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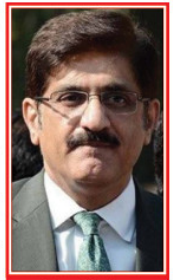
NATIONAL

Agriculture Sector Has Potential To Transform Country's Economy: Maryam



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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Live Streaming Of Cases Involving Political Figures May Lead To Point Scoring: SC

ISLAMABAD: Justifying its rejection of the KP government's plan for live streaming the NAB amendments case hearing, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has stated that broadcasting of the court proceedings of cases involving politicians can be used for political "point-scoring".



The top court on Saturday issued a detailed verdict on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government petition seeking live streaming of the hearing of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendment case.

Referring to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, the apex court stated that when the head of a political party wants to be heard, who is not an advocate of this court, there is a real probability that these hearings may be used for political purposes and point-scoring and in respect of matters which do not concern these appeals.

The application for the live streaming was rejected by the apex court in a 4-1 verdict on May 30 with Justice Athar Minallah disagreeing with the majority judgement.

The case was heard by a five-member SC larger bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi

FIA Summons Top PTI Leaders Over Imran's Controversial Post On Fall Of Dhaka

A day after several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders made contradictory remarks on the controversy surrounding a video about the 1971 fall of Dhaka posted from party founder's X account, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday issued notices to three more PTI leaders.



As per the notices, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan, Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan and Information Secretary Raouf Hasan have been summoned before the probe agency at 11am on Wednesday.

The controversial post on X, formerly Twitter, was attributed to the deposed premier, which read: "Every Pakistani should study the Hamood ur Rahman Commission Report and get to know who was the true traitor, General Yahya Khan or Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

On Thursday, the FIA's Cyber Crime Reporting Cen-

ter notified the PTI founder, who remains incarcerated at Adiala jail, of initiating an action against him over his controversial tweet and reached the prison later that night to question him.

However, the former premier had refused to meet the probe agency's anti-cyber-crime team and become part of the probe related to his controversial social media post.

Reporting Centre on Wednesday "in the interest of justice".

"In case of non-appearance proceedings u/s 174 PPC, will be initiated against you," the notification said, referring to Pakistan Penal Code Section 174 (non-attendance in obedience to an order from public servant).

It may be noted that the PTI members including the three top leaders, Ali Muhammad Khan and National Assembly member Zain Qureshi seemed confused over its endorsement or a clear rejection of the controversial post from the founder's X handle.

Commenting on the questionable X post, the party's lawmaker Ali Muhammad Khan claimed on Friday that Imran was unaware of the post and decided to "personally approve" social media content in future.

The PTI lawmaker dissociated the imprisoned former

premier from the controversial video posted on the latter's verified X account which drew severe criticism from all quarters, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Meanwhile, Barrister Gohar said that the video was shared on Imran's X account in the current political scenario.

On the other hand, Hasan first demanded the conducting of a probe and then retracted his statement by saying that he did not watch the video. After facing a strong wave of criticism, the party's core committee said in a statement a day earlier that they rejected the FIA probe into Imran's social media post. It added that the registration of a new case against the PTI founder based on a social media post would be unwarranted.—RT/Agency

Anti-Terrorism Court Orders Medical Examination Of Poet Ahmed Farhad

MUZAFFARABAD: An anti-terrorism court in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Saturday ordered a medical examination of poet Ahmed Farhad by a team of doctors from the Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences.



The development came during the hearing of case involving Farhad whose counsel requested the court to have the Kashmiri poet medically examined.

Farhad, as per his lawyer Iman Mazari was transferred to Muzaffarabad from DhirKot under multiple sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA).

With the government's lawyer requesting time to submit his response, the court adjourned the case till June 3.

Farhad, known for his defiant prose, was allegedly abducted from his house on May 14 after which his wife Urooj Zainab moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking her husband's recovery along with requesting

the court to identify, investigate, and prosecute those responsible for his disappearance.

In response to IHC's directions to recover the missing poet, Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan on May 29, revealed that Farhad was arrested and in AJK Police's custody.

Following the development, the poet's family met him at the Kahori police station situated outside Muzaffarabad.

Following the meeting, the brother of the poet told reporters the condition of

PM Applauds FBR For Surpassing May Tax Collection Target



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appreciated Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) officials for surpassing the tax collection target during May 2024.

In a statement, the prime minister said the FBR team had collected taxes of Rs 760 billion during May 2024 against the set target of Rs 745 billion, for which it deserved appreciation.

He highlighted that during the period July-May 2023-24, the tax collection witnessed an increase of 31% against same period of previous year while in May 2024, the tax revenue increased by 43% against same month of the year 2023.

"The significant increase in tax collection shows dedication and hard work by the FBR team," he added.

Azam Tarar Advocates For Appointing Minority Judges In Higher Judiciary

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazir Tarar has expressed his aspiration for judges from minority communities to join Pakistan's higher judiciary.

Speaking at the Justice A.R. Cornelius Conference, he emphasised the importance of religious freedom and minority rights in Pakistan. The event was organized by the Bright Future Society and Implementation Minority Rights Forum Pakistan.



He highlighted that Pakistan's Constitution guarantees complete religious freedom, aligning with Islamic teachings on the rights of minorities.

He lamented the decline in religious tolerance post-Afghan war but reiterated Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision of a united, tolerant society.

Azam Tarar mentioned the ongoing efforts to establish a Minority Rights Commission and proposed reserving quotas for minority law officers and legal advisors.

The Minister praised retired Justice Tassaduq Hus-

sain Jilani for his landmark decisions benefiting minorities, and lauded Justice Cornelius for his legacy of equal justice.

Supreme Court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah echoed Tarar's sentiments, noting the Constitution's protection of minority rights and advocating for the appointment of minority judges to the higher judiciary.

Speakers at the conference, including senior judges and legal experts, paid tribute to Justice Cornelius and discussed the constitutional protections for

minorities. They highlighted Justice Cornelius' impactful career and the 2014 Supreme Court guidelines under Justice Jilani aimed at safeguarding minority rights.

The conference concluded with the distribution of certificates to distinguished guests, attended by prominent figures including Supreme Court Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar, Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, and retired Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, among others.—RT/Agency

PTI Responds To Government's Offer Of Dialogue

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) reacted to the dialogue offer from Minister for Petroleum Division and PML-N leader Mudasir Khan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, media reported.



In a statement issued here, the PTI spokesman termed the offer, from those who have 'no authority or credibility' to mediate, as ridiculous.

"Instead of propagating talks offer without having authority, this mandate their group should apologise to the nation and return the mandate to real representatives," the PTI spokesman added.

The PTI spokesperson said that those who offered to hold talks were "imposed through fake mandate".

"National criminals do not have the authority to take decisions in the interest of the nation, nor is there room for reconciliation," it added.

Earlier in the day, Minister for Petroleum Division Mudasir Khan said that there were always doors open in politics and PML-N leadership always called for reconciliation and dialogue. "Our party [PML-N] leadership always stressed the need for a charter of economy and democracy," he said while

LHC Petitioned Over Defiance Of PM's Directives On Petrol Prices

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) moved on Saturday over defying Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif's directives of massive drop in petrol prices, media reported.



As per details, the petition was filed by Azhar Siddique, challenging the finance ministry's decision to ignore the Prime Minister's recommendation to reduce the price of petrol by Rs 15 per liter.

The price of petrol by Rs 15.4 per liter.

Despite a significant decline in global petroleum prices, the Ministry of Finance only reduced the price by Rs 4.74 per liter, the petition stated.

The Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif in a statement directed the finance minister to further slash the price of petrol by Rs 15.4 per liter and that of diesel by Rs 7.9 per liter.

Siddique urged the court to order Finance Ministry to reduce the petrol prices as per the prime minister's recommendations.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the Ministry of Finance to cut

the price of petrol by Rs 15.4 per liter.

However, the Finance Ministry reduced the prices of petrol by Rs 4.74 per litre and diesel by Rs 3.86 per litre. After a reduction of Rs 4.74, the new petrol price were fixed at Rs 268.36 per litre. The price of high-speed diesel (HSD) decreased by Rs 3.86 to Rs 270.94 per litre.—RT/Agency

Voices Within PML-N Raised Against NAB Ordinance: MQM-Pakistan's Khalid Maqbool

ISLAMABAD: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that voices within PML-N being raised against NAB ordinance, ARY News reported.



Federal Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui expressed his concerns about the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) ordinance, terming it "dangerous" and "flawed".

He stated that in civilized societies, the responsibility is on the accused to prove the innocence, but NAB's law is "unique" as it requires the accused to prove their innocence.

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

Siddiqui criticized the ordinance, saying it is being used to victimize political opponents which indicates the government failure.

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

He mentioned his conversation with the Governor of Sindh regarding the short-term kidnapping issue saying that the governor will discuss the issue with PM Shehbaz.

Earlier, acting President Yousuf Raza Gilani announced an ordinance to amend the existing law, empowering the NAB to keep an accused on physical remand for up to 40 days as

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

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

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Residents of Latifabad are holding a press conference for the acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

MNA Haji Rasool Bux Chandio, MPA Taj Muhammad Mallah visit Badin's Narri Lake



By Jibrán Talpur
BADIN: Representatives of the Pakistan Fisher Forum arranged a visit of MNA Haji Rasool Bux Chandio, MPA Taj Muhammad Mallah, Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti, AC Badin Bhagwan Das, Mukhtiar Kar, Badin Shamsuddin Mugheri, Mukhtiar Kar, Golarchi Deedar Hussain Nohrio, Deputy Director of Fisheries Ayaz Hussain Panhwar to the Narri Lake. On this occasion they also observed the rapid erosion of land into the sea. They emphasized the need to prevent this erosion to ensure the sustainable development of the coastal areas and to safeguard livelihoods, particularly those of fishermen. They also discussed providing immediate access to drinking water.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Jamshoro are holding a press conference for the acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

PPP MNA Khursheed Shah lays foundation stone of Sukkur Industrial Enclave



By Absar Alvi
SUKKUR: Former Federal Minister and MNA Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah laid the foundation stone of the Sukkur Industrial Enclave, a Sindh government project spanning 400 acres near the cattle colony behind Aror University in Rohri. This project aims to promote industrial development in Sindh province under a public-private partnership. The CEO of Sindh Economic Zones Management Company, Abdul Azeem Ugaili provided a briefing on the project site. On this occasion, SEZMC Board Director Qasim Naveed Qamar, SEZMC Chief Technical Officer Fareed Ahmed Shaikh, former president of the Sukkur Chamber of Commerce Amir Ghori, Commissioner of Sukkur Division Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, Deputy Commissioner of Sukkur Dr. MB Raja Dharejo, Assistant Commissioner of Rohri, Project

Minhaj Welfare Foundation helps Khangarh's fire victims



By Shad Mahar
GHOTKI: Minhaj Welfare Foundation delivered household goods to four affected families in the village of Gharib Malik in Taluka Khanpur. The items included utensils, clothes, ration, and other essential supplies. These were provided to the villagers Asghar Malik, Akbar Malik, Jamal Malik and Ali Akbar Malik. The coordinator for Minhaj Welfare Foundation Sindh, Advocate Saifullah Bhangar, and the Sukkur Division Coordinator, Syed Zahid Shah Bukhari, led the Minhaj Welfare team to the village, where they distributed the household necessities, clothes, rations, and other essential items to the four affected workers. On this occasion, Saifullah Bhangar stated that Minhaj Welfare is an organization that helps distressed people worldwide to the best of its ability. He assured that the affected families would not be left alone and efforts would be made to arrange for their housing as well.

Sindh Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani commits to facilitating people of Sujawal

By Kamran Hidayat
SUJAWAL: The Provincial Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani has said that the Sindh Government is making comprehensive efforts for the development and progress of Sujawal district. To this end, initiatives are being taken to ensure our full cooperation with district development by providing adequate facilities, including books for education, to fulfill our role in the development of the district, aiming to improve the infrastructure and create job opportunities to enhance the economic conditions of the people. In this regard, an important meeting was held at the district hall to review and approve various developmental projects. The meeting was chaired by MPAs Heer Sohu, Rehana Laghari, Education Works Officers, Buildings, and other relevant officers to prepare detailed reports of their respective projects soon, as well as to present the progress of these projects promptly. Provincial Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani directed district officers to address the issues of the people based on priority and to resolve them promptly. He also



steps for employment generation and overall development in the district. He directed these officers to perform their duties with honesty, integrity, and sincerity to ensure the improvement and progress of the district. Furthermore, he instructed the officers responsible for water supply schedules to ensure the provision of water without any discrimination to meet the needs of the people. The Provincial Minister for Health instructed the officers in the district health centers to ensure the availability of doctors, staff, and medicines to provide better medical facilities, aiming to benefit as many people as possible. Instructions were also given to the education officers to activate closed primary schools in the district and to appoint teachers, and a list of required furniture would be provided soon to ensure better educational facilities and practical wisdom. Provincial Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of some government departments and instructed them to submit detailed reports on the projects.

Murtaza Kalhoro reelected President of Larkana Press Club



By Saleem Soomro
LARKANA: In the recent elections of the Larkana Press Club, senior journalist Murtaza Kalhoro has won the presidency with a significant majority, while most of the panel members associated with him have also been successful. The victory of the panel led by Murtaza Kalhoro has been congratulated by Nisar Ahmed Khuho, the president of the People's Party Sindh, and others. In this regard, the election of the Larkana Press Club was supervised by Election Commissioner/Senior Advocate Aqel Ahmed Bhutto, in which a competition was observed between the hopefuls of both the panels, including Latif and Qalandar Shahbaz. Latif panel's members, led by Murtaza Kalhoro, have achieved success with a significant majority. The ongoing results have led to the victory of Murtaza Kalhoro, who secured 34 votes, as the president of the Larkana Press Club against Zafar Abro, who secured 8 votes. Similarly, Abdul Khaliq Magiro secured 35 votes for the position of vice president, surpassing Sarwar Sadhayo, who secured 7 votes. For the position of general secretary, Naveed Lashari secured 35 votes, surpassing Munawar Rind, who secured 7 votes, while the newly elected members of the Larkana Press Club will play their role in the welfare and development of journalists, as well as addressing the issues of the public, strengthening democracy, and representing the voice of the people in the highest forums.

Muhammad Aslam Bhatti posted as Information Officer Umerkot



By Muhammad Bachal
UMERKOT: Muhammad Aslam Bhatti has been appointed as the Information Officer for Umerkot. The president of the Umerkot Journalists Press Club, Ghulam Muhammad Qamber, along with senior journalists Syed Rehan Shabbir, Ghulam Mustafa Mahar, Syed

Badin's civil society demands justice for Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani

By Raja Zafar Iqbal
BADIN: The political, social, academic, literary, and journalistic circles vehemently protested against the killing of the martyred journalist Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani, expressing deep concern over the alarming trend of targeting journalists. They lamented that speaking the truth has now become a grave offense in Pakistan, and the situation in Sindh has deteriorated to the extent that it has become a killing ground for journalists. In addition to protesting against the killing of mad Chandio, and the well-known artist Faqir Zulfikar Lond participated in the event. During the gathering, speakers denounced the prevailing atmosphere of suppression and censorship in Pakistan, where Al-Hyderi Academy and the Badin Press Club. The event



HYDERABAD: Residents of Kotri are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against the highhandedness of their area's influential persons.-RT



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of Jamshoro's civil society are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club for the recovery of a missing person Rashid Kohar.-RT

NATIONAL



Oxford Pakistan Programme Announces Scholarships For Students From Balochistan

In a positive development for students hailing from Balochistan, the Oxford Pakistan Programme (OPP) has announced scholarships for pupils of the province.

Speaking at Oxford University's annual May Dinner & Fundraiser at the Lady Margaret Hall on Friday, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti announced the inauguration of a new graduate scholarship aimed at empowering a deserving Balochistan student to pursue STEM subjects at the varsity.

The CM further termed the initiative as a reflection of its commitment to the educational transformation and empowerment of Balochistan's youth which is as a pivotal step toward educational equality and the empowerment of the next generation of leaders from the province.

It is to be noted that the OPP is the first academic initiative of its kind, aimed at increasing the representation of Pakistani students and scholars at a leading global university and has become the single largest Pakistan-focused academic platform outside Pakistan.

Since its establishment three years ago, it has become the single largest Pakistan-focused academic platform outside Pakistan.



from outside Pakistan.

The event was attended by around 150 distinguished guests, including youngest nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai, Chief Minister of Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti, Amir Ibrahim, Mohammed Khaishgi, Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cambridge Farouq Sheikh OBE, Professor Kamal Munir, Farima Bibi CBE, Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar, and Sarwar Khawaja, alongside senior academics and administrators from various universities.

Prior to the annual dinner, an annual strategic advisory board meeting also took place which provisioned discussion on the future directions of the OPP, covering scholarship availability, accessibility measures and post-study employment opportunities for scholars.

The session, attended by prominent figures from the Pakistani and British Pakistani academic and business communities along with the core OPP and LMH development teams, mulled over strategies for the OPP and explored potential collaborations among the attendees.

Notably on the announcement of the launch of an endowment fund for OPP, Khawaja announced his generous donation of £100,000 to initiate this endowment fund, which was met with enthusiastic approval.

It may be noted that this is the same event at which the education actions of the OPP, Malala announced scholarships for the Palestinian students. —RT/Agency

PIA's Hajj Flight Makes Emergency Landing In Riyadh

A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Hajj flight, PK 839, made an emergency landing in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, late Friday night, media reported citing airline sources.

The plane, however, left for its destination in Jeddah after the inspection, on Saturday.

The Hajj flight took off at 10pm Saturday from the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi for Jeddah. But it was diverted to Riyadh for an emergency landing.

Earlier, a passenger told Geo News that an explosion was heard during the flight. As soon as the unexpected sound was reported, the plane was diverted to and landed in Riyadh.

Following the emergency landing, passengers were offloaded from the Boeing 777 plane and shifted to the lounge at the Riyadh airport.

A PIA spokesperson said



the pilot received a high temperature warning in the cargo cabin during the flight after the landing was made in the Saudi capital.

However, after inspection, it was found out that the warning was false and the flight departed to Jeddah following a quick check.

Several air incidents have recently made headlines around the world with passengers worried for their safety.

Just a week ago, one passenger died of a suspected heart attack and 30 were injured after a Singapore Airlines flight hit severe turbulence on May 21, furling passengers and crew around the cabin and forcing the plane to land in Bangkok.

Similarly, 12 people travelling on a Qatar Airways flight from Doha to Ireland were injured during a bout of turbulence, Dublin Airport said on May 26, adding that the plane landed safely and as scheduled. —RT/Agency

Maryam Emphasizes Police Responsibility In Controlling Crime

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz asserted that police must control crime as she was answerable to 1.3 billion people of Punjab.

Punjab CM chaired a special session to review the law and order situation across the province.

During the session, Punjab Inspector General Usman Anwer provided a briefing on the state of law and order as well as police performance throughout Punjab.

CM Nawaz issued directives to the police force, emphasizing their responsibility in controlling crime as she was accountable to the 1.3 billion people of Punjab.

Eliminate no-go areas in Punjab. She stressed the importance of eliminating no-go areas and reducing the crime rate under all circumstances.

She highlighted the public's prioritization of security over reforms and development in times of rising crime and public ignore the



there's no power theft.

CM Nawaz also addressed the issue of power theft, saying there will be no loadshedding if power theft was controlled. She stressed to follow D.G Khan as a model in the eradication of power theft.

She commended the 50% reduction in theft in Lahore and set deadlines for controlling robbery incidents in Sheikhupura.

She instructed continued swift action against drug trafficking and aerial firing, underscoring the elimination of political interference in police affairs. CM Nawaz emphasized the responsibility of District Police Officers (DPOs) in rooting out corrupt and criminal elements within their districts.

Lastly, the establishment of beggar barracks across Punjab's jails was agreed upon during the session. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Reports Fourth Polio Case In 2024

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday reported the fourth poliovirus case of the current year, media reported citing sources within the Ministry of National Health.

A 2-year-old boy from Bharkhan union council in Sindh's Shikarpur district became the latest victim.

The health department official said the virus was detected in stool samples collected from a child, adding that he had developed symptoms of paralysis on May 21.

This is the fourth polio case in 2024 as Pakistan had earlier reported three cases. All of the previous three cases reported this year were from Balochistan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two countries in the world where the poliovirus, which causes paralysis and can be a life-threatening disease, is endemic.

Last year, six polio cases were reported in the country which included four from the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province and two from the southern port city of Karachi. —RT/Agency

Power Tariff Increased By Rs 3.76 Per Unit

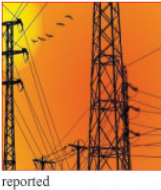
ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved an increase of Rs 3.76 per unit in power tariff, media reported.

As per details, the power regulatory authority has forwarded the decision of power tariff hike to the federal government, who will issue the formal notification.

As a result of the latest hike in electricity prices, consumers will face higher electricity bills, with additional rates of Rs 1.90 per unit in June, Rs 1.93 per unit in July, and Rs 1.93 per unit in August.

Furthermore, this tariff hike will add an additional burden of Rs 46.61 billion on electricity consumers and will also be applicable to K-electric consumers.

Yesterday sources revealed, that Pakistan government is expected to unveil a new relief package aimed at small consumers who use up to 200 units of electricity monthly, media



reported. Sources said that PM Shehbaz Sharif directed that there should be no increase in power tariffs for those consuming 200-unit monthly consumers.

Sources from the Prime Minister's Office indicated that Shehbaz Sharif rejected the economic team's proposal to increase electricity rates for protected consumers.

Instead, a subsidy will be provided to these consumers, ensuring that approximately 20 million protected users will not face a hike in electricity tariffs in the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25. —RT/Agency

Ramesh Kumar Hints At Major Political Changes After The Budget

ISLAMABAD: People's Party leader Dr Ramesh Kumar has hinted at change in government and worsening political conditions in an interview with the media.

Dr Ramesh Kumar said, he was seeing worsening situation and change of the government this year. "The situation will further worsen after a difficult budget," talking to media he said.

"I am knowing things thus not seeing the PML-N government to remain in power," he said. "After difficult conditions where the game will head will clear in September and October," he said.

He said, "It is going to be seen, the conditions will improve with re-election or any other setup emerges". "I am also seeing Nawaz Sharif's U-turn to the anti-establishment stance," he said. "If the political situation



turns toward the PTI's founder, it will bring more destruction for the country", he said.

Ramesh Kumar said, "I have remained associated with the PTI's founder and running a government is not possible for him," he added. "His stars are good but running a country is difficult for him," he said. "There is a zero possibility that the PTI founder can guide the country towards betterment", he said. —RT/Agency

Agriculture Sector Has Potential To Transform Country's Economy: Maryam

Kasur: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz says agriculture sector has the full potential to transform country's economy.

She stated this during a meeting with a 22-member delegation led by the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan Muhammad Yahya in Lahore today.

The meeting agreed to further enhance cooperation in the fields of education, health, agriculture, and other sectors.

The head of the UN team, Muhammad Yahya said the UN will fully support the Punjab government's mission of public service. —RT/Agency

Metro Dharejo Announces Establishment Of New Industrial Zones In Sindh



Karachi: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, announced the establishment of new industrial zones under the Sindh Industrial Policy during a meeting at the Sindh Secretariat.

Attendees included key officials and representatives from the Chambers of Commerce across Sindh. Economist Quaiser Bengali briefed the participants on the policy. The proposal for a Sindh Industrial Development Corporation under a Public-Private Partnership was discussed, with emphasis on developing industrial areas beyond Karachi. Minister Dharejo assured full cooperation for the province's development and stated that proposals would be presented to the Sindh Chief Minister and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The government seeks the cooperation of industrialists to ensure the policy's success. —RT/Agency

Wildfire Engulfs National Park In Azad Kashmir's Kotli

KOTLI: The wildfire in Azad Kashmir's Naar, Kotli forest has engulfed the National Park but without any relief operation to extinguish it after 24 hours passed.



The fire has destroyed around eight kilometers of the forest as smoke causes breathing problems in the nearby localities.

Area residents have alleged that each year forests of Azad Kashmir set on fire, but the administration has failed to take any step to prevent it.

It is to be mentioned here that in Lower Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a forest fire could not be extinguished even after five days.

Fire also broke out in hilly terrain of Karak that could destroy trees, precious shrubs and wildlife in woods. A wildfire again erupted at Margalla Hills National Park in Islamabad on Friday due to severe heatwave conditions in the region. The fire broke out near Kalenjar village, which engulfed the Margalla Hills. Getting the information, CDA officials rushed to the scene to douse the fire. —RT/Agency

Muggers Rob Beauty Parlor, Steal Cosmetics

LAHORE: In a strange event, armed robbers took away cosmetic items from a beauty parlour in Okara district of Punjab, media reported.

According to details, three armed robbers held the women present at the beauty parlour hostage and mugged their mobile phones, cash, and other valuables.

The police said that the robbers also looted cosmetic items of the beauty parlour and managed to escape.

Meanwhile, the police have launched an investigation into the incident and are searching for the suspects. It is pertinent to mention here that the incident was reported after a similar robbery in Rawalpindi's Gulistan Colony in April. The robbers had snatched mobile phones and cash from women leaving a beauty parlour in Rawalpindi. The CCTV footage of the incident also surfaced. The affected women had filed a written complaint with the police, leading to an investigation into the incident. —RT/Agency

Vietnamese Ambassador's Wife Found In Islamabad's F-9 Park After Going Missing

ISLAMABAD: The wife of the Vietnamese Ambassador to Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong who went missing earlier, found in Islamabad's F-9 park, media reported on Saturday.

As per details, police officials said that the ambassador reported the incident, stating that his wife had left their residence at 11 am and had not returned.

According to police officials, the ambassador's wife was found sitting in the F-9 park in Islamabad. Reportedly, there was an ongoing dispute between the Vietnamese ambassador and his wife.

Soon after the incident was reported the Islamabad police launched investigation, using CCTV footage from the Safe City cameras to trace the missing woman's whereabouts. Police officials stated that separate teams were formed for investigation and operation division and the DIG Operations and SSP Operations was also overseeing the investigation.

Last week, in a tragic incident, fake cops looted a foreign national woman in the F-6 Supermarket of Islamabad's diplomatic enclave. According to sources, two men, posing as police officers, stopped the woman for checking and snatched \$500 and other valuables.

Sources said that the fake police personnel were not wearing uniforms when they stopped the foreign national woman.

In a separate incident, a foreign woman was allegedly raped by a security guard, deployed for her security, in Islamabad's G-6/4 area. —RT/Agency



LHC Moved Over Naming Hospital Departments After Maryam

LAHORE: A petition has been filed in Lahore High Court (LHC) challenging the naming of government hospital departments after Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

The petition was filed by Advocate Nadeem Sarwar on behalf of a citizen Mushkoor Hussain, stating that this move is an unconstitutional act.

According to the petition, national buildings and institutions are usually named after individuals who have offered valuable services to the country, not political figures.

The petition stated that after becoming Chief Minister, various hospital departments were named after Maryam Nawaz.

The petitioner urged the court to declare the naming of hospital departments after Maryam Nawaz as null and void.



Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid a surprise visit to the Holy Family Rawalpindi and inspected various wards. The Chief Minister, while taking a notice of low wages of the labourers during her visit to the Holy Family Hospital New Block directed to the labourers complete payment according to the Wages Act. She inspected the Paeds emergency, Mother & Child Block and other wards. She communicated with the patients and inquired after them.

Few patients apprised CM Maryam Nawaz that the problems being confronted by them in the hospital. —RT/Agency

Dystopia is the new world order

By Kazi Shahan Akbar Abbasi

The dystopian reality of our world is quickly turning into a nightmare that will obliterate international order as we know it.

This stark contrast is highlighted by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where civilians are quite literally burning to death. The latest Israeli airstrike on a tent camp in Rafah resulted in the deaths of 45 civilians and produced some of the most horrific videos to ever be posted to social media.

One such video depicted a father holding the burnt corpse of his beheaded child. The following day, images were posted of American politician and diplomat Nikki Haley visiting the northern border of Israel and signing missiles with the words "FINISH THEM."

Such appalling spectacles have been recurring in the Western world ever since the war on Gaza was reinstated back in October. Celebrities continue to parade an ostentatious display of frivolity at events such as the Met Gala and Cannes Film Festival. It is

important to note that while innocent civilians in Gaza have been cut off from necessities such as food and water for over six months, celebrities in the West spent upwards of \$75,000 on a ticket to the Met Gala in May. It is unfathomable to scroll on social media and witness the dissonant combination of luxury and indulgence at the hands of public figures while families in Gaza are posting videos begging for donations needed to escape the war zone. The juxtaposition of these two worlds represents a grotesque reality that is worse than

Lessons for our political system to learn from Trump's conviction

The historic conviction of former US President Donald Trump holds profound lessons for political systems worldwide, particularly in Pakistan. Trump's guilty verdict on charges of falsifying business records underscores a fundamental principle: no one is above the law. In the US, a former president is not immune to prosecution, emphasizing the strength and impartiality of its judicial system. This stands in stark contrast to Pakistan, where political bigwigs often enjoy untouchable status, evading accountability with impunity. The Pakistani political landscape can draw inspiration from the American example to foster a culture where justice is blind and all cit-

izens are equally subject to the rule of law.

Furthermore, Trump's ongoing political journey despite his conviction highlights another

crucial aspect: the power of the electorate. Despite his legal troubles, it is ultimately the American people who will decide Trump's political fate in the upcoming elections. This democratic principle should be mirrored in Pakistan, where the political future of leaders, including former Prime Minister Imran Khan, should be determined by the people's will. The essence of

democracy lies in the power vested in the electorate to choose their leaders through free and fair elections, not through backdoor deals or judicial overreach.

As Pakistan grapples with its political crises, it must ensure that its leaders are accountable to the law and that the people's voice remains paramount. The lessons from Trump's trial serve as a reminder that a robust democracy is built on the foundations of justice and the sovereign will of the people. Implementing these principles can pave the way for a more transparent, accountable, and democratic Pakistan, where leaders are chosen and held accountable by those they serve.

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Residents of Jamshoro are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against their area's police officials.-RT

Jamaat-e-Islami takes out Save Gaza Rally in Sakrand



By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: On the call of the Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, the central Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, a nationwide campaign for the support of Palestine and against Israel was launched from the Chandia petrol pump in the city, named "Save Gaza Rally". Apart from the workers of Jamaat-e-Islami, citizens also participated in the rally to express their solidarity with Palestine and opposition against Israel. Speaking on the occasion, District Deputy Ameer, Kanwar Rasheed Mukaram emphasized that despite the pres-

ence of billions of Muslims in the world, the silence over the oppression faced by the Muslims of Palestine at the hands of Israel is alarming. He further stated that when children, youth, and women become victims of oppression and numerous innocents are martyred, it becomes necessary to raise a voice against such injustices. He urged the rulers to unite the nation to protect our first Qibla and force them to take action. The rally was also addressed by the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Sindh, Ashiq Hussain, PTI President Arbab Ali Parlyar and Tauseef Rehman.

Meeting of All Sindh Waghar Meghwarat Welfare Association held in Badin



By Jibrán Talpur

BADIN: The meeting of the All Sindh Waghar Meghwarat Welfare Association was held in Talhar under the chairmanship of Dana Ram Dhaphra, during which Deputy General Secretary Harichand Wadha, Faqirhand Rakani, Faqir Badro, Suno Vieras, Papu Badro, and Arjan Wadha were pres-

ent. On this occasion, Dana Ram Dhaphra addressed the attendees, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts for the development of the temple. He cited the exemplary temple of Dana Ram Dhaphra, during which Deputy General Secretary Harichand Wadha, Faqirhand Rakani, Faqir Badro, Suno Vieras, Papu Badro, and Arjan Wadha were pres-



HYDERABAD: PML-N's Shah Muhammad Shah along with other party leaders is addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

Pyaro Station's civil society demands justice for slain journalists Jan Muhammad Mahar and Nasrullah Gadani

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: In the aftermath of the arrest of the killers of journalists Jan Muhammad Mahar and Nasrullah Gadani, journalists and leaders of civil society and nationalist organizations took out a protest rally. The rally started from Shahi Bazaar in Pyaro and passed through various streets of the city, ending at Main Road Stop. Journalists, political and social activists, members of civil society, and representatives of nationalist organizations participated in large numbers. On this occasion, President of Aiwane-Sahafat Sikan-dar Ali Panhwar, Gulham

Sarwar Panhwar, Wazeer Ali Khaskheli, Wahid Bhurgari, Muhammad Ali Qureshi, Munir Ahmed Samo, Ahmed Ali Chandio, Tanveer Memon, Ehsan Marri, Sher Khan Mangi and others participated. To demand justice and truth for journalists, the protesters demanded the arrest of the perpetrators of journalists' killings and protection for journalists. Despite protests against the killing of journalists, the Sindh government has failed to take action against those responsible. The arrest of the killers of journalist Nasrullah Gadani is pending a judicial inquiry. The case of journalist Jan Mohammad Mahar's murder is pending

for eight years, but the main accused remains at large. The Sindh government's failure to arrest the killers despite protests indicates a conspiracy to hide the truth and protect the guilty. We will continue to raise our voices for justice and truth, and we will not back down. We demand protection for journalists and the arrest of those responsible for the killing of journalists, with exemplary punishment, including the death penalty, if necessary.

Jhol Engineer killed in a road accident in Dubai

By Mehtab Shar

JHOL: A young man from Deh Sarki Kundi near Jhol, Faiz Muhammad Mahar, his body was brought back to his native village by his family. Upon the arrival of the body in the village, a wave of grief and mourning swept through the community.



SUKKUR: Sukkur Electric Power Company's Chief Executive Officer Saeed Ahmad Dawach is addressing a press conference at his office.-RT

Seminar on Mung bean production held in Thar

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A one-day awareness seminar on increasing Mung bean production in Thar was organized by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and the Barani Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Umerkot. The event was attended by residents of Thar, agricultural experts, political and social figures, journalists, and members of civil society. Addressing the seminar, Senior Director of the Umerkot Agricultural Research Center, Azizullah Shah, stated that their goal is to make the desert areas of Thar green and fertile. They have successfully developed a model on 211 acres for achieving good yields with limited water. This seminar was organized to help Thar's farmers increase Mung bean



production. Social leader Ali Akbar Rahman emphasized the need to turn Thar into a learning center, urging provincial and federal governments, as well as public and private institutions, to work seriously to alleviate food shortages so that the people of Thar can cultivate fruits, vegetables, and other crops. Muhammad Mansoor Joya mentioned that this project aims to meet the country's demand for pulses. Social leader Saján Charo

said that such seminars are essential for farmers to understand agricultural methods. Agricultural Extension Department's Rasool Bakhsh highlighted that Pakistan's pulse production is insufficient, necessitating imports that use local currency. Therefore, increasing pulse production at the national level is crucial. Various types of pulse seeds were introduced, and this seminar was held in Thar to provide farmers with information.

SFCA's Amir Abro directs Dadu's food establishments not to compromise on quality

By Javed Laghari

DADU: The Sindh Food Control Authority's In-charge, Amir Abro, has warned all hotel owners in Dadu district to be vigilant.

He stated that substandard food practices will never be tolerated, and prompt action will be taken on public complaints. He also informed them about chemical tests on food items and urged them to comply. Journalists appreciated his actions and expressed confidence that the public will be satisfied with these measures, thanking him for the ongoing efforts.



HYDERABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's senior leader, Haider Abbas Rizvi along with other party leaders is addressing a press conference regarding the tragic Paretabad fire incident.-RT

SPORTS



T20 World Cup 2024: US Ambassador hopes Pakistan will have 'an unforgettable tournament'



United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome Saturday conveyed his best wishes to the Pakistan cricket team, wishing them an unforgettable tournament ahead of the Twenty20 (T20) World Cup 2024 set to commence today.

"On behalf of the US mission in Pakistan, I extend my warmest wishes to captain Babar Azam and his team for an unforgettable tournament," Ambassador Blome said in a video message posted on the American embassy's official X account.

The envoy's remarks came as his country is co-hosting its first-ever T20 World Cup along with West Indies, which will see 20 teams battling it out for the coveted title.

The Pakistani team, who have just experienced a 2-0 defeat in a four-match T20 series against England, will begin their

world cup journey on June 6 against the hosts US in Dallas.

The Green Shirts will then face arch-rivals India on June 9 in New York, followed by their match against Canada (June 11) and Ireland (June 16).

In his video message, the envoy underscored observing Pakistan's passion for cricket and said: "A love of sports is something that our countries share."

"I'm delighted that for the first time, the US will be hosting the cricket World Cup [...] I'm sure we are going to see some exciting matches," he said.

He also recalled his previous interaction with the national side in April, wherein the US embassy hosted the Men in Green ahead of the mega event, Ambassador Blome said.—Agency

PCB's official anthem for T20 World Cup 2024 unveiled



The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) official anthem for the much-anticipated T20 World Cup 2024, starting from Sunday in the United States, has been released as the cricket fans anxiously wait for the thrilling mega-tournament.

While releasing the soundtrack, the national cricket governing body said that the anthem was a "tribute to the unwavering spirit of our fans who cheer for the Pakistan cricket team through every triumph and challenge".

"Let's unite, celebrate, and fuel our team's journey to conquer the world," the PCB said.

The anthem, titled 'Sadi Van Oye', has been sung by renowned singers Ali Azmat, Arif Lohar and Nehaal Naseem.

Real Madrid all set to finally unveil Kylian Mbappe as new player



The date has been set for Kylian Mbappe's arrival in Real Madrid after the French footballer marked the end of his contract with Paris Saint-Germain earlier this week.

According to a report by Spanish outlet Marca, the La Liga giants are preparing to unveil the blockbuster signing of Mbappe, 25, as a free transfer.

The report revealed that Mbappe will be unveiled as a Madrid player on Thursday, June 6.

The report further revealed that the Frenchman is set to arrive in Spain next week to sign for Los Blancos before being officially unveiled in their traditional style to the press and fans.

While speaking to Forbes about his future, Mbappe said: "I want to be happy. I will leave my country for the

first time. It's going to be an amazing experience and I can't wait to be in my new club.

"I want to win trophies. When you speak about football, [it's about] winning trophies, being with new teammates."

Cristiano Ronaldo and David Beckham's former club has been attempting to bring Mbappe to the Bernabeu Stadium since 2017.

Additionally, Mbappe, who is also a fan of Ronaldo, had shown interest in the Spanish several times as well.

However, Mbappe is currently focused on playing for his national team in Euro 2024, where he will feature in a friendly against Luxembourg next Wednesday before travelling to Spain to complete the Real Madrid deal.—Agency

Dinesh Karthik announces his retirement from professional cricket



India's veteran wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik on Saturday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

Karthik announced his retirement on his social media handles, bringing the curtains down on his prolonged cricketing career that began in the early 2000s.

"Having given it plenty of thought for sometime now, I have decided to move on from playing representative cricket," Karthik said in a statement.

"I officially announce my retirement and put my playing days behind me as I square up for the new challenges that lie ahead."

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pillars of strength and support over all these years, and I wouldn't be what I am without their blessings. I also owe plenty to Dipika (Palikal), herself a professional sportsperson who often put her career on hold to walk my journey with me.

"Of course, to all the fans and followers of our great game, a massive thank you! Cricket and cricketers wouldn't be the same without your support and good wishes."

Dinesh Karthik represented India in 180 matches across formats and scored 3463 runs with the help of one century and 17 fifties.—Agency

RASHID LATIF WANTS MOHAMMAD RIZWAN BACK AS WICKET KEEPER



Pakistan's former cricketer Rashid Latif has expressed his wish to see Mohammad Rizwan back in his wicket-keeping role in place of Azam Khan.

Speaking on a local sports programme, Latif stressed that the biggest problem currently being faced by the Green Shirts is that of its wicketkeeper, a job currently being performed by Azam.

"The team has two wicketkeepers, Usman Khan and Rizwan. I suggest that wicketkeeping should be done by a senior player," he said, stressing that the wicketkeeper is the captain's most important asset as he is in the best position to observe the game from behind the batsmen and duly assist the skipper.

"Rizwan was running the game from behind for the last four years [but] now you have removed that guard," the ex-cricketer noted while highlighting the lack of communication with bowlers and the captain.

Latif's remarks come as the Babar Azam-led side suffered a 2-0 defeat in the four-match T20I series against England. With the first and third matches being washed

USA vow to play 'fearless cricket' in World Cup debut



The United States of America (USA) make their debut in the T20 World Cup against Canada on Saturday and vice-captain Aaron Jones says they are determined to play a 'fearless' brand of cricket.

Both teams are making their first appearances in the expanded 20-team T20 World Cup but there is particular pressure on the USA, as tournament co-hosts, with the West Indies, to deliver a strong showing on home soil.

The explosive, short-format of the game, is seen by cricket's leaders as being the perfect version to capture the imagination of mainstream American sports fans and Jones says the team doesn't want to be afraid of going on the attack.

Super Eight stage.

Ireland, who in many ways are a role model for the USA and Canada, having come from relative cricket obscurity to be a regular in major tournaments, will be looking to pull off an upset and sneak into the top two in Group A.

But however the results turn out, it is a landmark moment for the USA team to be in an elite competition after decades of being stuck in minor tournaments. "We've been speaking over the last couple of years about playing in World Cups, about getting test status, about taking USA cricket to higher heights," said Jones.—Agency

Cristiano Ronaldo gets teary-eyed after missing out on King's Cup dream



Cristiano Ronaldo left the field crying after Al Nassr missed out on a major Saudi King's Cup victory over rivals Al Hilal in an unfortunate penalty shootout.

The Al Nassr star cried inconsolably after a 5-4 defeat from Al Hilal in the Saudi King's Cup final on Friday in Jeddah as his teammates and coaching staff tried to comfort him.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner was eventually led off the field but continued to be overcome with emotion as he sat on the sideline before collecting his runners-up medal.

Despite Ronaldo finding the net, Al Hilal triumphed on penalties to complete the league and cup double after the match ended 1-1 in regulation time and extra time

failed to provide a winner, ESPN reported.

The loss completes a frustrating and trophy-less season for Ronaldo and Al Nassr, finishing a distant second to Al Hilal in the league.

However, the Portuguese football legend achieved plenty of personal accolades, including a record of 35 goals in his first full Saudi Pro League season.

Al Hilal's success has come despite its star Brazilian forward Neymar missing almost the entire season after suffering a knee injury in October, shortly after transferring from Paris Saint-Germain.

Neymar was in attendance on Friday to cheer on his team from the stands.—Agency

Kids' Corner



Name: Azan D/O Irfan Ujjan
Location: Tharo Shah, District Naushehro Feroze
About me: I love my Pakistan!

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Ben Affleck 'worried' about Jennifer Lopez's career despite marital crisis



Ben Affleck wants Jennifer Lopez's team to do better.

Despite the couple facing marital woes, the Batman actor has reportedly urged his wife's crew "to overhaul her career."

According to The Sun, Ben has been "butting heads" with JLo's creative team for quite some time now as the insider spilled, "He just wants what's best for her and feels she's doing a lot of mediocre projects and is surrounded by yes people who are also sometimes making decisions for her."

"Jen is also often doing 50 things at once. Ben is not working as much by choice and she's overworking - so

Nicki Minaj gets slammed after claiming drug arrest was due to race



Dutch police have denied Nicki Minaj's claim that her arrest in Amsterdam was motivated by race.

Minaj was arrested at the Schiphol Airport last Saturday for possession of dozens of joints, per the police. The Needle rapper was fined 350 Euros and ended up missing her concert in Manchester due to the delay. Her concert in Amsterdam on June 2 has also been cancelled following the arrest.

Minaj went on to allege that her arrest was due to her race, saying, "Not being able to get to Manchester, I don't know when was the last time I felt that low."

"And not only that, but just knowing that that something is being done to you on purpose. You are a confident other race, you know?" she said during a livestream on Stationhead.

"But I'm not going to get into it and tell you guys the joy they took in it, even while I was there. But you know what? There was one lady there - all the rest were men - and I could tell she had a heart," she added. "But the treatment was just disgusting. And I wouldn't wish that on anyone."

A Dutch police spokesperson has denied the claims, telling BBC, "We just do our job and it is protocol to search luggage and arrest a person when we find drugs."

The arrest was around 17:30 and the release at 21:30. We stand for a professional organisation that treats everybody equal, no matter what. I think that it all went very smoothly. It's weird annoying that she drew that card."

METRO KARACHI



Murad Reviews Resource Mobilization, Orders For Revenue-Generating Departments To Achieve Targets

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a meeting regarding resource mobilization has directed the revenue collecting department to achieve their targets so that the scope of development works, and poverty alleviation could be ensured.

This he said while presiding over a meeting here at CM House. The meeting was attended by Senior Minister ET&NC Sharjeel Memon, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, SMBR Baquillah Unar, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Excise Saleem Rajput, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Chairman SRB Wasif Memon, and other concerned officers.

The chief minister emphasised that the government's priority for the next financial year is to implement



policies and initiatives to stimulate economic growth and raise all citizens' living standards. Our focus will be on investing in key sectors such as education, healthcare, provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, infrastructure, and agriculture.

Mr Shah said the priorities would be achieved when

the revenue-collecting departments would achieve their revenue targets.

SRB: Mr Shah said that the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) had a target of Rs235 billion for 2023-24 and the track record of the SRB showed that it had been surpassing its collection targets. He directed Chairman SRB

Wasif Memon to reach the target and send him proposals for next year's targets.

Murad Shah directed the SRB to suggest relief for the taxpayers and proposals for enhancing the SST net for the next financial year. SRB Chairman assured the chief minister that his organisation would reach the target and he would submit his proposals.

Excise & Taxation: The CM said that the E&T dept has a target of Rs143 billion and it has to achieve it. Minister E&T Sharjeel Memon said that he had taken strict measures to achieve the tax collection target and would hopefully give him good news at the end of June 2024.

BOR: The meeting was told that the Board of Revenue has a target of

Rs55 218 billion for 2023-24. At this, the CM directed the SMBR to take measures to reach the collection target and send him budget proposals for the next financial year.

Murad Ali Shah directed Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah to revamp the entire collection system of the Board of Revenue. He directed him to make it easy and simple and hold the assistant commissioners and mukhtarkars responsible for collection.

Talking about ongoing development schemes, the CM said that 5250 ongoing development schemes of Rs380.5 billion were in progress and he would try to complete a maximum number of them during the next financial year.—RT



KARACHI: Grand Democratic Alliance's Pir Sadruddin Shah Rashidi is presiding over a high-level meeting of the Alliance at Raja House. Photo by Saeed Lashari

Karachi Weather To Get Cooler After Weeks Of Blistering Heat

KARACHI: Following days of blistering heat, temperature in Karachi is expected to drop from tomorrow (Sunday), the Met Office said on Saturday.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said the maximum temperature in the metropolis was recorded at 38.4 degrees Celsius today, while the humidity in the air was 53%.

The Met Office said the temperature was expected to remain between 34°C to 36°C in the port city tomorrow.

Any drop in the temperature will bring relief to the Karachiites as the metropolis has been reeling under searing heat for the last few weeks.

The port city on May 29 witnessed the hottest day of 2024 with the temperature shooting up as high as 41.5°C.

It is noteworthy to mention that Karachi recorded the highest-ever temperature



at 48°C on May 9, 1938.

The weather experts had predicted that the heatwave condition was expected to subside in the metropolis after June 1.

Meanwhile, the PMD on May 30 forecast that many parts of the country would receive "extraordinary" monsoon rains from June to August.

This forecast, while Sindh might also receive torrential rains, it had said adding that Balochistan too was vulnerable to hits from extraordinary rainy weather.—RT/Agency

flash floods in the country. As per the PMD's outlook of expected monsoon rains, there was a chance of usual and above normal rains in most places this year. Whereas, excessive downpour was likely to hit central and northern Punjab, the Met Office had said.

Meanwhile, southern Sindh might also receive torrential rains, it had said adding that Balochistan too was vulnerable to hits from extraordinary rainy weather.—RT/Agency

Commissioner Karachi Reviews Progress Of Development Projects

KARACHI: The 70 percent work on the rehabilitation of Hub Pumping Station project, will be completed this month while the remaining 30% will be completed by December. Once completed, the Hub Pumping Station project will resolve the long-standing water shortage issue to the citizens in the three districts, including district of West Keamari and Central, which was caused by the malfunctioning of the pumping station.

It provides 100 million gallons of water to the residents of West, Keamari and Central districts. The project consists of eight parts, including the rehabilitation of four motors, which have been installed and are ready to work efficiently.

Three parts of the project are still underway. This was briefed to the Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi by the officers of Water and Sewerage Corporation during his visit to the Hub Pumping Station to review the progress of rehabilitation work by the Corporation.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi visited the deputy commissioner west office to review the progress of development projects in the districts. Deputy Commissioner West Ahmed Ali Siddiqui briefed the commissioner about the progress and the bottlenecks being faced by the executive agencies in some of their projects.

Later he visited the sites of development projects including Hub Pumping Station, a hospital project in



Mominabad and education Government Boys School Faqeer Colony, Orangi, Manghopir road, 4K chowringi road project being carried out by the KDA.

He also inspected the ongoing work on the 8.9 mile Mangopir road initiated by the SIDCL. The commissioner directed the officials to expedite the completion of these projects and ensure that they are finished within the given deadlines.

During his visit to the Hub Pumping Station he chaired a meeting to review the progress of the pumping station project. The chief engineer Intikhab Ahmed Rajput informed him that the project is divided into eight parts, four of which have been completed, and the remaining four will be completed by December. The commissioner also visited the 4K Chorangi North Karachi project site being undertaken by KDA where he was briefed on the progress of the project by the Director General Shujaqat Hussain. He was informed that 8,400 feet road was being constructed from 4K chowringi North Karachi to Gulshane Maay-

mar Yousof goth. The commissioner was made presentation at the site of under construction of Government Boys School in Orangi Town. He was informed that 90% of the work has been completed. The presentation was made to the commissioner by the Assistant Commissioner Raana Sufyan saying that the project was initiated in 2021. Due to the dilapidated condition of the school there were two rooms for 200, children now 7 rooms have been constructed in two floor buildings. The commissioner asked the Deputy Commissioner Ahmed Ali Siddiqui to immediately put up the summary to the government for providing revenue for furniture and other needs. So as to study could be started as soon as possible.

The commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioner to provide revenue for furniture and other needs to start classes as soon as possible. The children who were shifted to other school for study temporarily will return once the school is ready.—RT/Agency

Karachi Man Killed While Resisting Robbery

KARACHI: A man was gunned down by unknown armed robbers in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area of Karachi on Saturday, media reported citing rescue sources.

According to the details, the robbers intercepted a man and tried to snatch his motorcycle. The deceased offered resistance to the robbers who opened fire on him and managed to escape along with his bike.

The rescue sources confirmed that the man was killed for offering resistance to robbers.

It is pertinent to mention here that the killings in robberies have recorded a sharp increase in 2024 with a total of 56 killings and injuries to over 200 citizens so far.

Yari gang war 'activist' killed in encounter. Separately, a suspect allegedly affiliated with Yari gang war was killed in a police encounter held in the Pak

Colony area

According to police, the suspect was nominated in eight criminal cases including six murders.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Keamari said that they raided at drug den of the suspect named Bilal alias Anda. He said that the suspects opened fire on the police team on which the law enforcers retaliated.

The SSP said that one of the suspects were killed while others managed to flee.—RT/Agency

and mobile snatching, within the jurisdiction of Steel Town and Bin Qasim police stations. Upon hearing the complaints from the public, SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi issued immediate directives to all DSPs and SFOs to resolve their issues. He stated that special measures are being taken to eliminate corruption and crimes in District Malir, and strict action will be taken against criminals and lawbreakers, regardless of their influence. He further emphasized that he will work tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of the public, and urged all media journalists in his district to report any wrongdoings, as taking action is his responsibility.

SSP Kashif Aftab Abbasi Holds An Open Katchery At Steel Town Police Station

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi held an Open Katchery at the Steel Town Police Station, which was attended by residents of the area, including workers from political, social, and religious organizations. During the meeting, complaints were raised by the local community, while SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi, along with DSP Adm Syed Shakir, DSP Bin Qasim Naeem Ahmed Bhatti, DSP Gadap Mamtaz Magasi, SHO Steel Town Gulam Hussain Pirzada, and SHO Bin Qasim Syed Wilayat Shah from SHO Bin Qasim participated in the meeting. During the meeting, residents lodged complaints about increasing crimes, including robberies, street crimes,

Morai Welfare Organization Sets Up A Heatstroke Camp In Gulshan-e-Hadeed

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: After the intense heat wave in Karachi, a series of measures to prevent heatstroke, including setting up camps for cold water and drinks, are being implemented in various areas of Malir. In this regard Karachi Morai Welfare Organization has set up heatstroke camps for two days, providing cold water and drinks for pedestrians, passengers in vehicles, and rickshaw commuters. On this occasion, the President of Morai Welfare, Irfan Abbasi, Vice President Asadullah Memon, and others stated that Karachi is currently experiencing an intense heat wave, and the people are suffering due to inflation. The poor and needy people are leaving their homes to earn a livelihood. Therefore, for the convenience of the public, especially pedestrians, travelers, and rickshaw drivers commuting towards Gulshan-e-Hadeed, Morai Welfare has set up heatstroke camps, providing water and drinks for consumption.

Arif Alvi Extends Support To Imran's Controversial Tweet

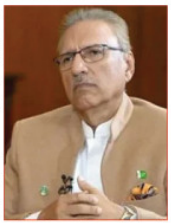
KARACHI: Former president Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday extended his support to PTI founder Imran Khan's 'controversial' post regarding Sheikh Mujibur Rahman posted on the latter's X account, media reported.

Addressing a lawyers' convention here, the former president said that Imran Khan's suggestion to read Hamoodur Rahman Commission (HRC) report was not 'tendacious', criticising the tendency to label someone a traitor for simply reading a report.

Arif Alvi praised Hamoodur Rahman as an "honest judge" and mentioned that his son currently serves at the Federal Shariat Court.

He emphasised the need for stakeholders to come together to resolve issues, saying that until then, problems will persist. Arif Alvi also called for release of Imran Khan and his mandate returned.

For his part, PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan



into the 'controversial post' regarding Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on party founder Imran Khan's X account.

The party noted that the PTI deliberated the matter of Imran Khan's May 26 post and the attached video from multiple aspects.

"It has been demanded to release the HRC [Hamoodur Rahman Commission] report immediately in order to save Pakistan from serious internal challenges," the statement added.

The committee also condemned the FIA's possible new case to register new cases against Imran Khan under the guise of investigations.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber-crime Cell wrote a letter to the authorities seeking access to incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan to inquire about a 'controversial' post from his X handle.—RT/Agency

ASF Foils Drug Smuggling Attempt At Jinnah International

KARACHI: The Airport Security Forces (ASF) on Saturday foiled a drug smuggling bid and arrested a passenger at Karachi airport, media reported.

The ASF spokesperson stated that a total of 5.7 kg of hashish was recovered from a passenger.

According to ASF officials, Arman, a Doha-bound passenger skillfully hidden the said drugs in containers. However, the ASF personnel foiled the smuggling attempts by recovering drugs during the search of the goods.

ASF officials said that the accused was handed over to ANF officials along with the recovered hashish after preliminary investigation.

Last week, ASF successfully foiled a smuggling attempt at Multan Airport, recovering 950 grams of ice heroin from a passenger of a Dubai-bound flight.

The passenger, identified as Mohammad Ramzan, had expertly concealed the heroin within



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

Following the preliminary investigation, the accused was handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) authorities for further legal process.—RT/Agency

FIA Offloads Four Passengers Traveling On Fake Documents At Jinnah International

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday offloaded four passengers trying to travel abroad on fake documents from Karachi International Airport, media reported.

The FIA spokesperson stated that four passengers, named Muhammad Abdullah, Amir Iqbal, Abdul Sufyan and Gulfam Ahmed, boarded on Turkey-bound flight WY-324 going Turkey on fake documents.

The spokesperson of FIA stated that a fake transit visa



of Spain has also been recovered from Gulfam Ahmed, a resident of Gujranwala. Human Trafficking Circle for legal action.—RT/Agency

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PML-N Urges Imran To 'Reduce Tensions' And Disown Controversial Post

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum Division and PML-N leader Musadik Malik on Saturday asked PTI founder Imran Khan to "reduce tensions" and disown the controversial post regarding Sheikh Mujibur Rahman posted on latter's X account, media reported.



Malik said that there were always doors open in politics and PML-N leadership always stressed the need for a charter of economy and democracy," he said, noting that his party wants to move forward with all political forces.

The text of the letter stated that anti-state propaganda was disseminated through the official social media account of the PTI founder, targeting institutions, particularly the Pakistan Army.

The video posted on May 26 aimed to distort facts, prompt rebellion among officers and soldiers, and create unrest within various state institutions.

Addressing a press conference today, Musadik

Malik further said that the PTI-led government put all PML-N leaders, including Khawaja Saad Rafique, Khawaja Asif and Shehbaz Shehbaz, behind bars.

He also lamented PTI's "double standards" over holding dialogue, saying that they

were "not interested in holding talks with PML-N." "They [PTI] want to talk to United States and Donald Lu," he alleged.

He claimed that his party will engage in talks with political parties also as Nawaz Sharif has become PML-N president. "We are even ready to talk with Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC)," he added.

Musadik Malik also castigated the attack on PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan, calling for an investigation into the incident.

controversial post regarding Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Meanwhile, Masadik Malik said that controlling inflation and providing employment opportunities to the people were the government's top priorities.

He said on the directives of the prime minister, maximum relief was being ensured to the masses and inflation witnessed a gradually decrease in the country. The premier has given targets to all the ministers to reduce the people and reduce their burden by controlling inflation and creating job opportunities for them, he said.

He said factors like floods and natural calamities besides Russian-Ukrainian and Middle East conflicts caused an increase commodity cycle. However, owing to the efforts of the incumbent government and targets given by the Prime Minister, the ratio of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has decreased from 37 per cent to 17 per cent, he said.

Similarly, the food inflation

has also reduced from 40 per cent to 11.5 per cent adding that we were going towards stability. Prices of petroleum products have also been slashed and around Rs 25-26 per litre relief on petrol was given to the people in one month, he added.

He expressed the hope that inflation would further witness a down trend in the days ahead. Tractors' purchases have also registered a 50 per cent increase while urea production recorded a 17 per cent jump in the last one year, he added.

The minister said the government would give a balanced and relief-oriented budget with an increase in 30 per cent increase in tax collection. The country's exports also witnessed an increase while imports have decreased, he said. To a question, he said the PML-N government set up power plants to generate electricity at affordable rates. They always gave preference to the State rather than their personal politics, he said.—RT/Agency

PML-N's Azma Bukhari Says Taliban Are Better Than Imran

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari on Saturday castigated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, alleging that even Taliban are better than the latter, media reported.



Addressing a press conference here, the provincial minister alleged that PTI's 'simple formula' of revolution was to seek support and NRO from 'powerful quarters'.

She questioned the hype over Hamoodur Rahman Commission (HRC) report, saying that a commission should be constituted to probe PTI founder Imran Khan's 'anti-Pakistan' agenda.

"Imran Khan's agenda is to break Pakistan into parts," Azma Bukhari alleged.

She further said that even the Taliban are better than

PTI founder as the former acknowledged and take responsibility for their views but the latter doesn't.

The statement came after Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime Cell wrote a letter to the authorities seeking access to incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan to inquire about a 'controversial' post from his X handle.

The text of the letter stated that anti-state propaganda was disseminated through the official social

media account of the PTI founder, targeting institutions, particularly the Pakistan Army.

The video posted on May 26 aimed to distort facts, prompt rebellion among officers and soldiers, and create unrest within various state institutions. The FIA Cybercrime Cell noted that this video is a clear violation of the PICA Act 2016 and seeking access to the PTI founder in jail for further investigation.—RT/Agency

Ready To Talk With PTI If Its Leaders Apologize For Past Mistakes: Kundi

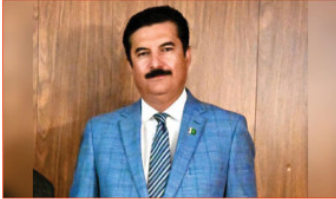
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi Saturday expressed willingness to talk with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) if party apologises for past mistakes.

"We are ready to talk if PTI apologises for past mistakes. The party should play its role in the Parliament, nothing will be gained by making noise," said the governor addressing a press conference in Lahore today.

The KP governor's statement comes after PTI continues its tirade against the ruling government in Islamabad and the spat between KP government and Centre pertaining to dues owed to the province.

However, after a "meaningful" dialogue with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, the two sides resolved the issues between them, agreeing to work together for public relief.

The governor, on the other hand, maintained that he does not want tension between the provincial government and the Governor House in KP. "The Governor House of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will not be part of any conspiracy," he also invited KP Chief



Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to his office to sit together for development and peace in the province.

"I will play the role of a bridge between the Centre and province," said the governor, adding that he has also spoken about KP's problems with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Commenting on the issues faced by KP and the provincial government's complaints towards Islamabad, Governor Kundi said he asked CM Gandapur to go to the federal government and convey the problems, as that will help find a solution.

"I told KP chief minister to talk to the federal government with arguments. If this behavior continues in the future, they will solve the problem," he said.

Kundi said he was hopeful that the federal government will resolve KP's issues. "KP CM earlier used such language that did not solve the problem."

The KP governor said he was ready to talk to all the parties in the province for its development, peace and prosperity. "Political people should sit with political parties and solve the problems."

Sharing his opinion on the consequences of the May 9 riots, Governor Kundi said that all the accused of the violent-rioted event should be brought to justice. "The accused of May 9 should be punished. The mastermind of May 9 tragedy should be brought to justice first," he said during the presser today.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Welcomes UK's Support To Tackle Cybercrime Challenges



LONDON: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said Pakistan will welcome UK's support to tackle the challenge of cybercrimes, media reported.

He made the remarks during his meetings with Director General of the National Crime Agency James Babbage and Director General National Security of Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office Jonathan Allen in London.

On the occasion, the Interior Minister was briefed about the functioning of British institutions and close cooperation was agreed upon. It was decided that Pakistani officers will be trained by the National Crime Agency regarding cybercrimes and counter-narcotics.

The Interior Minister emphasized the need for greater collaboration between the two countries in the fight

against drugs. Mohsin Naqvi pointed out that Pakistani nation and forces have made unprecedented sacrifices in the war against terrorism. He said there is a need to adopt a common strategy to deal with the menace.

The Interior Minister also visited Cabinet Office National Situation Center in London. He expressed deep interest in the working of the center, noting that the importance of such a center in a crisis like situation cannot be denied.

The Interior Minister said the establishment of a National Situation Center will be reviewed in Pakistan as well. He said they will also benefit from the experience and expertise of the United Kingdom in this regard. He said this partnership will not only secure our present but also the future.—RT/Agency

Supreme Court Sends Anti-Smuggling Law To Parliament For Review

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has sent the Anti-smuggling Act 1977 to the Parliament for review with recommendation of amendment in the law, Media reported on Saturday.

The apex court in its verdict said that the anti-smuggling law has scores of lacunae. "The anti-smuggling law only allows accused the right to appeal," the decision read.

"Denying the right to appeal to government means the Anti-smuggling Act benefiting accused," the court observed.

The copies of the verdict, written by Justice Shahid Waheed and comprised of seven pages, have been dispatched to the Law and Justice Commission, Secretary Law and the Attorney General of Pakistan.

Referring a case, the court said that the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in a complaint in year 1998 said that a man Ubaid Khan made property with smuggling. "The ANF has only a role of reporting



the special judge under the Anti-smuggling Act," decision read.

"The matter restricted before the judge and the accused after the accused present their stance. The complainant's role come to an end in the law after reporting the judge," verdict read.

"The ANF will not be an affected party of the decision after its role ends with complaint. In the anti-smuggling act, the ANF of the state have not been given any right to appeal and only the affected party i.e. accused have right

to appeal under the law," according to the decision.

"The Peshawar High Court (PHC) dismissed the ANF's appeal against the court's decision in the case because 'it was not an affected party,'" verdict read. "The anti-smuggling laws, across the world, give the state or government the right to appeal. It will be appropriate if the parliament revisits the law to give the right to appeal to the state," the apex court verdict suggests.—RT/Agency

Dealing With PTI Founder According To His Nature Is The Only Solution: Sanaullah

Amidst swirling controversy surrounding the potential ban of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, Adviser to Prime Minister and Federal Minister Rana Sanaullah clarified that the issue is not currently on the cabinet's agenda.

Speaking on Samaa TV program 'Mere Sawaal', he said that the decisions regarding party bans are made based on thorough consideration of available evidence and legal grounds.

"The issue of banning PTI is currently not under consideration in the cabinet," stated Sanaullah, highlighting the importance of handling such matters in accordance with legal protocols and the principles of democracy.

The advisor also stressed the need for dialogue and negotiation in resolving political disputes, emphasizing that the PTI founder's position should be understood and addressed with careful consideration.

"In a parliamentary democratic system, problems are solved through negotiations," affirmed the minister, suggesting that dialogue remains crucial in addressing any grievances or concerns.

However, amidst speculation of potential legal action, including filing a reference, Rana Sanaullah cautioned that such decisions are not taken lightly and require careful deliberation. "Filing a reference is not such an easy or trivial matter," he remarked, underscoring the gravity of the situation.

Regarding the judiciary, Sanaullah acknowledged that while some members may have previously supported PTI, the judiciary remains an



institution with many honorable individuals. "Some people in the judiciary have been supporting it before, but the judiciary is an institution with very good people in it. If it is decided to file a reference, it can be filed," he remarked.

Regarding recent tweets attributed to the PTI founder, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader urged for a nuanced understanding, noting that they reflect the founder's personal thoughts and beliefs. "The tweet was done by the will of the founder of PTI," he reiterated, suggesting that individual expressions should be considered within their context.

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Dar Emphasizes Efforts For G20 Membership

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday stressed upon making sincere efforts to become a member of G20, media reported.

Addressing a convocation ceremony of HBS Medical and Dental College, the deputy PM said that "Things are turning around and Pakistan is not more in isolation among the comity of nations as claimed by certain critics," he added.

He also regretted that in the past, whenever the PML-N government strived to put the country on path of progress and prosperity, some hidden hands tried to disrupt that journey.

Dar urged the healthcare professionals to stay committed to their noble profession and knowledge by undertaking the responsibility towards the needy and deservingly with compassion and empathy.

The deputy prime minister said that in the healthcare sector, the professionals should accord high priority to the needs of the deserving and needy and should not forget the high values taught by Islam which emphasized upon making of efforts for the betterment of others.

Dar said that together, they could transform Pakistan into a developed and prosperous country among the comity of nations as the country had the immense



capacity and the nation was resilient to overcome all challenges.

He cited that when they formed the government, the country was on the verge of default, but they took drastic steps to ensure economic turnaround.

The foreign minister expressed the confidence that the incumbent government under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif would take the country to a new level of economic prosperity as envisaged by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

The deputy prime minister said that a committee had been working to address issues of medical sector, adding it would assess healthcare demand and supply in the country, ensure quality education and pro-

pose policy measures to the prime minister.

He also lauded the contributions of the private sector in imparting medical education.

He also underlined the need of making further efforts for shaping the younger minds for future challenges and said that coordination was crucial in shaping the new generation with skills.

The future of the healthcare system in Pakistan was bright, he added.

The deputy prime minister also wished success for the new medical graduates and reminded them that they were entering into a new phase of life full of challenges and opportunities.

PTI Demands Recusal Of CJP From Imran's Cases



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa rescue himself from benches hearing cases related to party and its founder Imran Khan, media reported on Friday.

A statement issued after the PTI core committee demanded the recusal of CJP Qazi Faez Isa from cases related to PTI and founder Imran Khan, citing concerns

over bias and impartiality. The PTI alleged that the Chief Justice's hearing of their cases has a "negative impact" on the fair trial.

The demand came as the Supreme Court is all set to hear Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) reserved seats case on June 3. Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa would head the bench. Justice Musarrat Hali will not be present to hear the case due to illness.—RT/Agency