

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI

Criminal Bail Application No. 859 of 2026

Applicant : Mansoor Akhtar S/o. Muhammad Akhtar
Through Mr. Waseem Abbas, Advocate

Respondent : The State
Through Ms. Seema Zaidi, Addl. P. G.
Sindh a/w Mr. Malik Sadaqat Khan, Special
Prosecutor SSGC.

Date of hearing : 04.05.2026.

Date of order : 04.05.2026.

ORDER

Jan Ali Junejo, J.— Applicant Mansoor Akhtar son of Muhammad Akhtar seeks post-arrest bail in a case bearing Crime No. 42/2023, for offence under section 15/24 GTC & R Act 2016 of P.S SSGC, Karachi. Prior to this, the applicant had sought the pre-arrest bail before the learned Gas Utility Court Karachi Division, which was declined vide order dated 27.02.2026 and applicant was taken into custody.

2. The facts relevant to the present criminal bail application are as follows:

“On 11.08..2023 the complainant Dr. Abdul Rashid Kalwar, Deputy Manager, SSGC, Karachi along with Alam Khan (technical staff) and a police party of SSGC Karachi, acting on spy information, reached Akhtar Hotel situated at Ali Muhammad Goth, Den Rehri, Karachi, at about 12:00 noon. Upon Inspection, it was found that a hotel operating under the name and style of Akhtar Hotel had illegally obtained a direct connection from the SSGC gas main line. Gas was being unlawfully diverted into the hotel premises where one 9-star burner, one 4-star burner, one 32-nozzle stove, rubber pipe approximately 16 feet long, additional pipe approximately 30 feet long and a suction (sucker) machine used for increasing gas pressure were installed and operational for preparation of tea and other food items. The illegal gas connection was disconnected by the technical staff. The above-mentioned articles were taken into possession and handed over to SIP Muhammad Khan Lodhi, who prepared the memo of seizure at the spot, Photographs of the crime scene were taken and an inspection report was prepared The name of the owner of the business was disclosed as Mansoor Akhtar son of Akhtar, who was not present at the spot at the time of inspection. Thereafter, the raiding team returned to the police station, where the FIR was formally registered.

3. Learned counsel for the applicant submits that the applicant is innocent and has been falsely implicated in the present case; that no nexus whatsoever exists between the applicant and the alleged

commission of the offence; that the applicant has already paid 50% of the alleged liability through pay orders; and that the offence with which the applicant has been charged does not fall within the prohibitory clause. He, therefore, prays that the applicant be admitted to bail.

4. Learned Special Prosecutor, SSGC, while supporting the submissions of learned counsel for the applicant, has extended his no-objection to the grant of post-arrest bail.

5. Heard. Record perused.

6. It is contended that the applicant has paid an amount of Rs. 300,000/- (Rupees Three Lac only), being 50% of the alleged liability, through pay order, which lends support to his plea for bail.

7. In view of the partial payment made by the applicant, coupled with the no-objection extended by the learned Special Prosecutor, SSGC, and keeping in view the principles laid down under Section 497(2) Cr.P.C., the applicant has succeeded in making out a case of further inquiry. Accordingly, the applicant is admitted to post-arrest bail subject to furnishing solvent surety in the sum of Rs. 100,000/- (Rupees One Lac only) and a personal recognizance bond in the like amount to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court.

8. Before parting, it is observed that the findings recorded hereinabove are purely tentative in nature and shall not prejudice the case of either party during the course of trial. The learned trial Court shall decide the matter independently, strictly in accordance with law, and without being influenced by any observation made in this order.

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