



Jennifer Lopez fails to convince Ben Affleck from filing for divorce

Price Rs. 10

FOUNDED BY (LATE) KAZI SAEED AKBAR & (Late) Kazi Jawad Akbar PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM KARACHI AND HYDERABAD

The only comprehensive English daily with a regional perspective

# The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



Saeed Ghani Demands Revised Waste Disposal Plan For Eidul Azha Within 24 Hours

## Heartland

DC Shajeel Noor Channa, SSP Rohail Khan Khoso, and Mayor Anwar Ali Lular Lavish Praise on Larkana Press Club's New Leaders



## Money

-Zafar Moti is Sad! PSE 100-index down by 663.07 points to close at 72,589.49



## NATIONAL

PTI Won't Receive Any NRO, Asserts Kundi



## SPORTS

PAK vs CAN: Dysfunctional Pakistan claim useless maiden victory in T20 World Cup 2024 against Canada



KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 175 Regd. No. 114 visit us at

www.regionaltimes.com

Wednesday, June 12, 2024, Zil-Hajj 05, 1445 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

# Aurangzeb Highlights Agriculture's Role In Driving GDP Growth To 2.38%, While Other Sectors Fall Short

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has unveiled the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24 as part of an annual exercise before the presentation of budget.

The Pakistan Economic Survey is an annual report that charts the country's economic progress for the outgoing financial year.

For the next fiscal year, the National Economic Council (NEC) approved a massive increase in its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) share.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb announced that revenue collection for the fiscal year 2023-24 saw a 13 percent rise compared to the previous year.

"Pakistan rupee depreciated by 29pc and the foreign exchange reserves went down to two weeks of import cover in fiscal year 2022-23 that is where we started off," said the finance minister at the start of his presser.

The finance minister said the country started off its journey to launch reforms under the leadership of PM Shehbaz.

He said the coalition government, upon assuming office last year, had to seek an emergency bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"This IMF assistance is the reason why we are now able to discuss our economic targets," he remarked.

"I was in the private sector before joining the finance ministry but at that time I was clear that Pakistan had



to go to IMF because we did not have any option and that's why its called lender of the last resort," he remarked.

"If we had not been in the IMF programme, we would not have been discussing the targets here and would have been in a precarious situation," the minister highlighted.

"The larger-scale manufacturing growth was af-

ected due to the effects of the energy equation," he said, adding that agriculture was the "saviour" backed by the bumper crops.

"Agriculture is going to remain a huge lever of growth as we go forward," he said.

The growth rate of agriculture was 6.25 percent. The quarterly growth rates have been observed at 8.6 percent, 5.8 percent, and

3.9 percent in Q1, Q2, and Q3 of FY 2024, respectively.

The sector's recovery is attributed to government initiatives, improved input supply, and increased credit disbursement to farmers.

Important crops like cotton, rice, and wheat observed healthy growth, while sugarcane and maize experienced negative growth.

However, the negative impact of sugarcane and maize was offset by the high growth of wheat, cotton, and rice. Livestock, a significant portion of the agriculture sector, showed resilience and maintained average growth.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) tax collection grew by 30.6pc to Rs7,361.9 billion from July to April. The collection target for the 12-month period

set by the government was Rs9,415bn.

The collection was Rs5,637.9 billion in the year-ago period. He emphasised that while philanthropy can support schools, universities, and hospitals, the country's functioning relies on taxes. "That's one certain[ty]. That's the basic principle," he said.

Aurangzeb stressed the need to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio and implement complex energy and power sector reforms.

Total public debt was recorded at Rs 67,525 billion at end-March 2024. Domestic debt was recorded at Rs 43,432 billion while external public debt was recorded at Rs 24,093 billion (US \$ 86.7 billion). Public debt portfolio witnessed various posi-

tive developments during first nine months of outgoing fiscal year.

On inflation, he noted that it had peaked at 48pc and had since decreased to 11.8pc in May.

He highlighted the significance of core inflation and food inflation also coming down. The CPI inflation for the period July-April FY 2024 recorded at 26 percent against 28.2 percent during the same period last year. The other inflationary indicators like Sensitive Price Index (SPI) recorded at 30.2 percent against 31.7 percent last year. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) recorded at 22.4 percent in July-April FY 2024 compared to 34 percent same period last year.

GDP growth rate was 2.38%, falling short of the target due to ongoing economic challenges.

The survey said the government is implementing a comprehensive set of administrative, policy, and relief measures to address inflation and proactively help the vulnerable members of society.

The economic survey also indicated that the rupee depreciated by 29pc during the fiscal year.

The finance minister highlighted that the currency had witnessed stability due to, he mentioned, the policies of the caretaker government.

The finance minister said the large scale manufacturing sector faced significant setbacks due to inflation, increased energy costs, and other issues.—RT/Agency

## Imran Khan Has Given Approval For Talks With Government: Barrister Gohar

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar said Tuesday party's founder Imran Khan has given a green signal for talks with the government.

"We told the PTI founder that dialogue is necessary, as the distance is widening. He agreed with us [on this]," said Gohar, when speaking with journalists outside the Adiala jail.

According to Gohar, Khan wants the avenues of dialogue to be opened. He told journalists that Khan is ready to forgive what has happened to him for reconciliation.

"PTI founder has said many times that I am ready to forgive what happened to me," said the PTI chairman.

When asked if the negotiations will take place at the behest of the Supreme Court's advice, Barrister Gohar said: "The option given by the SC is also under consideration."

However, he emphasised that it is PTI's "own decision" to negotiate.

"PTI founder did not write any letter to the SC for negotiation. PTI will also respond to its negotiation option."

Gohar maintained the party will begin its negotiations after talking to Pash-tunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) chief Mahmood



Khan Achakzai. He said there is an alliance with Achakzai and other parties, that his party will take them into confidence.

"Negotiations can also be held at the alliance level. PTI can also initiate itself," said the party's chief, reiterating that there is no option but negotiation.

"We have never refused to negotiate. The ice is breaking. We want things to improve," said Gohar, insisting that PTI's negotiation offer should not be interpreted as a deal.

The PTI chief's comment comes days after Khan decided to "step back" from his rigid stance, ordering his party leaders to establish contacts both inside and outside the Parliament to ease the ongoing political tension, sources told media.

The sources said that the party's leadership was directed to hold talks with various political parties out-

side the Parliament, while its lawmakers were also asked to enhance its relations with parties in the ruling coalition government.

Gohar told journalists that the party's founder met with lawyers today and informed them about not being allowed to talk to his sons.

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

During the hearing pertaining to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law amendments, CJP Isa suggested that Khan go to the Parliament to help resolve Pakistan's problems "as the country needs to move forward". The former prime minister has given his party's three-member committee the authority to establish contact with the establishment, said the sources.—RT/Agency

## Shehbaz Holds Talks With President Zardari To Foster Budget Collaboration



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday met with President Asif Ali Zardari to seek full support from him and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for the upcoming budget approval.

Sources indicated that the meeting also covered discussions on the overall political

situation and economic affairs of the country.

Reportedly, the PPP will hold a meeting in the Parliament House this evening ahead of the budget session. The meeting between President Zardari and Prime Minister Sharif prior to the PPP gathering is seen as highly significant.—RT/Agency

## Supreme Court Directs For Closure Of All Restaurants In Margalla Hills, Including Monal



ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the closure of all the eateries in the Margalla Hills National Park (MHPN) including Monal Restaurant in Islamabad.

The directives came in response to a March 11 court order in which it had sought the complete record of the land ownership of the restaurant.

A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard the petitions filed by Monal Restaurant, established in the Margalla Hills, as well as the Wildlife Department.

Earlier on March 8, the apex court ordered the de-sealing of the eatery after suspending the Islamabad High Court (IHC) verdict.

The court had asked the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to furnish original records about the 8,600 acres of the MHPN land.

The additional attorney general had informed the court that the Military Estate

## Security Forces Neutralize 11 Terrorists Linked To Martyrdom Of Seven Soldiers In Lakki Marwat

RAWALPINDI: At least 11 terrorists, involved in the martyrdom of seven army men, have been killed during an intelligence-based operation in the Lakki Marwat district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Tuesday.

In a statement, the military's media wing said that the IBO was carried out in response to the recent Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion that claimed the lives of seven brave soldiers to bring the perpetrators of the heinous act to justice.

The martyred soldiers included Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas and Subedar Major Muhammad Nazir.

During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which eleven terrorists were successfully neutralised while multiple terrorist hideouts were also busted.

A sanitisation operation is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area as the security forces are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country, it concluded.

Last month, security forces conducted a series of intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province from May 26 to 27 and neutralised 23 terrorists.

On May 26, an IBO was conducted in the general area of Hassan Khel, Peshawar district, where six terrorists were gunned down by the security forces and multiple hideouts were busted.



On May 27, in another operation conducted in the Tank district, 10 terrorists were killed after troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location.

The third engagement occurred in the general area of Bagh, Khyber district, wherein, the security forces killed seven terrorists and injured two terrorists.

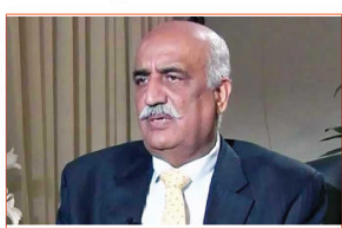
A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as the innocent civilians, the ISPR said.—RT/Agency

## Khurshheed Criticizes Government For Not consulting PPP On IMF And China Agreements

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Khurshheed Shah said that they were not informed about the budget, and the government did not take them into confidence regarding agreements with the IMF and China.

Speaking to the media outside the Parliament House, Shah remarked that in the past, the opposition was taken into confidence.

Now, as allies, they too should have been consulted. Khurshheed Shah conveyed PPP's grievances to the government, highlighting that the People's Party made



many sacrifices in Parliament. He reiterated their commitment to ensuring that both parliament and the government function properly. He added that the Pak-

istan People's Party prefers the welfare of the people. If the IMF set conditions, the government should have consulted them, the PPP leader held.—RT/Agency

## Dar Urges Urgent And Unconditional Ceasefire In Gaza

UNITED NATION: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar has called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza.

He made the call during his meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres in Jordan, on the sidelines of the high-level conference on prevailing situation in Gaza.

The Foreign Minister also called for unimpeded humanitarian assistance to the besieged people of Gaza, return of the displaced Palestinians,



and ensuring accountability for the war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed by Israel. He reiterated Pakistan's

strong and unequivocal condemnation of the indiscriminate and brutal use of force by Israel against the Palestinians.—RT/Agency

## India Commits To Addressing Border Issues With Pakistan And China

MUMBAI: India will focus on finding solutions to the border issues with Pakistan and China that have long strained ties between India and its neighbouring countries, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said on Tuesday after assuming charge for a second straight term.

Relations between India have worsened since a 2019 suicide bombing of an Indian military convoy in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) which India claims was traced to Pakistan-based militants, leading New Delhi to carry out an airstrike on what it said was a militant base in Pakistan.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in on Sunday for a record-equaling third term at a grand ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president's palace in New Delhi, attended by leaders of seven regional countries, underlining the government's neigh-



bourhood first" policy.

On Monday, leaders of the two countries engaged in diplomacy via X. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his elder brother and former prime minister Nawaz congratulated Modi, in what was Pakistan's first response to the election results from across the border.

"With Pakistan, we would want to find a solution to the issue of years-old cross-border terrorism. That cannot be the policy of a good neighbour," Jaishankar said.

"With regards to China there are still some issues at the border and our focus will be on how to solve them," he said. India and China share a 3,800 km (2,400 mile) border - much of it poorly demarcated - over which the nuclear-armed nations also fought a war in 1962. They have engaged in a military standoff since July 2020 when at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops were killed in the worst clashes in five decades.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Employees of Paretabad Town are holding a protest demonstration against the non-payment of their salaries, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT

## Umerkot Police Make Major Bust, Arrest Two Notorious Drug Dealers



Umerkot: Umerkot Police on orders of SSP Asif Raza Baloch conducted raids in different areas and managed to arrest two drug dealers named Shafiq Memon and Sooraj Meghwar. The police recovered Gutka and moonshine from possession of the arrested men and registered cases against them.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Janshoro are holding a protest demonstration against their area police officials, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT

## DC Shajeel Noor Channa, SSP Rohail Khan Khoso, And Mayor Anwar Ali Luhar Lavish Praise On Larkana Press Club's New Leaders

LARKANA: The Deputy Commissioner Shajeel Noor Channa, SSP Larkana Rohail Khan Khoso, and Mayor Municipal Corporation Anwar Ali Luhar have felicitated the newly elected office-bearers of the Larkana Press Club, who include President Murata Kalthoro, Vice President Abdul Khaliq Mugheri, General Secretary Naveed Lanik, Treasurer Abdul Qadir Jagirani, Joint Secretary Mansoor Abbas Abro, along with members of the governing body, including M. Younis Detho, Muhammad Ashiq Pathan, Yasin Abro, Nadeem Akhtar, Soomro, Maqsood Odhano and Dr. Badar Shaikh, were congratulated on their victory in the elections. On this occasion, DC Larkana Shajeel Noor Channa, SSP Rohail Khan Khoso and Mayor Anwar Ali Luhar expressed in their respective addresses that the highlighted issues promptly. On this occasion, a cake cutting ceremony was held in the Larkana Press Club, in reference to the birthday of young journalist Naveed Lanik, in which journalists participated enthusiastically, congratulating General Secretary Naveed Lanik.



## Umerkot Police Kick Off Ambitious Plantation Campaign



Umerkot: Umerkot Police on orders of IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon DIG Javed Sohwaro and SSP Asif Raza Baloch have launched a plantation campaign in the district. In this regard it was learnt that the SHO of City Police Station Altaf Shah along with his team planted tree saplings in the Umerkot City Police Station. On the occasion, luncheon was also organized for the police officials by the staff of the City Police Station.

## LUMHS Faculty and Staff Rally In Unprecedented Support For VC Prof Dr Ikramuddin Ujjan



JAMSHORO: The faculty members, officers and employees of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, have united in protest against the false propaganda being spread on social media against the university and its Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan. A large number of employees participated in a protest and a general body meeting to denounce these malicious activities orchestrated by a specific group. The general body meeting was held in Latif Hall at LUMHS, where several prominent figures addressed the attendees. These included Dean Professor Dr. Munawar Alam Ansari, Dean Professor Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dean Professor Dr. Moin Ansari, Dean Professor Dr. Feroze Ali Kalhoro, Professor Amara Iqbal Memon, Registrar Dr. Haji Muhammad Shaikh, Principal of Bawal Medical College Professor Ashraf Khaskheli, College of Physicians and Surgeons member Professor Dr. Abbas Memon, Professor Dr. Afzal Junjo, Director of Administration at LUMHS Hospital Professor Dr. Faheem Memon, Officers' Association President Dr. Sajid Khan Halipoto, General Secretary of LUMHS Employees Welfare Association Saeed Ahmed Lashari, Professor Dr. Binafsha Syed, Teachers' Association President Dr. Rasool Bux Bihem, Professor Dr. Shabbir Laghari, and Makhdood Ashfaq Ahmed Abbasi, among others. During their speeches, they praised Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan for his dedicated and tireless efforts in elevating the status of LUMHS. They emphasized that Dr. Ikram is not just an individual but an institution in himself, a garden of knowledge and hard work have greatly benefited the university. They strongly believed that if he is allowed to continue his work, he has the potential to make LUMHS one of the world's leading universities.

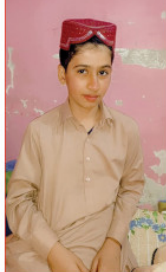
## MPA Pir Syed Saleh Shah Gilani Grandly Inaugurates the Revered Urs of Hazrat Pir Syed Qambar Ali Shah Gilani (RA)

JOHI: In the shrine of Hazrat Pir Syed Qambar Ali Shah Gilani (RA) in Naing Sharif, every year on the occasion of the annual Urs, a grand celebration is held. Thousands of faithful devotees from across the country, including Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, flock to his shrine to participate in the auspicious event. MPA Pir Syed Saleh Shah Gilani inaugurated the Urs celebrations by laying a chadar on the grave of Hazrat Pir Syed Qambar Ali Shah Gilani (RA). This gathering has strict security arrangements due to the presence of thousands of people. During the festivities, a variety of dishes, including meat, are served, and free medical camps are set up for the convenience of the devotees. This gathering serves as a test of strength for Sindhi wrestlers, with handsome rewards for the winners.



## Heartbreaking Mystery: 15-Year-Old Abdul Wasi Rajput Disappears Without A Trace

MORO: SEPCO employee Faizan Ali Rajput and Arif Ali Rajput's nephew, 15-year-old Abdul Wasi, son of Asif Ali Rajput, who resides in Dastagir Colony of Moro city, went missing while traveling by bus from Karachi to Moro city. It has been two days since he disappeared, and he has not yet reached home. Despite extensive searches, no trace of the boy has been found, causing great distress to his family. In this regard the family members have urged the concerned authorities to take notice of the matter and help them to trace whereabouts of the missing boy.



## DC Naveed Rehman Larik Conducts Critical Review Of Eid-ul-Azha Preparations

Umerkot: In Umerkot, it has been decided to implement foolproof security arrangements for celebrating Eid al-Azha with great devotion and respect. Additionally, all government and private buildings, mosques, and homes in the entire district will be illuminated. In this regard, an important meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naveed Rehman Larik at his office. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Umerkot Rajab Ali Sathio, Assistant Commissioner Kunri Muhammad Khan Bhangwar, DSP Umerkot Tasawar Jatt, DHO Umerkot Dr. Nand Lal, officials from law enforcement agencies, Chief Municipal Officer, TMOs of all town committees, XEN Public Health Engineering Umerkot Saddam Hussain Mari, ADL Haresh Chandar Khatri, and officials from the Information Department Mohabbat Ali Soomro, Ramesh Kumar, along with other relevant departmental officers of the district. During the meeting, it was informed that strict security arrangements would be in place across the district during Eid. Appropriate measures for cleanliness will also be taken in all towns. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik instructed the relevant departments to complete all their preparations in advance. Additionally, an emergency will be imposed in the Civil Hospital Umerkot and other government hospitals in the district, with instructions for doctors and paramedical staff to be present. A control room will be established in the DC office for this purpose. On this occasion, he directed all town officers to ensure cleanliness during Eid al-azha and to make timely arrangements for the disposal of sacrificial animal waste throughout the three days of Eid. He also stated that all leaves for local government employees would be canceled.

## Tragedy Strikes: Three Sanitary Workers Perish Amidst Intense Cleanliness Campaign In TMK

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: During the cleaning of city drains across the city, three sanitary workers of the municipal committee lost their lives. The three workers were busy completing their work as usual. During this time, one worker entered the manhole of the drain for cleaning and did not return. To rescue him, the second and then the third worker entered the drain but after a while, when none of them returned, chaos ensued. After considerable effort, all three workers were pulled out of the drain and transferred to the hospital, but the doctors confirmed their deaths. The deceased sanitary workers have been identified as Younis Chaman and others. As a protest, the bodies of all three sanitary workers were placed at Sujawal Chowk, and a protest demonstration was staged, leading to a strike that resulted in long queues of vehicles. The protesters chanted slogans fiercely against the administration. Later, Municipal Chairman Syed Shahnawaz Khan arrived at the protest site, negotiated with the protesters, and announced a compensation of three million rupees each and jobs for the heirs of the deceased sanitary workers. After this announcement, the protest was called off by the heirs. Vice Chairman Abdul Kareem Shaikh, CMO Aijaz Mallah, Shafiq Bhatti, Sikander Bhatti and others were also present on the occasion.

## Irrigation Dept Officers Snub Crucial District Council Meeting In Mirpurkhas



KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: The Irrigation Department officials were issued notices to attend a meeting at the District Council Mirpurkhas regarding the issues of the water shortage in the district. In this regard it was learnt that no irrigation department officer reached the district council to attend the meeting. The members of the district council also threatened to boycott the meeting due to absence of the officials. The Chairman of the District Council Mir Anwar Ali Talpur expressed concern over the performance of the Irrigation Department officials. On the occasion, Khadim Hussain Behrani, Arif Khan Bhurgari, Ashfaq Ahmed Bhatti, Syed Ahad Hussain Shah, Ghulam Mustafa Sehto and others were also present.

## Police Constable Severely Injured In Brazen Attack On Police Picket

KUMB: The dacoits attacked the police picket in the middle of the night in the jurisdiction of the Pir Jo Goth Police Station near Kingri. As a result of the firing, police officer Sajjad Solangi was injured by gunshots. The dacoits managed to escape easily while firing and shouting slogans. Upon receiving the information, a large number of people rushed to the scene of the incident. The pursuit of the dacoits is underway based on the footprints found but so far no significant result has been achieved. It should be noted that a few days ago, dacoits had also attacked the police picket outside the village of Mangarji near the Pir Jo Goth Police Station.



SHIKARPUR: Senior Superintendent of Police Shikarpur, Irfan Ali Samo along with Wing Commander Rangers is visiting the Kacha area of Garhi Tego during an ongoing targeted operation against dacoits.—RT



LARKANA: People are drinking juices to beat the summer heat at a heat stroke camp arranged by Prof. Nusrat Shah, Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University.—RT

# METRO KARACHI



REGIONAL TIMES

# NATIONAL

## PSX Celebrates Listing Of Fast Cables Ltd. With Gong Ceremony



KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) held a gong ceremony to celebrate the listing of Fast Cables Limited (FCL), marking the fifth IPO on PSX in the fiscal year 2023-24. Fast Cables, a leading manufacturer of electrical cables and conductors in Pakistan, issued 128 million shares, representing 20.35% of its post-IPO paid-up capital.

The event was attended by key figures from Fast Cables, including Chairman Gulam Mustafa Kausar and Managing Director Kamal Amjad Mian, as well as senior management from AKD Securities Ltd., the joint lead managers of the issue. PSX MD & CEO Farrukh H. Khan welcomed the guests along with PSX board members and senior management.

The IPO, conducted via book building, offered shares at a floor price of Rs 23.5 with a maximum price of Rs 32.90. The issue was oversubscribed by 1.57 times, with a strike price of Rs 24.45 per share. In total, the IPO raised Rs 3,129.6 million, which will be used for constructing a state-of-the-art building, installing new machinery, and repaying debt.

Farrukh Khan praised the successful IPO, stating, "Fast Cables' listing is a proud moment for PSX, adding significant value to our market. We welcome new companies to list on PSX and benefit from our streamlined and automated processes."

Kamal Mian, MD of Fast Cables, expressed gratitude, highlighting the company's commitment to innovation and sustainable growth. He thanked PSX, SECP, CDC, and AKD Securities for their support.

Muhammad Farid Alam, CEO of AKD Securities, lauded the strong investor response, emphasizing the confidence in Fast Cables and the growth potential of Pakistan's manufacturing sector.

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of commemorative tombstones to participating banks, CTIs, and regulatory representatives.—RT

## Karachi Principal arrested for sexual assault on female student

KARACHI: Police have arrested the principal of a private school in Orangi Town for allegedly attempting to sexually assault a matriculation student and beating her when she resisted.

According to details, the incident occurred within the jurisdiction of Iqbal Market Police Station. The principal allegedly took the student into his office, made inappropriate advances, and attempted to assault her. When the student resisted, the principal reportedly subjected her to physical violence.

The victim informed her sister about the incident upon returning home. The sister then filed a written complaint at Iqbal Market Police Station, leading to the registration of a case.

According to the victim's sister, the principal had previously sent inappropriate messages on WhatsApp and on June 1, called the student to his office, where he attempted to assault her. He also threatened her with severe consequences if she disclosed the incident.

Following the registration of the case, police have arrested the principal and initiated an investigation.—RT/Agency

## PTI Won't Receive Any NRO, Asserts Kundi

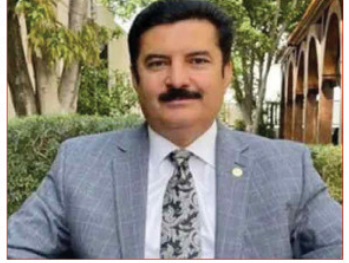
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said he would perform his duties according to law and constitution, adding, "One thing is very much clear. There won't be any NRO for the PTI."

The statement about NRO comes with reference to PTI founding chairman Imran Khan who is in prison following his sentencing in multiple cases and booking in many others as well as his party's involvement in May 9 events.

Earlier on Monday, it was reported that Imran, who is known for his aggressive approach as reflected by the May 9 violence and the stance taken afterwards, may write a letter to the Supreme Court which should, according to him, convey his desire for talks to the relevant circles.

But Kundi told reporters on Tuesday that the PTI wasn't even a political party and holding talks with the grouping would be a wastage of time.

Blasting the provincial government over rise in terrorism and poor performance, he warned that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was losing control of the province and mentioned that not a single meeting of the [Provincial] Apex Committee had so far been convened.



One could only laugh at the statements issued by Gandapur, the governor remarked and said that he didn't think Gandapur could attack Islamabad.

Responding to various questions, he was commenting on the repeated threats hurled by Gandapur that he would lead a march towards the federal capital if his demands are not met.

According to Kundi, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister is passing such comments only to protect "his job" and they too would be saddened if Kundi becomes unemployed.

"I know how to protect the Governor's House [Peshawar] constitutionally," said Kundi and added that he had a complete understanding of his constitutional powers, the governor could visit any place in Pakistan, but the law and order situation was worsening day by day in the province, with people going missing and moving in convoys in his home district of Dera Ismail Khan.

"At least address the state of affairs in your own district," remarked Kundi who also hails from Dera Ismail Khan.

It is worth noting that the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are affected the worst after the then PTI government led by Imran decided to allow the TTP members to relocate, thus resulting in the return of terrorism since then.—RT/Agency

## Sindh IGP Announces Rs4.5 Billion Budget Allocation For SHOs In FY2024-25

KARACHI: Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon on Tuesday announced that station head officers (SHOs) in Sindh will get a budget of Rs4.5bn in FY2024-25.

In an exclusive interview with media, Sindh IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon said with the direct provision of budget, the SHOs are being made autonomous.

The Sindh government also desires a dedicated budget for the police force, the Sindh IGP said and added previously, a lump sum budget was directed to senior officers for police stations, but the new plan aims to send this budget directly to the police stations.

Memon further said the SHOs will now have the authority to utilize the budget directly, facilitating expenses such as vehicle maintenance and other operational costs.

Running police stations and conducting investigations require funds, and the



lack of money often leads to corruption issues. "This solution is expected to bring some improvement."

Sindh IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon also announced Rs5 bn package for police welfare. The plan includes providing medical facilities to Sindh Police, which were previously unavailable.

Each Sindh Police employee will now have an annual medical coverage of up to 1 million rupees. This coverage extends to their spouses, children, and parents, who can receive treatment at any hospital, the Sindh's top cop said.

Sindh IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon further said that a long-standing demand for the replacement of over 2,000 vehicles in the Sindh Police, some in use for over a decade, has been approved.

This replacement will be carried out in phases over the next three years, with a priority on allocating new vehicles to police stations where the need is greatest.—RT/Agency

## Abdul Salam Dadabhoj Appointed Acting Chairman Of Consumers Association Of Pakistan

KARACHI: In a significant leadership transition, the Consumers Association of Pakistan (CAP) has announced the appointment of Abdul Salam Dadabhoj as the acting Chairman. This decision was made by the current Chairman, Kaukab Iqbal, who acknowledged Dadabhoj's extensive experience and notable contributions in the business community.

Abdul Salam Dadabhoj, who previously served as the Senior Vice Chairman of CAP, brings a wealth of expertise to his new role. Known for his influential presence in the business sector, Dadabhoj is expected to further the organization's mission of advocating for consumers rights and addressing issues related to consumer protection.

Kaukab Iqbal, while making the announcement, expressed confidence in Dadabhoj's capability to lead CAP effectively. "Abdul Salam Dadabhoj's appointment as acting Chairman is a testament to his dedication and exceptional service. His leadership will undoubtedly steer the association towards greater achievements in protecting consumers interests,"



Iqbal stated.

As the acting Chairman, Dadabhoj's immediate focus will be on enhancing the association's outreach and strengthening its initiatives aimed at safeguarding consumer rights. His leadership is anticipated to bring renewed vigor to CAP's ongoing efforts in promoting fair practices and ensuring consumer satisfaction across Pakistan.

The Consumers Association of Pakistan, established to champion the cause of consumers, continues to play a pivotal role in addressing consumer grievances and advocating for policies that benefit the public. With Abdul Salam Dadabhoj at the helm, the association is poised to make significant strides in its mission.—RT

## Prince Rahim Aga Khan Inaugurates HBL Microfinance Bank's Sustainable Regional HQ In Gilgit-Baltistan



GILGIT: HBL Microfinance Bank (HBL MfB) today inaugurated its new Regional Headquarters in Gilgit-Baltistan, marking a significant step towards sustainability and community development. The building generates 40% of its electricity needs and is one of the first in Pakistan to achieve such high standards.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan highlighted the building's role in advancing the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) goal of Net-Zero emissions by 2030, symbolizing progress and sustainability for Gilgit-Baltistan.

Raymond Kotwal, Chairman of HBL MfB, emphasized the bank's dedication to sustainable development and local economic growth, noting that 27% of the project cost was invested locally.

Amir Khan, President & CEO of HBL MfB, underscored the headquarter's role in enhancing operational capabilities and regional prosperity.—RT

## Court Denies Bail Plea Of Sarim Burney In Human Trafficking Case

KARACHI: A local court in the metropolis Tuesday rejected the bail plea of social worker Sarim Burney in the human trafficking case.

The order by the court of Judicial Magistrate (East) Khaliq ul Zaman came after the arguments of Burney's lawyer and those of the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) counsel concluded.

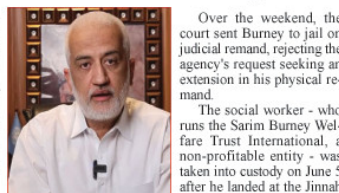
During the hearing of the case, the agency's prosecutor told the court that more evidence is to be collected against the suspect.

"If the suspect is granted bail, it may affect the investigation," the FIA counsel said, adding that the accused is resorting to continuous lies.

He added that further revelations have been made during the investigation.

The FIA lawyer told the court that baby girl Haya's mother said she contacted the social worker to get her daughter back but he refused to return her.

Meanwhile, Burney's



Over the weekend, the court sent Burney to jail on judicial remand, rejecting the agency's request seeking an extension in his physical remand.

The social worker - who runs the Sarim Burney Welfare Trust International, a non-profitable entity - was taken into custody on June 5 after he landed at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi following his US visit. His arrest and subsequent remand by the FIA charges on him which include human trafficking, smuggling and illegally sending children to the US after American authorities filed a complaint against him. Burney is accused of smuggling a newborn girl named Haya to the US, FIA said. The officials added that Burney bought the baby from her parents for Rs1 million and sent her to the US.—RT

## Citizen And Sacrificial Animal Shot In Karachi Robbery Attempt



KARACHI: In a disturbing escalation of street crime, not only citizens but also sacrificial animals have fallen victim to bandits in Karachi, media reported on Tuesday.

According to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Keamari, Faizan Ali, a firing incident was reported from Saeedabad where two armed robbers opened fire and injured a civilian - named Aftab - and a sacrificial animal.

The SSP Keamari stated that the police party that the police party responded to the scene and arrested one of the robbers, identified as Huzafa, after an alleged encounter.

However, the second robber, named Sohail, managed to escape from the scene.

The police officials recovered a 9 mm pistol from the arrested robber. Meanwhile, the injured cow had to be slaughtered before the Eidul Adha 2024 due to its injuries. A case has been registered against the arrested bandit, and efforts are ongoing to apprehend his accomplice.—RT/Agency

## Crackdown On Counterfeit AC Parts Unveils Nationwide Distribution Network



LAHORE: In a decisive blow against counterfeiters, authorities in Lahore executed a targeted raid on a clandestine manufacturing facility specializing in fraudulent AC parts. The operation uncovered a vast cache of illicit goods, including imitation expansion valves, steel plates, spare parts, and machinery. Interrogation of the culprits revealed a sophisticated distribution network spanning the entire country, implicating them in the widespread dissemination of substandard products.

Counterfeit goods not only erode the reputation and revenue of legitimate companies but also pose significant risks to consumers, compromising safety and performance standards. The successful raid serves as a resounding message that such illicit activities will not be tolerated, reaffirming the commitment of law enforcement agencies to combat intellectual property theft and safeguard public welfare.

This crackdown underscores the imperative for continued vigilance and cooperation among regulatory bodies, industry stakeholders, and consumers to stem the tide of counterfeit products and uphold standards of quality and integrity in the marketplace.—RT

## Sindh Memon Ittehad Ladies Wing Meets

KARACHI: Under the leadership of Sajida Memon, Advocate Jamila Ehsan Memon and Sakina Mehtab Memon, a meeting was held at their residence for organizational structuring of the Sindh Memon Ittehad District Ladies Wing. Women from various neighborhoods of Memon Goth participated enthusiastically in the formation of the organization. Sajida Memon and Advocate Jamila Ehsan Memon invited

women to join the Sindh Memon Ittehad organization emphasizing that even in this modern era women in society are often looked down upon. Due to this, more than 70% of women sacrifice their personal ambitions and desires to stay confined to their homes. The women from different areas of Memon Goth who attended the meeting were invited to join the Sindh Memon Ittehad organization. The meeting was also attended



KARACHI: Former Sindh Minister and Convener of KPCCI standing committee on horticulture, Muhammad Noman Saigal, hosted a lovely dinner in honor of the Malaysian Consul General in Karachi, His Excellency Harman Harydnata Ahmad, at the prestigious Karachi Gymkhana.—RT

# EDITORIAL



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

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

## On the verge of an economic Armageddon

The recent release of Pakistan's Economic Survey for the fiscal year 2023-24 once again highlights the precarious state of the national economy. With a modest GDP growth of 2.38 percent, the report underscores the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to avert further economic decline.

Pakistan, with a population exceeding 240 million, cannot afford to stagnate at such a sluggish growth rate, especially when neighboring and regional economies are surging ahead at rates exceeding 7 percent annually. This discrepancy should serve as a wake-up call to all stakeholders that the status quo is no longer acceptable.

While the survey points to some positive indicators, such as improved revenue collection

and macroeconomic stability, it also exposes deep-rooted challenges. Persistent issues such as political uncertainty, contractionary macro-



economic policies, and fiscal deficits continue to hinder growth prospects.

It is evident that Pakistan's economic woes are largely self-inflicted. Despite the potential for growth in sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and services, the country's inability to address structural issues and capitalize on its resources holds back progress.

Moreover, the global economic landscape de-

mands swift action. As advanced economies grapple with slowing growth, emerging markets must seize opportunities for expansion. Pakistan cannot afford to be left behind.

It is imperative that policymakers, businesses, and civil society unite to enact bold reforms aimed at fostering sustainable growth. This includes addressing fiscal imbalances, improving investment climate, and prioritizing human capital development.

The time for complacency is over. Pakistan must harness its potential and overcome internal challenges to realize its economic aspirations. Failure to do so will only exacerbate existing inequalities and limit opportunities for future generations. Now is the time to act decisively and chart a new course towards prosperity.

# THE HEARTLAND



## Closure Of Shahbaz Pumping Station Ignites Fierce Protests In Sehwan

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: The residents of Sehwan Sharif, concerned about the closure of the Shahbaz Pumping Scheme for 5 years, have been protesting continuously. For the past several days, the Sehwan Press Club has been observing a symbolic strike, and there have been strong protests against the practical closure. Affected residents, including many from Daim Talpur, Roshan Ali, Qurban Ali Talpur, Liaquat Ali, Gul Hassan Rind and Abdul Khaliq Sarki, have highlighted that the five years of closure of the scheme have deprived them of agricultural water, which has forced them to protest.



Despite efforts by the affected residents have de-

## Tando Jam Police Capture Infamous Drug Kingpin in Daring Raid

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: Tando Jam Police led by DSP Tando Jam, Agha Abdul Majeed and SHO Tando Jam Riaz Bhutto conducted a raid on a tip-off and managed to arrest a notorious drug dealer

named Anwar Sipio in injured condition.

The police recovered ice from possession of the arrested man in a large number. The Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has lauded the services of the Tando Jam Police.

## Cabin Gutted At Faridabad Bypass In Larkana Fire

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A fire erupted in the cabin of a differently abled man named Mithal Tagar at Faridabad Bypass and as a result almost all the valuables along with cabin were reduced to ashes on Tuesday. The fire

victim while talking to the media said that the valuables worth six lac rupees have been gutted in the fire.

He demanded of the government and the elected representatives to help him so that he could earn livelihood for his family.

## Road Mishap Leaves Former TEO Secondary Muhammad Ayub Sarkhi Severely Injured

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: While traveling to Quetta, a car overturned near the Mangoli police station area in Balochistan, resulting in injuries to former TEO Secondary Thul, Muhammad Ayub Sarkhi and Khair

Muhammad Sarki. They were admitted to the hospital, where their condition is reported to be stable. Muhammad Ayub Sarki mentioned that they sustained minor injuries due to the car accident and expressed gratitude for God's mercy.

## JWC Nawabshah rallies for Priya Kumari's recovery, arrest of Nasrullah Gadani's killers

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: JWC Nawabshah took out a massive rally for the recovery of Priya Kumari and arrest of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani's murderers. The protest rally was taken out from the Main Sindh School under the leadership of the Central General Secretary, Zulfiqar Ali Kaskeli, along with other members, condemning the complete failure of the government in the recovery of Priya Kumari, which has not yet been released and parents are crying helplessly. Moreover, the brutal killing of the brave journalist Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani by the murderers of landlords and facilitators has caused great injustice, and police have been un-

able to protect murderers and facilitators. The main accused in the murder of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani, Khalid Lundi and his son Shabaz Lundi and Noor Muhammad Lundi have not been arrested. On the occasion, Ibrahim Bugti of the Quami Awami Tehreek Ibrahim Khoso of the Awami Tehreek, Muhammad Hussain Chandio of the Shia Ulema Council, Anwar Hussain Chandio of the WAPDA Union, Ali Hyder Khaskheli, Muhammad Sharif Khaskheli, Taj Rind, Akram Chandio, Imtiaz Arain, Dr Riaz Arain, Kashif Abro, Haji Akhtar Rind, Fida Hussain Chandio, Habibullah Dahri, Abdul Wahid Dahri, Mur-taza Jokhio and several other political and social activists participated in the rally on a large scale.

## Completion of water supply scheme demanded in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In Thul city, residents' dream of clean drinking water has not been fulfilled despite 13 years passing since the initiation of the scheme. The incomplete implementation of the clean drinking water scheme and allegations of corruption have led to continuous protests, demonstrations, road blockages, and demands for the provision of clean drinking water in

others has been protesting against corruption and complete work in the water scheme. The residents feel neglected as despite the allocation of millions of rupees for the water scheme in Thul city 13 years ago, the scheme remains incomplete. Over the past 40 months, the local people led by Jamaluddin Jokhio, Muhammad Bakhsh, Mir Hassan Brohi, Zafar Lashari, Asif Jokhio and

## SMBBMU sets up Community Cooling Camps to combat intense heatwave in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Larkana's SMBB Medical University's Press Spokesman announced that, upon the special directives of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah, Community Cooling Camps were set up by the Directorate of ORIC SMBBMU to combat the intense heat wave in the city of Larkana. These camps were established in collaboration with Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University, UNICEF, and the Mayor Municipal Committee Larkana. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah, Com-

munity services. She further mentioned that the camps will continue to operate throughout the month of June to provide relief from the heat wave. The event saw the presence of Director ORIC Dr. Mir Hassan Khoso, Dean Prof. Mohammad Hanif Shaikh, Dean Prof. Yousif Shaikh, Principal CMC Prof. Zamir Ahmed Soomro, Director of Physiotherapy Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Prof. Saleem Khatwar, Sumair Dal, Sultan Ahmed Bhutto, as well as medical and pharmacy students, all of whom actively participated in this initiative.

## Outrage Erupts: Kachhi Kolhi Community Protests Violent Desecration Of Ram Mandir

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: In the jurisdiction of B-Section police station, a protest was held by the Hindu Kachhi Kolhi community led by Arjun Kachhi on Jhol Road against the occupation and desecration of the Ram Mandir. Five days ago a few miscreants took control of the temple, causing destruction and disrespecting sacred items of the Sanatan Dharma. Following the protest, Kulu Bhai, Arjun Kachhi Kolhi, Chetan Kachhi Kolhi, Dharmshi Kachhi Kolhi, and others held a press conference at the Awami Press Club. They expressed that despite five days passing, no case had been registered, and no culprits



had been arrested. They demanded that the IG Sindh, DIG Shaheed Benazirabad, SSP Sanghar, and other high authorities take notice of the incident, register a case against the culprits, arrest them, and ensure they re-

ceive strict punishment. They warned of further protests if their demands were not met. On the other hand, SSP Sanghar, taking notice of the incident, has immediately requested a report from DSP Tando Adam.

## PTA Delegation Mounts Pressure On DC Ghotki: Release Census Duties Compensation Now

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Deputy Commissioner of Ghotki, Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, met with the President of the Primary Teachers' Association District Ghotki, Mir Hassan Mahar and the General Secretary, Nawab Khan Siyal. During the meeting, they discussed in detail the pending payments for census work, the outstanding amounts for voter list verification and other issues related to teachers in Ghotki district. The President of PTA Ghotki demanded that the remaining census compensation for Ghotki district be released promptly. Following the



meeting with the President of PTA, the Deputy Commissioner immediately gathered data from all the sub-districts and consulted with the Statis-

tics Department. He assured the leadership of PTA that the pending payments for teachers in Ghotki district would be released soon.

## Death anniversary of poet Muhammad Hasil Masroor Chandio observed in Kunri

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: In the village of Ghanwar Khan Chandio, an event commemorating the annual anniversary of the renowned and beloved poet of the region, Late Muhammad Hasil Masroor Chandio was organized by his sons Abdul Rashid Chandio, Aijaz Hussain Chandio and Molvi Saifulah Chandio. The gathering was attended by local dignitaries including Dr. Asad Jamal Pali, Syed Fakharudin Shah, Mukhtar Gashkori, Muhammad Hassan Laghari, Shahzeb Chandio, Malik Chandio, Qadir Bux Mukhlis, Abdul Malik Chandio, Bilawal



Chandio, Attaullah Chandio, Mustafa Moj Chandio, Mir Mujahid Pali, Hakim Ali Laghari, Faqir Ibrahim Khoso and others, along with a large number of residents from the area. Various speakers shed light on the life of the poet during their speeches at the event. They high-

lighted that the late poet Wadib Muhammad Hasil Masroor conveyed messages of love, peace, and harmony in society through his poetry, while also addressing the region's challenges. His contributions were acknowledged and his legacy is cherished.

## Motorcyclist killed in fatal Daulatpur road accident

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: In an unfortunate incident at the national highway near Daulatpur, the speeding passenger coach heading from Karachi collided with a motorcycle at Bahadur Petrol Pump, resulting in the death of 38-year-old man Ali Hassan Dahri. Upon immediate intervention by the Daulatpur police, the coach driver was arrested near Shahpur Jahania. The body of the deceased was shifted to the Rural Health Center Daulatpur for the medical formalities.

# SPORTS



## 'Team disheartened after two defeats,' Azhar Mahmood says on T20 World Cup losses



NEW YORK: Following back-to-back T20 World Cup 2024 losses against the United States and arch-rivals India, Pakistan team's assistant coach Azhar Mahmood has acknowledged the national side's low morale in the ongoing mega event.

"After two defeats, everyone is quite disheartened. Losing against India is more disappointing than a defeat against the US," said the assistant coach while speaking at a pre-match press conference ahead of today's must-win match against Canada.

Mahmood's remarks come after the Babar Azam-led side was defeated by the US who secured a five-run victory in the Super Over. This setback was followed by a disappointing loss against India where the Green Shirts failed to chase down a modest 120-run target and lost by six runs.

Following the loss against India, the Green Shirts are now heavily dependent on not just winning their next two games - against Ireland and Canada - but also the US

## PAK vs CAN: Dysfunctional Pakistan claim useless maiden victory in T20 World Cup 2024 against Canada

NEW YORK: Pakistan clinched their first victory at the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 in Tuesday's match against Canada, which was a do-or-die situation, as only a win could keep the Green Shirts' hopes alive for the Super 8 stage.

Babar Azam and Co's seven-wicket victory against newcomers Canada came as a breather for the side following their back-to-back losses against the United States (USA) and India in their first two matches of the mega-tournament.

Pakistan chased down the 107-run target to emerge victorious in the must-win clash at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium.

Men in Green had a tough start as they failed to score a boundary in the first four overs. Saim Ayub soon departed for the pavilion after scoring just six runs, leaving



the Green Shirts 20-1 in 4.2 overs. However, Pakistan continued to play with caution as Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan formed a 63-run partnership.

Azam lost his wicket for 33 runs but Rizwan (53 off 53) remained on the pitch and took Pakistan over the line by chasing the target in 17.3 overs.

Earlier, the day belonged to Pakistan bowlers as the Canadian batters had no an-

swer to their attack. Mohammad Amir, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf all did their part with the ball as the Green Shirts managed to restrict the opponents to 106-7 in New York.

Pakistan squad drew first blood against the opponents as Mohammad Amir bowled Canadian opener Navneet Dhaliwal (4) out in the third over.

The bowlers picked up wickets quickly after the first dismissal, as Shaheen Shah Afridi, who couldn't take his first over wicket, made progress when Pragat Singh (2) was caught and bowled in the fifth over.

Haris Rauf conceded 13 runs in the 7th over without taking a wicket but Imad Wasim did the job for his mate as he dismissed Nicholas Singh for just two runs in a run out.

Pakistan looked dominant with five wickets in hand as Rauf sought a hat-trick after sending Ravinderpal Singh to the dugout the 10th over.

Young pacer Naseem Shah struck, taking his first wicket of the match in the 14th over, with Canada at 73/6 at this point. As the wickets kept tumbling, Aaron Johnson tried his best to keep Canada in the game as he deposited Imad for his third six before scoring a fifty.—Agency

## Kamran Akmal tenders apology to Harbhajan Singh over controversial remark



KARACHI: Former Pakistan cricket player Kamran Akmal has offered an apology on social media following a controversial statement he made after the India-Pakistan match in the T20 World Cup 2024.

Pakistan narrowly lost to India by six runs, prompting Akmal to make an inappropriate comment during a television interaction in Pakistan. During the final over, bowled by Arshdeep Singh of India, Akmal's derogatory remark about Singh's Sikh religion, accompanied by laughter, quickly spread on social media.

Akmal was heard saying before the final over, when 18 runs were needed off 11: "Kuch bhi ho sakta hai... 12 baj gaye hai... kisi Sikh ko nahi dena chahiye 12 baje over. (Anything can happen, it's 12 past midnight, a Sikh shouldn't bowl after midnight)." The video sparked outrage globally, with many in Pakistan condemning Akmal's offensive comment. Former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh responded vehemently on social media, criticizing Akmal for his disrespect.—Agency

## Operation clean-up: Amir, Imad, Iftikhar, Azam may be axed; Wahab's post at risk

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is likely to make significant changes in the team following its poor performance in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 with several players likely to be axed along with the team's senior manager and selection committee member Wahab Riaz, sources told media.

Players including Mohammad Amir, Imad Wasim, Iftikhar Ahmed, Azam Khan, and Usman Khan are likely to face difficulties in maintaining their place in the Green Shirts' squad in the future. Furthermore, the team's senior manager and selection committee member Riaz's post is also at risk as there is a suggestion regarding changes in the board's selection committee.



The sources say that a group of three players in the Pakistan team were black-mailing the PCB officials at the behest of the players' manager, who represents all three players, and had pressured the board to secure a significant increase in the remuneration in the players' central contract. The changes in the national side, the sources added, will be based on the reports of captain Babar Azam, head coach Gary Kirsten, Senior Manager Hafeez, and Assistant Coach Azhar Mahmood. Furthermore, the report of former director Mohammad Hafeez, who has previously accused the players of group-ing and prioritising money over performance, will also be reviewed. The players and members of the selection committee, as per the sources, will be "sent home" following their T20 World Cup 2024 performance and the series held before the mega event. The development comes a day after PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi expressed disappointment in the Green Shirts after the loss against India and said that such poor performance indicated 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"—Agency

## Henrich Klaasen reflects over tactical shift in South Africa-Bangladesh clash



NEW YORK: Henrich Klaasen discussed South Africa's tactical shift in their match against Bangladesh, which was played on the challenging pitch in New York on Monday (June 10). Despite winning two matches after chasing, the South African team had decided to bat first.

Klaasen added that Bangladesh's bowling attack and slow pitch were the reasons behind this decision. "Third game on the wicket," Player of the Match Heinrich Klaasen said about the decision. "These guys are incredible when the wicket becomes slow. So that was the biggest reason why we didn't want to chase 120. Because the wicket was definitely better than other games."

But given Bangladesh, under pressure is, and they have to go into cutters, they've got some of the world's best cutter with their spinners and their spinners 21 to get off 17 with five wickets in hand. However, the slow pitch and outfield acted as a barrier.—Agency

## Pakistan team reaches Tajikistan hours before FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers



DUSHANBE: The Pakistan men's football team on Tuesday afternoon, reached Dushanbe, just a few hours ago their scheduled FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers match against Tajikistan.

According to the details, a bunch of players and support staff departed for Tajikistan following the national team's home leg of FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers against Saudi Arabia.

However, some of the players were left behind as their flight to Faisalabad was cancelled twice, pertaining to a bird strike and technical issue. Then arrangements were made for a chartered flight but it was also cancelled due to technical issues.

The cancellation of the flights had put Pakistan's participation in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers match against Tajikistan in limbo until Pakistan Air Force came to the rescue and flew the remaining players from Nur Khan Air Base in the morning to Dushanbe.

Consequently, the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) extended their gratitude to the Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Army for their "unwavering support". "We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Pakistani Government, the Pakistan Army, and the Pakistan Air Force for their unwavering support during these challenging times," said PFF in a statement on its official social media handles.

"A special thank you to the Pakistan Air Force for generously providing their private aircraft, ensuring our safe arrival at our destination. "Special mention for Chairman NC Haroon Malik for all his efforts in getting this done. "Today marks our last match day, and we are determined to make the nation proud. Thank you for your continued support."

It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan recently succumbed to a 3-0 defeat against Saudi Arabia at Jinnah International Stadium in Islamabad.

Pakistan are at the bottom of Group G of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers as they ended up on the losing side in all five matches played thus far.—Agency

## PCB reveals monthly salaries of Pakistan Cricket Team players

LAHORE: Cricketers globally, including those from Pakistan, make significant earnings, especially those competing at the international level or in major leagues like the PSL, IPL, or Big Bash. At the height of their careers, they earn through match fees, central contracts, sponsorships, and endorsements.

In response to increasing questions about the Pakistan Cricket Team, the PCB has released the monthly salary details for the national squad members.

The PCB has shared the updated monthly salary details for the national squad members, reflecting significant increases across all categories.



Babar Azam, Shaheen Afridi, and Mohammad Rizwan are classified under Category A, each earning a monthly salary of Rs4.5 million. In categories C and D, monthly salaries range from Rs750,000 to Rs1.5 million. Imad Wasim is categorised under category C, while Iftikhar Ahmed, Hasan Ali, and Saim Ayub fall under category D.

Category B includes players such as Shadab Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, and Naseem Shah, who earn up to Rs3 million per month. Category A: 200% increase. Category B: 144% increase. Category C: 135% increase. Category D: 127% increase.—Agency

## Face of the Day



Name: Mutahir Ali  
Location: Karachi  
About me: I love taking selfies!  
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Billie Eilish says she 'couldn't believe' THIS 'insane' dating incident



Billie Eilish recalled her "craziest" dating incident in a new interview. Eilish appeared on BBC podcast Miss Me? And shared that she's been "ghosted for sure." "I had a crazy ghosting happen actually this December. It was insane," she confessed to hosts Lily Allen and Miqatta Oliver. "Probably the craziest one that's ever happened to me," she remarked. "It was like, 'Did you die? Did you literally die?' " the Bellyache singer exclaimed, adding, "It was somebody that I'd also known for years and had a plan, day of, on the phone, making a plan, this is my address, be there at 3 - never heard from him again. Ever. I couldn't believe it." "I was like, 'What a f---ing little pathetic man. What a tiny little man.' It was literally unbelievable. To this day, never texted me again," she shared. "I did see that he was dating someone," Eilish told the hosts. "And I was like, 'Oh I didn't know people still did that. I genuinely didn't know people did that.'" Eilish then praised her ex-boyfriend Jesse Rutherford, who's the frontman of The Neighborhood, saying, "That's my guy, truly one of my favorite people in the world."

## Jennifer Lopez fails to convince Ben Affleck from filing for divorce



Jennifer Lopez has failed to convince Ben Affleck to not file for divorce as she tries hard not to be 'too pushy' which could 'scare him off'. As per a latest report, JLo has not given up on her marriage to the Gone Girl star but he is convinced they cannot keep this relationship going. A source with information about the couple's issue has split to Closer Magazine that the two decided to 'stage PDA' till they figure out their next step amid marital problems. "Jen is a genius when it comes to putting on a show for the cameras," the insider said of Lopez, revealing that she asked Affleck to put on a show till they officially file for divorce. The insider said Lopez is "trying hard not to be too pushy as she's afraid to scare him off even more," adding, "Right now, the occasional staged outing is as much as he's agreed to." "The rest of the time, they're in touch, but there's not a whole lot of communication going on. Having this all play out in front of the world makes it even worse - she wants to try even harder and prove people wrong." The source also revealed that Lopez delayed cancelling her tour till the last moment but eventually did so in order to spend as much time with Affleck as possible. "As for Affleck, he is said to be half-heartedly interested in making this relationship work only because Lopez pleaded him not to rush into divorce. "Is long as no paperwork is actually filed, she's still clinging to the possibility - however remote - that they'll be able to work things out. And if they can't, they'll work on the terms of their exit strategy - like when they'll go public with it all," they added.

# THE HEARTLAND



# NATIONAL

## DC Tando Allahyar takes notice of clash at BISP Centre

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: DC Tando Allahyar after taking notice of the clash between the policemen and the local people at the BISP Centre at the Government Professional High School has relocated the BISP Centre.

The BISP Centre has now been set up at the Family Dispensary near the Civil Court. The Zonal Director of the BISP South Sindh, Riaz Ahmed Soomro and Regional Director Usman Marri also visited the BISP Centre and got a report about the clash. The officials warned the device holders of stern action if anyone is caught deducting the stipends of the beneficiaries. On the occasion, Assistant Mukhtiar Kar Ghulam



Ahmed Murtaza was also present.

## JSM pays tribute to Deputy Organizer Rehmatullah Mallah

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: The Jeay Sindh Mahaz Sakrand unit paid tribute to the late Deputy Organizer of Unit Mayan, Rehmatullah Mallah, by raising a red flag at his final resting place and laying flowers. On this occasion, the district leader of Jeay Sindh Mahaz, Sagar Mirani, along with Mushtaq Laghari, taluka leader Husain Chandio, Ali Saif Umrani and city leader Lala Qadeer Laghari, each spoke



separately. They stated that Rehmatullah Mallah was a proud son of Sindh who dedicated his entire life to the rights and betterment of the people of Sindh. He was always at the forefront of national activities and remained steadfast in his principles. His contributions to national work are unforgettable. Although he is no longer with us, his character will always remain alive.

## NTS test passed candidates continue protest in Moro



By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: The NTS test passed candidates for the posts of teachers recorded a protest demonstration for the issuance of orders to them on Tuesday. While talking to the media, the protest leaders, who included Ferooz Korai, Rashid Malik, Gulsher Solangi, Bachal Chand and others said that they had passed the written test for the posts of teachers in 2013 but the orders have still not been issued to them. On the occasion, the protesters demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter and issue orders to them, otherwise they have announced to continue their protest.

## Daulatpur Police arrest Rashid Ali Dahri's killer

By Aijaz Johio

DAULATPUR: The case of the murder of Rashid Ali Dahri, which occurred in the jurisdiction of Daulatpur, has led to the arrest of the nominated accused on charges related to land disputes. It has been revealed through reliable sources that the accused Deedar Ali Dahri has been arrested by Daulatpur Police. A case has been registered in connection with the land dispute at the Daulatpur Police Station and now the police have clearly shown the arrest of the accused.

## Kario Gahnwar Police solves mystery of 15-year-old boy's murder

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A 15-year-old boy named Munavar Ali S/o Muhammad Hanif Lashari was killed in the limits of Kario Gahnwar police station. A case of murder was registered against the cousin of the killed boy Riaz Lashari, Abu Bakar Lashari, Misri and another Lashari community man. The police dropped the names of all the accused from the case as they were not proven guilty during the investigation. During the investigation, it was found that Muhammad Hanif Lashari's family had a land dispute with the worthy Lashari family, that's why the deceased's father Muhammad Hanif Lashari planned to kill his son Munavar Ali to implicate the worthy Lashari in a false case of killing his son. After that Muhammad Hanif Lashari's brother Muhammad Younis Lashari fired a gun shot and his father-in-law Noor Hasan Lashari stabbed Munavar Ali Lashari with an axe to kill him on the spot.

SHO Kario Gahnwar has arrested the accused Muhammad Younis Lashari along with the murder weapon, while raids are being conducted by the police to arrest the wanted accused.

## District Chairman Thatta Abdul Hameed Panhwar visits RHC Var

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Abdul Hameed Panhwar, Chairman of the District Council Thatta, conducted an inspection visit to the Rural Health Center (RHC) in Var. Accompanied by Regional Manager of the medically emergency resilience foundation (MERF), Malik Adam, and health department officials, Chairman Panhwar assessed the presence and performance of medical staff, the cleanliness of the facility, and the availability of essential medicines across various departments. During his visit, Chairman Panhwar urged the medical personnel to uphold high standards of healthcare services for the patients, particularly emphasizing the importance of full attendance by doctors and paramedical staff. He stressed that it is crucial to ensure that the district's underserved and coastal communities receive the healthcare they need. Chairman Panhwar also highlighted the ongoing efforts by Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, and Provincial Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari in improving healthcare, infrastructure, and essential services for the residents of Thatta.

Expressing satisfaction with the health department's performance, he commended their dedication to providing better services. The inspection was attended by Medical Superintendent Dr. Sajid Sheikh, Dr. Yaqoob Khushk, Dr. Suleman Shah, and other healthcare professionals.

## DG NADRA Sindh Ehtesham Shahid visits Thatta

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: On the special orders of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Ehtesham Shahid, the Director General of NADRA Sindh, conducted an official visit to Thatta. During his visit, DG Shahid organized an open forum at the local NADRA office to directly engage with the community. A significant number of residents participated, expressing their grievances and challenges, particularly the difficulties they face in obtaining national identity cards. DG Shahid attentively listened to the citizens' complaints and promptly instructed NADRA officials to efficiently address these issues. He reaffirmed NADRA's commitment to improving public service and streamlining the process for acquiring identity cards. Additionally, he highlighted that all NADRA centers are equipped with clean drinking water and comfortable seating arrangements to minimize inconvenience for the public. Furthermore, he reminded citizens of their responsibility to provide the necessary documentation to expedite the verification process for identity card issuance. The session was attended by Regional Director Zahid Qazi, Sattar Solangi and other key officials who pledged their support in addressing the concerns raised by the public.

## Government Plans To Implement 'Firewall' For Social Media Control

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government is considering installing a firewall across the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to control social media days after its largest province Punjab enacted the Defamation Law 2024, media reported on Tuesday, citing sources. Sources told media that the government has decided to install a firewall to control social media and regulate internet traffic. The firewall will be equipped with deep packet inspection (DPI) technology, allowing for the monitoring of data up to seventh layer.

The firewall will enable the government to filter social media data, identify and block propaganda points, and restrict access to prohibited content. Internet service providers (ISPs) will be required to install the firewall, with the government bearing some of the costs. Sources claimed that the firewall will have the capability to block data at the IP level, and ISPs will be bound to take measures to block illegal content under the licensing agreement. The installation of the firewall falls under the authority of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), according to the Ministry of IT. This move is seen as a significant step towards regulating social media and controlling the spread of harmful content in Pakistan. However, concerns about censorship and privacy have already started to arise. The legislation about defamation became a provincial law on Saturday after acting Governor Malik Ahmad Khan - a PML-N member - signed the Punjab Defamation Act 2024 in the absence of PPP-nominated Governor Sardar Saleem Haider, who left for Dubai on leave. The Punjab Assembly passed the Defamation Bill, 2024 on May 20, rejecting all amendments proposed by the opposition amid protests by the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council and journalists covering parliamentary proceedings.—RT/Agency

## Khawaja Asif Advocates For Increased Defense Budget

ISLAMABAD: Due to the financial strain caused by the rising dollar rate and current inflation, the defense budget will need to be increased, Defense Minister Khawaja Asif said in an interview on Tuesday. During an interview with foreign media, Asif emphasized that the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar significantly impacts the defense budget which is in PKR, however, there is a necessity to increase the budget to recover the loss. Responding to a question,



the Defense Minister stated that the Pakistani delegation during China visit decided to promote investments over loans for business in the country. Regarding his visit to China, Asif highlighted the progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase 2, with several projects were finalized, with the Karachi to Peshawar railway line project (ML-1) is on top priority. Asif addressed China's security concerns following the Dasu Dam attack, acknowledging their sensitivity to the matter. He assured that China would assist in ensuring robust security measures for Chinese nationals working in Pakistan.—RT/Agency

## Man Fatally Bites Three-Year-Old Stepson

LAHORE: A spine chilling incident was reported where a step-father allegedly beat a three-year-old son to death in Lahore, media reported on Tuesday. The mother in her detailed statement to the police revealed that her husband, Khabibur Rehman, is not the biological father of her deceased son and had a deep-seated dislike for her children from the previous marriage. She stated that Arishman was from her first marriage, and she has two children from her previous marriage before getting divorced.

"Khabibur Rehman struck Arishman on the head with a stick, resulting in the death of the child," the mother claimed. The police have confirmed that Khabibur Rehman is currently in custody and will face severe legal consequences.—RT/Agency

## Dawood Global Foundation And OGDCL Distribute 540 Wheelchairs To Hospitals In Southern KPK

KOHAT: Dawood Global Foundation (DGF), in collaboration with Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), has distributed 540 wheelchairs to hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The ceremony took place at DHQ Hospital, Kohat, with representatives from all five beneficiary hospitals present. Ms. Tara Uzra Dawood, President of DGF, and Mr. Arsalan Ahmad Khattak, Admin Officer at OGDCL, led the initiative. Dignitaries such as Saeed Afridi and AC Customs Rahat Naseem also attended. The distribution included: DHQ Hospital, Kohat: 200 wheelchairs (accepted by Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad); Liaquat Memorial Hospital: 30 wheelchairs (accepted by Dr. Abdul Hadi); DHQ Hospital, Karak: 100 wheelchairs (accepted by Dr. Abdul Wahab) Women & Children Hospital, Karak: 120 wheelchairs (accepted by Mr. Muhammad Riaz) DHQ Hospital, Lakki Marwat: 90 wheelchairs (accepted by Dr. Muhammad Ismail).



This effort is part of a broader initiative to improve healthcare accessibility and support patients' independence and quality of life.—RT

## Prince Rahim Aga Khan Concludes Pakistan Visit With High-Level Meetings And Project Inaugurations

ISLAMABAD: Prince Rahim Aga Khan wrapped up his visit to Pakistan with a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at his official residence in Islamabad. During the meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed gratitude for the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) efforts in Pakistan and acknowledged the significant role of Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, Aga Khan III, in the nation's history. Prince Rahim was accompanied by Mr. Sultan Ali Allana, Director of AKFED, and Shafiq Sachedina, Head of the Department of Diplomatic Affairs of His Highness the Aga Khan. During his five-day visit, Prince Rahim engaged with government officials and AKDN leadership, and visited new AKDN projects in Gilgit-Baltistan. President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the Nishan-i-Pakistan on Prince Rahim for his contributions to improving lives in resource-constrained regions of Asia and Africa. Prince Rahim accepted the award on behalf of AKDN with gratitude.



Throughout his visit, Prince Rahim met with various government officials, including President Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, and Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Gulbar Khan, to discuss mutual interests and AKDN's work in the country. On June 8, Prince Rahim inaugurated a Software Technology Park in Nasirabad and visited the Duiker Solar Power Plant in Hunza. These projects aim to enhance the region's quality of life by providing uninterrupted power supply and supporting local start-ups. In Gilgit, Prince Rahim inaugurated a new regional headquarters for HBL Microfinance Bank (HBL MFB), demonstrating a commitment to sustainability and local community development.—RT

## Central Muslim League Tando Allahyar protests against prolonged power outages

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, a protest was held in front of the RO office by the Central Muslim League against both announced and unannounced load shedding. According to the details, the Central Muslim League, during their protest, demanded that the old wires and poles in Tando Allahyar be replaced immediately. They also called for an end to overloading in Tando Allahyar, suggesting that areas with high load should have their 100 KVA transformers replaced with 200 KVA transformers. The protesters stated that in Tando Allahyar, load shedding schedules are not communicated, and WAPDA operates arbitrarily. They demanded that both the district administration and the higher officials of WAPDA control the load shedding situation.



erates arbitrarily. They demanded that both the district administration and the higher officials of WAPDA control the load shedding situation.

## Revenue Dept employees in TMK protest against DC Dharmoon Bhawani's staff

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The All Sindh Revenue Employees Association called for a strike against Deputy Commissioner Dharmoon Bhawani, and during the protest, demonstrators from the Revenue Association, including Abdul Majeed and Shabir Khoso, expressed their grievances. Speaking to the media, the protest leaders stated that the behavior of Deputy Commissioner's staff towards the revenue employees is extremely inappropriate, causing dissatisfaction among



the employees. The announcement of the strike by revenue employees was made due to the unjust treatment by Deputy Commissioner Bhawani's staff. It was demanded that Deputy Commissioner be replaced by Deputy Commissioner Khan.

## DC Thatta Munwar Abbas Soomro reviews arrangements for upcoming monsoon rains

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In anticipation of the upcoming monsoon season, Deputy Commissioner Munwar Abbas Soomro chaired a crucial meeting in Gharo to discuss flood preparedness. The session aimed to strengthen the city's defenses against potential flooding and included key discussions on constructing drainage culverts and repairing critical infrastructure, such as the dou-

ble road. The attendees included representatives from the Frontier Works Organization (FWO), the Assistant Commissioner, the Mukhtiar Kar of Mirpur Sakro, and officials from the Gharo Town Committee. Deputy Commissioner Soomro instructed these officials to expedite the construction of drainage systems to safeguard Gharo and its surroundings from monsoon-induced flooding. He also emphasized the urgent need to repair the Karachi-Thatta double road to prevent accidents. Additionally, Soomro directed the temporary reopening of the U-turn in front of Bhambore Road to facilitate smoother traffic flow, with the potential for a permanent change if deemed safe. The officials pledged to complete the culvert construction promptly and assured full cooperation in mitigating flood risks before the onset of the monsoon rains.

# METRO KARACHI



## Saeed Ghani Demands Revised Waste Disposal Plan For Eidul Azha Within 24 Hours

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani has instructed the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) to submit a revised waste disposal plan for Eidul Azha within 24 hours. Ghani emphasized the importance of efficiently managing the waste from sacrificial animals in Karachi and other areas of Sindh.



During a top-level meeting focused on preparations for monsoon rains and Eidul Azha cleanliness, Ghani stressed that relevant officials, including commissioners and deputy commissioners, should collaborate with local elected representatives to ensure effective waste management in regions where SSWMB services are not yet operational. He expressed zero tolerance for any negligence in waste disposal and highlighted the need for plans to reflect local realities. Ghani directed SSWMB Managing Director Imtiaz Shah to consult with district administrations and town chairmen to finalize the comprehensive plan, addressing any concerns of local representatives.

## UBG Leaders Call for Deeper Policy Rate Cuts Amidst Disappointment with SBP's 1.5% Reduction

KARACHI: United Business Group (UBG) leaders, including S.M. Tanveer, Zubair Tufail, Khalid Tasab, Hanif Gohar, Syed Mazher Nasir, Malik Khuda Bakhsh, and Momin Ali Malik, expressed disappointment over the recent 1.5% policy rate cut by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Anticipating a more significant reduction to boost economic growth, the business community urges further cuts to single digits to alleviate the high cost of operations.



Despite descending inflation trends, they stress the need for more substantial cuts of at least 4 to 5%. While acknowledging the decline in inflation to slightly above 11%, UBG leaders attribute it to government measures, improved agricultural production, and stable currency values. They commend efforts to combat black-marketing and illegal currency trade, contributing to rupee stability and easing inflation pressures.

## World Day Against Child Labour: A Call to Action in Sindh



KARACHI: The World Day Against Child Labour event in Sindh gathered policymakers, officials, civil society, and humanitarian organizations to strategize on eradicating child labor. Jointly organized by the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), the event highlighted the theme "Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour!" Speakers emphasized Pakistan's high child labor rates and called for collective action from governments, employers, workers, and civil society. The negative impacts of child labor, including health risks, disrupted education, and increased crime, were discussed.

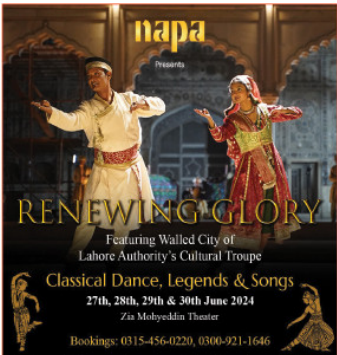
Iqbal Ahmed Detho, SHRC Chairperson, emphasized the need for urgent action to address the 30,000 street children in Karachi. He highlighted SHRC's efforts to incorporate Human Rights education in schools and the importance of the Sindh Protection and Promotion of Breast-Feeding and Young Child Nutrition Act 2023. Dr. Fozia Hameed, MPA-MQM-Pakistan, pointed out the gap between legislation and implementation in Sindh and called for large-scale campaigns and technical education to combat child labor. Gul Masoti, SPARC Board Member, stressed effective implementation of child labor laws and shared success stories of children overcoming labor through education. Mirza Ishtiaq Baig, President of Make-A-Wish Foundation, highlighted the plight of 25 million out-of-school children in Pakistan and the importance of investing in their education. Dr. Junaid Memon Alam, Professor at IBA University Karachi, emphasized every child's right to education, sharing his journey from hard work to becoming a professor. Shumaila Muzzamil, SPARC, advised children to understand their rights and

## FIA Arrest Four In Fraud Case Linked To Japanese Consulate Employees

KARACHI: In a significant crackdown on financial fraud, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) apprehended four individuals on Tuesday, including two employees of the Japanese consulate and two officers from a private bank. The suspects, identified as consulate employees Obaid and Victor, along with bank officers Fahad and Zeeshan, are accused of orchestrating a sophisticated scheme that defrauded millions of rupees using counterfeit documents.

The fraudulent operation involved the creation of two bank accounts under the name of a diplomat's wife, utilizing forged signatures and a fabricated introductory letter purportedly from the consulate. The suspects further exploited the scheme by using checks with forged signatures to withdraw money. Additionally, funds earmarked for the consulate's electricity bills and customs clearance were misappropriated. During the operation, the FIA's Commercial Bank Circle recovered substantial amounts, including \$121,000, Rs60,000 in cash, and shares of various companies valued at Rs600,000.—RT/Agency

## Lahore Cultural Troupe To Renew Artistic Glory At NAPA



KARACHI: A cultural troupe from Lahore's Walled City will perform at the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) in Karachi from June 27 to 30. This announcement was made by NAPA CEO Junaid Zuberi during a press conference on Tuesday, alongside Head of Music Hamza Jafri and Music Coordinator Arsalan Pareyal. The event, titled "Renewing Glory," is curated by Kamran Lashari, Director-General of the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA). Previously showcased at Lahore Fort, this performance will be staged in Karachi for the first time. Hamza Jafri provided de-

tails of the show, highlighting a team of 31 performers, including Kathak and Bharat Natyam dancers, folk singers, folk dancers, and various folk drummers. The program will be divided into four segments: two for classical dances, one for folk singing, and one for drum performances. These will be held at NAPA's Zia Mueyeddin Theater over the four days. Additionally, Kamran Lashari will present his cultural restoration project for Lahore's Walled City. The press conference concluded with a show reel preview of the upcoming program.—RT

## Murad Orders For Restoration Of Old Waterways For Flood Disposal

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah discussed plans to restore natural waterways to manage floodwater disposal during a meeting with Netherlands Ambassador Mrs. Henny de Vries at the CM House. In response to the floods of 2022 and the impacts of climate change, CM Shah emphasized the importance of strengthening Sindh's canal system and drainage networks. He highlighted the need for resilience against flash floods and riverine floods, referencing past flood disasters.



The visiting Ambassador emphasized the importance of climate-resilient development in the face of increasing flood risks due to climate change. CM Shah reiterated his government's commitment to restoring natural waterways for gravity-based floodwater disposal. In discussions about investment opportunities, Ambassador de Vries mentioned the interest of the Dutch Agriculture Bank in providing loans for agricultural development, emphasizing the need for flood-resilient crops. CM Shah expressed gratitude and indicated his government's willingness to collaborate, particularly in wastewater treatment plants for industrial use. The CM offered Dutch firms the opportunity to invest in wastewater treatment plants in Karachi, highlighting potential returns. The Ambassador expressed interest in receiving a list of projects for Dutch investors and offered technical and financial support for livestock and fisheries development in Sindh. Meetings between provincial investment officials and the Netherlands Embassy were planned to facilitate investment discussions. CM Shah presented an ajrak made by Special Children as a gift, which was appreciated by the Ambassador.—RT

## Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto Pledges To Transform Ibrahim Hyderi Into A Model Town



KARACHI: Chairman of Ibrahim Hyderi Town, Nazir Ahmed Bhutto, stated that despite limited resources, development projects are ongoing. He aims to make Ibrahim Hyderi Town a model and exemplary town in Sindh following the manifesto of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, they are serving the public without discrimination. In a conversation at Bhutto House in Gulshan Hadeed with political and social leaders and dignitaries from various areas, Town Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto further mentioned that a master plan has been prepared to provide all basic amenities to the residents of Ibrahim Hyderi Town. They plan to transform both urban and rural areas into models through a network of development schemes. He emphasized that PPP is the only party

that has worked in Karachi, which is why the people hold immense love and respect for PPP. Under the guidance of party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, they are providing basic facilities to the public without any political bias. After being voted into office by the public in local and general elections, it is now their duty to deliver maximum basic amenities to the people's homes.

## Sindh Energy Minister Nasir Shah Discusses Investment Opportunities With Iranian Delegation

KARACHI: Sindh Provincial Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah discussed investment prospects in Sindh's energy sector with a delegation led by Consul General of Iran, Hassan Nourian. Secretary of the Energy Department Sindh Mosaadiq Ahmad Khan and Director of Alternative Energy Mahfouz Qazi were also present. The Iranian delegation expressed interest in reviving the Pak-Iran wind power project, stalled due to various reasons. Minister Nasir Shah emphasized the importance of alternative energy to address the energy crisis, aligning with Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's directives on solarization and providing free electricity to the impoverished.



Nasir Shah directed officials to expedite the clearance of hurdles in the wind power project. The Iranian Council General appreciated Sindh's cooperation and pledged to encourage Iranian investors to participate in the province's energy sector. Exploring business-to-business options, the meeting highlighted the potential for collaboration through STDC and SEPPA. The Sindh government assured support for power transmission facilities through STDC's transmission line, enhancing the project's viability.—RT

## First Steering Committee Meeting For IDEAS 2024 Held At Expo Centre



KARACHI: The inaugural Steering Committee meeting for the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) was held at the Expo Centre Karachi. Chaired by Corps Commander Karachi, Lt-Gen. Babar Itikhar, the meeting saw participation from Mayor Mirpurkhas Municipal Commissioner Dr. Rafique Sahar and Shaheed Benazirabad Municipal Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Sheikh. During the meeting, the mayors briefed Minister Ghani on the development initiatives and challenges facing their cities. Ghani assured them of the Sindh government's commitment to addressing civic issues across all divisions, districts, and towns in the province. He pledged timely payment of salaries and pensions to municipal agency staff, ensuring legal protection for their wages and benefits.—RT

The first session, led by Lt-Gen. Babar Itikhar, included discussions on the overall framework and objectives of IDEAS 2024. The second session, chaired by DG DEPO and DG TDAP, focused on departmental responsibilities, with contributions from IG Sindh, Chief Secretary Sindh, PSO to DG DEPO, and CEO Badar Expo. Col. Ejaz from over 40 military, federal, and provincial entities. The meeting concluded with DG DEPO, Maj Gen Asad Nawaz Khan, expressing satisfaction with TDAP's preparations and the planned contributions of various organizations in security, traffic management, protocols, and side-line activities.—RT

## Modest Interest Rate Cut Disappoints KATI

KARACHI: The Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) has expressed disappointment over the State Bank of Pakistan's decision to cut the interest rate by only 150 basis points, reducing it to 20.5% from 22%. This modest reduction comes despite inflation hitting a 30-month low of 11%. KATI President Johar Qandhari highlighted the business community's longstanding demand for a significant interest rate cut. "With inflation dropping to 11%, we expected a substantial reduction to 7-8%," Qandhari said. "The 1.5% cut is insufficient, likely influenced by IMF pressures."



Qandhari argued that Pakistan's high policy rate has increased production costs, inflated capital shortage for industrialists, and hindered economic growth. He emphasized that a more significant rate cut could stimulate industrialization, job creation, and overall economic growth. While praising the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for a 33% increase in revenue collection, Qandhari noted that economists predict inflation will remain around 10-11% by year-end, with a potential trade balance surplus. He urged the State Bank Governor to consider further rate reductions and called on the government to reduce the tax burden in the upcoming budget to help businesses and the general populace recover from the prolonged economic crisis.—RT

## Mirpurkhas And Shaheed Benazirabad's Mayors Meet Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani convened a meeting at his office on Tuesday with Mirpurkhas City Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghouri and Shaheed Benazirabad City Mayor Qazi Abdul Rasheed Bhatti. Also in attendance were Mirpurkhas Municipal Commissioner Dr. Rafique Sahar and Shaheed Benazirabad Municipal Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Sheikh. During the meeting, the mayors briefed Minister Ghani on the development initiatives and challenges facing their cities. Ghani assured them of the Sindh government's commitment to addressing civic issues across all divisions, districts, and towns in the province. He pledged timely payment of salaries and pensions to municipal agency staff, ensuring legal protection for their wages and benefits.—RT

The event concluded with a panel discussion featuring children and a theatre performance addressing child labor. Representatives from SPARC, SHRC, and other organizations emphasized the urgent need for concrete actions against child labor in Pakistan, noting that poverty, inflation, and lack of affordable education are key drivers.—RT

I was working on the proof of one of my poems all the morning, and took out a comma. In the afternoon I put it back again.

—Oscar Wilde

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newsagent Agency at (0300-2419454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990).

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 2024

## Shehbaz Announces Upcoming Visit Of High-Level Chinese Delegation To Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Tuesday that a high-powered delegation from China would soon visit Pakistan after his "successful" trip to Beijing as the South Asian nation seeks economic support from its brotherly nation.

"A high-powered Chinese delegation will be visiting Pakistan soon," PM Shehbaz said while briefing the federal cabinet members on his recently concluded five-day trip to China.

Shedding light on his trip, the premier revealed that the Chinese side, on multiple occasions, raised their concerns. However, he reassured that the government prioritised the security issue at every step whether it be discussions at government-to-government or government-to-business or other high-level forums.

Termining the visit "successful", the prime minister lauded the cabinet members for their efforts and for the fruitful trip to the neighbouring country.

The PM, who landed in China on June 5 last week,



held several delegation-level talks with Beijing and met Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping, during his trip.

The two sides, as per the joint statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), agreed to continue to work together in various domains including regional peace and stability and development.

During the trip, Pakistan reaffirmed its resolve to improve the security situation and take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of Chinese citizens and projects in the country.

Condemning the deadly Dasu suicide attack, wherein five Chinese nationals lost

their lives, both sides reiterated their commitment to fight against terrorism and work together with the international community to tackle the terror threat.

Furthermore, Islamabad and Beijing termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a key aspect of the latter's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and also agreed to explore ways to further strengthen the bi-lateral relations via sharing of experience in governance along with synergised development strategies. Moreover, China also reaffirmed its support for Pakistan with regards to its sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity.—RT/Agency

## World Bank Greenlights \$1 Billion Extra Funding For Dasu Project

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank on Tuesday approved \$1 billion in a second round of additional financing for Pakistan to fund the Dasu Hydropower Stage I (DHP I) Project.

This move by the global bank's Board of Executive Directors will support the country's transition towards clean and affordable energy.

"This financing will support the expansion of hydropower electricity supply, improve access to socio-economic services for local communities, and build the Water and Power Development Authority's (WAPDA) capacity to prepare future hydropower projects," read a statement released by the World Bank.

The World Bank's announcement comes just a day before Pakistan is set to



unveil its annual budget for fiscal year 2024-2025.

The federal government will also unveil the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-24 — a pre-budget document containing the details of major socio-economic achievements during the outgoing fiscal year — at 5pm today (Tuesday).

World Bank Country Director for Pakistan, Naji Benhassine, in a statement said that Pakistan's energy

sector suffers from multiple challenges to achieving affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy.

Benhassine added: "The Dasu Hydropower Project site is one of the best hydropower sites in the world and is a game changer for the Pakistan energy sector. With a very small footprint, the DHP will contribute to 'greening' the energy sector and lowering the cost of electricity."

In its statement, the World Bank mentioned that the DHP will have an installed capacity of 4,320-5,400 MW upon completion.

"The project is being built in stages. DHP-I has a capacity of 2,160 MW and will generate 12,225 gigawatt hours (GWh)/year of low-cost renewable energy. The DHP-II will add 9,260-11,400 GWh per year from the same dam," said the World Bank.

Commenting on the significance of the project, its Task Team Leader, Rikard Liden, said: "DHP-I is an essential project in Pakistan's efforts to reverse its dependence on fossil fuels and reach 60 percent renewable energy by 2031."

The second additional financing, Liden added, will facilitate the expansion of electricity supply and potentially save Pakistan an estimated \$1.8 billion annually by replacing imported fuels, and offset around 5 million tons of carbon dioxide. "The annual economic return of DHP-I is estimated to be around 28 percent."

The World Bank maintained that the additional financing for the hydropower project will also support the ongoing socio-economic initiatives in the Upper Kohistan region, particularly making improvements in the education, health, employment, and transport sectors.

"Through this project adult literacy has increased by an estimated 30% since 2012, boys' schooling increased by 16% while girls' schooling has increased by 70% during this period," it added.—RT/Agency

## Fazl To Unveil New Strategy Post-Eid, Open To Conflict If Necessary

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the chief of his own faction of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), has denied having any contact with the PTI founding chairman, Imran Khan, dismissing such claims as false. He also announced plans to unveil a new strategy after Eid, stating that his party is prepared to face all consequences.

Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, Rehman asserted, "We believe in a positive democratic struggle and aim to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state. We have chosen the path of peace and will continue to advance along this route."

He highlighted that global powers aim to control Pakistan economically and politically. "We will resist these global powers through our struggle," he added.

Rehman criticised intelligence agencies for becoming active during elections, stating that JUI-F rejected the results of 2018 and 2024 elections. He mentioned that the JUI-F's executive and advisory councils would meet after Eid ul Adha to devise their strategy.

The JUI-F chief lamented that his former allies accepted power after what he



termed rigged elections, but vowed that his party would not accept this and was ready to bear all consequences of their struggle. "If it's war, then so be it," he declared.

Rehman expressed his dismay, saying, "It pains me to say that the government's writ has ended in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.—RT/Agency

viewed that his party would not accept this and was ready to bear all consequences of their struggle. "If it's war, then so be it," he declared.

Rehman expressed his dismay, saying, "It pains me to say that the government's writ has ended in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.—RT/Agency

## Imran Criticizes Mohsin Naqvi, Accusing Him Of Benefitting From Favoritism



RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Monday called for action against Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, urging him to "undergo surgery" after he failed to conduct fair elections.

He was responding to Naqvi's remarks made a day earlier, in which he indicated that significant changes would take place in the national team following the six-run defeat to India in the T20 World Cup 2024.

The PCB chief remarked that a "major surgery" is now necessary. "Initially, I believed a minor surgery would suffice, but after this poor performance, it's clear that a major overhaul is needed. The nation will soon witness substantial changes," Naqvi said.

In an informal conversation with journalists at Adfala



Jail's courtroom today, Khan criticised the authorities, highlighting ongoing security issues. "Our soldiers are being martyred, and robberies are occurring in Islamabad, yet they do not care," Khan remarked.

He further added: "Mohsin Naqvi is the biggest beneficiary of favouritism."

Khan alleged that efforts are being made to silence him and cover up election rigging, criticising the Chief Election Commissioner for overseeing fraudulent activities. He also condemned actions against PTI members across Punjab, noting that gatherings were disrupted, and party members were detained wherever they held conventions. Highlighting national grievances, Khan mentioned the raid on PTI leader Shibli Faraz's residence and urged his party to prepare for nationwide protests.—RT/Agency

## Cabinet Approves Establishment Of Digital Commission And Pakistan Digital Authority

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday principally approved the Digital Nation Pakistan Act 2024 providing for the establishment of the National Digital Commission and Pakistan Digital Authority besides ensuring digitisation of national economy and paperless governance.

The cabinet which met under the chair of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, asked the law ministry to carry out the required review of the Act, which also aimed at digitising the services sector in accordance with international standards.

Under the Act, the National Digital Commission would act as a policymaking organisation, to be headed by the prime minister and comprising federal and provincial members.

Moreover, a Pakistan Digital Authority would be established to achieve the objectives of Digital Pakistan.



Being a corporate entity, the Authority would have financial and administrative autonomy.

Apprising the members of his recent visit to China and his meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, the prime minister mentioned his conversation with Chinese leadership on second phase of CPEC-II. He said that a high-powered Chinese delegation would visit Pakistan to further expand the bilateral cooperation. He told the meet-

ing that B2B meetings were held between the businessmen and investors of Pakistan and China at the Pakistan-China Business Forum in Shenzhen. PM Shehbaz said the government would send around 1,000 youngsters to China for professional training in innovations and technology in the agriculture sector. Moreover, Huawei would also annually train 200,000 Pakistani youngsters in different fields of information technology, he added.—RT/Agency

## IHC Questions Justification Behind Judge's Recusal In Iddat Case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday questioned the validity of a judge's recusal from a case involving the marriage of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi during her Iddat period, suggesting that the reason for withdrawal might not be justified.

IHC's Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb presided over the hearing, which dealt with appeals against the sentences imposed in the case, alongside objections raised by the registrar's office.

In February this year, after a jail trial, senior civil judge Qudratullah sentenced former premier Imran and his wife to seven years in jail, along with a Rs5.5 million fine each, for "contracting marriage during the 'Iddat' (period of waiting)" of the



former first lady.

Previously, the registrar's office had objected to the high court's jurisdiction, given that the matter was pending before the sessions court. Similarly, Imran's appeal sought a directive for Sessions Court Judge Shahrukh Arjumand to announce a reserved verdict, or alternatively, for the IHC to proceed with the hearing of both appeals.

contended that the IHC should rule on the pending suspension of her sentence in the sessions court. Similarly, Imran's appeal sought a directive for Sessions Court Judge Shahrukh Arjumand to announce a reserved verdict, or alternatively, for the IHC to proceed with the hearing of both appeals. Bushra Bibi's petition—RT/Agency

## Shehbaz Orders For Nationwide Decrease In Load Shedding



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed provincial governments to join the campaign against power theft and minimise load shedding across the country amid rising temperatures.

According to media, Prime Minister Shehbaz chaired a review meeting on load shedding, prevention of electricity theft, and reforms in the energy sector.

The prime minister issued instructions to establish effective and active systems within distribution companies to facilitate timely registration of complaints regarding power outages. "Given the rising heat, there should be minimal load shedding," he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz emphasised that the purchase of new transformers must strictly adhere to international standards. He also in-



structed relevant officials to utilise modern systems globally recognised for reforms in the energy sector.

Shehbaz called on provincial governments to fully support the campaign against electricity theft and ensure severe penalties for those involved. He also issued strict instructions to curb load shedding and overbilling. During the briefing, it was revealed that from April 1 to May 30, 134 cases had been registered against power thieves, and 90 employees involved in electricity theft had been arrested. The prime minister was briefed on the progress of the reorganisation of the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC). The next fiscal year's development budget includes a plan to meter 124,611 transformers as part of the energy sector reforms.—RT/Agency

BEIJING: Taking all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a new height, Islamabad and Beijing have signed multiple cooperation documents for the "upgraded version" of the multi-billion project — China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) — which was the "centre" of bilateral talks during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian conducted a briefing today in which he responded to the queries regarding "main achievements and highlights" of Premier Shehbaz's much-anticipated visit to Beijing from June 4 to 8.

It was Shehbaz's first official visit to China after took



over as Prime Minister of Pakistan for the second term, and the Chinese side gave him a high-level reception, Lin Jian said, adding: "President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Chairman Zhao Leji met and held talks with him respectively."

The leaders of the two countries exchanged in-depth views on China-Pakistan relations and issues of common concern and provided strategic guidance for the development of China-Pakistan relations.

President Xi stressed that the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership has been continuously deepened, with a solid public opinion foundation, strong endogenous driving force and broad development prospects.—RT/Agency

## IHC Restricts New Election Tribunals From Adjudicating PML-N Lawmakers' Cases

ISLAMABAD: After the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) greenlighted transferring the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders' cases, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday barred the new poll tribunals from hearing election petitions till further orders.

The orders were issued by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq while hearing the petitions against the ordinance for the Election Act amendments today. The hearing was attended by counsels representing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed candidates and the ECP.

At the outset of the hearing, Justice Farooq expressed outrage over the ECP's order and remarked that the deci-

sion to change the election tribunals could not be upheld. The high court questioned the election watchdog about grounds which led it to change the tribunals which were tasked to hear pleas against the ruling party's lawmakers' election victory. To this, the ECP lawyer argued that the previous tribunals did not follow procedures.

Justice Farooq remarked that the ECP was seemingly setting a new precedent by transferring the tribunals. He added that the commission's decision would not be considered legal until it proves "discrimination", otherwise, it could also lead to contempt proceedings. "Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri is a jurist of this

court who was deputed to the tribunal by the ECP over my request. Why did ECP transfer the cases without challenging an order? A case can be transferred on the grounds of discrimination but there is also a procedure which needs to be followed by requesting the concerned judge not to hear the case," the IHC CJ observed.

The jurist also asked the government about reasons for promulgating the Election Act amendments via an ordinance after dissolving the legal modifications in a hurried manner. He stressed that the ECP should have challenged the previous tribunals' orders first instead of transferring the cases.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Refuses Passports To Citizens Seeking Asylum

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will not issue passports to its citizens who will get asylum in other countries, citing the interior ministry circular media reported on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Interior in a letter has said that all those Pakistani citizens who will get asylum in other countries, on whatever basis, would not be issued Pakistani passports.

The decision has been taken citing the national security reasons, sources said. Sources said that the passports of such citizens of the country will stand cancelled and will not be renewable.



Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has issued instructions to the interior ministry. The Passport Office following the minister's

instructions, has issued a letter to this effect to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned authorities.—RT/Agency