

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI

Criminal Bail Application No.2348 of 2025

Applicant : *Aftab Ahmed* through Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, advocate

Respondent : The State through Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Awan, Additional Prosecutor General Sindh

Complainant : Syed Raza Imam (through his legal heirs) through M/s. Shaikh Jawaid Mir, Agha Atta Muhammad Khan and Ms. Samreen, advocates

Date of Hearing : 06.04.2026

Date of order : 20.04.2026

ORDER

Omar Sial, J. This is the second bail application filed by Aftab Ahmed. The first was dismissed on 26.05.2025 when his counsel withdrew the bail application (Crl. Bail App No. 126 of 2023) filed by him. The only ground raised in the present application is that of statutory delay.

2. The applicant has been in custody since 22.11.2019. Initially, a terrorism section was included in the F.I.R., leading to a dispute over whether the incident was covered by anti-terrorism legislation. The High Court held that it was not, and the case was transferred to the ordinary court on 20.01.2022. The learned trial judge, in his order dated 15.07.2025, wherein he dismissed the application on the ground of statutory delay, observed that the delay in the trial has been mainly due to the accused side. Be that as it may, the trial should have concluded by now.

3. It is appropriate at this stage that the learned trial court be directed to conclude the trial within one month from the date of this order, even if it requires a day-to-day hearing. No adjournments shall be granted by the trial court to either side. In

the event that the co-accused seeks an adjournment on any ground whatsoever, it should not be granted, and if the co-accused remains absent, their earlier bail, even if granted by the High Court, should be recalled by the learned trial court. The investigating officer is directed to produce all his witnesses on each and every day of the trial. A fine of Rs. 50,000 should be imposed on the investigating officer by the learned trial court if he fails to produce a witness on any date. At the end of the month, the learned trial court shall file its report through the learned MIT-1, confirming that the trial is complete or stating the reason it could not be completed.

4. The bail application is dismissed. The applicant may repeat this application one month after the date of this order.

5. A copy of this order should be sent to the (i) learned trial court (ii) the learned MIT-1 (iii) the Acting Prosecutor General Sindh (iv) S.S.P. Investigation and (v) the investigating officer of the case, for information and compliance.

JUDGE