

# REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



Jennifer Lopez dashes Ben Affleck divorce rumors with latest move

## Heartland

Sindh Minister Nasir Shah chairs meeting of SEPCO officials



## Money

Zafar Moti is Sad! PSE 100-index down by 501.45 points to close at 73,252.56



## NATIONAL

No water shortage as provinces being given 100% of their share: Musadik tells NA



## SPORTS

T20 World Cup 2024: South Africa beat Bangladesh by 4 runs



Sharjeel Condemns Journalist's Murder, Emphasizes Government Initiatives

## PTI Protests ATC's Dismissal Of Omar Ayub's Bail Plea For Non-appearance In Court

ISLAMABAD/SAR-GODHA: A special anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Sarogodha Monday dismissed PTI Secretary-General Omar Ayub's bail petition over non-appearance as police personnel stopped him from presenting himself before the judge, his lawyer said, prompting a strong protest from the party.



Ayub had arrived earlier today at the court premises to appear before the judge, however, he could not ensure his attendance due to the law enforcers, his lawyer told reporters, which led to his bail plea's dismissal in the May 9 and 10 riots case. Several politicians, including Ayub, Amjad Khan Niazi, and Malik Ehsan Ullah Tiwana, have been nominated in the case. With several leaders set to appear, authorities had deployed additional police personnel near the compound. As he was being stopped, Ayub told reporters that the police personnel were not allowing him to appear before the court on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's "instructions".

"They have taken the special court's judge hostage," alleged Ayub, who is the opposition leader in the National Assembly. "Under the guise of security, the police have stopped me from presenting myself before the judge. But I will not leave before marking my attendance," he had said but failed to do so. For his part, the PTI leader and lawyer Babar Awan, who was also present there, said the government should "punish others to the extent that they can bear themselves", while also alleging that a few people were playing with the country's security. He said that his clients were not being allowed to appear before the court. "Chief Justice of Pakistan [Qazi Faez Isai] should take notice. Which door will we knock on for justice?" In response, PTI MNA Asad Qaiser said on the floor of the National Assembly that the opposition leader was not allowed to appear before the court today, asking the treasury benches under which law he was stopped. "We condemn this and we're staging a walk-out. In the Punjab Assembly, Hafiz Farhat Abbas said that Ayub and other PTI leaders were not allowed to appear before the court. He asked the speaker to summon Punjab's top cop in this regard.—RT/Agency

## SBP Slashes Key Rate By 150bps To 20.5% As Inflation Eases

-Too little, too late!

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) cut its key interest rate by 150 basis points on Monday in a widely expected move, marking its first rate reduction in nearly four years in its effort to boost growth amid a sharp decline in retail inflation. The decision to cut the key rate to 20.5% comes two days ahead of budget and a week after data showed inflation slowed to a 30-month low of 11.8% in May. However, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) foresees a risk of inflation to rise significantly in July 2024 from current levels, before trending down gradually during FY25. The MPC in its statement noted that while the significant decline in inflation since February was broadly in line with expectations, the May outturn was better than anticipated earlier. The Committee assessed that underlying inflationary pressures are also subsiding amidst a tight monetary policy stance, supported by fiscal consolidation. At the same time, the MPC viewed some upside risks to the near-term inflation outlook associated with the upcoming budgetary measures and uncertainty regarding future energy price adjustments. Notwithstanding these risks and today's decision, the Committee noted that the cumulative impact of the earlier monetary tightening is expected to keep inflationary pressures in check. As per a survey conducted by Topline Research, 43% of participants expected the policy rate to decline by 100bps. Similarly, in a poll conducted by CFA Society Pakistan, 48% expected the policy rate to decrease by up to 100bps. According to a Bloomberg survey, 63% of the participants expected a



100bps decline in the key rate. Also, for the first time in the last four years (Since June 25, 2020), SBP has decided to onset monetary easing. The central bank last changed rates in an emergency meeting in late June last year, when it raised rates by 100 basis points to a record high of 22%. Talking to media, Khaqan Najeib, one of the country's top economists, said: "If you look at the interest rate in Pakistan, which was 22%, you would realise that the real interest rate has become 10% positive." The inflation figure of 11.8% showed that the inflation had reduced to a very low level. There [has been] a very big room [for monetary policy] to adjust our interest rate." "We should see in the upcoming monetary policies that not only the core inflation but also the CPI (Consumer Price Index) headline inflation, and food inflation are trending downward." Najeib said that Pakistan's economy was clogged right now with a growth rate near 2.2%, solely coming from the agriculture sector. "All in all we moved in the right direction and since the inflation is trending downward and food prices are also going down in the wake of wheat and rice crops, so the inflation should remain in the same vicinity and should be easing in the next June as well," Najeib said. According to the MPC statement, first, real GDP growth remained moderate at 2.4% in FY24 as per provisional data, with subdued recovery in industry and services partially offsetting the strong growth in agriculture. Second, a reduction in the current account deficit has helped improve the foreign exchange reserves to around US\$9 billion despite large debt repayments and weak official inflows, it

added. The statement adds that the government has also approached the IMF for an Extended Fund Facility program, which is likely to unlock financial inflows that will help in further build-up of foreign exchange buffers. Lastly, international oil prices have declined, whereas non-oil commodity prices have continued to inch up, it said. Based on these developments, the Committee, on balance, viewed that it was now an appropriate time to reduce the policy rate. The Committee noted that the real interest rate remains significantly positive, which is important to continue guiding inflation to the medium-term target of 5-7%. Economic activity slowed over the last two years in Pakistan as it implemented tough reforms under an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout in a bid to stabilise its crashing economy. Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, speaking at a business conference in China last week, said he expected rates to come down in the face of falling inflation.—RT/Agency

## UN Security Council Set To Decide On US-backed Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Proposal

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council will vote later on Monday on a United States (US)-drafted resolution backing a proposal outlined by US President Joe Biden for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. The US finalised its text on Sunday after six days of negotiations among the 15-member council. It was not immediately clear whether veto powers Russia and China would allow the adoption of the draft. A resolution needs at least nine votes in favour and no vetoes by the US, France, Britain, China, or Russia to pass. Biden laid out a three-phase ceasefire plan on May 31 that he described as an Israeli initiative. Some Security Council members questioned whether Israel had



accepted the plan to end the fighting in Gaza. The draft resolution welcomes the new ceasefire proposal, "which Israel accepted, calls upon Hamas to also accept it, and urges both parties to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition." It also goes into detail about the proposal, and spells out that "if the negotiations take longer than six weeks for phase one, the ceasefire

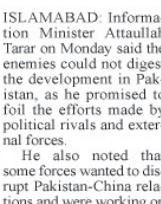
will still continue as long as negotiations continue." The council in March had demanded an immediate ceasefire and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas. For months, negotiators from the US, Egypt, and Qatar have been trying to mediate a ceasefire. Hamas says it wants a permanent end to the war in Gaza and Israeli withdrawal from the enclave of 2.3 million people.—RT/Agency

## Government Grants 'Conditional Permission' For Exporting 150,000 MT Of Sugar



ISLAMABAD: The federal government granted "conditional" permission to export 150,000 metric tonnes of sugar following a decision taken by the Sugar Advisory Board (Sab) on Monday, according to an official statement. The development came during the Sab meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad earlier today. The meeting was also attended by the federal secretary for industries and production, as well as other stakeholders including Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA), Kissan Itehad and federal and provincial representatives. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss and re-

## Efforts To Disrupt Pakistan-China Ties Will Be Thwarted: Tarar

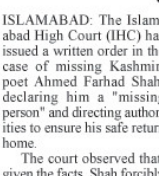


ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaulah Tarar on Monday said the enemies could not digest the development in Pakistan, as he promised to foil the efforts made by political rivals and external forces. He also noted that some forces wanted to disrupt Pakistan-China relations and were working on the nefarious agenda of creating a situation where there could not be any peace in the country. The minister promised to extend complete security to the Chinese nationals living and working in Pakistan while rooting out the menace of terrorism forever. Referring to his recent visit to China as member of a delegation accompanying Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he said an agreement had been reached on upgrading of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, Tarar stressed that political stability was a prerequisite for economic stability, as



he criticised those aiming at creating uncertainty in Pakistan. Tarar told a press conference that no political leader could be bigger than Pakistan with reference to PTI founding chairman Imran Khan, as he questioned the "clean chit" being given through court proceedings. He said a so-called leader had humiliated Pakistan around the globe, but the things were changing, as Pakistan was a historic juncture leading to development and prosperity. "All the prisons in Pakistan should be emptied if a clean chit is awarded in 190 million pound mega corruption case, he re-

## IHC Declares Poet Ahmed Farhad 'Missing Person' Pending His Return Home



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued a written order in the case of missing Kashmiri poet Ahmed Farhad Shah, declaring him a "missing person" and directing authorities to ensure his safe return home. The court observed that, given the facts, Shah forcibly disappeared and that state agencies have failed to recover him despite their best efforts. IHC's Judge Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani issued the written order, stating that Ahmed Farhad's arrest was illegal and that he must be produced before a judicial magistrate for a statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Section 164 of the CrPC states that a magistrate can record any confession or statement made to him, regardless of whether he has jurisdiction in the case or not. The court further directed that the investigation should proceed in light of Farhad's statement. The court's order also called for the formation of a



larger bench to hear all cases of missing persons, with the chief justice exercising administrative powers to constitute the bench. Additionally, the court ordered that the heads of the Military Intelligence (MI), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and Intelligence Bureau (IB), as well as in the charge of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), be summoned to the next hearing of the criminal justice committee. They are to present their recommendations and reports to the committee, and national security cases are to be fixed for in-camera hearings. The court also observed that the heads of high-level investigative agencies should refrain from briefing the media after in-camera brief-

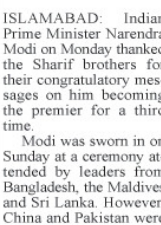
## Sheikh Rashid Calls For General Asim Munir To Announce Amnesty For May 9 Riot Detainees

RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Monday demanded that army chief General Asim Munir announce amnesty for all those languishing in jails in connection with the May 9 riots. "People have suffered tremendously in all innocent cases. May innocents must be granted amnesty," the chief of the Awami Muslim League said while speaking to the media on the District Courts premises. Rashid reiterated his appeal to Gen Munir and ISI Director General Nadeem Anjum to grant amnesty to the innocent people, noting that the authority held by the ruling coalition was quite insignificant.



He also expressed concern over the way PTI women leaders Alia Hamza and Sanam Javed were being transferred from one jail to another. Rashid said politicising the battle over Form 45 and Form 47 would only lead the country into a pit, as well as the devastation of the country's economy. In response to a query about the India-Pakistan T20 match, Rashid said the feelings of the Pakistani people were hurt.—RT/Agency

## Modi Responds To Sharif Brothers' Congratulations Message On Indian Election Victory



ISLAMABAD: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday thanked the Sharif brothers for their congratulatory messages on him becoming the premier for a third time. Modi was sworn in on Sunday at a ceremony attended by leaders from Bangladesh, the Maldives and Sri Lanka. However, China and Pakistan were not present. Earlier today, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered a brief congratulations to his counterpart on his re-election, almost a week after the results came in. "Felicitations to Narendra Modi on taking oath as the prime minister of India," he posted on X, in the first official comments from Pakistan. Former PM and PML-



N President Nawaz Sharif also congratulated the Indian premier. "Your party's success in recent elections reflects the confidence of the people in your leadership," Nawaz said in a post on X. "Let us replace hate with hope and seize the opportunity to shape the destiny of the two billion people of South Asia," he added. Hours later, PM Modi responded to the two, thanking PM Shehbaz for his "good wishes". "Appreciate your message Nawaz Sharif. The people of India have always stood for peace, security and progressive ideas. Advancing the well-being and security of our people shall always remain our priority."—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



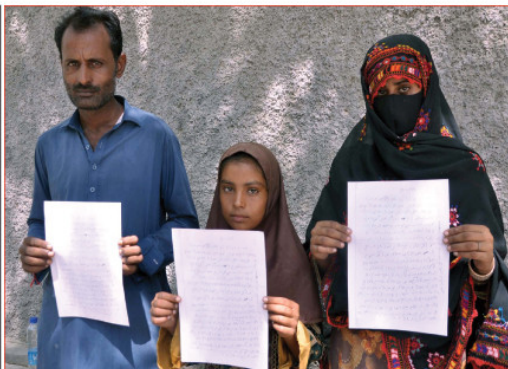
HYDERABAD: Residents of Gorakh Hills are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club for the acceptance of their demands.-RT

## Abadgar Welfare Association rallies against Kunri water shortage



By MM Faisal

KUNRI: A protest rally was held out as a part of the Abadgar Welfare Association's campaign against the artificial scarcity of agricultural water in Kunri. Leaders including Mir Aijaz Talpur, Haji Zahid Noon, former District Nazim of Tharparkar, Arbab Anwar, former Adviser to the Chief Minister of Sindh, and Dr. Dost Muhammad Memon of Jamaat-e-Islami Mirpurkhas, along with Naib Ameer Tahir Jat, led the rally. The procession travelled throughout the district, reaching American Chowk Kunri, where it received a warm welcome from the local residents. The leaders highlighted the severe damage caused to crops due to the unfair distribution and scarcity of agricultural water in the canals and tributaries originating from Nara Canal and Mithrao Canal over the past two months. They emphasized that agricultural water is not reaching remote areas, leading to a dire shortage affecting Khairif crops and leaving both people and livestock thirsty. The participation of the rally members was invited for a historic sit-in scheduled for June 12 at Jamrao West Mirpurkhas-Hyderabad Road.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Ganjo Takkar are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against the influential police officials of their area.-RT

## Sindhi Adabi Board to hold literary event in Hala on June 20: Makhdoom Saeed Zaman Atif

By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: Mark your calendars for June 20, 2024, as Hala City braces itself to host a spectacular literary event, orchestrated by the Sindhi Adabi Board (SAB) in collaboration with the civil society of Sindh. Prominent literary luminaries are poised to grace the occasion, regaling audiences with their eloquent poetry, captivating prose, and an array of creative expressions. The event, set to unfold under the esteemed patronage of Chairman Makhdoom

Saeed Zaman Atif, promises to be a celebration of Sindhi culture and intellectual prowess. As the custodian of SAB's rich literary legacy, Makhdoom Saeed Zaman Atif expressed his profound appreciation to the Sindhi Government for its unwavering support in promoting literary endeavors across the province. In addition to fostering a culture of literary excellence, Atif underscored the pivotal role of SAB in spearheading initiatives to establish libraries in every city, thereby enriching communities with access to knowledge and culture. The forthcoming event in Hala marks the inaugural step in a series of planned literary gatherings across Sindh, reflecting SAB's commitment to nurturing a vibrant literary landscape. As anticipation mounts for an evening of intellectual stimulation and cultural enrichment, Hala prepares to serve as the vibrant backdrop for a convergence of literary minds and artistic expression. Save the date and prepare to immerse yourself in the enchanting world of Sindhi literature and creativity.

## Sindh Minister Nasir Shah chairs meeting of SEPCO officials

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Provincial Minister for Energy and Power Syed Nasir Hussain Shah had an important meeting with SEPCO Chief Saeed Dawach and SEPCO Task Force Regional Incharge Aqeel Ahmed Junjo at Ali House. On this occasion, CEO SEPCO Saeed Ahmed Dawach briefed the Provincial Minister for Energy and Power Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, stating that under the leadership of Task Force Regional Incharge Aqeel Ahmed Junjo, the team is working day and night to prevent electricity theft. Hundreds of legal actions have been taken against electricity thieves, and cases have been registered. Recoveries are being made from defaulters of electricity bills, amounting to millions of rupees. Teams are



working for the betterment of WAPDA SEPCO. Under the leadership of Task Force Regional Incharge Aqeel Ahmed Junjo, the teams are working day and night in districts including Sukkur, Ghotki, Khairpur, Jacobabad, Kandhot, Kashmir, Larkana, Dadu, and Naushahro Feroze, despite receiving threats of serious consequences from influential people. However, the staff continues to work with integrity. CEO Saeed Dawach further mentioned that the installation of solar panels will provide relief to the public, and their complaints will be resolved soon. Provincial Minister for Energy and Power Syed Nasir Hussain Shah praised the efforts of the SEPCO Task Force team and instructed CEO Saeed Ahmed to resolve public complaints, including those related to load shedding, as soon as possible.

## Daulatpur growers protest against shortage of water in Lundki Mines



By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: In Daulatpur, farmers and political and social groups, including Wajid Rahu, Hafiz Raza Muhammad Rahu, Ali Nawaz Unar, Noor-ul-Arfeen Bhattu, Fida Hussain Dahri, and Punhal Khoso, organized a protest rally against the artificial water shortage at the tail end of the Lundki Mines. They held a demonstration in front of the Daulatpur Press Club, chanting slogans against the irrigation officials. The leaders stated that the irrigation officials have deliberately created a water shortage in the Lundki Mines, destroying the crops of the entire area. They alleged that irrigation officers are taking bribes amounting to millions of rupees from influential landlords at the head of the canal and allowing illegal outlets, pipes and water flows. Due to this corruption and unfairness, farmers at the tail end are facing severe difficulties. They mentioned that they have submitted applications to the SDO and the irrigation engineer multiple times, but no one has responded to their grievances. As a result, crops worth millions of rupees are facing economic hardship. The farmers demanded irrigation officials and called for water to be delivered to the tail end of the Lundki Mines to save them from economic ruin.

## NWM's growers rally against water shortage in Daulatpur Branch

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: A wave of discontent surged through Nawab Wali Muhammad as hundreds of impassioned farmers took to the streets on Monday to decry the acute shortage of water plaguing the Daulatpur Branch. Venting their frustration, the farmers embarked on a spirited march from the National Highway, converging at the Press Club of Nawab Wali Muhammad, where their voices echoed with resolute determination. Amidst a chorus of fervent slogans denouncing irrigation authorities, prominent farmers including Ghulam Shabbir Sangrah, Anwar Ali Bughio, Imran Ali Unar, Khadim Sangrah, Nabi Bakhsh Chandio, and Parvez Bughio, voiced their grievances to the media. They lamented the adverse impact of the artificial water scarcity orchestrated by irrigation officials, which has desiccated vast swathes of sugarcane, cotton, and other vital crops. Allegations were leveled against officials, accusing them of perpetuating the crisis through corrupt practices such as accepting bribes and clandestinely installing illicit lift machines to siphon off water from designated channels, thereby exacerbating the plight of farmers. The ag-



grieved farmers demanded immediate redressal of the water shortage in the Daulatpur Branch and an end to the economic exploitation plaguing their livelihoods. As tensions escalate and discontent simmers, the rallying cry for equitable access to water resources grows louder, underscoring the urgent need for decisive action to alleviate the plight of NWM's agricultural community.

## Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani elected Chairman of District Council Sanghar

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: In a significant development, PPP stalwart Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani has secured a resounding victory as the Chairman of District Council Sanghar, emerging triumphant in the electoral contest. The unopposed election saw Khurasani ascend to the esteemed position, heralding a new chapter in local governance. The announcement of Khurasani's victory comes amidst a backdrop of political fervor, with GDA candidate Muhammad Hassan

Marri emerging as the primary contender in the electoral fray. Despite the initial anticipation of a competitive race, Khurasani's unopposed triumph underscores the widespread support and confidence reposed in his leadership. The formal declaration of Khurasani's success was issued by the Assistant Commissioner, acting as the designated Returning Officer for the District Council Sanghar. With a mandate secured through popular consensus, Khurasani is poised to steer the district towards a future marked by progress, prosperity, and inclusive governance.

Chairman Ali Hassan Hingro to the position of MPA, necessitating the democratic selection of his successor. As Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani assumes the mantle of leadership, all eyes are on the strategic direction and policy priorities he will champion to address the multifaceted challenges facing District Council Sanghar. With a mandate secured through popular consensus, Khurasani is poised to steer the district towards a future marked by progress, prosperity, and inclusive governance.

## Sakrand Police arrest a notorious criminal

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: In a significant breakthrough, the vigilant efforts of Sakrand Police, under the leadership of Station General Officer (SGO) Asghar Ali, culminated in the apprehension of a notorious criminal involved in a spate of motorcycle snatching. The arrested individual, identified as Liaquat Ali Lashari, has been a subject of intense police scrutiny due to his alleged involvement in multiple incidents of vehicular theft. Acting on actionable intel-

ligence, the police swooped in on Liaquat Ali Lashari and successfully took him into custody. Subsequent investigations and interrogation yielded crucial information leading to the recovery of several stolen motorcycles, shedding light on the extent of his illicit activities. The swift and decisive action taken by Sakrand Police underscores their unwavering commitment to combat crime and ensure the safety and security of the local community. SHO Sakrand has reiterated the department's resolve to continue

such operations, vowing to deal firmly with criminals and uphold the law with an iron fist. This successful operation comes in line with the directives of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shaheed Benazirabad Tanvir Hussain Tunio, who has prioritized the crackdown on criminal elements to maintain law and order in the region. The apprehension of Liaquat Ali Lashari marks a significant victory for law enforcement agencies and serves as a deterrent to those engaged in nefarious activities.

### -Good job Badin Police!

## Badin Police arrest seven during ongoing operations

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Badin Police conducted several successful operations at different places, resulting in the arrest of various criminals and the recovery of stolen goods and illegal substances. According to the details, the Tando Bago Police led by Inspector Aijaz Ali Soomro arrested a 3-member motorcycle lifter gang. The arrested suspects include Muhammad alias Meeru Mallah, Akhtar Mallah and Dilshad alias Shad Mallah. The police recovered 3 stolen motorcycles and an illegal 30-bore pistol from the suspects. Cases have been registered against the arrested accused at Tando Bago Police Station, and further investigation is underway. In charge CIA Inspector Shahjhan Lashari and his team apprehended the accused drug dealer Sajjad Ali Chandio based on secret information within the limits of Khurwah police station. One accused, Ali Akbar Chandio, managed to escape. Police

## Prize distribution ceremony held at The Smart School Tando Jam

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: In the ceremony of awarding prizes to the position holders and successful students in the annual examinations of the Smart School, a special event was organized in Rehmat Lawn where distinguished guest Shaukat Khanzada, Secretary of Hyderabad Board, was honored, and the guests were briefed on the culture of Sindh. The news of the stu-

dents who excelled in the annual examinations of the Smart School in Tando Jam City was celebrated, and prizes were distributed to the top achievers. The ceremony was attended by notable figures including Pir Rahil, Deputy Director Special Region Mirpurkhas, and Nadim Rauf of Hyderabad Board, was honored, and the guests were briefed on the culture of Sindh. The news of the stu-



HYDERABAD: Women residents of Latifabad are holding a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club for the acceptance of their demands.-RT



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Qaumi Awami Tehreek are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza.-RT



# EDITORIAL

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

Tuesday, June 11, 2024



## Time to move on from the Pakistan Cricket Team

The recent defeat of the Pakistan cricket team against arch-rivals India in the T20 World Cup has once again highlighted the perennial disappointment that accompanies supporting this team. The lackluster performance on the field, coupled with a history of underwhelming results, has left fans rightfully furious and disillusioned.

The loss to India, following a defeat against the United States, underscores a deeper problem within the team – a lack of cohesion, talent, and strategic prowess. Despite boasting individual talents, the team consistently fails to perform collectively when it matters the most. The timid batting display against India, coupled with a lack of resilience in crucial moments, only adds fuel to the fire of frustration.

Former cricketers, fans, and pundits alike have expressed their disappointment and outrage, with many echoing sentiments of abandonment and resignation.



The decision of Pakistani fans to finally give up on the team is not just an emotional reaction but a rational response to years of heartbreak and letdowns.

It's time for a reality check. The Pakistan cricket team, once a powerhouse in the sport, has now become a shadow of its former self. The continuous cycle of mediocrity and inconsistency has eroded the trust and faith of supporters. The team's inability to

rise to the occasion not only disappoints fans but also reflects poorly on the nation as a whole.

Moving forward, Pakistani cricket fans must redirect their passion and support towards teams and players who demonstrate professionalism, dedication, and a winning mentality. It's time to break free from the shackles of blind allegiance and demand accountability and excellence from those who represent the country on the cricketing stage.

While memories of past glories may linger, it's imperative to acknowledge the harsh reality – the Pakistan cricket team, in its current state, is no longer worthy of our unwavering love and admiration. It's time to bid farewell to the disappointments and embrace a new era of cricketing aspirations and ambitions.

# 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

## District Chairman Badin Ali Asghar Halepoto distributes cheques amongst retired municipal employees



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In a compassionate gesture reflecting the District Council's unwavering commitment to upholding the dignity and welfare of its former staff members, Chief Officer Ashok Kumar echoed these sentiments, reaffirming the District Council's unwavering resolve to prioritize the legitimate concerns of every employee, past and present. Emphasizing the organization's duty to ensure the well-being and financial security of its workforce, Kumar underscored the council's proactive approach in addressing the needs of retired personnel.

Chairman Fida Hussain reiterated the District Council's steadfast dedication to safeguarding the interests of retired employees and their bereaved spouses, underscoring the organization's enduring pledge to provide steadfast support in their post-service years. The distribution



HYDERABAD: Employees of Paretabad Town are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against the non-payment of their salaries.-RT

## Zawar Sabir Hussain Wadho elected as President of SUC Kambar-Shahdaktot



SHAHDADKOT: In a significant development, Zawar Sabir Hussain Wadho has ascended to the presidency of the Shia Ulema Council for Kambar-Shahdaktot District, securing an unopposed victory. The inauguration ceremony, officiated by the esteemed leader of the Election Commission, Hujjatul Islam Maulana Zahir Hussain Ruhani, witnessed a gathering of distinguished dignitaries including Divisional President Zakir Hussain Bughio.

The solemn oath-taking ceremony, conducted amidst a backdrop of fervent enthusiasm, underscored the collective endorsement of Wadho's leadership by the provincial hierarchy and Election Commission. As the proceedings unfolded in the village of New Tharo Wadho, echoing with resounding support, Wadho expressed heartfelt gratitude to the unit and district officials for their unwavering solidarity and endorsement. Maulana Zahir Hussain service to humanity.-RT

## Renovation work of police stations begins in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A transformative initiative spearheaded by IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon and DIG Mirpurkhas Range Javed Sonoro Jiskani is set to revolutionize the policing landscape in Umerkot District. With a vision to enhance service delivery and public satisfaction, the Police Station in Taluka Kunri is slated for a comprehensive overhaul, paving the way for its metamorphosis into a model police station.



The ambitious renovation project, aimed at modernizing policing infrastructure and practices, has commenced with fervor, symbolizing a paradigm shift towards a more citizen-centric approach to law enforcement. The dilapidated premises of the Kunri Police Station are undergoing a thorough refurbishment, marking the beginning of a new era in community policing. SSP Umerkot Asif Raza Baloch affirmed that the endeavor aligns with the visionary directives of senior officers, who envision the establishment of model police stations equipped with cutting-edge smart technology and manned by proficient personnel. The initiative seeks to transcend traditional policing methodologies, fostering a culture of responsiveness and accountability within law enforcement agencies. Under the transformative agenda, emphasis is placed on ensuring expeditious resolution of public grievances and provision of essential services, heralding a departure from conventional policing norms.

The refurbishment initiative symbolizes a concerted effort to bridge the gap between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve, fostering trust and collaboration. As construction progresses, anticipation mounts for the realization of enhanced policing standards and elevated public satisfaction, reaffirming the commitment of authorities to usher in a new era of law enforcement excellence in Umerkot.

## Violent Clash Erupts In Tando Bago, Manganhar Community Protests Injustices

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Chaos engulfed the streets of Tando Bago as members of the Manganhar community found themselves embroiled in a fierce clash, escalating tensions and prompting a fervent protest demonstration outside the press club. Led by prominent figures including Amjad Ali, Janan, Shabana, and Sakina Manganhar, the demonstrators voiced vehement opposition to what they perceived as blatant injustices perpetrated against their community. The simmering unrest stems from a recent altercation on May 7, which saw members of the Manganhar community, including Kareem Bakhsh, Sajjad, and Yousuf Manganhar, subjected to a brutal attack, resulting in grievous injuries to Luwai Sarya. The injured individual



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Retired Government Teachers Association Sindh are holding a protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Saeed Khan are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club for the acceptance of their demands.-RT



REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND

## Allegations of fake degree on LUMHS VC condemned

By Munawar Chandio

**JAMSHORO:** In recent developments, allegations of a fake degree against Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan, the Vice Chancellor of LUMHS, have surfaced. These claims have been propagated by Sattar Jatoi. It's important to clarify that Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan holds credible qualifications, including an M.Phil., PH.D., FPCS and FRCP from reputable institutions in the UK. These credentials have been verified by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), ensuring their authenticity.

The origins of these accusations stem from a personal vendetta by Sattar Jatoi, who sought to influence the appointment of his son, an engineer, as the Director of Finance at LUMHS. Despite his previous position as Director of Finance at LUMHS, Sattar Jatoi's tenure was marred by controversy and legal proceedings, resulting in his removal by the court.

Upon refusal of his son's appointment by Dr. Ikram Ujjan, Sattar Jatoi resorted to spreading false information on social media platforms, attempting to tarnish Dr. Ujjan's reputation. It is evident that these allegations are unfounded and politically motivated. Dr. Ikram Ujjan's qualifications have been thoroughly verified by credible authorities, and his integrity remains unquestionable. In light of these events, it is imperative to disregard baseless accusations and focus on supporting the continued efforts of Dr. Ikram Ujjan in advancing the goals of LUMHS and upholding the standards of excellence in education and healthcare.

## 8th Karim Bux Khoso and Sardar Bashir Khan Khoso Night Cricket Tournament concludes in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

**THUL:** The thrill of cricket under the night sky reached its pinnacle as the 8th Karim Bux Khoso and Sardar Bashir Khan Khoso Night Cricket Tournament concluded near Thul. The tournament, graced by the participation of 32 dynamic teams, culminated in a gripping final showdown between Khan Eleven and Welcome Eleven.

In a fiercely contested battle, Khan Eleven set a formidable target of 68 runs in 8 overs, showcasing their prowess with the bat. However, Welcome Eleven rose to the occasion with a stellar batting display, effortlessly chasing down the target in just 4 overs, sealing their victory in spectacular fashion.

The heroics of Mehboob Ali, whose scintillating performance earned him the coveted title of Man of the Match, illuminated the night as he displayed remarkable skill and finesse with the bat.

Amidst jubilant celebrations, special guests Parvez Khan Khoso and Farooq Khan Khoso graced the occasion, adding to the grandeur of the event. In a heartwarming gesture, they presented prizes and cash rewards to the triumphant Welcome Eleven and the gallant runners-up, cementing the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship that encapsulated the tournament.

As the curtains draw to a close on yet another exhilarating edition of the Night Cricket Tournament, participants and spectators alike depart with cherished memories and a renewed passion for the beloved sport, eagerly anticipating the next chapter of cricketing excellence in Thul.

## District Public Prosecutor Asif Bhutto Bids Farewell, Emphasizes Ongoing Commitment To Justice

By Saleem Soomro

**LARKANA:** District Public Prosecutor Asif Bhutto bid a heartfelt farewell during a poignant session attended by esteemed individuals from the community and Session Judge Larkana, Syed Sharifuddin Shah. The gathering served as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the judiciary to uphold the principles of justice and fairness.

In his address, Public Prosecutor Asif Bhutto lauded the steadfast dedication of Session Judge Syed Sharifuddin Shah in ensuring the expeditious and equitable dispensation of justice. He underscored the pivotal role of the courts as bastions of justice, wherein every individual, regardless of social status, is afforded representation and the opportunity for a fair trial.

Amidst myriad challenges, Bhutto reaffirmed the judiciary's unwavering focus on advocating for the rights of the underprivileged and marginalized segments of society. He stressed the imperative of ensuring that justice is not merely a privilege for the privileged but a fundamental right accessible to all.

District Session Judge Syed Sharifuddin Shah echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the paramount duty of the court to uphold the rule of law and deliver impartial verdicts that safeguard the interests of the oppressed. His impassioned plea urged judges to remain steadfast in their pursuit of justice, ensuring that the voices of the vulnerable are heard and vindicated through fair and transparent legal proceedings. The event was graced by the presence of Prosecutor Nadim Ahmed Tunio, Pir Muhammad Khuahar, Akram Shaikh, Ali Gul Shaikh, Zulfiqar Magi, Madam Rubina Dhanraiz, Madam Shahzia Surmio, and numerous other dignitaries, whose collective support underscores the unity and resilience of Larkana's legal fraternity in its noble pursuit of justice for all.



## T20 World Cup 2024: 'Major surgery needed,' says PCB chief after India drubbing

**NEW YORK:** Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi expressed disappointment in the Green Shirts after the loss against India, saying that this poor performance indicates the need for a "major surgery."



Speaking to journalists after the Pakistan vs India match at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, Naqvi said that the "defeat against India was disappointing in every sense".

"Pakistan on Sunday suffered a humiliating loss against the arch-rivals as they lost by six runs despite an impressive performance by the bowlers who restricted the opponents to 119 after winning the toss.

The PCB chairman said that he "knows what is going on in the team and what are the reasons for losing".

"It seemed that a minor surgery would work but after this bad performance, I'm now sure that a major surgery is required. The nation will soon see a major overhaul," said Naqvi.

The chairman further said that their biggest challenge is to improve the team's performance as it is currently at the lowest level.

Speaking about the upcoming events, Naqvi said that they have to prepare a team for the Champions Trophy 2025. "The time has come to give a chance to the outside talent," he asserted.

"We have to make the Pakistani cricket team one of the best in the world. The nation does not expect such a disappointing performance from the cricket team," said Naqvi.—Agency

## Sujawal Police arrest a notorious criminal after a shootout

By Kamran Hidayat

**SUJAWAL:** Tense moments unfolded in the vicinity of Dargah Mahindr Pir late last night as the Sujawal Police responded to reports of suspicious activities involving armed individuals allegedly planning to engage in criminal acts. Acting swiftly, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Sujawal, along with the in-charge of the Criminal Investigation Agency (CIA), promptly mobilized to the scene to confront the perpetrators.

Upon arrival, a fierce encounter ensued between law enforcement personnel and the armed suspects, resulting in the arrest of a notorious criminal identified as Ghulam Hussain, son of Ashraf Mallah, who sustained injuries during the exchange of gunfire. Regrettably, two other suspects, identified as Abdul Khaliq Mallah and

Rahib Amro, managed to evade capture and fled the scene.

The apprehended suspect was found in possession of a TT pistol and two bullets, underscoring the gravity of the situation and the potential threat posed by the criminal elements operating in the area. Ghulam Hussain is currently in police custody, where he will undergo interrogation and further investigation into his criminal history and affiliations.

Authorities have initiated legal proceedings against both the arrested and absconding suspects, with a comprehensive case registered to pursue justice and uphold the rule of law. The successful operation reflects the unwavering commitment of the Sujawal Police to maintain peace and security in the region, sending a clear message of deterrence to would-be offenders.

## Qazi Ahmed's Rahu community protests for recovery of abducted woman

By Mumtaz Ali Soomro

**QAZI AHMED:** Tension gripped the village of Hashim Rahu near Qazi Ahmed as residents took to the streets on Monday in a fervent protest demanding the immediate recovery of an abducted woman. Led by community leaders including Amjad Ali Rahu, Wazir Ali Rahu, Asghar, Sultan Suraya, and others, the demonstrators voiced their anguish over the prolonged disappearance of Saba, allegedly abducted by individuals associated with Ghotki's Lund Sardar.

Speaking to the media, the protest leaders expressed deep frustration with the perceived inaction of law enforcement agencies, lamenting the lack of progress in the investigation despite the passage of eight long months. Their pleas for justice and swift action have fallen on deaf ears, exacerbating the anguish and anxiety of the victim's family and the wider community.

Amidst chants demanding justice, the protesters underscored the urgency of the situation and issued a stern warning, declaring their intention to escalate the protest if their demands for the safe return of Saba are not met promptly. The palpable sense of outrage and desperation underscores the gravity of the situation, with the community steadfast in its resolve to secure justice for the abducted woman.

As tensions simmer and the specter of further unrest looms, all eyes remain fixed on the authorities, who are under mounting pressure to deliver swift and decisive action to address the grievances of the Rahu community and ensure the safe return of Saba.

## 13-year-old boy commits suicide In Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

**LARKANA:** The serene atmosphere of Rizwan Colony in Larkana was shattered by a heartbreaking incident as 13-year-old Majid, son of Ghulam Hussain Kalhoro, a student of the 6th grade, was discovered lifeless within the confines of his home.

The tragic discovery, made by the grief-stricken family, has left the community reeling with shock and disbelief. According to initial reports from the Rehmatpur police station, Majid was found hanging by a rope inside his residence, leading authorities to swiftly respond to the distressing scene.

The family promptly alerted the police, who swiftly transported the young boy's remains to Chandka Hospital for a thorough post-mortem examination.

While the circumstances surrounding Majid's untimely demise remain shrouded in mystery, his relatives have disclosed that he took his own life. However, the exact motives behind this tragic act remain unclear, leaving the family grappling with inconsolable grief and unanswered questions. Law enforcement officials have launched an investigation into the incident following the completion of the post-mortem examination, treating the case as a suicide as reported by the family. The solemn return of Majid's body to his devastated loved ones has evoked an outpouring of sorrow and mourning throughout the neighborhood, as friends, family, and neighbors struggle to come to terms with the loss of a bright young life. As the community grapples with the aftermath of this devastating event, the tragic death of Majid serves as a somber reminder of the importance of mental health awareness and the need for support systems to prevent such heartbreaking occurrences in the future.

## T20 World Cup 2024: South Africa beat Bangladesh by 4 runs

**NEW YORK:** South Africa defeated Bangladesh by 4 runs in the T20 World Cup 2024 thriller played at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York, on Monday.



Bangladesh, just like South Africa, had a terrible start to their innings as the Proteas pacer wreaked havoc on their batters as all of Tanzim Hasan (9 off 9), Najmul Hossain Shanto (14 off 23), Liton Das (9 off 13) and Shakib Al Hasan (3 off 4) were back to the pavilion, leaving their side 50-4 in 9.5 overs.

Experienced all-rounder Mahmudullah and Towhid Hridoy's 44-run partnership brought some stability to the struggling batting lineup. Hridoy played a great knock (37 off 34) under the difficult New York conditions but he was removed by Kagiso Rabada.

However, despite losing

his partner, Mahmudullah remained on the pitch and stayed till the last over but he couldn't guide his team to victory as Bangladesh ended their innings at 109-7.

Earlier in the first innings, South Africa set a 114-run target for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh bowlers were on top from the first over as Tanzim Hasan Sakib bamboozled the Proteas' opening pair in his first two overs with Reeze Hendricks (0) and Quinton de Kock (18 off

11) returning to the pavilion early.

The next victim was no other than the Proteas' skipper Aiden Markram as he was clean-bowled by Taskin Ahmed for just four runs in the fourth over. Bangladesh continued with their brilliant bowling as Tanzim Hasan struck once again and removed Tristan Stubbs for a duck.

It looked like yet another collapse while batting first

in New York but David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen formed a crucial 79-run partnership and helped their side reach a decent total.

Klaasen contributed valuable 46 runs before losing his wicket to Taskin while Miller departed for the pavilion after posting 29 runs as South Africa concluded their innings at 113-6 runs in the allocated overs.—Agency



## America's sweetheart Taylor Swift shows the height of commitment for fans safety



At her recent show in Edinburgh, Taylor Swift saw a few fans in need of help so she stopped the concert and demanded the security to help them or else she would not perform.

In fan-recorded footage, the Carolina hitmaker was ready to sing her track 'Would've, Could've, Should've' and in that moment she saw some of her fans needed assistance.

Taylor in the microphone pointed the security toward them and even threatened to not perform until they were accommodated, according to TMZ.

This level of attention was pretty common in the Grammy winner's concerts as she had previously directed the staff to aid concertgoers.

Earlier, the 34-year-old expressed shock after a fan in her South American leg of the Eras Tour died due to extreme heat.

"I can't even tell you how devastated I am after this," she wrote. "I am writing this from my dressing room in the stadium. The decision has been made to postpone tonight's show due to extreme temperatures in Rio."

## Jennifer Lopez dashes Ben Affleck divorce rumors with latest move



Amid reports Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lawrence are heading for a divorce, the latter stepped out with her engagement ring and wedding band hinting at the efforts to salvage the relationship ongoing.

In photographs of her latest outing in Los Angeles, the Grammy winner was with her daughter Emme while wearing her wedding accessories.

This may ease fans' tensions who were fearing bad news after the couple decided to sell their over \$60 million home in Beverly Hills.

In the meantime, split rumours about the pair were at their peak in May when an insider confided to ET that the duo was "going through some problems."

The matter was further deteriorated after Ben was snapped without his wedding ring.

Jen and Ben are continuing to take space from each other. They've been having issues for a few months and trying to figure things out on their own," the tipster tattled.

## Face of the Day



**Name:** Ali Khan  
**Location:** Karachi  
**About me:** Strike a pose if you love modeling like me!  
**Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com**



# METRO KARACHI



KARACHI: PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with Sindh Minister for Energy Affairs and Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, at Bilawal House.—Photo by Fahim Soomro

## Sindh Energy Minister Declares SEPRa An Autonomous Power Authority

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Provincial Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has announced that the Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority (SEPRa) will become a fully authorized body for power generation, distribution, and transmission in Sindh. This makes SEPRa the first autonomous energy organization in the province, and it will operate independently from the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA).



Minister Shah made these remarks while presiding over an awareness meeting regarding SEPRa legislation at the Sindh Energy Department's office. The meeting was attended by Secretary Energy, Mossadiq Ahmed Khan and NEPRA Member Rafiq Ahmed Sheikh, who briefed the Minister on energy regulations. Minister Shah emphasized that SEPRa aligns with board members will be selected based on merit and transparency, comprising experienced and capable individuals. Once SEPRa is established, electricity distribution companies will no longer need to seek approvals from NEPRA. This move is seen as a significant step towards decentralizing power regulation and enhancing energy management within Sindh, ultimately benefiting consumers with lower electricity costs and improved service delivery.

## Sharjeel Condemns Journalist's Murder, Emphasizes Government Initiatives

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon expressed sorrow over the tragic death of journalist Nasrullah Gadani, denouncing it as an attack on press freedom. He emphasized the government's duty to counter such threats and announced the arrest of three suspects in the case, thanks to the efforts of the Gloriki Police and DIG Sukkur.



At the Karachi Press Club, Minister Memon handed over a relief cheque of 10 million rupees to Gadani's family, highlighting the Sindh government's support for free journalism. He assured that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) stands with journalists and promotes press freedom. Minister Memon also addressed accusations against the PPP, asserting the party's commitment to supporting journalists. He noted the swift police response and the Sindh Chief Minister's immediate actions to aid Gadani. Memon reassured the public that the accused in Gadani's murder have been arrested and will face justice.

Responding to queries, Memon clarified that the PPP is not involved in Punjab's defamation bill, emphasizing the party's stance on press freedom. He highlighted the Sindh government's track record of arresting those responsible for attacks on journalists, including the killers of Shaheed Aziz Memon and progress in the case of Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mahar. Minister Memon also discussed the Sindh government's ongoing efforts to improve law and order, including the release of funds for Karachi's Safe City project and a province-wide crackdown on drugs. He warned drug dealers of severe consequences and highlighted the harmful impact of drugs in educational institutions. In conclusion, Minister Memon reiterated the Sindh government's commitment to supporting journalists and ensuring justice for Nasrullah Gadani. He handed over the relief cheque to Gadani's brother, Muhammad Bakhs Gadhani, affirming the government's support for the bereaved family.—RT

## School Principal Arrested for Attempted Rape

KARACHI: The principal of a private school in Orangi Town, Karachi, has been arrested for allegedly attempting to sexually assault a 10th-grade female student, according to media reports citing the First Information Report (FIR).

A case has been registered at the Iqbal Market police station after the student's sister filed a complaint. Following the registration of the FIR, the police apprehended the suspect. According to the complainant, the school principal had been sending obscene messages to her sister. The FIR states, "The school principal called my sister to his office on June 1 where he attempted to rape her. He also threatened to fail her in the exams if she did not comply." The complainant added that her sister, a 10th-grade student, had remained silent out of fear. The police have since arrested the accused and initiated an investigation.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Iqbal Ahmed Ghoti is being facilitated by his office staff after assuming charge as the Divisional STA Pakistan Railways Karachi Division.—RT

## SAI Chief Deems 1.5% Interest Rate Cut Insufficient

KARACHI: The Site Association of Industry (SAI) President, Muhammad Kamran Arbi, expressed disappointment over the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) decision to cut the interest rate by just 1.5%. He described the move as "insufficient to address the challenges faced by the industrial sector".



In a statement, Mr. Arbi highlighted that the SITE Association of Industry had submitted budget proposals to the State Bank, advocating for a policy rate reduction to 13-14 percent. This, he argued, would alleviate capital shortages resulting from the escalating costs of operating industries.

Mr. Arbi further emphasized that the central bank should establish a roadmap for reducing interest rates, outlining measures aimed at alleviating the capital shortage faced by industries. He urged that if such a roadmap exists, the industrialist community should be informed, as this would facilitate the implementation of mutually beneficial economic and business-friendly measures through collaborative consultation.

Kamran Arbi expressed hope that measures like the recent reduction in interest rates will continue in the next monetary policy. He urged the State Bank to seriously consider their proposal and bring the interest rate down to 13-14%. He noted that the rate of inflation is gradually decreasing in the country, which needs to be taken into account to provide relief to both the general public and the business and industrial community.—RT



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab is presiding over a district assembly session held at Old KMC building.—Photo by Saeed Lashari

## SSP Korangi Vows To Crush Street Crimes, Boost Security In Industrial Hub



KARACHI: Newly appointed SSP Korangi Tauheed Rehman Memon has made the eradication of street crimes in the Korangi Industrial Area a top priority. Speaking at a luncheon hosted by the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), SSP Memon outlined collaborative efforts with KATI to tackle crime, including the integration of modern technology for crime reduction.

SSP Memon assured the industrial community of comprehensive planning to address various issues, such as traffic congestion and patrolling in the area. He stressed the importance of mutual consultation with KATI to solve these problems effectively. Acknowledging the growing problem of encroachment, SSP Memon emphasized the need for strategies to combat it. KATI President Johar Qandhari commended SSP Memon's appointment and expressed hope for a reduction in Korangi's crime rate under his leadership.

Zubair Chhaya urged action against extortion and blackmail by labor welfare organizations in Korangi, advocating for enhanced police presence and neighborhood security projects. Danish Khan, Chairman of KATI's Standing Committee for Law and Order, emphasized the urgency of addressing street crimes and violence against traders. Other KATI members discussed law and order issues facing the Korangi industrial area, highlighting the need for immediate action to ensure public safety.—RT

## Karachi Man Shot Dead While Resisting Robbery



KARACHI: In a tragic incident, a man was shot dead by unknown armed robbers in the Quaid Abad area of Karachi on Monday, according to media reports. The incident occurred at a dairy shop when 35-year-old Baqir, a resident of Hamal Goth, was buying milk. Witnesses told police that two armed robbers attempted to snatch Baqir's mobile phone. When he resisted, they opened fire, killing him. The robbers fled without taking the phone, and a police investigation is underway.

In a separate incident, another man was gunned down by unknown armed robbers in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area of Karachi. The robbers intercepted the victim and attempted to steal his motorcycle. When the man resisted, they shot him and escaped with the bike. Rescue sources confirmed that the man was killed for resisting the robbery. These incidents are part of a worrying trend. In 2024, there has been a sharp increase in robbery-related killings, with 56 people killed and over 200 injured so far. During Ramadan alone, at least 19 people were killed and 55 injured while resisting robberies, highlighting the rising crime rate in Karachi.

## MPA Amir Siddiqui Says MQM-P Targeting Radical Inclusive Development To Revolutionize Karachi



By Humaira Motala

KARACHI: MPA Amir Siddiqui from constituency 102, East, reaffirms MQM-P's commitment to resolving Karachi's issues without discrimination. In collaboration with President Pakistan Council of Media Women Humaira Motala, Siddiqui visited Chaman Street, Jahangir Road to address longstanding community concerns. Residents highlighted issues neglected by local representatives, emphasizing deteriorating infrastructure, rising street crimes, and inadequate health and education services. Siddiqui lamented the lack of progress, citing failed local governance and political rifts hindering development projects. Despite billions allocated

for Karachi's development, Siddiqui notes minimal utilization due to political discord. He stresses the need for collaborative efforts transcending party lines to tackle Karachi's challenges effectively. During the meeting, locals raised concerns over load shedding, gas shortages, and poor drainage systems. Siddiqui pledged to address these issues, urging unity among residents for effective solutions. Siddiqui acknowledges efforts by Bilawal Bhutto and CM Murad Ali Shah in health and education sectors but emphasizes the need for better service delivery. He calls for unity among political parties to prioritize national and provincial interests for Pakistan's advancement.

## Meeting At Jamia Masjid Dayar-e-Habib Reaffirms Unshakable Commitment To Khatm-e-Nabuwat



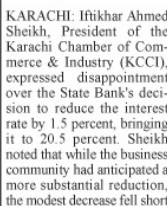
By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: A pivotal gathering convened at Jamia Masjid Dayar-e-Habib in Gulshan-e-Hadeed, led by Maulana Akram Saedi, witnessed the convergence of prominent community figures, scholars, and elders. The assembly culminated in a resolute declaration, reaffirming an unwavering stance on the belief in Khatm-e-Nabuwat (the finality of Prophethood), pledging no compromise on this fundamental doctrine. The consensus among the participants underscored an unequivocal commitment to upholding the sanctity of the 1973 Constitution, emphasizing its adherence to Islamic principles. They adamantly rejected any attempts to undermine or dilute the Islamic identity of Pakistan, asserting that the country's foundation as an Islamic Republic would be fiercely defended against any encroachment.

In a categorical denunciation, the meeting condemned purported efforts by individuals associated with the Ahmadi community to promulgate legislation inconsistent with the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah. Participants articulated a collective resolve to thwart such endeavors, vowing to resist any legislation deemed contrary to the tenets of Islam.

Among the attendees were esteemed figures including Maulana Syed Akram Shah Sheerazi, Maulana Tariq Mahmood, Syed Aftab Hussain Jilani, and Maulana Muhammad Sarfaraz, among others, each echoing the sentiments of unwavering commitment to preserving the belief in the finality of Prophethood. The gathering concluded with a solemn pledge to stand in solidarity with the senior Ulema of Pakistan, prepared to make any necessary sacrifices to safeguard the cherished principles and values integral to the Islamic identity of the nation.

## KCCI President Disappointed By Token Interest Rate Cut, Urges SBP For Drastic Measures



KARACHI: Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), expressed disappointment over the State Bank's decision to reduce the interest rate by 1.5 percent, bringing it to 20.5 percent. Sheikh noted that while the business community had anticipated a more substantial reduction, the modest decrease fell short of expectations. While acknowledging the importance of further interest rate reductions to reach single-digit figures, aligning with international trends, he highlighted the potential benefits for the economy, including increased borrowing by the private sector to spur business expansion and industrialization.

Sheikh emphasized the decline in inflation to slightly above 11 percent. He attributed this more to government measures and improved agricultural production rather than the SBP's monetary policy stance. He cited administrative measures and stability in the rupee value as contributing factors to inflation control. Sheikh welcomed the initial step toward reducing interest rates but urged for additional cuts to alleviate the high cost of doing business, which has adversely affected the entire business community.—RT

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**"In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure."**  
—Bill Cosby

**PPP Vows To Play Role In Repealing Punjab Defamation Law**

ISLAMABAD: As Punjab Defamation Bill, 2024, led to protests by opposition, journalists and rights bodies, Pakistan Peoples Party Central (PPP) Punjab General Secretary Syed Hassan Murtaza said on Monday that his party would play its part in the "withdrawal" of the controversial law.

"PPP was neither taken on board regarding the Punjab defamation law nor budget preparations," Murtaza said while speaking to journalists in Lahore.

He added that the Bawal-led party's legal team was working on the disputed legislation and will make efforts to convince the provincial government to withdraw it.

The PPP senior leader claimed that his party was informed about the defamation bill when it was presented before a committee. "PPP was never willing to be part of that legislation," he added.

He further clarified that Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider's foreign visit had been



planned before the legislation was tabled and passed in the provincial assembly. He criticised the PML-N led government for not holding consultations with its allies and stakeholders for the budget 2024-25.

He alleged that the Punjab government failed to table a comprehensive plan for addressing the issues of the labourers, salaried persons, students and other segments in the budget proposals.

Commenting on the Punjab defamation bill, another PPP leader and Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon said that his party's Punjab governor did not sign the

controversial law. He added that the PPP would never introduce a bill that would compromise the press freedom.

He blamed the former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) introduced by ousted prime minister Imran Khan for introducing same genre of law which was named after the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) during his tenure in the name of legislating against harassment and hate speeches.

Memon said that his party is firmly standing for press freedom and the journalist fraternity.

He detailed that the PPP government took stern actions against those who tried to target the journalists — including the slain journalists Wali Khan Babar, Aziz Memon and Narullah Gadani — and arrested all culprits behind the killings.

The Sindh minister signalled that the murderers of another martyred journalist Jan Mohammad Mahar would also be arrested soon.

Yesterday, Governor

Haider had said that the PPP was against the controversial defamation law passed by the provincial legislature.

"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 came 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. 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.—RT/Agency

**PM-led NEC Meeting Deliberates Investments And Future Plans**

ISLAMABAD: The newly constituted National Economic Council (NEC) convened a meeting on Monday, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to review ongoing projects, future investments, and targets for the upcoming fiscal year.

The meeting will review the progress report of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (NEC) and the Central Development Working Party (CDWP).

In the meeting, the annual plan for FY 2024-25 will be approved and the one for the prior FY will be reviewed. It is also expected to consider the 13th five-year plan (2024-29) and approve it for implementation.

The 13-member committee's objective is to attain a 3.6 percent growth rate, aligning with the planning division's effort to raise next year's federal Public Sector Development Programme to Rs1.5 trillion.

This marks an increase from the Rs1.22 trillion suggested by the Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC) the previous week.

The committee includes



four provincial chief ministers, four federal ministers (responsible for foreign affairs, defense, finance and planning), and four provincial cabinet members representing their respective provinces.

President Asif Ali Zardari on June 8 constituted the NEC aimed at enabling the coalition government to approve the new fiscal year's development budget and macroeconomic framework.

The outgoing fiscal year, the government had diverted the funds meant for the equal regional development towards financing the hydropower projects and the country's space mission.

Under the constitution, the PM held the authority to nominate four members in the NEC. Shehbaz Sharif nominated Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Defense; Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Finance and Ahsan Iqbal Chaudry, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives as the members of the NEC.

Every provincial chief minister also has the constitutional mandate to appoint one member on the NEC. From Punjab, Mariyum Aurangzeb, Senior Minister for Planning & Development has been appointed as the NEC member.—RT/Agency

**Budget 2024: MQM-P Urges Shehbaz For Rs38b Allocation To Sindh**

ISLAMABAD: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has presented its demands to PM Shehbaz Sharif, seeking Rs 38 billion for various development projects in Sindh in Budget 2024-25, media reported citing party sources.

According to sources, MQM has demanded a 5-year socio-economic development plan for Karachi and sought development funds for its MNAs.

Sources said the party has demanded completion of the Greater Karachi Sewerage Plan and sought funds for various other projects, including Green Line, Blue Line projects, KCR (Karachi Circular Railway), Karachi Port-Pipri Freight Corridor and Bin Qasim Textile City project.

MQM-P has also demanded interest-free loans for the youth of Sindh's urban areas and ensure the provision of complete funds for



K(IV) project under the city daily at the earliest.

The MQM-P, a coalition party in the federal government, maintained that Karachi is the biggest city and economic hub of Pakistan, yet "deprived" of transportation facilities.

It is pertinent to mention here that the budget 2024-25 which was earlier scheduled to be presented on June 10 is now likely to be presented on June 12.

The Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24 will be presented on June 11 after a meeting of the council on June 10, the sources said.—RT/Agency

**Gandapur Expresses Concern Over Exclusion Of KP Projects From PSDP**



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has written a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding the exclusion of 91 development projects of the province from the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

In the letter, Gandapur stated that the Planning Committee's decision was deeply disappointing, observing that the exclusion of 91 development projects from the PSDP would significantly impact the province.

The CM termed the exclusion of ongoing develop-



ment projects a violation of the decisions made during meetings of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as well as the National Economic Council (NEC).

In the letter, Gandapur also mentioned the decision taken during the NEC meeting where emphasis was placed on prioritising the completion of ongoing projects. He said that the exclusion of development projects by the federal government would exacerbate the province's deprivation.—RT/Agency

**ECP Approves Transfer Of PML-N Lawmakers' Cases To Other Election Tribunals**

ISLAMABAD: The petitions from three Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmakers in the federal capital have won the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) approval, which sought the transfer of their cases to other poll tribunals.

The poll organising authority approved three PML-N lawmakers' prays for their cases to be transferred to other election tribunals in which their election victory was challenged by opponents with allegations of vote rigging.

In its verdict, the commission ordered transferring the case to other tribunals to hear the pending petitions against the PML-N lawmakers' victory in three constituencies.

It is noteworthy to mention that three Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed candidates — Muhammad Ali Bokhari, Shoaib Shaheen and Aamir Mughal — had challenged the poll victory of



the PML-N Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) from Islamabad constituencies after the 2024 nationwide polls by levelling the poll manipulation allegations.

The ECP's four-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja had reserved its verdict on the pleas filed by the ruling party's lawmakers in the National Assembly including Anjum Aqeel Khan, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Khurram Shehbaz Nawaz on June 7, Friday, which was announced today.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) had also suspended the lawmakers' victory notifications while their petitions were being heard by election tribunals. The PML-N leaders expressed a lack of confidence in the tribunals and sought to transfer the cases to other tribunals.—RT/Agency

**PM Attends Funeral Prayers Of Shaheed Captain Faraz Ilyas**

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday attended Namaz-e-Janaza of Shaheed Captain Faraz Ilyas in Kasur who was martyred in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in District Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The funeral prayer was attended by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, IG Police Punjab and a number of senior military officers, civil authorities and residents.

The prime minister also met with the parents of shaheed captain and expressed condolences.

He announced to transform the native village of martyred officer as model village and renamed it as "Faraz Ilyas Shaheed".

He told the parents that the sacrifice of their son would not go in vain and prayed for the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

Under the Quranic teachings, a shaheed had an elevated place in Jan-nah, he said, adding that



we must repay by relentlessly eliminating terrorism from our nation. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," he further posted.

The late captain was laid to rest with complete military honours. The prime minister offered فاتحة at his grave and placed a flower wreath.

He also prayed for the high ranks of the departed soul. Shaheed Captain Faraz Ilyas, 26-year-old, belonged to village Rai Kalan Kasur who laid down his life valiantly while performing his duties in Lakki Marwat.—RT/Agency

**IHC Sets Imran And Bushra Bibi's Petitions In Illegal Marriage Case For Hearing**



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) fixed the petitions of PTI founder Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi for hearing in illegal marriage case tomorrow.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb of IHC will conduct the hearing. The registrar office has earlier raised objections on both the petitions.

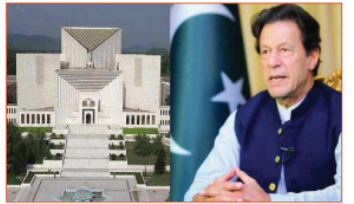
Bushra Bibi pleaded in her petition that high court should take a notice over a pending case with the session court regarding the suspension of her conviction in illegal marriage case.—RT/Agency

**Imran To Write Supreme Court To Initiate Talks With Political Parties**

ISLAMABAD: PTI founder Imran Khan decided to write a letter to the Supreme Court of Pakistan to initiate talks with other political parties.

Sources said Imran Khan stated that the purpose of the letter was to address the economic difficulties and political instability the country faces. He expressed his willingness to engage with any serious party that wants to resolve these issues.

The letter will outline his readiness to discuss solutions with parties capable of addressing economic and



political problems. He also demanded the return of the electoral mandate, and fair trials in political cases, including the judicial inquiry into Imran Khan to engage in dialogue with other political parties.—RT/Agency

**PM Invites AKDN To Invest More In Pakistan's Tourism Sector**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Monday invited the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) to increase its investment in Pakistan's tourism sector.

He extended the invitation in a meeting with Chairperson Executive Committee of Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development Prince Rahim Aha Khan, who called on him along with a five-member delegation.

The prime minister also congratulated Prince Rahim Aha Khan on receiving the Nishan-e-Pakistan Award from the Government of Pakistan.



solar power plants organized by the Aga Khan Development Network in Hunza were also highly commendable, the prime minister said.

He also expressed his appreciation for the establishment of the microfinance banking center of Habib Bank Limited in Gilgit under the auspices of Aga Khan Development Network.

Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday conferred the Nishan-e-Pakistan award on Prince Rahim Aha Khan, in recognition of his meritorious services for the development, prosperity, and betterment of Pakistan and its people.—RT/Agency