



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SHORTLISTING OF CONSULTANTS



FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT **FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR TOURIST GLASS TRAIN FROM RAWALPINDI TO MURREE, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN**



1. The Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMA) is a statutory body established by the Government of the Punjab, Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes of **planning, construction, operation and maintenance of mass transit systems** in the major cities of the Punjab for providing safe, efficient and comfortable urban transportation systems.
2. Expression of Interest (EOI) applications are invited under Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules 2014 from consulting firms having expertise and experience in feasibility study of rail-based transit mobility systems to conduct above titled study.
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General Manager (Operations)

Punjab Mass Transit Authority, 5th Floor, Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP),
346-B, Main Ferozepur Road,
Lahore, Pakistan.

TEL: +92 (42) 99028000 Fax: +92 (42) 99232541
Email: rizwan.aziz@pma.punjab.gov.pk

Companies & Markets

KPMG head warns of crisis over shortage of accountants

- ▶ US arm's chief calls for training rejig
- ▶ Fall in recruits brings systemic risks

STEPHEN FOLEY — NEW YORK

The head of KPMG US has said the industry urgently needs to make it easier and cheaper to become an accountant, to head off a "brewing crisis" in the profession.

Paul Knopp became the first head of a Big Four firm to publicly back scrapping the requirement for a fifth year of higher education on top of the typical four-year undergraduate degree, as the numbers of US students taking accounting courses have fallen sharply. Knopp backed an "apprenticeship" model that could replace the fifth year of education.

"We have a brewing crisis right now, with the number of students going to college and the number going into

'We need to address it in the near term . . . it's not just the Big Four. We need more accountants in corporations'

accounting, and we need to absolutely address it in the very near term," he told the Financial Times.

"I can't over-emphasise, it's not just the Big Four. We need more accountants in corporations and outside of the Big Four. The industry that we are in is systemically important to the functioning of the capital markets."

The accounting profession is in the midst of a sometimes fractious debate about how to lure young people who have increasingly sought careers elsewhere, in industries such as financial services or technology that have looser educational requirements and have raised starting salaries in recent years.

Some companies have started reporting a shortage of accountants as a risk in their financial disclosures, and local governments and some small

businesses across the US have complained of the difficulty in finding firms willing to take on low-cost audit work.

Knopp said the Big Four — KPMG, Deloitte, EY and PwC — still had their pick of graduates, but demographic changes would continue to make the problem more acute.

The number of US accounting undergraduates has fallen to the lowest level in 15 years, according to government data, thinning the pipeline of potential new certified public accountants when 75 per cent of existing CPAs are at or near retirement age.

The number of people taking the CPA exam fell from a peak of more than 100,000 in 2016 to a 17-year low of just above 67,000 in 2022.

An uptick in 2023 was the result of students rushing to take the exam before the introduction of a new curriculum and numbers were set to resume their decline in the short term, according to the AICPA, the professional body.

"The cost of becoming a CPA has become too high," Knopp said. "We think we can accelerate development of talent by having them start their apprenticeship with us earlier," he said.

He acknowledged other factors had also deterred students from accountancy, and said KPMG had raised salaries and cut the number of late nights and weekends required of audit staff by smoothing work throughout the year.

To qualify as accountants in the US, students must have the equivalent of five years of education and one year of work experience, as well as pass the CPA exam. The rules are set at state level, meaning any effort to change them has to be approved by 50 state legislatures.

The AICPA previously opposed change. Under pressure, it changed its position this year and now proposes giving candidates the option of a year of "competency-based experience".

Called out Wimbledon to replace its line judges in favour of fault-finding technology



Labour of love: line umpires monitor a tennis match as they wait to return to the court at Wimbledon — Glyn Kirk/AFP

SAMUEL AGINI — LONDON

Wimbledon, the world's oldest tennis tournament, is doing away with line judges in favour of automated technology at next year's championships in a momentous break from tradition.

Live electronic line-calling technology will replace humans for the first time in the history of the 147-year-old grand slam, underlining the advance of technology in sport.

The change would be made across all of the courts used during qualifying matches and at Wimbledon itself, the All England Club said yesterday.

Dressed in distinctive uniforms, which since 2006 have been designed by Polo Ralph Lauren, roughly 300 line judges have played a critical role every year in watching for faults and outs. Their exit marks another win for technology in making the high-stakes calls that pick winners and losers.

Although chair umpires will remain in post, the All England Club's decision ends another tradition that has a big place in Wimbledon history.

In 1929, linesmen started to raise an arm when making a call. Twenty years later, lineswomen joined them on Centre Court for the first time. In 1981, John McEnroe, who won the men's singles title three times, infamously yelled, "You cannot be serious!" as he argued over a line call.

Technology had already started to make inroads at Wimbledon, including the introduction of the first electronic service line monitor in 1980. From 2007, the Hawk-Eye electronic line-calling system was in full operation on the top two courts and continued to roll out in the following years.

The coronavirus pandemic accelerated the adoption of technology in the sport, as championship organisers sought to minimise human interaction.

All England Club chief executive Sally Bolton said yesterday that the decision to dispense with line judges followed tests at this year's championships.

"[We] consider the technology to be sufficiently robust and the time is right to take this important step in seeking maximum accuracy in our officiating," she said.

"For the players, it will offer them the same conditions they have played under at a number of other events on tour."

The Australian Open became the first grand slam to ditch line judges altogether in favour of electronic systems in 2021. The US Open followed suit the next year. The ATP Tour, the men's governing body, plans to move to an electronic system from 2025.

"We take our responsibility to balance tradition and innovation at Wimbledon very seriously," Bolton added.

Cost of obesity drug coverage on Medicare put at \$35bn

OLIVER BARNES — NEW YORK

Covering weight-loss drugs for elderly Americans on the state-backed Medicare health insurance programme would cost the US government \$35bn over the next nine years, a congressional analysis has found.

Medicare, which provides prescription drugs to about 54mn over-65s in the US, only covers anti-obesity medications, such as Novo Nordisk's Wegovy, for patients suffering from another comorbidity such as stroke risk, heart disease or sleep apnoea.

Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly have been calling for a change to the rules so that the drugs can be covered for obesity alone. While a law prohibits Medicare from covering anti-obesity medications just for weight loss, a bill under consideration by the House of Representatives is aimed at changing that.

An analysis by the Congressional Budget Office found that expanding coverage for drugs from 2026 would cost the federal government about \$1.6bn to meet the costs for an estimated 300,000 patients in the first year, rising to \$7.1bn to cover 1.6mn patients by 2034. Over the course of nine years, it would cost a projected \$35bn.

The analysis concluded that cost savings from improving other health outcomes would not offset the costs of the treatments. In 2034, such savings would amount to approximately \$1bn, the CBO found.

Net Medicare spending on prescription drugs is projected to total about \$120bn this year.

The analysis comes as debate grows about the costs of the treatments and as healthcare systems begin to plan for a future in which they are increasingly widely available.

Democratic senator Bernie Sanders has accused Novo Nordisk of "ripping off" the people with Wegovy, whose wholesale price comes to nearly \$1,350 a month, warning that the drugs could bankrupt Medicare.

Novo Nordisk and Zepbound maker Eli Lilly are working on trials of the drugs in other indications, such as sleep apnoea, and submitting data to regulators to open a path to the treatments being covered by Medicare.

"We're going to eat the elephant one step at a time here . . . by proving the indications not just to lower weight but for the consequences of that," Eli Lilly chief Dave Ricks said last month.

Ireland is awash with cash but needs an infrastructure vision

INSIDE BUSINESS

EUROPE

Jude Webber



Ireland is awash with cash from record surpluses, but a failure to deliver big infrastructure despite extravagant spending has triggered a painful question: does the EU nation have more money than sense?

Nine years after planning permission was lodged for a new national children's hospital in Dublin, the facility has yet to open and its cost has more than tripled to €2.2bn, more than the \$1.5bn cost of the 163-floor, Burj Khalifa skyscraper built in 2010 in Dubai (even after adjusting for inflation).

The hospital's completion date has shifted 14 times in the past year alone as the health minister accused the builder of seeking to "extract as much money from the Irish state as possible" — a claim the builder rejected as "misleading, ill-informed and incorrect".

Meanwhile — despite struggling to meet the housing, energy, water and transport needs of its fast-growing population and economy — the government built a €335,000 shelter for 18 bikes at Ireland's parliament and a €1.4mn security entrance to government buildings.

Ireland is no stranger to splashing the cash in times of plenty, there is even an Irish word — flathúlach (pronounced "fla-hoo-lock") — for the kind of lavish excesses that ended up bankrupting the country a decade-and-a-half ago with reckless lending in a property boom.

Ireland's problem now is not money: it has grown rich on the investment of multinational tech and pharmaceutical groups and it is expecting a €24bn budget surplus this year. What Ireland Inc needs, experts say, is a vision.

"Ireland could really do with another TK Whitaker-type plan," said Liam McCabe, chair and head of projects and construction at top Irish law firm William Fry, referring to the influential public servant whose 1958 paper "Economic Development" laid the foundations for Ireland's decades of foreign direct investment-focused expansion. Indeed, its failure to provide 21st century infrastructure risks turning off the investment on which it now depends.

Past economic crises meant Ireland long exported its people. Now it is struggling to catch up on the infrastructure needs of its expanding population amid labour constraints from nearly full employment.

"When you're nouveau riche and you're suddenly having to do these big construction [projects] in an otherwise services-based economy, it's hard to do the low productivity things well because they haven't been the focus," said Kevin Timoney, chief economist at Davy, a brokerage.

Planning bottlenecks are also a hurdle: legislation to speed up decisions in the home stretch in parliament but few expect it to prove a panacea. Dublin airport, the country's main gateway, is being forced to slash seat availability — costing the economy millions — as it awaits a decision on loosening an "outdated" cap on passenger numbers.

"This is no longer just an airport or

planning issue," Kenny Jacobs, chief executive of airport operator DAA, said this week. "It is now an Ireland issue."

Ireland's population, now 5.4mn, has nearly doubled since Whitaker's day and the country is so deep into a housing supply crisis that the central bank estimates it needs to build 52,000 homes a year, every year, for the next quarter of a century, just to keep up with demand — about a 50 per cent increase on this year's official target.

Water and transport projects, including a metro to Dublin airport, have been stuck for decades. Ireland has no shortage of wind yet an offshore renewable energy industry has yet to take off.

Taoiseach Simon Harris has floated creating a new infrastructure ministry but the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council, an independent watchdog, says Ireland requires a "serious vision that delivers on the economy's needs without repeating the boom-to-bust pattern of its past".

In contrast to the lavish cost of the children's hospital, JD Buckley, chief executive in Ireland of TV, broadband and mobile phone company Sky, highlights the national broadband plan. "It got off to a slow start but it now has good momentum with the rollout progressing on budget and on schedule," he said. The government is targeting €2.6bn to deploy 100,000km of fibre and connect 1.1mn people by the end of 2026 but National Broadband Ireland is "confident" it will come in under budget. To keep it on track, it has to meet 500 milestones to unlock the subsidy.

The country has become "a bit complacent in its economic success" according to McCabe. "Ireland needs to revisit its business plan and make some bold decisions," he said.

jude.webber@ft.com

Contracts & Tenders

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BUSINESS

Growth target within reach on policy effort

Expert underlines role of investment, consumption in achieving 5% goal

By WANG KEJU
wangkeju@chinadaily.com.cn

With a potent set of new policies being implemented on various fronts, China is on course to achieve its full-year economic growth target of around 5 percent, signaling the resilience of the country's economy despite challenges at home and abroad, said a senior expert.

Chen Wenling, chief economist at the Beijing-based China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said that in the final stretch of the year, the top priority of the world's second-largest economy is to stabilize investment, boost consumption and keep market players afloat, in order to maintain a positive outlook among businesses and households, and support economic recovery.

"Scaling up effective investment should remain high on the government work agenda, as it is a crucial lever to shore up market confidence and support the economic recovery during this challenging period," Chen said in an exclusive interview with China Daily.

The National Development and Reform Commission said on Tuesday that the government will frontload 100 billion yuan (\$14.2 billion) in spending from its budget for 2025 in addition to another 100 billion yuan for key construction projects.

The NDRC said it will issue investment plans and projects for the 200 billion yuan by the end of this



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Chen Wenling, chief economist at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges

month to achieve progress as soon as possible.

The government's policy tool kit, including measures such as increased investment, is not just short-term fixes, but a clear signal of its long-term commitment to the country's sustainable and healthy development, Chen said.

With the government's emphasis on investment made clear, Chen said it is equally crucial for policymakers to focus on reviving consumer demand to achieve a balanced and sustainable recovery.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, final consumption expenditure contributed 82.5 percent to China's economic growth in



An employee works on a heavy machinery production line in Luoyang, Henan province, on Tuesday. ZHANG YIXI / FOR CHINA DAILY

2023, cementing its position as the primary driver of the country's economic expansion.

"Consumption has become the linchpin of China's economic expansion, and it is only natural that fiscal policy now prioritizes measures to bolster consumer demand," Chen said, adding that China's fiscal policy is poised to take on a more proactive role in supporting the country's long-term economic well-being and reversing short-term unfavorable sentiment.

By implementing measures to reduce the financial pressures on middle and low-income households, such as through tax relief and targeted subsidies, policymakers

can enable a more rapid and robust increase in consumer spending, Chen said.

This demographic is more responsive to changes in their disposable incomes, and thus the government's efforts to alleviate their financial burdens can quickly translate into a surge in consumption, she added.

Ensuring the stability and resilience of market players, especially in the private sector, is essential for unlocking the full potential of the economy and sustaining a robust recovery, as these enterprises serve as the fundamental driver of employment and income growth for residents and play a

key part in investment, Chen said.

Strengthening the legal framework, improving law enforcement, and offering direct assistance to companies are all part of the government's comprehensive efforts to create a more conducive environment for the development of market entities, according to the NDRC.

In particular, the legislative process of law on promoting the private economy will be hastened, the commission said, adding that arbitrary charges and fines will not be tolerated.

In the first eight months of the year, the ratio of tax revenue to non-tax revenue, which includes income from fines and forfeitures, was

roughly 6 to 4. The disproportionate dependence on fines and penalties as a means of generating government revenue has created a sense of uncertainty among market players, Chen said.

Establishing a business environment that is guided by market principles and underpinned by a robust legal framework is crucial for bolstering the confidence and trust of market entities, which are the lifeblood of the economy, Chen said.

"The government's multipronged approach has the potential to effectively stabilize expectations and set the stage for a sustainable economic recovery," Chen added.

Yiwu teams up with Yinglin to expand apparel biz

By CHEN YE in Hangzhou
chenye@chinadaily.com.cn

Using upgraded manufacturing techniques such as seamless knitting for apparel like swimwear will help Chinese garment players gain more global market share, industry insiders said.

"We are here with the hope to strengthen cooperation with seamless knitting players in Zhejiang province, and find complementarity," said Shi Fangfang, executive deputy secretary-general of the Jinjiang Swimwear Industry Association.

Shi made the remarks at a recent industry conference in Yiwu, Zhejiang province, which was held to

boost cooperation between swimwear players from Jinjiang in Fujian province and seamless knitting companies in Zhejiang.

Yinglin Fashion is a company located in the Yinglin township of Jinjiang and its products cover close-fitting sportswear, such as swimwear and yoga apparel.

Yinglin is known as a major base for swimwear products and in recent years its activewear industry has also developed rapidly.

Garments produced on specialized seamless knitting machines feature no seams in places such as the side, shoulder and underarm, where seams could have affected comfort and the wearing experience. Products made with seamless

knitting techniques are preferred by the market.

"As one of the world's largest seamless knitting production bases, Yiwu leads the nation in industrial scale, supported by its complete industrial chain and large number of enterprises," said Ke Rongwei, head of Yinglin. "This visit is a good opportunity for us to learn and cooperate."

There are over 1,000 garment processing, textile, chemical fiber and enterprises alike in Yinglin, covering 30 square kilometers. Swimwear and activewear businesses contribute over 20 billion yuan (\$2.82 billion) to the local economy annually.

Apart from the cooperation with Yiwu, Yinglin Fashion has teamed

up with Shengze township in Suzhou, Jiangsu province; Zhili township in Huzhou, Zhejiang; and the Shenzhen Underwear Industry Association, to promote high-quality development in its textile and apparel industry, the company said.

"The best part about our technique is that for us, the production starts from only a single yarn. As the weaving process begins, it continues through to the final product. Therefore, theoretically, we can create a diverse range of products through variations in yarn combinations," said Hong Tingjie, dean of the Yingyun Academy of Yingyun Tech, a company engaged in digitalized knitting.

Influencer economy revives camera market

SHANGHAI — At a bustling camera store in Shanghai, young shoppers crowded around the shelves, eager to get their hands on the latest models.

"My favorite influencer uses this camera to film," said 26-year-old Li Yun while trying out a mirrorless model. "But it's hard to get one. You have to enter a lottery and hope you're lucky enough."

Across China, demand for cameras is reviving. Once sidelined by smartphones, cameras are back in style, fueled by the rise of social media, livestreaming and short videos.

From January to August, China accounted for 23.3 percent of global camera shipments, ranking as the second-largest market after the Americas, according to the Camera and Imaging Products Association (CIPA).

The surge in demand is driven by the country's rapidly developing influencer economy, where likes and shares on social media platforms translate into sales.

New economic models and changing consumer habits are transforming cameras from mere technical tools into fashionable items.

Huang Jing, an influencer with more than 500,000 followers on the lifestyle-sharing platform Xiaohongshu, emphasized the impact of quality cameras on her content. "Using a camera to make vlogs is key for showcasing details of my makeup looks. The clearer the image, the more vibrant my content becomes," said Huang.

Xiaohongshu now boasts over 80 million community sharers, with an impressive 90 percent of its content being user-generated, according to the platform's 2024 trend report.

Moreover, as the tourism industry continues to recover, new "Instagrammable" attractions are emerging across the country, attracting large crowds to capture their memorable experiences.

"In this context, the demand for photographic equipment is steadily increasing," said Wu Feiran of

the Shenzhen Soft Science Development Foundation.

The growing demand is also driving the action camera market, with analysts expecting the global market for such cameras to reach 20.1 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) by 2028, with a compound annual growth rate of 6.1 percent.

Chinese brands like DJI and Insta360 are stepping up to meet this demand, having significant success both domestically and internationally.

Global camera giants like Sony, Canon and Nikon, which now have over 80 percent of the global camera market share, are intensifying their efforts to tap China's booming market.

"We see tremendous opportunities in emerging sectors like livestreaming e-commerce and the influencer-driven economy, where China leads the way," said Takehito Soeda, vice-president of Sony (China).

The influencer economy is essential for optimizing supply chains and meeting evolving consumer needs, said Lan Jianping, deputy director of Zhejiang Development and Planning Institute.

"This shift is crucial for improving efficiency in today's fast-paced market," Lan said.

To further enhance the global competitiveness of new economic models, China's Ministry of Commerce issued the "Three-Year Action Plan for Digital Commerce (2024-26)" this year.

This initiative aims to empower socioeconomic development while contributing to the building of a new development pattern. The new industries, new business formats and new business models, dubbed the "three new" economy, demonstrate vibrant growth potential.

In this evolving landscape, the camera industry is well-positioned for growth. "We believe that every moment recorded tells a story, and in this era, everyone can be a storyteller," said Soeda.

New lab to fill gap in deep-sea R&D capability

By ZHANG XIAOMIN
in Dalian, Liaoning
zhangxiaomin@chinadaily.com.cn

The world's first joint deepwater laboratory for wind, waves and currents, under construction in Dalian, Liaoning province, is expected to fill a gap in China's research and development capabilities in deep-sea engineering, experts said.

The laboratory is part of the Deep-Sea Engineering Innovation Experimental Base project, which is a key initiative by Dalian University of Technology (DUT) to establish a global deep-sea engineering center.

DUT said the laboratory is poised to provide top-notch research and development conditions and high-quality technical services for critical needs such as deep-sea oil and gas resource development, nearshore renewable energy utilization and major transoceanic infrastructure construction.

Covering 16,000 square meters with a building area of 8,100 sq m, the project commenced construction last November and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2026.

Key features include a 50-meter-long, 30 m wide, and 10 m deep comprehensive deep-sea engineering test

pool, an 87.6 m long, 39.5 m wide and 19 m high vertical wind tunnel and an integrated office building.

Currently, the main body of the deep-water pool, excavation support for the massive foundation pit and roof-topping of the office building have been completed.

Sun Bowen, on-site manager of the project from China Construction Industrial and Energy Engineering Group Co Ltd, highlighted the challenges of the deep foundation pit excavation and support for the pool structure.

"Next, we will focus on conducting water pool deformation observations and continuing the construction of the main structure of the office building, aiming to complete all main structures by the end of the year," Sun said.

Jointly funded by DUT and China Three Gorges Corp, the project will create an innovative platform integrating ocean hydrodynamics experiments, marine structural analysis, offshore renewable energy development, and fluid dynamics.

It will feature a deep-sea test pool simulating a comprehensive ocean environment, catering to needs such as deep-sea mineral extraction simulations.

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346-B, Main Ferozpur Road, Lahore, Pakistan.
TEL: +92 (42) 99028000 Fax: +92 (42) 99232541 Email: rizwan.aziz@pma.punjab.gov.pk



was convened in the Punjab Assembly to examine the lease terms of Gymkhana Club, a historical institution occupying 117 acres of prime real estate in the heart of Lahore. The reports presented to the committee revealed that the Gymkhana, covering 960 kanals of government land, is paying only 5,000 rupees annually. The committee raised questions on the Gymkhana matter and set a deadline of one week for the concerned departments to submit all details. The committee was informed that the issue of the Gymkhana had been raised several times but was suppressed due to political influence. The income from the Lahore Gymkhana, established on highly valuable government land, is in the billions, but only fifty paisa per kanal is deposited into the government's account. Chairman of the Standing Committee, Sami Ullah Khan, has made it mandatory for the Secretary of Colonies, Secretary of Housing, and the Deputy Commissioner to present all relevant records at the next session. He also instructed the Secretary of Law to prepare responses to all constitutional aspects and members' questions regarding the leasing of the Gymkhana. Sami Ullah Khan stated that no pressure would be tolerated in the Gymkhana matter, and it will be brought to its logical conclusion. The hearing was initiated under the recently updated Rules of Procedures which grant enhanced powers to assembly committees to

mandate was established during the House session on the 9th of September 2024

members raised questions about the Club's construction activities on state land, noting that no proper permissions had been obtained for building developments. Concerns were also raised about the Club's high membership fees and monthly charges, which generate significant revenue while the Club continues to pay a negligible amount in rent to the state. It was revealed during the session that, according to sources, no audit has ever been conducted of Gymkhana Club's properties or its various structures. The Club has reportedly refused to respond to inquiries from the Public Accounts Committee, which raises further questions about its accountability and transparency. The committee has instructed government departments to provide detailed responses to these concerns at the next hearing. It was stressed that determining the accurate market value of the property is crucial in order to reassess the rent that should be paid to the state. The Law Department has been requested to review all lease agreements and related documents thoroughly to explore the potential for recovering lost revenue and holding the responsible parties accountable for financial discrepancies. Representatives from the Gymkhana Administration are also expected to be invited to the subsequent sessions of the Committee. For the first time in the history of the Punjab Assembly, live coverage of a public interest issue was

further remarked that KPK House has become a stronghold for terrorists, where people commit crimes and live without fear, challenging the rule of the state. "It is unacceptable to defame someone without any accountability," she added. Azma Bukhari criticized that the PTI's propaganda cell operates from abroad. She mentioned the difficulty of discussing false videos and expressed her frustration over the inability to remove false content from social media apps. "I have come here seeking justice. Discussing false videos is very challenging and painful for me," she concluded.

Punjab info minister calls for regulating social media apps



OUR STAFF REPORTER LAHORE

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that social media platforms are making money in Pakistan but are not accountable to anyone. She emphasized that if social media

apps cannot be regulated, they should be shut down. She noted that social media is being regulated in the whole world except Pakistan. Speaking to the media during her appearance at the Lahore High Court, she said, "Despite my two to three months

of struggle, I still have not received any relief. FIA officials come and complain that they cannot question social media apps due to lack of capacity. This highlights the state of social media in Pakistan, where everyone is free and unaccountable." She

Govt transfers land for construction of model bazaars in 13 districts

OUR STAFF REPORTER LAHORE

In a significant move aimed at providing widespread public relief, the Punjab government has officially transferred land for the construction of new Model Bazaars across thirteen districts, including Muzaffargarh, Mandi Bahauddin, Bhawal, Okara, Narowal, Chiniot, Khushk, Chunan, Potohar, Wazirabad, Sharqpur, Jhelum, and Jaranwala. The chief minister has directed authorities to expedite all formalities, ensuring that the construction phase is initiated

in a timely manner, offering essential commodities at prices lower than government-notified rates, making them a vital resource for low- and middle-income families. Naveed Raufat Akhtar, CEO of Model Bazaars, emphasized the urgency of the project during a recent interview, stating, "In line with the Chief Minister's clear directions and under the leadership of Chairman Abul Khaliq, we are moving swiftly. The estimates are finalized, and we will soon present the summary to the Cabinet for formal approval. Our goal is to ensure that construction starts well before Ramadan 2025, so the public can benefit from these facilities."

Honahaar scholarship programme

OUR STAFF REPORTER LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif Monday launched the registration process for a scholarship program aimed at benefiting 30,000 students from 50 public sector universities, as well as medical and graduate colleges. "I have fulfilled another promise from my first speech in the Punjab Assembly," she said while announcing the Honahaar Scholarship Program. She stated that this initiative will help make the dreams of our youth for higher education a reality. The chief minister emphasized that

the launch of the program is a significant milestone in ensuring access to quality education for all talented and deserving students. "The youth are eager for higher education and better job opportunities," she remarked. The scholarships will cover all disciplines, addressing the requirements of the global job market. The program will support students from 50 public sector universities, 16 medical colleges, and 131 graduate colleges. Additionally, meritorious scholarships will be available for students at top private institutions, including LUMS, FAST, COMSATS, NUST, and Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute, among others.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SHORTLISTING OF CONSULTANTS

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR TOURIST GLASS TRAIN FROM RAWALPINDI TO MURREE, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

- The Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMA) is a statutory body established by the Government of the Punjab, Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes of planning, construction, operation and maintenance of mass transit systems in the major cities of the Punjab for providing safe, efficient and comfortable urban transportation systems.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) applications are invited under Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules 2014 from consulting firms having expertise and experience in feasibility study of rail-based transit mobility systems to conduct above listed study.
- Consulting firms may form Association of Consultants with local or international firms to enhance their qualifications and capability subject to a maximum of four (04) firms. One partner will be designated as Lead Partner who shall be a local registered firm.
- EOI document can be downloaded from the PMA website (www.pma.punjab.gov.pk), PPRA website (www.ppra.punjab.gov.pk) and PPRA e-Punjab Acquisition and Disposal System (e-PADS).
- All interested consulting firms are required to register themselves by visiting the link (<https://punjab.procure.gov.pk>) established by PPRA and become a registered supplier under e-PADS. For any queries regarding registration on e-PADS, please contact at: +92-330-410659 and +92-344-4324830.
- The e-applications in the form of PDF file, duly completed, signed, stamped, and in complete conformity with EOI document must be uploaded online on e-PADS well before the submission deadline. Submission of documents on e-PADS shall entirely be the responsibility of the firms themselves. The PMA shall not be held responsible for any issues thereof.
- The e-applications must be submitted through e-PADS on or before 1100 hours PST on November 01, 2024. The e-applications will be publicly opened in the Committee Room of the PMA Head Office at Lahore (address given below), at 1130 hours PST on November 01, 2024.
- A Clarification Meeting shall take place at 1100 hours PST on October 24, 2024 at the PMA Head Office for the applicants who wish to attend.
- This procurement / e-application for pre-qualification shall be carried out as per PPRA Rules 2014.
- There is no fee for downloading EOI documents or for submission of e-applications under the e-procurement system.
- The PMA reserves the right to cancel the tendering process at any stage prior to the final announcement of results.
- All questions/queries/clarifications regarding this procurement / e-application for pre-qualification should be directed to e-PADS or to the PMA's representative whose contact details are given below.

DUNIYA NEWSPAPERS Islamabad 01-10-2024

اوقات نماز

صبح	5:30
ظہر	1:00
عشاء	7:30
حجرت	8:30

پندرہ روزہ روزنامہ دنیا



اسلام آباد کی نئی سڑکوں کی تعمیر کے لیے 100 کروڑ روپے کی بجٹ منظور

اسلام آباد کی نئی سڑکوں کی تعمیر کے لیے 100 کروڑ روپے کی بجٹ منظور کی گئی ہے۔ وفاقی کابینہ نے اس بجٹ کو منظور کیا ہے۔



اسلام آباد کی نئی سڑکوں کی تعمیر کے لیے 100 کروڑ روپے کی بجٹ منظور

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اسلام آباد کی نئی سڑکوں کی تعمیر کے لیے 100 کروڑ روپے کی بجٹ منظور کی گئی ہے۔ وفاقی کابینہ نے اس بجٹ کو منظور کیا ہے۔

symmetry group سیٹری گروپ سیٹا

سیٹری گروپ سیٹا ایک ایسی کمپنی ہے جو پاکستان میں سب سے پہلے سٹریٹجک اور مالیاتی خدمات فراہم کرنے والی کمپنیوں میں سے ایک ہے۔

اس کمپنی کی خدمات مختلف شعبوں میں پھیلائی ہوئی ہیں، جہاں وہ کارپوریٹ اور انڈیویڈیو کلائنٹوں کو مدد فراہم کرتی ہے۔

اس کی خدمات میں مالیاتی مشورے، ٹیکس پلاننگ، اور دیگر سٹریٹجک خدمات شامل ہیں۔

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ٹریٹ ہائی جین ریزر

ہائی ہائی جین آسان بنائے

ٹریٹ ہائی جین ریزر ایک ایسی ریزر ہے جو ہائی ہائی جین اور آسان بنائے کے لیے تیار کی گئی ہے۔

اس ریزر کی تیاری میں سب سے بہتر مواد استعمال کیا گیا ہے، جس کی وجہ سے یہ ریزر آپ کو بہترین ریزرنگ کا تجربہ فراہم کرتی ہے۔

اس ریزر کی تیاری میں سب سے بہتر مواد استعمال کیا گیا ہے، جس کی وجہ سے یہ ریزر آپ کو بہترین ریزرنگ کا تجربہ فراہم کرتی ہے۔

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SHORTLISTING OF CONSULTANTS

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANT SERVICES TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR TOURIST GLASS TRAIN FROM RAWALPINDI TO MERRI, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

1. The Punjab Government (Punjab) is presently only established by the Government of the Punjab, Punjab, Pakistan for the purpose of planning, construction, operation and maintenance of road-based systems in the region of Punjab for providing safe, efficient and comfortable upon transportation facilities.

2. Expression of Interest (EOI) applications are invited under Punjab Government's Regulatory Authority (PRA) Rules 2014 from consulting firms/organisations/individuals in business study of the above said Railway between Rawal Pindi and Merri.

3. Consulting firms/individuals/organisations/individuals who are interested to provide the services and suitable subject to the terms and conditions of the PRA Rules 2014 shall be a short-listed firm.

4. All documents can be downloaded from the Punjab website www.punjab.gov.pk, PRA website www.punjab.gov.pk and PRA's website www.punjab.gov.pk and Punjab Government's website www.punjab.gov.pk.

5. All interested consulting firms/individuals/organisations/individuals are required to register themselves for using the PRA's www.punjab.gov.pk website by PRA and become a registered member under a PRA's ID Card. For any queries regarding PRA's ID Card, please contact PRA's Help Desk at 011-358-1111 or 011-358-1112.

6. The EOI applications in the form of PRA ID Card completed signed stamped and in complete conformity with PRA's Rules 2014 should be submitted online in PRA's ID Card before the submission deadline. Submission of documents after PRA's ID Card shall be the responsibility of the interested firm/individual. The PRA shall not be responsible for any issues thereof.

7. The EOI applications shall be submitted through e-PRA ID Card on or before 10:00 hours PST on November 1, 2024. These applications will be opened by the Committee formed at the PRA Head Office at Lahore (Punjab Government) at 10:00 hours PST on November 1, 2024.

8. A Clarification Meeting shall be held at 10:00 hours PST on October 31, 2024 at the PRA Head Office for the applicants who wish to attend.

9. The procurement ID card application for pre-qualification shall be issued on or after PRA's Rules 2014.

10. There is NO fee for downloading the documents for submission of applications under the PRA's ID Card.

11. The PRA reserves the right to cancel the tendering process at any stage prior to the final announcement of results.

12. All questions regarding the Rules regarding the procurement ID card application for pre-qualification should be directed to e-PRA ID Card at the PRA's Head Office at Lahore (Punjab Government).

PPL-0140

General Manager (Operations)
Punjab Water Transport Authority, 5th Floor, Area G, Lahore Cantt. (Punjab Government)



6 suspected robbers were arrested by police in various encounters across the city on Monday.

YDA sets 2-day salary deadline... The Young Teachers Association (YTA) has given an ultimatum to the provincial government for the release of 100 teachers and 1000 salaries.

Teen lobar collisions with truck, dies... A 17-year-old girl was killed in a collision with a truck on the M-9 motorway near the Jinnah Park interchange.

Wool groups clash estate court... The Pakistan Wool Growers Association (PWGA) and the Pakistan Wool Processors Association (PWPA) have filed a petition in the Sindh High Court.

Saifi Soomro gets back 'lost' paintings

KMC culture director returns paintings to artist

By ANSARUL HAQUE

The municipality, announcing the arrival of the artist Saifi Soomro, who has returned to Karachi after spending several years in London, has announced the return of 100 paintings to him.



Saifi Soomro (left) receives his paintings from KMC officials.

The artist Saifi Soomro, who spent several years in London, has returned to Karachi and has received 100 paintings from the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC).

Ex-governor Ishratul Ebad all set for political comeback

Claims his party will fill political vacuum especially in Karachi

By SAADAT HUSSAIN

Former governor of Sindh, Ishratul Ebad, has announced the formation of a new political party. She has claimed that her party will fill the political vacuum in Karachi.

Family returns from wedding to find house burgled

Thieves stole gold and silver jewelry worth Rs 10 lakh from a house in the North Nazimabad area of Karachi.

Advertisement for 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SHORTLISTING OF CONSULTANTS' for a feasibility study for a tourist glass train from Rawalpindi to Murree, Punjab, Pakistan.

Advertisement titled 'Cattle feed cover for soybean import exposed' discussing the government's plan to import soybean for cattle feed.

Advertisement for 'ASUN leads cycle rally' for the 100th anniversary of the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB).

Advertisement for 'REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS' from the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) for a software development project.

Companies Act, 2017.
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Security Amount	Submission Date / Opening Date
Million PKR	21-10-2024 14:00 / same date 14:30

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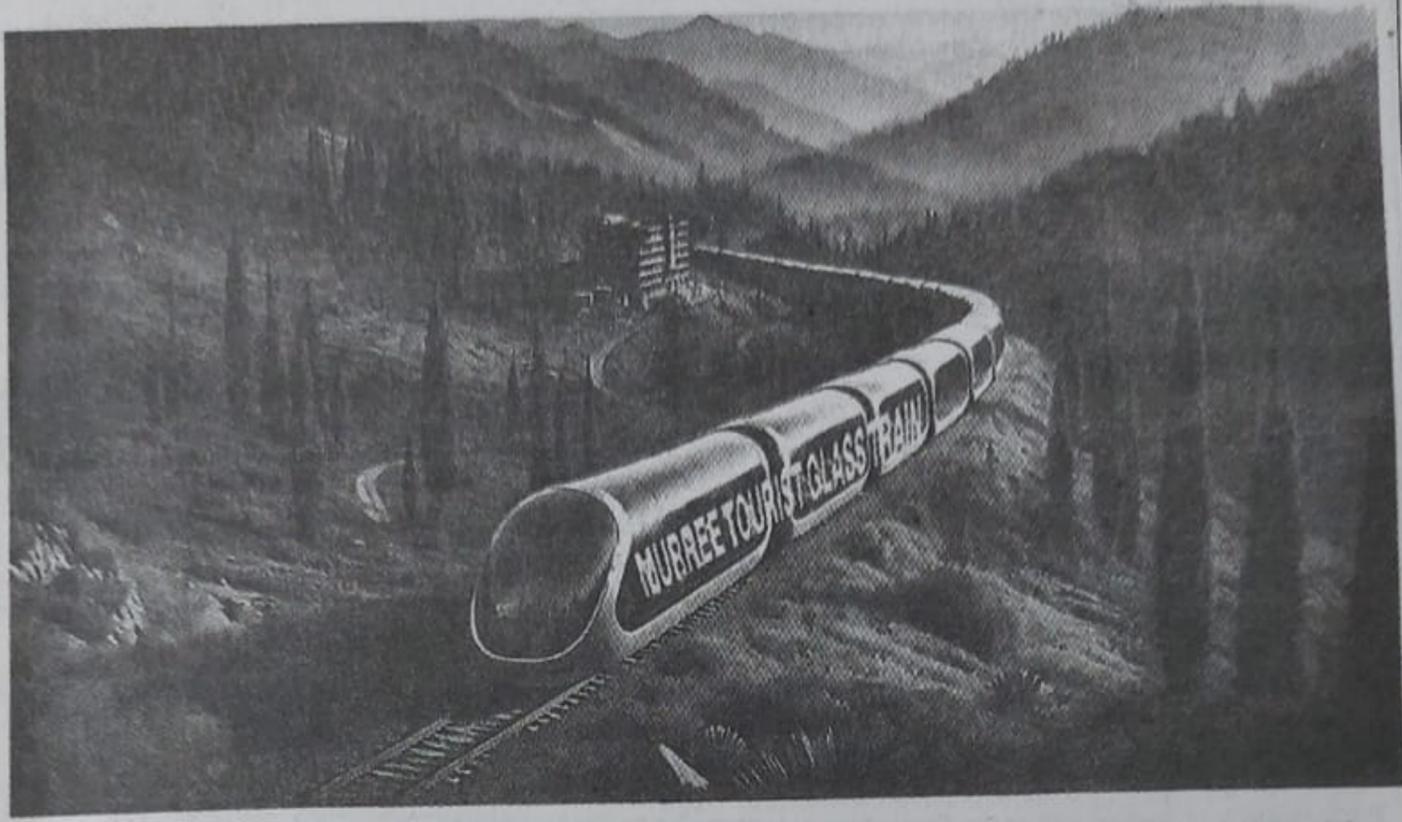
AHMAD
ITENDNER
L HOSPITAL
SALABAD
 ghsfsd@gmail.com
 IPL-9297



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SHORTLISTING OF CONSULTANTS



FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO CONDUCT
**FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR TOURIST GLASS TRAIN FROM
 RAWALPINDI TO MURREE, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN**



- The Punjab Masstransit Authority (PMA) is a statutory body established by the Government of the Punjab, Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes of planning, construction, operation and maintenance of mass transit systems in the major cities of the Punjab for providing safe, efficient and comfortable urban transportation systems.
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- All interested consulting firms are required to register themselves by visiting the link (<https://punjab.eprocure.gov.pk>) established by PPRA and become a registered supplier under e-PADS. For any queries regarding registration on e-PADS, please contact at: +92-336-4110659 and +92-344-4324830.
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- The PMA reserves the right to cancel the tendering process at any stage prior to the final announcement of results.
- All questions/queries/clarifications regarding this procurement / e-application for pre-qualification should be directed to e-PADS or to the PMA's representative whose contact details are given below:

General Manager (Operations)
 Punjab Mass Transit Authority, 5th Floor, Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP)
 346-B, Main Ferozepur Road
 Lahore, Pakistan.
 TEL: +92 (42) 99028000 Fax: +92 (42) 99232541
 Email: rizwan.aziz@pma.punjab.gov.pk
IPL 9345