduced by the British during their rule in the Indian subcontinent are still in force in Pakistan.

He added that this is one of the factors behind the country's weak justice system, since these laws were originally framed by colonial rulers to keep the local population subordinate.

Lawyer Makhdoom Ali Khan calls for structural reforms in judicial system to ensure civilian supremacy

He explained that the primary purpose of such laws was to maintain executive supremacy and ensure that the Indian population and political class remained under control.

The senior lawyer referred to various examples of how Indian citizens were subjected to unfair and unjust treatment in British courts. He also pointed out how political leaders and workers were targeted on the basis of these laws.

Mr Khan remarked that the same practices have continued in Pakistan since independence. The judicial system here, he said, does not prioritise public justice and welfare as it should, while political workers and politicians are still targeted under this framework.

Therefore, he emphasised, there is a pressing need to reform the very structure of the law to build a system that prioritises justice for the people and upholds civilian supremacy rather than executive authority. Until such reforms are made, he warned, the system will remain unchanged.

Moreover, he argued, the judiciary cannot truly function independently in a country where the political system itself is weak.

Responding to a question from the audience, Advocate Khan said that Pakistan has not yet been able to form a truly unified nation.

He referred to the troubling situation in the country, particularly the deteriorating security conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, and the sectarian and ethnic divisions persisting since independence.

He added that nations are not just made; they are rather moulded over time, with justice and equality as the key elements of that process. However, he lamented that no meaningful effort is being undertaken by the powers that be to ensure these principles.

(By Waqas Ali Ranjha Dawn, 13, 18/08/2025)

CM orders coordination as Karachi braces for rain

In the wake of a forecast of rain in Karachi and other parts of the province, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has put all civil bodies, local governments, district administration and traffic police on high alert and directed them to strengthen coordination between the relevant departments and organisations.

He said this while chairing an emergency meeting to oversee preparations for the monsoon rains expected to impact Karachi and other parts of the province.

The meeting, held at CM House, was attended by Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Principal Secretary to the CM Agha Wasif, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, LG Secretary Waseem Shamshad, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi and others.

According to the Met department's advisory, hot and humid weather is likely to persist on Tuesday (today), though there are chances of intermittent thunderstorm/rain with few moderate falls in the city. It has warned of urban flooding in low-lying areas.

The maximum temperature soared to 39 degrees Celsius in the city. Later, some area including Quaidabad, Malir, Surjani, Baldia Town and Gulshan-i-Maymar received light rain on Monday.

Against the backdrop of the rain forecast, the CM focused on ensuring the city's infrastructure is ready to handle the anticipated downpour.

Mayor Wahab briefed the chief minister on ongoing efforts to improve drainage systems at 44 drains' critical choking points across Karachi, with approximately 150 drains under the control of Towns undergoing cleaning to facilitate the smooth flow of rainwater.

He told the CM that, in addition to drainage improvements, 120 suction vehicles from the water board are strategically positioned in low-lying areas to clear any accumulated water quickly.

The KMC is also working closely with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to secure additional machinery if needed, demonstrating a coordinated approach to disaster management, he noted.

The CM directed the LG minister and the city mayor to take all necessary steps to minimise disruption and ensure the safety of citizens.

Directing all relevant agencies to remain vigilant, the chief minister instructed LG bodies to maintain a fully mobilised presence during the rain spell.

He emphasised the importance of proactive measures by the city administration and urged the traffic police to ensure the smooth flow of traffic, even in the event of heavy downpours.

"The provincial government is fully prepared to manage the rains, but constant vigilance and rapid response from all departments are crucial."

"Our priority is to protect our citizens and minimise any potential damage caused by the monsoon," the chief minister said.

Residents are advised to stay informed about weather updates and take necessary precautions to ensure their safety during the anticipated rainfall. The Sindh government has established emergency contact points and is urging citizens to report any issues or concerns promptly.

While Karachi braces for potential challenges, the CM highlighted the positive impact of recent rainfall in the Tharparkar region.

"The heavy rainfall has replenished all local dams in Tharparkar, providing a vital source of water for the people," he noted. "This will significantly benefit local communities, particularly in agriculture and daily life," the CM concluded.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 19/08/2025)

Rain washes away govt's claims of preparedness

The long delayed monsoon finally came to the city with a bang. As usual, the claims of Sindh government of improving the city's infrastructure were washed away in urban flood.

Hours of torrential rain submerged major roads, cut off essential services, and left citizens helpless. Commuters remained stranded for hours in waist-deep rainwater, while prolonged electricity and gas outages, coupled with the suspension of mobile networks and internet services, plunged the city into chaos. Families unable to contact loved ones spent the day in deep distress.

City's major commercial markets also reported urban flooding causing colossal losses to traders. Jamia Cloth, Saddar, Nursery, Nazimabad and Nagin Chowrangi were the worst hit till filing of this news.

The downpour began Tuesday morning and turned into a heavy spell around 2pm, lasting for nearly two and a half hours. Within minutes, Karachi's streets turned into rivers. Central roads and residential lanes were inundated, bringing traffic to a grinding halt. Thousands of vehicles broke down while hundreds of motorcycles were left stranded in knee-to-waist-deep water.

University Road was completely closed to traffic, while severe traffic jams stretched from Liaquatabad No. 10 to Hasan Square, National Stadium, and Karsaz. Several sections of Shahrah-e-Faisal were under two to three feet of water, stalling vehicles. Other areas, including Nagan Chowrangi, Sakhi Hasan, Board Office Chowrangi, Five Star Chowrangi, Korangi No.1, 2 and 2½, Jail Chowrangi, Hasan Square, NIPA, New M.A. Jinnah Road, Aiwan-e-Sadr Road, Defence, Clifton, Korangi Expressway, and Qayyumabad Chowrangi, were completely inundated, making movement nearly impossible.

A journey of minutes turned into a gruelling ordeal lasting between five to eight hours for commuters trapped on flooded roads. Meanwhile, prolonged suspension of power and gas supply further added to citizens' misery. The most severe blow came when mobile and internet services went down, cutting people off from their families. Those awaiting loved ones at home endured hours of anguish, unable to establish contact.

Despite the catastrophic disruption, the Sindh government and local bodies were nowhere to be seen. No significant relief measures were initiated, leaving citizens to fend for themselves. As night fell, Karachi continued to suffer under crisis conditions, with the government absent from the scene.

The drains of the city were choked with garbage therefore the rainwater instead of flowing into the sea, came out on the roads, markets and residential areas.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 20/08/2025)

Governor calls for APC to devise permanent solution to Karachi's woes

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has called for convening an All-Parties Conference (APC) to devise a comprehensive and permanent solution to the issues faced by Karachi and other parts of Sindh.

Expressing grave concern over the situation arising from the recent heavy rains, he suggested that the prime minister should visit Karachi and convene an APC, bringing together the provincial government, federal institutions, local representatives, and opposition parties to finalise a coordinated strategy before the next spell of rains.

Speaking to media representatives at Governor House, he stressed that this is not the time for criticism but for practical measures.

"If meetings were not held in the past, it is still not too late. Do not wait for the next spell of rain — sit together now and work out a plan," he urged.

He emphasised that a new master plan for Karachi must be prepared, clearly outlining the responsibilities of every institution.

The governor stated that relations between the federal and provincial governments are currently at their best, which means there is no obstacle in moving forward with any practical proposal.

He also assured his office is fully available to coordinate with federal institutions wherever required.

He observed that while rainwater has been drained from major roads, thousands of homes are still inundated with water and mud, forcing families to live on rooftops for days.

"Citizens' vehicles, electronic cards, and engines have been destroyed, and the livelihoods of the middle class have been severely disrupted. It is not enough to say that the rain was heavy and water was cleared by evening. The rains have swallowed much more than that, which is why sustainable planning is the only solution," he remarked.

Expressing concern over the power breakdowns, flooded homes, and closure of businesses in Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, and other cities, the governor said it is high time to rise above politics and provide permanent relief to the people.

(By Dawn, Newspaper's Staff Reporter, 13, 22/08/2025)

Lyari project: NA panel seeks PSDP funding

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Affairs has proposed removing the Lyari Elevated Freight Corridor Project from the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode and including it in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

On Friday, officials from the National Highway Authority (NHA) informed the committee that the project was originally to be completed at a cost of Rs68 billion but delays have led to cost escalation.

They said the Lyari Expressway runs along both sides of the Lyari River, and the plan was to divert heavy traffic from the expressway onto this corridor. The purpose of the corridor was to provide a separate road for heavy traffic.

A committee member, Javed Hanif Khan, questioned if the Lyari Elevated Freight Corridor project had been dropped.

He asked why did projects for Karachi and Sindh always go under the PPP mode. He said heavy traffic enters Karachi even during the day, which is why this project was initiated.

"It was only a 15-16 km corridor project yet it has been dropped. NHA officials said they had consulted the Sindh government, but the project had not been dropped in the manner suggested.

The committee proposed shifting the project from PPP mode to PSDP and also directed that a position paper on the project be submitted by August 26.

(By Irshad Ansari The Express Tribune, 02, 23/08/2025)

Govt urged to grant Rs2bn to each town

Demanding financial compensation for the losses incurred by Karachiites due to heavy rains, the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) has asked the government to give Rs2 billion to each town municipal corporation (TMC) in the metropolis.

Speaking at a press conference here on Saturday, JI-Karachi chief Monem Zafar once again asked the government to give a Rs500 billion package for development in Karachi.

He said that the JI's nine TMCs received an average of Rs907 million per month under the Octroi Zila Tax, whereas 78 per cent of the total amount, Rs703m, was spent on salaries alone and the remaining amount was used for fuel, medical expenses, pensions, and other obligations.

Justifying his demand for Rs2bn for each town, he said in the fiscal year 2023-24, the expenses of Gulshan Town exceeded the OZT allocation, which the town covered from its own resources.

He said that it was the Pakistan People Party's government's mismanagement and incompetency, and not rains, that drowned Karachi.

He stated that the PPP had taken control of all major institutions in the metropolis, including the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, Sindh Solid Waste Management Board, Sindh Building Control Authority, Karachi Development Authority and Malir Development Authority.

"The city generates 20,000 tonnes of garbage daily and it is no longer a secret that how much is actually disposed of and how much ends up in drains," he said.

The JI leader said that during the recent spell of rains, citizens spent up to eight hours on roads, all underpasses were flooded, power outages occurred and people died from electric shocks. "Who will compensate the families of these victims?" he asked.

He slammed the K-Electric for prolonged outages and said that according to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority's regulations, "if a few individuals default on their bills, the whole population cannot be punished" in the name of loadshedding.

He said that incomplete projects like Red Line or the Karimabad underpass had become a burden on citizens as no project had any set deadline for completion.

He said that the Karachi mayor had rebuilt Jahangir Road three times, yet it collapsed with every rainfall.

(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 24/08/2025)

Irregularities and mismanagement

The Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) has uncovered an astounding Rs375 trillion in financial irregularities and mismanagement across federal government entities in the previous fiscal year. The unprecedented figure highlights the abject failure of a government that has made austerity a core policy to actually pay any respect to the taxpayer's hard-earned money.

At the heart of this report is a disturbing insight into the extent of the government's inability to meet its most basic responsibilities to its citizens — only 13% of public funds were directed toward socioeconomic development and public welfare, while an overwhelming 87% was consumed by debt servicing and interest payments.

Given the already tiny share of the budget dedicated to the people, the AGP report is even more worrying — Rs284 trillion in procurement issues, Rs85.6 trillion in mismanaged civil works and Rs2.5 trillion in unprocessed receivables. Meanwhile, Rs513.87 billion in supplementary grants were issued without parliamentary approval, suggesting that the government does not even respect Parliament, despite comfortably controlling both houses.

Unfortunately, the amounts could just as well have been tenfold higher, and the end result would remain the same. Whatever the promises on the campaign trail, once elected, every government has shown an uncanny inability to address financial irregularities, apart from harassing a handful of people determined to be loyal to the previous government.

Though we won't get our hopes up, it is time for the parliament, especially the Public Accounts Committee, to exercise its authority to hold entities accountable. Committee meetings and working groups are all well and good, but there must also be a commitment to transparency, stronger internal controls and consequences for negligence. Without urgent action, these audits will remain a recurring record of failure, and the people of Pakistan will continue to pay the price.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 25/08/2025)

PA panel okays nearly 200% hike in MPAs' salaries

A Sindh Assembly committee has given the green light to a hefty increase in the salaries and perks of provincial lawmakers, approving a rise of almost 200 per cent.

The 18-member committee, chaired by Speaker Owais Qadir Shah, met on Wednesday and agreed to raise MPAs' monthly pay and allowances from the existing Rs150,000 to Rs430,000.

Pakistan Peoples Party lawmaker and committee member Imtiaz Shaikh told The Express Tribune that the panel had reviewed compensation packages in other provincial legislatures. "It was pointed out that Sindh legislators' salaries are lower compared to other assemblies and needed to be brought closer to those levels," he said.

For reference, members of the Punjab Assembly currently draw around Rs500,000 per month in salaries and allowances.

Besides the pay hike, the committee also approved increases in annual allowances and daily session allowances for lawmakers. A separate proposal is being prepared to revise the pay and perks of the chief minister, speaker, deputy speaker, ministers, opposition leader and parliamentary secretaries through legislation.

The meeting was attended by Law Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, alongside members from Pakistan Peoples Party, Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Jamaat-e-Islami and Pakistan Tehreek Insaaf-backed legislators. The Sindh Assembly on August 9 had passed a bill increasing the salaries and privileges of its members.

The bill was moved by Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Ziaul Hassan Lanjar during a session chaired by Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah. The House unanimously approved the salary and allowances bill, which was earlier cleared by the provincial cabinet. The new law equalises privileges for MPAs - both from government and opposition - covering hospitality, house rent, utilities, daily and conveyance allowances, accommodation, travel and mileage, telephone and medical facilities, as well as office maintenance.

The leader of the opposition will now receive the same salary and perks as a provincial minister. Parliamentary committee chairpersons will be entitled to use an official vehicle - with fuel and maintenance - but must return it within three days of vacating the post.

(By Razzak Abro The Express Tribune, 04, 28/08/2025)

Shameful Perks

It is disgusting to see elected representatives concerned about their pay, perks and privileges as the nation sizzles under poverty. The latest to raise eyebrows is the approval of pay-incentives for Sindh Assembly members from Rs150,000 to Rs430,000 per month; and the same is maintainable for senior officials too.

A committee of provincial legislature was perhaps not introspective for a minute as it gave the green signal to raise salaries and perks to the tune of almost 200%. The body also approved an increase in daily allowances for lawmakers, apart from a proposal that is in the works to revise remuneration of chief minister, speaker, deputy speaker, ministers, opposition leader and parliamentary secretaries.

This is a callous, and quite cunning too, as the legislators convincingly opt for burying beneath the carpet pestering real issues of public importance. The argument that the salaries of Sindh lawmakers are lower than their counterparts in other provinces is untenable. No manufactured rationale can stand an iota of logic, especially as the province and the country reel under nature-hit calamities, and the developmental mosaic of the province has been in tatters for decades. While there are no proper education, health, housing and sanitation facilities for millions in Sindh, it is appalling to see the legislators booming on bonuses and bounties.

Our so-called representatives seem to have no mortification as they thrive on the national exchequer. The Punjab MPAs, under a spiked benchmark, are drawing a monthly salary of around Rs500,000; and the list of luxuries graduates to car, fuel and other auxiliaries. Also, this June, the federal government approved a fivefold raise in the salaries of Senate chairman and NA speaker, taking it to Rs1.3 million a month. Cabinet members, senators and MNAs too had their due share of booty as their take-home was raised up to 188%. Imagine these same legislators were at a failure to raise the minimum wage from Rs37,000 for the 76 million-strong labour force in the FY26 budget.

(By Editorial, The Express Tribune, 14, 29/08/2025)

Sindh govt sacks SHRC chairperson Iqbal Detho

The Sindh government has finally removed Iqbal Ahmed Detho as the chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC).

A notification to this effect was issued over a month after the recommendations of the provincial cabinet which thoroughly discussed complaints against him in its Aug 7 meeting.

Official documents revealed that a joint complaint was filed against Mr Detho on Nov 22, 2024 by prominent rights activists and civil society members, including National Commission on Human Rights member Anis Haroon, activist Mehnaz Rahman and academician Dr Riaz Sheikh.

The activists had accused Mr Detho of "corrupt practices, illegal personal gains, financial irregularities, illegal appointments and embezzlement of funds".

An inquiry into these allegations was ordered by the chief minister's secretariat and conducted by the Centre for Management & Information Technology Development (CMIE&ITD). The findings were later reviewed by a special sub-committee of the cabinet formed to re-examine all related documents and evidence.

The sub-committee comprising the law minister, excise minister and special assistant to CM on human rights held hearings to view both the complainants and Mr Detho before submitting its final recommendations.

The cabinet endorsed the committee's findings and also gave its approval to initiate legal proceedings, if necessary, against Mr Detho.

On Monday, on the advice of the Services, General Administration & Coordination Department, the Human Rights Department issued the notification to remove him from the office.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 09/09/2025)

President Zardari woos Shanghai Electric once again

Following the collapse of the previous deal, President Asif Ali Zardari extended a renewed invitation on Monday to Shanghai Electric Power Company to invest in Pakistan's energy sector, assuring that any "outstanding issues" will be resolved amicably.

The assurance comes after Shanghai Electric's recent withdrawal of their \$1.77 billion bid to acquire a 66.4 per cent stake in Karachi-based K-Electric, due to shifting dynamics in Pakistan's business climate.

At the time, Shanghai Electric said the deal was terminated to protect its shareholders and company's direction because the counterparty, Abraaj Group, did not meet closing conditions.

The acquisition had faced significant hurdles as K-Electric struggled with regulatory approvals amid Pakistan's rising circular debt in the power sector.

Assures any 'outstanding issues' will be resolved amicably; signs MoU to establish coal gasification plant in Thar

According to a statement from the Presidency, Mr Zardari visited the company's headquarters and witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a coal gasification plant in Thar, Sindh.

The project is the first of its kind based on Thar coal and is expected to meet energy needs while also supporting the country's agriculture sector, the statement said.

The MoU was signed between MFTC Coal Gasification & Manufacturing (Pvt) Ltd, represented by CEO Shahid Tawawalla, and Sino Sindh Resources (Private) Ltd / Shanghai Electric, represented by CEO Lin Jigen.

Meeting with Shanghai Electric Chairman Wu Lei, Mr Zardari invited the company to explore further investment in the modernisation of Pakistan's transmission and distribution network.

He thanked the chairman for the company's contribution to Pakistan's energy needs and socio-economic development.

The chairman of Shanghai Electric briefed the president on the company's existing projects in Pakistan, which include work in Thar coal, nuclear energy, and coal-fired power plants.

In response, Mr Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing security measures to ensure a safe environment for Chinese workers in the country. The company's CEO expressed gratitude to the Pakistani government for the security arrangements provided to their employees.

Earlier, Mr Zardari visited the Memorial of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Shanghai, where the party was founded in July 1921.

The president was accompanied on his visit by First Lady Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, and Senator Saleem Mandviwalla. Also present were Sindh ministers Sharjeel Memon and Syed Nasir Shah, along with senior officials.

(By Syed Irfan Raza Dawn, 03, 16/09/2025)

CJP okays plan to relocate SC Karachi registry

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi on Monday finalised the master plan for the construction of proposed SC registry building in Karachi.

The CJP presided over the building committee meeting, which was attended by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Justice Amer Farooq and SC Registrar Muhammad Salim Khan.

A proposal for extension on the existing site of the SC registry near Shaheen Complex was carefully deliberated. "However, it was deemed neither sustainable for future expansion nor viable, as the parking area had reportedly encroached upon a natural water drain."

Taking serious note of the issue, the CJP underscored that any development must align with principles of sustainability and long-term structural viability. "Accordingly, it was unanimously resolved to shift the project to a new proposed site, with directions issued for the removal of obstructions from the natural water drain."

The CJP observed that it would not be appropriate for the Supreme Court itself to permit or encourage any such encroachment, particularly upon public land and essential installations.

The meeting unanimously agreed and reiterated that all development works of the Supreme Court must conform strictly to legal, environmental, and civic norms.

Earlier in December 2018, the then CJP Saqib Nisar had laid the foundation stone of the new building to be constructed at Pakistan Secretariat.

The plan envisages provision of courtrooms, allied offices, public facilities, and facilities for the bar.
(By Nasir Iqbal Dawn, 13, 16/09/2025)

SHC suspends appointment of Irsa's federal member for lacking Sindh domicile

The Sindh High Court on Tuesday suspended the appointment of Asjad Imtiaz as Indus River System Authority's (Irsa) federal member from Sindh as he did not possess province's domicile.

A two-judge constitutional bench headed by Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha ruled that the ministry's notification issued in 2022 to appoint Punjab-domiciled Mr Imtiaz as Irsa's federal member for a period of three years was a flagrant violation of the SHC's 2017 judgement that ruled that the executive order regarding appointment of the federal member from Sindh was protected under Article 270AA(2) of the Constitution and the federal government was bound to follow it.

The bench issued show-cause notices to the secretaries of establishment division and ministry of water resources for flouting an order of the bench issued last month.

The bench was hearing an application seeking contempt proceedings against both the secretaries for not complying with the judgement of SHC passed in 2017.

Issues show cause notices to secretaries of water resources and establishment divisions

At the outset of hearing, the bench noted that the judgement was passed on May 12, 2017 and the matter had reached finality before the Supreme Court in 2021, but the same has still not been implemented.

It said like the last hearing, both the secretaries and Mr Imtiaz did not appear despite specific directives issued by the bench.

The bench also noted that the secretary ministry of water resources Syed Ali Murtaza was directed to appear and not to be busy elsewhere or otherwise on leave, but it was quite surprising that on Sept 10, he was allowed eight-day ex-Pakistan leave.

It further observed that prima facie, such period/leave was deliberately given to him in order to avoid his appearance before this court and the establishment division was well aware that he had to appear before the bench on Tuesday.

Thereafter, the bench issued show-cause notices to Mr Murtaza and Establishment Secretary Nabeel Ahmed Awan for violating the last order of the bench issued on Aug 18.

It noted that the water resources secretary had sent a reply to the show-cause notice which clearly indicated that he was aware of the 2017 judgement, yet he has failed to take any action about compliance and relied on an interim stay order passed by the Islamabad High Court despite the fact that the matter had reached finality before the apex court in 2021.

The bench rejected the reply as unsatisfactory and stated in its order: "It is quite astonishing that the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Water Resources, despite the judgement 12.05.2017 being in field and this matter having reached finality by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan, by re-appointing Asjad Imtiaz as Member Irsa (Federal) for a period of three (03) years vide notification dated 08.12.2022.

"We find this to be quite astonishing and flagrant violation of this Court's orders. It appears that the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Water Resources, has little interest in complying with this Court's order as it is bound to do so. Accordingly, the notification dated 08.12.2022 of Asjad Imtiaz issued by the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Water Resources, is suspended," it added.

The bench warned if the 2017 judgement was not complied with by the next hearing, the court will have no option but to proceed in accordance with the law as the matter has attained finality before the apex court.

Adjourning the hearing till Oct 22, the bench again directed Mr Murtaza and Mr Imtiaz to appear in person at the next hearing.

Petitioner Ghulam Abbas Laghari had filed an application seeking contempt proceedings against the secretaries of establishment division and ministry of water resources for not complying with the court order passed in 2017.

Meanwhile, another two-judge bench of SHC headed by Justice Muhammad Faisal Kamal Alam on Tuesday summoned the advocate general Sindh for Oct 14 in an identical matter.

The bench was hearing a petition filed by a grower of Sindh, Qurban Maitlo, through his lawyer Barrister Zameer Ghumro against the appointment Mr Imtiaz and also impugned the water availability certificate issued by Irsa for construction of canals on the Indus River. The SHC had already suspended the impugned water availability certificate.

(By Ishaq Tanoli Dawn, 13, 17/09/2025)

Nadra to open three new 'mega centres' in Karachi

The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) has announced that it will open three new mega centres in Karachi by March 2026 to facilitate people.

The announcement was made by Nadra Director General Sindh Aamir Ali Khan at a programme organised by the University of Karachi on Wednesday.

He said that the new mega centres will be established in the areas of Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Gulberg and Surjani Town so that the public can get maximum facilities.

He said Nadra has always tried to provide maximum convenience to the people and solve their problems through technology.

Mr Khan said that Nadra is taking steps to provide convenience to the people and now citizens can get most of its services through their mobile phones.

He said that through the Pak ID App, users can avail various facilities sitting at home, which will save both time and effort.

He said that students and youngsters can help in spreading awareness about the new services of Nadra.

On this occasion, KU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said the digitalised system not only ensures transparency but is also an excellent and effective tool for preventing corruption.

He said that the facilities provided by Nadra are not only accessible to the people living within Pakistan, but Pakistanis living abroad are also benefiting from these services, which is proof of how important the digital system is for national development and public convenience.

(By Dawn Reporter, 13, 18/09/2025)

PAC warns municipal bodies of accountability for 'poor use' of public money

Questioning the performance of local governments across Sindh and raising concern about their financial management, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Sindh Assembly on Monday warned that local councils would face accountability if they failed to utilise tax money for public welfare.

PAC Chairman Nisar Ahmad Khuhro, who is also the PPP's Sindh president, warned that local councils would face accountability if they failed to utilise tax money for public welfare.

"Why should the Sindh government bear the burden of blame?" he questioned, pointing out that the provincial government allocated Rs168 billion annually to these bodies for the people's welfare.

The PAC meeting reviewed the audit reports of the local councils of Sukkur Division for the years 2022 and 2023.

Khuhro says local councils spend less than 30pc of funds on development works

The committee expressed concern over the performance of all local councils, including UCs, town and municipal committees, and municipal corporations across the province, and sought a monthly report on the use of Octroi Zilla Tax (OZT) funds from all local councils.

The PAC, which reviews financial records of government departments to detect irregularities and enhance transparency in governance, also directed the provincial finance department and the LG department not to release OZT funds to local councils that did not submit monthly reports on the use of the funds.

Mr Khuhro said that the Sindh government was providing Rs168bn annually to local councils across the province as OZT, but nothing was known about where and how the local councils were spending this money.

He said that the released OZT funds included a development budget of Rs80bn. "However, local councils are not spending even 30 per cent of the Rs168bn OZT funds on development works, due to which the public is raising questions about their performance," he added.

"Municipal corporations are being provided with Rs100m to Rs120m per month, municipal and town committees with Rs20m to Rs25m per month, and UCs with Rs1m to Rs1.2m per month. However, the local councils are not reporting the use of the funds to anyone. The local councils will have to be accountable," he snapped.

The PAC ordered the regional directors of the LG department to inspect the local councils of their respective divisions.

It also directed the LG department to computerise the records of employees of all local councils across Sindh and to conduct biometrics of employees.

The PAC further ordered the suspension of the chief municipal officer of the Gambat Municipal Committee for not depositing Rs7m in sales tax into the government treasury.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 23/09/2025)

Unnecessary wrangling

KARACHI'S transport woes are well-documented. Pakistan's biggest city and economic engine has no integrated public transport system, leaving commuters in the lurch. Belated efforts by the state have thrown up projects like the Green Line bus system, while more bus lines are in the works. But bureaucratic wrangling between the city authorities and the federal government has aggravated matters, resulting in delayed projects, dug-up roads, and monstrous traffic. One example of this paralysis is the dispute over the Green Line project. The centre had recently decided to extend the route of the bus service, yet Mayor Murtaza Wahab has shut down construction work because, according to him, the federal body executing the project failed to secure a no-objection certificate from the KMC. The PML-N and MQM claim the PPP mayor is "obstructing" development work, and that a fresh NOC is not required.

Whatever the legal status of the extension work, there should be no room for politicking over development schemes, as this hurts Karachi's citizens, including taxpayers. When projects are abandoned midway or delayed due to discord between the centre, the provincial government and the city authorities, it results in dug-up thoroughfares, which make Karachi's nightmarish traffic worse. Another example of official negligence is the Red Line bus project, being executed by the Sindh government. Launched in 2022, the provincial authorities say there is no chance of the scheme being completed even by December 2026. Meanwhile, thousands of commuters have to navigate a perpetually under-construction University Road, which remains potholed and pockmarked. When it comes to development schemes, all tiers of government should put their egos aside, and work seamlessly and professionally for the benefit of citizens. Such disputes also raise questions about Karachi's administrative structure. The present set-up is not working, which means the megacity needs an elected local government answerable to its people.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 26/09/2025)

Intellectual corruption termed reason for collapse of society

Former Federal Board of Revenue chairman Shabbar Zaidi has said the reason for collapse of society is intellectual corruption, which he said is nothing compared to financial corruption.

He said this while speaking at a programme held to launch his autobiography —32 Onkar Road — here at the Mohatta Palace Museum on Saturday evening.

Mr Zaidi in his address to the guests said he wanted to give certain messages to the people, one of which is in a set of four chapters in the book under the title 'Genesis of a Confused State' which is about the history and rationale behind the concept of Pakistan and the emergence of obscurantism in the country.

"The second part covers 50 to 60 pages on my faith. Generally, people don't write about their faith in autobiographies. But I have done that. I have started that segment with a verse by Mir:

Yehi jana ke kucch na jana ha'ey
So bhi ik umr mein hua maloom

[All I have come to know is that I know not
And that too after a lifetime]

"The important chapter I want people to read is about my life as a partner and senior manager in Karachi when I dealt with taxes and audits... In that part I have explained the prevalence of intellectual corruption in this country. People don't know about that. I can convincingly say that financial corruption is nothing compared to intellectual corruption, which is the reason for collapse of society."

Former FBR chairman Shabbar Zaidi's autobiography 32 Onkar Road launched

Mr Zaidi said in his experience with the government, he was very close to [former prime minister] Imran Khan. "I have learned from three people. Dr Adib Rizvi, Syed Babar Ali and Imran Khan."

Answering a query during the question-answer session, Mr Zaidi said there's a need for a change in the structural system of governance, such as reconstitution of provinces.

Earlier, DawnMedia CEO Hameed Haroon, who chaired the event organised by the Corporate Pakistan Group, said it's Mr Zaidi's eighth book. In some ways, it is the most incomplete and the most powerful one. The author has put his lifetime into black and white.

"It is deficient in its editing [because] Shabbar sahib is not an editor. But I have been made to understand by the publishers that this is the first, certainly not the last, edition of the book.

Giving out the reason from the book for writing his autobiography, he said, "I want to present to the people that a middleclass person in Pakistan, without any major external social and financial help and foreign education can achieve reasonable success on merit without compromising on integrity..."

Mr Zaidi presented his mentor Dr Adib Ul Hasan Rizvi, who sat among the audience, with a bouquet. Dr Rizvi on the occasion said Mr Zaidi can write many books and he'd like him to continue to do so.

Former MNA Kishwar Zehra said people like Mr Zaidi aren't available in the market anymore. He has a sharp mind but without a barrier. "I have seen him join and leave ministry... Once when I was an MNA, he called me to ask what a 'manicure' was. I told him it was about treatment of hands and nails. He replied he had received four bills [from an institution] under 'manicure'. Mr Zaidi keeps asking Ye mulk kaisey chaley ga (how will this country function?)."

Next up was a friend of Mr Zaidi, Asim Zulfiqar, who entertained the audience with a few anecdotes related to the author. He referred to the Indian film Munna Bhai MBBS, calling himself the character of Circuit to Munna Bhai. He was sure that like films, the sequel to the book will come out.

Wamiq Zuberi in his speech said, "This autobiography is of a hyperactive and extremely conscientious person that we know as Syed Shabbar Zaidi. The most conspicuously absent aspect of the biography is that there are no pictures in it. I haven't seen any autobiography that doesn't have pictures. I think it has more to do with Mr Zaidi's personality of not projecting himself. In the next edition he should conform to the normal trend of an autobiography. The second aspect is that in his 65 years of life he has spent only 10 years in Lahore. And Lahore has made a significant impact on shaping his personality."

Mr Zuberi said in the book the only regret Mr Zaidi expresses is about joining the government. "It was a rather painful experience for him."

Then a video was played in which Mr Zaidi's daughter Fatma, who lives in Canada, had a message for her father. She also mentioned her mother's contribution to her father's success.

Khalid Rafi thanked Mr Zaidi for including his name in the book and hoped it's not his last book.

Syed Salim Raza, who arrived a little late, said he's found the author to be a humanity-loving kind of a romantic.

Muhammad Azfar Ahsan and Raza Zaidi also spoke at the event, which was moderated by Syeda Zaidi.
(By Peerzada Salman Dawn, 13, 28/09/2025)

Karachi mayor asks PM to allocate Rs200bn for city's uplift

Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday urged the prime minister to allocate at least Rs200 billion for Karachi's development, stating that the Rs20bn "lollipop" announced by the federal government was grossly insufficient to meet the city's growing infrastructure and civic needs.

Speaking to the media during the inauguration of the newly developed Imam Mehdi Park and Sports Ground in New Rizvia Society, Mayor Wahab criticised the federal government for making "symbolic gestures" without addressing the real issues faced by the city.

"Sitting in Islamabad will not solve Karachi's problems. This city needs continuous, on-ground efforts and a serious financial commitment," he said.

The mayor said that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) planned to spend Rs28bn on development projects this year, with an additional Rs10bn allocated for town-level initiatives.

Inaugurates renovated park in New Rizvia Society

"This city belongs to its citizens, not contractors. Unfortunately, the priorities of the federal government seem to be aligned more with contractors than with the people of Karachi," he added.

Referring to past governments, Mayor Wahab said those who couldn't build roads in nine years now claimed to be the voice of the people.

Highlighting the transformation of the area, Mayor Wahab announced that Imam Mehdi Park had been developed on 5.5 acres of previously neglected land, which was once used as a garbage dump.

The park, completed at a cost of Rs150 million, now features a walking track, football and cricket grounds, floodlights, and other modern recreational facilities.

"Where there was once garbage, today there is greenery. From both a religious and social point of view, this is a form of ongoing charity. It's a gift to the citizens of Karachi," he said. "When intentions are pure, Allah helps. We have delivered on our promises and will continue to do so to make Karachi a hub of development and prosperity."

Mayor Wahab credited the "vision" of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari for the ongoing transformation in the city. He cited the rapid progress on the [BRT project on University Road](#), efforts to resolve water and sewage issues, and post-rain infrastructure restoration as key initiatives currently underway.

He assured the people that this year would mark significant improvements in Karachi's infrastructure, including the completion of flyovers, underpasses, and long-overdue drainage systems.

Reaffirming his commitment to the PPP manifesto, Mr Wahab said that guided by the PPP chairman's vision, his team was working across all districts to ensure real, measurable change in the lives of Karachi's residents.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 01/10/2025)

The Gaza project

EVEN though American President Donald Trump believes that his grand 20-point [Gaza plan](#) will bring 'eternal' peace to the Middle East, it is doubtful that the scheme will help achieve a just solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

It is a biased document, protecting Israel and putting all the onus for creating the conditions of peace on the Palestinian factions. The only two positives the plan contains are the prospects of the cessation of war and the resumption of aid to the battered Gaza Strip. These faint hopes, too, are premised on the assumption that Hamas will surrender before Washington and Tel Aviv. Mr Trump on Tuesday gave the Palestinian group between three and four days to consider the proposal.

As per the plan, Hamas has been ordered to surrender its weapons, while it has been decided that the group will have no future role in Gaza. Opinions may be divided on Hamas. However, it should be left to the Palestinian people to decide which groups should or should not participate in their national politics; no outside power has a right to dictate the terms.

Moreover, the 'Board of Peace' the plan wants to put in place to manage Gaza after the ceasefire has a distinctly colonial whiff to it, not unlike the Mandate System of the League of Nations.

Luminaries including Mr Trump and former British prime minister Tony Blair will oversee Gaza and guide the Palestinian natives until they are fit to rule themselves.

The Trumpian plan makes no mention of accountability for Israel, particularly for the genocide it has unleashed upon Gaza. There is no guarantee that in case of future conflict, Tel Aviv will not target Palestinian civilians yet again. In fact, Mr Trump has assured Tel Aviv that should Hamas reject this grand bargain, Israel can "do what you have to do", which means taking the Gaza genocide to its 'logical' conclusion. Additionally, there is no guarantee that Israel will stop building illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Regarding Pakistan's role, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was part of the group of Muslim nations that discussed the plan with Mr Trump and has offered fulsome praise for it. But there is a need to reflect.

The initial reaction in the country, from parties on the left and right, as well as ordinary citizens, has been overwhelmingly negative.

People view the document as an instrument of surrender designed to protect Israel and give the Palestinians a raw deal, once again. There was also talk of this country, along with other states, deploying a 'peacekeeping force' in Gaza. Before any such endeavour, parliament must be taken on board, and no step should be taken that goes against Pakistan's principled stand in support of the Palestinian people.

(By Editorial, Dawn, 06, 01/10/2025)

Sindh govt faces political backlash over hefty traffic fines

The Sindh government's decision to increase traffic violation fines up to Rs50,000 has sparked widespread criticism from major political stakeholders in Karachi, who accuse the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of targeting the city's residents while neglecting to fix its crumbling road infrastructure.

The government [introduced](#) a new system of traffic penalties, including fines and a demerit points system, by amending the [Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1965](#), to what it described as improving road safety across the province.

Under the revised penalty structure, over-speeding will result in fines of Rs5,000 for motorcycles, Rs15,000 for cars, and Rs20,000 for heavy vehicles, along with eight demerit points.

Driving without a licence will be penalised with a fine of up to Rs50,000 and six demerit points. Reckless driving will attract a fine of Rs25,000 and eight points.

The new fines, the government claimed, are aimed at enforcing stricter traffic discipline across the province.

The government said it was a part of a broader road safety initiative introduced by the Sindh Transport and Mass Transit Department.

However, political leaders argued that the measures were being enforced in a setting where the basic road infrastructure needed to support safe driving was either dysfunctional or entirely missing.

Reacting strongly, Jamaat-i-Islami Karachi chief Monem Zafar took to social media to express anger saying that the move represented an act of "systematic injustice" against the people of Karachi.

"The roads are destroyed, there is no organised public transport, yet citizens are being penalised as if they live in a modern, well-functioning metropolis," the JI chief posted on X (formerly twitter).

"The infrastructure is worse than rural areas, but the fines are of international standards. The Sindh government knows only how to extract from Karachi, not give anything back." He described the policy as a continuation of the PPP's "hostile attitude" towards Karachi and raised the question as to how such fines could be justified in a city which lacked functioning traffic signals, drainage systems, and proper road maintenance.

Later, in a statement, Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) from Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) expressed serious concerns over what they called an "unjust burden" on the city's already struggling population.

They called the fines and demerit system a "direct result of government incompetence and corruption".

"The roads in Karachi are filled with potholes; traffic signals don't work, and public transport is virtually non-existent. In such conditions, penalising citizens is not just unfair, it's an attempt to cover up the government's own failures," the statement said.

The MQM-P legislators said that despite ruling Sindh for the past 17 years, the PPP had failed to provide even basic civic facilities and left Karachi in a state "similar to ancient ruins like Mohenjo Daro".

They also said that Karachi contributed 70 per cent of the federal revenue and 90pc of Sindh's revenue but continued to be deprived of its rightful share in development and services.

Both Jamaat-i-Islami and MQM-P called on the Sindh government to roll back the hefty fines and focus on repairing roads, improving drainage, activating traffic signals, and ensuring a functional public transport system.

They also demanded greater transparency in the use of development funds, better training and oversight of traffic police, and public awareness campaigns before implementing any punitive measures.

"Civic responsibility can only be expected when the government fulfils its own responsibilities first," said one MQM-P lawmakers.

Earlier on Friday, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon had said in a statement that the new measures had been taken to save lives and improve road safety and the government's aim was not simply to collect fines but to protect citizens.

He said violations such as signal breaking, speeding, and one-wheeling are not minor offenses but life-threatening actions that endanger both drivers and others.
(By Imran Ayub Dawn, 13, 05/10/2025)

PDMA commission remains inactive in Sindh

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh, established to prevent and manage natural disasters in the province, has been operating without an active Provincial Disaster Management Commission since its inception. All administrative and financial matters related to relief and rehabilitation are currently being handled through the PDMA Board.

In 2010, PDMA Sindh was formed under the National Disaster Management Act, which mandates the formation of a Provincial Disaster Management Commission. This commission is responsible for formulating policies related to disaster prevention and management and approving funds for their implementation. The 18-member commission was supposed to comprise of elected public representatives, industrialists, and agriculturalists. However, this commission has never been made functional to date.

The members of the proposed commission included the Chief Minister of Sindh, the Leader of the Opposition in the Sindh Assembly (or a nominated person), provincial ministers for Finance, Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, Irrigation, Works and Services, Local Government, Health, and Information. It also included representatives from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Chamber of Agriculture, Sindh Abadgar Board, and the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Due to the commission's inactivity, all disaster-related matters in the province are being managed by the PDMA Board, although legally the PDMA is supposed to work under the supervision of the commission and seek its approval for all major administrative and financial decisions. In contrast to the commission, the PDMA Board mainly comprises government officials who effectively run its affairs.

Initially, in 2014, the 12-member PDMA Board was headed by the Chief Secretary. In 2016, it was reconstituted, and the Provincial Minister for Rehabilitation was made the chairperson. However, the rest of the members have continued to be government officials. These include the Chairman of the Zakat Council, Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, and secretaries from departments such as Zakat, Finance, Rehabilitation, Irrigation, Local Government, Health, as well as PDMA officers.

In a 2024 report, the Auditor General of Pakistan highlighted that the Provincial Disaster Management Commission in Sindh had still not been established. The report recommended the formation of this commission and also suggested that PDMA should set up a Disaster Risk Reduction Wing to conduct pre-disaster mitigation activities.

On the other hand, PDMA Director General Syed Salman Shah stated that the Provincial Disaster Management Commission was constituted in 2014 but acknowledged that not a single meeting of the commission had been held to date. "In the absence of an active commission, all disaster-related matters are being run through the PDMA Board. The commission is a policymaking forum, and its role cannot be denied therefore, I would not call it unnecessary," said Shah.

Conversely, Ali Khurshidi, leader of the opposition in the Sindh Assembly and senior member of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), stated that although he was legally a member of the commission, he had never been informed of any meeting. "About a year ago, I had asked the Provincial Minister for Rehabilitation, Makhdoom Mehboob Zaman, about the status of the commission. However, the minister had no information at the time but assured me that it would be made active soon. Yet no progress has been made so far," revealed Khurshidi.

In the meanwhile, all disaster-related projects of the Sindh government are executed through the Department of Rehabilitation and PDMA. For the fiscal year 2024-25, a budget of Rs254 million was allocated to the Department of Rehabilitation. Additionally, any funds received from international organizations in the wake of natural disasters are disbursed through the PDMA.

(By Razzak Abro The Express Tribune, 04, 06/10/2025)

Minister suspends New Karachi municipal commissioner over JI complaints

Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Tuesday suspended the Municipal Commissioner of New Karachi, Ayaz Hameed Baloch, following complaints from the chairman of New Karachi Town Muhammad Yousuf of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI).

"Strict action will be taken against municipal commissioners who fail to cooperate with elected local representatives," a statement quoted the minister as saying. It was issued after he met with a JI delegation, comprising nine town chairmen led by the party's Karachi chief Monem Zafar Khan.

During the meeting, the statement said that Mr Shah said that in line with the vision of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and under the guidance of the chief minister, impartial steps are being taken for the development and progress of Karachi.

The minister directed the formation of a coordination committee to address the complaints of the town chairmen and further instructed that municipal commissioners must consult town chairmen regarding tenders and funds for development projects.

"The coordination committee will include representatives from the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, Karachi Development Authority, Water Corporation, Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), and other municipal institutions," said the statement, adding that the coordination committees will be established between federal and provincial utility agencies as well.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by JI said that the Leader of Opposition in the City Council Saifuddin Advocate gave a detailed briefing on the issues faced by towns, UCs, and citizens. He informed the minister that the Water Corporation's performance is "virtually zero", with sewerage conditions worsening citywide and nearly 50 per cent of Karachi deprived of water supply.

He added that the water corporation fails to perform its duties, leaving the town and UC administrations to handle tasks outside their jurisdiction. Similarly, he said, the SSWMB is also failing, deploying insufficient staff for cleaning operations in different areas, while neither department is accountable to the town or UC representatives, leading to further worsening the conditions.

The meeting also discussed major infrastructure projects, including the K-IV Water Project, Karimabad Underpass, and Red Line BRT, highlighting the mismanagement and public difficulties caused by their incomplete status.

The town chairmen further raised concerns over illegal constructions across the city and the alleged patronage of such activities by the Sindh Building Control Authority, demanding strict action. Minister Nasir Hussain Shah, the statement said, emphasised the need for JI's cooperation in improving institutional coordination and formulating necessary legislation.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 14, 15/10/2025)

Sindh govt launches Lyari transformation project to upgrade infrastructure

When people in an area are deprived of access to basic facilities like electricity and are in dire need of a stable livelihood, the government's decision to invest in improving the infrastructural landscape appears little more than a surface solution.

The ruling party in Sindh, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is set to launch the Lyari Transformation Project this year through the Sindh government. The project is aimed at developing the political stronghold in Lyari and will focus on key infrastructure works such as road construction and replacement of water and sewage lines.

Residents of the area and civil society representatives have welcomed this as a positive development, noting that, like many other parts of Karachi, Lyari's basic infrastructure has collapsed and needs urgent restoration. However, many have emphasized that the most pressing issues plaguing Lyari's residents, including load-shedding and poverty, remain unaddressed.



Abdul Wahab Baloch, a social activist from Lyari, while lauding the Sindh government's concern for Lyari's development, opined that the area's issues were far more complex and widespread. "While fixing roads, water, and sewage systems is important and affects all of Karachi, Lyari's biggest issues remain electricity outages and rising poverty. Load-shedding has been a chronic problem and must be resolved, while youth in the area are in need of employment opportunities," implored Baloch.

Javed Nagori, PPP's President for District South, stated that the Sindh government had taken several steps to provide employment to local youth, including distribution of auto-rickshaws. However, he acknowledged that load-shedding and gas outages remained a serious problem for Lyari's residents.

"I myself live in Lyari and am fully aware of the hardships. Many areas face 14 to 16 hours of power outages daily. The local PPP leadership has made several efforts to resolve the issue but with no success. The problem is twofold: K-Electric complains about electricity theft and unpaid bills, while residents allege overbilling. Both of these issues are beyond the control of PPP," said Nagori.

On the contrary, Saeed Sarbazi, a journalist from Lyari and former President of the Karachi Press Club, believed that the Sindh government could resolve Lyari's electricity issue since the area had been a PPP stronghold since the time of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

"The government could establish a fund to pay off residents' outstanding electricity bills since the population is extremely poor and many households owe hundreds of thousands of rupees, which they simply cannot afford to pay. Before implementing development programs, the Sindh government and PPP should consult local elected representatives since they best understand the problems and priorities of their constituencies," noted Sarbazi.

Sarbazi further opined that improving Lyari's sewage system would require replacing the old machinery at existing pumping stations in Chakiwara and Miran Naka. "Two water supply lines provided to Lyari in previous governments are being illegally tapped at various points, preventing water from reaching the intended areas. A permanent solution to this issue must be devised by the Sindh government," said Sarbazi.

Conversely, Lyari Town's Municipal Commissioner, Hammad N.D. Khan revealed that the project will be completed in phases within two to three years. Khan claimed that the Sindh government had allocated Rs5 billion for the project in the current fiscal year. In the first phase, underground utility work will begin in 13 Union Councils of Lyari Town, which includes laying new pipelines for drinking water and sewage systems.

"Additionally, water and sewage pumping stations will be solarized, and stormwater drains in Lyari will be restored. If funds remain after these primary tasks, work will be extended to smaller streets and playgrounds. Once the project's PC-1 is approved, tenders will be issued, and we aim to start work by December," said Khan.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 20/10/2025)

Murad approves expansion of safe city project to Karachi's DHA, other areas

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday approved the expansion of Karachi Safe City Project to broaden surveillance to additional areas of the city, including Defence Housing Authority (DHA), and high-risk commercial and residential zones.

Presiding over a review meeting of Phase I, he was told that Phase II would involve the installation of 4,750 cameras across the city, upgrade of 1,750 existing cameras, and installation of 3,000 new cameras, including Intelligent Traffic System (ITS) cameras that would support the echallan (TRACS) system.

The meeting was informed that Phase-II of the project would expand the surveillance system to more high-risk commercial and residential areas of the city, including the DHA and districts of South, East and Malir.

According to a press statement issued from the CM House, the chief minister approved the proposed scope of Phase II and directed the police department and the Safe City Authority (SCA) to significantly speed up implementation to ensure timely completion of that flagship public safety initiative.

Over 4,700 surveillance cameras to be installed in second phase, meeting told

The CM also reviewed budget requirements, staffing, transportation and operational needs for Phase II, directing the finance and home departments to finalise the financial model and ensure a smooth rollout without administrative delays.

The meeting, held at the CM House, was attended among others by Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Planning and Development Chairman Najam Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and SCA Director General Asif Aijaz Shaikh.

The SCA DG provided an update, saying that 891 surveillance cameras had been deployed across Karachi as part of the first phase of the project.

The meeting was informed that Phase-I of the video surveillance system, launched on May 31, 2024, was progressing on schedule for completion by Nov 30, 2025. This phase involves installing a modern, AI-enabled camera network, establishing

command and control centres, and integrating law enforcement databases to bolster crime prevention, traffic management and emergency response.

The progress achieved includes the installation of CCTV cameras, poles, Point of Presence (POP) sites, servers and data storage infrastructure. Command and control rooms have been established while integration of analytical tools for facial recognition, vehicle tracking and real-time monitoring is ongoing.

The home minister informed the meeting that 12 emergency response vehicles (ERVs) were deployed in the field, connected to the command centres to facilitate quicker ground responses.

The CM specifically directed the Safe City Authority to develop network connectivity to ensure seamless data transmission and to integrate various law enforcement databases, such as criminal records, vehicle registrations, and Nadra data, to enable smart policing.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 21/10/2025)

Karachi Mayor sets 60-day deadline for completion of all pending projects

City Mayor Murtaza Wahab has ordered the immediate cancellation of several contracts in a bold move to address the persistent delays in the ongoing development projects in the metropolis. He also set a 60-day deadline for the completion of all near-finished or pending projects, warning that any further delay would result in disciplinary action and contractual penalties for the concerned parties.

The decision comes in response to the failure of contractors to meet the set deadlines, causing inconvenience to Karachiites. The mayor also announced the formation of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) tasked with carrying out urgent road repairs and infrastructure rehabilitation on a fast-track basis across the city.

The directive was issued during a high-level review meeting convened at the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) Head Office, where the progress of 637 ongoing development schemes was assessed.

Senior Director of Engineering Junaid Ullah Khan briefed the meeting on the progress of these projects, highlighting that 118 new schemes under the Provincial ADP had been initiated. These included 11 projects in District East, 28 in District Central, 21 in District West, 20 in District Korangi, and 14 projects managed by the Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) Wing. A number of other schemes are being funded under special allocations.

As part of the E&M department's solarisation initiative, two streets had been solarised, with Sharae Faisal slated for solarisation in the coming days.

Expressing his frustration over the continued delays, Mayor Wahab termed the situation "unacceptable," stressed that several projects had yet to begin despite the issuance of award letters, while others were significantly behind schedule.

"This is a failure of accountability and governance. It's an embarrassment for the city, and more importantly, a disservice to Karachiites who deserve timely improvements in infrastructure," he added.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 05, 26/10/2025)

KDA allegedly awards Rs11b contracts without tender

Alleged irregularities have been unearthed in development projects after revelations that the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) awarded contracts worth Rs11.33 billion without following the mandatory tendering process. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has ordered an immediate high-level inquiry into the matter.

According to official sources, the Sindh Contractors Association lodged a formal complaint alleging that the KDA had granted multibillion-rupee consultancy contracts to a private firm, Atif Nazar, without advertising or competitive bidding.

Following the complaint, the chief minister formed an inquiry committee to investigate the alleged irregularities.

The probe will be jointly conducted by Minister for Local Government Nasir Hussain Shah and Minister for Planning and Development Jam Khan Shoro, according to the official notification. The committee has been tasked with reviewing all consultancy and development contracts awarded by the KDA, particularly those exceeding Rs11 billion, and identifying any violations of procurement rules and financial regulations.

The complainants stated that several major development projects, including the Karimabad Underpass and Munawwar Chowranghi Underpass, were awarded without public advertisement or bidding.

Documents reviewed by investigators show that the cost of the Karimabad Underpass project was initially set at Rs700 million, but was later escalated to Rs3.81 billion, allegedly by applying new rates to an old tender in violation of rules.

The investigation documents further reveal that the continuation of work on an old tender, rather than cancelling and re-advertising it, has been deemed a "serious procedural violation."

Declaring Atif Nazar & Company as an "in-house consultant" without due process was also described as a blatant breach of procurement regulations, especially as the firm was directly permitted to prepare and submit its own PC-1 (project documents).

Sources within the provincial government said CM Shah has directed that the inquiry be transparent and impartial, with strict action to be taken against those found responsible.

They added that the revelation has raised serious concerns over the credibility of Karachi's ongoing development works.

"There are growing complaints that major city projects are being handed to favoured contractors, causing cost escalations and unnecessary delays," a senior government official disclosed, adding that the government is considering expanding the scope of the probe to include other ongoing schemes.

In the first phase, the investigation will focus on KDA projects where contracts worth billions were allegedly awarded by bypassing procurement rules, resulting in financial loss to the exchequer.

Both the Karimabad and Munawwar Chowrangi underpasses have already suffered delays and inflated costs due to these alleged irregularities.

CM Shah has vowed to ensure accountability in all development authorities and reaffirmed that "no one found guilty of misuse of public funds will be spared."

(By Naeem Khanzada The Express Tribune, 04, 27/10/2025)

Jl lawmaker files resolution in PA

JamaatIslami (JI) lawmaker Muhammad Farooq on Thursday submitted a resolution in the Sindh Assembly, demanding that the "atrocities against the citizens be stopped" and the notification of e-challan be withdrawn immediately.

The e-challans should be used only as a warning and cameras installed on the roads should be used to reduce crime, he said.

The JI leader said that most of the small and big highways of Karachi were in the worst condition and there were no signs on the roads, nor were there any instruction boards regarding speed and other aspects.

"Despite this, excessively heavy fines are being imposed, while in Punjab, where the roads are much better, there are signs on the roads and the amounts of the fines are much less than in Sindh."

He said that some fines were of Rs5,000 in Sindh and Rs200 in Punjab. "This difference shows the discrimination against the citizens of Sindh, which is only targeting the citizens of Karachi," he lamented.

Mr Farooq said that in Karachi, where there is a high ratio of unemployment, such a fine system was tantamount to the "worst and cruel treatment" for the low-income classes, especially for those using motorcycles. "Therefore, these fines should be abolished immediately," he demanded.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 31/10/2025)

World Bank gives Rs58m for Queen's Park

The Queen's Park in Sultanabad has been reconstructed for the third time by the Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK), a project financed by the World Bank in collaboration with the Sindh government.

The World Bank has allocated roughly Rs58 million in funds for this park, located near Ziauddin Hospital Clifton.

"Though it is the [provincial] government's duty to provide facilities such as parks and playgrounds, their upkeep and continued benefits [from them] depend on community cooperation and the involvement of local representatives," underscored Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah at the inauguration ceremony on Thursday. "True ownership of development projects can only come through collaboration between elected officials, town administrations and citizens."

Echoing the sentiment, CLICK Project Director Ayesha Hameed told The Express Tribune, "Parks built without meaningful input from local residents are not owned by the community. Consequently, there is little local monitoring or care once the contractor leaves".

However, she pointed to a larger structural problem within the local bodies noting that such projects often fall into disarray and are neglected after inauguration as it remains unclear whether it is the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation or the Town Municipal Corporation, union councils, or another governmental body responsible for its upkeep. Their ownership remains a "gray area," she noted.

"Each park upgraded under CLICK now includes a formal handover to the respective Town. A management allowance is demarcated in the local council's budget" said Hameed, elaborating on measures taken by CLICK's to prevent deterioration of parks.

"During the Defect Liability Period (DLP), the responsibility for upkeep, including horticultural care, irrigation, and maintenance of fixtures, will rest with the contractor to ensure that all works remain in sound condition. Beyond the DLP, the respective Town Municipal Corporations have been directed to assume full responsibility for operations and maintenance."

"Moreover, the TMCs have been encouraged to establish Park Management Committees comprising local residents, community representatives, and municipal staff to oversee maintenance, strengthen community ownership, and ensure the long-term sustainability of these public assets," added Hameed.

The park contains a walking track, freshly planted grass and a playground for children. There is also a ramp to accommodate wheelchair users or disabled persons. Separate bathrooms for males and females have been provided.

"Shade-giving trees and other indigenous flora have been planted in Queen's Park. While they are still young at this stage, the landscaping plan ensures that, as they mature, they will create adequate shade and improve the park's microclimate," Hameed told The Express Tribune.

The park has been constructed with an effort to be inclusive for all genders. "There is a separate gate at the back of the park which was added to the design specifically to accommodate women. A guard will be permanently stationed here," said Aisha Mughal, social development specialist at CLICK. "There are also specific timings on certain days during which only women are allowed in the park".

She added that efforts are being made to ensure that women are an integral part of local councils so that gender specific issues or concerns are not overlooked or ignored.

This park is the only public recreational space for the residents of Sultanabad.
(By Shahmeer Khan The Express Tribune, 05, 02/11/2025)

Planning proposals

LAST month, officials and a team of consultants, assigned to prepare the Greater Karachi Region Plan 2047, made a presentation and invited comments and recommendations from stakeholders, including Karachi denizens — indeed, a positive move. Based on various studies and observations of city affairs, nine main points, fundamental to urban planning, emerge.

One, Karachi needs a permanent consultative forum, which in addition to local government (LG) and federal and provincial institutions, is represented by professionals and concerned citizens with experience and knowledge of urban planning and management.

Its mandate should include the challenges of urban living and governance, the appraisal and review of development projects and addressing citizens' complaints regarding civic affairs. With city governance dominated by several authorities and organisations, the forum can deliberate issues and discuss solutions. It can be given legal powers, equivalent to those of a city ombudsman, to enforce decisions.

Two, Karachi needs a broad-based rehabilitation plan to upgrade and fix roads, drains, parks, local-level public spaces, etc. Ordinary citizens across rich and poor neighbourhoods can work towards changing their immediate environs. Such rehabilitation must evolve a process where residents' priorities are addressed first.

Nine points are fundamental to urban planning.

Three, the city needs a policy for supplying land to house the urban poor. Extremely high land rates, legally dubious land options in the informal sector, missing facilitation options for credit to acquire land, and limited availability of rental housing make housing a pipe dream for the majority of Karachi's denizens. Knowledge-based intervention with input from low-income housing experts can fix matters.

Four, upgradation of notified katchi abadis must be undertaken immediately. Deprived of such upgradation for years, millions of residents of settlements such as Orangi, Qasba and Baldia continue to live in sub-human conditions. Lessons can be drawn from the past. Operationalising the survey of katchi abadis, revising urban housing density standards, initiating the delivery of lease documents and recovering applicable charges are some steps that are needed. There are many citizen-led pilot projects which offer ready-to-use recipes for such reforms in our informal settlements. A common plan that consists of civic input will help address the perennial issues that plague squatter settlements by enabling the latter to graduate to the level of ordinary city neighbourhoods.

Five, the plan must create a mechanism for organising and updating city-level records for land, infrastructure, development projects and utilities. Across society, land is viewed as a precious resource. Policymakers generally view land as a commodity which can be traded to obtain short-term financial gains. From a city planning and sociological perspective, this is not right. Land is a finite asset, which can only be used for public benefit. Its utilisation is best determined through a professionally sound and socially appropriate planning process. There can be no healthy urban life without a proper utilisation policy for land and a land-use plan that details all proposed functions, keeping in mind constraints and potential. Given the crisis of infrastructural decay, poor governance and declining urban management capacities, any new venture must be examined for its operational viability and sustainability in both the short and long term.

Six, the city needs taxation reforms with regard to levy, collection and spending control on taxes. It is true that property tax is a source of urban finance. But Karachi must be able to actually benefit from revenue derived from its territory and a range of enterprises. Acti-vating the provincial finance commission is key to making this happen.

Seven, the capacity building of an elected LG is a prerequisite for enabling this vital tier to contribute to urban development and management. From training councillors and union council chairmen to the provision of essential administrative staff and facilities, it is a comprehensive area of action.

Eight, a public audit and appraisal is necessary for projects initiated with donor support. We always hear of billions of dollars being spent on certain infrastructure projects and 'reform' initiatives, but see very little of the benefits trickling down to the people. Water supply, sanitation and public transport are key areas where this massive 'investment' has been purportedly made, without much result.

And lastly, a legal and institutional arrangement must be evolved to make the new plan a binding framework for all to follow. Otherwise, its fate will be no different from earlier attempts.

(By Noman Ahmed Dawn, 07, 04/11/2025)

NFC and the 27th amendment

THE provincial governments are under pressure to free up resources from their share of transfers under the NFC award to help meet defence and debt servicing requirements of the federal government. Conversations with those in the provincial governments who are familiar with these developments suggest they are preparing to accommodate this pressure, but in a way that does not require amending the constitutional clause which guarantees that the provincial share in the NFC award will not be reduced.

It is hard to make a case for sharing the costs of debt servicing with the provinces. Unless the centre is willing to agree that it will only take on additional debt with the approval of the provincial governments, it cannot ask them to share in the cost of servicing this debt.

But defence expenditure is different. The provinces can be told that since they are beneficiaries of the protection provided by the armed forces, some portion of the cost of maintaining this protection must be borne by them. The room to debate this matter is now limited since the centre has indicated that it must get assent on this question, otherwise it will modify the Constitution to extract the resources it needs regardless.

The total amount being asked of the provinces is supposedly around Rs500 billion per annum. The provinces have to agree on two things. First, they have to agree on who will bear how much of the burden to free up this amount between them. Second they have to agree on a mechanism on how the freed-up funds will be transferred. The next NFC meeting is scheduled tentatively for Nov 27. If the provinces come to this meeting with their assent to free up Rs500bn from their share of NFC transfers for defence-related expenditures of the federal government, and a viable mechanism through which to do this, the need to amend Article 160(3A) will not be necessary and that part of the 27th amendment which seeks to amend this clause may get dropped.

What is most important for the provincial governments at this time is to provide their assent to the demand from the centre. Once that happens the rest is negotiation, and they can take more time to agree on the burden sharing between them and the mechanism.

What is most important for the provinces at this time is to provide their assent to the demand from the centre.

Here are a few things that could make their job a little simpler. A formula already exists to allocate the provincial share of the federal divisible pool among the provinces. Perhaps the same formula can be used to determine the burden each province must share to free up Rs500bn worth of resources from their NFC transfers. This would mean about half of the total would have to come from Punjab, a quarter from Sindh, 16 per cent from KP and around 10pc from Balochistan.

Second, some mechanisms already exist through which provincial government resources are paid out directly to the army. For example, every time a provincial government calls the army in aid of civil power they have to pay for the costs of the deployment from their own resources. What would be required now would be a series of modifications to make such a mechanism automatic, and some kind of legal cover so that a portion of the defence budget can be made part of the obligations that a provincial government has to meet. Once this is done, then a separate stream can be opened under NFC transfers, whereby the provincial government's share of the defence budget would automatically be credited to the army's account.

None of this requires a constitutional amendment. The NFC is enough of a forum to build the consensus and any necessary legislation can then be passed by the relevant assemblies relatively easily. The share of the provinces under NFC transfers will not be impacted. What will change will be the amount landing up in provincial government coffers under these transfers.

The impact of this will hit Punjab the hardest. The other provinces can still bear their share of the burden being demanded without having to modify their entire budget strategy. But Punjab is ruled by a chief minister who apparently wants to spend her way to the prime ministership and the enormous funds being spent on schemes to buy her popularity will take a huge hit. It could be an unrealistic expectation on her part already to think that she can buy the Punjab voter this easily. The strategy of buying the Punjab voters' loyalty was followed by Nawaz Sharif in the years of his ascendancy. But there are reasons to believe it may not work this time round. Can Maryam Nawaz afford a Rs250bn hit to her budget while holding on to this ambition? She may well have no choice.

What the provinces are going to be wary of is ensuring that the amount stays at Rs500bn in the years to come. Having given their assent to shoulder some of the responsibility for meeting the costs of national defence, they will naturally worry that the amount could rise next year, and then again the year after and so on. How can they agree to this demand in a way that would also cap their share at the outset?

There is no easy answer here. Perhaps they can have the amount written down in the NFC award, so modifying it would require another award altogether. And the threat of a constitutional amendment is a heavy one and cannot be wielded easily and often. Once the amount is inscribed in the NFC, next to the same language that enshrines provincial shares in the federal divisible pool,

or the proceeds of royalties from crude oil or natural gas development surcharge, it would provide a somewhat secure ceiling that would still require some effort at consensus building to modify.

The other clauses of the so-called 27th amendment are a different story. But for the NFC award, it is possible that an amendment may not be required provided the provinces agree to shoulder a part of the burden of defence spending.
(By Khurram Husain Dawn, 06, 06/11/2025)

LG constitutional amendment

SOMETHING extraordinary, if not unprecedented, has happened in the parliamentary history of Pakistan. The Punjab Assembly passed a unanimous resolution on Oct 28, with significant support from the PTI-aligned opposition, proposing that the national parliament amend and expand Article 140-A of the Constitution in order to strengthen the constitutional framework for local governments (LGs) in the country.

Although there had been more than one proposal to amend Article 140-A in the past, these came either from civil society, political parties or individual legislators. This is the first time that a provincial assembly made this demand, with its Speaker holding a press conference the next day to lend strong support to the idea of a constitutional amendment to end the near-dysfunctional state and, in some cases, the total absence of elected LGs for long periods of time.

A constitutional amendment bill drafted by the renowned constitutional lawyer Shahid Hamid, at the request of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency, was introduced by PTI senator Dr Sania Nishtar in the Senate in July 2023 to strengthen LGs in the country. The bill proposed the expansion of Article 140-A to include such details as elections taking place 60 days prior to the expiry of the LG term and the Sixth Schedule listing 36 subjects to be delegated to the LGs. The bill is pending before the Senate.

The MQM-P also introduced a constitutional amendment bill in the National Assembly in October 2024 to expand Article 140-A. The bill proposed the devolution of 42 subjects to the LGs. It called for a minimum guaranteed percentage of provincial revenue to be allocated to LGs and possibly directly transferred from the federal divisible pool to them. This bill also proposed the holding of LG elections before the expiry of their term.

There is a growing realisation in Pakistan that Article 140-A needs to be expanded.

The demand for a constitutional amendment to strengthen LGs started gaining momentum after almost 70 years of neglect of the LG system — a demand that was reinforced after the passage of the 18th Amendment in 2010 when significant powers were devolved from the federation to the provinces, precisely demarcating the powers between the federation and the provinces.

But the devolution from the provinces to the LGs was mentioned only in general terms through the insertion of the brief new Article 140-A (of 41 words). The new article provided that “each province shall establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the elected representatives of the local governments”, but, unlike in the case of the provincial governments, it gave no specific framework of LGs, such as the minimum powers, financial resources, term and elections. All these details were left to the provinces to decide through the LG laws to be framed by the respective provincial assemblies and, in the case of Islamabad, the parliament.

Although 15 years have passed since the 18th Amendment, LGs in the country remain ineffective and powerless. Usually, ineffective LG laws are framed by the provinces and amended frequently — the Election Commission of Pakistan is unable to keep pace with the changes and thus unable to hold elections.

A case in point is the election for the Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation where the last LG existed till 2021. Since then, whenever the ECP completed the demarcation of the LGs and announced the election schedule, the government amended the law changing the number of union councils, thus forcing the ECP to start the process of demarcation afresh. The ECP narrated its tragic tale of failures in a press release issued in May this year where it summed up how it had conducted delimitation of constituencies five times and the election schedule was issued thrice, only to be cancelled later because of last-minute changes in election laws.

There is an inherent conflict of interest between the provincial and local governments.

Provincial governments do not want to let go of their powers and financial resources which have significantly increased since the passage of the 18th Amendment and the seventh NFC award. Generally, about one-third of the annual development funds are supposed to be spent through the LGs. No provincial government is, however, willing to part with these funds. In the absence of effective elected LGs, members of the national and provincial assemblies exercise considerable influence on local development spending and, therefore, are not keen on empowering LGs.

Neighbouring India faced a similar situation in the initial 42 years after enacting its constitution in 1950. In 1992, the Indian parliament passed two constitutional amendments inserting two full-fledged parts running into approximately 20 pages in the constitution. The 73rd amendment dealt with the panchayats or rural tier of the LGs and the 74th amendment was about the municipalities.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of these amendment acts reveal considerable similarities between present-day Pakistan and pre-1992 India. The statement says: “In many states local bodies have become weak and ineffective on account of a variety of reasons, including the failure to hold regular elections, prolonged supersessions and inadequate devolution of powers and functions. ... Having regard to these inadequacies, it is considered necessary that provisions relating to urban local bodies are incorporated in the Constitution... .”

No wonder there is a strong and growing realisation in Pakistan too that Article 140-A needs to be expanded to outline details, making it impossible for provinces to deny the establishment of effective LGs.

One may make the case that the LGs are a provincial subject and, therefore, expanding Article 140-A may run counter to provincial autonomy. The reality is that no one is suggesting the removal of 'local governments' from the provincial legislative list but as the insertion of Article 140-A was not a violation of provincial autonomy in 2010, further expansion of this article providing a basic outline of LGs will not interfere with provincial rights either.
(By Ahmed Bilal Mehrhoob Dawn, 06, 08/11/2025)

CM Murad wants work on infrastructure projects in Karachi expedited

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah directed authorities concerned for swift completion of the Korangi Causeway, Shahrah-i-Bhutto and the Karimabad underpass projects.

Accompanied by Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon, Local Government Minister Nasir Shah and Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, the CM undertook an extensive inspection of the three projects to review the progress.

According to a press statement, his focus was on eliminating bottlenecks and ensuring that these vital urban mobility corridors are delivered to the public without further delay.

The inspection began at the Korangi Causeway, where reconstruction and elevation work are underway to make the route resilient against seasonal flooding and repeated closures.

Karimabad underpass achieves 85pc progress, mayor tells CM

CM Shah expressed serious concern over the prolonged inconvenience to commuters and the vital industrial sector. "Korangi Causeway is a vital artery. Its repeated closures cause immense hardship for the public and disrupt Karachi's economic activity," he said.

The chief minister instructed the LG minister to immediately increase manpower and equipment on the project site. "Stop working in segments, work in full force. I want steady, visible progress every single day," he directed.

He also stressed the need for better coordination with the traffic police to ensure smoother diversions until the causeway is fully operational.

The CM then proceeded to the Murghi Khana segment of the 15 km-long Section-I of Shahrah-i-Bhutto. Minister Nasir Shah briefed him that 98 per cent of physical work had been completed, with only finishing touches remaining.

He inspected the completed portions and said: "It is an important corridor for the people of the city. Complete the remaining work quickly so we can open it fully to the public by December 2025 or January 2026," he instructed.

He directed the project director to immediately begin signboard installation and landscaping. "Traffic flow must improve, and the public should feel the difference the moment this section opens," the CM said, insisting on final quality checks before formal opening.

The chief minister also visited the Samo Goth Segment of Shahrah-i-Bhutto, where the elevated portion was under construction. He directed the project director to speed up the work so that it could be opened for traffic within the next two months.

During his visit to the under-construction Karimabad underpass, the CM demanded round-the-clock work on the much-delayed project designed to ease severe traffic congestion in district Central.

He reviewed the structural and finishing works. Mayor Wahab informed him that 85pc of physical work had been completed on the Rs3.21 billion project, which features a 6.1-meter-wide dual track.

"People face traffic jams here daily. This underpass must be completed at the earliest," the CM remarked after inspecting the work.

He directed the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) to carry out round-the-clock work where possible. "I don't want excuses. Increase your work speed and ensure top-quality materials. Karachi deserves durable infrastructure," he said, instructing the team to submit weekly progress reports directly to his office.

Addressing project directors and engineers at the sites, Mr Shah reinforced his government's commitment to improving urban mobility.

"Karachi needs fast, safe and modern infrastructure. These projects are not just roads, but they are the backbone of the city's economy and daily life," he concluded, directing all executing agencies to eliminate all existing bottlenecks.
(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, Dawn, 13, 17/11/2025)

37 cantt boards set for fresh elections

The four-year term of elected public representatives in 37 out of 44 cantonment boards across the country has been completed. New elections will now be held at these cantonments.

In view of the conclusion of their terms, the elected members of these cantonment boards have been relieved of their positions, and caretaker boards are now being formed. The Ministry of Defence has issued a letter to the Military Lands & Cantonments (MLC) Department.

Until the new elections, each board will function under a two-member caretaker board comprising one nominated civilian member and one nominated military personnel.

Each cantonment board will send the names of these members to the regional director of the MLC. These decisions were taken in a meeting chaired by the MLC director general.

The four-year term of the elected public representatives in 37 cantonment boards—including Rawalpindi, Chaklala, Lahore, Karachi and others—ended on October 10, 2025.

Later, the positions of elected vice presidents and elected board members were terminated with immediate effect, and they were barred from attending any future board meetings.

For the remaining seven cantonment boards, a decision will be made once their elected members' term ends. Until the next local body elections, these 37 cantonment boards will operate under a two-member caretaker board.

Executive officers of all cantonments have been instructed to submit by Nov 26 before the close of office hours, the names of one nominated civilian member and one nominated military member.

The civilian member will not contest the upcoming cantonment elections while the military member will be nominated by the relevant station headquarters.

These names are to be sent to the MLC director general through the MLC regional director. Decisions of the last meeting of the elected boards must also be presented before the two-member caretaker board.

Four years ago, local government elections in all cantonment boards were held on a party basis under the supervision of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). However, the term of elected members is counted from the date they take oath.

Cantonments are permanent bases of the Pakistan Armed Forces, which are administered by Cantonment Boards under the control of the MLC. Cantonments are established under and governed by the Cantonments Act 1924. In recent times, the demographic character of most independence-era cantonments has changed.
(By Jameel Mirza The Express Tribune, 04, 25/11/2025)

Murad announces special Rs25bn package for Karachi road repairs

Acknowledging the extensive damage caused by recent heavy rains to the road infrastructure, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday approved a plan presented by Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab and announced a Rs25 billion special package for the provincial metropolis.

Informed sources said the special grant to overhaul the city's dilapidated road infrastructure would soon be placed before the provincial cabinet for formal approval.

At a meeting held here at the CM House, Mayor Murtaza Wahab briefed the chief minister on the extent of the damage and the proposed plan for rehabilitation.

The mayor told the meeting that 315 inner city streets are severely damaged and require urgent attention. Furthermore, 60 major roads across the city were scheduled for reconstruction and the estimated cost for the entire program was approximately Rs25bn.

Tells city mayor funds are not an issue; 60 major roads, 315 internal roads and streets to be rehabilitated; execution requires formal cabinet approval

"Funds are not an issue; I want work must be done on a war footing," CM Shah told the mayor, according to a statement issued by the CM House.

He said that the city's roads were in a state of disrepair and that ongoing mega projects were exacerbating traffic woes. "I want development work in the city to be expedited so that the public does not have to endure further hardship," he added.

The chief minister made it unequivocally clear that delays would not be tolerated.

He instructed that all reconstruction work must be comprehensive and that the drainage system for the 60 major roads should be constructed simultaneously alongside the roads themselves to prevent future damage.

He said that the implementation of the Safe City project had already led to a reduction in traffic accidents.

"The accelerated push for infrastructure development underscores the Sindh government's commitment to transforming the city's appearance and improving the quality of life for its millions of residents by the end of the current development cycle," he added.

CM briefed on mega projects

Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Shah also briefed the chief minister on the progress of the major infrastructure projects, including the Korangi Causeway Bridge and the Shahrah-i-Bhutto Expressway.

He said that both projects were nearing completion, with sections already or imminently opening to traffic within the next two months.

The construction of the new, elevated Korangi Causeway Bridge is designed to replace the old causeway, which frequently submerged during heavy rains, causing massive traffic jams and connectivity issues for Korangi's industrial and residential areas.

The LG minister said that the project was over 80 per cent complete. The entire Korangi Causeway Bridge is expected to be operational by December 2025 or early January 2026.

At this, the chief minister said that its completion will provide a permanent, rain-proof connection between Korangi and the rest of the city, alleviating a long-standing civic and economic problem.

About Shahrah-i-Bhutto, the CM was told that the project is approximately 82pc complete as of mid-2025, with overall progress reportedly at 78pc more recently.

The Segment I from the Shaheed-i-Millat Expressway at Qayyumabad to Quaidabad is functional. Shah Faisal Interchange, already inaugurated and opened, is serving the people going to Jinnah Terminal or to Sharea Faisal. The Segment II, which links to the M-9 Motorway, is approximately 65pc complete.

An important four-kilometre elevated section over the Malir riverbed, built to prevent the displacement of local villages, is around 48 to 50pc complete.

This 22km link road, designed to facilitate cargo movement between Port Qasim and the M-9 Motorway, was expected to be fully opened by the end of 2025, Nasir Shah told the chief minister.

This long-delayed project has also seen a recent surge in activity, particularly after the chief minister's visit last week, and is likely to be completed by the end of December 2025, Murtaza Wahab told the chief minister.

The chief minister said that 'after his intervention', construction work on the BRT Red Line has recently resumed after a suspension, though the projected completion timeline has been extended to the end of 2026.
(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 25/11/2025)

Cantonment boards dissolved countrywide after completing four-year term

The elected cantonment boards across the country were dissolved after they completed their four-year tenure and the Military Lands and Cantonments (ML&Cs) have sought names of civilian members from their regional directors for caretaker setups by Nov 26 (Wednesday).

A senior official of Military Lands and Cantonments told *Dawn* after the dissolution of cantonment boards, caretaker cantonment boards will run the affairs of the civic bodies across the country.

He said that the military lands and cantonment had asked all regional directors and station commanders across the country to forward one civilian and one officer of armed forces respectively under Section 191(2) of the Cantonments (Amendment) Act 2023 by November 26 (Wednesday) for caretaker setup.

The caretaker cantonment board will consist of one civilian member and one member from armed forces and it will be led by the cantonment board president who is station commander of the respective area.

ML&Cs have sought names of civilian members from their regional directors for caretaker setups

The military lands and cantonments also issued letter to the regional directors and all the cantonment boards to nominate the civilian member.

The cantonment executive officer will recommend the civilian member's name to regional director and after approval the caretaker cantonment boards will be formed.

"The elected members shall cease to hold office of members of cantonment Boards forthwith on completion of four years from the date of their respective oath as per section 191(1) of Cantonment (Amendment) Act 2023 and shall not participate in any proceedings of the board," said a letter of Military and Cantonment Boards to elected members on Tuesday.

The local government elections in cantonment boards across the country were held in September 12, 2021. It made it clear that the civil member so nominated shall not be a candidate in the upcoming cantonment Boards elections.

A senior official of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) told *Dawn* that after getting letter issued by Military Lands and Cantonment, the members had been informed and started consultation to send names of the civilian member for caretaker cantonment board while Station Commander will nominate the name of officer of armed forces for the board.

Former Vice President Chaklala Cantonment Board Raja Irfan Imtiaz said that the elected members had been informed about the dissolution of the boards while citing completion of tenure.
(By Aamir Yasin Dawn, 04, 26/11/2025)

PPP likely to introduce key amendments to Sindh Local Govt Act 2013

The ruling PPP is preparing to introduce key amendments to the Sindh Local Governments Act 2013, with technical teams from the Sindh Local Government Department and the Law Department currently finalising a draft of the proposed changes, sources told *The Express Tribune*.

Once vetted, the draft will be placed before the provincial cabinet for approval before being tabled in the Sindh Assembly. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has convened a special cabinet meeting on December 1 to take up the matter. Acting on his advice, the provincial governor has already summoned a session of the Sindh Assembly, scheduled to commence on Wednesday.

During the session, which is likely to continue for several days, the government plans to table several bills before the House, including the package of amendments to the local government law.

It is also expected that the much-debated bill, seeking to separate the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) from the University of Karachi, will be presented during the same session.

According to PPP insiders, one of the major amendments, under consideration, would abolish the practice of appointing administrators once the tenure of local bodies expires. Instead, existing heads of local councils, including mayors and chairmen, would continue to function until fresh local government elections are held.

When contacted, provincial government spokesperson, MPA Sadia Javed said, the agenda for the upcoming cabinet meeting had yet to be finalised. However, she reiterated, the PPP has consistently welcomed proposals aimed at strengthening and empowering the local government system, and it is likely that reforms will improve the law.

On the forthcoming assembly session, she added that important legislative business is expected, including the introduction of a bill for establishing a constitutional court in Sindh in light of the recent constitutional amendments.
(By Razak Abro The Express Tribune, 04, 26/11/2025)

Opposition in PA demands accountability, punishment for those responsible

The Sindh Assembly erupted in protest over the death of a three-year-old boy as opposition parties strongly condemned the provincial government over the tragic incident, demanding accountability and punishment for those responsible, calling it a result of gross negligence by civic authorities.

Speaking on a point of order, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan member Iftikhar Alam strongly protested the incident and asked when the provincial government would address the issue.

He said that a large number of manholes across the city, including the areas administered by cantonment boards, were without covers.

Jamaat-i-Islami's lone MPA Muhammad Farooq called for the mayor's resignation, citing repeated failures in ensuring public safety.

Muttahida stages walkout; JI wants mayor's resignation; PTI demands stringent laws; Sharjeel promises accountability

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf lawmaker Rehan Bandukda expressed deep sorrow over the incident and pushed for new laws to hold officials accountable for negligence leading to such incidents.

The situation took an unpleasant turn when Deputy Speaker Anthony Naveed denied Leader of the Opposition Ali Khurshidi to speak about the tragic incident, leading to a walkout by the MQM-P members.

Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon assured the house that those responsible would be punished, emphasising that human life was precious.

"The chief minister has ordered an inquiry into the incident, and the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation has been directed to investigate," he added.

Mr Memon said that as soon as the incident occurred, rescue teams had reached the spot, and all the images of the rescue operation were available.

He said that the city mayor had told him that 88,000 sewer covers have been installed this year.

The senior minister said that the person whose negligence caused this incident must be held accountable, and if there was any responsibility on his part as a minister, he was ready to accept it.

He emphasised that nothing was more precious than human life and that ensuring safety was a collective responsibility.

Mr Memon praised the opposition's approach in raising this issue and assured that a strictest action would be taken against any officer of any department found negligent, and full action will also be taken against those responsible for this incident.

Later, Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah adjourned the house to Tuesday (today).
(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 02/12/2025)

Sindh cabinet orders probe into solar energy project to protect public money

The provincial cabinet on Monday ordered thorough investigations and an audit into the Rs28 billion World Bank-funded Sindh Solar Energy Project (SSEP), as well as the blacklisting of companies involved, to protect public money and enforce accountability.

The Sindh government had planned to provide each of the 250,000 families with a solar panel, battery, one DC fan, three LED bulbs and a mobile phone charging facility with an estimated cost of Rs55,000. It signed a contract with a foreign company at \$151 per solar kit, despite import records showing their actual value was under \$50 per unit.

On Monday, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while presiding over the meeting of the provincial cabinet directed comprehensive audits, recovery actions and accountability measures against involved firms and officials.

According to a statement issued by the CM House after the cabinet meeting, the SSEP has encountered major problems despite nearly full use of its allocated budget.

The cabinet was informed that many core goals, such as building solar parks, installing rooftop systems and distributing home solar kits, had not been met.

It was informed that there were improper contract modifications, payments made for incomplete or missing work and critical issues with imports — including fake documents presented by the main contractor, causing large financial losses.

Additionally, some NGOs were hired for distribution work without open competition, and significant funds were spent on unclear or undocumented equipment, the statement said.

The chief minister ordered thorough audits, investigations, and blacklisting of the involved companies to protect public money and enforce accountability, it added.

Low water rate for DHA pipeline project

The cabinet approved a proposal to provide the Defence Housing Authority water at the rate of 60 paise per gallon.

The decision was taken on the proposal from the local government department regarding the revision of the water sale rate applicable to the project titled 'Laying of Pipeline from Dumlottee to DHA'.

Originally, the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation had set a water sale rate of 85 paise per gallon for supply to DHA, as approved by the cabinet and made a condition precedent for the Sindh government's loan assistance of Rs10.5 bn towards the project's completion.

Following negotiations with DHA, the KWSC proposed revising the water sale rate while retaining the payment schedule of 10 years.

The revised rate seeks to balance affordability for DHA, which is already getting water at 75 paise per gallon through bowsers.

Digitalisation of land record

The cabinet approved a project aimed at overhauling the province's land management.

This project, led by the Board of Revenue, assigned Sukkur IBA University the task of developing and implementing a digital land record system. In its pilot phase, data entry work is nearly complete, and there is a clear plan to extend this digitisation effort to every district within three years.

At the core of these changes, the government will first verify and rewrite all current land records, moving them into a blockchain-based digital database.

A new Sindh Land Records Authority will supervise this transition and ensure land transfers become fully digital. The platform integrates with bodies like the National Database and Registration Authority and the Federal Board of Revenue and uses GIS mapping to visualise land boundaries.

The new system introduces an online portal where people will upload documents, verify their identities using biometrics, pay fees, and receive a digital land title — all securely recorded on the blockchain.

The CM directed the BoR to prepare a bill and bring it to the cabinet to review and, if passed, set up a transparent, fully digital land registration process for Sindh.

It has also been proposed that owners of immovable property will be issued a digital card instead of a traditional file. This card, containing a digital SIM, will provide access to all documentation related to the property.

Thar rail connectivity project

The cabinet directed the finance department to release Rs6.610bn to Islamkot-Chorr railway line project, the double-track link between Bin Qasim and Port Qasim.

It also directed the finance department to consider further funding based on the executing agency's requirements.

The joint venture agreement signed in March 2025 between the Sindh Energy Department and the Railways Ministry.

The cabinet was informed that the project's revised PC-1 had escalated from Rs53bn to over Rs90bn.

The meeting was told that the federal government had released Rs18.7bn as its share and urged Sindh to release its allocation to avoid delays.

(By Tahir Siddiqui Dawn, 13, 02/12/2025)

'Respect for human rights ensures access of countries to European markets'

The Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan, Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera, and Assistant Professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law at Vienna University Dr Stefan Hammer addressed the members and guests at the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) on Saturday to talk of the challenges of human rights in today's polarised world.

While introducing the gentlemen, PIIA's Chairperson Dr Masuma Hasan said that she had had the privilege of serving as a bilateral and multilateral ambassador for three years in Austria. "Austria is a country of nine million people. It has a grand past and a very great presence. It is known as a cultural hub but it is also a diplomatic hub," she added.

Dr Hasan also pointed out that some of the most important multilateral agencies are based in Vienna, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. "I was privileged to represent my country in all these agencies," she said.

"But Austria also hosts the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which was established in 1992. It also hosts the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation, popularly called the CTBTO, which was established in 1996," she reminded. "From Pakistan's point of view, the most important agency there is the International Atomic Energy Agency to which we sent our best diplomats," she added.

PIIA members, guests hear Austrian ambassador and a professor from Vienna

The Austrian Ambassador, Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera, said that Pakistan is one of the partners in the European Union's GSP Plus scheme, which gives it access to EU markets with progress and implementation of 27 international conventions covering four core areas that are labour rights, the environment, governance and human rights.

He said that among other things, GSP Plus illustrates in practical terms that human rights obligations and economic cooperation are closely connected. It shows how essential respect for human rights is for real life outcomes, economic stability and long-term access to international markets.

"Austria," said the ambassador, "has long placed intercultural and inter-religious dialogue at the core of its foreign and cultural policy. Austria, today, is a diverse society. According to our 2021 census, nearly two-thirds of the population identified as Christians and 18.3 per cent identified as Muslim, making Muslims the second biggest religious community in Austria."

He said that the diversity is particularly visible in Vienna where 41 per cent of children in public schools come from Muslim families while the rest comprise children from Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish and secular backgrounds. "This is the Austria of today. Dynamic, diverse and evolving. And it demands thoughtful, respectful, inclusive dialogue to ensure that human rights remain protected for all," he said.

"Austria and Pakistan share important values such as respectful religious diversity, tolerance and a rule of law. We also face similar challenges where public debates can become heated and polarised. In such moments, calm and honest conversation is essential to safeguarding the rights based societies we aspire to maintain," he said.

The ambassador said that this year Austria started a flagship initiative, the dialogue residencies, supporting civil society exchanges on dialogue related projects. These residencies have already facilitated remarkable initiatives from bringing together people of different faiths together and supporting reconciliation across conflicting societies. "Each residency is tailored to local needs and developed with local civil society partners ensuring real relevance and sustainable impact. One such example of this is Professor Dr Stefan Hammer's current visit to Pakistan," he said.

While speaking on the occasion, Dr Stefan Hammer said that according to a widely shared perception, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations reflects a global consensus of human rights as it has been preceded by lengthy and cumbersome negotiations among drafters from divergent religions backgrounds. However, over time this assumption has proven fragile. "Since quite some decades, many voices, especially from the global south, claim that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Universal Human Rights Bill does not reflect the genuine global consensus but rather a Western concept of human rights marked by individualism, moral evasiveness and neglect of duties," he said.

“On the one side, it is argued that at the time of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, de-colonisation was far from accomplished, African populations, especially, were still under colonial rule for quite some time. And thus could not represent themselves. Second, it is frequently being put forward that also the newly independent countries, which were the Universal Declaration signatories, had no genuine democratic government reflecting the will of the people,” the professor explained.

(By Shazia Hasan Dawn, 13, 14/12/2025)

PA unites to celebrate Christmas

The Sindh Assembly on Monday passed the amended Thar Coal Energy Board Bill during its sitting, while also unanimously adopting a congratulatory resolution to mark the Christian festival of Christmas.

The resolution, moved by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MPA Roma Mushtaq Mato, was supported by both treasury and opposition members, who extended warm wishes to the Christian community. Special Assistant on Minority Affairs Sham Sindh Advani said Christmas symbolises love and peace and teaches religious tolerance. MQM's Sabir Qaimkhani said Islam is a religion of love and noted that his party was the first to appoint Christians at the ministerial level.

PTI's Shabbir Qureshi and Jamaat-e-Islami's Muhammad Farooq also conveyed greetings, stressing interfaith harmony. Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho shared that she studied at a Christian school and was delivered by a Christian midwife, saying her presence was a testament to their services. Law Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar said the PPP leadership has always safeguarded minority rights, adding that the Constitution, framed under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, guarantees full religious freedom. Deputy Speaker Anthony Naveed termed Sindh a land of Sufis where minorities enjoy complete freedom. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Earlier, the House approved amendments to the Thar Coal Energy Board Act, originally enacted in 2011, with the law minister stating that certain clauses had been revised to meet present requirements.

During Question Hour related to the Local Government Department, Parliamentary Secretary Siraj Qasim Soomro responded to members' queries in the absence of the minister. Opposition members raised concerns over the lack of public toilets. Soomro informed the House that toilets would be constructed in all public parks with dedicated sanitation staff. He said the Clean Sindh project, supported by the World Bank, is underway across the province, including Karachi.

Addressing water shortages, Soomro said Karachi does not receive water equal to its demand and acknowledged the existence of FIRs related to water theft. He added that the Sindh High Court has established a tribunal to hear water theft cases and that amendments are being introduced to impose stricter penalties. He said the K-IV water project would be completed within a year, while proposals are also under consideration to store rainwater in collaboration with the Sindh Building Control Authority.

(By Newspaper's Staff Reporter, The Express Tribune, 04, 23/12/2025)