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## BJP Scrambles For Majority As Opposition Surprises In Indian Election

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's alliance was headed for a narrow majority as vote-counting in the general election neared completion on Tuesday, with the tally well short of a widely expected landslide.



Modi's own Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was falling short of a majority of its own in the 543-member parliament, the trends showed. Having to depend on allies to form the government could introduce some uncertainty in policy-making as Modi has ruled with an authoritative hold in the last decade. The Hindu nationalist BJP won a majority of its own when it won power in 2014, ending India's era of unstable coalition governments, and repeated the feat in 2019. The prospect of Modi having to rely on allies spooked markets with stocks falling steeply. The blue-chip NIFTY-50 (NSEI) opens new tab sank 5.9% and the S&P BSE Sensex (BSESN) opens new tab tumbled 5.7%, posting their steepest decline on an elec-

tion outcome day since 2004. The rupee also fell sharply against the dollar and benchmark bond yields were up. Markets had soared on Monday after exit polls on June 1 projected Modi and BJP would register a big victory, and the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was seen getting a two-thirds majority and more. At 1100 GMT, TV channels showed the NDA was ahead in nearly 300 of the 543 electorates in the lower house of parliament, where 272 is a simple majority, with about half the votes counted. Full results are likely later on Tuesday evening. They showed BJP ac-

counted for under 250 of the seats in which the NDA was leading, compared to the 303 it won in 2019. BJP's numbers were likely pulled down by the party's poor showing in the country's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, which also sends 80 lawmakers to parliament, the highest of any state. The party was leading in 36 seats in the state, down from the 62 it won there in 2019, with analysts saying bread-and-butter issues had overshadowed the BJP's appeal to the Hindu majority. A grand temple to Hindu god-king Lord Ram that Modi inaugurated in January had not boosted BJP's fortunes as it was expected to, they said.—RT/Agency

## ECP Errors Cost PTI Party Symbol, Says Justice Akhter In SIC Reserve Seats Case

KARACHI: Justice Munib Akhtar during the full court hearing on reserved seats case highlighted a string of legal mistakes made by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that compelled PTI-backed candidates to contest elections as independents.



He further stated that the issue regarding reserved seats came down to whether these candidates should be "denied those reserved seats simply because now they have taken shelter under [the Sunni Itehad Council]."

These remarks were made as the full bench of the apex court resumed hearing the SIC's plea on Tuesday against the denial of reserved seats in assemblies for women and minorities.

A 13-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Munib Akhtar, Yahya Afandi, Amin-uddin Khan, Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha Malik, Athar Minalah, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Shahid Waheed, Inam Saadat Khan and Naeem Akhtar Afghan, resumed the hearing today.

SIC's lawyer, Advocate Faisal Siddiqui, asserted that although the SIC didn't participate in the elections as a

party, independent candidates did indeed take part.

He further emphasized that the SIC did provide a list of its candidates, but the ECP rejected it, claiming that the party hadn't contested the elections.

CJP Isa pointed out that the SIC had identified itself as a parliamentary political party twice and as a political party once.

In response, Advocate Siddiqui argued that a political party could also be a parliamentary political party.

"The Constitution makes a distinction between a parliamentary political party and a political party," noted the chief justice.

"We were a political party before the February 8 elections and became a parliamentary political party after [winning] independent candidates joined us," the SIC lawyer replied, emphasizing that the Constitution doesn't

stated that a candidate who presents themselves as part of a party will be considered affiliated with it.

He remarked, "Only those will be considered as independent candidates who submit an affidavit that he is not affiliated with any political party."

"How can the ECP's law could declare PTI's candidates as independents," Justice Akhtar noted.

Responding to Justice Akhtar's comments that the controversy arose after a political party was deprived of its electoral symbol, the chief justice questioned why the PTI didn't challenge the court's orders in this regard.

"Why did you not ask for the bat as an independent candidate," the CJP asked Advocate Siddiqui. "All independent candidates cannot ask for bat," the counsel replied, stressing that Salman Akram Raja had even requested the ECP to be declared as a PTI candidate.

However, he added, Raja's request was dismissed. "There's a different form for each constituency, why can't you ask for it," the judge stressed. He said that the party should've declared its candidates as independent and should've then sought the bat symbol.

"You should've at least tried to secure the bat symbol. The SC would then would have seen whether it was to be allotted to you or not," the CJP said. The court then adjourned the hearing till June 24. In yesterday's hearing, the SIC's lawyers approached the rostrum, with Siddiqui reading out the May 6 order. He argued that assigning reserved seats to other parties violated specific articles of the Constitution. Siddiqui referenced an ECP letter to support the SIC's entitlement to reserved seats in the National Assembly. CJP Isa then asked Siddiqui for details on the beneficiaries and a breakdown of the additional seats allocated to ruling coalition parties. Siddiqui noted discrepancies in the numbers provided by the electoral watchdog. Justice Isa further inquired about the party-wise allocation of these additional seats, which Siddiqui provided along with details for provincial assemblies. The ECP counsel was summoned to clarify the number of additionally allocated reserved seats for women in the NA, confirming 23 seats. Siddiqui also presented the number of general seats won by each party in the recent elections, emphasizing the SIC's status as a parliamentary party.—RT/Agency

## Iddat Case Set For June 7 Following Bushra Bibi's Plea

ISLAMABAD: Bushra Bibi, the wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, Tuesday moved a district and sessions court in the federal capital, seeking an early hearing of her appeals filed against her conviction in the iddat case.



In her petition, the former first lady argued that the appeals against conviction are scheduled for hearing in the local court, requesting it to fix the appeals for hearing this week.

Following her appeal, the court fixed the hearing of the appeals on June 7, seeking arguments on the case.

The plea by Bushra has been filed a day after the Islamabad High Court accepted District and Sessions Judge Shahruck Arjumand's request seeking transfer of the iddat case to another court.

The IHC's decision came days after the judge wrote a

letter to its registrar, stating it would not be appropriate for him to announce the verdict in the aforementioned case due to reservations raised by Bushra's former husband and petitioner Khawar Maneka.

Following the judge's request, the IHC transferred the case to the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Makka. Bushra Bibi's lawyers, Salman Safdar and Khalid Yusuf, appeared in Judge Makka's court, requesting the suspension of the sen-

tence which has been pending since March 11. Safdar said that the verdict was handed down on March 29, but Maneka expressed his lack of confidence in the judge — which has delayed the hearing. He added that Bushra Bibi did not even get the right to defend herself. "The innocent has been held prisoner. Her health is bad," the lawyer argued and requested the court to suspend the sentence this week.—RT/Agency

## Foreign Office Receives Declassified Cipher Copies



ISLAMABAD: With the verdict of the cipher case announced, the foreign office has received all the declassified copies of cipher.

The FO has received declassified copies from the Senate and National Assembly as the documents had been provided to these institutions during the PTI government.

In 2023, the FO had written a letter to the NA speaker and Senate chairman where they asked for the return of declassified copies. Sources said the FO's

step to get the declassified copies back was crucial to stop the use of cipher for political reasons.

The PTI government had sent the declassified copies of cipher to NA and Senate after the approval of cabinet to bring the matter before the parliament.

In this regard, a parliamentary committee had also been formed in which the representatives of all political parties were invited, however no PDM member participated in the meeting.—RT/Agency

## PTI Willing To Engage In Dialogue With Key Stakeholders, Asserts Arif Alvi

ISLAMABAD: Former president and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Dr Arif Alvi said on Tuesday that his party would hold dialogue with the one who has real power to make decisions.



He stated this while responding to a question about the impression that incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan was not in favour of holding dialogue with his political opponents to bring stability to the country.

The statement came after multiple calls from the incumbent government urging the embattled Imran Khan-founded party to hold talks to find a solution to end the political crisis, however, the former ruling party failed to give a clear response so far.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Alvi also said that he has "lost all hope as accountability is impossible in Pakistan." He praised the Islamabad

High Court's (IHC) verdict in the diplomatic cable case for which he claimed that "the case was lodged for no reason." As a former head of the state, Dr Alvi maintained that it was prerogative of a prime minister to decide whether to apprise the nation or not regarding a cipher.

The ex-president criticised that the "entire elite class is opposing the accountability or investigation" into the sensitive matters. "I have lost all hope as accountability is impossible in our country," he added.

"From [former military ruler] Ayub Khan till today, accountability is not our priority. Our people are so sure to see no justice here in Pakistan," he alleged. "Pakistan has suffered a major loss due to regime change," Alvi said referring to the ouster of PTI-led government in April 2022. He went on to say that the political developments also impacted the national economy by creating uncertainty everywhere which led the local business class to invest abroad.—RT/Agency

## NEPRA Announces Electricity Rate Increase To Rs3.76 per Unit

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has notified an increase in electricity rates by up to Rs3.76 per unit due to a quarterly adjustment.



The hike allows power companies to recover over Rs46 billion from consumers for the third quarter of FY 2023-24. Of this total, Rs28.515 billion will be charged as capacity charges, which will be directed to independent power plants (IPPs) that have not produced any electricity and have remained idle. As a result, diluted consumers who regularly pay their bills will bear the burden of this significant amount. The substantial costs are a consequence of past governmental agreements to install power plants in large quantities, with guarantees to purchase the electricity produced. These guarantees also included payments to the IPPs even if the electricity was not taken from them.

Consequently, although there is available capacity, it is not being added to the national grid, yet consumers are still required to pay for this 2023-24 already intimated to the energy ministry (Power Division) on May 31, 2024. Accordingly, the Authority has decided to allow the instant positive quarterly adjustments of Rs46.613 billion pertaining to the 3rd quarter of the FY 2023-24, in a period of three months i.e. June 2024 to August 2024. Out of the total burden of Rs46.613 billion, Rs28.515 billion will be charged on account of capacity charges, whereas Rs10.284 billion will be recovered on account of less FCA impact of T&D losses, Rs5.309 billion O&M, and Rs 2.541 billion use of system charges.—RT/Agency

## All Communities Enjoying Religious Freedom In Pakistan: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that all religions were enjoying complete religious freedom in Pakistan.



Addressing a ceremony, he welcomed all the people of the Sikh community who arrived in Pakistan.

The minister said that the people of this country respected the traditions of Sikh community as there was a strong connection between the two sides. The Sikh community has vibrant role in the development of the country.

He further said that promotion of interfaith harmony was a need of the hour. Azam Nazeer Tarar said that teaching of "Guru Nanak" negate the material-

ism, adding that no religion permits for hate and violence. Service to the humanity should be our mission, he said, adding that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has sent his greetings to the Sikh community.

The law minister said that the government was taking measures to further facilitate the Sikh people who arrived here Pakistan.—RT/Agency

## Vawda Declines To Offer Unconditional Apology In Contempt Case

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda has refused to issue an unconditional apology to the Supreme Court in the contempt case and sought an end to the matter, saying that several others had issued remarks similar to his.



Over his anti-judiciary remarks during his press conference on May 15, Vawda asked the court to show restraint in the contempt of court proceedings.

In response to the notice, he asked the Supreme Court to withdraw the contempt of court case against him, saying that the purpose behind his allegedly malicious press conference was the country's wellbeing. The politico issued the statement a day prior to his appearance in the contempt of court case for his tirade against the judiciary over the Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges' letter pointing out the intelligence agency's meddling in judicial affairs and alleged dual nationality of a senior judge.

The apex court has fixed the hearing of the case against the independent senator and Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) senior leader Mustafa Kamal on June 5, as Kamal has also held a similar press conference on May 16. In the response submitted to the Supreme Court, Senator Vawda submitted transcripts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Jamiat Ulema e Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Raouf Hasan's speeches wherein they had made hard-hitting speeches against the judiciary.

He apprised the court that

Hasan had threatened judges and the judiciary as well as called a judge "tout". Whereas, Shehbaz had called judges "black sheep" and Fazl threatened judges in a speech outside the top court's building.

On the other hand, Vawda said he had every respect and regard for the judiciary and could never imagine doing any act which lowered the estimation of the judiciary in any manner.

However, he said, "highlighting or critique of judgements of the courts deemed to have had a negative impact on the lives of the citizens of Pakistan is not contempt."—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



TANDO ALLAHYAR: RT Correspondent Afaq Khanzada forgave a rickshaw driver Ubaid Baloch, who misbehaved with him a few days ago after the intervention of senior journalist Syed Ateeq Rehman.—RT

## Sindh Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, MPA Syed Ameer Ali Shah condole with Pithoro notables



By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Sindh Minister for Education and Minerals, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, and MPA Syed Ameer Ali Shah visited the village of Anwaruddin Sand to offer their condolences to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) worker Siddique Sand on the sad demise of his mother.

During their visit, the PPP leaders also extended their sympathies to Sufi Aqeel Sadiq over the loss of his sister. A number of notable figures from the community were present during the occasion, including Poonjo Mal Bheel, Raees Allah Nawaz Khoso, Town Vice Chairman Vikram Kumar, Syed Dilshad Shah, Abdul Wahid Arisar, Shahjahan Arisar, and Haji Abdul Karim Arisar.

## New office-bearers of WAPDA Hydroelectric Union Khanpur elected



By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: In a remarkable display of unity, all candidates in the WAPDA Hydroelectric Union election for the Khanpur Subdivision in Taluka Khanpur have been elected unopposed. The new office-bearers include Chairman Sher Muhammad Chaudhry, Vice Chairman Shaukat Ali Chacher, General Secretary Ali Hassan Malik, and Joint Secretary Abdul Samad Kalhoro. The absence of any opposing candidates led to their automatic and unanimous victory.

The election, held without any contest, saw a wave of support and enthusiasm from union leaders and workers, who gathered to congratulate the newly elected officials. In a celebratory gesture, the newly elected office-bearers were garlanded with flowers, symbolizing their confidence and expectations for their leadership.

## Cases of mouth cancer on the rise in Thatta

THATTA: An alarming increase in cases of mouth cancer has been reported in the Thatta district, primarily linked to the consumption of harmful chewing substances such as Gutka, Mawa, and Mainpuri. Dr. Sham Lal, head of the Dental Department at Civil Hospital Thatta, disclosed that the district has witnessed a significant surge in oral cancer cases, with 210 patients diagnosed over the past five years. Dr. Lal provided detailed statistics, indicating that out of the 210 diagnosed patients, 165 are in the early stages of cancer, while 50 have progressed to the third and final stage, experiencing severe pain and distress.

He believes that only through collective efforts can the community shield itself from the devastating effects of these products. The situation in Thatta underscores the urgent need for increased awareness and preventive measures to combat the rise in oral cancer associated with these dangerous substances. Dr. Lal's call to action emphasizes the importance of community involvement and stringent regulatory measures to tackle this public health issue.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Makrani Para are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against the highhandedness of UC-131 Chairman Rajab Khaskheli.—RT

## MPA Rana Hameer Singh Sodho's personal secretary reviews development works in Umerkot



UMERKOT: Kanwal Mohan Lal Ratnani, the personal secretary to PPP MPA Rana Hameer Singh Sodho, along with other local leaders, conducted a thorough review of the ongoing development works in various localities of Umerkot. The inspection covered Shahmir Kumbhar Colony, Sattarabad, Muno Malhi, Sodho Paro, Daro Kolhi, Jogi Colony, Bheel Paro, and several other areas. Joining Ratnani in this review were MC member Ramesh Kumar Ratnani, Haji Muhammad Urs Khart, Krishna Mehra, Advocate Bhural Bheel, Yousif Nohrio, Chitro Mal, and Gautam Bhorani. They collectively urged contractors to utilize better materials and maintain high standards of workmanship to ensure the projects provide long-term benefits to the local population.

## ADC-I Muhammad Saleem Jatoi visits Taluka Hospital Tando Adam

TANDO ADAM: Muhammad Saleem Jatoi, Additional Deputy Commissioner-I, undertook a comprehensive inspection of the facilities at Tando Adam Taluka Hospital. Accompanied by the Medical Superintendent (MS) of the hospital, Syed Fazal Shah, the visit aimed to evaluate the healthcare services available to the public. During the inspection, ADC-I Jatoi toured various departments within the hospital premises, including the Maternity Ward, Heat Stroke Ward, Outpatient Department (OPD), Emergency Ward, and the storeroom. This thorough assessment provided valuable insights into the existing healthcare infrastructure and highlighted areas for improvement. Addressing the gathering, Muhammad Saleem Jatoi reaffirmed the district administration's unwavering commitment to ensuring accessible healthcare services for all residents. He commended the dedication and hard work of the Health Department officials and staff members who tirelessly strive to uphold this essential mandate. The visit served as an opportunity for dialogue and collaboration between the district administration, healthcare professionals, paramedical staff, and other stakeholders. By fostering a spirit of cooperation, the aim is to enhance the quality of healthcare delivery and address the evolving needs of the community effectively. The proactive engagement of ADC-I Jatoi underscores the administration's proactive approach towards healthcare provision, prioritizing the well-being and welfare of every individual within the district.

## Larkana boy severely injured for trying to free a pigeon from a high tension electric wire

LARKANA: A brave act to rescue a trapped pigeon from a high-tension electric wire turned tragic for a 13-year-old boy, Mehmood Ali, son of Wahid Ali Anar, in Siddiqabad. The incident occurred on Tuesday, resulting in severe burn injuries to the young boy. In a courageous attempt to free the pigeon, Mehmood Ali climbed up to the power line, unaware of the imminent danger posed by the high-voltage wires. Tragically, he came into contact with the live wire, sustaining severe burns in the process. Upon receiving the news, concerned bystanders rushed the injured boy to the CMC Hospital, where medical professionals promptly administered first aid. However, the extent of the injuries is severe, with doctors confirming that approximately 70 percent of Mehmood Ali's body has been affected by burns. The incident serves as a sobering reminder of the dangers associated with high-tension electric wires and the importance of exercising caution around such hazardous infrastructure. The bravery displayed by Mehmood Ali highlights the innate compassion towards animals but also underscores the need for awareness and education regarding electrical safety to prevent such tragic accidents in the future.



HYDERABAD: Advocate Rashid Raees and other civil society leaders are addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad press club.—RT

## MPA Pir Mujeeb ul Haq reassures to resolve Dadu's issues

DADU: PPP MPA Pir Mujeeb ul Haq recently convened a gathering at Pir House, where he had the opportunity to meet with a significant number of local residents. The event provided a platform for Barrister Pir Mujibul Haq to interact directly with the people of Dadu, listening to their grievances and discussing potential solutions. Emphasizing the PPP's commitment to serving the people, Barrister Pir Mujeeb ul Haq reiterated the party's dedication to promptly addressing the issues faced by the public. The gathering served as a testament to the party's ethos of grassroots engagement and responsiveness to the needs of the community. Amidst a supportive atmosphere, many party workers and supporters also joined the event, demonstrating their solidarity with MPA Pir Mujeeb ul Haq and their shared commitment to the betterment of Dadu. The presence of enthusiastic party members further enhanced the dialogue between the leadership and the citizens, facilitating a productive exchange of ideas and concerns. The gathering at Pir House underscored the PPP's ongoing efforts to foster meaningful engagement with the people of Dadu, reaffirming its status as a party of the people and a champion of their interests.

## ADC-I Umerkot Javed Ahmed Dahri reviews arrangements for Agricultural Census-2024

UMERKOT: The Additional Deputy Commissioner-I, Javed Ahmed Dahri, emphasized the significance of providing comprehensive information for Pakistan's seventh agricultural census, scheduled for 2024. He made these remarks during a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office to review the arrangements for the census. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Shehzad Kunbar, Divisional Coordinator of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics for Mirpurkhas, Assistant Commissioner Umerkot, Rajab Ali Satyio, Assistant Commissioner Samaro and Pithoro, Sanjay Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Kunri, Deputy Director of Livestock, Dr. Ganesh Kumar, Deputy Director of Agriculture, District Education Officer Primary, Syed Aslam Shah, DSP Umerkot, Tasawur Jatt, and District Information Officer Umerkot, Muhammad Aslam Bhatti, among others.

During the session, Shehzad Kunbar provided a detailed briefing on the upcoming agricultural census. ADC-I Javed Ahmed Dahri highlighted the importance of the seventh agricultural census, noting that it will be the first such survey since 2010. He stressed that the data collected will be crucial for government policy-making and will have significant benefits for the public. ADC-I Dahri assured that the district administration of Umerkot is committed to ensuring the success of the agricultural census. He pledged full cooperation with all stakeholders involved, emphasizing the need for accurate and comprehensive data to facilitate effective policy decisions. The meeting underscored the collaborative efforts required to conduct the census, reflecting the administration's dedication to achieving a thorough and successful data collection process.

## Woman found dead in TMK

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A grim discovery shook the residents of Tando Muhammad Khan as the lifeless body of a woman was found on Hyderabad Road on Tuesday. The woman had been brutally murdered, her throat slit, in a disturbing and tragic incident. Authorities swiftly responded to the scene, with the body of the deceased woman transported to a local area hospital for further examination and investigation. Despite efforts by law enforcement officials, the identity of the victim remained unconfirmed at the time of reporting. The gruesome nature of the crime has sent shockwaves through the community, prompting concerns and calls for justice. Local residents are left reeling from the senseless violence that has claimed the life of an innocent woman. As investigations into the heinous crime continue, authorities are urged to expedite their efforts to apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice. The tragic loss of life serves as a stark reminder of the need for enhanced security measures and vigilance to ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the HDA Mazdoor Union are holding a protest demonstration outside the Mayor's office against the non-payment of their salaries and pensions.—RT



## New office-bearers of Tando Allahyar Union of Journalists elected

**By Afaqo Khanzada**  
TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Tando Allahyar Union of Journalists conducted its elections under the supervision of Mirza Pathan and Shabbir Mashori, culminating in the selection of new office-bearers to lead the organization.



Following the election process, Syed Naseer Muhammad Shah emerged victorious as the President, with Waheed Faraz Qureshi assuming the role of Senior Vice President and Ashraf Mangrio elected as Vice President. Suleman Senbro was elected as the General Secretary, while Qasim Chaniyo secured the position of Joint Secretary. Feroz Ali Mangarhar was appointed as the Information Secretary, and Fahad Tofique Qaimkhani took on the role of Treasurer. Raja Fahad Khanzada was elected as the Office Secretary.

## Health Dept, SPARC organize a free medical camp in Umerkot

**By Muhammad Bachal**  
UMERKOT: The Sindh Government's Health Department, in collaboration with the Health Care Service Rehabilitation Program, the Health Department Umerkot, and SPARC, an organization advocating for farmers and laborers, organized a one-day free medical camp in the village of Valhar. The camp saw a significant turnout, with over 300 patients receiving free treatment and check-ups for various ailments.



The medical team provided treatment for a range of conditions, including skin diseases, hepatitis, diarrhea, and children's illnesses. In addition to medical consultations, the camp offered free medicines and tablets. Essential diagnostic tests, such as ultrasounds, and tests for sugar, cholesterol, hepatitis, and urine analysis, were also conducted to ensure comprehensive healthcare services.

## NWM laborer dies of a heatstroke

**By Yousif Rind**  
NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: The relentless heatwave gripping Nawab Wali Muhammad Shah and its surrounding areas has tragically claimed the life of a 35-year-old laborer, Sahib Khan Bughio.

The incident unfolded in the village of Haji Khan Bughio, where the scorching temperatures proved fatal for Sahib Khan Bughio. Despite efforts by local authorities to mitigate the effects of the heat, the intensity of the heatwave proved overwhelming, resulting in the laborer's collapse. Prompt medical attention was sought, and Sahib Khan Bughio was swiftly transported to the nearby area hospital. However, despite medical efforts, he succumbed to the severe heatstroke.

## Thatta Police arrest 13 during operations against drug dealers

**By Khuda Bux Brohi**  
THATTA: Police in Thatta, under the guidance of SSP Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, have launched a rigorous crackdown on drugs, criminal elements, habitual offenders, and the sale of banned items like Gutka and mairpuri. As a result of these efforts, authorities have apprehended 12 Gutka material suppliers, one drug dealer, and one active criminal, filing cases against them under various criminal laws. During the operations conducted in Makli, Dhabeji, and Thatta, law enforcement

seized a significant amount of contraband and vehicles, including 561 kg of Gutka material, 450 packets of Mawa, 2 Cultus cars, 2 rickshaws, 1020 grams of hashish, 30 bags of local alcohol, and 1 pistol. The arrested gutka material suppliers have been identified as Mumtaz Dolo, Salman Dolo, Ismail Pathan, Shehzad Pathan, Shakeel Memon, Zahid Abdullah Mallah, Hamida Samjo, Shaista Samjo, Sanam Samjo, Maryam Samjo, Ameena Samejo, and Kulsom Samejo. Additionally, Sajid alias Sajo Dayo, a drug dealer, and Addo alias Eid Muhammad Gandro, wanted in connection with a robbery case by Makli police, have been apprehended. Further operations led to the seizure of an additional 261 kg of gutka material and 450 packets of Gutka Mawa. Separate cases under the Gutka Act, Narcotics Act, Drugs Ordinance, and Arms Act have been registered against the arrested individuals at their respective police stations. The Thatta police affirm their dedication to continuing efforts to eradicate illegal substances and criminal activities from the community.

## Pithoro residents apprehend two thieves

**By M Ismail Khilji**  
PITHORO: A daring act of vigilantism unfolded in the village of Pithoro last night, as residents apprehended two thieves in the midst of stealing a transformer installed on a pole. Chaudhry Akram Arain and fellow villagers sprang into action upon noticing the theft in progress, swiftly capturing the culprits, identified as Nazru Shar and Nasrullah Shar.

However, the confrontation did not end without incident, as the thieves resorted to violence in an bid to escape. Armed with axes, they attacked the villagers, resulting in severe injuries to one man. Prompt medical attention was provided, and the injured individual was transferred to Pithoro Hospital for treatment. Despite the assailants' attempts to evade capture, the resolute villagers managed to overpower them, ensuring that they were detained until the arrival of law enforcement authorities. The apprehended thieves, along with evidence of their crime, were subsequently handed over to the police for further investigation and legal action. The courageous actions of Chaudhry Akram Arain and the vigilant villagers exemplify the community's commitment to maintaining law and order, sending a clear message that criminal activities will not be tolerated in Pithoro.

## Jhol man found dead in Karachi



**By Mehtab Shar**  
JHOL: Concerns have been raised following the discovery of the body of a young man from Jhol in Karachi. The deceased, identified as Ghulam Rasool, son of Makoro Shar, had been reported missing, prompting a search effort that unfortunately yielded no results. However, on Tuesday, his lifeless body was discovered in the Safoora Goth area of Karachi. The tragic discovery has left the community in shock, as Ghulam Rasool's whereabouts had remained unknown despite extensive efforts to locate him. After the body was identified, with no heirs present, it was laid to rest by the Edhi Foundation. Upon learning of the tragic fate of their loved one, the family of the deceased has demanded swift action and justice. They are urging authorities to apprehend those responsible for Ghulam Rasool's untimely demise, as they seek closure and accountability for the loss of their relative. As investigations into the circumstances surrounding Ghulam Rasool's death unfold, the family's plea for justice serves as a stark reminder of the need for swift and thorough action to address such tragedies and bring perpetrators to justice.

## Case of Dahri community clash registered in Daulatpur



**By Aijaz Johkio**  
DAULATPUR: In a tragic incident that unfolded in village Sobho Dahri, Daulatpur Police have registered a case concerning a violent clash within the Dahri community, resulting in the death of a young man and critical injuries to his brother. Rashid Ali Dahri was fatally attacked, while his brother Zahid Ali Dahri sustained severe injuries. The perpetrators, identified as cousins of the victims, include police constable Deedar Ali Dahri and Dilbar Dahri. The incident has shocked the local community, as the father of the deceased and injured youths filed a formal complaint, leading to the registration of the case against the accused. Despite the gravity of the situation, the accused have not yet been apprehended by the authorities. In a gesture of support, SSP Shaheed Benazirabad, Tanvir Hussain Tunio, visited the bereaved family to offer his condolences and assured them of justice. The delay in the arrest of the accused has raised concerns among the locals, who are calling for swift action to ensure justice is served.

## SEPA's Regional In charge takes notice of public complaints in Shaheed Benazirabad

**By Farooq Junejo**  
SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Driven by the directives of the Minister for Environment, Climate Change, and Coastal Development, Dost Muhammad Rahimov, and the Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and Coastal Development, Madam Nabeela Umar, a proactive response was initiated by the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). Led by the Director General of SEPA, Naeem Ahmed Mughal, and SEPA's Shaheed Benazirabad Regional In-charge, Dr. Gul Ameer Sanbal, a raid was conducted in light of a citizen complaint lodged by Raja Khan. The operation, bolstered by a heavy contingent from B Section Police Nawabshah, targeted an area near Old Nawabshah, specifically Allah Baksh Town, Gajra Wah, where poultry feed waste, including chicken feathers, feet, intestines, and other refuse from the city, was being recklessly dumped. This unchecked dumping had resulted in pervasive odor issues and posed significant health hazards to the local populace. SEPA's swift intervention resulted in the immediate cessation of these hazardous activities on-site. Dr. Gul Ameer Sanbal, acting on behalf of SEPA Shaheed Benazirabad, conveyed strong disapproval of the unauthorized dumping and issued stern warnings that further violations would incur severe legal consequences. The coordinated efforts of SEPA, in collaboration with local law enforcement, reflect a commitment to safeguarding environmental integrity and public health. By addressing citizen complaints promptly and enforcing environmental regulations, SEPA strives to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for all residents of Shaheed Benazirabad and beyond.

## Kolhi community demands justice, protection in Talhar land dispute

TALHAR: The Kolhi community voiced their grievances through a protest demonstration staged along the Badin-Hyderabad Road, denouncing the actions of influential figures in their area. Led by protest leaders including Lashmi, Kalawati, Sodho, and others, the community members expressed concerns over the threats issued by local influential individuals near the Cattle Market.

Speaking to the media, the protest leaders highlighted the dire situation faced by their community, as they are being coerced into vacating their homes to make way for the occupation of state land where they have resided for several years. The protesters vehemently demanded that higher authorities take immediate notice of the matter and ensure justice for their community. Failure

to address their grievances, they warned, would prompt them to escalate their protest. The plight of the Kolhi community underscores the urgent need for protection of marginalized groups and the preservation of their rights. As the protest continues, the community remains steadfast in their demand for justice and accountability from the relevant authorities.—RT

## Mother of PPP's Jam Zulfikar Ali Unar and Jam Aftab Khan Unar passes away

**By Mumtaz Ali**  
QAZI AHMED: The bereaved family of the late Raees Haji Ali Nawaz Khan Unar, former MPA, mourns the loss of their beloved matriarch, as the mother of PPP leaders Jam Zulfikar Ali Unar and Jam Aftab Khan Unar has passed away.

The somber occasion saw the gathering of mourners at Naz Bagh to bid farewell to the departed soul. Funeral prayers were offered for the deceased, with an outpouring of support and condolences from relatives, friends, and members of the community. Among those paying their respects were prominent figures such as Sardar Jam Tamachi Unar, MPA Ghulam Qadir Chandio, Sardar Ifthikhar Ali Unar, Nawaz Mian Unar, and Shahid Mian Unar, alongside a multitude of individuals from neighboring cities and villages. The solemn gathering reflected the deep-rooted connections

and bonds shared by the deceased with her community. As the family navigates through this period of grief, condolences continue to pour in for Jam Zulfikar Ali Unar and Jam Aftab Khan Unar, offering solace and support during this trying time. The passing of their esteemed mother marks the end of an era, leaving behind a legacy of love, compassion, and enduring memories cherished by all those who had the privilege of knowing her.

## DC Shaheed Benazirabad Shahryar Gul Memon chairs meeting for 7th Agricultural Census-2024



**By Farooq Junejo**  
SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon chaired a meeting at the Darbar Hall of the DC Office to review the arrangements for the seventh digital agricultural census 2024 in Shaheed Benazirabad. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon stated that the seventh digital agricultural census will commence in August across the district, in line with the national schedule. He emphasized the need for the Agriculture and Livestock Departments to utilize all resources to ensure the successful and accurate collection of data for the census in the second phase from September 1 to October 15. They

Commissioner instructed the officials from the Statistics Department to share the list of villages related to the agricultural census with the respective Assistant Commissioners of the relevant areas. He assured that the district and tehsil administrations would provide full support in this regard. He also announced that the Additional Deputy Commissioner has been appointed as the focal person for the agricultural census. During the meeting, Divisional Coordinator of Statistics Bilawal Ahmed and District Coordinator Noorudin Jamali informed that the first phase of the seventh digital agricultural census will start in August, followed by the second phase from September 1 to October 15. They

further informed that the training of master trainers for the agricultural census will be held in Islamabad from July 1 to July 11, while the training for supervisors and other staff will take place in Nawabshah from July 22 to July 27. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner One Shaheed Benazirabad Nawab Sameer Laghari, Additional Deputy Commissioner Two Ali Sher Jamali, Additional Director of Agriculture Muhammad Ramzan Channa, District Education Officer Masood Ahmed Sehto, Deputy Director of Livestock Dr. Barkat Lakhro, DSP Police Abdul Hameed Jalban, as well as all the Assistant Commissioners and Mukhtarkars of the tehsils.

## People of Kandhkot appeal to PPP Chairman to take notice of Education Dept's apathy

**By Saleem Soomro**  
LARKANA: Concerned citizens of Kandhkot have penned a letter addressed to the President of the Larkana Press Club, Ghulam Murtaza Kalhoro, urging intervention from PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The letter highlights the longstanding issue of absenteeism among female teachers in government schools across the Kandhkot-Kashmore district. According to the letter, a significant number of female teachers have been consistently absent from their duties for the past five years.

This chronic absenteeism has resulted in a notable decline in the quality of education provided to students, ultimately leading to significant academic setbacks for the youth. Despite repeated complaints lodged with the authorities of the Education Department, no substantial action has been taken to rectify the situation. The continued absence of teachers has had detrimental effects, with many students failing their annual examinations due to the lack of proper instruction and guidance. In light of these concerns,

the letter emphasizes the urgent need for concerted efforts to ensure the punctuality and regular attendance of female teachers in girls' schools across Kashmir-Kandhkot. The writers of the letter implore PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, along with Sindh's Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah, the education secretary, and other relevant authorities, to take immediate action to address the issue of absenteeism among teachers and safeguard the future of the district's students.

**REGIONAL TIMES**

# NATIONAL

## 'Maryam ki Dastak' Mobile App Launched In Punjab

**LAHORE:** Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that Dastak Helpline will ensure delivery of documents relating to different services to people at the doorsteps. CM Maryam inaugurated the app 'Maryam ki Dastak'. The CM on the occasion said that this is a big initiative to bring the province to one click. She said that her dream was that the government should be paper-free. Dastak App has a cost of Rs

Thirty two field hospitals are working in villages. Today medicines are being delivered to heart patients at their homes, she said. Maryam Nawaz claimed that inflation came to the lowest level in history in just three months. Bread is available at Rs 12 besides low prices of vegetables. She also defended Punjab government's decision not to purchase wheat from farmers.—RT/Agency

# EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, June 05, 2024



## Talk about bad optics!

The recent barring of journalist Imran Riaz from boarding a Hajj flight at Islamabad Airport is a stark reminder of the draconian measures that have plagued Pakistan in recent months. This act is not only unlawful but also deeply unethical, especially given that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq had granted Imran permission to travel for the sacred pilgrimage. It is an outright violation of his fundamental rights, setting a dangerous precedent for the treatment of individuals under scrutiny.

Imran Riaz has endured significant hardships, including a period of enforced disappearance, and his very survival is nothing short of miraculous. His ordeal epitomizes the controversial and oppressive measures that have been increasingly employed over

the past 26 months. The fact that a journalist, whose profession is crucial for the functioning of any democracy, is subjected to such treatment speaks vol-



umes about the current state of affairs in Pakistan. The federal cabinet's decision to place Imran's name on the Exit Control List (ECL) on the suggestion of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) appears to be a politically motivated move rather than a step towards justice. This becomes even more evident when we consider that other individuals, including PTI leader Babar Awan, had their names re-

moved from the ECL. The selective enforcement of these measures undermines the very purpose of the ECL, which is to address legal matters and prevent those under investigation from evading justice.

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation, cannot afford to continue on this trajectory of arbitrary and unjust actions. It is imperative that better sense prevails and that an understanding is reached to restore the rule of law and respect for human rights. Imran Riaz's case is a litmus test for the country's commitment to justice and fairness. Preventing him from performing Hajj, a religious obligation, is not only a legal affront but a moral one. It is high time that the authorities reconsider their stance and allow Imran to fulfill his pilgrimage, signaling a commitment to upholding justice and human dignity.

# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori is addressing a condolence reference regarding the recent tragic gas cylinder explosion in Paretabad.-RT

## Condolence Prayers Held For Late Malik Shafi At Hyderabad's Afzal Shah Media Center



By Faisal Abbasi

HYDERABAD In a solemn gathering at the Afzal Shah Media Center newspaper market, members of the Anjuman Akhbar Foroshan Hyderabad convened to offer their condolences on the demise of Malik Shafi, the father of Abdul Khaliq, a respected member of the Federation from Nawab Shah.

President Syed Amir Afzal Shah, along with prominent figures including Aslam Qureshi, newspaper agent Rafiq Karimi, Afaq Qureshi, Ikram Qureshi, Raees Karimi, Tahir Shah, Shoaib Mushtaq, and Rizwan Karimi, joined a large number of newspaper vendors to pay their respects.

Malik Shafi, the father of Abdul Khaliq, passed away recently, leaving a void in the hearts of those who knew

him. The gathering offered Prayers for the departed soul, seeking solace and mercy from the Almighty. Additionally, condolences were extended for the loss of the young daughter of Shamsheer, a senior newspaper seller in Hyderabad.

Reflecting on Malik Shafi's life, President Amir Afzal Shah highlighted his dedicated service to newspaper vendors throughout his lifetime.

He praised Malik Shafi's unwavering commitment to the Federation's affairs, noting that his contributions would always be remembered and cherished. The condolence gathering served as a moment of reflection and solidarity, as members of the newspaper community came together to honor the memory of Malik Shafi and offer support to those affected by his loss.



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the All Students Action Committee are holding a protest demonstration against the lack of basic facilities at Chandka Medical College.-RT

## Thari Mirwah journalists hold a reception for Town Committee Chairman Dr. Rehan Ali Jogi

By M Iqbal Soomro



THARI MIRWAH: Journalists from Thari Mirwah extended a warm reception to Dr. Rehan Ali Jogi, Chairman of the Thari Mirwah Town Committee, at the Thari Mirwah Press Club. The event provided an opportunity for dialogue and collaboration between media representatives and the Town Chairman on various issues concerning the locality. During the interactive session, Dr. Rehan Ali Jogi reaffirmed his commitment to fostering development and improving the quality of life for residents across all wards of the town committee. He pledged to prioritize the provision of basic facilities to both urban and rural dwellers, ensuring equitable access to essential services. In a gesture of appreciation and camaraderie, President of the Thari Mirwah Press Club, Muntaz Ali

Shar, presented traditional Sindhi Ajrak gifts to Chairman Rehan Ali Jogi and Administrator Jameel Ahmed Shar. The exchange of gifts symbolized the spirit of unity and collaboration between the media fraternity and the town administration. The event was attended by a host of distinguished personalities, including Press Club President Muntaz Ali Shar, General Secretary Niaz Ali Shar, Muhammad Ali Shar, Basheer Shar, Altaf Shar, Niaz Ali Shar, Zawar Laghari, Parvez Bhatti, Allah Nawaz Dasti, Shabbir Khaskheli, Suleman Shar, Ajaz Bhatti, along with other officials and journalists. Their presence underscored the collective commitment to fostering constructive dialogue and collaboration towards the common goal of progress and prosperity for Thari Mirwah and its residents.

## SAU's contributions to successful 56th Annual Mango Festival in Mirpurkhas highlighted

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: The 56th Annual Mango Festival in Mirpurkhas witnessed significant contributions from Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tando Jam, showcasing its pivotal role as a key partner. From May 31st to June 2nd, 2024, SAU experts, under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri, actively participated in various sessions and sectors, ensuring the success of the festival. On the opening day, Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri graced the event alongside Provincial Minister of Agriculture Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar, Minister of Tourism and Culture Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, and other distinguished guests. The ceremony, attended by officials from provincial and district administrations, agricultural experts, and political leaders, emphasized the importance of research and student involvement in agricultural education. Provincial Minister Muhammad Bux Mahar commended Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri's efforts and announced directives for the Department of Agriculture to facilitate internships and interest-free loans for SAU students. This initiative aims to empower young graduates to establish their own agricultural enterprises. SAU's Horticulture Department, led by Dr. Mujahid Hussain Laghari and others, demonstrated grafting techniques for mango orchards, providing training to farmers and urban residents. Another team of SAU experts served as judges for the festival's stalls, evaluating mango varieties and announcing rankings. Technical sessions led by SAU experts addressed various aspects of mango cultivation, including diseases, treatments, packaging, marketing, and climate change impact. The festival also witnessed the signing of an agreement between SAU and progressive farmers, aiming to provide internships for students at farms. Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri reaffirmed SAU's commitment to agricultural development, research, and student support, emphasizing its role in enhancing the country's GDP. SAU will continue collaborating with institutions to contribute to agricultural advancement and farmer assistance.

## UC Chairman Khamiso Khan Bhand meets DC Shaheed Benazirabad Shahryar Memon

By Yousef Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Nawab Wali Muhammad, Chairman of Ahmed Bughio Union Council, convened a crucial meeting with Shahryar Memon, Deputy Commissioner of Shaheed Benazirabad, in Nawabshah to discuss pressing civic concerns plaguing the region.



The focal points of discussion included the incomplete drainage scheme, valued at millions of rupees, and the urgent need for construction of CC streets and drains in various areas of the city. Chairman Khamiso Khan Bhand, addressing the media, highlighted the detrimental impact they have on the community.

Chairman Bhand informed the gathering about the UC's concerted efforts to address the challenges, including the submission of requests for vital infra-

structural projects. These requests encompassed the construction of the Nawab Wali Muhammad Higher Secondary School building, provision of primary and furniture for buildings across villages within the UC, and the installation of RO plants to combat the contamination of drinking water in the region.

In response, Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Memon pledged his full support and cooperation, assuring the delegation that he would personally oversee the forwarding of these requests to the relevant de-

partments. Furthermore, he expressed his commitment to providing all possible assistance, including conducting personal visits to the schools in question to assess their needs firsthand. The meeting, attended by Vice Chairman Gul Hassan Rahu, teacher-organization leader Abdul Hamid Kalhoro, and other prominent figures, underscored the collective determination to address the pressing civic issues and improve the quality of life for residents in Nawab Wali Muhammad and its surrounding areas.

## Seminary teacher shot and injured in KN Shah robbery

By Ayaz Burio

KN SHAH: Muhammad Jabir Brohi, a resident of Khairpur Nathan Shah, fell victim to a harrowing ordeal at the hands of three unidentified armed robbers who mercilessly attacked and injured him. The incident occurred near Makhdoom Bilawal on the main Indus Highway, where the assailants brazenly robbed him of his 2018 CD motorcycle, leaving him wounded and traumatized.

Recounting the harrowing encounter, the injured Madrasa teacher revealed to journalists that he was ambushed by the robbers at gunpoint, subjected to physical assault, and rendered unconscious before the perpetrators absconded from the scene. The brazen act of violence has sent shockwaves throughout the local community, prompting calls for swift justice and action from law enforcement authorities. Expressing his anguish

and seeking recourse, Muhammad Jabir Brohi has issued a heartfelt plea to senior police officials, including the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Hyderabad and the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Dadu, to recover his stolen motorcycle and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice. His impassioned appeal underscores the urgency and gravity of the situation, as he seeks closure and reparation for the trauma inflicted upon him.

In a chilling ultimatum, the injured victim has warned that if justice is not swiftly served, he will resort to extreme measures, threatening to set himself on fire in a desperate act of protest. The distressing episode serves as a stark reminder of the pervasive threats posed by criminal elements in the region, necessitating concerted efforts from authorities to uphold law and order and safeguard the safety and well-being of citizens.



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Joint Action Lawyer Forum are holding a protest demonstration for the arrest of the accused involved in the murder of Amar Sindhu Hullo.-RT

# SPORTS



## PAK vs IND: US official reassures of extra security for highly anticipated T20 World Cup clash



NEW YORK: As fans eagerly wait for the much-anticipated high-voltage T20 World Cup 2024 clash between arch-rivals Pakistan and India, the United States has ensured "extra security" for the match slated for June 9 at New York's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium.

"We've been gearing up for that match because we know it's the biggest match in the world and we'll have extra security that day," Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman said while speaking to Indian media.

His remarks come after the city's administration, last week, beefed up security measures amid attack threats issued by a terrorist outfit.

Revealing the details of the security plan for the big day, Blakeman said that they have the services of Nassau County Police Department, New York state police, state park police, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Port Authority Police, MTA police, fire marshal along with

volunteer firefighters and Customs and Border Patrol personnel.

"We're going to be ready for anything that might occur, and we're pretty confident it won't happen. But if it does, we're ready," he said.

The Nassau County official's reassurance comes after Nassau County Police Department Commissioner Patrick Ryder had assured of the game's venue to be the "safest place" for the Pakistan-India match.

"I can guarantee you this is the largest security we have ever had to do in this county's history, and I can also guarantee you the safest place to be in Nassau County on June 9 will be inside that stadium," Ryder said.

Furthermore, New York Governor Kathy Hochul has already dismissed the reports of threat stressing that she had been working with the law enforcers to ensure the safety of visitors and New Yorkers during the cricket World Cup.—Agency

## T20 World Cup 2024: Exciting Afghanistan beat Uganda by 125 runs

GUYANA: Afghanistan defeated Uganda by 125 runs in the fifth match of the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 at Providence Stadium in Guyana on Tuesday.

Earlier, Uganda won the toss and chose to bowl first against their opponents in the Group C match. They were handed over a target of 184 runs.



Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi bagged career-best figures of 5-9. The winners dismissed Uganda for only 58 in 16 overs.

Farooqi claimed two wickets in the very first over of the innings which put Uganda on the backfoot during the run-chase. After the early loss of wickets, Uganda weren't able to recover and

were bundled out for a low total.

Naveen-ul-Haq and Rashid Khan also claimed two wickets each.

In a sorry batting display, Robinson Obuya was the top scorer for Uganda with 14 runs in 25 balls.

Uganda had won the toss and decided to bowl first against Afghanistan in the fifth match of the World Cup.

Batting first, Afghanistan finished on 183-5 in 20 overs.

Afghanistan opens provides a solid start to their side with a 154-run stand for the first wicket. Rahmanullah Gurbaz scored 76 runs in 45 balls, meanwhile Ibrahim

Zadran added 70 in 46. Gurbaz and Zadran's opening stand of 154 was the second highest in men's T20 World Cup history, second only to the 170 partnership between England's Jos Buttler and Alex Hales at the 2022 World Cup. However, after the strong start, the Afghans lost their way and lost four quick wickets for just 15 runs which helped Uganda stem the flow of runs. Captain Brain Masaba was the pick of the bowlers for Uganda with impressive figures of 2-21 in four overs. Cosmas Kyewute also claimed figures of 2-25. In the last five overs, Afghanistan were only able to muster 27 runs for the loss of four wickets at a run-rate of 5.40.—Agency

## 'Fakhar Zaman can win match alone': Ex-Indian player warns Rohit Sharma's team



NEW YORK: While portraying the Pakistan batting as a feeble lineup, former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif has warned Rohit Sharma's team of Fakhar Zaman's explosive batting which he said could alone win a match.

Kaif said this during an appearance on Star Sports while analysing Pakistan's potential ahead of the first T20 World Cup 2024 clash with India on June 9. The high-octane game will take place at New York's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium.

The former batter stated that except for a couple of players, the rest of Pakistan played at a low strike rate. He said Fakhar and Iftikhar Ahmed were quick hitters to be reckoned with.

He said it was an open secret that Pakistan had a weak batting. "Fakhar plays a little fast, (and) if he fires, he can probably win the match alone."

Kaif said: "Iftikhar (also) plays fast but other than that, everyone plays at a strike rate of 120 to 125. (So) You are not that scared of their batting but (definitely) are scared of their bowling."

Meanwhile, the cricket commentator showed praise on Pakistani pacers, particularly, reminding Naseem Shah's T20 World Cup 2022 spell against India. "They will have Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah. Naseem didn't come to play in the (ODI) World Cup in India as he was injured. But he is fit here (and) this will be a bouncy pitch. Naseem is a very good bowler. If you talk about the Melbourne match that Virat Kohli won, if you see Naseem's first spell, he got a nick and the catch was dropped at slip," he said.—Agency

## Serbia's Mitrovic the lynchpin for Euro newcomers



LONDON: Serbia striker Aleksandar Mitrovic, a prolific marksman at club level and among the top scorers in Euro 2024 qualifying, carries the hopes of a stuttering side who will rely heavily on their attacking firepower in a long overdue Euros debut.

Mitrovic comes into the tournament with 28 goals in 28 matches in the big-paying Saudi Pro League, beaten only by its poster boy Cristiano Ronaldo, and will need that form if Serbia are to stand any chance of reaching the knockout rounds.

The Eagles, in their first Euros as an independent nation, have tough rivals to contend with, drawn in Group C with Slovenia, 1992 champions Denmark, and England, runners-up in 2020 and among the favourites to win the title.

Mitrovic, 29, has much to prove in Germany after his shootout miss in a playoff with Scotland cost World Cup regulars Serbia a spot at Euro 2020, a fourth straight

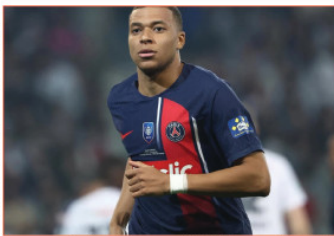
failure to qualify. It compounded what was already a difficult time for Mitrovic, who was struggling to get games and goals and saw his English club Fulham relegated from the Premier League.

But then came an astonishing turnaround, with Mitrovic rediscovering his scoring touch in the 2021-2022 campaign, netting 43 times in 46 matches to earn player of the season in the second-tier Championship and promotion for Fulham.

A year after his shootout miss, Mitrovic regained hero status for his country, scoring a 90th-minute winner against Portugal to send Serbia to the 2022 World Cup finals.

In ecstatic celebrations, Mitrovic was mobbed and found himself bottom of a pile of players. He later emerged from the dressing room to great supporters dressed in his underwear and a Serbia flag.—Agency

## Mbappe makes 'dream' move to Real Madrid



MADRID: Kylian Mbappe signed a five-year deal to move to Real Madrid from Paris Saint-Germain on Monday and hailed the move as a "dream come true".

The announcement is the culmination of Real's long courtship of one of the most prolific forwards in world football.

"Real Madrid have reached an agreement for the player to be at Real Madrid for the next five seasons," the club said in a statement.

"So happy and proud to join the club of my dream @realmadrid. Nobody can understand how excited I am right now. Can't wait to see you, Madridistas, and thanks

for your unbelievable support." 25-year-old Mbappe added on social media.

He will earn 35 million euros (\$38 million) a season, according to reports in Spain. Mbappe's last contract with PSG, signed in 2022, was a two-year deal worth some 72 million euros before tax with loyalty bonuses of a similar amount and a signing-on fee of 150 million euros.

Mbappe had verbally agreed to move to Real in February and then announced in May he would leave PSG at the end of the season.

Real, fresh from winning their 15th Champions League on Saturday with a 2-0 victory against Borussia Dortmund, moved to confirm the deal on Monday before Mbappe is involved in pre-Euro 2024 friendlies for France.

A World Cup winner as a teenager in 2018, Mbappe scored a club record 256 goals for PSG since joining the Qatar-owned club from Monaco on an initial loan in 2017.—Agency

## Germany held by Ukraine in Euro warm-up



GERMANY: Germany were held to a 0-0 draw by Ukraine as the European Championship hosts lacked a cutting edge at a sold out Max-Morlock stadium in Nuremberg.

More than 44,000 fans were in jovial mood at kickoff, expecting a Germany that have rediscovered their form under Julian Nagelsmann put on a show less than two weeks before they start Euro 2024 against Scotland in Munich on June 14.

What Germany's supporters got was something quite different, as Nagelsmann's side dominated long periods and created many chances but failed to make the breakthrough against a resilient Ukraine.

"I had the impression that the team wanted to win and we played very well for long stretches," Nagelsmann told German public broadcaster

Das Erste. "The first 20 minutes of the game were very, very good. We had to take the lead then."

"I think we need to be even more aggressive."

"We simply need to get more players into the box and put a bit more stress on their penalty area. The players we brought on didn't need any time to get into the game, they all did well," the 36-year-old added.

Germany came into this game having turned a corner under Nagelsmann, winning their last two games against France and the Netherlands with an aggressive, high tempo style and sparking optimism that, with home advantage, this European Championship could be a successful one.

Nagelsmann was without Real Madrid's Toni Kroos and Antonio Rudiger, both rested after winning the

Champions League final as well as Borussia Dortmund pair Nico Schlotterbeck and Niclas Füllkrug.

Brighton midfielder Pascal Gross deputised for Kroos admirably, pulling the strings alongside Bayer Leverkusen's Robert Andrich, and Germany were relatively comfortable at the back, as Stuttgart's Waldemar Anton enjoyed an assured full debut alongside Jonathan Tah.

It was rather in attack where Germany laboured, lacking a cutting edge - despite the impact of Nagelsmann's subs.

Arsenal's Kai Havertz was isolated at times and Bayer Leverkusen's Florian Grillitsch, whose every touch sent a buzz of excitement around the stadium, failed to get going before his withdrawal at half time.—Agency

## T20 World Cup 2024: Rashid Latif names Green Shirts' playing XI for opening match against US



KARACHI: T20 World Cup journey against the United States on June 6, former cricketer Rashid Latif has shared his thoughts on his playing XI that Green Shirts should go within the opening match.

Pakistan will be playing their first match of the mega tournament against one of the T20 World Cup's co-hosts for whom this would be the second game.

Taking to social media platform X, formerly Twitter, Latif included two frontline spinners in the Men in Green's lineup namely Abrar Ahmed and Shadab Khan.

Leaving out pacer Naseem Shah, the ex-cricketer said that if it was up to him he would either pick Salman Ali Agha or Mohammad Harris if they were part of the squad.

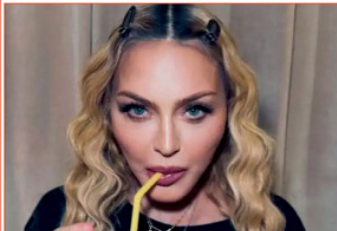
Other nine players that should be done by a senior player such as Rizwan should be Pakistan's wicketkeeper as he has been leading the game from behind the wickets and removing him all of a sudden would not serve the team well.

"The team has two wicketkeepers, Usman Khan and Rizwan. I suggest that wicketkeeping should be done by a senior player," he said while speaking on a local sports programme.

"Rizwan was running the game from behind Shaheen Afridi, Moham- [re]d now you have removed that guard," he added.—Agency

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Madonna shares usual blunt view on late concert lawsuit



Madonna is presenting her side in the lawsuit which accused her of coming to the concert past the time that was mentioned on the tickets.

The Grammy winner meanwhile argued the class action lawsuit to be dismissed because the Frozen singer says her fans know her appearance usually came at the end of the show.

In a legal document obtained by TMZ, the Vogue hitmaker said the timing on the ticket does not indicate her arrival on stage.

Instead, the 65-year-old said her concert had different stages which built momentum for her last act at the end.

"If a fan is familiar enough with Madonna's concert history to know her performances run for two hours and fifteen minutes, that fan would surely know that Madonna typically takes the stage well after the ticketed event time (after an opening act, set transition, and so on) and plays late into the night," she said.

Not to stop there, Madonna hits out at the accuser Michael Fellows who filed the case after he attended the Hung Up crooner's show in Brooklyn in December where, according to him, she came to the stage past 10:30 p.m. despite the ticketing time for the concert was 8:30 p.m.

## Jennifer Lopez's desire for public romance creates conflict in Ben Affleck marriage



Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck's marital issues stem from their differing views on fame and privacy, revealed a divorce lawyer.

According to divorce attorney Holly Davis, who is not representing either of the parties, the Accountant actor prefers a private love life while JLo wants to be open about the relationship.

Speaking with Life & Style, the lawyer said he believes their approach to life couple with Lopez's cancelled tour has put a strain on their marriage, leading to an identity crisis for both of them.

"No one truly knows what goes on in a private relationship behind closed doors, but we know the media, paparazzi and public scrutiny of their relationship played a big part in the breakup of their first engagement," he said.

"We know because they told us about it years later," Davis added. "Jennifer's desire to have the most intimate details of their relationship be part of her public story-line and a part of her brand was made obvious when she released the movie This Is Me ... Now, which serves up their relationship as a product and a brand."

"If one person advised their partner against publicizing their relationship but the other person didn't listen, and then the product flopped, there's a lot of blame and defensiveness to go around."

"For Jennifer and Ben to be living in two separate homes, for her to be posting forced smiles on social media while canceling the world tour, all of this points to an identity crisis for Jennifer and maybe for Ben as well, and an identity crisis will always strain a marriage."

## Face of the Day



Name: Muhammad Youshay  
Location: Karachi  
About me: I love taking selfies!

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

# THE HEARTLAND



## Ms. Mercedes Marie Ward Of USAID visits Shaheed Benazirabad

By Ferooz Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: USAID representative Ms. Mercedes Marie Ward met with Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Shahryar Gul Memon, at his office. The occasion was attended by Professor Gulshan Memon, Vice Chancellor of People's University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women, Nawabshah, and professors trained at American universities. During this meeting, the USAID representative informed the Deputy Commissioner that under the USAID's partnership program, 16 universities in Pakistan, including People's Medical University, Nawabshah, are being strengthened. Through this program, university professors are being trained in various American universities. She further explained that this five-year program, funded by the US government, aims to improve

higher education in Pakistan and her visit is to observe the training of university professors and explore further assistance opportunities for the university. Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon appreciated the American government's investment program for the improvement of education in Pakistan and thanked the delegation for visiting Nawabshah, expressing assurance of all possible cooperation from the administration. He mentioned that due to the special attention of Provincial Health Minister, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, developmental work is being carried out in the university. Professor Gulshan Memon of People's University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women informed that faculty members of the university are sent for training to two universities in America under this program, while some professors are being trained in Islamabad with the help of the American Embassy. He

said that under the USAID, the university will be equipped with modern equipment and will be made a model university across the country. Moreover, under this project, a program for artificial intelligence will also be initiated in the university, and nursing graduates will be sent to America for further one-year education. He informed that among the 16 universities included in this program, People's Medical University is the only medical university. Previously, an American lady visited the university's new campus and appreciated the university's infrastructure. She visited the International Digital Library, clinical departments, stadium, and meticulously maintained university hospital and mother and child hospital as well. Deputy Commissioner presented traditional gifts of the delegation on this occasion.

## Names of SU officials removed from an FIR



By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: In a significant development, the names of Dr. Younis Laghari, Director of Student Affairs at Sindh University, and Dr. Pasand Khoso, Provost Boys Hostel, have been removed from a First Information Report (FIR) filed by the Jamshoro Police. The FIR had been registered against teachers and students of Sindh University following an alleged violation during a cultural event. Initially, both officials were also implicated in the case. However, after thorough examination, authorities have confirmed that their inclusion was erroneous. Jamshoro Police officials have clarified that the decision to exclude the names of

Dr. Younis Laghari and Dr. Pasand Khoso was made after it was determined that they were not involved in the incident. The removal of their names from the FIR underscores the importance of ensuring accuracy and fairness in legal proceedings. This development comes as a relief to the individuals concerned and highlights the importance of due diligence in legal matters. It also reaffirms the commitment of law enforcement agencies to uphold justice and rectify any discrepancies promptly. The case continues to be under investigation, with authorities working diligently to ascertain the facts surrounding the alleged incident and ensure a fair and just resolution.

## Pithoro's traders protest against deteriorating law and order situation

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Responding to escalating lawlessness and rampant robberies in Dhoronaro, the local traders' union orchestrated a strike, effectively paralyzing the town and staging a protest sit-in. The move comes amid growing discontent over the prevailing security situation. Reports indicate that the traders' union, spearheaded by influential leaders including Ahsan Halipoto, Mehrah Nahi, Iqbal Arisar, and Ghulam Qadir Ghor, alongside prominent citizens and political figures like Ghulam Hussain Arisar and Roshan Mangro, organized a rally from the press club to the Umarkot-Khipro main road. Upon reaching the designated site, they commenced a

sit-in to voice their grievances. Expressing profound concerns, the leaders underscored that rampant theft and criminal activities have plagued the town, with incidents occurring on a daily basis. Despite lodging complaints and filing cases against burglaries targeting local businesses, the police's response has been lackluster, with no tangible progress in apprehending the culprits. The protesters lamented that both urban and rural residents are living in constant fear, as thefts and robberies have become commonplace occurrences. In a stern warning, they declared that the sit-in would persist until the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Umarkot initiates a transparent investigation, ar-

rests the perpetrators, and restores law and order in the area. The road blockade, positioned at the critical Umarkot-Khipro main road, disrupted traffic flow and inconvenienced travelers, exacerbating the challenges amid scorching temperatures. Subsequent negotiations, facilitated by DSP Pithoro Majid Qaimkhani and CIA Incharge Khalil Kunbar, saw constructive dialogues between the protesters and authorities. Ultimately, successful deliberations, led by Town Committee Chairman Nawab Ali Rajar at the Town Committee Dhoronaro, culminated in the cessation of the sit-in and the subsequent reopening of the town, providing a semblance of relief to the beleaguered residents.

## SSP Samiullah Soomro commits to maintaining Dadu's law and order situation

By Hanif Panhwar

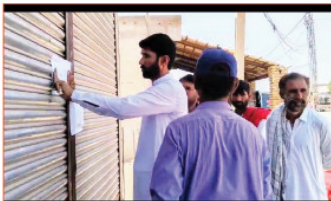
MEHAR: In a bid to reinforce the rule of law, SSP Dadu, Samiullah Soomro, convened a meeting with journalists in Mehar, reaffirming his unwavering commitment to maintaining the law and order situation in the district.

Addressing the gathering, SSP Samiullah Soomro issued a stern warning to criminals, emphasizing the imperative for adherence to legal channels. He made it unequivocally clear that those found involved in unlawful activities would face the full force of the law.

Recognizing the gravity of drug trafficking in major cities like Mehar, Dadu, and Khairpur Nathan Shah, SSP Soomro underscored the importance of a collaborative effort to combat this menace. He highlighted the stringent actions taken against drug dealers and individuals engaged in drug-related activities, including their dismissal from police ranks. Moreover, SSP Soomro unveiled plans for the implementation of new police technology systems aimed at bolstering surveillance capabilities. Additionally, he announced the com-

menement of crackdowns targeting drug dealers and their accomplices, underscoring the appointment of honest and dedicated officers to spearhead operations effectively in the district. The proactive stance adopted by SSP Samiullah Soomro reflects a resolute commitment to ensuring the safety and security of residents in Dadu. Through concerted efforts and decisive action, law enforcement authorities aim to stem the tide of criminal activities and foster an environment conducive to peace and prosperity.

## AC Muhammad Ali Gopang seals 12 shops in Sehwan



By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN: In a concerted effort to uphold law and order, Assistant Commissioner Sehwan, Muhammad Ali Gopang, spearheaded a crackdown alongside Assistant Mukhtiar Muhammad Ismail Katohar and Asghar Solangi, under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro, Riaz Hussain Wassan. Acting on special instructions from DC Jamshoro received via Hyderabad, Assistant Commissioner Gopang orchestrated an operation in Sehwan city, resulting in the sealing of 12 illegal shops across the city and surrounding areas. The targeted shops, identified for engaging in unlawful activities, were found to be operating without the requisite permissions from the government, posing potential risks and hazards to the community. Consequently, their business operations were halted, pending the acquisition of proper permits from the authorities. The decisive action taken by AC Muhammad Ali Gopang and his team underscores the commitment of local authorities to crack down on illegal activities and ensure compliance with regulatory standards. Such efforts are crucial in maintaining order and safeguarding the welfare of residents in the region.

## Cop killed, two injured after dacoits attack police picket in Kashmir

By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMIRE: A tragic incident unfolded as dacoits launched a brazen attack on a police picket, resulting in the martyrdom of one police officer and leaving two others critically injured from gunfire. The assailants managed to escape from the scene, absconding with valuable police weaponry, including one SMG and four 3-3 rifles. The fallen officer, identified as Abdul Aziz, made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, while his comrades Moulana Bux and Shahmir sustained severe injuries during the fierce exchange of fire. The swift response of law enforcement saw the injured officers promptly evacuated to a nearby hospital, where they are receiving urgent medical attention. The mar-

tyred officer's body was also transported to the hospital, as authorities grapple with the aftermath of this heinous attack. The targeted police picket had been established as part of a special operation initiated two weeks ago to combat criminal activity in the area. Despite the valiant efforts of the officers, they found themselves under siege by the ruthless dacoits. Upon receiving news of the attack, heavy contingents of both police and rangers swiftly mobilized to the scene, engaging in an intense standoff with the fleeing assailants. The exchange of gunfire between law enforcement and the dacoits continues, as authorities work tirelessly to apprehend the perpetrators and restore order to the region.

## Tando Adam's Chanhio community women demand protection

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: Chanhio community women including Samina Chanhio, Hooran Chanhio and Aroosa Chanhio, held a press conference at the Awami Press Club in Tando Adam during which they stated that they have been residing on Tando Allahyar Road for the past several years. Their father, Soofi Chanhio, who is currently away on a religious mission, was not present when 15 to 20 unknown armed men allegedly led by Kamran Rind and Zavar Rind forcibly occupied their house last night and evicted them. The af-

fectly party reported the incident to the City Police Station, and the police promptly arrived at the scene, vacated the house, and arrested four to five armed individuals. However, following this police action, the influential Rind community members have continued to visit their house under various pretexts and have allegedly issued death threats, warning that they would kill them and kidnap and murder their children. The women expressed their deep concern, stating that they are alone at home in their father's absence and are currently undergoing legal proceedings to return to their homes. They are extremely fearful and find it difficult to leave the house to attend their exams, causing them great distress. The women appealed to the authorities, including the IG Sindh, DIG Shaheed Benazirabad, SSP Sanghar, and DSP Tando Adam, to provide them immediate protection until their father returns from his mission. This would ensure their safety at home and allow them to complete their annual exams. Neighbors Anwar Ali, Javed Ali, and Ali Muhammad, who were present with the affected women, also urged the police to provide protection to the affected family.

## Naukot's growers continue their protest for water

By Mushahid Nohrio

NAUKOT: The frustration over water scarcity in Rin Branch and other vital water channels of Naukot Subdivision continues to boil over with local growers press on with their protest demonstrations. Amidst sweltering heat, protesters took to the streets to voice their grievances and demand immediate relief from the government. The shortage of water has plunged the region into economic hardship, with residents bearing the brunt of the crisis. Blaming the alleged incompetence of local authorities, protesters lamented the dire consequences of the water crisis on agriculture and livestock. Crops are withering, and livestock are suffering, resulting in significant financial losses for the community. The demonstrators accused government officials of ineffective action, exacerbating the severity of the crisis and leaving residents grappling with the devastating effects of water scarcity. Mounting debts, coupled with the loss of crops, have left many residents struggling to make ends meet. In a collective call for action, the protesters urged the government to intervene immediately and resolve the

water crisis plaguing the region. They demanded accountability from the authorities, including the Sindh Government, and called for swift measures to address the root causes of the crisis and ensure justice for the affected residents. As the protest rages on, the plight of Naukot's growers underscores the urgent need for decisive action to alleviate their suffering and safeguard the region's agricultural livelihoods. The sacrifice of the fallen officer and the resilience of the injured officers serve as a poignant reminder of the risks faced by those tasked with safeguarding the community.

## 22 injured in Banglani community clash during Thul wedding ceremony

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Chaos erupted during a wedding celebration hosted by the Banglani family in the Ghawanwari Banglani area, falling under the jurisdiction of the C-Section Police Station, resulting in a clash that left 22 individuals injured. The altercation escalated as attendees exchanged blows, wielding sticks and engaging in physical confrontations. Among those injured were Ishaq, Sajjan,

Ayaz Ahmed, Mashooq Banglani, Wahid, Tariq Ahmed, Khan Muhammad, and 15 others, all of whom suffered varying degrees of injuries. In the aftermath of the clash, the injured were swiftly transported to the Taluka Hospital for urgent medical treatment, highlighting the severity of the altercation. Law enforcement authorities intervened promptly to quell the disturbance, apprehending five individuals believed to be directly involved in instigating the clash. The police presence helped restore order to the tumultuous scene, preventing further escalation of the conflict.

The motive behind the clash during what was supposed to be a joyous occasion remains under investigation, as authorities work to ascertain the root cause of the altercation and ensure that those responsible are held accountable for their actions.

## Woman killed, two injured in Kandiaro's Chandio-Kalhorro clash

By Usama Ayaz

KANDIARO: A longstanding feud between the Chandio and Kalhorro communities erupted into tragedy in village Nabi Bux Kalhorro near Kandiaro, claiming the life of a woman and leaving an elderly woman and a young boy injured. The deceased woman was laid to rest at her family's ancestral graveyard, while the injured victims are currently receiving medical treatment at a local hospital. Tensions remain palpable in the region as both factions have yet to reconcile, perpetuating the risk of further violence. In light of

the escalating conflict, civil society leaders have called upon the authorities to intervene and facilitate dialogue between the warring groups, urging for immediate measures to restore peace and prevent further bloodshed. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of unresolved disputes and underscores the urgent need for concerted efforts to foster reconciliation and harmony within communities.

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A tragic incident unfolded at a police check post in the Gahpur Police Station of Kashmir district, resulting in the martyrdom of a police officer and injuries to two others in an attack. The severity of the situation has

prompted swift action from the Sindh Police, with DIG Nasir Aftab taking immediate notice of the incident. Following the attack, the Sindh Police have been mobilized to address the situation, with SSP Kashmir contacted to provide a comprehensive report on the matter. Reports in-

## DIG Nasir Aftab takes notice of dastardly attack on police picket in Kandhkot

the martyrdom of Abdul Aziz Birhmani and injuries to Shamir Birhmani and Moulana Bux Khoso. The authorities have vowed to hold officers accountable under the full force of the law. As investigations continue into the incident, the determination of law enforcement agencies to maintain peace and security in the region remains unwavering. The sacrifice of the fallen officer and the resilience of the injured officers serve as a poignant reminder of the risks faced by those tasked with safeguarding the community.

# METRO KARACHI



## CM Murad Allocates Rs71m In Grants To NGOs

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah distributed Rs71.252 million cheques among the NGOs working for differently-abled persons to procure assistive devices for differently-abled persons.

The cheque distribution ceremony was held at CM House. It was attended by Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) Tauha Farooqi,



heads of the NGOs and rehabilitation centres. The CM said that his government had established rehabilitation centres for persons with disabilities all over the province to facilitate the parents to enrol their differently-abled children to make them effective persons of society.

The NGOs given cheques include Ida Rieu Welfare Association Rs29.135 million, JS Academy of Noor-e-Ali Trust Rs10 million, Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC) Rs11.446 million, Autism Care & Rehabilitation Organization (ACRO) Rs1.557 million, Pakistan Association of Blind (PAB) National Rs9.430 million, Special Children School Karsaz of Pak navy Rs4.178 million, Imran Rehabilitation Centre (Shareef Ha-ron Trust) Rs3.5 million, NGO for Development of Special Persons (NSDP) Rs586,000 and Pakistan Wheelchair Cricket Council (PWCC) Rs1.425 million.—RT



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's Rabita Committee Senior Deputy Convener, Syed Mustafa Kamal along with other party leaders is addressing a press conference at Pakistan House.—RT

## Mustafa Kamal Calls For Action Against Lethal Muggings As Street Crime Continues To Surge In Karachi

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal demanded on Tuesday that the government to take measures to curb deadly street crime in the country that led to brutal killing of a number innocent civilians.



Addressing a fiery press conference, Kamal termed the ongoing killing of civilians over resisting robberies 'genocide'.

He rejected law enforcement agencies' claim of peace in the country highlighting 71 people killed by muggers this year.

Kamal during the presser was surrounded by people carrying pictures of victims who lost lives in different mugging incidents in the metropolis.

MQM leader urged the government to take immediate measures against the rising street crime and safety of the citizens.

Just yesterday, a young man was shot dead by

muggers during a motorcycle snatching attempt in Gulshan-e-Iqbal.

According to the FIR registered on the complaint of Usman Moin, brother of the victim, identified as 27-year-old Ittiqa Moin, two armed men on a motorcycle intercepted Ittiqa as he was returning from a bakery run.

They forcibly snatched his motorcycle, mobile phone, and cash, and started beating him. This is when Ittiqa put up resistance, prompting the muggle to open fire.

Kamal condoled with the parents of Ittiqa and said that people of urban areas are being oppressed under the quota system in Sindh for the last 50 years.

He alleged that jobs are given to the people of rural Sindh on the quota of rural Sindh by creating fake domiciles and now these talented youths are being killed under the guise of robbery.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Man Abducted While Riding A Bike



KARACHI: In a bizarre incident, the traffic police in Karachi lifted a motorcycle along with the rider for resisting the towing of his vehicle, media reported on Tuesday.

The incident occurred near the Passport Office in Karachi's Saddar Area on Monday, where the traffic police officer and lifters lifted the motorcycle along with the citizen and drove away.

The citizen resisted and tried to retrieve his motorcycle, but the police officer refused to listen. The video of the incident is going viral on social media.

Meanwhile, DIG Traffic Ahmed Nawaz has ordered an investigation into the matter.

Police officials claimed that the citizen had initially lain down in front of the lifter's vehicle and later sat on his motorbike.

The police have returned the motorbike to the citizen after he submitted the apology at the police station.—RT/Agency

## Robbery Attempt In DHA Leaves Karachi Businessman Dead

KARACHI: A businessman was killed by motorcycle-riding assailants during a robbery attempt in Karachi's upscale Defence Housing Authority (DHA) neighbourhood on Tuesday.



According to details, the incident took place on Street No. 12, DHA Phase II. The armed motorcycleists followed Asif Balwani, the owner of an embroidery factory, and shot him near his home.

SSP South Sajid Sadozai stated that Balwani, around 60 years old, had recently bought a house in DHA. He had withdrawn a significant amount of money from a bank and was heading home when he was attacked.

"The assailants failed in their robbery attempt, as the victim's mobile phone and the Rs1 million cash he had withdrawn were still in the car," Sadozai said.

The SSP South added that all evidence from the crime scene has been collected, and CCTV footage from the surrounding area is being reviewed.—RT/Agency

## CM Inaugurates Disabilities Training Center

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah today inaugurated the Vocational Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities, Ancholi in a simple ceremony organised at CM House's Conference Room on Tuesday. He got the plaque unveiled by a differently-abled person - Ali Ansar.



The ceremony was attended by provincial secretaries, notables and heads of different NGOs working for persons with disabilities.

The CM was told that 240 persons with disabilities, including 120 girls have been enrolled at the

Vocational Centre and they are being imparted vocational training. Of 240 students, 60 have been enrolled in Computer Science, 72 in Tailoring, 48 in Beautification and 60 in Mobile Repair.

The CM directed the Secretary DEPD to run the centre effectively and he would provide more facilities and equipment if needed.—RT

## JJ Condemns Growing Number Of Targeted Killings And Street Crime Murders

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Ameer Munem Zafar has expressed his profound grief and grave concerns over the target killing of another youth while offering resistance to street criminals.



The JI leader expressed these views at Idara Noor-e-Haq, here on Tuesday while commenting over the recent spike in target killing and street crimes in the mega city.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that 20-year-old Abdul vander Basti was gun downed in Karachi in a bid to snatch mobile phone and cash, whereas Asif Salman Balwani was targeted in the broad day light.

At one hand, Karachiites have already been facing a hell like situation due to skyrocketing street crimes, whereas on the other hand a fresh spree of target killing has been witnessed in the city, he said, asking what their fault was. The Sindh government, the police de-

partment and other law enforcement agencies have failed in Karachi when it comes to the security of life and possession, he said.

He further said that corruption, political interference and recruitment have plagued the Sindh police. He also highlighted the failure of the Safe City Project that had consumed billions of rupees.

On the occasion, he demanded to purge the police of black sheep, recruit locals in the Karachi police and bring in across the board reforms in the police department.—RT/Agency

## Ban Imposed On Public Display Of Weapons

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Tuesday imposed an immediate ban on the display of weapons across the province for three months, media reported.

According to the notification issued by the Sindh Home Department, private security guards could carry weapons only at the site of their duty, while display of weapons in vehicles during travel would be prohibited.

The ban would not be applicable on personnel of police and other law enforcement agencies during their duty hours. Whereas, private security companies would only be allowed to carry weapons at the place of duty within the working hours.

However, they were prohibited from displaying weapons openly in vehicles during transportation. They could keep their weapons inside the vehicle.

The SHOs of police stations across the province have been authorised to register complaints under section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code over violation of the ban. The development comes as Karachi 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.—RT/Agency

## MQM To Unveil An Alternative Budget: Sattar

KARACHI: MQM leader Farooq Sattar has said they are presenting a shadow budget for the development of the people of Pakistan.



Talking about the shadow budget, he said Muttahida Business Forum had prepared the budget after intense working.

He said anti-Karachi budget were presented and the party had always opposed that moves.

Sattar said, quoting Quaid-e-Azam's saying, "If we property, uses our resources, our country will develop". The independence of any country always depended on economic strengths, he said. "If our

suggestion are accepted in the budget, people of Pakistan will get relief," he said adding only Karachi Monetary Fund could set the country free of the IMF. He urged Islamabad and Rawalpindi to break their shackles to bring the country out of the economic crises.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Will Regress If Independence Is Compromised: Haleem



KARACHI: Haleem Adil Sheikh, President of PTI Sindh, has warned that the country will regress if judicial independence is compromised. Speaking to the media after a court appearance in Malir, he emphasized the crucial role lawyers play in safeguarding the constitution and the country. "Lawyers must take the initiative to protect the nation's judicial independence," he stated.

Sheikh expressed concern over the current state of the judiciary, noting that judges are themselves calling for justice. He urged his "lawyer brothers" to actively struggle for the judiciary's independence to ensure the country's progress and freedom.

He criticized both the opponents and leaders of the current government, accusing them of prioritizing power over the welfare of the people and the judiciary. "There is no differ-

ence between them; their only concern is power," he said.

Sheikh called on the judiciary to meet the demands of justice and expedite pending cases to amplify the voice of justice across the country. He envisioned a new era focused on the rights of the people.

The hearing of cases against Haleem Adil Sheikh in the Malir court has been postponed until July 11.

## Security Guard Fatally Shoots Karachi TikToker For Filming Video

KARACHI: In a tragic incident, a young man, who was making a video for a social media platform, was shot and killed by a security guard in Karachi, media reported.



The police said that the security guard, identified as Ahmed Gul, 35, opened fire on Saad Ahmed, 24, while he was making a TikTok video near Sereena Mobile Mall in the Buffer Zone area of Karachi.

According to police, the security guard stopped the young man and then opened fire on him.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Central said that the incident occurred within the limits of Taimooria police station and the security guard has been arrested.

The SSP said that in the initial interrogation, the guard claimed that '222' was seized. The police said that the weapon used in the incident is recovered while further investigation is underway.—RT/Agency

## Eid ul-Adha Expected To Fall On June 17

KARACHI: As Pakistanis prepare for Eidul Adha by purchasing sacrificial animals, an official on Tuesday announced that the Zil Hajj moon is expected to be born on June 6.

Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfaraz stated that the new moon, which marks the start of the Islamic month of Zil Hajj, will be born precisely at 5:38 pm local time.

He said that there were high chances of the moon being sighted on June 7 as it would be of more than 26 hours by then.

If the moon is sighted on June 7 then Eidul Adha will be celebrated on June 17.

Eidul Adha marks the end of the Hajj which is one of the five pillars of Islam and should be undertaken by

every Muslim who can afford to do so. It is the second major festival for Muslims after Eidul Fitr, which is celebrated at the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting. It takes place between the 10th and 13th day of the Islamic month of Zil-hajj, which is the fifth and final pillar of Islam - finishes in Saudi Arabia. Zilhajj, the Hilal committees will take place at their respective locations.—RT/Agency



"Accept responsibility for your life. Know that it is you who will get you where you want to go, no one else."

—Les Brown

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 05 2024

## PM Promises Chinese Firms Great Dividends For Investing In Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: As Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif departed for a five-day official visit to China, he reiterated his commitment to strengthening bilateral ties by engaging in discussions with Chinese business leaders to secure investments and yield dividends mutually beneficial for companies on both sides.

"We are coming with serious plans. We will engage with you and return to Pakistan with great dividends that will benefit Chinese and Pakistani companies and the two countries will have their relations strengthened and become much higher than the Himalayas or any other highest peaks and deeper than the deepest oceans," the prime minister said in an interview with the representatives of different Chinese media groups including Xinhua news agency, national broadcaster CCTV and CGTN Urdu, prior to his first official visit to China after assuming office.

He said through the visit, Pakistan hoped to promote interaction between enterprises in both countries, utilize Special Economic Zones and Pakistan's labor advantages to establish joint ventures, facilitate the transfer of



industries and technologies, and enhance Pakistan's manufacturing output, to promote constructing upgraded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the prime minister said.

In a detailed interaction, the prime minister spelled out his government's priorities to improve the national economy through structural and institutional reforms, cost-cutting, industrialisation and facilitation of the investors.

He said Pakistan wanted to learn from Chinese experiences and build the SEZs with the first one to be developed at Pakistan Steel Mills premises already connected with the rail network and located near the port. He invited the Chinese provinces and companies to build SEZs and enter into joint ventures with Pakistani companies for

mutual benefits. Also inviting the Chinese textile sector to set up their units in Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that during the visit he would also persuade Huawei to launch short courses for Pakistani youths in information technology and artificial intelligence to make them open their offices and offer their services in the Gulf states and send remittances back to Pakistan.

Similarly, by learning from Chinese agriculture technology, Pakistan desired to multiply its agricultural produce and export them. Discussing the bilateral relations, the prime minister said, "We are two iron brothers, our friendship is unshakable and our hearts beat together."

He appreciated the Chinese support of Pakistan

through the most difficult times and said Pakistan considered China one of its most trusted friends around the globe. He said Pakistan firmly adhered to the one-China principle and this commitment would always be unwavering. About the Chinese development, he said, "Today, China has become a giant through vision, hard work, and serious and untiring efforts... All doubts about the Chinese model have been rubbished by the evidence of history." Referring to the congratulatory message from Chinese President Xi Jinping after his election, Prime Minister Shehbaz said, "This reflected the two countries' friendship, which will always be fresh in his mind." Xi's leadership which steered millions of the Chinese people out of poverty and that during the visit, he wanted to learn from the Chinese model of poverty alleviation. He said Pakistan was also ready to learn from China's governance experience, deepen reforms and counter-corruption, create enabling circumstances for Chinese investors, and provide policy support for investors.

Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said since the start of its construction in 2013, the achievements of the project had been obvious to all. "From a more convenient and faster transportation network to a cleaner and more stable energy infrastructure, the CPEC has brought broad development opportunities to Pakistan." He said as CPEC was entering the second phase, and a new stage of high-quality development, the two countries were cooperating in agriculture, mining, labor-intensive light industry and other fields. Referring to the launch of Pakistan's first moon satellite and multi-mission communication satellite with Chinese support, the prime minister said the scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries had promoted Pakistan's scientific and technological progress. The multi-mission communication satellite is expected to change Pakistan's current digital environment, provide fast internet facilities for the whole country, improve people's lives, and promote e-commerce, online government affairs and economic development, he added.—RT/Agency

## Naval Chief Urges Action Against Grave Threats To Marine Ecosystems From Human Activities

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Tuesday demanded the stakeholders and nation as a whole to address the grave threats to marine ecosystems due to the anthropogenic activities posing serious risk to marine life and ecology.

In his message in connection to the World Environment Day issued by the Pakistan Navy, the Admiral said, "World Environment Day (WED) is observed on 5th of June each year and calls for protecting our natural surroundings. The day, celebrated under the ambit of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) marks an occasion to raise awareness on the challenges facing our environment such as pollution, illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable consumption, rising sea levels and food insecurity."

This year's theme for the WED is 'Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience'. The occasion will serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need to protect our land, sea, and everything in between.

He said, "Pakistan's long coastline provides access to rich resources of livelihood for millions of people. Our marine resources are a treas-



ure trove of biodiversity that support a vast array of marine life, from majestic sea turtles to colourful coral reefs."

However, the coastal areas and marine ecosystems were facing grave threats from human activities that include marine pollution, such as oil spills and industrial effluents endangering marine life and contaminating the food chain, he added.

The Naval Chief added that overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices are depleting fish populations, damaging the delicate balance of our marine ecosystem. "Rising sea levels are causing coastal erosion which is accentuated by deforestation and construction activities that threaten the very existence of our coastal communities," he said.

Pakistan Navy, he said celebrates WED to highlight the significance of environment in Pakistan to promote awareness amongst personnel and encourage them to adopt practices conducive to the marine environment. PN has initiated numerous measures and actions ranging from collection of solid waste from harbour, establishment of Reedbed Plants in all areas under its jurisdiction and extensive tree plantation campaign. PN also continues to sensitize concerned Government and Non-Government organizations and departments to join hands and take actions to stem marine pollution and desertification.

A number of activities are planned by Field Commands and PN Units to inculcate a sense of responsibility amongst all to save and preserve our environment. I expect all under Command to make concerted efforts and conduct these activities earnestly. National Institute of Maritime Affairs is also organizing a one-day seminar on the theme of the day to create awareness in collaboration with Bahria University, WWF Pakistan and Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination.—RT/Agency

## Fawad Advocates Dialogue With Imran As The Only Way Forward

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that there is no other way except to hold dialogues with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, media reported.

Speaking to media representatives outside the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan, Fawad Chaudhry asked the PTI not to get 'excited' and hold dialogues. "You (PTI) have got an opportunity to resolve the issues through dialogue," he added.

The former minister said that the PTI founder has the "power of the people" of the country, adding that no one can stand against the power of the people.

Fawad Chaudhry said that what was going to occur already happened but now the country cannot be run through the use of force.

He said that former Army Chief and President General (retired) Pervez Musharraf was sentenced to death not for toppling the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) government but for 'sending' the judges home.

"Those who are seeking martial law in the country should read the episode of Pervez Musharraf," Fawad Chaudhry said.



It is pertinent to mention here that the PTI refused to hold dialogues with those who have "no authority or credibility" to mediate.

Reacting to the dialogue offer from Minister for Petroleum Division and PML-N leader Musadik Malik and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, the PTI spokesman termed the offer as ridiculous.

The PTI spokesperson said that those who offered to hold talks were "imposed through fake mandate". "National criminals do not have the authority to take decisions in the interest of the nation, nor is there room for reconciliation," it added.

The PTI made it clear that it would not hold talks with "mandate thieves" including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Pakistan People's Party, and Mutahida Qaumi Movement.

Pakistan Minister for Petroleum Division Musadik Malik said that there were always doors open in politics and PML-N leadership always called for reconciliation and dialogue. "Our party (PML-N) leadership always stressed the need for a charter of economy and democracy," he said while addressing a press conference. The minister also noted that his party wants to move forward with all political forces. Malik further said that the PTI-led government put all PML-N leaders, including Khawaja Saad Rafique, Khawaja Asif and Shehbaz Shehbaz, behind bars. He also lamented PTI's "double standards" over holding dialogue, saying that they weren't interested in holding talks with PML-N. "They [PTI] want to talk to United States and Donald Lu," he alleged.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan And China Vow To Explore Opportunities Within CPEC Framework



SHENZHEN: Pakistan and China on Tuesday agreed on the need to explore opportunities for increased cooperation between Pakistan and the Guangdong province particularly under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made the remarks during his meeting with Meng Fanli, Party Secretary of Shenzhen Municipal Committee, and Deputy Party Secretary of Guangdong Provincial Committee in Shenzhen. Speaking on the occasion, PM Shehbaz noted that frequent engagement and dialogue at the leadership level, people-to-people contacts, cultural and educational exchanges characterised the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and China. The prime minister lauded the impressive economic growth and exemplary innovative spirit of Guangdong province and also termed Shenzhen a trade gateway for China's business linkages with Pakistan. Reaffirming "the time-honoured All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China", the two sides agreed on the need to explore opportunities for increased cooperation between Pakistan and the Guangdong province particularly under CPEC.

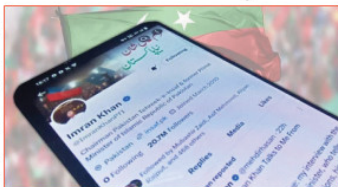
Shehbaz Sharif and Party Secretary Meng Fanli underlined the importance of robust linkages and exchanges between scientists, innovators and businessmen to harness the true potential for enhanced partnership in science and technology, innovation and trade and economic cooperation.—RT/Agency

## PTI Leaders Challenge FIA Summons In Imran's X-Post Controversy

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) summons issued to party leaders as the body probes Imran Khan's X post on the 1971 war.

In the petition, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan, Information Secretary Raouf Hasan, and Secretary-General Omar Ayub Khan alleged that the government and its allies were targeting the party through a "pre-planned attack". A post on X, formerly Twitter, was attributed to the former prime minister, which read: "Every Pakistani should study the Hamood ur Rahman Commission Report and get to know who was the true traitor, General Yahya Khan or Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

The post drew flak from government members and other politicians, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saying that Khan's true face was finally in front of the nation, implying that he wanted to divide the country. In response, the party said the PTI founder had nothing to do with the post since he was in jail. Later, a leader said everything was posted with Khan's approval, opening a new Pandora's box. However, the party later owned the post



and said it was uploaded to inform the public about past mistakes as it was crucial to learn from them so they aren't repeated. The FIA then issued notices to the party leaders. In the petition filed today, the PTI leader said, "...in the garb of the alleged tweet, the FIA is hell-bent on making another case against Imran Khan, workers of PTI and its leadership." The notices issued to the leaders, the plea said, are void, illegal, without jurisdiction, and mala fide, having been issued without lawful authority, and are liable to be set aside. The plea said that the contents of the notices—issued on May 30—were vague and the purpose of the notice, its connection with the complaint has not been explained. They mentioned that "it is well established" that the right to a fair trial includes the right to a fair investigation. In this case, however, it said, it is

clear from the complaint and surrounding circumstances and the notice that the petitioners would not be treated in accordance with the law and would also be denied a fair investigation. They added that in the case, it appears that the complainant, namely Anees Ur Rehman, technical assistant FIA, CCRC, made the alleged complaint without approval of the federal government and under a dictation. The plea said that Rehman is neither personally aggrieved nor is there any reference to any previous approval with regard to the alleged commission of offence granted by any authority or institution. The plea said that the FIA's decision to initiate an inquiry regarding the misuse of the X account is tainted with "malice" in a bid to "victim[ise], oppress, and target the workers and leadership of PTI" with a view to causing irreparable damage to the party.—RT/Agency

## IHC Halts Execution Of Five Court-Martialed Former Navy Officials

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stayed the execution of five ex-Navy officers who were previously sentenced to death through a general court martial decree, it emerged on Tuesday.

IHC's Justice Babar Sattar issued a written order for Monday's hearing on the request of Navy officers who said they were not provided legal assistance during the general court martial order.

The court order, a copy of which is available with media, said the counsels for the petitioners argued that the documents permissible to be shared with their clients, such as the abstract of evidence and court of inquiry, were also not shared with them.

The lawyers asserted that an appeal was filed against the death sentence without access to these documents and was dismissed, adding that the reasons for the appeal court upholding the sentence were not shared with the petitioners.



Furthermore, the lawyers said that they were given limited access to documents despite a court order and this prevented the petitioners from defending their rights.

Meanwhile, Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Akeel Akhtar Raja said that Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf had the authority to access the documents and according to rule 193 of the Pakistan Navy Rules, 1961, discretion was vested with him to form "an opinion that supply of any proceedings may be prejudicial to the safety or interests of the state". The AAG that in terms of

the above rule, the naval chief had formed an opinion in the cases that sharing details of the proceedings, including the findings recorded by the general court martial and the order passed in appeal upholding the death penalty, "would be detrimental to the safety or the interests of the state".

When asked as to whether the naval chief's opinion was placed on file, the AAG replied in the negative and Deputy Judge Advocate General Hamid Hayat said that it would be available with the Pakistan Navy headquarters.—RT/Agency

## ECP Reserves Verdict On Parvez Elahi's By-Election Plea For PP-32



ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday reserved its decision on the petition filed by former chief minister of Punjab Parvez Elahi for by-elections on PP-32.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja considered the hearing.

Elahi's lawyer alleged that they had not even allowed his client to submit his nomination papers in the by-election on April 21. The by-election was allegedly rigged, as Pervez Elahi's 70

polling agents were arrested by the police from 168 polling stations on the day of by-election. The lawyer argued that 70 of their polling agents were named in the FIR on the accusation of road blocking. The ballot papers were stamped after our polling agents were removed, indicating a turnout of more than 91% at 5 polling stations in the constituency.

Parvez Elahi's lawyer stated that he will provide a copy. He is presenting documents from a polling station and attaching death certificates.—RT/Agency

## Muzaffarabad Court Rejects Poet Ahmed Farhad's Bail Plea

MUZAFFARABAD: An anti-terrorism court in Muzaffarabad has rejected the bail petition of poet Ahmed Farhad.

The development comes a day after the court reserved its verdict after hearing arguments from both sides.

Speaking with journalists about the court's orders, the poet's wife Urooj Zainab said she will challenge the decision.

"Details of why the bail was rejected were not disclosed," she said addressing the press.

Just two days before the hearing of his bail plea, the ATC had ordered a medical examination of the poet amid concerns of slow poisoning.



Last week, the ATC ordered a medical examination of the poet by a team of doctors from the Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences. The development came a day after the court reserved its verdict after hearing arguments from both sides.

Farhad, known for his defiant prose, came into the spotlight after he went missing during recent protests in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. His wife, Urooj Zainab, said her husband was allegedly abducted from his house on May 14. Subsequently, she moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking her husband's recovery along with requesting the court to identify, investigate, and prosecute those responsible for his disappearance. The poet remained missing for 15 days before Attorney General for Pakistan, Mansoor Usman Awan, on May 29, in response to IHC's directions to recover the missing poet, said Farhad was arrested and in AJK police's custody.—RT/Agency