

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



Selena Gomez reveals what she 'has never done before in her career'

Heartland

Adi Faryal Talpur visits free medical camp set up by SZABIST Foundation



Money

Zafar Moti is Happy! PSE 100-index up by 8.96 points to close at 78,810.49



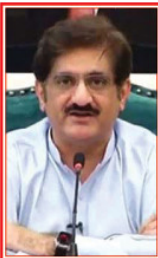
NATIONAL

Pakistan And China Agree On Five New Corridors



SPORTS

South Africa beat England in a high-scoring thriller



Sindh CM Orders For Strong Prosecution Of Street Criminals Amid Safe City Project Progress

Bilawal Pledges Free Solar Energy For Karachi During Budget Talks With Government

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced plans to provide free solar energy to Karachi residents to alleviate load-shedding.

He also expressed hope that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would fulfill promises made to the PPP as budget discussions with the government continue.

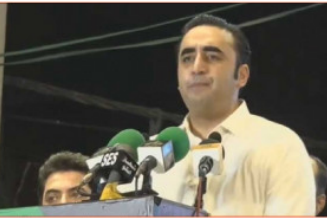
Speaking at an event in Lyari celebrating Benazir Bhutto's birthday on Friday, Bilawal emphasised the PPP's long-standing commitment to Karachi, highlighting their efforts against various military dictators and their continuous support for the city's residents.

Bilawal reiterated his personal commitment to the city's development, noting his own political journey with the people of Karachi, the city where both he and Benazir Bhutto were born.

He expressed gratitude to the people for electing the PPP to form the Sindh government again and urged Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to focus on addressing Karachi's issues.

He praised Shah and his team for resolving problems that arose during the caretaker government's tenure. He acknowledged the efforts to improve law and order and expressed optimism for further improvements.

Addressing the national load-shedding crisis, Bilawal pointed out that regions like Sindh, Balochistan, southern



Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa face 16 to 18 hours of power outages daily, with residents struggling to pay their bills.

He announced plans to introduce a project in the upcoming budget to provide free solar power to the poor and subsidised rates for those who can afford it, aiming to mitigate load-shedding effects.

Bilawal also discussed the current economic challenges and ongoing budget negotiations with the government.

He emphasised the importance of including PPP in budget discussions to ensure the concerns of their constituencies, mainly representing the country's poor, are addressed.

Bilawal voiced disappointment that the government did not consult the PPP earlier but stressed the need for unity in navigating the economic crisis.

He revealed that PPP representatives are in Islamabad negotiating with the government to resolve issues and work towards passing the

budget, expressing trust in Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's intentions to honor promises made to PPP.

Bilawal affirmed the PPP's commitment to advocating for the people's rights and continuing their struggle until their demands are met.

He further addressed the prevailing political crisis, criticising the rise of divisive politics.

PPP chairman urged political parties to prioritise the country's welfare over personal grievances and emphasised the need for constructive dialogue in parliament to address national issues effectively.

He called for democratic forces to engage in dialogue to strengthen the democratic system, honoring the sacrifices made by the people of Lyari and across Pakistan.

Bilawal expressed hope that unified political efforts in parliament could lead to solutions for economic and other national challenges, reflecting the people's aspirations.—RT/Agency

Cross-Party Consensus Supports CPEC And Stronger China Ties As Pakistan Hosts First JCM

ISLAMABAD: All the mainstream political parties of Pakistan on Friday displayed exemplary consensus to back the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with the leaders reiterating their unwavering commitment to further strengthen the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China by thwarting all nefarious designs.

The political consensus was shown at the CPEC Pakistan-China Political Parties Forum and 3rd Meeting of CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultative Mechanism co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and member of the Communist Party's Central Committee Liu Jianchao who is on a three-day visit here.

Besides Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the senior leadership of all major political parties attended the event



including Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, MQM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Maulana Fazlur Rehman of JUI-F, Hina Rabhani Khar of PPP, Senator Syed Ali Zafar of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Munazza Hassan of Istehkam Pakistan Party, National Party's Senator Jan Muhammad, senior politicians Afrasiab Khattak and others.

In his opening remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar said the CPEC played a catalytic role in Pakistan's socioeconomic development.

He said besides ridding the country of a chronic issue

of load-shedding, the development projects under the CPEC helped create hundreds of new employment opportunities for the Pakistani people which the people of Pakistan would never forget.

Recalling the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, the deputy prime minister said both sides showed unanimity to execute the second phase of CPEC besides signing the modalities for third-party participation in the project.

He reiterated that Pakistan was committed to promoting people-to-people

linkages as both countries stood with each other through thick and thin.

Dar said the CPEC constituted a vital pillar of the Pak-China economic and strategic partnership and that there was complete unanimity on its significance as it catalyzed Pakistan's endeavors toward socioeconomic prosperity and regional connectivity.

He said as the two countries were witnessing a high-quality second phase of CPEC with both sides prioritizing the agriculture, information technology, industry and mining and mineral sectors.

In his remarks, Chinese Minister Liu Jianchao said the agreements signed during the "very successful" visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif provided an opportunity for the two countries to upgrade their ties to bring about desirable changes.

He said the determination of both countries' leaderships sent a clear message to the world that the Pak-China friendship was unbreakable.

He said Pakistan's government introduced 5Es to focus on five key areas presenting an important opportunity for two peoples to work together to promote the community of shared destiny.

Calling party-to-party relations an integral part of bilateral relations, it was high time the parties contributed their wisdom to turn the blueprint into reality by underpinning each other's development philosophy.

He said the affinity between the two peoples was not commensurate with the iron-clad nature of friendship and announced that IDCPC would invite 300 Pakistani parliamentarians to China in three years besides providing scholarships and vocational training to Pakistani youth.

Highlighting the adverse impacts of Western social media on the young generation regarding bilateral relationships, he said China would also invite people from media on a yearly basis to better understand each other.—RT/Agency

Liu Jianchao Commends Pakistan Army For Ensuring Security Of Chinese Nationals

ISLAMABAD: Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), has lauded the Pakistan Army's support in providing security to Chinese nationals and projects in the country, according to the military's media wing.



The statement came after the Chinese minister during his official visit to Pakistan called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday. The visiting dignitary also commended Pakistan's efforts in maintaining regional peace and stability, acknowledging the support of the Pakistan Armed Forces in providing security to Chinese nationals and projects in the country, the ISPR added.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest, including regional peace and stability, and reviewed progress on the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's

unwavering commitment to the strategic partnership with China and pledged full support for the successful implementation of CPEC, a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Liu Jianchao highlighted that he is visiting Pakistan as a follow-up to the successful meetings between the leadership of the two countries in China. He emphasised the significance of the longstanding brotherly relations between the two nations and expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved on CPEC, reiterating China's commitment to its timely completion.

Earlier today, the senior Chinese official Jianchao co-chaired — along with Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar — the third meeting of the Pakistan-China Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM) of the Political Parties on CPEC. Addressing the huddle, he advised Pakistani political leadership to shun differences as "internal stability is imperative for any nation to develop". "In a turbulent world of rising uncertainties, stability within the country is essential for development."

Faced with complex internal and external challenges, Pakistan is navigating carefully through turbulent rivers," Liu Jianchao remarked. Leaders belonging to all major political parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), were present during the event.—RT/Agency

Five Soldiers Martyred In IED Blast In Kurram



KHURRAM: An improvised explosive device (IED) detonated on a vehicle of the Security Forces in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa on Friday, resulting in the martyrdom of five soldiers, the military's media wing said in a statement.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the attack on the armed forces occurred in general area Satta of Kurram District.

The fallen include Havildar Aqeel Ahmed (33, District Okara), Lance Naik Muhammad Tafer (30, District Poonch), Sepoy Anosh Rufun (24, District Attock), Sepoy Muhammad Azam Khan (26, District Haripur), and

Sepoy Haroon William (29, Islamabad Capital Territory).

"Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area, and perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice," the ISPR statement said.

The Security Forces of Pakistan remain resolute in their determination to eliminate the menace of terrorism. "Such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR statement added. Earlier in the month an IED was detonated on a vehicle of the Security Forces in Lakki Marwat District resulting in the martyrdom of seven soldiers.—RT/Agency

Imran Suggests Negotiations Could Lead To Toppling Of PML-N Government

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan stated on Friday that any negotiations with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) could result in the downfall of their government.

During an informal media chat at the hearing of the £190 million reference case, the incarcerated former PM expressed his desire to negotiate for Pakistan's benefit, not for personal or governmental interests.

"I want to negotiate for Pakistan, not for myself or the government," he said.

Imran reiterated his willingness to step back if it benefits the country, saying, "Convince me it benefits the country, and I will step back."

He criticised the current government for not reducing expenses and failing to create an investment-friendly environment. "The country is in crisis," the ex-PM said.

"The government has not reduced its expenses, which is troubling. The current government has failed to create an environment for investment."

Imran argued that Pakistan needs a mandate-driven government for necessary reforms, pointing out that the current budget highlights the



limitations of a non-mandated government. He condemned heavy taxation on professionals and the public, predicting severe impacts from the upcoming electricity bills.

Imran lamented the broken promises on load-shedding in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP), where power cuts are extensive.

He criticised the ongoing issue of electricity theft in various regions, questioning where the public should turn for solutions. "Electricity theft is an old issue. It happens in Hyderabad, Sindh, and Quetta as well," he said.

Imran also complained about being barred from meeting Ali Amr Gandapur, despite not refusing a meeting himself. He noted the lack of unity within political

parties and criticised Maryam Nawaz for extravagant spending on self-promotion.

Imran announced plans to file cases against major and colonel officials in Adiala Jail, accusing Ahsan Iqbal of contempt for suggesting he be jailed for five years.

He questioned the rule of law, criticising recent judicial and administrative actions.

He also criticised amendments to NAB laws, alleging they were made to conceal corruption. "How can someone who conducted fraudulent elections deliver justice?" Imran asked.

He warned that further borrowing would be needed to pay off the national debt and urged the judiciary to support the weak rather than the powerful.—RT/Agency

Vawda Calls For Reexamination Of Exemption For Hajj And Umrah For Non-Filers



ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda has said the exemptions to the non-filers for Hajj and Umrah package should be reexamined.

Speaking at the Senate Committee on Finance meeting on budget, he questioned why non-filers were given exemption for Hajj and Umrah.

He said the media employees' salaries were cut down during the Covid pan-

dem which should be returned to them immediately.

However, the committee chairman asked the senator to do this in regard? A meeting should be held with the Ministry of Information to make housing schemes and give incentives to the media workers to mitigate their hardships, Vawda suggested.—RT/Agency

Traditional Budget Poses Threat To National Sovereignty: Farooq Sattar

ISLAMABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Farooq Sattar described the federal budget for 2024-25 as a threat to national sovereignty and security.

Speaking at a session of the National Assembly on Friday, he criticised the incumbent government for coming up with "a traditional budget maintaining the status quo".

He mentioned that Pakistan has been facing the same crisis for 70 years and criticised the budget presented by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying it also perpetuated the status quo. Sattar claimed that this budget provided relief to feudal lords while depriving the poor and middle class of incentives. He pointed out that only the salaried class was taxed while the world was



moving towards tax-free regimes. He highlighted the brain drain of skilled workers who are compelled to take odd and blue-collar jobs abroad. The middle class, he said, faced multiple crises such as electricity, gas, and water shortages, yet they are burdened with high bills.

He warned that failure to devise a people-friendly budget could threaten national sovereignty and sur-

vival.

He also stressed that businesses were closing down and investment was shrinking. Inflation, he added, had risen from 20pc to 40pc, and unemployment had skyrocketed to 15pc.

The MQM-P leader said the government was making lame excuses of financial constraints as it could help the people in debt if it wanted.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is addressing a public gathering in connection with the 71st birth anniversary of his mother Shaheed Mohatarmna Benazir Bhutto, in the Lyari area of the city.—RT

THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: President Asif Ali Zardari and MPA Adi Faryal Talpur are cutting a cake on the 71st birth anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto.—Photo by Nadeem Soomro

Adi Faryal Talpur visits free medical camp set up by SZABIST Foundation

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Adi Faryal Talpur, the Central President of PPP Women's Wing and MPA, visited a free medical camp organized by the SZABIST Foundation in the village of Chhuan, Ratodero. The medical camp was established to commemorate the birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.



During her visit, Adi Faryal Talpur toured the medical camp and interacted with patients. She distributed gifts among the attendees and expressed her appreciation for the excellent arrangements made by the SZABIST Foundation. Adi Faryal Talpur emphasized the importance of such initiatives in providing essential health-

care services to underserved communities. Accompanying Adi Faryal Talpur were MNA Khurshed Ahmed Junjo, District Council Chairman Ejaz Ahmed Laghari, and other prominent leaders of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The free medical camp continues to serve the local population, offering medical consultations, treatments, and health education.

Superior School and College of Shahdadpur host an awards ceremony

By Sajan Jani

SHAHADADPUR: Superior School and College of Shahdadpur celebrated the achievements of more than 25 students who secured placements in prestigious universities for medical and engineering fields. The awards distribution ceremony witnessed a large turnout, including teachers, students, parents, and city residents, reflecting the community's strong support for educational excellence.



During the ceremony, award shields were presented to 17 outstanding students selected for medical studies and 8 for engineering from Superior College. Principal Suhail Akhtar Lakho and Director Syed Ayaz Ali, in their speeches, highlighted the institution's ongoing commitment to providing quality education. They proudly shared that each year, the school offers free education to over 50 underprivileged students.



The leaders expressed their vision to establish a separate school dedicated to offering free education to poor students, ensuring the best arrangements for their academic growth and success.

Special guests, including former President of Taluka Bar Tariq Mehmood Arain, symbolizing the rich cultural and social heritage of the region.

The event underscored the importance of educational achievements and the community's role in supporting and celebrating student success.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Matari District are holding a protest demonstration against a rape and their area's police officials, at the Hyderabad press club-RT

JUI-F's Allama Nasir Mehmood Soomro rejects Budget 2024-25



By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Allama Nasir Mehmood Soomro, central leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) (JUI-F), strongly criticized the Budget 2024-25, denouncing it as a continuation of policies that perpetuate economic dependency and hardship for the people of Pakistan.

Speaking to a delegation led by JUI-F's district leader, Dr. AG Ansari, Allama Nasir Mehmood Soomro expressed grave concerns over the country's economic policies, stating that as long as Pakistan remains tied to the United States and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the nation and its people will continue to suffer under economic slavery.

He emphasized that the current budget merely replicates the failed policies of the past 76 years, designed to oppress the common people while benefiting the wealthy elite and capitalists. Allama Nasir Mehmood Soomro stressed that without genuine measures aimed at improving the lives of the country's laborers, farmers, and hard-working citizens, there can be no real progress or prosperity.

The JUI-F leader called for immediate reforms that prioritize the welfare and upliftment of Pakistan's marginalized communities, urging the government to break free from foreign economic influences and chart a course towards self-reliance and sustainable development.

PPP's Ajiz Dhamrah condoles sad demise of JNA journalist Ishaq Mangrio



By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: Former Senator Ajiz Dhamrah expressed his deep condolences over the passing of senior Sindhi journalist Ishaq Mangrio, offering his sympathies to Mangrio's son, Saleh Mangrio, and the bereaved family.

Ajiz Dhamrah, Central Information Secretary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and a former Senator,

praised the late journalist Ishaq Mangrio as a fearless professional who dedicated himself to truth in journalism. He emphasized that Mangrio's commitment to honesty and integrity in his reporting left an indelible mark.

Dhamrah conveyed his heartfelt sorrow at the loss of Ishaq Mangrio, extending prayers and Fateha for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Five of a family hospitalized after eating sweets in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A tragic incident occurred in Thul where five members of a family, identified as Amana, Zaira, Hamidan, Maira, and Mansoor, were hospitalized in an unconscious state after consuming poisonous sweets. The affected individuals were immediately admitted to the local hospital for urgent medical treatment. Earlier on Eid-ul-Azha, 15 other family

members had also fainted after consuming sweets from the same batch, raising serious concerns about the quality and safety of food items being sold in the city. In light of these incidents, there is an urgent call for authorities to conduct thorough quality checks on sweets and other food products available in Thul. Ensuring food safety is crucial to prevent such unfortunate incidents and protect public health.

Man killed, two injured in fatal Kumb road accident

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: A tragic road accident occurred on the old national highway near Kot Bungalow, resulting in the loss of life and serious injuries to others involved. The incident involved a collision between a cargo rickshaw and a motorcycle.

Muhammad Akram Burro, aged 60 and a resident of village Khanan Burro, tragically lost his life at the scene of the accident. Two other individ-

uals, identified as Zohaib Ali Burro and Jahangir Burro, sustained severe injuries and have been rushed to the hospital in critical condition for medical treatment.

Following necessary procedures, the body of Muhammad Akram Burro has been handed over to his grieving family. The local authorities are investigating the circumstances surrounding the collision to determine the exact cause of the accident.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Badin District are holding a press conference for the acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club-RT

Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro visits Sukkur Barrage

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro, accompanied by Secretary Irrigation Zarif Ahmed Khoro, visited Sukkur Barrage to inspect the damage caused to its gates following recent heavy rains. The assessment was conducted in the presence of Mayor Sukkur, MD SIDA, MD SWAT, Chief Engineer Sukkur Rohri, and other officials.



During the visit, Minister Jam Khan Shoro was briefed on the current situation by the officials. He acknowledged that due to the damage sustained by gates 44 and 47 of Sukkur Barrage, water is being released downstream as a precautionary measure. Consequently, the Left Bank and Right Bank canals will

temporarily experience reduced water supply.

Minister Jam Khan Shoro expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to farmers and the public due to the ongoing repair work on the barrage gates. He emphasized that releasing water downstream aligns with standard operating procedures

(SOPs) to prevent any further strain on the damaged gates and to safeguard the structural integrity of Sukkur Barrage. Efforts are underway to swiftly install replacement gates to normalize the water flow and minimize disruptions to irrigation activities in the region.

DC Naveed Rehman Larik chairs meeting of District Disaster Management Authority

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner/Chairman District Disaster Management Authority Umerkot, Naveed Rehman Larik, another important meeting was held at the Soorah Badshah Complex Hall to address the potential rains and floods. During this occasion, the decisions made in the previous DDMA meeting were reviewed and instructions were given to ensure their implementation. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naveed Rehman Larik instructed all relevant department officials to complete their necessary preparations before the expected rains, considering the previous rains, and to present a report on the DDMA forum. This is to ensure that any situation arising from the upcoming potential rains can be handled promptly, and the public can be spared from any major inconvenience. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik instructed the Executive Engineers of Mithrao Canal, Thar Canal, Jamrao Canal, and the Drainage Divi-



son District Council Umerkot Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli, Lieutenant Saif from the Pakistan Army Chhor Cantonment, Additional Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Javed Ahmed Dahri, Assistant Commissioner Umerkot Rajib Ali Sathio, Assistant Commissioner Samaro and Pithoro Sanjay Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Kunri Muhammad Khan, District Health Officer Dr. Nandlal, District Manager PPHI, Additional Director Agriculture, Deputy Director Social Welfare Umerkot Noor Muhammad Shaikh, District Information Officer Muhammad Aslam Bhatti, Chief Municipal Officer Umerkot Syed Sajid Shah, Town Officer Dhronaro Farhan Laghari, among other officials from relevant departments.



HYDERABAD: Leaders and members of the PPP are cutting a cake to celebrate the 71st birthday anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.-RT

NATIONAL

Pakistan And China Agree On Five New Corridors

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan, Ahsan Iqbal, affirmed that Pakistan and China have reached an agreement on the establishment of five new corridors and the implementation of modern technology in the agricultural sector.

Speaking at the China-Pakistan Political Parties Forum, Iqbal stated "The new economic corridors being established under CPEC Phase II are part of the ESS framework, which includes the Growth Corridor, Livelihood Enhancing Corridor, Innovation Corridor, Green Corridor, and Opening Up/Regional Connectivity Corridor. These align with Pakistan's priorities for export-led growth, digital development, environmental sustainability, energy and infrastructure development, and equity and empowerment."

The planning minister emphasized the importance of CPEC for stability, regional connectivity, and economic development, noting the strategic significance of Gwadar Port for providing China with direct access to the Arabian Sea.



He highlighted the Pakistani government's commitment to ensuring the safety of Chinese officials, with measures in place for their protection.

The event, attended by high-ranking officials including Minister for International Department Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Liu Jianchao, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, underscored the strength of Pakistan-China relations and the pivotal role of CPEC. During the 13th session of CPEC's Joint Coordination Committee (JCC)

Moriani's growers protest against shortage of water

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: The growers of Moriani staged a protest rally under the leadership of Rasool Bux Kathor to voice their concerns over the severe water shortage in Moriani Mines and Bhatar Mines. The protesters expressed their frustration, stating that the minor and major water channels in these areas are experiencing an acute shortage of water, resulting in significant crop losses.

The protesters accused the Irrigation Department officials of corruption, alleging that they have been taking bribes to sell water to others,

thereby neglecting the needs of the local farmers. Due to this malpractice, the irrigation officials of the nearby region have not been providing water to the farmers in Moriani.

In their plea, the growers called upon the honorable Deputy Commissioner, MNA Shazia Atta, and other higher authorities to take immediate action against the corrupt practices within the Irrigation Department. They urged the authorities to ensure a fair distribution of water to the farmers to prevent their ready crops from drying up.

DBA Jacobabad protests against deteriorating law and order situation

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: The District Bar Association (DBA) of Jacobabad, led by prominent lawyers including Ahmed Nawaz Pechuho, Mazhar Rind, and GM Soomro, staged a protest at the bar office premises condemning the escalating lawlessness in the city.

During the protest, leaders of the lawyers' fraternity expressed grave concerns over the rampant spread of lawlessness, criticizing the local police for failing to protect citizens from criminal activities. They highlighted a recent incident where armed bandits abducted Advocate GM Soomro and looted cash

and other valuables before escaping.

The lawyers' fraternity lamented that despite filing a complaint with the city police regarding the abduction, no action has been taken to apprehend the culprits or improve security measures in the area. They emphasized the urgent need for restoring peace and ensuring the safety of all residents in Jacobabad.

The DBA leaders called upon the relevant authorities to take immediate steps to curb criminal activities, strengthen law enforcement efforts, and restore public confidence in the justice system.

71st birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto celebrated at Berani House

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: The 71st birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was celebrated with reverence and fervor at Berani House, where a cake-cutting ceremony was organized to commemorate her life and legacy.

The event was attended by a gathering of prominent figures including District Chairman Syed Riaz Hussain Khurasani, Aurangzeb Marri, Akbar Khan Marri, Zaheer

Ali Khan, Nadir Khan Marri, PPP District Information Secretary Shakil Mari, Mashood Chandio, Rajesh Kumar Harsdani, Rukhsana Shar, Seth Anwar Ali Rajput, Chairman Habibullah Malookani, Khalifa Ishaq Solangi, Ghulam Muhammad Marri, and Zaheer Ali Thaheem, alongside numerous other distinguished party members.

During the ceremony, District Chairman Syed Riaz Hussain Khurasani

paid heartfelt tribute to the indomitable spirit and sacrifices of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for the cause of democracy. He underscored the enduring commitment of the Bhutto family to serving the nation, often at great personal cost.

The occasion of Benazir Bhutto's 71st birthday was marked with solemnity and dedication, symbolizing a continued pledge to uphold her legacy and principles.



Electric motors go out of order at water supply scheme in Kunri

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: The residents of Kunri are facing a severe water shortage due to the malfunctioning of electric motors at the water supply scheme managed by the Kunri Town Committee. The breakdown has disrupted water supply to half of the city for the past two days, causing significant concern among the citizens. The motors, essential for the second phase of water supply, have suffered multiple incidents of burnouts. Three months ago, two motors were damaged, and another motor malfunctioned just two days ago.



Consequently, areas such as Khalid Colony, Samiullah Colony, Maharaj Colony, Rashidabad, Memon Naka, Bhadu Kapri, and others have

been adversely affected by the suspension of water supply. The scarcity of water has exacerbated living conditions in these areas, prompting urgent efforts from the town administration to repair the motors and restore normal water supply. Residents are hopeful that the administration will swiftly resolve the issue to alleviate their hardships.

KP Police Investigate Man's Death Following Blasphemy Allegation In Swat

PESHAWAR: Authorities have begun an investigation to identify and arrest members of a mob that killed a man accused of blasphemy, after they ransacked a police station holding him in protective custody in Swat, officials said on Friday.

A mob beat the man to death on Thursday night after accusing him of burning pages of the Quran. They set the police station in the area ablaze and injured eight policemen, Malakand division's regional police chief Mohammad Ali Gandapur told Reuters.

"After initially rescuing the man from a crowd, the police took him to the station in Madyan, but announcements from mosque loud speakers asked locals to come out," Gandapur said, after which the mob stormed the station.

Legal processes are frequently preceded by vigilante action based on rumors or complaints and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom said in a report on Pakistan in December that in many cases the perpetrators operate with impunity.

Graphic videos of the latest incident showed a frenzied mob dragging a naked and bloodied body through the streets, and then setting it on fire. The footage went viral on social media and sparked outcry amongst Pakistani users.

Gandapur said the situation was under control and a case registered against the organizers of the mob. He added the man had been visiting Swat, which is a popular tourist destination, for Eid ul Adha.

Last month, a Christian man in his seventies was attacked by a mob on charges of burning pages of the Quran and later died of his injuries in Sialkot.

In 2021, a Sri Lankan factory manager was lynched in one of the highest profile incidents in the country. Six people were sentenced to death for their part in the lynching after the incident sparked global outcry.—RT/Agency



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Peshawar High Court Seeks Response From PTA On Plea Seeking TikTok Ban

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued notice to Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), directing it to submit a reply in a petition seeking a complete ban on video-sharing app TikTok for "blasphemous and immoral" content.

The video-sharing platform was first banned in Pakistan in October 2020 and has been banned at least three times after that as authorities claim that the app promotes immoral content.

The petition was filed by Advocate Imran Khan requesting the court to direct the respondents to the PTA, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and Ministry of Information to ban TikTok in Pakistan permanently for persistent breach of guidelines and violation of the Constitution.

A bench consisting of Chief Justice Ishaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah heard on Thursday the request of the petitioner for interim relief seeking removal of all the objectionable material from TikTok till final disposal of the petition.

He also prayed the court to direct the respondents to not allow such applications in future which affect moral and ethical values of the people in Pakistan. He said that there were benefits of social media, but some social media platforms had opened the way to



express anything disregarding decency, morality and the values of Islam in countries like Pakistan. The petition said that "TikTok, being a publicly accessible application, has failed to adequately optimise its system to prescribe such criminal, hateful, unethical, and vulgar content. Moreover, it has failed to enforce a complete ban on such content, thereby breaching its own content policy and serving as a prominent platform for such objectionable entities," it said.—RT/Agency

Thieves steal electric motor from Tando Jam Agriculture Research Institute

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: In a brazen act, unidentified thieves have stolen an electric motor from the Wheat Section of the Tando Jam Agriculture Research Institute. The incident, which occurred recently, has not yet been formally reported to the local police station.

Efforts to reach the Director of the Wheat Section at the Tando Jam Agriculture Research Institute for a statement were unsuccessful as journalists were unable to establish contact.

The theft of the electric motor has raised concerns among staff and management at the institute, prompting a review of security measures to prevent future incidents.

Earlier this month, CTD operations in Bannu district resulted in the killing of another TTP terrorist, Umar alias Mustafa, during an intelligence-based operation in the Talgai area of Wazir Tehsil. The deceased was wanted for various offenses including bombings, targeted killings, and attacks on security forces. Weapons and grenades were recovered from his possession.

The CTD identified Umar alias Mustafa as belonging to the banned TTP faction led by Hafiz Gul Bahadur.—RT

CTD Apprehends TTP Terrorist In Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a raid in Hyderabad and arrested Mohammad Zaman alias Adil, an alleged terrorist linked to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), media reported on Friday.

According to the CTD spokesperson, Zaman, a native of Waziristan, is being investigated for his criminal record and alleged involvement in anti-national activities in Pakistan. Officials stated that he received training in Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, CTD operations in Bannu district resulted in the killing of another TTP terrorist, Umar alias Mustafa, during an intelligence-based operation in the Talgai area of Wazir Tehsil. The deceased was wanted for various offenses including bombings, targeted killings, and attacks on security forces. Weapons and grenades were recovered from his possession.

The CTD identified Umar alias Mustafa as belonging to the banned TTP faction led by Hafiz Gul Bahadur.—RT

Qaimkhani community notable demands justice, protection

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: Seth Islam Qaimkhani, a prominent figure in Jhudo, has raised serious concerns following an incident involving an ongoing agricultural land dispute. Aijaz Sial and his brother, using heavy machinery, attempted to remove soil from Qaimkhani's land despite an ongoing court trial.

When Islam Khan and others intervened and requested them to halt, Aijaz Sial, Riaz Sial, and others allegedly responded violently, assaulting them and attempting to abduct them.

The incident was promptly reported to the Jhudo Police Station, prompting a swift response from law enforcement. Although police arrived



quickly, the assailants managed to flee the scene before they could be apprehended. Subsequently, based on a complaint lodged by Islam Qaimkhani, the Jhudo Police registered a case against Aijaz Sial, Riaz Sial, Hussain Bakhsh, Allah Bachayo, Raheem Bakhsh, Ghulam Zakir, and others involved in the altercation.

Community leaders and notables from the Qaimkhani community have voiced their demand for justice and protection in light of this incident. They have urged higher authorities, including DIG Mirpurkhas and SSP Mirpurkhas, to take immediate notice of the matter and ensure appropriate actions are taken to safeguard the rights and security of the Qaimkhani community members.

Naqvi Condemns IED Explosion Near Security Forces' Vehicles In Karak

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the IED explosion near security forces' vehicles in Karak on Friday. He expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of five security forces personnel in the blast.

Minister Naqvi paid tribute to the sacrifice of the martyrs and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He emphasized that the great sacri-



face of the martyrs would always be remembered, as they laid down their lives for the peace and security of the nation.

Naqvi highlighted that Pakistan's security forces have made unprecedented sacrifices, and the entire nation is resolute in its commitment to eliminate terrorism from the country.—RT/Agency

Infant's Body Stolen From Lahore Graveyard

LAHORE: In a shocking incident reported from Lahore, the body of a three-month-old child was found missing from its grave at Miani Sahib Graveyard just hours after burial, according to media re-

ports. The incident took place when the family buried their child, only to discover the grave disturbed and the body missing the next day. The child's father, Abdul Rahman, noticed the shroud outside

the disturbed grave and promptly alerted the police. Following an investigation, authorities arrested three individuals, including a security guard, in connection with the crime.—RT/Agency

Section 144 Imposed In Punjab Due To Security Concerns

LAHORE: The Punjab government imposed Section 144 across the province for seven days due to security concerns. According to media, the Home Department took the decision in light of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call for a nationwide protest at 2pm today to protect the sanctity of the vote.

The orders issued by the department said that Section 144 will remain enforced throughout the province from June 21 to 27.

The order said that there will be a ban on all kinds of



gatherings, sit-ins, rallies, processions, protests, meetings and other such activities in Punjab during this time. The Home Department said that due to the current situation of public order and security threats in the province, any public gathering of people can be a soft target of terrorists and miscreants, which can be a serious threat to law and order.—RT/Agency

ADB and EAD Sign \$250 Million Policy-Based Loan Agreement

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Pakistan's Economic Affairs Division (EAD) signed an agreement on Friday for a \$250 million policy-based loan. The agreement aims to support Pakistan in promoting sustainable investment in infrastructure and services through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

According to an ADB official, the loan will facilitate Pakistan's efforts to drive sustainable investments in infrastructure and services through PPPs. ADB Country Director for Pakistan, Yong Ye, and Sec-



retary of EAD, Dr. Kazim Niaz, signed the agreement. In a statement, ADB emphasized that the loan will assist Pakistan in enhancing its infrastructure and services sector through effective PPP initiatives.—RT/Agency



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is exchanging views with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi during their meeting at the PM House.—RT

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, June 22, 2024



The tragic death of four-year-old Hussain: A call for accountability

The recent death of four-year-old Hussain in Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal area is a heart-breaking incident that exemplifies criminal negligence. Hussain suffocated after being left in a locked car by his aunt and uncle, Arjuman and Khaliquz Zaman, while they assumed he had exited the vehicle with their other children. This tragic event is not merely a case of innocent negligence; it is a criminal matter that demands accountability and justice.

Hussain's death was entirely preventable. The sequence of events, as revealed by CCTV footage, shows that Hussain was visibly left behind when Arjuman took her children out of the car. This raises serious questions about the attentiveness and responsibility of his guardians. The fact that Hus-

sain's absence went unnoticed for three hours underscores a severe lack of vigilance that ultimately cost the young boy his life.



The local police have rightly arrested Zaman and Arjuman following the mother's complaint. Their actions—or lack thereof—reflect a level of carelessness that cannot be excused. This case must be prosecuted with the seriousness it deserves to send a clear message that such negligence will not be tolerated. The death of an innocent child due to avoidable circumstances is a tragedy that should stir the

conscience of society and prompt immediate preventive measures.

To prevent further such tragedies, it is crucial that this case be highlighted and scrutinized. Public awareness campaigns should be launched to educate guardians about the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles. Additionally, stricter regulations and penalties for such negligence should be enforced.

Four-year-old Hussain should have had a future filled with promise and joy. His senseless death is a stark reminder of the grave responsibilities adults bear in safeguarding the lives of children. It is imperative that justice is served, and that this case becomes a turning point in preventing such horrific incidents in the future.

THE HEARTLAND



SSP Badin Sheeraz Nazir reviews arrangement for Muharram-ul-Haram

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: SSP Badin Sheeraz Nazir chaired a meeting at his office to discuss security arrangements and law enforcement during Muharram 2024. The meeting aimed to ensure the maintenance of law and order during the month of Muharram-ul-Haram. It was attended by members of the peace committee, including religious leaders representing various schools of thought from the sub-divisions of Matli and Shaheed Fazil Rahu. Also present were DSP Shaheed Fazil Rahu Shaheel Ahmad Solangi, DSP Matli Rajkumar, all SHOs from the sub-

divisions of Matli and Shaheed Fazil Rahu, and the in-charge DIB Inspector Ayaz Ali Memon. The meeting commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by SSP Badin extending a warm welcome to all scholars, dignitaries, and participants. Discussions were held regarding security, peace, and order throughout the month of Muharram, considering the perspectives of all schools of thought. Regional issues were also addressed and noted. During the meeting, SSP Badin Sheeraz Nazir issued instructions to all DSPs and SHOs, emphasizing the need for them to adhere to their re-

sponsibilities and ensure security during processions and gatherings throughout Muharram. SSP Sheeraz Nazir reaffirmed that Badin is historically a peaceful district and emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and order during Muharram, assuring that his district's peaceful legacy would continue. Religious leaders from all schools of thought and members of the peace committee reiterated their commitment to fostering mutual relations and ensuring peace throughout Muharram, expressing confidence that the month would conclude without any disturbances.

Imran Bhagat protests for recovery of his stolen valuables

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Imran Bhagat, son of Gul Hassan Bhagat, has initiated protests at the Press Club in Hingorja demanding the recovery of his stolen motorcycle and valuables. The incident occurred outside the Kundi Police Picket within the jurisdiction of Hingorja Police Station.

Imran Bhagat was robbed of his motorcycle and other valuables, but despite three days passing since the incident, the police have neither

returned the stolen items nor made any arrests in connection with the theft.

This failure to act has prompted Imran Bhagat to take his grievances public, seeking justice and the immediate recovery of his belongings.

The protestors gathered at the Press Club are urging authorities to expedite their efforts to recover the stolen motorcycle and ensure accountability for the crime committed against Imran Bhagat.

Najia Student Organization "Nishat" celebrates birthday of Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi

By Jibrán Talpur

BADIN: The Najia Student Organization "Nishat" celebrated the 45th birthday of Hazrat Qibla Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi, the current Sajada Nashin of Darbar Alia Luari Sharif, with great devotion, respect, and enthusiasm at the guest house of Hazrat Qibla Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi in Luari Sharif, District Badin. The special guests were Pir Noorullah Qureshi and Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi, Chairman of the Municipal Committee of Badin. The event was presided over by the Central President of Nishat, Muhammad Yasir Talpur, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Pir Noorullah Qureshi and Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi for their participation in this auspicious gathering. He remarked that their presence was indeed a source of happiness and has marked a new chapter in history. He praised the relentless efforts of Nishat, which continues with the support and dedication of its members. He affirmed that Nishat embodies love, which is deeply ingrained in every member. He expressed hope that these joyous celebrations would continue to thrive, bringing enjoyment to both present and future generations.



plause, drumbeats, songs, and expressions of joy, demonstrating their unwavering love for their spiritual guide. In his concluding presidential address, the Central President of Nishat, Muhammad Yasir Talpur, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Pir Noorullah Qureshi and Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi for their participation in this auspicious gathering. He remarked that their presence was indeed a source of happiness and has marked a new chapter in history. He praised the relentless efforts of Nishat, which continues with the support and dedication of its members. He affirmed that Nishat embodies love, which is deeply ingrained in every member. He expressed hope that these joyous celebrations would continue to thrive, bringing enjoyment to both present and future generations.

SUC's Dr. Abid Rasool Hashmi pays tribute to Shaheed Qaisar Hussain Chughtai

By Dildar Ali Samo

TANDO ADAM: Dr. Abid Rasool Hashmi, Vice President of the Shia Ulema Council (SUC) Sanghar District, has paid a heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of Millat-e-Jafaria, particularly honoring Shaheed Qaisar Hussain Chughtai. In his statement, Dr. Hashmi emphasized that the sacrifices and services of the martyrs of Millat-e-Jafaria will never be forgotten, highlighting the profound impact their bravery has had on the nation's youth. Dr. Hashmi remarked on how the youth of the nation have been awakened by the martyrs' sacrifices, expressing deep admiration for the honor these martyrs have brought to the nation. He underscored the SUC's ongoing



commitment to fighting for the education of youth and advocating for students' rights, continuing the legacy of the martyrs' sacrifices.

He further noted that the martyrs achieved martyrdom by following the commandments of Hazrat Imam

Hussain (AS), a guiding principle that strengthens their resolve. Dr. Hashmi pledged that the SUC would remain at the forefront, ensuring that the caravan of the martyrs remains strong, organized, and active in its mission.

Police constable suffering from cancer appeals for help

By Maqbool Dal

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: In the village of Haji Shah Muhammad Shar, Police Constable Shahnawaz Shar, a dedicated father of four, has been battling the extremely dangerous disease of blood cancer since 2021. Standing at the brink of life and death, Constable Shar is in urgent need of medical treatment which he cannot afford due to his financial situation.

The cost of necessary medicines and treatments is beyond his means, and his family's situation has deteriorated to the point where they are facing starvation.

Despite his dire circumstances, no assistance has been forthcoming from the police department, elected representatives, NGOs, or any organizations. In a desperate plea for help, Police Constable Shahnawaz Shar



has appealed to IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, DIG Mirpurkhas Javed Jiskani, and the elected representatives of his area to provide the necessary support and treatment to save his life.

Constable Shar's situation is a call to action for all concerned authorities and compassionate individuals to come forward and provide the aid needed to ensure he receives the life-saving treatment required. Immediate support is crucial to prevent further suffering for Constable Shar and his family.

Moro Police arrest five criminals

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: In a significant operation against theft and burglary, the Moro Police have arrested five suspects involved in stealing motorcycles, mobile phones, solar plates, goats and illegal pistols. Separate cases have been registered against the suspects for theft and burglary. On this occasion, DSP Moro Sardar Khan Chandio and SHO Murad Ali Akbar Khokhar held a press conference with journalists, where they praised the entire police team for their efforts in apprehending thieves and burglars. They mentioned that during the investigation, various houses in different neighborhoods of the city were raided, resulting in the arrest of several suspects. Among the arrested individuals were Lal Bakhsh Laghari, who was appre-



hended in Aliabad, Suleman Laghari from Lucky Petrol Pump area, Abdur Razaq son of Muhammad Umar Khushk arrested in Methiani, Wajid S/o Sanwan Khan Lanjar arrested in Malir Colony Murad and Altar Hussain son of Rasool Bakhsh Lanjar arrested in Malir Colony Moro. During the search, police recovered eight stolen motorcycles, eight stolen mobile phones, two stolen solar plates, one stolen goat, and four illegal pistols from the arrested suspects. Various cases have

been registered against the arrested suspects for their involvement in different thefts, and they have been presented before the court for further legal proceedings. DSP Sardar Khan Chandio and SHO Ali Akbar Khokhar assured that their resolve is to ensure peace, security, and protection of life and property in the city, and they will not spare any criminal. They expressed confidence that their successful operations against criminals will further strengthen the city's peace and security.

Veehar Police arrest a notorious criminal

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Veehar Police Station in Larkana successfully apprehended a notorious criminal on Friday following an intense exchange of gunfire during a police patrol. The incident occurred when a police mobile unit came under fire from a group of assailants. In response, the police retaliated, resulting in the arrest of one suspect who was found injured at the scene. The

arrested suspect has been identified as Ali Azam Jalbani, who is allegedly involved in serious criminal activities including murder and robbery. Confirming the arrest, authorities stated that Ali Azam Jalbani sustained injuries during the exchange of fire and has been taken into custody. The police are continuing their investigation into the incident to gather further details regarding the suspect's criminal activities.

Heavy rains hit Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: During the recent night, heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds occurred in Larkana city and surrounding areas. As a result, rainwater has accumulated in various parts of the city, causing severe difficulties for the residents. Despite heavy rainfall, the district administration and municipal corporation have not taken practical steps to address the situation, leading to the absence of drainage cleaning operations and road clearing activities. Due to the heavy rainfall, water logging has been reported in many areas, including Station Road, La-

hori Muhalla Road, Nishat Road, Murad Wahar Road, Railway Colony and others. Additionally, power supply disruptions caused by the severe winds have further exacerbated the situation, with some areas facing blackouts despite the passage of several hours. The residents have demanded immediate action from the authorities to clear the rainwater from the roads and provide relief to the citizens. In response to these demands, Mayor Larkana Anwar Ali Luthar, Councilor Sher Muhammad Laghari, Naeeem Ahmed Tunio, Municipal Commissioner Javed Abbasi, Sabir Abbasi, Abdul Wahab, Parkash Parwani, Jameel Hulo, and others have instructed the concerned officials to expedite the drainage and rainwater removal process. Mayor Anwar Ali Luthar emphasized that immediate action has been initiated to address the situation caused by the heavy rainfall, with municipal corporation machinery and personnel actively engaged in drainage cleaning and rainwater removal operations. Disposal of waste and rainwater drainage is being facilitated through the use of suction machines and water drainage trucks, with efforts underway to clear the roads of accumulated water promptly.

Six injured in Talhar's Lashari-Nizamani clash

TALHAR: A violent clash erupted in the village of Shah Bukhsh Lashari, under the jurisdiction of Tando Ghulam Haider, over disputes related to water distribution for agricultural purposes. The confrontation resulted in injuries to several individuals belonging to the Lashari community. Those injured in the altercation include Ahmed Nizamani, Haji Muhammad

Lashari, Mehboob Ali Lashari, Liaquat Ali Lashari, as well as women identified as Zulekhan Lashari and Fozia Lashari. They sustained severe injuries during the brawl. Upon receiving notification of the incident, Tando Ghulam Haider Police swiftly responded and arrived at the scene to ensure order and safety. The injured were promptly transported to a nearby hospital for initial medical treatment. Subsequently, they were transferred to Hyderabad Civil Hospital for further medical attention. The situation remains tense in the area, and authorities are actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the clash to restore peace and prevent any further escalation of tensions. RT

SPORTS



PCB 'allowed' Mohammed Amir to travel with personal trainer to US, Ireland, UK

LAHORE: Despite the availability of a foreign trainer for the national side, Pakistan fast bowler Mohammed Amir preferred to travel with his personal trainer to the United States during the T20 World Cup 2024, sources told media on Friday.

The sources said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) management permitted Amir to bring his personal trainer, whose expenditures were paid by the pacer himself. However, the cricket body made the required arrangements in this regard, they said.

The bowler did not take the trainer to just the US, but also during the Ireland and England tours as well.

The sources said this while sharing several reasons behind Pakistan's poor performance as a team in the 20-team tournament which led to their early exit.



Amir conceded 18 runs in the Super Over of one of the biggest upsets of the mega event, following which Pakistan's chances for advancing into the Super 8 stage were drastically cut.

Minnows US, who were playing the T20 World Cup for the first time, defeated Pakistan by restricting the former champions to 13 runs in the final over. The debutants cruised into the Super 8 stage from Group A along with India.—Agency

South Africa beat England in a high-scoring thriller

GROS ISLET: Quinton de Kock's swashbuckling half-century, followed by a combined bowling display led South Africa to beat defending champions England in a high-scoring ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 thriller on Friday.



Chasing a daunting 164-run target, England managed 156/6 in the allotted 20 overs despite Harry Brook's half-century.

The defending champions had a dismal start to the pursuit as Kagiso Rabada removed in-form Phil Salt (11) in the second over with 15 runs on the board. Jonny Bairstow, who was promoted to bat at No.3, put together a cautious partnership with skipper Jos Buttler.

Following the slump, Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone knitted a fighting partnership and deliveries before both fell victim to Keshav Maharaj. England then sustained another blow to their pursuit as Moeen Ali walked back after scoring a mere nine, resulting in them slipping to 61/4 in 10.2 overs.

Following the slump, Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone knitted a fighting partnership and deliveries before both fell victim to Keshav Maharaj. England then sustained another blow to their pursuit as Moeen Ali walked back after scoring a mere nine, resulting in them slipping to 61/4 in 10.2 overs.

fending champions then needed 14 runs off the final over. South Africa had a perfect start to the eventful final over as Anrich Nortje removed England's batting mainstay Harry Brook on the first delivery.

Brook top-scored for England with a 37-ball 53 with the help of seven boundaries. England's bowling all-rounder Sam Curran fought valiantly with an unbeaten 10-run cameo but his efforts went in vain as Nortje held his nerves calm under pressure to steer South Africa to glory.

For South Africa, Kagiso Rabada and Keshav Maharaj bagged two wickets each while Ottneil Baartman and Anrich Nortje struck out a batter apiece.—Agency

Sania Mirza's father breaks silence on wedding rumors with Mohammad Shami



Tennis star Sania Mirza has been the centre of attention ever since her divorce from Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik. This time, a morphed picture of Sania and Indian cricketer player Mohammad Shami in wedding attire has been making the rounds on social media, further fueling their marriage rumours.

However, Sania's father Imran Mirza, has refuted the claims.

Imran, talking to an Indian media outlet, said: "This is all rubbish. She has not even met him."

The rumours began a few days ago when Sania shared thoughts on a second marriage, while Shami did the same. This led to fans thinking about a possible match between the two sports stars.

Shoaib and Sania got married in April 2010 and share a son named Ishaan Mirza-Malik. Speculations regarding their separation had been rife for a while when Shoaib announced his second marriage to Pakistani actor Sania Javed.

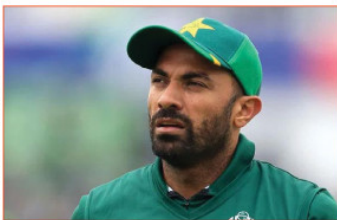
Later, it was confirmed that in January, Sania had sought separation from Shoaib.

On the other hand, Shami has been separated from his wife, Hasin Jahan, with whom he got married in 2014. They have a child together.

Sania announced earlier this month that she was leaving for Hajj and has not made any comments regarding this matter yet.—Agency

Wahab Riaz likely to be shown the door in potential PCB selection committee shake-up

LAHORE: Following Pakistan's elimination from the T20 World Cup, Wahab Riaz could be excluded from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) selection committee, according to a report published by ESPN-cricinfo.



According to the report, former pacer's departure from the committee "remains a very strong possibility".

The report added the PCB Chief Mohsin Naqvi also wants to "publicly demonstrate no one is immune from adverse consequences".

The PCB and Riaz are also frustrated over the public perception that he runs the selection committee as de facto head while also facing the majority of the criticism.

On the other hand, according to media, Pakistan

head coach Gary Kirsten said that only those players will be part of the team going forward who value unity, focus on fitness and improve their skill set.

According to sources, Kirsten, in a candid discussion with the Pakistan team in the dressing room after their exit from the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024, said that the fitness level of the players is not up to the mark.

Kirsten added that the team is also far behind in terms of skill level as compared with the rest of the world.

Despite playing so much cricket, no one knows which shot to play and when, Kirsten further stated.

The former South African cricketer also said that, ever since he joined, he has noticed that there is no unity in this team.

Kirsten said that players don't support each other and he hasn't seen a situation like this before despite working with many teams.

Kirsten has clearly stated that the players who improve these aforementioned things will be in the team, otherwise, they will be excluded.

Pakistan's shock defeat to the US and loss to India meant they were eliminated from the T20 World Cup before the Super 8.

Pakistan beat Ireland by three wickets in their last match of the event which was held at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium in Lauderdale, Florida on Sunday.

The win against Ireland ensured that Pakistan finished third in Group A with two wins, including victory against Canada, from four games.—Agency

Babar, Rizwan 'at risk' of losing Category A in PCB central contract



LAHORE: After Pakistan's disappointing early exit from the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024, skipper Babar Azam and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan are at risk of losing category A in their central contract with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), sources told Geo News.

Sources close to the matter said that work on a new central contract for the national players was underway.

There will be a new, "smaller" selection committee, which will finalise the central contract.

However, the salaries of the national cricketers will not be slashed.

"They don't ask us [anything] but it's good that we're away from Pakistan cricket. It's a blessing in disguise because it's just criticism and politics," Akram said.—Agency

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

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

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

The sources also said that Shan Masood is likely to be retained as the red-ball skipper for the upcoming Test series against Bangladesh.

Earlier, media reported that Masood, head coach Jason Gillespie and the selection committee have begun discussions related to Pakistan's squad for the Test series against Bangladesh.

It is possible that the current white-ball skipper Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi will be rested for the Test matches against Bangladesh whereas Haris Rauf's inclusion in the squad is not even being considered.—Agency

ICC okays PCB's proposed Champions Trophy 2025 schedule

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved the Champions Trophy 2025 schedule proposed by the Pakistan Cricket Board, media reported.

The PCB has proposed holding all of India's fixtures at the Qaddafi Stadium in Lahore including round matches, semi-final and final.

The ICC has reviewed and approved PCB's proposed schedule without any changes being made.

Apart from India, Rawalpindi—Agency

Champions Trophy 2025 will feature Australia, England, South Africa, Bangladesh, New Zealand, and Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, India has not issued an official statement regarding its team's participation in the tournament.

As per the draft schedule, the Champions Trophy will be held from February 19 to March 9 in three major Pakistani cities including Karachi, Lahore, and

Rawalpindi—Agency

No Shaheen in Desert Vipers' retentions for ILT20 2025



UAE: A total of 69 players were retained by six franchises for the International League T20 (ILT20) 2025, scheduled to commence in January, with ace Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi absent.

According to the league, the window for retaining players was opened on 1 June with the teams given two weeks to submit the list of the retained players.

Each franchise had the option of retaining a maximum of two United Arab Emirates (UAE) players. However, there was no limit on the retention of international players.

Following the completion of the players' retention window, the teams can now sign new players in the ongoing Player Acquisition Window which will stay open till 15 September. Notably, amongst the 69 players retained for ILT20 2025, 26 were part of various ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 squads including the likes of Mohammed Amir, David Warner, Nicholas Pooran, Sherfane Rutherford and Wanindu Hasaranga. However, Shaheen Shah Afridi, who was an integral part of Desert Vipers, was not named in the retention list of the franchise while compatriots Azam Khan and Mohammad Amir retained their spots.—Agency

Wasim thinks Shaheen Afridi will get Pakistan captaincy again

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram believes that left-arm ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi will get the national team's captaincy again.

Speaking to an international sports media outlet, Akram was asked to share his views on the ongoing captaincy saga of the national men's cricket team.

He lambasted the sudden changes in the Pakistan team's leadership, stating that such things would never result in consistent performances.

"Babar Azam was removed and Shaheen Shah Afridi was brought in. He then lost one series and at that time, a new chairman came and changed the captain," stated Akram.

"This is not on. People make fun of us in world cricket. They don't get it. If you made [Shaheen] Afridi captain, then should have given him at least a year," he added.

Akram then termed his distance from the Pakistan cricket set-up a blessing in disguise, considering the criticism involved.

"They don't ask us [anything] but it's good that we're away from Pakistan cricket. It's a blessing in disguise because it's just criticism and politics," Akram said.—Agency



cricket. They don't get it. If you made [Shaheen] Afridi captain, then should have given him at least a year," he added.

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ENTERTAINMENT



America's sweetheart Taylor Swift gives behind the scenes insight into filming of 'Fortnight'



Taylor Swift just gave insights into the creative thought process behind the making of her successful song, 'Fortnight's' official music video.

Her track is a collaboration with the American rapper and singer, Post Malone, with whom she discusses shooting most of the scenes for the video. The video starts off with a blooper of the Lower crooner, wearing her iconic Fortnight look, as she smashes a chair to the side but ends being startled herself.

As the video proceeds, Swift's emphasis towards a certain "head tilt" can be noticed to portray insanity and a touch of "crazy."

"The thing that I really love about being on set is sometimes you like, figure out the shot, two seconds before you do it and it makes all the difference," Swift said in the video. She further proceeded to detail how the idea of an "Easter egg" on the book came to her during the filming process. Fortnight is a synth-pop ballad written by Taylor Swift, Post Malone as well as Jack Antonoff and is the lead single of the pop star's eleventh studio album, The Tortured Poets Department.

Selena Gomez reveals what she 'has never done before in her career'



Selena Gomez recently opened up about an experience which contributed to her growth as a songwriter.

The girlfriend of Benny Blanco recently sat down for a conversational with Variety and discussed her work in the Spanish crime comedy flick, Emilia Pérez.

During this chat, Selena weighed in on working with Zoe Saldana, Karla Sofia Gascon and Edgar Ramirez.

"Working with people like Zoe, Karla and Jacques explored a style of hard work pays off," she began and referred to her Cannes Best Actress earn.

Gushing over the movie's songwriter, she added, "Working with (French singer) Camille,

her husband, and their whole family, including their little daughter, was fun. I enjoyed myself and big, which was new for me."

"It's nice to have guidance from others who would be amazing to work with, whether in writing or production," the Lose You to Love me crooner remarked in conclusion of this topic.

"I loved it. The music wasn't what I was used to, it felt grand, open, and big, which was new for me."

Face of the Day



Name: Muhammad Muneeb
Location: Karachi
About me: I hate the Pakistan Cricket Team

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

THE HEARTLAND



People's Lawyers Forum, Shikarpur House celebrate Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's birthday

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: Separate cake-cutting ceremonies were held by the People's Lawyers Forum and Shikarpur House in Shikarpur. MPA Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh's residence, Shikarpur House, PPP youth leader Faraz Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh, along with party workers, cut a cake to celebrate the birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Prior to this, the People's Lawyers Forum celebrated the 71st birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto at the Bar Council. The cake for this event was jointly cut by PPP youth leader Faraz Im-

tiaz Ahmed Shaikh, Shikarpur Bar Council President Advocate Naseer Ahmed Lodhi, and leaders of the Lawyers forum including Advocate Anwar Shaikh, Advocate Ghulam Mustafa Junejo, Advocate Ahsan Haider Lodhi and others. On this occasion, PPP youth leader Faraz Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was a great leader of the world, and it is our responsibility to carry forward her mission and strengthen the hands of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. He mentioned that the PPP leadership is working day and night for the welfare of Pak-

District Chairman Sanghar Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani takes oath



By Khuda Dino Kachhai

SANGHAR: Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani, the newly elected District Chairman of Sanghar, officially commenced his tenure by taking the oath of office. The oath-taking ceremony was held with solemnity and decorum in the District Council Hall of Sanghar, under the auspices of Deputy Commissioner Sanghar, Dr. Imran ul Hassan Khawaja. The ceremony was graced by the presence of various political, social, and electoral representatives from across the district. In his address, Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani expressed profound gratitude to the party leadership for their unwavering trust and confidence in his capabilities. He vowed to serve diligently and to fulfill the expectations placed upon him by the people of Sanghar.

Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani further committed to fostering collaborative efforts with all members of the District Council to accelerate development initiatives and improve the welfare of the district's residents. The event was attended by esteemed Pakistan People's Party leaders including Aurangzeb Marri, Ghulam Qadir Marri, Maashooq Chandio, and Nadeem Hussain Dero. Also present were District Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz Brohi, SSP Sanghar Ajaz Ahmed Shaikh, as well as prominent Municipal and Town Chairmen.

Umerkot Police arrest five notorious criminals

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In a significant breakthrough, the Umerkot Police have arrested five members of an inter-district motorcycle theft and snatching gang. This major operation was conducted under the directives of SSP Umerkot Asif Raza Baloch. The operation, based on precise intelligence, was successfully executed by CIA Umerkot In-charge Khalil Kumar and SHO Police Station Ghulam Nabi Shah, Arshad Gashkori, along with their dedicated team.



The arrested gang members, identified as Qabil Marri, Paryal Marri, Mooso Marri, Rashid Marri, and Manzoor Marri, are residents of Sanghar and Umerkot districts. The police recovered a snatched motorcycle, a pistol used in the crime, bullets, and axes from the suspects. A case has been registered against the suspects under Crime Number 15/2024, Sections 392, 120B, 109, and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code at Police Station Ghulam Nabi

Shah. Further investigation is ongoing to uncover more details about the gang's operations and any additional accomplices. The Umerkot Police remain committed to ensuring the safety and security of the community.

Sindhi Adabi Board holds Mushaira in Hala

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: The Sindhi Adabi Board Jamshoro celebrated Eid with great enthusiasm by organizing a Mushaira in Hala under the supervision of District Council Matiari Chairman, Makhdoom Ahmed Zaman. The event was graced by special guests including Sindhi Adabi Board members Sarfraz Rajar and Dr. Asad Jamal Palli. The Mushaira saw enthusiastic participation from poets, writers, intellectuals, and journalists, all contribut-

ing to the rich tradition of poetry recitals in the region. Chairman Makhdoom Ahmed Zaman praised the collaboration between the Sindhi Adabi Board and Hala, describing it as a commendable effort to promote literary thought and understanding in Sindhi. Dr. Asad Jamal Palli commended the efforts of the participating poets and writers, expressing confidence that such literary events would continue to flourish, fostering a culture of literary appreciation and creativity in Sindhi. Dr. Gulfaam Kazmi high-

lighted the significance of the event, noting its 40-year legacy as one of the best practices of the Sindhi Adabi Board. He also lauded the efforts of SAB Chairman Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman Atif for organizing the Mushaira in Hala. The event underscored the importance of literary gatherings in preserving and promoting Sindhi's rich cultural and literary heritage, reaffirming the Sindhi Adabi Board's commitment to nurturing and celebrating literary talent in the region.

Save Lundki Mines Action Committee rallies against water scarcity in Daulatpur

By Aijaz Johkio

DAULATPUR: The Save Lundki Mines Action Committee, led by Wajid Ali Rahu, Raza Muhammad Rahu, Ali Nawaz Dahri, Mithal Otho, and Noor-ul-Arifeen Metlo, organized a protest rally to highlight the severe water scarcity affecting farmers in the Lundki Mines Branch.



Addressing the media during the rally, Anwar Rahu and Ali Nawaz expressed deep concern over the plight of farmers who are facing significant crop losses due to the unavailability of irrigation water. They alleged that corrupt practices among officials responsible for water distribution have resulted in water intended for irrigation being diverted unlawfully for personal profit. This diversion has caused substantial financial losses to local farmers.

Furthermore, they accused certain individuals within the irrigation department of facilitating water theft through illegal piping and unauthorized use of tractors, contributing to the worsening water crisis in the area. The Save Lundki Mines Action Committee demanded immediate action against all officials involved in bribery, water theft, and mismanagement, including engineers and administrative personnel. They called for stringent legal measures to be taken against the perpetrators and urged authorities to ensure prompt and fair distribution of irrigation water to the residents of the Miner Branch without further delay.

Judicial Magistrate Sajid Hussain visits Taluka Headquarters Hospital Pithoro



By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: The Judicial Magistrate Samaro, Sajid Hussain, visited the Pithoro's Taluka Headquarters Hospital in compliance with the orders of the Mirpurkhas Special Bench of the Sindh High Court. The Judicial Magistrate inspected all departments of the hospital and gathered information. Upon timely notification, the hospital administration temporarily cleaned some parts of the hospital, spread clean sheets on the beds, and brightened the hospital. All absent staff members were immediately summoned to the hospital. Due to the inactivity of all departments of the hospital, including X-ray, ultrasound, laboratory, and emergency ward, complaints were lodged re-

garding the lack of medical facilities, medicines, doctors, and paramedical staff. Two out of three ambulances in the hospital have been out of order for months due to lack of funds. A generator that has been closed for a year was also started during the magistrate's visit. There are no specialist doctors available at the hospital and the lower staff is managing the hospital. The judicial magistrate thoroughly examined all records of the hospital and instructed the district health officer and the hospital in charge to immediately present medicines, vaccines, all medical facilities, ambulance service, and to operate the generator for patients, and ordered to prepare all records and reports within the next 24 hours to be presented in court.

Naukot growers protest against their area police



By Mushahid Nohrio

NAUKOT: Local residents and growers in Naukot staged a protest demonstration against the local area police for allegedly registering cases against several growers who raised concerns over water shortages. The protest was sparked by the filing of a case against

five men: Riaz Ahmed, Gul Hassan Samejo, Manzoor Lund, Mashooq Lund, and Mir Hassan Lund, accused of stealing water. Protesters argued that the cases were filed unjustly as a reprisal for speaking out against the acute shortage of water in the region. They voiced dissatisfaction with the police's performance and called upon higher authorities to intervene and address the issue promptly. Failure to address their grievances, the protesters warned, would lead to an escalation of their protests. The situation remains tense as local authorities assess the demands of the protesting growers.

GDA's Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi condoles with Dokri notables

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi, Deputy Secretary General of the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), paid a visit to various areas of Dokri Taluka along with Qurban Khokhar to offer condolences and express solidarity with the local community. During his visit, Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi extended his condolences to journalist Irfan Mangi on the demise of his father, Ghulam Nabi Mangi. He

also offered condolences to Dr. Nazir Mangi on the loss of his daughter-in-law. Addressing the gathered community members, Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi criticized the presentation of fabricated budgets by the government, labeling it as a sign of the ruling party's incompetence. He emphasized that importing unnecessary goods was not a viable solution to curbing government expenditure and called it a blatant act of fraud. Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi also vehemently con-

demned the illegal occupation of journalist Irfan Mangi's land, denouncing those involved as thieves and miscreants who exploit innocent people's lives and property. He demanded strict accountability from the responsible authorities for allowing such encroachments to occur. Additionally, Dr. Safdar Abbasi expressed his heartfelt condolences to Nazir Ahmed Jatoi and Jalil Jatoi on the sad demise of Late Aziz Ahmed Jatoi.

Three of a family electrocuted, youth commits suicide

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Thatta district was struck by tragedy as a mother and her two young daughters lost their lives due to electrocution in separate incidents, while a youth also tragically ended his life. Maryam, the wife of Amir Bux Chandio, was electrocuted while adjusting an electrical wire at

their residence. Her daughters, Zubada and Zahida, rushed to her aid but were also electrocuted in the attempt. Despite efforts from neighbors, all three tragically succumbed to their injuries before medical assistance could reach them. In another heartbreaking incident, Imran, a 20-year-old youth, was dis-

covered deceased after ceiling himself from a ceiling fan in his home near Thatta city's town hall. Following the necessary procedures, the bodies of the deceased have been returned to their respective families. The entire community is deeply saddened by these tragic events and mourns the loss of lives.

House gutted in Tando Jam fire

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: A devastating fire broke out in a residence located in New Talpur Colony, resulting in significant damage to the property and loss of valuable belongings. Local residents, with determined efforts, managed to bring the fire under control after a strenuous firefighting operation. The affected house belonged to Sultan Shaikh, where house-

hold items were tragically consumed by the flames. Speaking to the media, the distraught family of the fire victims appealed to the relevant authorities for immediate assistance and support in their time of need. They urged the concerned authorities to take prompt action, investigate the incident, and provide financial aid to help them recover from the loss incurred due to the fire.

Badin notable Kashif Nawaz Chandio grieved

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Kashif Nawaz Chandio is in deep mourning following the tragic passing of his father in a road accident. The heartfelt condolences poured in from numerous political and social figures, reflecting the widespread sympathy for the Chandio family during this difficult time. Former MP and SIDA Chairman Sindh, PPP leader Nawaz Khan Chandio, along with MNA Hajj Rasool Baksh Chandio, were among the first to extend their condolences to Kashif Nawaz Chandio. The expressions of sympathy continued through-

out the tenth day, with dignitaries from various sectors joining to offer their condolences. Prominent figures who expressed their condolences included Provincial Ministers Syed Zulfikar Shah, Mir Tariq, and Shahid Thaheem, as well as MNA Naveed Qamar, Tariq Shah Jamote, Malik Asad Sikander, Alaudin Junejo, Kheal Das Kohistani, Senator Karim Khawaja, Irfan Laghari, and MNA Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur. Also paying their respects were Aijaz Rasool Jakhriani, Sajid Banban, Mahesh Kumar Malani, Ramesh Lal, Azam Dhamrah, Taj Muhammad Allah, Ismail Rahu, Imdad Pitafi, Mumtaz Khan Chandio, Ghulam Qadir Chandio, Nawabzada Lashkar Khan Chandio, Nawabzada Rehan Khan Chandio, Sikandar Shoro, Noor Ahmed Bhurgari, Secretary Dr. Hafeez Sial, Secretary Asif Memon, DC Tando Yasir Bhatti, DC Bando Muhammad Khan, and members of various communities. The outpouring of condolences underscores the high regard and sympathy held for Kashif Nawaz Chandio and his family. The condolence process continues, with many more expected to pay their respects in the coming days.

METRO KARACHI



Sindh CM Orders For Strong Prosecution Of Street Criminals Amid Safe City Project Progress

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah chaired a meeting at CM House to oversee progress on the Safe City Project and combat street crime, particularly focusing on recent developments impacting Karachi's security landscape.



The meeting highlighted significant advancements: CCTV cameras for the Safe City Project are set to arrive from China by June 30, 2024, along with solar-

powered poles for their installation. Fiber optic cable procurement and acquisition of Right of Way (ROW) for essential sites

are underway, with excavation to follow soon. Regarding law enforcement strategies, CM Shah emphasized intensifying

patrols and intelligence-based operations against street criminals and drug syndicates. He directed the Home Minister to ensure robust prosecution of offenders, stressing their incarceration as a deterrent.

Updates on anti-dacoit operations in Riverine areas were also discussed, with additional police deployments and joint operations by Sindh Police and Rangers. Training for personnel in Kacha areas has commenced, focusing on enhancing tactical capabilities. Further enhancing

Counter Terrorism Dept (CTD), CM Shah approved construction of regional complexes and emphasized swift completion. Progress on software and forensic tools installation at CTD Karachi was reviewed, aimed at enhancing operational effectiveness. The CM expressed satisfaction over improved conviction rates in terrorism cases and directed the appointment of special prosecutors in Hyderabad and Sukkur for enhanced case oversight.



KARACHI: PPP MNA Aseefa Bhutto Zardari is celebrating Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto's 71st birth anniversary at the Sindh Assembly. Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah, former CM Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Speaker Sindh Assembly Owais Qadir Shah, provincial ministers and MPs attended the ceremony in large numbers. — RT

Light Showers Hit Parts Of Karachi With More Rain Expected

KARACHI: After forecasts of rain in the coming days, parts of Karachi received light showers as the city sweltered from high temperatures ahead of the monsoon season.



Areas including North Karachi, new Karachi, North Nazimabad, Garden, Lyari, Sadar, old-city areas and Gulshan witnessed light rain.

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) predicted that more rain or drizzle in some areas under the influence of clouds present in the north-eastern areas of Karachi.

As the city fights with extreme heat, Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfaraz predicted rain was likely in suburban areas of Karachi on June 22 or 23.

Sarfaraz earlier in the day said that rain was expected in areas surrounding Super Highway, adding that there is

a possibility of "more than normal" rains in Sindh including Karachi.

The weather in Sindh, including Karachi remained dry and hot for the last few weeks, but the spell has now been broken as Larkana, Shikarpur, Shahdadkot, Jacobabad and other parts of

province received rain with thunderstorm today. Furthermore, the chief meteorologist said that the monsoon is likely to begin in Sindh after July 5 or 6 while it may begin in Punjab and Kashmir from June 29 or 30. —RT/Agency

Steel Town Police Arrest Three Men For Stealing Sacrificial Animals

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Steel Town Police, led by SHO Ghulam Hussain Pirzada, have conducted a successful operation resulting in the apprehension of individuals involved in the theft of sacrificial animals. The arrested suspects, identified as Ghulam Chandio, Rafique, and Hanif Bhatti, were caught with three camels and a vehicle, which they had stolen from Eid-ul-Azha livestock.



According to police sources, the arrested suspects have confessed to their involvement in the crime. The gang had targeted animals brought for Eid-ul-Azha sacrifices, prompting swift action from law enforcement based on technical evidence. Authorities have initiated raids to apprehend other accomplices associated with the suspects, as

investigations continue with the detained individuals.

SSP Malir Kashif Afiaz praised the efforts of the police team, particularly SHO Ghulam Hussain Pirzada, for their diligent work in executing the successful operation.



KARACHI: Leaders and members of the PPP are cutting a cake to celebrate the birth anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. The celebration was led by senior PPP leader Farid Khan Abro. —RT

Four-Year-Old Dies After Being Left In Locked Car

KARACHI: A tragic incident was reported from Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal area where a 4-year-old child died of suffocation after being locked in a car, media reported on Friday.



As per the details, a 4-year-old child - Hussain - died of suffocation after being left in a locked car in Gulistan-e-Johar area of Karachi on June 15.

Meanwhile, over the complaint of the deceased child's mother, the local area police registered a case and arrested his uncle and aunt-identified as Arjuman and Khalique Zaman.

The unfortunate event unfolded when Zaman and Arjuman were traveling to Scheme 33 with their nephew, Hussain. Upon returning, the couple's three children went home, but Hussain was missing. His mother, upon inquiring, was told that he was playing downstairs.

Three hours later, the

other relative of the child was heading to the gym, Hussain was discovered locked inside the car and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The text of the FIR highlighted that the minor boy's death was the result of negligence and carelessness of the relatives.

The police have remanded Zaman and Arjuman, who maintain that their children were with them and assumed Hussain

had exited the car with the others. However, CCTV footage of the car was clearly visible when Arjuman took her children out of the car, raising questions about why he was not taken out of the car with other children.

Authorities continue to investigate the incident to determine the exact circumstances and responsibilities surrounding this tragic death. —RT/Agency

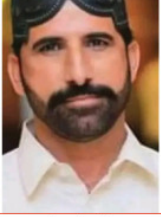
Services Of Ibrahim Hyderi Town Administration Lauded

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: The Ibrahim Hyderi Town Administration has received accolades for its exemplary efforts in maintaining cleanliness and sanitation during Eid-ul-Azha. Residents and community leaders have expressed sincere appreciation for the proactive measures taken by Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto and Vice Chairman Abdul Sattar Himayati of Cattle Colony.

Throughout the three days of Eid-ul-Azha, Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto and Vice Chairman Abdul Sattar Himayati demonstrated tireless dedication in



overseeing cleanliness operations and sanitation improvements across Ibrahim Hyderi Town and Cattle Colony. Their hands-on approach and commitment to ensuring a hygienic environment have garnered praise and admiration from the local community.

Prominent figures such as Kamal Nazar, Shani, Murtaz Himayati, Sujawal Bhatti, Shahid Anwar, Rehmatullah Himayati, Sikander Himayati, Amir Himayati, Sai Kamal, Akhtar Butt, and others have expressed their gratitude, highlighting the positive impact of the administration's efforts on community welfare.

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Nepra Introduces Fixed Monthly Charges Of Rs200-1,000 For Domestic Consumers Starting From July 1

ISLAMABAD: Nepra has introduced a new electricity tariff design by imposing from July 1, fixed charges of Rs200-1,000 a month in the electricity bills of five residential consumers' categories depending upon the consumption of units a month.

Nepra also increased the same by up to 300% for commercial and up to 355% for industrial consumers. This would help Discos to increase earning through fixed charges.

The domestic consumers using 301-400 units a month will pay from July 1, 2024, the fixed charges of Rs200 per month and those using 401-500 will pay Rs400, and the end electricity consumers consuming 501-600 are to pay Rs600.

The residential consumers who use the 601-700 units will pay Rs800 a month and those who use above 700 units will pay fixed charges of Rs1,000 a month. The residential consumers using the TOU (time of use) metre will also pay Rs1,000 fixed charges a month.

Commercial consumers having load less than 5kW will also pay Rs1,000 a month as fixed charges. However, those commercial users of electricity having



load of 5kW and above will pay now Rs2,000 from the existing Rs500, showing an increase of 300%.

Industrial consumers who fall in B1 category using up to 25kW under TOU metering will pay Rs1,000. However, consumers of B2 category using up to 500kW will witness an increase in fixed charges of 300% as they will now pay Rs2,000 instead of existing Rs500 a month fixed charges.

The B3 category industrial consumers using 5,000kW will pay fixed charges with an increase of 335% to Rs2,000 from Rs460 a month. The B4 category consumers using all loads will also experience the 355% increase in fixed charges as now they will pay

Rs2,000 a month from the existing Rs440.

At present, the total cost of electricity unit comprises 72% fixed charges and 28% variable charges. Still, on the revenue side, the fixed charges stand at just 2% and variable charges stand at 98%. The relevant authorities, the officials said, have found a mismatch in the electricity tariff between cost and revenue structure. However, the government will submit the petition with Nepra soon, seeking uniform tariff for FY25 after the electric power regulator has determined the increase base tariff for FY25 at Rs5.72 per unit. In the petition, the government will decide about the increase in fixed charges proposed by Nepra. —RT/Agency

PPP Ends Boycott, Will Attend Budget Session In NA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has decided to end its boycott and participate in tomorrow's budget session at the National Assembly (NA), according to media reports citing informed sources.

Sources close to the matter disclosed that positive outcomes emerged from recent meetings between the PPP and federal government, prompting the party's decision to join the

debate on the federal budget in NA tomorrow. Party leadership has instructed its MNAs to attend the budget session.

Previously, the PPP had withdrawn unconditional support for the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government regarding Budget 2024-25. Sources indicated that despite a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Chairman

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, no agreement was reached, as the PPP maintained its stance on their demands.

The government had sought PPP's support for passing the budget 2024-25 but the PPP insisted on implementing their demands as per a written agreement before extending cooperation. Sources added that the government has not set a deadline for meeting PPP's demands. —RT/Agency

Cancer Drugs Worth Rs 360mn 'Stolen' From Karachi's Civil hospital



KARACHI: In a significant case of medicine theft, cancer drugs worth Rs 360 million have allegedly been stolen from Civil Hospital Karachi, media reported on Friday.

According to the details, a case has been registered against several health department employees at the Eidgah police station for their alleged involvement in the pharmaceutical theft.

The case was filed following a complaint by the Medical Superintendent of Civil Hospital, revealing that a staggering 76,000 cancer pills were stolen over the past 10 months. The theft is believed to involve two employees of the hospital named Niaz Khaskheli and Iqbal.

The missing medicines - disappeared between February 17, 2023, and September 26, 2023 - have raised serious concerns about internal oversight and security within the hospital.

The theft was uncovered after a complaint was received about the tenure of the medication expiring earlier than expected, leading to an inquiry.

However, the police officials are currently conducting raids to apprehend the accused involved in this heinous crime. —RT/Agency

PESCO Grid Station Shuts Down Following Recent Violent Protest

PESHAWAR: The Rehman Baba grid station of Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) was shut down a day after protesters forcefully activated feeders, causing a grid fault and disrupting power supply to 32 feeders, media reported on Friday.

A row between the Centre and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on loadshedding resurfaced after KP Chief Minister Amin Gandapur issued another ultimatum, telling the PESCO - the province's main power utility company - to reduce outages on all grids to 12 hours a day.

The KP chief minister issued similar directives for the rest of the province and asked the lawmakers to enter grid stations and restore power.

Following his footsteps, a number of PTI lawmakers visited respective grid sta-



tions to forcibly end the loadshedding over the Eid holidays.

In a statement, the PESCO spokesperson said Rehman Baba grid station in Rahim Yar Khan was shut down after protesters forcefully activated feeders, causing a grid fault and disrupting power supply to 32 feeders.

"The incident occurred at 2pm today when protesters entered the grid station and forcefully turned on the feeders, overloading the system and causing a fault that led to

the suspension of power transmission," he added.

The spokesperson alleged that the protesters also clashed with PESCO staff, using abusive language and snatching mobile phones. "PESCO teams are currently working to repair the damage, and it may take several hours to restore power supply," he added.

The constant interference by protesters has increased the difficulties of PESCO consumers, the spokesperson added. —RT/Agency



KARACHI: Leaders and activists of PTI are holding a protest demonstration at the Karachi press club for Inmran Khan's release. —RT

"Accept responsibility for your life. Know that it is you who will get you where you want to go, no one else."

—Les Brown

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SATURDAY JUNE 22 2024

Lawyer Raja Tells Court: No Evidence Of Fraud In Imran And Bushra Bibi's Marriage

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad District and Sessions Court on Friday took up the petitions filed against the sentence awarded to PTI founder Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi in the Iddat case.

Presiding over the hearing, Judge Afzal Majoka remarked that a decision must be announced before June 27.

During the proceedings, senior lawyer Salman Akram Raja, representing PTI founder Imran Khan, argued that there was no evidence supporting the claim of a fraudulent marriage between Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi. Advocate Usman Gill and Anna Ali represented Bushra Bibi.

Earlier during the hearing, Khawar Maneka's lawyer Zahid Asif Chaudhry requested an adjournment, stating he would submit the power of attorney on the next hearing.

At this, the judge told Maneka's counsel that the hearing could not be put off, adding that arguments should be finalised by June 25 on the appeals.

Advancing his arguments, Imran Khan's counsel Salman Akram Raja said that the precedents predating the establishment of the Federal



Shariat Court were not applicable, asserting the FSC's final authority.

Raja further argued that Islamic principles safeguarded a woman's personal life, underscoring that a woman's statement should be conclusive.

Raja contended that the apex court did not hold Bushra Bibi responsible, but placed the entire burden on the prosecution which had not recorded her statement.

As a result, he added, the case was thrown out of the court on the basis that 39 days of Iddat had passed.

Continuing his arguments, Raja said that as per their knowledge, the divorce between Bushra Bibi and her former husband Khawar Maneka took place in April 2017, after which she resided at her mother's residence for

four months. He asserted that Bushra Bibi was not given an opportunity to present her stance during the trial.

The lawyer further said that the entire case revolved around the marriage event, adding that even if there was a violation of Section 7, a criminal case could not be filed. He also drew the attention of the court to the fact that there was no mention of word "Iddat" in Section 7 of the Family Law.

Raja stated that the complainant did not present evidence against Bushra Bibi, noting that there was no mention of the duration of Iddat in Sharia.

The lawyer remarked that if the court has to decide on the central appeal, there is no issue if it does not decide on suspension of the sentence.

Raja said that the purpose of the law was to provide assistance to women. "I want to assist on the sentence suspension and on the appeal. I know that the court has to decide on the appeal on within next 15 days."

Later, advocate Raja submitted a copy of Mufti Saeed's interview in a flash drive [USB] to the court.

"Mufti Saeed has acknowledged that the testimony was recorded on Feb 1 and the trial court gave a decision on Feb 2," he said of the cleric's interview.

At this, Judge Majoka expressed surprise that the decision was made in just two days.

After that, Khawar Maneka's interview with Geo News anchor Shahzab Khanzada was played in court.

Examining the interview, Salman Akram Raja argued that both Maneka and anchor had used the word "former spouse" in the interview, but later in the trial court Maneka insisted that Bushra Bibi was in a wedlock with him at the time [of the interview]. "Khawar Maneka is simply a liar. He lied in court," continued Raja.

At this, Zahid Asif, the counsel for Maneka, said that his client has not been proven to be a liar.

Salman Akram Raja further argued that Maneka had prayed for the PTI founder in the interview and maintained that there was a spiritual connection. "Khawar Maneka remained silent for five years and 11 months before filing the complaint," he added.

Raja further argued that all the witnesses who testified in the trial court were managed by Aon Chaudhry, who was awarded a ticket by the Isteekam-e-Pakistan Party for his supposed loyalty [in the Feb 8 general elections].

Later, lawyer Raja read the statement of Khawar Maneka's employee and witness Muhammad Latif in the court.

At this juncture, Judge Afzal Majoka inquired that when Khawar Maneka came to know about the marriage between Bushra Bibi and PTI founder Imran Khan.

Maneka's lawyer responded that he would inquire and inform the court. At this point, Imran Khan's lawyer said that there was no evidence which supported the assertion that a fraudulent marriage had taken place.—RT/Agency

Gandapur Warns Shehbaz Government: Reduce Load Shedding Before Situation Escalates

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur Friday warned the Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government that things could get out of hand if it does not reduce loadshedding to a maximum of 12 hours.

With temperatures rising across the country as climate change shows its effects, power cuts have become frequent and longer in some areas, leading to back-to-back protests.

Since the power supply is a matter which the federal government deals with, Gandapur said that the distribution company (PESCO) staffers informed that the distribution company had promised that no power cuts would take place during Eid ul Adha, however, it fell short of its commitment. During the Eid holidays, 12 to 18 hours of loadshedding was carried out in most areas.

Due to the power outages, 81 protests against unannounced loadshedding have been held since May 1, in which women also participated, the chief minister was told.

As the CM chaired a meeting on loadshedding today, he was informed about the latest situation of power cuts, recovery of power distribution companies, and other matters related to the energy sector.

In the briefing, the chief minister was informed that Rs1 billion was recovered in one month with the support of the KP government, while



security was provided to Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) staffers and its facilities.

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Following the briefing, Gandapur said that the provincial government is fully cooperating to solve the problems related to electricity.

"...it is a pity that the federal government is not fulfilling its promises, unannounced loadshedding of electricity was also done on the occasion of Eid," the chief minister lamented.

Gandapur said that even after substantial recovery, electricity loadshedding is being done, which as a result, is making people's lives miserable.

"Due to illegal loadshedding, the public's reaction is getting stronger, the protest against loadshedding is not of any political party or provincial government. Loadshedding is a public issue and public reaction is not unwarranted."

CM Gandapur once again said that electricity loadshedding of more than 12 hours is not acceptable in any case. He warned the Centre that the public could get out of control and said the federal government has to show seriousness in this regard as the province was "fully cooperating".—RT/Agency

World Bank Approves \$535 Million In Funding For Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank's (WB) Board of Executive Directors approved \$535 million in financing for Pakistan to support two projects, a statement from the institution said Friday.

The additional financing for the Crisis Resilient Social Protection (CRISP) Programme aims to strengthen the country's social protection system and build shock resilience among poor and vulnerable households.

At the same time, the Sindh Livestock and Aquaculture Sector Transformation (LIVAQUA) Project will promote climate-smart and competitive small and medium producers in the livestock and aquaculture sectors in Sindh.

"The catastrophic floods that hit Pakistan in 2022 were a tragic reminder of the importance to build resilience to such disasters, including by strengthening both social protection and sectors that support economic growth and recovery," said Najy Benhassine, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan.

"It is also imperative to help the vulnerable absorb climate shocks through innovative climate-smart technology and contingency planning." The additional financing for CRISP (\$400 million) will build on the programme's ongoing efforts to equip Pakistan's social protection system with the policy and delivery system foundations necessary for more effective and rapid responses to future crises.

The programme will



focus on longer-term policy actions to further improve the national cash transfer programme's effectiveness, coverage and federal-provincial coordination.

"Since its inception, the CRISP program has achieved significant results with regular safety net support to more than 9 million families and a demonstrated capability of quickly reaching 2.8 million families during the recent floods," said Amjad Zafar Khan, Task Team Leader for the Project.

"The additional financing would not only assist families in becoming more resilient to climate and economic shocks but also encourage the use of provincial capacities to take up a larger role in social assistance."

LIVAQUA (\$135 million) will finance interventions to promote climate-smart production, value addition, and inclusive access to markets, and help create opportunities for growth in the livestock and aquaculture sectors.

These will include improving sector policy and strategic frameworks, as well as evidence-based decision-making.

It will also contribute to

strengthening the capacity of public and private providers to deliver essential knowledge, inputs, and services such as disease surveillance and control, diagnostic laboratory services, breeding programs, food safety, and the development and transfer of green technologies.

LIVAQUA will cover all districts in Sindh using a phased approach. It is expected to directly benefit more than 940,000 farm families, including 930,000 livestock households and 10,000 aquaculture producers.

The project also includes measures to ensure female farmers' participation in the project and narrow gender gaps.

"The project will improve the livelihoods of small and medium livestock and aquaculture producers, increase their resilience to animal health and climate-related shocks, strengthen the overall growth of these two sectors in Sindh, and more broadly improve food and nutrition security and reduce the sector's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions," said Myriam Chaudron, Task Team Leader for the project.—RT/Agency

PPP Denies Blackmailing PML-N Over Budget



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary Shazia Marri said Friday that her party was not strong-arming the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which is in power in the centre, over the federal budget.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb presented the budget for the next fiscal year, starting July 1, earlier this month, but the PPP — the main ally of the PML-N — had raised strong objections to the proposals.

The party leaders had said that the PML-N had taken a solo flight in preparing the budget, while another had claimed that the PPP was not consulted at all on the financial blueprint.

With the differences out in the public and the days running out, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari held a meeting in Islamabad over the budget.

Sources told media that the PPP chairman raised concerns but assured the prime minister of providing help to pass the budget, while PM Shehbaz also said that he would address his ally's

reservations. During her conversation on private tv, Marri said that nothing substantial came out of the talks between the PPP chief and the prime minister. "PPP believes in negotiations and we will hold meetings moving forward. We are not blackmailing anyone, we're politely conveying our concerns," the member of the National Assembly said, stressing that her party has concerns over the federal budget.

In response, PM's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah said that the meeting between the two leaders was held in a "pleasant environment" and that discussions were held on all government-related matters.

"Two committees have been formed. The committees will meet [soon] and everything will be resolved with mutual understanding," Sanaulah said.

He added that the PPP has not taken any ministries, but it is an important part of the government.

"The meeting also discussed the federal and Punjab budgets," Sanaulah added.—RT/Agency

US State Department Supports Direct Talks Between India And Pakistan

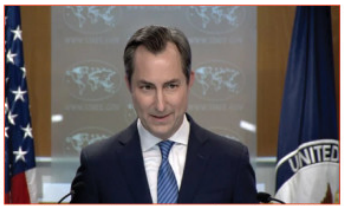
WASHINGTON: The State Department reiterated that it supports direct talks between Pakistan and India, however, the scope of negotiations should be determined by the two neighbouring countries and not the US.

State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said this in response to a query seeking his comments on recent exchanges that took place between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi over the latter's securing a third term as the premier.

"We value our important relationships with both India and Pakistan. As we have said, we support direct discussions between India and Pakistan, but the pace, scope and character should be determined by the two countries, not by us," said Miller.

PM Shehbaz on June 10 and Pakistan had a shared interest in combating threats to regional security.

"We partner with Pakistan on security through our high-level counterterrorism dialogue, including several counterterrorism capacity-building programs, and we



seize the opportunity to shape the destiny of the two billion people of South Asia," he advised Modi.

The Indian PM in his response said, "The people of India have always stood for peace, security and progressive ideas."

"Advancing the well-being and security of our people shall always remain our priority," he added.

Meanwhile, addressing the department's press briefing, the State Department spokesperson said the US and Pakistan had a shared interest in combating threats to regional security.

support a series of US-Pakistan military-to-military engagements," he said.

He was asked about Pakistani Ambassador to US Masood Khan's statement that Pakistan needed modern American weapons to fight the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), as the terror outfit is "using American weapons against Pakistani military forces that were left by US forces in Afghanistan."

Miller said, "We are in regular communication with the Pakistani leaders as a part of our partnership on CT issues, and we will continue to discuss regional security in detail, including through our annual counterterrorism dialogue and other bilateral consultations."—RT/Agency

Chinese Minister Advocates Closer Ties To Achieve Development Goals

ISLAMABAD: China's Minister of Central Committee of the International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao visited Pakistan to achieve development goals.

The senior Chinese minister conveyed these views during a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.

Addressing the Pak-China Consultation Mechanism meeting, Liu expressed that the event marks a positive step towards strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

He stated that the development of China and Pakistan would bring mutual benefits and create new opportunities through bilateral agreements.



He also pointed out the necessity of improving security conditions to attract more investment to Pakistan.

Dar welcomed the Chinese delegation, stating that their visit would boost mutual trust. He noted that all political parties in Pakistan

support CPEC, recognising it as a cornerstone of cooperation between the two countries.

Dar praised the socio-economic benefits CPEC has brought to Pakistan and reaffirmed the country's commitment to its further development.

Earlier, a Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson announced that Deputy PM Dar met with Liu Jianchao. Both sides appreciated CPEC's contributions to Pakistan's development and pledged to continue its successful implementation.—RT/Agency

Pak-Iran Leaders Aim To Transform Border From Security Zone To Economic Corridor

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and PML-N President Mian Nawaz Sharif met Iranian Ambassador Dr Raza Amir Mughdham at Jati Umra, Raiwind and agreed to transform the Pak-Iran border from a security zone to an economic corridor.

They also discussed mutual interests, focusing on trade, cultural, economic, and social relations.

The meeting reviewed potential cooperation in agriculture and livestock, with Iran agreeing to increase meat imports from Punjab from 40pc to 70pc.

They also discussed enhancing mutual trade to \$10 billion and strengthening cultural ties between the twin cities of Isfahan, Mashhad, and Lahore.



Likewise, proposals to promote the Persian language in Punjab were considered.

The Iranian ambassador invited Maryam Nawaz and Nawaz Sharif to visit Iran.

Nawaz and Maryam expressed grief over the martyrdom of Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi, recalling his personality.

Dr Mughdham expressed gratitude for Pakistan's friendship and congratulated Maryam Nawaz on her first 100 days as chief minister. The Iranian ambassador also praised her people-friendly initiatives.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Advocates UN-Led Framework To Counter Disinformation Campaigns

NEW YORK: Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram, called for a framework to counter disinformation and cyber warfare campaigns. Akram said these comments while speaking to the Security Council's High-Level Open Debate on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Addressing Evolving Threats in Cyberspace".

Highlighting that several countries including Pakistan have been a victim of disinformation, the ambassador emphasised on the necessity of a legally binding global document formed on the guidelines provided by the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) While explaining, Akram referred to the 2019 and 2020 reports by EU DisinfoLab, which exposed anti-Pakistan propaganda including disinformation activities and cyber warfare. He said, "The 2019 report provided proof of 15 years of massive disinformation operations against Pakistan, involving



more than 10 so-called NGOs fraudulently accredited to the UN Human Rights Council, over 750 fake media outlets, and 550 fake websites, even resurrecting dead people." The Pakistan envoy stressed that the EU DisinfoLab's expose on disinformation campaigns requires global attention. Furthermore, Ambassador Akram discussed the Pakistan sponsored UN General Assembly resolution, titled "Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms." He stated that this resolution affirms the responsibility of states to counter disinformation that

undermines peace and cooperation among nations. He also shed light on the unaccountability of legal documents and argued that framework should align with the principles of the UN Charter such as sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-use of force, and non-interference, among others. Sharing ways for countries to come together to solve problems related to cyber warfare, Akram suggested confidence-building measures and Protection of Cyber Information Exchange of Information, bridging the digital divide through capacity building and enhanced international cooperation.—RT/Agency