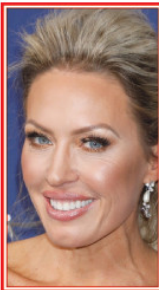


# The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



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## SPORTS

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## National economic plan for next five-years planned

ISLAMABAD: Aimed at establishing critical long-term economic objectives, the federal government of Pakistan has developed a comprehensive five-year economic plan, media reported on Sunday, Citing sources.

Sources close to the development claimed that the strategic five-year economic plan of the federal government is set to be presented before the National Economic Council for approval tomorrow.

The economic plan, spanning from 2024 to 2029, is expected to be integrated into the budget for the upcoming financial year.



The proposed five-year plan is designed to address a wide array of economic sectors and challenges.

It encompasses a macro-economic framework that includes provisions for energy, balance of payments, and development budget planning, sources added.

Additionally, the plan targets significant areas such as food and agriculture, population management, poverty alleviation, and governance reform. —RT/Agency

## Form 47 Babar and his Green Shirts embarrass themselves again for the umpteenth time against India

NEW YORK: India thrashed Pakistan by six runs in a low-scoring thriller at the T20 World Cup 2024 at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on Sunday.

Chasing a total of 120, Pakistan managed to score 113 runs over the loss of seven wickets and were defeated by six runs.

Muhammad Rizwan remained the pick of the bowlers for the Men in Green, having scored 31 off 44 runs while Skipper Babar Azam was out for 13 off 10 balls.

For India, Jasprit Bumrah was the pick of the bowlers and was the Player of the Match for taking three wickets while conceding 14 runs in four overs.

Earlier, the Pakistani fast bowlers wreaked havoc bundled out arch-rivals India on a modest 119 after Babar Azam won the toss and opted to bowl first in the ICC Men's



T20 World Cup 2024 blockbuster.

Pace bowlers kept on striking as Indian batters failed to stay on the crease for longer and India were bowled out for 119 in 19 overs.

Virat Kohli was the first batter to fall to Pakistan bowling lineup as he fell to Naseem Shah in the second

and took the total to 58 in 7.3 overs before Patel was bowled by Naseem Shah in the eighth over.

Patel's dismissal sparked a collapse in the middle that saw India losing Pant, Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube and Hardik Pandya in quick succession.

Pant was the highest run getter for India having scored 42 off 31 deliveries while seven Indian batters failed to reach double-digits.

For Pakistan, Naseem Shah took three wickets in his four overs while conceding 21 runs.

Haris Rauf also took three with the figures of 21 in three overs.

Mohammad Amir got a couple of wickets, conceding 23 runs in four overs, while Shaheen Afridi took a wicket in his four over spell.

Pakistan and India are facing each at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Long Island, New York in the highly-anticipated clash.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam won the toss and opted to bowl first in a match that was delayed due to rain.

While the match later resumed, downpour once again started and the match was stopped only after one over, however, match was once again resumed after rain stopped.

Pakistan Playing XI: Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Usman Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Shadab Khan, Ifthikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah and Mohammad Amir. India Playing XI: Rohit Sharma (c), Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant (wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Mohammad Siraj. —RT/Agency

## Captain among seven soldiers martyred in Lakki Marwat blast

LAKKI MARWAT: Seven Pakistan Army soldiers, including a captain, were martyred after an improvised explosive device (IED) hit the vehicle of the security forces in Lakki Marwat district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday.

The military's media wing said the incident took place on June 9 (today) in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa district.

Resultantly, Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas, 26, resident of Kasur district along with six other soldiers — Subedar Major Muhammad Nazir, 50, resident of Skardu district; Lance Naik Muhammad Anwar, 34, resident of Ghanchi district; Lance Naik Hussain Ali, 36, resident of Ghizer district; Sepoy Asad Ullah, 33, resident of Multan district; Sepoy Manzoor Hussain, 27, resident of Gilgit district; and Sepoy Rashid Mehmood, 31, resident of Rawalpindi district made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat, according to the ISPR.

It also said that the sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area and perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice.

"The security forces of



Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

Last month, two soldiers, including a captain of the Pakistan Army, embraced martyrdom during an intelligence-based operation conducted by the security forces in Peshawar district's Hassan Khel area, the ISPR said on May 26.

The operation was launched on the "reported presence of terrorists" in the area.

It had added that during the operation, the troops "effectively engaged" with the terrorists and killed five of them while injuring three others. "However, during an intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Captain Hussain Jahangir (age: 25 years, resident of Rahim Yar Khan District) along with another brave son of soil, Havildar

Shafiq Ullah (age: 36 years, resident of District Karak), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat," the ISPR had said.

At least 92% of all fatalities and 86% of attacks, including those related to terrorism and security forces operations, were recorded in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces in the first quarter of 2024.

These key findings were revealed in the Q1 2024 Security Report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), detailing that the country witnessed at least 432 violence-linked fatalities and 370 injuries among civilians, security personnel and outlaws resulting from as many as 245 incidents of terror attacks and counter-terror operations. Among the 432 fatalities, 281 included that of civilians and security forces personnel. —RT/Agency

## IMF demands that farm sector be taxed



ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has demanded more tax collection from provinces and imposition of the agriculture tax, media reported on Sunday.

Official sources said that the IMF has urged for imposition of tax on the agriculture income adding that the farm sector paying low tax in Pakistan over its share of income.

The monetary fund has also advised the government to use the national tax council for enhancing provincial taxation. "The province's tax share in national revenues has been at the minimal level of one percent," IMF has pointed out.

The IMF has also demanded full tax collection on properties in as well as sales tax on services in provinces.

The International Monetary Fund earlier demanded

Pakistan to public assets of office holders, government officials, ministers, and parliamentarians.

According to sources, the IMF has suggested strict anti-corruption measures in the upcoming budget 2024.

The monetary fund directed the government to establish a portal to declare assets of public officials, but the government has failed to do so, sources said.

Pakistan's authorities are bound to create a portal and disclose asset details under the agreement with the IMF, sources added.

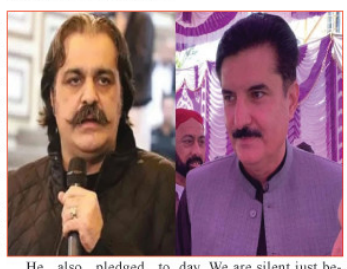
The government had prepared a Performa for officials to disclose their assets, but it was not made public, sources revealed. Furthermore, banks will now be required to obtain assets information from government officials when opening new accounts, sources said. —RT/Agency

## Kundi warns Gandapur that dancing horses don't win races

KPK: The war of words between Kyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Governor Faisal Karim Kundi continues to escalate after the latter responded to the former's threats claiming that the CM won't be able to materialise his fiery speeches.

"Dancing horses do not win races," Governor Kundi said while speaking to the media in response to the chief minister's threats against imposing taxes on the province.

Kundi, who has a history of verbal spats with Gandapur, further underscored various cases faced by the chief minister over his alleged i



"Its good that the CM himself said that he is not my relative [...] tell me any good thing that he has done [so far]," the governor added.

Kundi's remarks come after CM Gandapur Saturday pledged to not allow the imposition of taxes in the Malakand Division.

"You'll come on your own feet and will leave on shoulders," he said while addressing a public gathering in Swat.

He also pledged to "hang" those who have violated the country's Constitution and said: "[I] swear to God, you will not be able to live in Pakistan, let alone Islamabad."

Gandapur also asked those, who lodged "fake cases" against jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, to identify themselves.

Naming Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and President Asif Zardari, the KPCM asked the crowd to name those responsible for the alleged victimisation of the embattled party.

"We will have to hold them accountable for each

day. We are silent just because of the PTI founder," he added and stressed that the former premier was the name of an "ideology" which was why he could not be erased from the minds and hearts of people by "illegal" tactics.

"If the opposing party thinks that the PTI workers could be forced to leave PTI, then it is their misconception," Gandapur said. Elaborating on his administration's efforts for the masses' benefit, the chief minister reassured that the KP government would spare no effort to facilitate the people and would provide health, education and sports facilities. —RT/Agency

## Punjab governor disowns controversial defamation law

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Saleem Haider has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is against the controversial defamation law passed by the provincial legislature earlier this month.

"I tried to stop the [passage] of the defamation bill as governor," he said while speaking to the media in Dubai on Sunday.

His statement comes a day after interim Punjab Governor Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan signed the bill into law in the absence of Haider.

The Punjab Assembly, on May 20, passed the Punjab Defamation Bill, 2024 amid a strong and noisy protest by the opposition as well as immense backlash from journalists and rights bodies including those based internationally.

"I did not sign the bill. However, it will become law automatically after the passing of 15 days," the incumbent governor added.

However, according to him, legislation is required to stop the defamation of the people on social media.

Governor Haider also said that he would meet the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of



the media bodies to address their concerns after returning to the country.

A day earlier, the central Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the media bodies announced boycotting the coverage of government affairs including official events, such as National Assembly and provincial assembly sessions and upcoming federal and provincial budgets to protest the approval of the defamation law.

The Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND), held an

emergency meeting to discuss the development and decided to record their protest against the law.

Terming the Punjab Defamation Bill, 2024, against human values, the meeting announced to lead a joint struggle against the "black law" and to take effective legal action against it.

The media bodies decided to hold consultations with political parties and bar councils, and approach the United Nations and other national and international human rights organisations against the controversial law.

They said that demonstrations would be staged outside the relevant government offices in protest against the defamation law. —RT/Agency

## Government organizations default on electricity bills worth billions



ISLAMABAD: In a shocking revelation, various government institutions turned out to be unpaid dues of Rs 71.16 billion in terms of electricity bills, media reported on Sunday. According to the spokesperson of the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), the Azad Kashmir government has the list with Rs 54.86 billion in outstanding electricity bills. Other notable institutions in the unpaid dues list include the Capital De-

velopment Authority (CDA) with outstanding dues amounting to Rs 4.63 billion, followed by the Pakistan Secretariat and Cabinet Secretariat with unpaid dues of Rs 1.65 billion and 11.6 million respectively. Similarly, the federal government-run hospitals and the Ministry of Home Affairs have failed to fulfill their financial obligations of 7279 million and 714.3 million in electricity bills respectively. —RT/Agency

## Shehbaz may dissolve National Assembly within three months: political soothsayer Manzoor Wassan

ISLAMABAD: Known for his bold predictions about the country's politics, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Manzoor Wassan on Sunday made a bold statement anticipating the incumbent government's dissolution in the next three months.

The politician said that the next "trimester is extremely crucial" regarding the political landscape. "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif may dissolve the National Assembly within the next three months."

Wassan also ruled out the possibility of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif becoming the next premier in the current political scenario.

He said that it would be seen what kind of setup emerges afterwards, but not being consulted on the provincial assemblies will remain intact.

The politician further stated that he doesn't see any



favourable circumstances for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan or other politicians. "Reliefs are given and taken back, so Imran Khan shouldn't be living in his own imaginary world."

Wassan's remarks come after the PPP praised concerns about not being consulted on the upcoming federal budget for fiscal year 2024-25. "The government neither told us anything related to the budget nor took us into confidence. We don't know what the PML-N is doing about privatisation policy, taxes, developmental program," PPP senior leader Khurshid Shah said. He further said that the PPP does not know anything in terms of relief. Shah said he's unaware whether the government is making the budget or the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) budget is being imposed. —RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the HDA Labor Union are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against the non-payment of their salaries and pensions.-RT

## Sindh Minister Shahid Abdul Salam Thaheem, DIG Ali Sher Jakhraani Launch A Tree Plantation Campaign In Shahdadpur

By Sajjan Jani Detho

SHAHADAPUR: In a proactive effort to combat the adverse effects of extreme heat and climate change, a comprehensive tree plantation campaign has been initiated in Shahdadpur. Social leaders Anwar Jamal and Vinod Kumar, recognized for their commitment to environmental and social causes, announced an ambitious plan to plant one hundred thousand saplings throughout the region. The campaign's inauguration was marked by the presence of prominent figures, including Provincial Minister of Labor, Shahid Abdul Salam Thaheem, and DIG Balochistan, Ali Sher Jakhraani.



The inauguration ceremony took place at Jami Paradise, a scenic location chosen for its visibility and accessibility. Anwar Jamal and Vinod Kumar, renowned builders and social leaders in Shahdadpur, hosted the event, which was attended by numerous dignitaries and community members. The special guests, including Provincial Minister of Labor and Manpower Shahid Abdul Salam Thaheem and DIG Sibi Balochistan Ali Sher Jakhraani, planted the first saplings, symbolizing the start of the campaign. Assistant Commissioner Shahdadpur, Qamruddin Rahpoto, Mukhtiar Barkat Ali Burdi, DSP Shahdadpur Tanveer Shah, and other notable personalities such as Mushtaq Qureshi, Rana Dilshad Rajput, and Wadero Gul Detho were present, underscoring the broad support for the initiative. The event's hosts, Anwar Jamal and Vinod Kumar Rajput, welcomed the guests warmly and

presented them with traditional gifts of Sindhi Ajraks, caps, and Lungis, symbolizing the region's rich cultural heritage and hospitality. In his address, Provincial Minister Shahid Abdul Salam Thaheem highlighted the critical importance of tree plantation in mitigating the effects of climate change and improving local environmental conditions. He emphasized the government's commitment to supporting such initiatives and encouraged the community to actively participate in the campaign. DIG Ali Sher Jakhraani echoed these sentiments, stressing the role of trees in reducing temperatures, improving air quality, and enhancing the overall quality of life.

The campaign aims not only to plant trees but also to educate the public about the importance of environmental conservation. Workshops and educational programs will be

## SPYO Leaders Call On Sindh Minister Ali Hassan Brohi

By Farooq Junjo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: A significant meeting took place at Mohsin House Nawabshah, where leaders of the Sindh People's Youth Organization (SPYO) called on Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, the Sindh Minister of Prisons and Works and Roads Department. The meeting included key figures from the SPYO, such as Farhan Ahmed Laghari, Information Secretary of SPYO District Shaheed Benazirabad, Raees Nawaz Khan Rind, Shaukat Ali Rind, Mir Sajid Ali Babar, and Majid Keerio.



SPYO leaders expressed their support for the government's efforts and discussed potential collaborations to enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives. The dialogue between the SPYO leaders and the Sindh Minister highlighted the importance of youth involvement in governance and development projects. The meeting concluded with a commitment to work together towards the betterment of the community and to ensure that the projects are implemented efficiently and transparently. The SPYO leaders appreciated the minister's openness and willingness to engage with the youth, and they pledged their continued support for the government's development agenda.

The meeting focused on discussing the various initiatives and projects being undertaken by the Sindh government in the areas of prisons, infrastructure, and

## Five Injured in Gas Cylinder Blast in Ratodero



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A tragic accident occurred in Ratodero, where five men, including a shopkeeper, sustained severe injuries due to a gas cylinder explosion. The injured men were identified as shopkeeper Farhan Junejo, Wasim Odhano, Awais Soomro, Bilawal Noonari, and Abdul Aziz Soomro. The blast caused significant damage to the shop and nearby structures, creating a scene of chaos and panic. The injured were immediately rushed to the emergency ward of CMC Hospital, where they received prompt medical attention. According to the doctors, all five men were in stable condition, though they sustained various degrees of burns and injuries. The medical staff provided critical care, ensuring that the victims were stabilized and received the necessary treatment for their injuries.

## National Assembly's Deputy Speaker Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah Condoles With PPP Leaders Raees Jam Aftab Khan Unar And Raees Jam Zulfiqar Ali Unar

By Farooq Memon



SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah, paid a heartfelt visit to Qazi Ahmed Naz Bagh in Shaheed Benazirabad to express his condolences to prominent PPP leaders Raees Jam Aftab Khan Unar and Raees Jam Zulfiqar Ali Unar. The visit was in light of the passing of their beloved mother, a loss that has deeply affected the local community. During his visit, Deputy Speaker Shah emphasized the significance of family and community support during times of loss. He offered prayers and Fatеха for the soul of the deceased, reflecting on her contributions to her family and community. The gathering included former MPA Raees Sher Muhammad Unar and Jam Ihtikar Ali Unar, who joined in the prayers and shared in the family's grief. In his remarks, Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah highlighted the importance of standing together in times of sorrow, noting that the strength of a community is measured by its ability to support its members during challenging times. He praised the Unar family for their resilience and dedication to public service, underscoring the late matriarch's role in nurturing these values within her family. The visit was marked by a somber and reflective atmosphere, with community members coming together to offer their condolences and support to the grieving family. The presence of such high-profile figures underscored the respect and esteem in which the Unar family is held within the community. The gathering served as a reminder of the enduring bonds of community and the shared responsibility to support one another in times of need.

## Coming Three Months Are Very Important for PM: Everyone's Favorite Political Soothsayer Manzoor Hussain Wassan

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: The political landscape in Pakistan is poised for potential changes in the coming months, according to senior PPP leader Manzoor Hussain Wassan. Speaking to the media in Kotdiji, Wassan made a significant prediction about the future of the Prime Minister and the National Assembly. He emphasized that the next three months are crucial, as the current Prime Minister may dissolve the National Assembly, potentially leading to significant political shifts. Wassan stated, "The provincial assemblies will remain, but the National Assembly could be dissolved, followed by elections. Anything can happen in the next three months." His comments have sparked considerable speculation about the possible scenarios that could unfold, highlighting the uncertainty and fluidity of Pakistan's political environment. He further noted that inflation is decreasing, and Imran Khan has received temporary relief in the cipher case. However, Wassan warned against complacency, suggesting that the current conditions are not favorable for the country or for Imran Khan. His remarks have been interpreted as a call for vigilance and preparedness for potential political upheavals. The prediction by Manzoor Hussain Wassan has added to the ongoing discussions about the stability and future direction of Pakistan's government. His insights, based on his extensive experience and understanding of the political dynamics, are being closely monitored by political analysts and the public alike. The coming months are expected to be a period of heightened political activity and potential changes, with significant implications for the country's governance and political stability.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Pasban Democratic Party are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club for the construction of a double road on National Highway from Thatta to Hyderabad.-RT

## President of Shia Ulema Council Commemorates Martyrdom Day Of Hazrat Imam Muhammad Taqi (AS)

By Dilidar Ali

TANDO ADAM: In a solemn and reflective event, Dr. Abid Rasool Hashmi, President of the Shia Ulema Council in Tando Adam, delivered a powerful message commemorating the martyrdom day of the ninth Imam, Hazrat Imam Muhammad Taqi (AS). The event, attended by a large number of community members, highlighted the enduring legacy and profound impact of Imam Taqi's life and teachings. Dr. Hashmi emphasized Hazrat Imam Muhammad Taqi's unwavering commitment to responsibility, strategic acumen, and insightful leadership during challenging times. He elaborated on the Imam's contributions to Islamic jurisprudence, his role in guiding the community through tumultuous periods, and his efforts to uphold the principles of justice and righteousness. Dr. Hashmi's speech underscored the enduring significance of Imamate and the timeless principles that continue to guide humanity. Quoting Hazrat Imam Muhammad Taqi, Dr. Hashmi highlighted the significance of eloquence, faith, worship, knowledge, reason, humility, piety, and austerity. He encouraged the attendees to reflect on these principles and to incorporate them into their daily lives. The event served as a reminder of the spiritual and moral responsibilities that come with the legacy of the Imamate, inspiring the community to strive for higher ethical standards and to support one another in their spiritual journey. The commemoration included recitations of Quranic verses, prayers, and reflections on the life and teachings of Hazrat Imam Muhammad Taqi. Community leaders and scholars shared their insights, further enriching the understanding of Imam Muhammad Taqi's contributions to Islamic thought and practice. The event concluded with a communal prayer for peace and guidance, reinforcing the sense of unity and purpose among the attendees. Dr. Hashmi's message was a poignant reminder of the enduring relevance of Imam Taqi's teachings and the importance of preserving and honoring the legacy of the Imamate. The event fostered a deep sense of spiritual connection and collective resolve to uphold the values exemplified by Hazrat Imam Muhammad Taqi (AS).

## SUP's Syed Zain Shah Attends Lovely Sakrand Reception Hosted In Honor Of Shaukat Hussain Memon

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: In a celebration of integrity and community values, the Central President of Sindh United Party, Syed Zain Shah, attended a reception hosted in honor of Shaukat Hussain Memon, a venerable figure in the Memon community. The event, marked by heartfelt speeches and cultural tributes, underscored the enduring principles of truth, honesty, and patriotism that the Sanai Memon community upholds. Syed Zain Shah, delivering a presidential address, commended the Sanai Memon community for their unwavering commitment to these values. He drew a historical parallel, noting the deep-rooted connection between the family of Sain GM Syed and the Sanai Memons, particularly highlighting that Sain GM Syed's teacher was Qazi Muhammad Hashim Sanai, a distinguished member of the Sanai Memon community. This connection, he said, exemplifies the shared values and mutual respect between the two groups. In his speech, Syed Zain Shah remarked, "Humans are mortal, but character is not. It is the character that defines us and leaves a lasting legacy." He praised Shaukat Hussain Memon for embodying these timeless principles, making him a beacon of integrity and moral fortitude. The reception celebrated Shaukat Hussain Memon's contributions to the community, recognizing his dedication to truth and service. The event featured the presentation of traditional Sindh shawls, hats, and garlands to Shaukat Hussain Memon, symbolizing respect and honor. Syed Zain Shah and Dr. Naseer Ahmed Memon further honored him by tying Boski turbans, a significant cultural gesture. The gathering was also addressed by other prominent figures, including Abdul Rashid Qazi Muhammad Hashim Sanai, Zahid Hussain Memon, and Ahsan Memon, who shared their thoughts on the importance of maintaining integrity and community values. The event was filled with cultural performances and traditional Sindh music, adding to the festive atmosphere. Guests shared stories of Shaukat Hussain Memon's contributions to the community, his role in various social initiatives, and his unwavering dedication to upholding ethical standards. The reception was not only a tribute to an individual but also a celebration of the values that bind the community together.



HYDERABAD: Resident of Qasimbabad Sehrish Nagar, Abdul Ghafoor is addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad press club for the provision of justice.-RT



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Jiskani Forum Sindh are holding a protest demonstration at the Larkana Press Club against the killing of Nisar Ahmed Jiskani and demanding justice for him and his family.-RT

# NATIONAL



## Info Minister, Secretary shocked over demise of Taskeen Zafar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Graf on Sunday expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of Radio Pakistan's senior newscaster Taskeen Zafar.

In a statement, he said he is deeply saddened to hear the news of Taskeen Zafar's death. The Minister said Taskeen Zafar was a talented and experienced newscaster. He said her death has resulted in an irreparable loss not only to Radio Pakistan but to the entire media industry.

The Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the family of Taskeen Zafar. He prayed for eternal peace of the deceased and patience for her bereaved family.

Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Radio Pakistan's senior newscaster Taskeen Zafar.

In her condolence message, she said Taskeen Zafar was an asset of Radio Pakistan and void created by her demise will never be filled.



The Secretary Information said Taskeen Zafar's services to Radio Pakistan will always be remembered. Extending condolences to the bereaved family of late Taskeen Zafar, she prayed for her eternal peace and patience for her family.

Director General Radio Pakistan Saeed Ahmed Shaikh has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the sad demise of legendary broadcaster and Radio Pakistan's Urdu Newscaster Taskeen Zafar.

Expressing his sympathies with the bereaved family, he prayed for eternal

## FIA confiscates huge cache of smuggled diesel in Lahore



LAHORE: Over the directives of the Interior Minister, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Anti-Smuggling Unit conducted an operation and recovered a huge cache of smuggled Iranian diesel in Lahore, media reported on Sunday.

The Anti-Smuggling Unit of FIA Lahore conducted a raid over the directives of interior minister Mohsin Naqvi. It sealed the warehouse after confiscating a total of 43,000 liters of smuggled Iranian diesel.

Following the seizure of the smuggled diesel, the FIA sent a sample to the laboratory and further action will be taken after the forensic report.

The FIA Anti-Smuggling Unit spokesperson added that the operation was carried out with the help of Customs officials. Back in April, the law

## PML-N government decides to continue PTI's Ten Billion Tree initiative

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to tackle the escalating climate crisis, the PML-N-led federal government has decided to continue Ten Billion Tree Tsunami project, initiated by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, media reported on Sunday, citing sources.

Sources told media that the government has decided to increase the budget for the Ministry of Climate Change by Rs11.82 billion for the fiscal year 2024-25, with aiming at mitigating the effects of global warming and promoting sustainable development.

The budget includes a significant allocation of Rs1.62 billion to the Ministry of Climate Change to enhance its technical capacity and effectively implement climate change projects.



PTI. The project aims to plant trees across the nation and combat the adverse effects of climate change.

The government has also proposed a new project to combat climate change, details of which are yet to be disclosed. It has also been proposed to provide Rs1.019 billion to the Ministry of Climate Change to enhance its technical capacity and effectively implement climate change projects.

The budget also allocates Rs15.775 billion for four ongoing schemes, aimed at promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation. Furthermore, the government has proposed Rs100 million for the Pakistan Biosphere Clearing House. In a move to improve water quality monitoring capabilities, the government has allocated Rs30 million for the purpose.—RT/Agency

## ANF arrests 18 accused in nationwide operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover over 391 kg drugs and arrested 18 accused, media reported.

He informed that 195.6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of four suspects rounded up in two operations near Lakpas Toll Plaza Mustang.

In an operation, 57.6 kg opium and 70.8 kg hashish were recovered from five suspects including a woman arrested in two operations at Sangiani Toll Plaza Islamabad.

34 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of four drug smugglers netted in Hyderabad while 18 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects held in G-15 Islamabad.

15.6 kg hashish was recovered from three accused



arrested from Haripur. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process.

Earlier, Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its ongoing operations against drug trafficking conducted nine raids across the country and managed to recover 45 kg drugs besides arresting 10 accused.

He informed that 7.7 kg of ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger at Peshawar Airport. In the second operation, 13 kg of hashish and 170 grams ice were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested in Multan. 8.4 kg opium was recovered from two suspects netted in Phoolnagar Kasur area while 5.4 kg ice was recovered from two suspects rounded up in two operations in Quetta.—RT/Agency

## Budget 2024: Govt decides to include 62 Health Ministry projects

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to include 62 projects for Ministry of Health in the upcoming federal budget, with a total allocation of Rs8.91 billion, media reported on Sunday.

According to details available with ARY News, the projects include 32 ongoing and 30 new initiatives, with a focus on improving healthcare facilities across the country.

Sources claimed that Rs5.56 billion has been allocated for ongoing projects, while Rs3.35 billion has been earmarked for new projects. The ministry has also proposed allocating Rs200 million for the construction of four basic health units in Islamabad.

Other projects include the upgradation of various hospitals and healthcare facilities, purchase of medical equipment, and establishment of new health centers.

The ministry has also pro-



posed allocating funds for the prevention and control of diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and AIDS. Meanwhile, funds were not earmarked for the ongoing project to prevent blindness in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The proposed budget includes:

- Rs300m for the ongoing IDSR program
- Rs400m for the 200-bed emergency center in PIMS
- Rs30m for the 200-bed

## LESCO decides to ban three-phase meters for consumers



LAHORE: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has decided to ban three-phase meters for all consumers, according to a report on Sunday.

In this regard, LESCO has started work on installing Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) meters in place of three-phase meters. By installing AMR meters consumers will have to pay an extra Rs20,000 to Rs25,000. An additional amount will be charged due to the difference in meter price. LESCO will charge the purchase of AMR meters at Rs 42,000. Installation of MMR meters will reduce overbilling and electricity theft.

Earlier, the bidirectional meter of the solar system was replaced by AMR. Installation of AMR meters will enable online billing. The use of modern technology in the system will provide convenience to consumers.—RT/Agency

## Three dead as car plunges into Muzaffarabad's Neelum River

MUZAFFARABAD: In a tragic incident, a car plunged into the Neelum River near Kareemabad, Muzaffarabad, resulting in the deaths of three people and leaving two others injured, media reported.

As per details, the car carrying 8-10 passengers was traveling from Taobat to Kel when it plunged into the river near Kareemabad.

Rescue efforts are underway, but the strong current and depth of the river are posing challenges.

The car has not been recovered from the river, and there are fears of more casualties.

Eyewitnesses said that the car was swept away by the river's strong current, making it difficult for rescue teams to locate it.

In a separate incident, at



least 7 people were killed and six others injured when a van plunged into a deep ravine near Swat's Malam Jabba.

According to police, the van carrying 12 staff members of a local hotel fell into a gorge while taking a sharp turn, killing seven people on the spot and critically injuring six others.

After being informed, Pakistan army personnel reached the Malam Jabba spot and shifted the dead

Quetta.—RT/Agency

## Young man found dead near Dasht in Balochistan

QUETTA: A 25-year-old man was found dead from Killi door area of Dasht in Balochistan province on Sunday.

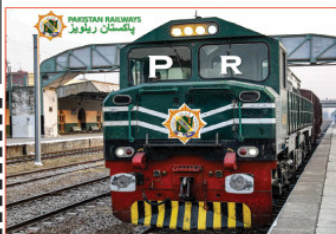
According to rescue sources, the body of the man Liaquat Ali Bangulzai, 25, son of Imam Baksh Bangulzai, a resi-

dent of Dasht, was found lying Killi door area of Dasht. It seemed the man was killed by hitting stone on his head.

His body was shifted to Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta for the completion of necessary cord formalities and later

handed over to the heirs after fulfilling necessary medico-legal formalities. The incident has created a mourning atmosphere in the victim's home. Further investigation was being conducted by the Levies Station Dasht.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Railways earns over Rs 70 bln till May



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has achieved an unprecedented earning of over Rs. 70 billion till the month of May (FY 2023-24) despite facing a financial crisis due to floods in the monsoon season.

"The department is expecting to generate revenues up to Rs. 80 billion by the end of this financial year through the consistent efforts and hard work of the Railway workers," sources in the Ministry told APP.

The department has witnessed a historic increase in revenue in the current financial year as during the last financial year (2022-23), it earned around Rs. 40 billion.

The sources said that out of Rs 70 billion, the revenue was derived from passenger and freight trains while other sectors of the department also contributed to the total revenue.

At present, they said that Pakistan Railways is operating around 96 passenger trains, more than the previous year when 86 trains were running. Similarly, during the previous year, on average it operated 3.75 freight trains while the

number reached seven freight trains this year. The sources said the department emphasized that the issue of delay in payment of salaries to employees has now been resolved and things will be more streamlined, once work on the Mainline-I (ML-I) project kicks off.

To a question, they said that Pakistan Railways has beefed up precautionary measures to reduce passenger train accidents and only six minor accidents with no casualty took place on the entire railway network in the country during the last three months.

The drastic decrease in accidents has been witnessed due to the efforts being undertaken to reduce trespassing at unmanned level crossings and unauthorized locations, they added.

"Our staff is continuously monitoring the railway tracks across the country and conducting thorough inspection of the trains as the safety of the passengers is the top priority of the department," the sources said.—RT/Agency

## GLOBAL WATCH

### Russia's Latest Generation Fighter Jet Su-57 Hit For First Time, Claims Ukraine

Kyiv: Ukrainian forces have for the first time hit a latest-generation Russian Su-57 fighter jet at an air base inside Russia, Kyiv's GUR defence intelligence agency said on Sunday, showing satellite pictures which it said confirmed the strike.

In a Telegram post, the GUR did not specify how the Su-57 was hit or by which unit of the Ukrainian military.

A popular Russian pro-war military blogger who calls himself Fighterbomber and focuses on aviation said the report of the strike on the Su-57 was correct and that it had been hit by a drone.

The GUR said the aircraft was parked at the Akhtubinsk airfield, which it said was 589 km (366 miles) from



front lines in Ukraine between Ukrainian and Russian invasion forces.

"The pictures show that on June 7, the Su-57 was standing intact, and on (June 8th), there were craters from the explosion and characteristic spots of fire caused by fire damage near it," the GUR said, with the images posted alongside the message.

Ukraine has been fighting a full-scale Russian invasion since February 2022. Both sides conduct regular strikes hundreds of kilometers into enemy territory with missiles and drones.—Agency

## Government establishes departments to speed up mining

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has established departments in all provinces to speed up mining of mineral reserves in Pakistan.

The minerals sector is one of the priority sectors of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and collaborations are being made with local and foreign investors for its promotion.

Mining in Chagai district has been accelerated since the out-of-court settlement with Barrack Gold. It is a \$4 billion project in which Pakistan will contribute \$2 bil-

lion. A \$1 billion mining fund has also been established jointly by Pakistan and Kuwait under the SIFC.

Earlier in 2022, Pakistan and Barrick Gold Corporation have signed \$8 billion landmark agreement on Reko Diq project after Supreme Court (SC) termed the deal 'legal'.

The \$8 billion landmark agreement was signed by Reko Diq Gold Corporation representative and federal and Balochistan government representatives.

The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Dec 9 ruled that new deal on the Reko Diq gold and copper mining project in Balochistan is legal. Reko Diq is one of the world's largest undeveloped copper-gold mines. The project is being restarted after remaining on hold since 2011.

The top court announced the ruling on a reference sent by President Arif Alvi under Article 186 of the Constitution of Pakistan in the Reko Diq Project on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.—RT/Agency

## CTD reports 15 attacks on polio teams in KP

PESHAWAR: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has released a report revealing that 15 attacks have been carried out on polio vaccination teams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Lakki Marwat, Mardan, North Waziristan, and South Waziristan.

The CTD report identifies three militant organiza-

tions behind the attacks on polio teams. Anti-polio campaigns in Pakistan are regularly marred by violence. Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them. A five-day anti-polio campaign started Monday in nine high-risk districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.—RT/Agency

# EDITORIAL

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

Monday, June 10, 2024



## Reading Between The Lines Of Manzoor Wassan's Predictions

Senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Manzoor Wassan's recent forecast about Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif possibly dissolving the National Assembly within the next three months has sparked considerable speculation. Known for his bold predictions, Wassan insists that the upcoming trimester is "extremely crucial" for Pakistan's political landscape, ruling out the possibility of Nawaz Sharif returning as the premier and doubting favourable conditions for PTI founder Imran Khan.

While Wassan's statements have created a media stir, it is crucial to recognize the underlying message they convey. Such a startling prediction would not have been made without the tacit approval of the PPP leadership, particularly from the party's president, Asif Ali Zardari. Wassan's declaration should be seen as a strategic communication

from the PPP, signaling both their internal stance and a broader message to other political stakeholders.

The implications of Wassan's remarks extend beyond



the immediate political theatrics. They suggest that the PPP is not only asserting its position but also highlighting its exclusion from pivotal decision-making processes, such as the upcoming federal budget discussions. This exclusion hints at deeper fissures within the coalition government, adding another layer of complexity to the current political scenario.

For Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his brother,

PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, Wassan's forecast serves as a cautionary note. It underscores the necessity for careful maneuvering and coalition management in the coming months. The PPP's dissatisfaction with the lack of consultation on the budget and other critical policies indicates potential turbulence ahead, requiring both leadership and political acumen to navigate.

As the political landscape braces for possible upheaval, it is hoped that any crisis will be brief and ultimately lead to greater political stability. Pakistan has endured significant political uncertainty over the past 26 months; thus, a period of stability and collaborative governance would be a welcome change. The country's leadership must prioritize national interest and unity to steer through this pivotal phase, ensuring a stable and prosperous future for Pakistan.

# GLOBAL WATCH

## Elon Musk May Leave Tesla If \$56 Billion Pay Not Approved, Board Chair Warns

Billionaire Elon Musk may leave Tesla if shareholders reject his \$56 billion pay package, according to the company's board chair Robyn Denholm. She also stated that the CEO could spend his time in "other places", as per a report in the Verge.

The shareholders of the electric car maker will decide on Mr Musk's compensation package on June 13. This will be the second time that shareholders will vote on the CEO's compensation which was first ruled invalid earlier this year by a Delaware court who claimed that the approval process was "deeply flawed."

Ms Denholm wrote in the letter to shareholders, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, "Elon is not a typical executive, and Tesla is not a typical company. So, the typical way in which companies compensate key executives is not going to drive results for Tesla. Motivating someone like Elon requires something different."

"What we recognized in 2018 and continue to recognize today is that one thing Elon most certainly does not have is unlimited time. Nor does he face any shortage of ideas and other places he can



make an incredible difference in the world. We want those ideas, that energy and that time to be at Tesla, for the benefit of you, our owners. But that requires reciprocal respect," she continued.

The billionaire's other ventures including SpaceX, X and xAI, have concerned investors about his ability to focus on Tesla. Ms Denholm insisted that the vote to accept the \$56 billion compensation plan is "not about the money," even if it would make Mr Musk the highest-paid CEO in modern history. "We all know Elon is one of the wealthiest people on the planet, and he would remain so even if Tesla were to renege on the commitment we made in 2018," she wrote.

The 2018 deal was made in order to "keep Elon focused on Tesla and motivated to achieve the company's in-

comparable ambitions," according to Ms Denholm's letter. "Upholding our end of the bargain, then, by ratifying the decision we all made in 2018, is more important than ever. If Tesla is to retain Elon's attention and motivate him to continue to devote his time, energy, ambition and vision to deliver comparable results in the future, we must stand by our deal," she wrote.

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Notably, Mr Musk is looking to acquire a 25 per cent interest in Tesla, which would give him more influence over the company to accomplish his objectives of creating artificial intelligence and self-driving vehicles. He has also threatened to split off Tesla's AI research into a different company if his demands are not satisfied.—Agency

## British TV Presenter Michael Mosley Found Dead On Greek Island



Athens British TV presenter and healthy living advocate Michael Mosley has been found dead on the Greek island of Symi, a deputy mayor of the island told Reuters on Sunday.

Mosley, 67, had been missing since Wednesday after he went for a walk alone along a coastal path in searching heat.

Police spokeswoman Constantina Dimoglidou earlier said that the body of a person believed to be Mosley had been found in the area of Agia Marina, but that identification was pending.

"The mayor of the island and a state TV ERT journalist were filming the area of Agia Marina, when they spotted the body," said deputy mayor Nikitas Griliss. "It is certainly him."

Another police official said the body had been found on rocky terrain, close to the sea, dismissing earlier reports that said he was found in a cave. Police were investigating the scene.

Mosley, who was on the island with his wife, was last seen alive at 1.30 p.m. (1030 GMT) on Wednesday.—Agency

## Senior Israeli Commander Resigns Over Failure To Prevent Hamas' Oct 7 Attack



Jerusalem Israel's army said Sunday that a senior commander had resigned over what he called his failure to prevent the October 7 attack by Palestinian militants.

"The commander of the 143rd Division, Brigadier General Avi Rosenfeld, informed his commanders today of his intention to end his service in the (Israeli army)," said a statement by the military.

"The officer will finish his duties in the near future," Rosenfeld wrote in a resignation letter released by the army: "Everyone has to take responsibility for his part, and I am the one responsible in Division 143."

"On October 7, I failed my life's mission: to protect the envelope," he wrote, referring to the southern Israeli communities on the border with Gaza.

In April, Israel's military intelligence chief, Major

General Aharon Haliva, became the first high-ranking official to step down for failing to prevent the attack that shocked Israel and the international community.

In his resignation letter, Haliva, who served in the force for 38 years, took responsibility for failing to prevent the attack.

"The intelligence division under my command did not live up to the task we were entrusted with," he wrote.

The bloodiest ever Gaza war broke out with the October 7 attack on southern Israel that resulted in the deaths of 1,194 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 37,084 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to the territory's health ministry.—Agency

# THE HEARTLAND

## NSO, Nishat Jamaat Luari Sharif Hold A Legal Awareness Seminar In Badin

By Jibrán Talpur



BADIN: In an effort to raise legal awareness among the youth and local community, a significant seminar titled "Law for All" was held at Nishat Library Khan Sahib Abdul Rehman. Organized by the Najia Student Organization, Nishat Jamaat Luari Sharif, Unit Luari Sharif, this district-level event aimed to educate attendees about their legal rights and the broader implications of the law in everyday life. The seminar was presided over by Sohail Ahmed Junejo, the Central Vice President of the Najia Student Organization Nishat Jamaat Luari Sharif, who emphasized the importance of legal knowledge in fostering an informed and responsible society.

The seminar featured a series of enlightening lectures by esteemed legal professionals. Sir Advocate Kam Kohli initiated the session with a lecture on "Fundamental Rights and Remedies." He elaborated on the basic rights guaranteed by the constitution and the legal remedies available for their violation, stressing the importance of understanding these rights to protect oneself and others in the community. His talk was a comprehensive overview of civil liberties, including freedom of speech, right to education, and the right to equality before the law.

Following this, Advocate Niaz Irfan Majeed Soomro presented on "LLB and its Scope." He provided valuable insights into the educational path of obtaining a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree, detailing the curriculum, specializations, and the various career opportunities available to law graduates. He highlighted the growing demand for legal professionals in various sectors, including corporate, criminal, and civil law, encouraging students to consider a career in law as a viable and rewarding option.

Advocate Muhammad Ibrahim Soomro then took the stage to discuss "Job Opportunities in Law and Earnings of Lawyers." His presentation focused on the diverse employment opportunities within the legal field, including roles in private practice, public service, corporate

law, and more. He stressed the importance of being well-informed about their rights and responsibilities.

His lecture covered topics such as civic duties, the importance of participating in democratic processes, and the role of youth in social justice movements. He encouraged the attendees to be proactive in seeking knowledge and to use their legal understanding to advocate for positive change in their communities.

In a gesture of appreciation, the guests were presented with traditional Sindhi Bohara town, located on the sea coast. The thief, identified as Fazlur Rehman, was electrocuted during the theft.

Local sources reported that the incident occurred late at night when Fazlur Rehman was trying to disconnect the water motor. His lifeless body was discovered by locals in the early hours of the morning and was subsequently taken to Sheikh Zayed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The shocking nature of his death has stirred the local community, highlighting the dangers of such unlawful activities.

Following the lectures, a vibrant Q&A session ensued, where members of the audience posed various questions about legal issues.

The speakers addressed these queries with proficiency, providing detailed and practical answers, further enhancing the participants' understanding of legal matters.

The program saw enthusiastic participation from officials and members of Nishat District Badin and other units. The event not only provided valuable legal knowledge but also fostered a sense of community and mutual support among the attendees.

The successful seminar underscored the importance of legal education in empowering individuals and promoting a just and equitable society.

The seminar was conducted by Shams Salah Kerio, Joint Secretary of the Luari Sharif Unit, who ensured the smooth flow of the event.

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## "People Were Screaming": Gazans Recall Israeli Hostage Rescue Raid

Palestinian Territories: A day after Israeli special forces rescued four hostages from Gaza, Palestinians recounted their panic during the intense gun battles and explosions that rocked the area and reduced buildings to rubble.

While Israelis have rejoiced at the safe return of the four captives, officials in Hamas-run Gaza decried a "massacre" in which they said 274 people were killed and 698 wounded in the crowded Nuseirat refugee camp.

Soon after the raid started around 11 am (0800 GMT) in Nuseirat's busy market area, bombs were raining down and turning the neighbourhood into "smoke and flames", said Muhammad Thabet, a 35-year-old resident.

"People were screaming - young and old, women and men," he said by phone. "Everyone wanted to flee the place, but the bombing was intense and anyone who moved was at risk of being killed due to the heavy bombardment and gunfire."

"Houses were destroyed with their occupants inside. There were also large numbers of displaced people and shops, stalls and cars were on fire due to the bombing."

Israel had sent in a special



forces team of troops, police and Shin Bet operatives who simultaneously raided two buildings to extract the hostages -- Noa Argamani, 26, Almog Meir Jan, 22, Andrey Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 41. They met little resistance in one, but heavy gunfire in the other and withdrew under attack with guns and rocket-propelled grenades to take the hostages to nearby helicopters, said military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari. Another military spokesman, Peter Lerner, told US network ABC that "the forces came under fire from a 360-degree threat -- RPGs, AK-47s, explosive devices, mortar rounds. It was a war zone."

"No one could move. Eyewitnesses said the Israeli raid and retreat were covered by heavy air strikes

as well as drone and tank fire.

Several told AFP they had seen bodies in the streets, which AFP could not independently verify. As the fighting raged, the injured were taken to one of Gaza's hospitals, medics said. "The hospital was filled with martyrs and injured, and it was impossible to accommodate such a large number within minutes," said doctor Marwan Abu Nasser, an official at the Al-Awda health facility near the camp. "Of course, the hospital was under fire, and no one could move during the operation."

"Watching from his roof, another local man, Mohammed Moussa, said he was terrified when he caught a glimpse of an Israeli tank on the street below with artillery fire crashing down.—Agency

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"Watching from his roof, another local man, Mohammed Moussa, said he was terrified when he caught a glimpse of an Israeli tank on the street below with artillery fire crashing down.—Agency

# SPORTS



## Babar Azam isn't even equal to Virat Kohli's shoe: Danish Kaneria



One of the hottest debate topics in the cricketing world remains the comparison between former Indian skipper Virat Kohli and current Pakistan captain Babar Azam.

With the high-voltage match between the two South Asian giants barely a few hours away, former Pakistan cricketer Danish Kaneria has made bold statements about who he believes is the superior player.

In a recent interview, Kaneria did not hold back his criticism of Babar Azam. "As soon as Babar Azam scores a hundred, the next day you'll see comparisons with Virat Kohli. Babar Azam isn't even equal to Virat Kohli's shoe," Kaneria said. The former spinner specifically pointed

out Azam's recent struggles against the USA bowlers, where the Pakistani captain could not dominate.

"USA bowlers had him stuck; he was unable to play them. As soon as he reached 40-odd runs, he got out. He should have stayed and won the game. Pakistan should have won the game one-sided," he said.

Kaneria also expressed disappointment with the Pakistan cricket team's overall attitude. "The Pakistan cricket team is a joke. They are not serious about the T20 World Cup; they are just holidaying in the US with family. Babar Azam stands nowhere near Virat Kohli," he concluded.—Agency

## Pakistani shooter prepares for F-Class European Championship in London

LONDON: As the prestigious F-Class Imperial and European Championship approaches, celebrated long-range shooter Mohsin Nawaz is in London, busy in rigorous training to ensure peak performance.

Scheduled to take place in July, this championship represents another milestone in Mohsin Nawaz's outstanding Long Range Shooting career. His optimism and dedication were evident during a recent interaction with Geo News where he expressed his high hopes for the upcoming competition.



Nawaz conveyed his confidence and enthusiasm for the Imperial Championship. "I am training intensively here in London, focusing on every detail to ensure I perform at my best," he shared, adding, "I am fully committed to excellence and my strategy is in place, full of determination to succeed."

Nawaz is currently sponsored by two brands of Austria and South Africa. These sponsorships provide him with state-of-the-art equipment and resources, further enhancing his competitive edge.

Beyond the Imperial Championship, Mohsin Nawaz told Geo News he is also gearing up for the European F-Class Long Range Shooting Championship.

He said, "My track record at this event is impressive, having secured a silver medal at 800 yards in the 2023 European Championship, where I equaled the European record. The European Championship holds a special place for me, and I'm eager to build on my past success."

Alongside his team from the Long-Range Pakistan Rifle Association, Nawaz has set his sights on the World

Long Range Shooting Championship. "We have demonstrated our capability in the European Championship. With continued dedication and hard work, I believe the Pakistani team can achieve outstanding results on the world stage," he asserted.

Nawaz's career is adorned with significant achievements. He first captured the spotlight in 2018 with a gold medal in the F-Class Nationals at 600 meters. This victory laid the foundation for subsequent successes, including a bronze medal at the South Africa Open Championship at 900 yards.

At the 2022 Bisleys Championship, Nawaz earned three gold medals and two silver medals, showcasing his skill and consistency across various events.—Agency

## Cristiano Ronaldo hugs Luka Modric after Croatia beat Portugal



Former Real Madrid teammates Cristiano Ronaldo and Luka Modric shared a memorable moment after Croatia defeated Portugal in a friendly on Saturday, Sports Brief reported.

Modric, 38, expertly beat goalkeeper Diogo Costa from the spot, according to Reuters.

After Diogo Jota and Nelson Semedo were introduced as half-time substitutes, both players crossed the ball for an equaliser for Portugal in the 48th minute.

The visitors secured the victory in the 56th minute when Ante Budimir headed in a rebound after Mario Pasalic's attempt had been deflected onto the crossbar by Costa.

Ronaldo, 39, who had been benched in the game, reunited with his

former Real Madrid teammates Modric after the match.

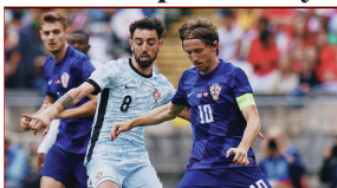
Real Madrid fans were left swooning as the two exchanged a heartwarming hug and some words.

The moment was captured in a video shared on social media. The two also interacted before the match.

Ronaldo and Modric became teammates when the Croatia legend joined Real Madrid from Tottenham Hotspur in 2012 and they played 222 matches, combining for 16 goals, according to Sportskeeda.

Modric assisted Ronaldo's second goal in the 2016-17 UEFA Champions League final against Juventus, a match they won 4-1 in Cardiff.—Agency

## Croatia beat Portugal in Euro 2024 warm-up friendly



PORTUGAL: Croatia finished their Euro 2024 preparations with an impressive 2-1 friendly win over Portugal on Saturday.

Zlatko Dalic's side beat the Euro 2016 winners in the Lisbon suburb of Oeiras to send Group B rivals Spain and Italy a warning.

Roberto Martinez's Portugal, among the contenders to win the tournament, fell to only their second defeat in 13 matches under the Spaniard.

Talisman Cristiano Ronaldo was left on the bench by Martinez, whose side spurned chances to equalise in the second half.

"Today's game had a negative result... we want to win, it's the best way to grow, but today there are also positives to take," said Martinez.

Portugal won all of their qualifying games but have lost in friendlies against Slovenia in March, and now Croatia.

"Winning against Croatia doesn't make us good enough to win the tournament, losing doesn't mean we will not qualify for the last 16," continued Martinez.

"A friendly game is about preparation. Now we are stronger than before the game... this is international football."

"We lost, Croatia deserved it, but for us it was a test we needed."

Croatia had the better of the opening period against the subdued hosts and veteran Luka Modric netted his 25th international goal from the penalty spot after Vitinha felled Mateo Kovacic.

Real Madrid midfielder Modric, 38, is hoping to finish on a high in what is likely to be the last major international tournament of his career.

Manchester City defender Josko Gvardiol twice came close, while Porto goalkeeper Diogo Costa denied Andrej Kramaric and Ante Budimir headed off target.

Substitute Diogo Jota, on at the break, pulled Portugal level early in the second half but Budimir soon restored Croatia's advantage with a header after Mario Pasalic hit the crossbar.

Portugal upped their game with Rafael Leao and Joao Cancelo creating danger in search of a leveller but the visitors held on for a second friendly victory after beating North Macedonia.

"It's a great victory, it will give us confidence for the Euros," Modric told Nova TV.—Agency

## Uganda bundle out for 39 as West Indies win by 134 runs

West Indies won by a whopping 134 runs against Uganda, their largest margin of victory in terms of runs in a T20 match, on Sunday at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas.

Chasing a target of 174 runs, Uganda were bundled out for only 39 runs, the joint-lowest team total in the men's T20 World Cup, in 12 overs. The Netherlands were also dismissed for the same score against Sri Lanka in Chattogram in 2014.



Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein bowled a sensational spell as he claimed five wickets for just 11 runs in four overs. He also bagged the award for Player of the Match.

"I think I needed this. In the nets and the previous series, I felt the ball was coming out good but I was just not getting the rewards," Hosein said after the match.

"I think it is a lot of hard work. When you get success, guys are going to study you and have a plan. You always have to stay a step ahead. For me, it is just about trying to react to what the surface is doing and planning it out. Even if the ball is going both ways, you cannot do much if you don't plan. So, it is about planning the over well. I am happy to bowl wherever the team needs me."

Hosein became the first West Indies bowler to take a five-wicket haul in a men's T20 World Cup innings.

Alzarri Joseph also chipped in with two wickets for six runs in three overs.

Only tailender Juma Miyagi could get into double figures for Uganda with 13 unbeaten runs in 20 balls.

Earlier, West Indies won the toss and decided to bat

first against Uganda. Batting first, the Windies scored 173-5 in their allotted 20 overs.

Johnson Charles top-scored with 44 runs in 42 balls with the help of four fours and two sixes.

Andre Russell played a quick cameo of 30 runs in 17 balls, which included six fours.

Uganda captain Brian Masaba was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 2-31 in four overs.

Windies, who were playing their second match, began their campaign with a victory against Papua New Guinea (PNG) but it wasn't a convincing one.

Uganda, on the other hand, lost by 125 runs against Afghanistan but a spirited performance in their next match against PNG helped them bag their first-ever T20 World Cup win.—Agency

## FIH Nations Cup: Pakistan lose to New Zealand in semi-final



Pakistan have been bundled out with a 2-1 loss by New Zealand in the FIH Nations Cup semi-final in Gniezno, Poland, on Saturday.

From the beginning of the match, New Zealand set the tone of the match in their favour when Kane Russell threw the ball on a penalty corner into the net just two minutes into the game.

The early lead brought Pakistan under immense pressure as New Zealand were intent on playing up the pressure. Soon, they pulled off extending their lead when Smith Jake succeeded in the 11th minute with a field goal.

The setback shocked Pakistan as the 2-0 situation persisted by the end of the first quarter.

Hitting the ground for the next quarters, Pakistan made all-out efforts to turn the match in their favour. They succeeded to an extent as they managed to abort most of the attempts by New Zealand to boost their lead.

The two teams continued to surmount the other but the 2-0 situation persisted in the second and third quarters. However, the situation took a different turn when Pakistan upped the ante with Rana Waheed managing to find the back of the net with a field goal in the 55th minute.

The hopes of a potential equaliser sparked the attempts by Pakistan however in vain.

Now, Pakistan will clash with South Africa today with their eyes set on third place.

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## Pedri brace helps Spain thrash Northern Ireland before Euros

SPAIN: Pedri Gonzalez struck twice for Spain as they thrumped Northern Ireland 5-1 in their final friendly ahead of Euro 2024 on Saturday.

Alvaro Morata, Fabian Ruiz and Mikel Oyarzabal also netted for Luis de la Fuente's side in Mallorca, with wingers Nico Williams and Lamine Yamal oozing menace on the flanks.

Spain, in a Euros group of death with Italy, Croatia and Albania, are aiming to win the competition for the fourth time.

"I've worked hard to be in good shape at the end of the



season," Pedri told Radio Marca.

The playmaker was out injured for a large part of the season but has hit top form in the final weeks of the campaign.

"Injuries are the worst thing about football, now I am doing a lot better," continued Pedri.

"We'll go for (the Euros), with the idea of winning."

Spain thrashed Andorra 5-0 in a friendly earlier in the week before dismantling Northern Ireland.

The visitors surprised Spain by taking the lead through Dan Ballard, who headed home a Caolan Boyd-Munce free-kick after just two minutes.

Isaac Price came close to a second before Spain recovered their poise and took complete control.—Agency

They managed to abort most of the attempts by New Zealand to boost their lead.

The two teams continued to surmount the other but the 2-0 situation persisted in the second and third quarters. However, the situation took a different turn when Pakistan upped the ante with Rana Waheed managing to find the back of the net with a field goal in the 55th minute.

The hopes of a potential equaliser sparked the attempts by Pakistan however in vain.

Now, Pakistan will clash with South Africa today with their eyes set on third place.

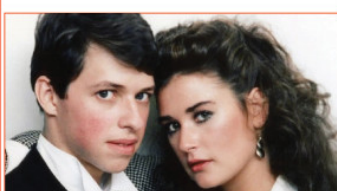
The setback shocked Pakistan as the 2-0 situation persisted by the end of the first quarter.

Hitting the ground for the next quarters, Pakistan made all-out efforts to turn the match in their favour. They succeeded to an extent as

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Jon Cryer reveals shocking truth about his & Demi Moore's relationship during their 1980s Romance!



Jon Cryer revealed that he was unaware of Demi Moore's battle with drug addiction during their brief romance in the 1980s. The actor discussed their relationship, which took place while filming the 1984 movie "No Small Affair," in an interview with PEOPLE. "We dated for a short time while we were working on 'No Small Affair,' but I guess our particular affair was, in fact, pretty small," Cryer said. "She was already struggling with a drug problem. One that I was blissfully unaware of until a couple of weeks before the movie ended."

Moore detailed her struggles with addiction in her 2019 memoir, "Inside Out," where she mentioned entering rehab at the request of "St. Elmo's Fire" director Joel Schumacher before filming began in 1985. According to The New York Times, she relapsed and sought treatment again in 2012 for trauma, codependency, and substance abuse.

In Andrew McCarthy's upcoming Hulu documentary, "Brats," Moore's issues with addiction during the filming of "St. Elmo's Fire" are further explored. PEOPLE reported that Moore called the rehab staff questioning her priorities during treatment. "They said, 'What's more important to you, the movie or your life?'" And I said, "The movie! What are you talking about?" I didn't have any value for myself," she said.

## Braunwyn Windham-Burke reveals her journey with risky weight loss pills



Braunwyn Windham-Burke has been taking a famous medication, mainly prescribed for Type 2 diabetes, to trim her waist.

The Real Housewives of Orange County alum has confessed to experimenting with Ozempic ever since she moved to Nashville last year with her partner, Jen Simpson. The former reality and her fiancée on Saturday revealed to Us Weekly how her lifestyle has changed since then.

"She would make dinner every night when we first got together because I don't cook or really do anything," Spinner, 38, quipped, to which Burke playfully replied, "I don't want to cook because I can't eat! Feed yourself!"

Burke, 46, also explained what compelled her to take the risky approach to slimming down.

"The food is different. There's Loveless Cafe and biscuits and fried chicken. I'm not a person with a lot of self-control," she explained. "I gained 20 pounds."

RHONJ stars Emily Simpson, Jennifer Sherri Shepherd, Fessler, Margaret Josephs and Dolores Cantina and Real Housewives of Salt Lake City's Heather Gay have also admitted to using Ozempic for weight loss.

Melissa Gorga is the 'only one' on the RHONJ cast who does not take the diabetes meds, as per her recent chat with Jennifer Sherri Shepherd.

## Face of the Day



Name: Sufiyan Sikander  
Location: Karachi  
About me: I love Pakistan Cricket again!

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

# METRO KARACHI

# REGIONAL TIMES GLOBAL WATCH



## Murad Emphasizes Public-Private Partnerships At Naya Nazimabad Event

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, speaking in a light-hearted manner at Naya Nazimabad, equipped that Pakistan's cricket team lost their match against America because the country was busy with IMF negotiations. He confidently added that the team would definitely defeat India in their upcoming match.

CM Shah made these remarks at the inauguration ceremony of Naya Nazimabad Gymkhana, Jamia Masjid, and the Naya Nazimabad flyover, where he was invited by Arif Habib, the head of the Naya Nazimabad project. The event was attended by parliamentarians, businessmen, bankers, and industrialists.

Addressing the Pakistan-India match in the T-20 World Cup, Shah humorously noted that the team deliberately lost to America due to ongoing IMF talks but would "give a tough time to India."

Discussing the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project, Murad Shah highlighted the Sindh government's success in providing better infrastructure solutions through such collaborations. He mentioned internationally acclaimed projects like the



Coal Development, the Ghotki-Kandhkot Bridge, the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas Road, the Jhir-Mulkatari Bridge on the River Indus, and the Karachi-Thatta Dual Carriageway.

Shah reiterated his government's commitment to high-quality living standards, including amenities for health, sports, and entertainment. He emphasized the importance of strategic collaborations with the private sector to achieve these goals.

He announced that, following Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's instructions, the provincial government has begun constructing 2.1 million houses for flood-affected people. With 15 houses built daily, 100,000 have been completed, and work on 800,000 houses is ongoing. The transparency in this initiative has led to public donations of 7,000 houses worth Rs2.1 billion, reflect-

ing confidence in the Sindh government.

Praising the development of Naya Nazimabad, Shah noted its contribution to urban regeneration, social upliftment, and the province's economic well-being. He stressed the significance of public-private partnerships in fostering such impactful projects.

Murad Shah also mentioned the ongoing construction of Youth Centers in every district, with 23 centers to be completed this year, offering facilities similar to those of a Gymkhana.

He emphasized the role of public-private partnerships in sustainable development, combining government oversight with private sector innovation and efficiency. This collaboration leads to robust infrastructures, improved services, and dynamic communities.

Shah highlighted the importance of transparent project management, involving all stakeholders and maintaining clear communication to ensure efficient and high-quality project completion. He assured that the Sindh government is ready to support similar initiatives, urging the private sector to foster such partnerships for a brighter future for Karachi and Sindh.

## Israel Extends Al Jazeera Ban For Another 45 Days, Cites Security Threat



Jerusalem: A ban on Al Jazeera's operations in Israel was extended for another 45 days by Israel's telecoms regulator on Sunday after the cabinet agreed its broadcasts posed a threat to security.

A Tel Aviv court last week upheld an initial 35-day ban on Al Jazeera operations in Israel, imposed by the government on national security grounds, which ended on Saturday.

In a separate ruling on a petition by Al Jazeera against the closure, Israel's Supreme Court described the measure against the Qatari-backed broadcaster channel as "precedent-setting".

It gave Israel's government until Aug. 8 to offer arguments for "why it should not be determined that the Law Preventing a Foreign Broadcaster from Harming National Security" is void.

Al Jazeera had told the court it did not incite violence or terrorism and that the ban was disproportionate, a court document showed. The channel, which has criticised Israel's military operations in Gaza, was not immediately available for comment.

The network's broadcasts on the cable and satellite companies and access to its websites will remain blocked, Israel's Communications Ministry said — Agency

## Saudi authorities evict 300,000 unregistered pilgrims from Makkah before Hajj

Saudi Arabia announced Saturday that security forces had removed hundreds of thousands of unauthorised pilgrims from Makkah before the upcoming annual Hajj pilgrimage.

Saudi officials have revealed that managing the crowd during Hajj, which is one of the five pillars of Islam, is a significant concern as it drew more than 1.8 million Muslims last year, AFP reported.

Those turned away in recent days from the holy city, home to the Grand Mosque and the Kaaba, include 153,998 foreigners who travelled from abroad on tourist visas rather than the required Hajj visas, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

In addition, Saudi authorities have rounded up 171,587 others who are based in Saudi Arabia but are not residents of Makkah and did not have Hajj permits, SPA said.

The Hajj, which begins on June 14, must be undertaken at least once by all Muslims with the means and it involves a series of rituals completed over at least four days in Makkah and its surroundings in the west of Saudi Arabia.

Many seek to complete the rites through unofficial channels as obtaining the formal permits and travel packages can be extremely costly, with limited quotas for pilgrims from each country. — Agency

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## This US Man Has Donated Over 110 Litres Blood, Calls It "Multitasking"

A man from Long Island in the United States has donated around 29 gallons of blood (approximately 110 litres) in 49 years, Henry Bickoff, aged 68, started the noble deed in 1975. His blood has helped 693 people, according to the New York Blood Center.



He has donated the equivalent of 870 single-serve ice cream scoops, 310 Coke cans or almost six-gallon office water cooler bottles. "I've been doing it for a while," he told the New York Post. "It's something I've committed to, and it's actually nice to get a little bit of recognition for it," he added.

The eye care professional made his first donation when he was in college. "Everybody was doing it. It was a

thing I can do and it doesn't take a lot of time. I consider it multitasking - making blood cells while I'm doing everything else in my life. And it's just that hour every two months to go down to the blood center and donate." Mr Bickoff has a B-negative blood type and is in high demand. Until the previous five or ten years, he donated every 56 days. However, with age he tries to "stretch it out a little bit."

New York Blood Center's Senior Vice President Andrea Cefarelli said, "Less than 1/2 a percent of the donor base have donated 20 gallons or more. The average person donates a couple of times in their lifetime. — Agency

## Ahmadinejad disqualified from presidential election as Iran approves 6 candidates

DUBAI: Iran's Guardian Council, which oversees elections and legislation, disqualified Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and issued names of approved six candidates to run for president in snap elections to be held later this month after the death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, Iranian media reported Sunday.



On the list are Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Iran's hardline parliament speaker and former Revolutionary Guards commander, Saeed Jalili, a conservative, who was former chief nuclear negotiator and Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's office for four years and Tehran's conservative mayor Alireza Zakani,

of the final list of candidates, their electoral activities start officially," state TV said. The election is due to take place on June 28.

The Council disqualified hardline former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and former parliament speaker Ali Larjani, a prominent conservative, state media said. — Agency

## FIA Issues Warning Regarding Escalating Online Fraudulent Activity

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has issued a public service announcement to alert the public about a recent increase in online fraudulent activity. Unauthorized individuals are impersonating FIA officers and circulating fabricated notices through various electronic communication channels, including email, WhatsApp, and other social media platforms.



These deceptive notices falsely accuse recipients of criminal activity and often employ scare tactics, such as threatening legal action or demanding immediate financial compensation. In some instances, scammers may attempt to elicit sensitive personal information under the pretense of verification or compliance procedures.

that it operates with the utmost professionalism and adheres to strict protocols in its communication practices. All official communication is initiated only after a thorough investigation and includes a clearly identified case number. Importantly, the FIA will never request sensitive information, such as banking details, via notices or phone calls.

If you receive a suspicious notice claiming to be from the FIA, exercise caution. Do not engage with the sender or provide any personal information. To verify the legitimacy of such communication, please contact the FIA helpline at 1991 or visit the nearest FIA office. —RT/Agency

## Brazilian Politician Mistakenly Joins Online Meeting While Sitting On Toilet



A three-time mayor of Brazil's Rio de Janeiro was jokingly joining an online meeting on Wednesday while sitting on the toilet, as per a report in the Independent. Cesar Maia, the former mayor of the city hall in Rio de Janeiro, had logged in for his Zoom conference with other council members.

However, the politician quickly realised his error after the other participants of the meeting noticed that he had his trousers around his ankles. Mr Maia then hurriedly grabbed his device to show his face.

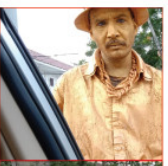
Videos going viral on social media show Pablo Mello, the councillor leading the session, surprised by the incident. He then asked the former mayor to turn his camera off. Notably, the live session was about a bill to designate Mirante da Rocinha as a cultural heritage site.

Later, Mr Maia's office issued a statement and rendered an apology. According to his press office, the 78-year-old "suddenly felt unwell" and this "damaged his perception of the camera," as per a Sky News report.

However, this is not the first time such an incident has occurred. In December 2023, Indian-American entrepreneur and Republican leader Vivek Ramaswamy was caught in an embarrassing moment during a live X Spaces chat with SpaceX and Tesla Chief Elon Musk, US conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and several others. The chat had around 2.3 million listeners tuned in.

Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com — Agency

## Karachi's Child Beggars Painted In Silver And Gold Face Deadly Health Risks, But Does Anyone Care?



from their misery. What most people, including our indifferent authorities, fail to grasp are the severe health risks these children face. The paints used are often cheap, highly toxic, and not intended for prolonged skin contact, especially in the scorching summer heat of Karachi. Exposure to these substances can lead to a myriad of health issues including severe skin irritation, chemical burns, respiratory problems from inhaling fumes, and potential long-term damage to vital organs such as the liver and kidneys.

streets, perpetuating the cycle of exploitation. The societal and psychological impact on these children is profound. Studies indicate that child beggars often develop severe mental health issues, including inferiority complexes, lack of self-confidence, and social withdrawal. Many fall into drug addiction and remain trapped in a cycle of poverty and abuse, their future prospects bleak.



By Muzna Abbasi

Medical experts warn that the practice of covering children in paint prevents their skin from breathing, exacerbating the risk of heat exhaustion and other heat-related illnesses. Despite the intense heat and the evident dangers, it is nothing short of a miracle that no child has yet succumbed to these hazardous conditions.

The plight of these children is compounded by the systemic failures of the authorities to enforce existing laws. The anti-vagrancy law of 1958 and subsequent child protection acts are clear in their provisions to protect these children, yet enforcement remains sporadic and ineffective. Efforts by the Sindh government to ban beggary and rehabilitate child beggars have seen little success. The powerful mafia behind the begging operations often ensures that arrested children are quickly released and returned to the

The Council disqualified hardline former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and former parliament speaker Ali Larjani, a prominent conservative, state media said. — Agency

streets, perpetuating the cycle of exploitation. The societal and psychological impact on these children is profound. Studies indicate that child beggars often develop severe mental health issues, including inferiority complexes, lack of self-confidence, and social withdrawal. Many fall into drug addiction and remain trapped in a cycle of poverty and abuse, their future prospects bleak.

The onus is on the government to dismantle the begging mafia and provide meaningful support to these children and their families. This includes offering educational opportunities, healthcare, and rehabilitation services to break the cycle of exploitation. Equally important is raising public awareness about the true nature of street begging and the dangers of giving money directly to child beggars. Instead, support should be directed towards credible organizations working to rescue and rehabilitate these children.

So while the sight of a child beggar painted in silver or gold may stir a moment of pity and a charitable impulse, it is crucial to recognize the underlying abuse and exploitation. The solution lies not in temporary alms but in systemic change and unwavering enforcement of child protection laws. Only then can Karachi's youngest and most vulnerable citizens hope for a brighter, healthier future.

## Customs Agents Call For Urgent Clearance Of Thousands Of Stuck Containers At Karachi Port

KARACHI: Khurram Ejaz, former president of the Karachi Customs Agents Association, has sharply criticized port authorities for their lack of preparation in clearing the backlog of containers at Karachi Port. In a statement, Ejaz highlighted that the arrival of the world's largest ship, a historic event for the port, was marred by administrative failures, leading to a significant delay in container clearance.

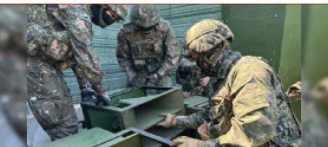


demurrage charges."

He criticized the Karachi Port administration's lack of readiness, stating, "Had there been adequate preparations for the prompt clearance of these containers, the situation at Karachi Port would be vastly different. Over a week has passed, and yet, the containers remain unexamined."

Ejaz also directed criticism at the Minister of Ports and Shipping, noting that while the arrival of such a significant vessel is a notable achievement, it requires meticulous planning and stringent regulation to manage the increased volume efficiently. He called for stricter regulatory measures to ensure the smooth functioning of port operations, emphasizing that the trade community and consumers, already grappling with inflation, should not bear the brunt of administrative oversights. Ejaz urged the new Minister of Ports and Shipping to not only launch promising projects but also to enforce stringent measures where necessary to prevent such disruptions in the future. —RT

## South Korea Resumes Loudspeaker Broadcasts After North's Trash Balloons



Seoul: South Korea resumed loudspeaker broadcasts directed at North Korea on Sunday, its military said, following through on a warning demanding Pyongyang stop sending balloons carrying trash into the South.

The decision to resume the broadcasts, as a form of psychological warfare, was made after North Korea began launching on Saturday about 330 balloons with trash attached, with about 80 of them dropping over the border, South Korea's military said.

"The measures we will take may be unbearable for the North Korean regime but they will send a message of hope and light to the North's troops and its people," South Korea's National Security Council said.

South Korea had warned the North it would take retaliatory measures which could include propaganda broadcasts from huge loudspeakers set up at the border.

The broadcasts were made Sunday afternoon and whether more will follow depends on how North Korea responds, South Korea's military said. — Agency

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## Omar Iftikhar's New Book "Player AI" Launched

Karachi: Muhammad Omar Iftikhar's latest book, and his second work of science fiction, Player AI, has been released. The novelette, published by Daastan Publishing, uniquely intertwines cricket and technology, set against the backdrop of the T20 Cricket World Cup. The story begins when the captain of the Pakistan cricket team falls ill just months before the tournament. In response, the Pakistan Cricket Alliance (PCA) introduces "Player AI," an android replica designed to emulate the captain's every move. The narrative explores themes of artificial intelligence, consciousness, identity, and the ethics of technology, and human-machine interaction.



Commenting on the book, Syed Ommer Amer, Founder and CEO of Daastan Publishing, said, "We take pride in bringing unique voices like Player AI to mainstream media through our platform. It is high time that the Pakistani industry moves beyond

cliche themes of marriage and divorce to explore new genres in storytelling. Omar's four books, published with us, are a testament to this. I am excited to see how the audience will interact with this masterpiece that combines cricket and AI." Mariam Arif, Editor-in-Chief of Daastan Publishing, added, "Muhammad Omar Iftikhar has brilliantly introduced AI into cricket in his latest book, Player AI. It's a unique, fast-paced novelette and a real page-turner. It's refreshing to see Pakistani authors develop unique ideas, and Omar is at the forefront of this trend. Player AI is perfect for kids and adults who share a love of cricket." —RT

# METRO KARACHI



## Former Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair Quits PML-N



KARACHI: PTI Sindh's General Secretary, Advocate Ali Palh along with other party leaders is addressing a press conference, at the Solid Waste Management Dumping Point.—RT

KARACHI: Former Sindh governor Muhammad Zubair on Sunday announced to quit the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) over some "reservations".

Speaking to Geo News, Zubair, who did not disclose what issues exactly led to his departure, said he would take decision about his future politics in consultation with his "friends".

Zubair joins a list of top leaders who recently parted ways with the ruling party, including former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and ex-finance minister Miftah Ismail.



The politician has been critical of the incumbent government, which was formed after the February 8 elections, and also recently said he was in the party "like Abbasi", hinting at his displeasure with the leadership.

When former Rawalpindi Division Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chatha made allegations that the election results were manipulated, Zubair had said that the PML-N should "publicly accept defeat" and allow the country to move on. However, Chatha backtracked on his claims.

While it is unclear whether he will join a political party or not, Abbasi had on April 8 approached the Election Commission of Pakistan for registration of a new political party.

Ismail is also supporting the formation of a new party of individuals having "proven integrity and competence".

Talking to Geo News, Zubair said he stood by Nawaz's stance of resistance, while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's job was to back a reconciliatory stance.

Announcing to continue national politics, he said he has not yet decided which party he would join.

"It's clear that I will (continue to) do politics, but I haven't decided from what platform or party I will do politics," he said.

On why he quit the PML-N, he said he had no dis-

agreements with Nawaz. "Obviously, he made me his spokesman, gave me space and prominent posts in politics," he said. Zubair said he agreed to the PML-N's policies which banked on the masses.

However, after the no-trust vote against former prime minister Imran Khan, "we saw that the party had quit the principled politics," he said.

He said after the PML-N's coming into power following Imran's removal as the prime minister, those 16 months were "so bad that when the time of elections came in 2024, no party leader even once mentioned what they delivered in their rule of 16 months".

On the party's differing narratives, he said when the PTI was in power, the PML-N had two narratives — one was a resisting and the other one a reconciliatory narrative.

Nawaz and his daughter Maryam carried the resisting narrative which stated "respect the ballot", while Shehbaz carried the reconciliatory narrative that encompassed "coming into power by hook or by crook".

"I stood by the resisting narrative, but since we had to defend the party so we would say that there was no difference in both the stances. Definitely, there was a huge difference," he said.

Zubair's brief profile

Zubair, who was a prominent leader of the PML-N, was sworn in as the Sindh governor on February 2, 2017. He served in the post for more than one year till August 2018.

He is an IBA graduate and proved his mettle in the professional sector, where he spent 26 years with IBM from 1981 to 2007, working in various capacities in Rome, Milan, Paris and Dubai.

In 1998, he was appointed Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for IBM Pakistan and was later elevated to CFO of IBM Middle East/Africa region in 2004.

After joining PML-N, he was part of the party's Tax Reforms Media Committee between 2012-2013, and in July 2013, he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Investment, where he served until December of that year.

He was then appointed as Chairman of the Privatisation Commission in 2013 and he served until 2017. He has also served as the spokesperson of PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz.

Zubair is the son of General (ret'd) Ghulam Umar and also the elder brother of former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Asad Umar.

He holds a master's degree in business administration from Karachi's renowned Institute of Business Administration. Zubair has also served as one of the Board of Directors in 1980 in the capacity of student representative and also taught Financial Management from 1981-1986.

M Zubair served as chairman of the Board of Investment from July to December 2013, before holding the position of chairman of the Privatisation Commission.—RT/Agency

## Media Employee Robbed At Gunpoint By Three Armed Men Near Sindh Assembly

KARACHI: An employee of Geo News (Digital) was robbed by three armed snatchers on Sunday morning near the Sindh Assembly.

The employee, Sharjeel Ahmed Khan, who works as a social media executive at Geo News, was travelling to office from Liaquatabad to II Chundrigar Road when he was held at gunpoint by three armed men.

The suspects snatched the victim's mobile phone, bag, money as well as his 70cc motorcycle and fled. Sharjeel told Geo News that he contacted the police soon after the incident.

However, the law enforcement officials, instead of reaching at the spot and helping him, told the victim that a report has been filed over the phone.

They also advised him to



file a report at Aram Bagh Police Station. Sharjeel said that he left for the station as soon as possible.

The victim then reported the incident and said that the police assured him that they would take action after getting the CCTV footage on Monday.

Later, a first information report (FIR) of the incident was lodged at Aram Bagh

## NIMA And Bahria University Karachi Jointly Commemorate World Oceans Day



KARACHI: The National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) and Bahria University Karachi jointly hosted an inclusive seminar themed "Awaken New Depths" to celebrate World Oceans Day. The event aimed to highlight the importance of the ocean and promote sustainable interaction with marine ecosystems.

The seminar commenced with a welcome speech by President NIMA, Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Ahmed Saeed HI (M). He emphasized the critical role of the sea for Karachi, noting that mere statistics are insufficient to drive change. "We need to mobilize communities and ignite a deeper connection with nature to protect Earth's vital ecosystems for the benefit of humanity, marine life, and our national economy," he stated.

The event brought together key stakeholders from various maritime sectors, including government officials, the maritime community, academia, industries, and students. Distinguished experts from the National Institute of Oceanography, United Nations FAO, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, Marine Conservation Pakistan, and other organizations addressed the critical challenges and pathways for sustainable marine resource utilization. International expert Dr. Paul Liu, Director from North Carolina State University, USA, provided valuable insights into ocean conservation and the associated challenges and opportunities.

Engaging activities for students were also a highlight of the event. Hundreds of students participated in a "pledge wall" initiative, showcasing their commitment to ocean preservation. Additionally, an online essay competition was held, with prizes distributed by the Guest of Honor, Vice Chancellor of Lashela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LU-AWMS), Professor Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch. Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab Siddiqui, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

In his closing address, he emphasized the social responsibility of individuals in combating sea pollution and preserving the environment. He highlighted the need for better governance and enforcement mechanisms despite Pakistan having multiple layered policies. He assured that his department would welcome collaborations aimed at eradicating pollution and conserving ocean resources.

The event concluded with the Chief Guest distributing souvenirs to the guest speakers and the Guest of Honor. President National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Ahmed Saeed, presented a souvenir to the Chief Guest, Mayor Murtaza Wahab Siddiqui, in appreciation of his participation and support. On the occasion, the President of the Aquaculture Farmers' Association Syed Daim Shah and other guests were also present in a large number.—RT

## Tessori Announces Cash Prize For National Team



KARACHI: During the ongoing match between the arch-rivals Pakistan and India, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori announced a huge prize money if the national team wins against India today, media reported on Sunday.

Backing the green shirts, Governor Sindh has announced a reward of Rs 10 million for the national team players if they emerge victorious against India in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024.

Speaking to ARY News, he expressed his excitement and unwavering support for the team, emphasizing that their hard work, determination, and sportsmanship are what truly matter on the field against their arch-rivals.



The Governor adorned himself in the Pakistani team's kit, including a cricket helmet, pads, and shirt, while joining cricket enthusiasts to watch the thrilling match against their arch-rivals.

With a big screen set up at the Governor's House, the atmosphere is charged with anticipation as everyone rallies behind the national team, hoping for a remarkable performance.—RT/Agency

## Tessori Announces Cell To Monitor Street Crime Killings

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori announced to establish a cell to follow up on the cases of those who have been killed upon resisting robbery in Karachi during the past year.

The governor visited the residence of Itteqa Moeen, a 27-year-old highly qualified man who was gunned down for resisting robbery in Karachi, to offer condolences to the bereaved family.

Kamran Khan Tessori assured the parents of the deceased that he would personally look into the case and ensure that the culprits are brought to justice.

Later, while talking to the media, he said that a special cell would be formed at the Governor's House to follow up the cases of those who fell prey to street crimes in the city.

He said that all street crime cases from the past year will be investigated at special cell at the Governor's House. The governor said that the public should be informed how many



people were murdered upon resisting robbery, how many arrests were made, and how many accused were convicted.

Earlier in the day, the prime suspects in the murder case of Itteqa Moeen, 27-year-old gold medalist mechanical engineer and Hafiz-e-Quran in Gulshan-e-Iqbal on June 1, were arrested from Quetta.

The sources said that the CIA arrested the suspects who had fled to Balochistan after the killing and their criminal record of the arrested suspects is being obtained.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Adil Chando said that important evidence has been found in the murder case. The SSP said that the suspects are trained and their group has been traced.

According to the police, the arrested suspects are involved in car and motorcycle theft in Karachi. The suspects stole vehicles and motorcycles from Karachi in Balochistan.

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) team is still in Quetta to further investigate the matter while the arrested suspects are likely to be transferred.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Security Guard Arrested For Killing Scavenger Boy

KARACHI: The local police of Karachi claimed to have arrested the security guard who opened fire and killed the scavenger boy in the North Karachi area, media reported on Sunday.

The private company security guard opened fire and injured a young scavenger boy who later succumbed to his injuries in the hospital on Friday.

Meanwhile, after the shooting incident, the security guard managed to flee from the scene.

However, the police claimed to have arrested the security guard after lodging the FIR on the complaint of the 16-year-old Abdul Samad's father in Sir Syed police station.

According to police officials, the arrested security guard — Ramzan —



is an employee of a private security company, while the guard's supervisor is already in police custody.

Earlier, another tragic incident was reported, where a security guard gunned down a scavenger boy in Karachi.

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.—RT/Agency

## Foreign Experts Visit Pakistan's Major Airports For E-Gate Installation

KARACHI: France's experts on Sunday visited Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore airports ahead of installation of Electronic gates (E-gates), media reported.

As per details, Aviation Division and Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) officials briefed the foreign experts about the installation of the e-gates at Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore airports.

The installation of E-gates will eliminate the hassle of the travelers as they don't need to wait in que to get boarding pass and can obtain their boarding cards through the E-gate by scanning their passport and ticket.

The sources within CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) mentioned that the E-gate uses the data embedded in the Passport's biometric chip.

This new technology will provide international travel convenience to passengers.

Under this system, passengers undergo biometric authentication through facial, fingerprint, iris recognition or overall procedures, after which the gate will automatically open for the passenger.—RT/Agency

## CTD Busts Gang Involved In Looting Bank Customers

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh police has arrested the mastermind of a gang that was robbing citizens coming out of banks with cash in Karachi.

According to details, in an operation by the CTD Intelligence Wing, a suspect named Asad Sajjad was arrested. It has been reported that he used to rob citizens who were leaving banks with cash.

According to the CTD spokesperson, the suspect Asad Sajjad informed his accomplices about a citizen who was leaving a bank with cash. Acting on this tip-off, the accomplices tried to rob



the citizen in DHA area, but the police arrived at the scene during the robbery, and one of the suspects was killed in the encounter.

A few months ago, the suspect was also arrested by the CTD on charges of robbing a courier van, and he was recently released on bail from jail. Upon his release,

he formed a new gang and started committing crimes again.

The CTD stated that further investigation is ongoing regarding Asad Sajjad's other accomplices. It was also mentioned that his arrest was made possible with the help of CCTV footage.—RT/Agency

## Punjab Police Arrest Murder Suspect In Targeted Karachi Operation

KARACHI: In a joint operation confirmed that along with Waseem, the victim's wife, Farah, was also arrested.

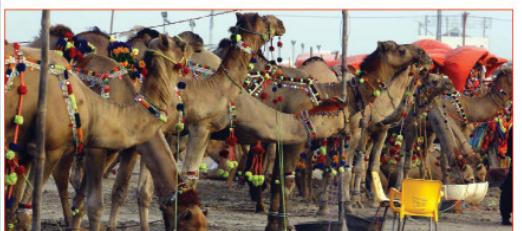
Waseem is accused of shooting the five times, resulting in his death. Following the murder, Waseem fled to Rawalpindi with Farah, where they stayed before traveling to Karachi by coach. The investigation revealed that Waseem had married Farah, who was related to both the victim and the suspect.

SSP East, Farrukh Raza, stated that the suspect, identified as Waseem, had been evading capture for the past 15 months, hiding in the Madhu Goth area of Karachi.

SSP East, Farrukh Raza,

At the time of the murder, Farah was present at the scene, according to SSP East.

The operation was carried out after the Punjab Police sought assistance from the East Police. The Gulshan Iqbal Police conducted a thorough search and successfully arrested the suspect. The arrested individuals will be handed over to the Punjab Police for further legal proceedings.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Sacrificial animals are waiting for their buyers at a makeshift sacrificial animals market established for Eid-ul-Azha, at the Northern Bypass Road.—RT

A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval.

—Mark Twain

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MONDAY JUNE 10 2024

## Modi sworn in as Indian PM for historic third term

Narendra Modi was sworn in as India's prime minister on Sunday for a record-equaling third term, but as a reserve coalition's head after a shock poll setback that will test his ability to ensure policy certainty in the world's most populous nation.

President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Modi at a grand ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president's palace in New Delhi, attended by thousands of dignitaries, including the leaders of seven regional countries, Bollywood stars and industrialists.

Modi, who started as a publicist of the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological parent of his Bharatiya Janata Party



(BJP), is only the second person after independence leader Jawaharlal Nehru to serve a third straight term as prime minister.

Modi, 73, secured the third term in elections that concluded on June 1 with the support of 14 regional parties in his BJP-led National Democratic Alliance

beating growth and lifted India's global standing but appeared to have missed a step at home as a lack of enough jobs, high prices, low incomes and religious faultlines pushed voters to rein him in.

When Modi was the chief minister of the western state of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014, BJP enjoyed strong majorities, allowing him to govern decisively.

Modi's new term as prime minister, therefore, is likely to be fraught with challenges on building consensus on contentious political and policy issues in the face of different interests of regional parties and a stronger opposition, analysts say.

Some analysts worry that the fiscal balance in the

world's fastest growing economy could also come under pressure due to demands for higher development funds for states ruled by the NDA's regional partners and a possible push by BJP to spend more on welfare to woo back voters it lost in this year's election.

Modi, whose election campaign was marked by religious rhetoric and criticism of the opposition for allegedly favouring India's 200 million minority Muslims, has adopted a more conciliatory tone since the shock result. "We have won the majority... but to run the country it is unanimity that is crucial... we will strive for unanimity," he said on Friday after the NDA formally named him coalition head.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan reiterates commitment to regional peace, security

Additional Foreign Secretary Imran Ahmed Siddiqui said Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to regional peace, security and prosperity.

The Additional Foreign Secretary made these remarks at the Senior Officials Meeting preparatory to the Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum held in Laos.

Imran Ahmed Siddiqui appreciated ASEAN Regional Forum's pivotal role in multilateral efforts for regional peace and prosperity.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the ASEAN Regional Forum's mandate, he emphasized the importance of international collaboration for shared objectives of stability and sustainable prosperity.

Stressing the need for an



equitable and inclusive security framework, the Additional Foreign Secretary underscored the importance of resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people for lasting peace and security in South Asia. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui also condemned the rising tide of Islamophobia and pursuit of Islamophobic political agenda as strategic in election campaigns. He emphasised the importance of comprehensive approaches to address the root causes of terrorism. He also called for international scrutiny and accountability for extraterritorial killings by foreign agents inside Pakistan. The Additional Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's consistent and principled stance on the Palestinian question and called for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and an end to foreign occupation of Palestinian territories.—RT/Agency

## Hammad Azhar, others booked over anti-government speeches

HAFIZABAD: PTI leader Hammad Azhar and 45 other party leaders have been booked in case pertaining to speeches against the government, media reported.

As per details, former MNA Shaukat Bhatti, MPA Zamir Hussain, and district president Imran Haydar have been named in a case filed by the police for anti-government speeches.

According to the FIR, Hammad Azhar is accused of delivering a speech against the government, which led to a scuffle between police and party workers.

The police attempted to arrest Hammad Azhar and others, but they managed to escape.

The case has been registered against Hammad Azhar and others under various sections, including sec-



tion 124-A (sedition). Meanwhile, PTI leader Ali Gohar has been arrested by the police in a separate raid.

Opposition leader Omar Ayub and Hammad Azhar had addressed a farmers' convention last night, where they allegedly made anti-government speeches.

The PTI leader, who reappeared after almost a year in hiding, earlier dodged arrest as Islamabad Police showed up at party's

## KP Govt lied to Supreme Court over VCs appointments: Kundi



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has said that the provincial government lied with the Supreme Court over appointments of vice chancellors, media reported on Sunday.

"The dancing horses could not run in race field", talking to media, KP governor quipped.

He said the leadership and workers of all political parties can visit the governor house adding that the People's Party's leadership will openly visit governor house.

Governor announced to constitute a task force soon for resolving the province's problems.

Governor said that politics has been the business of a cool mind, and one should not be swept away by emotions.

He suggested that the lands of the province should be used for farming to curb terrorism.—RT/Agency

## Largest revenue target set in FY 2024-25 budget

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's budget history's largest revenue target has been fixed for tax collection in Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.

The revenue collection target for the year has been fixed at 12,900 billion rupees with an increase of 3,440 billion in the upcoming budget.

Imposition of new taxes has been proposed in the budget for FY 2024-25 to generate 2,000 billion rupees additional revenues.

Initially six percent sales tax being proposed on petroleum products. Moreover, a budget proposal has been under the hammer to abolish all sales tax exemptions. An



additional 550 billion rupees revenues are expected with the withdrawal of sales tax exemptions.

Moreover, to achieve the target of tax revenues, one percent hike in the sales tax rate is expected to generate around additional 100 billion rupees revenues. This one

## Major budget boost for defence development expected

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government has proposed an allocation of Rs5.63 for the Ministry of Defence's development projects in the upcoming Budget 2024-25.

This comprehensive allocation encompasses total of 29 key projects, reflecting the government's commitment to enhancing military infrastructure and technology.

According to the budget document, Rs3.92 billion has been earmarked for nine ongoing projects within the Ministry of Defence.

These projects are crucial for maintaining and upgrading existing defense systems and infrastructure.

In addition to this, a substantial amount of Rs1.7 billion is allocated for twenty new schemes aimed at addressing emerging security challenges and advancing the country's defense preparedness.

This includes Rs 400 million designated for the procurement of drones, which will be utilized for law enforcement and emergency search and rescue operations, underscoring the government's focus on modernizing



defense tools and technologies.

Moreover, the budget proposes Rs50 million for the construction of a Research and Regional Center in Islamabad. This facility is expected to serve as a hub for cutting-edge defence research and development, fostering innovation and self-reliance in military technology.

Further, Rs38 million is allocated for the construction of FG Junior Public Schools in Gwadar and Gilgit, highlighting the government's commitment to improving educational infrastructure in strategic locations. Additionally, Rs300 million will be spent on the construction of an Academy Block at the National University of Pakistan in Islamabad, aimed at enhancing educational facilities for defense personnel. Another notable allocation is Rs620 million for the purchase of land for the establishment of a Medical City. This project is part of the government's broader strategy to improve healthcare services for defense personnel and their families. Lastly, Rs 860 million has been set aside for the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park Aviation City in Pakistan. Five-year economic plan to be approved in parallel development, the federal government has finalised a comprehensive five-year economic plan (2024-2029) to achieve major economic goals.—RT/Agency

## Education sector to get record increase in new budget

ISLAMABAD: In a move to grow the education sector, the federal government announced a record increase in the budget allocation, media reported on Sunday.

As announced by the Planning Commission, the education sector has been allocated a staggering Rs 20.25 billion for the budget 2024-25.

Last year, a total of Rs 8.5 billion was apportioned for public sector development programs, indicating a substantial increase in the current year's budget by 140 percent.

The increase in the budget allocation has paved the way for the launch of several new programs by the Federal Ministry of Education during the current financial year.

However, this staggering increase in the budget was due to the launch of several new programs by the Federal Ministry.

Earlier to this, the Higher Education Commission



(HEC) budget has been restored to Rs 65 billion for the financial year 2024-25.

According to the details, the Minister of Finance revised the order to cut Rs 40 billion in the budget of the HEC for the financial year 2024-25 and restored the

Earlier this year, the HEC's budget was slashed from Rs 65 billion to a mere Rs 25 billion, causing widespread concern among educational institutions and stakeholders.

The significant budget cut had raised alarms about the future of higher education

## IMF talks end without agreement



ISLAMABAD: Another round of discussions between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has ended inconclusively due to disagreement over new income tax rates for salaried and non-salaried persons and the imposition of standard 18% sales tax on agriculture and health sectors' goods.

Discussions are revolving around whether to charge a new backbreaking 45% income tax from salaried and non-salaried individuals on a monthly income of just over Rs467,000, according to sources. At present, the maximum rate of 35% is applicable to a monthly income of over Rs500,000. However, both sides have converged on the issue of increasing the income tax burden on exporters in the next budget who paid a paltry sum of Rs86 billion this year, which is 280% less than the taxes paid by the salaried people. Pakistan also showed willingness to show pensions beyond a certain income threshold.

Pakistan and the IMF authorities on Friday held discussions on the outstanding issues related to taxation and the energy sector. Sources said that both sides could not resolve their differences on the income tax threshold, the merger of salaried and non-salaried rates and the maximum income tax for individuals.

The IMF insisted on merging the slabs related to salaried, non-salaried and other incomes. On the government's proposal of increasing the annual threshold of taxable income to Rs900,000, the IMF is asking for the maximum income tax rate to be increased from 35% to 45%. However, the government is not willing to increase the maximum rate for the salaried individuals to 45% but showed flexibility to keep the taxable income threshold at the current Rs600,000. It is also asking to keep the salaried and non-salaried slabs separate but is willing to increase the highest tax rate for non-salaried persons to 45%, said the sources. The non-salaried business individuals pay tax after excluding expenses while the salaried persons pay tax on their gross income without excluding the expenses. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is so far not willing to increase the burden on the salaried class.—RT/Agency

## Asad Umar's health deteriorates

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Asad Umar's health deteriorated and was rushed to a medical facility.

According to details, Asad Umar was moved to the hospital via Sindh Rescue Ambulance Service 1122 after receiving a call.

The former minister in his video statement inside the ambulance lauded the services of Sindh Rescue Ambulance 1122 as it reached within 5 minutes after receiving a call.

He also lauded the expertise of the staff and added that the service is not less than a blessing



for the people of Karachi. In 2023, former planning minister Asad Umar, who had resigned as the PTI's secretary general in May following the May 9 riots resigned from the party's basic membership as well as its founder Imran Khan, quit politics. In a post on X, he wrote, "After more than one decade in public life, I have decided to completely quit politics. I am resigning from [the] basic membership of PTI," Umar, who once was a close aide of PTI founder Imran Khan, stated.—RT/Agency

## Israel's war cabinet member Benny Gantz resigns from Netanyahu's government

JERUSALEM: Israeli minister Benny Gantz announced his resignation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's emergency government on Sunday, withdrawing the only centrist power in the embattled leader's far-right coalition, amid a months-long war in Gaza.

Netanyahu issued a brief statement calling on Gantz not to "abandon the front" but his departure will not endanger the parliamentary majority of 64 seats in the 120-seat Knesset held by the ruling right-wing coalition.

"Netanyahu is preventing us from advancing toward true victory. That is why we are leaving the emergency government today, with a heavy heart but with full con-



science," Gantz said at a televised news conference.

Gantz's resignation has been expected ever since he presented the conservative prime minister with a June 8 deadline to come up with a clear day-after strategy for Gaza, where Israel has been pressing a devastating military offensive against the ruling Palestinian group Hamas. His departure means that Netanyahu will lose the backing of a centrist bloc that has helped broaden support for the government in Israel and abroad, at a time of increasing diplomatic and domestic pressure against Netanyahu's war.—RT/Agency