

Heartland

PPP has always advocated for the rights of the poor: MNA Dr Nafisa Shah



Money

Gold prices lose their shine



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ASI of Elite Force Shoots Two Lawyers in Attock Due to Personal Dispute



SPORTS

'Babar Azam should have supported Shaheen,' says Boom Boom



Murad Defends Budget Allocation For Ongoing Development Schemes



FBR Chief Announces Electricity and Gas Cutoff for Non-Filers

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan eyes boosting its tax revenues in budget 2024-25, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chief has said that electricity and gas connections of the non-filers will be suspended along with SIMs.

In a latest development, the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue on Saturday okayed the proposal to impose a foreign travel ban on non-filers. A series of decisions were made in today's session of the Senate body held under the chair of Saleem Mandviwalla.

FBR Chairman Zubair Tiwana informed the upper house body that those who failed to file tax returns would face actions under the Income Tax General Order (ITGO), however, exemptions would be given to non-nationals for Hajj, Umrah, children, students and holders of National Identity Card for Overseas (NICOP).

He detailed that non-filers will face suspension of their SIM cards, electricity and gas connections, as well as their businesses could be shut down.

During the session, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Farooq H. Naek stressed that the travel re-



strictions on non-filers should be executed in the same way which were enforced on those who came under the category of exit control list (ECL).

Tiwana further said that a higher withholding tax rate was approved for the non-filer list included 500,000 people with over 2 million in annual income.

He added that the listed individuals had already disclosed their income statements with their tax return documents in the past. The FBR's top officer said that temporary filers will also have to pay additional tax during the purchases of vehicles, plots and residences.

Additionally, the Senate body also approved a proposal to reduce the salary slab and hike tax besides, approving the imposition of a

75% withholding tax on cellular and internet bills of non-filers.

Earlier this week, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb emphasised the need for widening the tax net, saying that the country cannot run with a 9.5% tax-to-GDP ratio.

"We have to bring everyone into the tax net. We are aiming to bring everyone on the active taxpayers' list," said the finance czar while speaking on Geo News programme Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sath on Wednesday.

"We have to abolish the non-filer category in the country," he added. His statement comes hours after he unveiled the federal budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 in the National Assembly, with a total outlay of Rs18.9 trillion.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Vows No More IMF Deals For Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that government departments and institutions incurring billions in losses to the nation and the exchequer would be shut down once a committee finished its review of the matter.

In an address to the nation today, the prime minister said it was the first duty of the government to reduce lavish expenses and close departments and ministries not related to public service such as the Pakistan Public Works Department, saying it was included among those institutions that were infamous for corruption.

He said a ministerial committee was made to deliberate on the issue of such redundant ministries and departments, saying he would bring positive results in the next two months and all such departments which had become a burden on the country and its people would be shut down.

"I think this is a step that will save billions," he said.

He further said that the government had decided that all those organisations and institutions which were becoming a basis for losses worth billions to the country would be privatised and those amounts recouped.

The premier said the government had decided to save expenses wherever possible and adopt austerity. PM Shehbaz said the government



would no longer set up businesses of its own but would promote the private sector and private investment.

The premier recounted how the coalition government of the Pakistan Democratic Movement had taken the reins of power in April 2022 and saved the country from default. He credited the leaders of the coalition and its allies for the achievement, mentioning Jamiat Ulema-Islam-Fazl chief Fazur Rehman as well.

"Today, Pakistan is steadily getting out of economic difficulties and moving towards the path of development and prosperity," he said.

He said the journey ahead was not only difficult and long but also demanded "sacrifice" from the elites and government functionaries. "The whole nation's gaze is focused on the government and how we will bring a revolution of prosperity in the country by ending its economic troubles."

PM Shehbaz said since the PML-N had assumed

control of the government again after the February 8 elections and he was re-elected as the premier, inflation had dropped to 12 per cent due to the government's efforts, terming it a "positive change".

Similarly, he said the interest rate was slashed to 20pc from 22pc and this would promote investment in the country and reduce the burden of loan interest on the country. Shehbaz said 100 days had passed of the incumbent government and pointed out Friday's slashes in the prices of petroleum products, saying it would afford "some relief" to the people from inflation.

"This I think is not enough," he said, adding that there were great expectations of further relief for the people from the current economic indicators so far. He said the government would strive to further reduce inflation, promote business and investment and provide education to the country's youth.

"I think crying over the

past will achieve nothing but we should learn a lesson from its mistakes about what we lost in the past and how we will restore Pakistan its lost status by making up for those mistakes."

He said if the whole nation decided to bury personal ego and interest in pursuit of serving the poor then "I can assure you very soon that stage will come of which Quaid-i-Azam and all those who migrated during partition dreamt of."

Mentioning his recent trips to the Middle East and China, he said commitments for investment were secured and the government had devised a road map to benefit from and implement the agreements.

The premier said the environment also needed to be made conducive for domestic investment before any foreign investment.

The prime minister vowed that once the nation strictly followed through on a likely upcoming programme with the International Monetary Fund and the government achieved its targets, then the upcoming programme would hopefully be the last one in the country's history.

"We will then stand on our own feet and leave our neighbours behind in the race towards progress."

PM Shehbaz said 300,000 Pakistani students would be trained by China in information technology every year and the sector would be further promoted in the country.

Explaining the decision to make the industrial and export sectors competitive, he said electricity prices were reduced for the sectors in a "historic step and quantum jump" that will reduce the burden of Rs200 billion on them.

He said another testament to the government's recently unveiled federal budget was the rise in the Pakistan Stock Exchange to 77,000 points, an all-time high. "This means business and trader groups have endorsed the budget," he added.

PM Shehbaz said the government had decided to further promote the agriculture sector and "establish new records" for IT exports.

The prime minister said it would not be an "easy path" and recounted the past, saying that whenever the country was progressing forward, setbacks occurred to derail the momentum.

He said the enemy of the country's progress was "every terrorist who spreads chaos and is busy in running off investment from the country", along with smugglers, power utility thieves, profiteers, hoarders, tax evaders, inefficient state departments, lazy state employees, those who abused martyrs and those who spread political instability.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Vows Zero Tolerance for Delays in Reforms

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday issued directives to all federal ministries to fully cooperate with the reforms agenda, warning that any laxity in implementation will not be tolerated.

He was chairing an important meeting to discuss departmental strategic reforms in the federal government.

The prime minister emphasised that the government's reform agenda focused on improving governance and providing better services to the people.

The meeting was briefed on the Strategic Reforms Roadmap, and it was announced that a Task Management System was being introduced, which was in its final stages.

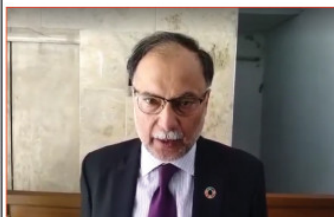


The meeting was also informed that professionals would be appointed to key positions in ministries and other federal institutions, and each ministry would prepare sectoral plans.

Experts would be hired to develop a domestic economic development strategy.

The meeting was informed that performance indicators would be developed to monitor the performance of the federal ministries.—RT/Agency

PTI Must Choose Democracy or Chaos, Warns Ahsan



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday said that a handful of people won't be allowed to keep the future of 240 million people at stake, media reported.

Pakistan's Planning and Development minister said that the PTI will be dealt with iron hands if it will try to derail the country with its negative politics.

"The PTI has to decide if it wants the politics of chaos or it opts for a positive pro-democracy politics," he said.

"If you have any pain from the system, you should resign and get out of the system," Ahsan Iqbal addressing the PTI said.

Replying to a question about the People's Party he said, "They are our allies, and we are not at war with them. Small quarrels will be part of an alliance," he added.—RT/Agency

Sheikh Rasheed Blames Bajwa For PTI Government's Fall

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed claimed there is no doubt that former Army Chief General (ret) Qamar Bajwa was 'behind' the toppling of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.



In an exclusive interview with media, the senior politician said that he knew that the Imran Khan-led PTI government was bound to be toppled. "The Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan had informed (to vote against) Imran Khan in the no-confidence motion me," Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed added.

"I told Imran Khan that the MQM-P made it clear that the government is bound to be toppled as signalled by the real forces," he added.

The host asked as if General Bajwa was involved in toppling the PTI government. "There is no doubt about it,"

the former interior minister replied.

"No one has entered in politics of Pakistan, including me, without (backing) of the Gate No. 4," he claimed.

Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed said that he does not see dialogue between the PTI and the government.

"I am not seeing successful dialogue and neither hopeful for it," former federal minister said in his exclusive interview.

"Initially they were not holding talks, now they will not accept the conditions set for dialogue," he said. "Two months after Eid are crucial, seeing decisive development by August," he further said. "There might be some new to come on surface," he added. "This government is a show off."

He said that Nawaz Sharif has been better than Shehbaz and 'less corrupt'.

"Shehbaz has only been signing. Nawaz Sharif has not been in good books and could not aspire for it"—RT/Agency

Saudi Imam Urges Unity and Helpfulness In Hajj Sermon

MAKKAH: Sheikh Maher Al-Muaiqly, an imam of the Grand Mosque in Makkah, Saturday stressed cooperation and creating a spirit of helping each other in the annual Hajj sermon delivered at the Masjid-e-Nimrah.

In the sermon, the imam urged pilgrims to pray to Allah for themselves, for their parents, and those related to them.

"Whoever supplicates for his brother in the back of the unseen, the angel entrusted to him will say to him, Ameen, and the same for you."

The Saudi imam emphasised the significance of the Sharia in leading one's way of life to help flourish and achieve development.

"It prevents harming others or harming them. It enjoins justice, virtuous morals, honouring one's parents, maintaining ties of kinship, telling the truth, preserving rights while delivering them to their rightful owners, performing trusts, and fulfilling contracts," he said.



The sermon came after more than 1.5 million Muslims reached Mount Arafat today for the high point of the annual Hajj pilgrimage, praying for hours, especially for Palestinians in war-ravaged Gaza.

Sheikh Al-Muaiqly also prayed for Palestinians suffering at the hands of Israeli brutality for the last eight months.

"Pray for our brothers in Palestine who have been under brutal oppression and denied liberty and religious pilgrimages. Tafiq al-Rabiha, warned last week that "no political activity" would be tolerated during the Hajj.—RT/Agency

Pakistani UN Mission Hit by Cyber Attack: Accounts, Email, and YouTube Breached

ISLAMABAD: Hackers have attacked the accounts of Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations (UN), compromising both the official email account and the YouTube channel.

The breach occurred on Friday night, targeting the email ID used by the information wing.

Sources revealed that the mission's YouTube channel was also compromised, with its name, banners, and content altered.

The attack took place on June 14 at 4 pm according to US time. The Pakistani mission has requested that all emails and videos be ignored until they regain control of their accounts.

On May 13, Pakistan underscored the need for a permanent cyber capacity-building mechanism under

Azam Tarar Promises Justice in Attock Lawyers' Murder

LAHORE: Federal Law Minister Nazir Tarar said Friday that horrific killing of lawyers in Attock was condemnable and people would see justice being done in the case.



Addressing the Punjab Bar Council, Federal Law Minister Tarar said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had sought an investigation report into murder of two lawyers.

Immediately after the murder of the lawyers, the chief minister spoke to the Punjab IG and the accused was arrested immediately, he said.

"There will be no laxity in investigation of the Attock incident by the government and now the law will take its course," said Tarar. "We do not

want excess to be committed with anyone but when a crime is committed, the state has to take action and prosecute the perpetrators. I promise you will see justice being done in this case," Nawaz, special measures are being taken for women lawyers. The government is taking special measures for lawyers in all tehsils and districts across Punjab," he said.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Sindhi Adabi Sangat are attending a meeting which was held under the chair of Hamz Ali Sohu.—RT

PPP has always advocated for the rights of the poor: MNA Dr Nafisa Shah

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: The central leader of Pakistan People's Party and MNA, Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani, while expressing her thoughts to the workers, said that she represents Sindh in the center and holds the interests of Sindh dear. The Pakistan People's Party has always advocated for the rights of the poor, farmers and laborers. The reason for aligning with the government is solely to address the issues faced by Sindh. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto is tirelessly working day and night to provide employment to the youth, reduce inflation, and alleviate the problems faced by farmers.



Dr. Nafisa Shah further stated that education is the guarantee of a bright future. Khairpur is the only district where the flame of knowledge is burning.

Sindh government has presented a people-friendly budget: PPP's Sunil Kumar



TALHAR: The Pakistan People's Party has proven its commitment to its manifesto by presenting a people-friendly budget in Sindh. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had also made this promise to the public during the election campaign. These views were expressed by Sunil Kumar, a leader of the PPP Minority Wing in Talhar, while commenting on the Sindh budget. He stated that the PPP is a party of the people, representing farmers, laborers, and the poor. By significantly increasing the salaries of government employees, the party has alleviated their concerns. The PPP will soon control the inflation in Sindh. Record developmental projects will be undertaken in Sindh and unemployment is also being addressed.—RT



HYDERABAD: Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori addresses during relief cheques distribution ceremony among victims of Paretabad gas cylinder blast incident organized by JDC Foundation, held.—RT

MNA Syed Naveed Qamar addresses District Bar Council TMK



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: MNA Syed Naveed Qamar while addressing the District Bar Council Tando Muhammad Khan stated that to rescue the country from economic plundering, a budget has been presented with a focus on maintaining peace and order in the district. This statement was made during his address to the Tando Muhammad Khan District Bar Council. He emphasized that the public is currently facing economic turmoil, which has left them in distress. Despite their awareness, he stressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of respecting the law to uphold the sacrifices made by the legal fraternity for the country's history. He demanded special grants from the federal government for the District Bar Council to facilitate the development of the legal community and improve the state of justice, road infrastructure, ineffective drainage systems, inadequate access to clean drinking water, upgrading government hospitals to district hospitals, completing the reconstruction of public schools, and repairing college buildings. He also demanded approval of new schemes through special grants from the federal government to promote the prosperity and development of the region.

15 injured in Pithoro road mishap



By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: On the Mirpurkhas-Umerkot Road a coaster with registration number R 0934, lost control due to brake failure and as a result it overturned with passengers on board. Fifteen people were severely injured, and three injured were in critical condition and were transferred to the Hyderabad River for treatment. Deputy Commissioner of Umerkot, Naveed Rehman Lashari and DSP Amjad Qaimkhani received information about the accident. The DC Umerkot directed immediate medical assistance and transportation of the injured to hospitals and BHUs in the area. Local ambulances and Rescue 1122 ambulances were used to transfer the injured to hospitals in Pithoro. However, due to the late arrival of the ambulance from the hospital in Pithoro, some delay occurred. Eventually, 30 people were riding in the coaster, out of which 15 were injured. Those injured in critical condition were transferred to the Hyderabad. Among the injured were Azizullah Samo, a resident of Chhachhro, Sajjan Nohri, Muhammad Rahim, Muhammad Shahid, Ghulam Mustafa and others.

HESCO CEO Roshan Ali Otho commits to resolving issues being faced by industries

By Shams Palari

NOORIBAD: HESCO CEO Roshan Ali Otho stated that WAPDA and the industry hold a pivotal role in the country. Millions of people work in the industry and lead prosperous lives. Our primary effort will be to ensure that the industry has power and does not experience any shutdowns, even for an hour. He mentioned that numerous issues of the Kotri and Hyderabad site areas, similar to those in Nooriabad, have been presented to him. As before, he is committed to solving these challenges by collaborating with industrialists without delay. He further stated that there will be no load shedding on the Jhimpir feeder, which supplies electricity to the town of Jhimpir and its industry, as well as to the water supply line for the industry. The Nooriabad industry will receive water without any interruptions.



He acknowledged the shortage of employees at HESCO Otho was awarded a shield for his outstanding performance by the Executive Club of Trade Industry and was honored with a Sindhi cap and Ajrak. The event was attended by SITE State Engineer Imran Sehto, Ghafoor Shah, Haji Ramzan Palari, Roshan Badal Palari, Alam Palari, and others also addressed the gathering.

SSP Badin Sheeraz Nazir reviews security arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: SSP Badin, Sheeraz Nazir, led a meeting focused on maintaining peace and order in the district. The meeting was attended by DSPs from various areas, including DSP Badin Shahzad Ali Soomro, DSP Tando Bago Ajjaz Ali Behan, DSP Shaheed Fazil Rahu Sha-keel Ahmed Solangi, DSP Matli Rajkumar, and DSP CIA Abdul Rahim. Additionally, all SHO's and office staff from across the district, along with Khaskheli and in-charge CIA Inspector Shahjahan Lashari, participated in the discussion. During the meeting, the attendees reviewed the assigned tasks and issued directives to enhance security measures ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. SSP Badin emphasized the need to effectively control the sale of drugs like Safina and Gutka, and to ensure stringent checking procedures at the district's entrances. He also stressed the importance of ensuring the attendance of all staff members at designated checkpoints.

5 killed, 18 injured in fatal KN Shah road mishap

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A tragic incident occurred on the road near Khairpur Nathan Shah, where a tractor trolley was hit by a loader rickshaw and as a result, the driver of the loader rickshaw, Behram Khoso, along with his wife Hawa Khatoon, Sharifan W/o Khan Muhammad Khoso, Hasina W/o Faqiro and Muhammad Ali Khoso, lost their lives. Among the injured were Khan Khoso, Ghulam Akbar, Sehat Khatoon and 18 other innocent individuals, both men and women, who sustained severe injuries. They were rushed to the trauma center in Larkana city for medical treatment, where doctors provided necessary medical care to the injured and took necessary steps regarding the deceased bodies.

men and women, who sustained severe injuries. They were rushed to the trauma center in Larkana city for medical treatment, where doctors provided necessary medical care to the injured and took necessary steps regarding the deceased bodies.

Family apprehends a thief in Samaro home invasion



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A staff member of Samaro Taluka Hospital, Zeeshan Punjabi, was caught last night attempting to steal from the house of Zulfiqar Ali Randhawa near High School Samaro. The homeowner woke up and apprehended him. Samaro police arrived upon receiving the information and arrested Zeeshan, placing him in lockup. According to sources, Zeeshan Punjabi, who lives near Bukhari Imambargah, confessed to the crime to the police. He also admitted that he had accomplices and had committed numerous thefts in the city. Zeeshan Punjabi had previously been accused of stealing a hospital motor and had also accused a former Medical Superintendent of sexual harassment. The Samaro police have registered an FIR against Zeeshan Punjabi, Iqbal Chandio and Gyanchand Kolhi for theft.

TMK Police arrest a drug dealer

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In Tando Muhammad Khan, during a police operation against drug dealers, one drug dealer, Ahmed Khan Chandio, was apprehended after a confrontation with the police on Nango Shah Road. The police have arrested the injured drug dealer and also recovered an unlicensed TT pistol from him. **Man found dead in TMK**
The body of a person was found in the channel near Tando Muhammad Khan. It is reported that the body was initially discovered by local residents and members of social organizations. Upon receiving information about the body, the police were informed, and with the assistance of social organization workers, the body was taken to the government hospital for further investigation. The deceased has been identified through the National Identity Card as Ghulam Mustafa Surhio, who hails from the city of Hala in Mattiari district. The police have shifted the body to the mortuary of the government hospital for further examination.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori is distributing relief cheques among victims of the Paretabad gas cylinder blast incident during a relief cheques distribution ceremony organized by the JDC Foundation.—RT



HYDERABAD: Residents of Laal Quarters are holding a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club against their area police officials.—RT

METRO KARACHI

Murad Orders For Cleanup Efforts Ahead Of Eid ul Azha And Monsoon Season

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has instructed local bodies, the Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), and other relevant authorities to ensure Karachi remains clean during Eid ul Azha. Additionally, he emphasized the need to desilt stormwater drains ahead of the monsoon season.



Chief Minister Shah directed the SSWMB to lift 154,482 tons of offal and garbage expected during Eid ul Azha. To manage this, 99 collection points have been set up across 246 union committees in Karachi. The SSWMB has initiated training sessions for staff and established complaint cells in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Larkana.

Murad Ali Shah highlighted the need for proactive measures to handle potential flash and urban flooding, with monsoon rains expected to start around June 28-29. Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi reported 310 choking points and 207 low-lying areas across the city.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab has enforced a contingency plan, fixing choking points in 45 nullahs and starting desilting operations. Dewatering machines are ready to be deployed in low-lying areas in case of heavy downpours. The Chief Minister called for close coordination between SSWMB, KMC, the water board, city towns, cantonments, and PDMA to implement contingency plans effectively.—RT/Agency

KCCI Appreciates PM For Reducing Electricity Tariff For Industrial Sector

KARACHI: President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Ifkhar Ahmed Sheikh, has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for fulfilling his promise of rationalizing electricity rates by reducing the tariff by Rs10.60 per unit for the industrial sector.

President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Ifkhar Ahmed Sheikh, has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for fulfilling his promise of rationalizing electricity rates by reducing the tariff by Rs10.60 per unit for the industrial sector.

He said that energy tariffs need to be reduced to regionally competitive levels as promised by the Prime Minister. He added that energy tariffs need to be reduced to regionally competitive levels to lower the cost of doing business and manufacturing to international standards. President KCCI extended full support and cooperation to the government for its future endeavors to promote industrialization and exports while once again thanking the Prime Minister for making the right decision.

However, he also called on the Prime Minister to address the issue of K-Electric's significant increase in fixed charges, which have risen by 300 percent from Rs460 to Rs2,000. This, he noted, requires government intervention, otherwise, the relief provided by the federation would be undermined.—RT/Agency

DSP Mumtaz Magsi Vows To Uphold Peace In Gadap

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Mumtaz Magsi of Gadap City has reiterated the commitment of law enforcement to ensure peace and security in the area. Speaking to reporters, DSP Magsi highlighted ongoing efforts by police forces, conducting rigorous day and night operations to root out criminal elements across their jurisdiction encompassing two police stations.

DSP Magsi urged local residents to actively cooperate with law enforcement by reporting any information regarding criminals, drug traffickers, or robbers. He assured the public that identities of informants would remain strictly confidential. Expressing solidarity with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi, DSP Magsi pledged to collaborate closely with him to transform their district into a safe and tranquil environment.

The commitment of DSP Mumtaz Magsi reflects a concerted effort by law enforcement to combat crime and uphold peace in Gadap City, underscoring the importance of community support in achieving these goals.

Sindh Government Tapping Renewable Resources To Reduce Power Tariff: Murad

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has announced that his government is committed to rapidly tapping into renewable resources to reduce the overall tariff set by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). This initiative aims to make electricity more affordable for the general public.



"Apart from reducing tariffs, renewable energy will also help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by creating a clean, reliable, and sustainable environment," he stated. The announcement was made during a meeting held before the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Sindh Transmission & Dispatch Company (STDC) and private partner Gul Ahmed Group. The agreement involves laying a 60 km transmission line from Jhimpir to Landhi, where Gul Ahmed Group is setting up a 100 MW wind power plant in Jhimpir.

Energy Minister Nasir Shah briefed the Chief Minister that Gul Ahmed Group had approached STDC for constructing a 132kV transmission line from their wind power plant in Jhimpir to their facility in Landhi. The Sindh Government has allocated 524 and 558 acres of land in the Jhimpir wind corridor for this purpose. The STDC will lay a 60 km transmission line from Jhimpir, Thatta, to the Landhi area of Karachi to transmit the 100 MW of wind power. This business-to-business (B2B) project is expected to be completed by the end of 2027. Minister Nasir Shah emphasized that these environmentally friendly projects would promote green energy in the province, provide cheaper electricity sources, and boost the economy by creating jobs in Sindh. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, along with provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Zulfiqar Shah, Dost Rahimoo, and others, witnessed the signing ceremony between STDC and Gul Ahmed Group at the CM House. Director General of STDC Saleem Shaikh and Gul Ahmed Group representatives Zain Bashir and Ziad Bashir signed the MOU.—RT/Agency

Arrangements Finalized For Disposal Of Sacrificial Animal Offal

KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi chaired a review meeting to finalize arrangements for the collection and disposal of sacrificial animal offal during Eid ul-Azha.

The meeting, attended by senior officers from the Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) and various town municipal administrations, confirmed that all preparations are complete. Designated across the city for offal collection. SSWMB Resources: Vehicles, staff, and other resources have been allocated to all towns. Monitoring: Deputy Commissioners will oversee the collection work in coordination with SSWMB and municipal administrations. Contingency Plans: Include detailed information such as vehicle numbers, driver names, and contact details. Deputy Commissioners assured full support to ensure efficient offal disposal.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

Pir of Luari Sharif meets President Asif Ali Zardari



By Jibrán Talpur

ISLAMABAD: Spiritual leader Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi of Jamaat Luari Sharif engaged in discussions with President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadar. The meeting encompassed a range of topics, reflecting mutual concerns and interests. President Zardari and Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi deliberated on various pending issues during their encounter. Additionally, they exchanged views on the prevailing political landscape of the nation. This interaction underscores the importance of dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders for addressing critical matters affecting the country.

MQM-P Criticizes Sindh Budget for Neglecting Urban Areas



KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) termed the Sindh budget 'anti-urban areas', expressing concerns over 'ignoring' urban parts of the province particularly Karachi, media reported. The MQM-P held a meeting presided over by Chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui to discuss federal and Sindh budgets. The party spokesman in a statement said that Karachi contributes 97 percent of Sindh's revenue yet it was deprived of major development projects. The MQM-P also expressed concerns over the federal budget despite being the coalition partner in the centre, maintaining that the tax burden on the salaried class was increased. The party maintained that the increase in income tax on the salaried class would disproportionately affect the middle and lower classes. "Raising taxes on the salaried class is tantamount to providing protection to the country's big landlords, capitalists and Waderas," the spokesman added. The spokesman said that the party also discussed the political situation in detail while expressing deep concern over the political scenario of the country. Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui formed a four-member committee that will approach political parties and hold meetings with them. The committee included Syed Mustafa Kamal, Dr. Farooq Sattar, Syed Aminal Haq and Faisal Sabzwari.—RT/Agency

ASI of Elite Force Shoots Two Lawyers in Attock Due to Personal Dispute

ATTOCK: An Elite Force officer was arrested on Saturday for allegedly killing two lawyers, including former district bar president, over personal enmity in Punjab's Attock district, media reported citing police.



Police said that the arrested suspect, Intizar Shah—who is an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the Elite Force—was shifted to Attock City Police Station. The slain lawyers were identified as former Attock Bar President Israr Ahmed and Advocate Mirza Zulfiqar, who were shot dead by the cop in their chamber, sources affiliated with the police said.

Reacting to the gruesome murders, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarrar expressed deep grief over the lawyers' deaths and offered condolences to their families. The minister directed Punjab inspector general of police (IGP) to initiate investigation into the matter immediately and assured the bereaved families of taking the case to a special court.

Maryam Boosts Lawyers' Welfare Grant to Rs1 Billion

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Saturday increased the grant meant for the lawyers' welfare to Rs1 billion and also announced establishing a hall and daycare centre for the female members of the community at Punjab Bar Council's premises.

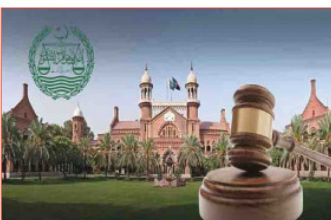


She also expressed sorrow over the killing of two lawyers in Attock and mentioned that police had arrested the accused immediately on her directives. Protecting the lawyers' community is a government responsibility, said the chief minister who praised them for their struggle for rule of law in the country. On the occasion, Maryam promised to extend full assistance for establishing rule of law and provision of justice to each and every citizen, assuring the delegation of addressing their problems. Talking to a representative delegation of different lawyer bodies, she directed Law Minister Sohaib Ahmad Bherth to present the charges against the killer before a special court under the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act 1973 and the Lawyers Welfare and Protection Act 2023.

Maryam said the government would continue playing its role for improving the performance of judicial system and swift delivery of justice, the two dies discussed ways and means to strengthen cooperation between the government and the lawyers. During the meeting, the chief minister handed over a Rs50 million cheque to the Punjab Bar Council as well as Rs10m each to Multan Bar and Bahawalpur Bar. Meanwhile, she also accepted the invitations to visit the Punjab Bar Council, Bahawalpur Bar and Multan Bar and agreed to restore the services reserved for lawyers in government hospitals. Speaking on the occasion, the bar leaders thanked the chief minister for her extensive cooperation and financial assistance. Besides Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarrar and Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Punjab cabinet members - Mariyum Aurangzeb, Azma Bokhari and Sohaib Bherth were among those attending the meeting.—RT/Agency

LHC Suspends SP and ASP for Failure to Recover Shehbaz Gill's Brother

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to suspend the Superintendent of Police (SP) and Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) for failing to recover Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shehbaz Gill's abducted brother.



The LHC's Justice Amjad Rafiq has issued the two-page written verdict of the case against non-recovery of Shehbaz Gill's brother Ghulam Shabbir. As per written verdict, the court issued the orders of kidnapped person recovery on June 10 and directed inspector general (IG) to appoint senior officer for the recovery of abducted, Ghulam Shabbir. Meanwhile, ASP couldn't satisfy the court on the recovery of kidnapped person case. The court's order stated that SP requested petitioner's assistance for the recovery of kidnapped person and then police will take action. But police hadn't taken any action in four days for the recovery of abducted person and police officers violated the court's orders.

However, SP has ensured the court to recover abducted person until next hearing. The court's order stated that court has provided another chance to SP for recovery of missing person. The court ordered to appoint senior officer for tracing and monitoring of the abducted person case. The LHC's written judgement mentioned to trace and recover missing person through geo-fencing, CCTV, safety city, motorway and media sources. The court has ordered to use modern tools from home to Faisalabad and Islamabad for tracing of abducted person.—RT/Agency

-Can you believe this? Unscrupulous Karachi Trader Arrested For Selling Sacrificial Goat With Plastic Teeth

KARACHI: Police in Karachi arrested a trader on Saturday for allegedly selling sacrificial goats fitted with plastic teeth in the Gulberg Chowringhi area, according to media reports.

A viral video circulating on social media showed a customer removing what appeared to be plastic teeth from one of the goats, prompting swift action from authorities. The trader was apprehended, and police seized seven other goats as evidence.

Authorities clarified that they acted upon receiving information about the sale of goats with artificial teeth as depicted in the viral video. During interrogation, the detained trader, hailing from Hyderabad, stated that he had come to Karachi to sell his animals for Eidul Adha. Police have initiated further investigation into the matter.—RT/Agency

Eid-ul-Azha 2024: Over 12,000 Police Officers Deployed Across Karachi

KARACHI: As Eid-ul-Azha approaches, approximately 12,781 police officers have been deployed across Karachi to ensure security during prayers and festivities, according to media reports.

A Karachi Police spokesman announced on Saturday that under the directives of Additional IGP Karachi Imran Yaqoob Minhas, the deployment includes 5,600 officers and personnel in the East Zone, 3,656 in the South Zone, and 3,525 in the West Zone. An additional 2,170 officers and personnel will oversee security at collection points for sacrificial animals. Security measures have been intensified at major shopping centres, markets, and other crowded locations, with traffic police instructed to maintain smooth traffic flow throughout the city during Eid-ul-Azha. Pakistan will celebrate Eidul Adha on June 17 following the sighting of the Zil Hiji moon on June 7. Eidul Adha, known as the Feast of Sacrifice, commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to God. It is marked by the slaughter of animals, with the meat shared among family members and the less fortunate. The faithful continue the tradition of sacrificing animals over the three days of Eid in remembrance of Prophet Ibrahim's act of obedience and devotion.—RT/Agency

13 Special Prosecutors Reassigned in Punjab for May 9 Cases

LAHORE: In a major development, 13 special prosecutors in Punjab have been replaced for cases related to the May 9 incidents.

Advocate Chaudhry Ar-maghan Ahmed Pasha, Asif Javed Qureshi, Rao Abdul Jabbar, Advocate Arif Awan, Ilyas Habib, Malik Sarood, Rana Ashfaq, Rana Manzoor, Advocate Rana Naveed Ashiq, Rana Noman, Shahid Mehmoood Minhas, and Shahid Shaukat. These prosecutors will now represent the state in court for the May 9 cases, ensuring legal proceedings are conducted efficiently and effectively.

This major reshuffle affects the prosecution of cases including the attack on Askari Tower and other incidents from the day when former premier and PTI founder Imran Khan was arrested from the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The Ministry of Interior has issued a notification appointing new special prosecutors to handle these high-profile cases. The newly appointed special prosecutors are

9 cases from ATC-1 Rawalpindi to another court, with a fine. LHC Chief Justice Malik Shahbaz Ahmad Khan announced the verdict on the transfer applications filed by the prosecution upon completion of arguments by the parties. The Punjab prosecution department had filed the applications for the transfer of certain cases from ATC-1 Rawalpindi to another court. It is pertinent to mention here that on February 11, a Rawalpindi anti-terrorism court granted bail to former prime minister Imran Khan in a dozen cases.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Sunday, June 16, 2024

Derailing democracy

The recent revelations by Sheikh Rashid Ahmed about former Chief of Army Staff General (Retired) Qamar Bajwa's alleged role in toppling the elected government of former Prime Minister Imran Khan are deeply concerning. According to Rashid, General Bajwa orchestrated the fall of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, a claim that echoes the sentiments of many Pakistanis who fear speaking out.

At the time of the government's ousting, Pakistan was witnessing significant economic growth, with a GDP growth rate exceeding six percent and rising foreign exchange reserves. The country was on the brink of an economic transformation, driven by strategic reforms and poli-

cies. The abrupt removal of the PTI government not only disrupted this trajectory but also inflicted substantial economic losses, amounting to



billions of dollars.

If these allegations hold true, they call into question the sanctity of Pakistan's democratic processes. The continuous interference in civilian governance undermines the very foundation of democracy. Democratic governments can only flourish when real democracy is allowed to take root, free from undue influence and manipulation.

General Bajwa, if indeed responsible for such actions, must be held accountable. The integrity of Pakistan's democratic institutions and the trust of its citizens depend on transparency and accountability. The notion that political leaders can be installed or removed by non-democratic forces is antithetical to the very principles of democracy and rule of law that are needed to save Pakistan.

This situation underscores a critical need for reform in civil-military relations in Pakistan. For democracy to truly thrive, it is imperative that ambitious Generals like General Bajwa respect and uphold the democratic mandate of the people. Only then can Pakistan hope to achieve sustainable development and genuine democratic governance.

THE HEARTLAND



Former MNA Nawab Khan Wassan holds an open katchery at his Khairpur residence

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The former PPP MNA, Haji Nawab Khan Wassan, undertook a significant initiative to directly engage with the community and address their pressing concerns. He made a visit to his residence situated in Khairpur, where he hosted a gathering aimed at understanding the challenges faced by the local residents. During his visit, Nawab Khan Wassan took proactive steps to establish communication channels with relevant authorities, emphasizing the urgent need to resolve the issues affecting the common people. Through coordinated efforts and dialogue with



government officials, he sought to expedite relief measures and ensure timely assistance to the community members. Drawing inspiration from the guiding principles outlined in the party's manifesto and under the leadership of PPP's chairman, Nawab Khan

Wassan reaffirmed the party's commitment to serving the public interest. He emphasized the importance of grassroots engagement and reiterated the party's dedication to fulfilling its duty of serving the people with unwavering dedication and sincere devotion.

Thatta Police hold a training workshop for candidates seeking to join

By Khuda Bux Bhoi

THATTA: Under the special directives of DIG Hyderabad, Tariq Razaq Dharejo, SSP Thatta, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, organized a training workshop at the Police Headquarters in Makli for candidates seeking to join the police force as constables. The workshop, conducted by SSP Thatta, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, catered to both male and female candidates interested in applying for the positions of constables or lady constables. Hundreds of candidates from across the district participated in the workshop and underwent training. During the workshop, SSP Thatta and other senior of-



ficers provided detailed guidance on various stages of the recruitment process, including the physical and written tests, as well as the interview. SSP Thatta expressed optimism that a significant number of candidates from Thatta district

would successfully pass the recruitment process. All the candidates expressed their gratitude to SSP Thatta, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, for organizing the workshop and providing them with valuable guidance and training.

Sui Gas employees deprived of their basic rights in Sindh and Balochistan

By Ayaz Burio

KN SHAH: In Sindh and Balochistan, Sui Gas, a federal company, has failed to increase the salaries of its office cadre staff for the past five years. Moreover, the advance payment traditionally provided for the two Eids each year is now treated as a loan, to be repaid in installments by the employees themselves. Surprisingly, no such advance has been disbursed for the upcoming Eid on June 17, 2024. This raises concerns about the discriminatory practices being employed against the two most underdeveloped provinces of the country. With inflation

soaring, the recent budget, despite announcing salary hikes, has introduced a tax formula that nullifies any potential benefits for the people. Previously, Sui Gas employees had the opportunity to perform Hajj with the company refunding their expenses in installments. Unfortunately, this facility has now been discontinued, adding to the frustrations of the employees. It is distressing to see that the budget makers and company management are prioritizing their own interests over the welfare of the employees, presenting themselves as astute and loyal officers of the country. As a woman, Dr.

Shamshad Akhtar, the chairperson of this institution, might empathize with the struggles of thousands of officers who are striving to provide for their children's basic needs and afford their expensive education. We urgently appeal to President Asif Zardari, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and other public and private institutions, including the Human Rights Commission, to promptly address this issue. The employees have demanded all rightful benefits be granted to them by Sui Gas, including the annual salary increase that is rightfully due to all federal employees.

President Asif Ali Zardari reaches Nawabshah



By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari will celebrate Eid-ul-Azha in Nawabshah due to which he has reached the ancestral city Nawabshah in a helicopter. He was received at the airport by Ashiq Hussain

Zardari, MPA Ghulam Qadir Chandio, Saleem Raza Jabani, Ali Akbar Jamali, MPA Jawed Chaudhry, SSP Shahid Benzirabad Tanveer Hussain Tunio and other officials. After tight security arrangements, President Asif Ali Zardari proceeded to Nawabshah House.

Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi distributes Eid gifts amongst children at Pakistan Sweet Home

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Commissioner of Sukkur distributed Eid gifts among orphan children at Pakistan Sweet Home in Sukkur on Saturday. We are all here to support and assist you, and you should not feel alone, said Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, Commissioner Sukkur Division, while distributing Eid gifts at Pakistan Sweet Home Sukkur. He expressed his emotions from the depth of his heart while addressing them and highlighted the commitment to the welfare and well-being of the orphan children. He encouraged them to pursue quality education and stated that we should take pride in them. The Com-



missioner also praised the exceptional care and fatherly love provided to these orphan children by Zamurrad Khan, affectionately known as "Papa Jani" at Sweet Home. In this ceremony, the Director of Pakistan Sweet Homes, Shabir Memon, and the friends and welfare workers of Sweet Home Sukkur, including Riaz Hamid, also participated.

DC Tharparkar Abdul Haleem Jagirani takes notice of transporters overcharging people

By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI: Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar, Abdul Haleem Jagirani, who is also the Chairman of the District Regional Transport Authority, has stated that no one will be allowed to exploit the public. He warned that if buses, vans, or other passenger vehicles charge more than the fixed fare during the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, strict action will be taken against such transporters. This action will include heavy fines and the cancellation of route permits. He has cautioned transporters to charge the designated fare for different areas. On the other hand, the Secretary of the Regional Transport Authority Tharparkar @Mithi, Irfanullah Rind, on special instructions from the DC, conducted inspections of vehicles operating on various routes with the traffic police today. During this operation, he fined 19 vehicles a total of 5400 rupees for violations and refunded 11300 rupees of excess fare collected from passengers. Irfanullah Rind stated that action is being taken against transporters who overcharge during Eid, and immediate action will be taken on any complaints of overcharging. He appealed to the public to support the administration in this regard by reporting vehicles that charge higher fares so that prompt action can be taken against them.

Umerkot Police arrest two criminals during ongoing operations

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Police from Shadi Pali Station conducted an operation and arrested fugitive suspect Manjhi Nohani in connection with a theft case. Further investigation is ongoing. The suspect was wanted by Shadi Pali Police under crime number 25/2023, sections 379 and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code. Samaro Police Station carried out an operation and arrested the ringleader of a gang of thieves, Zeeshan Arain, red-handed. Two of his accomplices escaped from the scene, and raids are ongoing to capture them. The suspect is involved in multiple theft incidents in the city. The investigation is ongoing. A case has been registered under crime number



62/2024, sections 380, 457, Khaskheli, who was wanted in a robbery case. The suspect was wanted under crime number 19/2024, sections 398 and 401 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Armed men ransack a shop in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In Larkana city near Sheikh Zayed Mor, Shoaib Abbasi's cement shop and a customer were looted by unidentified armed men at the gunpoint on Saturday. The armed men looted a mobile phone and Rs 130,000 from the shop owner, Shoaib Abbasi and Rs 40,000 cash from the customer, Abid Abro, before fleeing the scene.

Upon contacting the media, the shop owner, Shoaib Abbasi, claimed that four mobile phone sets and a cash amount were stolen from his shop, but no police action has been taken so far. We urge the Sindh Police, including Ghulam Nabi Memom and SSP Larkana Dr. Mir Rohail Khan Khoso, to take immediate action to arrest the accused and recover the stolen cash and mobile phone sets.

DC Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh takes notice of fatal Matiari road accident

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh visited the National Highway near the Kandoo Stop where a collision occurred between a passenger van and a tractor-trolley, resulting in the tragic death of the van's driver on the spot. Four passengers sustained severe injuries, while 11

others received minor injuries. Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain was directed to oversee the treatment of the injured at the Hyderabad Civil Hospital and arrange for the transfer of severely injured individuals to the trauma center in Karachi. District Health Officer Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain personally supervised the treatment. The road was cleared for transportation after the incident.

SPORTS



In a blow to Babar Azam, PCB decides to retain Shan Masood as red-ball captain



LAHORE: Pakistan's wretched performance in T20 World Cup 2024 has ostensibly put Babar Azam's captaincy prospect in peril as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has "decided against appointing him" as skipper in the red-ball cricket.

Sources told media that Babar Azam will continue to hold the team's reins for the two-match Test series against Bangladesh in August, as the board management is disappointed of Babar's ability to lead, following the T20 World Cup debacle.

Former Australian player Jason Gillespie will be Pakistan's head coach during the Bangladesh encounter in his first assignment.

Babar was appointed as the white-ball captain in 2019 and as Test skipper in 2020. Under leadership of

the 29-year-old batter, the Green Shirts have not won any ICC or Asia Cup title so far.

Following this and the team's drubbing in the ICC ODI World Cup 2023, the PCB under Zaka Ashraf appointed Shaheen Shah Afridi as white-ball captain.

Nevertheless, the stint lasted for a brief period as PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi, after taking charge of his office, reinstated Babar as the white-ball skipper on March 31. However, he did not announce his decision about the red-ball format.

On the other hand, Masood was given the Test format captaincy by the previous management. It was believed that Babar could again get back his Test captaincy but the team's recent performances have dashed all the hopes in this regard.—Agency

T20 World Cup 2024: PCB bosses mull 'major surgery' in late night huddle

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to review central contracts after the team's embarrassing early exit from the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024, sources told media on Saturday.

Following the late-night consultations headed by PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi and the board officials, as per the sources, players with poor performances are expected to be demoted with regards to their central contracts in the first phase.

Meanwhile, several others are likely to lose their central contracts altogether, the sources added.

The development comes as the Green Shirts have been eliminated from the ongoing mega event and failed to even proceed to the Super Eight stage of the tournament after losing their two initial matches against the new entrants USA and arch-rivals India.

With the match between



the US and Ireland abandoned due to rain on Friday, the co-hosts secured one point, consequently ending Pakistan's hopes of proceeding in the tournament.

The national team's last league game against Ireland will only be a formality after which the squad will return home.

This is the third time in the tournament's history that Pakistan has been eliminated in the league round.

Earlier, media had reported that the board is likely to make significant changes in the team with players including Mohammad Amir, Imad Wasim, Ifikhar Ahmed, Azam Khan, and Usman Khan expected to face difficulties in maintaining their place in the national side's future.

The sources also said that a group of three players in the Pakistan team were blacklisting PCB officials at the behest of the players' manager, who represents all three players and had pressured the board to secure a significant remuneration increase in the players' central contracts.

PCB chief, earlier this

week, also hinted at major changes in the national team and said: "It seemed that a minor surgery would work but after this bad performance, I'm now sure that a major surgery is required. The nation will soon see a major overhaul." It is to be noted that the players had pressurised former PCB Chairman Zaka Ashraf to secure a three-year central contract last year, which came into effect from July 1, provisioning increased remunerations.

Since then, the Men in Green have appeared and failed in multiple international tournaments including the Asia Cup 2023, ODI World Cup 2023 and the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024.

Furthermore, the national side also failed in the tours of Australia and New Zealand.

However, the board will now decide on the prospects of keeping the current remuneration packages of the players.—Agency

'Babar Azam should have supported Shaheen,' says Boom Boom



KARACHI: Following the Pakistan team's early exit from the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024, former skipper and all-rounder Shahid Afridi has opened up on the national side's captaincy saga, saying that Babar Azam should've backed Shaheen Afridi on the said issue.

Speaking on the issue of changes in the team's captaincy on his YouTube channel, Afridi said: "If the decision on Shaheen's captaincy had been made and you [Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)] had stated that he would remain the captain till the [T20] World Cup, then I think Babar [Azam] should have supported Shaheen." The veteran cricketer's remarks come after heavy criticism of Babar Azam's captaincy under which Pakistan lost major cricket competitions Ex-PCB chief Zaka Ashraf had appointed Shaheen as white-

ball captain following the team's drubbing in the ICC World Cup 2023.

However, in March, the board reinstated Babar as the T20 captain, replacing Shaheen after the team's 4-1 loss in a bilateral series against New Zealand.

Last month, the pacer had declined the PCB's offer of vice-captaincy saying that he wasn't prepared to accept the said responsibility. Continuing on the captaincy issue, Afridi said that Babar should've said "no" to the board and should've expressed his as well as the players' readiness to play under the left-arm pacer's captaincy because Shaheen has been playing with him for a long time. "If he [Shaheen] is made captain and the selection committee has made him the captain, then yes I [Babar] will support him and play under his captaincy"—Agency

T20 World Cup: Azhar Ali reacts to Pakistan's embarrassing World Cup exit

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Azhar Ali has opened up on the mindset of the Men in Green after they couldn't qualify for the Super 8 of the T20 World Cup 2024.

"Very disappointed. It is what they call 'writing on the wall'. We lost the first two games and then when you depend on the weather and other teams the same thing does not repeat itself again and again. You just can't move forward in events based on luck," the former captain stated on a local sports channel.

"We are very complacent. We lose games in easy situations. We need to put on our A game all the time, especially against teams you can easily win. The matches that you are expected to win you should win them and dominate in them. I think we are complacent and irresponsible in this matter," he added.

Pakistan only managed to win one of their three group games against Canada and a relatively inexperienced team from the USA. Then the team depended on the result of their remaining match against Ireland which is to be played on Sunday in Florida and the results of USA vs Ireland. Pakistan required the USA to defeat Ireland and



defeat Ireland by a margin to earn their place in the Super 8. However, the match between USA and Ireland was called off due to excessive rain in Florida ending Pakistan's hopes to qualify for the Super 8s.

"This is very sorrowful for me that the Pakistan team could not qualify for the Super 8 from this pool of teams. India was the only strong team (in the pool) but we had the USA match in our hands, the conditions were in our favour and it was not like we lost early wickets or lost the toss that is why we lost the match. There was nothing like this in the match. We lost it because of game awareness and the selection policies," the former captain stated. Azhar also fumed about the head coach coming in just days before the T20 World Cup and said that the team can not always perform in unsettling situations.—Agency

T20 World Cup 2024: Nepal fall short as South Africa secure 1-run victory

ARNOS VALE: Nepal fell short of a historic win against the mighty South Africa as the latter managed to secure a thrilling one-run victory on the last ball of the 31st match of the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024.

Chasing South Africa's 116-run target, Nepal were set to get over the line, however, the Proteas bagged back-to-back wickets towards the end of the game to triumph over the Asian side.

Nepal were 85-2 at one stage as Asif Sheikh and AK Sah added 50 runs in 36 balls



for the third wicket partnership. Tabraiz Shamsi led the way for South Africa with figures of 4-19 in four overs.

Otneil Baartman was

nerves and finished the over with two dot balls. Two runs were needed on the last delivery of the final over. Baartman banged in short as Gulshan Jha looked to run it past the keeper but he failed to connect but with ball. Wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock went for the bowler's end as Sompal Kamari ran across, but the ball hit Jha's back and deflected towards cover. Klassen picked the ball and under-armed the flick onto the stumps at the bowler's end with the batter caught short by a yard.—Agency

Babar Azam is not even among top 15 players in T20, says Michael Vaughan

NEW YORK: Former England captain stated that Pakistan's white-ball skipper Babar Azam is not even among the top 15 players in T20 cricket.

His statement came after the Men in Green were knocked out of the T20 World Cup 2024.

While talking to Cricbuzz, Vaughan stressed that Babar is also not suited to captain in the format.

"I just don't see him as a T20 captain. I see him as a Test and ODI format captain. He excels in those formats as a player. In T20s, he's very good. He's a pure player but



he's not up there with, I would say, the top 15 batters in the world in T20 cricket. I think there are better players at the top of the order who could play fearless cricket and whack it 360 degrees,"

have the skill set of what I've seen in the past from Pakistan cricket in T20 cricket. I honestly don't think they've got many great T20 players. Babar Azam is exceptional, but would he make England's, Australia's, India's, or the West Indies' T20 teams? Probably not," Vaughan said.

Meanwhile, he believes they were poor in the tournament and should have won the games against the USA and India. "They can't blame the weather. They should have beaten USA and India. If they did, they would have been through to the Super 8s.—Agency

Trent Boult confirms end to T20 World Cup career with ongoing edition

NEW ZEALAND'S pacer Trent Boult confirmed that the T20 World Cup 2024 is his last tournament for the Black Caps in the shorter format as they are already out of the tournament after losing to Afghanistan and West Indies in their first two matches of the group stage.

Boult, 34, is one of the finest performers in the tournament's history as in 17 T20 World Cup matches, he bagged 32 wickets at an impressive economy of 6.07, which is the second best among the top 10 wicket-takers in T20 World Cups.

Boult talked to the press after New Zealand won their first match of the T20 World Cup against Uganda where he confirmed that this is his last T20 World Cup.

"Speaking on behalf of myself, this will be my last T20 World Cup," Boult told



the media after the match against Uganda. He also addressed his long partnership with Tim Southee, with whom he played in some of the tournaments like ODI World Cup 2015 and 2019 where New Zealand lost to Australia and England in the final respectively and others.

Boult felt that there would be some opportunities to bowl with Southee, indicating to the 2025 Champions Trophy as he has not retired from ODIs so far.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Asad
Location: Karachi
About me: I'm an avid reader of Daily Regional Times
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Miley Cyrus recalls unleashing 'inner lioness' amid 'Hannah Montana' gig



Miley Cyrus opened up about embracing her true inner self during Hannah Montana gig.

Recently, Miley Cyrus sat down for a candid chat on the latest episode of My Next Guest Needs No Introduction where she weighed in on a myriad of different topics including her discovery of an "inner wildness" at an early age.

Reflecting on her gig in Hannah Montana, Miley shared with the show host, "I hadn't quite left the show but I had started experiencing life."

The Flowers hitmaker even confessed about her history with substance abuse,

Jennifer Garner angers boyfriend after giving ex-Ben Affleck too much attention



Ben Affleck is facing marriage woes with Jennifer Lopez, and his ex, Jennifer Garner, is allegedly in the middle of fixing this. But, her boyfriend is reportedly not happy. Though John C. Miller sympathises with the Batman star situation but U.S. businessman is not comfortable the 52-year-old is going at length to solve the couple's beleaguered relationship, according to Daily Mail. "Of course it bothers John that Jen is so hyper focused on her ex-husband," the source revealed. Giving an insight into John's thinking, the insider said, "He cares deeply for Ben and sympathises with what he is going through with Jennifer, but that doesn't mean Jen should be the one to fix her ex-husband's issues with his current wife. That makes no sense to anyone." Jen is such a caring and wonderful woman and mother, and there is nothing but a deep friendship and bond between her and Ben," the mole stressed. However, the tipster tattled, "John wants nothing more than for Ben to be okay, but it isn't his girlfriend's responsibility to play babysitter to him." "That is for Ben to figure out on his own and for his wife to handle. It isn't Jen's responsibility, and he has told her this," the bird chirped about the ex-couple who were married for over a decade and shared three kids. Interestingly, at the year of the pair's divorce in 2018, Jen was first romantically linked to John.

THE HEARTLAND



NATIONAL

Jacobabad Police clueless about kidnapped Khoso community notable's whereabouts

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The police have not been able to recover the kidnapped landowner Behram Khoso, who was abducted from the village of Pyaro Khoso within the jurisdiction of RD-52 police station. Five days after the kidnapping, the bandits contacted the family of the abducted landowner by

phone, confirming the kidnapping and demanding ransom. The relatives, including Ahmed Ali Khan Khoso and Amjad Khoso, reported that the kidnappers informed them that Behram Khoso is in their custody and instructed them to arrange the ransom, although they did not specify the amount required. On the other hand, despite the

deadline given to SSP Jacobabad Syed Saleem Shah no progress has been made. The relatives of the kidnapped landowner stated that the SSP had promised to rescue Behram Khan Khoso within two days, but five days have passed with no action taken. The family members of the kidnapped area notable are extremely worried.

Journalists' Council Sindh demands justice for Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mahar and Nasrullah Gadani



By Jibrán Talpur

BADIN: Journalists' Council Sindh staged a protest against the failure to arrest the killers of Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mahar and Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani. The journalists from Badin district gathered outside the office of the Sindh Journalists' Council in Badin and protested. Mustafa Jamali, Nasrullah Jarwar, Mehboob Khoso, Haji Sarwar Jamali, Shah Nawaz Mallah, Shah Nawaz Chawro, along with others, addressing the protesters, expressed concern over the failure to apprehend the killers of Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mahar and Nasrullah Gadani. The journalists demanded the arrest of the killers and requested for their protection.

World Bank Approves \$150 Million to Enhance Education and Reduce Dropout Rates in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank (WB) has sanctioned an amount of \$150 million to boost enrollment and reading proficiency in Punjab's primary and secondary schools, the international financial institution said in a statement released on Saturday.



["The project] Getting Results: Access and Delivery of Quality Education Services in Punjab Project (GRADES) will focus on improving learning outcomes, recovering from learning losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening the management of schools, and expanding school participation levels," the IFI said in its handout. The WB's Board of Executive Directors approved the project. This funding, the institution added, would contribute to higher completion rates and increased years of schooling with better learning for both girls and boys. The project is expected to directly benefit approximately 5 million children, 7,000 headteachers, 165,000 teachers, and more than 3,000 teacher mentors in public schools as well as Punjab Education Foundation schools, Pakistan.—RT/Agency

IAAP, Mehrban Foundation hold a program in TMK on the sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and Hazrat Ismail (AS)

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The IIm-o-Adab Academy Pakistan, District Tando Muhammad Khan, in collaboration with Mehrban Foundation, organized an event at Shah Shams Library Auditorium Hall in Tando Muhammad Khan. The event was held under the supervision of the academy's patron-in-chief, Syed Fateh Ali Shah Shamsi Tabrezi, with the theme of the timeless sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and Hazrat Ismail (AS). The event was presided over by Syed Salah Shah Bukhari, the President of IIm-o-Adab Academy Pakistan, District Tando Muhammad Khan.



in the way of Allah Almighty by offering his son. He emphasized that sacrifice is not limited to animals but encompasses various forms, with the greatest sacrifice being the struggle against one's own self. The event also featured speeches by Mulazim Hussain Bhatti, Ghulam Muhammad Chhalgri, Muhammad Usman Shah, Hina Zahra, Irfana Bhatti and others.

Arrested Nawabshah youth Bilawal Baloch's family protests for his release



By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: After the arrest of a disabled youth of a Bilawal Baloch's family members recorded a protest demonstration for his release on Saturday. While the protesters demanded release of the arrested differently-abled youth, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

KP Police Thwart Underage Marriage Attempt

CHARSADDA: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police foiled an attempt to marry off a 12-year-old girl to a 72-year-old man in Charsadda, arresting the elderly groom and Nikkah Khwan, media reported.

police intervened and arrested the 72-year-old groom identified as Habib Khan, and the Nikah Khwan.

However, the girl's father managed to flee the scene while the case has been registered against the 72-year-old man, the girl's father and the Nikkah Khwan under the Child Marriage Act.

Despite the existence of laws to prevent child marriages, there have been several instances of such incidents being reported. The law enforcers had foiled such attempts in Rajanpur and Thatta, in recent times where young girls were being forced to marry older men. In a similar incident, an 11-year-old girl was being married to a 40-year-old man in Rajanpur, Punjab.—RT/Agency

Punjab Governor Expresses Dissatisfaction with PPP's Alliance with PML-N

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider has termed the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP's) experience of making alliance with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) a bad experience.



Speaking on a private TV programme, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider said the 16-month experience of PPP's alliance with PML-N had not been good.

He said the Punjab government cheated the PPP on the issue of defamation bill. "They should not have done so," he said. Haider further said the opinion within the party for joining the government was not favourable. "If the People's Party joins the government, it will have to carry the onus of failure," he said.—RT/Agency

Pakistan and Turkish Navies Conduct Joint Maritime Exercises

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy's MILGEM Class Ship, BABUR participated in PN-TN Bilateral Exercise TURGTREIS-IX at Naval Base AKSAZ, Türkiye. The exercise encompassed harbour and sea phases to rehearse various maritime operations and enhance interoperability, a Pakistan Navy news release said on Saturday.



During harbour phase of the exercise, briefings, table-top discussions and exercise coordination meetings were held onboard PNS BABUR. During the sea phase, PNS BABUR and Turkish Fleet units, including ADA Class Corvette TCG HEY-BELIADA, Submarine TCG DOGANAY, and SH-70B helicopter, conducted joint maritime exercises and operations to enhance interoperability between both navies.

Earlier, upon arrival at Naval Base AKSAZ, Rear Admiral Yusuf Akyuz, Commander Turkish Navy Southern Task Group welcomed the ship.—RT/Agency

Mahar community men demand justice in Ghotki land dispute

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: The residents of Ali Mahar village, including Ghulam Shabbir Mahar, Akhtiar Ahmed Mahar, Chand Mahar, Ghulam Haider Mahar, and others, protested at the media center, expressing their grievances. They claimed that influential individuals in the area are trying to seize their 24 acres of land by creating fake land records. They stated that in 2003, they purchased the

land from residents of Shikarpur, Sibgattullah Mahar, Javed Mahar, and Wajid Mahar, and have the stamp papers as proof, though they have not been able to get the official land record. They have been cultivating the land since 2003. The villagers added that Bashir Ahmed Mahar, who was pursuing the case, passed away about a year and a half ago. Since then, the influential individuals, with the help of government officials,

have fabricated fake records. They further alleged that today, these influential people, accompanied by the police, raided their homes in an attempt to take over the land, which they described as a gross injustice. The villagers appealed to the IG Sindh, DIG Sukkur, SSP Ghotki and other authorities to take immediate notice of the situation, conduct a fair and transparent investigation and ensure that the justice is served to them.

FIR Registered Under Terrorism Act Against 80 PTI Leaders Including Shoab Shaheen



ISLAMABAD: As many as 80 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Shoab Shaheen have been booked under terrorism act on protest outside National Press Club on Friday.

Police has registered cases against PTI leaders in Kohsar police station, sections of attempted murder, robbery, and vandalism have also been included. The case will be handed over to CTD Islamabad.

According to FIR, protestors misbehaved with sub-inspector and tore his uniform. Protestors violated section 144. Protestor's created chaos, snatched tear gun and tear sheet.—RT/Agency

PTI Johi rallies for release of Imran Khan and other party leaders

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers protested in Johi in response to the party's central call for demonstrations across the country. The protest aimed to demand the release of Imran Khan and other innocent workers who have been forcibly disappeared. The rally started from the PTI office in Johi, with participants holding banners, placards, and pictures of Imran Khan. PTI

district leaders Haider Siyal, Taluka Johi President Riaz Hussain Chandio, Muhammad Saleh Laghari, Muhsin Ahmed Dahi, Shahid Khoso and others led the protest and staged a sit-in outside the National Press Club Johi. During their joint address, PTI leaders expressed their belief that the government had been handed over to thieves and looters, undermining the people's vote. They demanded the immediate release of Imran Khan and

Punjab Set To Launch First Air Ambulance Service On Motorways

LAHORE: The Punjab government has entered the launching phase of its first air ambulance service on motorways, a landmark move set to transform emergency medical care.

This development was hailed as a "golden chapter" in Punjab's history by Minister for Specialised Healthcare and Medicines Education Khawaja Salman Rafique and Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazeer during a meeting at the Project Management Unit (PMU) on Saturday. Khawaja Salman Rafique described the air ambulance service as a flagship programme of the Punjab government, emphasising its groundbreaking nature for patient convenience.

"For the first time in Punjab's history, we are launching an air ambulance service, ensuring swift medical assistance for critical cases on motorways. Training sessions are underway to equip rescue

Gold prices lose their shine

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs. 200 and was sold at Rs. 241,300 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs.241,500 on previous day, media reported.



The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.171 to Rs. 206,876 from Rs. 207,047 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 189,636 from Rs. 189,793 the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver and 10 grams silver remained unchanged at Rs. 2750 and Rs2357.68. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$9 to \$2,332 from \$2,323 the Association reported. On Thursday, the price

of per tola of 24 karat gold Rs189,165 from witnessed a drop by Rs190,108, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. Per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs2,750 and Rs2,357.68 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$2 to \$2,315 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to \$2,313, the Association reported.—RT/Agency

Phulji Station becomes a safe haven for criminals

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: Last night, unknown thieves broke into the shop of laborer Ali Asghar Rajput near Shahi Bazaar in Phulji town, stealing a fan, solar system, bicycle, and cash. Despite being informed, the police did not arrive. It is worth noting that two days ago, unknown thieves broke into the house of tailor Wazir Ali, stealing gold jewelry, cash, and valuable items worth thousands of rupees. The police did not take any action despite being notified. On the same night, unknown thieves stole a water drum and other items from the house of laborer Dadu Khan Rajput, who sells water in the town. Despite three thefts occurring within three days, the police have not solved a single case. When contacted, the victims

of the thefts stated that due to the incompetence of the police, thieves have been running rampant, forcing them to stay awake all night. They appealed to SSP Dadu, Dr Samiullah Soomro, to strictly question SHO Phulji Station and ensure the recovery of the stolen items.

METRO KARACHI



Murad Defends Budget Allocation For Ongoing Development Schemes

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah blamed the caretaker government for delays in the province's development schemes, emphasizing that his administration will focus on completing existing projects using the 2024-25 budget.

Delay in Projects: CM Murad criticized the caretaker government for shutting down development schemes, resulting in delays.

Budget Focus: The 2024-25 budget will prioritize completing old projects and initiatives.



BUDGET 2024-2025
BUDGET PRESS CONFERENCE
Growth Target: Acknowledged the failure to meet growth targets, aiming for a 3.5% growth target next fiscal year despite challenges.

budget) for development, with Rs493 billion for the Annual Development Plan (ADP).

Public-Private Partnerships: Development portfolio under public-private partnerships stands at Rs714 billion, with Rs62 billion projects already executed and Rs142 billion under construction.

Revenue Target: The Sindh Revenue Board's target for the next fiscal year is Rs350 billion.

Corruption Allegations: Addressed accusations of corruption, asserting that the

DSP And Son Placed On Three-Day Physical Remand In Robbery Case

KARACHI: The accused DSP and his son were sent on a three-day physical remand in the robbery case in Karachi's Gulshan Iqbal.

As a report today, a judicial magistrate court in Karachi has granted the physical remand of DSP Zafar and his son, who are accused of involvement in a robbery case.



The court ordered the police to investigate the accused and produce a progress report at the next hearing.

According to the investigation officer, DSP's son was using his father's police mobile to commit crimes, and one of the accomplices is still at large and needs to be arrested.

The court directed the investigation officer to submit a progress report at the next hearing and granted the police custody of the accused for further investigation.

Yesterday, the local police arrested the DSP and his son after the police vehicle allocated to the police official used in the robbery at a shop in Karachi.

The police arrested the DSP, his son who allegedly used the police vehicle to commit a robbery in Gulshan Iqbal area of Karachi. As per the statement of police officials, the citizen - Abbas - captured in the CCTV footage assisting the robbers Bajari was arrested by the Karachi Police West for his 'direct involvement' in the Orangi Town heist. DSP Umair Tariq Bajari and his raiding team members was declared guilty after a high-level police probe.—RT/Agency

No Attempt Made To Pressurize Sindh Judiciary: SHC CJ

KARACHI: Commenting on alleged "interference and pressure" on the judiciary, Sindh High Court (SHC) Chief Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi on Saturday "categorically" stated that nobody pressurized him about any case.

"Some attempts were made, but, by the grace of God, no one coerced me," said the SHC chief justice while talking to the media in Karachi. He said this in response to a question posed by a journalist to him.

The chief justice's comments came after six Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges in the recent past wrote a letter to the Supreme Court on March 25, accusing spy agencies of meddling in judicial affairs.

The IHC judges had demanded Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faiz Isa to convene the judicial convention to consider the matter of alleged interference of intelligence operatives in the judicial functions or "intimidation" of judges in a manner that undermined the independence of the judiciary.

However, Justice Abbasi



clarified that a couple of times such efforts were made which were right away dispelled and later they turned out to be a misunderstanding. He said no attempt had been made to pressurize the Sindh's judiciary in any case.

He said the judiciary's independence was reflected through its judgments. He believed that a judge could not be dishonest or corrupt, he said.

The SHC CJ said the transfer of the election tribunal's judge was a normal procedure. The system of judges' transfer was extremely complex, he said.

The SHC CJ statement comes a day after Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Malik Shehzad Ahmed Khan said he believed that

-Can you believe this? Five Arrested For Chopping Off Camel's Leg In Sanghar



KARACHI/SANGHAR: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon announced on Saturday that a case had been registered and five individuals arrested for cutting off the leg of a camel in the Sanghar district, according to media reports.

In a statement, Minister Memon said that Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah had taken notice of the incident. Despite the matter being settled between the accused and the camel's owner, the act was deemed inhumanly unacceptable, prompting the state to register a case.

The incident occurred in Mund Jamrao village in Sanghar district on Friday, where a landlor allegedly chopped off the camel's leg as punishment for scavenging in his field for fodder.

Soomer Khan, the camel's owner, recounted the incident at Sanghar Press Club, expressing confusion and distress. "I have no enmity with anyone. I don't know why this was done to my camel," he said. Sanghar SSP took notice of the incident after a video of the camel with its leg chopped off went viral on social media. Police officials stated that the peasant refused to identify the culprit and press charges, leading to the police lodging an FIR on behalf of the state against unknown persons under sections 429 and 34 of the PPC.—RT/Agency

Contempt Plea Filed Against Mayor Karachi For Municipal Tax Collection

KARACHI: The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has lodged a contempt of court petition against Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab, accusing him of breaching directives from the Sindh High Court (SHC) by implementing municipal taxes via electricity bills, according to media reports.

Saifuddin, the leader of the opposition in the City Council from JI, asserted in the petition that Mayor Wahab violated court orders and bypassed legal

Charges and Taxes (MUCT) on consumers using less than 300 units per month. "The Mayor Karachi had submitted an affidavit promising to form a committee for consultation with the opposition prior to city council approval," added the petitioner. The JI informed the SHC that Barrister Murtaza Wahab introduced a resolution to levy municipal taxes without adhering to proper protocols, thereby allegedly flouting the court's instructions.—RT/Agency



MNA Syed Agha Rafiullah Calls On President Zardari

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Emphasizing the paramount importance of Pakistan's security, President Asif Ali Zardari highlighted the nation's progress through enhanced international relations. He urged elected representatives of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to leverage their capabilities for public service and issue resolution.

PPP MNA Syed Agha Rafiullah shared these insights following his meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadar in Islamabad. Speaking to journalists at the Malir Press Club via phone, Rafi-



ullah disclosed that discussions centered on the national political landscape. President Zardari directed PPP representatives to maintain direct communication with citizens, diligently address their concerns, and tirelessly promote provincial development and prosperity.

President Zardari as-

KATI Welcomes Reduction In Electricity And Petrol Prices, Calls For Further Tax Cuts



KARACHI: The Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) has welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's decision to reduce electricity tariffs for industries by PKR 10.69 per unit and cut petroleum product prices by over PKR 10.

KATI President Johar Qandhari praised the initiative but expressed concerns over NEPRA's PKR 5 increase in electricity rates, which reduces the overall benefit.

Electricity and Petrol Price Cuts: Initial reduction estimated to provide PKR 200 billion in relief to the industrial sector, now halved by NEPRA's adjustment.

Call for Comprehensive Measures: Urged the government to further reduce production costs to enhance the competitiveness of Pakistani products in global markets.

Petrol Price Timing: Commended the petrol price reduction before Eid-ul-Adha, offering relief of up to PKR 35 per liter. However, transport fares have not adjusted, limiting benefits.

Further Tax Cuts: Called for reduced tax rates for the export industry and engagement with stakeholders to address business community concerns.—RT/Agency

Haleem Seeks Rs500 Billion For Karachi's Development

KARACHI: PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh has called for Rs500 billion to be allocated for Karachi's upliftment during a press conference at Insaf House Karachi. Accompanied by PTI leaders, Sheikh criticized the Sindh government for its lack of development despite substantial budgets over the past 15 years.

Budget Utilization: Sindh received Rs12,633 billion over 15 years, with Rs3,000 billion allocated for 2024-2025, yet significant development is lacking.

Corruption Allegations: Rs1,650 billion in corruption reported, including Rs850 billion from the development budget. Domestic and foreign debt reached Rs1,341 billion.

Environmental Concerns: 2.8 million acres of forests under encroachment with no reforestation projects.

Education Shortcomings: Despite Rs1,920 billion allocated, millions of children are out of school, with



schools lacking basic facilities.

Healthcare Issues: Rs1,144 billion spent, yet hospitals lack essential services. Rising cases of AIDS, hepatitis, and other diseases.

Law and Order: Rs1,260 billion spent with ongoing street crime and politicized police force.

Local Governance: Rs1,162 billion spent with no significant improvement in infrastructure, sanitation, or drainage.

Proposals: Rs500 billion for Karachi's mega projects. Afforestation initiatives. Infrastructure develop-

CANTONMENT BOARD HYDERABAD

All the residents of Hyderabad Cantonment Board are requested to keep the animal waste on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha at the following designated places in the Cantonment area from where the vehicles and staff of the Cantonment Board can easily collect it on time. Contact the following telephone numbers in case of delay and cleaning arrangements.

Area	Specific Location	Incharge	Contact
Saddar	Open Plot Near Cantt Police Station Haji Shah Chowk Near Fatima Heights	Muhammad Rafique (Sanitary Supervisor) Muhammad Hassan Yasir Hussain	0311-7464119 0316-3001191 0317-3194064
Civil Line	Open Plot Liaquat Road Civil Line	Rajesh (Sanitary Supervisor)	0345-3567098
Defence Area	Near Tando Jahania Graveyard	Muhammad Awais	0313-3033823
Tando Jahania	Near Water Supply Pump Defence Phase-II	Gulzar	0300-3242632
Katcha Qila	Open Plot near Cantt Dispensary Near Biji Hotel Chowk Mumtaz Colony Deswali Muhalla Chowk Shah Faisal Colony	Raja (Sanitary Supervisor) Ilores Ghulam Muhiyudin	0310-3203182 0315-4324435 0302-3274834
Latifabad No-12	Cantt Dispensary Near Hayat-un-Nabi Mosque Chowk	Amar (Sanitary Supervisor) Suleman Junaid	0313-3216277 0314-2875185 0310-3141707
Pathan Colony	Near Pakistan Park MMA Johar Road Near Govt School Survey No-28 Near Taj Hotel Masoom Shah Colony	Ramal (Sanitary Supervisor) Muhammad Yasir Hamad	0311-3377086 0310-3744606 0312-3212949

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"The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it"

—Henry David Thoreau

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SUNDAY JUNE 16 2024

Shehbaz Holds High-Stakes Talks with Qatar's Emir and Oman's Sultan on Regional Stability

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday held telephonic conversations with Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of the Sultanate of Oman and discussed security and regional stability, media reported.



During a telephonic conversation with Qatar Emir, the prime minister extended warm greetings and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of Eidul Adha. The two leaders exchanged views on the importance of Eidul Adha, which symbolizes sacrifice, compassion and unity. At this joyous moment, both the leaders also spoke about the plight of the brave and innocent people of Palestine and urged the international community to redouble peace efforts and ensure an immediate end to violence and bloodshed in the region.

The Prime Minister and the Emir reaffirmed the strong bond of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Qatar, rooted in shared values and mutual respect. They discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields.

The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for Qatar's support and cooperation with Pakistan, particularly in the areas of trade, investment and labour.

The two leaders agreed to continue to work together to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond.

The Prime Minister thanked the Emir for graciously accepting the invitation to undertake an official visit to Pakistan and said the dates of his visit would be worked out soon.

Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz Sharif – in conversation with Oman's Sultan – extended warm greetings and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of Eidul Adha.

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq reciprocated the greetings and best wishes, and expressed his appreciation for the prime minister's thoughtful gesture. On this blessed occasion, both leaders also prayed for peace and unity among the ranks of the Muslim Ummah.

During the conversation, the two leaders reaffirmed the strong bond of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Oman, rooted in shared values and mutual respect. They also discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields.

The two leaders also discussed the regional situation, particularly developments in Palestine and agreed to continue to work together to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond. The prime minister reiterated his cordial invitation to the Sultan to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.—RT/Agency

CJP Isa Affirms Imran's Audio Not Leaked from Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD: After quizzing the Supreme Court staff, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa has said that the audio conversation allegedly featuring Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and judges was not leaked from the apex court, media reported Saturday.

The top judge said he had inquired the IT staff who apprised that there were some voices in the audio which did not belong to the top court.

The conversation between the PTI founder and judges during second hearing of a case pertaining to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendment was widely shared on social media platforms.

Nevertheless, Justice Athar Minallah, asked what the issue was even if the audio was leaked as the dialogues were



made during an open court. It should be noted that during the first hearing of the NAB amendment case, a picture of Imran from Courtroom No 1 was leaked, as the former prime minister appeared in the court via a video link from Adiala Jail. The image quickly went viral on social media.

On Friday, newly elected Press Association of Supreme Court (PAS) cabinet members

Ikrumulh Joya, Asia Kausar, Mian Abid Nisar, and General Secretary Imran Waseem.

Afterwards, the chief justice and other judges had a casual discussion with PAS members.

The chief justice said that in the past, adding that his mother Saeeda Qazi Isa also wrote articles.

He showed copies of an English daily newspaper which had published his articles. At that time it was written after much research, the CJP said but added that it's easy these days, just pick up the phone and say what you have to say.

The new PAS cabinet is composed of the following members: President Mian Aqel Afzal, Vice President Ghulam Nabi Yousafzai, Finance Secretary Raja Basharat.

Justice Isa recalled that he first compiled media laws and published them in a book form.

The CJP said that the Lahore High Court wrote 627 paragraphs in the decision of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto case while the Supreme Court wrote 963 paragraphs, adding that in criminal cases, there may not be such a long decision.

He said that as Zulfikar Ali Bhutto case had been decided, so an opinion can be given on it now. During the conversation, the chief justice shared some sentences from a book titled "First You Write a Sentence".

"Good writing requires a cool eye and an open heart," he read out a sentence from the book besides quoting another sentence, "Reading is also important to write well."—RT/Agency

He noted the recent reduction in petrol and diesel prices to provide public relief and stated a significant decrease in the inflation rate from 41 per cent to 13 per cent. He assured that the government was aware of the farmers' issues and the government was working to provide maximum relief to masses.

On this occasion, the foundation stone for the dualization of the 4-kilometer road from Pul Dat to Shoria in Dera Ghazi Khan was also laid with a cost of Rs 582 million.—RT/Agency

PM Promises E-Office Initiative for Enhanced Public Services

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the main objective behind usage of E-Office system in the federal government's run ministries and departments would provide better services to the public, besides ensuring transparency in the government system.

The prime minister chaired an important review meeting on shifting of federal government's run ministries and departments on E-Office.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister of State for Information and Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, PM's Coordinator Rana Ahsan Afzal and other relevant senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting,



the prime minister observed that with this system, billions of rupees in the national exchequer could be saved and the lesser use of paper would also cast positive effects upon environment.

He also directed for simplification and security of E-office system.

The prime minister directed for expediting work on the matters related to a cooperation

agreement with Huawei, a Chinese company.

The meeting was apprised of progress made on the E-Office system, its implementation and reforms. For the evaluation of success of this system, key performance indicators were being arranged.

While overhauling of National Information Technology Board was also started, it was further added.—RT/Agency

Court Orders Swift Submission of Shah Mahmood's Case Challan



LAHORE: Lahore's anti-terrorism court (ATC) has ordered challan submission of cases registered in Lahore against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

ATC's Judge Khalid Arshad has issued the written judgement of registered cases in Lahore against Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

The written order mentioned that investigation officer has demanded 30-day physical remand of Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Investigation officer hasn't submitted any progress report about Shah Mahmood in the court. The court ordered Shah Mahmood's shift to jail on 14-day judicial remand.

The court judgement stated that investigation officer has demanded to recover phone of Shah Mahmood. However, Shah Mahmood's counsel affirmed that his client's mobile phone was confiscated during arrest. The court has issued directives to shift Shah Mahmood to jail on judicial remand by instructing challan submission of registered cases in Lahore.—RT/Agency

Awais Leghari Says, Government Fighting to Steer Country from Crises

DG KHAN: Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari said on Saturday that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government was making sincere efforts to steer the country out of crises.

He said this while speaking to journalists during the inauguration an uplift project. Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari stated that there was a zero tolerance policy towards electricity theft. He affirmed the government's commitment to providing maximum relief to the public. He stated that the dualization of Indus Highway from Dera Ismail Khan to Kashmir, including over 100 bypasses to facilitate smooth travel for residents. These bypasses will be intended to ease traffic congestion in the city's centers, he remarked.

Leghari stressed that the construction of the dual carriageway would boost the economy and provide numerous employment opportunities for the local population.

He also mentioned China's significant investment in the region, with ongoing surveys in Dera Ghazi Khan to transfer industry, which will open new avenues for development for educated youth, labourers, and other sectors.

Addressing the power had always been a PML-N priority. Work on dualization of N-55 Indus Highway will commence in September this year and is expected to be completed by October 2027. This project will stretch from Dera Ismail Khan through Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajan-



pur to Kashmir, including over 100 bypasses to facilitate smooth travel for residents. These bypasses will be intended to ease traffic congestion in the city's centers, he remarked.

Leghari also pointed out the government's progress in reducing electricity rates for industries by Rs 10.69, which surely boost industrial activity and create more job opportunities.

He noted the recent reduction in petrol and diesel prices to provide public relief and stated a significant decrease in the inflation rate from 41 per cent to 13 per cent. He assured that the government was aware of the farmers' issues and the government was working to provide maximum relief to masses.

On this occasion, the foundation stone for the dualization of the 4-kilometer road from Pul Dat to Shoria in Dera Ghazi Khan was also laid with a cost of Rs 582 million.—RT/Agency

Naqvi Praises FC's Vital Role in Anti-Terrorism Efforts



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the historic fort of Frontier Constabulary in Shabqadar and conducted a detailed inspection of the fort which was built in 1813.

The minister showed keen interest in the ancient parts of the fort and the chained gates. Apart from this, the minister also saw the statue of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and the rest house which was built in 1837.

It is worth mentioning here that Winston Churchill stayed in the rest house on September 1897.

During the reign of Ranjit Singh, the fort was built by Toota Ram, a skilled architect, and named Shankar Garh. In 1839, the Mahmood

tribe attacked Shankar Garh Fort and entered the fort by breaking the gates.

Ranjit Singh's son, Sher Singh, conducted an inquiry about the broken gates which was headed by a French general. As a result of the inquiry, the gates were sentenced to be chained for 100 years in 1840. Even after 184 years, the gates remain chained.

Mohsin Naqvi praised the historical significance of the fort and commended it.

He highlighted that FC has rendered invaluable services in maintaining peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that FC has written stories of bravery in the war against terrorism and the nation is proud of its brave soldiers.—RT/Agency

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