





# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Chandio Ittehad are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against officials of the GOR Police Station.-RT

## SSP Umerkot distributes relief cheques amongst cops



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The DIG Mirpurkhas Range Welfare Committee approved and distributed cheques for immediate relief, marriage help and retirement grants to 8 police officials from Umerkot district. SSP Umerkot Asif Raza Baloch handed out the cheques of immediate relief of 50,000 rupees each to the families of deceased police officials.



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the local Panhwar community are holding a protest demonstration at the Larkana Press Club against the dastardly killing of Zuhab Ali Panhwar.-RT

## MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Gilani vows to continue serving people of Khairpur

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah Gilani, a central leader of the Pakistan People's Party, has stated that improving the water supply and sewage system based on the first priority is essential. In response to a question, she emphasized that a better future lies in education, health, and cleanliness, which are basic rights of every individual and must be provided. They have worked on improving water supply and health facilities. Education is being focused on for improvement. They have initiated the cleaning of drainage channels so that ordinary citizens do not face difficulties during rain fall and sewage water reaches their homes smoothly to minimize damage. When a disaster strikes, it is regretful that we did not do the work that we should have done



earlier. That's why we have started this work so that ordinary people can benefit from it. So far, neither the Sindh government nor the center has issued funds for us, and our concerns have not been understood. However, we have not lost courage and continue our work. When funds are released by the government, we will further enhance our work.

## MNA Khursheed Ahmed Junejo discusses Shahdadkot's power issues with WAPDA Chief

SHAHADKOT: Senior leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and elected MNA from Shahdadkot, Khursheed Ahmed Junejo, held a meeting with the WAPDA Chief, the AC WAPDA, and other WAPDA officials. Issues related to Shahdadkot WAPDA were discussed. Khursheed Ahmed Junejo informed the WAPDA officials about the complaints regarding the increasing load shedding and the lack of electricity supply to various feeders in Shahdadkot city. The MNA Khursheed Ahmed Junejo, briefed the WAPDA officials about various feeders including Garhi Feeder, Chandia Feeder, Behram Feeder and Qubo Feeder, as well as different feeders of the Taluka Sujawal Junejo. During the meeting, the WAPDA Chief



informed MNA Khursheed Ahmed Junejo about the lines for all feeders will be completed soon and the electricity supply will be restored. On this occasion, the President of the Pakistan People's Party Taluka Shahdadkot, Mir Asif Ali Laghari, was also present with MNA Khursheed Ahmed Junejo that the work on the

## TEA, SEF join hands to provide education and vocational training to out-of-school children

By Ashraf Kunbar

MITHI: Thar Education Alliance has signed an agreement with the Sindh Education Foundation to provide education and vocational training to out-of-school children. Under this agreement, three centers will be opened in Tharparkar and Umerkot to offer education and training to out-of-school children and youth. The centers will commence operations from July 1st. The agreement between Thar Education Alliance and Sindh Education Foundation under the AALTP program will establish three centers for the education and training of out-of-school children, with two centers in Tharparkar and one in Umerkot. Partap Shivani, the Chief Executive Officer of Thar Education Alliance, stated that a



significant number of children in Tharparkar and Umerkot are out of school and the Sindh Government and the education department have started taking practical steps to address this issue. Currently, with the support of the Thar Education Alliance and the Sindh Education Foundation, centers are being opened in the villages of Mori Ji Wandh and Dabhi Bheel in Tharparkar and the Jogi neighborhood in Umerkot. Admissions at these centers will begin on July 1st, and children aged 9 to 17 years will be enrolled. Partap Shivani has urged local residents to take full advantage of this initiative by enrolling children aged 9 to 17 in the program, which will provide them with both education and vocational training.

## Naukot newlyweds demand protection



By Mushahid Nohrio

NAUKOT: A woman from Mirpurkhas, Nazia Rajput, protested against her family and the police after marrying a young man from Naukot, Ijaz Ali Qaimkhan, out of love. The couple married in the Digri court. Nazia stated that her family wanted her to marry an elderly man, which she did not agree with. She asserted that marrying for love is not a crime, but now both her family and the police have turned against them and are searching for them with the intent to kill. Nazia mentioned that they are living a happy life together and should be left alone. Ijaz Ali claimed that the Naukot police, influenced by powerful individuals, have made their lives difficult. He reported that late at night, Naukot police entered his home and abducted two individuals, Abdullah and Mumtaz, and their whereabouts are currently unknown. Ijaz and Nazia are calling for justice and protection.

## DC Badin Yasir Bhatti reviews arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An important meeting regarding security and other arrangements during Muharram was convened in Durbar Hall under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti. Present in the meeting were SSP Badin, Shiraz Nazir, Additional Deputy Commissioner 1, Kashif Raza Mangi, Additional Deputy Commissioner 2, Rajesh Dalpat, District Health Officer, Dr. Zaheeruddin Memon, District Magistrate PPHI Badin, B. Razia Ajan, Lt. Tariq, and all district assistants. In attendance were also commissioners, municipal officers, town officers, representatives from health, local government, information, HESCO, public health departments, as well as scholars from different schools of thought. Deputy Commissioner Badin chaired the meeting and directed officials from relevant departments to ensure fool-proof security, sanitation, water supply, including drainage, removal of encroachments, provision of first aid, uninterrupted power supply, and other necessary arrangements at the venues



during Muharram, ensuring the availability of ambulances, medical staff, and necessary medicines. He emphasized maintaining communication with Shiite and other scholars to ensure smooth arrangements throughout the teshil. Furthermore, the officials were directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during funeral processions and to secure electric wires along the routes. Scholars were urged to act responsibly and keep an eye on potential troublemakers. During the meeting, scholars and attendees raised various concerns, expressing satisfaction with the arrangements made by the district administration and police, and pledged their cooperation at procession intersections.

## Laborer commits suicide after being harassed by predatory loan sharks

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: A laborer named Amjad Solangi, resident of Gul Muhammad Shah Muhalla

committed suicide by consuming poison after being harassed by the predatory loan sharks. After the incident the family members recorded a protest demonstration and demanded action against the people harassing a laborer after providing predatory loan to him.

## Zawar Ahmad Attari briefs about services of Dawat-e-Islami



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Zawar Ahmad Attari, the Media Coordinator of Dawat-e-Islami, along with Nabi Bux Attari, the District Media Coordinator of Dawat-e-Islami, spoke to journalists at the Badin Press Club during a one-day event in Badin. He highlighted the leadership of Amir Ahle Sunnah and the Founder of Dawat-e-Islami, Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Attari Qadri Rizvi, in propagating the message of Allah Almighty, the Holy Quran and the Beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) not only in Pakistan but also globally. This includes various Islamic and religious services as well as humanitarian endeavors. He mentioned that Madani Center of Dawat-e-Islami, Faizan Madina, is being watched in over 70 countries worldwide. He emphasized that Dawat-e-Islami's religious movement, known as the Lovers of Rasool (SAWW), is actively involved in serving Islam across 82 departments globally.



LARKANA: Residents of Naon Rang Jalbani village in Baqrani Taluka are holding a protest demonstration against officials of the Badah police station, at the Larkana press club.-RT



LARKANA: District Education Officer Larkana Gulbahar Magi presided over a meeting on issues of school codes and the Sindh Education Management Information System (SEMIS) at his office.-RT



# METRO KARACHI

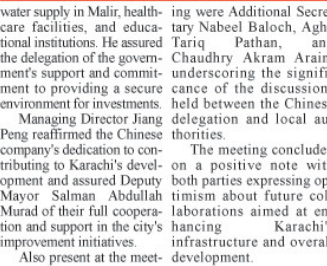
## Chinese Delegation Calls On Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: A delegation from a prominent Chinese company involved in CPEC projects paid a visit to Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad. The delegation, comprising Managing Director Jiang Peng, Business Director He Wei, Director South Asia Adeel Aftab Tanoli, and other senior officials, met with the Deputy Mayor to discuss ongoing and future projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative in Karachi.

The meeting focused on briefing Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad about the progress and plans of CPEC projects in Karachi. The Chinese delegation expressed their commitment to collaborate closely with local authorities on vital infrastructure projects including electricity, sewage, and water systems.

Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad welcomed the delegation and emphasized the importance of Chinese investment in Karachi and across Sindh. He highlighted the need for enhancing urban infrastructure, particularly in areas like clean



water supply in Malir, health-care facilities, and educational institutions. He assured the delegation of the government's support and commitment to providing a secure environment for investments. Managing Director Jiang Peng reaffirmed the Chinese company's dedication to contributing to Karachi's development and assured Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad of their full cooperation and support in the city's improvement initiatives. Also present at the meeting were Additional Secretary Nabeel Baloch, Agha Tariq Pathan, and Chaudhry Akram Arain, underscoring the significance of the discussions held between the Chinese delegation and local authorities. The meeting concluded on a positive note with both parties expressing optimism about future collaborations aimed at enhancing Karachi's infrastructure and overall development.

## Chhuto Community Demands Justice For Sardar Muhammad Saleh Bhootani



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The residents of Chhuto and surrounding communities staged a protest demonstration in solidarity with Sardar Muhammad Saleh Bhootani from Balochistan. The protest, held in Karachi, aimed to highlight alleged land grabbing incidents targeting Sardar Muhammad Saleh Bhootani in Hub and Vindur areas.

Protest leaders addressing the gathering condemned what they described as illegal occupation of Sardar Muhammad Saleh Bhootani's lands and a malicious media campaign launched against him. They emphasized that these actions were unjust and demanded immediate intervention from higher authorities to address the issue. During the demonstration, protesters called upon authorities to investigate the alleged land grabs and ensure justice for Sardar Muhammad Saleh Bhootani. They warned of escalating their protest if their demands were not addressed promptly. The protest underscored the community's resolve to support Sardar Muhammad Saleh Bhootani and seek accountability for those responsible for the reported injustices.

## Livestock In Karachi Succumb To Heatwave

KARACHI: The ongoing heatwave in Karachi has resulted in the deaths of several cows at livestock farms in Bhains Colony and surrounding areas, according to media reports on Monday. Numerous cows have fallen ill due to the extreme temperatures, causing significant financial losses for livestock owners.

The Dairy Farm Association has estimated these losses to be in the millions of rupees. Expressing concern, the association noted that the lives of milk-producing animals are now at risk, highlighting the Sindh government's Department of Livestock's perceived lack of readiness to provide assistance. The Dairy Farm Association has urged the Sindh government to intervene and prevent further losses due to heat-related illnesses among their livestock. They have also warned that if immediate action is not taken, Karachi may face a shortage of milk in the near future.—RT/Agency

## Miftah Reveals Reasons Behind His Removal As Finance Minister

KARACHI: Former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail disclosed in an exclusive interview on Monday that he and former Prime Minister and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif have now taken separate political paths.



"While Nawaz Sharif remains my favorite personality, our political collaboration has ceased," Ismail stated, reflecting on their divergent political trajectories. Critiquing the recent budget, Ismail condemned the government for its perceived insensitivity towards public hardships. He pointed out discrepancies where the government claims the nation is in dire straits yet continues unchecked expenditure escalation. Ismail reiterated his critique of the current administration's policies, arguing

they fail to prioritize public welfare. He clarified that his dissent within the party stemmed from principled stands rather than personal gain, emphasizing the need for genuine change to prioritize public interests over political maneuvering. Expressing concerns over the budget's potential to exacerbate inflation and poverty, Ismail predicted millions more would fall below the poverty line due to its implications. Regarding his removal as finance minister, Ismail suggested it was due to taxation measures imposed on shopkeepers and other reasons. Touching on political vendettas, Ismail highlighted instances where opposition figures such as Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Ahsan Iqbal, and Rana Sanaullah were detained. He criticized the misuse of narcotics charges against Rana Sanaullah and urged an end to such practices in political arenas.—RT/Agency

# REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND



## Two Fraudulent BISP Device Operators Arrested

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Law enforcement authorities have apprehended two individuals accused of fraudulent activities involving the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), according to media reports on Monday. The arrested suspects, identified as Faheem Memon and Mani Kashmiri, allegedly defrauded funds from BISP beneficiaries. Following their arrest, cases have been registered against them at Baldi Shah Karim Police Station and

## New office-bearers of SUC Thari Mirwah take oath

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: A significant meeting of the Shia Ulema Council was held at the Imambargah Jaffaria in Thari Mirwah, where Allama Zahoor Hussain Ruhani, the President of the Shia Ulema Council, presided over the gathering. During the meeting, members of the Shia Ulema Council and representatives from the Town Committee Thari Mirwah took oaths, with Dr. Syed Nadim Abbas Shah, the President of the Town Committee, administering the oath. The meeting deliberated on various issues, including the upcoming month of Muharram and other matters of concern. Allama Zahoor Hussain Ruhani addressed the gathering, highlighting the cleanliness and lighting

arrangements for the upcoming month of Muharram in the district of Khairpur and presented solutions to address any issues that may arise. Present at the occasion were also Deputy President of the Shia Ulema Council Sindh, Dr. Muhammad Kolachi, Sajjad Hussain Brohi, Professor Ghulam Abbas Dasti, and representatives from the Thari Mirwah Union.

## Tando Adam's growers decry acute water shortage

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: A sit-in protest has been organized at the Qaiser Goth stop in Tando Adam by the residents against the scarcity of water persisting in the area for the past several years. Participating in the protest are councilors Imran Brohi, Ibrahim Hakro, Muslim League Functional Muhammad Qasim Hingoro, Nazeer Pathan, Saeed Brohi, and others. The protesters have demanded immediate action from the concerned authorities. Additionally, a boycott has been initiated by the residents, affecting local businesses and workers' incomes. Some of the protesters expressed their frustration, particularly targeting the landlords and influential figures who, despite being in power for the last 15 years, have failed to address the water scarcity issue. They called upon the authorities, including the Sindh government and local officials, to address their grievances promptly and provide them with access to water.

## Youth Torched To Death In Jacobabad

JACOBABAD: A shocking incident has emerged from Jacobabad where unidentified assailants set a youth on fire, resulting in his tragic death within the jurisdiction of Sadar police station, local media reported on Monday.

According to witnesses in the area, the assailants abandoned the burned body in the neighborhood before fleeing the scene. Promptly informed by local residents, police arrived at the scene to investigate the death within the jurisdiction of Sadar police station, local media reported on Monday. The deceased, identified as Ghulam Hussain, sustained severe burns affecting 50 percent of his body, as confirmed by police reports. Authorities have launched a thorough investigation into the incident, with efforts underway to identify and apprehend the perpetrators behind this brutal act. The community remains in shock and mourning as the search for justice continues.

## SAS Johi holds a literary gathering in Johi

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: A literary gathering was held by the Sindh Adabi Sangat Johi under the esteemed presidency of Naqad Thaheem. The attendees included Aas Babar (Secretary), Khalid Arif Soomro, Dr. Rafique Baloch, Bajhi Khan

Laghari, Ghayal Laghari, Liaqat Ali Liaqat, Mir Baloch, Ibrahim Malah, Ibrahim Jamali, Zain Khoso, Mir Muharam Laghari and Amin Laghari (Mubasir). The writers and poets presented their literary works, receiving critical and constructive feedback from all friends present. During the gathering, it was unanimously agreed upon to take steps towards establishing a strong and permanent platform for literary activities. An agreement was reached with Deputy Commissioner Dadu to initiate steps for the establishment of a literary center through a formal contract.

## Seven Bodies Found In Karachi Under Mysterious Circumstances

KARACHI: The tally of unexplained deaths in Karachi surged to 17 within a span of one day as rescue services recovered seven additional bodies from various parts of the city on Monday, according to media reports. Rescue officials indicated that most of the deceased individuals, aged between 35 to 60 years, were suspected drug addicts who succumbed to the extreme heatwave prevailing in the city. Six bodies were discovered in locations including Jama Cloth Market, Goli-mar, Super Highway, Gulistan-e-Johar, Federal B Area, and Landhi. Additionally, a body showing signs of torture was found near Surjani Town's Fatimi Society. The bodies have been transferred to respective police stations and subsequently to the morgue for further investigation. Identification procedures are currently underway. Notably, on Sunday, 10 bodies were found under similar mysterious circumstances in various areas of Karachi, including KMC ground Lyari, Jahangir Road, Godam Chowrangi, and others. Police have initiated urgent investigations to ascertain the causes of death and potential connections between these incidents.—RT/Agency

## 15 injured in Thul's Lashari-Banglani clash

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: There was a clash between two groups of Banglani and Lashari communities in the jurisdiction of Mirpur Burro, near Allah Mirza Banglani, resulting in injuries to 15 individuals. During the clash, both groups exchanged gunfire and used sticks, leading to 15 wounded individuals being transported to the hospital. The injured individuals include Muhammad Imran, Mulla Bakhsh Banglani, Rakhya Banglani, Nadeem Banglani, Muharam Banglani, Muhammad Azeem Banglani,

Yasin Banglani, Fahad Banglani, Ghulam Qadir Lashari, Shabir Lashari, Wahab Lashari, Yasin Lashari, Mahboob Lashari, Anzam Lashari and Habibullah. The injured individuals were taken to the hospital for treatment, while the police took the injured persons into custody. Efforts are currently underway to rescue any remaining individuals trapped inside the overturned vehicle. Authorities are coordinating to ensure the safety and well-being of all involved in this unfortunate incident.—RT

## Truck Loaded with Logs Overturns On Passenger Van in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: A truck carrying a heavy load of logs overturned onto a passenger van today, causing injuries to five individuals in Hyderabad, local media reported. The incident occurred near the bypass under the jurisdiction of Naseem Nagar police station. Rescue teams responded swiftly to the scene, launching emergency operations to aid those affected by the accident. "Five individuals sustained injuries and have been promptly transported to the civil hospital for medical treatment," confirmed rescue officials. Efforts are currently underway to rescue any remaining individuals trapped inside the overturned vehicle. Authorities are coordinating to ensure the safety and well-being of all involved in this unfortunate incident.—RT

station. Rescue teams responded swiftly to the scene, launching emergency operations to aid those affected by the accident. "Five individuals sustained injuries and have been promptly transported to the civil hospital for medical treatment," confirmed rescue officials. Efforts are currently underway to rescue any remaining individuals trapped inside the overturned vehicle. Authorities are coordinating to ensure the safety and well-being of all involved in this unfortunate incident.—RT

## Man killed in a fatal Tando Allahyar road accident

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A tragic accident occurred on Tando Adam Road near Tando Allahyar, where a motorcycle collided with a speeding dumper at the Tando Soomro Police Checkpoint. As a result, a 40-year-old man lost his life at the scene. Upon receiving the information, the police immediately arrived at the scene and shifted the deceased's body to the Tando Allahyar Hospital for necessary procedures. After the completion of formalities and necessary investigations, the body was handed

over to the heirs. It was reported that the young man was returning home after purchasing household items from the market when his motorcycle collided with the dumper. Consequently, the police have detained the dumper driver and impounded the vehicle for further investigation.

## PTI Leaders Arrested During Karachi Rally Granted Bail

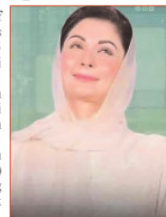
KARACHI: PTI leaders and workers arrested during a rally in Karachi's Korangi area were granted bail by the City Court, Civil Judge, and Judicial Magistrate, Karachi East. Among those arrested were PTI Sindh Additional General Secretary Rizwan Niazi, Karachi General Secretary Arslan Khalid, Wali Mugheri, Sultan Rehmat, Abdul Qadeer, and nine other workers. They faced charges including involvement in a police encounter. Prominent PTI figures including PTI Sindh President Halem Adil Sheikh, Karachi President Raja Azhar, former MNA Faheem Khan, and others attended the court proceedings. The case was represented by PTI Sindh leaders and IFL lawyers, resulting in bail set at ten thousand rupees each due to insufficient evidence presented by the police. In a media briefing, PTI Sindh President Halem Adil Sheikh condemned the arrests as politically motivated, criticizing the government's alleged manipulation of the electoral process and law enforcement priorities in Karachi. He asserted the PTI's commitment to peaceful protest until the release of Chairman Imran Khan and a change in governance in Sindh.—RT/Agency

# REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

## Maryam ki Dastak app services launched throughout Punjab

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has approved the provision of 65 services through 'Maryam ki Dastak' application.

Punjab CM approved an extension in the Maryam ki Dastak project in a session today presided over by her. The Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) chairman gave the briefing about the Maryam ki Dastak project extension. During the session, it was announced that citizens will be facilitated with services like domicile, e-stamping, and registration of new vehicles will be made easy. Citizens can avail these services through the web portal, app of Maryam ki Dastak, and by calling on 1202. The services available through the mobile app were reviewed during the session. Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz directed to enhance service through this app. Maryam Nawaz has ordered to provide Maryam ki Dastak services across the province by December. It has been decided to increase the number of available services by 40 in Lahore under this application.—RT/Agency





# EDITORIAL

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

Tuesday, June 25, 2024



## The heat is on!

The blistering heatwave gripping Karachi and Sindh demands immediate and decisive action from both the federal and Sindh governments. With temperatures soaring to an unprecedented 43.7 degrees Celsius in Gulistan-e-Johar, Karachi experienced its hottest day of the year so far, making daily life almost unbearable. The situation is exacerbated by chronic power outages, leaving many without the means to cool their homes, thus turning living conditions into a veritable hell. Those fortunate enough to receive electricity are often unable to afford the exorbitant bills, creating a scenario ripe for unrest.

Global warming and climate change are the underlying culprits driving these extreme weather patterns. Yet, the federal and provincial governments continue to exhibit a distressing lack of urgency in addressing these

issues. Their response is typically limited to superficial acknowledgments rather than substantial policy changes or investments in sustainable infrastructure.



This apathy is inexcusable, as the current heatwave, with its severe toll on human health and daily life, starkly underscores the pressing need for action.

Preventable deaths due to heat exhaustion and related illnesses are occurring, underscoring the human cost of governmental inaction. It is imperative that both the federal and Sindh governments prioritize climate action and public health measures to mitigate the impacts of

such heatwaves. This includes investing in renewable energy to alleviate power shortages, enhancing urban planning to reduce heat island effects, and providing accessible cooling centers and public advisories to protect vulnerable populations.

Moreover, long-term strategies to combat global warming must be formulated and implemented, such as stringent emission controls and the promotion of green technologies. Our leaders must move beyond mere lip service and demonstrate a genuine commitment to combating climate change. The time for passive observation is over; proactive measures are essential to safeguard the well-being of Karachi's residents and the future of our planet. Only through decisive and sustained action can we hope to prevent further tragedies and ensure a livable environment for all.

# THE HEARTLAND



SUKKUR: Activists and leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) are holding a protest demonstration at the Sukkur Press club against excessive load shedding and inflated electricity bills.-RT

## Newly elected office-bearers of Shia Ulema Council Tando Adam take oath



By Dildar Samo

TANDO ADAM: The oath-taking ceremony of the Shia Ulema Council Pakistan, Taluka Tando Adam, was held at Jaffaria Masjid Azakhana-e-Zahra (SA) in Tando Adam. The event was chaired by District President Allama Ramz Ali Rind. The district cabinet members, including Akbar Hussain Chughtai, Irshad Ali Rind, Dr. Abid Rasool Hashmi, Ghous Baksh Dero, Imran Baig Karbalai, Hussain Abbas Hussaini Chughtai, Ali Abbas Chughtai, Syed Ghulam Mehdi Shah Kazmi, Syed Niaz Hussain Shah Naqvi, Maulana Muhammad Hussain Marri and others participated in the ceremony.



SUKKUR: President Asif Ali Zardari is chairing a meeting on Sindh's law and order situation.-RT

## DC Tando Allahyar Muhammad Ibrahim Almani reviews arrangements for upcoming monsoon rains

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Muhammad Ibrahim Almani chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Tando Allahyar to review the preparations for possible heavy rainfall across the district. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Sajid Pahore, Assistant Commissioner Jhandu Marri, Umair Jarwar, Assistant Commissioner Chamber, Abdul Shakoor Solangi, District Health Officer Tando Allahyar Dr. Amin Bhatti and all relevant officers from various departments including Revenue, Irrigation, Water Supply, Health, Public Health, Local Government, Municipal/Town Administration, Agriculture, Livestock, and others. The Deputy Commissioner of Tando Allahyar informed the meeting that the meteorological department has forecasted heavy rainfall. In this regard, all departments, including Revenue, Irrigation, Health, Public Health, Local Government, Municipal/Town Administration, Agriculture/Livestock, and other relevant departments, have been directed to ensure their presence in their offices. The officials of the Municipal Corporation were instructed to ensure the readiness of pumping machines for drainage of rainwater throughout the district and to immediately clean gutters and drains so that rainwater can be easily drained. Generators should be kept ready at all pumping stations in case of power outage. The staff involved in this operation should be kept on duty, and measures should be taken for mosquito spray campaign. The Livestock Department officials were directed to take effective measures for vaccination against diseases in animals that occur after rainfall. The officials of the WAPDA department were instructed to reduce the duration of power load shedding during rainfall and to promptly repair any transformers that may malfunction anywhere in the district.

## Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's birthday celebrated in Berani



By Khadim Khakheli

SANGHAR: At the Berani House, a cake-cutting ceremony was hosted by MNA Shazia Atta Marri, Akbar Marri, and Aurangzeb Marri to celebrate a birthday. The event saw the participation of PPP Sindh's Vice President Sarfraz Rajar, District Council Sanghar's Chairman Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khorasani, Vice Chairman Jam Zaher Ali Khan, hosts Akbar Marri and Aurangzeb Marri, PPP Sanghar District Information Secretary Shaheel Ahmed Marri, PPP leader Aurangzeb Thabeem, PPP Taluka Jam Nawaz Ali Rukhsana Shar, Sattar General Secretary Nadir Khakheli, Waris Dars, Khan Marri, Muhammad Marri, SPAAF District Sanghar President Khadim Hussain Khakheli, Municipal Committee Sanghar Chairman Rashid Mughal, Information Secretary Akhtar Zardari, PPP Taluka Khipro President Amanullah Marri, General Secretary Umer Gul Hangoro, PPP Sanghar District Deputy General Secretary Syed Sibtain Ali Shah, minority leader Rajesh Kumar Haridasani, Taj Muhammad Mangrio, PPP Ladies Wing District Sanghar President

## 8-year-old Setharja boy rape victim and his father demand justice



By Azhar Kubar

SETHARJA: An 8-year-old boy named Azad S/o Muhib Ali Junejo recorded a protest demonstration along with his father on Monday. While talking to the media, the protesting boy said that three men including Rauf Shaikh, Babu Shaikh and Mujahid Lund had sexually abuse him after holding hostage at gunpoint. The area police

## Director Information Larkana chairs a condolence reference for journalist Tariq Durrani's father

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Director Information chaired a condolence reference at the Divisional Directorate of Information Larkana over the sad demise of the father of journalist Tariq Durrani. The officials of Information Department also participated in the condolence reference and offered Fateha for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



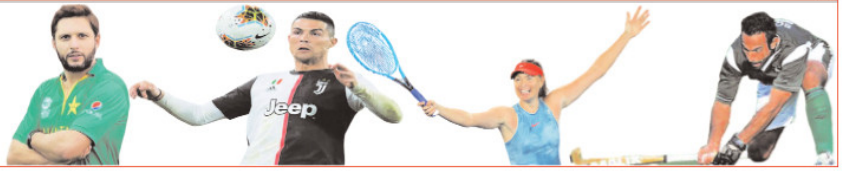
SUKKUR: Sindh Minister for Energy Affairs and Planning and Development, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah is addressing the inauguration ceremony of the SEPCO Regional Training Center.-RT



SUKKUR: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah is inspecting the repair work of the Sukkur Barrage's Gate No. 47 and 44 which had been severely damaged.-RT



# SPORTS



## Usman Khawaja says 'instability' in Pakistan cricket hurt team's performance



**SYDNEY:** Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja on Monday said Pakistan team was marred with instability due to which it was difficult to perform well. The left-handed opening Test batter said Pakistani team had great talent, but it lacked stability and it was always challenging to perform in such a situation. "When I look from the outside, everything is changing in the Pakistan cricket team. Selection committee members, staff and players keep changing," he said while speaking at an event in Melbourne. Pakistan were eliminated at the group stage of T20 World Cup 2024 which has led to a lot of criticism in the country and abroad. It was particularly senior players, including skipper Babar Azam, who received the

## India beat powerhouse Australia to book T20 World Cup 2024 semi-final spot

**GROS ISLET:** Rohit Sharma's swashbuckling 92, followed by a combined bowling effort led India to beat Australia and qualify for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 semi-finals here at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium on Monday. Chasing a daunting 206-run total, Australia could accumulate 181/7 in their quota of 20 overs despite Travis Head's half-century.



Australia had a shaky start to the pursuit as they lost David Warner (6) in the first over with just six runs on the board. Following the early hiccup, Mitchell Marsh joined forces with Travis Head and the duo launched a counter-attack. They raised 81 runs in

just 41 deliveries before Marsh fell victim to Kuldeep Yadav as Axar Patel took a blinder just inside the square leg boundary. Marsh made important contribution for Australia with a 28-ball 37 which included three fours and two sixes. Travis Head and Glenn Maxwell then put together a quick partnership for the third wicket, adding 41 runs to the total until Kuldeep castled the latter on the first delivery of the 14th over. Maxwell made 20 in 12 balls, laced up with two fours and a six. Australia then lost another wicket, exactly an over later, when Marcus Stoinis (2) fell prey to Axar Patel while attempting to play a reverse sweep. The 2021 champions suffered a massive setback to their run-chase when their mainstay Head was out-classed by Jasprit Bumrah's slower delivery in the 17th over with 56 still required. Head remained the top-scorer for Australia with 76 off 43 deliveries, hitting nine fours and four sixes. His dismissal halted the flow of runs for Australia and they lost two more wickets in the next over, allowing India to seize control. Australia eventually succumbed to a 24-run deficit which dented their semi-final hopes.—Agency

## Kylian Mbappe can't wait to play against Poland despite nose injury



**PARIS:** Kylian Mbappe and country teammate recently confirmed that the former Paris Saint-Germain star is determined to take the field for France's final Euro 2024 group stage match against Poland on Tuesday.

According to Euro Sport, the 24-year-old French football star and Real Madrid midfielder, Aurélien Tchouameni, told media that his 25-year-old teammate is "really eager" to play against Poland despite the nose injury he suffered during France's opener against Austria. "I think everyone knows he [Mbappe] is really eager to play in the next match," Tchouameni told media. "As for the mask, I think he is starting to get used to it. Of course he would rather not wear it but I think if you ask the doctor he would say there is no choice. "But that won't change anything for him. We know that when he is on the field he will bring a lot to the team." Following the injury, Mbappe didn't feature in the draw against the Netherlands but he participated in a practice match against Paderborn's under-21 side on Saturday. He wore his much talked-about mask and scored twice, Euro Sport reported. Tchouameni replaced Mbappe in Didier Deschamps' starting line-up for the Netherlands clash having missed the Austria game with injury. Ahead of the final round of Group D matches, which will see a three-way battle for qualification with Poland already eliminated, Tchouameni said: "Some people want to win and do so by playing well, and others just want to win.—Agency

## Amy Yang wins Women's PGA Championship



**ANGELES:** South Korea's Amy Yang captured her long-awaited first major title on Sunday, hanging on late for a three-stroke victory at the Women's PGA Championship in her 75th major start.

Yang fired a level-par 72 to stand on seven-under 281 after 72 holes at Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, Washington. And despite some late struggles, that was enough to claim the \$1.56 million top prize with compatriot Ko Jin-young, Japan's Miyu Yamashita and American Lilia Vu sharing second on 284. "I'm at a loss for words right now," Yang said. "All four rounds it was tough out there, but I did my best." World number 25 Yang, who had 21 career top-10 major finishes without a victory, won her first major in her 17th LPGA Tour season at age 34. "I always wanted to win a major and I came close several times and I started doubting myself if I'm ever going to win a major before I retire because I've been on tour for quite a while," Yang said. "I'm so grateful and very happy to win a major." The two-time US Open runner-up won her fifth and most recent prior LPGA title at last November's Tour Championship, her first triumph on US soil. Despite a large lead late, Yang faced some tense moments down the stretch. Yang made her second three-butt bogey of the week at 16, trimming her lead to five strokes. After her group was given a time warning, Yang plunked her tee shot into the water at the par-3 17th and made double bogey, slicing her lead to three over Ko and Vu. At the par-5 18th, Yang found the fairway but sent her second shot into left rough short of the green. She pitched her third shot onto the green and two-putted for par from just inside 12 feet for the triumph. World number 22 Yamashita, a 22-year-old with 11 wins on the LPGA Japan Tour and closed with a birdie to shoot 73 and grab a share of second. Vu and Ko shot 71. Americans Ally Ewing and Lauren Hartlage shared fifth on 285. Hartlage, ranked 272nd, managed her first top-five LPGA finish.—Agency

## 'It was historic': USA's Corey Anderson on Cinderella T20 World Cup run



**NEW YORK:** USA's exit from the T20 World Cup 2024 was quite unlike the start they took in the tournament by winning two back-to-back games against Canada and then surprising everyone by defeating Pakistan in a super over. They lost their next game against India and their game against Ireland was washed out due to rain. Still, the new side managed to progress in the Super 8 round of the T20 World Cup 2024 but failed to win even a single game against England, West Indies and South Africa though they almost won against the Proteas but lost by 19 runs. Despite not winning a single game in the second round of the T20 World Cup, USA's Corey Anderson, who used to represent New Zealand, believes the entire T20WC was historic for the side. "Making it through to the Super Eights was obviously a historic occasion for the USA. I think the boys can hold their heads high and be proud of what they've done. Because again, I think we've probably turned the world's attention to the US for them to say we're here to play. I'm extremely proud of what this team has done this World Cup. The future of USA Cricket looks good. The sky's the limit really," stated Anderson while facing the media after their defeat against England. Anderson also revealed how the T20 World Cup 2024 was a good chance for the USA cricket team to play against bigger teams as they usually do not get to play against them. "We are still an Associate nation, growing, trying to get a bigger player pool. Any time that we can play against these guys is hugely valuable. We've got extremely good talent in the US, and this was a massive stepping stone in showing that. We don't get to play against these big teams often or at all. The more we've played as well, the more footage they have on us," he concluded.—Agency

## Five issues England must resolve to deliver on expectations at Euro 2024



**GERMANY:** Boored by their own fans and heavily criticised by the media back home, England's Euro 2024 campaign is off to a stuttering start despite picking up four points from their opening two games. An underwhelming 1-0 win over Serbia was followed by a disappointed display in a 1-1 draw with Denmark. Gareth Southgate's men are still almost certain to make the knockout stages and can win Group C with victory over Slovenia in Cologne on Tuesday. However, Southgate has several fires to fight if the Three Lions are to deliver on the expectation to become European champions for the

very first time. In response to questioning over why England have sat back after going in front early in both their opening games, Southgate has conceded his players are not at the physical level needed to press for 90 minutes. "We are not pressing well a similar workload also weighing on the legs of their squads. Indeed, Southgate has hinted the opposite is the case as many of his squad had not played a competitive 90 minutes for nearly a month before facing Serbia and finds himself left hoping they will regain match sharpness as the tournament progresses. Southgate's gamble on bringing Luke Shaw as his only natural left-back in a 26-man squad already looks misjudged. Shaw has not played a minute for club or country since February and has still not been fit enough to join in team training in Germany.—Agency

## PCB makes major decision to prioritize domestic cricket



**LAHORE:** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to make it a must for players to participate in domestic cricket for their selection in the national team. The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore on Monday, PCB said in a press release. While directing PCB officials to groom domestic players, he emphasised the need for experienced coaches to train the new talent to enhance their skills. "Performance, fitness, and merit will be the key criteria for advancing players," Naqvi said. The Pakistan Cricket Board will hold tournaments for all three formats of the game to promote quality domestic cricket in the 2024-25 season.—Agency

## Face of the Day



**Name:** Ahmed Raza  
**Location:** Karachi  
**About me:** I love modeling but hate the Pakistan Cricket Team!  
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Sophie Turner parties the night away after Joe Jonas divorce confessions



Sophie Turner is living it up with boyfriend Peregrine Pearson after separating with Joe Jonas. The loved up duo attended Taylor Swift's final sold out show in London from the VIP tent alongside other celebrities like Sir Paul McCartney, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Andrew Scott, Ellie Goulding and Cate Blanchett. Later, Sophie and Peregrine partied the night away at Chiltern Firehouse where Taylor also let loose alongside her boyfriend Travis Kelce. As the two were seen exiting the afterparty, Daily Mail photographed the Game Of Thrones who kept it casual with a simple black vest top and black jeans. Completing the look with a pair of burgundy heels, Sophie kept her makeup minimal. On the other hand, Peregrine wore a pale blue shirt over a white T-shirt. Sophie sparked engagement rumors with the English aristocrat earlier this month when the two were spotted enjoying a romantic getaway in Italy and the actress rocked a golden band on her engagement finger. Her hint comes after she broke her silence on her divorce with the Jonas Brothers member. "I mean, those were the worst few days of my life. There were some days that I didn't know if I was going to make it. I would call my lawyer saying, 'I can't do this. I just can't.' I was just never strong enough to stand up for myself," she told British Vogue in May.

## Khloe Kardashian celebrates daughter True's dance recital



Khloe Kardashian can now add 'stage mom' to her expanding resume. The reality-TV star, 39, celebrated her 6-year-old daughter True's dance recital on Sunday, June 23. The Kardashians star shared several endearing photos from the event, including a picture of herself beaming with True in her ballet costume. Another snapshot showed True dressed in a red and white baseball outfit for a different routine. A heartwarming image featured Kardashian embracing True and her 22-month-old son, Tatum. "My girls had their dance recital yesterday! Year 3 done ?????????? I can't believe they already have done three years of dance. Life is moving quickly," Kardashian captioned the Instagram gallery. She mentioned that True participated in both ballet and hip-hop performances. "I am so so proud of them! They were absolutely perfect!!!" she added. Kardashian noted that True usually doesn't wear heavy makeup, but their cosmetic-filled faces were just for the special occasion. "They are beautiful just as they are. Yesterday was super special ?? memories for a lifetime," she wrote. True danced alongside her cousins: Kim Kardashian's daughter Chicago, 6, Rob Kardashian's daughter Dream, 7, and Kylie Jenner's daughter Stormi, 6. One photo captured the girls in pink tutus posing with Kim Kardashian, 43, each holding bouquets of roses. Kardashian shares True and Tatum with her ex-boyfriend, Tristan Thompson. Their son was born via surrogate in 2022, while True was born in 2018. In addition to her role as a mom, Kardashian has a new venture on the horizon. The E! star is set to host her own video podcast on X this fall, blending her "boundary-pushing sense of humor with her signature relatability to tackle dilemmas ranging from the everyday to the ever absurd," according to a statement from the media company to the Hollywood Reporter on June 20. Kardashian expressed her excitement, saying, "I have a genuine curiosity about so many topics and I try to see the positive in everything. I can't wait to explore, listen, and learn through this exciting journey. Thank you X for taking this ride with me."



# THE HEARTLAND



## JUI-F's Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar chairs meeting for party's membership drive

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar, the organizer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam in Sindh, has stated that a campaign for membership drive is underway across the country. Digitalization of membership is being carried out in Sindh, and camps will be set up at public places across Sindh for the convenience of the people for one week. In these camps, ordinary people can become members by filling out the membership



form of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam. He said that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam is working on the membership of minorities because Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has already been working throughout

the country. On this occasion, Dr. AG Ansari, District President of JUI, Maulana Abdul Hamid Mahar, Maulana Ghulamullah Mahar and others were also present.

## PPP's Minority Wing celebrates Shaheed BB's 71st birthday in Talhar

TALHAR: On the 71st birthday of the late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, candles were lit and a cake was cut by the leader of the PPP's Minority Wing, Sunil Kumar in Talhar. Social activists from Talhar, including Nadeem Ali Khawaja, senior journalist Raj Rathore, laborers, and students, participated in the ceremony. On this occasion, Sunil Kumar, the leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party's minority wing, said that Mohtarma Benazir was a great leader of Asia who established strong relations with other countries, strengthened the country's economy, and took it to new heights. Today, Mohtarma's son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is following in his mother's footsteps and is playing his better role for the country's better economy. The partici-



pants of the ceremony paid Mohtarma Benazir a great tribute to Shaheed Bhutto.—RT

## Badin Police arrest 8 during ongoing operations

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: On the directives of SSP Badin, Sheeraz Nazir, actions are being taken against drug dealers across the district. During a patrol operation, police arrested the hashish seller Akram, alias Akru Khaskheli, and recovered 5200 grams of hashish from his possession. Additionally, SHO of Tando Ghulam Ali Police Station apprehended another hashish seller, Ali Muhammad Lund, and seized 2 kg of hashish from him. Furthermore, a raid conducted by SHO of Tando Ghulam Ali Police Station on a country liquor booth resulted in the recovery of 197 liters of country

liquor, with cases being registered accordingly. Sub-Inspector Ilawal Khaskheli, along with his team at SHO Kario Ghanor Police Station, marked a country liquor bottle and confiscated 140 liters of country liquor. Another operation led to the arrest of a Gutka seller named Sobho, with 300 pieces of Gutka recovered from his possession. Similarly, Anjad Shah was apprehended with 400 packets of Gutka, and cases have been registered against them. Under the supervision of DSP Matli Rakumar, Inspector Ghulam Mustafa Aqlani of Matli Police Station, along with his team, arrested a vehicle thief named Keshif, and investiga-

tions are underway. Additionally, during a further operation, drug dealer Shakir Ahmed was arrested with 10 liters of country liquor. Adnan Mallah, was apprehended with a similar quantity of country liquor. However, one was allegedly abducted by armed men. The protest leaders including Bashir W/o Muhammad Abbas Almani and his brother Amir Ali and

## Thieves steal a motor from Advocate Mehboob Jokhio's guesthouse in Daulatpur



By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Late at night, unknown thieves stole a water motor (router) from the guest house of Advocate Mehboob Jokhio in the village Mitha Khan Jokhio. Advocate Mehboob Ali Jokhio reported the theft to the Dauratpur Police. Following this, the Dauratpur Police arrived at the scene to investigate. An expert tracker dog was

called from Hyderabad. The dog, after sniffing the footprints at the guest house, tracked through three different alleys and stopped at the house of a villager. The villager denied being the thief but said he would speak with his family. Subsequently, the Dauratpur Police arrested one suspect and took him to the police station. A number of villagers were also present at the scene during this incident.

## Recovery of abducted Khanpur Mahar girl demanded



By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: The residents of village Khuda Bux Almani recorded a protest demonstration was led by the family of Nazia, who was allegedly abducted by armed men. The protest leaders including Bashir W/o Muhammad Abbas Almani and his brother Amir Ali and

others said that their teenage girl has been abducted by the Almani community men, while the police have shown an indifferent approach in this regard despite passage of one and half month. The protesters demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter and ensure the recovery of abducted girl.

## PCB's Under-19 Champions Trophy 2024 continues in Kotri

By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: The 2024 Under-19 Champion's Trophy organized by the Pakistan Cricket Board has commenced at the SITE cricket stadium in Kotri, where teams from 106 districts of the entire country are participating. This tournament aims to provide a platform for under-19 teams to showcase their talent. In the recent match between teams from Jamshoro and Mirpurkhas, Mirpurkhas defeated Jamshoro by 63 runs. This victory has boosted the morale of the Mirpurkhas team, while

creating excitement among local cricket enthusiasts. The Cricket Stadium in Kotri is providing excellent facilities for the matches, and the Pakistan Cricket Board's initiative to hold under-19 matches in Kotri is commendable. The purpose of these under-19 matches is to identify talented players and groom them for higher levels, ultimately contributing to the national team's pool of talent. Such initiatives illuminate the names of both the country and its regions on the cricketing map, fostering pride and recognition.

## People's Bus Service inaugurated in Shaheed Benazirabad

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: The Sindh Government has provided the facility of People's Bus Services in Shaheed Benazirabad district. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shahryar Gul Memon and Ali Akbar Jamali, the District President of the Pakistan People's Party received buses. Speaking on the media on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shahryar Gul Memon said that the inauguration of public transport in Shaheed Benazirabad district is a special gift for the people by the provincial government of the Pakistan People's Party. He further stated that initially, six buses have been started, and more buses will be added soon. A ceremony was organized through which the inauguration of the People's Bus Service was done. He emphasized that the route determination has

been made keeping in view the convenience of the people. Ali Akbar Jamali, the District President, also spoke to the media, stating that providing standard travel facilities to the people is the vision of the Pakistan People's Party. He stressed the need for more buses, especially for areas like Dadu, Moro, Sakrand and other regions. Local PPP officials, the District Officer, and journalists were also present on the occasion.

## PPP Culture Wing Sanghar felicitates District Council Chairman Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: PPP Culture Wing's General Secretary Liaquat Shahani, Shaikat Khaskheli and Aijaz Dipert with the newly elected Chairman of the District Council Sanghar, Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani, to congratulate him on his appointment. They expressed their best wishes to Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani for assuming the position of Chairman of the District Council Sanghar. During the meeting, it was discussed how to resolve the issues faced by PPP workers in collaboration with the Chairman of the District Council Sanghar. Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani assured the delegation of PPP Culture Wing that he would work diligently to address the concerns of PPP workers. The delegates expressed confidence in Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani as the Chairman of the District Council Sanghar and pledged to work together to resolve issues.

## Protest continues in Thul for completion of water supply scheme

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The dream of clean and potable water for the residents of Thul has not yet been realized. Despite significant development in recent times, the provision of clean water remains elusive for the citizens of Thul. A scheme worth millions of rupees was approved for Thul's water supply 13 years ago, but despite the passage of time, it has not been completed. Residents of Thul have been protesting against corruption and incomplete work in the water scheme for the past 40 months. Protesters staged a vigorous demonstration, blocking roads and disrupting traffic at various times, causing inconvenience to commuters. Despite media coverage and efforts by the Action Committee, including Jamaluddin Josh Burro, Abdul Razaq Sarwan, Muhammad Bakhsar Brohi, Mir Hasan Brohi, Zafar Lashari, Hakim Dol, and Asif Jokhio, the scheme has not progressed.

## Candidates appearing in entry-test for Law College stage demo in TMK

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The candidates from various areas of Tando Muhammad Khan protested in front of the press club against the out-of-syllabus questions given by the department in the Law College entrance test and raised strong slogans. On this occasion, the protesters Zakir Ali Rind, Asghar Ali Janwari, Shiraz Mallah, Fayaz Jiskani and Faisal Wassan told the media that an entrance test was conducted by the institution for admission, and hundreds of students were involved. Every year, two to three MCQs in the test are incorrect, but this year, twelve MCQs out of syllabus were

given in the test, which is entirely unjust to the students of the institution. The institution should admit its mistake and give extra grace marks to the students. The protesters have demanded the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to take notice of the injustice done to the candidates who have applied for admission to the Law College.

## DEO Larkana Gulbahar Magsi chairs meeting of District Education Group

By M Rafique

LARKANA: Today, the District Education Group held its annual meeting, presided over by District Education Officer Gulbahar Magsi. The meeting was attended by District Education Officer (Primary), RSI's District Officer, and SEMIS. He emphasized that schools with issues should resolve them promptly and submit their forms as soon as possible so that the funds allocated to schools can be utilized effectively. Additionally, District Education Officer Gulbahar Magsi announced that the stipend funds for students will be disbursed soon, and students will receive notifications via their mobile numbers.

## Students Action Committee holds a seminar in Talhar on martyred journalists

By Jibril Talpur

BADIN: In Talhar, the Students Action Committee organized a seminar in memory of the martyred journalists Nasrullah Gadani, Ajay Muhammad Mahar, Ajay Kumar and others. The seminar highlighted the reward for independent journalism in Sindh and paid tribute to the martyred journalists. Faizan Ali Jamali, Abdullah Thaeem, Ravi Kumar and Hafizullah Khaskheli, Talhar Press Club's President Hanif Mullah, Muhammad Siddique Thebo, General Secretary Manji Lal, Muhammad Tahir Samo, Sajjad Lashari, Sajad Ahmed Chandio, Muhammad Hanif Mullah, Muhammad Hanif Lashari, Adil Lashari, Raj Rathore, Munawar Ali Jatoti and others attended. The participants in the seminar demanded swift action against the killers and strict implementation of the law to ensure justice.



## TIP, SWO observe Whistleblower Day in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Transparency International Pakistan and the Sukar Welfare Organization held a seminar at a private hotel with representatives from civil society, lawyers, government officials, and others to discuss the role of transparency and accountability in governance on the occasion of World Whistleblower Day. Advocate Muhammad Bux Khan Kunbhar, Executive Director of the Sukar Welfare Organization, addressed the audience. World Whistleblower Day is observed worldwide

on June 23 each year to raise awareness among the general public and promote transparency and good governance through effective implementation of stringent laws. On this occasion, advocates including Gul Munir Walhan, Saroophand Mahi, Kanaya Mohan Lal, Eidil Kunbhar and others emphasized the importance of whistleblowing to report wrongdoing, provide accurate information about illegal actions, or challenge authorities legally when faced with injustice. They explained that whistleblowing is akin to

blowing the whistle in a sports game, where if a player commits a foul, the referee blows the whistle, and if the player continues to commit a foul, the referee takes action to rectify the wrongdoing. They highlighted that in society, we act as referees, stopping wrongful actions through legal means, and whistleblowing serves as a voice against bribery, corrupt governance, deteriorating standards, fraud, and violations of the law. They emphasized that everyone should have access to justice and ensure transparency in action.

## Town Committee Chairman Syed Aftab Shah Sheerazi vows to better serve people of Sujawal

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Chairman of the Town Committee Sujawal, Syed Aftab Shah Sheerazi, expressed his commitment to serving the residents of the town wholeheartedly. He particularly addressed the grievances of the residents regarding urban housing and assured them that efforts would be made to fulfill their hopes. He also acknowl-

edged the contribution of the late former town committee member, Syed Haji Ghulam Akram Shah Sheerazi, and expressed hope to continue serving the city in his memory. Sujawal emphasized that the town belongs to everyone, and efforts will be made collectively to improve and beautify it. Furthermore, he expressed gratitude and appreciation to the businessmen of the town for their investment and contributions to the local economy. He specifically mentioned the efforts of businessmen Haji Abdul Karim Memon, Muhammad Usman Pahore, Abdul Sattar Khanri, Sajjad Memon and other members of the Town Committee, including Syed Aftab Shah Sheerazi, for their public service and dedication to the welfare of the city and its residents.

## Two Sehwan children die after consuming poisonous food

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHJARIFE: A tragic incident occurred in the UC Yousef Karampur, where two innocent children fell unconscious due to consuming poisonous food. This unfortunate incident led to the death of a 2-year-old girl named Kainat. Meanwhile, the condition of another innocent boy, 5-year-old Muhammad Faizan, worsened, and he was

rushed to the Sehwan Hospital for medical assistance during his struggle for life, but unfortunately, he also passed away. Additionally, the bodies of the deceased children were handed over to their relatives for burial. The tragic incident has sparked concerns in the community, and police have initiated an investigation to uncover the truth behind this unfortunate event.



# METRO KARACHI



## Pak-Iran Relations Highlighted At "Picturesque On Iran" Conference

KARACHI: Senior Minister of Sindh for Energy, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, emphasized the enduring brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran, highlighting that Iran was the first country to recognize Pakistan after independence. Speaking at the 3rd "Picturesque on Iran" conference, Shah noted the potential for both countries to benefit from cultural, religious, and health tourism.



Chairman TDAP Muhammad Zubair Mottiwala, Iranian Consul General Hassan Nourian, and other dignitaries also spoke at the event. Nourian praised the high level of diplomatic ties and historical and cultural similarities between the two nations, which could deepen mutual ties.

system and the decision to omit entry and exit stamps in travelers' passports.

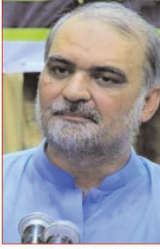
Nourian also mentioned the establishment of direct flights from Karachi and Lahore to Tehran and Mashhad by three Iranian airlines, with hopes for an increase in direct flights. Additionally, studies for a sea voyage between the two countries are underway, attracting private sector investors.

Nourian discussed the recent inauguration of two new land borders at Rimdan and Phishin, alongside the long-standing Taftan-Mirjaba border, facilitating easier travel between the countries. He highlighted Iran's electronic and paperless visa

phased Iran's appeal for halal food, affordable accommodation, security, diverse climates, and cultural attractions, making it a memorable destination. Nourian invited Pakistani travelers to benefit from Iran's advanced public health and medical services, known for quality and affordability. The event featured a speech by Dr. Ftikhar Salah-ud-Din on Iran's rich history and culture, and was attended by 9th globally with 24 UNESCO-registered sites, and recent intangible heritage registrations. He also em-

## Political Stability, Not Military Operations Needed: Hafiz Naeemur Rehman

KARACHI: Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, head of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), criticized the decision to launch Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, stating it was done without parliamentary consultation.



"Operation Azm-e-Istehkam was decided without any consideration for Parliament," said Rehman. "Pakistan requires political stability, not military operations." He expressed concerns over the lack of consultation with national, political, or democratic leadership regarding the operation, emphasizing that without national consensus, its objectives would not be achieved.

"Our party stands for peace, the elimination of terrorism, and an end to all forms of extremism in Pakistan," he affirmed.

Rehman advocated for defined actions instead of military operations, particularly highlighting the burden on the people of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

He concluded by asserting that peace, economic prosperity, and political stability could only be achieved through a government elected by the people.—RT/Agency

## -Do you actually believe this? KMC Approves Budget Without New Taxes

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has successfully passed its annual budget in a recent city council meeting, as reported by the media on Monday.



Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, addressing the council, emphasized that the approved budget does not include any new taxes. He stressed the importance of maintaining financial stability without increasing the burden on citizens.

Prior to the meeting, Mayor Wahab consulted extensively with the finance department immediately after Eid and engaged proactively with various stakeholders, including opposition leaders, to foster a collaborative approach.

Last Friday, Mayor Wahab formally assured the opposition leader in writing that no new taxes would be introduced in the upcoming budget, showcasing his com-

mitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility. Mayor Wahab also highlighted his administration's impartiality by refraining from proposing any schemes specifically for his union council. He acknowledged the constructive criticism from the opposition, emphasizing his administration's focus on addressing issues

rather than engaging in personality-driven politics. In discussions with the opposition leader, Mayor Wahab advocated for a productive session, proposing that Monday's meeting allocate sufficient time for both his address and the opposition's feedback on the budget to ensure a comprehensive and balanced deliberation.—RT

## New Federal Budget 2024-25 Will Promote Smuggling, Warns Mohammad Hanif Gohar

KARACHI: Former Senior Vice President of FPCCI and General Secretary of UBG (Sindh Zone), Mohammad Hanif Gohar, has criticized the new federal budget, stating it will boost smuggling and increase inflation. Gohar expressed disappointment with the budget, particularly its impact on the construction sector, during a dinner with Council of Economic and Energy Journalists (CEEJ) members.



Gohar argued that the budget fails exporters, traders, and industrialists, burdening those who already pay heavy taxes. He highlighted that the increased cost of construction materials will make homeownership unattainable for the poor and middle class. He emphasized

that Pakistan's economy is struggling, exports are stagnating, and the construction sector is crippled by excessive taxes. He called on the government to control inflation, making it easier for the poor to afford basic necessities. Gohar urged FPCCI Presi-

dent Aatif Ikram Shaikh and Chief Patron UBG SM Tanveer to review and address the budget's deficiencies. He also called for political unity to strengthen the economy and support the poor, ensuring they can provide for their families and maintain their self-respect.—RT

dent Aatif Ikram Shaikh and Chief Patron UBG SM Tanveer to review and address the budget's deficiencies. He also called for political unity to strengthen the economy and support the poor, ensuring they can provide for their families and maintain their self-respect.—RT

## Tessori Hosts Historic Eid Gathering At Sindh Governor House

KARACHI: Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori, the Governor of Sindh, known as the "Awami Governor" (Public Governor), made history during an Eid gathering at the Governor House. The event saw the Consul Generals of China, the United States, and Russia sitting together, alongside diplomats from Turkey, Japan, France, and Kuwait's Consul General, who is also a Middle East peace mediator. The diplomats discussed international politics and praised Governor Tessori's initiatives.



Governor Tessori's notable achievements included the sacrifice of 100 camels and the distribution of their meat, along with 20,000 grocery boxes, during the three days of Eid ul Adha. Foreign diplomats lauded his efforts to promote IT education in Sindh through programs that enable thousands of underprivileged students to earn substantial incomes for their families.



During informal chats, diplomats also recognized the Governor's compassionate gesture of gifting two camels to a poor man in interior Sindh whose camel's leg was cut off by a landlubber. The get-together was attended by diplomats from

Germany, Malaysia, Iran, and the outgoing Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the Consul General of Indonesia. Other notable attendees included the Chairman of Saylani Welfare, the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Mohammed Altamash, former minister Brig (R) Harris, Abdul Salam Dandaboy, acting Chairman of the Consumer Association of Pakistan, MQM (P) leaders, MNAs, MPAs, Haji Rafiq Pardesi, Chairman ABAD Athar Iqbal, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Ishtiaq Baig, Prince Jam Kaim Ali, and other high government officials.—RT

## Activist Sarim Burney Hospitalized Amid Child Trafficking Charges

KARACHI: Sarim Burney, renowned human rights activist and philanthropist, has been hospitalized after being arrested on charges of child trafficking and document forgery, as reported by Express News. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has filed an interim charge sheet in the case.



Burney, accused of smuggling over 20 newborns under the guise of adoption in the past year, was transferred to a hospital from court lockup due to health concerns. The bail hearing took place in the court of the Additional District and Sessions Judge East, overseen by a substitute judge in the absence of the assigned judge.

Amir Nawaz Warrach, defense lawyer, informed that Burney's health deteriorated necessitating his transfer to the hospital while in court lockup. The FIA's interim charge sheet alleges that Burney attempted to smuggle children to the USA by falsely declaring them as orphans.—RT/Agency

Defense lawyers successfully requested Burney's transfer from Landhi Jail to Central Jail, which was granted by the court. However, the bail application

hearing has been adjourned to June 26 upon the defense's request.

## KATI Warns That Fixed Tax Regime On Exports Will Devastate Industry

KARACHI: Johar Qandhari, President of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), has condemned the proposed fixed tax regime on exports, warning it will severely harm exports and deter investment. Qandhari stated that this policy would exacerbate economic challenges for industrialists.



"The government's proposal to implement a fixed tax regime on exports will only add to the difficulties of industrialists, rather than facilitating them to boost exports," Qandhari said. He highlighted that the current tax burden, including income tax, sales tax, withholding tax, and regulatory duties, can account for up to 50% of their income, making profitable operations nearly impossible.

competitively priced products.

He expressed concern that such policies could halt foreign investment and lead to the closure of existing industries. In contrast, neighboring countries like India and Bangladesh provide extensive support to their exporters, enhancing their global market presence with

"In Pakistan, exporters are being treated as adversaries, stripping them of their right to conduct business," Qandhari remarked. He called for immediate reductions in electricity and gas prices and the withdrawal of the proposed fixed tax regime on the export sector to facilitate increased domestic exports.

"The government must take urgent steps to support exporters and promote industrialization to prevent economic decline," he emphasized.—RT

## Sindh Home Minister Orders Swift Action Against Attack On Elderly Citizen

KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar expressed strong displeasure today over the assault on an elderly citizen by a violent individual in Karachi's Korangi area.



In a statement from the Sindh Home Department, Mr. Lanjar instructed the SSP Korangi to promptly apprehend those responsible for the attack and ensure a case is filed against them.

Lanjar directed the SSP Korangi to hold the perpetrators of the violence against the senior citizen.—RT

He emphasized the need to enforce the law against drug addicts, stating, "There will be no tolerance for delaying or neglecting citizens' complaints."

## Sindh Planning Mini Grids In Every District: Nasir Shah

KARACHI: Provincial Energy Minister Nasir Shah has announced plans to prioritize the welfare of Sindh's residents, emphasizing the government's commitment despite not being part of the federal administration.



"Bilawal Bhutto has pledged 300 units of free electricity for the people," Shah stated, highlighting the initiative to distribute electricity generated from solar parks to the public.

Shah outlined the government's strategy to establish mini-grids in small communities across each district of the province, aiming to offer affordable and eco-friendly electricity. "If successful, this pilot project will expand further," he affirmed. He also urged the

Chief of Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) to reduce load shedding during the current intense heatwave. Recently, the Sindh government entered into an agreement with a private sector firm to launch a floating solar power project at Keenjhar Lake.—RT

## RRF Chief Warns Against Filming TikTok Videos During Duty Hours

KARACHI: Rapid Response Force (RRF) personnel in Sindh have been prohibited from filming TikTok videos during their duty hours, according to media reports on Monday.

DIG Faisal Abdullah Chachar highlighted the sensitive nature of RRF's duties and urged officials to refrain from engaging in TikTok videos during their duty hours. He labeled any violation of these directives as a breach of discipline and the force's principles.

Commandant RRF DIG Faisal Abdullah Chachar issued strict directives to both the Rapid Response Force and Crowd Management Unit, emphasizing that no officer is allowed to film TikTok videos at their base or surrounding areas while on duty or in official uniform.

Warning of stringent disciplinary measures, the RRF chief emphasized that negligence in complying with these guidelines will not be tolerated.—RT/Agency

## Karachi In Grip Of Partial Heatwave

KARACHI: Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfaraz has indicated that Karachi is currently experiencing a partial heatwave, which is expected to persist for the next two days, as reported by media on Monday. The prevailing hot weather in the city is attributed to a change in wind direction, according to Sarfaraz. He forecasted a likely decrease in temperatures after the two-day period. The Meteorological Department also anticipates the onset of the monsoon season in the first week of July. Karachi and other districts of Sindh are predicted to receive above-normal rainfall during

this monsoon season. Today, the temperature in Karachi could rise to 43 degrees Celsius, with continued hot and humid conditions expected for the next three days. Tomorrow, daytime temperatures are projected to range between 38 to 40 degrees Celsius. In other parts of Sindh, including Hyderabad, Mirpur Khas, Umrkot, and Badin, temperatures may reach between 44 to 46 degrees Celsius. Tharparkar and Umrkot could experience light rainfall accompanied by wind and thunderstorms later today or tonight, according to the weather report. Recent weather patterns have already brought pre-monsoon light rain and strong winds to various areas of the city. Similarly, Rohri, Pannu Aqil, Kandhra, and Saletpar witnessed rainfall that damaged mud houses and inundated roads. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Punjab has issued a monsoon rain alert, predicting an increase of 35 percent in rainfall this season starting from July 1st. Heavy rains are expected in upper, central, and southern Punjab, potentially leading to urban flooding and flooding in hill torrents in southern Punjab during July's rain spell.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: District General Secretary PPP Shaheed Benazirabad, Dada Ghulam Shah Leghari, and Coordinator Zardari House Nawabshah, Saleem Zardari called on Central President of the PPP Ladies Wing, Adi Faryal Talpur in Karachi.—RT



Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

—Mark Twain

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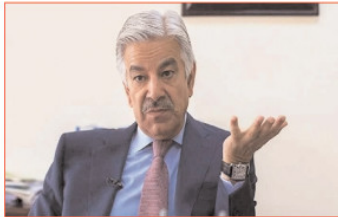
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TUESDAY JUNE 25 2024

## Bajwa and Faiz Hamid Settled Matters With TTP, Gave Us Brief Overview: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif Monday revealed that former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and ex-Inter Services Intelligence director General Faiz Hamid settled matters with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and only gave a brief overview to them on the matter.



"They [former generals] painted a picture as if all was good in Swat," Asif said while speaking to media.

The defence minister said that the politicians, most notably Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar, had raised questions in the relevant briefing but were not allowed to speak much.

The minister's remarks come after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government, in light of increased terrorist incidents in recent months, announced launching a fresh anti-terror operation across the country titled "Azm-e-Istehkam".

The decision was made during a meeting of the National Apex Committee on National Action Plan (NAP) which was attended by chief

ministers of all provinces and GB, services chiefs, and chief secretaries of the provinces along with other senior civilian, military, and law enforcement agencies officers.

The operation will provision streamlining of multiple lines of effort to combat the menaces of extremism and terrorism in a comprehensive and decisive manner, read the statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

However, the Centre's move hasn't bode well with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which constitutes the majority of the opposition benches in the National Assembly and has opposed the

military operation, calling for the issue to be discussed before the parliament.

"The federal government should discuss this issue in the parliament before approving it. No Apex Committee is above this house," PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar said while speaking in the lower house on Sunday.

Reflecting on PTI's government, Asif claimed that around 5,000-6,000 TTP fighters were brought back and were given shelter and amnesty during the former ruling party's tenure.

"The army conducts an operation against terrorists, but the civilian government of this area does not fulfil its

responsibility," the minister said.

Commenting on his meetings with Afghan ministers and leaders, the defence minister said that he didn't feel any animosity or hostility against Pakistan during his interaction with the officials from the neighbouring country.

His remarks come as Islamabad has time again called on Kabul's Taliban-led administration to prevent its soil from being used by various terrorist organisations against Pakistan — an allegation Kabul has denied.

Lamenting the country's history of being engaged in wars, Asif said: "General Zia ul Haq and General Pervez Musharraf fought wars to extend their rule. Gen Zia destroyed religion, social structure and society, took the money and became a part of the Afghan war [against Russia]."

"We should take account of ourselves as to why we became a part of two wars. Will our soldiers continue to pay the price of our wrong policies?" the minister noted.

Addressing the issue of mob lynching, he noted that people used blasphemy even in their personal enmity and stressed the need to stand up for the rights of minorities in the country.

"We tabled a resolution in the assembly against the incidents of minorities which was opposed by PTI," he said while referring to a resolution passed by the NA which called on the Centre and the provinces to ensure the complete safety of members of minority communities.

The resolution was tabled after a man was lynched to death in Swat over allegations of desecration of the Holy Quran.

Last month, a Christian man in his seventies was attacked by a mob on charges of desecrating the Holy Quran and later died of his injuries in Sargodha, Punjab.

Meanwhile, over 90 Christian homes and 21 churches were vandalised when hundreds of people rioted through a Christian neighbourhood in Faisalabad's Jaranwala tehsil last year.—RT/Agency

## Gandapur Seeks Meeting With Army And ISI Chiefs As PTI Signals Readiness For Talks

PESHAWAR: After Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) signalled to hold dialogues on multiple occasions to end political stability, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur expressed wishes to hold a meeting with the incumbent Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief.



CM Gandapur, speaking to journalists in Rawalpindi after meeting incarcerated PTI founder Inran Khan in Adiala Jail on Monday, said that the former prime minister has always offered dialogues.

He expressed sorrow that nobody responded to Khan's call for talks, adding that dialogues were not held with the institutions or the federal government so far.

Reiterating the PTI's conditions for political talks, the KP chief executive said that terms and conditions would be unchanged for the dialogues. He detailed that the former ruling party sought restoration of its stolen mandate and the formation of a probe commission on the May 9 riots.

"I want to meet the army chief and the DG ISI," CM Gandapur said, adding that he met the top military personalities at different events, clarifying that there was no one-on-one meeting held between them.

Criticising the federal government on the newly launched anti-terrorism operation — Azm-e-Istehkam, he claimed that there was no

mention of any kind of [military] operation in the last apex committee meeting.

He admitted that law and order situation and "distribution of prizes" came under discussion and was labelled as "Azm-e-Istehkam" in the top huddle.

CM Gandapur said that he would talk about Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) policies on another occasion whether the operation would be held or not.

He, however, gave credit to the PTI government for improving law and order situation as the former administration strengthened all law enforcement agencies, including the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

Recalling the past developments during the PTI government, he said that former PM Khan visited Afghanistan and held talks with then-president Ashraf Ghani. He added that then-ISI chief Lieutenant General Faiz Hamid remained in contact with the Afghanisthan administration during the three-year tenure of the PTI government. However, then-army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa removed ISI chief Hamid.

He argued that it was necessary to take all provinces and stakeholders in confidence on major decisions.

Commenting on the rise in terrorism incidents, he was of the view that the menace of terrorism was increasing for finding a solution via dialogues. He offered the PTI's support to the federal government "if it is willing to hold talks with Afghanistan".

To a question regarding the KP government's stance on electricity-related issues, CM Gandapur said that his province should not be blamed for the massive line losses. He also blamed the Centre for not disbursing dues worth Rs1,510 billion.

He defended his decisions to take a tough stance against the federal government over loadshedding issues in KP. The chief minister warned the federal authorities, again, that they would give a strong "reaction" if their demands were not met.—RT/Agency

## Shehbaz and Bill Gates Renew Commitment To Eradicate Polio From Pakistan

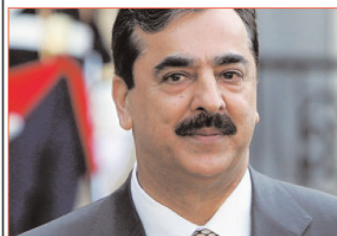
ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan remains in the grip of poliovirus despite the government's rigorous efforts towards eradication of the paralytic disease, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Bill Gates renewed the pledge to wipe it out of the country. Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus mainly affecting children under the age of five years, who are malnourished and have weak immunity because of being under-vaccinated or not vaccinated for polio and other childhood diseases. The illness invades the nervous system and causes paralysis or even death. While there is no cure for polio, vaccination is the most effective way to protect children from this crippling disease. Pakistan is one of two remaining polio-endemic countries in the world, along with Afghanistan and the number of cases on a yearly basis have significantly dropped in the country. The latest diagnosis was reported in Shikarpur on June 1, bringing the toll of polio cases in the Pakistan this year to four. In a meeting with PM Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Monday, Gates expressed his confidence that with a sustained vaccination campaign and firm commitment



of the Pakistani government, polio eradication drive would get back on track to end the crippling disease following the recent surge in environmental detections. He also underscored how Pakistan's deployment of data science tools and digital technology are important resources to continue to improve the lives of the citizens across the country. The visiting dignitary also thanked the premier, who received him at the Prime Minister's House, for his continued dedication and personal interest in eradicating wild polio from the country. Welcoming Gates, PM Shehbaz updated him about the government's efforts to achieve economic stability and key advances in digital financial services, increased health coverage, climate change adaptation and efforts to eradicate poliovirus. He deeply appreciated the Gates Foundation's valuable support for government's initiatives to digitise the economy. "A digitised eco-system of the entire government structure will result in enhanced revenues that will help improve governance and the government would be able to spend more on public welfare schemes," a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, quoted the premier as saying. PM Shehbaz underlined that both the government and the Gates Foundation share many goals including closing the gender gap, increasing health coverage, improving food security, climate change adaptation, and financial inclusion. Thanking the Gates Foundation for being the largest donor for the polio eradication programme, the premier outlined a robust and focused strategy to counter threats of increased wild poliovirus infections and the actions needed to overcome the challenge to completely wipe out the disease from Pakistan.—RT/Agency

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## Military Operation As Necessary Now As In The Past: Gilani



JHELUM: Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani on Monday backed the newly announced counterterrorism operation 'Azm-e-Istehkam', saying that military operation to combat terrorism is as necessary as it was in the past, media reported.

Speaking to journalists here, the PPP leader expressed support for the military's actions in Swat and Malakand, saying there was no other option.

Gilani also praised the military's efforts in eliminating terrorism, saying that

nearly two million people affected by military operations are currently living in camps.

The remarks came as opposition parties, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), have opposed the Opposition Azm-e-Istehkam, announced by the government to combat terrorism.

The launching of the operation was announced in a meeting of the Central Apex Committee of National Action Plan, which was chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.—RT/Agency

## Senate Proposes 128 Recommendations To National Assembly On Finance Bill 2024

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Monday proposed a total of 128 recommendations including nine about the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the year 2024-25 to the National Assembly for inclusion in the Finance Bill 2024.

The recommendations on the Finance Bill 2024 would be forwarded to the National Assembly which would decide whether or not these recommendations are to be incorporated into the Money Bill.

Out of a total 128, some 69 were related to general recommendations on budget 2024-25, eight to Custom Act, 1969, 23 to Sales Tax Act, 1990, 15 to Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, three to the Federal Excise Act, 2005, and one in Abandoned Properties.

Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance Saleem Mandviwalla presented the Senate's budget recommendations which were adopted by the House.

Earlier, speaking on the floor of the House, Mandviwalla said that they were given six days instead of 14



to go through the budget document and prepare recommendations for the lower house of the Parliament.

He said that some 32 associations, chambers of commerce from all provinces and members of the civil society including education, medical, retail, automotive and others met the finance committee and gave their feedback.

He went on to say that out of the total Rs18.9 trillion budget, some Rs9.75 trillion were to be paid in interest and debt repayments while Rs2.63 trillion was to be borrowed to make up the budget deficit.

The Senate body's chairman said that 2.9 million non-filers were left at large by the authorities who should

be brought into the tax net to increase revenue instead of burdening the poor masses.

Mandviwalla added the committee unanimously rejected an increased tax on the low-tiered salaried class and also the one imposed on baby milk.

He said for the first time persons with disabilities who served in public departments came to the forum and presented their grievances.

The disabled persons claimed that they were ignored in the budgets passed in the past decade, he said. He said the committee proposed the government to allocate special allowances, negotiate with them and listen to their problems.—RT/Agency

## Kundi Urges For Cabinet Meetings On Operation Azm-i-Istehkam To Be Held In Terrorism Hot Zones In KP

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday suggested that the federal government hold meetings on counterterrorism with the KP assembly in terrorism hotzones across the province instead of Islamabad.



The federal government on Saturday approved a reinvigorated and re-energised national counter-terrorism campaign, Operation Azm-i-Istehkam, that symbolised the national resolve to eradicate extremism and terrorism from the country.

The campaign was launched with the consensus of all stakeholders, including the provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, during a meeting of the Central Apex Committee on the National Action Plan (NAP), chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"Azm-i-Istehkam will integrate and synergise multiple lines of effort to combat the menaces of extremism and terrorism in a comprehensive and decisive manner," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a press release.

However, in a parliament session marked by ruckus on Sunday, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif criticised the opposition for not supporting the newly announced counterterrorism operation as the latter demanded that Parliament be taken into confidence before any offensive against militancy was launched. Speaking to the media outside Parliament House in Islamabad the same day, PTI MNA Gohar Khan had said, "It is our demand [..] that if there is any operation — whether intelligence-based or full-fledged or in certain districts or villages or tehsils — it is necessary to take this Parliament into confidence." He had made the remarks while the

National Assembly was in session, saying that the opposition wanted to speak on a point of order that the "military leadership, as has been done in the past, give an in-camera briefing and detail the situation". However, he alleged, that lawmakers from his party were denied the chance to speak and therefore staged a walkout in protest.

Talking to reporters today, KP Governor Kundi said Operation Azm-i-Istehkam was launched following meetings between the federal government and all stakeholders, including the provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. "They have all committed and we stand with them and the federal government," Kundi said.—RT/Agency

## GB Government Unveils Rs1.4 Trillion Budget For 2024-25 Including Wheat Subsidy



GIGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan government on Monday unveiled a budget worth Rs1.402 trillion for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25.

Presenting the budget in the provincial assembly, GB Finance Minister Engineer Ismail said that an amount of Rs86.6 billion was allocated for non-development expenditures and Rs34.5 billion for development projects.

"The development budget includes Rs20 billion for the annual development programme and Rs13.5 billion for the federal government projects," he said.

The minister said in order to provide relief to the GB people, a significant amount of Rs19.07 billion was earmarked for wheat subsidy.

In the financial plan for FY25, the education sector got an allocation of Rs1.37 billion, Rs1.52 billion for health sector, Rs597.9 million for agriculture depart-

ment, Rs998 million for food department and Rs110 million for mineral resources department.

The finance minister said that Rs1.728 billion has been earmarked for irrigation department, Rs1.524 billion for forestry and environment department, Rs1.19 billion for rural development department and Rs1.316 billion for information technology department.

Moreover technical education department Rs 7.763 billion, social welfare department Rs 2.88 billion, communication department Rs 5.63 billion, and information department Rs 41.4 million.

Additionally, Rs536.8 million was specified for the prison department, Rs192.6 million for law department and Rs57.4 million for excise and taxation department.—RT/Agency

## PML-N Leader Warns Mohammad Zubair Of Consequences Following Claims Of Nawaz's Meeting With Bajwa

LAHORE: On levelling allegations of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's meeting with former chief of army staff General (retired) Qamar Javed Bajwa ahead of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's ouster, Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad on Monday warned legal action could be taken against ex-Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohammad Zubair.



Addressing media in Lahore, Ahmad said he did not expect Zubair to issue such a statement. He alleged that the former Sindh governor had said an unfounded thing, upon which he could face legal consequences.

Talking with a TV channel, Zubair, who recently quit the PML-N, mentioned about the PTI government's ouster from power in 2022. The politico claimed Nawaz met

Bajwa in London, before the vote of no confidence was moved against the then prime minister Inran Khan.

Dismissing the former PML-N leader's claim, he said Zubair had stated a lie about the PML-N president's meeting with Bajwa in London. He could put himself into trouble for speaking such a thing, Ahmad said.

"Zubair should reveal details about Nawaz-Bajwa meeting. When did it take place and where," he asked,

adding no engagement or meeting of a leader of Nawaz's stature could remain secret. "What to talk of Nawaz's meeting with Bajwa, they even did not speak on phone," he said. On PTI's demand for constitution of a commission to probe the former Sindh governor's statement, the Punjab Assembly speaker said before going towards a judicial commission, Zubair should apprise when the meeting took place.—RT/Agency