

# REGIONAL TIMES

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## Moon Sighting Confirmed As Nation To Celebrate Eid ul Azha On June 17th

KARACHI: The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee on Friday announced that it sighted the Zilhajj moon and Eidul Azha will be observed on June 17.

This meeting took place at the Pakistan Meteorological Department building in Karachi with simultaneous zonal meetings in the provincial capitals and Islamabad.

Officials from the Peshawar zonal meeting said the moon was spotted about the central committee would make the official announcement.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi later, Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad said Eid will be celebrated on June 17 after testimonies of moon sightings were received from various cities all over the country, including Peshawar, Attock, Kohat, Mianwali,



Taxila, Murree, Narowal and Lahore.

"You know this is a very blessed month and the merits of these 10 days [of Hajj] have also been explained," he said and urged people to spend the days in worship.

Maulana Azad said the country was moving forward and called on the nation to unite to foil the schemes of its enemies.

He also said the nation's prayers were behind law en-

forcement agencies working to ensure the country's security.

A day ago, Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court announced the sighting of the Zilhajj moon with the last month of the Islamic calendar beginning today.

The rituals of Hajj will commence on June 14 with the Day of Arafat on June 15. Eidul Azha will be observed in the kingdom on June 16.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan And China Pledge To Safeguard CPEC Against Critics And Opposition

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have vowed to protect the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from its detractors and adversaries as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured Beijing of providing complete security to personnel working on multi-billion projects.

PM Shehbaz is visiting China from June 4 to 8 at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, seeking to upgrade cooperation under the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

In a statement, the PM's Office said during the meeting, the two sides discussed the significance of Gwadar as an important pillar of CPEC and agreed to expedite the timely completion of all related infrastructure projects to transform Gwadar into a regional economic hub.

"They also expressed



their firm commitment to protect CPEC from its detractors and adversaries and to upgrade CPEC in the form of enhanced cooperation," the statement said.

The prime minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's unflinching resolve to ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan.

Chinese investment and financial support since 2013 have been key for the South Asian nation's struggling economy, including the rolling over of loans so that

Islamabad is able to meet external financing needs at a time when foreign reserves are critically low.

China has also invested billions in various power projects and road networks in Pakistan under the \$65 billion CPEC plan, but the implementation of various projects has slowed in recent months.

During the talks, the two leaders discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest.

The two sides agreed to

maintain high-level exchanging institutional linkages at all tiers and in all spheres of bilateral cooperation.

Pakistan and China will also continue to consult closely on issues of regional and global significance and multilateral fora, especially during the two-year tenure of Pakistan as a non-member of the UNSC.

The delegation-level talks were followed by a MoU signing ceremony, witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz and Premier Qiang, where both signed 23 MoUs and agreements deepening cooperation in transport infrastructure, industry, energy, agriculture, media, health, water, socio-economic development and others of mutual interest.

The meeting was followed by an official banquet hosted by Premier Li Qiang in honour of the prime minister.—RT/Agency

## PTI Criticizes FIA For Issuing Notice In Imran's Tweet Controversy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary-General Omar Ayub Khan has launched sharp criticism of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for serving him a call-up notice in the party founder Imran Khan's controversial tweet case.

Ayub, speaking on the floor of the National Assembly on Friday, slammed the probe agency's notices to him and other PTI leaders — including the party's Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan — in the controversial X post case.

Ayub, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the lower house of parliament, stressed that the parliamentarians were part of the state as per the Constitution. "Parliament is superior than to any other institutions in the country."

The politico questioned higher authorities about the jurisdiction of a probe agency's sub-inspector which allowed him to issue a call-up notice to the parliamentarians.



He demanded the House summon the FIA's director general to question his jurisdiction and also about the language which was used in the call-up notice.

Ayub said that he and several other PTI leaders were booked in terrorism cases in Sargodha. He alleged that "aliens" were involved in the disappearances of party workers whenever they came out of jail.

He slammed that association with the Imran-founded party was seemingly becoming a crime in the country while there was no law in place which could stop such illegal activities.

He went on to say that the former prime minister,

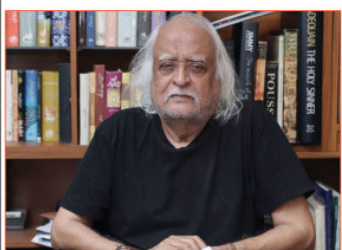
who was removed from power in April 2022, was facing "solitary confinement" which was proved from the pictures of his prison cell at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

He further alleged that former first lady Bushra Bibi was also not given any facilities at the jail.

The PTI secretary-general alleged that other PTI women leaders — Aliya Hamza Malik and Sanam Javaid — were not being released despite the mandates of their release being prepared.

"Is this a banana republic? This kind of Gestapo state policy should be eliminated and let the country go ahead," he added.—RT/Agency

## Anwar Maqsood Claims Pakistan's Loss To USA Is A Deal With The Devil



KARACHI: Prominent writer, satirist and host, Anwar Maqsood, revealed a unique reason for Pakistan's shocking defeat at the hands of America in the T20 World Cup, saying it must be an International Monetary Fund (IMF) condition.

In yesterday's T20 World Cup 2024 match at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas, the tournament witnessed a major upset as the United States (US) defeated Pakistan, shocking fans in Pakistan who are now expressing their anger and frustration at the dismal performance.

Maqsood's video is going viral on social media in which he is asked what he would say about losing to the US. The writer said that Pakistan had no choice but to

lose to America because we need a loan from the IMF, which we haven't received yet.

He quipped that the IMF must have put a condition on Pakistan to lose against America in the match to receive a new package. Apart from this, he couldn't think of any other reason for the defeat. He further commented that those who have bought the tickets for the upcoming Pakistan-India match on Sunday will now sell them at half the price.

Meanwhile, humorous memes about the national team are circulating on social media, and notable personalities from the entertainment industry are also offering interesting reactions to Pakistan's loss.—RT/Agency

## Imran Cooperates With FIA Investigation On Controversial X Post

ISLAMABAD: After refusing to appear before investigators twice in connection with the controversial tweet case, the incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has finally joined the probe into the debatable video that appeared on his official X account a few days ago, sources told media.

The former premier Khan formally joined the FIA's probe which was launched after a controversial video regarding the Fall of Dhaka incident had been posted on his official X account.

"Every Pakistani should study the Hamood ur Rahman Commission Report and get to know who was the traitor, General Yahya Khan or Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," the post read.

The sources said that an investigation team comprising FIA's Additional Director Ayaz Ahmed and Sub-Inspector Munib reached the Adiala Jail, again, to question the PTI founder.

It emerged that Khan joined the investigation in the presence of his lawyers Chaudhry Zaheer Abbas and Intezar Hussain Panjthra.

During the probe, the FIA team grilled Khan after showing his debatable X post in jail.



Not only Khan, but the FIA had also served notices to three other PTI top leaders in connection with the case, including Barrister Gohar Khan, Omar Ayub and Raouf Hasan.

However, Omar had excused from appearing before the FIA due to a "busy schedule", whereas, Gohar and Raouf appeared before the investigators on Wednesday.

Additionally, the Islamabad High Court (IHC), following a petition against the FIA's call-up notices, also directed the probe agency not to take any adverse action against them, besides directing the PTI leaders to join the probe.

Expressing severe outrage over being summoned by the probe agency for the X post probe, PTI Secretary General Omar blasted the FIA for issuing call-up notices to the parliamentarians and other

party leaders.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly today, the Leader of the Opposition questioned the jurisdiction of a probe agency's sub-inspector which allowed him to issue a call-up notice to parliamentarians.

Omar added that the parliamentarians were part of the state as per the Constitution and the parliament was superior to any other institutions in the country.

He slammed that association with the Imran-founded party was seemingly becoming a crime in the country while there was no law in place which could stop such illegal activities.

He demanded the House to summon the FIA's director general to question his constitutional limits and also about the language which was used in the call-up notice.—RT/Agency

## Unapologetic Vawda And Kamal Summoned In Contempt Proceedings

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan summoned Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Deputy Convener Syed Mustafa Kamal and independent Senator Faisal Vawda in contempt of court case, media reported.

The SC issued a written order of Thursday's hearing, maintaining that Syed Mustafa Kamal tendered an unconditional apology and left himself at the mercy of the court.

The order said that Faisal Vawda's counsel sought time to submit an additional reply while the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) submitted the transcript of the press conferences held by both parliamentarians.

The apex court in its order maintained that Faisal Vawda's press conference was broadcast by 34 news channels and while Syed



Mustafa Kamal's press conference by 28 news channels.

"In Prima facie, broadcasting such press conferences falls under the contempt of court," the order read.

The apex court also sought replies from the news channels and asked as to why contempt of court action should not be taken against them.

It is pertinent to mention here that the SC rejected the unconditional apology tendered by Syed Mustafa Kamal while Faisal Vawda refused to apologies.

The Supreme Court (SC) had issued contempt of court notices to independent Senator Faisal Vawda and MQM-Pakistan MNA Mustafa Kamal over anti-judiciary rhetoric.

The apex court sought notice of press conferences held by Senator Faisal Vawda and Kamal wherein they demanded evidence of interference in the judiciary.

The top court then issued notices to both leaders and asked them to submit their response before the court.—RT/Agency

## Video Statement By Shah Mahmood Recorded In May 9 Proceedings

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore police on Friday recorded a video statement of incarcerated PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi in cases related to the violence that erupted in the country after party founder Imran Khan's arrest on May 9 last year, media reported.

A 9-member team of Lahore Police, led by DSP Javed Asif, visited Adiala Jail to interrogate the former foreign minister.

The team, which included experts from the Punjab Forensic Science Agency, brought modern equipment to record Qureshi's statement. The team also brought a polygraph test kit with them.

This is the third time Lahore Police have visited Adiala Jail to investigate Qureshi.

Sources told media that the investigation team probed cases registered at various police stations, including Shadman, Sarwar



Road, Mughalpur, Shahdara, Race Course, Gulberg, and Gujranwala.

Earlier, a Lahore anti-terrorism court (ATC) approved a five-day physical remand of incarcerated PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi in eight cases related to May 9 violence.

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad approved the physical remand while hearing the May 9 cases registered in different police stations of Lahore.—RT/Agency

## Justice Kayani Observes Importance Of Institutions Operating Within Their Boundaries

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday says no one is above the law and all institutions should work within their constitutional jurisdiction.

He gave these remarks while hearing the petition for the recovery of poet Ahmed Farhad Shah.

Advocate Iman Mazari appeared on behalf of the petitioner while senior journalist Hamid Mir assisted the court as amicus curiae.

Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal and Assistant Attorney General Barrister Usman Ghuman were also present in the court.

Advocate Iman Mazari said that the bail petition of Ahmed Farhad had been rejected by a local court of Muzaffargarh.

Advocate Riasat Azad said that the court shouldn't dispose of the case as it is a matter of basic human rights.

The additional attorney general said that the FIR had been launched and Ahmed



Farhad had been recovered. The court cannot proceed its hearing further when the missing person is recovered, he said.

"I am writing to chief justice to constitute a larger bench over the issue of missing persons," Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani said. The larger bench is required to have a diversified viewpoint, he added.

He was of the view that there is a need to draw a red-line. According to Justice Kayani, all the institutions should respect the constitution and no one is above the law.

"A person is facing two

cases just because of our egos and his family is suffering a lot in this scenario," he said.

Later, the IHC disposed of the petition for the recovery of missing poet.

"You can contact this court again if required in future. I know very well how to get implement my orders," remarked Justice Kayani. It may be recalled that poet Ahmed Farhad Shah had been allegedly abducted from his home on May 15.

Farhad's wife Arooj Zainab had lodged a complaint in the IHC for recovery of her husband.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



## DC Sujawal Zahid Hussain Rind Leads Strict Drainage Cleaning Ahead of Impending Rains

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind took charge of preparations for the looming rainy season with a thorough inspection of crucial drainage systems including the Three R Drain and Karo Gogro sim nullah.

During his visit, Rind meticulously reviewed the ongoing cleaning operations, leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that all necessary measures are in place to avert any potential public inconvenience when the rains arrive. He particularly emphasized the need for the Executive Engineer Drainage Division, Asif Ali Baloch, to expedite the cleaning process and guarantee the effectiveness of the drainage system.

Officials accompanying Rind provided detailed briefings on the progress of the first phase of cleaning, assuring



By Qaimuddin Memon

him that the task would be completed well in advance of the expected rainfall. Prior to this, Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind, accompanied by officials from the Public Health Engineering department, inspected water supply schemes in Wards 9, 10, and 11 of Sujawal city. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Rind directed officials

## Sehwan's Growers Demand Action Against Water Shortage



By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: The residents of various areas of Sehwan Sharif staged protest demonstration against the closure of irrigation water canals and the closure of the Shahbaz Pumping Scheme. Press clubs in the affected areas observed symbolic black day and demonstrators also staged protests against the concerned officials. On these occasions, prominent residents including Daim Talpur, Roshan Ali Burdi, Qurban Ali Talpur, Liaquat Ali Talpur, Comrade Gul Hassan Rind, Abdul Khaliq Sarki, and several others participated in the protests. The demonstrators expressed their grievances that in the 4 irrigation zones of Sehwan, including Bobak, Arzi, Jafarabad and Del, they have been deprived of agricultural water, resulting in them resorting to symbolic strikes, and the failure of irrigation officials to take action has led to a complete halt in agriculture. Since the last major devastation in 2022, when the Shahbaz Pumping Scheme was inaugurated by a significant figure of Sindh's government with the intention of revitalizing agriculture, only 3 motors out of 15 have been operational in the scheme, and only three were supplying water which has now been closed to supply water to the affected areas. As a result, we have faced significant losses in our agricultural produce, and we are struggling to make ends meet. Affected residents have demanded action from Sindh CM, Syed Murad Ali Shah, regarding the revival of the Shahbaz Pumping Scheme, and if this is not done, they have threatened to continue their strikes.

## Pakistan Youth Movement Takes To Streets Against Water Shortage In Kotri

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: The Pakistan Youth Movement took to the streets in a peaceful demonstration at Main Road Chowk in Brohi Colony, Kotri, to raise their voices against the ongoing water crisis plaguing the region. Led by Abdul Sattar Luhar, Murtaza Nohani, and other passionate activists, the protest aimed to shed light on the administrative failures contributing to the dire shortage of drinking water in Muslim Town.



By Shaikh Sindh

Amid fervent chants and placard-waving, the protesters demanded immediate action to restore water supply to Muslim Town, emphasizing the severe hardships endured by residents due to the acute water scarcity. Notable social activists, including Abdul Latif Bhutto, Asad Ali Sindh, Comrade Barkat Manghar, and Shahbaz Ali Memon, lent their voices to the cause, highlighting the exploitation of residents by the notorious tanker mafia. The protesters decried the exorbitant prices charged by the tanker mafia for water, exacerbating the already pre-

carious situation faced by the community. Despite repeated appeals to the Municipal Committee, including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and DC Jamshoro, the authorities have remained indifferent to the plight of the residents, prompting the youth movement to take a stand against the entrenched exploitation. Calls for an end to the exploitation of the people and decisive action against

the tanker mafia echoed through the streets, as the protesters urged the authorities to prioritize the basic rights and welfare of the citizens. However, with the authorities yet to respond to the longstanding grievances and demands, the Pakistan Youth Movement remains steadfast in its commitment to advocating for justice and equitable access to essential resources for all residents of Kotri.

## June 11 Marks 13th Anniversary Of Renowned Playwright Tariq Alam Abro's Passing

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: The literary community in Kotri prepares to honor the memory of the esteemed novelist, playwright, scriptwriter, poet, and photographer, Tariq Alam Abro, as his 13th death anniversary approaches. The solemn occasion will be observed by the Sindh University's Area Study Center (SAS) and Jagata Forum at the expansive auditorium of the Sindh University's Colony in Jamshoro on June 11, 2024.



Organized in collaboration with the university's Area Study Center, the event will serve as a tribute to the multifaceted contributions of Tariq Alam Abro to literature, culture, and arts. Eminent literary figures and civil society leaders are expected to grace the occasion, paying homage to the enduring legacy of Abro's creative endeavors. The commemoration of-

## Sukkur Police Roll Out Initiatives For Women's Safety And Education

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Despite strides in various spheres across Sindh, entrenched customs rooted in ignorance continue to pose challenges, particularly impacting women who often find themselves vulnerable to various forms of mistreatment. In a bid to address these issues and ensure women's safety and empowerment, the Sukkur Police have embarked on significant initiatives.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Amjad Ahmed Shaikh, underscored the importance of prioritizing women's issues, emphasizing swift justice and assistance. He highlighted the establishment of the SS Office Desk and concerted efforts to improve the atmosphere within police stations as key steps taken by the police to combat violence against women. Shaikh reiterated the police's commitment to resolving women's problems promptly, addressing issues ranging from black magic to domestic violence and workplace harassment. He stressed that acts of violence, including delayed meals and disrespect towards women, are intolerable and against the law. To further bolster awareness and advocacy, a one-day training session was conducted by Master Trainer Ghazala Anjum Kashif. Twenty individuals from across the district, comprising both men and women, were enlightened on women's roles in fostering peace, preventing domestic violence, and reshaping societal perceptions. Responding to a request from the Aurat Foundation, the Sukkur Police announced the immediate establishment of a dedicated desk to address women's concerns. Certificates were also distributed among the trained officers, signaling a concerted commitment to championing women's safety and empowerment in Sukkur and beyond.

## SEPA Team Investigates Environmental Pollution Reports In Taluka Kaloi

By Ashraf Kunbar

MITHI: After taking strict notice of the pollution caused by various coal kilns and brick kilns in the surrounding areas of Kaloi, the district administration issued directives to the relevant authorities. In response to these directives, a team from the SEPA, comprising Director General Naeem Ahmed Mughal and Regional Incharge of the Environment Department, Regional Office Mirpurkhas, Ali Muhammad Rind, along with Assistant Director Technical Abdul Aziz Mahar, Chemist Shahid Rehman, and Inspector Muhammad Iqbal Nohri, conducted a visit to Kaloi and Wangoo Mor and its

surrounding areas to inspect the brick kilns and coal kilns. During the inspection, the team observed that wood was being burnt on the brick kilns, which is strictly prohibited. No prohibited fuel, such as plastic, shoes, bottles, or cloth, was found on the kilns. However, on the other hand, the process of making coal from wood was ongoing in the coal kilns. The artificial coal produced in these kilns is made by burning wood, which results in the emission of smoke affecting the surrounding areas. Regional Incharge of the Environment Department, Regional Office Mirpurkhas, Ali Muhammad Rind, stated that the team from the SEPA has visited and submitted a report. Accordingly, action is being taken under the Environmental Protection Act 2014. He further mentioned that no individual would be allowed to pollute the environment. Anyone found engaged in such activities would face severe consequences. Moreover, it was informed that the SEPA had previously taken action against the brick kilns present at Wangoo Mor, which is why no plastic, shoes, or cloth was being burnt. Prior notices were sent to them through the police, and they were also warned personally. They were strictly instructed not to burn plastic, shoes, or other waste and further stringent action would be taken against them if they fail to comply.

## Highways Employees Union Demands Salary Increases

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The Highways Employees Union in Thul took to the streets in a fervent demonstration, demanding urgent salary increases to counter the relentless tide of inflation gripping the region. Protesters staged a sit-in in front of the Roads Office, their voices echoing with resolute slogans against the backdrop of economic hardship. Leaders of the union, including Rafiq Ahmed Golo, Abdul Sattar Pathan, Gulsher Burro, Tariq Golo, Tariq Burro, and others, spoke out passionately to the media, underscoring the imperative for salary adjustments commensurate with the steep rise in living costs.

Highlighting the stark reality faced by the working class, they stressed that the spiraling prices of essential commodities have exacerbated financial strain, particularly for the underprivileged segments of society. The demand for a 50% salary increase in the upcoming budget was emphasized as a crucial step towards mitigating the burdens borne by highways employees. The protest symbolized the unwavering resolve of the union in advocating for the welfare of its members amidst challenging economic circumstances, with hopes pinned on tangible measures to alleviate their financial plight.

## Infamous Criminal Amjad Khaskheli Surrenders At Moro Police Station



By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: In a surprising turn of events, Amjad Hussain, son of Rahim Bux Khaskheli, a wanted individual in multiple police cases, made an unprecedented decision to surrender himself at the Moro Police Station on Friday. With solemn resolve, Amjad Khaskheli, taking an oath on the Holy Quran, vowed to abstain from criminal activities in the future, signaling a remarkable shift in his stance. Speaking on the development, Station House Officer (SHO) Ali Akbar Khokhar expressed that while Amjad Khaskheli had been evading the authorities for some time, his decision to surrender demonstrates a newfound commitment to rectify his past transgressions and embrace a path of lawful citizenship. The SHO emphasized the significance of rehabilitation and second chances, expressing hope that Amjad's decision to surrender would pave the way for his rehabilitation into society as a respected and law-abiding individual. Amjad Khaskheli's voluntary surrender not only marks a significant milestone in his personal journey but also serves as a testament to the transformative power of redemption and the potential for positive change, resonating with the principles of justice and rehabilitation upheld by the law enforcement authorities.

## Pithoro's Journalists Condemn Arrest Of Their Colleague Nadir Shar

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Journalists in Pithoro took to the streets in a powerful display of solidarity, protesting the unjust arrest of their fellow journalist Nadir Shar. Gathering in front of the press club, the journalists, led by Ameer Hassan Arisar, Ghulam Qadir Arisar, Rajesh Kumar Jasvni, Asadullah Mangrio, and Ismail Khilji, raised their voices against what they termed as a false case orchestrated by drug dealers. Nadir Shar, a former president of Garhor Sharif Press Club, was allegedly targeted for his honest reporting and exposure of illicit activities carried out by drug dealers in the area. The journalists claimed that a fabricated FIR led to Shar's incarceration, a move they vehemently condemned. During the protest, slogans echoed against the backdrop of demands for a fair investigation to vindicate Nadir Shar and uphold justice. The journalists highlighted the systemic challenges faced by their fraternity, citing frequent harassment and false accusations aimed at silencing their truth-seeking endeavors.

Emphasizing the impunity enjoyed by drug dealers shielded by influential figures, the journalists underscored the need for robust protection mechanisms for journalists striving to uncover the truth. They called for immediate action to release Nadir Shar and ensure a safer working environment for all journalists. The protest served as a poignant reminder of the resilience and unity within the journalistic community, steadfast in their pursuit of justice and freedom of the press.

## SIDA MD Addresses Controversial Water Shortage Issue

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Responding to the grievances raised by the Akram Wah Abadgar Forum regarding water shortages, MD SIDA initiated dialogue by inviting forum leaders for discussions at the SIDA office, aiming to find swift resolutions to the pressing issue. Leaders representing the Akram Wah Abadgar Forum, including Haji Muhammad Isa Kaur, Bashir Ahmad Notkani, Syed Raza Muhammad Shah, Abdul Shakur Memon, Abdul Hafeez Memon, Malik Adeel Ijaz, and Shahid Jamali, convened with MD SIDA Prahitam Das, alongside the Director of the Area Water Board and other officials, to address the critical water scarcity plaguing the three sub-divisions of Akram Wah, Qazia, and the Shadi.



During the discussions, the forum leaders highlighted the dire consequences of water blockades on agricultural activities, emphasizing the urgent need for the allocation of their rightful share of water to sustain standing crops. Assuring swift action, MD SIDA pledged to lift the blockade within two days and ensure the uninterrupted supply of water to the affected sub-divisions. This commitment was met with appreciation from the forum leaders, who expressed their willingness to withdraw the protest contingent upon the fulfillment of the agreed-upon measures. However, the forum leaders cautioned that should the agreements fail to materialize, the protest would resume, underscoring the importance of honoring commitments made to address the water crisis affecting the region. The collaborative efforts between SIDA and the Akram Wah Abadgar Forum signify a step forward in resolving the water shortage issue, highlighting the significance of dialogue and cooperation in addressing pressing community concerns.

## Despair Ends Life Of Young Samaro Resident

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The tight-knit community of Samaro mourns the loss of a promising young life as 35-year-old Keval, son of Baro Kolhi and resident of village Dago Farm, tragically took his own life. The heart-wrenching incident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Bodar Farm Police Station, sending shockwaves through the local populace. Reports indicate that Keval succumbed to despair over undisclosed domestic issues, choosing to end his

life by hanging himself. The somber discovery was made on Friday, casting a pall of sorrow over the Samaro region. Authorities swiftly responded to the scene, with the body of the deceased undergoing necessary medico-legal formalities at a local area hospital before being handed over to his grieving family. The devastating loss serves as a stark reminder of the mental health challenges facing individuals within the community, underscoring the urgent need for increased awareness, support, and intervention to prevent such tragic outcomes. As the community grapples with the profound grief and sorrow stemming from Keval's untimely demise, efforts to provide solace and support to his bereaved loved ones remain paramount. The tragic incident serves as a poignant call to action for collective efforts to address mental health concerns and foster a supportive environment where individuals feel empowered to seek help and support in times of distress.

# METRO KARACHI

## UBG Anticipates Monumental Outcomes From Prime Minister's Visit To China



KARACHI: Leaders of the United Business Group (UBG), including Patron-in-Chief SM Tanveer, President Zubair Tufail, Khalid Tavab, Hanif Gohar, Momin Ali Malik, Mazhar A. Nasir, and Malik Khuda Baksh, have expressed optimism that the bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and China will reach new heights during the tenure of Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif. The UBG leaders are particularly hopeful about the Prime Minister's five-day visit to China, which is expected to inaugurate the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

The UBG representatives highlighted the business community's eagerness for rapid advancements in various economic sectors, including high-tech industries, agriculture, information technology, infrastructure, youth skills training, vocational training, industrialization, and special economic zones. They also emphasized the importance of expanding and commercializing the Gwadar port, as well as developments in the mining and minerals sectors. Additionally, there are high hopes for progress in expanding the Silk Route through enhanced road and sea linkages.

Moreover, UBG anticipates the signing of multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements between enterprises of both countries across various sectors, with a particular focus on joint ventures in the IT, textile, and agriculture sectors. These initiatives are expected to bolster the economic partnership and drive mutual growth and prosperity. —RT

## Saeed Ghani Guarantees Timely Disbursal Of Municipal Salaries And Pensions In Sindh Budget

KARACHI: The upcoming Sindh government budget for the financial year 2024-25 will include special provisions to ensure timely disbursement of salaries and pensions to municipal employees across the province. Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani announced this on Friday while chairing a meeting at the office of Additional Chief Secretary for Local Government, Syed Khalid Hyder Shah.



Ghani emphasized that the OZT (Octroi Zila Tax) share for union councils and town committees would be increased to accommodate rising expenses. He instructed regional directors of the Sindh Local Government Department to compile and submit lists of serving and retired employees drawing salaries and pensions in their jurisdictions. This data will inform budget allocations for municipal

staff salaries and pensions. Regional directors briefed Ghani on the OZT share and expenses for salaries and pensions. Ghani highlighted the need for updated data on municipal employees and expenditures to ensure sufficient budgetary provisions. He assured that a comprehensive report would be presented to the Sindh Chief Minister within 24 hours. Ghani reiterated the Sindh government's commitment to timely salary payments for municipal staff and stressed the importance of financial self-reliance for municipal agencies. He noted that the Pakistan Peoples Party's election manifesto supports devolving powers to the grassroots level and empowering municipal agencies, a goal the Sindh government is striving to achieve. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Syed Khalid Hyder Shah, Finance Secretary, Special Secretary Ayesha Mir, Regional Directors, and other relevant officials. —RT

## KCCI Applauds Government For Granting 'Industry Status' To Warehouses & Logistics

KARACHI: President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Ifkhar Ahmed Sheikh, has commended the government for granting industry status to the warehouses and logistics sector, a move long advocated by the business and industrial community.



In a statement, President Sheikh noted that this recognition is the result of continuous efforts, particularly highlighted in a recent meeting in Islamabad between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and a KCCI delegation led by Vice Chairman of the Businessmen Group, Haroon Farooqi. Farooqi played a crucial role in advocating for this change across various platforms to fulfill the business community's reasonable demand.

President Sheikh praised Prime Minister Sharif's commitment to creating an enabling business environment, noting that such efforts are steering the country towards much-needed economic progress and prosperity amidst inflation and high costs of doing business. Reflecting on the government's dedication to addressing business community concerns, he expressed hope that other critical issues raised by KCCI, especially the high energy tariffs, would soon be addressed. He called for relief in the form of reduced electricity and gas tariffs to promote industrialization, reduce inflation, and boost exports. —RT

## Sindh On High Alert Ahead Of Anticipated Heavy Rains And Flooding

KARACHI: Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed Asif Hyder Shah, chaired a crucial meeting at the Sindh Secretariat to review preparations for the heavy rains and flooding expected from July to September. The meeting included Provincial Ministers Saeed Ghani and Makhdoom Mehboob Zaman, senior government officials, and representatives from the Army, Police, HESCO, and SEPCO Divisional, Deputy, and Assistant Commissioners participated via video link. Makhdoom Mehboob

Zaman highlighted that above-average rainfall, combined with glacial melt, could bring 500,000 to 900,000 cusecs of water into the Indus River. He noted extreme rainfall in Padidan and Larkana last year and stated that warehouses in Karachi, Jamshoro, and Sukkur are stocked with emergency supplies. Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah directed departments to maintain contact with the Meteorological Department and PDMA and convene District Disaster Management Authority meetings to prepare flood contingency plans. He emphasized the need for an inventory of emergency resources and heightened preparedness due to climate change. Saeed Ghani announced the setup of relief camps at the union council level and the stocking of essential supplies in district warehouses. He assured funding for WASA in Hyderabad for cleaning stormwater drains. The Secretary of Irrigation briefed on measures to protect the LBOD and manage water flow from Balochistan.

# REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

## Maryam Orders For Full Implementation Of RUDA Master Plan



LAHORE: A decision was made to collaborate with China and other international organizations to complete the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) projects. A special meeting, chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Nawaz Sharif, included a detailed briefing by the authority CEO Imran Amin about the project.

The CM directed the implementation of the master plan in the authority area. The meeting also agreed on a proposal to build an international-level airport as part of the Twin City Project.

During the meeting, it was decided in principle to increase the forest area in RUDA from 20% to 35%. Also, it was agreed to clean the Ravi River within the RUDA area and maintain a riverbed width of more than 1,000 metres.

CM Maryam ordered the enforcement of rules prohibiting construction in the RUDA forest area and ordered a halt to the illegal sale and purchase of land in the region.

The establishment of a special police force to prevent encroachment on RUDA's land was also discussed.

On this occasion, Nawaz Sharif stated that in 2013, he had planned to develop a new city on the bank of the Ravi River. However, successive administrations created barriers. Nawaz also called for action against those delaying the future development of Lahore. —RT/Agency

## Prince Rahim Aga Khan Honored With 'Nishan-i-Pakistan' Award

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan award on Prince Rahim Aga Khan.

The top civilian award was conferred on Prince Rahim Aga Khan to acknowledge his meritorious services for the development, prosperity, and betterment of Pakistan and its people.

The award ceremony was held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, federal ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and senior government officials.



Prince Rahim Aga Khan, through his many leadership roles for more than a quarter century within the Aga Khan Development Network, dedicated his untiring efforts to improve the living standard of the people in resource-constrained regions of Asia and Africa.

Prince Rahim has contributed immensely to the economic, health, education, and cultural well-being of poor and marginalized communities, upholding a multi-generational legacy.

Under his leadership, the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development has advanced path-breaking initiatives in Pakistan in commercial banking, micro-finance, insurance, sustainable tourism and renewable energy sectors.

The Fund has enabled access to financial services for nearly 50 million people in Pakistan.

As the Founding Chairman of Aga Khan Development Network's Climate and Environment Committee, Prince Rahim Aga Khan has spearheaded the establishment of environmental stewardship policies and best practices to address climate change issues, besides generously supporting the people of Pakistan in the wake of devastating floods of 2022.

The services of the Aga Khan family for the Muslims of India, the formation of the All India Muslim League, and the creation of Pakistan were also highlighted in the ceremony. —RT

## PTI Leaders Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz And Others Granted Bail Extension In Four May 9 Cases



LAHORE: Lahore anti-terrorism court (ATC) has granted bail extension to Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) leaders, Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz Cheema, Ijaz Chaudhry and Mian Mehmood Rasheed in four cases of May 9.

Lahore ATC heard the case of PTI leaders' bail against four case of May 9 on Friday.

The case further today due to ATC Judge Arshad Javed being on leave.

Court has adjourned the case hearing until June 12 by providing extension in bails of PTI leaders.

It is pertinent to note that May 9 cases are registered against accused PTI leaders in Gulberg, Model Town, and Naseerabad police stations. —RT/Agency

# REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND

## Son Of CM's Aide Accused Of Arms Smuggling

JACOBABAD: A Joint Investigation Team (JIT) formed to probe arms smuggling to Katcha area (riverine area) dacots, revealed the involvement of the son of a Sindh cabinet member, media reported.

According to a JIT report available with media, Altaf Bhayo, the son of Sindh CM adviser on Forest and Wildlife Babal Khan Bhayo, was in contact with the suspects arrested while transporting the weapons to Katcha area dacots.

The JIT's report revealed that Altaf Bhayo provided the mobile van of his father's security protocol to the suspects.

"The police mobile van was provided to the smugglers on their wish," the JIT report added.

The JIT also revealed that the son of a Sindh cabinet member, Altaf Bhayo, provided Rs 400,000 to the suspects to purchase the weapons.

The JIT report said that one Ishfaq Lashari is the key member of the gang involved in smuggling weapons to the Katcha area dacots.

Sindh police foiled an attempt to smuggle arms to Katcha area dacots and arrested seven individuals including three policemen allegedly involved in the offense in Shikarpur on April 19.

Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon formed a JIT headed by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Larkana and tasked it to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter.

The police spokesperson said that thousands of bullets and two Kalashnikovs were recovered from the possession of the arrested individuals during the operation.

The spokesperson asserted that the consignment of arms was being smuggled from Balochistan to Shikarpur in the police mobile which was assigned to the security of the CM Adviser. —RT

## Fake Law Enforcement Officer Arrested In Karachi



KARACHI: In a significant operation, Liaquatabad police have arrested a man posing as an officer of a federal law enforcement institution in Karachi, media reported on Friday.

The accused, identified as Muhammad Owais, was allegedly involved in extorting money by impersonating a law enforcement officer. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Central Zeeshan Siddiqui stated that the accused used threats and blackmail to extort money from citizens.

Promptly responding to a complaint, the police registered a case and apprehended the alleged accused. SSP Central Zeeshan Siddiqui confirmed the arrest and stated that a case has been lodged against the accused. —RT/Agency

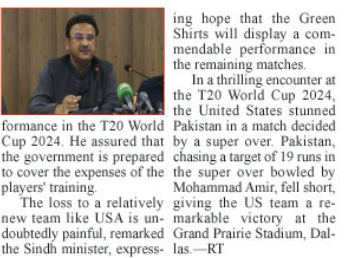
## Lanjar Offers SSU Training To Pathetic Pakistan Team After Losing To USA

KARACHI: Following Pakistan's unexpected defeat against the United States in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024, Sindh Law Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar has extended an offer of Special Security Unit (SSU) training to the players.

In a statement to the media, Ziaul Hasan Lanjar expressed the readiness of the Sindh government to provide SSU training to the Pakistan cricket team players in the wake of their performance in the T20 World Cup 2024. He assured that the government is prepared to cover the expenses of the players' training.

The loss to a relatively new team like USA is undoubtedly painful, remarked the Sindh minister, expressing hope that the Green Shirts will display a commendable performance in the remaining matches.

In a thrilling encounter at the T20 World Cup 2024, the United States stunned Pakistan in a match decided by a super over. Pakistan, chasing a target of 19 runs in the super over bowled by Mohammad Amir, fell short, giving the US team a remarkable victory at the Grand Prairie Stadium, Dallas. —RT



## Tax Collection On Sacrificial Animals In Karachi Causes Rifts Between Officials

KARACHI: Tensions erupted between officials of Gadap Town and Ibrahim Hyderi Town in Karachi as both parties clashed over the collection of tax from traders selling sacrificial animals ahead of Eid al-Adha. The dispute escalated when both towns established tax collection camps, prompting intervention from local law enforcement.

Reports suggest that the area police intervened and halted the tax collection activities of both towns pending a resolution. The conflict arose when officials from Ibrahim Hyderi Town presented a letter purportedly issued by Sindh's Minister for Local Bodies, Saeed Ghani, authorizing them to collect taxes on sacrificial animals.

The situation remains stable as authorities work to arbitrate the dispute and restore order. With Eid al-Adha festivities approaching, the resolution of this conflict is of utmost importance to ensure a smooth and peaceful celebration for Karachi's residents. Stay tuned for further updates as the situation develops.

## Dignified Labor for Agriculture Workers Key To Sustainable Development



KARACHI: Employers' associations play a crucial role in ensuring strong representation and promoting decent working conditions for all members, emphasized EFP Secretary General Syed Nazir Ali. He made these remarks during a capacity-building session for members of the Mehar Agriculture Employers (Landlords) Association (MAEA), organized by the Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) with support from the International Labour Organization (ILO), in Hyderabad.

Syed Nazir Ali highlighted the EFP's efforts in promoting fundamental principles and rights at work, and safeguarded workers' rights, enhance business sustainability, and foster sustainable economic development. He underscored the urgent need for a strong voice to improve the visibility of the informal agriculture sector in international forums and mentioned how EFP serves as a valuable networking tool, facilitating connections and collaborations.

Additionally, participants were briefed on the legal and advisory services provided by EFP to help members comply with regulations and improve industrial relations. Qazi Wajid Mahehar, President of the Mehar Agriculture Employers (Landlords) Association (MAEA), expressed gratitude to the Employers Federation of Pakistan and the International Labour Organization for bringing international attention to the significance of dignified labor.

During the session, participants shared their perspectives on improving working conditions in the informal agriculture sector. They brainstormed ideas and urged EFP to assist them in advocating for supportive legislation to address these issues. —RT

praised EFP's efforts in advancing fair employment conditions to support business sustainability.

Mahehar highlighted the financial challenges faced by small landowners and emphasized that empowering employers would benefit workers and create a robust system to boost the economic condition and eradicate unacceptable forms of work. He explained that strengthening agricultural associations would enable them to have a collective voice and generate social justice for all workers.

EDITORIAL



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

Saturday, June 08, 2024

A New Low for Pakistan Cricket

In a stunning upset that has left Pakistani cricket fans in shock, Babar Azam's team managed to find a new way to embarrass themselves and the nation by losing to World Cup debutants, the USA. This historic low, even by Pakistan's deplorable standards, exemplifies the catastrophic consequences of favoritism within the team.

The match in Dallas was a spectacle of missed opportunities and poor performance. Pakistan's top order crumbled early, with the team reduced to 26-3 inside five overs, thanks to a disciplined bowling attack led by the USA's Nosthush Kenjige and Saurabh Netravalkar. Despite a brief recovery by Babar Azam and Shadab Khan, who put on a 72-run partnership, the Green Shirts never managed to dominate the game.

The USA, having set a modest target of 159-7, leveled the score to push the game into a super over, a scenario in which Pakistan's weaknesses were



brutally exposed. Naseem Shah's early breakthrough proved futile as the US batsmen, particularly Andries Gous and Monank Patel, comfortably kept the scoreboard ticking, showcasing a calm and calculated approach that was glaringly absent in the Pakistani camp.

In the super over, the USA set a challenging 19-run target, which Pakistan failed to chase, manag-

ing only 13 runs. This defeat is not just a statistical embarrassment but a testament to the deep-rooted issues plaguing Pakistani cricket. Favoritism and poor selection policies continue to overshadow merit and performance, leading to such humiliating defeats.

The Pakistani cricket management must introspect and address these systemic flaws. The team's loss to the USA, a nation with significantly less cricketing history and infrastructure, underscores the urgent need for reform. Embracing meritocracy over favoritism could prevent such historic lows and restore pride in Pakistani cricket. Until then, the nation can only hope for a day when talent and performance dictate team selection, not favoritism and politics.

THE HEARTLAND



DC Tando Allahyar Muhammad Ibrahim Almani Overviews Progress Of Development Projects

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Muhammad Ibrahim Almani, chaired a meeting at his office regarding ongoing development schemes across the district. The meeting was attended by Chairman Municipal Committee Tando Allahyar, Syed Samar Abbas Rizvi, Assistant Commissioner Tando Allahyar Fahim Shakir, officials from the Public Health Engineering, Highway, Local Government, Anti-Encroachment Force, and other relevant departments. The Deputy Commissioner instructed officials of relevant departments to expedite the completion of ongoing development schemes across the district. He directed officials of the WAPDA remove electricity



poles around the newly constructed roads to facilitate the timely completion of schemes. Muhammad Ibrahim Almani directed all relevant departmental officials to fulfill their duties regarding development schemes. In this regard, no negligence will be tolerated, and action will be taken against negligent officers. Later, Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Muhammad Ibrahim Almani, chaired a meeting at his office regarding the anti-polio campaign.

Shadi Palli Woman Fights For Justice And Fears Son's Safety



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Shabana, wife of Ghulam Hyder Roonjho and a resident of Shadi Palli Ward No-2, took to the streets on Friday, demanding justice and protection for her son amidst troubling accusations. Addressing the media, Shabana recounted the ordeal her family has endured at the hands of an influential individual named Babu Hingoro.

According to Shabana, Babu Hingoro allegedly approached her son, urging him to visit his residence and establish a friendship. When her son declined the offer, Babu Hingoro purportedly fabricated accusations of theft against him. Despite her son's innocence, confirmed by a Jirga

DC Shaheed Benazirabad Shahryar Gul Memon Engages With Workers To Address Their Issues



By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: In a proactive move to address the pressing concerns of the citizens, Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon convened a meeting in the esteemed Darbar Hall, where he attentively listened to the grievances of various residents of the city. During the session, attendees candidly voiced their apprehensions regarding the scarcity of funds, persistent electricity shortages, delays in certificate issuance, and a spectrum of other lingering issues. Urging swift action, they submitted formal requests to the Deputy Commissioner for immediate in-

tervention. In a heartening display of responsiveness, Deputy Commissioner Memon took prompt steps to redress some of the grievances right on the spot, extending his gratitude to the citizens for their constructive engagement. Emphasizing the paramount importance of public welfare, he reiterated his unwavering commitment to prioritizing the resolution of community concerns, stressing that the alleviation of hardships faced by the populace remains a pivotal focus.

In a bid to foster continuous dialogue and ensure ongoing accessibility, it was announced that weekly public meetings will henceforth be

held at the DC office's Darbar Hall every Monday through Thursday, from 12 PM to 2 PM, providing a dedicated platform for citizens to voice their concerns directly. Furthermore, Deputy Commissioner Memon underscored that directives have been issued to district officers, mandating them to expedite the resolution of public issues in accordance with their urgency.

The proactive stance taken by Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon reflects a commitment to transparent governance and citizen-centric administration, instilling hope and confidence in the community's collective future.

DEO TMK Haji Abdul Wahab Nizamani Chairs Meeting For Academic Year 2024-25

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Under the supervision of District Education Officer Haji Abdul Wahab Nizamani, an educational session was held for the academic year 2024-25. The meeting was attended by education department officials, delegations from various organizations, and local leaders. After lengthy consultations, a joint statement was issued by District Education Officers Haji Abdul Wahab Nizamani, Umar Daraz Khan, Syed Aamjad Hussain Shah, PTA leader Haji Shafiq Muhammad Sathio, Arif Qureshi, APCA District President Munir Ahmed Bhatti and others. It was stated that a special enrollment campaign would be launched in Tando Muhammad Khan to



enroll thousands of children, especially girls, in schools. Renovation of existing buildings will be undertaken, and every possible resource will be provided to improve the quality of education. Teachers will be trained to meet the demands of modern education. Additionally, it

Larkana Woman Takes Shelter At Police Station Amid Intense Marital Strife

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Larkana city police station became an unexpected refuge for a married woman, Samia, wife of Ghulam Ali Dinari, as she sought sanctuary from alleged oppression inflicted by her husband. The case has been promptly transferred to the Women's Police Station for thorough investigation and intervention.

Samia, a resident of Larkana city's colony, took the courageous step to seek refuge at her Walid Police Station, citing years of mistreatment and oppression at the hands of her husband, Ghulam Ali Dinari. Her decision to break free from the shackles of her marital ordeal underscores the gravity of the situation and her resolve to seek justice. Authorities revealed that Samia's plea for shelter at the police station serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to address issues of domestic abuse and provide support to victims. Her case will now undergo thorough scrutiny at the Women's Police Station, where efforts will be made to ensure her safety and well-being while pursuing legal recourse.

Unidentified Men Steal Mangoes As Economic Situation Worsens In Kunri

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: The tranquil surroundings of Kunri were disrupted by a brazen act of theft as unidentified individuals illegally felled over ten valuable mango trees from an orchard situated on the property of esteemed landowner Ramzan Memon. The incident, discovered in the morning by vigilant farmers, has sent shockwaves through the local community.

Ramzan Memon, a prominent figure from Goth Rasoolabad near Kunri, was left dismayed upon learning of the unlawful destruction of his mango orchard. Promptly informed of the incident by concerned farmers, Memon wasted no time in alerting the authorities, prompting the swift arrival of the Kunri police. Law enforcement officers have commenced a thorough investigation into the



theft, although as of now, no arrests have been made in connection with the incident. The brazen nature of the theft, coupled with the significant loss incurred by the destruction of the valuable mango trees, has left the community reeling. As the investigation unfolds, residents of Kunri remain on edge, hopeful for swift justice and the apprehension of those responsible for this egregious act of theft. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of vigilance and community cooperation in safeguarding against such criminal activities.

Deputy Director Social Welfare Dept Shafiq Ahmed Mahesar Leads Meeting

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Deputy Director Social Welfare Larkana, Shafiq Ahmed Mahesar chaired a meeting which was attended by Assistant Social Welfare Officer Syed Ihsan Ali Shah, Focal Person NGOs Fida Hussain Jalbani, President of Youth Empowerment Social Welfare Organization Hathiyo Saleemullah Solangi, General Secretary Athar Ali

Sangi and Finance Secretary Muhammad Ali. During the meeting, various issues and activities of the year 24-2023 were discussed, focusing on the concerns expressed by Deputy Director regarding the professionalism in the department's functioning and the need for practical action plans. It was emphasized that the enthusiasm and passion within the organization reflect positively on future planning in the

Social Welfare Department. The progress made by the Empowerment Social Welfare Organization over the years was acknowledged, highlighting the organization's steps in step with administrative guidance and capacity building. The President of the Empowerment Social Welfare Organization thanked the Deputy Director for his cooperation and assured complete cooperation for the welfare of the people.

Talhar Youth Dies After Falling Off A Moving Van

TALHAR: A devastating accident near the livestock market on Badin Road, Hyderabad, has claimed the life of a 22-year-old resident, Ali Nawaz Chohan, who tragically fell from a speeding van belonging to Tando Muhammad Khan. The young man, who was en route to another city for work, succumbed to his injuries sustained in the fall.

Emergency services rushed to the scene to provide

medical assistance, but despite their efforts, Ali Nawaz Chohan could not be saved. His body was transferred to Talhar Hospital, where necessary legal procedures were carried out before authorities took custody.

The van driver, identified as Bhagwan Das, fled the scene following the accident. However, law enforcement agencies have since apprehended the driver and taken custody of the van for further investigation. The incident serves as a somber reminder of the dangers associated with traveling on public roads and the importance of adhering to safety precautions. As the community mourns the untimely loss of Ali Nawaz Chohan, authorities continue their efforts to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the tragic accident and ensure accountability for those involved.

SPORTS



Shaheen Shah Afridi nominated for ICC's 'Player of the Month' award



DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled the nominees for the "Player of the Month" award for May, with Pakistan's fast bowler Shaheen Afridi among the contenders.

The ICC has shortlisted three players for the prestigious award. Alongside Afridi, West Indies spinner Gudakesh Motie and Ireland's wicketkeeper-batter Lorcan Tucker are also in the running.

Afridi's inclusion in the list comes on the back of an impressive performance in May. The left-arm pacer claimed 10 wickets while playing T20 matches at an average of 14.5, showcasing his exceptional form throughout the month.

Pakistan will need Afridi to perform in the crucial match against India on Sunday, which has become even more important after the Green Shirts suffered a shocking defeat against the USA.

The weather forecast in New York suggests partly sunny skies with a chance of a shower or thunderstorm in spots. Conditions will be breezy, with winds from the west at 24 km/h and gusts reaching up to 30 km/h. Precipitation is expected to be minimal, with only 0.5 mm of rain.

Humidity will be at 44%, with 69% cloud cover and a dew point of 12°C. The probability of precipitation is 40%, and visibility is expected to be around 9 km.

In some good news for Pakistan, all-rounder Imad Wasim has made a successful recovery from a side strain injury and is set to play in the match against India.—Agency

T20 World Cup 2024: Inexperienced Canada register 12-run win against Ireland

NEW YORK: Inexperienced Canada registered a 12-run victory against Ireland in the 13th match of the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York on Friday.

The Canadians had a poor start as the Irish bowlers dominated the first innings and removed their top order in the first nine overs for just 53 runs.

It looked like yet another low-scoring encounter in New York but Nicholas Kirton and Shreyas Movva saved



run partnership which steered Canada to a defendable total. Kirton managed to get one each.—Agency

played a commendable knock, missing out on his well-deserving half-century by just one run as he got out after scoring 49 runs on 35 balls.

However, Movva remained on the wicket till the last ball and helped his team conclude their innings at 137-7.

For Ireland, Craig Young and Barry McCarthy took two wickets each while Gareth Delany and Mark Adair managed to get one each.—Agency

Boom Boom calls Pakistani strategy in Super Over a major 'blunder' against US

KARACHI: Former cricket captain Shahid Afridi called Pakistan's shocking defeat at the hands of the United States Thursday during their maiden game of the T20 World Cup 2024 a major blunder.

The Green Shirts lost during the Super Over by five runs after they were provided a target of 19 runs at the Grand Prairie Stadium, Dallas.

While speaking on his YouTube channel Friday, the 47-year-old Afridi said: "They made a huge mistake by opting for Iftikhar instead of Fakhar to play the first ball of the Super Over. The left-arm fast bowler would have suited Fakhar because of the angle of the bowling."

"I don't know who told Iftikhar to face the left-arm," Afridi said.

Afridi was also unhappy with the way Mohammad Amir bowled in the super over of the match.

"Mohammad Amir bowled really well during the match and I thought that they will go within the Super Over as well. But he conceded a lot of extras in the Super Over which also didn't help Pakistan's cause. He is experienced and knows how to bowl yorkers. The ball was reversing as well which is



why I think he shouldn't have given away so many runs," the former captain added.

Pakistan had posted a 160-run target while batting first which the US managed to level on the last ball of the last over as they concluded their innings at 159-3.

At the post-match presentation, Babar said that they failed to score with intent in powerplay.

"In the first six overs, we didn't capitalise. Back-to-back wickets always put you on the back foot, as a batter you need to step up and build partnerships," he said.

Babar mentioned that the same case was with the ball while stressing that spinners were unable to take wickets.

"We were not up to the mark in the first 6 overs with the ball. Our spinners also did not take wickets in the middle overs so these things cost us," he reversing as well which is

Lionel Messi reveals greatest football team and it's not Inter Miami

Argentine international Lionel Messi revealed the name of the greatest football team and surprisingly it is not David Beckham's Inter Miami, of which the 36-year-old is currently part of.

The Inter Miami striker has climbed up the ladder of becoming one of the greatest during his stay at the Major League Soccer (MLS). During his 15 appearances, the Argentine World Cup winner netted 14 times in all competitions.

Now, Lionel Messi is gearing up to appear at the Copa America, aiming to secure another trophy for his country.



While revealing the name of the best football team, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner told Infobase: "The best team is Real Madrid. If you go by results, Real Madrid is the best."

He added: "If you go by level of the play, I think Pep Guardiola's Manchester City are the best."

chester City won their historic titles of the Champions League and Premier League.

Man City won its fourth consecutive Premier League title in May under Guardiola.

He told Titan Sports: "[Guardiola's] the best coach in the world although, for me, he didn't have to win this Champions League to prove it, but [it is] an achievement he deserves."

Real Madrid last month won their record 15th Champions League title after defeating Borussia Dortmund at Wembley.—Agency

Canada captain takes a dig at Pakistan over shock USA defeat



DALLAS: Canada's captain Saad Bin Zafar took a dig at the Pakistan team following their shocking defeat in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign opener against co-host United States of America (USA).

Pakistan-based cricketer Saad, who has been given the leadership role of the inexperienced Canadian side, stated that he aims to do against Ireland what the USA did to Pakistan.

"We would've bowled first as well. If we can put decent runs on the board, will not be easy to change. It's always good to see an associate country to beat a full member country," stated Saad Bin Zafar at the toss against Ireland.

"Hopefully what USA did to Pakistan, we can do to Ireland. If you play your A game on the day, you can beat anyone," he added.

The Pakistan men's cricket team on Thursday, stooped to a new low as the former champions succumbed to an upset five-run defeat against the USA after an enthralling match which

was decided in the Super Over.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam entrusted senior pacer Mohammad Amir to bowl the Super Over. However, the left-arm pacer struggled to maintain his line and length and went on to concede 18 runs.

Amir bowled three wickets in the over while poor fielding, and overthrows saw the Green Shirts leaking away more runs.

Set to chase 19 in the one-over eliminator, Iftikhar Ahmed and Fakhar Zaman came out to bat for Pakistan while Saurabh Netravalkar was given the ball for the USA.

The right-handed batter played out a dot on the first delivery but hit Netravalkar for a four on the next delivery.

The boundary put the left-arm pacer under immense pressure as he bowled a wide on the next delivery. However, Netravalkar was soon to recollect himself and dismissed Iftikhar Ahmed on the next delivery.—Agency

PAK vs USA: Mohammad Hafeez questions Pakistan's Super Over botched strategy

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez questioned the Green Shirts' Super Over strategy against the United States (USA) in their first match of the T20 World Cup 2024 which was played at the Grand Prairie Stadium, Dallas, on Thursday.

Pakistan's Mohammad Amir took the ball in the Super Over and the USA concluded their innings 18-1 in reply, Pakistan could only score 13-1 and ended up losing the match by five runs.

Talking to local media channel after the match, Hafeez expressed unhappiness with Amir bowling the last over, saying it should have been Shaheen Afridi or Naseem Shah as both have been playing cricket for a long



time while this was Amir's first international tournament after returning to cricket.

"Who was the best bowler? For me, it would be Naseem Shah and then Shaheen Shah Afridi. Amir was away from Pakistan cricket for four years. Don't try to compare international T20 leagues to international cricket. You didn't trust your main player and trusted someone who is making a comeback after four years," Hafeez said.

The former cricketer also slammed the team for not being able to keep their nerves together and lost to a team with not much international experience as Pakistan.

"How did Pakistan lose not one, but two matches in a day? First, we lost the 20-over game and then the super over. We understand you were nervous. It was a nervous batting innings, it was nervous bowling and fielding. I understand it in the 20-over game. But you couldn't control your nerves in a Super Over?" he concluded.

Pakistan now play arch-rivals India next on June 9 in New York, should they suffer another defeat, their chances of qualifying for the World Cup Super 8 would be little to one. On the other hand, the USA have now two wins in two matches and they are in a strong position to make way to the last eight.—Agency

Wasim Akram lambasts Pakistan over "pathetic performance" against USA



DALLAS: Legendary pacer Wasim Akram termed Pakistan's performance "pathetic" as they succumbed to a shock loss in their ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign opener against the United States of America (USA).

Akram, while speaking to an Indian channel, did not mince his words in criticising the national team's performance before praising the associate nation for playing well in tense situations.

"Pathetic performance. They were playing against the USA. I was confident that Pakistani supporters were confident that they would win but credit to the USA for the way they played their cricket," stated Akram.

"The first innings, the second innings when they came out to chase and then of course the Super Over. I

mean 19 runs in Super Overs is like getting 36 runs in an over. So well done USA," he added.

Akram also predicted that the Babar Azam-led Pakistan would struggle to qualify for the Super 8s, given the current situation of Group A.

"Pakistan will struggle from here onwards to qualify for the Super 8s because they have to play India and two other good teams too."

Wasim Akram also highlighted the turning point of the match before pointing out the errors, the national team made.

"I think turning point of the game, was the way they got early wickets. They had one little partnership between Shadab and Babar and then nobody looked comfortable. The fielding was average, overall cricket was very average by Pakistan.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Talat Khan Location: Karachi About me: I hate Pakistan Cricket!

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

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Aniston recalls a world with no social media



When Friends premiered, there was no social media, Jennifer Aniston says, which helped the cast to remain aloof from the negativity.

Sharing her views on Variety's Actors on Actors, the Emmy winner said the absence of these platforms made the cast forge a closer bond as they did not pay attention to outside chatter.

"It was in the '90s and 2000s, and we had the luxury of there not being social media or the internet, so we were so isolated and protected," she said.

"You weren't faced with what people are commenting and ripping you apart or whatever. It was a dreamy time."

Jennifer continued, "It was really nostalgic, a nostalgic, it was really an interesting time, where we could roam about the world a lot easier."

"Even though it became a big thing, we were able to be together and support. But again, there weren't phones. It's not like hundreds of screens telling you what it is."

Jennifer Lopez's path to 'rebuild' her brand laid bare



Jennifer Lopez can rebuild her brand if she focuses on "picking quality projects" after her movie Atlas was slammed by critics.

Lopez seems to be going through tough times as her marriage with Ben Affleck is rumored to be on the rocks. At the same time, the On The Floor hitmaker has to cancel her upcoming summer tour and her residency may suffer the same fate.

Talking to her website On The JLo, Lopez informed fans she was "heart sick" to cancel the tour and wouldn't have done it if it wasn't "absolutely necessary."

PR expert Eric Schiffer has shared his views on how the Maid in Manhattan star can rebuild her brand.

"Jennifer Lopez's tour cancellation lit the torch of Mirror.

"She should engage with younger Gen Z audiences through social content that connects and invest more time in meaningful philanthropic causes. These strategic moves can turn things around for J-Lo and help her rebuild her brand bigger and more relevant than ever," he added.

REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



## Influential Figure Forces Married TMK Woman To Wed His Son

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Ghulam Rasool Mallah, a resident of Allah Warayo village, stood in defiance on Friday, leading a protest demonstration against the alleged abduction of his wife. With fervor in his voice, he addressed the gathered media, recounting the distressing events that had unfolded. According to Mallah, an influential figure in the locality, Akbar Mallah, aided by his associates, forcibly took away his wife, Mehboobzadi. The situation took a darker turn when Mallah disclosed that Akbar Mal-



had orchestrated a forced marriage between Mehboobzadi and his own son, Tufail Mallah, despite Mehboobzadi already being married. Mallah's anguish was palpable as he described the threats and intimidation he faced from the perpetrators, who seemed determined to silence any opposition to their actions. With courage

and determination, the protesting man called upon the authorities to take swift action, demanding the safe return of his wife. The protesting man said if justice is not swiftly delivered, he vowed to escalate his protest, taking his cause to wider platforms. The scene painted a poignant picture of a man grappling with injustice, standing resolute against powerful forces. Mallah's cry for justice resonated not only with those present but also with the wider community, sparking a conversation about the prevalence of such crimes and the urgent need for action.

## Khadro Notables Demand Investigation Over Skyrocketing Medicine Prices

By Akhtar Marri

KHADRO: Social activist Dr. Ashok Kumar Paremlani and Dr. Dhani Bux Marri staged a protest demonstration against the unjustified increase in the prices of medicines in the district. The protesters voiced their concerns over the exorbitant rise in medicine prices, which has made essential drugs inaccessible to many, putting lives at risk. The protest saw passionate slogans and fervent appeals for the protection of human lives amidst the backdrop of soaring medicine costs. Dr. Ashok Kumar Paremlani lamented the steep hike in prices, particularly emphasizing the impact on the marginalized segments of

society. He highlighted the plight of patients who rely on medications for conditions such as diabetes and heart diseases, stressing that the escalating prices disproportionately affect the poor. The activists directed their demands towards the Sindh Government, urging immediate action to address the issue. They called for stringent measures to regulate medicine prices, ensuring affordability for all. Dr. Ashok Kumar Paremlani emphasized that accessibility to essential medicines is paramount for saving lives and proposed that the government intervene to stabilize prices, making medications more accessible to the general public.

## Growers Protest Against Water Shortage In Naukot Subdivision

By Mushahid Nohrio

NAUKOT Amidst escalating frustrations, local growers of Naukot persist in their protest for the fifth consecutive day, decrying the acute scarcity of water in Naukot Subdivision, with their rallying point stationed at 22-Mail Mori. The agitating growers, led by prominent figures such as Arab Imran, Rab Nawaz Nohrio, Usman Halo, and others, voiced vehement opposition to the persistent water crisis plaguing the Rin Branch, a vital artery of the Naukot subdivision, and various branches of Tharparkar. Exasperated by the dire situation, they lamented that their crops teeter on the brink of ruin due to the absence of irrigation water, exacerbating an already precarious agricultural landscape. Furthermore, they highlighted the



alarming scarcity of potable water, posing an existential threat to both livelihoods and sustenance. Expressing profound disillusionment, the growers denounced the apparent apathy of irrigation officials towards their plight, despite repeated pleas and appeals from elected representatives. In a desperate plea for redressal, they underscored that the failure to address their water needs could precipitate irreversible consequences, jeopardizing the livelihoods of countless families reliant on agriculture. In a stark warning, the protesters declared their intention to escalate their agitation, announcing plans to mobilize alongside thousands of residents in a mass protest slated for June 12th, along the pivotal Mirpurkhas-Hyderabad Road. The resolute stance adopted by the growers underscores the severity of the water crisis gripping Naukot Subdivision, demanding urgent attention and remedial action from the authorities to avert a looming catastrophe.

## Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network Promotes Awareness Of Human Rights

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network organized a seminar in Sindh to address the situation of human rights and the role of media, civil society, bar associations, lawyers, and courts and national commissions. The seminar demanded the protection of human rights, children's rights, labor rights, housing rights, refugees, religious minorities, transgender rights, and the protection of citizens' rights. It emphasized that those who protect human rights in the province are themselves not safe, so their protection is also demanded. It was also highlighted that in the state, journalists are working under risk, and those who work for human rights are targeted, with notable examples like Nasrullah Gadani, Jan Muhammad Mahar, and many others who have been killed since 2002, with 23 being killed so far, and their families have not received justice. If journalists are not safe in Sindh, how can an ordinary person be safe? The Sindh Commission for Journalists' Protection, established for their protection, is inactive. The Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network's Director Advocate Ali Palh that Karachi witnessed 71 citizens being killed last year due to mugging resistance. On the other hand, in North Sindh, dacoits are making life difficult for citizens. The situation in Sindh is such that journalists are working under threats, and those who work for human rights are targeted.



Journalists have been killed, and the conditions of human rights in the province are alarming. He emphasized the need for protecting the rights of women, addressing unjust court decisions, and ensuring the protection of journalists and lawyers. The role of Karachi Bar Association was appreciated for organizing the program, aiming to unite defenders, lawyers, and media for human protection. The Director of the Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network advocated for addressing the situation of human rights and defenders' protection. Furthermore, they emphasized the need for strong evidence of real democracy in Pakistan, as elections are happening fre-

quently but democracy is weakening, as evident by Form 47. They highlighted the necessity of real democracy for the protection of human rights. On the occasion, Advocate Akhtar Channa, Chairman of human Rights Committee of Karachi Bar Association Zahid Soomro, Chairman of Criminal Law committee Abdul Qadir Soomro, Ayaz Solangi, Member of Karachi Bar Association Hasina, PFF's Saeed BALoch, Zulfiqar Halipoto, Advocate Tanvir Shar baloch, Coordinator of Transgender Rights Saima and others also addressed about the human rights and stressed the need of implementing the laws in this regard.

## Larkana's Abro Community Clash Leaves Youth Injured By Gunshot

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Tensions escalated in Shikarpur as a clash erupted between two rival groups within the Abro community, resulting in 19-year-old Meesam Abbas Ganie Abro sustaining serious injuries. The wounded youth was swiftly transported to the emergency ward of CMC Hospital to receive urgent medical attention.

At the scene of the altercation, Meesam Abbas Ganie Abro's brother, Akbar Ganie, leveled accusations against individuals identified as Mehtab, Zubair, Mansab, and others, alleging their involvement in the violent incident. According to Akbar Ganie, the altercation stemmed from a previous dispute with the accused parties, who purportedly

launched a late-night attack near their residence, firing shots that resulted in his brother's injuries. The injured youth, Meesam Abbas Ganie Abro, was subsequently transferred to Chandka Hospital in Larkana for further medical treatment as authorities initiate investigations into the circumstances surrounding the clash. The incident underscores the urgent need for de-escalation efforts and conflict resolution mechanisms within communities, as authorities work to ensure justice and restore peace amidst heightened tensions. As investigations proceed, the injured youth's family awaits updates on his condition, hopeful for a swift recovery amidst the tumultuous aftermath of the clash.

## Notorious Criminal Finally Taken Out By Daulatpur Police

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: A dramatic encounter unfolded near Kathia Mor as Daulatpur Police engaged in a shootout with a notorious criminal, Yasir Jat, resulting in his fatal demise on Friday. According to SHO Wasim Mirza, the police, in an attempt to apprehend the individuals responsible, encountered resistance when they were fired upon by the suspects. The police, acting in self-defense, retaliated, leading to a fierce exchange of gunfire that ultimately culminated in the death of Yasir Jat. Further investigations into the incident revealed that Jat had a history of involvement in serious criminal activities, including theft and robbery.

The shootout underscores the dangers faced by law enforcement officers in their tireless efforts to uphold law and order in communities plagued by criminal elements. The swift and decisive action taken by the Daulatpur Police serves as a testament to their commitment to ensuring the safety and security of residents. As investigations into the incident continue, authorities remain vigilant in their pursuit of justice, determined to bring all accountable individuals to book. The demise of Yasir Jat serves as a significant blow to criminal operations in the region, signaling a resolute stance against criminality and a commitment to maintaining peace and order.

## Hyderabad Police Seize Journalists' Mobile Phones And Cameras During Operation

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: In a crackdown on illicit activities, a joint operation led by SSP Headquarter Hyderabad, Shahwanaz Chachar, and CIA In-charge Aslam Langah resulted in the confiscation of 2000 liters of illegal liquor in Sobho Maggi village. However, the operation took a contentious turn as clashes erupted between police personnel and journalists covering the event, leading to the confiscation of their mobile phones and reports of violence.

Reports emerged detailing a raid near Sobho Maggi village, close to Tando Jam city, spearheaded by SSP Headquarters Hyderabad Shahwanaz Chachar and CI In-charge Aslam Langah, accompanied by officers from various police stations in the district. The operation culminated in the demolition of a property suspected of harboring illicit substances.

Speaking to the media, SSP Shahwanaz Chachar affirmed the seizure of 2000 liters of illicit liquor,

underlining the administration's zero-tolerance stance towards such activities within Tando Jam and the wider district. He vowed to eradicate the scourge of illicit substances with unwavering determination and integrity. However, the operation was marred by confrontations between police personnel and journalists covering the event. Several journalists reported having their mobile phones confiscated, and some were allegedly subjected to violence. In response to these allegations, the Tando Jam Media Center raised concerns and sought answers from SSP Headquarters Shahwanaz Chachar. The SSP assured that an inquiry would be conducted into the reported mistreatment of journalists, pledging that justice would be served swiftly and impartially.

The incident underscores the delicate balance between law enforcement activities and the protection of press freedoms, prompting calls for accountability and respect for journalistic rights in such operations.

## Bhitshah To Host Inaugural Mango and Handicrafts Expo Today

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: The inauguration ceremony of the 1st Mango and Handicrafts Expo will be held today at 11:00 am in HT Sorley Hall, Bhitshah. MNA Makhdoom Jameel-uz-Zaman and Sindh Minister for Rehabilitation Makhdoom Mehboob Zaman have been invited to inaugurate the two-day event. Deputy Commissioner Matiari, Muhammad Yousef Shaikh, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner-1 Noor Ahmad Khuro, visited Bhitshah to inspect the final arrangements. DC Matiari informed that all preparations for this vibrant event are complete. The expo will feature 34 stalls showcasing various mango varieties, handicrafts, a flower show, scientific models by students, and a livestock exhibition. Additionally, a colorful souvenir published by the district administration will also be launched. Special arrangements have been made for families and children, and



the public is urged to attend and provide feedback for future improvement, as the administration is committed to making this a calendar event. DC Shaikh mentioned that a seminar on the first day will feature research scholars and officers presenting papers on agriculture, handicrafts, and livestock. Awards will be given to growers, mango farmers, livestock breeders, and officers from various departments. The concluding ceremony on Sunday will be graced by Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed Asif Hyder Shah, MPA Matiari, Makhdoom Fakhar Zaman, and Commissioner Hyderabad, Ashan Ali Qureshi, as chief guests.

## Pakistan Sunni Tehreek Demands Immediate Protection Of Palestinians

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: On the occasion of the announced day of solidarity with Palestine by Pakistan Sunni Tehreek, a collective prayer was held at the central mosque of Gulistan-e-Medina Colony in Menhalabad, where solidarity with Palestinians was expressed. Senior provincial leaders including Maulana Ali Nawaz Qasmi, Shamsuddin Sarohi, Hafiz Madad Ali Qadri, and others participated in the event. During the gathering, it was reiter-

ated that Israel is a terrorist state, responsible for the oppression, coercion, and barbarism inflicted upon innocent Palestinian people for decades. It is unfortunate that Pakistan, along with other Islamic countries, remains a silent spectator in the face of such atrocities, which is regrettable. Furthermore, Israel continues to escalate its oppression by relentlessly attacking the Gaza Strip, aiming to completely annihilate and destroy the Muslim population there. The oppressive Israeli forces

## DC Thatta Munawar Abbas Soomro Pledges Strict Action Against Illegal Practices

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Munawar Abbas Soomro, Inspector Incharge IBD Ghulam Muhammad Soomro, along with officials from the Revenue Department, Market Committee, and Bureau of Supply and Prices, conducted surprise raids targeting illegal stockpiling and unlicensed manufacturing activities in Thatta. During a raid on Hemant Das' warehouse on Hyderabad Road, Thatta, officials discovered a significant

amount of goods including 3,000 bags of urea, 5,000 bags of DAP (Diammonium Phosphate), 2,000 bags of Zabardast urea, 500 bags of wheat, and 100 bags of pulses. Authorities warned against illegal hoarding of urea and directed that the excess stock be transferred to their shop on Sujawal Road, Thatta. In another operation, a factory producing chemically contaminated milk was found behind the maternity hospital in Thatta. Here, 3,000 liters of milk were confiscated. The factory owner, Altaf Hussain, son of Musa Bajoro, was given a strict ultimatum to register his facility with the Bureau of Supplies and Market Committee within a week or face legal consequences. Furthermore, a raid near Ghora Barr Stop uncovered a warehouse containing 3,000 liters of counterfeit NCP cooking oil. The premises were promptly sealed to prevent further distribution of the illicit product. These measures demonstrate the authorities' dedication to combating illegal activities and ensuring the safety and welfare of the community.

## Domestic Issues Behind Increased Suicides In Talhar

TALHAR: The village of Bachal Laghari near Talhar witnessed a heart-wrenching incident as 24-year-old Rehana, wife of Mohabatt Laghari and mother of two, took her own life by hanging herself inside her home, succumbing to the weight of domestic turmoil. Meanwhile, in another grievous event unfolding in the village of Muhammad Juman Barani, 19-year-old Meena, wife of Raich Kohli, also tragically ended her life by hanging herself at her residence. Authorities responded

swiftly, with police officers conducting necessary legal formalities before handing over the bodies to the respective families. The sorrowful incidents underscore the grim reality of domestic issues plaguing communities, often resulting in irreversible consequences. These tragedies serve as poignant reminders of the profound impact of economic hardships on mental health and familial stability. As the region grapples with socio-economic challenges, it is imperative for community leaders and authorities to prioritize mental health support and intervention measures to prevent further loss of precious lives. The bereaved families and the wider community of Talhar are left grappling with profound grief and sorrow, as they mourn the untimely loss of two beloved members. The incidents also shed light on the urgent need for enhanced awareness and support systems to address the underlying issues contributing to such distressing outcomes.—RT

-Can you believe this?

## Keti Bandar Mother Fatally Stabs Six-Month-Old Daughter

By Sajid Ali Janjaro

KETI BANDAR: A harrowing incident has shaken the community near the Baghan police station limits of Keti Bandar, where a mother tragically took the life of her six-month-old daughter. Zahida, the wife of Ilyas Dal, wielding a knife to perpetrate the heinous act, fatally stabbed her infant daughter, Rehana, near Saddar Bridge in the Baghan area. The horrifying crime was unveiled when authorities at Keti Bandar police

station received distressing information regarding the incident. Swiftly responding to the call, SHO Keti Bandar, Sain Dino Burro, arrived at the scene. He took custody of the infant's body and arranged for its transfer to a postmortem examination. Both Zahida Mallah and her husband, Ilyas Dal, were apprehended by law enforcement officials in connection with the grievous crime. Upon interrogation, Zahida reportedly confessed to the murder,

shedding light on the somber circumstances surrounding the tragic event. SHO Keti Bandar revealed that investigations are currently underway to unravel the motive behind this heartbreaking act and delve deeper into the circumstances leading to the untimely demise of the innocent child. The community of Keti Bandar is reeling from shock and grief over the loss of a young life, as authorities strive to navigate through the complexities of this distressing case.

# METRO KARACHI



## Sindh Govt Stands Firm: Karachi's Town Jurisdictions Remain Intact, Declares Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani has affirmed that the provincial government will ensure no changes are made to the original jurisdictions of the newly established town municipal corporations in Karachi. Ghani made this statement on Friday while chairing a meeting of the Sindh Local Government Commission.

He assured meeting participants that the Local Government Commission would ensure that municipal agencies in Karachi receive their rightful entitlements according to the law and constitution. The meeting extensively discussed the controversy surrounding the jurisdictions of the Korangi and Shah Faisal town municipal corporations in Karachi.

Representatives from the office of the Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh in-



formed the meeting that there were no discrepancies between the notifications issued by the Sindh government and the Election Commission of Pakistan regarding the jurisdictions of the two towns. The meeting decided that the Local Government Commission would not resolve this issue until the court issued a judgment, and the two towns reached a consensus. The jurisdiction issue was deferred to

the next meeting of the Local Government Commission. Attendees included Additional Chief Secretary of the Local Government Department Syed Khalid Hyder Shah, ECP representative Khuda Bakhsh, Local Government Commission members Abdul Rahim, Ali Ahmed Baloch, Wasim Usmani, and the commission's DG, Abu Bakar.—RT

## -Can you believe this? Female Examiner Confesses To Leaking Paper During Inter Exams



KARACHI: As the annual Intermediate examinations continue in Sindh, including Karachi, reports of paper leaks before exams have unfortunately become commonplace. Recently, a female examiner in Karachi confessed to leaking the second year's Zoology paper. The examiner, from Government Degree Girls Arts and Commerce College, admitted her involvement and issued an apology to the Chairman of the Board of Intermediate Examination, Karachi (BIEK).

In her apology, the teacher clarified that the college staff was not involved in the Zoology paper leak, taking full responsibility for her actions. She expressed remorse and pledged to avoid such mistakes in the future. The BIEK chairman assured that appropriate action would be taken against the female examiner in accordance with the rules and regulations. Earlier, the BIEK's Controller of Exams, Zarina Rashid, expressed disappointment over the paper leak incidents, emphasizing the board's efforts to prevent cheating during exams. She mentioned the implementation of watermarks on question papers to trace the source of leaks, aiming to address the recurring issue of cheating and paper leaks.—RT/Agency

## STDC To Strike Deal With Private Companies For 600MW: Nasir Shah

KARACHI: Sindh Provincial Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah chaired a board meeting of the Sindh Transmission and Dispatch Company (STDC) today in the committee room of the Energy Department. The meeting confirmed the decisions of the previous session and made several new important decisions.



The board decided that Go Energy Pvt Ltd, which aims to install a 500 MW floating solar power project on Kenjhar Lake, will connect with K-Electric via the Dhabiji grid station through STDC's transmission line. The meeting also approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this project. Additionally, the board was informed that Gul Ahmed Group Power Company Private Limited and Gul Ahmed Renewable Energy Private Limited intend to

generate 50 MW each and provide affordable electricity, compared to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). He stressed that all initiatives should be pursued through SEPRA whenever possible. Minister Shah also stated that officers and employees demonstrating good performance would be rewarded as hardworking and capable staff are valuable assets to any organization. The meeting was attended by key officials and board members of the Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority (SEPRA) to STDC.—RT

## Sharjeel Slams MQM-P For 'Politicizing' Law And Order In Karachi

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, criticized the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) for politicizing the law and order situation in the province, particularly in Karachi.



Speaking to media outside the Sindh Assembly, Minister Memon accused MQM-P of attempting to politicize the Hyderabad cylinder blast incident, stating, "Gone are the days when the city used to be shut down on a call from London." He further alleged that MQM-P members make fiery speeches, apologize, and then repeat the cycle. Minister Memon highlighted the efforts of Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, and Health Minister Dr. Azra

Fazal Pechhu in visiting the hospital to inquire about the health of the blast victims. This criticism comes after MQM-P and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) traded barbs over rising street crimes in Karachi, with MQM-P alleging a failure on the part of the Sindh government to protect citi-

zens. Senior Deputy Convener MQM-P, Syed Mustafa Kamal, stated that the recent wave of street crimes is part of a larger scheme to economically exploit Karachi's citizens, criticizing the release of individuals involved in crimes on bail by the courts.—RT

## FPCCI Demands Abolition Of Section 7E Of Income Tax Ordinance

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), has urged the government to abolish Section 7E of the Income Tax Ordinance (ITO) 2001, calling it unproductive and unfair for levying deemed or imaginary income on immovable properties. He noted that Section 7E has not significantly increased tax collection and has instead caused chaos in the real estate sector.



Mr. Sheikh also advocated for the establishment of a Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in Pakistan, similar to other regional countries, to ensure the sector operates optimally and contributes to the national economy. He emphasized that this should be done in consultation with stakeholders.

He further highlighted that the Sindh government collects a 1.25 percent infrastructure cess at the import stage, amounting to PKR 225 billion annually. He argued that a significant portion of this should be spent on infrastructural development in Karachi to improve the real estate market. Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoom, SVP FPCCI, pointed out that the real estate sector can attract more foreign exchange through remittances from overseas Pakistanis. He stressed the need to facilitate investment from overseas Pakistanis to stabilize the rupee-dollar parity and bolster foreign exchange reserves.

Syed Saquib Shah, Convener of FPCCI's Central Standing Committee on Real Estate Property and Builders, called for the digitalization of the property registration system to enhance transparency and fairness. He also suggested implementing an e-stamp system in Karachi similar to Punjab's. Shah emphasized that taxes should be imposed on property owners, not real estate agents, to prevent disenchantment and stagnation in the industry.—RT



KARACHI: AVM (R) Dr. Rizwan Riaz and Justice Of Peace Danish Aman Unite To Empower Deserving Scholars With Zakat.—RT

## NEPRA Announces Another Shocking Electricity Rate Hike For Karachi

KARACHI: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has announced a significant increase in electricity rates for Karachi, raising the tariff by Rs1.1 per unit. The hike is part of the monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA).

According to the notification, consumers will face an additional charge of Rs2.68 per unit in June, increasing to Rs3.11 per unit in July. This extra cost will continue to rise, reaching an additional Rs3.22 per unit in August before seeing a smaller increase of Rs1 per unit in September. NEPRA clarified that these increments will not affect K-Electric, lifeline consumers, or electric vehicle charging stations. Yesterday, NEPRA increased the power tariff by Rs3.33 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) on account of fuel cost adjustment (FCA) charges for April 2024. This adjustment will be reflected in the current month's bills for consumers of power distribution companies (Discos). The adjustment shall be applicable to all consumer categories except Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS), lifeline consumers, and consumers of K-Electric. Discos are directed to ensure compliance with any court orders regarding the FCA charges. Non-compliance with court orders will hold the concerned Discos responsible for violating or defying the orders of the honorable court(s), according to NEPRA's decision on the FCA of April 2024.—RT/Agency

## Thieves Target Advocate Musa Kolachi And His Family In Malir Home Invasion

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: The Bin Qasim Police Station area, particularly in UC Pipri, Malir, has been grappling with a disturbing surge in thefts and robberies, posing a significant challenge to law enforcement. Despite efforts by authorities, the rising crime rate persists, causing distress among residents.

In the latest incident, thieves targeted the residence of prominent social leader and advocate, Musa Kolachi, in Shah-nawaz Goth, Pipri. The burglars made off with valuables including 100,000 rupees, two mobile phones, gold jewelry, and car keys before fleeing the scene. Expressing his frustration, Advocate Kolachi voiced concerns over the inefficacy of the Bin Qasim police in curbing crime, leaving citizens vulnerable to such brazen acts. He demanded swift action for the recovery of his stolen belongings and issued a stern warning: if the situation remains unchanged, he will stage a protest outside the District Press Club Malir.

The incident underscores the urgent need for enhanced security measures in the area to safeguard residents' property and restore peace of mind. Authorities are urged to address the prevailing security concerns and take decisive action to stem the tide of criminal activities in UC Pipri, Malir. Further updates on this developing situation will be provided as they be-

## Business Delegation Returns Triumphant From Morocco And Biryani Festival



KARACHI: A delegation of businessmen, led by Ishfaq Baig, Chairman of the Pak-Morocco Business Council and Honorary Consul General of Morocco, has returned after a fruitful visit to Morocco. The delegation, consisting of 25 prominent businessmen from various sectors, also included Miza Ikhtiar Baig, a member of parliament and former Senior Vice President.

During the visit, the delegation held meetings at the Casablanca Chamber of Commerce & Industry with President Mr. Hassan Berkani and his Rabat Chamber of Commerce with the President and his team. Business-to-business (B2B) meetings were conducted between the businessmen at various sectors, also included Miza Ikhtiar Baig, business meetings, Biryani Festival was organized at the Embassy of Pakistan in Rabat, attended by the Ambassador of Pakistan, diplomats, chamber

presidents, and business-people. Pakistani chefs prepared various types of biryanis, showcasing Pakistani rice and spices. This marked the 4th biryani festival held in Morocco to promote Pakistani cuisine. Morocco, being a gateway to Africa and a prominent business hub, has seen a bilateral trade between Pakistan and Morocco reach USD 850 million. The delegation's visit is expected to further enhance bilateral trade between the two countries.—RT

## Security Guard Fatally Shoots Karachi Scavenger Boy

KARACHI: Another tragic incident was reported, where a security guard gunned down a scavenger boy in Karachi, media reported on Friday.



As per the initial reports, the incident occurred after a dispute between the boy and the private security guard, identified as Ramzan, in the North Karachi area. During the heated argument, the guard fired a shot, hitting the child in the stomach, and fled from the scene along with the weapon. The police officials confirmed that the child who

was injured by a guard's gunfire has succumbed to his injuries during treatment. The unfortunate event took place within the jurisdiction of the Sir Syed police station.

The police have launched a search operation to apprehend the absconding guard, Ramzan, and bring him to justice.—RT/Agency

### EXPRESSION of INTEREST

ENGAGING THE SERVICES OF FOOD FESTIVAL ORGANIZING COMPANY FOR SETTING UP A CUISINE SHOW AT 2nd INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE EXHIBITION (9th-11th August 2024)

Tender # TDAP-AM 01(40)/Foodag-2024

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan invites proposals from internationally reputed companies for organizing a "Cuisine Show" at Expo Centre, Karachi from 9th-11th August, 2024. The company will be required to undertake the following:

- Decoration in Hall at Expo Center Karachi and setting up booths/counters for live cooking show.
- Organizing live cooking of traditional, Continental, Arabian, Far Eastern Central Asian, European dishes and serving them to dignitaries.
- Company shall be required to engage international chefs for the activity.
- Publicity campaign of the event at local and international media forums using bloggers, print and electronic media.
- Organizing a cultural show for the participants.

2. Documents containing Scope of Work, terms and conditions, method of delivery, procedure to apply, can be downloaded from PPRA EPADS website (<https://procure.gov.pk>). In case of downloading bidding document, the bidders, shall be required to submit pay order of amount Rs 10,000/- upon submission of the bids.
3. Two stage-two envelope procedure will be followed for open competitive bidding. Interested parties shall submit their proposals with detailed plan of activity in a sealed envelope. The original sealed Proposal should be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2 percent of total cost and with minimum validity of 60 days in the form of Pay order/Demand Draft/ Bankers cheque issued by a scheduled bank of Pakistan in favor of TDAP, Karachi.
4. Sealed proposals, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must reach through mail or courier, at the office of the Assistant Manager (Agro and Food Division) Trade Development Authority of Pakistan at the address given below on or by 26th June, 2024 at 12:00 PM. Proposals will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM in the presence of bidders who wish to be present.
5. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time in accordance with Public Procurement Rules.

**Mr. Muqarab Abbas, Assistant Manager**  
Trade Development Authority of Pakistan  
Block-A, 3rd Floor FTC, Shah-re-Faisal, Karachi  
Email: [muqarab.abbas@tdap.gov.pk](mailto:muqarab.abbas@tdap.gov.pk) | Cell: 0308-7826156

By trying we can easily learn to endure adversity another man's I mean.

—Mark Twain

# THE REGIONAL TIMES

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SATURDAY JUNE 08 2024

## IHC Directs Investigation Officer To Record Poet Ahmed Farhad's Statement Before Magistrate

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday ordered the investigating officer of Loh Bhir police station to record the Kashmiri poet Ahmed Farhad's statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) before a judicial magistrate.



Following the order, the judge disposed of the petition seeking the poet's recovery after his whereabouts were ascertained following the confirmation of his custody with the police in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Justice Kayani, who was hearing the plea filed by the poet's wife Urooj Zainab, told the petitioner to refer to the court again if they feel the need.

"I know how to get my orders implemented," the judge said. Zainab had moved the 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 ensure his recovery, said Farhad was arrested and in AJK police's custody.

The poet was arrested and transferred to Muzaffarabad from Dhirkot under multiple sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA). Known for his defiant prose, the poet's matter came into the spotlight after he allegedly went missing during protests in AJK in May.

Human rights lawyer Iman Mazari appeared before the court as the petitioner's counsel, while journalist Hamid Mir appeared as a judicial assistant.

Additional Attorney General

other was said to have been filed.

"I think his problems are increasing. It is now believed that he is in judicial custody," said the judge. He added that if the police detains someone during the trial and does not present them for two days, then the trial is concluded.

Justice Kayani questioned about the poet's whereabouts before his arrest, stating that the issue pertains to enforced disappearance.

"If the abductee is recovered, the plea of habeas corpus is dismissed. They say that instructions to identify the kidnappers should also be issued," the additional attorney general told to the court, adding that this matter will be revealed during investigation.

The AAG said that the poet is now in judicial custody and a statement under Section 161 has been recorded. Justice Kayani asked the AAG to show if the investigating officer went to Kashmir and recorded Farhad's statement.

"It is written that I am mentally and physically unable to give a statement. It is also written that he will appear in the court himself or give a statement through a lawyer," remarked Justice Kayani.

The judge also said he is writing about the matter to the chief justice, requesting him to form a larger bench on all missing persons cases. The judge added that he is sending the matter to the larger bench, so that if the position of one judge is different, others can also see it.

"The rest of the members may not agree on summoning the heads of the intelligence agencies," said the judge.

He also remarked about sending the matter to the committee on how law in Islamabad should be enforced. "Respect the law, no one is above the law including judges," the IHC judge said that the court is always standing for the protection of the poet's rights. "The investigation will proceed as a result of Ahmad Farhad's statement before the magistrate."

He remarked that institutions should work within their limits. The court will ban in-camera proceedings and reporting on matters of national security. Justice Kayani said.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan and China Ink 23 MOUs To Bolster Bilateral Relations In Diverse Sectors

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have inked 23 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at enhancing collaboration across various sectors.



The MoUs signed Friday in Islamabad included transportation infrastructure, industry, energy, agriculture, media, healthcare, water management, socioeconomic development, and other mutual areas of interest.

Following delegation-level discussions between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch briefed the media, emphasising the robust Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership founded on mutual trust, shared principles, and strategic governance.

Both nations reiterated staunch support for each other's key concerns and reaffirmed their dedication to advancing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and completing ongoing projects in a timely

manner. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reassured commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects within Pakistan while safeguarding the CPEC from detractors and adversaries.

Additionally, they agreed to sustain high-level engagements, bolster institutional connections across all sectors, and continue consultations on bilateral and global issues, especially during Pakistan's upcoming non-permanent membership on the UN Security Council for the term 2025-2026.

During his visit, Prime Minister Sharif engaged with Chinese investors and entrepreneurs, promoting investment opportunities in Pakistan and facilitating the signing of numerous MoUs in sectors such as economy, green energy, textiles, and manufacturing.

Before departing for China, Prime Minister Sharif expressed intentions to foster mutually beneficial investments and enhance relations between Chinese and Pakistani businesses, stressing the potential for significant benefits for both countries.—RT/Agency

## Foreign Office Stresses Visa Regulations For Movement Across Pak-Afghan Border

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Friday stated that movement across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border should be regulated by visas.

During a media briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that individuals wishing to enter Pakistan from Afghanistan must possess a visa and an Afghan passport. She emphasised that border movement between Pakistan and Afghanistan should be conducted under visa regulations.

The spokesperson further mentioned that Pakistan was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council yesterday. She affirmed that Pakistan's laws guarantee human rights and reiterated that Pakistan takes the implementation of its Constitution seriously in response to other governments' reactions.

The foreign office also reiterated its call for India to be held accountable for ongoing human rights abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), where over 7,000 Kashmiris have died in the custody of Indian forces over the past three decades.

Baloch further highlighted the reported death of a Kashmiri civilian at a police station in Pulwama district of IIOJK.

She emphasised that Pakistan, as a member of the United Nations Security Council, would advocate for the peaceful resolution of disputes, oppose unilateral



force, combat terrorism in all its forms, support UN peacekeeping efforts, and promote democracy, transparency, and accountability.

Additionally, Baloch noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is on an official visit to China. Following discussions at the delegation level, 23 memorandums of understanding were signed. Security for Chinese citizens in Pakistan was also discussed during the meetings. The premier participated in a business conference in Shenzhen as well.

Furthermore, the FO spokesperson condemned the bombing by Israeli forces of a UN-run school sheltering Palestinian refugees, which resulted in multiple deaths, primarily of women and children.

"This attack is another crime in a series of assaults against civilians, including an IDP camp attack last week that killed 45 Palestinians. The deliberate targeting of civilian populations and facilities is a grave violation of international law and constitutes war crimes," she stated.

FO statements on cross-border travel come in light of the rising insurgent attacks on Pakistan's northern territories that have been found to have roots to Afghan soil.

Previously, at least five Chinese engineers and their Pakistani drivers were killed in a suicide attack on the Karakoram Highway on March 26.

Speaking at a press conference in Lahore along with the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) coordinator, Interior Minister Mohsen Naqvi said evidence of Afghan linkage to the Besham attack had already been shared with the Afghan government. "Unfortunately, there is no positive response yet from the Afghan government," the interior minister said. Pakistan not only demanded the arrest of three TTP terrorists responsible for the Besham attack but also wanted TTP chief Noor Wali Mehsud and the entire leadership detained.—RT/Agency

## Judicial Commission Recommends Three Judges For Elevation To Supreme Court



ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) Friday sent the names of three high court judges to be considered for elevation to the Supreme Court for final approval by the Parliamentary Committee, sources told media.

The names, recommended for appointment to vacant SC seats, were recommended during a meeting of the Judicial Commission held under chairmanship of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, said the sources.

During the meeting, the names of Lahore High Court Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad, Sindh High Court Chief Justice Aqeel Abbasi, and LHC Justice Shahid Bilal have been proposed, the sources said.

JCP Isa had, last month, convened the JCP meeting for deliberations over the appointment of three judges in the SC.

The JCP was constituted under the 18th Constitutional Amendment mandated to appoint judges in the superior

## Imran Chooses To Adopt A Flexible Approach To Reduce Political Tensions

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has decided to "step back" from his rigid stance, ordering his party leaders to establish contacts both inside and outside the Parliament to ease the ongoing political tension, sources told media.

According to the sources, the party's leadership would hold talks with various political parties outside the Parliament, while its lawmakers would also enhance its relations with parties in the ruling coalition government.

The PTI founder's decision came after his interaction with Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, when he appeared for a hearing before the Supreme Court a day earlier.

During the hearing pertaining to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law amendments, CJF Isa suggested that Khan go to the Parliament to help resolve Pakistan's problems "as the country needs to move forward."

The incarcerated PTI founder — during his appearance before the SC bench via video link from Adiala jail, where he remains behind bars since August 2023 — complained about facing political "victimisation" since his ouster from power in April 2022.

The former prime minister has given his party's



three-member committee the authority to establish contact with the establishment, said the sources.

On the other hand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur is also engaged in back-door communications, they added.

The sources revealed that it has been decided that PTI would support the state for political and economic stability to de-escalate tension. "The party will move forward by holding negotiations on multiple matters including on committees of the Senate and National Assembly," the sources said.

Former president and PTI leader Dr Arif Alvi, on June 5, claimed that the incarcerated party founder was being told to "strike a deal and leave the country."

Alvi had said that Khan rejected the offer and decided not to leave the country "at any cost."

The former president had predicted that those who were colluding to sentence

Khan — the former prime minister — would face a complete failure.

Commenting on dialogue offers, the politico had said that his party was ready to hold talks with "stakeholders but not with the non-stakeholders". He had asked the stakeholders to let go of hatred and practice compassion.

He had also said that the stakeholders should not be afraid of any kind of risks after the PTI founder's release. Alvi demanded releasing the former prime minister, the supremacy of law in the country and returning the party's mandate.

Alvi had further said that his party could not hold the incumbent rulers who were as much "powerless" as they came into power via "Form 47" and didn't have "authority" to make decisions.

On June 5, he had said that his party would hold dialogue with the one who has real power to make decisions.—RT/Agency

## Zardari Establishes National Economic Council, Appoints Shehbaz As Chairman

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has constituted the National Economic Council under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a notification issued by the Cabinet Division said on Friday.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 156 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to constitute the National Economic Council [...]" the notification read.

As per the document, the chief ministers of all four provinces, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan will be part of the newly formed body.

Moreover, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Khawaja Asif, Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ahsan



Iqbal are also members of the NEC.

The notification stated that Planning Commission's deputy chairman, finance secretary, secretary on economic affairs and federal minister Ahmad Cheema could also attend the meetings of the council on special invitation.

Meanwhile, four members of the National Economic Council have been nominated by the respective

## PM Shehbaz given guard of honour at Great Hall of the People



BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday was given a guard of honour at the Great Hall of the People where he arrived to meet the top Chinese leadership.

As the prime minister arrived at the formal reception ceremony, Chinese Premier Li Qiang warmly received him which followed the introduction of their respective delegations to each other.

The national anthems of Pakistan and China were played as the prime minister stood at the salute dias along with his Chinese counterpart.

The smartly turned-out contingents of the People's Liberation Army presented the guard of honour to the prime minister which he reviewed before proceeding to the bilateral meeting.—RT/Agency

## PTI Alleges Deliberate Delays In Imran And Bushra Bibi's Iddat Case

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has alleged a "deliberate delay in the provision of justice" to the incarcerated party founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi as the iddat case was transferred to another court on a district and sessions judge's request.

The statement was issued by the Imran-founded party's core committee after holding a session on Friday in which they reviewed the status of ongoing trials against the former prime minister and the ex-first lady, as well as other developments in the country.

In a statement, the core committee stated that Khan and Bushra Bibi deserved to be immediately released from jail. It alleged that the pace of trials against the duo was being "deliberately delayed" via deferring the hearings with delayed dates.

The former ruling party expressed hopes that the "false, baseless and unfounded cases" would meet their fate very soon.



Commenting on the iddat case, the PTI termed the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) decision to transfer the trial to another court "illegal".

It is noteworthy to mention here that the IHC had accepted the district and sessions judge Shahrukh Arjumand's request for transferring the iddat case related to the marriage of Khan and Bushra.

The case was transferred to the court of additional district and sessions judge Muhammad Azeem Mujahid who will conduct the hearings of the case.

Subsequently, the former ruling party also expressed concerns over Bushra Bibi's

health. Despite serious reservations, Bushra's medical tests were carried out at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), whereas, her medical reports were not being provided for unknown reasons, the statement read.

Additionally, the PTI core committee also raised concerns over the appointments of retired judges in the election tribunals by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). It added that the party would raise a strong voice against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the ECP members in and outside parliament.—RT/Agency