

Rihanna becomes first female artist with most diamond certified hits

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Sindh Government Committed To Promoting Electric Vehicles For Environmental Sustainability: Jam Ikram

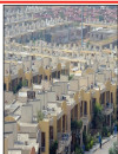
## Heartland

Death Toll In Hyderabad Cylinder Blast Climbs To 10



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Proposal Under Review To Increase Tax Rates For Real Estate Sellers And Buyers



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Maryam Greenlights Lahore's Urban Revitalization Project



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WI vs PNG: West Indies defeat Papua New Guinea by 5 wickets



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## Margalla Hills Fire Extinguished Amidst Sweeping Nationwide Heatwave

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Authorities on Sunday doused another forest fire that erupted on Margalla Hills as the country remains under the grip of a heatwave.

The latest fire erupted only a day after authorities in the federal capital controlled fire in two separate locations in the Margalla hills. However, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Memon said the fire erupted again on the Margalla Hills part located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa earlier today. He said the Capital Development Authority (CDA) teams were present on the site to control the fire and added that 36 firefighters participated in the firefighting operation. The deputy commissioner said authorities established a firewall to stop the flames from entering the federal city. The Islamabad administration undertook joint efforts with the KP government to contain the flames, he added. The Margalla range, part of the Himalayan foothills, has experienced bushfires relatively often in the summer months. Lately, the fire intermittently erupted in the Islamabad hills. Officials are yet to confirm if the fires are related to the high temperatures or due to arson. However, three suspects



were arrested on suspicion of igniting the forest fires, the capital's administration said on Friday. Separately, the fire also erupted in the forest area spreading over an area of 15 to 20 acres located in the Baghar Sharif area of Rawalpindi's Kahuta Tehsil. Rescue teams and police officials are battling the flames to bring it under control. The rescue officials said the risk of fire spreading was increasing as it is a rugged and mountainous area, adding that the rescue officials are extinguishing the fire wherever it is accessible. The district administration has launched an emergency operation and called for more personnel and machinery to contain the blaze. Meanwhile, a fire that erupted in the forest area of Kurd Sharif located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak

district a day earlier damaged a large number of valuable trees and wildlife. According to rescue officials, the blaze has been brought under control in the Kurd Sharif but smoke is still billowing in some areas. They said due to a lack of access via land route, rescue personnel were facing difficulties as the teams were dispatched to the affected area via Mianwali. According to rescue in-charge Malik Nurul Amin, the fire has been doused but the cooling process is underway in areas where smoke is billowing.

Parts of Pakistan have seen temperatures as high as 52.2 degrees Celsius (126 F) over the last week, with South Asia sweltering in a hotter summer this year — a trend scientists say has been worsened by human-driven climate change — RT/Agency

## PML-N And PPP Stalled In Negotiations Over Power-Sharing In Punjab



ISLAMABAD: A deadlock continued between the PML-N and the People's Party over power-sharing in Punjab, sources said. A power sharing understanding between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Pakistan People's Party could not come into force so far, sources said. Sources said that four meetings between the PPP and PML-N coordination committees have ended without reaching to any result. People's Party sources complaining that the PML-N, which is ruling Punjab, didn't give an appropriate response. "The PML-N has been non-serious

with regard to the power sharing formula for Punjab," PPP sources said. Sources said that the PPP leadership has been informed about the non-serious attitude of the PML-N. "The PPP not being given representation in district level committees," sources said. "The People's Party members being ignored in the Punjab Assembly budget," sources said. The funds not yet released to the PPP MPAs till now," sources added. It is to be mentioned here that the PML-N pressing the People's Party to join the coalition government in Centre and Punjab — RT/Agency

## Helen Mary Roberts Makes History As First Female Brigadier From Minority Community In Pakistan Army

RAWALPINDI: In a first, a female officer from minority Christian community has been promoted to the Pakistan Army's rank of brigadier. Helen Mary Roberts, serving at the Army Medical Corps, has become the first one-star officer from the minority community in Pakistan's history.



Brigadier Roberts was among the officers promoted as brigadiers and full colonels by the Selection Board, media reported on Sunday. During a Christmas celebration at Christ Church in Rawalpindi last year, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir lauded the Christian community's role in Pakistan's development. The army chief had also commended the community's contributions in promoting quality education, healthcare and philanthropy, as well as national defence. COAS Munir had expressed his profound respect for the Christian community and under-

scored the importance of fostering interfaith harmony to achieve Quaid's vision of a united and progressive Pakistan. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif extended his congratulations to Roberts on her promotion to the rank of brigadier in the Army Medical Corps. "Brigadier Roberts, a member of the Pakistani Christian community, has made history by becoming the first woman from a minority background to achieve this prestigious rank," the prime minister stated. The prime minister said the entire nation including himself extended

felicitations to her. He praised Brigadier Roberts for her hard work and dedication, saying that she had proven that Pakistani women could excel in any field and were second to none. "The entire nation is proud of Brigadier Roberts and the thousands of hardworking women like her from minority communities who are serving the country with distinction," he said. Brigadier Roberts' commitment, he said, to service, humanity, and her dedication to her work would serve as a beacon of inspiration for the young women of the next generation — RT/Agency

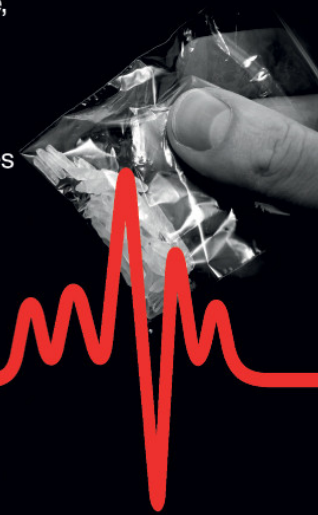
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# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Sindh Journalists Alliance are holding a protest demonstration against the killing of their colleagues and for justice for their families at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

## Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony Held At TCF School Baghan (USA Friendship Campus II)



By Sajid Ali Janyaro Campus USA Friendship II Baghan extended her heartfelt congratulations to all the position holders, commending them for their outstanding achievements and encouraging them to continue striving for excellence in their future endeavors.

KETI BANDAR: In a celebration of academic excellence and talent, TCF School Baghan (TCF USA Friendship Campus II) recently organized its annual prize distribution ceremony on Friday. The event was marked by a jubilant atmosphere as students, parents, and faculty came together to honor the achievements of the young scholars. Students who excelled in the annual examinations were awarded prestigious trophies, shields, and medals, symbolizing their dedication and hard work throughout the academic year. Adding to the cultural vibrancy of the occasion, students enthralled the audience with captivating tableau performances, showcasing their artistic flair and creativity. The Principal of TCF



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the local Christian Community are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against the recent attacks on churches and houses in Sargodha.-RT

## Death Toll In Hyderabad Cylinder Blast Climbs To 10

HYDERABAD: The death toll from the recent cylinder blast in Hyderabad has risen to 10, with seven more victims among the 13 injured in critical condition, the Civil Hospital administration reported on Sunday. The administration confirmed that the death toll increased after another wounded person succumbed to injuries in the Burns Ward. Currently, 13 injured individuals are receiving treatment, with seven of them in a critical state.



When people rushed to extinguish the fire after the first blast at 6 PM, only to be met with another loud explosion. The subsequent fire engulfed the shop and spread to adjacent houses and shops in the densely populated area. As a result, 51 people suffered burns and were transported to Civil Hospital Hyderabad and Combined Military Hospital in ambulances. The fire was eventually brought under control with the arrival of fire brigade vehicles from Rescue 1122 and other towns. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, the chief secretary, and the provincial police chief have taken notice of the incident, seeking reports from the deputy commissioner, deputy inspector general, and senior superintendent of police.-RT

The victims who lost their lives ranged in age from six to 36 years old. Among the injured is a minor as young as two years old. The incident occurred on May 30 when a massive explosion at a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder refilling shop in Hyderabad's Paretabad area left dozens wounded, including children and women. The high casualty rate was attributed to the fire that followed the explosion, affecting many residents in the area. Deputy Commissioner Zainul Abideen Memon announced the closure of all LPG shops in the area following the incident. He stated that LPG business owners must obtain a no-

jection certificate (NOC), and even those with a NOC would not be permitted to operate in populated areas. "The businessmen will be allowed to establish LPG businesses on highways far from the city," he said. Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leaders, during a press conference in Hyderabad, condemned the local administration's negligence. MQM-P's Member of the National Assembly, Syed Waseem Hussain pointed out that the negligence of local authorities led to the Paretabad incident. He criticized the closure of a fire station in Paretabad, a densely populated area with over 600,000 residents, and noted that six out of 11 firefighting vehicles were non-functional. The situation worsened

## Tando Allahyar's Mirabad Fruit Farm Honored For Best Varieties At 56th Mango Festival

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: At the 56th Mango Festival held in Mirpurkhas, Nawabzada Mir Mansoor Ali Khan Talpur, owner of Mirabad Fruit Farm in Tando Allahyar, showcased a variety of mangoes at his stall. His display featured top-quality mangoes in the A category, earning him a certificate of excellence. On the occasion, Mir Fahad Talpur, son of Nawabzada Mir Mansoor Ali Khan Talpur, expressed pride in receiving the certificate and award for presenting the best varieties at the Mirpurkhas Mango Festival. He stated, "It is a matter of great pride for us to be recognized for our efforts. We aim to introduce even more diverse varieties next year." He further mentioned that they are working on introducing various new mango



varieties at Mirabad Fruit Farm. "Next year, we will showcase a unique variety of the Mango Festival that is exclusive to our farm and not found anywhere else in Sindh," he said. Additionally, Mir Fahad Talpur urged the Sindh government to organize a mango festival in Tando Allahyar district as well. He added that Tando Allahyar is renowned for its extensive mango production and large orchards, earning it the title of the heart of mango cultivation. Despite producing various fruits, we do not have a fruit festival here. He also said that we hope to host such an event to highlight Tando Allahyar's name not only in Sindh but across the world also.

## Cold Drinks And Water Station In Memory Of Haji Ghulam Nabi Raho And His Sons

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: To honor the memory of Late Haji Ghulam Nabi Raho, renowned for his role in traditional arbitration in Sindh, and his two sons, Late Inadad Ali Raho and Raja Muzaffar Hussain Raho, a special arrangement was made to provide cold milk, sherbet, mineral water, and chilled water at Qazi Sarfaraz Memon Chowk in Sakrand to help people cope with the intense heat prevailing nowadays. The organizers, Ghulam Ali Rind, Kamran Abbasi, and Danial Khaskheli, spoke to the media about the initiative. They explained that with temperatures soaring to 48 to 50 degrees Celsius, people are struggling to cope with the heat. The cold drinks and water station were set up particularly for the general



public, including travelers and people coming from rural areas to work in the city, to offer them temporary relief from the heat. They mentioned that this arrangement was made in remembrance of Haji Ghulam Nabi Raho and his sons. Senior journalists from the Sakrand Press Club, including Qazi Parvez Sanai, Rajkumar Oad, Zeeshan Soomro, and Ghulam Nabi Mallah, visited the station to inspect the setup. They praised the efforts of the organizers Ghulam Ali Rind, Kamran Abbasi, and Danial Khaskheli for their services. The cold drinks and water station served as a noble gesture to support the community during the extreme weather, reflecting the enduring legacy of Haji Ghulam Nabi Raho and his family.

## Poliovirus Cripples Another Child In Sindh's Shikarpur



SHIKARPUR: Pakistan's polio program announced that another child has been paralyzed by the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in the Shikarpur district of Sindh, raising the total number of cases in the country this year to four. The regional reference laboratory for polio eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Islamabad reported that WPV1 was detected in stool samples from a 2.5-year-old child from Birkhan Union Council (UC) in Shikarpur. Meanwhile, Dr. Shahzad Baig, the national coordinator of the Polio Eradication Programme, resigned from his position citing "personal reasons." Health authorities have assigned the duties of the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) coordinator for polio eradication to Joint Secretary Captain (ret'd) Anwar-ul-Haq from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination (NHS, R&C), in addition to his existing responsibilities, effective immediately until further notice. Providing details about the fourth polio case, program officials stated that the child experienced the onset of paralysis on May 11. Genetic sequencing of the virus isolated from

## GLOBAL WATCH

### Donald Trump Joins TikTok, A Platform He Once Sought To Ban In US

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has joined TikTok, the short video social media platform that is owned by China-based tech giant ByteDance and that he tried to ban as president, ahead of the US elections in November. Politico, which first reported the news, said he posted a launch video on his account on Saturday night. The video showed Trump greeting fans at an Ultimate Fighting Championship fight in Newark, New Jersey. The account, President Donald J Trump with the address @realdonaldtrump, has more than 450,000 followers by 0800 GMT. ByteDance is challenging in courts a US law that came into effect in April requiring it to sell TikTok by next January or face a ban. The White House says it wants to see Chinese-based ownership ended on national security grounds, but not a ban on TikTok. TikTok has argued that it will not share US user data with the Chinese government and that it has taken substantial measures to protect the privacy of its users.



Trump's attempt to ban TikTok in 2020 when he was president was blocked by the courts. He said in March that the platform was a national security threat but also that a ban on it would hurt some young people and only strengthen Meta Platforms' Facebook, which he has strongly criticized.—Agency

## First Death Anniversary Of Nationalist Syed Farhan Shah Observed In Nawabshah

By Ayaz Dahr

NAWABSHAH: The first death anniversary of Syed Farhan Shah, brother of JSQM Nawabshah leader Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, was observed at a local marriage hall in Nawabshah. The event saw a large attendance of national activists, including senior JSQM leaders Dr. Niaz Kalani, Sarfaraz Memon, Rohdari Tehreek's Panhal Sario, STP's Gul Hassan Rind, STP's Syed Ahar Shah, Baddal Maggi, renowned writer Munawar Siraj, JSAF's Hanan Abbasi, Kashif Lakho, and Sajjad Mallah. During the ceremony,



senior JSQM leader Dr. Niaz Kalani and other speakers addressed the attendees, highlighting Syed Farhan Shah's deep love for Sindh. They praised his dedication and leadership in addressing the region's issues, often being at the forefront of every challenge faced by Sindh. They paid their respects to Syed Farhan Shah on his first death anniversary, acknowledging his contributions and extending a heartfelt tribute.

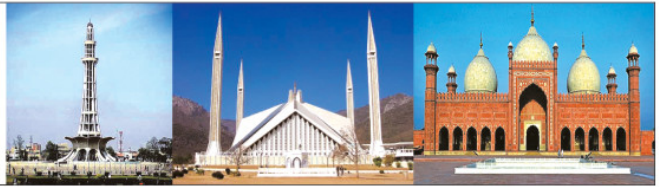
## Saudi authorities begin crackdown on unauthorized Hajj pilgrims

Saudi Arabia's Public Security has begun enforcing fines up to 10,000 Saudi Riyal (SAR) and deportation from June 2 for pilgrims violating Hajj regulations by undertaking the pilgrimage without a permit. According to a report from the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), the no-permit, no-Hajj policy applies to Makkah city, central areas, holy sites, the Haramain train station, security checkpoints, screening centres and temporary security checkpoints. This regulation remains in force until June 20, 2024. Furthermore, individuals caught transporting Hajj vi-



lators without a permit face imprisonment for up to six months, a fine of up to 50,000 riyals, and confiscation of their vehicle. Non-citizen offenders will be deported following their sentence and prohibited from re-entering the kingdom for a set duration. Fines will be multiplied according to the number of transported violators. Violations can be reported by contacting (911) in Makkah, Riyadh, and the Eastern regions, or (999) in other regions.—Agency

# NATIONAL



## Maryam Greenlights Lahore's Urban Revitalization Project

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has given in-principle approval for the Lahore Development Project.

The development plan encompasses constructing water supply and drainage systems, connecting roads and paved streets, installing street lights and maintaining parks.

The chief minister during a special meeting received a detailed briefing on the development plan from Lahore Deputy Commissioner Kafia Haider.

During the briefing, it was outlined that six zones of Lahore would undergo construction, repair and development in the first phase.

The town to be covered in the first phase include Ravi, Shalimar, Samanabad, Dataganj Bakhsh, Nishtar, Gul-



berg and Railway area. Iqbal Town, Wagah Town and Aziz Bhatti Town.

A deadline of 10 months has been set for completing the first phase of the project.

The estimated cost for developing, constructing and maintaining six zones in the first phase is approximately Rs74.15 billion.

The second phase, which will commence upon completion of the first phase, will include the zones of Allama

## Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan Emphasizes Inflation Reduction As Key Focus In Upcoming Budget



ISLAMABAD: Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister, has affirmed that reducing inflation is the foremost priority in the upcoming budget. He made this statement as a special guest at a five-day workshop organized by the Women Media Center in Islamabad for the training of female students.

During his speech, Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan emphasized that Pakistan seeks investment rather than aid. Addressing inflation, he noted a decrease in the prices of flour, ghee, and petrol in the country, with indications that the interest rate will be reduced in the forthcoming budget.

Responding to a question about women's development, Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan highlighted Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's commitment to providing equal opportunities for women. He stressed that economic progress requires equal opportunities for women.

The event was also attended by Fauzia Shaheen, CEO of the Women Media Center, and Senior Program Assistant Iraj Atiq. The training program, titled "FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: Role of Social Media Platforms in Disinformation," featured participation from media students of various universities and will continue until June 3.—RT

## Somia Khan's New Song "Jeetinge Jeetinge World Cup Hum Jeetinge" Wows Crowds At Gaddafi Stadium Launch

LAHORE: The release of Somia Khan's highly anticipated song "Jeetinge Jeetinge World Cup Hum Jeetinge" has taken the music industry by storm. Launched at the iconic Gaddafi Stadium for the T-20 World Cup, the event, organized by Sam Event Management, drew widespread attention.

The ceremony witnessed a vibrant gathering of music enthusiasts, artists, singers, and sports personalities who came together to celebrate the fusion of music and cricket. Somia Khan, expressing her optimism about the music industry's future, shared her excitement about the song's reception. Available on her official channel, "Jeetinge Jeetinge" combines captivating lyrics with soul-stirring music, promising to captivate audiences.

The accompanying video, featuring stellar performances by renowned cricketers, adds an extra layer of excitement to the song. Cricket commentator Hasan Jilil commented the track



for its excellence, while filmmaker Jarrar Rizvi praised Somia Khan's consistent support for sports.

The event also welcomed the presence of distinguished personalities including Actor Mega, Shahzad Khokhar, Waseem Hassan Awan, Suman Sheikh, and others. Somia Khan was honored

## Authorities Apprehend Suspects In Rs 50 Million Theft From FIA Office

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab police reportedly apprehended two suspects involved in the robbery worth millions at the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) headquarters, media reported on Sunday.

The police spokesperson in a statement claimed that the officials from

Mandra police station recovered the stolen goods after the arrest of the two suspects, named Saad Anwar and Muhammad Hamza.

The spokesperson alleged that the former FIA employees are also involved in the theft of goods, worth Rs 50 mil-

lion, including mobile phones, wireless sets, fake number plates, foreign cards, and identity cards from the FIA headquarter.

Meanwhile, the police spokesperson disclosed that the domestic and foreign currency worth Rs 50 million also recovered during the operation.—RT/Agency

## Leaders Of Beggar Mafia To Be Housed In Special Facilities Within Punjab Prisons

LAHORE: To counter the menace of professional beggary, the Punjab government has decided to establish special barracks across the province's jails where beggar mafia chiefs will be imprisoned.

The Punjab Home Department announced the establishment of designated barracks for beggar mafia chiefs in jails across the province.

This initiative follows the instructions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and represents a significant step in the province's crackdown on organized begging.

According to a spokesperson on Sunday, each barrack in the first phase can accommodate between 100 to 200 individuals.

The number of these specialised barracks will be increased as necessary, particularly in larger cities where the issue is more prevalent.



In addition to these logistical changes, the Punjab Home Department is also drafting legislation to impose stricter penalties on leaders of the beggar mafia. The proposed law will target those involved in the kidnapping and coercion of children, imposing severe penalties on those found guilty. This amendment aims to ensure that those who exploit innocent children and women for professional begging face significant legal conse-

# METRO KARACHI

## Wahab Advocates For Dedicated PSDP Package To Address Karachi's Needs

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Sunday urged the federal government to announce a separate package for Karachi within the new Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the 2024 budget.

Talking to a private news channel, he emphasized the need for the completion of previously announced projects for the city, which have faced delays.

He said the Green Line project, which remains incomplete even after ten years, causing significant inconvenience to the public.

"Karachi contributes 60 to 65 percent of the federal revenue through its two ports," Wahab said.

He voiced hope that the federal government would allocate a dedicated budget package to Karachi, recognizing its status as the eco-



nomical capital of Pakistan. Addressing the issue of street crimes in Karachi, he stressed that no negligence was being tolerated in the matter.

While the situation had improved significantly compared to the past, there was still more work to be done to further enhance security, he

## Authorities Apprehend Three Suspected Drug Peddlers Linked To Karachi's Lyari Gang War

KARACHI: Police officials on Sunday reportedly arrested three alleged accused in injured condition after an encounter in the old Golimar area of Karachi, media reported.

According to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Keamari, the police officials conducted a raid at Lyari gang war's drug den in the old Golimar area of Karachi and arrested three accused after an alleged encounter.

The police party also recovered weapons and drugs from the possession of the arrested individuals. Earlier to this, the police officials reportedly arrested three suspects from different locations in Karachi.

As per the police spokesperson, the arrested suspects are close accomplices of the individuals directly involved in the firing incident, adding that all three suspects were allegedly in contact with the culprits.

Meanwhile, the police officials initiated the investigation with the help of geofencing and mobile call records of the individuals. It is pertinent to mention here that at the least two brothers were killed and two others were injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire on their car near Karachi's Guru Mandir area on Thursday morning.—RT/Agency

## Ahsan Envisions Gwadar's Rise To International Prominence As Premier Port City

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has stated that Gwadar would become an internationally acclaimed world-class port city, which would offer tremendous opportunities for its people.

"We hope that Gwadar will become an internationally acclaimed world-class port city, which will have tremendous opportunities for its people," the minister told a Chinese news agency while applauding the development of Gwadar Port under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Describing Gwadar as a highly significant and strategic port in the region, Iqbal said that China had shown remarkable contribution to the development of different regions of Pakistan, including Gwadar, under the CPEC. "In Gwadar, we have seen that China not only developed the port facility but also contributed towards socioeconomic devel-



ment of its people." The minister noted that China had established a state-of-the-art modern hospital in Gwadar, providing facilities comparable to those in major cities like Karachi or Lahore. "Similarly, China has helped set up a technical training institution. It has also assisted poor people with solar panels to provide them electricity and has undertaken other initiatives to improve the lives of local people," Iqbal said.

"So, we really appreciate that China has contributed immensely to the uplift of Gwadar, but it is just the first steps to go, other ports have a long way to go," he added. The minister pointed out that China had also provided

scholarships for the youth of Gwadar who were studying in Chinese universities. "So, I think China's contribution to Gwadar has been very valuable in uplifting the lives of people and the region, and we appreciate it very much." The minister also appreciated China for sharing its success, not just with Pakistan, but with other countries as well, to help them improve their infrastructure for socioeconomic development. Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative. It serves as a corridor linking Gwadar Port in southwest Pakistan's Balochistan province with Kashgar in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The project highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while the new phase expands to include fields such as agricut-

## Jl Criticizes Sindh Government For Karachi's Escalating Crime Rate

KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Munim Zafar has condemned the killing of a youth by the street criminals in Karachi on resitting robbery, media reported.

Speaking to the media on Sunday after offering the funeral prayers of the youth who was killed by street

criminals a day earlier, the JI Karachi demanded the Sindh government to take action amid the worsening law and order situation in the city.

According to the JI Karachi chief, as many as 80 citizens have been killed in last five months by the criminals.

Munim Zafar said that no

place in the province was safe as citizens in metropolis and riverine areas continue to suffer due to the rising crime rate.

He was at the funeral prayers of Irtiqa, who was shot dead by robbers for resisting in Gulshan-e-Iqbal area of Karachi.—RT/Agency

## Emergency Landing: Fly Jinnah Flight Carrying Sindh Governor Diverts To Karachi Airport



KARACHI: A flight of Fly Jinnah Airlines on Sunday made an emergency landing at Karachi airport after developing a technical fault, media reported, citing sources.

According to sources within the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Islamabad-bound flight 670, carrying Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and 149 other passengers, made an emergency landing at the Karachi airport, soon after taking off.

## Punjab Government To Implement Ban On Plastic Production And Trade Starting June 5th

LAHORE: Citing plastic as a source of cancer and other fatal diseases, Senior Punjab Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said production, distribution, and trade of plastic will be banned from June 5 across the province.

In a statement, Marriyum said the plastic use was boosting environmental pollution, hence, a crackdown would be launched against the factories manufacturing the illegal products on June 5.

The measures against plastic are being taken by the Punjab government in light of Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz's directive to launch "No to Plastic" campaign.

Giving food in plastic bags at hotels and other eateries will be strictly restricted under the campaign. The government has reportedly completed arrangements to strictly implement the strategy for plastic ban.

Ahead of Earth Day 2024, the Punjab government had on April 19 decided to launch environment-friendly initiatives in the province.

As part of this initiative, the CM had endorsed a comprehensive ban on plastic bag usage, effective

from June 5.

During a review meeting on environment-friendly initiatives led by the CM Punjab in April, Marriyum had highlighted the campaign's objective to enhance public awareness regarding the severe health risks associated with plastic pollution.

She had stressed the urgency of banning the production, distribution and usage of polythene bags, citing their detrimental environmental impact and contribution to respiratory ailments and other life-threatening conditions.—RT/Agency

## Police Apprehend Thieves Involved In PTCL Underground Cable Theft

KARACHI: Police has arrested a gang of thieves' red handed, involved in stealing the underground PTCL cables, a police official said on Sunday.

A police team headed by DSP Frere Chaudhry Shahid conducted raid and arrested 10 accused and recovered Rs 2.5 million worth stolen cable from their possession.

Police officials also recovered a tractor and truck from their possession.

Three in-service PTCL employees were also among the arrested accused. SSP Karachi South Sajid Saddozai said.

The men were stealing PTCL cable near the St. An-



thonny church and had loaded the cable at a small truck. SSP Saddozai said. He said the accused were arrested red handed and stolen cables recovered from their possession. An ac-

# EDITORIAL

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

Monday, June 03, 2024



## Sindh needs more officers like Farhat Junejo to speak up against corruption

The recent allegations of rampant corruption within Sindh's Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) by the ousted chairman Farhat Junejo are deeply troubling and warrant immediate attention. Junejo's unceremonious removal and subsequent revelations paint a grim picture of the state of governance in Sindh, particularly under the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership, which has been marred by corruption scandals for nearly two decades.

Junejo, a respected BS-21 officer, claimed in his letter to Minister Mohammad Bux Mahar that he was removed for being a "threat to the corruption system." He detailed a nefarious network allegedly extracting Rs60-70 million monthly from various government departments. The allegations suggest that ACE, a body meant to combat corruption, is instead being run like

an auction house, with positions and favors bought and sold openly. This is not just a betrayal of public trust but an indication of how deeply entrenched corruption



is in the province.

The dismissal of these allegations by the spokesperson for the minister as "baseless" without a thorough investigation only adds to the controversy. The spokesperson's assertion that Junejo's claims are merely retaliatory further underscores the need for transparency and accountability. The Sindh government must address these allegations head-on rather

than dismiss them outright.

Corruption in Sindh is a cancer that has crippled public institutions and eroded trust in governance. For the province to have any chance of recovery, it needs more officers like Farhat Junejo—individuals who are willing to stand up against corruption, even at great personal risk. The allegations made by Junejo should not be swept under the rug but should trigger a comprehensive and impartial investigation. Only by rooting out corruption can Sindh hope to build a future where public service is guided by integrity and professionalism.

It is imperative that the Sindh government acts decisively. The people of Sindh deserve better than to be governed by a system that allows corruption to thrive. Now is the time for real change, and it starts with holding those in power accountable.

# GLOBAL WATCH



## Businesswoman Halla Tomasdottir Becomes Iceland's New President

Reykjavik: Businesswoman Halla Tomasdottir was on Sunday declared the winner of Iceland's presidential election, final results showed, beating former prime minister Katrin Jakobsdottir whom critics said was too political for the post.

Jakobsdottir conceded defeat early on Sunday and congratulated Tomasdottir, the CEO of The B Team, a global non-profit co-founded by UK business tycoon Richard Branson to promote business practices focused on humanity and the climate.

Iceland's president holds a largely ceremonial position in the parliamentary republic, acting as a guarantor of the constitution and national unity.

He or she does however have the power to veto legislation or submit it to a referendum.

Tomasdottir, 55, won 34.3 percent of votes, ahead of 48-year-old Jakobsdottir, who garnered 25.5 percent after stepping down as prime minister of a left-right government in April to run in Saturday's election.

Tomasdottir, who came second in an earlier bid for the presidency in 2016, received much broader support than opinion polls had suggested in the run-up to this year's vote, spurring in the final days of the campaign after running neck-and-neck with Jakobsdottir.

Jakobsdottir conceded defeat already in the early hours of Sunday, before the last votes were counted.



"It seems to me that Halla Tomasdottir is quickly heading towards becoming the next president of Iceland."

"I congratulate her on that and know that she will be a good president," Jakobsdottir told national broadcaster RUV at an election night rally.

Second woman president Tomasdottir was to make a televised address to the nation later on Sunday. During her election rally in the early hours of Sunday, she told daily Morgunblaðið was "just trying to breathe".

"I feel incredibly good. I know it's not over until it's over. So I'm also just trying to stay calm and breathe," she said.

Tomasdottir is also the founder of Audur Capital, an investment firm created in 2007 aimed at promoting feminine values in the financial sector.

No one central issue dominated the campaign, where candidates traditionally run as independents without party affiliations.

In the country of 380,000 people, any citizen gathering

1,500 signatures can run for office.

While Jakobsdottir was at times seen as the favourite, political observers had suggested that her background as prime minister could weigh against her.

Among the other main candidates in the field of 13 were a political science professor, a comedian, and an Arctic and energy scholar.

Tomasdottir is set to be the second woman to serve as Iceland's president.

In 1980, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir became the world's first woman democratically elected as head of state.

Tomasdottir will take over the position on August 1, succeeding the hugely popular Gudni Johannesson, who has held the job since 2016. He announced earlier this year that he would not seek re-election.

Jakobsdottir, party leader for the Left Green Movement from 2013 until her presidential bid, has been hailed for her handling of the resurgence in volcanic eruptions on the Reykjanes peninsula since December.—Agency

## 1 Dead, 24 Injured In Another US Mass Shooting, Probe Launched



Washington: At least one person was killed and at least 24 others injured in a mass shooting in the US state of Ohio early on Sunday, reports said.

The shooting happened just after midnight local time (5 a.m. BST) in the city of Akron, the BBC said, adding the city police told it that at least 25 people had been shot, out of which one had succumbed to injuries.

While many of the injuries were non-life-threatening, some victims were in a "more serious condition", it admitted.

Police at the scene of the crime, near Kelly Street and 8th Avenue, discovered dozens of bullet casings and a gun from the area.

No one has been arrested or identified as a suspect and an investigation is under-

way, the Akron Police Department said.

Akron's Mayor, Shamas Malik, and Police Chief Brian Harding later issued a joint statement on social media, assuring that they will "bring those responsible to justice".

"Our city is reeling after the devastation of senseless violence. With more than two dozen victims, the pain and trauma reverberates across all of Akron today as we search for answers," they said in the statement.

Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

Authorities also asked anyone with information about the shooting to come forward, assuring anonymity. "We need you to speak up in order to prevent further violence and retaliation," they said.—Agency

## MrBeast Overtakes T-Series To Become Most Subscribed YouTuber

New Delhi: Jimmy Donaldson, aka MrBeast, has now become the most subscribed YouTuber. His channel has surpassed the music company T-Series on the video-sharing platform.

The American YouTuber announced his news on Sunday on X (formerly Twitter). In his post, MrBeast said that he has "avenged" Swedish YouTuber PewDiePie. He has also shared a picture that showed the latest subscription figures.

MrBeast's YouTube channel has 267 million subscribers. Whereas, T-Series has 266 million followers.

"After 6 years we have finally avenged Pewdiepie," the note attached to the post read. For those who don't know, MrBeast, last year, extended his support to his fellow YouTuber and said, "I'm doing this for Pewdiepie."

After 6 years we have finally avenged Pewdiepie. pic.twitter.com/V1znbyqw27

MrBeast (@MrBeast) June 2, 2024

Tesla chief Elon Musk was amongst the first ones to congratulate MrBeast. He wrote, "Wow, congrats!"

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) June 2, 2024

A user said, "I'm literally shaking and crying right now I can't believe we finally did it."



I'm literally shaking and crying right now I can't believe we finally did it

— greg (@greg16676935420) June 2, 2024

Some said that the text target should be 1 billion. Next up 1 billion subscribers — Enderman (@EndermanX) June 2, 2024

MrBeast challenged T-Series

Last month, MrBeast also challenged the Chief Executive Officer of T-Series, to a boxing match. It happened at a time when T-Series was the most subscribed YouTube channel and MrBeast was inching closer to the music label.

Sharing the picture of the remaining subscriber count on X, the 26-year-old wrote, "I challenge the CEO of T-Series to a boxing match."

For context, Bhushan Kumar is the Chairman and Managing Director of the music label. The name of the com-

pany's CEO is not mentioned on its official website.

I challenge the CEO of T-Series to a boxing match pic.twitter.com/zanhy2d8E

— MrBeast (@MrBeast) May 16, 2024

PewDiePie and T-Series war

Swedish YouTube star PewDiePie, whose name is Felix Kjellberg, was the highest-earning YouTuber in the world. He grabbed a lot of attention for his video game commentaries. At one point, he had surpassed T-Series to become the most subscribed.

Things took an ugly turn, in 2017, after Disney decided to cut ties with PewDiePie. The company found out that some of his videos contained Nazi references.

In 2020, PewDiePie announced that he won't be posting content on YouTube. At that time, he had 102 million subscribers.—Agency

## UK PM Rishi Sunak Takes Swipe At Labour Party Over "Lack Of Plans"

London: As the countdown for the UK general elections has started, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Sunday took a swipe at the opposition Labour Party, apparently referring that the party doesn't have any plans for the country, if they come to power.

Rishi Sunak shared a short video on the social media platform X. In the video, Mr Sunak said, "Right, here we go again. Today I'm going to be doing an explainer on Labour's policy for our country's future." He then pointed to the clean board and left the room.

While sharing the video on X, Mr Sunak wrote, "NEW: Labour's plan explained" Mr Sunak has been repeatedly asserting that the Labour does not have any plans for UK and will push the country into "uncertainty."

On May 25, UK PM Rishi Sunak launched an attack on the opposition Labour Party, alleging that



they "don't have a plan" and will push the country into "uncertainty." Earlier on May 22, Mr Sunak, in a surprise announcement outside Downing Street, declared the general election on July 4. Taking to social media platform X, Mr Sunak said, "We all know that Labour doesn't have a plan. But what does that actually mean if they go to power?"

"Uncertainty. Who knows what they would do in government? They won't tell us how they would fund any of their policies. They refused to meet our defence spending

pledge. But what is the cost of this uncertainty?" he asked. The UK PM said that an uncertain future has consequences, which make the world "more dangerous". Mr Sunak also affirmed that he has taken the "bold action" necessary to secure the country. "An uncertain future has consequences. Our enemies notice. The world becomes more dangerous as they take advantage of our weakness. This leads to higher prices of food and fuel, as well as a greater risk of attacks against our nation," Mr Sunak said.—Agency

## China marks 4th lunar success as Chang'e 6 probe lands on moon's far side



China's space agency, the China National Space Administration (CNSA), has announced that its Chang'e 6 mission lander made a successful soft landing on the far side of the moon late Saturday.

The lander softly touched down on the moon at 6:23pm on a southern portion of the Apollo crater within the South Pole-Aitken (SPA) Basin on the lunar far side, Space News reported.

The lunar landing marks a crucial achievement for China as the lander mission will soon begin collecting and bringing unique and scientifically invaluable lunar samples to Earth for analysis.

According to the United States' decadal surveys, an SPA sample return is a "high-priority science objective".

The Chang'e 6 mission marks China's fourth successful lunar landing from four attempts, and the second on the far side of the moon.

It is also the third lunar landing in 2024 after Japan's SLIM in January and Intuitive Machines' IM-1 Odyssey lander in February.

Teams will now begin initial checks of the lander's systems and soon begin collecting up to 2,000 grams of samples, including surface regolith and subsurface material.—Agency

## "He Should Be...": Adult Star Breaks Silence On Donald Trump's Conviction

Stormy Daniels, the adult film actor, broke her silence after former US president Donald Trump's conviction to say he should be jailed, in an interview published in British tabloid The Mirror at the weekend.

"I think he should be sentenced to jail and some community service working for the less fortunate, or being the volunteer punching bag at a women's shelter," Daniels said in the interview, published late on Saturday.

A jury of 12 New Yorkers on Thursday found Trump guilty on 34 counts of business fraud for trying to cover up hush money payments to Daniels on the eve of the 2016 presidential election.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, was paid \$130,000 to keep silent and prevent scandal from breaking ahead of the election, in which Trump narrowly defeated Hillary Clinton.

After years of exchanging insults with Trump on social media, Daniels now says she finally has been "vindicated", although she was "shocked" at how quickly the jury made a decision -- one that made



Trump the first ever former US president to be convicted of a crime.

Daniels also accused the White House hopeful of being "completely and utterly out of touch with reality" and compared him to a child at one point in the interview.

"Intimidating" The former adult film actor and director helped bring Trump down in court with her gripping testimony, which included graphic descriptions of what she says was a casual sexual encounter in 2006.

"Being in court was so intimidating with the jurors looking at you," she said in the Mirror interview, adding that she was glad it was proved that she had been

"telling the truth the entire time".

"It's not over for me. It's never going to be over for me. Trump may be guilty, but I still have to live with the legacy."

The 45-year-old had remained uncharacteristically quiet in the days following the Thursday conviction.

Daniels's husband Barrett Blaine had previously told CNN that she was "still processing" the trial. He suggested that she could be threatened by Trump's supporters.

"You know, all the MAGA idiots are going to be coming after her," Blaine said, referring to Trump's Make America Great Again movement.—Agency

# SPORTS



## Pakistan team to be 'royal guests at Hajj' if they win T20 World Cup 2024



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmed Al Maliki has announced that the Pakistan cricket team will be the royal guests on Hajj next year if they win the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup-2024.

In a special video message released on Sunday, the top Saudi diplomat also extended his best wishes to the Men in Green for the mega cricket gala. "My message to my brothers of the Pakistan cricket team is that, God willing, you will win this tournament."

"The Pakistani people will celebrate the team's success in the World Cup," the envoy said.

He also expressed his prayers for Pakistan's prosperity and development, adding that if the team clinch the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, they will be honoured as royal guests during Hajj next year.

The Pakistan team will be playing its first match of the T20 World Cup 2024 on Thursday against the US.

Pakistan's captain Babar Azam appeared as a special guest in the 52nd edition of

## Imran Nazir, Ahmed Shehzad suggest Pakistan's ideal opening pair for T20 World Cup

LAHORE: Imran Nazir and Ahmed Shehzad suggested changes to Pakistan's opening pair for the ongoing T20 World Cup.

Led by Babar Azam, Pakistan will begin their T20 World Cup campaign on June 6 against the United States in Dallas and all eyes are on the players who will open the innings for them.

Nazir, who represented Pakistan in 25 T20Is, believed that Fakhar Zaman should open the innings alongside Mohammad Rizwan as scoring in the first six overs is the most important thing in T20Is.

"We can only talk about the players from the 15-man squad, not those who are already out. If I talk about Fakhar [Zaman], I think he is one of those batters [for opening]," Nazir said while



Imran Nazir



Ahmed Shehzad

when you used to play in the UAE where you would score 140 or 145 and defend the target because of your elite spin attack," Shehzad said.

"It is one thing to play a poor ball and time it perfectly, everyone can do that. But when you score boundaries on great balls then it affects the bowlers and the team. So, keeping everything in mind, Rizwan should open alongside Usman Khan."

Usman Khan because if you have put him in the team, then play him at his position. He showed his potential in the last match [against England]. If Babar comes as an opener, then our middle order is already vulnerable, who will stand there? So, he should come in at number three and try to take the game deep with a good strike rate."—Agency

## Kylian Mbappe signs contract with Real Madrid after Champions League win



PARIS: French striker Kylian Mbappe has signed a contract with Real Madrid, weeks after the announcement of leaving Paris Saint-Germain last month, according to a BBC report Sunday.

The 25-year-old signed a contract on a free transfer to join Madrid as the PSG deal is set to expire on June 30.

In a video message on X, formerly Twitter, Kylian Mbappe announced leaving PSG at the end of the season. The signing of a contract with Real Madrid was announced by an Italian sports journalist Fabrizio Romano.

On X, the Italian journalist said: "Kylian Mbappe to Real Madrid... HERE WE GO."

"It's a lot of emotions, many years where I had the chance and a great honour to

## Champions Madrid will retain same winning 'desire': Ancelotti

MADRID: Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said his team would be back for more silverware with the same hunger next season after claiming a record-extending 15th Champions League trophy at Wembley on Saturday.

Los Blancos held off Borussia Dortmund and then struck twice through Dani Carvajal and Vinicius Junior to secure a 2-0 victory.

"Here there's no danger of our stomachs being too full... tomorrow this club will enjoy another fantastic day with our fans, then to rest, the players will go to the Euros, the Copa America, then we will return with the same desire and hope as ever," pledged Ancelotti.

of whom started the final. Madrid, who completed a La Liga and Champions League double for the fifth time in their history, are Spain's dominant force.

That advantage may be further increased by the signing of France striker Kylian Mbappe at the end of his Paris Saint-Germain deal, a move expected to be announced in the coming days.

Madrid will lose German midfielder metronome Toni Kroos, retiring from football after Euro 2024.

"What will happen now? Something will happen. We lost an important player, we will have other players to take over," said Ancelotti.—Agency

## T20 World Cup 2024: US defeat Canada by 7 wickets in opener



NEW YORK: The United States claimed victory in the opening match of the T20 World Cup 2024 against Canada by seven wickets at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas on Saturday.

Canada set a 195-run target for the US after they were put to bat first by the hosts in the opening match.

USA's Aaron Jones played a belligerent knock of 94 runs in 40 balls, which included four fours and 10 maximums, as the hosts chased 195-run target in only 17.4 overs.

USA made a slow start to the run chase as they slipped to 42-2 in the seventh over of the innings with both the openers, Steven Taylor (0) and Monank Patel (16), back in the hut.

However, at this stage, Andries Gous and Jones took charge of the innings and

## Punjab wins Inter Provincial Women's Softball Championship



KARACHI: Punjab won the first PNSC Inter Provincial Women's Softball Championship, beating Balochistan in the final at the KPT Sports Complex. After a thrilling competition, Balochistan faced defeat in the third inning by 14-13.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh who was the chief guest at the closing ceremony along with Asif Azem, President of Softball Federation of Pakistan, and Chairman KPT Syed Syed Raza Zaidi distributed trophies and medals to the players of the winning and runners-up teams, said a press release.

Chairperson Softball Federation of Pakistan, Yasmin Haider, Chief Finance Officer PNSC Syed Jarrar Haider Kazmi, Vice President Tehmina Asif, GM Combaxx Sports Zubair Macha, Director Marketing Palmolive Fatima Siddiqui, Assistant

## Hayes off to winning start as US women thrash South.Korea

DENVER: Emma Hayes got her international coaching career off to a flying start as the United States defeated South Korea 4-0 in a friendly in Colorado.

Mallory Swanson and Tierna Davidson scored two goals apiece to give Hayes a resounding victory in her first game in charge of the American women since her appointment was announced in November last year.

The 47-year-old former Chelsea boss was named to the US job in the wake of the USA's early exit at last year's Women's World Cup, and has been tasked with reviving the fortunes of the four-time world champions.

Hayes couldn't have hoped for a smoother start to her reign as a confident US

line-up dismantled the Koreans in bright sunshine at a packed Dick's Sporting Goods Park in suburban Denver.

"We were controlled in what we did in the first half, we struck to the structures and the coaching," Hayes said. "Everybody did what I asked of them."

"It's really nice to feel like I've got the trust and the belief in the group to be able to play football. And while the American DNA and mentality is one that we don't want to lose, being able to play the way that we are is really exciting."

Hayes inherited a US squad grappling with contro-

## Kids' Corner



Name: Suhace Jokhio  
Father's Name: Aijaz Ali Jokhio  
About me: I'm a student of Class 1 and I love my parents a lot!

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Nicki Minaj angers fans after cancelling Amsterdam show over drug arrest



The Barbz are second-guessing their loyalty to Nicki Minaj with her recent antics.

The Queen of Rap recently had to call off her Amsterdam show scheduled for Sunday, June 2, after her run-in with the law in the capital of Netherlands.

The unfortunate news was announced by concert promoter Mojo on his website, where he stated, "Due to the events of last week, the Nicki Minaj show on Sunday, 2nd June at Ziggo Dome, Amsterdam will no longer be taking place. Tickets will be refunded at the point of sale."

However, the Anaconda hitmaker has yet to release her own statement. Eager fans, who were already disappointed over the

## Rihanna becomes first female artist with most diamond certified hits



Rihanna has just made music history with her latest achievement.

The 36-year-old superstar has officially been named the top female artist with the most diamond-certified hits.

Female Artist" and the "Most Diamond Certified Titles for a Female Artist."

Her music label, Roc-A-Fella, also joined in on the celebration. Fans celebrated her triumph but also reminded her that they are eagerly awaiting her next album, R9. It's been over eight years since the release of her last album, Anti, and the anticipation for new music continues to grow.

Rihanna's latest record-breaking feat includes four new diamond certifications from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), adding to her previous three and bringing her total to seven.

Among her diamond hits are her 2007 collaboration with Jay-Z, Umbrella, and her 2016 hit with Drake, Work.

# NATIONAL

# GLOBAL WATCH

## Malik Ahmad Bhachar Urges End To Filing False Cases Against PTI Workers

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar asserted to Punjab government to abstain from filing unfair FIRs against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers.

In a press conference in Lahore, Malik Ahmad claimed that the incumbent government was a forged government formed on Form-47, backed by court verdicts.

He stated that the government's reliance on retired judges for making fair decisions was flawed, saying, "Retired judges can't issue fair judgments." He reiterated, "You (government) are binding a person sitting in court to the decisions of the cabinet."

The opposition leader warned the incumbent



He criticized the Punjab government, labeling it as a TikTok government that was exerting pressure on PTI workers, actions that would eventually haunt them.

Referring to the May 9 riots incident, he highlighted that 16 individuals from PTI were martyred, yet no FIRs were registered against the perpetrators.

He insisted that the incumbent government was turning the state into a banana republic by resorting to such tactics and stressed that the party shouldn't be subjected to injustice. Punjab Assembly opposition leader announced plans to start a movement for the release of PTI founder Imran Khan from what he referred to as fake cases.—RT/Agency

Punjab government that its unfair treatment and injustice towards PTI workers is putting itself in the noose of its own making.

He also disclosed that his party was all set to initiate a movement to end FIRs against party workers.

## Seminar On World Anti-Tobacco Day Raises Awareness On Smoking Hazards And Advocates For Increased Cigarette Taxes

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of World Anti-Tobacco Day, an awareness seminar was organized to raise awareness about the health risks associated with tobacco use and its harmful effects. The theme for this year's World No Tobacco Day is "Protecting Children From Tobacco Industry Interference and Advocating for an End to the Targeting of Youth with Harmful Tobacco Products."

The seminar aimed to highlight the urgent need for the government to impose a 37-40% tax on cigarettes in the budget for 2024-25. Speakers emphasized the importance of public awareness about the harmful effects of smoking and encouraged individuals to quit for a healthier life.

In his address, Barrister

Aqeel Malik, the Federal Government's spokesperson for legal affairs, pointed out the rising smoking trends among young people and urged the government to impose higher taxes on cigarettes, citing examples from countries like Australia where a pack costs 58 dollars. He stressed the importance of enforcing existing laws in addition to increasing taxes, stating that this would help deter the younger generation from smoking.

Social worker Abdul Moez Tariq expressed concern over smoking becoming a fashion trend among the youth and suggested that making cigarettes more expensive would help keep them out of reach. He highlighted that Pakistan loses 567 billion rupees in revenue due to favorable tax policies for international cigarette companies.

Dr. Asif Iqbal, MD of Social Policy and Development, noted that according to global health experts, tobacco use is the second leading cause of death after high blood pressure. He mentioned that after the government imposed a tax on cigarettes, 26 out of 100 people reduced their smoking habit.

As responsible citizens, the speakers urged the government to implement a track and trace system and impose a 37-40% tax on tobacco in the next fiscal year's budget. The additional revenue generated could be used to fund the health and education sectors, contributing to the overall well-being of the nation.—RT

## -Can you believe this? Media Mogul Rupert Murdoch Marries For Fifth Time At Age 93



Los Angeles: Media magnate Rupert Murdoch has married for the fifth time at age 93, tying the knot with a retired molecular biologist a quarter century younger than him.

Murdoch and Elena Zhukova, 67, were wed Saturday at the media mogul's California vineyard and estate, called Moraga.

Photographs published in The Sun, the British tabloid owned by Murdoch, show the couple posing and smiling -- he in a black suit and yellow tie and she in an off-the-shoulder white gown as she clutched a bouquet of lilies of the valley.

Jet-set guests at the nuptials included Robert Kraft, 82, the owner of the New England Patriots US football team, and his 50-year-old wife Dana Blumberg, news reports said.

Murdoch had previously been married four times, most recently to model Jerry

## Donald Trump makes major statements after hush money conviction

Former US president Donald Trump has made major revelations about himself and the case after hush money conviction in which the 12-member jury found him guilty on Thursday. While speaking in an interview with Fox News Sunday, the 77-year-old Trump called himself opposite to what President Joe Biden and his Democrats call the former president a threat to US democracy. It is the first time that the business mogul has sat down with a popular US TV channel for an inter-

view. "Now I'm leading over this guy (Joe Biden)... who can't put two sentences together, that's destroying our country. Look, he's the worst president in the history of this country, and he's a danger to the country." "And you know, they have misinformation — 'Donald Trump is a threat to democracy' — it's just words. He doesn't even know what it means. But it's like their slogan, 'I'm a threat to democracy.' I'm the opposite. They're the threat to democracy," the Republican presumptive nominee said.

President Joe Biden repeatedly called Trump a major threat to US democracy underlining the former commander-in-chief's cases, unsubstantiated claims about elections, and his impeachments.

Thursday's verdict marked history in the US in which Trump became the first former president to be convicted of a crime in New York City, for falsifying business records to pay hush money to an adult film star Stormy Daniels.—Agency

# MONEY

## Proposal Under Review To Increase Tax Rates For Real Estate Sellers And Buyers

ISLAMABAD: The government is considering different proposals to bring the real estate sector into the tax net including raising the tax rates for sellers and purchasers for both filers and non-filers as well as collecting Gains Tax irrespective of any period.



In the name of progressive taxation under the IMF demands, the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) is contemplating options to come up with taxation rates of 3% for property transactions up to Rs50 million, 4% for up to Rs70 million, and 7% for Rs100 million under 236C for sellers.

It is under consideration to include capital gains in income (in the case of individuals, including such gains under the head "Income from property", and in the case of corporations, under the head "Income from a business"). It is proposed to repeal the capital gains exemption for industrial undertaking in a Special Export Zone (Clause 126D) of Part-I of the Second Schedule) of Income Tax.

Related to enhancing taxation on real estate, there is another proposal that is not directly linked with the budget-making exercise for 2024-25 but the FBR might opt to jack up valuation tables for real estate for differ-

ences in rates between the market and FBR's notified valuation rates.

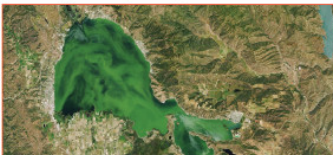
The FBR has undertaken an exercise to revise upward the valuation tables of major cities but it was not yet notified. The revised valuation table might be notified from the start of the next fiscal year. The upward revision in valuation tables helped the FBR collect more taxes after raising the base of valuation rates of different plots depending on the area defined by the FBR.

Under 236C, there is an advance tax on the sale or transfer of immovable property. Now the FBR is considering amending the meaning of "personal movable property" in Section 37(1) of the Income Tax Ordinance (ITO) to include a catch-all category comprising any property capable of being held as an investment, not being stock-in-trade or assets that depreciate or amortise for the ITO.

The FBR will review the tax slabs for capital gains on real estate and listed securities, make sure that such gains are taxed at an appropriate rate for capital (as opposed to labour) income, and eliminate the provision that capital gains are untaxed once the underlying asset has been held for a certain period.

The taxation of capital gains could be strengthened. One way is to broaden the types of assets subject to capital gains taxation, and in particular, by ensuring that new types of investment assets, such as cryptocurrencies, are within the scope of capital gains taxation. Another is to ensure that capital gains on real properties and listed securities are subject to tax, regardless of the duration of ownership.—Agency

## California's Clear Lake Turns Green With Algae, Visible From Space, Says NASA



California's largest freshwater lake has become a vibrant emerald due to a massive algal bloom. The bloom's intensity is so extreme that NASA captured it in satellite images taken in mid-May.

The culprit behind the vibrant hue could be cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, along with other types of phytoplankton. Clear Lake, a popular hub for fishing, water sports, and recreation (nicknamed the "bass capital of the west"), stretches over 68 square miles in Northern California, roughly 100 miles north of San Francisco. Local public health officials have warned visitors, urging them to be aware of the algae blooms. This includes keeping pets away from the water and avoiding areas that appear discoloured, have surface scum, or emit a foul odour, as reported by the Press Democrat newspaper.

The appearance of cyanobacteria in Clear Lake is not unusual, but it has occurred earlier and in greater abundance than in typical years," the newspaper said. Current levels of toxins in the water are being tested. The Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians has been monitoring water quality at the lake for the past decade. "This year has the earliest blooms since the Tribal program lakeshore cyanobacteria and cyanotoxin sampling began in 2014," a Clear Lake water quality Facebook page noted. While archaeological evidence suggests humans have inhabited the area around Clear Lake for a staggering 12,000 years, sediment samples reveal the lake has harbored significant algae populations for a similarly vast period.—Agency

## Team Europe Launches Skills And Energy Programmes In Gilgit Baltistan

GILGIT: The European Union (EU) has initiated two flagship programmes to enhance skills and promote clean energy in Gilgit Baltistan.

The youth skill development programme, a collaboration between the EU, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, and British Council, aims to revamp vocational training in Gilgit-Baltistan. This initiative focuses on upgrading Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) schools, enhancing staff training, and aligning curricula with labor market demands.

Additionally, the EU-funded Energy Plus programme, implemented by Aga Khan Foundation, aims to provide rural communities in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral with improved access to clean energy. This initiative will promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and



private sector-led growth, benefiting 350,000 individuals.

The launch event, held at Gilgit Serena, was attended by dignitaries including Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, EU Ambassador H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka, Head of Development Cooperation Dr. Sebastian Paust, and Aga Khan Foundation CEO Mr. Akhtar Iqbal. Chief Minister Khan expressed gratitude for the support, emphasizing the transformative potential of these initiatives for socio-economic development.

These programmes are part of the broader Team Europe Initiative, contributing to sustainable development goals and the EU's Global Gateway Initiative, aimed at addressing global challenges and fostering green jobs creation.—RT

## 2 Planes Collide At Portugal Air Show, Pilot Dead



Lisbon: Two small planes collided midair Sunday during an air show performance in southern Portugal, the air force said, with media reporting that one of the pilots was killed.

"The air force regrets to announce that at 4:05 pm (1505 GMT), at the Beja Air Show, two planes were the victim of an accident during an aerial demonstration" involving six aircraft, it said in a short statement.

Portuguese media reported that the pilot of one of the aircraft had died.

They identified the aircraft as two Yakovlev Yak-52, a Soviet-designed aerobatic training model.

The air force said emergency services were at the scene and organisers of the show at Beja airport had suspended the event.

A video filmed by a spectator and posted on social media showed a formation of six planes in flight, with one of them ascending, apparently touching one of the others and then crashing to the ground.

Beja Air Show accident ??? DEP pic twitter.com/4WrFolCeO — Don Expensive ??? ? ?? (@kar0) June 2, 2024 Portuguese newspapers quoted witnesses as saying the six aircraft were part of an aerobatic group named the "Yak Stars".

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They said organisers of the event presented it as the biggest civil aerobatics group in southern Europe.—Agency

## Uncovering DPRK's Illicit Operations: The Role Of Nam Chol Ung And The RGB



By Rim Yun ho

The UN Panel of Experts, tasked with enforcing sanctions on North Korea (DPRK), concluded its term on April 30, 2024, following a Russian veto on its extension. Established in 2009, the panel aimed to curb DPRK's nuclear and missile programs.

In its final report, the panel highlighted 112 instances of DPRK's sanction violations, spotlighting Nam Chol Ung, an officer of the Reconnaissance General Bureau (RGB), a key intelligence agency. Nam operated clandestine businesses abroad, linked to supporting the Kim family's regime and even implicated in Kim Jong Nam's assassination.

Nam Chol Ung orchestrated illegal trade, including smuggling fuel and luxury goods, violating UNSC Resolution 2270. To evade sanctions, he set up offices in Thailand and Laos using fake documents, funneling profits to the regime.

Nam's son seeks employment at a UN organization, raising concerns about his ties to DPRK's illicit activities. Meanwhile, Nam's wife manages his assets from China, though China remains silent on the matter.

The report recommends sanctions on Nam Chol Ung and the cyber hacking group Lazarus, operated by DPRK. Despite Nam's departure from Thailand, the report underscores the need for global vigilance against individuals like him. As the report unfolds, it serves as a critical case study for international authorities, signaling the gravity of DPRK's illicit activities and urging decisive action against individuals like Nam Chol Ung.

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# SPORTS

## WI vs PNG: West Indies defeat Papua New Guinea by 5 wickets

GUYANA: West Indies started its T20 World Cup 2024 campaign with a win against Papua New Guinea by five wickets in a match played at Guyana's Providence stadium on Sunday.

Rovman Powell's side chased the target in 19 overs on the back of sixth-wicket stand between Roston Chase and Andre Russell.

West Indies had a jitter in the run chase as they lost five wickets for 97 runs and needed 40 off the last four overs.

Chase kept his nerves and steered his side to a win with not out 27-ball 42. Russell supported with nine-ball 15.

At the top Brandon King scored 29-ball 34 while Nicholas Pooran made 27-ball 27. Skipper Assad Vala took two wickets for the PNG by giving away 28 runs.

Earlier, West Indies didn't allow PNG to settle early as



they kept taking wickets at regular intervals and restricted them on 136-8 after opting to bowl first.

The only notable partnership PNG had was of Sese Bau and Charles Amini for the fifth wicket where they scored 44 runs which gave them some momentum.

Bau was the notable batter, scoring a brilliant 43-ball 50 with the help of a six and half a dozen fours.

Skipper Assad Vala made 22-ball 21 with the help of two fours and a six. Kiplin Doriga (27\*) chipped in with some vital runs at the backend to take the total to 136/8.

Andre Russell was the pick of the bowlers, bagging figures of 2/19 while Alzari Joseph took 2/34. Akeal Hosenin, Gudakesh Motie took a wicket apiece.—Agency

## Dystopia is the new world order

By Kazi Shahana 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 what we witness in movies such as The Hunger Games.

# METRO KARACHI



## Rise In Street Crimes Claims Another Life In Karachi

KARACHI: The city's police have suspended Gulshan-e-Iqbal's station house pfcifer (SHO) for poor performance after yet another a young man was killed in street crime incident.

The incident took place in Gulshan-e-Iqbal Block 7 when the man, Itteqaa Moon Khan, a 27-year-old mechanical engineer, was approached by armed robbers near his house while he was on his way back from a nearby bakery.

The suspects shot and killed the youngster and fled with his motorcycle, mobile phone, and wallet.

A case has been registered under the provisions of robbery and murder at the Gulshan-e-Iqbal Police Station on the complaint of the victim's brother.

Meanwhile, the police have also found a shell of a 9-millimeter pistol from the scene of the incident, which has been sent for forensics.

However, the spokesperson for East Police has said that a departmental inquiry has been ordered over the incident.

According to The News, police have confirmed that



the incident took place during a robbery bid and that two suspects on a motorcycle were responsible for the firing and managed to escape following the incident.

Police said they were trying to obtain CCTV footage to help trace the suspects. No case had been registered when this story was filed.

The development comes as the city, also the country's financial hub, has witnessed a significant rise in street crime incidents in recent months with 71 people losing their lives at the hands of criminals in 2024 so far.

Despite as many as 6,000 criminals being transferred to Karachi Central Jail in the first five months of the ongoing year, the law and order situation in the metropolis continues to deteriorate with citizens being looted and killed by street criminals.

Last month, President Asif Ali Zardari, while chairing a special meeting over the law and order situation in Sindh, directed Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to launch a large-scale operation against street criminals in Karachi. The president ordered authorities concerned to complete the Karachi Safe City project "on a war footing" to eliminate street crimes and other illegal activities affecting the law and order situation in the port city.—RT/Agency

## Sindh Government Committed To Promoting Electric Vehicles For Environmental Sustainability: Jam Ikram

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, accompanied by Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasin Shar Baloch, visited Yousuf Dewan Companies and held a meeting with Chairman Dewan Muhammad Yousuf Farooqi, Group CEO Automotive Dr. Usman Hayat, and others. The discussions centered on the national economy's revival, its impact on the automotive industry, and the launch of electric vehicles in Pakistan.

During the meeting, Provincial Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo discussed various aspects of industrial development with Dewan Muhammad Yousuf Farooqi, including infrastructure, workforce, and market competitiveness. They explored strategies to stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, and enhance the industry's contribution to the national economy.



The Minister also reviewed the Dewan KIA Shehzore LCV truck, a locally manufactured vehicle by Dewan Muhammad Farooque Motors Limited, at their state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Dewan City, District Thatta. This demonstration showcased the capabilities of Pakistan's automotive industry. Dharejo expressed appreciation for the government's commitment to supporting industrial growth and development, highlighting initiatives to improve the business environment, facilitate investment, and promote innovation.

The meeting also discussed the launch of electric vehicles, including the Honeri VE fully electric car, in Pakistan. This initiative represents a significant step towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation sector. The Minister expressed the government's support for this initiative, highlighting its potential to reduce carbon emissions and promote eco-friendly transportation.—RT

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## Jl's Hafiz Naem Denounces US As Enemy Of Humanity During Gaza March



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman says US President Joe Biden is supporting Israel in Gaza war.

Addressing the participants of Gaza march in Karachi on Sunday, the Ji Emir said that America is a hypocrite and terrorist country.

"The US is an enemy of humanity as it killed innocent people in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Hafiz Naem.

He added that US only gives statement of ceasefire but doesn't take any practical step in this regard.

"The US has been exposed now by the social media as millions of people are showing solidarity with Palestine worldwide," he said.

The Ji Emir was of the view that Hamas launched an organised attack on Israel and failed its objective.

"The OIC only passes ceremonial resolutions over this issue as its members cannot afford annoying the US," said Hafiz Naem.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan And Turkiye Enjoy A Bond Of Deep Understanding Since Inception: Murad



KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah emphasized the profound relationship between Pakistan and Turkiye since their establishment. Speaking at a traditional annual breakfast hosted by the Turkish Consul General at the Karachi Consulate, Shah highlighted the shared understanding and deep connection between the two nations.

The event was attended by a host of prominent personalities including Federal Minister of Maritime Affairs Qaisar Ahmed Shaikh, Provincial Minister Makhdoom Mehboob uz Zaman, DIG Maqsood Hussain Memon, Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi Chairman KPT,

members of the showbiz fraternity, navy and government officials, Halil Basaran representing TIKA, Murat Guzzeller Vice Consul at the Turkish Consulate, and representatives from civil society.

CM Shah noted the worldwide celebration of Turkish breakfast tradition, acknowledging Karachi's participation in this global festivity.

In his welcoming remarks, CG Turkiye Cemal Sangu expressed pleasure and privilege in hosting the gathering, extending a warm welcome to all attendees. He described the event as a celebration of taste and tradition, embodying the essence of Turkish hospitality.

Sangu emphasized the significance of the breakfast, symbolizing the enduring bond between Turkiye and Pakistan. He described the event as a tapestry of flavors, a testament to the warmth and generosity that define the cultures of both nations.

As guests indulged in the culinary delights, Sangu urged them to cherish the moment and celebrate the enduring brotherhood between the two nations. He concluded by inviting everyone to enjoy the beauty of the moment and the joy of togetherness, echoing the perfect intertwining of flavors and sentiments.—RT

## Government Announces Initiation Of Water Sports Project In Sindh

KARACHI: Sindh government announced to start water sports for the people of the province at Keenjhar Lake located near Thatta District, media reported on Sunday.

The Culture and Tourism Minister of Sindh, Zulfiqar Shah, in his statement announced that the water sports activities have been commenced at Keenjhar Lake on a trial basis, adding that the water sports and paragliding will be started regularly soon.

In June last year, the Sindh government had decided to build a world-class tourist center at Keenjhar Lake.

A meeting of the steering committee was held under the chairmanship of Sindh Energy Minister Imtiaz Shaikh, in which the Kuwait Investment Agency gave a briefing regarding the modern resort.



Imtiaz Sheikh said that the government is committed to make Keenjhar Lake an attractive tourist destination, where all modern facilities will be provided to the tourists.

The briefing said that this modern resort will be equipped with the latest facilities, and its construction will attract domestic and foreign tourists to the resort.

The energy minister said that Keenjhar Lake covers an area of 24 km, a suitable place is being determined for the construction of a modern resort, the completion of this project will earn domestic and foreign exchange.—RT/Agency

## Indonesian Consul General Recognizes Arif Balgamwala's Philatelic Achievements



KARACHI: Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, extended recognition to M. Arif Balgamwala, a prominent Pakistani businessman and Tamgha-Imtiaz recipient in Philately. At a reception held as part of the "Road to Trade Expo Indonesia 2024" at his residence, Wisma, Dr. Hadiningrat presented Balgamwala with a crest, acknowledging his remarkable contributions to philately,

cultural appreciation, and bilateral relations between Indonesia and Pakistan.

The Consul General lauded Balgamwala's extensive collection of Indonesian stamps, highlighting his role in promoting cultural exchange and strengthening the bond between the two nations. This recognition signifies a significant milestone in fostering bilateral ties and cultural exchange between Indonesia and Pakistan.—RT

## FIA Karachi Arrests Human Trafficker



KARACHI: Following the arrest of the passenger at Karachi airport, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Sunday conducted a raid and arrested the human smuggler involved in providing fake documents from Can't station, media reported.

According to FIA spokesperson, the human smuggler, named Babar Ali, was involved in providing fake work visa of Andorra to a passenger, named Gulfam Ahmed, who was arrested a day earlier from Karachi International Airport.

The spokesperson added that the accused added Rs 2.4 million from the passenger against providing a forge visa of Andorra, while took a total of Rs 1.2 million from Gulfam.

However, the authorities are being conducted raids to arrest the other accused.—RT/Agency

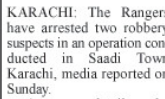
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However, the authorities are being conducted raids to arrest the other accused.—RT/Agency

## Rangers Apprehend Two Suspects Linked To Karachi Robberies



KARACHI: The Rangers have arrested two robbery suspects in an operation conducted in Saadi Town Karachi, media reported on Sunday.

As per details, the Rangers' spokesperson said the suspects identified as Owais and Khalid, are allegedly involved in robbery and looting incidents in the area.

The Rangers recovered a 9mm pistol, bullets, two mobile phones, and cash from the suspects.

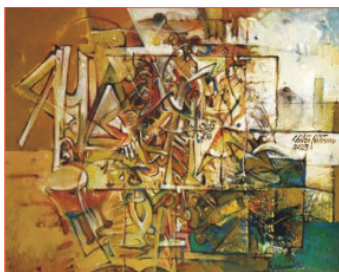
According to Rangers spokesperson, the suspects were handed over to the police for further action. The spokesperson said that the operation was conducted on a tip-off and the suspects were caught red-handed.—RT/Agency



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## "Magical Lines of Endless Mosaic" Exhibition Ready to Enchant Art Aficionados



KARACHI: Artici is all set to mesmerize art enthusiasts with the highly anticipated exhibition "Magical Lines of Endless Mosaic" featuring 63 stunning paintings by the acclaimed Presidential Award-winning artist Chitra Pritam.

Chitra Pritam, renowned for his unwavering commitment to the advancement and promotion of art, shared his vision for nurturing new talent through such exhibitions. "New artists possess incredible talent; they just need the right guidance and opportunities," he passionately stated. With a career spanning several decades, Pritam's remarkable works, spanning landscapes, calligraphy, and drawings, have enthralled audiences in Pakistan and across the globe. His impressive list of accolades includes the prestigious National Culture Award and the Tagha Imtiaz.—RT

Council of Pakistan, as the chief guest, and Dr. Saad Khalid Niazi as the Guest of Honor.

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KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman is addressing his supporters during the Gaza Palestine March to express solidarity with the people of Palestine, which was held on Shahrah-e-Faisal.—RT



KARACHI: Sardar Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar and Sardar Ali Kakar, Secretary-General of the Kakar Tribe Federation, are honoring Syed Waqar Mehdi, General Secretary of PPP Sindh, with a gold medal in recognition of his exemplary services for democracy and humanity. Former Senator Anwar Lal Dean was also present on the occasion.—RT

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

—Will Rogers

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MONDAY JUNE 03 2024

## Fazl Criticizes Institutions For Breaching Constitutional Protocols

MUZZAFARGH: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman lashed out on Sunday at institutions, stating that the entities which break the constitution are the ones responsible for carrying out the rebellion.

While addressing a rally in Muzaffargarh, the JUI-F chief asserted that certain institutions played no part in the creation of Pakistan but contributed to its disintegration.

Fazl accused the establishment of tampering with the constitution, asserting that those who break it are the true rebels, not them.

He criticized the current government setup while reflecting on the ongoing fight against terrorism, noting, "[They] declared a war against terrorism, yet terrorism continues to rise."



Male: The Indian Ocean nation of the Maldives will ban Israelis from the luxury tourist hot spot, the office of the president said Sunday, announcing a national rally in "solidarity with Palestine".

"If terrorism is crossing the borders, then where are you standing on the borders?" Fazl stated while questioning the military's effectiveness.

Discussing the deteriorating law and order situation, the JUI-F chief noted, "The people of KP and Balochistan are suffering from severe unrest."

He asserted that under the constitution, the nation should be given an Islamic system and economic rights.

He asked whether supporting the institutions in establishing peace could be considered a crime for the scholars.

Touching upon the Fourth

Schedule during his address, the JUI-F chief declared, "The fourth schedule will not stop us."

The JUI-F chief announced that on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Khatam-e-Nabuwat, the party will celebrate "Youm-e-Fatah" on September 7 at Minar-e-Pakistan.

Expressing solidarity with Palestinians over Israel's ongoing horrific assault on the besieged Gaza Strip, he stated that the Muslims of Palestine have sacrificed a lot.

"[Even] the European countries are being forced to recognize Palestine as a state [now]," he added.

"We want to convey to the Palestinians that Pakistan stands with you," the JUI-F chief proclaimed.

Referring to the recent scandal involving wheat, he

questioned the import of sub-standard crops, asking, "Why did you import 3.5 million tons of worm-infested wheat?" while alleging that a "deal" was made.

Last month on May 24, the PTI senior leadership held a consultative meeting wherein it came to the fore that in their talks with a party delegation, the JUI-F chief demanded that he would join the opposition alliance only when a fresh movement was launched from a new platform.

According to a report by BBC Urdu released on May 8, Fazl claimed that if the "powerful circles" did not admit that the February 8 general elections were "rigged," then that meant the people had also "rejected" their narrative on last year's May 9 violence.—RT/Agency

## Maldives Plans Ban On Israeli Visitors In Protest Against Gaza Conflict

Male: The Indian Ocean nation of the Maldives will ban Israelis from the luxury tourist hot spot, the office of the president said Sunday, announcing a national rally in "solidarity with Palestine".

The Maldives, a tiny Islamic republic of more than 1,000 strategically located coral islets, is known for its secluded sandy white beaches, shallow turquoise lagoons and Robinson Crusoe-style getaways.

President Mohamed Muizzu has "resolved to impose a ban on Israeli passports" a spokesman for his office said in a statement, without giving details of when the new law would take effect.

Muizzu also announced a national fundraising campaign called "Maldivians in Solidarity with Palestine".

The Maldives had lifted a previous ban on Israeli tourists in the early 1990s and moved to restore relations in 2010.

However, normalisation attempts were scuttled following the toppling of president Mohamed Nasheed in



February 2012. Opposition parties and government allies in the Maldives have been putting pressure on Muizzu to ban Israelis, as a sign of protest against October 7 attack on Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,189 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

Hamas also took 252 hostages, 121 of whom remain in Gaza, including 37 the army says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 36,439 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.—RT/Agency

ing, since if they fall into distress for any reason, it will be difficult for us to help," the spokesman added.

The Gaza war was sparked by Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,189 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

Hamas also took 252 hostages, 121 of whom remain in Gaza, including 37 the army says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 36,439 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.—RT/Agency

## EU Maintains Ban On Pakistani Air Carriers, Including PIA

KARACHI: The European Union (EU) refused to lift the ban on Pakistani air carriers including PIA, media reported on Saturday.

The European Union (EU) in its recent meeting found no grounds for amending the current list of air carriers banned from operating within the Union, including Pakistani airlines.

This decision comes after a comprehensive review by the EU Air Safety Committee, which involved an on-site evaluation of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) and sample assessments of Pakistani air carriers Fly Jinnah and Airblue Ltd.

The on-site assessment, conducted between November 27 and 30, 2023, focused on the PCAA's role and responsibility in safety oversight.

Although the PCAA demonstrated adherence to international safety standards and was staffed by technically skilled professionals.

However, the on-site assessment team identified several shortcomings, including insufficient scrutiny in closing findings based on proposed corrective actions rather than actual evidence, deviations from established procedures, and a severe understaffing in the Flight Standards Directorate.

Despite these issues, no major safety concerns were



identified in the airworthiness or personnel licensing and training organizations, which were found to be appropriately staffed.

Fly Jinnah, one of the air carriers assessed, was noted for needing improvement in record keeping and management of findings.

The PCAA presented a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) on May 6, 2024, and elaborated on the steps taken to address the identified issues during a hearing before the EU Air Safety Committee on May 14, 2024.

Notably, the PCAA increased the number of qualified inspectors from one to nineteen in the Flight Standards Directorate, established a Quality Control section in each department, and created a central Quality Assurance department.

Fly Jinnah detailed its current operations and the measures taken to address quality management system flaws, including the use of software tools for various

## Naqvi Directs For Accelerated Passport Issuance For Overseas Pakistanis



ISLAMABAD: Taking notice of the delay in issuing passports to overseas Pakistanis, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday directed to expedite the service for timely issuance of the document to them.

Speaking during his visit to Nadra and passport centres in London, the interior minister directed officials to issue urgent passports to overseas Pakistanis within seven days and normal passports within 30 days.

"This policy will be applicable to all Pakistani missions abroad," he said as normal passports were being issued in about four months while urgent in one and a half months.

Naqvi said delay would not be tolerated anymore and action would be taken against non-issuance of passport within the stipulated time.

He also established a monitoring cell and appointed his Personal Staff Officer ASP Shahrbano as its head "to ensure delivery of passports within the time".

Overseas Pakistanis will be able to lodge a complaint at the email address: passport@interior.gov.pk if they do not receive their passport within time, Radio Pakistan reported.

During the visit, the interior minister interacted with the Pakistanis present at the centres as well.

He appreciated the Nadra staff as no one complained about their service. He congratulated them for their good performance. Taking notice of the staff shortage, the minister directed effective staff management to fulfil the staff requirement. On this occasion, Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Dr Muhammad Faisal was accompanying the interior minister.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan's Potential Absence From Ukraine Peace Summit

ISLAMABAD: More than two years after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Pakistan is now facing yet another diplomatic challenge.

Pakistan is among the countries from the so-called Global South invited to the Ukraine Peace Summit to be held in Switzerland on June 15 and 16.

Islamabad was extended an invitation for the first time to such an international conference on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch confirmed at the weekly briefing last week that Pakistan was invited to the summit. She said the invitation was under consideration.

However, sources said that Pakistan was likely to skip the peace summit as part of its efforts to maintain "neutrality."

Sources noted that since Russia was not invited to the summit, it might not be useful. However, they said that a final decision had yet to be made.

China too was extended an invitation but Beijing has already decided to stay away. Officials in Beijing questioned the credibility of the process when Russia, a main party to the conflict, was not invited.

Sources said that Pakistan usually takes cues from China on such key international and regional issues.



However, observers believe that it wouldn't be a surprise if Western countries were quietly persuading Pakistan to attend the conference.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Pakistan's then-prime minister Imran Khan was in Moscow. His visit, though unrelated to President Vladimir Putin's decision, certainly raised many eyebrows, particularly in the West.

Imran later cited his Moscow trip as one of the main reasons behind his ouster through a vote of no confidence. Basing his claim on that infamous diplomatic cable, the jailed former premier believed that the US was not happy with his move and hence conspired against his government.

The US always denied the allegations while opposition parties, which ousted him from power, dismissed the involvement of any foreign hand.

At the same time, it hosted the Ukrainian foreign minister in the middle of the conflict and dispatched humanitarian assistance. There were reports that Pakistan quietly supplied weapons to Ukraine through a third party. Both Ukraine and Pakistan vehemently denied such reports.

It is evident that the Russia-Ukraine conflict has tested Pakistan's diplomatic skills.—RT/Agency

## Chinese Envoy Anticipates Strengthening Of Ties With PM Shehbaz's Visit

ISLAMABAD: Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong has said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to his country would inject strong impetus to upgrade the all-weather strategic cooperation between the two friendly nations, according to a statement issued on Sunday.

The premier will leave for China on Tuesday for a five-day visit at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang.

"[PM Shehbaz's visit will] provide constant boost to Pakistan's economic and social development and send [a] strong signal of solidarity and cooperation between our two countries to the international community," the ambassador added.

"The strategic communication between [the] leaders of the two countries guides our relations. Over the past 73 years, [the] leaders of the two countries frequently visited each other like close relatives. Under the strategic guidance of our leaders, the ironclad friendship between China and Pakistan stood the test of times."

The ambassador expected the leaders of the two countries to reach new important consensus on high quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor



(CPEC). "[This is important] so that [Beijing] could constantly level up its pragmatic cooperation to assist [Islamabad] to achieve sustainable development and refresh the momentum for the future development of the relationship."

Ambassador Jiang added that during PM Shehbaz's visit, there was no doubt that leaders from both sides will reiterate the firm support for each other on respective core interests and major concerns.

The Chinese envoy highlighted that as a landmark project of the Belt and Road international cooperation, batch after batch of schemes had been launched, completed as well as put into operation under the framework of CPEC.

He continued that

## Fazl Engages In Political Dialogue With Javed Hashmi



ISLAMABAD: Senior politician Makhdoom Javed Hashmi on Sunday called on Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Both the politicians discussed overall political situation of the country.

It merits mention here that both the veteran politicians were once considered very close to PML-N President Nawaz Sharif whose party is nowadays ruling the centre and Punjab.

## Dar Engages In Talks With Iran's FM On Gaza Situation

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday received a telephone call from Acting Foreign Minister of Iran Ali Bagheri.

Both the counterparts discussed matters of mutual interest and the dire situation in Gaza.

According to a statement issued by the foreign office, the two sides also discussed the unabated Israeli atrocities in Gaza.

The deputy prime minister reiterated Pakistan's full support for all initiatives aimed at ending the genocide



in Gaza and for humanitarian relief to the Palestinian people.—RT/Agency

## ECP To Hear PTI Intra-Party Elections Case On June 6th

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has scheduled June 6 for the hearing of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) intra-party election case, following its removal from the agenda on May 30 due to the unavailability of a bench.

The Election Commission has sent notices to Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Bar-



ister Gohar Ali and Raoof seven objections to the PTI intra-party elections on March 3.—RT/Agency