

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



Khloe Kardashian reveals why she's 'not dating' right now

Heartland

JUI-F stands with the constitution: Maulana Rashid Mahmood Soomro



Money

Zafar Moti is Happy! PSE 100-index up by 2094.76 points to close at 78,801.53



NATIONAL

Look who's talking! Khawaja Asif Slams PTI's Alleged Dependence On External Support Post-Bajwa Era



SPORTS

India defeat Afghanistan by 47 runs in Super 8 clash



Sindh CM Inaugurates \$4 Project For Enhanced Security

Shehbaz Assures Bilawal Of Addressing PPP's Concerns On 'Unilateralism'

ISLAMABAD: After political tensions rose among ruling coalition partners over the matter of federal budget 2024-25, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday assured Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari of taking steps to address the key ally's reservations on multiple issues, media reported citing sources.



The top leaders of the ruling coalition partners — Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the PPP — held a key meeting in the federal capital after the latter lodged a token protest during the recent National Assembly session last week in which Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb unveiled budget 2024-25.

Confidence in decision-making, including the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and budget proposals.

It also emerged that both sides discussed the PPP's inclusion in the federal cabinet and power-sharing in Punjab during the meeting which was also attended by senior leaders.

Bilawal also complained that the ruling party failed to implement the agreement reached with his party, wherein the former supported the latter in the formation of a coalition government, the sources added.

Moreover, the PPP chief also accused Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz-led administration of creating hurdles for his party in Punjab, the sources said adding that Premier Shehbaz agreed on most of the concerns raised by Bilawal and formed separate committees to address those complaints.

The sources said that the committees will hold more

"Economic Hitman": PTI Slams Federal Budget As Detrimental To National Interests

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has termed the budget 2024-25 presented by the federal government in the National Assembly last week against the interests of the country and nation.

"This budget was made by an economic hitman," said Opposition Leader Omar Ayub Khan while addressing on floor of the National Assembly on Thursday.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led coalition government has set a challenging tax revenue target of 13 trillion rupees (\$46.66 billion) for the year starting July 1, a near 40% jump from the current year, in the budget that looked to strengthen the case for a new



18.87 trillion rupees (\$68 billion). Speaking about the ambitious targets set in the federal budget, Ayub said the investors do not inject their capital in countries where the rule of law is not supreme.

The opposition leader said the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) had asked the government to negotiate with all stakeholders to evolve consensus over the federal budget.

"The wings of this finance minister [Muhammad Aurangzeb] have been clipped," the PTI secretary-general claimed, alleging that the government's economic figures are based on lies.

"He further said that the unemployment and inflation increased substantially and per capita income also declined in the country.

On Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement that he would eliminate corruption from the country, Ayub laughed off his statement, saying: "The pot calling

the kettle black."

He said PM Shehbaz, despite being implicated in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) cases, pledged to rid the country of corruption.

Ayub said those involved in the "corruption cases cannot eliminate corruption from the country." "Charity begins at home. Start [accountability] charity from Hudabiyah Paper Mills, London Flats and Sugar Mills," he said referring to the references filed against the Sharif family in the past. "This government is of and for the corrupt people. This government is based on corruption," the opposition leader said, reiterating allegations that his party's mandate was stolen in the February 8 elections.—RT/Agency

-What the hell does he know about the common man? Common Man's Dream Of Owning A Home Now Out Of Reach: Vawda



ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda opposed the imposition of new taxes in the fiscal year budget 2024-25, saying that the common man would not be able to buy a home, media reported.

Senator Saleem Mandviwala chaired a meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance that also opposed a proposal to impose tax on hybrid and electric vehicles in the next fiscal year's budget.

Speaking on the occasion, the independent Senator said that due to the imposition of taxes in the new budget on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) "demand," the property market in Pakistan has come to a halt.

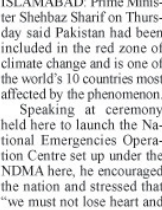
Senator Faisal Vawda also opposed the imposition of additional taxes on hybrids and electric vehicles. He said that additional taxes on vehicles are not acceptable, demanding that the concerned minister should be summoned and asked for an explanation. "The new taxes should not be proposed or else I will speak out openly.

The electric vehicles are being encouraged all over the world but due to changes in taxes and policies no one sets up industry in Pakistan," Senator Faisal Vawda said.

"I know who is taxing the vehicles, I should not be forced to speak out in public," he added.

The Senate Committee on Finance decided to call up Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain Rana Tanveer Hussain to the committee for the explanation. During the meeting, the Senators were informed that the 25 percent tax exemption for vehicles costing more than 15 million has been proposed to be abolished. At this Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) told the committee members that this was proposed by the Ministry of Industries and Production but by the FBR. The FBR officials said that taxes have been proposed on imported vehicles and locally manufactured would not be charged with additional taxes.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Among Top 10 Countries Most Affected By Climate Change: Shehbaz



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said Pakistan had been included in the red zone of climate change and is one of the world's 10 countries most affected by the phenomenon.

Speaking at ceremony held here to launch the National Emergencies Operation Centre set up under the NDMA here, he encouraged the nation and stressed that "we must not lose heart and work hard."

He was all praise for the NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) for its "important role in the rehabilitation of flood victims" in 2022.

He recalled that the country suffered \$30 billion loss in 2022 floods. The deluge wreaked havoc in Sindh and the NDMA played an important role in rescue and rehabilitation of flood victims, he added.

The prime minister commended the NDMA chairman who took steps to tackle the challenges of climate change. The NDMA devised a strategy and implemented it successfully in unison with other departments.



He mentioned the NDMA's weather information system and said it is a role model for other departments as well.

The joint efforts of the provinces and the federal government ensured the rehabilitation of the flood victims, he continued.

He said Pakistan faced many floods in the past and the government had earmarked Rs100 billion for the rehabilitation of flood victims in the next budget.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said Pakistan raised voice at the flood victims at a donors' conference in Geneva and stressed on measures for their rehabilitation.

He promised that the government would provide all

possible resources to the NDMA. He urged the NDMA to follow merit, pay no heed to any recommendation, pick the best manpower and pay special attention to their training, the premier stated.

He stressed the NDMA to be in close contact with the provinces and have an integrated and comprehensive communication system.

The premier said that the government has earmarked Rs80 billion for information technology. A Chinese company would impart IT skills to 300,000 children every year. The government has planned to train millions of our boys and girls in IT so that they could earn decent living.—RT/Agency

Government Initiating Reforms In Energy Sector To Lower Electricity Tariffs: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said the government was bringing reforms in the energy sector to reduce per unit rate of electricity in the country.



He was talking to a delegation of foreign experts in the energy sector, led by former Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri which called on him here at the PM House.

In the meeting, the prime minister highlighted that circular debt, line losses and electricity theft were the major challenges in Pakistan's energy sector.

Emphasizing the importance of energy sector for the country's economic growth and development, he expressed his government's commitment to implementing policies that reduce circular debt and improve the efficiency of electricity bill collection.

He said privatization and outsourcing of the power distribution companies was the top priority of the govern-

ment. "In this regard the government desires to take benefit from the Georgian experience."

The prime minister expressed his government's desire to promote alternative energy sources, particularly solar energy, and reduce reliance on expensive energy sources.

He said the government would also promote public-private partnership in the energy sector.

The prime minister directed the federal ministers to consult with the delegation regarding the basic reforms of the energy sector in the country and to set up a comprehensive strategy regarding these reforms immediately.

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik, Power Minister Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik, and relevant high officials attended the meeting.—RT/Agency

Sheikh Rashid Views Imran's Release As Unlikely



RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that there are no chances of the release of PTI founder Imran Khan in near future.

Talking to a private TV channel here on Wednesday, he said that the election tribunals case is very important. There will be changes,

"as I have said, something will happen till Aug 30."

He said the entire vote bank belongs to the PTI founder. But the environment is not conducive for Imran Khan's release soon, he added.

Rashid said that he sacrificed two camels, greeted people on Eid and had meal at the National Press Club.—RT/Agency

Google Partners With Pakistan To Enhance Education Access And Drive Digital Transformation



ISLAMABAD: Google for Education and Pakistan's Ministry of Federal Education today announced a strategic collaboration to bring digital transformation to millions of students in the country. The partnership will improve access to education and support the development of a digital ecosystem for learning — for Pakistan's tens of millions of students.

Google, through its Google for Education's country partner, Tech Valley, will work with the Pakistani government to:

Establish a local assembly of over 500,000 Chromebooks by 2026

Provide access to digital tools and resources for students and teachers

Train teachers on how to use technology effectively in the classroom

Develop and implement innovative learning programs that leverage technology

The collaboration will focus on helping out-of-school children in Pakistan.

Last month, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, declared an "education emergency" to address the issue of over 26 million children being out of school.

He pledged to oversee a national program to enroll these children back into education.

Both partners will work together to empower educators and students, focusing on upskilling, training, and

building flexible smart classrooms.

Shehbaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, emphasized the need for such initiatives and said, "The work Google has been doing in the education sector is highly commendable, and we are here to support its efforts in Pakistan."

He also expressed a strong interest in expanding the collaboration between Google and the Government of Pakistan and requested the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional and the Ministry of IT & Telecom to work closely to identify mutually beneficial synergies.

Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Federal Minister of Education and Professional Training, said, "The partnership with Google for Education is a significant step forward in our efforts to provide quality education to all children in Pakistan.—RT/Agency

LHC Chief Justice: State Departments Pose Serious Threats, Harass Courts

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice (CJ) Malik Shahzad Ahmad on Thursday said that state departments are causing serious threats to and harassing the courts and their staff, along with creating hurdles in procedures.



The chief justice's remarks were made in the written order for a case on the alleged threats to a judge of a Sargodha anti-terrorism court (ATC) and his harassment by the intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

Last week, CJ Ahmad had summoned Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Usman Anwar and other offi-

he said that on May 25 — the first day of his new charge as Sargodha ATC judge — a message was conveyed to him that some authority of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) wanted to meet him in his chamber.

Upon refusing to meet the said authority, DSJ Abbas alleged that ever since then, he had been encountering various incidents, such as firing outside his ATC and questioning from family members, among others.

CJ Ahmad had reserved his verdict in the matter on June 13. The verdict was announced in today's hearing.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Transgender Project Manager, Maryam Shaikh and others are addressing a press conference for the Transgender community's rights, at the Hyderabad press club-RT

MPA Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq, Pir Danish visit shrine of Faqir Pir Shahnawaz Lahooti (RA)

By Javed Laghari

DADU: PPP MPA Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq and Dadu Municipal Committee Chairman Pir Danish Ali paid homage to his grandfather, Faqir Pir Shahnawaz Lahooti (RA), at his shrine where they participated in a gathering and offered prayers. The spiritual significance of Sufi saints in Sindh was highlighted by both leaders, underscoring the profound impact of their teachings on the community.



Liaquat Soomro, a local lawyer, praised the PPP's efforts in spearheading development projects in Dadu, particularly initiatives aimed at empowering the youth. The presence of Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq and Pir Danish at the shrine exemplifies their commitment to honoring Sufi traditions and promoting unity among the people of Dadu. Their visit signifies the enduring legacy of spiritual leaders in shaping the cultural and social fabric of Sindh.

Kunri Police arrest a drug dealer



By MM Faisal

KUNRI: In a significant operation led by SHO Ifkhar Ahmed Bajwa, Kunri Police raided a house in the Gharibabad neighborhood based on a tip-off. During the raid, they seized a large quantity of intoxicants and arrested one individual. Specifically, 7,000 pieces of cloth were confiscated as part of the operation.

The police arrested Saqib Marwari, who was detained and subsequently charged under the Narcotics Act. According to the police, Saqib Marwari had been bringing drugs from other areas and selling them in Kunri. This successful operation is a significant step in the fight against drug trafficking in the region.



LARKANA: Relatives of Ahmed Ali Jatoti are holding a protest demonstration against his killing and demanding the arrest of the murderers, at the Larkana press club-RT

Court Sends Six Suspects on Physical Remand for Cutting Camel's Limb

SANGHAR: A court in Sanghar on Thursday sent six suspects, allegedly involved in the case pertaining to chopping off a camel's leg, on physical remand for two days.



The court pronounced the judgement after hearing the case as police produced the suspects before it following the completion of their previous remand. The investigation officer apprised the court that two of the suspects had admitted to the crime. Additionally, two axes were recovered from the suspects, according to the IO.

A Shahdadpur magistrate on June 16 remanded the suspects into police custody for four days, hours after their arrest. The victim camel was shifted to Karachi on June 15 and has since been treated and cared for by a non-governmental organisation for the rehabilitation.

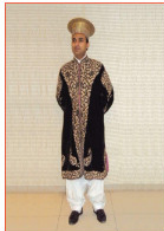
The heartbreaking incident took place on June 14 in the Mundh Jamrao area. The animal had entered agricultural land, angering its owner, who then resorted to physical violence against the camel. The landlord, along with his employees, first physically tortured the camel as punishment for entering the land for fodder. Later, they cut the animal's leg with a sharp tool. The camel's video went viral on social media, with thousands of people condemning the brutal action. Despite the uproar, the police initially registered a first information report (FIR) against unknown individuals, Geo News reported, and not the landlord who was involved in the incident.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ijaz later confirmed that law enforcers had arrested five people in connection with the animal abuse, of whom two had confessed to the crime. Meanwhile, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori announced that he would give two camels to the person whose animal was hurt.—RT

45th birthday of Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi celebrated with zeal in Qazi Ahmed

By Mumtaz Ali

QAZI AHMED: The 45th birthday of Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi, the spiritual leader of Jamaat Luari Sharif, was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Taluka Press Club in Qazi Ahmed on Thursday. The event was graced by the presence of Sirai Allah Rakhio Jatoti, Manager of the Pir of Luari Sharif, along with prominent figures such as President of Nishat Jamaat Luari Sharif Shahed Benazirabad Region Ali Bux Qureshi, Mumtaz Memon, Samiullah Junejo, Abdul Jabbar Abro, Ali Raza, and Ramzan Lashari. During the celebration, leaders of Jamaat Luari



Sharif cut a birthday cake and offered prayers for the long life and well-being of Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi. The gathering highlighted the respect and reverence held for the spiritual leader within the community.

IRM and Islamic Relief Host Certificate Ceremony for 90 Youth Trainees

HYDERABAD: The Institute of Rural Management (IRM), in collaboration with Islamic Relief, organized a certificate giving ceremony for 90 youths who received training in various fields. The event took place in a local community in Hyderabad and saw the participation of IRM Regional Head Abdul Rab Bharru, Coordinator of Islamic Relief Mahesh Kumar, Professor Dr. Arifa Bhutto, Professor Ghulam Ali Bharru, and social leader Bhispha Kumari.



Educational experts and social leaders at the event praised IRM's efforts in teaching valuable skills to the youth. They highlighted the importance of such programs in combating the rise of drug addiction and other social evils among unemployed youth. The provision of skills training not only stabilizes them economically but also empowers them to contribute positively to society and support their families.

Regional Head, detailed the program's achievements. He explained that IRM has trained hundreds of young boys and girls in rural areas of Sindh in fields such as scooter mechanics, car driving, electricity, sewing, and beautician skills. The current program trained 90 youths from Dadu district in scooter mechanics, car driving, and electrician work over a month-long course in Hyderabad, during which participants were provided with good accommodation and food. Bharru emphasized that, alongside technical training, the program also

imparted knowledge on employment and marketing methods to help the youth start their own businesses post-training. The ultimate goal is to place trained individuals in industrial establishments, enabling them to contribute to the country's development and the well-being of their families. Overall, the ceremony celebrated the successful completion of the training program and underscored the significance of skill development initiatives in fostering economic stability and social betterment.—RT

Water shortage intensifies in Pithoro



By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Due to the negligence of the Irrigation Department, a severe crisis of drinking and agricultural water has emerged in the Pithoro Tehsil. The shortage of water has affected various canals, including Khipro Canal, Mithrao Canal, Khai Shakk, Pithoro Mines, Saedi Branch, Sarhari Branch, Jumma Branch and others at the tail-ends. Due to this artificial shortage, thousands of acres of crops have dried up and been destroyed, and drinking water has become scarce in the areas. The intense heat and lack of water have led to people, animals, and livestock dying of thirst, forcing the residents to drink brackish underground water. The town administration has stopped the water supply due to unavailability. Citizens are closing their businesses and wandering in the intense heat and sunlight in search of water. The farmer and peasant communities have started to migrate. Residents of Pithoro state that for the past month, no water has reached the tail end of the Khai Mines, causing the city's ponds to dry up and creating a drinking water crisis. They are forced to drink brackish underground water, leading to various diseases. The town administration has stopped the water supply due to unavailability. Citizens are closing their businesses and wandering in the intense heat and sunlight in search of water, forced to buy water at Rs 300 to Rs 500 per drum. The elected representatives of the area have remained silent.

Services of Civil Hospital TMK's MS Dr. Shehla Shah lauded

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Dr. Shehla Shah, the Medical Superintendent of the District Hospital in Tando Muhammad Khan, has been widely praised for her dedicated services. On Eid day, Dr. Shehla Shah made a surprise visit to the hospital, where she met with the paramedical staff, on-duty doctors, and patients admitted in various wards. She distributed juice, biscuits, and Eid gifts to them, bringing joy to both patients and staff.



Her actions have garnered commendation from citizens as well as political and social workers. Leaders of the Quamrasta Awami Ittehad, including Javed Halipoto, SUP leader Munawar Soomro, and human rights leader Ghulam Hussain Solangi, have highlighted the significant improvements in the hospital since Dr. Shehla Shah's arrival. Notably, she has taken a strong stand against the electricity theft mafia, cutting off illegal connections and taking legal action against those involved.

Dr. Shehla Shah has also restored modern machinery, such as previously non-functional X-ray machines, and ensured the provision of free and quality medicines. These efforts have greatly benefited many helpless and needy patients from distant areas.

However, her increasing popularity and effective measures have not been well received by some corrupt elements and mafias.

Despite this opposition, Dr. Shehla Shah continues to set a brave example, curbing electricity theft and enhancing healthcare services in the district hospital. Her visit on Eid and ongoing efforts to improve the hospital's operations have been met with widespread appreciation, showcasing her commitment to the well-being of the community.

18th Basic Training Course for Junior Prison Officers underway at Sindh Prisons Staff Training Institute Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Prisons Staff Training Institute in Hyderabad is currently conducting the 18th Basic Training Course for Junior Prison Officers. This comprehensive four-month program aims to prepare 145 officers with essential skills and knowledge for effective prison management across the region.



The training curriculum includes both foundational and academic components, focusing on various aspects of organizing and administering correctional facilities. Participants are actively engaged in specialized visits to key institutions such as the Juvenile Jail, Women's Jail, and Central Jail Hyderabad. These visits provide invaluable hands-on experience and insights into the diverse challenges inherent in managing different types of prisons in Sindh. Principal SSP Ashfaq

Kalwar, along with Dr. Hassan Bux Noonari and Vice Principal Asif Lakho, have been pivotal in organizing these educational visits. Their dedication ensures that the training is comprehensive and relevant, equipping officers with the necessary skills to handle the complexities of prison administration effectively. This training initiative underscores ongoing efforts to enhance professionalism within the prison system, aiming for improved management and rehabilitation outcomes. It reflects a commitment to providing high-quality education and preparation to junior prison officers, essential for maintaining security and fostering rehabilitation within correctional facilities.—RT

Sufi Ladharam Library inaugurated in Samaro

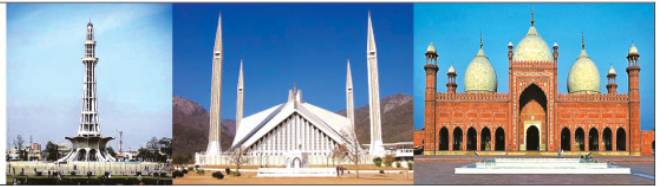


By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The efforts of Samaro's youth bore fruit with the inauguration of the Sufi Ladharam Library, a significant milestone for education and knowledge in the region. The inauguration ceremony, graced by renowned literary figure Jami Chandio, Rasool Bux Khaskheli, Khalil Kumbhar, and other dignitaries, drew a crowd of enthusiastic youths from Samaro Road and surrounding areas.

The establishment of the library is seen as a beacon of enlightenment for the community, symbolizing a commitment to education and intellectual growth. Resool Bakhsh Khaskheli emphasized that the library will foster a conducive environment for a promising future in Samaro Road. Muhammad Aslam Shahani highlighted the transformative impact the library will have on the youth, enhancing their knowledge and intellectual capabilities. Chetan Meghwar stressed the importance of education as a fundamental right and expressed optimism that education fueled by passion will empower the community to overcome future challenges. The inauguration marks a significant step towards fostering a culture of learning and development in Samaro.

NATIONAL



Maryam Approves Ministry Restructuring In Punjab

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has given the green light to the formation of a committee aimed at restructuring ministries and departments to enhance governance efficiency across the province.

According to a statement from the CM's House, a 14-member special high-powered committee has been constituted to formulate recommendations within 60 days. Senior Provincial Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb will chair the committee, with Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman and Law Minister Shahab Ahmad Barh among its members.

The restructuring initiative will focus on downsizing departments incurring losses



and eliminating redundancies among institutions performing similar functions, the statement highlighted. The objective is to streamline operations, simplify the public service delivery system, and expedite institutional performance.

Separately, the CM's House announced the expansion of "CM Maryam Nawaz Free WiFi" services to 200 points in Lahore, facilitated by the Punjab Safe City Authority. This initiative is part of the Digital Punjab vision, offering emergency WiFi services for citizens, enabling access to safety apps and facilitating emergency contacts via WhatsApp.—RT/Agency

Punjab Government Accused Of Deceiving Farmers With 'Kisan Card'

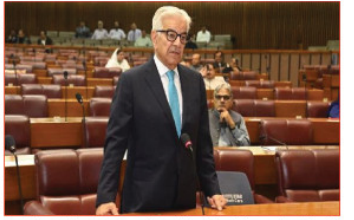


LAHORE: Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar accused the government of deceiving farmers through the 'Kisan Card'. In accordance with parliamentary traditions, the opposition leader launched a scathing critique of the budget during Thursday's general debate in the Punjab Assembly.

"Currently, only 50% of industries are operational in Faisalabad, with 30% of the workforce unemployed in Punjab's industrial hub," stated the opposition leader. He pointed out that the 'Kisan Card' initiative was originally launched by the

-Look who's talking! Khawaja Asif Slams PTI's Alleged Dependence On External Support Post-Bajwa Era

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khawaja Asif launched a scathing attack on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), accusing them of seeking support from new quarters following the departure of former army chief General (ret) Qamar Javed Bajwa. Addressing the National Assembly, Asif referenced Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Aun Chaudhry's claim that PTI founder Imran Khan was once hidden in a car trunk and taken to the residence of General (ret) Amjad Awan.



According to Asif, during this visit, the IPP leader alleged that Khan made desperate requests for relief, beyond even grasping General Bajwa's support. "After Bajwa sahib, the [PTI] are now trying to hold

the feet of someone else. Hardly anyone has 'licked' as many shoes as the PTI founder," remarked the federal minister. Asif's remarks came in response to PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan's criticism of the federal government's budget, which he described as detrimental to national interests. The PML-N leader also recalled Ayub's past praise for PML-N leaders Nawaz and Shehbaz Sharif, contrasting it with his current support for Imran Khan. Furthermore, Asif criticized the PTI for the violent protests that erupted nationwide following Imran Khan's arrest last year, urging the PTI to apologize for the incident. He also condemned the opposition's appeal to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a link funding with an audit of alleged election rigging.—RT/Agency

Transformation Of Pakistan's Education System Underway: Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, emphasized the government's commitment to revolutionizing Pakistan's education system. He highlighted the significant challenges posed by the high number of out-of-school children and its profound impact on society.

Dr. Khalid made these remarks during a meeting with a high-level delegation led by Kevin Kells, Managing Director of Google for Education, which included Farhan Qureshi, Country Director Pakistan Google, Aron Saether Jackson, CEO Allied, Umar Farooq, CEO Tech Valley, and other senior officials from Google. The delegation, representing seven countries including the USA, UK, and Australia, discussed collaboration opportunities with the Ministry of Education, attended by senior ministry officials led by Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani.



The minister welcomed the diverse expertise of the Google delegation and the renewed efforts to address the education crisis in Pakistan. He expressed optimism that leveraging the delegation's knowledge and capabilities would help devise effective strategies for tackling this critical issue.

Dr. Khalid urged the delegation to expand their engagement in Pakistan's education sector, emphasizing the pivotal role of technology in bridging resource gaps. He highlighted Pakistan's potential for development and investment with increased participation from tech companies, foreseeing enhanced productivity and skills development, particularly in cities like Karachi.

Concluding the meeting, Dr. Khalid reiterated his commitment to supporting technological advancements in education and thanked the delegation for their collaboration, expecting prompt implementation of short, medium, and long-term investment plans.—RT/Agency

Elderly Lahore Siblings Die Due To Food Poisoning



LAHORE: Tragedy struck as two elderly siblings, aged 70 and 75, succumbed to food poisoning inside their residence in Lahore, according to media reports citing police sources.

The initial post-mortem report indicated that the siblings, discovered deceased in their home in Ghalib Market Canal Park, Gulberg Market, had passed away due to food poisoning, police stated. Authorities have dispatched the deceased siblings' bodily organs for forensic examination to aid ongoing investigations.

The victims, identified as 70-year-old Hamid and his 75-year-old sister Saima, were found dead in separate locations within their residence. Hamid was discovered in a courtyard, while Saima's body was re-

covered from a room. A case has been registered against unidentified persons based on a statement from the siblings' brother, Babar. Police are actively conducting further inquiries into the incident.

In a separate tragic incident, four minor girls and their 34-year-old mother died after consuming poisonous food in Tandianwala, Punjab. The victims were identified as three-year-old Farzana, four-year-old Aqsa, five-year-old Rukhsana, eight-year-old Muskan, and their mother. The incident occurred in Tandianwala, situated approximately 40 kilometers from Faisalabad and 45 kilometers from Okara. The bodies were transferred to District Headquarters Hospital, with police confirming the fatalities.—RT/Agency

Senator Awan Voices Concerns Over Inadequate Funding For Karachi's K-IV Water Project

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and former Minister of State, Senator Shahadat Awan, expressed deep concern on Thursday regarding the insufficient allocation of funds for Karachi's vital K-IV water project, crucial for supplying clean drinking water to the city's residents.

Speaking to the media outside the Parliament House, Senator Awan emphasized the urgent need to redirect resources towards the development of Karachi and Sindh. He highlighted significant financial disparities evident in the current budget, particularly noting the discrepancies surrounding the K-IV project. Initially budgeted at Rs 120 billion, with Rs 56 billion already expended, the project was expected to receive Rs 70 billion this fiscal year. However, only Rs 25 billion has been allocated for the year 2024-25.



Senator Awan also underscored several other projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). He referenced the Supreme Court's directive to clear encroachments on Karachi's K-IV railway land, with the federal government pledging resources for resettling affected residents, yet minimal progress has been made.

Regarding the federal budget discussions, Senator Awan criticized the 14-day period allotted as insufficient for a thorough review of its various aspects. He advocated for an extended period to ensure comprehensive evaluation. Responding to questions, Senator Awan affirmed that the public is willing to pay taxes if assured of their welfare-oriented utilization. He criticized the adequacy of salary increases for government employees, given the current 16% inflation rate and expanded tax brackets, calling for adjustments to align with inflation levels.—RT/Agency

PESCO Takes Legal Action Against PTI MNA For Power Supply Incident

NOWSHERA: The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) has initiated legal action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Zulfiqar Khan for forcibly restoring power supply to 17 feeders in Nowshera.

Accompanied by party workers, the PTI-affiliated MNA stormed Pabbi and Taru Jaba grid stations, prompting PESCO to send a letter for lodging a case against him for his actions.

Similar incidents of forcibly restoring power supply have occurred in Mardan, Charsadda, Tank, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan), and Peshawar.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur intervened by fixing loadshedding durations to a maximum of 12 hours. He emphasized that assembly members should ensure compliance with the schedule by



visiting grid stations in their respective areas.

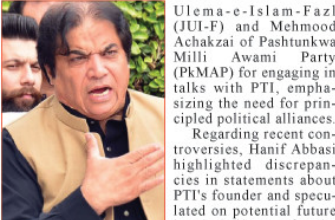
The trend of entering power grid stations in KP started after PTI-backed Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Fazal Elahi forced his way into the Rehman Baba grid station in Peshawar, responding to protests over loadshedding. In a separate development, PESCO provided details on provinciewide electricity feed-

ers, with varying durations of loadshedding based on losses incurred in different areas. Urban areas are experiencing 4 to 6 hours of loadshedding, while suburban areas face up to 16 hours due to high losses attributed to electricity theft and non-payment of dues. Meanwhile, PTI workers protested against loadshedding in Mardan, staging a sit-in outside the Wapda office and negotiating with officials.—RT/Agency

Hanif Abbasi Claims PTI Has 'Planted' PML-N Leaders, Alleges Foreign Funding

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Hanif Abbasi made startling revelations, alleging that his party has strategically placed individuals within the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

In an exclusive interview with the media, Hanif Abbasi asserted that these 'planted' individuals, whose names he did not disclose, have direct interactions, including visits to the PTI founder in jail, all while operating covertly on behalf of PML-N interests. "We don't provide monetary incentives to these planted individuals; they work in anticipation of securing prominent positions," clarified Hanif Abbasi. Accusing PTI of receiving



foreign funding, Hanif Abbasi referenced statements by PTI spokesperson Rauf Hasan purportedly confirming the receipt of funds from overseas sources. Hanif Abbasi also criticized Maulana Fazlur Rahman of Jamiat

Azma Bukhari Highlights Maryam's Effective Leadership



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari praised Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for her effective leadership in ensuring the implementation of government directives.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore alongside Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique, Bukhari highlighted CM Maryam Nawaz's commitment to practical initiatives, citing Punjab's successful cleanliness drive during Eidul Azha.

"We witnessed CM Maryam Nawaz's vision in action this Eidul Azha, where Punjab achieved a record in cleanliness efforts," said Bukhari.

She further informed that a rigorous crackdown was carried out against overcharging passengers during the Eid days, resulting in fines issued to 1,448 vehi-

Shaheed Rani's Birthday And A Gift More Valuable Than Life



By Sharjeel Inam Memon

June 21 marks the birthday of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. Born into a royal family in Sindh on June 21, 1953, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto rejected a life of comfort and consciously chose a path filled with struggle and ultimately embraced martyrdom. This decision, unprecedented in history, raises the question: Why did she choose this path? This question can only be answered by those who stood for truth, even at the cost of their greatest treasure - life itself.

In her book "Reconciliation," Shaheed Benazir Bhutto wrote, "I endured the persecution of my father's arrest, imprisonment, and execution, wounds of the soul that never heal. I was ready to endure anything to shield my children from the pain I suffered on my father's death, but this was one thing I couldn't do."

From these words, it becomes clear that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto chose this path herself. Despite the immense personal tragedy of her father's judicial murder, Shaheed Rani could have chosen a comfortable life abroad. Yet, she recognized Pakistan's significance to its people. Despite the risks, she chose to stay and engage in politics for the sake of her homeland and its people.

Once, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto told her that she could live peacefully in a European country if she wished. Shaheed Benazir Bhutto replied that she would fulfill

her father's mission, no matter the hardships. She cared not for her own life but for her children, striving to shield them from the suffering she endured due to her father's persecution. Above all, she could not abandon the people of Pakistan.

On her birthday, June 21, 1978, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto penned a heartfelt letter to her from his prison cell in Central Jail Rawalpindi. This letter, later published under the title "My Dearest Daughter," bestowed upon her the support of the people as a gift.

In this poignant letter, Shaheed Bhutto addressed his beloved daughter, Benazir Bhutto, stating, "From this prison cell, from which I cannot extend my hand, I give you the hand of the people as a gift. What event can I organize for you? I give you the gift of a renowned name and the legacy of a significant event. You are the heir to the oldest civilization. Play your full part in advancing this ancient civilization into a highly developed and powerful one. By developed and powerful, I do not mean a fearful society. A truly civilized society is the most advanced and powerful, nurturing the unique sentiments of its people."

Upon her return to Pakistan on October 18, 2007, after eight years of exile, a multitude gathered in Karachi. On that fateful day, forces opposed to the people attempted to assassinate her, reinforcing her belief in the threat posed by anti-people forces. During a press conference on October 19, 2007, at Bilawal House, she boldly declared her commitment to continue campaigning in Pakistan despite the risks.

In subsequent rallies, she reiterated, "We live and die with the people. We are a resilient nation, rich in ideas and emotions. We know how to live and how to face death." Finally, on December 27, 2007, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto tragically sacrificed her life among the people.

Until her last breath, she held onto the gift of public support given by her father, Shaheed Bhutto. Today, on her birthday, this gift serves as a reminder to all who follow Shaheed Bibi's path: never let go of the people's hand. The gift of politics is under the feet of the people." History then witnessed Shaheed Bhutto bestowing upon his beloved daughter the gift of people's support on her birthday. Shaheed Benazir Bhutto cherished this gift more than life itself, continuing to champion the cause of people's rights during one of the most challenging eras in political history. In an age when neo-fascist forces waged war on the people, causing more bloodshed than world wars, she emerged as a formidable leader. Facing military dictatorships and terrorist threats, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto united democratic forces and successfully restored democracy in Pakistan. She thwarted the anti-Pakistan agenda of neo-fascist forces, granting democratic rights and security to the people. Upon her return to Pakistan on October 18, 2007, after eight years of exile, a multitude gathered in Karachi. On that fateful day, forces opposed to the people attempted to assassinate her, reinforcing her belief in the threat posed by anti-people forces. During a press conference on October 19, 2007, at Bilawal House, she boldly declared her commitment to continue campaigning in Pakistan despite the risks. In subsequent rallies, she reiterated, "We live and die with the people. We are a resilient nation, rich in ideas and emotions. We know how to live and how to face death." Finally, on December 27, 2007, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto tragically sacrificed her life among the people. Until her last breath, she held onto the gift of public support given by her father, Shaheed Bhutto. Today, on her birthday, this gift serves as a reminder to all who follow Shaheed Bibi's path: never let go of the people's hand.

EDITORIAL

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

Friday, June 21, 2024

Rising Ethnic Violence Threatens National Unity

The recent abduction of ten residents from Punjab at Shuban picnic point in Quetta, Balochistan, is a deeply disturbing incident that underscores a dangerous and escalating trend of ethnic targeting. Armed men, identifying victims by their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs), singled out Punjabis for abduction while releasing others. This alarming event follows a pattern of ethnic violence, including last year's horrific murder of six laborers from Punjab in Kech, Turbat.

This surge in ethnically motivated attacks is not just a Balochistan issue but a significant threat to the integrity of our federation. The targeting of individuals based solely on their ethnicity reveals a deep-seated hatred that risks spiraling into broader,

uncontrollable conflict. It is a stark reminder of the fragility of our national unity and the dire need for immediate and decisive action.



The government's response to these incidents has been alarmingly inadequate. There is a palpable sense of apathy and dangerous ignorance from authorities, who have yet to demonstrate a robust strategy to protect citizens and address the root causes of ethnic violence. This negligence not only endangers lives but also emboldens perpetrators who operate with impunity.

The kidnapping of a Customs Officer among the abductees highlights that no one is immune from this terror. It is a call to action for law enforcement agencies and government officials to step up their efforts in safeguarding all citizens, irrespective of their ethnic background. There must be a concerted effort to ensure justice for the victims and to dismantle the networks that perpetuate these heinous crimes.

Ignoring these issues will only lead to further destabilization, not just in Balochistan but across the country. It is imperative for the government to recognize the gravity of this situation and to take immediate, concrete steps to restore security and foster national cohesion. The future of our federation depends on it.

THE HEARTLAND



VC Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto chairs meeting of SABS University's Syndicate

By Shaikh Sindhri & Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO/KOTRI: The 4th meeting of Syndicate at Shaheed Allah Bukh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro was held under the chair of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto to discuss and resolve matters relating to smooth conduct of business at the university.

The meeting was held in a pleasant environment with amicable dialogues and discussions, and in a cordial spirit. The house confirmed the minutes of 3rd meeting of syndicate held on March 10, 2024, persuaded the actions taken on the decisions of the same meeting and acknowledged the actions taken by Vice-chancellor after 3rd syndicate meeting. The recommendations of anomaly committee for upgradation of assistant professors Syed Ali Abbas Jafari and Nurat Raza Mangi to next higher grade BPS-20 on hardship basis. The house recommended to form a committee with the



approval of Vice-Chancellor SABS University to discuss the bond amount after receiving the resignation of assistant professor of Architecture Department Saima Shaikh, who went for PhD to Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The august house endorsed the decision of imposition of major penalty of removal from service to deputy director finance Asif Ali Shar on recommendation of women harassment committee of SABS University. The syndicate offered in person hearing on appeal of Asif Ali Shar against the imposition of major penalty of removal from service on harassment charges, and the decision was upheld until the opinion from legal advisor.

The meeting was attended by the nominee from HEC Islamabad Prof. Dr. Nilofar Shaikh, nominee from HEC Sindh Nadira Panjwani, person of eminence Sharif Awan, person of eminence Dr. Noman Ahmed, member on women's quota Prof. Shahnaz Ismail, person of eminence Prof. Tazeen Hussain, elected members Fazal Ellahi Khan, Shahid Qayoom Memon, Muhammad Younis Kangri, acting registrar Muhammad Suleman Bhutto and In-charge Director Finance Muneer Ahmed Khatian.

Miscreants destroy standing crops of red chili in Kunri



By MM Faisal

KUNRI: In Kunri, on Nabisar Road, miscreants destroyed a chili crop worth lacs of rupees, prompting poor farmers and landlords to protest and raise slogans. According to details, in the village of Haji Gul Hassan Memon, half an acre of chili belonging to a poor farmer was cut down by miscreants. Despite reporting the incident to the police, no action has been taken.

The affected farmers and landowners, including women and children, staged a protest, raising slogans against the destruction of the chili crops and the abuses by

influential landlords. Landowner Gul Hassan Memon and other protesters voiced their fears, saying that influential individuals were making threats, including threats of murder and false legal cases. They expressed severe anxiety and fear.

The protesters demanded that higher authorities take notice of the situation, take action against the influential individuals responsible, and provide justice and protection. The destruction of these valuable crops represents a significant financial loss for the already struggling farmers, amplifying their need for immediate intervention and support from the authorities.

JUI-F stands with the constitution: Maulana Rashid Mehmood Soomro

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: JUI-F Sindh's Secretary General, Maulana Rashid Mehmood Soomro, declared that his party will neither support the Prime Minister nor align with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He emphasized that JUI-F stands with those who uphold the country and the constitution.

Speaking to the media in Jacobabad after offering condolences over the sad demise of JUI-F leaders Maulana Fakhar Zaman Soomro and district leader Mir Hassan Sahandaro, Maulana Soomro criticized the current budgets, stating there is no difference between the federal and Sindh budgets, claiming that



the nation has been mocked under the guise of the budget. He also accused the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of using its boycott of the federal budget as a tactic to blackmail and gain benefits, describing it as an attempt to deceive the public and labeling the whole situation as a drama.

District Ameer Dr. AG Ansari, District General Secretary Syed Abdul Basit Shah, and Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Channa were also present during the media interaction.

People of Nawabshah protest against prolonged power outages

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: Angered by persistent power outages, residents of Daulat Colony in Nawabshah staged a protest demonstration that disrupted Sarkand Road as they burned tires to highlight their grievances. The demonstrators, including Shahmeer Mallah, Tariq Samo, Asad Mallah, Iqbal Mallah, and others, voiced their frustrations to the media.

They lamented that a malfunctioning transformer in their locality has left them without electricity for the past three days. Despite multiple complaints to the relevant authorities, no action has been taken to rectify the



situation. The prolonged outage has severely affected daily life, with children enduring the sweltering heat without fans or lights. "We demand immediate repair of the transformer," stated the protesters, emphasizing that their protest will continue until their demands for reliable electricity supply are met.

The demonstration underscores the urgent need for infrastructure maintenance to ensure uninterrupted power supply for the residents of Nawabshah.

PPP Minority Wing's Sunil Kumar demands financial assistance for Daur's fire victims

TALHAR: Sunil Kumar, leader of the Pakistan People's Party minority wing, has expressed profound grief over the tragic incident in Daur city, Nawabshah district, where two lives were lost and numerous shops and houses were consumed by a devastating fire. Among the victims were prominent social figure and business leader Surya Chand and his nephew Prakash Kumar, who tragically perished in the blaze. The fire also destroyed a building and a shop belonging to Gokul Das, resulting in extensive financial losses amounting to millions of rupees. Sunil Kumar has appealed to President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Chief Minister of Sindh, and elected members of the assembly to swiftly intervene. He urged them to provide fi-



financial assistance and compensation to the affected families who have suffered immensely due to the fire incident. The call for support

aims to alleviate the hardships faced by the victims and to aid in their recovery from the devastating loss of lives and livelihoods.

Skyrocketing prices of daily use commodities irk people of Jhando Marri

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Residents of Jhando Marri, along with nearby towns like Usman Shah Huri, Meerabad, Pyaro Lund, and others, have expressed deep frustration over the exorbitant prices set by local shopkeepers. The community has raised concerns about the lack of intervention from authorities in addressing this pressing issue.

According to reports from local media outlets, shopkeepers in Jhando Marri and surrounding areas have significantly raised prices on essential commodities such as maize, flour, rice, pulses, vegetables, fruits, and meat. These price hikes have placed a heavy burden on the local population, who find it increasingly difficult to afford basic ne-

cessities. In response to public outcry, the Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Jhando Marri has initiated raids on grocery stores, vegetable vendors, fruit sellers, meat shops, and other retail establishments. These raids aim to verify price lists and ensure compliance with fair pricing regulations based on daily market rates.

The public has appealed to the AC of Jhando Marri, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Tando Allahyar, and other relevant officials to take decisive action against shopkeepers engaging in unfair pricing practices. They hope that stringent measures will be implemented swiftly to alleviate the financial strain on the community and provide relief to those struggling with high living costs.

Reopening of dispensary in Pyaro Station demanded

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: The closure of Pyaro Station's dispensary has sparked widespread protests among residents, leading to demonstrations where protesters blocked roads with tires and placards bearing slogans condemning the dispensary's closure. Beginning from Bazaar Chowk, demonstrators including Munir Samo, Muhammad Yousuf Channa, Akhtar Channa, Imdad Channa, Shahid Arain, Adeel Bhatti, Naveed Arain, Muhammad Ali Qureshi, Sikandar Ali Panthwar, and others voiced their grievances against the decision.



Protesters emphasized the injustice faced by the local community due to the shutdown of the dispensary, which has deprived the poor of convenient access to essential healthcare services. They argued that the closure forces vulnerable residents to either incur high costs for treatment at private hospitals or forego medical attention altogether, exacerbating their hardships. The demonstrators called upon Dr. Azra Pechuho, the Minister of Health, and other relevant authorities to intervene urgently. They demanded the immediate reopening of the dispensary to ensure that underserved communities have equitable access to healthcare facilities. The ongoing protests underscore the pressing need for governmental action to address healthcare disparities and uphold the right to accessible medical services for all citizens.

12-year-old boy electrocuted in Hingorja

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Tragedy struck at Rasoolabad Bus Stop as 12-year-old Akash Rajpar was electrocuted while attempting to operate an electric motor at Ghulam Akbar Rajpar's hotel on Thursday. The incident occurred when the boy came into contact

with the electric appliance, resulting in fatal electrocution. Local authorities responded swiftly, and the boy's body was transferred to a nearby hospital for necessary medical procedures. After completing formalities, the deceased's remains were handed over to his family. The incident serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of electrical safety, particularly in public and residential settings. Authorities are expected to investigate the circumstances surrounding the tragic event to prevent such accidents in the future.

SPORTS



Mohammad Hafeez reveals players' shocking behavior during his tenure



LAHORE: Former Pakistan men's cricket team Director Mohammad Hafeez revealed a shocking tale of the players' behaviour and approach during his tenure.

Hafeez, who served in the role from November 2023 to February 2024 and also as the interim head coach, lambasted the national players after Pakistan's group-stage exit from the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 and highlighted that they lack discipline.

In a conversation with renowned cricketing figures, England's Michael Vaughan and Australia's Adam Gilchrist, Hafeez claimed that the players used to be sleeping in dressing room during Test matches.

"You tell me, Gilly [Gilchrist] if a player is sleeping in the dressing room while we're playing Test cricket 4-5 players are sleeping in the dressing room. Should I allow that as a team director?" Hafeez questioned.

Vaughan wittily asked, "Are they tired?" to which Hafeez continued with a serious tone, "I really don't

India defeat Afghanistan by 47 runs in Super 8 clash

BARBADOS: Rohit Sharma-led India easily defeated Afghanistan by stopping their chase at 134 all out in the Super 8 match played at Bridgetown's Kensington Oval, Barbados on Thursday.

Jasprit Bumrah, once again, starred for Rohit Sharma's side with the ball as he bowled an economical and crucial spell of 3-7 in four overs.

Bumrah gave India their first breakthrough in his first over by removing Afghanistan's inform Rahimullah Gurbaz after the wicketkeeper batter had just scored 11 runs.

Following Gurbaz's wicket, Afghanistan lost two more quick wickets with Hazratullah Zazai (2) and



Ibrahim Zadran (8) walking back to the pavilion.

Gulbadin Naib and Azmatullah Omarzai built a 44-run partnership in the middle overs but they couldn't do much damage to the Indian side as both batters lost their wickets in the 11th and 12th overs respectively.

Afghanistan kept on losing wickets at intervals and they were all out for 134 runs in 20 overs.

For India, Arshdeep Singh took four, Bumrah bagged three, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel took one wicket each.

Batting first, India struggled at the start as their captain Rohit Sharma was reeling by inform Fazalhaq

Farooqi after scoring just eight runs on 13 balls.

India didn't succumb to the pressure after losing an early wicket as Rishabh Pant and Virat Kohli provided stability to their batting lineup before both were dismissed by Afghanistan's captain Rashid Khan.

India lost wickets at intervals and were soon 90-4 in 10.5 overs. It was that 60-run partnership between Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya that accelerated their innings.

Yadav departed after playing a quick 28-ball 53-run innings while Pandya contributed 32 runs on 24 balls.

Down the order, Axar Patel scored 12 runs on six balls.—Agency

Cristiano Ronaldo under fire for mocking Czech team after Portugal's win



LEIPZIG: Cristiano Ronaldo has faced accusations of being "classless" after his provocative celebration aimed at two Czech Republic players, following Portugal's 2-1 comeback victory in their opening Euro 2024 group stage match.

Earlier this week, Lukas Provedl's long range strike saved the Czechs a surprise lead during their opener against Portugal. However, Ronaldo's social media platform X, while another said, "Doesn't need to do the opening goal, allowed the opposition to level the game, Mirror reported.

Later, in injury time, Portugal's 21-year-old substitute Francisco Conceicao secured a dramatic win for his team.

After the win, Ronaldo, 39, openly celebrated the triumph, energetically gesturing toward Czech goalkeeper Jindrich Stanek. He then appeared to make a comment to midfielder Petr Sevcik.

At the end of the game, the Portuguese striker warmly hugged goal scorer Conceicao.

Despite his triumph, the Al Nassr star's actions didn't sit well with many fans. One viewer criticised him as "classless" on the social media platform X, while another said, "Doesn't need to do the opening goal, allowed the opposition to level the game, Mirror reported.

Later, in injury time, Portugal's 21-year-old substitute Francisco Conceicao secured a dramatic win for his team. After the win, Ronaldo, 39, openly celebrated the triumph.

Babar Azam, Shadab, others limit public interactions in the US after Haris Rauf's brawl with a fan

PORT LAUDERHILL: After Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf engaged in an ugly altercation with a fan, members of the national men's cricket team are keeping their distance from fans in the United States following the team's early exit from the T20 World Cup 2024.

According to The News, the team's T20 captain Babar Azam, Shadab Khan, and a few others - all of whom prolonged their stay in the US, despite the team's elimination from the tournament's league stage - have limited their public interactions and are only meeting with people they are familiar with.

This change in the team members' attitude towards fans follows a widely circulated video on social media, which showed Rauf, 30, en-



gaging in a confrontation with a fan who made negative remarks targeting him.

In the video, the pacer was seen stroiling around with his wife, Muzna, when he suddenly became aggressive towards a fan, accompanied by a group of youngsters.

The video showed Rauf running towards the fan despite his wife and others present on the spot, trying to hold him back.

Later, on his X account, Rauf addressed the incident, clarifying his side of the story.

He wrote: "I decided not to bring this up on social media. But now that the video is out, I feel it is necessary to address the situation. As public figures, we are open to receiving all kinds of feedback from the public. They

are entitled to support or criticize us.

"Nevertheless, when it comes to my parents and my family, I will not hesitate to respond accordingly. It is important to show respect towards people and their families, irrespective of their professions."

Following the incident, the Pakistani pacer received the support of his teammates who stated that criticism was the right of every fan, however they should do it with respect.

He has been criticised for conceding 15 runs in the final over that brought the US back in the match at Dallas, leading to a Super Over which ultimately went in favour of the host side.—Agency

Former Indian cricketer accuses selector Wahab Riaz of 'favoritism'

Legendary Indian opener Virender Sehwag heavily criticised Pakistan men's team selector Wahab Riaz and accused him of favouritism.

Sehwag's accusation of Wahab came in the wake of Mohammad Amir's return to international cricket which eventually saw him representing the national team yet another T20 World Cup.

However, Amir's comeback did not bring fortune to the Green Shirts as they suffered a group-stage exit for the first time.

Meanwhile, Virender Sehwag was irked by the fact that both Wahab Riaz and Mohammad Amir, who previously criticised the team on national television, are now part of the setup.



"Wahab Riaz and Mohammad Amir, these are two names who criticised the Pakistan team on the same TV channel, giving their comments. Today, one of them is a selector [Riaz] and one is in the playing eleven [Amir]," Sehwag said. "So the same persons who were criticising, if today they have power, became the selector, what have they done first up? Mohammad Amir was with me, let's select him. It's like if Ajit Agarkar is chairman (of BCCI selection committee) today, he will say 'come Viru, come Zak (Zaheer Khan), I will facilitate your comeback,' Sehwag added.

Virender Sehwag then advised Pakistan selectors to focus on the team's future and also to avoid favouritism.

"You have become a selector, you have to look at the future. You have a job, make the right use of it, don't do favours. That hard selector will have to take," he concluded.

It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan, the former champions, were knocked out of the group stage of the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 as a result of gut-wrenching defeats against the co-host (United States of America) (USA) and arch-rivals India.—Agency

Kylian Mbappe returns to train for France after bloody nose injury



Kylian Mbappe, the French football star, returned to the field to train for France on Wednesday, after he suffered a broken nose during their 1-0 win over Austria in their opening Euro 2024 game in Germany's Dusseldorf.

According to the BBC, the 25-year-old former Paris Saint-Germain star was pictured wearing a protective bandage during the session and initially trained alone.

The new Real Madrid signing was badly hurt in a collision with Austrian defender Kevin Danso and had to be replaced by Olivier Giroud.

Danso, 25, said on X after the game that he wished Mbappe a "good recovery" and was sorry he was injured.

Despite Mbappe's return to the training session, the team fears that they may have to face the Netherlands in Leipzig without their captain on Friday.

However, France coach Didier Deschamps might

have to put his faith in the rest of his team to seal their last-16 place, meaning Mbappe might sit out the last Group D game against Poland without it being a problem.

"Of course he is an important player, the captain, a leader. So that will have an impact, but we have an exceptional squad," French midfielder Adrien Rabiot said on Wednesday.

"I am not going to complain given the lads we have on the bench. We have more than enough options to replace Kylian. I have total confidence in the guys on the bench and the quality we have."

The French Football Federation said that Mbappe would not need an operation but he would need to be fitted with a mask before he could return to action, AFP reported.

Mbappe is France's third-top scorer of all time with 47 goals from 80 caps.—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT

Khloe Kardashian reveals why she's 'not dating' right now



Khloe Kardashian has opened up about her decision not to date right now, revealing she prefers to share her life with her kids.

During the latest episode of The Kardashians, the reality star broke all of this down and admitted she is 'happy' as a single but hopeful that she will find love again one day.

"I can't tap out now, I'm not even 40!" Khloe said. "One day, I will be married again, I love love. I will get my fairytale."

She further said, "I know one day that will happen but I'm just not righting there right now... I love sharing my life with me, with my kids. I don't need anyone. When I'm at the place when I wanna date, I will. And trust me, if I like the person, I'll publicize it!"

Talking about her hesitations regarding dating, Khloe said, "It's a scary world out there, there's phones everywhere."

"I definitely think what I've been through is a factor why I'm not just like, 'Let's just start dating again,'" said the mother of two - daughter True and son Tatum.

She added, "I don't want to f--- up my kids. So much has already transpired that could potentially f--- them up that I don't want to add to that by bringing somebody new to mix 'cause so far, people have been very disappointing."

"I'm just not gonna open myself up the same way that I once did, but I don't think there's anything wrong with that. I also think that's what growing up is, you learn to protect yourself," concluded The Kardashians star.

Kylie Jenner breaks down over Internet trolls



Kylie Jenner poured her heart out on the criticism she has received over her looks in the past few years.

During the recent episode of The Kardashians, Kylie said with sister Kendall Jenner for a heart to heart and talked about the trolling comments she saw about her Paris Fashion Week look.

The confession comes after the Internet dragged the model for ruining her face with botox and cosmetic sur-

geries as they claimed that Kylie has started to look like a 40-year-old woman.

Complaining to Kendall about how people had been making fun of her, Kylie said that if she wore a lot of makeup, people would say she was wearing "too much makeup," but if she went in the opposite direction, people would still bash her.

"I just hear nasty things about myself all the time. I'm kind of, so numb to people

talking about my looks at this point, and I just want to know why on the internet no one says anything or thinks that it's OK," she said.

Agreeing with her, Kendall said that their whole family is "dehumanized" in the public eye.

"They don't think that there are any rules with this. They don't think we have any feelings," she said.

Holding back tears, Kylie said that she took the criticism more personally because she has been on a journey to "look more natural" as she had dissolved "half" of her lip filler.

"I think with me it's never going to change. Why do people think it's OK to talk about me? I can't let the comments get me down. I can't let the comments get me down. I have s*** to do. Rise above," Kylie said while tearing up as Kendall comforted her with a hug.

Face of the Day



Name: Ahmed Khan
Location: Karachi
About me: Like you guys, I also hate the Pakistan Cricket Team

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

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Pir of Luari Sharif's 45th birthday celebrated at Larkana Press Club

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The 45th birthday of Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi, the esteemed spiritual leader of Jamaat Luari Sharif, was celebrated with great fervor at the Larkana Press Club. The event gathered members from various spiritual organizations and movements, including representatives from the Naqshbandi order.

Ali Nawaz Junejo, Allah Bakhs Junejo, Subhan Bakhs Junejo, Khuda Bakhs Junejo, Muhammad Bakhs Junejo, Sha-



keel-ur-Rehman Junejo, Jamaluddin Junejo, Dhani-bakhs Junejo, Ahmed Bakhs Junejo, Maqbool Ahmed Junejo, Anisuddin Junejo, and many others participated in offering prayers for the well-being

and prosperity of Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi. The occasion highlighted Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi's lifelong commitment to social work and his selfless dedication to serving humanity.

The celebration underscored the spiritual leader's profound influence in promoting unity, compassion, and community welfare. Participants expressed gratitude for Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi's guidance and leadership, emphasizing his role in fostering spiritual enlightenment and harmony in Sindh and beyond.

Sardar Ali Gohar Khan Mahar to supervise Jirga to settle Prof Ajmal Sawand's murder case

By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMIRE: The Chairman of the District Court Kashmir-Kandhkot Mir Gul Muhammad Khan Jakhani has given a task to settle the ongoing tribal clashes in the province of Sindh to maintain peace. In this regard Mir Gul Muhammad Khan Jakhani along with MNA Mir Ajaz Khan Jakhani, MPA Mehboob Ali Bijrani, MPA Sher Muhammad Mugheri, Pir of Bharchundi

Sharif Mian Abdul Khaliq, Syed Muhammad Qafoob Shah and other leaders reached the residence of MNA Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah from where they left to meet with the notables of the Sawand and Sundrani communities to settle an ongoing clash between both communities. Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah and other leaders were assured by the Dr Muhammad Tariq Sawand to settle the ongoing clash with the Sundrani community along

with the murder of his brother Prof Ajmal Sawand. The notables of Sundrani community have also agreed to attend the Jirga which will be held under the supervision of Sardar Ali Gohar Khan Mahar on the 3rd and 4th July. In conclusion, Mir Gul Muhammad Khan Jakhani expressed his satisfaction with the willingness of the Sawand and Sundrani communities to end the violence and hoped for a swift resolution to the conflict within the district.

Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi's birthday celebrated at Khadro Press Club



By Akhtar Marri

KHADRO: The 45th birthday of Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi, the revered spiritual leader of Luari Sharif, was celebrated with profound reverence at the Qazi Ahmed Press Club on Thursday. The occasion was marked by the ceremonial cutting of a birthday cake and heartfelt prayers for his well-being and longevity.

The celebration drew the presence of numerous distin-

guished guests, including Haji Mir Mir Ali Nawaz Talpur, Mir Farman Ali Talpur, Mir Mansoor Ahmed Talpur, Mir Shuja Muhammad Talpur, Rajib Ali Dahri, Mir Shahabuddin Talpur, Mir Elahi Bakhs Talpur, Ameer Bakhs Danani, Raja Mohandas, Seth Mewaram, Allah Dito Danani, Mir Sanaullah Talpur, Mir Noor Muhammad Talpur, and MS Danani, among others.

Addressing the media, attendees expressed their admiration for Pir Sadiq

Qureshi's teachings, emphasizing his message of peace, love, unity, and the collective welfare of humanity. They reiterated their commitment to following his guidance in serving humanity as a fundamental principle.

The event underscored the deep respect and affection the community holds for Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi, highlighting his role as a spiritual beacon and advocate for harmony and compassion.

Kashmore cop killed, three injured in an attack on police picket

By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMIRE: In a tragic incident at the Bodani police station limits, a police officer was martyred and three others severely injured following an attack on a police check post by more than two dozen unidentified armed individuals. The deceased officer has been identified as Ghulam

Mustafa Rajpar, hailing from Karachi. During the attack, the dacoits disarmed the injured police officers, further escalating the situation. Despite retaliatory firing by the police, which reportedly injured three dacoits, the perpetrators managed to escape. The injured officers have been transferred to Larkana in critical condi-

tion for further treatment. The police operation that followed the attack has yet to yield significant results, leaving both civilians and law enforcement on edge as the threat of dacoit attacks continues to loom large over the region. The ongoing reign of dacoits remains a grave concern for the community and police alike.

Chuhar Jamali Police arrest two notorious criminals

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: In a successful operation following an encounter on Shah Yagiq Road, Chuhar Jamali Police have apprehended two notorious criminals identified as Muhammad Ali Malano and Urs Jatt. The arrests were made after the police

recovered a pistol, motorcycle, and a mobile phone from the possession of the suspects.

According to SHO Chuhar Jamali Shoukat Dars, the arrested criminals were involved in a robbery at the residence of trader Shoukat Ali Memon just one week ago. The swift ac-

tion by the police led to the apprehension of the suspects, who are known for their criminal activities in the region. The Chuhar Jamali Police are continuing their efforts to maintain law and order, ensuring the safety of residents against criminal elements.

Tando Adam growers continue protest against water shortage



By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: Protests against the persistent water shortage in the Sui Kandhar Branch of Tando Adam continue at the Qaiser Ghot stop. As part of the Jeay Sindh Quami Mahaz (JSQM), District Organizer Allahdad Marri joined the protest camp to express solidarity with the affected growers.

The intense protest highlights the severe impact of the water scarcity on local farmers. Allahdad Marri,

along with Ghulam Shabir Korejo, Barad Sindh, and other leaders, addressed the gathering, pointing out that corruption and bribery within irrigation operations are to blame for the water shortages. This situation has left the farmers of the Sui Kandhar Branch in a critical condition.

The protesters have called on higher authorities to take immediate notice of the issue and provide the necessary relief to the struggling farmers.

Man killed in Jacobabad's Pahore community clash

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: In a violent incident within the jurisdiction of City Police Station, Jacobabad, unidentified armed individuals on a motorcycle opened indiscriminate fire on people heading to a court hearing on Old College Road. The attack resulted in the deaths of three individuals: Munir Pahore, Hayat Pahore, and Nasir Pahore.

Upon receiving the information, local police swiftly arrived at the scene and transported the bodies to the

civil hospital. According to police reports, the deceased were residents of Mehran Pahore village in the nearby Jongal area. The incident is believed to be the result of a long-standing land dispute between two groups within the Pahore community.

The victims were on their way to a court appearance when the attack occurred. In response to the shooting, police have established blockades throughout the area in an effort to apprehend the culprits. However, as of the latest report, no case had been registered.

Man demands justice in Sehwan land dispute

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN: SHARIF: MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE, a resident of Chinghani village near UC Bajara, staged a protest at the Sehwan Press Club alleging harassment and intimidation by influential individuals and his own brothers over a land dispute. He accused his brothers Pyaro, Allah Rakhio, Waris, Ali Gohar, and Chakar Rind of denying him his rightful share of their father's land and threatening him with severe consequences if he persisted in claiming his inheritance.

During the protest, Muhammad Rafique named Muhammad Rajib Rind and Muhammad Ali Rind, influential figures in the area, urging them to intervene and ensure his safety from further threats. He appealed to the government of Sindh, the Aqaf Department of Sindh, and authorities in Hyderabad for protection and justice in resolving the land dispute peacefully.

The incident highlights ongoing tensions and disputes over land ownership in the region, underscoring the need for equitable resolution and legal protection for all parties involved.

Tando Jam woman injured after being hit by a stray bullet

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: A woman sustained injuries after being struck by a stray bullet inside her home near Tando Jam, in the village of Haji Muhammad Yousif Chandio. The injured woman, identified as the wife of Manwar Oad, who is related to Additional SHO Gulsher Oad of Tando Jam police station, was reportedly washing clothes at a

tap inside her house when the stray bullet hit her, causing serious wounds. Family members promptly rushed her to the Rural Health Center in Tando Jam for urgent medical attention. The incident has sparked concern among local residents about safety and security in the area, prompting calls for increased vigilance and measures to prevent such occurrences in the future.

Man dies of heatstroke in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A tragic incident unfolded in Larkana's vegetable market as 35-year-old Irshad Ali Shah succumbed to heatstroke. Irshad Ali Shah, a laborer, collapsed unconscious due to the intense heat and was immediately rushed to the emergency ward of Chandka Hospital. Medical professionals at the hospital confirmed his critical condition,

but despite efforts to stabilize him, Irshad Ali Shah tragically passed away.

Following necessary medico-legal procedures, the deceased's body was handed over to his family members. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the dangers posed by extreme temperatures, urging precautionary measures during hot weather conditions, particularly for those engaged in outdoor activities.

AKF distributes meat of sacrificial animals in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Al-Khidmat Foundation, the welfare organization of Jamaat-e-Islami, continued its annual tradition of distributing sacrificial animal meat to needy families across remote areas of Badin district. This year, the distribution effort covered communities in Badin, Tando Bago, Golarchi, Talhar, Pangrio, and other surrounding areas. Under the

supervision of Syed Ali Mardan Shah, District Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Al-Khidmat Foundation successfully distributed meat to over 600 impoverished families during the three days of Eid. The distribution process was closely monitored by district officials and dedicated volunteers to ensure transparency and efficiency. Syed Ali Mardan Shah expressed gratitude to all donors and volunteers who

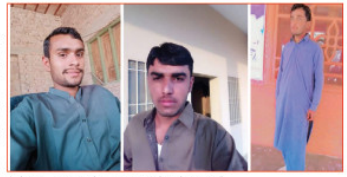
contributed to the successful implementation of this humanitarian initiative. He emphasized the importance of such efforts in alleviating the hardships faced by underprivileged families, particularly during festive occasions like Eid-ul-Adha. The distribution of sacrificial meat by Al-Khidmat Foundation reflects their commitment to serving humanity and providing essential support to those in need within the community.

Three Khanpur Mahar youths abducted while going to Sukkur

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: The abduction of three young men from Khanpur Mahar, identified as Khalid and Javed Gabol along with their cousin Farman Gabol, has sparked outrage and concern among their families and the local community. The youths went missing four days ago while traveling to Sukkur, and their abduction by an armed gang was confirmed when their families received a ransom demand of 50,000 rupees.

The distraught heirs of the missing youths, including Ghulam Haider Gabol, Rahib Gabol, Ali Gul Gabol, Ghulam Gabol, and



others, staged protests in Khanpur Mahar demanding immediate action from the authorities. They urged higher officials to intervene swiftly to ensure the safe recovery of Khalid, Javed, and Farman Gabol. Failing which, they vowed to escalate their protests until justice is served and their loved ones are returned un-

harmed. The incident has heightened concerns over security in the region, prompting calls for enhanced measures to protect citizens from such criminal activities. The families and the community await prompt and effective response from law enforcement agencies to resolve this distressing situation.

Baloch Sohbat Ali's new book Malaysia's Loves launched in Dadu



By Javed Laghari

DADU: In Dadu city, a launch event for the travelogue 'Malaysia's Loves' by the renowned Sindh writer, poet and advocate Baloch Sohbat Ali was held at the Syed Hakim Ali Shah Auditorium Hall of Allama Iqbal Qazi Library. The event included an Eid gathering and a poetry recital. The special guest for the event was the famous actor Pir Moazzam-ul-Haq, while the presidential guest was Professor Mukhtiar Samo. The hon-

orary guests included Professor Dr. Syed Azhar Ali Shah, Dr. Santosh Mal, Parbat Rai Shiwani, Iqbal Ahmed Solangi, Khalid Anif Soomro, Tabish Bukhari, Ejaz Saif Panhwar, Mansoor Ali Charan, Mumtaz Mustafa, Sufi Faqir Ghulam Mustafa Mangrio, Pir Ilaahi Bakhs Law College Principal Shafi Muhammad Memon, female lawyer Zeba Wighio, Dadu Press Club President Sabir Ali Bhand, senior journalist Gulan Bhand, journalist Liaqat Ali Malik, senior

lawyer Fazal Jamali, Niaz Panhwar, Adil Mahesar, Sajjad Yousof Soomro, and many other writers, poets, journalists, citizens, students, political and social workers. The speakers praised Baloch Sohbat Ali for writing the travelogue 'Malaysia's Loves' and highlighted that despite his busy career in law, he has written 31 books, which is a remarkable achievement that not everyone can accomplish. They expressed pride that Baloch Sohbat Ali was born in Dadu.

Shahdadpur notable Rasool Bux Zardari suffers a fatal heart attack

By Sajjan Jari Detho

SHAHDADPUR: Rasool Bux Zardari, a prominent figure in the Zardari community and father of Excise Inspector Shah Nawaz Zardari and Banker Mumtaz Ali Zardari, tragically succumbed to a fatal heart attack on Thursday. The news of his untimely demise has deeply

saddened his family, friends, and the entire community.

The funeral prayers for Rasool Bux Zardari were attended by a multitude of prominent personalities from various fields including politics, social work, literature, journalism, law, and business. Members of the Zardari family and numerous well-wishers gathered to pay their

respects to the departed soul. Rasool Bux Zardari was laid to rest in the ancestral graveyard amidst an outpouring of condolences and prayers for the bereaved family. His passing marks a significant loss to the Zardari community and beyond, reflecting his esteemed reputation and contributions during his lifetime.

Shikarpur's civil society condemns attack on Sharjeel Shaikh

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: Outrage has swept through Shikarpur following a violent attack on political and social activist Sharjeel Shaikh by 35 armed assailants on Sukkur-Shikarpur Road. Sharjeel Shaikh faced resistance and brutality, resulting in injuries and the theft of his motorcycle, cash, and personal belongings. Accusations have been leveled against SHO Jahangir Chandio, labeling him as incompetent and corrupt. The condemnations demand im-

mediate action against him and stress the urgent need for enhanced security measures in the city. Citizens have voiced their dissatisfaction with the current state of security and called for robust measures to safeguard lives and property. If their demands are not met promptly, protesters have vowed to escalate their demonstrations until justice is served and adequate security measures are put in place to protect the community from such incidents in the future.

METRO KARACHI



Sindh CM Inaugurates S4 Project For Enhanced Security

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated the Sindh Smart Surveillance System (S4) project aimed at bolstering security across major entry and exit points connecting cities within the province. The initiative integrates advanced technologies like Facial and Number Plate Recognition at 40 toll plazas, including 18 in Karachi, to monitor and enhance security measures.

The ceremony, held at the Chief Police Office (CPO), was attended by provincial ministers Saeed Ghani and Zulfiqar Shah, PSCM Agha



Wasif, senior officers from Pakistan Rangers and NRTC, and members of Civil Society. CM Murad Shah highlighted that the S4 Project aims to apprehend over 80,000 absconding criminals and curb vehicular crime,

emphasizing its role in crime prevention, suspect identification, vehicle recovery, and traffic management.

Moreover, CM Shah allocated Rs. 1,567 billion for the ANPR Camera System, stressing his commit-

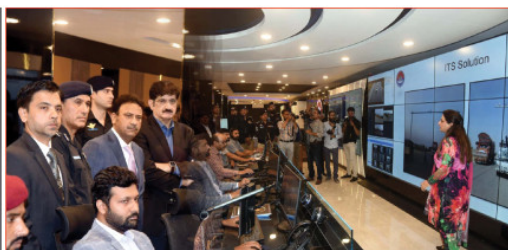
ment to achieving effective results. He reaffirmed the government's dedication to establishing a crime-free society, noting improvements in law and order since the PPP came to power. The CM also condemned the spread of fake news by the 'social mafia brigade', urging responsible media reporting.

Following the inauguration, CM Shah visited the Command & Control Centre for a briefing on ANPR and Face Recognition implementation. The project includes solar power solutions, gensets, and AI tools for enhanced surveillance and rapid response capabilities.

Additionally, CM Shah announced the Be-hood-e-Jawan Health Insurance scheme, covering 127,482 police personnel and their families with comprehensive healthcare benefits.

Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar and IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon expressed gratitude for CM Shah's support, foreseeing positive changes in police culture with the S4 system's implementation.

This comprehensive approach underscores Sindh's commitment to advancing security and public welfare through innovative solutions.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is inspecting Sindh Smart Surveillance System (S-4) Command and Control System, at Chief Police Office (CPO). Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar and IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon were also present.—RT

PPP To Celebrate Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's Birthday In Lyari

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, will address a special event today in Karachi's Chakiwara area to commemorate the 71st birthday of the late former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto.

The PPP Karachi Division is organizing the event in Lyari, as announced by Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani during a meeting at the People's Secretariat on Thursday. Ghani, also serving as the PPP Karachi Division President, chaired the meeting to finalize arrangements for the celebration.

Preparations for the event have been extensive, with mobilizations of party office-bearers and activists from all Karachi districts planned to attend the public gathering. Ghani emphasized that Lyari was selected as the venue at the directive of the PPP Chairman, ensuring the event is organized in a fitting manner.

Waqar Mehdi, PPP Sindh General Secretary, high-



lighted the role of youth wing activists and the People's Students' Federation in managing vehicular traffic on the event day, with designated traffic routes already announced for the area.

Javed Nagori, PPP Karachi's General Secretary, noted the festive atmosphere in Lyari following the announcement of the public gathering, expressing enthusiasm among PPP activists to participate in the event.

Khalil Houth, PPP District South President, assured full participation from union committee members across the district, promising a memorable celebration akin to past large gatherings of

the party in Lyari. Representing the PPP Women Wing, Shaheena Sher Ali reported on the ongoing mass contact drive to ensure significant female participation in the event.

The meeting was attended by Karachi's Deputy Mayor Salman Murad, Rashid Khaskheli, presidents, general secretaries of PPP in all districts, and representatives from subsidiary organizations.

The event aims to honor the legacy of Benazir Bhutto, reflecting on her contributions to Pakistan and the PPP's ongoing commitment to her ideals.

Murtaza Wahab: Undoing Wrongs Of 45 Years Takes Time



KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab acknowledged on Thursday that he cannot immediately rectify the mistakes of the past 45 years. Speaking at a press conference, he highlighted challenges stemming from historical issues such as inadequate drainage systems like China and Hong Kong cuttings, which have caused rainwater to inundate homes.

Mayor Wahab reported that over 144,000 tons of waste have been transported to landfill sites. He emphasized the ongoing efforts across the city's seven districts, with 99 collection points being cleared daily and subjected to regular disinfection. He praised municipal staff for their dedicated work despite harsh weather conditions and announced an increase in development funds at the union council level from Rs. 500,000 to 1.2 million.—RT

Businessmen Panel Meeting Emphasizes Role In FPCCI



KARACHI: Anjum Nisar, Chairman of Businessmen Panel (BMP) in FPCCI and former President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), underscored the critical role of BMP in advocating for the business community's interests. In a meeting held in Karachi, Nisar stressed the importance of proactive engagement and strategic planning to amplify

the business community's voice and effectively influence policy-making.

The meeting, attended by senior BMP members including Abdul Rahim Janu, Nasir Hayat Mago, Rafiq Suleman, Khuram Saeed, Shaukat Suleiman, Haji Yaqoob, Javed Jilani, Rizwan Bhatti, Shariq Wahra, Shahid Anwal, Qamar Anul, Haroon Farooqi, Javed Jilani, and

Khalid Puri among others, focused on current budget policies and BMP's role in FPCCI.

Rafiq Sulaiman, speaking at the meeting, emphasized BMP's role as a robust advocate for Pakistan's business community, highlighting their determination to restore FPCCI's prominence under Anjum Nisar's leadership.—RT

DSP Abid Fazal Mahar lauds police officials for maintaining peace during Eid-ul-Azha holidays

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: DSP Malir, Abid Fazal Mahar has stated that on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, special security arrangements were made in the markets of Malir under the special directions of IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, DIG East Captain (Retd) Azfar Mahesar and SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi's supervision, to control the influx of sacrificial animals and ensure foolproof security around the livestock markets in various areas of Malir and Shah Latif Town. Additionally, vigilance was maintained over the movement of criminals and suspects involved in street crimes in different areas within their jurisdiction. He expressed gratitude that in our two SHO of Malir City and Shah Latif Police Station, Syed Farasat Shah and Shahrul Khan, along with young police officers, have consistently performed their duties well and remained prepared to take action against criminals and lawbreakers at all times. DSP

Abid Fazal Mahar further added that registered organizations were mandated to take permits for sacrificial animals on Eid and no organization was allowed to take permits without authorization. Police personnel continued patrolling to prevent any attempts of extortion related to sacrificial animals.



KARACHI: Police are patrolling on horses and dispersing people visiting Sea View Beach as Section 144 has been imposed by the Sindh government at Karachi's beaches.—RT

176 Arrested For Tearing Offal In Karachi

KARACHI: A three-day crackdown on violators of Section 144 has resulted in the arrest of 176 individuals who were found tearing off the offal of sacrificial animals and spreading garbage during Eid-ul-Azha.

According to a report submitted by Deputy Commissioners to Commissioner Karachi, the breakdown of arrests is as follows: South District (26), East District (44), West District (7), Malir (14), Korangi (57), Central (40), and Keamari



(5). Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassn Naqvi has emphasized that the crackdown was enforced to maintain cleanliness and public hygiene in the city.—RT/Agency

Noted Trade Unionist Karamat Ali Passes Away In Karachi



KARACHI: Karamat Ali, Executive Director of the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (PILER), passed away at the age of 78 in Karachi on Thursday. He had been undergoing treatment at a private hospital where he breathed his last. Ali is survived by two daughters and a son.

His funeral prayer will be held after Maghrib at Imambargah Shuhada-e-Karbala, Ancholi, and he will be laid to rest at Wadi-e-Hussain graveyard on Super Highway, as announced by the family.

In a statement mourning his death, Piler described Ali as a dedicated advocate for the working class, whose commitment to labour rights and social justice left a lasting impact on society.

Numerous high-profile

individuals and organizations have expressed their condolences over Ali's passing. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah extended prayers for patience to the bereaved family and elevation of the departed soul in heaven.

President Arif Alvi remarked that Ali was an outstanding labour activist, author, and a humble man who represented Pakistan with dignity in international conferences. He hailed Ali as a treasure of knowledge and a symbol of perseverance for the struggle of labour classes.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) expressed deep sorrow over the loss, noting that Ali's contributions to labour rights in Pakistan and South Asia were unparalleled.—RT/Agency

Karachi Man Killed In Front Of His Son For Resisting Robbery

KARACHI: In a tragic incident, robbers shot and killed a man and injured his son for resisting a robbery at a gas filling shop in Karachi's Korangi Coast Guard Chowrangji area.

According to police reports, the robbers entered the shop and opened fire as the man, identified as Zafar, and his son Wahab resisted

the robbery attempt. Zafar succumbed to his injuries on the spot, while Wahab sustained gunshot wounds.

In a brave move, Wahab managed to disarm one of the robbers and retaliated by firing at them, forcing them to flee. The injured robbers sought treatment at Jinnah Hospital, where Wahab positively identified them. Subsequently, the police arrested the suspects identified as Qadir and Ehtisham.

The incident has sparked outrage in the community, highlighting concerns over security and rising crime in the area. The police have assured that swift action will be taken against the perpetrators to ensure justice for the victims.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Legend Hotels and Resorts proudly announces the signing of an MOU with Gaala Group, marking a significant milestone in the hospitality industry with the launch of a new flagship property in the picturesque locale of Jhika Gali, Murree. The MOU was formally signed by Mr. Azeem Qureshi, Managing Director of Legend Hotels and Resorts, and Brigadier (R) Hamid Khalil of the Gaala Group. The occasion was graced by the presence of Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Islamabad. The hotel, branded as "697 By Legend," is poised to elevate the region's hospitality standards and deliver exceptional service to its guests.—RT



KARACHI: Renowned businessman Mirza Shah Nawaz Agha is presenting his book to Sardar Manzoor Ahmed Khan Kakar.—RT

Remembering Shaheed Benazir Bhutto: A Trailblazer For Democracy

By Dr. Hassan Bux Noonari



On Benazir Bhutto's birthday, we reflect not only on her life but also on the profound impact her death had globally. Regardless of nationality or gender, the news of her passing resonated deeply, underscoring the upheaval that violence can cause and the enduring legacy of an extraordinary woman.

Benazir Bhutto, born on June 21, 1953, made history as the first woman to lead a Muslim-majority country, symbolizing resilience and championing democracy in Pakistan.

Elected Prime Minister in 1988, she served two terms amid staunch opposition. Her initiatives to advance healthcare, education, and women's rights left an indelible mark on Pakistan.

think of Benazir Bhutto, a woman who defied norms and stood tall against adversity." Tragically, she was assassinated in 2007 during her campaign for the 2008 elections. Her death was a profound loss for Pakistan and the global community, highlighting the risks faced by those opposing extremism and authoritarianism.

Her legacy endures through her son, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and the ongoing efforts of the Pakistan Peoples Party. Today, we celebrate her bravery and unwavering commitment to a democratic and equitable Pakistan.

Throughout her career, Benazir Bhutto exhibited immense courage. As Malala Yousafzai remarked, "When I think of bravery and courage, I her honor.

"The beginning is the most important part of the work."

—Plato

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FRIDAY JUNE 21 2024

Senators Grill FBR Chief Over Tax Hike On Hybrid And Electric Cars

ISLAMABAD: Senators Thursday grilled Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Asim Ahmad over the hike in taxes imposed on hybrid and electric cars, among other items.



The politician, who is a member of the Senate in an independent capacity, objected to the tax proposals made in the budget, announced last week by the federal government.

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance, in a meeting chaired by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Salim Mandviwala, in Islamabad raised an objection on the increased tax rate on electric and hybrid vehicles.

During the meeting, independent Senator Faisal Vawda said that the use of electric vehicles is being encouraged all over the world. "A sales tax of 25% has been levied on vehicles priced above Rs15 million," said Vawda.

The senator maintained that problems increase when a policy is made and revised. "No one sets up industry in this country because of changes in taxes and policies."

Responding to Vawda's objections, the FBR officials said that imported, not locally manufactured, vehicles have been taxed. In reaction to this, the politician said he knows who is taxing vehicles.

The committee, however, adjourned the matter in the meeting.

The government has, as per analysts, devised the budget in line with the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as Islamabad hopes to sign a new and bigger programme with the global lending institution.

The federal government had to increase taxes and reduce the fiscal deficit as part of negotiations with the IMF, with which it is discussing a loan of \$6 billion to \$8 billion, as it seeks to avert a debt default for an economy growing at the slowest pace in the region.

On the other hand, Vawda also lamented the imposition of taxes on property in the recently proposed budget, insisting that the market across the country has become stagnant.

"Now, a common man will not be able to buy a house," said the senator, sharing his viewpoint during the meeting.

Responding to Vawda in the meeting, the FBR chairman said tax rates in the property sector are "fair".

"In the property sector, tax is 15% for filers and 45% for non-filers," said the FBR chairman. He also highlighted that the salaried class is taxed up to 35% and non-salaried up to 45%.

"How will the common man build a house with an increased tax on property," said Vawda in response to the official's comment.

The FBR chairman maintained that a Re1 per kilograms increase in Federal Excise Duty (FED) on cement has been proposed by FBR, as the board has not benefited from the increased rates of the commodity.

"Re1 is being raised so that FBR gets revenue," said the chairman.

During the meeting, the FBR chairman was also questioned about the FED imposed on plots.

"How excise duty is imposed on plots?" asked PPP Senator Farooq H Naek.

"We wanted to impose sales tax," said the FBR chairman, who was then told by Naek that plots, in fact, neither come under the category of commodities nor services.

"Under which law did you tax the purchase of a plot? You have stretched the law and included them," the senator said, contesting that this law will be challenged and he doesn't favour it.

The standing committee, during the meeting, took up the matter of the FED increase on cigarettes.

"Has increasing FED on cigarettes reduced cigarette consumption?" asked Senator Naek.

Responding to the senator, the FBR chair said, "Formal sector output has declined by 40%. But people did not stop smoking, despite increasing taxes."

He added that the board, this year, seized 400 million "non-tax paid cigarette sticks".

"If smuggled cigarettes are found in a shop, such shop will be sealed," he maintained.

PPP Senator Sherry Rehman said: "If you can close all the shops big and small then it is allowed."

Senator Naek pointed out that the price of the items sold in any shop is not enforced. He said there is no enforcement of the relevant law, terming it a violation.

"Ensure all items are priced prominently," said Naek, addressing FBR officials, after which the proposal was approved by the Standing Committee on Finance.

During the meeting, the committee also brought amendments to the Public Finance Management Act, 2019 under consideration.

"Under the amendments, the definition of technical supplementary grant is being expanded," said a representative of the finance ministry.

Naek asked why there was a need for the amendment, while Senator Rehman said that the Ministry of Finance is seeking the authority to use the money that cannot be used.—RT/Agency

CJP Isa Criticizes Ordinances An An 'Insult' To Parliament

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday called the presidential ordinance an insult to the parliament as the Supreme Court rejected the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) plea to issue a stay order in the election tribunals case.



"[Presidential] ordinance is an insult to the parliament when it has already made a law [on an issue]," the top judge said while hearing ECP's plea against the constitution of election tribunals by the Lahore High Court (LHC).

The case, heard by a two-member bench comprising the CJP and Justice Nasim Akhtar Afghan, has been sent to the three-member ECP committee for the constitution of a larger bench.

The ECP had moved the apex court under Article 185(3) of the Constitution against the LHC's May 29 verdict wherein it had constituted eight election tribunals.

The order of the court's single-member bench comprising LHC CJ Malik Shahzad Ahmad provisioned that Justice Shahid Karim, Justice Ch Muhammad Iqbal, Justice Anwar Hussain, and Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmad would hear the election petitions at the LHC principal seat in Lahore.

Whereas Justice Asim Hafeez will hear the election petitions at the LHC Bahawalpur bench, Justice Sar-

dar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Raheel Kamran will hear the LHC petitions at the LHC Multan bench, and Justice Mirza Viqas Rauf will hear the election petitions at the LHC Rawalpindi bench.

The order, which came in response to petitions filed by Rao Hashim Omar Khan and others, had also ordered the ECP to appoint six more judges, nominated by the LHC chief justice, as election tribunals.

It is pertinent to mention here that two out of the eight election tribunals were already working in Punjab.

In response, the electoral body, in its appeal filed in the SC, sought leave to appeal against the impugned judgement of the LHC contending that under Article 219 reading with Article 222(b) of the Constitution, the power to appoint the election tribunals was vested in the electoral body.

The ECP had further argued that Article 219 of the Constitution did not expressly require the body to

consult the relevant high court's chief justice for appointing election tribunals or for allocating territorial jurisdiction to such election tribunals.

Section 140(3) of the Elections Act 2017 only required consultation with the chief justice of the high court concerned on the appointment of sitting high court judges as election tribunals, but this consultation did not cover the allocation of territorial jurisdiction to the election tribunals which was the sole power and prerogative of the Election Commission, as was evident from Section 140(1) read with Section 151 of the Elections Act 2017, the petition stated. During the hearing today, CP Isa questioned how the ECP was issuing presidential ordinance and wondered why the electoral body didn't meet the LHC CJ. "Nowhere is it written in the Constitution that one cannot meet a judge [...] why is the ECP controversial?" the top judge remarked.—RT/Agency

President Emphasizes Enhanced Capacity Of LEAs To Counter Terrorism In Balochistan

GWADAR: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday called for enhancing the capacity of the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), posting competent officers in Balochistan, and improving the prosecution mechanism to effectively counter terrorist elements in Balochistan.



The president expressed these views while chairing a meeting on the security/law and order situation in Balochistan, in Gwadar, on Thursday.

Minister for Interior, Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, MNA Malik Shah Gorgaji, Home Minister, Mir Ziaullah Langgou, MPA Maulana Hidayatullah Rehman, senior civil and military officials attended the meeting.

The president was briefed about the overall security situation of the province as well as the role of LEAs in successfully countering terrorist attacks in various districts of Balochistan.

It was informed that the provincial government had adopted a targeted approach to improve the security and law-and-order situation in Balochistan.

It was further apprised that the initiatives taken by the LEAs had resulted in improving the security situation in the province. The president was informed that the provincial government was taking steps to provide fool-proof security to Chinese and foreign nationals.

He appreciated the efforts of the provincial government as well as the sacrifices of the LEAs in combatting terrorism.

The president emphasized that the prosecution system needed to be improved so that the terrorist elements could not escape justice.

He said that compensation for the families of martyrs of LEAs in Balochistan should be enhanced bringing it at par with the rest of the provinces. The president said that competent and brave police officials needed to be posted in Balochistan that would help improve the law-and-order situation of the province. He also called for taking effective measures to ensure the safety and security of Zaireen.

Underlining the need to improve the socio-economic condition of Balochistan, the President called for focusing on the skill development of its people and producing more skilled professionals.

He said that the capacity of training institutions should be enhanced to produce more trained human resources and equip them with foreign language skills that would also help them find jobs in foreign countries.

The president also called for promoting the fishing industry of Balochistan by providing financing and equipment to local fishermen.

apart from promoting sustainable fishing practices and checking the production of illegal fishing nets.

During the meeting, the president said that political dialogue was the way forward to bring prosperity, development and peace to Balochistan.

Chief Minister Balochistan thanked the president for visiting Gwadar, saying that it would give the people of Balochistan a sense of ownership as well as strengthen the resolve of the LEAs to eliminate terrorism.

He informed that the provincial government was according top-priority to the capacity building of police and levies. He underlined the importance of equipping people residing in border areas of Balochistan with marketable skills to help them find employment in the country and abroad.

He highlighted that all stakeholders needed to make collective efforts to stamp out terrorism, besides evolving a national consensus for the development of Balochistan.

The meeting also urged the need for completing the Kachhi Canal project to fulfil the food requirements of the province.—RT/Agency

Ministry Reports Death Of 35 Pakistani Pilgrims During Hajj



ISLAMABAD: At least 35 Pakistanis have lost their lives while performing Hajj this year due to extreme weather conditions, the Ministry of Religious Affairs confirmed on Thursday.

The death toll from this year's Hajj has exceeded 1,000, an AFP tally said on Thursday, more than half of them unregistered worshippers who performed the pilgrimage in extreme heat.

Fatalities have been reported by Egypt, Pakistan, India, Jordan, Indonesia, Iran, Senegal, Tunisia, and Iraq.

Director General of Pakistan's Hajj Mission Abdul Wahab Soomro said that as of 4pm on June 18, a total of 35 Pakistani deaths had been reported — 20 in Makkah, six in Madina, four in Mina, three in Arafat, and two in Muzdalifah. "Due to a temperature of 50°C, this was a tough Hajj," the official said. Soomro also dismissed social media claims of leaving the pilgrims "helpless".

"We trust the Saudi government's information and we confirm it ourselves as well, whenever there's a death. We are informed."

Meanwhile, the ministry added that under the Saudi government's rules, they seek permission from the heirs of the family for burial.

"After bathing [the body], funeral prayers are offered here and burial takes place in Saudi Arabia." In case the family wants the body back, it said, arrangements are made to send it to Pakistan.

Media reports suggest that friends and family of missing Hajj pilgrims are searching hospitals and pleading online for news, fearing the worst. 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. For the past several years the mainly outdoor rituals have fallen during the sweltering Saudi summer.—RT/Agency

Atta Tarar Issues Warning To Gandapur

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Tarar took a jibe at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur for "storming" grid station in Dera Ismail Khan, media reported.



Addressing a presser in Islamabad, the minister said that if the chief minister could take 100 people to the grid station, he could take 1000 there.

Att Tarar said that the issues of electricity and line losses should be resolved by the centre and the provinces together, with mutual understanding and cooperation.

"Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is also a part of our country. We all have to come on one page to facilitate the people. The country can develop by solving the issues of power theft and line losses," he added.

Attallah Tarar said that some people go to the entertainment places on the eve of Eid and some go to the grid station. "We are not the ones who

burnt the bills," the minister added.

Atta Tarar's statement came amid escalating tension between the centre and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Ali Amin Gandapur visited a grid station in Dera Ismail Khan, flipping the switch.

"No area would suffer power outages for more than 12 hours now," the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's official X account posted.

In a presser, the minister said the visit of the Chinese delegation to Pakistan is a proof of trust between the two countries.

He said that a high-level delegation of China is visiting Pakistan from

Thursday to participate in the third meeting of the Pakistan-China Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM).

He also urged all political parties to welcome the delegation in a manner that can express the exemplary bond between the two countries.

Talking about Prime Minister's recent visit to China, the Minister said Pak-China friendship and progress of CPEC projects were discussed during the tour.

Termining Pak-China friendship beyond politics, he said China's commitment during the Prime Minister's visit to upgrade CPEC is a welcoming step.—RT/Agency

PML-N And PPP Navigating Contentious Relationship: Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League (N) central leader Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha issued a strong warning in response to the PPP's threat to leave the government.

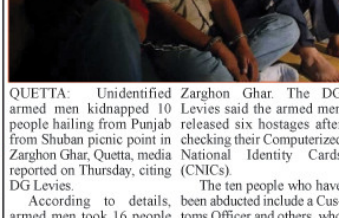


In his statement, Ranjha accused the PPP of blackmailing and said that if power is lost, both parties will be in Adiala Jail. He blamed the PPP for making insincere statements to secure their future in politics.

Ranjha likened the relationship between the Muslim League-N and the PPP to that of a contentious relationship.

Earlier, in a press conference in Lahore, PPP leader Hasan Murtaza

10 Punjab Based Individuals, Including Customs Officer Abducted At Picnic Point In Quetta



QUETTA: Unidentified armed men kidnapped 10 people heading from Punjab from Shuban picnic point in Zarghon Ghar, Quetta, media reported on Thursday, citing DG Levies.

According to details, armed men took 16 people hostage who were enjoying at Shuban picnic point in Zarghon Ghar. The DG Levies said the armed men released six hostages after checking their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs).

The ten people who have been abducted include a Customs Officer and others, who are residents of Punjab province.—RT/Agency

Lawyers' Killing a Test Case For Government, Says Law Minister Tarar

ATTOCK: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday spoke at the condolence reference of the murdered lawyers in Attock, where he assured the community of taking the killers to justice by declaring it a test case for the government.



"It is really sad that we will not be able to meet our friends again but I assure you that justice will prevail and we will do everything for the consolation of the bereaved families of Israr and Zulfiqar," the minister said.

He said this was a textbook case of terrorism. "Every case has its merits and job of a lawyer is to present the case before the court and verdict is then announced on merit. No one will be allowed to go scot-free as lawyers are an important pillar of society," he said.

"Good human beings and friends stay alive in our hearts forever. We should scratch our heads to find a way to stamp

out events like these. Psychological screening should be made necessary for on-duty security personnel in order to stave off Attock-like incidents," he said.

The minister said there should be zero tolerance in cases of bringing arms to court premises.

The minister also highlighted the significance of lawyers' freedom to speak against injustice as muzzling lawyers' voice could lead to unintended consequences as happened in the past. He reminded that lawyers stood like a shield whenever democ-

racy underwent difficult phases.

An ASI of Elite Force gunned down two senior lawyers - Malik Israr Ahmed, a former president of the Punjab Bar Council, and Zulfiqar Mirza - with his official weapon in their chamber on the district court premises.

Security personnel arrested ASI Intizar Shah who targeted Malik Israr Ahmed over a pillar of society," he said. Israr represented the ex-wife of the police official in a local family court in which the court annulled his marriage.—RT/Agency