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NATIONAL

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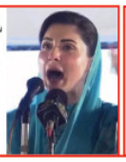

SPORTS

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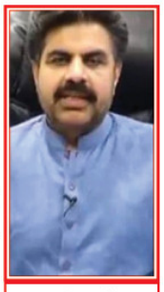

Job Fair To Create Employment Opportunities For Youth: Nasir Shah

KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 160 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Tuesday, May 28, 2024, Zilqad 19, 1445 A.H 8 Pages CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Country's Gas Transmission System At Risk Due To Line Pack Pressure

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's gas transmission and distribution system is at risk due to increasing line pack pressure which has surged to a dangerous level of 5.13 billion cubic feet (bcf) after May 5, media reported on Monday.

The pressure in the gas transmission system remained at a manageable level of 4.570-4.97bcf between May 5 and May 25 but has now soared to critical levels owing to the reduction in the use of Re-Gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) by the power sector, a senior official told the publication.

"Now, the gas system has come again under duress on May 25-26 mainly because of reduction in the use of RLNG by the power sector," the official said, adding that the pipeline could burst any time as the gas transmission system becomes more vulnerable if the gas pressure surges past 5bcf-mark.

The official's remark come as line pack pressure stood at 5.13bcf on Sunday as opposed to Saturday's 5.17bcf. The local Exploration and Production (E&P) companies have reduced gas flows by 176mmcf from 783 to 605mmcf, which is dangerous for the operation of gas fields.

The power sector has slashed its RLNG use to 475mmcf as fuel for electricity generation owing to which the line pack pressure has increased to 1.530bcf, putting the gas transmission system under duress.

Meanwhile, gas consumption in the fertiliser industry stands at 52 mmcf as compared to Saturday's consumption of 40mmcf with low RLNG consumption (24mmcf) by Fatima Fertiliser due to start up of their plant at 1900 hrs on May 24 after completion of their Annual Turn Around (ATA).

Furthermore, system gas consumption by Engro Fertilizer was suspended at 2200 hrs on April 22 due to start up of Annual Turn Around of their plant for about 54 days

With the current RLNG consumption rate standing at 32 mmcfd, the data warns extreme high-pressure condition prevails throughout the transmission network due to reduced offtake of RLNG by the power sector.

Commenting on the steps taken to tackle the situation, he said that authorities have started reducing gas flows from local gas fields into the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) system to reduce the line pack pressure.

However, the official noted that reduction in gas flow from local gas fields poses significant risks to maintaining the current local gas production level.

Recalling the repeated warnings by exploration and production companies against the "perilous" practice of decreasing local gas flows to safeguard the gas transmission system, he said that gas wells nearing depletion are compelled to reduce natural gas flows, causing irreparable damage, and they cannot recharge to their original flow levels.

The wells require capital-intensive investment through artificial lift methods to resume production, he concluded.—RT/Agency

KP And Federal Governments Reconcile, Agree To Collaborate For Public Relief

ISLAMABAD: Following months-long tussle and exchange of heated arguments over arrears, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Centre have finally agreed to bury the hatchet and work together for public relief.

The development came during a meeting between KP's firebrand Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Islamabad on Monday. Federal Minister for Energy Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari and the federal interior secretary were also among the attendees of the meeting.

It is pertinent to mention here that the KP government and the Centre had been at odds over multiple issues, including the prolonged power cuts in the province with CM Gandapur even threatening to take control of the power distribution company, the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) after decrying the excessive power outages in the province.

In addition to this, the KP government and Centre have been engaged in a verbal spat in recent days with the former complaining of dues that are owed to the province by the federal government.

In March, CM Gandapur threatened to take the Centre to court over the arrears issue.

Addressing a joint presser, following a "meaningful" dialogue, CM Gandapur said: "The federal and provincial institutions will work together. [We] will work together to remove the causes of line losses."

Referring to the "consensus" developed between the two sides, the provincial chief executive said that they had found a way through which people would get relief.

"Even though KP provides electricity to the entire country," he said, "the province itself is experiencing prolonged power cuts."

The chief minister further said that he engaged in talks to solve the problems being faced by the province. "We will have to come to the table for the rights and issues of the province."

Since KP itself generates electricity, he said, the people of the province wanted to end loadshedding and seek cheap electricity.

CM Gandapur also thanked the federal government for realising the grievances of the people of the province.

Quoting PTI founder Imran Khan, he said that their "fight is not against the state's intuitions".

On his part, the energy minister thanked Interior Minister Naqvi for playing a key role in defusing tensions between KP and Centre and bridging the gap between the two sides.

Without revealing details, the federal minister said: "We have found a solution to the problems."

A uniform model will be implemented in KP and other provinces, he added.

Referring to the decisions made in the meeting, the minister said that PTI, PML-N and allied parties have taken a "big step" to recover the economy and steer the country out of crisis.

Despite having a different political narrative, the energy minister said that they agreed on this agenda for the sake of the people and the country.

"We have found a solution to the problems. The solution will be applied to other provinces too."

He vowed to address the issues of power theft and line losses across the country.

"The PTI and the PML-N have jointly taken this step to improve the country's economy."

Talking to journalists, the interior minister revealed that the meeting concluded with a "breakthrough". He, however, did not give details about the breakthrough and said that the session was held in a pleasant atmosphere.

Matters related to public relief were discussed in the meeting, he added.Ahead of the crucial huddle, Naqvi welcomed CM Gandapur upon his arrival at the Foreign Ministry. During his interaction with the media, the chief minister said: Our cases are in the courts and we hope that we will get relief from the courts. I am sitting with them [federal ministers] to solve the problems of the people of his province. In political matters, different things should not be mixed."—RT/Agency

US Ambassador Blome Engages Aurangzeb In Talks On Economic Future

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome on Monday met with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss key aspects of the US-Pakistan trade, investment, and economic relationship.

According to Acting US Mission Spokesperson Thomas Montgomery, Blome highlighted ongoing US support for Pakistan's economic reform agenda.

He noted the United States is committed to working with Pakistan in technical and development initiatives, emphasising that the United States remains Pakistan's largest export market, a major source of high-quality investment and a strong partner for Pakistan's economic future.

Earlier this month, Blome concluded a series of meetings with political and business leaders in Punjab aimed at fostering collaboration in the Information Technology (IT), health, and education sectors.

During his three-day visit to the provincial capital from May 1 to 3, Ambassador Blome engaged in discussions with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Speaker Punjab Assembly (Acting Governor Punjab) Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan and Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar.

US Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins accompanied him during these meetings.

Ambassador Blome explored avenues to enhance the US-Pakistan partnership in Punjab, particularly focusing on areas of mutual interest such as IT, health, and culture.

Emphasising the significance of initiatives within the US-Pakistan 'Green Alliance' framework, he also highlighted the positive impact of ongoing collaborations.—RT/Agency

COAS Munir Reaffirms Nation's Determination To Combat Terrorism

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir on Monday reaffirmed the nation's resolve to fight terrorism with full vigor and spirit, media reported quoting military's media wing.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief expressed this resolve after attending the funeral prayer of martyred soldiers in Peshawar.

COAS Asim Munir reached Peshawar today and offered funeral prayer of Sepoy Taimoor Shaheed, Sepoy Nadir Sagheer Shaheed, Sepoy Muhammad Yaseen Shaheed, Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar Shaheed and Naik Ashfaq Butt Shaheed, who embraced martyrdom during an intense exchange of fire with terrorists at Bagh area of Khyber district.

A large number of military and civil officials also attended the funeral.

The army chief also visited Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Peshawar to inquire about the well-being of troops injured during the operation and appreciated their high morale.

Martyrs will be laid to rest with full military honor at their respective native towns.

Earlier in the day, ISPR reported that seventeen terrorists were killed and another two were injured in two separate operations conducted by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

In a press release, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that in an operation conducted in Tank District on Monday, "own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which ten terrorists were killed".

Another engagement occurred in the "general area [of] Bagh, Khyber District, wherein the security forces killed seven terrorists while two terrorists were injured", the ISPR said.—RT/Agency

23 Terrorists Killed, Seven Soldiers Martyred In KP IBOs

RAWALPINDI: At least 23 terrorists were killed and seven soldiers of the Pakistan Army were martyred in a series of intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in Peshawar, Tank, and Khyber districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) province over two days, the military's media wing said on Monday.

On May 27, security forces conducted an operation in Tank district which resulted in the elimination of ten terrorists in the area.

The second operation took place in the general area of Bagh in Khyber district on the same day and seven terrorists were neutralized while two were injured.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, five soldiers were martyred.

In addition to neutralizing the terrorists, the security forces recovered a substantial cache of weapons, ammunition, and explosives from the operations.

Earlier on May 26, a captain and a soldier embraced martyrdom during an IBO in the Hassan Khel area of Peshawar in which six terrorists were also killed yesterday, according to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The Pakistan Army captain and soldier martyred during Hassan Khel IBO were laid to rest with full military honours in their native areas.

"Sanitisation operations are being are being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area," the ISPR said.

"[The] security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve."

The recent operations in K-P resulted in the martyrdom of five brave soldiers of the Pakistan Army.

Naik Muhammad Ashfaq Butt, aged 32, hailed from district Kahuta. He served in the Pakistan Army for 10 years. He leaves behind a wife, a daughter, and two sons.

Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar was 30, a resident of district Poonch. He dedicated six years to the armed forces.

Sepoy Taimoor Malik, aged 32, belonged to district Layyah and served in the military for 11 years. He leaves behind his grieving parents and siblings.

The youngest of the martyrs, Sepoy Nadir Sageer, aged 22, was from district Bagh and served in the forces for two years.

Sepoy Muhammad Yasin, 23, hailed from district Khushab. He served in the Pakistan Army for one and a half years.

On May 4, the military announced that security forces conducted a successful operation in K-P's North Waziristan district, resulting in the death of at least six terrorists and the destruction of their hideout.—RT/Agency

AG Assures IHC: Every Missing Person Will Be Reunited With Family

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday issued written verdict of missing persons case.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani issued the four-page written verdict making the undertaking of the attorney general part of it. The attorney general gave an undertaking to court on behalf of state and law-enforcement agencies that "every person who has been missing will return to his family, come what may." According to the attorney general, a committee on 'enforced disappearances' comprising federal minsters has prepared its recommendations which will be presented before the court after approval from the cabinet. The attorney general told the court that solution to disappearance cases lied in political settlement. He assured the court that he had talked to the authorities to solve this intractable matter once and for all. Complainant's lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari has submitted a list of three people to court in this regard. Court expected attorney general to inform it about the whereabouts of these people in the next hearing. It has also been stated in the exhaustive verdict that DG IB's plea for formation of committee of law-enforcement agencies has been accepted.—RT/Agency

Saad Rafique And Rana Mashhood Call On Shehbaz In Lahore

LAHORE: Khawaja Saad Rafique, former federal minister, on Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting the overall political and economic situation of the country was discussed, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Separately, Prime Minister Youth Programme chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmed also called on the prime minister.—RT/Agency

Seven Desks Established Under SIFC To Attract Foreign Investment

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said seven desks have been established under Special Investment Facilitation Council to attract investment from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, China, European Union, the US and Far East.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the investors of friendly countries are expressing their satisfaction over the one window facility being provided by the SIFC.

He said the UAE has announced to make ten billion dollars investment in Pakistan while there is also progress of bringing five billion dollar investment from Saudi Arabia. He was confident that these investments will materialize.

The Information Minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will also visit China in a few days' time to give impetus to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Attaullah Tarar said the country's economy is taking off. He said the Current Account Deficit and inflation have declined while IT exports are witnessing surge. He pointed out that the world financial institutions are also acknowledging our economic revival

The Information Minister regretted the posture of a particular political party saying its narrative is based on enmity against the country.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

HYDERABAD: Akthar Meo Rajput who was a senior Police ASI and former guard of former MNA Kazi Asad Abid, passed away due to heatstroke while on duty at the Sindh High Court's Registry in Hyderabad.-Photo by Nazim Photographer

PPP MNA Dr Nafisa Shah takes notice of Khairpur fire

By Naz solangi

KUMB: MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah, a central leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) took notice of a fire incident that resulted in the destruction of a house in Ward 24, Muhalla Mehboob Rind, Khairpur City. She instructed party officials to promptly assist the affected individuals. In response, senior vice president of PPP City Khairpur, Muneer Hussain Mangi, senior worker Muhammad Yousuf Rind, leader of the Minority Wing Khairpur City Shankar Lal, and Deputy Secretary of Information PPP City Khairpur, Fatah Rind, delivered relief supplies on behalf of Dr. Nafisa Shah to the victims, including Keechi Khan Rind and others. The affected residents and local community expressed their gratitude to Dr. Nafisa Shah, thanking her for providing assistance during their time of need and for being attentive to their situation. Present at the occasion were PPP City Khairpur Ward 24 president Muhammad Saleem Janwri, general secretary Andul Khan Rind, Mehboob Rind, Khalid Mahmood Jat, Kodal Khan Rind, Mureed Hussain Rind, Sagar Deedar Bhutto, Asghar Rind, Naib Ali Rind, and other dignitaries.

Chinese government awards Yaseen Laghari for his outstanding research work

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Mr. Yaseen Laghari received the Outstanding Student Provincial Award from Jiangsu, Government China, for his novel master's research work titled "Coastal Wetlands of Indus River Delta Are Under Risk Due to Reclamation: A Spatiotemporal Analysis During the Past 50 Years from 1972 to 2022." The award was presented by the College of Marine Science and Engineering at Nanjing Normal University, China. His research demonstrated a significant decline in the net area of coastal wetlands, which decreased by 26.1 km² between 1972 and 2022. During the same period, land reclamation for settlements and agriculture increased by 200.1 to 373.5 km².

The study emphasizes that without timely conservation actions, this valuable wetland ecosystem will continue to degrade, endangering many animal and plant species. Mr. Yaseen, a native of a small village in Sakrand, Sindh province of Pakistan, was recognized for his research's critical importance to ecosystem conservation worldwide.

Experts nominated him due to the significant implications of his findings. Mr. Yaseen expressed his gratitude, stating, "I am highly thankful to my esteemed supervisor, Chinese Professor, and co-supervisor Dr. Shahjahan Laghari from Northwest A & F University Yangling, China, for their dynamic supervision." He also thanked his teachers, friends, relatives, and colleagues for their support and well-wishes, attributing his achievement to the prayers of his parents. He completed his bachelor's degree in 2019 under the guidance of the Geography Department at the University of Sindh Jamshoro.

HYDERABAD: A woman resident of Qasimabad is protesting for the recovery of her missing son.--Photo by Nazim Photographer

Jacobabad notables join STP

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: The Sindh Tarqipasand Party organized programs in different wards of Municipal Committee Jacobabad during which the leaders of different organizations and civil society leaders announced to join the STP. The District President of STP Abdul Sattar Jagirani, Nizam Mastoi, Majeed Sarki, Umar Solangi, Asif Mastoi, Dr Shafi Pathan and others attended the programs during which Zubair Ahmed, Mohsin, Bilawal, Zaheer Ahmed, Shano Suhag, Jamil Soomro, Amir Soomro and others announced to join the STP. They expressed confidence in the leadership of Chairman Dr Qadir Magsi and announced to continue services for welfare of the people of Sindh.

NWM's Mallah community demands justice

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Mallah community people recorded a protest demonstration for the arrest of the murderers of a youth named Shoukat Mallah on Monday. While talking to the media, the protest leaders, who included Ayaz Mallah, Anwar Mallah, Mumtaz Mallah, Fozia Mallah, Zaheeran Mallah and others said that their youth had been killed six days ago in Nawab Wali Muhammad but the police have still not arrested his murderers. On the occasion, the protesters demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter and provide justice to them.

Daulatpur's civil society rallies for Priya Kumari and Habibullah Palli's recoveries

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: A protest rally was taken out by the local journalists and the civil society leaders for the recovery of missing girl Priya Kumari and a student of Daulatpur named Habibullah Palli. The protest was led by Mehboob Ali Jokhio, Muhammad Ali Jokhio, Abdul Sattar Jokhio, Sharjeel Ahmed and others, who marched through different parts of the city. The protest leaders expressed concern over the performance of the police and demanded recovery of Priya Kumari and Habibullah Palli, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Nawabshah journalists demand justice for Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: Journalist of Nawabshah led a protest demonstration outside the local press club demanding the arrest of journalist Nasrullah Gadani's killers. Among the journalists present were MB Chandio, Lala Taj Rind, Asad Bukhari, Kashif Abro, Akram Chandio, Sarwar Khaskheli, Ramzan Bhutto, Shaban Khaskheli, Mushtaq Bhutto, Azam Bhatti, Sameer Shahani, Waheed Khoso, Daud Shah, Nasir Khanzada, and others. They emphasized that journalists who write the truth are being threatened and intimidated, while the government remains silent and indifferent. They called upon the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the Chief Minister of Sindh, and other authorities to arrest the killers of journalist Nasrullah Gadani and ensure exemplary punishment for them. In case of failure, they warned of expanding the protests.

HYDERABAD: The members of the Paramedical Staff Association are protesting against the Accounts Officer of the CDF Hospital, Bahadur Lashari.--Photo by Nazim Photographer

Phulji Station's civil society demands arrest of martyred journalists' killers

By Abdullah Shahni

PHULJI STATION: A rally and protest were organized by the Sindhi Adabi Sangat Branch Phulji Station demanding the arrest of the killers of martyred journalists Jan Muhammad Mahar and Nasrullah Gadani. The event saw significant participation from leaders and members of Sindh Tarqipasand Party (STP), Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM), journalists, political activists, social organizations, and civil society. During the protest, leaders including Yasin Arain, Qurban Shahbaz Panhwar, Imam Din Panhwar, Irfan Rajput, Muhammad Nawaz Chandio, Khalid Hussain Khoso, Aslam Azad Soomro, Lala Zaheer Soomro, Nawab Mughal and Umar Solangi voiced their concerns. They condemned the killing of journalists for writing the truth, specifically pointing out that even after 288 days, the killers of the brave and courageous journalist from Sukkur, Jan Muhammad Mahar, have not been arrested. They criticized the Sindh Government's inaction despite widespread protests across the province. The leaders accused the police in Sukkur and Mirpur Mathelo of protecting feudal lords and attempting to cover up the bloodshed of martyrs. They condemned the unjust killing of journalist Nasrullah Gadani from Mirpur Mathelo for his truthful reporting. They demanded the Sindh government register the case of Nasrullah Gadani's murder, which has not yet been done. They lamented the lack of press freedom in Pakistan compared to other countries, stating that writing the truth here is treated as a severe crime. They held the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) responsible for the killing of Nasrullah Gaddani, accusing the party's feudal lords of causing the deaths of many young Sindhi men and leaving many mothers bereft. The leaders called on the honest sons of Sindh to step forward and support the orphaned children of the martyrs. They demanded that the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court and other authorities provide protection to journalists and ensure that the killers of the martyred journalists are arrested and given exemplary punishment. They warned that if their demands are not met, the scope of their protests will be expanded.

Jamshoro's journalists demand registration of Nasrullah Gadani's murder case

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: In response to the unjust killing of Mirpur Mathelo's martyred journalist Nasrullah Gadani, journalists, political and social organization leaders from Jamshoro and Kotri paid a heartfelt tribute at the Jamshoro Media Center. Flowers were laid on the portraits of the martyr, and the Union of Journalists Jamshoro led a strong protest, demanding the arrest of his killers. The event saw prominent figures such as JSQM central leader Abdul Fattah Channa, senior journalist Qurban Panhwar, Asad Mangrio, SUP leader Khalid Lashari, Younis Otho from PPP, Shaukat Naich, Mian Khan Baloch, Advocate Yousuf, Imtiaz Hingoro, Sultan Mangrio and Ghulam Asghar Mallah. They passionately addressed the media, expressing their grief and anger. They highlighted that Nasrullah Gadani was the voice of the poor and oppressed, emphasizing that his voice must not be silenced. Although Nasrullah is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in the hearts of the oppressed. They called for the harshest legal actions against the influential feudal lords responsible for his murder and demanded justice for his blood. The speakers condemned the lawlessness in Sindh, pointing out that when Nasrullah's mother went to the police station, the authorities, siding with the influential, refused to file a case. They urged for immediate action to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law.

HYDERABAD: Residents of Nasim Nagar are protesting against the actions of their area police.--Photo by Nazim Photographer

METRO KARACHI

Sindh Government To Conduct Random Drug Tests In Schools: Sharjeel

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, announced plans to conduct random drug tests in various Karachi schools to identify and arrest drug peddlers. He assured that students' identities will remain confidential, and no legal action will be taken against those who test positive. Instead, parents will be notified, and students will be asked to disclose their drug sources.

This initiative is part of a broader crackdown on drug abuse in the province, as discussed in a high-level meeting chaired by Memon. The minister emphasized the urgency of combating the drug epidemic and outlined the formation of specialized teams to implement the crackdown.

Memon highlighted the importance of freeing the youth from drug dealers and promised recognition and awards for officers who show exceptional performance in this mission. The Sindh government is committed to tackling the drug crisis and protecting the future of its young generation.

Turkish Consul General Headlines 34th LADIESFUND Power Lunch

KARACHI: Chief Guest Mr. Cemal Sangu, Turkish Consul General to Karachi headlined the highly anticipated 34th LADIESFUND Power Lunch. This dynamic must-attend networking session featured 50 incredible women leaders - including Yasmeen Lari (Heritage Foundation), Masarrat Misbah (Depilex Smileagain Foundation), Niilofur Farrukh (CEO, Karachi Biennale), Nargis Rehman (Founder, Women's Foundation Pakistan), Jamila Habib, Frieha Altaf (CEO, Catwalk), Nadene Hafeez Shaikh, Saira Awan (President, TCS), Ameena Saiyid (MD of Lightstone Publishers), Patrice Khan (Energy Therapist & HeartMath Coach), Moneeza Usman Butt (Partner, KPMG), Shehla Rashid Hashmi (Owner, Hashmi Group) and Khursheed Hyder (PR, HUM), et al., and some dynamic men including Amin Gulgee, Rashid Hashmi, Deepak Perwani, Faisal Kachelo, and Shahzad Sabir.

"We continue to transform the way power spaces and networking at the highest level take place as we're placing women front row and center in these conversations, having voice and respect from the get-go, with select inclusion of male champions for gender inclusion, diversity and women empowerment. With this thirty-fourth lunch, we further grow this pool as agents of change and the sectors represented," stated LADIESFUND President Tara Uzra Dawood.

"It was a privilege and honour to be the Chief Guest at the 34th LADIESFUND Power Lunch, a gathering of some of the most interesting and amazing women and a handful of dynamic men," said HE Mr. Cemal Sangu, Turkish Consul General in Karachi.

"The Turkish Consulate and LADIESFUND have collaborated several times over the last 11 years including bringing top Turkish female speakers to deliver talks in Pakistan as well as sponsoring Pakistani girls to study in Turkiye. We look forward to this close relationship continuing from strength to strength. Where there is a women there is a magic!" Mr. Cemal Sangu - Turkish CG

"I really enjoyed the LADIESFUND gathering of like-minded friends and interesting people, all discussing ways to contribute to a better Pakistan," said Yasmeen Lari.

"I feel LADIESFUND has some of the most substance-filled events. I must say it has been a learning experience for me to connect with a diversity of exceptionally talented achievers. It was very kind of Uzra Dawood to honour me to be a LADIESFUND Woman of Inspiration," said Nargis Rehman, Convener, Karachi Citizens' Forum. "I'm very proud of Uzra Dawood for the positive impact she is making in empowering women and giving them a platform for expression and action...facilitating the needed Change for Women's Empowerment. Wish her the very best in all her Ventures."

"The cross-section of interesting, trailblazing women across sectors makes the LADIESFUND power lunches one of the most dynamic and energizing gatherings in town," said sculptor Amin Gulgee.

"I really enjoy meeting interesting accomplished career women and supportive men at the LADIESFUND power lunches," said Niilofur Farrukh, CEO, Karachi Biennale. The carefully designed menu is a treat and speaks of Uzra 's attention to detail and commitment as the founder of this dynamic initiative.

"From the very first time I attended a LADIESFUND event 10 years ago, it has always been a delight to be there and it's a very special networking platform," said Masarrat Misbah, Founder, Depilex Group.

"It was really refreshing to spend an afternoon with some of the most incredible women (and a few men) in our nation and compare notes on how we are approaching our work and how we can help our nation and women in our nation. Kudos, LADIESFUND!" said Saira Awan Malik, President, TCS Pvt. Ltd.

"It was enjoyable to attend a small gathering of talented people who really cared about working together for the betterment of Pakistan," said Faisal Kachelo, CEO, Kachelo Fruit Farms.

"I really enjoy the professionalism of LADIESFUND power lunches which have some of the most interesting guests, most delicious food, and beautiful ambiances in town, all with substance and invigorating dialogue at the core," said Ameena Saiyid.

Beauty Partner for the event was Nighat Misbah at Depilex Beauty Clinic and Institute, Chief Guest Gift Partners were Maccarron and Madiha Sikander Illustrations, and Official Gift Partner was Shireen.—RT

SHC Permits Reporters To Cover Court Proceedings

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday allowed court reporters to cover judicial proceedings, media reported.

As per details, the court issued a stay on the notification issued by Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) that imposed restrictions on court reporting.

The Sindh High Court has also issued notices to Pemra, the Ministry of Information, and others, seeking a response by June 6.

Advocate Abdul Moiz Jaferi argued that Pemra has no authority to issue such directives, and it is the judiciary's prerogative to decide what can be reported and what not.

Chief Justice SHC Ahmed Ali Sheikh remarked that court reporters should also show responsibility in their reporting, as certain remarks sometimes can create a wrong impression.

At this, the court adjourned the case until June 6 for further hearing.—RT/Agency

Miftah Advocates For Fundamental Reforms Ahead Of Budget

KARACHI: Dr. Miftah Muhammad Ismail, former Federal Finance Minister, emphasized the necessity of fundamental reforms in the upcoming budget, citing challenges including widespread poverty and malnutrition in Pakistan. Speaking at the Habibian Dialogue organized by the Habib Public School Alumni Association (HPSAA), Dr. Ismail highlighted that over 90 million people in Pakistan live below the poverty line, with alarming rates of malnutrition and educational deficiencies among children.

Addressing the need for a conducive investment environment, Dr. Ismail underscored the importance of strengthening the local government system and revitalizing the National Finance Commission (NFC) to address budget deficits effectively. He expressed support for privatization while advocating for comprehensive reforms to spur economic development.

Reflecting on Pakistan's political landscape, Dr. Ismail noted the frequent changes in leadership and emphasized the need for stability and continuity in governance. Despite challenges, he acknowledged Pakistan's potential for growth and expressed gratitude for the respect he has received from the country.

The event concluded with HPSAA President Saeed Allah Wala presenting Dr. Ismail with a shield, symbolizing appreciation for his insights. HPSAA General Secretary Syed Mehtab Haider reiterated the association's commitment to national development and called for collective efforts to realize Pakistan's true potential.—RT

Karachi's Matric Exams Postponed Due To Public Holiday

KARACHI: The provincial authorities once again deferred the matriculation exams in Karachi slated for Tuesday as the country will observe national holiday tomorrow on account of Youm-e-Takbeer.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced a public holiday on Youm-e-Takbeer to mark the historic day when Pakistan conducted successful nuclear tests in the hills of Chaghai in 1998.

Later, Sindh Universities and Boards Minister Mohammad Ali Malkani announced that the papers of IX and X classes will not take place in the metropolis tomorrow (Tuesday) due to the holiday.

He said that a new date for tomorrow's papers will be announced later.

It may be noted that the Board of Secondary Education Karachi (BSEK) had announced a new schedule for the matric exams, which had been deferred for almost a week due to extremely hot weather.

The BSEK had postponed the remaining papers of the IX and X classes, which were supposed to be held between May 21-27, in the wake of an expected heatwave in Sindh.

Meanwhile, University of Karachi also announced holiday tomorrow in line with the official announcement. The exams due to be held tomorrow in the varsity have been deferred.—RT/Agency

Sindh Introduces Third-Party System For Food Licensing

Sindh Food Authority
Government of Sindh

KARACHI: The Sindh government has introduced a third-party system for issuing food licenses to facilitate the business community. The decision was made during the 10th meeting of the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) board, chaired by Provincial Minister for Food Jam Khan Shoro at the Archives Complex in Clifton, Karachi.

Attendees included Sindh Assembly member Ghanwar Isran, the Provincial Secretary for Food, the Director General of the SFA, and representatives from the business community and the Karachi Chamber of Commerce. The SFA presented over 14 agenda items, with three approved and seven committees formed to address various issues.

Minister Shoro stated, "We have established a committee to simplify the food licensing process through a third-party system. Our aim is to make the food authority's system more efficient and avoid unnecessary harassment of the business community. Providing quality food to the public is our top priority."

Director General Agha Fakhar briefed the meeting on the SFA's performance, noting fines of Rs 103.057 million and fees of Rs 357.642 million collected from 2018 to 2024. The SFA has agreements with universities for internships and food testing laboratories.

The SFA conducts over 100 raids and inspections daily to ensure food quality in the province. The meeting also discussed increasing the SFA's budget from Rs 200 million to Rs 600 million, which was approved. The authority continues to take strict action against those selling substandard food items.—RT

UBL Announces Winners Of 11th UBL Literature & Arts Awards

KARACHI: The 11th UBL Literature and Arts Awards were held at a five-star hotel in Karachi, attended by numerous writers, literary figures, media personalities, socialites, and celebrities. These prestigious awards honor the best of Pakistani writers and artists, showcasing UBL's commitment to arts and literature.

Hundreds of nominations were received from across Pakistan, open to authors who published original work in 2021 and 2022. An esteemed panel of judges shortlisted the entries. Judges for Urdu categories included Dr. Asghar Nadeem Syed, Dr. Arfa Syeda, Dr. Anwaar Ahmed, Ms. Kishwar Naheed, and Dr. Nasir Abbas Nayyar. For English categories, judges were Dr. Naazir Mahmood, Dr. Aroosa Kanwal, and Mr. Haris Khaleeq.

Children's Urdu Literature: Ahmed Tariq, Children's English Literature: Marzia Abbas, Urdu Poetry: Mohsin Shakeel, Pakistani Languages: Waqar Ali Shah, Song Lyrics: Sabir Zafer, Drama Script: Hashim Nadeem, Urdu Debut: Ahmed Jehangir, English Fiction: Haroon Khalid Akhter, English Non-Fiction: Tariq Rehman, Urdu Fiction: Shaheen Abbas, Urdu Non-Fiction: Dr. Aurangzeb Khan

A special Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Zaheda Hina for her exemplary career.

The ceremony, hosted by Sajid Hassan and Faiza Gillani, featured entertainment by violinist Saleem, Dastan Go by Fawad Khan of NAPA, classical dance by Sumaira Ali, ghazals by Moazzam Ali Khan, and a sitar and tabla performance. The event concluded with a lavish dinner.

Deputy CEO of UBL, Mr. Zia Ijaz, remarked, "As a responsible corporate citizen, UBL has significantly contributed to society's betterment. The UBL Literature & Arts Awards are a cornerstone of our efforts to recognize and celebrate indigenous talent across the country."

The UBL Literature & Arts Awards continue to support and motivate talented Pakistani writers and artists, reinforcing the importance of arts and literature in society and encouraging the creation of diverse works that enrich the cultural heritage of Pakistan.—RT

Seminar Advocates Net Metering For Philanthropy And Clean Energy

KARACHI: At a seminar organized by Hopewind, Moin M. Fudda, former Karachi Stock Exchange MD, proposed allowing well-off consumers with rooftop solar systems to donate excess electricity to charitable causes, benefiting underserved communities like Lines Area and Lyari. Fudda emphasized the positive impact on mosques, seminaries, and charities, and urged the government to facilitate large off-grid solar installations for industrialists. He suggested net metering for single-phase households to aid low-income consumers.

Hopewind Regional Head, Syed Salman Mohiuddin, highlighted the need to increase Pakistan's renewable energy capacity, currently at 5.4% of 40,000 MW. He advocated for promoting rooftop solar systems to meet the goal of 60% renewable energy by 2030 and opposed gross metering for domestic consumers.

Clean energy expert Irfan Ahmed recommended provincial oversight of wind and solar projects and the creation of smaller grid companies. Mehfooz A. Qazi of SEEP confirmed no new taxes on solar equipment and stressed the importance of rooftop solar installations in public buildings.—RT

Saudi Investors Poised For Extensive Investment In Pakistan: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan

KARACHI: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, a leading investor and former president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), announced that Saudi investors are ready to make extensive investments in Pakistan. He emphasized the need for joint ventures to boost local investor confidence.

At a reception for the Council of Economic and Energy Journalists (CEEJ), Khan highlighted the diverse sectors represented by the visiting Saudi delegation, led by the Al-Tamimi Group. He noted Saudi interest in Pakistan's agro sector despite high production costs and significant export opportunities in the Saudi retail and meat markets.

Khan identified currency devaluation as a major hurdle for foreign investors and suggested 4-5 year tax exemptions as a solution. He also proposed local financing schemes for foreign investors and reduced interest rates to encourage business investments over bank savings.

He criticized the high returns on bank savings as unsustainable and praised the current government's follow-up on investment initiatives. Khan stressed the urgency of improving Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and managing debt, advocating for increased agricultural exports and better cold storage facilities.

Khan credited both governments for the successful Saudi delegation visit and noted Saudi Arabia's ambitious Vision 2030, which includes significant developments in tourism, IT, and industry, supported by long-term tax exemptions.—RT

State Minister, FBR Assure Positive Consideration Of KCCI's Budget Proposals

KARACHI: Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Ali Pervez Malik and Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, along with an FBR team, have pledged to give serious consideration to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry's (KCCI) proposals for the Federal Budget 2024-25.

During an online meeting via Zoom, the State Minister assured that proposals aimed at fostering a conducive business environment and supporting growth would be thoroughly reviewed for implementation in the upcoming budget. He committed to forwarding KCCI's recommendations to higher authorities for inclusion, despite fiscal constraints.

The meeting, attended by KCCI officials including President Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh and Senior Vice President Altaf A. Ghaffar, focused on addressing issues faced by the business community, such as high taxation rates and exorbitant energy tariffs. Chairman KCCI's Special Committee for Budget Proposals, Muhammad Ibrahim Kasumbi, presented recommendations aimed at curbing malpractices, revenue leakages, and restoring fairness in the import sector.

Senior Vice President Altaf Ghaffar emphasized the need for economic reforms in the budget, thanking the State Minister and FBR team for their productive discussions. He expressed hope that KCCI's proposals would be accommodated in the forthcoming budget, emphasizing their significance for national interest. —RT

REGIONAL TIMES
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EDITORIAL

Founders: Late Kazi Saeed Akbar, Late Kazi Jawad Akbar, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher: Kazi Sajjad Akbar

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Do we have a bomb to save ourselves from our own follies and misplaced priorities?

The abrupt declaration of a public holiday on May 28th, Youm-e-Takbeer, symbolizes a profound misstep in the face of Pakistan's current economic crisis. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's announcement, meant to evoke national pride by commemorating our 1998 nuclear tests, instead underscores a troubling disregard for the urgent need for economic stability and productivity.

While the historical significance of Youm-e-Takbeer is undisputed, celebrating it with a sudden halt to business activities is imprudent. At a time when Pakistan is teetering on the brink of economic default, every working day is crucial. The private sector and financial institutions are already stretched thin, grappling with a precarious economic environment. Many leaders of the business community have rightly expressed concerns over the detrimental impact of this unplanned holiday. The halt in business activities, particularly those involving crucial financial transactions with the United States, exacerbates our economic woes by delaying much-needed cash inflows.

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The government's decision reflects a misguided sense of bravado, prioritizing symbolic gestures over practical needs. As a nation facing severe financial challenges, our focus should be on bolstering productivity, enhancing exports, and stabilizing the economy. This abrupt holiday not only disrupts business operations but also sends a worrying signal to potential foreign investors about the unpredictability of our economic policies.

In times of crisis, responsible governance demands decisions that prioritize economic resilience and stability. The sudden declaration of a holiday, at a moment when the nation requires relentless effort to avert default, is a stark example of misplaced priorities. We must recalibrate our focus towards constructive actions that genuinely support national prosperity, rather than indulging in symbolic acts that offer no tangible benefit. Our nuclear arsenal may secure our defense, but it is prudent economic policies and consistent productivity that will secure our future.

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THE HEARTLAND

HYDERABAD: Ombudsman Sindh, Sohail Ahmed Rajput is talking to the media at the Hyderabad Press Club.--Photo by Nazim Photographer

DC Jamshoro Riaz Hussain Wassan reviews arrangements for upcoming monsoon rains

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: A high-level meeting was held under the chair of Deputy Commissioner Riaz Hussain Wassan at Darbar Hall in Jamshoro to address the potential monsoon rains in the district. The meeting included the participation of District Council Chairman Sohail Ahmed Shoro, ADC-II Asadullah Khosa, Assistant Commissioners of the respective Talukas, and officers from local government, education, health, social welfare, livestock, irrigation, and other relevant departments. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner/Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, Riaz Hussain Wassan, emphasized that a strategic plan has been prepared to deal with the potential monsoon rains. He directed all relevant departments to ensure timely drainage of rainwater, cleanliness of drains, and maintenance of machinery in good condition. Additionally, a district control room will be established in the Deputy Commissioner's office to monitor the rainfall situation. The Deputy Commissioner instructed health department officials to ensure the presence of doctors and paramedical staff in hospitals and to have the necessary medicines available. He also stressed the importance of setting up mobile medical teams to be dispatched to affected areas during the rains. Efforts will also be made to ensure cleanliness and hygiene in these areas to prevent any health hazards.

Man killed, two injured in Tangwani's Jaffri-Nandwani clash

By Ghulam Raza

TANGWANI: A clash erupted between two groups from the Jaffri and Nandwani communities in the village of Mir Hassan Jaffri, within the jurisdiction of Jamal Police Station, near Tangwani.

The clash, which stemmed from a theft incident, resulted in the death of Suleman Jaffri from the Jaffari community. Additionally, two people, including a woman, were injured.

The injured individuals, Shafi Jaffri and the woman, sustained severe gunshot wounds and were taken to the hospital by their relatives for treatment. The situation in the area remains tense, and there has been no official statement or legal action reported by the police so far.

KHAIRPUR: Cold drinking water is being distributed amongst the people at a camp which was set up by Advocate Fayaz Shaikh as a severe heatwave continues to grip the city.—RT

SSP Syed Asghar Ali Shah satisfied with Matiari's law and order situation

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: SSP Matiari, Syed Asghar Ali Shah while addressing a press conference stated that the law and order situation in Matiari district is under control, with the police working diligently and honestly around the clock. He reported that during his tenure, there have been ten murders in the district, with the killers in nine of those cases having been apprehended. SSP Asghar Ali Shah mentioned the recent arrest of the killers of farmer Harchand, who was murdered within the jurisdiction of Shahpur Durpur Police Station. The arrested individuals, Asif Samo, Haji Machhi, and Bachayo Machhi, have confessed to the crime, and a double-barreled shotgun was recovered from their possession. He further stated that out of the nine murder cases in the district, a total of 21 suspects, including one woman, have been arrested and presented before the courts. An operation against criminals in the district has led to the arrest of 56 proclaimed offenders. The SSP emphasized that the overall law and order situation in the district has improved. He also assured that if any crime occurs, the SHO of the concerned area will face strict action.

Education Dept holds an awards ceremony in Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: A recognition award ceremony was organized by the Education Department of Dadu Taluka to honor teachers for their outstanding performance. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MPA Barrister Pir Mujibul Haq attended the ceremony as the chief guest. Former Director Syed Rasool Bux Shah, DO Education Liaqat Naich, Taluka Officer Ghulam Rasool Chandio, and other officials presented award shields and certificates of excellence to the best-performing teachers. The guests were adorned with traditional Sindhi caps and Ajraks. During his speech, MPA Pir Mujibul Haq emphasized the importance of taking significant steps to further improve education, ensuring that future students come forward with good skills and abilities. He highlighted that the PPP is a people's party and that jobs have been given on a merit basis. The dedication and hard work of the teachers were also praised. The event saw the participation of numerous individuals, including Shahmir Khan Chehwan, Comrade Nazir Ahmed Qambrani, Tahir Hussain Laghari, Taluka Officer Dadu, teachers, writers and party workers and supporters.

HYDERABAD: The members and leaders of the Women Workers' Action Committee are protesting in favor of their demands outside the EOBI Centre.--Photo by Nazim Photographer

Mirpurkhas administration finalizes arrangements for 56th annual Mango Festival

MIRPURKHAS: Mirpurkhas District is renowned as the City of Mangoes. For the past 55 years, the district administration and the management committee have organized an annual mango exhibition at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Exhibition Hall (Fruit Farm) in Mirpurkhas every June. This year, the 56th Mango Festival will be held from May 31, 2024, to June 2, 2024, as a three-day annual mango exhibition. Preparations for the event have been initiated by the district administration, the Department of Agriculture, and the Management Committee. The first mango exhibition in Mirpurkhas started in 1965 with the aim of fostering connections among farmers from distant areas of the province and the country, exchanging agricultural information and promoting the production and varieties of mangoes to improve mango cultivation in their regions. Due to water scarcity, the Sindh Government has allocated substantial funds for irrigating orchards using the drip irrigation system, which has been initiated on an experimental basis. This system has been established at the Sindh Horticulture Research Institute in Mirpurkhas. The institute, originally known as the Government Fruit Farm, was established in 1904 and later converted to an experimental station in 1926. It was upgraded to a horticultural research institution in 1958, with sub-stations established across various districts in Sindh for research on tomatoes in Badin, chilies in Umerkot (Kunri tehsil), jujubes and onions in Hyderabad, sapodillas, bananas, papayas, citrus fruits, and mangoes in Shaheed Benazirabad, dates in Khairpur Mir's, and guavas in Larkana. These stations provide valuable advice to farmers and introduce new productive varieties. Some of the old mango varieties from this institute that are well-known nationally and internationally include Sindhri, Almas, Chaunsa, Tota Puri, Alfonso, Collector, Langra, Saleh Bhai, Dussehri, Swarnika, Began Palli, Gulab Khasa, Saroli, Neelum, Zafran and Anwar Ratol. New varieties introduced to farmers by this institute include Jagirdar, Mehran, and Shehenshah Anmol. Ripe and unripe mangoes contain various vitamins, including Vitamin A, Vitamin C, and Vitamin E, which protect against heart diseases, cancer, and diabetes. Mangoes contain up to 66% calories. Pakistan produces 110 different varieties of mangoes. Agricultural experts emphasize the need to focus on accessing new markets and processing mangoes to increase exports. Pakistan has 450,000 acres of mango orchards, producing 1.8 million tons of mangoes annually. Mirpurkhas district alone produces 120,000 tons of mangoes on 30,000 acres. Under the leadership of Divisional Commissioner Mirpurkhas Division, Faisal Ahmed Uqaili and Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas, Sono Khan Chandio, the district administration is organizing the annual three-day mango exhibition from May 31, 2024, to June 2, 2024, which will also feature sports and cultural programs.

Sub-committees have been formed to ensure the success of the exhibition, and small farmers have been invited to set up stalls. The 56th annual three-day mango exhibition will be inaugurated with the Provincial Minister of Agriculture invited to attend. On the second day, an agricultural seminar and traditional Sindhi sport Malakhra competitions will take place. The closing ceremony will feature the Chief Minister of Sindh, who will distribute prizes to the top-performing farmers.—RT

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SPORTS

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi lauds Wheelchair Cricket Team

LAHORE: Members of the Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Team met with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on his invitation at Gaddafi Stadium here.

The Pakistan team won the Asian Wheelchair Championship in Nepal this year after beating Sri Lanka in the final.

Mohsin Naqvi congratulated the national team on their T20 Wheelchair Cricket Asia Cup 2023 title and awarded them a cheque of PKR 1.5 million.

He lauded the team's efforts and expressed best wishes for the team's continued success. He also assured PCB's support for the team's future endeavours.

Members of the national wheelchair team expressed their gratitude to the PCB for hosting them and offering them encouragement.

Those present at the meeting were Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Council Chairperson Rukhsana Rajput, national Wheelchair team captain Mohammad Zeeshan, vice-captain Imran Arain, batter Syed Arsalan Ahmed, wicket-keeper-batter Muazzam Nawaz and bowler Mohammad Fayyaz.

PCB Chief Operating Officer Salman Naseer, Director - Domestic Cricket Operations Abdullah Khurram Niazi, Senior General Manager Domestic Junaid Zia along with other PCB officials were also present.—Agency

PAK vs ENG: Boom Boom reaches out to Shadab Khan after worst bowling figures in T20Is

KARACHI: Following Pakistan's defeat against England in the second T20I at the Edgbaston Stadium in Birmingham, former skipper Shahid Afridi reached out to Green Shirts' leg spinner Shadab Khan after he recorded his worst bowling figures in the T20Is.

During the match on Saturday, Babar Azam-led side was bowled out for 160 while chasing a target of 184 with the host England securing their eighth win in the last 11 T20Is against the Men in Green.

During the match, Shadab went on to concede 55 runs in his four overs without taking any wicket - his worst bowling figure in T20Is.

The right-arm leg spinner had bowled the same figures during a Pakistan Super League (PSL) match against Peshawar Zalmi in 2021.

Afridi, while talking to a local news channel, revealed he had a chat with Shadab after Saturday's match where he tried to give him confidence and told him what he was doing wrong with the ball.

"I need Shadab to deliver with the ball. Whenever he has performed with the ball, Pakistan have won. I have watched all of his matches in the past. We had a detailed chat yesterday, I asked him who is guiding him or if there is something he is not doing, how are you making such mistakes is there no one to tell you?" said Afridi.

"I called yesterday because I know he is going through a difficult time so I always try to help and motivate players who are having a hard time. Similarly, I talked with Shadab about what he is doing wrong and I hope that if he does [what he discussed] in training sessions, you will see the difference."

He was then asked if there's some mental block with Shadab to which he said: "Is there any leg-spin coach with the team? Saeed Ajmal was there but he was an off-spinner. Ajmal should be asked if he guided Shadab and why is he not doing what he was told.—Agency

Cristiano Ronaldo could shatter jaw-dropping records at Euro 2024

Cristiano Ronaldo has proved time and time again that he can break all sorts of records and he is expected to do no less at the Euro 2024 in Germany this summer.

However, what records could he likely snatch this time?

Ronaldo, 39, will become the first player in the history to feature in six separate European Championships if he makes at least one appearance.

He will also become the oldest outfield player to feature at the tournament, a title which is currently held by Lothar Matthaus, who was 39 in Euro 2000.

However, Pepe has the chance to snatch that record away from Ronaldo if he features.

Additionally, the Portuguese footballer could beat Ivica Vastic to become the oldest goalscorer at Euros, if he scores.

If the former Real Madrid star manages to score once, he'll become the first player in Euros history to score in six separate tournaments.

Ronaldo could become the first player in history to make it into four separate Euro Team of the Tournaments.

The former Manchester United star could also become the first player in Euros history to score in three separate penalty shootouts if he scores in a penalty shootout.

Ronaldo is just two assists away from becoming the top assister in the history of the competition, to snatch the accolade from Karel Poborsky with eight assists.

Having already won one European Championship Golden Boot, Ronaldo could become the first player in history to win two of them, if he wins the Golden Boot this year.—Agency

Gary Kirsten to have final say on team's vice-captaincy issue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's white-ball head coach Gary Kirsten has been given the authority to have the final say on the appointment of the national side's vice-captain if needed, media reported on Monday.

The development comes after six out of the seven Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) selectors voted against appointing a vice-captain for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 set to commence on June 1.

"Since so many ifs and buts were involved due to mishandling of the captaincy and vice-captaincy issues by the previous regime six selectors believed that no one should be appointed as deputy to Babar Azam," a source told the publication, adding that the team management headed by Gary will be responsible for appointing vice-captaincy if ever there comes a requirement.

"It was a better option not to offer the position to anyone for the World Cup," the source added.

On Saturday, media, citing sources, reported that pacer Shaheen Afridi had declined the PCB's offer to become vice-captaincy for the national side.

The left-arm fast bowler's refusal came after the board reinstated Babar and replaced him as the team's T20 captain in March in response to the recommendation of the newly formed selection committee.

The sources added that left-arm fast was "not prepared" to take the responsibility of vice-captaincy.

Senior sports journalist Abdul Majid Bhatti told media that Afridi took it very seriously after being stripped of the T20 captaincy just after five matches. He added that the pacer decided to focus on his cricket instead of affecting the team's unity ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Bhatti said that the pacer's father-in-law Shahid Afridi used to guide him regarding his career decisions and the latter advised him to only focus on performance which led him to many opportunities to lead his side in future.

Furthermore, sources have told media that the PCB Management Committee, which was operating on a temporary basis, did not have a mandate to appoint or make any changes in captaincy which it did by replacing Babar with Shaheen.—Agency

Haris Rauf hopeful for Pakistan's comeback in England series

CARDIFF: Pakistan's right-arm pacer Haris Rauf expressed his confidence in the national team to force a comeback in the ongoing four-match T20I series against England.

The express pacer addressed a press conference here on Monday and revealed that the touring side is confident and will try to win the remaining fixtures heading into the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

"Yeah, we lost one game but as a team, we are very confident and [will] try to win the next couple of games before the World Cup.

"As a team, we had a good practice session today and we played a lot of games in the past.

"Obviously, it is disheartening to lose a match but as a team we are confident and we can beat any opposition and we've done that a lot of times in the past.

"When you make mistakes, you learn from them and try not to repeat them. So, we'll work on it and will try to perform well in the coming matches and make a comeback."

Haris Rauf further revealed the obstacles he faced amid his rehabilitation from a shoulder injury, which he sustained in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9.

"The family support remains throughout your career. Making a comeback is not easy but if one has delivered performances in the past, it is not difficult for the team to select again," Haris said.

"It's hard for a player when he gets injured and comes back again for the game. It's not easy because you are struggling a lot at that time. For an express bowler, you need pace so it's not easy to maintain same pace and length after an injury. It's hard for every player however belief in yourself makes the process easier," he added.

Notably, England are currently leading the four-match T20I series 1-0 after defeating Pakistan in the second game in Birmingham. Meanwhile, the first match in Leeds was called off due to persistent rain.—Agency

Warning issued for new Barcelona coach

BARCELONA: Days after manager Xavi Hernandez was fired by the owners, a warning has been issued for a new coach whoever is to take reigns of the Spanish club after Barcelona's win over Seville Sunday with 2-1.

Xavi Hernández was kicked out from Barcelona last week after he agreed to stay in the club till June 30, 2025. He said on Sunday that his skills were not valued in Barca, according to DAZN.

"I don't think the work we have done has been sufficiently valued considering the adverse situation we came into," Xavi told the outlet after his team crushed Sevilla at Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán.

"Barça were ninth in the table when we arrived at the end of 2021. We finished second. Then, in the first full season [in charge], we won two trophies [LaLiga and the Spanish Supercopa]," the 44-year-old said.

"This year has not been at the level required, but it's come down to details in several key games. It's a shame. I am sad, but this is the job of a coach."

Reports from ESPN suggested that Xavi is set to be replaced by Hansi Flick, and the official announcement is expected soon.

"They have to know it is a difficult situation because Barcelona is a difficult club, but also because of the adverse financial situation, above all [LaLiga's] financial fair play rules," Xavi told the outlet about his successor.—Agency

Nadal bidding to avoid early French Open exit

PARIS: Rafael Nadal admits he will be facing "one of the toughest opponents possible" when he plays Alexander Zverev in the French Open first round on Monday.

This year's event was expected to be the 14-time champion's farewell to Roland Garros, but he has since insisted he could not confirm "100 percent" it would be his last appearance.

Nadal has only played four tournaments since January 2023 after suffering a hip injury and then a muscle tear.

That left him unseeded for the draw and vulnerable to a difficult opening round at a tournament where he has only lost three of his 115 matches.

World number four Zverev arrives in Paris as one of the favourites for the title after winning the Rome Open earlier this month.

"Of course on paper it is not the best draw," Nadal said ahead of the match on Court Philippe Chatrier.

"I play against one of the toughest opponents possible, and at the same time, he came here winning the last event and it's a Masters 1000.

"It's not a small one. So what can I do? That's the draw. Just try to be ready for it."

Nadal, who turns 38 in a week's time, has shown flashes of his best form in the clay-court swing, but was thrashed 6-1, 6-3 by Poland's Hubert Hurkacz in the second round of his last outing in Rome.

He boasts a 7-3 winning record over Zverev ahead of their first meeting since the 2022 French Open semi-finals, when the German left the court in a wheelchair near the end of the second set after injuring his ankle.

"I am not anxious. No, I am focused on trying to play well. That's it," said Nadal.

"Maybe I go there and I repeat the disaster of Rome. It's a possibility, of course. I don't want to hide that.

"But in my mind, is do something different and play much better and give myself a chance to play competitive."

Zverev did not play again in 2022 after that ankle injury but has climbed the rankings again in recent months. The 27-year-old has long been touted as a future Grand Slam champion but remains without one of tennis' four biggest titles.—Agency

Face of the Day

Name: Zeeshan Abbasi
Location: Karachi
About me: I love Pakistan!

Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

America's sweetheart Taylor Swift leaves Travis Kelce jealous

Taylor Swift has apparently left her beau Travis Kelce jealous with her latest post on social media following her tour to Portugal.

Taking to X, formerly Twitter handle and Instagram, the Fortnight singer shared stunning photos from her trip with a heartfelt note, saying she has left her heart in Lisbon, seemingly making Kelce jealous.

Swift writes, "It's official, I left my [heart] in Lisbon. My first time in Portugal and you all made me feel like I was right at home."

She went on saying, "I'll seriously never forget the way you treated us, the overwhelming love and passion and hands in the air and dancing and how you screamed every lyric!! Muito obrigada."

Taylor Swift's latest post came amid reports she is experiencing separation anxiety as she continues her European leg of the Eras Tour, away from her boyfriend, NFL star Travis Kelce. While Taylor dazzles audiences overseas, Kelce is stationed in Kansas City, participating in the Chiefs' Organized Team Activities (OTAs).

The insider told Life & Style, "They're going to be facing their longest time apart. He'll make some trips to see her, but she can't be leaving the tour to see him, so she's got to leave this all up to him and it's making her very anxious."

Big Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez set to make major announcement about their marriage

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez will announce their heartbreaking divorce after the conclusion of her upcoming tour This Is Me... Live, predicted an expert.

During a conversation with Kinsey Schofield on her Unfiltered podcast, American blogger and columnist Perez Hilton made shocking predictions about one of the most beloved Hollywood couples.

According to Hilton, Affleck is stalling to break the news of his separation from Lopez due to her tour, which has struggled to generate ticket sales as expected.

Multiple publications reported that several of JLo's concerts were cancelled because of low ticket sales, prompting her to rebrand the tour from "This Is Me... Now" to "This Is Me... Live: The Greatest Hits."

The rebrand suggests that Lopez is trying to attract more fans to buy her tickets of the tour, which will revolve around her discography, for those who didn't connect with her latest songs.

Speaking on heated rumours about Lopez and Affleck's split, Hilton said, "They're done it's over," before noting that Affleck "is just being a supportive love by trying to stall the news as much as possible until her tour is over."

"She's going on the road in a little bit and that also has been met with a lot of negative headlines about poor ticket sales and many shows were cancelled," the expert added.

Before concluding, he predicted that fans of Lopez and Affleck will "get an official announcement that they're divorcing" after This Is Me... Live conclusion.

Rumours about Affleck and Lopez parting ways swirled after In Touch Weekly reported that the couple is headed to 'divorce' after they failed to make a joint appearance in 47 days.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

New office-bearers of All Pakistan Paramedical Staff Association Sindh take oath

By Ghulam Raza

TANGWANI: The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected body of the All Pakistan Paramedical Staff"s Association Sindh was held on Monday. The Sindh Minister Riaz Hussain Shah Sheerazi attended the ceremony as a chief guest, while Habib Khan Pathan, Abdul Salam Zahari, Chaudhry Zaheer, Muhammad Ismail Jikani and others were amongst the honorary guests.

On the occasion, Sardar Kandero Khan Rahu took oath as the Provincial President of All Pakistan Paramedical Staff"s Association Sindh, Ali Hassan Qambrani as Provincial Chairman, Anwar Ali Jakhro as General Secretary, Yar Ali Khan Domki as Provincial Chief Organizer, Qurban Ali Khaskheli as Senior vice Chairman, Aijaz Ahmed Qazi as Finance Secretary, Abdul Ghani shoro, Aziz Ahmed, Khawaja Habibullah, Muhammad Ismail Mallah, Fariduddin Shah, Ghulam Muhammad and other took oath after being elected in the elections of the All Pakistan Paramedical Staff"s Association Sindh.

Tando Jam's civil society demands justice for brave journalists Nasrullah Gadani and Jan Muhammad Mahar

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: The lawyers, political and social organizations and journalists paid tribute to the brave journalists, Nasrullah Gadani and Jan Muhammad Mahar, at the Tando Jam Media Center by lighting candles and demanding the immediate arrest of their killers. According to reports, a protest was held at the Tando Jam Media Center against the murder of Nasrullah Gadani. Leaders from the legal community and various political and social organizations participated in the demonstration, lighting candles in tribute and demanding the arrest of the perpetrators. Speaking to the media, Bashir Bhutto alleged that feudal lords and tribal chiefs were involved in Nasrullah Gadani's murder. He stated that all of Sindh is mourning the loss, but the government machinery is stalling instead of arresting the culprits. Lawyer Abdul Razzaq Dahar expressed that the murder of journalist Nasrullah Gadani is an attack on journalism. They demanded of the concerned authorities to ensure the arrest of the murderers of the journalists, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest. TLP leaders, who included Hafiz Zeeshan Hyder, Shakil Ashiq Rajput and others also participated in the protest and demanded justice for the slain journalists.

2 killed, three injured in fatal Kashmore road accident

By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMORE: A speeding car and a motorcycle collided head on near Malik Mor and as a result two men died on the spot, while four others sustained critical injuries on Monday. the deceased men were identified as Nawaz Ali and Sher Muhammad Malik, while Darya Khan, Zahoor Ahmed Golo and Farida Golo were amongst the injured. The dead bodies and injured were rushed to the Civil hospital Kashmore. No case of the incident was lodged till the filing of this news.

METRO KARACHI

Job Fair To Create Employment Opportunities For Youth: Nasir Shah

KARACHI: Minister of Energy and Development & Planning Sindh, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, commended the Hindu Council for organizing a job fair at the Expo Center, emphasizing its role in providing new employment opportunities for the youth. He expressed these views during the inauguration of the job fair, where he inspected stalls and interacted with the media. Patron Chief of the Hindu Council, Dr. Ramesh Kumar, and other council members were also present.

Minister Nasir Shah highlighted the critical need for employment, stating that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's vision aligns with providing maximum employment to the youth. He urged both local and non-local companies to support such initiatives by setting up stalls, facilitating ample job opportunities for young people. He praised the Hindu community's significant contribution to the country's economic stability, encouraging others to emulate this initiative.

Speaking to the media, the minister announced plans to provide free electricity to consumers using up to 300 units. Four solar parks are under rapid construction in Karachi and Jamshoro, intended to supply electricity to the National Grid. In the first phase, a subsidy will be provided to consumers using up to 100 units of electricity. Minister Shah mentioned an agreement with K-Electric to restore electricity to low-usage customers based on their current bills.

Minister Shah also discussed the ongoing development efforts, noting that work is in progress on 5,700 development schemes. The cabinet has prioritized completing existing projects over starting new ones, aiming to finish 4,500 schemes within the current financial year to benefit the public as soon as possible.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Patron Chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council, expressed his satisfaction with the event's atmosphere. He noted the participation of major government and private institutions, emphasizing that collaboration between these sectors can lead to significant improvements in the employment landscape.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

Government Plans To Establish Plug-And-Play Industrial Estates: Maryam

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif said today that the government wants to establish industrial estates on the plug-and-play model.

CM Maryam chaired a meeting in Lahore today regarding Special Economic Zones during which she said the process to establish an industry will be made easier and swifter.

She took an overview of business facilities available in the special economic zone and expressed anger over the failure to achieve the goals of promoting the industry.

She also ordered to change of heads and boards of Industrial estates to meet targets while a performance audit will be conducted for the head of the Industrial estate and the team. CM Maryam said the past shortcomings will be compensated by providing more facilities to the industrial sector.

Senator Pervez Rasheed, Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb, Provincial Information Minister Uzma Zahid Bukhari, MPA Sania Ashiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Finance Secretary Mujahid Sher Dal, Secretary Industry Ehsan Bhatta and other officials attended.—RT/Agency

Sita Sarjanhar Forum protests for restoration of train service

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: The leaders of the Sita Sarjanhar Forum continued their protest demonstration for the restoration of train service on the ML-2 track on Monday. While talking to the media, the protest leaders, who included Mashhoor Memon, Muhammad NAwaz Chandio, Yasin Arain, Guddu Manganhar and others said that the train service has been suspended on the ML-2 track since past 16 years. On the occasion, the protesters demanded of the concerned authorities to take notice of the matter, otherwise they have vowed to continue their protest.

Pithoro's villagers demand justice after landlord blocks their link road

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Protesters from various villages recorded a protest demonstration after the main road to their areas has been blocked by a landlord. The closure of road has affected approximately five thousand residents. The road is approved by the local government department but a landlord named Fateh Muhammad Mangrio and former UC Chairman Ali Bakhsh Mangrio have blocked it for the people by parking his tractors. The protesters said that despite repeated requests to the Deputy Commissioner, no action has been taken. If the situation does not improve, the circle of protests is likely to escalate.

Onion seeds worth millions looted in Kunri home invasion

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: Unknown thieves stole onion seeds worth lacs of rupees from a businessman's house. According to details, the incident took place at the house of Adam Memon in Samiullah Colony of Kunri. The thieves stole onion seeds valued at lacs of rupees. The theft has been reported to the police, who have conducted raids at various locations, but the culprits have not yet been apprehended.

-Can you believe this?

Tando Allahyar youth kills his married sister

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In the jurisdiction of Sultanabad Police Station a tragic incident occurred where Javed Brohi shot and killed his 28-year-old married sister, Anila Brohi, with a pistol. Upon receiving the information, the Sultanabad police arrived at the scene and transported the body to the Civil Hospital in Tando Allahyar. After completing the necessary formalities, the body was handed over to the family, leading to a state of mourning at the victim's home. On the other hand, SSP Tando Allahyar, Abrez Abbasi, formed a team led by DSP City Usman Laghari to apprehend the suspect. Within five hours, the team, with the help of technical resources, arrested the suspect, Javed Brohi, along with his accomplice, Abdul Rahim Brohi. In a statement, Sultanabad SHO Faheem Yusufzai mentioned that the motive behind the incident is still unclear. The body has been handed over to the family after post-mortem, and a case will be registered based on the complaint of the woman's family after her burial. The investigation is being conducted from all possible angles.

Man and woman commit suicide in Kunri

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: In two separate incidents of suicide in the neighboring towns of Kunri, the bodies of a middle-aged man and a woman have been recovered. In the first incident, the police found the body of a woman in the house of Chand Kolhi. The body was recovered and taken into custody before being transferred to Taluka Hospital Kunri for necessary procedures. Further investigations are ongoing, and locals have reported that there was a quarrel between the woman and her husband. The woman's parents reside in Khipro. In the second incident, the body of a 55-year-old man named Heera Kolhi was found hanging from a noose in his home in Mohammad Khaskheli. According to the heirs, Heera Kolhi had mental health issues and committed suicide. After the necessary actions were completed, the body was handed over to the family.

SSS, SUP demand justice for Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani

By Maqbool Dal

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: The leaders of the Sindh Shagird Sabha and SUP including Ayaz Kalro, Ali Hassan Khoso, and Riaz Laghari, led a protest in front of the Kot Ghulam Muhammad Press Club demanding the arrest of the killers of martyred journalist Nasrullah Gadani. During the protest, the demonstrators carried banners with resistance slogans and pictures of the martyred journalist. The leaders emphasized that Nasrullah Gadani was a fearless and brave journalist who boldly raised his voice against the feudal and tribal systems. They claimed that this was why he was murdered. The leaders demanded the immediate arrest of Nasrullah Gadani's killers, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Talhar's journalists protest for arrest of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani's killers

By Jibran Talpur

BADIN: Journalists wearing black armbands held placards and staged a protest rally in front of the Press Club Talhar, starting from the main Government Boys Higher Secondary School. The protest was in response to the non-arrest of the killers of martyr Nasrullah Gadani. During the protest, various speakers, including Manji Lal, Sajjad Ali Chandio, Yaqoob Khoso, Tahir Samo, Jamshed Mallah, Hanif Lashari, Rabnawaz Junejo, Pahlwan Lashari, Munawar Ali Jatoi, Imran Chandio, and Ashfaq Jatoi, addressed the crowd. They highlighted that Nasrullah Gadani was a voice for the oppressed and was targeted and martyred for this reason. They condemned the murders of journalists in Sindh for raising their voices for truth and justice terming Sindh a graveyard for journalists. The speakers demanded the immediate arrest of Nasrullah Gadani's killers and called for exemplary punishment to alleviate the anxiety among journalists. They warned that if the killers are not arrested, they would intensify their protests and hold sit-ins.

STP holds Let's Beautify Sindh seminar in Jhol

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: Under the theme "Let's Beautify Sindh," the Sindh Taraqipasand Party (STP) held a seminar in Jhol, presided over by the Central Vice Chairman Haider Shahani. Addressing the seminar, Haider Shahani, Nisar Keerio, District President Ali Dino Khaskheli, Rafiq Mallah, Shahnawaz Naich, and others highlighted that the STP, under the leadership of Dr. Qadir Magsi, has always supported the poor and oppressed people of Sindh. They criticized the current state of governance in Sindh, stating that there is no semblance of a functioning government. They pointed out that those who speak for the oppressed people of Sindh are being systematically murdered. Journalists Nasrullah Guddani and Jan Muhammad Mahar among others, have been shot dead on the streets. The speakers emphasized that it is time for the people of Sindh to unite and struggle to preserve their national identity. The seminar was attended by various political and social figures, including Ehsan Shar, Rafique Jalalani, Jabbar Junejo, Mumtaz Magsi, Ali Jurio Magsi, Saleem Dahri, Nazir Laghari, Jan Muhammad Abro, Yaqoob Brohi, Ashiq Jamal, Premchand and others.

Manzoor Memon leads rally for arrest of Nasrullah Gadani's killers

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Journalist Nasrullah Gadani's murder and the failure to apprehend those responsible led senior journalist Manzoor Memon to lead a protest rally against the non-arrest of the suspects. Political, social, and media personalities, along with members of the press club, joined the demonstration, led by journalist Manzoor Ahmed Memon, Aslam Khairpuri, Nazir Laghari, Mumtaz Sand, Dada Sindhi, Mumtaz Laghari and others delivered speeches. They reiterated that Nasrullah Gadani was a brave and honest journalist, a writer of truth and justice. They stressed that he always raised his voice against injustice and oppression of the poor and oppressed. Ultimately, the Sindh Government was urged to immediately arrest Nasrullah Gadani's killers, bring them to justice, and provide security to journalists in Sindh. In case of failure, they warned of widespread protests.

DC Dhamoon Bhawani facilitates TMK's specially-abled persons

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Deputy Commissioner Tando Muhammad Khan, Dhamoon Bhawani distributed special boarding for 8 special chairs, white stick, and other items at Tando Muhammad Khan for special education and rehabilitation center. Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Ghulam Sarwar Bhanbhro participated as a special guest at this unique event where various colored sticks were presented to the guests. This is a special kind of boarding that has been decorated with unique colors. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Tando Muhammad Khan has encouraged these special boards, which is a source of great joy for them and their companions. Moreover, on this occasion, Principal of Deaf Reach School Niaz Jan obtained information about education and training at school and praised the school's efforts, and discussed with the district administration for all possible help.

Badin's civil society protests against journalists' murders

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: STP workers and journalists protested in Shadi Large in Badin against the killing of martyred journalist Nasrullah Gadani. Workers of Sindh Progressive Party also protested outside the Badin Press Club, while journalists of Shadi Large and Khoski Press Club also participated in the protest. Tajumal Khattak, Muhammad Umar Lund, Khoski Press Club President Wahab Khan Pathan, Allah Bakhsh Kapri, Khalid Nawaz, Idrees Lond, Ghulam Rahim Lund and others, they protested and held a rally in Shadi Large against the killing of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani and the non-arrest of his killers. Sindh Progressive Party workers demonstrated under the leadership of district officials Ghulam Qadir Muradani, Yasir Siyal, Rasool Bakhsh Chang, Sultan Bohar, Noor Ahmed Malah and others. On this occasion, the speakers protested against the killing of martyred journalist Nasrullah Gadani and demanded the immediate arrest of the killers and facilitators. Speaking on this occasion, journalists and STP protestors said that Sindh has become a killing ground for journalists, instead of protecting journalists, the government and government institutions have become facilitators of murderers. They said that the killing of the journalists in Sindh and the non-arrest of the killers is proof of the worst failure and incompetence of the rulers of Sindh and the Sindh Police.

5-year-old Ghotki girl dies of measles

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: A 5-year-old girl named Shakila D/o Farman Kalhoro dies of measles in Kalhora Faqir Muhalla on Monday. The body of the deceased was laid to rest at her family's ancestral graveyard. The family members of the deceased girl said that went to different hospitals for the treatment of the girl but she could not survive.

METRO KARACHI

Wahab Pledges To Intensify Efforts In Locating Missing Children

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab emphasized the importance of children's security and pledged efforts to recover missing children during a meeting with a delegation from Roshni Helpline on International Missing Children's Day.

Wahab announced that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will increase public awareness about missing and exploited children to protect them from exploitation and begging. He committed to working closely with other institutions to achieve these goals.

Deputy Parliamentary Leader of the Peoples Party in the City Council, Dil Muhammad, and representatives from various schools were present. Wahab highlighted the need to protect future generations from exploitation and praised the efforts of non-governmental organizations.

The KMC will collaborate with Roshni Helpline to recover missing children, arrange awareness programs, and display informative messages in public spaces. Wahab also stated that Roshni Helpline's emergency service (1138) will be linked with the KMC's helpline to enhance coordination.

Wahab mentioned ongoing efforts to install manhole covers to prevent accidents. Dr. Muhammad Ali, head of Roshni Helpline, thanked Mayor Wahab for his support and stressed the importance of parental vigilance in preventing child abduction.

A cake-cutting ceremony marked International Missing Children's Day, and the Roshni Helpline delegation toured the historic KMC building and Council Hall.—RT

Sharjeel Emphasizes For Tax Compliance And Modernization In Excise Department

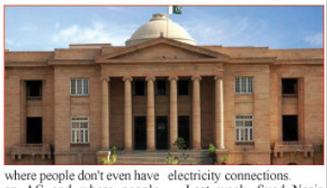
By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon clarified that the Excise Department's tax targets are set by the Finance Department to maximize collection. He highlighted the importance of timely payment of motor vehicle taxes, including during vehicle transfers, and urged vehicle owners to pay their annual fees promptly to ensure efficient government operation.

Memon announced initiatives to simplify tax payments, including online services and a new public-private partnership center open until 9 pm. He also addressed staffing shortages in the Excise Department, mentioning efforts to recruit successful IBA test candidates and the suspension of weekend leaves to manage workload.

He emphasized the legal requirement for vehicle registration before leaving the showroom and warned against the use of unregistered vehicles and fake government plates, labeling it a criminal offense. Memon assured that new number plates with enhanced data access are being expedited, and guidance has been published for those awaiting their plates.

SHC Condemns K-Electric, Expresses Outrage Over Karachi Load Shedding



KARACHI: The Sindh High Court Monday expressed displeasure over loadshedding in areas where people live hand to mouth, reprimanding the K-Electric lawyer in the case pertaining to unannounced power cuts in Jamshed Quarters on Jahangir Road.

SHC's Justice Salahuddin, who was hearing a petition related to the aforementioned matter, asked the company's counsel to submit an affidavit and told him to write under oath about the extent of load shedding being done in the area.

Responding to the court, the K-Electric lawyer said the company objected on the petitioner who fights cases and charges fees for it.

The court remarked how much money could this lawyer have earned from fees and that there are some people who do such cases for public interest.

The court also questioned about the financial status of the impacted area's residents, responding to which the petitioner said it is mostly comprised of poor, middle-class people who do not even have an air conditioner in their homes.

"There is load shedding where people don't even have an AC and where people have nothing to eat," the court remarked.

Meanwhile, addressing the prosecutor, Justice Salahuddin Panhwar said: "European countries give funds for plantations. They pay money to plant trees on thousands of acres here."

The judge told the prosecutor that solar panels should be installed using this money for people in such areas. He added that the government won't install solar panels in schools and libraries.

Addressing the KE lawyer, the court said: "Your compulsions will no longer work. The petitioners said that K-Electric created such conditions that people are forced to commit suicide."

The KE counsel requested that the court order Sindh government to help the company in removing illegal electricity connections.

Last week, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Sindh minister for energy and planning development, had assured that the KE has agreed to restore electricity of consumers once they pay their bills.

Maximum relief would be provided to the poor consumers consuming less units without discrimination, the minister said. He also urged citizens to pay their dues so that they receive uninterrupted power without any delay.

Shah was addressing a meeting of parliamentary leaders and assembly members of all parties in the Sindh Assembly that discussed the increasing load shedding in Karachi, non-payment of KE bills and shutdown due to faulty PMTs in various areas.—RT/Agency

Heatstroke Relief Camps Established In Gadap Town

By Habib Bugri

KARACHI: Due to the heat wave, heatstroke camps have been established in Pipri and various areas of Gadap Town, where political and social activists Moosa Kolachi and Misri Khan Bugti have set up a heatstroke camp to provide relief to the people. These camps have arrangements for water and ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution) to help people cope with the heat. In the heatstroke camp, political and social activists Moosa Kolachi and Misri Khan Bugti, along with Sarwar Siyal and Bhoural Channa, are serving the people in the heat. Furthermore, due to the heats wave in different areas affected by the heatstroke, on the directives of the Sindh government, heatstroke camps have been established, and emergency centers have been set up by the Gadap Municipal Committee, where doctors are providing medical treatment, and apart from this, arrangements have been made for cooling down with water.

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is exchanging views with MPA Dr. Sikandar Ali Shoro during their meeting at the CM's Chamber at the Provincial Assembly.—RT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is exchanging views with MPA Seema Khurram during their meeting held at the CM's Chamber at the Provincial Assembly.—RT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is exchanging views with MPA Ajaz Swati during the meeting held at the CM's Chamber.—RT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is exchanging views with MNA Jam Abdul Karim Bijar during their meeting at the CM's Chamber.—RT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is exchanging views with MPAs Arbab Lutfullah, Arbab Amir Amanullah and Taj Muhammad Mallah during their meeting at the CM's Chamber.—RT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is exchanging views with MPA Adil Altaf Unar during their meeting in his Chamber.—RT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is exchanging views with MPA Malik Sikander Khan during their meeting in his Chamber.—RT

Business Community Concerned About Abrupt Holiday Announcement For Youm-e-Takbeer

KARACHI: The unexpected declaration of a public holiday by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer has stirred concerns among businesses, interrupting planned transactions and financial activities. Youm-e-Takbeer marks Pakistan's successful nuclear tests in 1998, a day of national significance. However, amidst economic challenges, Ismail Suttar, President of the Lasbela Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlights the adverse impact of additional holidays on the private sector and banking industry. Suttar emphasizes the urgency for sustained economic activity, stressing the private sector's vital role in driving the economy forward. With Pakistan heavily reliant on exports, the sudden holiday disrupts financial transactions, particularly with the United States observing Memorial Day, a key trading partner. Warning against exacerbating Pakistan's economic woes, Suttar urges the government to reconsider the holiday announcement, proposing a revision limiting the holiday to schools. He underscores the need for prudent decision-making to instill confidence among investors and maintain momentum in attracting foreign direct investments. Expressing deep concern on behalf of the business community, President Suttar urges the government to prioritize economic stability and revise the holiday notification accordingly, safeguarding the private sector from unnecessary disruptions.—RT

Sharmila Demands Immediate Rehabilitation Of Pakistan Railways

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party MNA Dr. Sharmila Farooqui has called for special funds to rehabilitate Pakistan Railways' outdated locomotives and weak tracks to ensure safe and comfortable travel. She highlighted the alarming average age of the locomotives, now at 24 years, with 63% overage engines and 15% held up due to design defects.

Farooqui stressed that deteriorating train tracks cause frequent accidents, urging an investment of Rs10 to 12 billion for comprehensive rehabilitation. Despite earning Rs66 billion in the first nine months of FY 2023-24, the fleet's poor condition demands immediate repairs.

She advocated for restructuring Pakistan Railways along modern lines to boost social integration and economic development. Farooqui criticized the railway's history of mismanagement, poor policies, and political interference, resulting in inefficiency and frequent accidents. She urged a complete organizational overhaul to enhance safety and efficiency, making rail travel secure and reliable.—RT

UBG Urges Government To Announce Relief Package For Cottage Sector And SMEs

KARACHI: Leaders of the United Business Group (UBG) have urgently appealed to the Pakistani government to introduce a comprehensive relief package for the struggling cottage sector and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Chief Patron S.M. Tanveer, President Zubair Tufail, Secretary General (Sindh) Hanif Gohar, and core committee members Momin Ali Malik and Malik Khuda Bakhsh highlighted the severe challenges these sectors face due to economic crises, high utility costs, and frequent power and gas outages.

UBG stressed the vital role of the cottage and SME sectors in providing livelihoods and supporting the broader industrial sector. The leaders warned that the closure of these businesses would have widespread repercussions, including reduced production and closures in related industries. They pointed out that soaring interest rates, reaching up to 22 percent, along with high bank service charges, have made loans unaffordable, worsening the economic situation.

To address these issues, UBG proposed several measures:

Deferred Utility Payments: Allowing deferred payments for gas, power, and water bills for at least six months.

Interest-Free Loans: Providing interest-free soft loans to cottage and SME businesses through SME banks, based on trade body recommendations.

Infrastructure Preparedness: Urging federal and provincial governments to take advanced measures for the upcoming rainy season to prevent disruptions.

UBG emphasized that improper attention and IMF conditionalities have exacerbated the challenges faced by the cottage and SME sectors. They called for immediate government action to ensure the survival and growth of these essential sectors, which are crucial for Pakistan's economic stability.

UBG reaffirmed its commitment to representing the business community's interests and promoting policies that foster a business-friendly environment and sustainable development.—RT

Town Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch Inaugurates Water Supply Scheme In Gadap Town

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The Chairman of Town Municipal Corporation Gadap Town, Tariq Aziz Baloch, Vice Chairman Jam Muhammad Jokhio, and Town Municipal Commissioner Ahmed Yar inaugurated the water supply scheme at Ibrahim Goth, UC Gadap, Gadap Town. Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch emphasized the importance of maintaining thorough inspection processes during the construction stages to achieve high-quality results. He mentioned that all ongoing and completed projects in Gadap Town undergo detailed evaluations to effectively meet the needs of the local population. Development initiatives have been launched at all levels, especially in rural areas of Gadap Town, to provide enhanced facilities. He stressed the importance of fulfilling their responsibilities diligently. Vice Chairman Jam Muhammad Jokhio highlighted that the completion of the water supply scheme resolved a long-standing issue for the residents of Ibrahim Goth. Despite limited resources, the expectations of the public are being met within the available means. The officials are serving the community with sincere dedication. Council members Murtaza Yar Muhammad, Danish Burfat, Abdul Sattar Jokhio, Saleem Memon, Finance Officer Iftikhar Ahmed Dayo, HRM Director Haji Sharif Shaikh, Anti-Encroachment Cell Incharge Suhail Yar Khan, Payroll Director Kashif Baloch, Superintendent Engineer Farman Ali Lashari, XEN Ashfaq Burro, AEE Mehran Malik, Sub-Engineer Murtaza Dars, Irfan Joya, and local dignitaries attended the event.

Four-Year-Old Ayesha Found In Karachi After Missing For Months

KARACHI: The four-year-old girl reportedly went missing on August 14, 2023, from the Numaish roundabout recovered after months from Karachi's Surjani Town area, media reported on Sunday.

The police officials in a statement revealed that the missing child was residing with a family in the Surjani Town area of Karachi.

Ayesha's mother, along with the family - taking care of the minor girl for the past 3-4 months - from Surjani [New Lyari area], reached the Azizabad Police Station to report her recovery.

The parents of the minor girl claimed that the family allegedly kidnapped and kept the girl at Surjani Town [New Lyari area].

The child's family maintained that the people who had the minor girl for the past couple of months deprived her of food and clothing, and had intentions to sell her.

Meanwhile, the mother of the missing girl disclosed a call from an unknown number that informed her about the whereabouts of her missing daughter.—RT/Agency

"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life"

—Plato

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TUESDAY MAY 28 2024

Nawaz Sharif To Play Active Political Role Ahead Of Key Meeting

LAHORE: Announcing the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) intra-party elections, Prime Minister's Adviser on Public and Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has said that party supremo Nawaz Sharif will be seen proactively "playing his role in national politics soon".

Sanaullah, addressing a press conference in Lahore on Monday, announced that the ruling party commenced the process of the intra-party elections by the PML-N's constitution and an election commission was also established by a central working committee.

The former federal minister said that nomination papers were issued from 9am to 5pm today which would also be continued before 12pm by tomorrow (Tuesday). "Scrutiny of the nomination papers will be performed at 1pm, whereas, candidates could withdraw their nominations by 2:30pm, tomorrow."

He added: "Overall, 11 nominations have been issued so far. At 3pm tomorrow, final lists of the candidates will be issued and a general council's session will be held afterwards."

He added that the party would organise the polls for electing its president at 4pm tomorrow.

Sanaullah went on to say that Bashir Memon, Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Ishaq Dar, Raja Muhammad Farooq, Hafiz Hafeez-ur-Rehman and Shah Ghulam Qadir have received their nomination papers today.

He said that Shahid Khaqan Abbasi — a disgruntled PML-N leader who had applied to register a new political party last month — could also submit his nominations, however, the scrutiny committee will decide on his "eligibility" to contest the party's intra-party polls.

Regarding Nawaz, the PML-N senior leader said that the entire party agreed on the former premier's name for the party's presidency. "However, the party would welcome if someone else wants to submit nominations for taking part in the upcoming polls."

Sanaullah further said that Nawaz transformed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz into a popular public party after Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah that ruled the country four times.

"In case no candidates, the party's president would be elected unopposed, otherwise, polling will be held via a show of hands," he added.

The politico said that Nawaz was not angry with someone and was fully active in national politics. He added that all decisions of the federal and the Punjab governments would be taken after Nawaz's approval.

He further said that lesser statements from the PML-N supremo would be ended, soon.

The premier's aide added that the ruling PML-N was considering recommendations to reshuffle the party positions.

He said that Shehbaz Sharif would be the next leader after Nawaz on which the entire party was agreed upon for the presidency. He praised Shehbaz, the incumbent prime minister, for making maximum efforts to pull the country out of the economic crisis.

To a question regarding the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Sanaullah replied that he would continue to warn the nation against the former ruling party's founder Imran Khan.

He added that he was continuously warning the nation that the ousted premier would push the country into a big turmoil. The former security czar said that he was unaware of sources pushing the incarcerated PTI founder for making political blunders, however, "stupidity" could be committed by any individual."I would pray for the PTI founder not to face the same consequences as Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," he added.—RT/Agency

Raza Rabbani Advocates For Grand Dialogue To Prevent Institutional Overreach

ISLAMABAD: Former Senate chairman Mian Raza Rabbani has called for holding a grand intra-institutional dialogue, wherein, the institutions should agree on not to transgress into each other's domain.

Highlighting that the public exhibition of contradictions among institutes was casting long shadows on already fragile political system, Rabbani said, "The way forward is a grand intra-institutional dialogue, wherein, each institution agrees not to transgress into each other's domain, respecting the trichotomy of power envisaged in the Constitution."

In a press statement, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader said Pakistan was engulfed in multiple crises, one being contradiction within ruling elite. The conflict of the ruling elite emanated from within and it had historical roots, he maintained.

He alleged that Pakistan's establishment had, in history, been taking support of the judiciary.

"The extreme polarised political atmosphere has affected this equation within the ruling elite. This intra-class contradiction within the elite, is vitiating the functioning of state institutions," he said.

Rabbani said in a democratic federal parliamentary system, parliament was the final arbiter for intra-elite disputes. Hence, he said, parliament should refrain from becoming a party to the intra-elite disputes. "The Committee of the Whole of the Senate of Pakistan should play its role in healing the situation," he suggested.

Taking a dig at non-implementation of the Constitution in its true spirit, the politico said the Constitution was being treated as a "nose of wax". "It is molded to legitimise the unconstitutional transgression of one institution into the affairs of the other."The PPP leader said all this had created a situation "where rule of law has ceased to exist and there appears to be a rule by law".It had shaken the constitutional foundations of the state, created structural and political instability, he said.—RT/Agency

Omar Ayub Vows To Advocate For Tribesmen's Concerns In National Assembly

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader, Omar Ayub Khan, on Monday assured the tribesmen that he would take up their issue to the National Assembly, media reported.

Leaders from South Waziristan, including members of the Mehsud tribe, met with opposition leader Omar Ayub, along with Mahmood Achakzai, head of the Pakistan Constitution Protection Movement, and other prominent figures such as Asad Qaiser.

The joint Jirga discussed the critical issues stemming from the closure of the Angur Ada border – the border between the South Waziristan of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Afghanistan's Paktika Province.

During the meeting, the Jirga detailed the significant problems faced by the local population due to the border closure.

In response, Omar Ayub assured the leaders that he would bring this issue to the National Assembly and the Ministry of Interior, stressing that the resolving the tribal people's problems is his top priority.

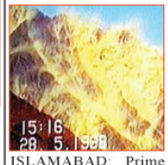
The opposition leaders also accepted an invitation to participate in a three-day tribal jirga in Islamabad.

Omar Ayub stressed that failing to address these issues could wear way the people's confidence in the state. He vowed to raise his voice on every platform for the tribal districts' concerns.

Asad Qaiser echoed this sentiment, highlighting the sacrifices made by the people of the tribal districts for Pakistan. He emphasized that solving their problems is both a duty and a debt.

Mahmood Khan Achakzai reiterated his commitment to fighting for tribal rights within and outside the assembly, acknowledging the tribals' eternal sacrifices for the country.During the meeting, two resolutions submitted by the tribal leaders' jirga were unanimously approved, signaling a collective effort to address and resolve the pressing issues faced by the tribal districts.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Declares Public Holiday For Youm-e-Takbeer



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday declared a public holiday throughout the country on May 28 on account of Youm-e-Takbeer, the day when Pakistan's defence became impregnable after nuclear tests in the hills of Chagai, Balochistan in 1998.The announcement was made in a notification, a copy of which is available with media, issued by the cabinet secretariat.

Youm-e-Takbeer is observed on May 28, marking the historic day when Pakistan became an atomic power.

"Youm-e-Takbeer reminds how the entire Pakistani nation got united on that day to make the country's defence invincible," the prime minister said in a statement issued by the PM House.

On the day in 1998, he said, the nation decided that there would be no compromise on the country's integrity and defence by not yielding to any external pressure.

Both political and defence forces were united on the day under the National Flag to strengthen the country's defence, he said.

PM Shehbaz said it was the day of renewing the pledge that "we will always remain ready to thwart the nefarious designs of external and internal enemies, who want to endanger the country.

"May 28 is also the day of paying tributes to the steps taken by the then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan Army to make the national defence invincible.

"We also pay tribute to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for initiating the atomic programme and the scientists who played a key role in continuing it," the prime minister remarked.

He said on the day, the entire nation, including himself, resolved that the way the national defence was made invincible on May 28, 1998, "we will [similarly] make the country's economical stable and prosper through sheer hard work.

"Let's make a pledge on this day that by following the principles of unity, faith and discipline, we will foil all the nefarious designs of not only the external enemies but also the local elements who are out to create chaos and anarchy in the country through their malicious actions like the incidents of May 9. "—RT/Agency

ECC Approves Over Rs 4 Billion For Country's Satellite Program

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the federal cabinet approved over Rs 4 billion for the Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) to meet the requirements of the Pakistan Multi-Mission Communication Satellite System PAKSAT MM1, media reported.The approval was given in the ECC meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on a request of the Strategic Plans Division. The ECC also okayed Rs 200 million rupees for the Intelligence Bureau Division and 19.373 million rupees for the Ministry of Law and Justice.The ECC also allowed the SNGPL-based plants to operate for a period of six months starting from 31st March till 30th September this year to ensure a smooth supply of urea fertilizer for Kharif season.—RT/Agency

Ordinance Extends NAB's Remand Period

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has been empowered to keep an accused on physical remand for up to 40 days as Acting President Yousuf Raza Gilani approved an ordinance to amend the existing law, media reported

Before the ordinance, a person arrested by the NAB could be remanded into the bureau's custody for 14 days. However, under the amended law, the duration of physical remand has been increased to 40 days.

Furthermore, the punishment for NAB officials for making false cases has been reduced from 5 years to 2 years.

The ordinance was passed amidst a hearing of the NAB amendments case by the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan, challenged by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan.

The previous Pakistan Democratic Movement-led (PDM) government approved amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance 1999 in a bid to curtail the powers of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, who tabled the bill in lower house of parliament, said that multiple amendments were made in the accountability Ordinance to clip the powers exercised by the accountability bureau.

Sharing details of the key amendments, he said that after fresh amendments, no arrests could be made before completion of the investigation process, and the suspect will have the right to obtain bail while 90-day remand is also abolished.

"90-day remand is for terrorists and we have now reduced the duration of remand to 14 days," he said and added that no defamation campaign could be carried out unless the suspect is convicted in the case. The case could not be used for political purposes in the assets beyond means case, he said.—RT/Agency

Election Tribunals To Feature Retired Judges As Acting President Signs New Ordinance

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday signed two new ordinances, the Election Act (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 and NAB (Amendment) Ordinance 2024.

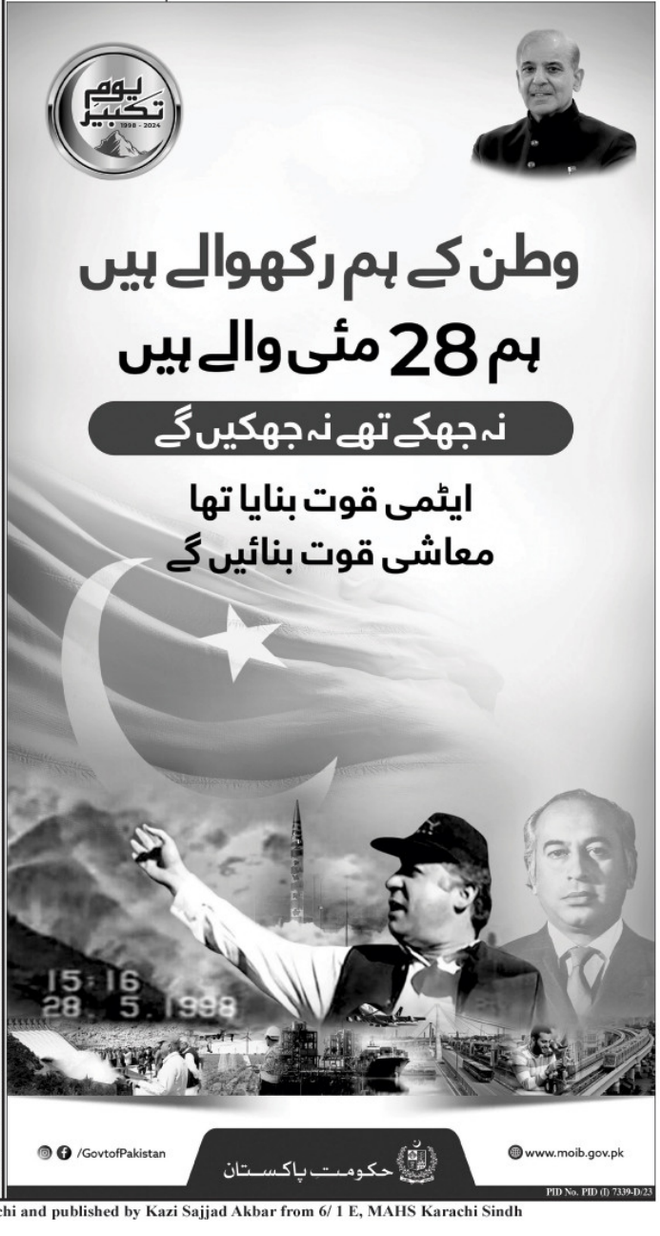
After the promulgation of Election Act (Amendment) Ordinance 2024, the election tribunals will have the retired judges as its members besides the serving jurists.

Meanwhile, the NAB Ordinance extended the period of remanding accused in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) cases from 14 days to 40 days.

Moreover, the sentence duration for the officer convicted for framing cases based on ill will has been reduced to two years from five years.

The promulgation comes after the federal cabinet's approval of the amendments in the two ordinances.

The acting president signed the Election (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 and NAB (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as President Asif Zardari is currently in Dubai.—RT/Agency



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