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Heartland

HESCO CEO Reviews Anti-Heartstroke Measures During Surprise Visit To Hyderabad Subdivisions

Money

Over 18,000 Retailers Enroll In FBR's Tajir Dost Scheme

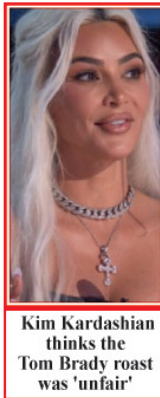
NATIONAL

Maryam Expresses Discontent With Price Control Committee's Performance

SPORTS

PAK vs ENG: I am comfortable with bowling at any position, says Imad Wasim

Sindh Government Has Allocated Rs3 Billion For Karachi Safe City Project: Law Minister



Kim Kardashian thinks the Tom Brady roast was 'unfair'



Hamas' Armed Wing Claims 'Large Rocket Barrage' Fired At Tel Aviv

CAIRO/ JERUSALEM: Hamas said it launched missiles at Tel Aviv on Sunday, prompting sirens to sound in the Israeli city for the first time in four months as the Palestinian group sought to show military strength despite Israel's Gaza offensive.

The Israeli military said eight projectiles were identified crossing from the area of Rafah, the southern tip of the Gaza Strip where Israel kept up operations despite a ruling by the top UN court ordering it to stop attacking the city.

The Israeli military said a number of the projectiles were intercepted. Israeli emergency services said they had received no reports of casualties.



On Sunday, Israeli strikes killed at least five Palestinians in Rafah, according to local media sources. Israeli tanks have probed around the edges of the city, close to the main southern crossing point into Egypt, but have not yet entered the city in force.

In a statement on its Telegram channel, the Hamas al-Qassam Brigades said the rockets were launched in response to "Zionist massacres against civilians".

Hamas-affiliated Al-Aqsa TV said the rockets were launched from the Gaza Strip.

Rafah is located about 100 km (60 miles) south of Tel Aviv.

Israel says it wants to root out Hamas fighters holed up in Rafah and rescue hostages it says are being held in the area, but its assault has worsened the plight of civilians and caused an international outcry.

Following the rocket salvo, Israel's headline public security minister Itamar Ben Gvir - who is not part of Israel's war cabinet - urged the army to hit Rafah harder.

Nearly 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive, Gaza's health ministry says. Israel launched the operation after Hamas-led fighters attacked southern Israeli communities on Oct 7, killing around 1,200 people and seizing more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Fighting also continued on Sunday in the northern Gaza area of Jabalya, where heavily built up area which saw weeks of intense combat earlier in the war. During one raid, the military said it found a weapons storage site with dozens of rocket parts and weapons located in a school.

It denied statements by Hamas that Palestinian fighters had abducted an Israeli soldier.

Efforts to agree a halt to the fighting and return more than 100 hostages still held in Gaza have been blocked for weeks but there were some signs of movement following meetings between Israeli and US intelligence officials and the prime minister of Qatar.

An official with knowledge of the matter said a decision had been taken to resume the talks this week based on new proposals from Egyptian and Qatari mediators, and with "active US involvement."

However, a Hamas official played down the report, telling Reuters: "It is not true." —RT/Agency

Pakistan Urges Afghanistan To Extradite TTP Terrorists Involved In Besham Attack

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday demanded that Afghanistan take "action" against the terror group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), including its so-called leader, for its role in recent terrorist attacks in the country, including a suicide bombing of a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Besham.

"We demand that the interim Taliban government arrest the TTP leaders, including its chief, Noor Wali Mehsud and hand them over to Pakistan in order to maintain friendly relations between the two countries," Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi told a press conference in Lahore, along with senior security officials.



On March 26, a vehicle-borne suicide bomber targeted a convoy escorting Chinese engineers in the remote Besham area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, killing six people, including the vehicle driver.

The Chinese engineers were en route to their camp in Dasu - the district headquarters of the Upper Kohistan district of K-P - from Islamabad. Their vehicle was hit by an explosive-laden vehicle, coming from the opposite direction, near Lahore Naha on the Karakoram Highway.

Islamabad has long accused Kabul of failing to take

action against TTP terrorists who allegedly hide and operate from Afghanistan. Kabul denies the accusations.

Naqvi said that the TTP was behind the attack on Chinese nationals in Besham, and that the terrorists involved have been apprehended. He revealed that the suicide attack on March 26 targeting Chinese engineers was orchestrated by TTP terrorists, with operations coordinated from Afghanistan.

"We have irrefutable evidence of this," he said.

Naqvi expressed serious concerns about the use of Afghan soil for attacks on Chinese nationals. "This is a matter of grave concern for us," he stated.

The interior minister said that Pakistan has raised the issue with Afghanistan's interim government, urging them to take action against these terrorists, but so far, there has been no positive response.

He said that terrorists, including those from TTP, are being supported in border areas by the neighbouring country. "We have numerous pieces of evidence supporting this," he asserted.

Naqvi said that the TTP is operating against Pakistani interests and is involved in attacks on Chinese citizens and other acts of terrorism.

He warned that terrorists are exploiting the weaknesses of Afghanistan's interim government, creating escalating threats to Pakistan's security from across the border.

"These cross-border threats are increasingly complicating our national security," he said.

In light of these attacks, the minister said that Pakistan has intensified border surveillance, although terrorists still manage to find ways to infiltrate. "The government of Pakistan is well aware of the forces trying to undermine Pakistan-China relations," Naqvi noted.

He emphasised the critical importance of Pakistan-China relations, stating that the security of Chinese nationals is a top priority. "We have implemented new standard operating procedures (SOPs) and are enforcing them strictly," he added. "We are taking all possible measures to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals." —RT/Agency

-Isn't that what Ali Zaidi also said before dumping Imran? Abandoning Imran Khan Will Never Happen For Me: Zulfi Bukhari



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Zulfi Bukhari on Sunday stated that going against party founder can never become a reality, media reported.

In his statement on social media platform X, Bukhari stated that, "Alhamdulillah, my family is completely safe at this time, they are under no pressure and no danger over them."

Bukhari termed the Al-Qadir Trust case 'fabricated', saying that attempts were being made to convict the former prime minister in this case.

Without naming anyone, the PTI leader said that some individuals want him to 'testify' against PTI founder Imran Khan, but it will never happen. He highlighted that the former prime minister remains the only truth in the country, and those who opposed him were disgraced and 'erased' from existence. —RT/Agency

Iranian President Raisi and FM Abdollahian Were True Friends Of Pakistan: COAS General Asim Munir

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has described late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi and foreign minister Amir Abdollahian who died in last week's helicopter crash as "true friends of Pakistan," according to the military's media wing.

The army chief's statement came during a telephonic conversation with Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Sunday.

The COAS extended deep condolences over the sad and unfortunate incident of the helicopter crash on May 19 which led to the demise of president Raisi, FM Abdollahian and other senior officials.

Gen Munir expressed that the Iranian president and the foreign minister were exceptional leaders and true friends of Pakistan, as



per the ISPR.

The COAS highlighted that the loss of both the leaders and others was truly tragic and irreparable. "[The] COAS on behalf of all ranks of Pakistan Army extended prayers for the departed souls and well wishes for the bereaved families."

The army chief further said that Pakistan has historic, cultural and brotherly ties with Iran and the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Iran have always stood together.

General Bagheri thanked the COAS for sharing grief and vowed to continue the cooperation between the two militaries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also undertook a day-long visit to Iran earlier this week to offer condolences to the country's leadership on the death of the top officials including Raisi who was laid to rest on Thursday in his home town Mashhad.

The 63-year-old died alongside his foreign minister and six others after their helicopter went down in the country's mountainous northwest while returning from a dam inauguration on the border with Azerbaijan. —RT/Agency

Two Soldiers, Including Captain, Martyred In Peshawar IBO

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers, including a captain of the Pakistan Army, embraced martyrdom during an intelligence-based operation conducted by the security forces in Peshawar district's Hassan Khel area on Sunday, said the military's media wing in a statement.

A statement issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that the operation was launched on the "reported presence of terrorists" in the area.

It added, during the operation, the troops "effectively engaged" with the terrorists and killed five of them while injuring three others.

"However, during intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Captain Hussain Jahangir (age: 25 years, resident of Rahim Yar Khan District) along with another brave son of soil, Havildar Shafiq Ullah (age: 36 years, resident of District Karak), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and em-



braced Shahadat," said the ISPR.

The military's media wing said that sanitisation operation is being carried out in the area to eliminate any remaining terrorists.

"Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," said the ISPR.

At least 92% of all fatalities and 80% of attacks, including those related to terrorism and security forces operations, were recorded in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces in the first quarter of 2024.

These key findings were revealed in the Q1 2024 Security Report issued by Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), detailing that the country witnessed at least 432 violence-linked fatalities and 370 injuries among civilians, security personnel and outlaws resulting from as many as 245 incidents of terror attacks and counter-terror operations.

Among the 432 fatalities, 281 included that of civilians and security forces personnel. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Reaffirms Commitment To 'One China' Policy



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the "One China" policy stressing Islamabad's principled support to Beijing on the Taiwan issue and terming the Island nation as an inalienable part of China.

"Pakistan has always extended its principled support to the Chinese position on Taiwan and will continue to do so. Pakistan adheres to the 'One China' policy," PM Shehbaz said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter.

The premier further reiterated Pakistan's support for the Chinese government's efforts for national reunification stressing that the so-called elections or transition of the self-proclaimed government in Taiwan do not change the objective facts on the Taiwan issue.

The One China policy

PM Shehbaz referred to translates to diplomatic acknowledgement and support for Beijing's stance that only one Chinese government - a key aspect of Beijing's policy-making and diplomatic standing and a fundamental pillar of its relations with the United States.

As per the BBC, Taiwan, which began its "separate" rule after the nationalists retreated to the Island nation following the Chinese Civil War, is considered by China as its part which is destined to be unified with the mainland.

Under the said policy, a country which intends to have diplomatic ties with China cannot continue to have relations with Taiwan as the latter, Beijing maintains, is a part of mainland China. —RT/Agency

Emirs Of Qatar And Kuwait Accept Shehbaz's Invitation To Visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Emir of Kuwait Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Sunday accepted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's invitation to pay a visit to Pakistan.

During separate meetings with the prime minister in Islamabad, Kuwait's Ambassador to Pakistan Nassar Abdulrahman Jasser Almutairi and Qatar's Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khatir conveyed these messages.

During the meeting, both envoys presented letters to the premier wherein the emirs expressed their intention to visit Pakistan on mutually agreed dates.

Upon receiving the letter, the premier highlighted his recent meeting with the Kuwaiti emir on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's special meeting in Riyadh last month.

PM Shehbaz also expressed satisfaction that the upcoming meeting of



extended an invitation to emir of Kuwait to visit Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz also sought the implementation of bilateral agreements worth \$10 billion inked between Pakistan and Kuwait in November last year.

The premier discussed bilateral ties and called for concerted efforts from both sides to ensure the early implementation of seven agreements.

He said that Pakistan attached great importance to its historic and deep-rooted ties with Kuwait. —RT/Agency

PPP Delegation Meets Shehbaz To Discuss Federal Budget

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and demanded for a people-friendly budget for the next year, media reported on Sunday.

The prime minister briefed the PPP delegation about the next federal budget.

The delegation included former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Syed Naveed Qamar, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Senator Sherry Rehman.

Sources said that the PPP delegation presented the party's recommendations for the budget.

"The delegation fought the case of Sindh in meeting with the



prime minister," PPP sources said.

The delegation demanded increase in allocation of funds and more development projects for Sindh in the budget.

The party delegation also demanded allocation of more funds for the projects for Sindh's flood affected persons.

"Lesser funds were allocated for the flood victims in the budget previous year," they said.

The prime minister assured consultation over the PPP demands, sources added. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Adviser to PM on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah and Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Naeem were also present in the meeting. —RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: View of a clash between two groups of the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI), outside the HCCI Office.-RT

Larkana Journalists Demand Justice For Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Larkana Press Club and the Larkana Union of Journalists held a protest demonstration demanding justice for Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani, a journalist who was brutally murdered near Mirpur Mathelo.

Addressing the protest, several leaders including President of Larkana Press Club Murtaza Kalhoro, Vice President Dr. Badar Shaikh, General Secretary Naveed Larik, Finance Secretary Abdul Qadir Jagirani, M. Younis Detho, Mashooq Odhano, S. Iqbal Babu, Muhammad Ashiq Pathan, Munir Ahmed Soomro, Zafar Abro, Sarkash Sadiyah, Munawar Rind, Ayaz Sarwar, Moazam Sultan Bukhari, Syed Sabir Shah, Syed Javed Shah, and Tariq Mehmood Durrani, voiced their concerns.

The leaders emphasized that Nasrullah Gadani was martyred for performing his journalistic duties with integrity and dedication. They called on the authorities to take immediate action to apprehend the attackers and their accomplices responsible for this heinous act.

The protestors underscored the increasing dangers faced by journalists in Sindh and demanded enhanced security measures to protect media professionals. They vowed to continue their struggle for justice until the perpetrators are brought to book, urging the government and law enforcement agencies to prioritize the safety and security of journalists.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Qasimabad are holding a protest demonstration for the recovery of Tariq Jatoi as soon as possible, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

Conflict Erupts In PPP District Badin As Information Secretary Attacks UC President

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A significant altercation occurred in Badin yesterday when the Information Secretary of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) district Badin allegedly attacked the Union Council (UC) President in the presence of a party MNA and MPA. The incident took place at the residence of Sardar Haji Rasool Baksh Chaudhry, where several party leaders and workers had gathered.

MNA Haji Muhammad Ramzan Chaudhry and Taluka President Taj Muhammad Mallah were present when the fight erupted. The UC President, Sardar Haji Rasool Baksh Chaudhry, expressed his grievances over the recent appointment of Mir Mallah as the UC President of Muhammad Khan Bhurgari, which occurred during a program attended by the Chief Minister of Sindh in Hyderabad. Chaudhry argued that he was the rightful

president and that his replacement violated party protocols.

Dada Abro, the Information Secretary, denied the allegations, calling them a pre-planned conspiracy. The situation escalated into a physical confrontation, but other PPP leaders and workers intervened to prevent further violence.

After the incident, Mr. Abro spoke to journalists, asserting that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had directed that development schemes should be managed by the presidents of all union councils. Abro accused a particular faction within the party of plotting to undermine his position and corrupt the party. He specifically mentioned Rafiq Jamali, brother-in-law of the Mir Mallah group, as being illegitimately appointed as president without proper procedure.

Abro filed a written complaint to the district and taluka presidents, alleging

that Mir Mallah and Murtaza Jamali had threatened him, subjected him to severe violence, and attempted to kill him. He appealed to PPP Sindh President Nisar Ahmad Khuro and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, emphasizing his long-standing loyalty to the party and decrying the humiliation and violence he faced in the presence of senior party members.

In response to the allegations, PPP leader Mir Mallah downplayed the incident, describing it as an internal party matter and not uncommon in PPP meetings. Despite the gravity of the situation, no official statement has been issued by the PPP leadership regarding the resolution of this conflict.

The incident underscores the internal strife and factionalism within the party, raising concerns about the stability and unity of the PPP in the Badin district.

Daulatpur Journalists Demand Justice for Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Journalists in Daulatpur staged a boisterous protest demanding justice for Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani, a journalist who was tragically murdered near Mirpur Mathelo. The demonstration saw participation from prominent local journalists, including Mehboob Jokhio, Mir Murtaza Jikhio, Muhammad Ali Jokhio, and Niaz Unar, along with leaders from various organizations.

The protestors expressed deep concern over the increasing insecurity faced by journalists in Sindh. They highlighted the urgent need for authorities to apprehend the murderers of Nasrullah Gadani. The demonstrators made it clear that if swift action is not taken, they plan to escalate their protests.

The journalists called for immediate and decisive action from law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of media personnel and to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice. The protest serves as a stark reminder of the risks journalists face in their line of duty and the pressing need for greater protection and security for members of the press in the region.

HESCO CEO Reviews Anti-Heatstroke Measures During Surprise Visit To Hyderabad Subdivisions



HYDERABAD: Muhammad Roshan Otho, the new Chief Executive Officer of the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO), conducted a number of surprise visits to various subdivisions in Hyderabad to review ongoing measures against heatstroke amidst the intense heatwave. During his visit, he assessed the work being carried out at the Latifabad Rizvi Subdivision and commended the dedication of HESCO officers and staff who were diligently performing their duties despite the extreme heat and it being a holiday.

CEO Otho issued directives to all the officers concerned to promptly address any issues related to faulty transformers or feeders in any subdivision, ensuring full relief to citizens. He emphasized the urgent repair of burnt-out transformers and made it clear that electricity theft would not be tolerated, warning that legal action would be taken against anyone found involved in such activities.

He was accompanied by EC Circle One Amer Memon, Xen Latifabad One Farooq Tunio, SDO Rizvi Tahir Habib, PRO Sadiq Kambar, and PSO Faheem, along with social figure Muhammad Naveed Sheikh and former trustee and secretary of Saylani Welfare, Khuram Lodhi.

During the visit, Muhammad Naveed Sheikh requested CEO Otho to ensure that areas in Hyderabad with high recovery rates be made free of load-shedding. In response, CEO Otho assured his cooperation, stating that areas with full recovery would be exempt from load-shedding if consumers paid their bills on time and avoided theft. He highlighted the SITE Area Hyderabad Industries Feeder as an example, which is load-shedding free due to its excellent recovery rate.

Muhammad Naveed Sheikh also appealed to the public to pay their electricity bills on time and report any instances of theft, supporting HESCO's efforts to eliminate electricity theft, as its eradication is impossible without public cooperation.

NSC Ward Inaugurated At DHQ Hospital Kotri With WHO's Support



By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: In a significant development aimed at improving healthcare services, the Nutritional Support Center (NSC) ward was inaugurated at the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital in Kotri. The inauguration was led by Dr. Barkat Ali Laghari, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

The event was attended by several notable medical professionals, including Dr. Muhammad Bachal Shaikh (AMS), Dr. Adibah (AMS), Dr. Irfan Janvri (DMS), and Dr. Aftab Jamali (MS-II), who lauded the joint efforts of WHO in enhancing healthcare services. They emphasized the importance of the new NSC ward in addressing malnutrition and related health issues among patients.

The new ward is equipped with modern facilities and staffed by trained experts provided through the collaboration with WHO. This initiative aims to deliver essential nutritional care to patients suffering from malnutrition, ensuring they receive the comprehensive support they need.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Barkat Ali Laghari expressed his gratitude towards WHO for their pivotal role in establishing the NSC ward. "We are thankful for WHO's support in establishing this facility at the hospital. This will greatly enhance our ability to provide necessary nutritional care to our patients," he said. The inauguration of the NSC ward marks a significant step forward in the ongoing efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure and services in Kotri, particularly for those suffering from malnutrition and related health conditions.

Condolence Reference Held In Badin For Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi And Other Martyrs

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Under the auspices of the Khwaja Shia Twelve Jamaat Badin, a condolence reference was held to honor the memory of Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi and other martyrs who tragically lost their lives in a helicopter accident. The event included prayer services and sacrifices in tribute to the fallen, along with expressions of homage and appreciation for their contributions.

During the gathering, the speakers highlighted the exemplary qualities of Dr. Ibrahim Raisi, describing him as a paragon of virtue and a steadfast proponent of truth. They praised his efforts to propagate the message of justice and righteousness globally, often standing against the conspiracies of the United States and Israel, and exposing their actions to the world.

The speakers emphasized that Shaheed Ibrahim Raisi was a product of the Islamic revolution and a true leader of the movement. They lauded his relentless dedication to public service, noting his tireless work ethic and his commitment to aiding the poor in remote areas. They remembered his efforts to ensure justice and equity, highlighting his extensive service in various governmental roles since the establishment of the Islamic government.

As the Chief Justice of Iran, Dr. Raisi set remarkable standards of justice, earning widespread respect and admiration. He played a pivotal role in strengthening Iran-Pakistan relations, working diligently to promote and stabilize ties between the two nations.

The condolence reference concluded with prayers for the martyrs, honoring their legacy and praying for their eternal reward. The event served as a solemn reminder of the impactful lives led by Ibrahim Raisi and his companions, and their enduring influence on the principles of justice and truth.

Five Abducted Bank Employees Return Home

KANDHKOT: In a significant development, five employees of a micro-finance bank, who had been kidnapped from the Indus Highway last month, have safely returned home, it was reported on Sunday.

The return of the abducted employees has brought immense relief and joy to their families, who had been living in a state of constant fear and uncertainty. The families expressed their happiness and gratitude upon the return of their loved ones. Interestingly, the police appeared to be unaware of the return of the kidnapped employees, raising questions about their role and awareness in the matter.

Earlier, the families of the victims had revealed that the kidnappers had contacted them, demanding a ransom of Rs8 million for the release of the hostages. This revelation had added to the distress of the families, who were already grappling with the loss and uncertainty of their loved ones' whereabouts.

Sources have indicated that the release of the abducted individuals was facilitated by the involvement of political and tribal influential persons, along with the payment of the abandoned ransom. The specifics of the negotiations and the role of these influential figures remain unclear, but their involvement was crucial in securing the safe return of the bank employees.

The relatives of the kidnapped bank employees had previously taken to protesting by blocking a section of the Indus Highway in Kashmir. They expressed their frustration and anger over the police's failure to recover their loved ones. The protesters highlighted that the victims, Altaf Ahmad Golo, Alam Golo, Gulab Dahani, Farman Ali Langahi, and Shah Nawaz Nasseerani, who were working as recovery officers for the micro-finance bank, were abducted by bandits and taken to a riverine area (riverine forests) of Sindh has long been a notorious safe haven for criminals. These areas have recently seen an uptick in criminal activities, with bandits becoming increasingly bold in challenging authorities and engaging in kidnappings for ransom and other violent crimes. Despite the grave threat posed by these criminals to the safety and security of adjacent areas and inter-provincial traffic, the authorities have yet to effectively address and eliminate the menace. The return of the bank employees is a rare piece of positive news in an otherwise grim situation.

However, it underscores the need for a more robust and effective response from law enforcement agencies to tackle the rampant criminal activities in the katcha areas and ensure the safety of citizens.—RT

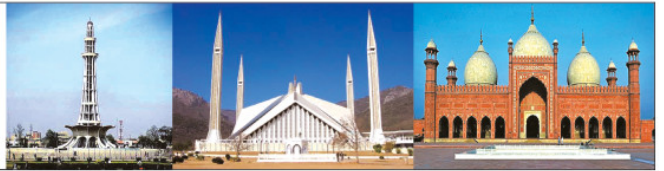


HYDERABAD: Residents of GOR Colony are holding a protest demonstration for the acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT



LARKANA: Political Secretary to PPP Chairman, Jameel Ahmed Soomro is listening to the problems of the public during an open katchery program held at the Awami Markaz Ghalib Nagar.-RT

NATIONAL



PTI's Yasmin Rashid Returns To Kot Lakhpat Jail Amid Controversy Over Early Discharge

LAHORE: PTI Punjab President Yasmin Rashid was discharged from Lahore's Services Hospital on Sunday after doctors were "pressured" to do so by a senior police officer, her lawyer Rana Mudassar alleged.

Rashid was hospitalised on Wednesday after she fell sick in Kot Lakhpat Jail, allegedly due to the lack of timely treatment.



She has been in prison for almost a year now in connection with multiple cases against her regarding the events of May 9, 2023, when nationwide protests and riots broke out after ex-premier Imran Khan's arrest.

Rashid was first detained on May 12 last year under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance and re-arrested the next day for alleged involvement in the May 9 riots.

On Wednesday, Rashid's lawyer had alleged that the 72-year-old senior PTI leader, who is a cancer survivor, was not provided treatment by jail authorities despite continuous vomiting and stomach issues.

He alleged that the bed at the hospital was "uncomfortable and broken" and the conditions had aggravated her back pain.

Mudassar said that doctors had said Rashid was required to remain in the hospital for "another two to three days as further investigations were needed as the infection was major".

He added that while the PTI leader's condition was comparatively better, doctors had advised further tests.

"She was under treatment when, suddenly, it was reported yesterday that a journalist came to meet her on their own [...]. It is not in our knowledge how they met," he said.

"I have come to know through various family and hospital sources that the deputy inspector general operations took [the matter] very seriously and aggressively, and 'managed' the doctors - more so pressured (sic) rather than managed as the doctors were saying 'we will keep her for two to three days more' [...]. So today, despite it being a holiday, doctors called them in the morning at 8am and discharged her," he said.

The lawyer further said that they had waited for quite some time so that Rashid could be taken back in an ambulance but the officials "put her in the same van that was parked in the scorching sunlight and took her [back to jail]."

The lawyer lamented that the PTI leader was not being given her "basic rights", saying that it was the state's responsibility to do so.

He highlighted that Rashid's family was also concerned about her well-being and if she would be kept jailed in the same conditions, which may lead to a repeat of such an illness and "could potentially be deadly".

"Doctors are of the same opinion that taking care of her is very important," he said.

It should be noted that Rashid is on a judicial remand, which means that it is the Kot Lakhpat Jail's administration - and not the police - that is responsible for her custody.—RT/Agency

Maryam Expresses Discontent With Price Control Committee's Performance



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz showed her displeasure over the performance of price control committees across the province.

According to sources, the price control committees failed to implement the government prices of edible items in the markets.

The sources said that the fruits and vegetables are being sold on higher prices in the markets and middleman and bureaucracy are responsible for the performance of price control committees across the province.

The chief minister has decided to revamp the system of price control committees in the province.

"Only one officer would be held responsible for inflation and higher prices in the markets after revamping the system," the sources said.—RT/Agency

Gandapur And Mohsin Naqvi Meet

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has met with Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

KP CM visited the Ministry of Interior and met with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Minister for Energy Awaiz Laghari was also present during the meeting.

During the meeting both sides exchanged views on KP province affairs and electricity load shedding and other crisis were also discussed.



Both sides have pledged to solve the matters with cooperation. KP CM Ali Gandapur and Interior Minister have announced to hold another meeting on Monday.—RT/Agency

Saif Dismisses Sharif's Ambition To Overthrow Imran Khan And Gandapur

PESHAWAR: Barrister Dr Saif, the adviser on information to the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stated on Sunday that the Sharif family's ambition to exclude PTI founder Imran Khan and Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur from politics would never materialise.

In a statement released here, Saif highlighted that despite concerted efforts by conspirators, the KP chief minister actively participated in the Special Investment Facilitation Council meeting, given his permanent membership in the SIFC.

Saif underscored that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's significance in the SIFC couldn't be overlooked.

He noted that Imran Khan and Ali Amin Gandapur had become a nightmare for Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her uncle Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as they could not sideline them from politics.

Saif observed that even while in power, those who stole the mandate were apprehensive of the incarcerated PTI founder.—RT/Agency



Government To Empower Youth Through Education And Skills: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday announced that the government was committed to providing the youth with advanced education, digital training and equal employment opportunities to prepare them for future challenges.

He emphasized that nations with fewer resources have surpassed Pakistan because of their political stability and continuity of policies, said a news release.



In contrast, Pakistan has suffered from internal discord and extremism due to political instability and lack of policy continuity.

The minister highlighted that visionary long-term plans like Vision 2010 and Vision 2025 were never fully implemented.

Addressing a ceremony at University of Narowal where laptops were distributed to students under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, Professor Iqbal criticized the 2018 elections, labeling them as fraudulent and responsible for imposing an incompetent government on Pakistan.

This government, he said, wreaked havoc on the economy, causing immense suffering for the 240 million citizens.

"The present government has realigned the country's direction, bringing stability and improvement across various sectors", Ahsan Iqbal said.

Economic ties with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar and China are being restored, and the stock market is reaching new heights, reflecting the confidence of both domestic and international investors in the government's policies.

Professor Iqbal highlighted the government's vision to provide a digital platform to the youth, enabling them to propel Pakistan into the world's top ten economies by its 100th anniversary.

He said record funds have been allocated for higher education, with plans to establish universities in every district and institutions for technical education. Laptops are being distributed on merit, with options for students to purchase on easy installments if they do not qualify on merit. The initiative aims to equip the youth with digital technology for employment, he said.

While addressing the issue of intolerance and unrest in Pakistan, a country founded in the name of Islam, he stressed that Islam signifies peace and brotherhood. The organization and harmony in the universe exemplify these principles.

By adopting these principles of organization and mutual cooperation, society can achieve peace and progress, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal urged the students to prioritize research over merely obtaining degrees, expressing pride in the day their research articles are published in international journals.—RT/Agency

Ji To Launch Movement For Constitutional Supremacy Post Eid



LAHORE: The Jamaat-e-Islami announced on Sunday to start a movement for the constitutional supremacy after Eidul Azha.

This remark was made by the party's chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman in a presser in Lahore.

Ji mir said the country has been suffering from varied forms of slavery for the past 76 years because the elites have taken a complete hold.

He said those who have come to power through rigging cannot stem the country out of crisis as they do not enjoy the trust of the people.

He said the incumbent rulers who have come to power through the form-47s wanted to develop ties with India while claiming that it was the agenda of United States.

He applauded the role of South Africa in taking Israel to ICJ as the problem of Gaza was a humanitarian one while also lambasting the Pakistani rulers for not criticizing Israel, let alone at the forefront.

He said "the supremacy of the constitution is very important as if the country runs constitutionally, it is better for everyone and when it is isolated, both the country and the institutions are ruined."

He said Pakistan can reduce its ever-increasing gas import bills if it completes Pak-Iran gas pipeline.—RT/Agency

ASF Thwarts Heroin Smuggling Attempt At Multan Airport

MULTAN: The Airports Security Force (ASF) on Sunday successfully foiled a smuggling attempt at Multan Airport, recovering 950 grams of ice heroin from a passenger of a Dubai-bound flight, media reported.

The passenger, identified as Mohammad Ramzan, had expertly concealed the heroin within the iron rods of his bag.

However, ASF personnel detected and recovered the drugs during a thorough search of his luggage.

Following the preliminary investigation, the accused named Mohammad Ahsan, was handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) authorities for further legal process.

Last week, the Airport Security Forces (ASF) successfully thwarted a drug smuggling bid and arrested a hidden in a dough-knead Dubai-bound passenger at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi.

The ASF officials claimed to have arrested a passenger, named Mohammad Ahsan, traveling to Dubai from Karachi airport and recovered a total of 2.28 kg of ICE heroin and 420 grams of the brown heroin from his possession.

The drug was expertly hidden in a dough-knead machine, but the ASF staff foiled the smuggling attempts by recovering the drugs during the search for the goods.

The ASF officials claimed after the initial investigation handed over the arrested accused along with the seized drugs to the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) officials.—RT/Agency



Muqam Commends IOM Services Supporting Afghan Refugees In Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Engr. Amir Muqam Sunday said that Pakistan continued to bear the world's largest refugee burden for the past 40 years and also urged the international community to acknowledge our efforts in that regard.

Talking to a delegation led by Chief of Mission for the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Pakistan, Ms. Mio Sato, the federal minister commended the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its services to Afghan citizen card holders and the host community.

Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees Mohammad Abbas Khan, Joint Secretary of SAFRON and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

The federal minister expressed the desire for Afghan refugees to return their country with dignity, noting that there had been no incidents of forced expulsion or harassment. He emphasized the need for screening to determine their locations and activities.

He said that Pakistan was aware of the business activities, education, and relationships of Afghan refugees within the country. He highlighted that many Afghans were involved in businesses that are beneficial to both Pakistan and its citizens.

"I will travel to Geneva in June at the invitation of the High Commissioner of UNHCR, and also planned to meet with the DG of IOM," he added. Chief of Mission Mio Sato expressed gratitude to the minister for meeting despite the holiday and stated her intention to maintain close contact with the Ministry.—RT/Agency



Punjab Governor Commits To Consulting Stakeholders Before Signing Defamation Bill



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Sardar Salim Haider announced more consultation with all the stakeholders over the defamation bill.

The representatives of Joint Action Committee (JAC) called on Punjab Governor on Sunday to express the reservations of journalists' community over the controversial bill.

The meeting was attended by CPNE President Irshad Arif, Lahore Press Club President Arshad Ansari, Dunya Media Group Managing Director Naveed Kashif and former CPNE President Kazim Khan.

The meeting was also attended by Hafiz Tariq Mehmood, Imtana Shahid and Muhammad Usman.

Senior PPP leader from central Punjab Syed Hassan Murtaza was also present in the meeting.

The representatives of journalist community expressed their concerns regarding the defamation bill and urged the governor to play his role in this issue.

The representatives of JAC said that the defamation bill is meant to silence the voice of media and it is against the freedom of expression.

"All the stakeholders would be taken into confidence over the controversial clauses of the bill," said the governor.

The governor added that he will not sign the bill without further consultation with the stakeholders.

PPP leader Syed Hassan Murtaza said that we are standing with media and we don't support this bill in its current form.—RT/Agency

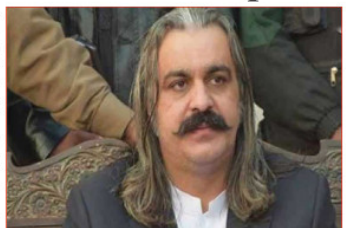
Nation Stands Firmly Beside Armed Forces: Gandapur

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM Ali Amin Gandapur has expressed his condolence on the martyrdom of Pakistan Army's officers in a terrorist attack in Hasan Khel area of Peshawar.

The martyred officers included Captain Hasnain and Havaldar Shafiqullah of security forces.

Gandapur said the security forces had made unprecedented sacrifices in the war against terrorism which would never go in vain.

Entire the nation is standing firm beside the security forces in war against terrorism, he concluded.—RT/Agency



Three Women Killed As Van Plunges Into Gorge In KP's Tank Area

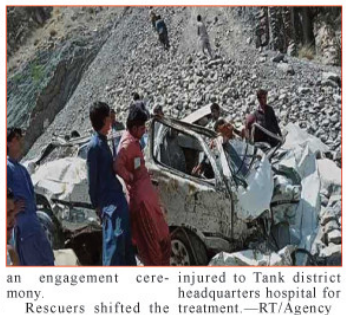
TANK: Three women lost their lives and seven others were injured when a van fell into a ditch in Tank area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday.

According to rescuers, the incident occurred on the outskirts of Larwaza village, where the van skidded off the road and into the ditch due to brake failure.

The victims included a girl and two women, while seven women sustained injuries.

Police stated that the family involved in the accident was heading to an engagement ceremony in Tank district headquarters hospital for the injured.

Rescuers shifted the treatment.—RT/Agency





The heavy-handed persecution of Shah Mahmood Qureshi continues unabated

The recent arrest of Shah Mahmood Qureshi on a slew of questionable charges underscores a disturbing pattern of political victimization in Pakistan. This brazen targeting of opposition leaders through a barrage of dubious cases is a blatant attempt to coerce them into abandoning their support for former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his party. Mr. Qureshi, who has a distinguished background and an unblemished reputation, is facing accusations that even his harshest critics find implausible. His upright nature and pedigree family make the allegations of violence and crimes against him all the more absurd.

The systematic persecution of opposition figures like Qureshi is a well-worn tactic in Pakistani poli-

tics. Instead of fostering a democratic environment



where political dissent is respected, the current actions reflect a troubling regression into authoritarian practices. This strategy of drowning opponents in legal troubles to silence and intimidate them is not only undemocratic but also deeply damaging to the political fabric of our nation.

The details of Qureshi's arrest, including the addition of eight more cases and his denied transfer due to "security concerns," highlight the lengths to which

authorities will go to stifle dissent. This is not just an attack on an individual but a broader assault on democratic principles and political plurality. The targeting of Qureshi, especially given his integrity and service as a former foreign minister, should alarm all who value justice and fair play.

As a nation, we have repeatedly witnessed the pitfalls of such heavy-handed tactics. These actions sow division, undermine trust in the judicial process, and erode the foundations of our democracy. It is imperative that we learn from our past mistakes and cease the political victimization of opposition leaders. Only through genuine democratic engagement and respect for differing political views can Pakistan hope to move forward and achieve true stability and progress.

GLOBAL WATCH

UK Scientists Plan Seabed Explosions To Solve Mystery Of Missing Flight MH370

Ten years after the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, researchers at Cardiff University have come up with a new plan to crack the mystery. According to Metro, researchers believe audio signals captured at a hydroacoustic station off the coast of Australia could be key to locating MH370.



Notably, when an aircraft crashes into the water, it creates distinct acoustic signatures that can travel over 3,000km through the water. Dr Usama Kadri, a Reader at Cardiff University's School of Mathematics, explained that their analysis revealed clear pressure signals from previous aircraft crashes detected on hydrophones, even at distances exceeding 3,000 km.

The details of the Cardiff team's research were published in the journal Scientific Reports. The study was conducted based on more than 100 hours of data recorded by hydrophones following ten past aeroplane crashes including one submarine disappearance.

"In the case of MH370, official investigations concluded the aircraft must have crashed near the 7th arc - the point at which the last communication between the plane and INMERSAT occurred. The main search area at the 7th arc lies less than 2,000km away from the hy-

droacoustic station at Cape Leeuwin, Australia, with no impediments to filter out the signal. However, within the time frame and location suggested by the official search, only a single, relatively weak signal was identified," Dr Kadri said. The team has proposed a series of controlled underwater explosions or air gunfire along the 7th arc to see whether they can isolate a more precise location for MH370.

"Similar exercises were performed in the search and rescue mission for the ARA San Juan, a submarine that vanished off the coast of Argentina in 2017. This shows us that it is relatively straightforward and feasible and could provide a means to determine the signal's relevance to MH370, prior to resuming with another extensive search. If found to be related, this would significantly narrow down, almost

pinpoint, the aircraft's location," Dr Kadri added.

Notably, flight MH370 with 227 passengers and 12 crew members on board disappeared after leaving Kuala Lumpur Airport in southern Malaysia en route to Beijing, China, on March 8, 2014. A nearly three-year search covering 120,000 square kilometres in the Indian Ocean found hardly any trace of the plane, with only some pieces of debris picked up. Despite the largest search in aviation history, the plane has never been found and the operation was suspended in January 2017.

However, following a renewed interest in the MH370 mystery, the Malaysian government announced on March 3 that they're considering resuming the search. A Texas-based company, Ocean Infinity, also proposed a "no find, no fee" deal to locate the aircraft.—Agency

4-Year-Old Emirati Girl Forgotten On School Bus By Staff: "Lucky To Get Our Child Alive"



A four-year-old girl in Sharjah was left alone on the school bus after the staff forgot to drop her off. According to the Khaleej Times, the girl, who fell asleep, was discovered crying by the bus conductor during the second trip taken by the bus for boys.

The girl was on the bus from 6 to 8:40 am and later became ill, following which she was taken to a hospital for a check-up.

Fortunately, the girl survived without any harm.

However, the girl's mother is now advising other parents to stay vigilant and regularly talk to bus drivers and conductors regarding their child's safety.

"At 7:30 am, the conductor called to inform me that my child fell asleep, was left behind on the bus, and couldn't reach the classroom. I told him to immediately drop her home, but he didn't.

It was only when I called her teacher that she came to know about the incident. We rushed to the school by 8.15

Piryalo's Poor Sanitary Conditions Irk Masses

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR. The residents of Piryalo are increasingly frustrated with the deteriorating sanitary conditions and damaged infrastructure in the town. The dilapidated state of the roads has become a significant concern, with sewerage water frequently inundating the streets and causing hazardous driving conditions.

Residents of the city's Abu Dhabi Colony have been particularly vocal about the poor sanitary conditions. The stagnant sewage water not only poses health risks but also contributes to frequent road accidents, adding

to the distress of the community.

The local populace has directed their complaints to the Town Committee Piryalo's Chairman and other concerned authorities, urging them to take immediate action to address these pressing issues. They have emphasized the need for urgent improvements in civic services to alleviate the immense problems faced by the citizens daily.

The residents have pointed out that the current situation is untenable and demands prompt intervention from the authorities to ensure safer and healthier living conditions in Piryalo.

THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Larkana Union of Journalists (LUJ) are holding a protest demonstration against the dastardly killing of journalist Nasrullah Gadani and demanding the immediate arrest of his killers, at Jinnah Bagh.-RT

Badin Journalists Demand Justice For Their Murdered Colleague Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN. Journalists in Shadi Large staged a protest demonstration in front of the Press Club Shadi Large, calling for the immediate arrest of the killers of Ghotki journalist Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani. The demonstration was led by prominent figures including Mohammad Umar Lind, President of Press Club Koski, Abdul Wahab Pathan, President of the Press Club Shadi Large, Senior Journalists Tajamal Khattak and Khalid Nawaz, Idris Lund, General Secretary of Awami

Press Club Shadi Large, Allah Bux Kapri, Joint Secretary of the Awami Press Club Shadi Large, Ghulam Rahim Lund, and others. The protestors condemned the murder of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani, who was known for his fearless reporting and dedication to the truth. They also expressed deep frustration over the fact that, even after three days, the authorities had yet to register the case or make any arrests. The journalists claimed that influential bandits were responsible for Gadani's death and criticized

the delay in justice. Addressing the media, the protestors demanded that the Inspector General of Sindh Police take immediate action to arrest the perpetrators. They emphasized the urgent need for justice and protection for journalists who risk their lives to report the truth. The demonstration highlighted the growing dangers faced by journalists in Sindh and called for stronger measures to ensure their safety and the swift administration of justice in cases of violence against the press.

Two Criminals Escape From Jacobabad Police's Custody

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD. In a startling incident, two criminals who were under arrest managed to escape from Mauldad Police Station on Sunday. The escapees, identified as Yar Muhammad Gulwani and Imtiaz Gulwani, were being held in connection with different cases. Following the escape, SSP Jacobabad Syed Saleem Shah took immediate notice of the breach in security. As a result, he has suspended the police officials responsible for the custody of the criminals at the Mauldad Police Station. SSP Shah has also issued strict directives to expedite the re-arrest of the escaped individuals, and Imtiaz Gulwani

swift action to rectify this lapse. The incident has raised concerns about the security measures in place at the police station and has prompted an internal review to prevent such occurrences in the future. Efforts are currently underway to track down and apprehend the escaped individuals, and Yar Muhammad Gulwani is emphasizing the need for



NAUDERO: Members and leaders of the civil society are holding a protest demonstration against the killing of journalist Nasrullah Gadani and demanding the immediate arrest of his killers, at the Shaheed Rani press club.-RT

"They're Coming In Coffins": Israeli Hostage Families Mourn Dead

Tel Aviv. The sister of an Israeli hostage whose body was recovered from Gaza last week struck a solemn tone Sunday as she laid him to rest after thousands attended his funeral.

"I feared this ending but I wanted so much for it to end differently," Avivit Yablonka told AFP at the funeral of her brother Chanan.

Chanan, 42, was murdered on October 7 in Hamas's unprecedented attack, while trying to escape from the Nova music festival where at least 364 people were killed.

His body was taken to the Gaza Strip by militants but was retrieved on Friday by Israeli troops after spending 230 days in captivity.

In the space of a week, the Israeli army has announced the death of eight hostages who had been presumed to be alive - five Israelis, two Thais and a French-Mexican dual national.

The army also retrieved seven bodies - including Chanan's - that had been held in Gaza since October 7.



Hopes have since faded among the families of other hostages whose whereabouts are unknown. Militants took 252 hostages during the attack, 121 of whom remain in Gaza, according to 37 Israeli army says are dead. Dozens of hostage relatives gathered outside the home of Chanan's parents Sunday for a silent procession to Tel Aviv's Kiryat Shaal cemetery, accompanied by thousands waving Israeli flags. The Yablonka family had urged people to join the march in solidarity with the hostages. "We have to bring everyone back - this march is for him and for the release of all the hostages,"

Avivit said. The war in Gaza broke out after Hamas's attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of more than 1,170 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 35,984 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. Before she learned of her brother's death, Avivit, 48, attended the funeral of Ron Benjamin, who was found in the same tunnel complex in northern Gaza as her brother, according to the army.—Agency

SPORTS



T20 World Cup 2024: ICC to set up fan park in Rawalpindi for Pakistan, India clash



KARACHI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that it would set up a fan park at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium to allow fans to enjoy the highly-anticipated T20 World Cup 2024 match between India and Pakistan while being 11,000 kilometres away from the match being played in New York's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium.

The ICC's decision will allow fans to feel the game's intensity and cheer for the Green Shirts via a big screen at the Rawalpindi stadium on June 9.

The match between arch-rivals will be shown at 10 different fan parks including Cedar Creek Park in Seaford, New York, hosted by Nassau County and the Indira Gandhi Indoor Arena in New Delhi, India.

The fan park in Rawalpindi will open for fans 90 minutes before the

start of the game and will remain open until 60 minutes after the end of the play.

"The ICC has announced a record number of fan parks to broadcast the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 with nine live sites in five different countries," read a statement released by the ICC.

The move, as per the international body, will bring the biggest cricket carnival to more communities than ever before in ICC World Cup history.

As many as 22 World Cup matches, the ICC said, will be shown in various locations including New York City, New Delhi, and Rawalpindi - the highest number of fan parks for an ICC World Cup ever. "The parks will feature live entertainment such as DJs, food and drink outlets, cricket ambassadors, and family activities, making it an unmissable experience for fans across the globe," the statement added.—Agency

PAK vs ENG: I am comfortable with bowling at any position, says Imad Wasim

KARACHI: Pakistan cricket team's all-rounder Imad Wasim has said that he is comfortable with bowling whenever required as per the team's requirement.

Talking to the media persons after the second T20I against England, the all-rounder said that during the series against Ireland, Pakistan were experimenting few things.

"I am ready to bowl at any position, be it with the new ball or the death overs, whenever the captain feels that I should come to bowl, I will and I will try to give my best for the team," Imad said.

"(Bowling position) will be decided according to the conditions," he added.

The fast bowler regretted



losing his wicket at a crucial stage, saying that if he and Iftikhar Ahmed had stayed there then result would have been different.

"At a point, Iftikhar and I were at crease and we were looking to cross the line but we lost our wickets at crucial stages, if we had stayed, we would have crossed the line," he said.

"I agree that the intent which we need is still missing, especially in the middle overs where we need to dominate, and dominating over opponent doesn't mean you start playing aggressively - we just need to disallow the

bowler from settling with line," Imad said.

Replying to a question, Imad said that with the T20I World Cup inching closer, the team is getting close to finalising its combination.

He also assured that Pakistan will learn from mistakes and do better in future. "It is not just about saying, we must show that we can do better," he concluded. It should be noted that Pakistan faced defeat against England after falling short of 23 runs in the second T20I of the four-match series at the Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham, on Saturday. Babar Azam and Co. were bowled out for 160 while chasing a target of 184. This was England's eighth win in the last 11 T20Is against the Men in Green.—Agency

Manchester United's coach Erik ten Hag reveals his move amid FA Cup win



MANCHESTER: Following the bad performance of Manchester United in the recently concluded season, the Red Devils' manager Erik Ten Hag revealed his future plans amid talks of his replacement.

In a post-match conference, after Manchester United triumphed surprisingly over Manchester City in the FA Cup final, the 54-year-old said: "Two trophies in two years is not bad, three finals in two years is not bad."

The Dutchman said, pointing toward the Man Utd's owners that if they ousted him, he would be winning trophies for some other club.

Man Utd listed FA Cup trophy at Wembley Stadium in London after winning 2-1.

Erik ten Hag further added that he was still uncertain whether he was

PSG win French Cup final on Mbappe's farewell appearance

FRANCEVILLE: Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique said he had been lucky to work with Kylian Mbappe after the superstar forward played his last game for the club in Saturday's 2-1 French Cup final win over Lyon.

Mbappe made his farewell appearance for PSG before an expected move to Real Madrid but he was unable to add to his club-record tally of 256 goals with Ousmane Dembele and Fabian Ruiz scoring on the night.

Dembele and Ruiz netted in the first half and PSG then withstood a Lyon comeback attempt after the break following a Jake O'Brien goal which reduced the deficit.

The most successful side in the history of the French Cup, PSG have now won the



trophy 15 times, including seven times in the last decade and four since Mbappe signed from Monaco as a teenager in 2017.

The victory allowed PSG to complete a domestic league and cup double in Luis Enrique's first season as coach, although the campaign remains overshadowed by their exit from the Champions League in the semi-finals against Borussia Dortmund.

"We played the final very well. We played with great intensity and were great on the ball," said Luis Enrique.

"I think we have had a very good season. We would

have liked to stay around for another week and not go on holiday yet but that is life," he said, referring to next weekend's Champions League final.

"Nobody said football was fair, but it doesn't matter. Next season we will come back stronger and will look to sign even hungrier players, who have even more desire to win."

Of the departing Mbappe he added: "I think I have been lucky to coach Kylian but it has been a difficult season for him because after seven years and all he has achieved it is always hard to say goodbye."

But he was always prepared to help the team and tonight was the cherry on the cake even if he didn't score.—Agency

Ramiz Raja labels Saim Ayub 'undercooked' as opener



KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja has slammed opening batter Saim Ayub for his inconsistent performance and labelled him 'undercooked' after the Green Shirts' loss against England in the second T20I.

Saim Ayub continued his poor run, falling for only two runs while chasing 184. He has scored 286 runs in 19 T20I innings so far at a strike-rate of 127.67.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ramiz Raja questioned Ayub's place as an opener and urged Pakistan to revert to the opening pair of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan.

"First, Saim Ayub coming as an opener. I don't think Pakistan should continue with Saim. He has been given too many chances and you have to do better in [international] cricket. He is undercooked," said Raja.

"You need to revert to the opening pair of Mohammad

Rizwan and Babar Azam because that is Pakistan's strength and they understand each other's game. The entire combination has been disturbed due to Saim."

The former chairman also advised pace bowler Shaheen Afridi to develop more variations to put more pressure on the batters irrespective of the conditions.

"Second, Shaheen Shah Afridi's bowling. Look if the ball isn't swinging and he bowls at full length, then he gets bashed," he added.

"He needs to develop length ball and change of pace especially when he is not getting much from the pitch. Even today, he didn't bowl perfectly with the new ball and [England] escaped pressure." Ramiz Raja also raised concerns over Azam Khan's batting against pace bowlers, stating that he needs to improve otherwise teams will exploit this weakness and will further trouble him.—Agency

Barca avenge Lyon defeats to win third women's Champions League

SPAIN: Aitana Bonmati and Alexia Putellas struck to earn Barcelona their third women's Champions League trophy, securing a 2-0 triumph over record eight-time winners Lyon.

The defending champions had never beaten the French giants, losing in the 2019 and 2022 finals against them, but finally succeeded in Bilbao to complete a spectacular quadruple this season in coach Jonatan Giraldez's last match in charge.

Bonmati pounced after 63 minutes and substitute Putellas finished the job in stoppage time to avenge Barcelona's prior defeats by Sonia Bompastor's side.

Securing their third Champions League trophy from five final appearances across the last six seasons,



Barcelona demonstrated that they are the new powerhouse of the women's game.

"(It's) a dream day, it is difficult to explain with words the feeling I have now. It is a special moment," said Giraldez.

"It is one of the happiest days of my life."

Barca's stars had insisted that this time they were capa-

ble of beating Lyon, adding experience and mental strength to their undoubted talent, and so it proved at a packed San Mames.

Backed by the vast majority of a 51,000 record crowd at a women's Champions League final, Bonmati and her side completed one of the few challenges remaining to them.

"It's the first time we've beaten Lyon. I'm proud of the team, and we know that with these fans we have, we can't fail," Bonmati told DAZN.

"It's incredible what we're living through as a team, I'm so lucky... to see we're creating that for so many people, the historic amount of fans we've brought, it's the proudest I've felt, I wouldn't change it for anything."

Giraldez started Mariona Caldentey in attack and moved Fridolina Rofa to left-back, dropping Ona Batlle to the bench alongside two-time Ballon d'Or winner Putellas.

Lyon left Ada Hegerberg started on the bench too, with the all-time top scorer in the competition's history struggling for form after injury.—Agency

Roston Chase powers West Indies to T20I series win over South Africa



KINGSTON: Roston Chase powered West Indies to a 2-0 series win over South Africa in the T20I series.

Chase achieved an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match T20I series.

Before Chase, West Indies captain Brandon King (36) and Kyle Mayers (32) powered the home team to 51-1 in the first six overs.

Chase came down to bat each in the next over, after King fell with 54 runs on a two-time Ballon d'Or winner Putellas.

Lyon left Ada Hegerberg started on the bench too, with the all-time top scorer in the competition's history struggling for form after injury.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Anas Shezad
Location: Karachi
About me: Do you like taking selfies like me?
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Angelina Jolie's 'nasty vindictive side' in Brad Pitt divorce exposed



Angelina Jolie reportedly had something to do with her kids going no contact with Brad Pitt, per an insider.

According to the source who spoke to Life & Style, Angelina's team claims she wishes for "positive relationships between all members of their family," yet there's a "very nasty side" to the Salt star.

This comes after the family's former bodyguard, Tony Webb, received multiple calls from Jolie's representative, who told Mr. Webb to remind his staff that they had entered into NDAs with Jolie and that if they testified in a custody proceeding, Jolie would sue them.

Webb says one of his team members heard the

Kim Kardashian thinks the Tom Brady roast was 'unfair'



Kim Kardashian did not like getting booed during The Roast of Tom Brady.

According to a source privy to OK! magazine, the reality TV star was "exhausted" by the criticism at the show.

The tip comes after Kim took the stage during the Netflix special show on May 6 and her appearance was instantly followed by people groaning and booing at her.

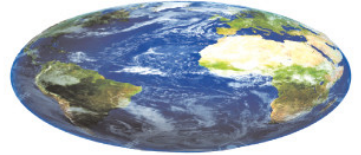
Despite trying to ignore it, Kim had to acknowledge them by saying, "Alright, alright."

An insider now shared, "Kim feels like she's such an easy target at this point. Kim's Met Gala outfit got ripped to shreds, way more than others that she figured would be considered just inferior to hers. It's just all so unfair as far as Kim sees it."

"She smiled, during the recent episode of his Flamingo anything like that. Comedian Andrew Schulz pletely unaffected," he also revealed that Kim stated had "no human aspect."

"Even when she was up there, they were kind of booing her. It didn't make her smile. It didn't make her sad. It was nothing," Andrew added.

GLOBAL WATCH



12 injured as Qatar Airways' plane suffers turbulence mid-air

DOHA: As many as 12 people were reported to be injured in mid-air turbulence while the airline was over Turkey bound for Dublin from Doha, days after a similar occurrence in Singapore that killed one person.

Dublin Airport in a statement said that the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner experienced turbulence over Turkey, triggering an emergency response shortly after landing in Ireland.



The Qatar Airways flight QR017 landed before 13:00 local time, with the authorities saying that six passengers and six crew members were injured.

"The Dublin Airport team continues to provide full assistance on the ground to passengers and airline staff," the airport said, according to BBC.

The incident did not affect any operations at the airport.

According to the National Ambulance Service,

it received a pre-alert to attend the airport and is "currently on site facilitating and supporting the disembarkment of passengers".

Qatar Airways told BBC News NI in a statement that "a small number of passengers and crew sustained minor injuries in flight and are now receiving medical attention."

"The matter is now subject to an internal investigation," it added.

CNN reported that approximately 65,000 passenger aircraft suffer moderate-level turbulence annually in the US. Around 5,500 witnessed severe turbulence, which is expected to grow.

In 2022, Paul Williams, a professor of atmospheric science at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, told the outlet that he believes climate change is modifying turbulence.

"We ran some computer simulations and found that severe turbulence could double or triple in the coming decades," Williams added.—Agency

Massive fire at family entertainment venue in India's Rajkot kills 27



GUJRAT: At least 27 people, including many children, were killed after a fire that broke out on Saturday evening in a family entertainment venue in Gujarat, India, a government official said.

According to Reuters, rescue efforts continued at the scene in the Rajkot district.

"Our focus is on rescue operations and saving lives. We will ensure strict action is taken against the people who are responsible for this incident," Mayor Nayana Pedhadiya said.

Television images showed a massive fire engulfing the TRP game zone and thick clouds of smoke emanating from the site.

A police official at the local civil hospital said some of the bodies were charred beyond recognition.

In a post on social media platform X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the local administration was working to provide assistance to those affected.

"Extremely distressed by the fire mishap in Rajkot. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones," Modi said in the post.

"The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained," the district's chief fire officer, IV Kher, told Reuters.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said an investigation into the incident had been handed to a Special Investigation Team, and television reports said two people had been detained by Rajkot police in connection with the incident.—RT/Agency

Taiwan's president says he wants to work with China



TAIWAN: Taiwan's new president said on Sunday he was still ready to work with China, despite this week's military drills around the self-ruled island.

The drills began around Taiwan on Thursday, just three days after Lai Ching-te was sworn in, part of an escalating campaign of intimidation by China which views the island as part of its territory.

During the two-day drills, China vowed that what it described as "independence forces" would be left "with their heads broken and blood flowing".

Lai told reporters on Sunday that he wanted Taiwan and China to "jointly shoulder the important responsibility of regional stability."

"I also look forward to enhancing mutual understanding and reconciliation through exchanges and cooperation with China [...] and moving towards a position of peace and common prosperity," he said at an event in Taipei.

Communications between China and Taiwan were severed in 2016 after former president Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) took office, pledging to defend Taiwan's sovereignty.

Lai, also a DPP member, had vowed to maintain Tsai's policies of building up Taiwan's defence capabilities, while remaining open to dialogue with China and strengthening relations with the island's partners — particularly the United States.

Wen-ti Sung, a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global China Hub, told AFP that Lai would "hold firm to project resolve" during this first interaction between his administration and Beijing.

"However he will no doubt be looking to leverage other international partners and friends to help facilitate more back-channel communications with Beijing," Sung said.—Agency

More than 670 feared dead in Papua New Guinea landslide



PAPUA: More than 670 people are assumed to have died in Papua New Guinea's (PNG) massive landslide, the United Nations' migration agency estimated on Sunday as rescue efforts continued.

Media in the South Pacific nation had previously estimated Friday's landslide had buried more than 300 people.

But more than 48 hours later, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said the death toll may be more than double that, as the full extent of the destruction is still unclear and continuing dangerous conditions on the ground are hampering aid and rescue efforts.

Only five bodies have been retrieved from the rubble so far.

The agency based its death toll estimates on information provided by officials at Yambali Village in the Enga province, who say more than 150 houses were buried in Friday's landslide, Serhan Aktoprak, the chief

of the agency's mission in PNG said in an email statement.

"Land is still sliding, rocks are falling, ground soil is cracking due to constant increased pressure and groundwater is running, thus the area is posing an extreme risk for everyone," Aktoprak said.

More than 250 houses nearby have been abandoned by the inhabitants, who had taken temporary shelter with their relatives and friends, and some 1,250 people have been displaced, the agency said. "People are using digging sticks, spades, large agricultural forks to remove the bodies buried under the soil," Aktoprak said. The IOM said an elementary school, small businesses and stalls, a guesthouse, and a petrol station were also buried. The UN's PNG office said five bodies were retrieved from an area where 50 to 60 homes had been destroyed, with several injured reported, including at least 20 women and children. IOM said the community in this village was relatively young and it's feared that the most fatalities would be children of 15 years or younger.—Agency

3 Injured In Knife Attack On Metro In France's Lyon, Attacker Arrested



PARIS: At least three people were injured in a knife attack on the metro in the eastern French city of Lyon on Sunday, police said, adding that an attacker was arrested.

Separately, Lyon public prosecutor Thierry Dran told AFP that the attack left four people injured, adding their lives were not in danger.

A police source told AFP that two of the victims were wounded in the abdomen and a third in the arm.

An investigation was launched into "attempted homicide", prosecutors said.

"The national police questioned an individual following a knife attack near the Jean-Jaures metro station in Lyon," the Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes prefecture said on X.

"Three victims are being treated by emergency services," the regional prefecture added.

The incident occurred at around 2:40 pm on line B, near Place Jean-Jaures in the city's 7th district, according to a police source.—Agency

UK's Conservative Party Pitches For Mandatory National Service At 18



Britain's Conservative Party will introduce mandatory national service for 18-year-olds if it wins the national election on July 4, comprising military or community participation, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Sunday.

Young adults will be able to choose between spending one weekend a month volunteering over a year, or taking up one of 30,000 spaces to spend a year in the armed forces, Sunak said.

The announcement followed Labour Party leader Keir Starmer's comments on Saturday that he was in favour of allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to vote.

Sunak's Conservatives lag Labour by a wide margin in opinion polls, which have shown little change in fortunes for the prime minister since his surprise election call last Wednesday.

"Britain today faces a future that is more dangerous and more divided. There's no doubt that our democratic values are under threat. That

is why we will introduce a bold new model of national service for 18-year-olds," Sunak said in a statement.

The Conservative Party said the proposal would be funded by cracking down on tax avoidance and evasion, and by diverting money from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which existed to reduce regional economic inequality.

Labour politicians derided the announcement.

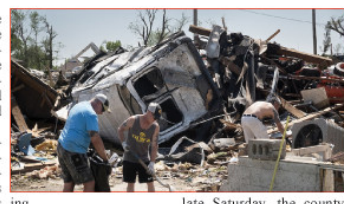
"The national service we need from our young people is to vote for change on the 4th of July," said Andy Burnham, mayor of Greater Manchester.

Interior Minister James Cleverly told broadcasters there would be no criminal sanctions for skipping mandatory national service but that people would be compelled to do it, without providing further details.

Asked by the BBC if forcing adults to volunteer was at odds with the Conservative Party's liberal tradition, Cleverly said: "We force people to do things all the time."

He cited compulsory education or training for teenagers until the age of 18 as an example.—Agency

9 Killed As Tornadoes, Extreme Storms Hit Several US States



WASHINGTON: At least nine people were killed across the central United States as tornadoes and other extreme storms hit several states including Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma, officials said Sunday.

Rescue efforts were ongoing and hundreds of thousands of people were without power after the storms struck the Southern Plains region beginning late Saturday.

In Texas, Cooke County Sheriff Ray Sappington told ABC affiliate WFAA that five people were dead after a tornado ripped through the Valley View area, north of Dallas.

"Sadly, I think that number will rise," Sappington told The Weather Channel, adding that search and rescue operations were ongoing.

In Oklahoma, at least two people were dead after a tornado hit Mayes County

late Saturday, the county head of emergency management Johnny Janzen told the Fox News affiliate in Tulsa.

And in northern Arkansas, two people were killed in storms in the early hours of Sunday, local authorities confirmed. As far north as Indiana, the start of the Indianapolis 500 was delayed Sunday due to storms in the area, with fans asked to exit the bleachers and seek shelter.—Agency

US expected to lift ban on sale of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia



WASHINGTON: The United States is expected to lift a ban on the sale of offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia, potentially in the coming weeks, The Financial Times reported on Sunday.

The newspaper reported that Washington has already signalled to Saudi Arabia that it was prepared to lift the ban, citing a person familiar with the matter.

Soon after taking office in 2021, Biden adopted a tougher stance over Saudi Arabia's campaign against the Houthis in Yemen, which has inflicted heavy civilian casualties, and over Riyadh's human rights record, in particular the 2018 killing of Washington Post journalist and political opponent Jamal Khashoggi.

Saudi Arabia, the biggest

US arms customer, has chafed under those restrictions, which froze the kind of weapons sales that previous US administrations had provided for decades.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday said the US and Saudi Arabia were very close to concluding a set of agreements on nuclear energy, security and defence cooperation, the bilateral component of a wider normalisation deal with Riyadh and Israel.

However, lifting the ban on offensive weapons sales was not directly linked to these talks, FT said.

The White House and Saudi Arabia's government communication office did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.—Agency

Cyclone hits Bangladesh as nearly a million flee inland for shelter



An intense cyclone smashed into the low-lying coast of Bangladesh on Sunday, with nearly a million people fleeing inland for concrete storm shelters away from howling gales and crashing waves.

"The severe Cyclone Remal has started crossing the Bangladesh coast," Bangladesh Meteorological Department Director Azizur Rahman told AFP, adding the raging storm could continue hammering the coast until at least the early hours of Monday morning.

"We have so far recorded maximum wind speeds of 90 kilometres per hour, but the wind speed may pick up more pace." Forecasters predicted gusts of up to 130km/h, with heavy rain and winds also lashing neighbouring India.

Authorities have raised the danger signal to its highest level.

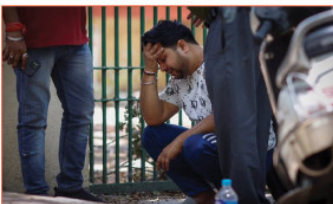
Cyclones have killed hundreds of thousands of people in Bangladesh in recent decades, but the number of superstorms hitting its densely populated coast has increased sharply, from one a year to as many as three, due to the impact of climate change.

"The cyclone could unleash a storm surge of up to four metres above normal astronomical tide, which can be dangerous," Bangladesh senior weather official Muhammad Abul Kalam Mallik told AFP.

Most of Bangladesh's coastal areas are a metre or two above sea level and high storm surges can devastate villages.

"We are terrified," said 35-year-old fisherman Yusuf Fakir at Kuakata, a town on the very southern tip of Bangladesh along the predicted route of the storm, speaking just before its arrival. While he had sent his wife and children to a relative's home inland, he stayed put to guard their belongings.—Agency

Fire kills six newborns at baby hospital in New Delhi



NEW DELHI: Six newborns have died in a fire at a baby care hospital in India's capital New Delhi, local authorities said on Sunday.

Television footage showed firefighters attempting to douse the fire which broke out late Saturday night and engulfed the hospital in the eastern part of the city.

The fire department told news agency ANI, in which Reuters owns a minority stake, that six more children were rescued and taken to a different hospital, with one on a ventilator. The fire has since been brought under control.

The owner of the baby hospital has fled, Delhi police said.

"The causes of the incident are being investigated and whoever is responsible for this negligence will not be spared," Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a post on social media platform X.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

MONEY

Over 18,000 Retailers Enroll In FBR's Tajir Dost Scheme

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Sunday announced a notable surge in the number of traders have been registered under the Tajir Dost Scheme, media reported.

As per FBR's report, a total of 18,381 traders have registered as filers since April 1.

Among these, 14,472 filers were created through the Tajir Dost app, and an additional 3,899 traders became filers through other means, according to an FBR report.

As per FBR's city-specific data, a total of 5,303 businessmen registered as filers in Karachi, while Lahore saw 5,112 traders becoming filers between April 1 and May 25. Islamabad recorded 1,567 new filers, and Rawalpindi had 2,138 traders registering as filers, while Peshawar added 1,534 businessmen to the list of filers, and Quetta saw 980 traders registering as filers during the same period.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI



Sindh Government Has Allocated Rs3 Billion For Karachi Safe City Project: Law Minister

KARACHI: The Sindh government has announced plans to transform Karachi into a safe city by allocating Rs3 billion for the Karachi Safe City project.

Sindh Interior Minister Zia Linjar revealed that the first phase of the Safe City project is set to be completed within 12 months. The project aims to enhance security measures in Karachi through the implementation of advanced surveillance and monitoring systems.

Minister Linjar emphasized that the project's success would pave the way for its extension to other cities across the province. He highlighted the potential of the Safe City project to significantly improve the law and order situation in Sindh.



Speaking on the performance of the police department, Minister Linjar commended their efforts and reiterated the government's commitment to further enhancing law enforcement measures. He assured that comprehensive strategies would be implemented to ensure the safety and security of citizens across the province. The allocation of funds for the Karachi Safe City project reflects the Sindh government's dedication to addressing security concerns and fostering a safer environment for residents and visitors alike.—RT/Agency

Preparations Complete For Somia Khan's T-20 World Cup Anthem Release



KARACHI: Final preparations have been made for the highly anticipated release of renowned singer Somia Khan's anthem for the T-20 Cricket World Cup 2024, titled "Jeetinge Jeetinge World Cup Hum Jeetinge." Produced under the banner of SAM Event Management, the song is infused with lyrics radiating excitement and enthusiasm.

The music for the anthem has been composed by Imran Anees, with Naveed Chaudhry directing the project. The arrangement and mastering credits go to Tabish Tafo, with recording done at Tafo Studio.

Expressing her anticipation for the release, Somia Khan shared that the song is crafted to ignite a winning spirit and inspire players to strive for victory in the World Cup. She emphasized that the anthem would resonate with both sports enthusiasts and music aficionados, promising an inspiring and enjoyable experience for all.

Known for her distinctive musical style, Somia Khan is optimistic about the anthem's reception. The song is scheduled for release on May 29 via Somia Khan's official channel, with a grand launch event planned at the historic Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Supporters of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) are holding a Special Persons March on Rashid Minhas against Israeli aggression and atrocities in Gaza.—RT

Renowned Actor Talat Hussain Passes Away At 83

KARACHI: Veteran actor Talat Hussain passed away in Karachi after a prolonged illness, confirmed Karachi Arts Council President Ahmed Shah on Sunday.

Shah shared he was informed about the actor's death by his daughter Tazeen Hussain. His funeral prayer was offered at Masjid-e-Aysha in Defence Phase 7 after Asr prayers. The late actor was laid to rest in the DHA graveyard.



Hussain, who is known for his prolific career in radio, television and cinema, was battling with prolonged illness and undergoing treatment in a private hospital. Born in September 1940 in Delhi, India, the renowned thespian was married to professor Rakhshanda Hussain and was a father of three - two daughters and one son. Hussain, studied from London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, and was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence) in 2021 and Pride of Performance Award

in 1982 by the Government of Pakistan. He was also awarded Amanda Award in 2006 for best supporting actor in a Norwegian film "Import Ek-sport" and Nigar Award in 1986 for best supporting actor in film "Miss Bangkok". Hussain left an indelible mark in the Pakistani show-biz industry, from delightful dramas to insightful writing. He had a decades long career in acting, singing and arts. He also worked for sometime for the BBC in London. He worked in many dramas including "Arjumand" in 1979 on PTV, "Ansoo", "Bandish", "Des Pardes", "Tariq Bin Ziad", "Eid ka Jora", "Fanooni Latifey" and "Hawain". Shah, speaking to media, expressed sadness over Hussain's demise. "It is a very unbelievable situation. Mr Talat was a member of the Arts Council and also remained its vice-president. He was a man of literature as most of his life he would read and write books.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

Aleem Khan To Attend International Conference In Tajikistan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatisation and Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan will visit Tajikistan to represent Pakistan in a Two-Day International Regional Conference under "Road to Tien Shan".

Besides Pakistan, China, India, Armenia, Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan are included in this international conference commencing from Wednesday.

Speaking to journalists today, Abdul Aleem Khan said Pakistan was already working on the road network from Afghanistan and China to Tajikistan.

He said the construction of new highways will provide access to ports and corridors for commercial markets while such global projects will lead to international co-operation besides promoting trade from Pakistan.

A day earlier, it was reported that a high-level delegation headed by Abdul Aleem Khan will visit Kuwait by end of current month for boosting investment in Pakistan.



The Pakistani delegation is expected to have meetings with Prime Minister of Kuwait and Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Power and Petroleum while Trade Minister of Kuwait will host, said a news release issued here on Friday.

Trade and business activities between the two countries will also be finalized and the visit to Kuwait will be made more useful in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Commerce. Abdul Aleem Khan presided over the important consultation meeting regarding the visit to Kuwait in which the necessary issues were finalized. The minister said that during his visit to Kuwait, there will be progress in providing employment to more workforce from Pakistan, especially health professionals and skilled labor, as well as taking the business community into confidence and the private sector.—RT/Agency

In-Depth Training Essential To Enhance Working Capacity: DG Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhar Hussain

KARACHI: Director General of the Sindh Food Authority (SFA), Agha Fakhar Hussain, recently presided over a certificate distribution ceremony for participants who completed specialized training on "Measurements of Uncertainty and Method Validation."

This training initiative was part of workshops organized by the GRASP Project of the International Trade Center, aimed at capacity building of laboratory staff regarding ISO 17025 compliance for testing laboratories.

The meticulously designed program aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of key concepts and practices necessary for adherence to ISO-17025, a globally recognized standard for laboratory competence. Emphasizing two critical components of ISO-17025, the training focused on measurement of uncertainty and method validation.

DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain commended the dedication of all



trainees and congratulated them on the successful completion of this essential training program. He expressed gratitude to the organization for their efforts in facilitating such a valuable learning opportunity.—RT

PIA Gears Up For UK Flights



KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has begun preparation for flight operations for United Kingdom (UK), media reported, quoting well-placed sources.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) team visited Pakistan to assess various aspects of the CAA and PIA, including licensing, flight safety, flight standards, and airworthiness. As per details, the PIA is hoping to get nod for the UK flights and it has decided to operate weekly 22 flights for the kingdom. In this context, the PIA has sought bids for in-flight catering services at London, Manchester and Birmingham airports. The intended companies have been asked to submit their technical and financial proposals by June 27, 2024.—RT/Agency

Initiatives Underway To Make Punjab's First Cancer Hospital Operational: Maryam

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed her satisfaction with the Field Hospitals and Clinic on Wheels project.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the chief minister disclosed that measures were in progress to operationalise the province's first government-run cancer hospital. She also unveiled plans for launching projects aimed at establishing comprehensive cardiology blocks in each district.

Acknowledging the benefits of health reforms, Maryam stressed an increasing dedication to further serving the populace, particularly in regions where healthcare infrastructure is lacking.

She said that these efforts encompassed the provision of state-of-the-art facilities



and ongoing enhancements to health centres and hospitals throughout the province.

She explained that through the Field Hospitals and Clinic on Wheels project, the monitoring of services for treating numerous patients was actively underway. While underscoring the significance of every sector, the chief minister particularly emphasised the improvement of healthcare facilities across Punjab.—RT/Agency

Education Ministry Releases Progress Report On Infrastructure Upgrades In ICT Schools

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has issued the progress report on infrastructure improvement in government schools in Islamabad under the National Education Emergency.

According to the details, in this financial year, the works have been substantially completed including the upgradation of 252 washrooms in 63 schools, while 21 primary schools have also been renovated.

It was further informed that roof treatment was completed in 43 schools. Similarly, IT parks were established in five institutes, while 21 libraries were set up in primary schools.

The artwork was completed in 30 schools, with the remaining projects underway.

The ministry said that the furniture was delivered to 21 primary schools and IT parks, with remaining projects in progress. The security wall renovation was ongoing for 80 schools and entrance up-



lift was completed for 30 schools, with remaining projects in progress, it added.

According to the Education Ministry, acrylic boards and corridor upgrades were also completed in 40 institutes, with remaining projects in progress. However, 100 wash stations were provided in 50 institutes, the ministry stated.

It was noted that 21 primary schools and IT rooms were renovated for projects in progress. The IT labs and electric work in 30 schools was nearly completed, with work in 40 schools expected to be added.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: People are attending the funeral prayers of veteran actor Talat Hussain, at Masjid-e-Aysha in DHA, Karachi.—RT



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi and Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Laghari, Federal Minister for Energy are exchanging views with Ali Amin Gandapur, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during their meeting.—RT



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is exchanging views with Mubarak Ali Aesa Al-Khater, Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan during their meeting.—RT

"The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it"

—Henry David Thoreau

44 Suspects Identified And Charged For Sargodha Mob Attack On Christian Man

SARGODHA: Sargodha Police have identified and booked 44 people for their alleged involvement in mob violence against a Christian man accused of desecration of the Holy Quran the previous day in the city's Mujahid Colony, it emerged on Sunday.

The police on Saturday rescued the man as well as two Christian families from the enraged mob that wanted to lynch him and barge into the homes of some other members of the minority community.

The incident had taken place after some residents of the colony found burned pages near an electric pole and the houses of the Christian family.

The first information report (FIR) of the incident, filed hours after the incident, invokes Section 324 (attempt to murder), 186 (obstructing public officials in discharging their duty), 353 (assaulting a



public official who is discharging their duty), 436 (mischievous fire or explosive material with intent to destroy house), 440 (mischievous fire or explosive material with intent to cause death or hurt) 149 (Every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The suspects have also been booked under Section 7 (punishment for acts of terrorism) and 11WW (lynch-

ing) of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) 1997.

According to the FIR filed by Station House Officer (SHO) Shahid Iqbal, agitated locals had gathered in front of the victim's house. Armed with sticks, stones and other weapons, they allegedly attempted to force their way into the house.

After calling for backup, police, the Sargodha Peace Committee and other residents tried to calm the mob — now numbering between 300 and 400 people — and

resolve the situation through dialogue, but to no avail, the FIR states.

The mob also set a nearby shoe factory ablaze and tried to enter the victim's house from adjoining roofs, the FIR alleges. The mob also reportedly destroyed electricity meters and outdoor AC units outside Maseeh's home, which they subsequently set ablaze.

SHO Iqbal and other police personnel at the scene extricated the victim from the burning house. However, upon bringing him outside, they were surrounded by the mob, who hurled stones and beat them with sticks, severely injuring the Christian man.

The FIR also alleged that women were also part of the people who were inciting the crowd and encouraging violent behaviour.

Rizwan Younus Gill, a nephew of the suspected man, had told media on Saturday that his uncle was in stable condition. He said that a couple of days ago a TLP activist had exchanged harsh words with his cousins, but the matter was resolved through negotiations. He denied allegations of desecration.

Meanwhile, District Police Officer (DPO) Assad Ejaz Malhi said that head constable Aneesur Rehman stood in front of the mobsters to rescue the Christian families. He said additional police units were stationed throughout the city to ensure the safety of the Christian community. In a post on X, the Punjab Police said that on the orders of Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Anwar, security at churches across the province had been tightened. "Diligent police officers are on duty for the security of the Christian places of worship," the statement read.—RT/Agency

PTI's Shah Mahmood Qureshi Accused In Eight More Cases

LAHORE: The police on Sunday implicated imprisoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in eight more cases in connection with the May 9 mayhem.

Qureshi is currently imprisoned in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail in multiple cases. In addition to this, a special court established under the Official Secrets Act had handed Qureshi 10 years in jail in the cipher case.

The May 9 riots were triggered almost across the country after the deposed prime minister Imran Khan's arrest in the £190 million settlement case. Hundreds of PTI workers and senior leaders were put behind bars for their involvement in violence and attacks on military installations last year.

During the protests, the miscreants targeted the civil and military installations including — Jinnah House and the General Headquarters



(GHQ) in Rawalpindi. The military termed May 9 "Black Day" and decided to try the protesters under the Army Act.

Earlier today, a special team of the police approached the ATC in Lahore seeking permission to arrest, interrogate and summon the PTI leader in an FIR registered with Police Station Sarwar Road.

The court, however, denied the permission in view of the "security concerns".

Meanwhile, the court allowed the investigation officer to visit Adiala Jail for interrogation of the accused within a period of three days in the cipher case. "The accused shall be deemed to be on physical remand for that purpose," read the court order.

The court directed police to produce the suspect before it via a video link on Monday (May 27). The superintendent of the jail was also ordered to make necessary arrangements in this regard. Later, the police reached the Rawalpindi prison and recorded Qureshi's statement in the case.—RT/Agency

PM Praises Norway's Historic Decision To Recognize Palestine

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday during a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Store conveyed his deep appreciation for Norway's landmark decision to recognise the state of Palestine.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the prime minister said that this principled decision by Norway would send a strong message of hope and solidarity to the brave Palestinian people who have been enduring Israel's brutality and suffering over 75 years of occupation and oppression.

PM Shehbaz also welcomed the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) recent ruling regarding Rafah and Gaza and called for its full and effective implementation.

He emphasised the importance of the two-state solution as the key to lasting peace in the Middle East, hoping that Norway's decision would encourage other countries to follow suit, paving the way for full UN membership of the state of Palestine.

In this regard, he further said that the international community needed to focus its attention towards the plight of the oppressed people of



Kashmir, who had been subjected to brutal occupation and denial of fundamental rights for the past seven and a half decades.

During the conversation, both leaders reiterated their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties in various sectors, including trade, investment, education, and renewable energy. They also recognised the important role played by Norwegians of Pakistani origin in creating a vital connection between Pakistan and Norway and contributing to the economic development of both nations.

"The two leaders agreed to remain in touch and to meet soon, possibly on the margins of the UNGA Session later this year.

The prime minister also extended a most cordial invitation to the Prime Minister Store to

undertake an official visit to Pakistan, at his earliest convenience," the statement further said.

Norway's decision comes as Israeli forces have led assaults on the northern and southern edges of the Gaza Strip in May, causing a new exodus of hundreds of thousands of people, and sharply restricted the flow of aid, raising the risk of famine.

Non-EU member Norway has long said it would recognise Palestine as a country only if it could have a positive impact on the peace process, in step with what the United States has said on the issue.

Norway is a close US ally, and the Nordic country has sought to help broker peace between Israel and the Palestinians on several occasions in recent decades.—RT/Agency

IMF Wants Government To Deregulate Prices Of Red Meat And Milk



ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has 'asked' Pakistan to deregulate red meat and milk prices, media reported on Sunday, citing sources.

Sources said the IMF asked the Pakistan government to take back the powers of regulating milk and red meat prices from the deputy commissioners and it should be decided by the market.

Following the 'demand' of the IMF, the federal government has begun considering deregulation of milk, beef and mutton prices by stopping monitoring them, leaving consumers at the mercy of the market players' demand and supply mechanism.

Officials from federal and provincial governments and stakeholders reportedly agreed that "deregulating red meat and milk prices is necessary to support the development of the livestock sector."

The need to adopt a regulatory mechanism covering the quality aspects of milk, meat, and mutton was also stressed. The sources said the summary regarding deregulating the prices of milk and meat will be forwarded to the Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC) for the approval.

Pakistan Dairy Cattle and Farmers Association has welcomed the decision of deregulating the prices.

Meanwhile, experts have cautioned that inflation will touch record high after deregulation and de-capping of prices.—RT/Agency

Ongoing Dialogue Taking Place For Inclusion In Government: Gilani

LAHORE: Senate Chairman and Acting President Yousaf Raza Gilani has asserted that his party will support incumbent government in good governance and negated the claims of exclusion from government.

Talking to media in Lahore, Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) leader revealed that dialogue with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) was ongoing for inclusion in government.

Senate Chairman highlighted the crisis plaguing the state, stating state was facing crisis like terrorism, extremism and threats at eastern and western borders.

He stressed that it's time for all stakeholders to sit to-



gether and take key decisions.

He also discussed about the grievances farmers facing, he said wheat growers faced loss as profits were made by third parties.

Yousaf Raza Gilani said PPP stood with farmers and their rights. He also reiterated to follow the same policy in fiscal budget. He affirmed that his party will suggest government to make youth, farmer centric budget. He also insisted that every bill or law will be passed with majority vote.—RT/Agency

FO Confirms Release Of Journalist And Athlete Mona Khan By Greek Authorities

ISLAMABAD: National TV anchor and marathon runner Mona Khan has been released by Greek administration on the swift action of Pakistan's embassy in Greece.

According to FO spokesperson, Mona Khan has been released from detention and moved to Athens to meet her son there.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntas Zahra Baloch confirmed the embassy's proactive measures, stating, "The Pakistani Embassy hired a lawyer and ensured consular access to Mona Khan. Embassy officials visited her in jail to provide support and facilitate her release."

Journalist Mona Khan was detained in cathrini lock up.

Pakistani authorities demanded anchor and marathon runner Mona Khan release by engaging with Greek officials.



Mona Khan was arrested by police in Greece for displaying Pakistani flag during her hiking.

Mona Khan, national TV anchor along with his son went to Greece. Her alleged audio is also surfacing on the internet.—RT/Agency

Prioritizing Unity And Respect For Imran Khan By Maintaining Silence On Internal Issues: Shehryar Afridi

PESHAWAR: Expressing annoyance over the political party's internal affairs, Pakistan Tehreek e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shehryar Afridi on Sunday said he was maintaining silence for sake of party unity and in respect of founder Imran Khan.

Talking to PTI workers in Peshawar, Afridi said there were such things going on in the party that it would be better for him to keep quiet. "I can't tell you the pain I am undergoing, however, the party's code of conduct should be adopted (by us)," he said.

He said he was waiting for the right time to break the silence but added that there were some things over which keeping mum would be "criminal".

Afridi, who was denied a meeting with the party founder on May 24, said he was waiting to meet Imran Khan. "Enough is enough, if



we are sincere, we have to ensure the release of the PTI founder," he said.

Since Khan's incarceration after the violent incidents of May 9, multiple rifts have surfaced within the PTI.

Once it was between the political and legal leadership of the party and later Sher Afzal Marwat became the centre of discord.

Referring to the "internal strife" in the PTI, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on March 25 claimed that there was a sheer power struggle within the ranks of Imran Khan-founded party that might lead to its disintegration or creation of a forward block. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Tarar had said that top PTI leaders like Gohar Ali Khan and Sher Afzal Khan were taking contradictory stances on different issues. He had regretted the "childish attitude" put up by the PTI which is a national party. He had advised the PTI leaders to shun their internal politics and play their due role in strengthening the economy.—RT/Agency

Media Suppression Not Intentional: Ahsan Iqbal



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Sunday that the government was not inclined towards suffocating the media, asserting that there were no such attempts from their side.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that while social media platforms offers vast benefits, it also carries risks, notably in spreading misinformation that can sow chaos in society. He said the government's aim to mitigate these risks and ensure that social media was used responsibly.

He further noted the importance of consulting stakeholders to formulate laws aimed at addressing the challenges posed by social media. He stressed that such laws must be in the interest of all to safeguard the country from the risks associated with misinformation. Regarding Pakistan's Youm-e-Takbir, observed on May 28 to commemorate the country's emergence as a nuclear power, he credited Nawaz Sharif for defying international pressure in the interest of Pakistan's sovereignty and freedom. He also acknowledged the foundational role played by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Pakistan's nuclear program. He said that the general council meeting of PML-N would be held in Lahore on the historic May 28, where the election for the party's presidency, to be contested by Nawaz Sharif, would take place. He expressed the party's collective sentiment to address the perceived injustice done to Nawaz Sharif.—RT/Agency

PTI Will Engage In Talks Only When Its Concerns Are Addressed: Asad Qasier

ISLAMABAD: Former National Assembly (NA) speaker Asad Qasier on Sunday lamented the political victimisation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, saying that PTI will only hold talks when its concerns are addressed, media reported.

Speaking at private TV, the PTI leader demanded that the incumbent government take concrete steps to restore the party's mandate, which he claimed was stolen in the recently-held general elections.

Asad Qasier said that the government is talking about negotiations, but it needs to take trust-building measures first. He added that the PTI will only hold talks when its concerns are addressed first.



He termed the government's offer of negotiations 'a public stunt', saying that the PML-N was instead using force to suppress his party's voice.

Asad Qasier warned that if PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif failed to take a "principled stance", his position in future would be like Chaudhry Shujaat's.—RT/Agency