

REGIONAL TIMES

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TTP leader 'killed' in Afghanistan's Kunar province

KUNAR: An important leader of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Abdul Mannan alias Ha-keemullah, was killed in Afghanistan's northeastern province Kunar, sources told Geo News on Wednesday.

According to the sources, the terrorist — killed in district Asadabad in Afghanistan — was a member of TTP's Malakand Shura and was involved in target killing, landmine blasts in Bajaur, firing at security checkpoints and extortion.

He was the right hand of TTP leader Azmatullah Mehsud, as per the sources, and played a key role in shaping terrorist operations in Bajaur.

The sources added that the terrorist had joined the TTP in 2007 and took part in several actions against security forces and innocent civilians, said sources.

Mannan's brother, Tariq alias Asad, is also related to the outlawed TTP, according to the sources.

It should be noted that TTP is the leading terrorist



organisation in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the hideouts of Afghan terrorists are currently in Kunar, Nuristan, Paktika, Khost and other areas of the country.

Abdul Mannan's killing comes almost a week after law enforcement agencies conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) foiling the bids of TTP to set up offices in Balochistan.

According to the Counterterrorism Department (CTD), intelligence agencies also detained several dangerous terrorists, including those involving high-value and most wanted targets.

Authorities revealed that

among those captured include the notorious and most-wanted commander of the TTP Khawarij's Shura.

According to the preliminary investigation by the agencies, the arrested terrorists have been involved in several activities against Pakistan, alongside having linkages with domestic and international terrorists.

The CTD expected that crucial information would be obtained about the secret activities of such networks within the country, as law enforcers continue to investigate the arrested people. —RT/Agency

Gandapur raids grid station, restores power as load-shedding dispute escalates big time

PESHAWAR: The power loadshedding dispute in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has reached a critical point, propelling Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to gate-crash a grid station and forcibly restore the power supply on top of declaring his "very own" outage plan, Geo News reported on Wednesday.

In a decisive move to address the issue, Gandapur visited the Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan) grid station to oversee the restoration of electricity.

On the occasion, CM Gandapur fixed the loadshedding duration at 12 hours.

"No area will face loadshedding beyond 12 hours. Assembly members should visit grid stations in their respective areas to ensure compliance with the loadshedding schedule," he said.

Earlier, addressing a press conference, CM Ali Amin Gandapur picked apart the federal government for withholding approximately Rs1,600 billion in dues and revenues owed to the provincial government.

"The federal government said it needs some



time to review the power system and asked for our support," he said. "However, the timeline given to the Centre has expired. I tried to contact Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Awas Leghari but received no response."

"This means you (the people) and we are free," he stated, urging everyone to follow his policy and spread it. "No one should damage any Wapda asset because it is our asset, made with our tax money."

Addressing the police, Gandapur said: "I have informed the KP police chief that no cases should be registered against anyone at Wapda's request. This is KP's police. It is not bound to Wapda. Wapda is committing in-

justice, and we are not getting our due rights. You have to act justly."

"Imran Khan has made me the chief minister of your province. As the chief executive, you must follow my instructions," he emphasised the need to follow his directives, ensuring personnel accompany lawmakers to oversee grid stations and ensure no faults and no loadshedding beyond 12 hours.

"It is the federal government's responsibility to resolve these issues, but it is failing, hence the criticism," Gandapur said. He announced plans to curtail the national power supply from the province. "I am also coming to Islamabad. Don't think I am saying this only from

my province. I will say all this in Islamabad too."

The police registered an FIR regarding this incident but did not name MPA Fazal Elahi in the prime minister called and spoke about the case.

Officials from Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) reported that MPA Elahi forcibly restored power to ten feeders with high line losses at 11 PM, causing a financial loss of Rs2.64 million to PESCO.

According to PESCO officials, these feeders have since been shut down again. The power company officials noted that Elahi's constituency was served by feeders with high losses, leading to 16-hour loadshedding in those areas. PESCO further clarified that in KP's rural areas with high line losses, 16-hour loadshedding was being implemented. However, in areas with no losses, no loadshedding is being conducted.

They added this incident came on the heels of the viral video of MPA Fazal Elahi, a member of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), strongarmed his way into the Rehman Baba grid station in Peshawar on Tuesday and restored power to his

Ahsan slams smear drive targeting Pakistan-China ties

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday accused "a political party" of spreading misinformation about Pakistan-China relations over the past few days, claiming that a smear campaign was underway to sabotage the strong ties between two time-tested friends.

"Trolling is being used to put pressure on critics, subjecting them to harassment," Iqbal said addressing a press conference in Lahore.

"While differences exist between the government and opposition, state institutions should not be targeted. Weakening these institutions jeopardises the stability of the state."

The minister pointed out that for the first time, Pakistan and China were advancing their relations in the space sector.

"China's participation will elevate the space programme to new heights. China has expressed readiness to enhance CPEC at an upgraded level," he reiterated.

The federal minister further added that "cooperation with China have also expanded into the space sector."

"After hearing joint statements, only a fool would claim that relations are deteriorating. Relations with China have improved after recent engagements."

Iqbal quoted the Chinese



President as saying that "they (China) want to deepen strategic relations".

The planning minister remarked that Pakistan-China relations would further strengthen, dismissing claims that China had downgraded its relations as enemy propaganda.

The minister emphasised that any attempt to toy with the interests of the state would be dealt with iron hands, and "we may have disagreements, but that doesn't mean we are playing for the state's interests".

Earlier on Sunday, in an apparent reference to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Barrister Aqeel Malik, the federal government's spokesperson on legal affairs warned that the state would clamp on those involved in running anti-state campaign on social media in a bid to damage Pakistan's ties with friendly countries.

He urged the PTI to quit its "anti-state activities and

propaganda," and hold dialogue with the government on political issues to mull over solutions instead of damaging the nation's interest at global forums.

The spokesperson stated this while addressing a press conference to brief the media on the political party's anti-state activities abroad.

Barrister Malik said that there was no precedent to PTI's "enmity as it was perpetrating anti-Pakistan legislation in foreign countries".

"Pakistan is an independent country and does not take dictation from any nation. We want friendly relations with all nations."

"However, a concentrated smear campaign against Pakistan in foreign countries that started after the 2022 vote of no confidence which mounted the anti-Pakistan propaganda," he said, adding that the PTI had hired lobbyists and PR firms to promote anti-Pakistan campaign abroad. —RT/Agency

Chinese Minister Liu Jianchao to visit Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and member of the Communist Party's Central Committee Liu Jianchao is set to visit Islamabad from 20-22 June 2024 on the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

During the visit, Liu will co-chair with Dar the Third Meeting of the Pakistan-China Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM) of the Political Parties on CPEC. He will also call on the senior civil and military leadership of Pakistan.

Established in 2019, the JCM of Political Parties on CPEC is a regular consultation mechanism between the Communist Party of China and the political parties of Pakistan. Previous meetings were held on 19 March 2019 in Beijing and on 20 August 2020 virtually. At the Third Meeting of the JCM, Pakistan and China will review the progress of CPEC projects, CPEC's contribution to Pakistan's socio-economic development, and its upgradation and extension for regional connectivity. The visit is a part of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China including between the Communist Party of China and the political parties of Pakistan.

It reflects upon the importance attached by the two countries to further deepen their "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership", reaffirm mutual support on issues of respective core interests, advance high-quality development of CPEC and enhance communication and dialogue on important regional and global developments. —RT/Agency

Bilawal to meet Shehbaz to discuss reservations over federal budget

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is likely to meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss his party's reservations over the federal budget.

According to sources, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has conveyed Eid greetings to Bilawal Bhutto and invited him to visit the PM house.

The PPP chairman will discuss the issues related to the Punjab and centre during his meeting with the prime minister.

Bilawal Bhutto will also discuss his party's reservations about the federal budget.

Earlier, the PPP had attended the budget session only after a high-powered delegation of PML-N vis-



ited Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at his chamber in National Assembly.

MNA Shazia Marri of PPP had said that the PML-N violated its earlier commitments related to the PSDP and therefore they had decided not to participate in the budget session.

Senior PPP leader Syed Khurshid Shah had said that they were not informed

about the budget and the government did not take them into confidence regarding agreements with the IMF and China. Later, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and senior cabinet member Rana Tanveer Hussain had visited Bilawal Bhutto's chamber in NA to convince the PPP to participate in the budget session. —RT/Agency

"20th JUNE"

"THE BLISSFUL BIRTHDAY"

We feel blessed while celebrating the auspicious occasion of

45th Birthday

of our spiritual leader,
His Holiness

Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi

Pir of Luari Sharif, The 9th and

The 36th Imam of Naqshbandia Order (Silsilah)

on

20th June, 2024

From: Jamait Luari Sharif

THE HEARTLAND



NAWABSHAH: President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari is offering prayers at the grave of his late father, Sardar Hakim Ali Zardari, in Nawabshah along with his sister Central President of PPP Women's Wing, Adil Farayal Talpur. Sindh Health Minister, Ali Hassan Zardari was also present on the occasion.—RT

President Asif Ali Zardari celebrates Eid in Nawabshah



By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr with fervor and solemnity at Zardari House in Nawabshah. The President offered Eid prayers, beseeching for the progress, prosperity, peace, and security of the nation during the auspicious occasion. Following the prayers, President Asif Ali Zardari warmly greeted the people who had gathered for the Eid prayers. Among the attendees were Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Provincial Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjari, Provincial Minister Ali Hassan Zardari, and other distinguished citizens. The atmosphere at Zardari House reflected a sense of unity and celebration, as people exchanged Eid greetings and expressed their best wishes for the President and the country. President Asif Ali Zardari's participation in the Eid prayers underscored his commitment to religious observance and solidarity with the community in Nawabshah.

MNA Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho meet with PPP workers

By Farooq Junejo



SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: MNA Aseefa Bhutto Zardari and Sindh Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho convened a meeting with representatives and workers of the Pakistan People's Party Ladies Wing at Nawabshah House on the second day of Eid. The gathering was marked by warm Eid greetings exchanged between party leadership and workers. During the meeting, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, and Madam Qamar Dhamrahi, President of the PPP Shaheed Benazirabad Division, engaged with a delegation that included Madam Sehar Abbas, Rubina Nawaz, and other prominent members. The discussions focused on the party's commitment to women's rights and initiatives aimed at creating employment opportunities for unemployed women under their governance. A touching moment arose when a female PPP worker requested financial assistance from the party leadership. In a gesture of immediate response, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari personally provided financial aid to address her financial difficulties, demonstrating the party's dedication to supporting its members in need. The PPP leadership reiterated the invaluable contributions of women workers and representatives in the Shaheed Benazirabad Division, acknowledging their ongoing dedication and hard work for the party's cause. Plans were discussed for the Sindh Government, under PPP leadership, to create employment opportunities for women through various appointments in the near future. After the fruitful meeting with Aseefa Bhutto Zardari and Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, the women representatives proceeded to Karachi, continuing their efforts to strengthen the party and empower women across Sindh.

Illegal deductions from BISP stipends continuing unabatedly in TMK

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In a disturbing turn of events at the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) center established at Mono Technical College, there have been numerous allegations of illegal deductions from stipends meant for deserving women. The situation is further exacerbated by the reported humiliation of these women and improper behavior towards journalists who sought to cover the issue.



Multiple organizations have voiced their outrage over these incidents. The Sindh United Party, Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), social organizations, and human rights groups have all demanded immediate legal action against BISP in-charge Faisal Morai and his associates. Muhammad Amin Nawaz Qadri, a leader of TLP, issued a strong condemnation, stating, "Not only are the stipends of deserving women being unjustly reduced, but journalists covering these in-

justices are being threatened and filmed by hired goons. This is entirely illegal and unacceptable." Leaders from the social organization Needy Eyes, including Advocate Basit Ali Memon and Zahid Jiskani, alongside Human Rights leader Hakeem Dasti and SUP leader Muhammad Juman Mallah, have united in their call for immediate intervention. They have urged the Chief Minister of Sindh, the Governor of Sindh, high au-

thorities within BISP, the Deputy Commissioner of Tando Muhammad Khan, and the SSP of Tando Muhammad Khan to take prompt and decisive action against Faisal Morai and his unethical team. The gravity of these allegations underscores a pressing need for transparency and accountability within the BISP framework, ensuring that the aid reaches its intended recipients without any hindrance.

Provincial Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari highlights President Zardari's efforts to address Sindh's tribal disputes

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The efforts of Haji Ali Hassan Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari could potentially bring an end to tribal disputes and crime in Southern Sindh. During an Eid gathering at Zamin House in Thatta, Provincial Minister for Jails, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, disclosed that President Asif Ali Zardari has called for an important meeting on June 24 to address the escalating tribal conflicts and increasing crime rates in Sukkur and the broader region of Southern Sindh. Minister Zardari revealed that the meeting will involve a delegation led by Syed Khurshid Shah, tasked with negotiating with conflicting parties to promote peace. He emphasized the government's support for resolving longstanding disputes through traditional means, believing that this approach could lead to sustain-



able peace in the area. Underlining the government's dedication, Minister Zardari emphasized that the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party is committed to curbing criminal activities, which have hindered significant development projects, including the construction of bridges over the Indus River in Northern Sindh. Regarding prison reforms, Minister Zardari discussed various initiatives aimed at improving conditions within the province's jails. These initiatives include providing better food for inmates, implementing measures to regulate tem-

peratures within facilities, and modernizing the visitation system to facilitate easier and more dignified access for inmates' families. District Council Chairman Abdul Hamid Panhwar, SSP Thatta Dr. Imran Khan, and other notable figures were present at the event. Minister Zardari also addressed local concerns on the spot, instructing officials to resolve them promptly. He assured the community that their issues would be addressed fairly and reiterated the government's commitment to providing essential services and employment opportunities.

Pedophile attempts to rape a 5-year-old girl in Bukera Sharif

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Bukera Sharif city, a pedophile identified as Maju Shah held a five-year-old girl hostage and attempted to rape her on Wednesday. The incident occurred around 2:30 PM when the screams of the girl were heard by her mother, who rushed to the scene and intervened to rescue the innocent girl from the hands of the perpetrator. The victim's mother and father, who are both innocent and poor, stated that their daughter, aged five, was brutally assaulted by Majid Shah in an attempt to rape her. The parents appealed for justice, emphasizing their impoverished and helpless condition, hoping that justice would be served. The evidence of the attempted rape was documented and the victim's father provided a statement, expressing his determination to seek justice for his daughter. He highlighted the severity of the incident, stating that their innocent child was playing near their home when she was attacked with malicious intent. Upon receiving information about the incident, the police were alerted, and efforts are underway to apprehend the perpetrator. The Assistant Superintendent of Police, Arbab Ali Abbasi, has been urged to ensure that justice is served for the victims of this heinous crime, especially considering their disadvantaged status.

Kunri man arrested for attempting to rape a 10-year-old girl



By MM Faisal

KUNRI: In Qamaruddin Colony of Umerkot yesterday, an attempt to rape a 10-year-old innocent girl was made. The accused, Jairam Bheel, was arrested and produced in the court of Umerkot Civil Court-J Kunri. The police requested a 14-day remand for the accused. A case was registered against Jairam Bheel at the Umerkot police station on the complaint of the child's father. According to the father's statement, the girl went to the shop to buy something when the accused forcibly took her and attempted to rape her. In his defense, Jairam Bheel claimed, "I've been tricked into trying. The girl was roaming in the plot, and I took her out by the arm. I was falsely accused and brutally tortured. I am ready to go to the temple and take my oath."

Pir Sahab Pagara Urges Prayers for Pakistan's Prosperity on Eid-ul-Azha



By Abdul Qudoos Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: The Spiritual leader of Hur Jamaat and PML-F Chief, Pir Sahab Pagara, delivered a message of reflection and prayer on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, highlighting the challenges facing Pakistan and its people due to collective actions. Pir Sahab Pagara expressed deep concern over the difficult times the country is currently undergoing, attributing them to the consequences of human deeds. He emphasized that these challenges affect every individual, impacting the nation's economy and causing widespread hardships. Recognizing the sacrifices of those serving in the armed forces, Pir Sahab Pagara prayed for their continued honor and dignity, emphasizing the critical nature of their service in safeguarding Pakistan's borders and sovereignty. Commenting on the economic challenges faced by Pakistanis, Pir Sahab Pagara noted the rising prices of commodities and the stagnant incomes of many citizens. He called for unity and resilience in facing these economic hardships. Pir Sahab Pagara concluded his message with prayers for Pakistan's protection against natural calamities such as unpredictable weather patterns, urging Allah's blessings for peace and security across the nation. His Eid-ul-Azha message resonated with sentiments of hope, faith, and solidarity, encouraging Pakistanis to stand together in prayer and determination during these trying times.

Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi stresses need for understanding philosophy of Eid-ul-Azha

By Dildar Samo



TANDO ADAM: Quaid-e-Milat Jaffaria Pakistan, Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi, while congratulating Islamic scholars and the nation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, emphasized the fundamental philosophy of the holiday. He highlighted that Eid-ul-Azha embodies sacrifice, selflessness, sincerity, and the offering of one's most cherished possessions in the way of God. In his message, Allama Naqvi reminded everyone of God's pleasure. This is obedience to God's commandments, with pure intentions and goals, resulted in both high and noble outcomes. Allama Naqvi pointed out that while self-sacrifice is a beautiful example, it is crucial to understand the goals behind such sacrifices. To truly fulfill the Sunnah of Hazrat Ibrahim and Hazrat Ismail, it is essential to sacrifice one's own interests, personal desires, mistakes, shortcomings, and errors. He reiterated that as Muslims, the flesh and blood of the sacrificed animal do not reach God, but rather it is our goals, intentions, sacrifices, sincerity, and passion that do. Through his message, Allama Naqvi encouraged everyone to embrace the true essence of Eid-ul-Azha, reflecting on the deeper meanings of sacrifice and selflessness to achieve a higher spiritual purpose.

Suspension of power supply in JNA makes life difficult for locals

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: Residents of Berani are expressing growing frustration as electricity supply has remained disrupted for the past three days due to a malfunctioning transformer in Shaikh Muhalla. In response, local residents have taken to the streets in protest against the prolonged outage. Protesters have blocked the main road in protest against what they perceive as practical negligence by the authorities. This blockade has resulted in severe traffic congestion, signifi-

cantly disrupting the flow of vehicles in the area. The protesters, including Asif Shaikh, Junaid Irfan, Ali Raza Shaikh, and others, voiced their grievances with loud slogans condemning the authorities for failing to address the issue promptly. The demonstrators demanded immediate repairs to the faulty transformer, highlighting their dissatisfaction with the lack of preparedness on the part of responsible officials. Allegations of bribery and corruption were also leveled with protesters claiming that officials were demanding illicit payments to expedite the repairs. Despite their demands and the disruption caused by the road blockade, no concrete steps have been taken by the authorities to resolve the electricity supply issue. The protesters emphasized that they would continue their agitation until a notice is issued confirming the repair and restoration of electricity to the affected area. The ongoing protest underscores the community's frustration over infrastructural shortcomings and bureaucratic delays, urging swift action from the concerned authorities to alleviate their grievances.



HYDERABAD: Senior Sindh Minister for Information, Sharjeel Inam Memon is addressing a press conference about the Sindh government's initiatives for public welfare.—RT

NATIONAL



Mushahid Hussain Sayed Becomes First Pakistani To Address BRICS Forum In Russia

VLADIVOSTOK: Mushahid Hussain Sayed made history as the first Pakistani to address the official International BRICS Forum, hosted by Russia in Vladivostok. The two-day event, organized by the ruling United Russia Party, highlighted the interest of 29 countries, including Pakistan, which represents nearly half the world's population and 30% of global GDP.



In his keynote speech, Mushahid Hussain, Co-Chairman of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) and head of two think tanks in Pakistan, emphasized Pakistan's aspiration to join BRICS. He stated, "Pakistan hopes to join BRICS as part of the new emerging order of the Global South."

He also noted Pakistan's upcoming role as a member of the UN Security Council in 2025-2026, promising a strong voice for peace and justice. Mushahid criticized the unraveling post-World War II Western-propped global order and highlighted the importance of BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the new global order. He outlined three major trends for the future: Democratization of international relations; Promoting equality and the rule of law; Demilitarization of international relations; Criticizing Western Cold War hysteria and alliances like QUAD and AUKUS. De-dollarization of the international financial system: Noting the shift away from the US dollar, with 68 UN member states and Saudi Arabia trading in non-dollar currencies. Mushahid supported President Putin's call for a new Eurasian Security paradigm and President Xi Jinping's Global Security Initiative. He also thanked Russia and China for their stance on the Gaza situation, condemning Israel's actions as a crime against humanity and criticizing Western double standards. Senator Andrei Klimov, a member of the Bureau of the Supreme Council of the United Russia Party, introduced Mushahid Hussain to the podium, marking a significant moment in international relations for Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Journalist Khalil Jibran Fatally Shot In KP's Landi Kotal



KHYBER. A senior journalist Khalil Jibran has been killed by unidentified gunmen near his residence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Landi Kotal town, police said Wednesday. Jibran, who was associated with a private news channel - Khyber News - was targeted by unidentified miscreants on a motorcycle when he was heading towards his residence with his friend Sajjad Advocate, District Police Officer (DPO) Khyber Salim Abbas said. He detailed that the journalist's car developed a fault near his home when the gunmen surrounded him, dragged him out of his vehicle and opened fire at him. Jibran, who was also former president of the Landi Kotal Press Club, died on the spot and Sajjad got wounded, while the culprits fled from the scene. His body was shifted to a Landi Kotal hospital for post mortem, the police officer said. The incident took place in Mazreena area in the vicinity of Landi Kotal Police Station, he added. Abbas claimed that Jibran had also received threats from terrorists.—RT/Agency

Putin and Kim embrace in North Korea, vow new multi-polar world

Shortly after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un embraced Russian Vladimir Putin on his first trip to the North Korean capital in 24 years, a visit likely to reshape decades of Russia-North Korea relations at a time when both countries face international isolation.



Putin, who arrived in the pre-dawn hours, is on his first trip to the North Korean capital in 24 years, a visit likely to reshape decades of Russia-North Korea relations at a time when both countries face international isolation. The countries' partnership is an "engine for accelerating the building of a new multi-polar world" and Putin's visit demonstrates the invincibility and durability of their friendship and unity, North Korea's state news agency KCNA said. Russia has used its warming ties with North Korea to needle Washington, while heavily sanctioned North Korea has won political backing and promises of economic support and trade from Moscow. The United States and its allies say they fear Russia

could provide aid for North Korea's missile and nuclear programs, which are banned by UN Security Council resolutions, and have accused Pyongyang of providing ballistic missiles and artillery shells that Russia has used in its war in Ukraine. Moscow and Pyongyang have denied weapons transfers. Kim greeted Putin, shaking hands, embracing and talking beside the Russian leader's plane. The pair then rode in the same limousine to the Kumsusan State Guest House. "Passing through charmingly lit streets of Pyongyang at night, the two leaders exchanged their pent-up inmost thoughts and opened their minds to more surely develop the DPRK-Russia relations," KCNA reported, using the initials of North Korea's official name. Wednesday's agenda includes one-on-one discussions between the two leaders, as well as a gala concert, state reception, honour guards, document signings and a statement to the media, Russia's Interfax news agency quoted Putin's foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov as saying. In a signal that Russia, a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, is reassessing its entire approach to North Korea, Putin praised Pyongyang ahead of his arrival for resisting what he said was US economic pressure, blackmail and threats.—Agency

Application Filed For FIR Against MPA Fazal And Others Over 'Attack' On Grid Station

PESHAWAR. The Pesco has lodged an application with police for registration of an FIR against KP MPA Fazal Elahi and 45 others for storming a grid station and forcibly restoring power supply, causing over Rs2.6 million financial loss to the company. MPA Fazal allegedly entered Rehman Baba grid station and restored power to 10 feeders.



A video showing the MPA and dozens of other people forcibly entering the grid station has gone viral. MPA Fazal claimed that Pesco and the district administration had given a schedule for loadshedding, but they did not follow their own schedule and did unscheduled loadshedding, causing great inconvenience to the masses. He said he was forced to go to the grid station and restore the power supply. The Rashid Garhi Sub-Division SDO has filed an application in Rehman Baba Police Station. The complainant alleged that MPA Fazal Elahi and Jameel along with 45 people stormed the Rehman Baba grid station.—RT/Agency

North Korea Helping Russia Carry Out 'Mass Murder' Of Civilians: Ukraine



Kyiv: A senior Ukrainian presidential aide on Wednesday said North Korea was helping Russia kill Ukrainian civilians and called for greater international isolation of both countries. Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday signed a comprehensive strategic partnership, deepening military and political ties that have flourished since Russia invaded Ukraine. "There is no doubt that North Korea is actively cooperating with Russia in the military sphere today and deliberately provides resources for the mass murder of Ukrainians," the aide, Mykhailo Podolyak told AFP. The United States and its allies have accused North Korea of providing ammunition and missiles to help Russia's war and Ukraine has reported finding fragments of North Korean munitions on the battlefield. Deliveries of North Korean artillery shells to Russia were helping its forces maintain a "high intensity" of attacks, Podolyak said. "This has an impact on the course of events in the war as a whole and significantly increases the number of civilian casualties." The aide blasted the "absolute incapacity" of international sanctions on Russia and North Korea. "It is obvious that the restrictive measures imposed on Russia and North Korea are not enough. We need a more rigorous approach to their isolation," he said. During a state visit to Pyongyang, Putin called for a review of sanctions on North Korea and said the two countries were together fighting "US hegemony".—Agency

Canada Declares Iran's Revolutionary Guards A Terrorist Group

Ottawa: Ottawa on Wednesday listed Iran's Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist entity while calling on Canadians in the Islamic country to leave. "Our government has made the decision to list the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps as a terrorist entity under the Criminal Code," Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc told a news conference.



Flanked by Canada's foreign and justice ministers, he accused the Iranian regime of "support for terrorism" and "having consistently displayed disregard for human rights both inside and outside of Iran, as well as a willingness to destabilize the international rules-based order." Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, noting that Ottawa broke off diplomatic ties with Tehran several years ago, urged Canadians against travel to Iran. "For those who are in Iran right now. It's time to come back home," she added. The terrorism listing bars members of the Guards from entering Canada and Canadians from having any dealings with individual members or the group. Any assets the Guards or its members hold in Canada may also be seized. Iranian expats and fami-

lies of the victims of Flight PS752, which was downed by Iran shortly after takeoff from Tehran in January 2020, killing all 176 passengers and crew, including 85 Canadian citizens and permanent residents, have long pressed Ottawa to designate the militia as a terrorist entity. MPs last month unanimously voted to do so. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration had, until now, expressed a reluctance, explaining that a terror listing could be too broad and inadvertently impact Iranians in Canada opposed to the regime. The Canadian blacklist includes nearly 80 entities including Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, the Taliban, the Islamic State group and the Proud Boys, a North American neo-fascist militant group. Ottawa has previously listed the Quds Force, a branch of the Guards, as a terrorist entity, and in 2022 permanently denied entry to more than 10,000 Iranian officials, including members of the Guards. The United States listed the Guards as a foreign terrorist organization in April 2019. Earlier this month, the European Union also sanctioned the Guards for allegedly supplying drones to Russia and its allies in the Middle East. The decision to add the Guards to Canada's terror list comes amid tensions between Ottawa and Tehran. Canada and other nations have sued Iran at the International Court of Justice over the downing of Flight PS752. Tehran has claimed a missile strike on the aircraft was carried out by mistake. Ahead of the press conference, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland described the Iran regime as "brutal, repressive, theocratic and misogynist".—Agency

Balochistan's Bugti Hopes For A Balanced Budget Amid Difficult Circumstances

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that they want to bring a balanced budget in difficult situations benefiting education, health, communication, and agriculture directly, all areas of public engagement. On the third day of Eid, the Chief Minister's Secretariat remained open to the public, and people from different walks of life met the Chief Minister. Provincial Minister Rahila Hameed Durrani, Bakht Kakar, Haji Muhammad Khan Lahri and others also met the CM. Chief Minister Balochistan further said that a task force will be formed to deal



with the pending issues related to solarization and electricity theft. Bugti said that a liver transplant hospital will be established in Naseerabad. He said that they want to provide relief to poor people by improving medical facilities.—RT/Agency

Noam Chomsky under treatment at home after discharge from hospital in Brazil



Noam Chomsky, the esteemed American intellectual, has been discharged from a hospital in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he was undergoing treatment. The Beneficencia Portuguesa Hospital in Sao Paulo confirmed his discharge, stating that Chomsky will continue his treatment at home. Noam Chomsky's name trended on social media platforms earlier due to misinformation regarding his death. The update follows clarification from Chomsky's wife, Valeria Wasserman, who asserted that he is in good health. According to

Four Indian spies quietly removed from Australia in 2020

Four Indian intelligence officers were quietly asked to leave Australia in 2020, according to a report by Australia's national broadcaster ABC. The ABC report published on June 16, 2024 is titled 'Infiltrating Australia.' It contends that the "long arm of the Indian state is reaching Australians and threatening national security."



The report said the "Indian intelligence officers were trying to gain access to sensitive defence technology and airport security protocols." They also were suspected of targeting politicians, and monitoring the Indian-Australian community. This incident occurred against the backdrop of growing political and economic ties between Australia and India, including defence cooperation aimed at countering China's influence in the region. Despite these strengthening ties, Australian authorities had reportedly raised concerns about the

alleged activities of the Indian officers. In 2021, Australia's intelligence chief, Mike Burgess, confirmed his agency had dealt with a group of foreign spies, though he did not specify the country involved. The officers were expelled "quietly and professionally," according to Burgess. ABC's investigation found that at least four intelligence officers, some allegedly working as diplomats, left Australia. These expulsions were not publicly announced. Australian Senator David Shoebridge suggested that a public re-raise of concerns about the might have strengthened ties with both India and the Indian-Australian community. Other sources indicated that this incident could position India alongside countries like Russia and China, known for their intelligence activities abroad. The report highlighted that since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, he has "amped up India's intelligence operations." It added that the Indian diaspora is also monitored and targeted under pretext of "defending the country from separatist groups, which his administration has labelled 'terrorists'".—Agency

Rawalpindi Man Cuts Off Female Donkey's Ears In Latest Act Of Animal Cruelty

RAWALPINDI: Days after the horrific case of a landlord amputating a camel, a man in Rawalpindi chopped off the ears of a female donkey in another incident of animal cruelty in Rawalpindi. Police said that the culprit, who is an influential personality, resorted to physical violence against the pregnant donkey for entering his farms in the Rawat area. They said that a case was registered against the suspect on the complaint of donkey's owner, Tanveer Hussain.



As per the First Information Report (FIR), the complainant said that he had let his donkey lose to drink water after the wheat harvest at the farms but she entered the agricultural land of suspect, Arshad Mehmod. At this, the nominated suspect allegedly sliced both

female camel's leg was cut by a landlord in Sindh's Sanghar area for similar reasons a few days ago. The Sindh police apprehended five people for allegedly cutting the poor animal's leg, while the camel was shifted to Karachi for treatment.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Thursday, June 20, 2024



Grow up you pathetic loser, Haris Rauf!

The recent incident involving Pakistani pacer Haris Rauf lunging at a Pakistani-American fan in the USA is a stark reminder of the deep-rooted dysfunction within the Pakistan Cricket Team (PCT). Rauf's unprofessional behavior, captured in a viral video, not only tarnishes his personal reputation but also reflects poorly on the entire team and the nation they represent. His actions during a public confrontation, where he lost his temper over a fan's criticism, are indefensible and highlight a severe lack of discipline and professionalism.

This incident occurred against the backdrop of the PCT's disappointing exit from the ICC T20 Men's World Cup 2024, a failure that has already angered fans. Instead of addressing their poor performance with humility and introspection, players

like Rauf are lashing out, exacerbating an already volatile situation. Rauf's excuse, claiming he will not tolerate criticism involving his family, does lit-



tle to justify his aggressive behavior. Public figures, especially sportsmen, must handle criticism with grace, understanding the high standards they are held to as ambassadors of their sport and country.

Moreover, Rauf's derogatory comment, suggesting the fan was "Indian," only fueled the confrontation, exposing an unsavory undercurrent of intolerance. This incident underscores the urgent need

for the PCT to instill a sense of professionalism and decorum among its players. Haris Rauf should face immediate consequences for his actions, including possible removal from the team. His behavior not only disrespects the spirit of cricket but also fails to embody the values expected of someone in his position.

The PCT must take this incident as a wake-up call. They need to enforce strict disciplinary measures and ensure that their players understand their roles as both sportsmen and representatives of Pakistan on the global stage. Anything less is a disservice to the game of cricket and to the nation they serve. Haris Rauf should consider himself fortunate that the fan chose not to press charges, and he owes a sincere apology to both the fan and the broader cricketing community.

THE HEARTLAND



Ghotki Police kill two notorious criminals in ongoing operations

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: In a decisive operation conducted by Ghotki Police on Wednesday, two notorious criminals affiliated with a gang known for targeted killings and serious crimes were killed during ongoing operations in several localities of Ghotki.

The encounter ensued when both criminals engaged the police in gunfire after being cornered by law enforcement personnel. The exchange of fire was intense, resulting in casualties on both sides. Several police officers, including Deputy Superintendents (DSPs), sustained injuries during the operation.

Ghotki Police seized a substantial cache of weapons and ammunition from the criminals, underscoring the gravity of their involvement in criminal activities. A spokesperson for the Ghotki Police confirmed that the deceased criminals were wanted in multiple cases including



murder, kidnapping, and terrorism. "The operation against these criminals is part of our ongoing efforts to rid Ghotki of criminal elements," stated a spokesperson. "We will continue to pursue all leads and take decisive action against those threatening the peace and security of our community." Interior Minister Sindh, Ziaul Hasan Langah, commended the exemplary performance

Samaro youth drowns while saving a child

By Muhammad Bachal



UMERKOT: A 22-year-old young man named Shoaib, son of Bashir Meo, tragically drowned in the Mithrao Canal while attempting to save a child. Shoaib, a resident of Rustam Meo village, displayed remarkable bravery in his efforts. Following the incident, a large number of people from the Meo community and nearby villages gathered to search for Shoaib. Their efforts extended over two hours before they eventually found him. He was immediately

taken to Samaro Taluka Hospital, where doctors confirmed his death. Samaro police were present at the scene, ensuring the search and rescue operation was conducted smoothly. The news of Shoaib's death brought immense grief to his household and the wider community, who mourned the loss of a courageous and selfless young man. The incident has highlighted Shoaib's heroic act, underscoring the need for greater safety measures around the Mithrao Canal to prevent future tragedies.

Eid-ul-Azha celebrated in Pithoro by following Sunnah of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS)

By M Ismail Khilji



PITHORO: In the Umerkot district, Eid-ul-Azha was celebrated with religious fervor, enthusiasm, and respect, including in the cities of Pithoro, Shadi Palli, Bachaobund, and surrounding areas. Both small and large gatherings were held in mosques, Eidgahs, and open spaces.

On this auspicious occasion, esteemed scholars highlighted the great sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS), emphasizing its significance and lessons. Special prayers were offered for the progress, prosperity, peace, and unity of the country and the Muslim world, with particular focus on the well-being of Palestinian and Kashmiri Muslims, as well as the entire Muslim Ummah.

Following the prayers, the followers of Islam honored the tradition of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) by sacrificing animals. This act of devotion was carried out with great reverence, reflecting the spirit of sacrifice and

Samaro journalists condemn dastardly attack on Ali Raza Rind

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Journalists from Samaro gathered at the Samaro National Press Club for a press conference and protest, condemning the murderous attack on Mirpurkhas journalist Ali Raza Rind. The protest was led by President Ali Muhammad Sheehi, Vice President Khemchand Malhi, Information Secretary Nadir Brohi, Office Secretary Chaudhry Adnan Afzal, and other members.



During the protest, the journalists demanded the immediate arrest and strict action against those responsible for the attack on Ali Raza Rind. They called upon the Chief Justice of Sindh, IG Sindh, and DIG Mirpurkhas to take urgent notice of the incident. The leaders of the protest warned that they

would expand the scope of their protest if their demands were not promptly addressed. The gathering highlighted the increasing threats and violence faced by journalists and emphasized the need for swift justice and protection for those in the profession. The journalists at the press conference expressed their solidarity with Ali Raza Rind and reiterated their commitment to standing against any form of violence targeting media personnel.

15 members of Thul family hospitalized after consuming unhygienic food

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A distressing incident unfolded in village Shah Nawaz Banglani near Thul, under the jurisdiction of B-Section Police Station, where 15 individuals, including 5 children, were hospitalized after consuming unhygienic food.

The affected individuals have been identified as Muhammad Siddique Pahore, Farooq Pahore, Samad Pahore, Nazir Pahore, Rahim Pahore, Muhammad Azam Pahore, Nabi Bakhs Pahore, Chakar Pahore, Ameen Pahore, Zainat Khatoon Pahore, and Amana Khatoon Pahore. Following their consumption of the contaminated food, they experienced fainting spells, prompting immediate medical attention. All affected family members were rushed to the local hospital, where they are currently undergoing medical treatment. The incident has raised concerns among the local community about food safety and hygiene standards in the area.

JTI worker killed, another injured in fatal Thul road accident

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Tragedy struck near Nazir Wah when a speeding motorcycle met with an accident, critically injuring two workers of JTI (Japan Tobacco International). The incident occurred on Wednesday, leaving Molvi Fakhar Zaman Soomro and Abdul Salam Soomro in critical condition. Both injured individuals were promptly rushed to a local hospital for urgent medical care. Despite efforts to save him, Molvi Fakhar Zaman Soomro tragically succumbed to his injuries. Following necessary medico-legal procedures, his

Shortage of water intensifies in Samaro subdivision

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The water shortage in the Samaro subdivision has intensified, remaining above 50% despite the end of the rotation. The Samaro Canal and Raj Wah have yet to be opened, exacerbating the crisis. In response, farmers from Rahuabad staged a protest and marched to the Samaro Irrigation Office.

"This is an injustice to us," the farmers lamented. They highlighted that while the Nara Canal is brimming with 13,700 cuses of water, Samaro continues to experience a severe shortage. The farmers pointed out that rice is being cultivated along the Nara Canal, yet the branches supplying water to poor farmers remain closed.

-Can you believe this happened on Eid? Vegetable vendor in Tando Jam robbed on Eid day

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: Eid day in Tando Jam turned distressing for Akhtar Ali Zardari, a local vegetable vendor, as unknown burglars targeted his shop, resulting in the theft of valuable items. Akhtar Ali Zardari, who operates a daily vegetable business at his shop in the market area, fell victim to theft on this occasion. The burglars made away with a motorbike, a touch mobile phone, and an estimated amount of at least 70,000 rupees worth of farming equipment. This incident has heightened concerns in the community regarding the increasing frequency of thefts in the vicinity. Residents lamented the recurring thefts and expressed frustration over the limited assistance provided by the local police in addressing such crimes effectively. In light of these events, discussions are underway among community members and local authorities to implement enhanced security measures in Tando Jam. These measures aim to ensure the safety and protection of residents and businesses against future incidents of theft and vandalism. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerability faced by small business owners and residents alike, urging collective efforts to safeguard the community and deter criminal activities in the area.

PPP to celebrate Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's birthday in a befitting manner in every district

By Farooq Junejo

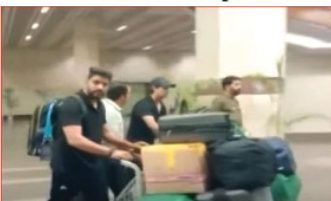
SHAHEED NAZIRABAD: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will celebrate the birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on June 21st in every district of Sindh, announced Nisar Khuhro, President of PPP Sindh. District presidents,

other officials, and party leaders of the PPP are instructed to organize grand celebrations in their respective districts. During these celebrations, cakes will be cut, and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto will be paid rich tributes for her sacrifices for democracy, the country, and the people. All district, tehsil, UC and ward-level party officials, along with all local representatives, former MNAs, and former MPAs, will participate in these birthday celebrations in each district. The events aim to honor the memory and legacy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, reaffirming the party's commitment to her vision and values.

SPORTS



Disgraced Pakistan cricketers arrive in Lahore after embarrassing themselves in the T20 World Cup



LAHORE: Some of the Pakistan cricket team players and officials touched down in Lahore during the early hours of Wednesday after finishing their T20 World Cup 2024 journey in a disappointing way without advancing from the group matches phase.

The players and officials travelled to Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport via a private airline flight today after starting their journey back home from Florida, United States.

The returnees included Naseem Shah, Usman Khan and Senior Manager Wahab Riaz, however, skipper Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Imad Wasim, Azam Khan and Mohammad Amir were not among them.

Babar planned to return to Pakistan at a later date on June 22.

In the aftermath of the World Cup assignment, Head Coach Gary Kirsten is set to return to his home, while Amir plans to extend his stay in the United States for a couple of days before heading to England to join the Derbyshire.

The global tournament proved challenging for the 'Green Shirts', who failed to progress beyond the league stage.

The team faced a surprising defeat at the hands of the United States and also conceded a match to India, a game that was initially in their favour.

This double setback prevented their advancement to the Super 8 round, marking a disappointing end to their campaign. —Agency

T20 World Cup 2024: South Africa end Team USA's Cinderella run with an 18 run victory in Super 8 match

NORTH SOUND: Team of South Africa defeated the United States by 18 runs in their T20 World Cup Super 8 match which was played at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, North Sound, on Wednesday.

The Proteas managed to defend the 195-run target with Kagiso Rabada starring for the winning side with his spell of 3/18 in four overs.

Chasing the target, the USA had a good start with Steven Taylor leading the attack against the Proteas' pacers but Rabada gave him the first breakthrough by removing the left-handed batter on just 24 runs.

Following Taylor's dismissal, the USA lost wickets at regular intervals with Nishit Kumar (8), skipper Aaron Jones (0), Corey Anderson (2) and Shayan Jabbar (3) all walking back to the pavilion without scoring big runs.

It looked nearly impossible for the USA to get back in the game but Andries Gous and Harmeeet Singh's 91-run target made things difficult for the Proteas as, at one point, the USA required 28 runs from 12 balls.

However, Rabada took the ball in the 19th over and, once again, eased his side's worries by removing Harmeeet on the first ball which halted the USA's attack. With Harmeeet (38 off 22) gone, things got difficult for USA and they eventually concluded their innings at 176-6 in 20 overs. Gous scored 80 off 47 with the help of 10 boundaries.

Earlier, South Africa posted a 195-run target for the United States in their



T20 World Cup Super 8 match which is being played at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, North Sound, on Wednesday.

South Africa didn't have the brightest start after being asked to bat first as Reeza Hendricks continued his bad form and returned to the pavilion after just scoring 11 runs, leaving his side 16-1 in 2.4 overs.

However, the Proteas recovered quickly after losing one wicket as Quinton de Kock decided to take charge of their innings and played his best knock of the tournament by scoring 74 runs on 40 balls with the help of seven fours and five sixes.

The 110-run partnership between skipper Aiden Markram and De Kock helped the Proteas get in the driving seat. —Agency

Ronaldo etches name in history again as Portugal beats Czech Republic



Cristiano Ronaldo once again marked his name in the history books of football as he became the first men's player to appear in six editions of the European Championship, the National reported.

The Portuguese striker's latest feat came as his national team defeated Czech Republic 2-1 in their Euro 2024 opener on Tuesday.

Ronaldo, 39, made his European Championship debut in 2004, in which Portugal lost in the finals to Greece. He has appeared in every tournament ever since.

The Al Nassr star, who broke the record for most goals in the Saudi Pro League with 35 goals for his team in the recently finished season, was a threat all through even though he was unable to surpass his record of 14 goals at the Euros.

"Another chapter in our history begins today," Kiraly. —Agency

Ronaldo wrote on X before the match. "I fondly remember my first day with the national team, a journey full of challenges and victories.

"Now I have the honour of being alongside a team of champions, full of talent and determination. With everyone's strength and support, we're turning dreams into reality. Together let's fight for another triumph.

United, we're unstoppable."

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has 130 goals in 208 games for Portugal since his debut as an 18-year-old under Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari in August 2003. Additionally, defender Pepe, who made his Portugal debut in November 2007, became the oldest player to feature at a European Championship age 41 years and 113 days, snatching the record from the previous holder, Hungary goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly. —Agency

Murray wins Queen's opener in 1,000th match of career



LONDON: Andy Murray started what is likely to be his Queen's farewell on Tuesday by beating Alexei Popyrin as defending champion Carlos Alcaraz made a winning return following his French Open triumph.

Murray, 37, a record five-time champion at the London grass-court tournament, outlasted the 48th-ranked Australian 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the 1,000th Tour-level match of his career.

The British former world number one dropped the second set and appeared to be struggling physically, grimacing after every serve.

But he hit back in the third, a vintage cross-court winner and fist pump lifting the vocal crowd as he brought up break point before dispatching it with a clinical backhand on his way to victory in one hour and 51 minutes.

Murray, set to retire either after Wimbledon or the Olympics, said: "I've not got too many wins this year, it's been a difficult season, and I did want to come through in the end.

"Any win you can get is important, that's why we started what is likely to be weeks away I want to get some matches in my legs and some confidence. It's great to get another win here."

The three-time Grand Slam champion, who competes with a metal hip, has struggled with an ankle injury and a back issue this year.

The Scot, who has plummeted to 129th in the rankings, said: "I've felt better, but it was enough today."

"My mum told me it was my 1,000th match and that's a lot of matches, a lot of wear and tear on the body and it's not easy, but I managed to push through it."

Spain's Alcaraz, who lifted his third Grand Slam at the French Open earlier this month, was not at his best but recovered from a mid-match dip to triumph.

The top seed committed just one unforced error in the first set to take a grip on the contest but his level dipped at the start of the second set and he trailed 2-5. —Agency

Southgate faces Foden dilemma ahead of England's Euro clash with Danes

FRANKFURT: Gareth Southgate must solve his Phil Foden conundrum as the England playmaker struggles to reproduce his brilliant Manchester City form at international level. While England can book their place in the last 16 of Euro 2024 by beating Denmark in Frankfurt on Thursday, Foden's latest underwhelming display for his country has sparked a debate about Southgate's use of such a sublime talent Foden laboured to make any impact on England's nervy 1-0 win against Serbia in their Group C opener in Gelsenkirchen on Sunday. The 24-year-old was voted the Premier League's Player of the Year after playing a key role in City's fourth successive title triumph with



19 goals and eight assists. Yet, in stark contrast to his excellence in a City shirt, Foden has never looked comfortable with England's Three Lions on his chest. He struggled during England's run to the Euro 2020 final, making subbed starts in the first two games and playing for only a further 25 minutes before missing the final defeat against Italy due to injury. Following another inconsistent contribution at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Foden has scored only once in his last 13 international matches.

Southgate's decision to play Jude Bellingham as England's number 10 and use Bukayo Saka on the right flank shunted Foden out to the left wing against Serbia.

Not for the first time, Foden seemed lost on that side of the three attacking midfield spots behind England striker Harry Kane.

At City, Pep Guardiola is completely comfortable with using Foden as the number 10, while he also operates on the right wing at times.

Guardiola has allowed Foden to dictate the champions' tempo and he has thrived more than ever this season after taking on an influential role in the absence of the injured Kevin De Bruyne.

But against Serbia there were few signs of the skill, deft passing and clinical finishing makes the 'Stockport Invista' — named after former Barcelona and Spain legend Andres Iniesta — such a favourite of City fans. —Agency

Ruiz ready to play starring role again for Spain against Italy

GERMANY: Spain are hoping the "exceptional" Fabian Ruiz can again be the difference-maker when they look to build on an impressive win against Croatia in their second Euro 2024 outing against Italy on Thursday.

The meeting between the reigning European champions and the three-time winners of the competition in Gelsenkirchen is the standout tie of the opening round at the tournament.

Top spot in Group B, and a theoretically easier last-16 draw, is at stake as the two sides aim to build on victories in their opening matches.

Italy came from behind to beat Albania, while Ruiz was outstanding as Spain thumped 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Croatia 3-0.

Paris Saint-Germain playmaker Ruiz, 28, set up the opener for Alvaro Morata and scored himself with a classy finish as he outshone all those around him, including Croatia captain Luka Modric.

That game confirmed the importance to Luis de la Fuente's Spain team of a player who was not taken to the last World Cup by former coach Luis Enrique.

"What can I tell you about Fabian Ruiz? He's an exceptional player, he's at the top level. If he wasn't called Fabian you would be talking a lot more about him," said De la Fuente.

"Based on what we've seen from him on a daily basis he's fantastic and has brilliant technique, we know what he brings to the team."

"We should recognise the quality that he has. He has real imagination."

De la Fuente's relationship with Ruiz goes back to when he was coach of Spain's Under-21 team — Ruiz was the star player when they won the Under-21 Euros in 2019.

It was around that time that the former Betis man broke into the full Spain squad, and he featured in Luis Enrique's team at the last Euros, when they went out to Italy in the semi-finals.

Yet he was not a starter, and Luis Enrique did not pick him again, meaning he was out in the cold by the time the 2022 World Cup came around. —Agency



Kane Williamson steps down as New Zealand captain after T20 World Cup debacle



Right-handed experienced batter Kane Williamson shook the cricket fraternity on Wednesday as he stepped down as New Zealand's white-ball captain following the team's poor run in the on-going ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Besides relinquishing captaincy, Williamson also declined New Zealand's central contract in "an effort to prolong his international career".

The announcement came a day after the conclusion of New Zealand's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign, where they were eliminated in the group stages for the first time since 2014.

The 2021 finalists suffered gut-wrenching defeats against the West Indies and Afghanistan, the two teams that advanced to Super Eight from Group C.

Meanwhile, Kane Williamson reiterated his dedication to represent New Zealand at the international level and expressed his willingness to participate in eight World Test Championship (WTC) matches in the coming months and the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan next year.

Williamson, however, shared that he is open to exploring the possibility of accepting New Zealand central contract in future.

"Helping push the team forward across the formats is something I'm very passionate about and something I want to keep contributing towards," Kane said.

"However, pursuing an overseas opportunity during the New Zealand summer means I'm unable to accept a central contract offer."

"Playing for New Zealand is something I treasure, and my desire to give back to the team remains undiminished."

"My life outside cricket has changed however - spending more time with my family and enjoying experiences with them at home or abroad is something that's even more important to me." —Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Hashir Khan
Location: Karachi
About me: I hate the Pakistan Cricket Team!

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Katy Perry ready to make musical comeback with new single

Katy Perry is ready to take on the world with her new single.

As fans will know, the singing sensation just announced her comeback single track Woman's World, which is slated to be released next month.

In a pre-view clip of the single, Katy Perry could be seen lips syncing to the song's lyrics, "Sexy confident. So intelligent. She is heaven sent. So soft. So strong."

In an earlier chat with Access Hollywood, the mother of one spilled the beans on her upcoming album and branded it as an epitome of "pure joy and fun".

She also told the outlet at that time that her new work was inspired by her feeling "really happy and whole," after welcoming baby daughter Daisy Dove with long-time beau Orlando Bloom.

It is pertinent to mention here that Katy's last album came out four years ago and was named Smile.

During this interview, she said, "I just have yet to make a record from a place of feeling really happy and whole and full of love."

She even claimed, "Sometimes artists are like, 'Oh, that's boring, you want to make music from kind of like a tougher place,' but actually it's very bright and joyful, like pure joy and fun and playful and celebratory and a party."

Kim Kardashian urges fans to 'must see' Celine Dion's documentary



Kim Kardashian attended the premiere of Celine Dion's documentary 1 Am: Celine Dion on Monday.

Dion, who announced her diagnosis of Stiff-person syndrome in December 2022, is set to release a documentary which which documents her battle with rare-neurological illness on June 25, 2024.

Taking to Instagram Story, Kim shared glimpses from the premiere of the documentary and showed her support to Dion.

The SKIMS founder urged everyone to "must see" the documentary and praised the My Heart Will Go On singer.

She wrote, "everyone must see this documentary. Ugh it breaks my heart seeing her like this. We all had such joy seeing her sing. Always praying for you @celinedion"

The Kardashian-Jenner star also reflected on one heartfelt moment from the documentary which reminded her of one of Dion's performances.

"During the doc she talks about her closet and archive and I said this gold suit she was talking about looks familiar and OMG its the suit I saw her perform in Vegas in!" Kim added alongside a throwback photo with the iconic singer.

At the premiere of the documentary, Dion expressed her desire to raise awareness and help people through 1 Am, Celine Dion.

She said, "A lot of people in the world are suffering and I hope that this documentary gives an opportunity to people, first of all, to let them know that I am here as a mother as an artist, as a woman as an ambassador in a way of I want to help people."

THE HEARTLAND



SSP Bashir Ahmed Brohi vows to continue operations against Kashmir and Kandhkot's criminals

By Raza Noonari

TANGWANI: SSP Kashmir Ahmed Brohi, has reaffirmed his commitment to cracking down on criminals, street criminals, drug dealers, kidnappers, and those involved in corruption, aiming to foster a cleaner and safer society. Under his leadership, the Kashmir district police have achieved significant successes in combating crime.

SSP Bashir Ahmed Brohi reported that the police have successfully rescued a total of 92 abducted individuals from South Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Interior Sindh. Modern technology played a crucial role in saving an additional 144 individuals from abduction attempts.

Highlighting recent

achievements, SSP Bashir Ahmed Brohi mentioned the dismantling of 15 dangerous dacoit gangs in the past month alone. A total of 95 encounters between the police and dacoits resulted in the arrest of 71 dacoits, while 14 were neutralized in police operations. During these encounters, 26 criminals were also apprehended with injuries. Since January, the Kashmir district police have conducted snap-checking operations leading to the arrest of 1152 robbers and criminals involved in corrupt activities. Additionally, 45 motorcycles and 37 mobile phones, recovered during raids, were returned to their rightful owners. The police also seized 86 unlicensed weapons and 519 rounds of ammunition from criminals. In efforts to eradicate narcotics from the region, the Kashmir district police have filed cases against drug dealers, resulting in the arrest of suspects and the seizure of 14.8 kilograms of hashish and 495 liters of alcohol. Several raw alcohol distillation units, suspects involved were apprehended. SSP Bashir Ahmed Brohi emphasized that over 150 raids and operations have been conducted across various areas of the district, including Karampur, Shabirabad, Jamal, Tangwani, Darani Mehar, and Gihlpur. These operations led to the destruction of 276 hideouts used by dacoits. The SSP concluded by stating that the relentless efforts of the Kashmir district police will continue unabated until all criminals are brought to justice and peace is restored in society.

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PPP's Akbar Hussain Shah Rashdi, Mehtab Akbar Rashdi inaugurate vocational school in Shahabad

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Pakistan People's Party leaders Akbar Hussain Shah Rashdi and Mehtab Akbar Rashdi presided over the inauguration ceremony of the Vocational School in Shahabad, expressing optimism for its success and significance for the local community.

The inauguration event, attended by dignitaries including Muhammad Mustafa Rashdi, Managing Director of STEVA (Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority), Mumtaz Ali Mithani, Regional Director of STEVA, and HM Shabana Soomro, marked a milestone in enhancing educational opportunities in the region.

Addressing the gathering, Mehtab Akbar Shah Rashdi and Akbar Hussain Shah Rashdi highlighted the pivotal role of vocational education in empowering youth and preparing them for future challenges. They announced the commencement of admissions at the Government Vocational School in Shahabad, scheduled to start classes from August.

"The Vocational School in Shahabad will offer courses in tailoring, stit-

ing, beautician, and cooking," stated Mehtab Akbar Shah Rashdi. "These courses aim to equip students with practical skills that will enhance their employability and contribute to their socio-economic development."

Akbar Hussain Shah Rashdi emphasized the party's commitment to fostering local talent and providing avenues for skill-based education, ensuring the well-being and prosperity of the community.

"The inauguration of this Vocational School reflects our dedication to empowering youth through technical education," added Akbar Hussain Shah Rashdi. "We are confident that this initiative will open doors to new opportunities for the youth of Shahabad, enabling them to build successful careers and contribute positively to society."

The event concluded with prayers for the success of the Vocational School and aspirations for a brighter future for the students enrolled in its inaugural classes. The PPP leaders reaffirmed their commitment to supporting educational initiatives that uplift the community and pave the way for sustainable development in Shahabad and beyond.

GLOBAL WATCH

French Teens Raped 12-Year-Old, Made Anti-Semitic Remarks

President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday denounced the "scourge of anti-Semitism" after authorities charged two 13-year-old boys with the gang rape of a 12-year-old Jewish girl in a Paris suburb.

The attack, suspected to have been motivated by anti-Semitism, has sent shockwaves through the Jewish community and added to tensions ahead of a snap election that could bring the far-right National Rally to power for the first time.

The girl told police she was approached by three boys aged between 12 and 13 while she was in a park near her home with a friend and dragged into a shed on Saturday evening in the northwest suburb of Courbevoie.

The suspects beat her and "forced her to have anal and vaginal penetration, fellatio, while uttering death threats and anti-Semitic remarks", a police source told AFP.

Her friend managed to identify two of the attackers. The girl said she had been called a "dirty Jew", another police source said.

One of the boys asked her questions about "her Jewish religion" and Israel, the source added, citing the child's statement to investigators.

The three boys were arrested Tuesday evening, two of them, both aged 13, were



charged with gang rape, anti-Semitic insults and violence and issuing death threats, and remained in custody.

The third boy, 12, was also charged with anti-Semitic insults and violence and issuing death threats, but not with rape. He was allowed to return home after being charged.

Macron told government ministers that a "scourge of anti-Semitism" threatens French schools, a source close to him said.

He spoke solemnly and seriously about the scourge of anti-Semitism in a cabinet meeting, the source said.

The source added that the president called for "dialogue" about racism and hatred of Jews in schools to prevent "hateful speech with serious consequences" from "infiltrating" classrooms.

The leaders of France's Jewish community, the largest of any country outside Israel and the United States, expressed horror over the attack.

France, which is home to Europe's largest Muslim community, experienced a surge in anti-Semitic acts after Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel and the start of Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza.

France's chief rabbi Haim Korsia wrote on X that he was "horrified" and that "no one should be excluded in the face of this unprecedented wave of anti-Semitism".

Courbevoie's centre-right mayor Jacques Kossovski condemned "an abject act" and called for the perpetrators to be met with the full force of the law "whatever their age".

Anti-Semitic acts in France increased threefold in the first months of 2024 compared to the same period a year ago, official figures show.

Of the 1,676 anti-Semitic acts recorded in 2023, 12.7 percent took place in —Agency

Pakistan Youth Movement rallies for construction of a double road in Kotri

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: On the third day of Eid, the Pakistan Youth Movement staged a protest from the DC Office to the Sessions Court, demanding the construction of a double road. The protest, held near the Edmore Pump in Kotri, was led by Abdul Sattar Laghari, Nazir Baloch, Ghulam Murtaza Nohani, Shehbaz Memon, Ashfaq Brohi, Asad Chandio, and others. The protesters highlighted that the existing single road from the DC Office to the Sessions Court has become a frequent site of accidents, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives. They noted that following a case filed in the District



Jamshoro Court, the judge had issued directives to the Roads Department, DC, SP, and other officials to halt the movement of heavy vehicles to prevent accidents. However, the protesters accused elected representatives and district administration of being silent spectators and failing to take necessary action.

The protesters demanded that the elected representatives and district administration immediately construct a double road from Kotri Phatak to the Sessions Court to prevent further loss of human lives. They emphasized the urgent need for this infrastructure improvement to enhance road safety and protect the community.

MPK women working in homes demand justice, protection

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: Women employed in the households of Satellite Town voiced their grievances and demanded justice during a protest staged in front of the press club on the second day of Eid. Led by Dr. Farhana and other prominent figures, the protest highlighted issues of harassment and threats faced by women workers in the area.

Participating women expressed concerns over being subjected to harassment, verbal abuse, and threats of violence by local troublemakers. They alleged that these individuals have been intimidating them, including making threats of murder, especially when rejecting advances.

"We work in the households of prominent figures including Vice Chancellor Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Veterinary and Animal Sci-

ences University, Sakrand, Muhammad Feroz Hassan, Deputy Director Medicine Dr. Sajjad Hussain, Serum Hussain, and Ahmed Hussain," stated Dr. Farhana during the protest. "Despite lodging complaints, the response from authorities has been inadequate, and we have faced false allegations in return."

The women workers demanded immediate action against the perpetrators involved in harassing them and called for the withdrawal of false cases filed against the Vice Chancellor and others. They urged authorities to ensure their safety and uphold their rights to work without fear of intimidation or reprisal.

The protest underscored the urgent need for measures to protect women working in domestic settings and to ensure their grievances are addressed promptly and justly by law enforcement and judicial authorities.

Daulatpur's civil society rallies against rampant inflation

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: A spirited protest rally swept through Daulatpur as residents, including laborers and the underprivileged, took to the streets to voice their frustration against soaring inflation. The rally, which commenced from Raja CNG, echoed with slogans denouncing the escalating prices of essential commodities such as flour, wheat, sugar, oil, gas, and electricity.

Participants marched through the city's main roads, culminating at the Daulatpur Press Club, where local residents, workers, and members of civil society addressed the gathering. They passionately criticized the government for exacerbating financial hardships among the populace and imposing burdensome taxes.

"We demand our right to live with dignity, free from the heavy financial burdens imposed by skyrocketing prices," exclaimed one of the rally speakers. "The rulers are neglecting our suffering and instead burdening us with taxes while they borrow from international financial

institutions for their own luxuries.

The speakers highlighted the dire consequences faced by ordinary citizens who struggle daily to afford basic necessities. They warned of escalating protests if immediate measures are not taken to alleviate the economic distress plaguing the community.

"The rulers must prioritize the needs of the people over their personal interests," emphasized another protester. "We cannot tolerate this injustice and exploitation any longer. Our protests will only intensify until our voices are heard and concrete actions are taken to address inflation and provide relief to the struggling masses."

The rally underscored the growing discontent and frustration among Daulatpur's residents regarding the economic policies that have failed to curb inflation and alleviate the financial strain on the population. As the protest concluded, participants vowed to continue their fight for economic justice and a better quality of life for all citizens.

Biden proposes citizenship for spouses of Americans ahead of presidential polls

United States President Joe Biden has announced a plan to grant citizenship to hundreds of illegal immigrants married to US citizens, contrasting with Republican rival Donald Trump's mass deportation plan.

According to Reuters, Biden, 81, criticised Trump for separating families at the US-Mexico border and using offensive language about illegal immigrants, claiming they were "poisoning the blood of our country".

"It's hard to believe it's being said, but he's actually saying these things out loud. And it's outrageous," Biden said during an event at the White House.

"I'm not interested in playing politics with the border or immigration. I'm interested in fixing it," he added. Despite resisting Trump's restrictive immigration policies, Biden has faced record levels of migrant arrests at the US-Mexico border and in a tougher approach, he has barred most migrants from requesting asylum, mirroring Trump's ban.

Biden's planned legalisa-



tion programme for US citizens' spouses could reinforce his campaign message of supporting a more humane immigration system.

The new Biden programme will be open to an estimated 500,000 spouses who have lived in the US for at least 10 years as of June 17, officials said on Tuesday. Some 50,000 children under age 21 with a US-citizen parent also will be eligible.

The US already provides a path to citizenship for immigrants who are married to Americans and entered the country legally on a visa. But in most cases, those who enter illegally must first leave the US for years before being allowed to re-

turn legally.

The new programme will allow the spouses and their children to apply for permanent residence without traveling abroad, removing a potentially lengthy process and family separation.

The path to obtain permanent residence could take months or years. From there, they could apply for citizenship. People who have disqualifying criminal history would not be eligible.

The implementation will roll out in coming months and the majority of likely beneficiaries would be Mexicans, Biden officials said on a call with reporters. —Agency

Municipal Chairman Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi commits to resolving Badin's civic issues

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi, Chairman of the Badin Municipal Committee, has underscored the pressing need to address the longstanding challenges faced by the city of Badin, particularly concerning its outdated water supply and drainage systems, which have been in place for over 40 years.

In an informal meeting with a delegation from the Press Club Badin, led by Shaukat Memon, Senior Vice President of the Hyderabad Union of Journalists, Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi discussed the critical infrastructure issues affecting the city. He highlighted the difficulties these outdated systems pose for the con-

struction and maintenance of roads and streets in Badin.

Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi also mentioned his discussions with senior leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), including Adi Faryal Talpur, acknowledging the financial constraints faced by the municipal committee in addressing these infrastructure challenges. It has been proposed to secure a special grant from the Sindh government to fund a comprehensive project aimed at upgrading the water supply and drainage systems. This grant is expected to support the construction of new streets and roads, along with providing essential amenities to improve the quality of life for residents.

During the meeting, senior journalists such as Shafi Memon, Abdul Hameed Soomro, Ashfaq Memon, Mir Shakil, Dodo Panhwar, and others were present, contributing to the discussions on the municipality's infrastructure needs and the proposed government grant.

Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi reaffirmed his commitment to facilitating the people of Badin by ensuring efficient utilization of government funds and resources for the development and enhancement of essential services in the city. The discussions concluded with a mutual understanding on the importance of addressing these infrastructure challenges promptly for the benefit of the local community.

MONEY

UK inflation slows to central bank's 2% target

LONDON: Britain's annual inflation rate slowed in May to the central bank's two-percent target, official data showed Wednesday, boosting Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's struggling election campaign.

The Consumer Prices Index slowed as expected from 2.3 percent in April, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement citing easing food prices.

That follows almost three years Britain's above-target inflation, which last stood at two percent in July 2021 before surging higher in a cost-of-living crisis.

The news sets the scene for next month's general election which Sunak's Conservatives are tipped to lose badly to Keir Starmer's opposition Labour Party, according to opinion polls.

After peaking at 11.1 percent in October 2022, consumer price growth has cooled following a series of interest-rate hikes by the UK central bank. Yet prices are still rising



on top of the sharp increases seen in recent years but at a slower rate, as businesses and households weather the easing cost-of-living crunch.

Wednesday's news comes on the eve of the BoE's latest interest-rate decision but is expected to sit tight, as is customary ahead of UK elections. Britons vote for a new government on July 4.

The central bank began a series of rate hikes in late 2021 to combat inflation, which rose after countries emerged from Covid lockdowns and accelerated after Moscow invaded Ukraine. The BoE last month held its main interest rate at a 16-year high of 5.25 percent but

had hinted at a summer reduction as UK inflation cools further.

Economists expect it to maintain the status quo this week. "The BoE will be encouraged by the slowdown in headline inflation, and while concerns will remain over elevated underlying price pressures, further falls in services inflation are anticipated over the coming months," said KPMG UK chief economist Yael Seifin.

"Today's data are unlikely to spur a surprise rate cut tomorrow, however, the (bank) could have sufficient evidence to begin its easing cycle in August." —Agency

METRO KARACHI



Three Veterinary Hospitals To Be Upgraded With Indoor Facilities: CM Murad

KARACHI: Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has directed the Livestock Department to upgrade three veterinary hospitals with indoor facilities for the treatment and surgery of injured animals and birds. These hospitals will cater to cattle as well as street animals and birds.

In a meeting to review the recovery of an injured camel and donkey at the Comprehensive Disaster Response Services (CDRS) Centre, the CM emphasized the need to utilize veterinarians and



vet surgeons in government hospitals more effectively. He directed the Secretary of Livestock to ensure these professionals

are engaged in treating injured street animals. The CM highlighted the need for indoor facilities at veterinary hospitals across Sindh, including in Karachi, Hyderabad, and Khairpur. He instructed the Livestock Department to post skilled veterinary doctors and technicians and to provide essential equipment such as X-ray machines and ultrasound devices.

The CM directed the Livestock Department to ensure proper care for the injured animals and to keep him updated on their progress. He also stressed the importance of providing justice for the animals and taking strict action against those responsible for their abuse.—RT



KARACHI: Police officials are dispersing people from Sea View Beach due to an ongoing ban on entering the sea.—RT

Four Drown At Hawkes Bay; Three Rescued

KARACHI: Despite the ban imposed by the Karachi Commissioner, citizens continue to swim in the sea. On the third day of Eid ul Adha, a young man went missing after drowning at Hawksbay. Edhi Foundation volunteers and lifeguards are conducting a rescue operation to locate him.

According to an Edhi Foundation spokesperson, four people had drowned while swimming in the sea, three of whom were rescued in time. Action is being taken against those violating the swimming ban, with Maripur police arresting nine individuals for swimming in the sea.

SHO Maripur Kamran Haider told Express News that the missing youth, identified as 21-year-old Shaheer, son of Aftab Rajput, was a



resident of Liaquatabad's Azam Square in the jurisdiction of Sharifabad police station. He had come to Hawksbay for a picnic with friends and went missing due to the high waves while swimming. The SHO stated that Maripur police had arrested nine individuals swimming

in the sea, with six cases registered against them under Section 188.

The Sindh government has enforced Section 144, prohibiting swimming in the sea. The high waves currently make the coast dangerous, posing a risk to citizens.—RT/Agency

Pak China Business & Culture Club Delegation Meets Chinese CG To Strengthen Bilateral Ties



KARACHI: A delegation from the Pak China Business & Culture Club, led by Muhammad Noman Saigal, Convener of the Standing Committee FPCCI on Horticulture and former Minister of Sindh, met with the Chinese Consul General and Commercial Consul in Karachi.

The delegation included notable members such as former MNA Rehan Hashmi, founder of the Chinese Business Culture Club Shahid Jawed, Jameel Ikhtas, and Ghulam Nabi. The meeting focused on strategies to enhance trade and investment relations and further develop cultural ties between Pakistan and China.

The delegation emphasized the potential of Pakistani youth in contributing to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through value addition and innovation. A proposal to establish a Chinese language center under the guidance of the Consul General was also discussed, aiming to strengthen cultural understanding and cooperation.

SHO Bin Qasim Police Station Vows To Provide Foolproof Security To Public

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Inayatullah, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Bin Qasim Police Station, affirmed his commitment to enhancing security measures in the area during a media briefing on Wednesday. He assured the public of stringent measures to maintain peace and safeguard lives and property.

"We have intensified patrolling in the vicinity to bolster peace and security," stated SHO Inayatullah. "No offenders or dacoits will escape justice under any circumstances. The safety of the trader community and local residents is our utmost priority."

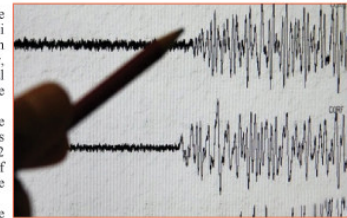
Highlighting collaborative efforts with senior police officials, SHO Inayatullah emphasized, "Under the directives of SSP Malir and

Minor earthquake jolts Karachi

KARACHI: A 3.2-magnitude earthquake jolted Karachi and its surrounding areas on the evening of Wednesday, according to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC).

The moderate earthquake had a depth of 42 kilometers with the epicentre located 32 kilometers southwest of Karachi, according to the NSMC.

The authorities have not yet received any reports of damage or injuries from any part of



parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the capital city of Islamabad.—RT/Agency

Haleem Claims 86,000 Tons Of Animal Waste Still Uncollected In Karachi

KARACHI: Residents of Karachi are distressed by piles of animal waste scattered across the city, leading to foul odors and health concerns. In response to complaints, PTI Sindh President and former Opposition Leader Haleem Adil Sheikh visited various areas to assess the situation.

Speaking to the media, Sheikh expressed dismay, stating, "Today is the third day of Eid, and animal waste is still strewn everywhere with no one to collect it." He questioned the effectiveness of the Solid Waste Management's Rs18 billion budget, highlighting the inefficiency despite being under the control of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). "Karachi has turned into a garbage dump," he lamented.

Sheikh noted that prior to Eid, it was claimed that 154,000 tons of animal waste would be disposed of, but Mayor Muratza Wahab reported only 68,000 tons collected. "The remaining 86,000 tons are still lying in the streets," he added. He criticized the inade-



quate number of collection points, with only 99 for a city of 25 million residents. "How can the city be cleaned with just 99 collection points?" he asked, noting the spread of diseases due to the stench from the waste.

Sheikh further alleged that KMC, town, and Solid Waste staff are more focused on extracting fat from the waste rather than disposing of it. "Instead of discarding the remains, they are collecting fat," he claimed. He demanded accountability for the Solid

Waste Management's Rs18 billion budget, arguing that neither the Sindh budget provided for Karachi nor did it ensure cleanliness.

Before Wahab's tenure as mayor, Karachi was cleaner, Sheikh asserted, accusing the PPP of making Karachi the sixth dirtiest city in the world. He concluded by stating, "It's the third day, and there is no one to collect the waste. Citizens are forced to dispose of it themselves. The Sindh government must answer for its enmity towards Karachi."—RT/Agency

Maryam Praises Officers And Staff For Eid Day Cleanliness

LAHORE: On Eidul Adha, the Punjab government has set a new record of public service by ensuring waste removal and cleanliness across the province continuously during the last 48 hours.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif appreciated the role of citizens, saying that the campaign of removing waste and ensuring cleanliness in cities, districts, tehsils and union councils was made possible only with the cooperation of citizens.

She especially appreciated Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique and Secretary Local Government Muhammad Shaheel in this regard.

The chief minister congratulated municipal institutions, waste management companies and district administration across Punjab, besides the officers and staff of Lahore Waste Management Company.

She announced rewarding officers and staff for



maintaining cleanliness and providing exemplary services to the people on Eid.

She added through the Helpline 1139, Lahore Waste Management Company also cleaned those areas which were not in their domain even.

This is a bright example of service and duty, she said. The government, institutions and citizens together set an example that unity, cooperation and hard work can make Punjab an ideal province, she added.—RT/Agency

Government Imposes Section 144 In Karachi's Coastal Areas

KARACHI: Sindh government has imposed section 144 in the coastal areas of Karachi with a ban on swimming in the sea during the holidays of Eid-ul-adha, media reported on Tuesday.

Reasonable precautions are being taken particularly to protect the lives of picnickers who visit beaches to celebrate the occasion, officials confirmed.

The District South Po-

lice has confirmed that police officers are stationed at the beach to prevent citizens from entering the sea.

The ban is a preventive measure taken by the authorities, and beachgoers are being requested to comply and refrain from going into the sea.

Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) engages local organizations to

issue arrangements in broad daylight intrigue that may put a restriction on an action for a particular timeframe.

Such a boycott is upheld by the police who enroll cases under area 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code for infringement of the boycott. Segment 188 conveys the greatest punishment of a half year in jail or a fine or both.—RT/Agency

Laptop Battery Explosion Triggers Fire In Faisalabad Home, Leaving 2 Dead And 7 Injured

FAISALABAD: At least two people have died and seven others suffered burn injuries after a house in the Shareef Pura neighbourhood of Faisalabad caught fire due to an explosion of a laptop battery on Wednesday, rescue officials told media.

According to the rescue officials, the house located at the Satyana road suffered the blaze as the exploded laptop battery was charging. The fire was put off later, they added.

At least nine people of the family, including five children and two women, residing in the house were shifted to the Allied Hospital following the ill-fated incident, said the rescue officials.

Meanwhile, the hospital sources told media that two siblings, a brother and sister, have succumbed to the burns, while seven others are receiving treatment.

All the injured, as per the doctors, are severely injured with around 50% to 60% of their bodies burnt. After the unfortunate incident, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed regret over the



death of children, extending condolence and sympathy to the bereaved family.

CM Maryam, according to the provincial government's statement, has ordered the provision of the best treatment and medical facilities for those injured in the fire.

Regional Police Officer Dr Muhammad Abid Khan has ordered the senior superintendent of police to begin an investigation into the incident.

Faisalabad deputy commissioner has also formed a committee to investigate the orders of CM Maryam, who vowed exemplary punishment for those found responsible.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Huge fire and dark smoke are rising from a factory fire in the SITE area of the city.—RT

Youth Commits Suicide After Killing Father And Two Brothers

MARDAN: A youth committed suicide after shooting his father and two brothers dead in Khor Banda in Mardan, media reported on Wednesday.

Nihar Ali, who is said to be mentally disturbed killed his father Nasrullah, and two brothers Faizullah and Abdullah at their home and later committed sui-

cide. The incident took place at Khor Banda in Shaikh Maltoon police jurisdiction.

Accused Nihar Ali also injured his mother. "He was deranged and mentally disturbed," local police said.

Police said that the dead bodies and injured have been shifted to MMC hospital.—RT/Agency

Live with no excuses and love with no regrets

—Monte

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THURSDAY JUNE 20 2024

Pakistan calls for 'concerted campaign' to recover arms from terrorist groups like TTP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called on the United Nations for a "concerted campaign" to recover all weapons from terrorist groups, such as the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Speaking at the UN's Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) on Tuesday, Ambassador Munir Akram expressed Pakistan's "grave concern over the acquisition and use of modern and sophisticated small arms by terrorist groups, such as [the] TTP".

According to a statement issued by the Pakistani mission to the UN, Akram highlighted the "need for a concerted campaign to recover all weapons from terrorist groups like the TTP" and also called for an investigation into how these groups acquired such sophisticated weapons.

The Pakistani envoy asserted that it was the UN member states' and the UN's responsibility to take measures to prevent the illicit trade, transfer, and diversion of these arms.

"Terrorists and criminals do not manufacture these arms. They acquire them from illicit arms markets or receive them



from entities that want to destabilise a particular region or country," Ambassador Akram emphasised.

The envoy highlighted how the "illicit proliferation, excessive accumulation and misuse of SALW" was exacerbating conflicts, fuelling terrorism, threatening peace and security, and undermining sustainable development globally.

Akram said the advent of new technologies, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and drones was "deepening challenges in combating the proliferation of increasingly lethal small arms".

Describing the UN PoA and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) as a structured framework to address the challenges pertaining to the illicit

ambassador highlighted various points, including building consensus on the scope of the PoA.

He stressed the need to maintain a balanced approach between the valid concerns over arms' illicit proliferation and legitimate security concerns of all states.

The Pakistan UN Ambassador termed the ongoing conference a critical step in reaffirming collective resolve to tackle SALW-related challenges and ensure global safety and security.

Islamabad has long held that the banned TTP uses safe havens in Afghanistan to launch deadly cross-border attacks.

In March, Pakistan had called on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to urge the Taliban rulers in Afghanistan to terminate their relationship with the TTP.

Last month, Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan Asif Ali Durani had stated that TTP attacks in the country increased by 60 per cent in two years, showing a significant rise since the Afghan Taliban took over Kabul in 2021.

Days later, Pakistan and the United States had reaffirmed the continua-

tion of counter-terrorism cooperation to advance regional and global security and stability.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in the past year, especially in KP and Balochistan after the banned militant TTP ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

According to an annual security report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies, Pakistan witnessed 1,524 violence-related fatalities and 1,463 injuries from 789 terror attacks and counter-terror operations in 2023 — marking a record six-year high.

KP and Balochistan were the primary centres of violence, accounting for over 90 per cent of all fatalities and 84pc of attacks, including incidents of terrorism and security forces operations.

A report released last month said provincial counterterrorism departments (CTDs) lacked clarity on militant groups' dynamics, connections and operational strategies, apart from facing issues related to coordination, funding and intelligence gathering.

—RT/Agency

Budget strengthens prospects for IMF deal: Fitch

ISLAMABAD: The global ratings agency Fitch on Wednesday said that the federal budget for fiscal year (FY) 2025 "strengthens prospects for an IMF deal".

The government presented the budget for the next year on June 12, which contained an ambitious tax revenue target of Rs13 trillion rupees (\$47 billion) for the year starting July 1, a near-40 per cent jump from the current year, and a sharp drop in its fiscal deficit to 5.9pc of GDP from 7.4pc for the current year.

Fitch, in a comment, said it forecasted "the fiscal deficit will narrow" assuming partial implementation of the budget — whether fiscal targets will be met entirely remained uncertain.

"This should reduce external pressures, albeit at a cost to growth," it added. The US-based agency re-estimated that the budget deficit of 5.9 per cent of the GDP — from the previous year's estimated 7.4pc — and 2pc primary surplus "on wide-ranging tax increases and also significant fiscal efforts at the provincial level".

Additionally, a separate report by rating agency Moody's said that the government has projected real GDP growth at 3.6pc and headline inflation at 12pc. It also sought to increase federal government revenue to an ambitious Rs17.8trillion



—46pc higher than previous year's.

Overall, the budget also seeks to boost development expenditure of the centre and provinces by over 58pc to nearly Rs3.8tr.

According to Fitch, "Our updated fiscal forecasts assume partial implementation and project a primary surplus of 0.8pc, on shortfalls in revenue generation and an over-run in current spending, partly offset by under-execution in development spending."

"We believe tight policy settings may depress growth more than the government expects, and have reduced our growth forecast to 3.0pc for FY25, from 3.5pc, despite some improvements in short-term indicators of economic activity."

Meanwhile the total current expenditure is estimated to surge by 21pc to Rs17.2tr, with power and other sub-

sidies jumping to Rs1.4tr and defence expenditure by 14pc to Rs2.1tr.

The agency added that its forecast reduction was due to the plans of the coalition government facing "stiff resistance" inside parliament from allies, opposition and among broader society after the Feb 8 elections and a "weaker-than-expected mandate" for the current government.

On a positive note, it did note that the previous year's primary deficit "was in line" with the target — with the authorities undertaking "unpopular subsidy reforms over the past year, supporting fiscal credibility".

Shehbaz, UAE president exchange Eid greetings over telephone

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan over the phone to extend Eid ul Adha greetings on Wednesday.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, both leaders expressed their wishes for the continuous development and prosperity of the people of Pakistan and the UAE. The prime minister thanked the UAE president for his ongoing support for Pakistan and reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for the UAE.

Reflecting on his highly productive visit to the UAE in May 2024, Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to transforming the brotherly relations between the two countries into a sustainable and mutually beneficial



strategic partnership focused on trade and investment. Highlighting the importance of regular high-level exchanges between the two nations, the prime minister invited the UAE president to visit Pakistan soon. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed accepted the invitation and expressed his willingness to undertake

an official visit in the near future. Both leaders agreed to maintain close contact to further strengthen the fraternal and close relations between their countries. Additionally, Prime Minister Shehbaz also called the Leaders of Qatar, Kuwait, Turkey, and Tajikistan to extend Eid ul Adha greetings. —RT/Agency

Loved ones search for missing as hajj death toll passes 900

MAKKAH: Friends and family searched for missing hajj pilgrims on Wednesday as the death toll at the annual rituals, which were carried out in scorching heat, surged past 900.

Relatives scoured hospitals and pleaded online for news, fearing the worst after temperatures hit 51.8 degrees Celsius (125 Fahrenheit) in the holy city of Makkah on Monday.

About 1.8 million people from all over the world, many old and infirm, took part in the days-long, mostly outdoor pilgrimage, held this year during the oven-like Saudi summer.

An Arab diplomat told AFP that deaths among Egyptians alone had jumped to "at least 600", from more than 300 a day earlier, mostly from the unforgiving heat.

That figure brought the total reported dead so far to 922, according to an AFP tally of figures released by various countries.

Mabrouka bint Salem Shushana of Tunisia, in her early 70s, has been missing since the climax of the pilgrimage on Saturday at Mount Arafat, her husband Mohammed told AFP on



Wednesday. Because she was unregistered and did not have an official hajj permit, she was unable to access air-conditioned facilities that allow pilgrims to cool down, he said.

"She's an old lady. She was tired. She was feeling so hot, and she had no place to sleep," he said. "I looked for her in all the hospitals. Until now I don't have a clue."

Facebook and other social media networks have been flooded with pictures of the missing and requests for information.

Those searching for news include family and friends of Ghada Mahmoud Ahmed Dawood, an Egyptian pilgrim unaccounted for since Saturday.

"I received a call from her daughter in Egypt begging me to put any post on Facebook that can help track her or find her," said one family friend based in Saudi Arabia, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he did not want to anger Saudi authorities.

"The good news is that until now we did not find her on the list of the dead people, which gives us hope she is still alive."

The hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and all Muslims with the means must complete it at least once.

Its timing is determined by the Islamic lunar calendar, shifting forward each year in the Gregorian calendar. —RT/Agency

—All in the family!

Shehbaz lauds Maryam for cleanliness services during Eid days



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday appreciated Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her team for ensuring cleanliness and providing other public services during the three days of Eid-ul-Azha.

"Well done Punjab! Well done Maryam Nawaz," the prime minister remarked while lauding the Punjab CM and her team for successfully carrying out the cleanliness drive.

He said that an 80% reduction in throwing waste in

the Lahore canal consequent to the use of drones was appreciable.

Prime Minister Shehbaz saluted the cleanliness teams for performing their duties in the scorching hot weather and asked the Punjab government to keep up the tradition of public service and sprinkling rose water in the streets to suppress the odor.

He expressed the hope that the Punjab government would not only continue the standard of public service but would also improve it further. —RT/Agency

Pakistan rejects Indian MEA's statement about Pak-China joint statement on J&K issue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday said that India had no right to object to the references made to Jammu and Kashmir in Pakistan-China joint statement of June 8 and reiterated "it is an established fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally-recognized disputed territory".

In response to media queries regarding the statement made by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on June 3, the Foreign Office Spokesperson in a press statement said that Kashmir dispute has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council for over seven decades.

"The relevant Security Council resolutions clearly stipulate that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in



accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations," it was reasserted.

In that backdrop, the spokesperson said the Indian claims over Jammu and Kashmir were totally unfounded and misplaced. "India should not mislead the international

community about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is a flagship developmental endeavour, agreed upon by two sovereign nations.

Instead of making baseless claims about CPEC, India should implement, at the earliest, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir," it was further added. —RT/Agency

PM strongly condemns killing of senior Landi Kot journalist



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the murder of Khalid Jibrani, a senior journalist in Landi Kot city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The prime minister, sympathising with the bereaved family members of the slain journalist, directed the KP chief minister and relevant authori-

ties to arrest the perpetrators and take them to the task. He reiterated the government's resolve to protect the lives and freedom of the media community.

Prime Minister Shehbaz prayed for Allah Almighty peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss. —RT/Agency

Israeli tanks storm deeper into Rafah, forcing people to relocate again

GAZA: Israeli tanks backed by warplanes and drones advanced deeper into the western part of the Gaza Strip city of Rafah on Wednesday, killing eight people, according to residents and Palestinian medics. Residents said the tanks moved into five neighborhoods after midnight. Heavy shelling and gunfire hit the tents of displaced families in the Al-Mawasi area, further to the west of the coastal enclave, they said. Some eight months into the war, there has been no sign of let up in the fighting as efforts by international mediators, backed by the United States, have so far failed to persuade Israel and Hamas to agree to a ceasefire. Israeli forces have laid waste to much of Gaza and



was looking into the report. Residents said Israeli army forces blew up several homes in western Rafah, which had sheltered over half of Gaza's 2.3 million people before last month, when Israel began its ground offensive and forced most of the population to head northwards. —RT/Agency

Boom Boom Afridi denies endorsing 'pro-Israel' event in UK

LONDON: Pakistani superstar cricketer Shahid Khan Afridi faced controversy after a pro-Israel account on Instagram claimed he supported a "Friends of Israel" event in the UK on Wednesday. Hours after the Instagram account posted Afridi's photo as an "endorsement" of the event in Manchester, Afridi responded on his X handle "Imagine strolling down a street in Man-



chester (UK) and so-called fans approach you for a selfie. You oblige, and moments later, they upload it as some form of Zionist endorsement," Afridi wrote. "Unbelievable!"

Please don't believe everything that is uploaded. "He added that the photo does not signify his support for any situation where "human lives are at stake." "Seeing innocent lives in Palestine suffer is truly heartbreaking. Any photo or association shared in Manchester does not reflect my support for any situation where human lives are at stake," he wrote. —RT/Agency