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# THE REGIONAL TIMES

Of Sindh

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## PM Directs Authorities To Minimize Load-Shedding Amid Heatwave

ISLAMABAD: As the country sweated under intense heat with mercury crossing the 50-degree mark in many parts of the country, particularly in Sindh, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to minimise the ongoing load-shedding in different areas through better load management, considering the public relief in sizzling weather.



The prime minister, chairing a meeting on load management and power theft, reiterated that the government would deal strictly with the power thieves and that the ongoing mission against them would be taken to the logical end.

"Vowing to hold a monthly review of the power theft situation, he asked the provincial governments, law enforcement agencies and other departments to extend their support in the anti-power theft drive in the national interest and for the country's progress."

The prime minister told the participants of the meeting that the government in no way would tolerate the over-billing. He directed the acceleration of the privatisation process of the power distribution companies by engaging the experts and formulating a strategy to solarise the tube wells in Balochistan.

During the briefing on load management and power theft issue, it was told that under a joint strategy formulated following a conversation

between the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa chief minister and federal minister for power, it had been agreed to reduce load-shedding and line losses and ensure recovery of dues from defaulters in the province.

It was told that areas with more power theft and line losses and low recovery ratio were being subjected to load-shedding and that the upgradation of the south-north power transmission line would help improve the system.

The meeting participants were told that task forces were being formed at provincial and divisional levels to eliminate the power theft which would undergo a weekly performance review.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Dr Musaddik Malik and Awais Ahmed Leghari, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, Coordinator to PM Rana Ehsan Afzal,

WAPDA chairman and several senior officers. The provincial chief secretaries and inspector generals of police joined the meeting via video link.

As per sources, the demand for electricity in the country stands at approximately 25,000 megawatts, while the production is at 19,681 megawatts, resulting in a shortfall of 5,319 megawatts. They said that hydro-power sources were generating 5,600 megawatts of electricity, whereas government thermal power plants were producing 890 megawatts. Additionally, private sector electricity houses contribute 198 megawatts, biomass contributes 133 megawatts, and nuclear power plants contribute 3,100 megawatts to the national grid.—RT/Agency

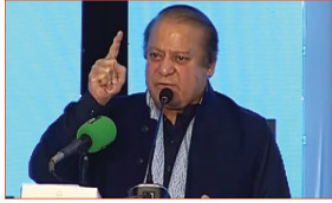
## PML-N Re-Elects Nawaz Unopposed As Party Head After Six Years

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Tuesday elected Nawaz Sharif as the party's president "unopposed" — six years after a court ruling had removed him from office.

Nawaz had lost the prime minister's office in 2017 and the presidency of his party in 2018, as a result of the Panama Papers ruling. Ever since, the PML-N has constructed a narrative centred around the catchphrase "muhyi kyun nikala" (Why was I removed?), in reference to ex-PM.

However, Nawaz was elected as the party president today once again as no other party leader submitted their nomination papers against the party supremo for the top post.

While addressing the party's general council meeting after being elected to the



top post after a gap of six years, the former prime minister said that Pakistan would have progressed if his governments had not been toppled repeatedly.

He said that Pakistan would have held a unique position and power in Asia if the progress under his government had not been halted.

Nawaz lamented the practice of "leg pulling", which he said had been going on since 1977 and had weakened the country.

"We should accept that we have shot ourselves in the foot. Believe me, we have never gone to anyone with a begging bowl," he added.

The three-time prime minister reiterated that he would have never complained if he had been ousted from the prime minister's post for corruption.

Nawaz told the party members cheering for him on the occasion, to celebrate not

because he was re-elected as the PML-N president but because the decision by former chief justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar in the Panama Papers case "had been thrown into the waste basket."

Saqib Nisar had given the ruling to remove me from the party's presidency forever. Tell him to come here today and see what happened to his decision," Nawaz added.

"Four to five people compromised the people's mandate," he said while referring to his ouster after being elected by the masses.

The newly elected PML-N president said that he felt pride that his party members had never cared about any difficult situation.

He also hailed his brother, PM Shehbaz for his "resilience" as he always stood

with him, saying that many people tried to create rifts between them by offering Shehbaz the post of prime minister but he didn't give into it.

"Shehbaz Sharif said, I reject the top ministry being given in exchange for disloyalty," Nawaz said.

He also congratulated his daughter, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, for keeping the party alive.

Turning his guns towards the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, Nawaz asked which of the cases against Imran Khan were fake. He also asked Imran whether he was the "third force" behind his ouster.

The PML-N president said that it was Imran who "helped" in toppling the PML-N regime in 2017 and "derailing democracy".—RT/Agency

## Saad Rafique Calls For Withdrawal Of NAB Ordinance Extending Remand Period

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Saad Rafique on Tuesday said the approval of NAB (Amendment) Ordinance into law to extend the period of physical remand for a suspect from 14 days to 40 days was deplorable.

"This draconian law cannot be supported, therefore, the ordinance should be withdrawn," he said while reminding that the National Accountability Bureau Ordinance was formulated by a dictator.

He said the ordinance was utilised for shameful political purposes and many innocent people fell victim to it.

The NAB Ordinance has been amended, under which the period of remanding accused in the NAB cases has been extended from 14 days



to 40 days.

Acting President Yusuf Raza Gilani Monday signed two new ordinances, NAB (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 and the Elections Act (Amendment) Ordinance 2024. He signed the ordinances on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as President Asif Zardari is currently in Dubai.

The promulgation came after federal cabinet's approval of the amendments to the ordinances. Under the amended NAB law, the sentence duration for an officer, convicted for framing cases based on ill will, has been reduced to two years from five years. After the promulgation of the Elections Act (Amendment) Ordinance 2024, the election tribunals will have retired judges as its members, besides the serving jurists.—RT/Agency

## Bilawal Recalls Shaheed ZAB's Commitment To Founding Pakistan's Nuclear Program

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari observed the legacy of Quaid-i-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on the 26th anniversary of Pakistan becoming a nuclear power.

He highlighted Shaheed Bhutto's commitment to founding Pakistan's nuclear programme despite international pressure.

Bilawal also paid tribute to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto for her role in advancing her father's vision. He also recalled her contributions to providing advanced missile technology. He lauded the scientists and individuals who made Pakistan a nuclear power, recognizing them as



national heroes. Bilawal highlighted the PPP's devotion to opposing the global arms race and nuclear expansion, advocating for peaceful co-existence, dialogue, and democracy. The PPP Chief re-

## Fazl And Pir Pagara Discuss Political Situation

KARACHI: JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has met Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) leader Pir Sibghatullah Shah (Pir Pagara).

During the meeting, which was held at the Pir Pagara residence, current situa-



tion of the country and other related issues were discussed between the two leaders.

Both the leaders rejected the recent elections and were agreed that the country's economy cannot be reformed by the fake elections.—RT/Agency

## Lahore ATC Extends Shah Mahmood's Remand By 9 Days In May 9 Cases

LAHORE: A Lahore anti-terrorism court (ATC) extended incarcerated PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi's physical remand by nine days in eight cases related to the violence that erupted in the country after party founder Imran Khan's arrest on May 9 last year, it emerged on Tuesday.

Qureshi's lawyer advocate Rana Mudassar told media that the remand was granted on extension requests by the police for eight cases.

Countrywide protests erupted on May 9 last year after the paramilitary Rangers whisked away Imran from the Islamabad High Court in a corruption case.

While the protests were underway, social media was flooded with footage of rioting and vandalism at various spots, including the Lahore Corps Commander's residence and General Headquarters, the army's head of office in Rawalpindi.

Qureshi in December was implicated in at least 12 different cases registered by the Rawalpindi district police in connection with the May 9 violence. Qureshi was granted bail in 13 cases in February. He is currently serving his sentence in the Adiala Jail in the cipher case.

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad presided over the hearing on Monday. The court order dated May 27, a copy of which is available with



media, said Qureshi was produced via video link for the case on Friday when the court had initially granted police a three-day remand which lapsed on Sunday.

It added that the police requested an extension in Qureshi's physical remand by 30 days in Monday's hearing with the investigating officer (IO) saying that the USB containing "provoking speech" by the PTI leader was sent to the Punjab Forensic Science Agency while photography and voice matching tests were still pending.

He contended that the police required an extension to recover the mobile phone used by Qureshi to allegedly post inciting messages on X and other social media platforms.

Qureshi's lawyer advocate Rana Mudassar opposed the request and said that the former foreign minister was falsely implicated in the case to delay his release from Adiala Jail.

He said that Qureshi was not present in Lahore on the day of the incident, and neither any video or USB was available to support the IO's claims.

As per the court order, Qureshi himself asserted that he was implicated in the case after a year to "humiliate him" and that he was innocent in the matter.

According to the order, two prosecution witnesses had implicated Qureshi on May 12 last year in the planning, abetment and instigation of the incident's occurrence.

The court order said the photography and voice matching tests were "essential to ascertain the credibility" of the evidence in the case and thus granted a further physical remand of nine days to the police, adding that the investigation must not be interrupted in the interest of justice.—RT/Agency

## Shehbaz Orders Immediate Action To Control New Fire At Margalla Hills



ISLAMABAD: Efforts are under way to extinguish a fire at the Noorpur range of Islamabad's Margalla Hills as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed authorities to act swiftly to control the blaze.

The incident follows two similar fires in hills' Saidpur range yesterday, which were put out by firefighters after seven hours with the support of helicopters.

Capital Development Authority (CDA) spokesperson Kamran Aslam said the fire occurred at Trail-3 of the Saidpur range, which had not been extinguished, but had spread towards Trail-5 of the Noorpur range.

He added that CDA and wildlife department teams were busy extinguishing the blaze at Trail-5.

Taking notice of the fire, PM Shehbaz directed the relevant authorities to immediately mobilise and initiate operations to control it, state broadcaster PTV said on X.

"The fire should be controlled before it spreads further. It must be ensured that

## Shehbaz Praises Spain For Recognizing Palestine As A State

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday welcomed the announcement by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to formally recognise Palestine as a state.

The prime minister said in a statement that Spain's acceptance of Palestine as a state is a positive development in the global scene.

He said that the Spanish people, led by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, rejected Israeli barbarism against the defenceless Palestinians.

PM Shehbaz also strongly condemned the recent unprovoked Israeli bombing of Rafah which martyred another 45 Palestinian people, and reiterated his call for an immediate end to the genocide of the Palestinian population being carried out by Israel.

The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's resolve to continue extending moral, political and diplomatic support to the Palestinian people till the establish-



ment of an independent Palestinian state with Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

Earlier, PM Shehbaz also expressed deep admiration for the recent decision taken by the Governments of Ireland and Norway to recognise the state of Palestine.

It is pertinent to mention here that Spain on Tuesday officially announced to recognise Palestinian state.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has said Spain has recognised a Palestinian state including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, unified under the Palestinian National Authority with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In his televised address, Sanchez said Spain would not recognise any changes to Palestinian borders after 1967 unless all the parties agree on them.

Sanchez said recognising a Palestinian state is "essential for reaching peace" in the Middle East.

Sanchez, who announced his country's decision before parliament last week, has spent months touring European and Middle Eastern countries to garner support for the recognition and for a ceasefire in Gaza.—RT/Agency

no danger is posed to any human life," he was quoted as saying.

Aslam said more than 65 firefighters were engaged in efforts to control the fire, with more teams awaited.

The environment director general was overseeing the operation himself on the directives of CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Aslam added.

He further said that the relevant assistant commissioner was also present at the site.

Aslam, also the CDA deputy director, highlighted that gusts of wind and hot weather had created difficulties in controlling the fire. He added that all resources were being put to use for the operation.

Spreading over 12,605 hectares, the Margalla Hills National Park witnesses scores of fires every year that damage the forests and create air pollution.

On Monday, two major fires broke out at around 1pm in the Saidpur range in two different locations — Chiran Di Gali and Saidpur area.—RT/Agency



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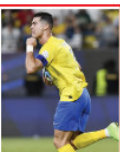
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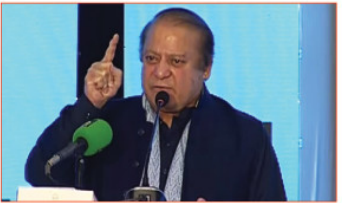
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iterated the party's commitment to a safe, peaceful, and democratic Pakistan as the nation celebrates the 26th Takbeer Day, marking the successful nuclear tests in 1998.—RT/Agency

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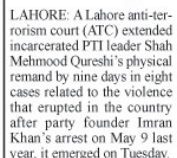
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# THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: The members and leaders of the examination committee for primary schools, including Naseer Mugheri, Muhammad Paryal Kalhoro, Shahmir Magso, Abdul Nabi Syal and others are seen in a group photo with the Headmaster of the Government Primary School Mian Waryal Faqir, Javed Sangi and teacher Asif Ali Tunio.—RT

## MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan condoles with clash victim's family

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: PPP MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan, accompanied by Jam Zaheer Ali Khan, Chairman of District Council Sanghar, visited the Marri community to express condolences following the tragic death of Umar Raja in a clash with the Jatt community.



In a show of solidarity and empathy, MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan, along with other dignitaries, civil society leaders, and representatives from various organizations, extended their heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved Marri community. Among those offering condolences were notable figures such as Habib Malokhani, Arshad Rajput, Mir Muhammad Khaskheli, Imdad Razi, Hakim Ali Baloch, Shakir Rajput, Shoukat Jatt, Chaudhry Mu-

## PPP pays tribute to Shaheed ZAB on Youm-e-Takbeer



SHAHDADKOT: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders in Shahdadkot paid homage to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto on Youm-e-Takbeer, commemorating his pivotal role in making Pakistan an atomic power. The tribute event was led by the President of PPP Shahdadkot Taluka, Mir Asif Ali Laghari, along with Vice President Sirai Darya Khan Mastoi, General Secretary Wajid Khan Chandio, Mir Asif Khoso, Sirai Qurban Ali Soomro, and other party members.

Speaking at the occasion, the leaders highlighted Bhutto's significant contributions to the nation's sovereignty and security. "The sacrifices of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto for the sovereignty of our motherland cannot be ignored," said Mir Asif Ali Laghari. The leaders emphasized Bhutto's vision and efforts that laid the foundation for Pakistan's nuclear capabilities, which are celebrated on Youm-e-Takbeer.

They also expressed their unwavering support for the country's armed forces. "We vow to stand shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces for the defence of our country," stated Sirai Darya Khan Mastoi, reflecting the party's commitment to national security and solidarity. The event underscored the enduring legacy of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and the PPP's dedication to upholding his principles for a strong and sovereign Pakistan.—RT



KOTRI: Journalists are lighting candles and showering rose petals before the portrait of their colleague Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani for the arrest of his murderers.—RT

## AC Gul Faisal Illahi visits ice factories in Kotri

By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: Assistant Commissioner Kotri, Gul Faisal Illahi, embarked on a series of visits to various ice factories and depots across the city following complaints regarding the alleged black marketing of ice amid the prevailing heatwave conditions.



Responding promptly to the concerns raised by residents, AC Gul Faisal Illahi personally inspected several ice manufacturing facilities to assess the situation firsthand. During his visits, he cautioned the owners of these establishments against any unjustified increase in ice prices, stressing that such actions would not be tolerated. Furthermore, the AC directed the owners to ensure an uninterrupted supply of

ice to meet the escalating demand in the city, particularly amid the scorching temperatures experienced during the heatwave. The proactive measures taken by Assistant Commissioner Gul Faisal Illahi underscore the administration's commitment to safeguarding the interests of the public and maintaining fair market practices. His swift intervention serves as a deterrent against exploitative practices, reassuring residents of Kotri that their concerns are being addressed effectively.

## SU law students leave for The Netherlands to take part in IBA ICC Moot Court Competition 2024

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: A five-member students' delegation headed by two faculty members from the Institute of Law, University of Sindh Jamshoro on Tuesday has departed for Netherlands to participate in the International Bar Association (IBA) International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court Competition 2024.



'The Hague' from the Karachi International Airport, where they will get a significant platform to exhibit their legal prowess on an international stage.

According to the Director, Institute of Law, University of Sindh Dr. Sardar Ali Shah, the team comprising five brilliant students and two faculty members has been rigorously preparing for this event since February 2024.

He highlighted the extensive efforts put into research, drafting written submissions, and enhancing verbal advocacy skills. Our students have been fully immersed in this preparation, devoting countless hours and effort, he said and added that he was feeling proud in the team's commitment and diligence, which ultimately paid off when they secured visas for Netherlands. He

noted that the five law students selected for their exceptional abilities will represent the University of Sindh in the international rounds of the competition. Their hard work and determination have been truly commendable and we are confident that they will make us proud on the global stage, Dr. Shah added. It may be noted that the International Bar Association (IBA), International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court Competition is an esteemed event that brings together law students from around the world to engage in simulated court proceedings on current international legal issues. The participation of the University of Sindh's delegation in a global law event displays the Vice Chancellor's vision and mission to foster legal excellence and global engagement among his students.

## 2nd death anniversary of Shaheed Imran Ali Magso observed



By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: The second death anniversary of Imran Ali, also known as Mevo Khan Magso, was solemnly observed in Tando Jam. The commemoration was attended by notable figures including Mir Magso, Muhammad Bachal Magso, Shah Nawaz Zardari, Ghulam Sarwar Magso, among others, who paid tribute to the late Imran Ali Magso.

Imran Ali Magso was tragically shot dead two years ago, and his murder case is currently being heard in court. Speaking at the event, attendees expressed their ongoing grief and called for justice. "We demand exemplary punishment for the murderer of Shaheed Imran Ali Magso," stated Mir Magso, reflecting the sentiments of the gathered community.

The event served as a reminder of the unresolved case and the community's continued pursuit of justice for Imran Ali Magso. His friends and family reiterated their call for the legal system to deliver a verdict that honors his memory and deters future violence.

## Antiquities and Archaeology Dept announces free entry and parking at Makli Cemetery

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The Sindh Department of Antiquities and Archaeology has made a landmark decision to waive all parking and entry fees for the renowned Makli Cemetery, effective immediately. This significant move aims to ensure that both local visitors and foreign tourists have unrestricted access to this historic site.

Director General Abdul Fattah Shaikh has directed the department's minister to implement the new policy promptly through an official memorandum. This decision comes in response to widespread public feedback expressing dissatisfaction with the previous fee structure, which many found to be prohibitive. Formerly, visitors were charged parking fees amounting to 200,000 rupees annually, in addition to entry fees of 500,000 rupees. These fees have now

been abolished, allowing visitors to explore the vast and culturally rich grounds of Makli Cemetery free of charge. Makli Cemetery stands as one of the world's largest necropolises, serving as the resting place for numerous historical figures including kings, warriors, and saints. By eliminating entry and parking fees, the Sindh Department of Antiquities and Archaeology aims to foster a more inclusive and welcoming environment for visitors.

This initiative is expected to enhance the overall experience for tourists and locals alike, encouraging greater exploration and appreciation of Makli Cemetery's unparalleled cultural heritage. By removing financial barriers, the department seeks to promote tourism and ensure that this iconic site remains accessible to all who wish to explore its historical significance.

## Adequate Arrangements demanded for upcoming monsoon rains in Sujawal

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Concerns are mounting in Sujawal as the local administration has yet to take action to clean the stormwater nullahs and water disposal stations, despite warnings from the Meteorology Department regarding the impending monsoon rains. Civil society leaders, in conversations with the media, have voiced their apprehensions over the district administration's lack of preparedness, which could lead to significant issues for residents in the event of heavy rainfall.

The delay in addressing these vital preparations has sparked worry among community leaders, who fear potential flooding and waterlogging if preventive measures are not implemented promptly. With the monsoon season looming, there is growing urgency for the authorities to take proactive steps to mitigate any potential risks to public safety and infrastructure.

Civil society representatives have called on higher authorities to intervene and ensure that the necessary cleanliness measures are carried out in the city before the onset of the monsoon rains. They emphasize the importance of preemptive action to prevent any adverse impacts on the local populace and infrastructure. As the deadline for monsoon arrival draws closer, the pressure is mounting on the district administration to expedite the cleaning efforts and bolster the city's resilience against potential rain-related challenges. The community awaits decisive action from the authorities to safeguard Sujawal against the impending monsoon season.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Haider are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against their area's land grabbers.—Photo by Nazim Photographer



HYDERABAD: Residents of Hala Naka are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against their area police.—Photo by Nazim Photographer

# THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: The members and leaders of the examination committee for primary schools, including Naseer Mugheri, Muhammad Paryal Kalhoro, Shahmir Magsi, Abdul Nabi Syal and others are seen in a group photo with the Headmaster of the Government Primary School Mian Waryal Faqir, Javed Sangi and teacher Asif Ali Tunio.—RT

## MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan condoles with clash victim's family

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: PPP MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan, accompanied by Jam Zaheer Ali Khan, Chairman of District Council Sanghar, visited the Marri community to express condolences following the tragic death of Umar Raja in a clash with the Jatt community.



In a show of solidarity and empathy, MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan, along with other dignitaries, civil society leaders, and representatives from various organizations, extended their heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved Marri community. Among those offering condolences were notable figures such as Habib Malokhani, Arshad Rajput, Mir Muhammad Khaskheli, Imdad Razi, Hakim Ali Baloch, Shakir Rajput, Shoukat Jatt, Chaudhry Mu-

## PPP pays tribute to Shaheed ZAB on Youm-e-Takbeer



SHAHDADKOT: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders in Shahdadkot paid homage to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto on Youm-e-Takbeer, commemorating his pivotal role in making Pakistan an atomic power. The tribute event was led by the President of PPP Shahdadkot Taluka, Mir Asif Ali Laghari, along with Vice President Sirai Darya Khan Mastoi, General Secretary Wajid Khan Chandio, Mir Asif Khoso, Sirai Qurban Ali Soomro, and other party members.

Speaking at the occasion, the leaders highlighted Bhutto's significant contributions to the nation's sovereignty and security. "The sacrifices of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto for the sovereignty of our motherland cannot be ignored," said Mir Asif Ali Laghari. The leaders emphasized Bhutto's vision and efforts that laid the foundation for Pakistan's nuclear capabilities, which are celebrated on Youm-e-Takbeer.

They also expressed their unwavering support for the country's armed forces. "We vow to stand shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces for the defence of our country," stated Sirai Darya Khan Mastoi, reflecting the party's commitment to national security and solidarity. The event underscored the enduring legacy of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and the PPP's dedication to upholding his principles for a strong and sovereign Pakistan.—RT



KOTRI: Journalists are lighting candles and showering rose petals before the portrait of their colleague Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani for the arrest of his murderers.—RT



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## AC Gul Faisal Illahi visits ice factories in Kotri

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: Assistant Commissioner Kotri, Gul Faisal Illahi, embarked on a series of visits to various ice factories and depots across the city following complaints regarding the alleged black marketing of ice amid the prevailing heatwave conditions.



Responding promptly to the concerns raised by residents, AC Gul Faisal Illahi personally inspected several ice manufacturing facilities to assess the situation firsthand. During his visits, he cautioned the owners of these establishments against any unjustified increase in ice prices, stressing that such actions would not be tolerated. Furthermore, the AC directed the owners to ensure an uninterrupted supply of

ice to meet the escalating demand in the city, particularly amid the scorching temperatures experienced during the heatwave. The proactive measures taken by Assistant Commissioner Gul Faisal Illahi underscore the administration's commitment to safeguarding the interests of the public and maintaining fair market practices. His swift intervention serves as a deterrent against exploitative practices, reassuring residents of Kotri that their concerns are being addressed effectively.

## SU law students leave for The Netherlands to take part in IBA ICC Moot Court Competition 2024

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: A five-member students' delegation headed by two faculty members from the Institute of Law, University of Sindh Jamshoro on Tuesday has departed for Netherlands to participate in the International Bar Association (IBA) International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court Competition 2024.



'The Hague' from the Karachi International Airport, where they will get a significant platform to exhibit their legal prowess on an international stage.

According to the Director, Institute of Law, University of Sindh Dr. Sardar Ali Shah, the team comprising five brilliant students and two faculty members has been rigorously preparing for this event since February 2024.

He highlighted the extensive efforts put into research, drafting written submissions, and enhancing verbal advocacy skills. Our students have been fully immersed in this preparation, devoting countless hours and effort, he said and added that he was feeling proud in the team's commitment and diligence, which ultimately paid off when they secured visas for Netherlands. He

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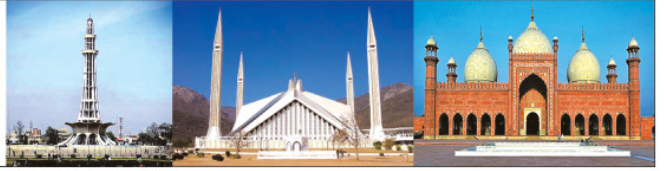


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# NATIONAL



## Mohsin Naqvi Unveils Five Relief Initiatives For Islamabad Residents

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He announced to launch of Capital Emergency Services in Islamabad and establishment of Capital Waste Management Company in Islamabad besides, establishment of Capital Safe City Authority, establishment of CBD Islamabad and Capital WASA will be built for the convenience of the citizens of Islamabad.

Mohsin Naqvi assigned the task to Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa to expedite the projects.

"Inshallah soon Islamabad will be made a model city," said Mohsin Naqvi.

During his visit to CDA headquarters, the minister



met the staff of Ambulance 1122 and Fire Brigade and urged them to perform their duties diligently.

He directed to merge Ambulance, Fire Brigade and Water Rescue Services under Capital Emergency Services.

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## Maryam Assures For Uninterrupted Supply Of Fertilizers To Farmers



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz pledged to ensure the supply of fertilizers to farmers at all costs.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz reviewed the fertilizer requirements and availability in the province. During the briefing, it was reported that the demand and production of urea fertilizer in Punjab is approximately 6.5 million tons.

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The meeting also stressed the need for a fool-proof procedure to ensure the availability of fertilizer to farmers.

## Gandapur Announces Removal Of Underperforming Members From Cabinet

PESHAWAR: Two to three members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet are soon likely to be removed over unsatisfactory performance, government sources say, as Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has already given them a warning.

The sources say Gandapur will apprise Imran Khan - the PTI founding chairman - of the situation resulting out of these provincial ministers not showing any progress.

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In case, the said ministers are unable to change the state of affairs even after that, they will ultimately be removed from the cabinet.



The sources claim that the chief minister wants to see best out of his team in their respective departments and is following a zero-tolerance policy on the subject. When it comes to their replacements, the sources say, the decision-making powers rest with Gandapur and Imran. Therefore, the chief minister will announce the decision only after consulting the party founder who is currently incarcerated in Central Jail Rawalpindi, commonly known as Adiala jail.

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"Yeah, I'm very hopeful because I was there in China recently and I had meetings with their senior leadership... So I see great interest on the Chinese side to revive the momentum for CPEC and also to take it into the second phase," he said.

Pakistan was seen as a flagship destination for BRI projects, with CPEC - which includes a port in the southern town of Gwadar and new power plants - the crown jewel. The progress on new projects stalled in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and amid Pakistan's on-going economic difficulties that have required the International Monetary Fund's intervention.

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"So all these things really help China see that the new government is again serious and it restored their confidence that now Pakistan is, you know, serious about CPEC initiatives," said Iqbal.

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QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has said he will thwart all kinds of conspiracies against Pakistan.

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"People are being instigated on the basis of religion and linguistic grounds but Pakistani forces and the nation are united," he added.

"The social media has destroyed entire fabric of our society due to the lack of awareness, creating a huge gap between the state and the youth through false narratives," the Balochistan CM said.

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exhibiting the helplessness of citizens in the hands of criminals with no authorities taking any effective measures.

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Notable encroachments include 1,937 acres in Multan, 87.13 acres in Rawalpindi and 593 acres in Quetta.

The report states that illegal petrol pumps have been identified on land valued at over Rs2,017 billion in Karachi and Hyderabad. Despite a legal order, 63

## Cold water becomes unaffordable for the poor due to skyrocketing prices

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: The residents of Tando Jam and its surrounding areas are grappling with severe hardships in purchasing ice amidst the ongoing heat wave. Reports indicate that ice factory and depot owners have hiked ice prices arbitrarily in response to soaring demand, leaving impoverished residents unable to afford this basic necessity for cold drinking water.

Local residents have voiced their concerns over this exploitative price increase, criticizing the apparent indifference of local authorities. "It's unbearable in this heat, and now we can't even afford ice to cool our drinking water," said a distressed resident. The community has called for immediate government intervention to regulate ice prices in Tando Jam.

The issue extends beyond Tando Jam, affecting the entire Sindh region, where similar price hikes have been reported. Citizens from various cities have expressed similar grievances, urging authorities to take action against what they describe as profiteering during a time of crisis.

Residents are demanding strict measures to control ice prices, ensuring that everyone, especially the poor, can access cold water during the heat wave. "We need the government to step in and set fair prices. This is a basic need, not a luxury," urged another resident.

As temperatures continue to rise, the urgency for affordable ice becomes increasingly critical, with public health and comfort hanging in the balance. The community's plea for justice and immediate action remains clear: regulate the ice prices to alleviate the suffering of the poor.



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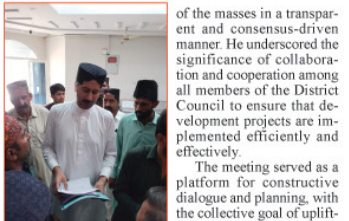
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## District Council Chairman Mir Bangal Khan Mahar vows to make Ghotki a model district

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Mir Bangal Khan Mahar, Chairman of the District Council Ghotki, convened a meeting with members of the union councils at his office on Tuesday to address their grievances and discuss development plans for the district.

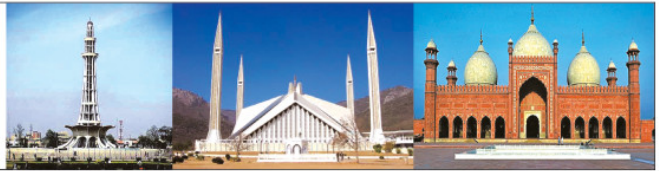
During the meeting, focus was placed on formulating strategies to provide essential facilities and amenities to residents across all union councils. Mir Bangal Khan reaffirmed his commitment to spearheading the development initiatives in Ghotki, emphasizing the importance of equitable distribu-



tion of resources and services without any discrimination.

Expressing his dedication to the welfare of the people, Mir Bangal Khan pledged to utilize funds allocated for the betterment across the district.

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Notable encroachments include 1,937 acres in Multan, 87.13 acres in Rawalpindi and 593 acres in Quetta.

The report states that illegal petrol pumps have been identified on land valued at over Rs2.017 billion in Karachi and Hyderabad. Despite a legal order, 63

## Cold water becomes unaffordable for the poor due to skyrocketing prices

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: The residents of Tando Jam and its surrounding areas are grappling with severe hardships in purchasing ice amidst the ongoing heat wave. Reports indicate that ice factory and depot owners have hiked ice prices arbitrarily in response to soaring demand, leaving impoverished residents unable to afford this basic necessity for cold drinking water.

Local residents have voiced their concerns over this exploitative price increase, criticizing the apparent indifference of local authorities. "It's unbearable in this heat, and now we can't even afford ice to cool our drinking water," said a distressed resident. The community has called for immediate government intervention to regulate ice prices in Tando Jam.

The issue extends beyond Tando Jam, affecting the entire Sindh region, where similar price hikes have been reported. Citizens from various cities have expressed similar grievances, urging authorities to take action against what they describe as profiteering during a time of crisis.

Residents are demanding strict measures to control ice prices, ensuring that everyone, especially the poor, can access cold water during the heat wave. "We need the government to step in and set fair prices. This is a basic need, not a luxury," urged another resident.

As temperatures continue to rise, the urgency for affordable ice becomes increasingly critical, with public health and comfort hanging in the balance. The community's plea for justice and immediate action remains clear: regulate the ice prices to alleviate the suffering of the poor.



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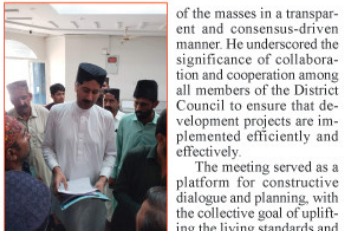
As temperatures continue to rise, the urgency for affordable ice becomes increasingly critical, with public health and comfort hanging in the balance. The community's plea for justice and immediate action remains clear: regulate the ice prices to alleviate the suffering of the poor.

## District Council Chairman Mir Bangal Khan Mahar vows to make Ghotki a model district

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Mir Bangal Khan Mahar, Chairman of the District Council Ghotki, convened a meeting with members of the union councils at his office on Tuesday to address their grievances and discuss development plans for the district.

During the meeting, focus was placed on formulating strategies to provide essential facilities and amenities to residents across all union councils. Mir Bangal Khan reaffirmed his commitment to spearheading the development initiatives in Ghotki, emphasizing the importance of equitable distribu-



of the masses in a transparent and consensus-driven manner. He underscored the significance of collaboration and cooperation among all members of the District Council to ensure that development projects are implemented efficiently and effectively. The meeting served as a platform for constructive dialogue and planning, with the collective goal of uplifting the living standards and quality of life for residents of Ghotki. Mir Bangal Khan's unwavering resolve to prioritize the needs of the community reflects a commitment to fostering progress and prosperity across the district.

# EDITORIAL



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

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

## What is good for the goose is good for the gander

Nawaz Sharif's unopposed re-election as the head of the PML-N raises significant questions about the consistency of standards applied to political party elections in Pakistan. Sharif's reinstatement, coming after his disqualification and subsequent acquittal, underscores a troubling inconsistency in the scrutiny of intra-party elections, particularly when contrasted with the treatment of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The PTI has faced repeated nullifications of its intra-party elections, subjected to rigorous scrutiny by both the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Supreme Court. This scrutiny has often been cited as necessary to uphold democratic principles within party structures. However, Nawaz Sharif's

unchallenged return to the PML-N presidency appears to have bypassed this rigorous oversight. The PTI has rightfully demanded that the ECP and the



judiciary apply the same stringent criteria to the PML-N's internal elections as was applied to theirs. This demand highlights a fundamental principle of justice: what is good for the goose is good for the gander.

The lack of competing candidates against Sharif and the unanimous support from the party's election commission led by Rana Sanaullah raises concerns

about the democratic integrity of the PML-N's internal processes. It suggests a potential rubber-stamping of Sharif's leadership rather than a robust democratic contest. This contrasts sharply with the PTI's experience, where internal elections have been scrutinized to the point of invalidation, suggesting a double standard in the enforcement of electoral fairness.

The ECP and the judiciary must uphold impartiality and ensure that all political parties adhere to the same democratic standards. Failure to do so not only undermines credibility but also erodes public trust in the democratic process. Nawaz Sharif's unopposed election should be examined with the same diligence that has been applied to the PTI's intra-party elections. Only then can we ensure a truly fair and democratic political landscape in Pakistan.

REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: HDA Mehran Workers Union's General Secretary, Muhammad Aslam Abbasi is addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad press club. Photo by Nazim Photographer

## AC Ramiz Raja warns Sakrand's profiteers of stern action



By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: Assistant Commissioner Sakrand, Ramiz Raja, conducted inspections across various areas of the city on Tuesday to monitor the prices of essential food items. During his visit, he issued a stern warning to profiteers and directed them to adhere to the government-fixed rates to avoid facing legal consequences.

Ramiz Raja emphasized the importance of maintaining fair pricing practices to ensure that essential commodities remain accessible to all segments of society. He instructed hotel owners and shopkeepers to refrain from engaging in price gouging or overcharging customers, underscoring the government's commitment to protecting consumers from exploitation.

## Mehar journalists demand justice for Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mahar and Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani



By Hanif Panhwar

MEHAR: Journalists in Mehar took to the streets in a protest rally, demanding justice for the slain journalists Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mahar and Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani. Led by prominent figures including Zulfiqar Junejo, Abdul Sattar Mirani, Khurshed Laker, Abdul Fattah Venus, Shamsolahi, and Ghazi Khan, the journalists marched through various parts of the city to voice their demands.

The demonstrators emphasized the urgent need for the apprehension of the perpetrators responsible for the heinous murders of their colleagues. They called upon the concerned authorities to expedite the investigation and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice swiftly.



HYDERABAD: GOR Colony resident, Iqbal Khaskheli is addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad press club for the provision of justice. Photo by Nazim Photographer

## Matiari district administration to hold two-day Mango and Handicrafts Expo on June 8

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Matiari is all set to host its inaugural Mango and Handicrafts Expo on June 8-9, 2024, at HT Sorley Hall Bhitshah, marking a significant milestone in showcasing the district's agricultural prowess and cultural heritage.

A high-level meeting, co-chaired by Chairman District Council Matiari, Makhdoom Ahmad Zaman, Deputy Commissioner Matiari Muhammad Yousif Shaikh, and SSP Matiari Asghar Ali Shah, was convened to finalize the arrangements for the Expo.

The event promises to be a vibrant celebration, highlighting Matiari's rich agricultural heritage, exquisite handicrafts, and vibrant cultural traditions. Chairman District Council Makhdoom Ahmed Zaman underscored the Expo's importance in fostering progressive thinking and stimulating economic activities in agriculture, livestock, and handicraft sectors.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yousif Shaikh announced that the Expo's inauguration ceremony will take place on June 8, 2024, with hopes of establishing it as an annual tradition. He emphasized Matiari's significant contribution to the national economy, particularly in mango production, aiming to showcase and promote the district's agro-based economy, cottage industry, and untapped livelihood opportunities.

Shaikh highlighted the Expo's role in providing a platform for local farmers, artisans, and youth to exhibit their talents and innovations. He expressed aspirations for the Expo to become a flagship event driving Matiari's economic growth and cultural preservation. The Expo will feature a seminar focusing on new trends in mango cultivation, introducing innovative varieties for the district, and providing a platform for the mango farming community to exchange experiences and expertise.

Additionally, a livestock exhibition, flower show, and science models displayed by students will be integral parts of the Expo. "We are thrilled to showcase the best of Matiari's agriculture, handicrafts, and talent, and we extend a warm invitation to everyone to join us in this joyous celebration of our district's unique identity and spirit," remarked Deputy Commissioner Shaikh, expressing excitement for the forthcoming event.

## Daulatpur journalists demand justice for their colleague Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani



By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Local journalists in Daulatpur have intensified their protest, demanding swift justice for the late journalist Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani, by urging authorities to apprehend those responsible for his murder and bring them to justice. The journalists are adamant about registering a case against the accused individuals involved in the heinous incident.

Protest leaders, including Murtaza Jokhio, Roshan Soomro, Wajid Rahu, Riaz Mallah, Abid Hussain Bhatti,

Niaz Unar, Usman Abbasi, Muhammad Moosa Unar, and others, expressed their grievances, highlighting the perilous environment for journalists in Sindh. They lamented that speaking the truth has become a risky endeavor, with sincere and honest journalists frequently becoming targets of violence. The demonstrators criticized the Sindh Police for what they perceive as an indifferent approach to providing justice to journalists by failing to apprehend their assailants. Moreover, they accused government representatives of merely issuing statements without taking tangible actions to address the issue.

During the protest, participants emphatically demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible for the murder of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani. They warned that failure to meet this demand would lead to an escalation of their protest activities. The unwavering determination of Daulatpur journalists underscores the pressing need for authorities to take decisive action to ensure the safety and protection of journalists, and to uphold freedom of the press in Sindh.



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of the Sunni Tehreek are holding a rally on the occasion of Youm-e-Takbeer. Photo by Nazim Photographer

## Two Naukot brothers drown in River Indus

By Mushahid Nohrio

NAUKOT: A day of leisure turned tragic as two brothers lost their lives after drowning in the waters of the River Indus near Al-Manzar. Rahul, aged 23, and his younger brother Hareesh, aged 20, succumbed to the unforgiving currents of the river while bathing on Tuesday. The siblings, residents of village Amanabad and sons of Harchand Meghwar, were enjoying a refreshing dip in the river when the unfortunate incident occurred. Despite the efforts of onlookers to rescue them, the brothers were swept away by the strong currents, leaving behind a community in mourning. Local divers launched a frantic search operation and, after strenuous efforts, succeeded in retrieving the lifeless bodies from the depths of the river. The bodies were then transferred to the local area hos-

pital to undergo medico-legal formalities. The tragic demise of Rahul and Hareesh has cast a pall of sorrow over the community of Naukot, serving as a poignant reminder of the inherent dangers posed by natural water bodies. As loved ones grapple with the profound loss, the incident serves as a somber warning about the importance of caution and vigilance when engaging in recreational activities near water sources.

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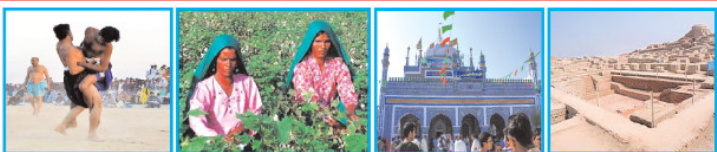
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SPORTS



Cristiano Ronaldo etches record in Saudi Pro League history



Cristiano Ronaldo, who is the top goal scorer of all time, is now approaching the zenith of his career after securing the highest score in the Saudi Pro League. His Al-Nassr faced Al-Ittihad at King Abdullah Sports City where the Portuguese forward broke the record of Moroccan footballer Abderrazak Hamdallah's who netted 34 goals. The 39-year-old star joined the Saudi club in January 2023, after signing a contract for two-and-a-half years with Al-Nassr. The Saudi Pro League season concluded Monday where Cristiano Ronaldo once again excelled in his skill on the field, despite Al Hilal winning the title. The 39-year-old holds the record for the highest number of goals in the UEFA Champions League. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner is in high spirits to complete the number of 900 goals as he is just 7 nets away from writing his name into the books of football history as the best player. His total tally is 893. He is also at the top of the list of the best international football players ahead of Pele, Lionel Messi and many more with 128 strikes under his name. Al Nassr will have a chance for some revenge on Friday when they face Al Hilal in the King Cup final.—Agency

Alison Bender to present PFL launching event in Lahore



LONDON: Well-known football presenter and commentator Alison Bender has been announced as the official presenter for Pakistan Football League (PFL). Speaking to media, the famous Sky News football presenter said she was "excited to visit Pakistan." "I love travel, and was lucky enough to have been involved in the launch of Real Madrid TV at a significant time in their history. I can't wait to see what's in store for the PFL as well as discovering the country for the first time. This will be my first visit to Pakistan and I am so looking forward to it, to meet the people of Pakistan and the young footballers," Alison Bender said. As a female foot-

ball presenter, Alison has played an instrumental role to inspire women in the world of football media and she is known for making huge strides in world football, announcing ground breaking stories from the England men's matches to interviewing world famous names such as Mikael Arntena, Pep Guardiola, Pele, David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo. Melanie Grace, director of communications of PFL, said: "It is truly exciting to have Alison on board for PFL as the official voice and face to anchor our league inauspiciously. These are truly changing times and a testament to women in football leading the narrative for PFL. I look forward to Alison's flair and passion in bringing PFL to life in front of a passionate and fresh audience in Pakistan." Alison will be hosting the main event of the PFL on June 4 live from Nishat Emporium. PFL Chairman Farhan Junejo announced last week that the PFL is set to be launched next month on June 4 in Lahore where England's legendary footballer Michael Owen will be the chief guest. The PFL launch in Lahore will see the participation of more than 25-member foreign delegation including Mike Farnan, CEO Redstrike, Davide Gomes of SL Benfica, Luis Miguel de Sousa Santos Reis of SL Benfica and Emile Heskey.—Agency

Mike Tyson health emergency: Jake Paul speaks up ahead of fight



Since the fight between Mike Tyson and Jake Paul was fixed for July, the 27-year-old boxer gave a crucial insight about facing the star at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Nothing changed on his name. The Iron Mike retired from the ring in 2005 after being two times heavyweight champion. He had 50 wins and 44 knockouts on his name. The 58-year-old legend revealed a day earlier that the 37-year-old faced an airborne medical emergency while on board a flight from Miami to Los Angeles Sunday. Tyson's representatives said: "He became nauseous and dizzy due to an ulcer flare-up 30 minutes before landing." Taking to X, YouTuber Jake Paul wrote: "You love to make s-t up before knowing the facts for clicks/likes.—Agency

Canada stun Nepal in T20 World Cup 2024 warm-up



DALLAS: Nicholas Kirton's anchoring half-century, followed by Dilon Heyliger's four-fer led Canada to an astonishing 63-run victory over Nepal in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 warm-up match here on Tuesday. Put into bat first, Canada racked up a massive total of 183/7 on the board, courtesy of Kirton's 52 and Ravinderpal Singh's late fireworks. Canada, however, had a shaky start to their innings as their opener Aaron Johnson perished cheaply in the third over with just 22 runs on the board. They then lost Rayyan Pathan in the next over with the scoreboard reading 33 as the right-handed batter was drilled out on the first delivery. Kirton then joined

Navneet Dhaniwal in the middle and the duo partnered strongly to add 50 runs for the second wicket. The anchoring partnership lasted on the penultimate delivery of the 10th over when Dhaniwal fell victim to Gulshan Jha after scoring a cautious 32 off 27 deliveries. Kirton then formed brief partnerships with Pargat Singh (13) and Shreyas Movva (2) before finally perishing in the 16th over. He remained the top-scorer for Canada with a 39-ball 52 which featured four fours and two sixes. Canada were in heaps of trouble being six down for 123 in 16 overs after Dilpreet Bajwa's dismissal but their No.8 Singh came out all guns blazing and turned the game on its head with belligerent hitting. Singh smashed one four and four sixes on his way to a 17-ball 41. Abinash Bohara led the bowling charge for Nepal with two wickets while Sagar Dhakal, Lalit Rajbanshi, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami and Karan KC chipped in a wicket apiece. Set to chase 184, Nepal's strong batting lineup unfolded on a meagre 120 despite a notable performance by their top order. Kushal Malla waged a lone battle for Nepal with a 30-ball 37, followed by Anil Sah (24), Asif Sheikh (22) and Kushal Bhurtel (10), who made notable contributions while the rest of their batters failed to make it into the double digits.—Agency

Carapaz not selected by Ecuador to defend Olympic road race title



LONDON: Olympic road race champion Richard Carapaz will not defend his title at the Paris Games, with Jhonatan Narvaez taking Ecuador's sole berth, the Ecuadorian Cycling Federation (FEC) said. "Jhonatan Manuel Narvaez Prado will participate in the road event and the individual time trial," the FEC said in a statement. Carapaz, 30, the only Ecuadorian to win Olympic gold in road cycling, had slammed the FEC selection rules as "clearly skewed and lacking in the fundamental principles of fairness and sporting equality."

The winner of the 2019 Giro d'Italia pointed out that, according to the new rule, "points are taken into account from January, but the regulation was not published until March, when there was already a difference in points between the athletes". Despite being sidelined, Carapaz wished good luck to 27-year-old Narvaez, winner of the first stage of the Giro d'Italia earlier this month and among the leaders on several stages. The two men have known each other since childhood and were teammates at Ineos for two seasons from 2020 to 2022. "This time it was not possible for me to be the representative at the Olympic Games and I want to wish good luck to Jhonatan. I wish him the best to represent us in the best possible way," Carapaz said in a video posted on X, formerly Twitter. At the Covid-delayed Tokyo Games in 2021, Carapaz won the road race ahead of Belgian Wout van Aert and Slovenian Tadej Pogacar.—Agency

Emery signs new five-year contract at Aston Villa



LONDON: Aston Villa manager Unai Emery has signed a new five-year contract, the Premier League club announced. The Spaniard has been rewarded after guiding the Birmingham club to a fourth-placed finish and Champions League qualification last season. Emery, 52, has transformed Villa's fortunes since arriving in October 2022 with the team just three points above the relegation zone. "I am very happy to take this step (signing a new contract) and the responsibility of leading this club," Emery told Villa's website. "Since I came to Villa with (co-owner) Wes (Edens) and (chairman) Nassef (Sawiris) we found always the best environment and structure to develop a project with the highest ambition. "There's a great chemistry in Aston Villa and the element of the fans' support also makes the difference to feel like home. We are re-

'I'll play again': Swedish midfielder Olsson after brain illness



STOCKHOLM: Sweden international Kristoffer Olsson, who was hospitalized in February with a rare brain illness that left him without motor or verbal skills, said Monday he was recovering well and would play football again. The 28-year-old midfielder with Danish Superliga club FC Midtjylland fell unconscious in his home on February 20 and was admitted to Aarhus University Hospital, where he was placed on a ventilator. Tests showed he had suffered several small blood clots in the brain due to a rare inflammation of the blood vessels in the brain. He was transferred to a rehab centre in mid-March to help him regain his motor and verbal skills. For the first three weeks

after the collapse, "I was basically dying," he told Swedish daily Aftonbladet. "I was not contactable and I have no memories from that time," he said, adding that he was now en route to a full recovery. "I've gotten through the worst part. I've had to think, be positive and have patience with everything," he said. Olsson, who is still in rehab, said he planned to play professionally again. "I feel great. I'm going to be able to play football again," he said, adding that it was still too early to say when that would happen. "Of course you want to be back as soon as possible... But I'm not stressing out about it, it will have to take time." "We'll see when it happens," Olsson was in the stands on Sunday when FC Midtjylland won the Danish championship. He said he had already kicked a ball around with a member of his rehab team. "She stood in goal." "I can move well. I can run and my memory is good. I'm getting better every day. I've had tubes and things on me the whole time, but now I just have this little thing that helps that it was still too early to say when that would happen.—Agency

Face of the Day



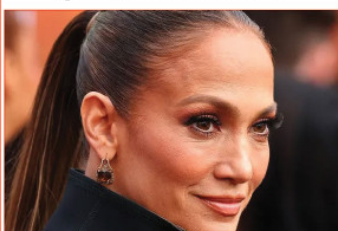
Name: Ateeq Taimour Location: Karachi About me: I love modeling!

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

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT



Jennifer Lopez believes 'Atlas' shows good & bad AI



Artificial intelligence has a key role in Jennifer Lopez's upcoming film Atlas, and according to her, the movie gives a balanced view of the technology. At the Los Angeles premiere, the Hustlers actress said, "I think this movie does a good job of showing how AI could go incredibly wrong, and this is how it could go really right." In the film, the 54-year-old faces an evil robot hell-bent on destroying the world, and Jennifer's character seeks AI to help stop him. The Netflix star meanwhile shed light on the pitfalls of AI saying the ads "selling skincare that I know nothing about" using manipulated photos of her face covered in "wrinkles," adding, "It's really scary," noting, "Right away we had them stealing our faces. So, yes, [AI] is really scary." However, Jennifer said her forthcoming film does a decent job of representing both pros and cons of the tech. "I think you should be respectful of AI. We have to be open to all possibilities. These movies that are talking about AI - especially this one - do a really good job of showing both sides."

Britney Spears got 'closer' to Paul Soliz after Chateau Marmont incident



Britney Spears has only grown fonder of beau Paul Richard Soliz ever since the Chateau Marmont incident. After the couple got into an alleged brawl at the West Hollywood, Calif. Hotel, the Toxic crooner has been "heavily relying" on him, according to an insider. "Britney and Paul have been together nonstop since the incident at the Chateau Marmont. He's gotten so much criticism and blame for that and she's jumped to protect him, so it's actually made them closer - they've got this 'us against the world' vibe going on," the tipster spilled to OK! magazine, adding that they've also been spotted in her \$200,000 Mercedes. Despite Paul's bad reputation of being a felon and failure to pay child support to the mom of his children, Britney still "accepts" him for who he is. "She insists he's a great guy and a great dad to his nine kids. Fact is, Brit does not want to be alone," they continued. His ex Nicole Mancilla has also backed the allegations and also claimed that he cheated on her with a previous report. "Just let them know that my husband fell in Britney Spears' p----. He was married, and now he denies his children. He neglects his children for her. He's a deadbeat dad because it's difficult for me, because he doesn't support not one kid. And they're at my house," she alleged in a previous report.—Agency

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Cristiano Ronaldo, who is the top goal scorer of all time, is now approaching the zenith of his career after securing the highest score in the Saudi Pro League. His Al-Nassr faced Al-Ittihad at King Abdullah Sports City where the Portuguese forward broke the record of Moroccan footballer Abderrazak Hamdallah's who netted 34 goals. The 39-year-old star joined the Saudi club in January 2023, after signing a contract for two-and-a-half years with Al-Nassr. The Saudi Pro League season concluded Monday where Cristiano Ronaldo once again excelled in his skill on the field, despite Al Hilal winning the title. The 39-year-old holds the record for the highest number of goals in the UEFA Champions League. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner is in high spirits to complete the number of 900 goals as he is just 7 nets away from writing his name into the books of football history as the best player. His total tally is 893. He is also at the top of the list of the best international football players ahead of Pele, Lionel Messi and many more with 128 strikes under his name. Al Nassr will have a chance for some revenge on Friday when they face Al Hilal in the King Cup final.—Agency

Alison Bender to present PFL launching event in Lahore



LONDON: Well-known football presenter and commentator Alison Bender has been announced as the official presenter for Pakistan Football League (PFL). Speaking to media, the famous Sky News football presenter said she was "excited to visit Pakistan." "I love travel, and was lucky enough to have been involved in the launch of Real Madrid TV at a significant time in their history. I can't wait to see what's in store for the PFL as well as discovering the country for the first time. This will be my first visit to Pakistan and I am so looking forward to it, to meet the people of Pakistan and the young footballers," Alison Bender said. As a female foot-

ball presenter, Alison has played an instrumental role to inspire women in the world of football media and she is known for making huge strides in world football, announcing ground breaking stories from the England men's matches to interviewing world famous names such as Mikael Arteta, Pep Guardiola, Pele, David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo. Melanie Grace, director of communications of PFL, said: "It is truly exciting to have Alison on board for PFL as the official voice and face to anchor our league inauspiciously. These are truly changing times and a testament to women in football leading the narrative for PFL. I look forward to Alison's flair and passion in bringing PFL to life in front of a passionate and fresh audience in Pakistan." Alison will be hosting the main event of the PFL on June 4 live from Nishat Emporium. PFL Chairman Farhan Junejo announced last week that the PFL is set to be launched next month on June 4 in Lahore where England's legendary footballer Michael Owen will be the chief guest. The PFL launch in Lahore will see the participation of more than 25-member foreign delegation including Mike Farnan, CEO Redstrike, Davide Gomes of SL Benfica, Luis Miguel de Sousa Santos Reis of SL Benfica and Emile Heskey.—Agency

Mike Tyson health emergency: Jake Paul speaks up ahead of fight



Since the fight between Mike Tyson and Jake Paul was fixed for July, the 27-year-old boxer gave a crucial insight about facing the star at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. Nothing changed on his name. The Iron Mike retired from the ring in 2005 after being two times heavyweight champion. He had 50 wins and 44 knockouts on his name. The 58-year-old legend revealed a day earlier that the 37-year-old faced an airborne medical emergency while on board a flight from Miami to Los Angeles Sunday. Tyson's representatives said: "He became nauseous and dizzy due to an ulcer flare-up 30 minutes before landing." Taking to X, YouTuber Jake Paul wrote: "You love to make s-t up before knowing the facts for clicks/likes.—Agency

Canada stun Nepal in T20 World Cup 2024 warm-up



DALLAS: Nicholas Kirton's anchoring half-century, followed by Dilon Heyliger's four-fer led Canada to an astonishing 63-run victory over Nepal in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 warm-up match here on Tuesday. Put into bat first, Canada racked up a massive total of 183/7 on the board, courtesy of Kirton's 52 and Ravinderpal Singh's late fireworks. Canada, however, had a shaky start to their innings as their opener Aaron Johnson perished cheaply in the third over with just 22 runs on the board. They then lost Rayyan Pathan in the next over with the scoreboard reading 33 as the right-handed batter was drilled out on the first delivery. The anchoring partnership lasted on the penultimate delivery of the 10th over when Dhanial fell victim to Gulshan Jha after scoring a cautious 32 off 27 deliveries. Kirton then formed brief partnerships with Pargat Singh (13) and Shreyas Movva (2) before finally perishing in the 16th over. He remained the top-scorer for Canada with a 39-ball 52 which featured four fours and two sixes. Canada were in heaps of trouble being six down for 123 in 16 overs after Dilpreet Bajwa's dismissal but their No.8 Singh came out all guns blazing and turned the game

on its head with belligerent hitting. Singh smashed one four and four sixes on his way to a 17-ball 41. Abinash Bohara led the bowling charge for Nepal with two wickets while Sagar Dhakal, Lalit Rajbanshi, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami and Karan KC chipped in a wicket apiece. Set to chase 184, Nepal's strong batting lineup unfolded on a meagre 120 despite a notable performance by their top order. Kushal Malla waged a lone battle for Nepal with a 30-ball 37, followed by Anil Sah (24), Asif Sheikh (22) and Kushal Bhurtel (10), who made notable contributions while the rest of their batters failed to make it into the double digits.—Agency

Carapaz not selected by Ecuador to defend Olympic road race title



LONDON: Olympic road race champion Richard Carapaz will not defend his title at the Paris Games, with Jhonatan Narvaez taking Ecuador's sole berth, the Ecuadorian Cycling Federation (FEC) said. "Jhonatan Manuel Narvaez Prado will participate in the road event and the individual time trial," the FEC said in a statement. Carapaz, 30, the only Ecuadorian to win Olympic gold in road cycling, had slammed the FEC selection rules as "clearly skewed and lacking in the fundamental principles of fairness and sporting equality." The winner of the 2019 Giro d'Italia pointed out that, according to the new rule, "points are taken into account from January, but the regulation was not published until March, when there was already a difference in points between the athletes". Despite being sidelined, Carapaz wished good luck to 27-year-old Narvaez, winner of the first stage of the Giro d'Italia earlier this month and among the leaders on several stages. The two men have known each other since childhood and were teammates at Ineos for two seasons from 2020 to 2022. "This time it was not possible for me to be the representative at the Olympic Games and I want to wish good luck to Jhonatan. I wish him the best to represent us in the best possible way," Carapaz said in a video posted on X, formerly Twitter. At the Covid-delayed Tokyo Games in 2021, Carapaz won the road race ahead of Belgian Wout van Aert and Slovenian Tadej Pogacar.—Agency

Emery signs new five-year contract at Aston Villa



LONDON: Aston Villa manager Unai Emery has signed a new five-year contract, the Premier League club announced. The Spaniard has been rewarded after guiding the Birmingham club to a fourth-placed finish and Champions League qualification last season. Emery, 52, has transformed Villa's fortunes since arriving in October 2022 with the team just three points above the relegation zone. "I am very happy to take this step (signing a new contract) and the responsibility of leading this club," Emery told Villa's website. "Since I came to Villa with (co-owner) Wes (Edens) and (chairman) Nassef (Sawiris) we found always the best environment and structure to develop a project with the highest ambition. "There's a great chemistry in Aston Villa and the element of the fans' support also makes the difference to feel like home. We are re-

'I'll play again': Swedish midfielder Olsson after brain illness



STOCKHOLM: Sweden international Kristoffer Olsson, who was hospitalized in February with a rare brain illness that left him without motor or verbal skills, said Monday he was recovering well and would play football again. The 28-year-old midfielder with Danish Superliga club FC Midtjylland fell unconscious in his home on February 20 and was admitted to Aarhus University Hospital, where he was placed on a ventilator. Tests showed he had suffered several small blood clots in the brain due to a rare inflammation of the blood vessels in the brain. He was transferred to a rehab centre in mid-March to help him regain his motor and verbal skills. For the first three weeks

after the collapse, "I was basically dying," he told Swedish daily Aftonbladet. "I was not contactable and I have no memories from that time," he said, adding that he was now en route to a full recovery. "I've gotten through the worst part. I've had to think, be positive and have patience with everything," he said. Olsson, who is still in rehab, said he planned to play professionally again. "I feel great. I'm going to be able to play football again," he said, adding that it was still too early to say when that would happen. "Of course you want to be back as soon as possible... But I'm not stressing out about it, it will have to take time." "We'll see when it happens," Olsson was in the stands on Sunday when FC Midtjylland won the Danish championship. He said he had already kicked a ball around with a member of his rehab team. "She stood in goal." "I can move well, I can run and my memory is good. I'm getting better every day. I've had tubes and things on me the whole time, but now I just have this little thing that helps that it was still too early to say when that would happen.—Agency

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Face of the Day

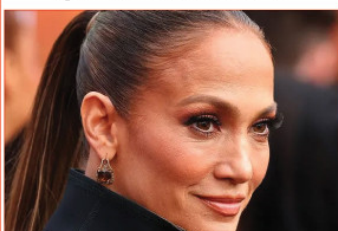


Name: Ateeq Taimour Location: Karachi About me: I love modeling!

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

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Lopez believes 'Atlas' shows good & bad AI



Artificial intelligence has a key role in Jennifer Lopez's upcoming film Atlas, and according to her, the movie gives a balanced view of the technology. At the Los Angeles premiere, the Hustlers actress said, "I think this movie does a good job of showing how AI could go incredibly wrong, and this is how it could go really right." In the film, the 54-year-old faces an evil robot hell-bent on destroying the world, and Jennifer's character seeks AI to help stop him. The Netflix star meanwhile shed light on the pitfalls of AI saying the ads "selling skincare that I know nothing about" using manipulated photos of her face covered in "wrinkles," adding, "It's really scary," noting, "Right away we had them stealing our faces. So, yes, [AI] is really scary." However, Jennifer said her forthcoming film does a decent job of representing both pros and cons of the tech. "I think you should be respectful of AI. We have to be open to all possibilities. These movies that are talking about AI - especially this one - do a really good job of showing both sides."

Britney Spears got 'closer' to Paul Soliz after Chateau Marmont incident



Britney Spears has only grown fonder of beau Paul Richard Soliz ever since the Chateau Marmont incident. After the couple got into an alleged brawl at the West Hollywood, Calif. Hotel, the Toxic crooner has been "heavily relying" on him, according to an insider. "Britney and Paul have been together nonstop since the incident at the Chateau Marmont. He's gotten so much criticism and blame for that and she's jumped to protect him, so it's actually made them closer - they've got this 'us against the world' vibe going on," the tipster spilled to OK! magazine, adding that they've also been spotted in her \$200,000 Mercedes. Despite Paul's bad reputation of being a felon and failure to pay child support to the mom of his children, Britney still "accepts" him for who he is. "She insists he's a great guy and a great dad to his nine kids. Fact is, Brit does not want to be alone," they continued. His ex Nicole Mancilla has also backed the allegations and also claimed that he cheated on her with a previous report.

# THE HEARTLAND



## Love Eleven wins Malhi Premiere League in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The curtains closed on the Malhi Premier League at the Marvi Lanba Ground in Umerkot, with Love Eleven Umerkot emerging victorious in an exhilarating final match against Malhi Eleven Baghat Kot Ghulam Muhammad.



The final showdown of the tournament witnessed fierce competition between the two teams, culminating in an impressive display of skill and sportsmanship by Love Eleven Umerkot, who clinched the coveted title. In a grand concluding ceremony, distinguished guests including Ratan Lal Malhi, Ramesh Kumar, Lekhra Malhi, and Dr. Om Molchandani graced the occasion. They commended the players for their exceptional performance throughout the tournament and presented cash prizes and trophies to the deserving winners.

## Thieves ransack a clothing shop in Dhoronaro

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: A cloth shop in the jurisdiction of Dhoronaro Police Station fell victim to a burglary, with unidentified thieves breaking into the premises and looting valuables.

The shopkeeper, Iqbal Arisar, reported that the incident occurred overnight, with the thieves making away with a significant portion of the shop's inventory. Arisar lamented that he had recently stocked the shop with a new collection in preparation for Eid-ul-Azha festivities.

Expressing his dismay over the brazen theft, Arisar called upon the concerned authorities to launch an immediate investigation into the matter and take necessary steps to recover the stolen items.

The shopkeeper's appeal underscores the severity of the incident and the need for swift action to address the security concerns of local businesses. The burglary has left the community on edge, prompting calls for enhanced vigilance and security measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. Residents and business owners alike are hopeful that law enforcement authorities will swiftly apprehend the perpetrators and ensure that justice is served.

## Kunri Police arrest thieves involved in home invasion

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: The Kunri Police sprang into action following a distressing home invasion in Bismillah Town, where unidentified armed men plundered the residence of Haji Ashraf Lal Din, making off with cash, jewelry, and other valuables.

The brazen thieves swiftly fled the scene after committing the robbery, leaving the family in shock and anguish. However, the vigilant Kunri Police wasted no time in responding to the incident, promptly launching an investigation to apprehend the culprits.

Thanks to their swift action and diligent efforts, the police were able to arrest three suspects allegedly involved in the home invasion. Subsequent investigations led to the recovery of the stolen cash and other valuables, providing a sense of relief to the affected family.

Among those arrested, Nasir Arain and Amir Bux



Bhatti were presented before the court, which subsequently remanded them to the custody of the Umerkot Sub Jail.

The decisive action taken by the Kunri Police serves as a testament to their commitment to maintaining law and order in the community. The successful apprehension of the suspects not only brings a measure of justice to the victims but also sends a clear message that criminal activities will not be tolerated in Kunri.

## Dr Sanobar Irfan of SIMS refutes involvement in woman's death

By Sajjan Jani Detho

SHAHADAPUR: Dr. Sanobar Irfan, associated with SIMS Hospital, has come forward to refute allegations leveled against her, asserting that she is the victim of a pre-planned conspiracy aimed at tarnishing her reputation. Addressing the media, Dr. Sanobar expressed her condolences to the family of the deceased woman involved in the case. However, she vehemently denied any involvement in the alleged death, emphasizing that she had only interacted with the patient on one occasion prior to her demise.



Dr. Sanobar categorically stated that she had not conducted any operation or ad-

dedication to providing medical services with integrity and honesty, pledging to continue her professional duties despite the challenges posed by the ongoing situation. She called for a fair and impartial investigation into the matter to uncover the truth and clear her name of any wrongdoing. The allegations against Dr. Sanobar have stirred controversy and raised concerns about the integrity of medical practices in the region. As the situation unfolds, Dr. Sanobar's steadfast denial underscores the need for transparency and accountability in healthcare delivery to uphold public trust and confidence in medical professionals and institutions.

## Tando Mohammad Khan's Hindu community demands recovery of missing Maya Kolhi

By Abdul Sattar



TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Members of the Kolhi community staged a protest demonstration demanding the immediate recovery of Maya Kolhi, a 14-year-old girl who was allegedly abducted from village Haji Shafi Muhammad Nizamani.

Led by protest leaders Maria Kolhi, Bago Kolhi, Danish Meghwar, and others, the demonstrators expressed grave concerns over the disappearance of Maya Kolhi. They lamented the lack of action from the Shaikh Bharkio police in initiating efforts to locate and rescue the abducted girl. The protesters voiced their frustration and urged higher authorities to intervene swiftly to ensure the safe return of Maya Kolhi. They warned of intensifying their protest if concrete steps are not taken to address the situation and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The disappearance of Maya Kolhi has sparked outrage within the Kolhi community, highlighting the urgent need for law enforcement agencies to prioritize her recovery and ensure the safety of vulnerable individuals. The protest serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of collective action in advocating for justice and protecting the rights of all members of society.

## Two brothers sexually abuse a teenage girl in Mehar

By Hanif Panhwar

MEHAR: A 18-year-old girl named Yasmin Malano was held hostage by a youth named Imran Lashari and his brother Saleem Lashari in

their home when she went to her home, where she learns stitching in neighborhood. The culprits in absence of other family members held the girl hostage and sexually abused her. The police have

registered a case against both brothers, while the medical test of the victim was also conducted. The police have started conducting raids to arrest the accused men in the incident.

## Badin Traders protest against DC and Municipal Chairman

By Raza Jafar Iqbal

BADIN: Tension escalated in Badin as traders took to the streets to protest against the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Badin and Municipal Chairman Ali Akbar Memon, alleging mistreatment and arbitrary actions by the authorities.



The unrest unfolded after DC Badin and Municipal Chairman Ali Akbar Memon initiated a cleanup operation of the city's drainage canals in anticipation of heavy rains forecasted for the upcoming days. However, tensions flared when the authorities instructed shopkeepers to clear their goods from the roads, a directive that was met with resistance from the traders.

## Prize distribution ceremony held at Government Degree College Thul



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A prize distribution ceremony was held at Government Degree College Thul to honor students who excelled in the preparation classes for the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT). The event celebrated the achievements of the top-performing students and acknowledged their hard work and dedication. Principal Qudratullah Bhutto, along with Prof. Altaf Hussain Baloch, Munir Ahmed Noonari, Prof. Barkat Ali Mahar, Saeed Ahmed Noonari, Abdul Salam Noonari, and Bashir Ahmed Mahar, distributed prizes to the deserving students. Junaid Sarki secured the first position in the test, followed by Mujtaba Khoso in second

place, and Kiran Alam Sarki, who achieved the third position. These students were recognized for their outstanding performance in the MDCAT preparation classes, a crucial step for their future admissions into medical college. Principal Qudratullah Bhutto praised the students for their dedication and perseverance, encouraging them to continue striving for excellence in their academic pursuits. The faculty and guests congratulated the students and wished them success in their future endeavors, emphasizing the importance of hard work and commitment in achieving their goals. The ceremony highlighted the college's commitment to supporting its students and fostering a culture of academic excellence.

## MONEY

## Govt Officials' Salaries And Pensions Expected To Be Hiked By 10-15 percent

ISLAMABAD: The government is working on different proposals for salary increases in the range of 10 to 15% for public sector employees in the upcoming budget for 2024-25.

Amid the wish of the government to strike a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under Extended Fund Facility (EFF) at a range of \$6 billion, the government will have to demonstrate its political will to place stringent fiscal measures including raising revenues of both Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) tax revenues and non-tax revenues as well as restricting the expenditures side.

The government is mulling over the options to fix the FBR tax revenue target of over Rs12.5 trillion in the coming budget. On the salaries front, the Ministry of Finance wants to raise the salary by just



10%. Still, there might be some pressures so that the government might be a fiscal adjustment to jack it up to 2.5% to 5% or a maximum of 5% to increase the salary increase in the range of 12.5 or 15% in the next budget.

There is another proposal under consideration to jack up monetisation of cars for higher grade officers of grades 20, 21, and 22 in the range of 20 to 25%. The grade 20 officers

## Town Committee Sujawal observes Youm-e-Takbeer

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Town Committee Sujawal commemorated Youm-e-Takbeer with a fervent rally led by political and social leaders, affirming the historic significance of May 28, 1998, in Pakistan's defense history.



Under the guidance of prominent figures in Sujawal, the rally, spearheaded by Abdul Hameed Khattai, reverberated with patriotic fervor as participants marched through the streets. Khattai emphasized that May 28th holds immense importance as it signifies Pakistan's unwavering commitment to defending its sovereignty and displaying strength to its adversaries.

## Youm-e-Takbeer observed at Jamia Hamadia Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The spirit of Youm-e-Takbeer resonated at Jamia Hamadia in Tando Allahyar on Tuesday as the day was observed with reverence and patriotism. Maulana Kashif Hanafi and other dignitaries addressed the gathering, affirming the unwavering commitment of the nation to defend the sovereignty of the country. Speaking at the event, Maulana Kashif Hanafi and other speakers hailed the sacrifices made by the armed forces and emphasized that the defense of the nation is in safe hands. They asserted that the unity and resilience of the Pakistani people serve as a formidable deterrent against any threats

to the country's sovereignty. Councilor Syed Moosa Shah, Muhammad Shahid Kashmiri, Allama Ali Sher Hyder, Engineer Rizwan Abbasi, Maulana Muhammad Qasim, and other prominent figures graced the occasion with their presence, reaffirming their solidarity with the nation and its armed forces. The observance of Youm-e-Takbeer at Jamia Hamadia Tando Allahyar served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by the nation to safeguard its independence and sovereignty. The event concluded with a renewed pledge to uphold the principles of unity, faith, and discipline, ensuring a prosperous and secure future for Pakistan.

## Pakistan Debuts At Prestigious Sial Food Show China

SHANGHAI: For the first time, Pakistan is participating in the prestigious Sial Food Show China, held from May 28-30, 2024, in Shanghai. Eleven prominent Pakistani companies are showcasing a diverse array of products including rice, sesame seeds, maize, confectionery, juices, beverages, spices, logistics services, and various fruits and vegetables.



The Sial Food Show China is a leading event in the global food industry, providing an excellent platform for Pakistani companies to display their high-quality products and establish new trade connections. This participation highlights Pakistan's commitment to expanding its presence in the global food market. China is a crucial trading partner for Pakistan, particu-

larly in the food sector. Sesame seeds lead the export portfolio, with Pakistan exporting sesame seeds worth USD 277 million to China as of April 2024. Additionally, this year marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's meat industry, with heat-treated meat gaining market access to China, resulting in ex-

ports valued at USD 1.08 million. Participation in the Sial Food Show China 2024 is a strategic effort by Pakistani businesses to strengthen their footprint in the Chinese market, foster stronger trade relations, and showcase Pakistan's rich agricultural heritage.—RT

# THE HEARTLAND



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Love Eleven Umerkot was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 200,000 along with a gleaming trophy for their triumphant efforts. Meanwhile, the runner-up team, Malhi Eleven Baghat Kot Ghulam Muhammad, received Rs. 100,000 in cash along with a trophy, acknowledging their commendable performance in the league.

## Thieves ransack a clothing shop in Dhoronaro

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PITHORO: A cloth shop in the jurisdiction of Dhoronaro Police Station fell victim to a burglary, with unidentified thieves breaking into the premises and looting valuables.

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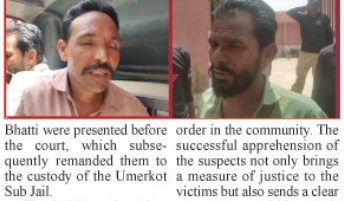
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The unrest unfolded after DC Badin and Municipal Chairman Ali Akbar Memon initiated a cleanup operation of the city's drainage canals in anticipation of heavy rains forecasted for the upcoming days. However, tensions flared when the authorities instructed shopkeepers to clear their goods from the roads, a directive that was met with resistance from the traders. Reportedly, the situation turned violent when the police intervened and arrested several traders, allegedly subjecting them to physical assault before placing them in police vehicles. Amidst the

chaos, the DC and his convoy departed from the scene, leaving behind a disgruntled crowd of traders. In response to the crackdown, traders mobilized and staged a sit-in protest at Qazia Wah Bridge, blocking the road and chanting slogans denouncing the administration's actions. Intervening to defuse the situation, Anwar Laghari engaged in negotiations with the traders, ultimately securing the release of the detained individuals. Following discussions between representatives of the traders and

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By Abdul Sattar



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## Govt Officials' Salaries And Pensions Expected To Be Hiked By 10-15 percent



ISLAMABAD: The government is working on different proposals for salary increases in the range of 10 to 15% for public sector employees in the upcoming budget for 2024-25. Amid the wish of the government to strike a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under Extended Fund Facility (EFF) at a range of \$6 billion, the government will have to demonstrate its political will to place stringent fiscal measures including raising revenues of both Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) tax revenues and non-tax revenues as well as restricting the expenditures side.

The government is mulling over the options to fix the FBR tax revenue target of over Rs12.5 trillion in the coming budget. On the salaries front, the Ministry of Finance wants to raise the salary by just 10%. Still, there might be some pressures so that the government might be a fiscal adjustment to jack it up to 2.5% to a maximum of 5% to increase the salary increase in the range of 12.5 or 15% in the next budget.

There is another proposal under consideration to jack up monetisation of cars for higher grade officers of grades 20, 21, and 22 in the range of 20 to 25%. The grade 20 officers have been getting monthly salaries of cars in the range of Rs67,000 per month, grade 21 officers in range of Rs77,000 per month and grade 22 officers of Rs87,000 per month. Now it is being considered that it might be jacked keeping in view inflationary pressures. The officers who are enjoying both cars and monetisation amount argued that since inception of this policy in 2012 it was never jacked up.—RT/Agency

## Prize distribution ceremony held at Government Degree College Thul



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A prize distribution ceremony was held at Government Degree College Thul to honor students who excelled in the preparation classes for the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT). The event celebrated the achievements of the top-performing students and acknowledged their hard work and dedication. Principal Qudratullah Bhutto, along with Prof Altaf Hussain Baloch, Munir Ahmed Noonari, Prof Barkat Ali Mahar, Saeed Ahmed Noonari, Abdul Salam Noonari, and Bashir Ahmed Mahar, distributed prizes to the deserving students. Junaid Sarki secured the first position in the test, followed by Mujtaba Khoso in second

place, and Kiran Alam Sarki, who achieved the third position. These students were recognized for their outstanding performance in the MDCAT preparation classes, a crucial step for their future admissions into medical colleges. Principal Qudratullah Bhutto praised the students for their dedication and perseverance, encouraging them to continue striving for excellence in their academic pursuits. The faculty and guests congratulated the students and wished them success in their future endeavors, emphasizing the importance of hard work and commitment in achieving their goals. The ceremony highlighted the college's commitment to supporting its students and fostering a culture of academic excellence.

## GLOBAL WATCH



## Pakistan Debuts At Prestigious Sial Food Show China

SHANGHAI: For the first time, Pakistan is participating in the prestigious Sial Food Show China, held from May 28-30, 2024, in Shanghai. Eleven prominent Pakistani companies are showcasing a diverse array of products including rice, sesame seeds, maize, confectionery, juices, beverages, spices, logistics services, and various fruits and vegetables.



The Sial Food Show China is a leading event in the global food industry, providing an excellent platform for Pakistani companies to display their high-quality products and establish new trade connections. This participation highlights Pakistan's commitment to expanding its presence in the global food market. China is a crucial trading partner for Pakistan, particularly in the food sector, where ports valued at USD 1.08 billion lead the export portfolio, with Pakistan exporting sesame seeds worth USD 277 million to China as of April 2024. Additionally, this year marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's meat industry, with heat-treated meat gaining market access to China, resulting in exports valued at USD 1.08 billion.

Participation in the Sial Food Show China 2024 is a strategic effort by Pakistani businesses to strengthen their footprint in the Chinese market, foster stronger trade relations, and showcase Pakistan's rich agricultural heritage.—RT

## Town Committee Sujawal observes Youm-e-Takbeer

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Town Committee Sujawal commemorated Youm-e-Takbeer with a fervent rally led by political and social leaders, affirming the historic significance of May 28, 1998, in Pakistan's defense history.



Under the guidance of prominent figures in Sujawal, the rally, spearheaded by Abdul Hameed Khatt, reverberated with patriotic fervor as participants marched through the streets. Khatt emphasized that May 28th holds immense importance as it signifies Pakistan's unwavering commitment to defending its sovereignty and displaying strength to its adversaries. The rally served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by the nation to safeguard its freedom and territorial integrity. Participants from diverse backgrounds and professions joined hands in a united display of love and loyalty towards their homeland.

## Youm-e-Takbeer observed at Jamia Hamadia Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The spirit of Youm-e-Takbeer resonated at Jamia Hamadia in Tando Allahyar on Tuesday as the day was observed with reverence and patriotism. Maulana Kashif Hanafi and other dignitaries addressed the gathering, affirming the unwavering commitment of the nation to defend the sovereignty of the country. Speaking at the event, Maulana Kashif Hanafi and other speakers hailed the sacrifices made by the armed forces and emphasized that the defense of the nation is in safe hands. They asserted that the unity and resilience of the Pakistani people serve as a formidable deterrent against any threats to the country's sovereignty.

The event not only celebrated Pakistan's nuclear capabilities but also reaffirmed the nation's resolve to uphold its dignity and independence. The observance of Youm-e-Takbeer in Sujawal reflects the deep-seated patriotism and pride that resonates within the community, highlighting the unbreakable bond between the people of Pakistan and their beloved country.

# METRO KARACHI



## Tessori Recognizes Members Of Pakistan US Alumni Network



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KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori honored the members of the Pakistan US Alumni Network Karachi in a prestigious ceremony at the Governor House. The event aimed to acknowledge the significant contribution of PUAN members to society through various activities and initiatives, according to a statement issued today.



The ceremony also featured the unveiling of the Trophy for the First Ever Inter-provincial Women's Softball Championship in Pakistan. The championship, scheduled to begin in Karachi on May 30th, is being hosted by the Sindh Softball Association and sponsored by PNSC, KPT, Dr. Essa Laboratory, and Diagnostic Centres, with collaborative support from the Pakistan US Alumni Network Karachi.

Abdullah, for supporting various projects benefiting communities, including the promotion of peace, education, environmental sustainability, minority rights, and more. Dr Farhan Essa, the president of PUAN, noted the significance of holding the event in the historic Governor House of Sindh for the first time in the history of PUAN Pakistan. He appreciated the governor for opening the doors of the Governor's House to the public and expressed hope that PUAN's activities would bring positive impacts to society. The event was attended by Faareha Fatima, the Alumni officer of the U.S. Consulate General Karachi, former law minister Barrister Shahida Jameel, high officials of Pakistan Shipping Corporation, Karachi Port Trust and other dignitaries. Tasawar ul Karim Baig hosted the event. The following individuals were among the recipients of the awards: Amber N Sajid, Sadia Rana, Mukesh, Mehreen Masood, Ghazala Fasih, Rahmonee Urooj Zaidi, Amir Shahab, Sameer Rah, Rozina Amirzada, Shumaila Ali, Alice, Dr. Shumaila Burney, Huma Akramullah, and Tasawar ul Karim Baig.—RT/Agency

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KARACHI: The much-anticipated Pakistan Football League (PFL) is set to launch on June 4. Spanish giants Club Atletico de Madrid have sent their Academy to Pakistan as part of a strategic international expansion plan. The collaboration aims to integrate Atletico de Madrid into PFL's franchise network. For several years, the Atletico de Madrid Academy has successfully established development football programs in over 40 countries, offering young players and coaches the chance to train with Atletico's sport professionals. Adolfo Guerrero Gunther, Manager of Brand Internationalization at Atletico de Madrid Academy, stated: "The Atletico de Madrid Academy is thrilled to be part of the PFL unveiling. Pakistan represents a huge market full of opportunities, and we look forward to exploring these possibilities, thanks to the PFL and Golden Ball Global, during our visit from June 3-5, 2024." Melanie Grace, Director of Communications, added: "We are privileged to work with Atletico de Madrid Academy and are excited to design a partnership that ensures structured international pathways for players in Pakistan." The objective of PFL is to ignite passion for football in a country of 250 million people and cater to the long-standing appetite of its football-loving population. The new franchise football league aims to create a robust sports economy and foster inter-city rivalries in Pakistan. With over 65 million football fans and 3.4 million registered professional football players, and significant support from the government, the PFL is poised to elevate the sport in the country. The three-day visit will commence on June 3 in Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, and conclude in Karachi, known as the "City of Lights," on June 5. The visit includes high-profile meetings with top officials, fan engagements in malls and schools, grassroots activities at KAKRI Football Stadium in Lyari to celebrate a football carnival, and the unveiling of franchise teams. The Pakistan Football League will be inaugurated in a groundbreaking ceremony in Lahore on June 4, 2024, followed by a series of farewell dinners in each city. The British Deputy High Commissioner will host a farewell reception in Karachi on June 5 to mark the conclusion of the visit.—RT

## MQM-P Opposes Amendments To NAB Law



KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), the coalition partner of the federal government, termed the recent amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law as "inappropriate," media reported. In a statement issued here, the MQM-P spokesman said that extending the NAB's remand of an accused from 14 to 40 days will not be beneficial either. The MQM-P also criticized the reduction of the minimum sentence for NAB officials found guilty of misconduct. "Reducing the punishment period from five to two years for an NAB official, who makes the fabricated case, is also unfathomable," the MQM-P maintained. The party said that due to NAB laws and their wrong application, the country's economy and politics have already suffered 'irreparable damage'. The MQM-P demanded that amendments to the NAB law should be revisited very carefully.—RT/Agency



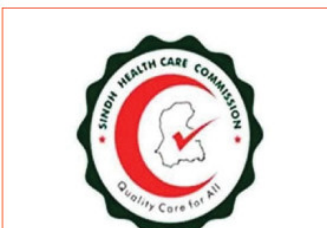
KARACHI: Firefighters are extinguishing a fire in the Kharadar area of the city.—RT

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By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders Mukhtiar Lashari and Siddique Marri, accompanied by their counsel Advocate Liaquat Khan Gabol, held a press conference at the Malir Press Club, voicing serious concerns over alleged injustices and safety threats. During the press conference, the PPP leaders accused law enforcement officials, including DSP Shah Nawaz Memon, ASI Abid Sangi, Abid Memon, Hanif Mirani, Haseem Tagar, and others, of orchestrating false cases against them. They claimed these fabricated charges are part of a broader scheme to discredit and harass them. Mukhtiar Lashari highlighted the ongoing harassment they have faced, asserting that these cases lack any substantive evidence and are politically motivated. "We are being targeted unjustly, and our only crime is our commitment to the PPP and its mission," he stated. Siddique Marri echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the need for immediate intervention from higher authorities. "We demand that the relevant authorities take immediate notice of these injustices. Our lives and safety are at stake, and we seek protection and justice," he appealed. Advocate Liaquat Khan Gabol provided legal context to the situation, arguing that the charges against his clients are baseless and a blatant misuse of power by certain police officials. He urged the judiciary and human rights organizations to step in and ensure a fair investigation. The PPP leaders reiterated their commitment to their political duties and vowed to continue their fight against corruption and injustice, despite the threats they face. They called on the party leadership and supporters to stand in solidarity with them during this challenging time. The press conference concluded with a strong appeal to the media to highlight their plight and help safeguard their rights.

## SHCC Accelerates Anti-Quackery Drive Across Sindh



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KARACHI: In the third quarter of the financial year 2023-24, the Sindh Healthcare Commission (SHCC) Anti-Quackery Unit intensified its crackdown on quackery across the province in collaboration with the District Government and law enforcement agencies. Between January and March 2024, a total of 822 inspections and enforcement visits were conducted, resulting in significant actions against illegal healthcare establishments. During this period, 528 quackery outlets were forcefully shut down and sealed under the law, while 187 warning notices were issued to non-compliant healthcare establishments (HCEs). Additionally, 107 extra inspections were carried out to ensure strict compliance with SHCC regulations. To enhance coordination and effectiveness, targeted joint operations were conducted by the SHCC Directorate of Anti-Quackery in conjunction with district administration teams, supported by law enforcement agencies. Last year, SHCC's Anti-Quackery Unit conducted over 7300 inspections, resulting in the closure of 2184 quack outlets and issuance of 2159 warning notices. Notably, 1876 practitioners were found to be operating in compliance with the law. In a proactive move to enhance the sustainability of anti-quackery operations, SHCC Director Anti-Quackery S. Zeehan A Shah initiated efforts to acquire accurate taluka-wise data on quackery from District Health Offices (DHOs), with the assistance of District Deputy Commissioners. This data-driven approach aims to reduce the recurrence of health crises, such as HIV outbreaks, by targeting unchecked and unregistered healthcare establishments province-wide. Key support from the District Government, Inspector General (IG) Office, and Health Ministry has been pivotal in expanding operations under a wider scope, leveraging authenticated data intelligence and public awareness campaigns to reinforce the Anti-Quackery Drive across Sindh.—RT

## Fundraising Event Held For Gaza Relief



KARACHI: Dr. Hafeez ur Rehman, President of the Al-Khidmat Foundation, announced that over 34,000 innocent people have been killed in Palestine, leaving hundreds of thousands without shelter, food, and water. He spoke at a fundraising event organized by Chairman Shear Foundation and Justice of Peace, Danish Aman, Zahid Hameed, and Friends of Al-Khidmat. The event was attended by prominent figures including Dost Muhammad Rahimoon, Sindh Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Coastal Development, MPA Barrister Hallar Wassan, Additional I.G Police Javed Alam Odho, and other city elites. Dr. Hafeez ur Rehman detailed the severe violence and oppression in Gaza, stating, "Gaza, covering just 365 square kilometers with 2.4 million residents, is heavily restricted, with limited access to travel and education." He explained the dire situation, noting, "60% of Gaza's electricity comes from Israel, while 40% is from generators. Water supplies and pipelines from Israel have been cut, and desalination and filtration plants destroyed. Food shipments have been halted since October 7. Out of 35 hospitals, 32 have been destroyed, and 70,000 tons of explosives, more than in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, have been dropped." Highlighting Al-Khidmat's efforts, Dr. Hafeez ur Rehman said, "We are working with 11 NGOs in Turkey and Syria, and have partnered with the Red Cross in Egypt and Palestine to deliver supplies using funds from our overseas offices. Collaborating with the Foreign Office and Pakistan Army, we are sending supplies via air from Pakistan, and we plan to use naval ships with support from the Pakistan Navy." He added, "So far, 2,080 tons of supplies have been sent, including 300 tons of medicine. We are also working on moving a field hospital from Ankara to Egypt and providing educational support for Palestinian children. Additionally, we plan to send 5 mobile hospitals, install 30 water filtration plants, and construct 5 schools, 1 hospital, and a residential building once a ceasefire is initiated." Javed Alam Odho emphasized the need for collective effort, stating, "The global influence of the Jewish community comes from their focus on education, science, technology, and trade. We must translate our emotions into actions for Palestine, as Al-Khidmat and other NGOs are doing." Abid Sheikh from Rescue 1122 also spoke at the event, commending the initiative taken by Danish Aman, Zahid Hameed, and Friends of Al-Khidmat. In his concluding remarks, Danish Aman expressed hope for future efforts to support Gaza, urging attendees to donate generously to Al-Khidmat for the Palestinian cause.—RT

## Navy Thwarts Significant Drug Smuggling Attempt In Arabian Sea

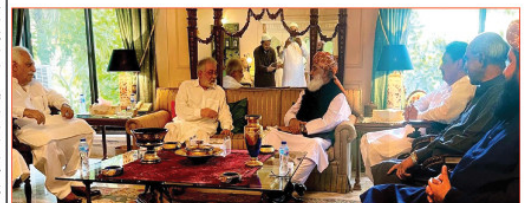
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Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear.

—Mark Twain

## Leaders Hail 'Unwavering Determination' As Nation Celebrates Youm-e-Takbeer

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan celebrated the 26th anniversary of Youm-e-Takbeer on Tuesday with national zeal and fervor, commemorating the day in 1998 when the country's defence became impregnable after conducting successful nuclear tests in the hills of Chagai, Balochistan.

On May 28, 1998, Pakistan emerged as the first Muslim-majority country to acquire nuclear capabilities, marking a pivotal moment in its history. This achievement was a response to the regional security dynamics and ensured that Pakistan's defence capabilities were robust and credible.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a message to the nation, underscored the significance of the day and highlighted it as a testament to the collective effort of all facets of national power that overcame a seemingly insurmountable challenge to enhance the country's defence capabilities.

"May 28 signifies more than just a mere commemoration of a day; it encapsulates the narrative of our na-



tion's arduous yet remarkable path towards establishing a credible minimum deterrence," the premier shared on his X timeline.

The historic nuclear tests carried out under the leadership of former premier Nawaz Sharif, were in response to Indian nuclear explosions, solidifying Pakistan's defence and making it the seventh nuclear nation in the world and the first Muslim state to possess nuclear weapons.

PM Shehbaz lauded Nawaz's bold leadership in defying international pres-

sure to make Pakistan a nuclear-armed nation. He also paid tribute to Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founder of Pakistan's nuclear program, for his strategic foresight and unwavering commitment.

In his message, Acting President Syed Yousof Raza Gillani reiterated the resolve to continue working towards a peaceful and stable world and said that on this day, we successfully demonstrated our nuclear capabilities and joined the ranks of nuclear powers. Gillani added that Youm-

e-Takbeer serves as a testament to Pakistan's resilience, unwavering determination, and commitment to maintaining regional peace and stability.

The nation began the day with special prayers in mosques for the peace and prosperity of the country, marking the occasion as a public holiday. Special prayers were organized nationwide, with religious scholars emphasizing the day's importance in Pakistan's history and praying for the country's progress and prosperity.

The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and service chiefs, on behalf of the armed forces of Pakistan, extended warm felicitations to the nation, the military's media wing said in a statement on Tuesday. This significant day commemorates the historic achievement of Pakistan's nuclear tests conducted in 1998, which successfully established credible minimum deterrence and restored the balance of power in the region, the Inter-Services Pub-

## Shehbaz Invites Chinese Textile Firms To Establish Their Plants In Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday invited Chinese firms, especially from the textile sector, to establish plants in Pakistan stressing that the government will provide all possible facilities to Chinese industrialists and investors.

"China is an important partner in Pakistan's economic development," PM Shehbaz said while chairing a high-level review meeting regarding increasing cooperation between the two nations in various fields. Terming Beijing as a key partner of Islamabad in economic development, the premier expressed intention to boost bilateral cooperation in agriculture, information technology (IT) and energy sectors and increase exports of Pakistani products to China.

Speaking at the huddle, also attended by Federal Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and other senior officials, the prime minister said that the government is ardently preparing for the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "Gwadar port will be made a logistics hub with Chinese cooperation [..] the establishment of Agriculture Demonstration Zones will be an important project in the next phase of CPEC," he said.

Underlining that China can help Pakistan in setting up a strategy for increasing its exports, the PM also directed relevant ministries to prepare new projects aimed at enhancing Pakistan-China



cooperation as well as undertake measures to promote business ties.

The review meeting comes as PM Shehbaz is set to undertake his maiden visit to China in the second week of June in response to President Xi Jinping's invitation.

On the issue of safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan, PM Shehbaz said that foolproof security will be provided to Chinese nationals and that a comprehensive security plan has already been chalked up in this regard. The prime minister's remarks come after Beijing, on Monday, reaffirmed its commitment to continue working with Pakistani authorities to strengthen security cooperation and ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel.

Speaking at a press conference Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said that Beijing will continue supporting Islamabad in the investigation of the Dasu attack to hunt down and punish the perpetrators of the terrorist attack.

The spokesperson's comment came after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a joint press conference with National Counter-Terrorism Authority (Necta) officials on the issue of Dasu suicide attack which saw at least six people, including five Chinese nationals, being killed after a suicide bomber rammed into their vehicle in Bisham. During the presser, the minister called on Afghanistan to hand over the militants involved in the deadly attack. "Pakistan has formally requested the interim government in Afghanistan to arrest the leadership of [banned] TTP," he said. Meanwhile, Necta head Tahir Rai revealed that said that the explosive-laden vehicle that had hit the bus carrying the Chinese nationals reached Pakistan via Afghanistan. The official revealed that 11 suspects have been arrested in this case so far. Owing to the fatal attack, the federal cabinet approved the Economic Co-ordination Committee's (ECC) decision regarding the disbursement of \$2.58 million as part of the compensation package for the families of the Chinese nationals killed in the Dasu attack.—RT/Agency

## Shehbaz Accuses Imran Of Misleading Public And Slandering Military

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday accused former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan of misleading the public and tarnishing the reputation of the military and their families. His comments came during an address at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) General Council meeting in Lahore.

"Imran Khan, who once bowed before the military, is now misleading people about the Fall of Dhaka. He is defaming the military and their families," said Shehbaz.

Shehbaz formally handed over his responsibilities back to the party, acknowledging Nawaz Sharif's return to leadership. "The trust the party placed in me, I now return with gratitude. God has reinstated Nawaz Sharif to his position. Efforts are underway to revive the economy under Maryam Nawaz in Punjab and Nawaz Sharif at the federal level."

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"Imran Khan, who once sat at the feet of soldiers, is now comparing himself with Mujibur Rehman on the Fall of Dhaka. His remarks in London about our martyrs and veterans are unforgivable. If anyone watches that video, they would want to silence him. These soldiers made their children orphans to save millions of others." Shehbaz warned of dire consequences if Pakistan's

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Shehbaz concluded with a stern message to Khan. "I do not wish to attack you personally, but your actions against the families of Pakistan's armed forces will not be forgiven by this nation."—RT/Agency

## IMF Forecasts Rise In Pakistan's Trade Deficit



WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted an increase in Pakistan's trade deficit.

According to details, the IMF has forecasted that in the next fiscal year, Pakistan's trade deficit is expected to increase, with estimates of growth in both exports and imports.

The IMF has stated that in the new fiscal year, Pakistan's trade deficit is likely to increase by \$4.165 billion. Pakistan's imports are estimated to increase by \$5.517 billion, while exports are expected to rise by \$1.352 billion. According to the IMF, Pakistan's trade deficit could increase to \$27.923 billion. The forecast for the new fiscal year predicts the volume of imports to be \$60.48 billion, while Pakistan's exports are estimated to be \$32.56 billion in the next fiscal year. In the current fiscal year, Pakistan's trade deficit is expected to be \$23.76 billion, with imports estimated at \$54.96 billion. By the end of the current fiscal year, exports are expected to reach \$31.2 billion.—RT/Agency

## Gandapur Compares PTI's Struggle Against Rulers To Fight For Independence From British

PESHAWAR: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Tuesday vowed to continue the struggle for the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, comparing their fight to the struggle for independence from British rule.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Pehur High Level Canal Extension Project in Swabi, Gandapur highlighted the project's significance in promoting regional prosperity. "This project will irrigate 30,000 acres of land," he said, adding that an additional 8,000 acres would be included in the command area.

Gandapur emphasised that agriculture and irrigation were top priorities for the provincial government. "We are taking steps under a comprehensive strategy to permanently resolve the issue of food security in the province," he stated. He also announced initiatives to promote modern farming and the use of advanced technology to increase per-acre yield.

In a bid to support the



Gandapur outlined plans to provide interest-free loans to help them start their businesses, allocating funds in the new fiscal budget to support over 100,000 young people. "We believe in the devotion of power to the grassroots level to address local issues," he said, assuring uniform development across all districts and tehsils. Gandapur urged the public to monitor local development projects and support the reform programme and anti-corruption efforts.

"Government departments operate on public tax money," he reminded. "Officials are paid from public taxes, and they must serve the people and solve their problems locally." He called for government officials to work outside traditional methods to address urgent public issues promptly. He also urged the police to take indiscriminate action against drug dealers and mafias, labelling drug peddlers as enemies of the children. Gandapur encouraged citizens to report wrongdoings, promising robust action. "We stand with the oppressed and the weak against the tyrants," he asserted.—RT/Agency

## NAB Requests Al-Qadir Trust's Records In Raid On Bahria Town's Rawalpindi Office



RAWALPINDI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) raided Bahria Town's office in Rawalpindi on Monday in connection with Al-Qadir Trust University case, sources told media.

The sources said that the anti-corruption watchdog's team conducted the raid to "search for records of Al-Qadir Trust University" at Bahria Town's Rawalpindi office. It also emerged that the Punjab police and elite force's teams were also present in the raid.

It is noteworthy to mention here that Al-Qadir Trust University links to a high-profile case leading to the incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's \$190 million National Crime Agency (NCA) settlement reference. Reacting to the raid, Bahria Town Chairman Malik Riaz Hussain said on X, formerly Twitter, that he would bear all hardships and not become "an approver". The sources also added that the anti-graft watchdog launched an investigation into alleged irregularities against Bahria Town. A probe has been commenced into the "land that has been acquired for Bahria Enclave's project on a land allocated for establishing a zoo"—RT/Agency

## Barrister Gohar Responds To Imran's 'Controversial' Post

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Speaking to media, Barrister Gohar said that the PTI founder "did not see" the content of the post from his account. "Sometimes things are overdue. In the post, the 1971 situation was compared only in the context of the political situation," the PTI chairman added.

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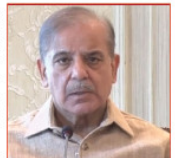
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peatedly violated, despite ICJ's recent clear verdict against Israel," he said, in a post, on X account.

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Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear.

—Mark Twain

# Leaders Hail 'Unwavering Determination' As Nation Celebrates Youm-e-Takbeer

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan celebrated the 26th anniversary of Youm-e-Takbeer on Tuesday with national zeal and fervor, commemorating the day in 1998 when the country's defence became impregnable after conducting successful nuclear tests in the hills of Chagai, Balochistan.



On May 28, 1998, Pakistan emerged as the first Muslim-majority country to acquire nuclear capabilities, marking a pivotal moment in its history. This achievement was a response to the regional security dynamics and ensured that Pakistan's defence capabilities were robust and credible.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a message to the nation, underscored the significance of the day and highlighted it as a testament to the collective effort of all facets of national power that overcame a seemingly insurmountable challenge to enhance the country's defence capabilities.

"May 28 signifies more than just a mere commemoration of a day; it encapsulates the narrative of our nation's arduous yet remarkable path towards establishing a credible minimum deterrence," the premier shared on his X timeline.

The historic nuclear tests carried out under the leadership of former premier Nawaz Sharif, were in response to Indian nuclear explosions, solidifying Pakistan's defence and making it the seventh nuclear nation in the world and the first Muslim state to possess nuclear weapons.

PM Shehbaz lauded Nawaz's bold leadership in defying international pressure to make Pakistan a nuclear-armed nation.

He also paid tribute to Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the founder of Pakistan's nuclear program, for his strategic foresight and unwavering commitment. In his message, Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani reiterated the resolve to continue working towards a peaceful and stable world and said that on this day, we successfully demonstrated our nuclear capabilities and joined the ranks of nuclear powers.

Gillani added that Youm-e-Takbeer serves as a testament to Pakistan's resilience, unwavering determination, and commitment to maintaining regional peace and stability. The nation began the day with special prayers in mosques for the peace and prosperity of the country, marking the occasion as a public holiday. Special prayers were organized nationwide, with religious scholars emphasizing the day's importance in Pakistan's history and praying for the country's progress and prosperity. The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and service chiefs, on behalf of the armed forces of Pakistan, extended warm felicitations to the nation, the military's media wing said in a statement on Tuesday. This significant day commemorates the historic achievement of Pakistan's nuclear tests conducted in 1998, which successfully established credible minimum deterrence and restored the balance of power in the region, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement highlighted.

The armed forces paid respect to all those involved in the achievement stating, "The scientists, engineers, and officials who devoted their lives to realizing this dream rightly deserve the gratitude and admiration of the nation and its Armed Forces."

"On this important day in Pakistan's history, the Armed Forces of Pakistan reaffirm their unwavering resolve to defend the motherland, protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and ensure the nation's security at all times and at any cost, InshaAllah," declared the Armed Forces, emphasising their steadfast commitment to safeguarding the nation's interests.—RT/Agency

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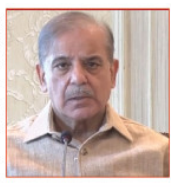


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