

## Heartland

Sardar Faisal Kachelo provides water supply scheme to his area people

## Money

-Zafar Moti is Sad!  
PSE 100-index down by 291.51 points to close at 77,940.58

## NATIONAL

Economic progress hinges on improving law and order situation: Ahsan

## SPORTS

David Warner quietly concludes illustrious international cricket career

Ghani Takes Action On Liaquatabad Building Collapse

## Bilawal Claims Budget Drafted By Bureaucrats Without Any Political Input

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday reiterated the taking political input in the budget 2024-25 proposals for it to achieve targets.

"If there is no political input, your budget will not work. The relief you want to give to the people won't be possible. The ground realities that you [politicians across the board] know, none of the 'babu' in Islamabad know about them," he said while speaking during the National Assembly session.

"Without political input, the budget will be the babus, for the babus and of the babus. And we want to end this tradition," said the PPP chairman.

The PPP, which is the main ally of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), continued to raise objections for not taking it into confidence regarding the federal budget for the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1.

Both the parties held several rounds of talks during which the PPP shared its grievances with the Shehbaz



Sharif-led party. A day earlier, sources said the PML-N accepted all demands of its major ally.

Bilawal, during the NA session, said that a politician would never suggest taxing milk or stationary in a country with 40% stunting rate and where 26 million children are out of school, but this would be a "babu's" suggestion.

The politician said he hopes that Prime Minister Shehbaz and his team will be able to get Pakistan out of trouble. "The government has managed to slightly decrease the inflation," he said. The PPP chairman said that they have so far failed in

providing relief to the common people in terms of revenue, adding that every budget emphasises on budget indirectly.

He said that Pakistan will have to suffer due to climate change. Moreover, the former minister said that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was used on political grounds. "It is manifesto to abolish NAB and the biggest supporters of NAB may also approve of this step."—RT/Agency

## Gandapur and Shibli Advise PTI Leaders To Await Details Of Military Operation

ISLAMABAD: In a high-level Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) meeting, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, PTI leaders Shibli Faraz and Barrister Saif advised party leaders to wait for particulars of the newly-announced military operation to come out before taking any decision.

Sources told media that the meeting at the KP House, Islamabad, was given a briefing on the National Action Plan's Apex Committee meeting and also on meeting with the incarcerated PTI founder, Imran Khan.

Gandapur, who attended the Apex Committee meeting as his province's representative, apprised that the forum only discussed about security issues and stability in Pakistan.

He briefed the meeting for 35 minutes, wherein he presented his arguments supporting his stance of waiting for details of the operation Azm-e-Istehkam, but majority of the party members did not agree to him, the sources maintained.

During a meeting of the Apex Committee, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last Saturday gave the go-ahead to operation Azm-e-Istehkam, a reintegrated and



re-energised national counter-terrorism drive, to turn up the heat on militants targeting the state of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the new counter-terrorism push has been approved with the consensus of all stakeholders including provinces, Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

"The approval of the operation symbolises the national resolve to eradicate all forms of extremism and terrorism from the country," the PMO said.

The opposition parties including the PTI, Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Fazi (JUI-F), Awami National Party (ANP) and others have voiced concerns over the launch of the new military operation, demanding that parliament must be taken into con-

ference before taking any such decision.

The sources said the PTI leaders were furious as the KP chief minister is not openly opposing the military operation.

Gandapur opined they should wait for details of the operation to come out and opposing it before that would not be appropriate, the sources said.

Multiple leaders including Omar Ayub, Barrister Gohar, Asad Qaisar, Shandana Gulzar and other senior leaders opposed the military operation.

Whereas, Faraz, Saif, and Gandapur preferred waiting for the details, they added. The PTI founder and others opposed the military operation and they stood with his stance, said many of them on this occasion.—RT/Agency

## Operation Azm-e-Istehkam To Energize IBOs Without Displacing Locals: Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday ruling out any large-scale military operation said that Azm-e-Istehkam was a multi-domain, multi-agency and whole of system national vision aimed at decisively rooting out the nebulous and shadowy presence of remnants of terrorists, and violent extremism.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet, took the members into confidence about the prevailing misunderstanding and speculations about the Azm-e-Istehkam, saying that instead of any large-scale operation, the already ongoing intelligence based kinetic operations would be energized.

In his remarks, he told the members that no additional duty would be imposed on the solar panels to ensure the accessibility of low-cost solar energy to every citizen.

He said the government was planning to put the national economy on a positive trajectory and expressed sat-



isfaction over the country heading towards economic stability.

The prime minister reiterated the resolve to boost the country's exports by promoting Small and Medium Enterprises and withdrawing privileges from the elite class and those exploiting the national resources. The economic protection of the common man and providing them equal opportunities were among the government's priorities, he added.

Discussing the annual budget 2024-25, Prime Min-

privatisation while ensuring transparency in the process.

On the commerce ministry's recommendation and request from the World Food Programme of Afghanistan, the federal cabinet approved transit of a truck from Karachi to Kabul carrying the spare parts of the trucks, just for once on humanitarian grounds.

The body gave the go-ahead to signing of a MoU between the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Pakistan and that of Saudi Arabia. It also extended till March 2025 the timeframe of an implementation committee on the immovable property of late Ameer of Bahawalpur, light of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's ruling and recommendation of the States and Frontier Regions Division.

The federal cabinet also approved the appointment of the Executive Director of the Frequency Allocation Board in the first week of August, it was told.

The prime minister instructed to accelerate the PIA

the country had sufficient stock of sugar available and the Sugar Advisory Board and relevant departments had approved exporting the leftover stock of sugar after taking into account the expected consumption before the next crushing season and assessing the surplus stock.

The prime minister said the government would not tolerate any increase in the sugar price and instructed the formation of a committee to monitor the sugar price and stop its export in case of any possibility of a price hike.

The meeting approved the annual report of the National Economic Council for fiscal year 2022-23 prepared by the planning ministry for tabling before the parliament. The federal cabinet endorsed the Economic Coordination Committee's decisions of June 13, 2024; Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases of June 11, 2024 and Cabinet Committee on State Owned Enterprises' decision of June 20, 2024.—RT/Agency

## IHC Dismisses Case Against Sheikh Rashid Over Alleged Use Of 'Immoral' Language



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday dismissed a case filed against Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid pertaining to his using "immoral" language against Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

A case was registered in February last year against Rashid for using offensive words against the foreign minister. The FIR was registered by Karachi's Mochko police station on a complaint from a local PML leader.

The former federal minister, according to the first information report, made "immoral" and "nasty" comments which infuriated the public and created a law and order situation in the city.

IHC Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the verdict approving Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid's plea seeking the dismissal of the case lodged at Mochko Police Station against him.

Rashid in person was present in the courtroom to hear the judgement.—RT/Agency

## Dar Highlights Benefits Of Peaceful, Stable Afghanistan For Both Countries

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has said that a peaceful, stable Afghanistan would benefit both countries and promote prosperity in Central Asia and beyond.

Speaking at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad on Tuesday, he highlighted the importance of dialogue, the avoidance of bloc politics, and adherence to the UN Charter.

He emphasised Pakistan's commitment to maintaining peaceful, cooperative, and good neighborly relations with all countries, despite facing challenges and setbacks in certain instances. IHC stressed Pakistan's focus on economic development and regional peace, particularly with Afghanistan and India, advocating for stability in South Asia.

He highlighted Pakistan's cooperation with Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover in August 2021 to avert a humanitarian crisis and support the Afghan people. He further maintained that Afghan soil must not be used for terrorism against any state and urged Afghan authorities to address its concerns.



The foreign minister expressed Pakistan's desire for good relations with India based on mutual respect, sovereignty equality, and a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, rejecting unilateral approaches or attempts at hegemony.

"We will maintain strategic stability in South Asia and respond decisively to any ill-considered military actions by the Hinduva-driven government in New Delhi," he added.

Regarding the new term of the BJP-led NDA government in India, Dar called for reflection on India-Pakistan relations and regional issues. He criticised India's unilat-

eral actions on August 5, 2019, in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, stating they harmed bilateral relations.

Deputy PM urged India to create an environment conducive to meaningful dialogue, end its smear campaign, cease state-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan, and take concrete steps for positive relations.

He noted that South Asian nations must address poverty and low human development rankings and lamented the stalled progress of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation due to one member state's obstinacy.—RT/Agency

## Allocation Of Reserved Seats Must Follow Principle Of Proportional Representation: SC Justice Ayesha Malik

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan's Justice Ayesha Malik on Tuesday said that the reserved seats cannot be allocated contrary to the principle of proportional representation.

Justice Malik made these comments during the hearing on the petition filed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), the ally of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), against the denial of reserved seats for women and minorities.

A 13-member full court, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, heard the matter.

The bench comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail,



Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

"Whether SIC wins or loses this case, what will other parties benefit from it?" questioned Justice Ayesha during the hearing today, noting that the reserved seats can only be allotted on the principle of proportional rep-

resentation and not contrary to that.

Meanwhile, Justice Minallah said women and minorities must get representation in parliament.

He said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) were affected earlier but the SC did not come forward to help.

"The same is happening as it did in 2018. One party is the victim," said Justice Minallah, adding that the court did not learn from its history.

The judge added that there would surely come a time in the future when the Supreme Court will regret its decision again. The hearing of the case has been adjourned till 11:30am on Thursday.—RT/Agency

## Ayesha Raza Farooq Appointed PM's Focal Person For Anti-Polio Campaign



ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday appointed PML-N Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq as the focal person of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for anti-polio campaign, media reported. Sources close to the development revealed that Ayesha Raza Farooq has been appointed to the position of focal person for the anti-polio campaign on the instructions of PM Shehbaz Sharif, adding that her appointment will be honorary.

The focal person will inform the PM about the government's anti-polio initiatives while Ayesha Raza Farooq will also preside over the meetings of the National Polio Steering Committee. Sources stated that the



focal person will supervise the anti-polio campaign in Pakistan and head the task force created for it. In addition, she will also make recommendations for the implementation of the Polio Action Plan. According to sources, the focal person will coordinate with international anti-polio partners and communicate with international donors, while also representing Pakistan on the international level regarding polio. It is pertinent to mention here that the PML-N senator Ayesha Raza Farooq has been the prime minister's focal person in the former government of PML-N and former member of the National Assembly.—RT/Agency

## PM Assures Tangible Results Soon From Government's Cost-Cutting Measures

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed the National Assembly on Tuesday, outlining his government's efforts to curb expenditures and combat corruption.

During the session, he announced the abolishment of the Pakistan Public Works Department, citing pervasive corruption within its development budget.

He disclosed the formation of a rightsizing committee, led by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, tasked with streamlining government operations and delivering substantial outcomes by the specified timeline.

Emphasising his administration's commitment to regional development, the premier underscored initiatives aimed at uplifting southern Punjab.



He added that the Zewar Taleem Programme saw a significant rise in stipends for female students, from Rs200 to Rs1000.

Furthermore, the PM highlighted federal investments in major infrastructure

and employment opportunities exceeding the region's population ratio. PM Shehbaz stated that specific measures included a 10% increase in allocation for southern Punjab under national schemes such as the laptop distribution and PM Rozgar schemes.

Responding to opposition concerns, he highlighted the imminent results of these initiatives, expected to manifest within approximately six weeks.

The PM's address comes amid heightened scrutiny over government spending and efforts to enhance transparency and efficiency in public administration.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Peoples Labor Bureau Senior Vice President, Lal Baksh Khulro along with others is cutting a cake to celebrate the 71st birthday anniversary of former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto-RT

## Jashn Eid Ghadir Rally taken out in Kotdiji



By Naz Solangi

KUMB: On the 18th of Dhulhaj, in celebration of Eid Ghadir, the Shia community of Kotdiji organized a grand rally that commenced from Masjid Ali al-Murtaza in Kot Bungalow. The rally, which witnessed the participation of thousands of devotees, expressed their deep love and reverence for Hazrat Imam Ali (AS). As the rally made its way through the Shahi Bazaar, Kotdiji, a spirit of devotion and collective joy, making it a memorable event for all attendees.



HYDERABAD: Residents of SITE area are addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad press club for the provision of justice-RT

## Nawabshah's Deputy Commissioner Chairs Meeting To Prepare For Upcoming Monsoon Rains



By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: Deputy Commissioner Gul Memon presided over a crucial meeting at his office to assess the readiness of drains and canals ahead of the upcoming monsoon rains, aiming to ensure efficient water drainage during the rainy season. The meeting focused on proactive measures to safeguard residents and farmers from potential flood risks exacerbated by climate change. Deputy Commissioner Memon directed officials from the LBOD (Left Bank Outfall Drain) to develop comprehensive plans for water drainage, taking into account forecasts of above-average rainfall. Emphasis was placed on maintaining cleanliness at drainage points and ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply at pumping stations. Immediate actions were mandated to swiftly drain rainwater from Nawabshah city, surrounding areas, and the airport. Furthermore, a request will be submitted to the PDMA (Provincial Disaster Management Authority) for urgent deployment of machinery to channel rainwater into the Indus River from Qazi Ahmed, Daur, and nearby regions. Ali Akbar Jamali, Chairman of the District Council, underscored the lessons learned from the 2022 rainfall, which resulted in delays and overflow, causing substantial losses to farmers and the public. He urged meticulous attention to machinery readiness and drainage system maintenance based on past experiences. Project Director SCARP Shaheed Benazirabad, Amjad Ali Memon, reported on the completion of cleaning operations for Nawabshah East and West Main Drains, in addition to other major and minor drains. He noted enhancements to embankments for improved water flow and ongoing efforts to procure necessary machinery. Mayor Qazi Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti provided updates from the municipal corporation on rainwater drainage initiatives across Nawabshah, Qazi Ahmed, Daur, and adjacent areas. The meeting was attended by SE HESCO Farman Ali Daghani, Additional Deputy Commissioner Nawab Sameer Laghari, EXEN LBOD Shahabuddin Bhatti, Deputy Director Information Gulam Abbas Gorah, and other relevant officials. Post-meeting, Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon, accompanied by District Council Chairman Ali Akbar Jamali and PD SCARP Amjad Ali Memon, conducted site visits to inspect ongoing drain cleaning efforts in Nawabshah, ensuring preparedness for the upcoming monsoon season.

## Sardar Faisal Kachelo provides water supply scheme to his area people



By Maqbool Dai

KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: The village of Kachelo Farm has recently benefited from the completion of a 3600-foot water supply line, a project funded personally by Sardar Faisal Kachelo. This initiative was brought to fruition with the dedicated efforts of Sher Muhammad Badhani and Shafiq Bhambhro, who executed the work under the orders of Sardar Faisal. The residents of Kachelo Farm expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the provision of clean water, a fundamental necessity that has greatly improved their daily lives. "Your hard work is reli-

## Sinjhor's Junejo community demands justice in land dispute

SANGHAR: Residents of the village Leemo Junejo, UC Jaffar Khan Laghari in Sinjhor, from the Solangi community, staged a protest demanding justice over a land dispute. The demonstration, led by Muhammad Saleh Solangi, Muhammad Khan Solangi, Ghulam Qadir Solangi, Ghulam Qadir Solangi, and Nasir Ahmed Solangi, highlighted the harassment they faced from local influential individuals regarding their land and crop fields. During the protest, members of the Solangi family reported to the media that young men from the Junejo community had trespassed onto their land. When confronted, the trespassers allegedly refused to leave and assaulted the Solangi family members. The Solangis specifically accused Ali Khan Junejo, Anwar Ali Junejo, and Naem Junejo of assaulting their women, including Husn Solangi, Mirzadi Solangi, and Nasreen Solangi, resulting in injuries that required medical treatment. Despite reporting the incident to the police, no action was taken against the influential individuals involved. The Solangi family accused the Sanghar police of being influenced and claimed they received threats from the authorities. They further alleged that certain political figures were orchestrating the situation and pressuring the police to arrest them. The aggrieved party is demanding justice for the assault on their women and the perceived incompetence of the Sanghar police. They warned that if justice is not served, they would escalate their protests by blocking roads and staging further demonstrations.

## Town Chairman Zahoor Ali Bozdar reviews arrangements for Muharram in Bozdar Wada



By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: Zahoor Ali Bozdar, Chairman of the Bozdar Wada Town Committee, conducted a comprehensive review of the preparations for the upcoming Muharram-ul-Haram procession routes. Accompanied by officials from various departments, Chairman Zahoor Ali Bozdar inspected the designated routes for the mourners' procession. The visit and directives from Chairman Zahoor Ali Bozdar aim to ensure that the routes are immaculately maintained throughout Muharram-ul-Haram. He underscored the need to provide the best possible facilities and arrangements for the participants and attendees of the procession. During his inspection, Chairman Bozdar emphasized the importance of cleanliness and instructed officials to ensure that the routes are immaculately maintained throughout Muharram-ul-Haram. He underscored the need to provide the best possible facilities and arrangements for the participants and attendees of the procession.

## 4 Hindu families leave Pakistan due to growing lawlessness and inflation

JACOBABAD: Amid worsening law and order conditions, rising inflation, and increasing unemployment in Pakistan, four Hindu families from Jacobabad have made the difficult decision to migrate to India. The families of Hindu businessmen Kishore Singh, Anop Singh, Kirpal Singh, and Sunny Kumar departed for India via the Jaffar Express, intending to cross the Wagah border from Lahore. Over the past two weeks, a total of 24 families from Jacobabad have relocated to India, citing similar reasons of deteriorating living conditions. At the railway station, Anop Singh, one of the migrants, spoke to journalists about the hardships they faced in leaving behind their homeland, homes, and businesses. He explained that despite their deep roots in Sindh, the current circumstances, including violence, inflation, and unemployment, had become unbearable. Singh expressed sorrow over the decision to leave, emphasizing that they had endured significant hardships before finally opting to seek refuge in India. The families had been part of the fabric of Sindh for over a century, but the escalating challenges forced them to depart, seeking better prospects and security across the border. The departure of these Hindu families underscores the impact of socio-economic challenges on minority communities in Pakistan, prompting calls for improved conditions and security measures to safeguard all citizens.

## Jashan Eid Ghadir celebrated in Tando Adam



By Didar Ali Samo

TANDO ADAM: Jashan Eid Ghadir was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Masjid-e-Jaffaria Azakhana-Zahra (SA) in Tando Adam. The event was graced by the presence of the renowned scholar and leader of the Shia Ulema Council Pakistan, Allama Syed Nazir Abbas Taqvi from Karachi, who was the chief guest and speaker of the congregation. In his address, Allama Taqvi emphasized the significance of Eid Ghadir, which is observed on the 18th of Dhulhaj. This day commemorates the historic event when the Islamic prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) appointed Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) as his successor. According to Shia hadiths, Eid Ghadir is regarded as the greatest divine Eid. On the 18th of Dhulhaj 10 AH, at a place known as Ghadir Khumm, Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) delivered a profound sermon, during which he called upon his cousin, brother, and son-in-law, Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS), and declared, "To whomsoever I am Mulla, Ali is also my Mulla." The celebration featured various Qasida performers, including Hameer Ali Khan, Mir Zulfiqar Farhan Ali, and others, who recited Qasidas to honor the occasion. The atmosphere was filled with spirituality and devotion as the attendees commemorated this significant event in Islamic history.

## DC Shikarpur Altaf Ahmed Chachar reviews arrangements for anti-polio campaign



SHIKARPUR: Deputy Commissioner Altaf Ahmed Chachar presided over a crucial meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Shikarpur. The meeting focused on preparations for the upcoming polio vaccination campaign scheduled from July 1st to July 7th, 2024. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed Metlo provided an overview of the campaign, highlighting both achievements and challenges. He noted that although over 100,000 extra doses had been administered beyond the target, there were concerns regarding the low coverage of zero-dose children, currently standing at 70%. Dr. Metlo pointed out shortages of workers in Khanpur and Ghari Yasin, assigned duties to ensure female staff were deployed to remote areas and ensured female staff were assigned duties to enhance coordination to achieve maximum polio immunization coverage in Shikarpur district. Deputy Commissioner Altaf Ahmed Chachar emphasized the need to address security issues promptly. He instructed for police assistance to be provided at transit points to ensure the safety of polio vaccination teams. Chachar also directed the deployment of male staff to remote areas and ensured female staff were assigned duties to enhance coordination to achieve maximum polio immunization coverage in Shikarpur district.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Sunni Rabta Council are observing the martyrdom day of Hazrat Usman Ghani, at the Hyderabad press club-RT



SUKKUR: Members and leaders of the Sunni Rabta Committee are leading a rally on the martyrdom day of Hazrat Usman Ghani, at the Sukkur press club-RT

# NATIONAL



## Nine of a family gunned down in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: A terrifying incident sent shockwaves across the nation as at least nine members of a family were brutally killed by armed men in a house in Peshawar's Badaber village on Tuesday.



In the gruesome incident, the armed men opened indiscriminate firing after entering a house of their opponents in the vicinity of Badaber police station, leaving 9 people dead, including four women and four children while others got injured.

Two teams have been constituted to arrest the culprits," the police officer said. The bodies have been shifted to hospital for post-mortem by rescue teams.

Those killed were identified as Nareen w/o Ashfaq, Sidra d/o Amam Ali, Hamida Begum w/o Malak Aman, Alibaba d/o Muhammad Asfaq, Akash s/o Muhammad Ashfaq, Tufail Afnan s/o Muhammad Ishaq and Inkhat s/o Muhammad Ishaq.

The injured included Saba w/o Ishaq and Iqra d/o Ishaq, according to state-run APP. Police collected empty shells of cartridges and other evidence from the crime scene and registered a case on the report of the heirs.

## Economic progress hinges on improving law and order situation: Ahsan



ISLAMABAD: Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasised that key prerequisites for advancing include policy continuity, political stability, and peace in the country.

Speaking to a private news channel on Tuesday, he warned that without these fundamentals, the country's progress would be hindered. Regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he noted that significant progress was made between 2013 and 2018 but subsequent changes in government slowed developments in Gwadar and the Special Economic Zones.

He highlighted efforts by the current administration to accelerate these projects, aiming for full speed ahead.

## PPP supports vision Azm-e-Istehkam: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Secretary Information Shazia Marri confirmed her party's support for the Vision Azm-e-Istehkam against terrorism, media reported.

"The PPP has always been against terrorism and extremism, and has made significant sacrifices in the fight against terrorism," Shazia Marri said while speaking to media.

She said that the Nation has sacrificed 80,000 lives for peace, adding that the action against terrorism is necessary which cannot be stopped by 'blackmailing'.

However, she emphasised that all political parties

should be taken on board regarding the operation, adding that PPP wants a political dialogue on the issue.

The PPP leader also stressed that the state must respond to those who challenge its authority, and that the operation is necessary to eliminate terrorism.

"The country cannot progress until terrorism is eradicated," she added. Shazia Marri said that the PPP will continue to support the operation against terrorism.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif ruled out any large-scale military operation under the vision Azm-e-Istehkam, saying that ongoing Intelligence-Based Operations (IBOs) will be intensified.—RT/Agency

## Three High Court judges take oath after elevation to SC

ISLAMABAD: Three high court judges, including the chief justices of Sindh and Lahore high courts, Tuesday took oath as Supreme Court judges after their elevation was notified by the Ministry of Law and Justice.



Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa administered oath to LHC Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan, SHC Chief Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi, and LHC Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan.

The oath-taking ceremony was held at the apex court today.

A day earlier, the law and justice ministry notified the appointments of the aforementioned high court judges to the SC following the approval of President Asif Ali Zardari under Article 177.

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) had recommended the elevation of chief justices of the LHC and the SHC to the apex court, besides recommending the elevation of the LHC judge to the apex court earlier this month.

After LHC Chief Justice Shahzad's elevation, Justice Shujaat Ali Khan was appointed as acting LHC CJ by President Zardari under Article 196, according to a notification issued by the law ministry.

The decision was taken by CJF Isa, chairman of the commission, in the SC chaired a meeting of the JCP, Din, Azam Tarar, AG Mansoor Usman Awan and PBC representative Akhtar Hussain voted in favour of Justice Shahzad's elevation.

Justice Shujaat will perform duties as acting LHC

that after detailed deliberations, the commission by a 5-

4 majority approved the elevation of Justice Shahzad. The JCP also approved elevation of Justice Shahid.

Of nine members of the commission, four JCP members, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afzidi and Justice (ret'd) Manzoor Ahmed Malik, opposed the elevation of the LHC chief justice to the Supreme Court, while CJF Isa, Justice Amin-ud-Din, Azam Tarar, AG Mansoor Usman Awan and PBC representative Akhtar Hussain voted in favour of Justice Shahzad's elevation.—RT/Agency

## Abbas Afridi quits PML-N

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Abbas Khan Afridi on Tuesday announced parting ways with the ruling party, saying that its top leader Nawaz Sharif was no longer "relevant" in the country's politics, just a day after the former prime minister decided to become "active" in the country's political affairs.



The three-time former premier, who steered clear of the executive post for a fourth time following the February 8 general elections, is set to increase involvement in the "national politics", sources said on Monday.

gave a plan for economic restoration but no one is here to pay heed," he added. He later sent his resignation to the PML-N leadership.

However, Afridi was of the view that there was nothing much Nawaz could do as "he doesn't have an executive post", despite his return to the PML-N presidency last month.

Afridi's disassociation with the Nawaz-led party comes just weeks after former PML-N leader Muhammad Zubair parted ways with the ruling party. Earlier, former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and ex-finance minister Miftah Ismail also parted ways with PML-N.—RT/Agency

"Nawaz Sharif's grievance with the na-

"No one is willing to listen to our stance. We

## Punjab to equip CTD with modern technology for operations against terrorists



LAHORE: CTD Punjab will get modern equipment and technology for operations against terrorists as the agency requested funds from the Finance Department.

According to the documents, after the meeting between the Additional IG CTD and the Finance Secretary, the funds of the CTD were reduced. Against the demand of Rs3.81 billion, Rs2.27 billion will be provided to the CTD.

## 3 of 10 picnickers abducted from Quetta return home

QUETTA: Three of the 10 men abducted last week by unknown armed men from Shaban - a picnic point on the outskirts of Quetta - returned home on Tuesday, officials said.

According to officials, a large number of people went to the Shaban area for picnic last Thursday, during which a group of armed men had encircled the mountains and started checking the national identity cards of the picnickers.

The armed men had separated 14 individuals from the other picnickers after finding Punjab addresses on their identity cards and took them away to an unknown destination. An eyewitness had said the armed men later released four individuals, but "took away 10 people whose national identity cards showed addresses in Punjab".

The banned Baloch Liberation Army had claimed responsibility for the abductions. Speaking to media today, head of the Levies Control room Muhammad

Control room Muhammad

Ajmal confirmed that a search operation by the police and Frontier Corps (FC) was ongoing in Shaban and adjacent areas. Among the abductees who returned home this morning was customs official Baser Durrani, and Hasan Raza, while the third individual had not been identified, he said. Ajmal said that the Levies became aware of the three abductees' return after one of their families notified the Levies Control.—RT/Agency

# METRO KARACHI

## Man Fatally Struck By A Stray Bullet In Karachi Hospital's Parking Area

KARACHI: A tragic incident unfolded at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital in Karachi, where a man lost his life after being hit by a stray bullet in the hospital's parking lot. According to reports on Tuesday, the victim, identified as 32-year-old Afzal, had been at the hospital to visit his cousin's ailing son, who was admitted there.

The chilling moments preceding the incident, noting intense aerial firing noises shortly before Afzal was struck. "The sounds of gunfire were still echoing as Afzal was rushed to the emergency ward," recounted Sajjad, a witness present in the hospital's parking area.

Police are currently scrutinizing CCTV footage from the scene and neighboring areas in efforts to determine the origin of the fatal shot.

Earlier in the day, another tragic incident occurred in Rawalpindi, where a stray bullet struck and injured 14-year-old Asma while she was on the rooftop of her home. She was promptly transported to the hospital for medical treatment.—RT/Agency

## Three Bodies Discovered In Various Parts Of Karachi

KARACHI: The unsettling trend of bodies being found in Karachi has persisted for the third consecutive day, as media reports confirmed the discovery of three more bodies in different parts of the city on Tuesday.



Rescue officials disclosed that the bodies were found on footpaths located in Manghopir, Orangi Town, and Gulshan-e-Maymar areas. Among the deceased, the body of 50-year-old Munawar was found in Orangi No. 12 and subsequently transferred to a hospital. However, details regarding the identities and causes of death of the other victims-

## Ji launches 'resistance movement' against power outages, budget 2024



LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has launched a 'resistance movement' with nationwide protests against the prolonged load shedding and the recently proposed budget, which he described is not 'people-friendly', media reported on Tuesday.

While talking to media representatives in Mansoorah, Lahore, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami - Hafiz Naeemur Rehman - has devised a national agenda aimed at peaceful resistance protest.

He highlighted that the JI support the freedom of expression and stressed that their alliance is with the 250 million people of Pakistan.

Announcing to launch the resistance movement, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman stated that the movement will entirely focus on public related issues only and announced a protest outside the offices of electricity distribution companies on June 28, calling for the government to engage in dialogue.

While criticizing the operation 'Azm Istehkam Pakistan', he stated that the JI is not in the favor for this operation as it only creates a gap between the people and the institutions.

# THE HEARTLAND

## More than 80 persons affected by gastro in Tando Bago outbreak

By Sher Ali Khawaja

Among those hospitalized at the Taluka Hospital Tando Bago are Anwarzad, Rozina, Saira, Salman, Sara, Nasrin, Kariman, and several others, all suffering from symptoms linked to the gastro outbreak.

The situation has prompted community leaders and healthcare advocates to rally for swift action, stressing the importance of preventive measures and adequate medical support to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the gastroenteritis epidemic in Tando Bago.

TANDO BAGO: A widespread outbreak of gastroenteritis has gripped Tando Bago and its surrounding areas, affecting more than 80 individuals, including men, women, and children. Reports indicate that over 50 patients have been admitted to government hospitals, while an additional 30 are receiving treatment in private medical facilities.

Local residents have expressed deep concern over the escalating health crisis and have urged called to government hospitals, upon the health department authorities to intervene promptly. They emphasize the immediate need for enhanced healthcare facilities and interventions to manage and contain the outbreak effectively.

The collapse occurred on Tuesday, sending shockwaves through the community and prompting swift responses from local authorities. Rescue efforts were immediately initiated to retrieve those affected by the structural failure.

As investigations into the incident commence, concerns over building safety and maintenance have been raised among residents, urging authorities to ensure stringent measures to prevent such tragic accidents in the future.

TANDO BAGO: Tragedy struck village Sonar in Tando Bago as the wall of a home collapsed, claiming the life of a young boy and leaving two others injured. The victim, identified as Ram S/o Haji Kolhi, tragically lost his life at the scene of the incident. The injured, named Shanti and Raju, were swiftly transported to Taluka Hospital

for urgent medical treatment. The collapse occurred on Tuesday, sending shockwaves through the community and prompting swift responses from local authorities. Rescue efforts were immediately initiated to retrieve those affected by the structural failure.

As investigations into the incident commence, concerns over building safety and maintenance have been raised among residents, urging authorities to ensure stringent measures to prevent such tragic accidents in the future.

The incident has deeply saddened the village of Sonar and neighboring areas, with condolences pouring in for the family of the deceased and prayers for the swift recovery of the injured children.—RT/Agency

# EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, June 26, 2024



## Dying on the streets of Karachi like dogs

The mysterious deaths reported daily in Karachi, presumed to be heat-related, expose the government's shameful apathy towards its citizens. In Pakistan, where life often holds little value, the government's indifference to these tragic occurrences starkly illustrates the disconnect between our rulers and the people they are meant to serve. Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, is no stranger to crises. However, the recent spate of deaths is a glaring testament to the deep-seated neglect and chaos that plague our governance.

The Sindh Interior Minister, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjari, has finally ordered an investigation into these deaths. This reaction, although necessary, is frustratingly delayed and emblematic of a broader

systemic failure. The minister's statement that K-Electric will be held accountable if prolonged load shedding is identified as a primary cause of-



fers a glimmer of hope. Yet, it raises a fundamental question: Why were preventive measures not in place to avoid such a catastrophe in the first place?

For three consecutive days, bodies have been found across Karachi—in Manghopir, Orangi Town, and Gulshan-e-Maymar. These are not just statistics; they are lives lost due to neglect. Res-

cue officials are still identifying the deceased and probing the circumstances of their deaths, but the pattern is clear. The sweltering heat, compounded by relentless load shedding, is creating a lethal environment for the city's most vulnerable residents. The government's response to this crisis has been lethargic and insufficient. This tragedy highlights the perennial state of neglect and apathy that defines our governance. Pakistan is already burdened with countless problems, and it is only a matter of time before this continual disregard for human life leads to an explosive situation. The government must act decisively and urgently to address these issues, not only to prevent further loss of life but to restore a semblance of trust and responsibility in its governance.

# THE HEARTLAND



## Shaheed Benazirabad Police arrest seven during ongoing operations

By Farooq Junejo

**SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD:** The excellent operation by the SHO of Airport Police Station led to the arrest of drug dealer Muhammad Arshad Malik during a patrol. Harmful Gutka was recovered from the possession of the arrested suspect, and a case was registered against him under the Narcotics Act. Similarly, the SHO of Balu Ja Quba Police Station arrested drug dealer Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti during a patrol after receiving information Harmful Gutka was recovered from his possession, and a case was registered against him under the Narcotics Act. The excellent

operation by the SHO of Jamal Shah Police Station and his team led to the arrest of Zahid Zardari and Tharo Zardari, who were wanted in the case of the murder of Soomar Zardari a few days ago within the jurisdiction of Jamal Shah Police Station. The search for their accomplices is ongoing. The SHO of Sakrand Police Station arrested drug dealer Sabir Ali during a patrol. Harmful Gutka was recovered from his possession, and a case was registered against him under the Narcotics Act. The excellent operation by the SHO of Kadhar Police Station, based on information received, led to the arrest of suspect Tawangar Khan

Rind. The weapon used in the crime was recovered from his possession, and a case was registered against him under the Sindh Arms Act. The excellent operation by the SHO of Daur Police Station, based on secret information, led to the arrest of drug dealer Faiz Muhammad Bughio. Harmful Gutka was recovered from his possession, and a case was registered against him under the Narcotics Act. In recognition of their excellent performance, SSP Shaheed Benazirabad, Tanveer Hussain Tunio, praised the police team and issued instructions to continue the crackdown with increased rigor.

## National Action Committee delegation calls on HESCO's Kotri XEN



By Shaikh Sindhi

**KOTRI:** A delegation from the National Action Committee of Jamshoro, comprising Abdul Fattah Channa, Aijaz Soomro, Khalid Lashari, Shahbaz Memon, and Asad Chandio, convened a meeting with HESCO XEN Kotri, Munir Panhwar, at Kotri SITE to address concerns regarding unannounced power outages. During the meeting, XEN Munir Panhwar disclosed that upon assuming his recent role, he discovered the Shahbaz subdivision was operating entirely under a contractor system. He emphasized the immediate need to abolish this

system to enhance operational efficiency and achieve a 50% recovery rate. Panhwar pledged to resolve the ongoing power outages within a week and assured the delegation of pursuing legal action against the private contractors responsible for the shortcomings. The meeting between the National Action Committee delegation and XEN Munir Panhwar aims to mitigate the persistent issue of power disruptions in Kotri, reflecting a concerted effort to improve utility service delivery and accountability within the HESCO framework.

## 4th death anniversary of veteran politician, reformist Dr. Abdul Rehman Rind observed

By Ayaz Latif

**MAQSOODO RIND:** The fourth death anniversary of Dr. Abdul Rehman Rind, who was considered a close associate of Rasool Bux Palijo and Shaheed Fazil Rahu, and who endured hardships while striving for the restoration of democracy during the MRD movement, was commemorated with reverence and respect. Various individuals from different areas, including companions from his political journey, as well as academic, literary, and political figures, participated in large numbers. Before the event a procession led by Dr. Abdul Rehman Rind's sons, Bahadur Rind, Haji Bux Ali Rind, Dr. Ubaidullah Rind, and Ayaz Latif Rind, along with various political, social, and literary circles, laid wreaths at his final resting place in Sakhi Sultan Faqir's cemetery. At the event, the central chairman of the Sindh Awami Forum, Habib Jatoi, said that the society needs characters like Dr. Abdul Rehman, who were saviors of the poor. The senior vice president of the central Sindh Hari Committee, Idrees Brohi, said that Dr. Abdul Rehman was a continuation of Comrade Akbar Khan Jatoi, stated that the Sindh land will al-



ways be proud of figures like Dr. Abdul Rehman Rind. Senior politician and president of the Awami Lawyers Forum, Advocate Sattar Sarki, mentioned that he spent 25 years with Dr. Abdul Rehman Rind in the Awami Tehreek and that they had together carried out long marches from Sukkur to Karachi and from Bhishtab to Karachi. Despite enduring hardships, Dr. Rind never compromised on his principles. The central chairman of the Sindh Awami Forum, Habib Jatoi, said that the society needs characters like Dr. Abdul Rehman, who were saviors of the poor. The senior vice president of the central Sindh Hari Committee, Idrees Brohi, said that Dr. Abdul Rehman was a continuation of Comrade Akbar Khan Jatoi's struggle for the rights of the peasants and became immortal through his actions. The provincial deputy general secretary of the National Party and former student leader, Talib Jakhro, said that Dr. Abdul Rehman Rind was not just a medical doctor but a doctor of society. During the event, Sufi singers Raza Muhammad Brohi, Ghulam Qadir (also known as Gul Rind), and Mashooq Dahri presented national songs and poems to pay tribute to Dr. Abdul Rehman Rind. Other participants who spoke at the event included Dr. Hassan Laghari, Haji Bux Ali Rind, Muhammad Ali Palh, the secretary of Sindh Adabi Sangar, Sattar Magsoodo Rind branch, Sufi Muhammad Alam Dahri, senior journalist Nawaz Brohi, poet and writer Riaz Dahri and others, who also delivered speeches.

## 17th death anniversary of Hindu community notable Mohan Lal Ratnani observed in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

**UMERKOT:** The 17th death anniversary of Mohan Lal Ratnani, a prominent figure of the Hindu Bajeer community and former personal secretary to federal minister Rana Chander Singh Sodha, was solemnly observed in Umerkot. The commemorative event drew dignitaries from diverse communities, political spheres, and social circles who gathered to honor Ratnani's memory.



The ceremony took place at Ratnani House in Umerkot, where attendees paid heartfelt tributes to the late Mohan Lal Ratnani. Among the notable figures present were Maharaj Chetan Joshi, Dharmadas Narbani, Pir Ahmed Ali Shah Jilani, Suleman Rahmon, Dr. Gangdev Kalani, Mukhi Swaroop Malhi, Brij Lal Maheshwari, Advocate Bhuralal Bheel, Dr. Raees Mahar, Harchand Dodani, Sattar Khoso, Maharaj Harchand, Aidil Jamani, Chetan Suthar, Shiwaram Suthar, Kanji Mal Rakhisar, Sattar Khoso, Hotchand Maheshwari, Girdhari Malhi, and Teerath Sajan

Meghwar. Family members of Mohan Lal Ratnani were joined by significant personalities such as Ramesh Kumar Ratnani, a member of the Municipal Committee, Kanwal Mohan Lal, personal secretary to PPP MPA Rana Hamir Singh Sodha, and Engineer Kanhaiya Mohan Lal, CEO of the Save the Lives Foundation. Speakers at the event highlighted Mohan Lal Ratnani's enduring contribu-

tions and dedicated service to the people of Umerkot and Tharparkar throughout his life. His legacy of compassion, integrity, and commitment to public welfare continues to inspire and resonate deeply within the community. The commemoration concluded with prayers for Ratnani's soul and a renewed pledge to uphold his values of service and harmony among all communities in Umerkot.

## Kunri Police arrest five criminals in ongoing operations



By Muhammad Bachal

**UMERKOT:** In a series of successful operations, SHO Police Station Kunri Iftikhar Bajwa and his team arrested five individuals involved in criminal activities. Among those apprehended was a female drug dealer, Mani Baloch, a resident of Baloch Para, Kunri, who was found in possession of 345 grams of hashish. In addition to this, the police conducted separate raids resulting in the arrests of Mohabbat Makrani, Mu-

sawir Makrani, Hakim Bux, and Gutka supplier Khuda Bux Narejo, all residents of Kunri. These operations led to the recovery of a total of 900 grams of hashish and 500 packets of Gutka from the accused. Separate cases have been registered against all the individuals under the Narcotics Act and the Gutka Act. The Kunri police's swift actions highlight their commitment to combating drug-related crimes and ensuring the safety and well-being of the community.

## Delegation of Sukkur's small traders calls on Sindh Minister Nasir Shah

By Absar Alvi

**SUKKUR:** A delegation of small traders, led by Haji Muhammad Haroon Memon, founder and leader of All Sukkur Small Traders and Cottage Industries, met with Provincial Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah to discuss various issues affecting the business community. During the meeting, Minister Nasir Hussain Shah assured the delegation that the government is committed to resolving all issues faced by traders fairly and without bias. He acknowledged the crucial role played by traders in the economic growth and development of the country, emphasizing that they are the backbone of the economy.



Renowned traders including Malik Rizwanul Haq, Malik Muhammad Javid, and Muhammad Afzal Palanpuri were also present at the meeting. Haji Muhammad Haroon Memon highlighted concerns regarding challenges such as the issuance of challans for publicity board tax and trade license fees, as well as other commercial and civic issues affecting traders in Sukkur. Memon praised the cooperation received from government administration and various departments in Sukkur, noting that more than 66 traders' organizations under All Sukkur Small Traders and Cottage Industries have consistently contributed positively to the city, province, and country. In response, Minister Nasir Hussain Shah ap-

## Tando Allahyar Police arrest a drug dealer

By Afaq Khanzada

**TANDO ALLAHYAR:** In a proactive operation directed by SSP Tando Allahyar, Abrez Ali Abbasi, SHO Riaz Ahmed Bijarani, of Nasarpur Police Station successfully apprehended the notorious drug dealer, Hidayatullah Unar. The arrest took place following intelligence operations indicating Unar's involvement

in drug trafficking activities on Bhati Road. During the operation, the police recovered one kilogram and ten grams of hashish from Hidayatullah Unar. An FIR has been registered against him for his alleged drug trafficking activities. Unar, who had previously evaded capture despite involvement in multiple drug cases, was finally caught due to strategic

planning and swift action by Inspector Riaz Ahmed Bijarani. The news of Hidayatullah Unar's arrest has sent shockwaves through the local drug trade and criminal circles. This decisive action by Tando Allahyar Police underscores their commitment to combating drug trafficking and maintaining law and order in the region.

# SPORTS



## Semi-final schedule for T20 World Cup 2024 confirmed



**NEW YORK:** The T20 World Cup 2024 is nearing its end from the 20 teams at the beginning to coming down to the last four who will be playing in the semi-final on June 27 in the West Indies.

After England and South Africa, India became the third team to qualify for the T20 World Cup semi-final on Monday. The Men in Blue beat Australia by 24 runs in their recent match.

On the other side, Afghanistan beat Bangladesh by 8 runs (DLS method) in the final Super 8 match of the tournament on Tuesday to qualify for the final four.

For the first time in history, the Rashid Khan-led unit have qualified for the semi-finals of a World Cup.

Bangladesh were bowled out for 105 in 17.5 overs while chasing a target of 116 runs, which was later reduced to 114 in 19 overs due to rain.

Rashid and pacer Naveen-ul-Haq led the way with the ball as both claimed four wickets each.

The match was interrupted multiple times due to rain in the second innings leaving fans on the edge of their seats.

The chase started with three teams, Australia, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, still in the running for a place in the semi-finals. Bangladesh needed to chase 115 in 12.4 overs to book their spot. Australia required a Bangladesh win after 12.4 overs and Afghanistan needed just a victory. The scenarios made the match exciting but in the end it was Afghanistan who got over the line.—Agency

## Wasim Akram explains why Indian team should visit Pakistan for Champions Trophy 2025

**KARACHI:** Former Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram has expressed hope that the Indian team will visit Pakistan for the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy.

"I believe the Indian team will tour Pakistan next year for the Champions Trophy and witness the excellent arrangements," Akram said during an interview with an international media outlet.

He praised PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi's efforts to upgrade stadiums for the mega event, calling it a positive step.

Akram emphasised that Pakistan needs this tournament to boost its cricketing profile. "I hope all countries



will participate because cricket and politics are entirely different. The whole nation is ready to host eight major teams," he added.



The 2025 Champions Trophy is scheduled to take place between February and mid-March, featuring 15 matches. The Indian team is

expected to play all its matches in Lahore.

This tournament marks the return of the Champions Trophy after an eight-year hiatus. Pakistan won the last edition in 2017 under Sarfraz Ahmed's leadership, defeating India in the final.

The ICC has confirmed the participation of eight teams: Pakistan (host), India, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Afghanistan, England, and Bangladesh.

Pakistan and India have not played a bilateral series since 2013. The Indian team last toured Pakistan for the 2008 Asia Cup.—Agency

## Rashid Khan becomes fastest bowler to take 150 T20I wickets



**NEW YORK:** Afghanistan for the first time reached T20 World Cup semi-finals after beating Bangladesh in the crucial Super 8 match. The victory was guided by Rashid's stellar performance as he took four wickets for 23 runs.

The Afghanistan skipper became the fastest bowler to take 150 T20I wickets in 82 matches, achieving a historic feat.

The only other bowler to reach this milestone is New Zealand's Tim Southee who bagged 150 wickets in 118 matches. Which means there are just two such bowlers in T20I yet.

Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan is one wicket short of joining the club though. He has played 129 T20I matches.

This was not the only glory in which Afghans basked on Tuesday as

## David Warner quietly concludes illustrious international cricket career

**SYDNEY:** Australian opener David Warner bid farewell to his 15-year international cricket career after Afghanistan bagged a victory over Bangladesh in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 on Tuesday, eliminating the Kangaroos from the tournament.

The decision comes as Afghanistan's latest victory marked Australia's exit from the tournament in the Super 8 stage, confirming a subdued farewell for Warner.

With appearances in 110 T20I matches, the 37-year-old opening batsman scored 3,277 runs, including a century and 28 half-centuries, at a formidable strike-rate of 142.47.

He had already announced that the T20 World Cup 2024 would be his last tournament and had played his final ODI in November's World Cup final win over India while his



last Test was against Pakistan in January.

Before Afghanistan's match against Bangladesh, pacer Josh Hazlewood had stated that the timing of Warner's send-off from his teammates would rely on the result of the same match.

"Nothing's been said yet," Hazlewood said. "It might be said after this [press conference] before the [evening] game, but I think we'll wait until after the game and then we'll [acknowledge] the ca-

there for so long. But we'll move on and push forward."

Speaking before Australia's World Cup exit, Warner's opening partner Travis Head said it would be a "disappointing" manner for Warner's career to culminate.

"We'll be disappointed if it ended like that, where we have to watch another game. A lot has been said about what he's contributed to Australian cricket at the top of the order in all formats," Head said. "He goes down as our best multi-format player. He'll be missed at the top of the order, but let's hope [tonight] is not the end of it. We'll wait and see but we'll give him a send-off tonight if that is the case later on. It might be a bit of a late one if the fixture finishes the way it has. But a lot has been said about how good Davey has been at the top of the order."—Agency

## Sylvinho 'proud' of Albania players despite early Euros exit



**GERMANY:** Sylvinho hailed his Albania players despite their early exit from Euro 2024 after losing 1-0 to Spain on Monday and finishing bottom of Group B.

Albania's Euros adventure came to an end in Duesseldorf with Ferran Torres netting the only goal for group winners Spain.

Sylvinho's team finished on just one point but competed in every match in a tough group which also contained international heavyweights Italy and Croatia, even scoring the fastest goal ever scored in a Euros match in their opening 2-1 defeat to the Italians.

"I'm very proud of my players and the country. It's the second time we've played this competition and I've said before and I'm very happy with the country, the federation and the fans," Sylvinho told reporters.

"People would have thought Italy and Croatia would have scored four and five against us but my players believed in the work we were doing."

"We managed to compete against three great national teams, teams that play in quarter-finals and semi-finals." Albania have never played in a World Cup but Sylvinho said that the country is ready for a serious qualification bid for the next tournament which is being held in the USA, Canada and Mexico in 2026.

"The objective of the Albania FA is to do just that, keep playing in important tournaments, to keep improving. We have the right tools for that," added Sylvinho. "They left everything out on the pitch and they will remember this for the rest of their lives. The next time they come out to play this will be very valuable experience. This is gold for my players, for everybody."—Agency

## Malaysia to host 3-day Pakistan Tape Ball Cricket contest

**KUALA LUMPUR:** For the first time in Malaysia's history, the city of Kuala Lumpur will host a three-day Pakistani tape ball cricket tournament titled "Meri Cricket Meri Jeet," starting on June 28.

This highly anticipated event is organized in collaboration with Bank Al Habib and IPG, a press release said on Monday.

The tournament will feature regional teams from various parts of Pakistan, including Swat, Chitral, Gilgit, and Islamabad. Swabi Champion, Sialkot Badshah, Rawalpindi Express, Buner Bahadur, Karachi Heroes, Lahore Sheridil, and Peshawar Leopards.

Entry to the "Meri Cricket Meri Jeet" festival will be free for cricket fans, with special programmes arranged for families and children.

Pakistani cricket legends Sarfraz Ahmed, Rashid Latif, and Imran Nazir will attend the event to encourage and support the players.

The event will also feature a lucky draw with various prizes, including a grand prize of a return air ticket to Pakistan.

Fans that catch the ball outside the boundary will have the opportunity to take pictures with the legendary Pakistani cricketers.

A joint meeting involving representatives from mainstream Pakistani media houses in Malaysia, the Malaysia Pakistan Business Council, and other dignitaries was held at a renowned Pakistani restaurant in Kuala Lumpur.



The meeting, chaired by Dato' Sri Nazir Mira Salam, Chairman of the Malaysia Pakistan Business Council, reviewed arrangements to promote a positive image of Pakistan through the cricket festival and to strengthen the bonds between the people of Malaysia and Pakistan.

The meeting also discussed plans to welcome Pakistani cricket superstars Sarfraz Ahmed, Imran Nazir, and Rashid Latif.

Dato' Sri Nazir Mira Salam and other officials thanked the organizers for elevating Pakistan's profile abroad and invited the Pakistani community in Malaysia to attend the event in large numbers.—Agency

## Costa Rica hold Brazil to a stalemate in Copa America



**LOS ANGELES:** A lacklustre Brazil launched their Copa America campaign with a 0-0 draw against Costa Rica at SoFi Stadium.

Brazil, chasing a 10th Copa America crown, dominated possession and territory in the Group D game but struggled to break down a resolute Costa Rica side.

The Brazilians thought they had taken the lead in the 30th minute after Marquinhos tapped in at the back post after a flick on by Rodrigo following a free-kick by Raphinha.

But after an agonising VAR delay, the goal was chalked off for a fractional NRG Stadium.—Agency

Rica escaped. That was as good as it got for Brazil, who laboured to break down Costa Rica's defence for the remainder of the game, registering just three shots on target despite enjoying 73.5 percent possession.

Costa Rica were content to sit back, defending in numbers and rarely venturing forward with any purpose.

The Costa Ricans failed to have a single shot on goal for the entire game. The result means Colombia finished the day on top of Group D after collecting all three points in their deserved win over Paraguay at Houston's NRG Stadium.—Agency

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Britney Spears says goodbye to powerhouse attorney Mathew Rosengart

Britney Spears has lost her powerhouse attorney Mathew Rosengart after he helped her get free from 13-year conservatorship in 2021.

As per reports, Rosengart says he wants to move on from the Toxic singer as there is no active litigation involving her conservatorship at the moment and he needs to focus on other clients and cases that require his undivided attention.

Speaking with People Magazine, he expressed his love for the popstar while gushing over her for being an 'icon,' with whom he was 'honoured' to have worked.

He said, "I was honored to work with and protect Britney, who is and will always be an icon, and most specifically, to have helped restore the fundamental rights and civil liberties that were stripped from her, which was always our focus."

Rosengart spoke to the media after having helped Spears get her freedom from conservatorship in 2021, announcing that the singer is a 'free woman.' "What's next for Britney is up to one person -



and this is the first time we can say this in a decade. It's up to Britney," he said at the time. "Britney, as of today, is a free woman."

Expressing her gratitude for the man, Spears took to Instagram in February 2022, three months after her conservatorship was terminated, saying Rosengart "turned her life around."

She penned, "This man has turned my life around... So many exciting projects ahead!!!!" adding, "We accidentally matched for lunch!!!! Thank you for being so kind and respectful to me always!!!!!!"

## Jennifer Lopez accepts her fate as Ben Affleck divorce becomes imminent



Jennifer Lopez has finally accepted her fate that her divorce from Ben Affleck is 'imminent' after weeks working hard to make her marriage work.

According to Closer Magazine, JLo has taken a while to get her head around her fourth failed marriage, but now that she has accepted the reality, she is gearing up for the future.

A source close to the diva has revealed that she might

leave Los Angeles after her divorce from the Gone Girl actor is finalized.

Speaking of her current condition, the insider said she is reading to move on after putting on a "brave face" on things, but "these past few months have been humiliating."

"She wants to do everything possible to shake off the sadness of this break-up as quickly as she can, so it makes perfect sense to get

away from LA," they continued.

"She misses the East Coast and has for a while it's where a lot of her family are and it's where she feels most at home," the insider added.

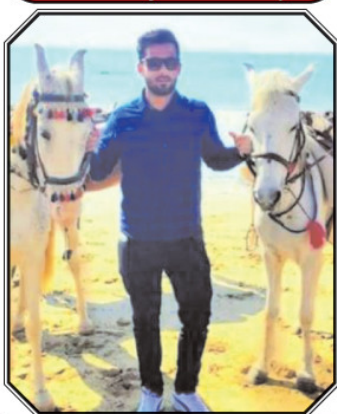
The tipster also claimed that Lopez may get together with Alex Rodriguez, whom she was dating before reconciling with Affleck. "As far as Alex goes, a number of her friends are

saying she shouldn't have let him slip through her fingers," the insider said.

"She admits they really did work well as a couple, the only problem was that she had this itch that needed to be scratched with Ben."

"She's realised what a million jokers if she were to get back together with Alex, but she's not going to let the public dictate her love life. On her end, at least, the door is very much open."

## Face of the Day



**Name:** Maddy  
**Location:** Karachi  
**About me:** I love taking selfies

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

# THE HEARTLAND



## Ailing Daulatpur youth's family appeals for his medical treatment

By Aijaz Johkio

DAULATPUR: The family of 16-year-old Habdar Ali, son of Hussain Bhutto, a resident of the village Allah Dino Bhutto in Daulatpur, has made a heartfelt appeal for financial assistance for his medical treatment. Habdar Ali has been suffering from a severe liver disease for the past eight years and is currently admitted to PMC Hospital Nawabshah.



His elderly mother, Nasiban, alongside other family members, has appealed to the Sindh Government for support. They have highlighted the urgent need for treatment, which is estimated to cost between 500,000 to 600,000 rupees. The family, stricken by poverty, has exhausted

all their resources and sold everything they owned, leaving them without even basic necessities. "We are poor and do not have the means to afford such an expensive treatment. We have sold everything in our house, and now we have nothing left even to eat, so how can we arrange for the treatment?" Nasiban pleaded. The family is urging the Sindh Government and concerned authorities to intervene and provide the necessary funds for Habdar Ali's treatment to save his life.

## Jashn Eid Ghadir celebrated at Dargah Hazrat Sakhi Moj Darya Shah Rizvi (RA)

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Sajadanashin Syed Zahid Hussain Shah Rizvi organized a magnificent celebration at the shrine of Hazrat Sakhi Moj Darya Shah Rizvi (RA) in Tando Allahyar to mark Jashn Eid Ghadir. The event witnessed a large gathering of devotees who came together to commemorate this auspicious occasion with joy and reverence.

The shrine of Sakhi Moj Darya Shah (RA) and the Imambarah were adorned with colorful lights and decorations, creating a festive atmosphere. Hazrat Muhammad Ruk delivered a soul-stirring speech, enlightening the audience about the significance of Eid Ghadir and the teachings of Hazrat Ali (AS). Among the distinguished guests were Syed Zahid Hussain Shah Rizvi, Syed Ali Qarar Shah Rizvi, Aadeeb Riaz Umrani, Syed Shabbir Hussain Shah Rashdi, Syed Misri Shah, Syed Shakeel Shah Rashdi, Syed Babu Shah Rashdi, Faraz Haider Umrani, Syed Naveed Shah Rashdi, Syed Shahid Shah Rashdi, Muhammad Naem, and many others from the community. The celebration of Jashn Eid Ghadir at Dargah Hazrat Sakhi Moj Darya Shah Rizvi (RA) in Tando Allahyar was a testament to the enduring spiritual legacy and unity of the community in honoring Hazrat Ali's (AS) appointment as the successor of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW).

## NWM man protests for recovery of his 14-year-old nephew

By Yousif Rind



NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Rasool Bux Channa, a resident of village Saeed Khan Channa near Nawab Wali Muhammad, staged a protest in front of the Sindh Press Forum Nawab Wali Muhammad. During the protest, he voiced serious accusations against Ghulam Muhammad Otho, an officer at the Mirzapur police station. Channa claimed that Otho arrested his 14-year-old nephew, Moola Bux Channa, along with his brother, Mir Hazar, due to a personal grudge. According to Rasool Bux, both individuals were subjected to severe torture while in custody. Although Mir Hazar was eventually released, Moola Bux has reportedly disappeared. Despite filing a case in court, Rasool Bux alleges that the police have been threatening and harassing them to withdraw their complaint. In his plea to the media, Rasool Bux demanded justice from higher authorities, warning that he would escalate his protest if necessary measures were not taken to recover his nephew and ensure the accountability of those responsible.

## JI rallies against prolonged power outages in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) organized a spirited protest and sit-in in Thul to denounce prolonged power outages and unfair billing practices by the SEPCO authorities. The protest, marked by fervent slogan-chanting, started from High School Road and culminated in a sit-in outside the press club.

During the demonstration, protesters voiced their grievances against SEPCO's indiscriminate load shedding and issuance of unjust bills. Leaders including Abu Ubaid Mahar, Abid Ali Lashari, Ishaq Lashari, Ejaz Ahmed Lashari, Anees Rehman Buriro, and Hafiz Khalid Bugti expressed concerns over the severe impact of power outages on the local business community and residents enduring extreme heat. Speaking to the media, the leaders emphasized that the ongoing load shedding has drastically affected daily life, making it unbearable for residents. They demanded immediate measures to curtail undue load shedding and ensure fair billing practices. The leaders warned that if their demands are not met promptly, the protests would persist to press for their rights and relief from the distress caused by electricity shortages. The protest by Jamaat-e-Islami underscores growing frustrations among residents of Thul regarding the persistent electricity issues, urging swift action from the authorities to address the situation.

## DC Badin Yasir Bhatti reviews arrangements for anti-polio campaign

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti, chaired a crucial meeting in Durbar Hall to oversee the arrangements for the anti-polio campaign commencing on July 1. The campaign is part of a broader outbreak response initiative spanning seven districts of Sindh, including Badin.

all citizens to actively participate and ensure its success. He emphasized the importance of administering anti-polio drops to every child, stressing that collective efforts are essential to eradicate polio and prevent any instances of vaccine refusal within the district. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Kashif Raza Mangi, Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Rajesh Daltap, all Assistant Commissioners of the district, District Health Officer Dr. Zaheruddin Memon, Deputy DEO Primary Qadir Bakhsh Talpur, District Manager PPHI Badin B. Razia Ajan, along with Dr. Rajneesh, Dr. Sanaulah, Dr. Salam, and other concerned officers. The comprehensive review of arrangements and strategic planning during the meeting aims to ensure effective implementation and coverage of the anti-polio campaign in Badin, reflecting the administration's commitment to public health and disease prevention initiatives.

## Tando Jam Police recover a stolen motorcycle



TANDO JAM: In a commendable operation, the Tando Jam Police have successfully recovered a stolen motorcycle that was taken during a robbery in Tando Adam. The incident, which occurred four days ago, involved a 25-year-old man named Imran Jamali, who was deprived of his motorcycle. The recovery was led by SHO Riaz Ahmed Bhutto and ASI Ateeq Khaskheli. Their diligent efforts culminated in the retrieval of the stolen vehicle, which was subsequently handed over to its rightful owner, Imran Jamali, by SHO Riaz Ahmed Bhutto. This swift action by the Tando Jam Police underscores their commitment to combating crime and ensuring the safety and security of the community.

## Kalhoru community protests against Kandiaro Police

By Usama Ayaz

KANDIARO: Tension erupted in Kandiaro as members of the Kalhoru community staged a protest against the actions of the local police, led by ASI Soomar Metlo. The unrest followed a raid conducted by the police in Hisbani Muhalla, resulting in the arrest of two individuals, Ashiq Kalhoru and Noor Hassan Kalhoru, who were subsequently taken to an undisclosed location. Expressing their grievances, a large number of Kalhoru community members gathered for a protest demonstration. They accused the police of forcefully entering the homes of Rajib, Zamir, Umed Ali, Ashiq, and Babar Kalhoru during the raid. The protesters alleged that the police not only arrested their men but also conducted a search that led to the seizure of cash and other valuables without providing any explanation about the charges against the arrested individuals. During the protest, community leaders and representatives demanded the immediate release of Ashiq Kalhoru and Noor Hassan Kalhoru. They called for swift action against the police officials involved in the raid, emphasizing that justice must prevail to prevent further escalation of tensions in the area. In the absence of satisfactory responses from the authorities, the protesters announced their intention to escalate their demonstrations until their demands are met. The situation remains tense as community leaders and local administration seek to resolve the standoff and restore calm in Kandiaro.

## TMK Police arrest five for fleeing BISP beneficiaries

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In a decisive crackdown, Tando Muhammad Khan Police, under the directive of SSP Abid Baloch and led by SHO, conducted a targeted operation resulting in the apprehension of five individuals involved in a scandalous scheme. The arrested suspects, identified as Saifullah Biladi, Nazir Laghari, Shahmir Bhatti, Farman Bhatti, and Farooq Parhari, were found in possession of two HBL devices and a significant amount of cash.

Mono Technical College Tando Muhammad Khan, systematically deducted stipends intended for women beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). The police action has been swift and thorough, with the accused now facing serious charges for their alleged roles in the fraudulent activity. Authorities have indicated that further investigations are underway to ascertain the full extent of the financial losses inflicted upon the vulnerable beneficiaries of the government support initiative. SSP Abid Baloch expressed his commitment to ensuring justice for the affected beneficiaries, emphasizing zero tolerance for corruption and exploitation of public funds meant to alleviate poverty and support segments of society. The arrested individuals are expected to be prosecuted in accordance with the law, with the police urging anyone with additional information relevant to the case to come forward and assist in bringing all perpetrators to justice. The incident has sparked outrage among local communities, highlighting the critical need for stringent oversight and accountability measures to safeguard welfare programs designed to assist those in need.

## Jacobabad's civil society demands protection amid deteriorating law and order situation

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: The residents of Dinger Muhalla in Jacobabad were horrified by unidentified robbers who recently invaded the home of Jameel Ahmed Soomro, holding the family at gunpoint. The criminals subjected them to violence before fleeing with 10 tolas of gold jewelry and 200,000 rupees in cash. Similarly, in Bolan Muhalla, unknown assailants robbed Shakil Jakhani of his motorcycle at gunpoint and escaped. These incidents of brazen criminality have intensified the sense of fear and insecurity among the people of Jacobabad. They are now urgently calling upon the authorities to restore law and order and ensure the safety of the community. The residents expressed their deep concern over the escalating lawlessness, which has made daily life increasingly precarious. They emphasized the need for immediate action from law enforcement agencies to apprehend the culprits and prevent further incidents. In response to these alarming developments, local leaders and community members have voiced their demands for enhanced security measures and a swift resolution to the growing crime wave plaguing Jacobabad. They are urging authorities to prioritize public safety and restore peace in the region without delay.

## Water shortage intensifies in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The water scarcity crisis in Badin district has reached alarming levels, affecting both drinking water supply and agricultural activities. As June nears its end, the situation has worsened with major canals from the Kotri Barrage, crucial for irrigation, remaining dry. Reports indicate that the Phuliri and Akram Canals, which are vital lifelines for irrigating over one lac acres of rice fields in Badin, are completely devoid of water. This dire situation has left several subdivisions including Shadi, Talin Ahmed Rajo, Sirani, Golu, Mandhur, Rupa-Mari, Garho-Bohdm, Luari Sharif, Nandu, Khoski, and the entire coastal area grappling with acute water shortages. Farmers in the region are unable to sow crops due to the absence of irrigation water, severely impacting their livelihoods and the local economy. Additionally, residents are facing difficulties accessing safe drinking water, as the underground water sources have turned saline. The community, comprising hundreds of villages dependent on these canals, is bearing the brunt of this crisis. Despite the severity of the situation, the local irrigation department and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) have yet to provide effective solutions or relief measures. The residents and farmers are urging immediate intervention from the authorities to resolve this critical issue before it escalates further and exacerbates the hardship faced by the people of Badin district.

## Man killed in fatal Tando Jam road accident

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: A tragic accident occurred on the Mirpurkhas-Hyderabad Road, resulting in the death of Mubih Khaskheli, an employee of the Agriculture Research Institute. Khaskheli was hit by a car, sustaining critical injuries. Following the accident, he was immediately rushed to a local area hospital. Despite the medical team's efforts, the doctors confirmed his death shortly after arrival. Local residents managed to apprehend the car driver at the scene, although his companion managed to flee. The incident has left the community in shock, mourning the loss of Mubih Khaskheli. Authorities are investigating the accident, and efforts are underway to locate and apprehend the fleeing companion.

## Setharja Police book three pedophiles in a case

By Azhar Kubar

SETHARJA: Setharja Police have taken action on a serious complaint filed by the father of a 10-year-old boy named Azad Junejo, alleging an attempted rape. The case has been registered against pedophiles Rauf Shaikh, Abdul Waheed Shaikh, and Mujahid Hussain Lund. According to reports, despite the registration of the case, the police have not yet apprehended the accused individuals. This delay has intensified the distress of the victim's parents, who are demanding swift justice from the authorities. The incident has sparked outrage in Setharja, with community members and local residents calling for immediate action to ensure the safety of children and uphold justice in such heinous cases.

## Pithoro Taluka functioning without an Assistant Commissioner, Mukhtiarkar and Town Officer

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: The residents of Pithoro Taluka are facing significant challenges following the transfer of key administrative officials, including the Assistant Commissioner, Mukhtiarkar, Town Officer, and the Medical Superintendent (MS) of the Taluka Pithoro Hospital. The delay in appointing replacements for these vital positions has led to widespread distress among the local population. One of the most pressing issues arising from this situation is the delay in issuing essential student documents, such as domicile and PR certificates. This delay has significantly impacted students' ability to apply for admissions, hampering their educational progress. The lack of a Magistrate and Assistant Commissioner has also caused disruptions in office work, further troubling the local populace. Moreover, the absence of an MS at Pithoro Hospital has exacerbated healthcare issues, as the hospital struggles to cope with the increasing number of patients without proper leadership. The residents are growing increasingly frustrated with the inefficiency and delays that have ensued due to the vacant posts. In light of these difficulties, the residents of Pithoro are urgently calling on the concerned authorities to expedite the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner, Mukhtiarkar, and MS for Pithoro Hospital. They hope that swift action will alleviate their current hardships and restore normalcy to the administration and public services in their area.

-Can you believe this?

# METRO KARACHI



## Ghani Takes Action On Liaquatabad Building Collapse

KARACHI: In response to the collapse of a one-storey building near Liaquatabad no. 10 on Tuesday afternoon, Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani has intervened, directing immediate action and investigation into the incident.



Ghani instructed the Director-General of the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) and the Deputy Commissioner of District Central to provide comprehensive probe reports. These reports are expected to detail all factors contributing to the building collapse.

Expressing gratitude that there were no casualties or injuries, Ghani emphasized the urgency of vacating and demolishing dilapidated structures identified by the SBCA. With the monsoon

season approaching, he stressed zero tolerance for any negligence by officials in this matter.

Furthermore, Ghani directed deputy commissioners and relevant authorities across districts to initiate swift measures against other vulnerable

buildings within their jurisdictions.

The minister's proactive stance underscores the Sindh government's commitment to safeguarding public safety and preventing potential disasters related to unsafe structures.—RT

## Government Launches Probe Into Mysterious Deaths



KARACHI: Media reports on Tuesday confirmed that Sindh's Interior Minister has directed an immediate investigation into the series of 'mysterious deaths' occurring in Karachi.

Expressing profound sorrow and concern over these incidents, Interior Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar has mandated a thorough inquiry to uncover the causes behind these deaths. "K-Electric will be held accountable if prolonged load shedding is found to be a significant factor," stated the minister, emphasizing potential consequences for KE administrators and responsible individuals implicated in the inquiry.

Earlier today, the discovery of additional bodies in

various parts of Karachi marked the third consecutive day of such incidents. Rescue officials located bodies on footpaths in Manghopir, Orangi Town, and Gulshan-e-Maymar areas. Among them, the body of 50-year-old Munawar was recovered from Orangi No. 12 and transferred to a hospital, while details regarding the identities and causes of death of the other victims remain undisclosed.

Efforts are actively underway to identify the deceased individuals and ascertain the circumstances surrounding their untimely deaths. Rescue operations and investigations continue to be closely monitored as the situation unfolds.—RT/Agency

## PTI Leader Blames Heatwave And Load Shedding For 427 Deaths In Karachi

KARACHI: Rizwan Niazi, Additional General Secretary of PTI Sindh, expressed grave concern on Tuesday over the reported death toll of 427 people in Karachi over the past four days. He attributed these fatalities to the severe heatwave and what he described as the city's worst-ever load shedding.

In a statement from Media Cell Haleem Adil Sheikh, Niazi highlighted the unbearable conditions faced by

Karachi residents due to prolonged power outages lasting 18 to 20 hours. He lamented that these outages, coupled with water shortages, had caused immense distress among the public.

Niazi emphasized that in just four days, 427 bodies were brought to the Edhi mortuary, underscoring the severity of the situation. He demanded immediate measures to declare Karachi a load-shedding-free zone and criticized K-Electric, label-

ing it a "killer company." He also criticized the Sindh government for what he perceived as a lack of action despite the extreme weather conditions. Calling for urgent steps to protect citizens, Niazi proposed the establishment of water stations and heat stroke centers across Karachi. He warned of PTI's readiness to join public protests and take to the streets if K-Electric fails to halt unannounced load shedding promptly.—RT/Agency

## MNA Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Dr Azra Pechuho Commemorate Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's Birthday With A Cake Cutting Ceremony

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: On the occasion of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's birthday, MNA Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, accompanied by Sindh Minister Dr Azra Pechuho and MPA Roma Mushtaq Matto, led a heartfelt ceremony to honor the late leader's legacy. The event, marked by the cutting of a birthday cake, also included a solemn prayer for the eternal peace of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's soul.

A large gathering of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) workers gathered to pay homage to the charismatic leader who continues to inspire generations. MPA Roma Mushtaq Matto, addressing the gathering during the ceremony, under-

scored the PPP's unwavering commitment to the people of Pakistan. She emphasized that the PPP remains the steadfast choice for governance, dedicated to upholding the principles of democracy and social justice.

The ceremony served as a poignant reminder of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's enduring impact on Pakistani politics and her enduring legacy as a champion of democracy and social equality.

Reflecting on the life and sacrifices of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, MPA Roma Mushtaq Matto recounted her fearless leadership and tireless advocacy for the rights of ordinary citizens. She highlighted how Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's legacy of courage and resilience continues to guide the PPP under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who is resolutely carrying forward her vision of a progressive and prosperous Pakistan.

## Government Open To Dialogue With Surrendering Bandits: Sharjeel

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: In a recent statement, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon urged bandits involved in serious crimes to surrender, promising them an opportunity for dialogue with the government. He emphasized that those not implicated in severe offenses would be considered for amnesty. The minister also highlighted ongoing joint operations by police and rangers in the Katcha area.



Zardari's directive that criminals must surrender and engage in dialogue, warning of strict legal consequences otherwise.

Regarding law and order in Karachi, Memon reported improvements in street crime based on recent data comparisons. He announced the procurement of modern weapons for Sindh police, enhancing their operational capabilities and morale as part of President Zardari's strategic vision. Responding to queries, Memon affirmed the Sindh government's support for federal initiatives against terrorism and stressed the

importance of cooperation between provinces and the federation. He addressed concerns about the heatwave and rain emergencies in Sindh, assuring preparedness through cooling centers and disaster management plans. In conclusion, Memon called for unity among provincial and federal authorities, urging harmony to tackle national challenges effectively. He expressed hopes for collaborative efforts, despite differing political affiliations, emphasizing the need for cohesive governance for the nation's welfare.

## Plans Underway To Evacuate Hazardous Buildings Ahead Of Monsoon Rains



KARACHI: In anticipation of the monsoon season, the city administration has launched a concerted effort to evacuate high-risk buildings, with the Sindh Building Control Authority initiating immediate steps, including demolition where necessary.

Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi presided over a review meeting where it was decided to expedite the evacuation of dangerous structures.

The meeting, attended by deputy commissioners and senior officials of the Sindh Building Control Authority, focused on survey outcomes and the issuance of evacuation notices to affected residents.

Officials from the Building Control Authority briefed the commissioner on progress made thus far, highlighting ongoing efforts and the issuance of notices aimed at securing these vulnerable buildings. Furthermore, utility providers have been instructed to disconnect services to these premises to mitigate risks.

Each deputy commissioner will collaborate closely with relevant Building Control Authority officials in their districts to identify and prioritize actions against hazardous buildings, ensuring the safety and well-being of residents.—RT/Agency

## Malir Police Seize 100 Kilos Of Gutka In Raid



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Acting on the directives of SSP Malir Kashif Afrab Abbasi, a successful operation was conducted by DSP Malir Abid Fazal Mahar, under the supervision of SHO Malir City Syed Farasat Hussain Shah, resulting in the seizure of a significant quantity of illicit Gutka and Mawa.

Following a tip-off, Malir City police raided a location in Daud Goth where illegal production of Gutka and Mawa was reportedly taking place.

The raid led to the apprehension of a suspect named Wahed, who was actively involved in the production and distribution of these banned substances.

During the operation, approximately 100 kilograms of prepared Gutka and materials used in its manufacturing were confiscated by law enforcement authorities. A case has been registered against the arrested individual, and further investigation is underway to uncover additional details related to the illegal operation.

DSP Malir Abid Fazal Mahar and SHO Syed Farasat Hussain Shah the confirmed that the raid was prompted by confidential information received by the Malir City police, emphasizing their commitment to curbing the illegal trade of harmful substances within the community.

The successful raid marks another significant achievement in Malir's efforts to combat the production and sale of Gutka and Mawa, substances banned due to their detrimental health effects and legal restrictions.

## Karachi Arts Council Commemorates Philippines' Independence Day

KARACHI: The Karachi Arts Council honored a significant ceremony to mark the 126th anniversary of Philippine Independence and the 75th year of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the Philippines. The event gathered distinguished guests including Culture Minister Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Ambassador Maria Agnes M. Cervantes, Honorary Consul General Dr. Imran Yousuf, and Arts Council President Ahmed Shah, alongside other esteemed consular officials.



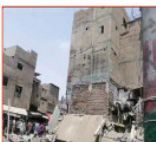
The celebration underscored the enduring friendship and collaboration between the Philippines and Pakistan, which have shared diplomatic ties since 1949. Participants at the event witnessed a series of speeches, cultural performances, and reflections on the deep-rooted connections between the two nations.

This year's Philippine Independence Day theme, "Kalayaan, Kinabukasan, Kasaysayan" (Freedom, To-

morrow, History), resonated throughout the ceremony, highlighting the historical milestones and future aspirations of the Filipino people. The occasion served as a poignant reminder of the shared values and mutual respect that define the bilateral relationship, fostering cultural understanding and strengthening

diplomatic bonds between Pakistan and the Philippines. The event concluded with a reaffirmation of commitment to further enhance cooperation in various fields, reflecting the shared commitment to peace, prosperity, and mutual growth between the two nations.—RT

## Building Collapses In Liaquatabad No. 10 Amid Excavation Work



KARACHI: A two-storey building collapsed near Burckhan Center in Liaquatabad No. 10, Karachi, as reported by media outlets on Tuesday. The incident occurred during excavation work in the vicinity.

Rescue officials confirmed that the building, situated in a narrow alley, collapsed entirely. Fortunately, no casualties were reported.

Upon receiving the alert, rescue teams swiftly arrived at the scene, securing the area to prevent any further risks. Liaquatabad No. 10 is characterized by its narrow lanes and high-rise structures, posing challenges for rescue operations during such emergencies.—RT/Agency

## PTI Sindh Calls For Urgent Inquiry Into Sukkur Barrage Fiasco

KARACHI: Haleem Adil Sheikh, President of PTI Sindh, has raised serious concerns in a letter to the Chief Secretary Sindh regarding recent damages to gates 47 and 44 of the Sukkur Barrage. According to a statement issued by PTI Sindh today, national media and official notifications have highlighted the damages, which have necessitated the closure of several linked canals including Nara, Rohri, Khanpur East, Khanpur West, Daud, Rice, and Kirthar canal. This has severely impacted agricultural

lands spanning 8 million acres in Sindh, causing widespread water scarcity across all districts, particularly affecting farmers who recently sowed paddy crop seeds. Sheikh pointed out that the crisis poses a significant threat to upcoming crops such as paddy, cotton, and sugarcane, with billions of rupees worth of seeds at risk of drying up due to the delays in repairs and inadequate communication from concerned authorities. He alleged negligence on the part of the Irrigation Department, suggesting that the damages

may have been intentional for personal gain, jeopardizing both farmers' livelihoods and the provincial economy. Despite numerous meetings, Sheikh criticized the lack of concrete actions taken so far and stressed the urgent need for accountability. He demanded an immediate inquiry into the incident, calling for the suspension of all involved officers and the resignation of the Minister of Irrigation. Additionally, he proposed the establishment of a judicial commission to prevent similar incidents in the future.—RT/Agency

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**HIRING OF SERVICES OF INDIVIDUAL CURATOR/CURATION COMPANY FOR PAKISTAN'S PARTICIPATION IN EXPO 2025, OSAKA (13TH APRIL-13TH OCTOBER, 2025)**

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from well reputed and experienced Individual Curator/Curation company to provide curatorial services for Expo 2025, Osaka, Japan.

- The detailed bidding documents containing scope of work, terms and conditions, method of procurement, procedure for submission of bids, bid security, bid validity, opening of bid, evaluation criteria, clarification / rejection of bids etc. are available for the interested at PPRP EPADS website (<https://eprocure.gov.pk>), at the cost of PKR 2,000/- in the form of pay order in the favor of TDAP.
- Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure will be used for open competitive bidding. Interested Individuals/ Firms will submit their sealed bids comprising a single package containing two separate envelopes. Each envelope shall contain separately the 'financial' and 'technical' proposals which will be clearly mentioned in bold and legible letters on respective envelopes to avoid any confusion.
- Sealed Request for Proposals, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must reach at the office of the Assistant Director, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Headquarters, Karachi (5th Floor, FTC Building, Shahrah e Faisal, Karachi) before 11:30 A.M. on 8th July 2024. Moreover, the bidding documents, must be submitted by the bidder on EPADS by 8th July 2024, before 11:30 AM too. Technical Bids will be opened on the same day at 12:00 P.M.
- Trade Development Authority of Pakistan reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time in accordance with Public Procurement Rules.

**Muhammad Ahmed Khan**  
Assistant Director (Osaka Expo 2025)  
Trade Development Authority of Pakistan  
Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan  
5th Floor, FTC Building, Shahrah e Faisal, Karachi  
Tel: 021-9925810 Email: [ahmed.khan@tdap.gov.pk](mailto:ahmed.khan@tdap.gov.pk)

Being sad with the right people is better than being happy with the wrong ones.

—Philip's

# THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

## READERS

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newsagent Agency at (0300-2710454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0302-2647713), (0302-3028990)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26 2024

## Budget FY25 Targets Fiscal Deficit Reduction: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the budget for the next fiscal year was aimed at narrowing the fiscal deficit by expanding the government's revenues and cutting unnecessary expenditures.

Concluding the discussion on the budget 2024-25 in the National Assembly on Tuesday, he said that, following the prime minister's directives, the emphasis on simplicity and austerity would continue into the next fiscal year.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government is striving to meet the prerequisites for an additional—longer and larger—International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, by setting a high tax revenue target taking a shot at lowering the fiscal deficit from 7.4% to 5.9%.

It is believed that streamlining the tax collection processes and broadening the tax base would help achieve these fiscal targets.

Pakistan has set a challenging tax revenue target of Rs13 trillion for the year starting July 1, a near 40% jump from the current year to strengthen the case for a new bailout deal with the



lender of the last resort. The ambitious revenue targets are in line with analyst expectations.

The finance czar mentioned that a committee headed by him, had been formed to present recommendations, including the closure or merger of ministries and their devolution to the provinces.

He announced that future pension expenditures would be reduced through pension reforms.

Senator Aurangzeb highlighted that the home-grown reforms programme formed the basis of next year's budget to navigate the country through its challenging economic situation.

He said the reforms included increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio to 13%, state-owned enterprises (SOE)

and education sectors, including skills development.

He appreciated the recommendations submitted by the Senate for inclusion in next year's budget. He said the government had decided to incorporate these recommendations, considering the public interest.

These proposals included providing an opportunity for non-filers to have a personal hearing before measures such as SIM blockage and a ban on foreign travel were implemented.

In the Finance Bill 2024, the government has proposed to ban non-filers from traveling overseas and block their SIM cards, aiming to encourage citizens to use formal channels—a move that has sparked a debate over its practicality.

He announced that stationary items would remain exempt from tax and that the current reduced rates for hybrid-electric vehicles would remain unchanged.

Under the Export Facilitation Scheme 2021 policy, he said, zero-rating for local suppliers was not being abolished.

The finance minister emphasised that the agriculture, education, and health sectors had been prioritised, while proposals such as exempting

charity hospitals from sales tax would be given serious consideration.

The former banker noted that the government was fast-tracking reforms in the FBR, with seven billion rupees allocated in the budget for this purpose.

He said action would be taken from July 1st against retailers who failed to register with the FBR Tajir Dost Scheme.

Regarding the defence budget, the finance minister acknowledged the immense sacrifices made by the armed forces in defending the country and their readiness to meet internal and external threats.

He emphasised that national security was the foremost priority and assured that the armed forces would be provided with the necessary resources.

The finance minister announced honoraria equivalent to three months' basic pay for various departments, including the staff of the National Assembly, Senate, Press Information Department (PID), Radio Pakistan, Pakistan Television (PTV), and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), who performed duties in the Parliament House during the budget session.—RT/Agency

## Cabinet Decides Against Imposing Additional Duty On Solar Panels

ISLAMABAD: After speculated changes in net metering and new taxes on solar products raised many eyebrows, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has clarified that the federal government will not impose additional duties on solar panels to ensure the accessibility of low-cost energy to every citizen.

The clarification came after the federal government signalled to replace solar net metering with "gross metering" while some reports suggested that new taxes would be introduced on solar products which would extensively reduce the financial benefits of in-house power generation.

PM Shehbaz said the government is planning to put the national economy on a positive trajectory and expressed satisfaction over the country heading towards economic stability.

He made these remarks while chairing the federal cabinet meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday in a set of key decisions.

The premier reiterated the resolve to boost the country's exports by promoting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and withdrawing privileges from the elite class and those exploiting the national resources.

The economic protection of the common man and providing them equal opportunities were among the government's priorities, he added.



Discussing the annual budget 2024-25, the premier instructed the members to ensure their presence in the ongoing budget debate in the parliament.

During the briefing, the cabinet members were informed that the privatisation of the PIA was moving ahead swiftly as companies showing interest in the pre-bidding process were visiting different airlines' sites. The bidding of the national flag carrier will be held in the first week of August, it was told.

He instructed to accelerate the PIA privatisation while ensuring transparency in the process.

During the briefing on the Economic Coordination Committee's decision, the cabinet meeting was told that the country had sufficient stock of sugar available and the Sugar Advisory Board and relevant departments had approved exporting the left-over stock of sugar after taking into account the expected consumption before the next crushing season and assessing the surplus stock.

PM Shehbaz said the government would not tolerate any increase in the sugar price and instructed the formation of a committee to monitor the sugar price and stop its export in case of any possibility of a price hike.

In other decisions, the federal cabinet approved the transfer of a truck from Karachi to Kabul carrying the spare parts of the trucks, just for once on humanitarian grounds for the commerce ministry's recommendation and request from the World Food Programme (WFP) of Afghanistan.

The body gave the go-ahead to the signing of a MoU between the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. It also extended till March 2025 the timeframe of an implementation committee on the immovable property of the late Ameer of Bahawalpur in light of the Supreme Court's ruling and recommendation of the States and Frontier Regions Division.—RT/Agency

## Asif Vows To Remove PTI's Reservations Regarding Anti-Militancy Operation

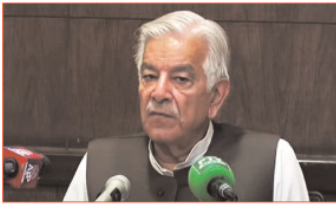
ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said Tuesday that the federal government would ensure to provide satisfactory answers to the concerns of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) over a newly announced anti-militancy operation, Azm-e-Istehkam.

The minister, while addressing journalists during a presser in Lahore, said that the proposal for launching the operation would be presented before the federal cabinet today, following which, it will be laid before the parliament.

"We will create a consensus among the [parties]. The opposition parties and allies. We will give them ample time to discuss this issue. Whatever their questions or concerns, it will be responded to in a satisfying manner."

The government had, last week, announced a fresh counter-terrorism operation, pledging to utilise the full strength of the country's resources, including military, diplomatic, and legislative, to turn the heat up on militants.

In response, PTI, Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Fazi (JUI-F), Awami National Party (ANP), and others voiced concerns over the new military operation, demanding that parliament must be taken



into confidence before taking any such decision and that they opposed the operation.

Following much criticism, the federal government issued a policy statement, saying that "no large-scale military operation is being launched" in the country.

"The recently announced vision for enduring stability named Azm-e-Istehkam is being erroneously misunderstood and compared with earlier launched kinetic operations like Zarb-e-Azab, Rah-e-Najata etc," a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said.

During the presser, the minister said several operations have been conducted against terrorism in the past and a new operation will be launched now.

On the opposition's resistance to the idea, he said that the four chief ministers were present in the apex committee meeting, and none of

them opposed the operation. Khawaja added that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur did not disagree. He, in fact, said "We will support this action," in hushed words.

"This operation has no political ambitions," said the minister, emphasising that the government wants to fight the rising tide of terrorism. All must support operation Azm-e-Istehkam, he added.

He insisted that since the National Action Plan was formulated after the Army Public School (APS) incident, the situation is very different today compared to what it was like back then.

"Terrorists had occupied the areas of FATA. The areas of FATA had become no-go areas, this is not the case today," he said, adding: "The [government's] write is established in these areas today."—RT/Agency

## Zubair Acknowledges Lack Of Authentic Information On Nawaz-Bajwa Meeting



ISLAMABAD: Former Punjab governor and ex-Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohamud Zubair has backed track from his earlier claim and has said that he has no authentic information about the alleged meeting between Nawaz Sharif and former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Speaking to media, the former spokesperson said, the former spokesperson for the ex-PM and his daughter Maryam Nawaz clarified that his comments regarding the said meeting were in fact speculative and were not facts that he could say under oath. He explained that he was responding to a speculative query by sharing the rumours circulating at the time. Zubair emphasised that he also mentioned during the talk show that he could not confirm the speculated Nawaz-Bajwa meeting.

However, he insisted that Imran Khan's government was voted out in April 2022 with the support of the then military establishment. Meanwhile, government sources claim that Gen Bajwa, during his six-year term as army chief, had visited the UK four times. The speculation was that the Nawaz-Bajwa meeting had taken place in London a few months before April 2022, when Khan's government was removed through a vote of no confidence. However, Bajwa's last visit to London before April 2022 was in June 2019, more than two and a half years earlier. Official sources provided details of Gen Bajwa's visits to the UK: from April 2 to April 7 in 2017; October 10 to October 14 in 2018; June 20 to June 15 in 2019; and August 10 to August 14 in 2022.—RT/Agency

## All Reservations Of PPP Addressed, Will Join Cabinet After Consultations: Gilani

JHELUM: Senate Chairman and senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has addressed all of their reservations on various issues, media reported on Tuesday.

Speaking to journalists in Jhelum, Gilani said that the PPP would decide on joining the federal cabinet after consultations with the party as currently, they are working to strengthen the government to control the economic situation.

The former prime minister's remarks come in administrative posts in Punjab, the sources said. The PPP has demanded the appointment of an additional secretary in the chief minister's secretariat whose job would be to resolve the issues faced by the party only, they said.

The Punjab government would appoint district deputy commissioners, district police officers and revenue officers in consultation with the PPP in the areas where the political party has significant support, the sources said.

Sources said 12 such districts were pointed out including Multan, Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Rawalpindi and Rajanpur.



During the meeting, the government agreed to prefer the PPP for development funds and appointments in administrative posts in Punjab, the sources said.

The PPP would be consulted in the appointment of a district officer in these areas, the sources added. On the other hand, the PPP offered to appoint district officers of PML-N's choice in Sindh areas despite the ruling party not having a representation there. Furthermore, commenting on the political polarisation on various issues, Gilani said that all political parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were united on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. He also backed the government's newly announced anti-terror drive "Operation Azm-e-Istehkam" stressing that combating terrorism was as necessary today as it was in the past.—RT/Agency

## PTI Continues Opposition To 'Azm-e-Istehkam' Operation, Citing Affordability Concerns

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers while maintaining their stance against Operation 'Azm-e-Istehkam', argued that the country cannot sustain more military operations for stabilisation.

Speaking outside the Election Commission Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday, PTI leaders reiterated their opposition against the newly approved military operation.

They argued that military operations would disproportionately impact Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and Balochistan. "When justice is delayed, it is also injustice," he stated, demanding the PTI chief's immediate release.

Gohar said that the party protested from Parliament all the way to the ECP during today's budget session. "This isn't just a walk of 180 parliamentarians, but of 30 million voters," Gohar maintained. "Our protest will continue until all our members are freed," he affirmed. "Any decision must be brought to the house. This country cannot afford any operation for stability. Stability requires



rightful representation in the assembly," he said, declaring the party's firm stance against the operation. The lawmakers highlighted that PTI conducted three intra-party elections in the last 18 months, contrasting with other parties. "We will not accept double standards in this country," they said. On June 23, PTI and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) declared their refusal to support any military operation, demanding that military leadership take Parliament into confidence first.—RT/Agency

rightful representation in the assembly," he said, declaring the party's firm stance against the operation. The lawmakers highlighted that PTI conducted three intra-party elections in the last 18 months, contrasting with other parties. "We will not accept double standards in this country," they said. On June 23, PTI and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) declared their refusal to support any military operation, demanding that military leadership take Parliament into confidence first.—RT/Agency

## Shehbaz Government Extends Olive Branch To Modi Government

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday said it does not believe in "perpetual hostility" with India, urging the BJP-led government to do a "sober reflection" on the future of ties between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

In a policy statement delivered at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said Pakistan always sought "good neighbourly relations" with India.

"To our east, the relationship with India has historically remained troubled. Pakistan does not believe in perpetual hostility. We seek good-neighbourly relations with India on the basis of mutual respect, sovereignty, equality, and a just and peaceful resolution of the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute," Dar said.

He said while Pakistan had always been receptive to constructive engagement through dialogue that in-



cludes all outstanding issues, Pakistan would never agree to unilateral approaches or attempts to impose India's will or hegemony. "We will also take every step needed to maintain strategic stability in South Asia and would respond effectively and decisively to any ill-considered military misadventure by the 'Hindutva' driven dispensation in New Delhi," he added.

In our view, as the BJP-led NDA government starts a new term, it is time for a sober reflection on the future of India-Pakistan relations and the cross-cutting issues affecting the entire region," the foreign minister further said.—RT/Agency

## Court Reserves Verdict On Suspension Of Sentence In Bushra Bibi's Iddat Case

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court Tuesday reserved its verdict on pleas filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi seeking suspension of their sentence in the iddat case.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC), earlier this month, had directed the district court to decide the pleas seeking the suspension of the sentence of former prime minister Khan and his wife Bushra within 10 days.

The court had also given one month's time for the decision on the petition filed by the couple against their conviction.

The IHC's orders came after the couple had filed multiple petitions with the ex-premier seeking the district court to decide the pleas seeking the suspension of the sentence of former prime minister Khan and his wife Bushra within 10 days.

The court had also given one month's time for the decision on the petition filed by the couple against their conviction.



The verdict reserved today will be announced on June 27 (Thursday) at 3pm.

The hearing on the couple's pleas seeking annulment of their conviction in the said case has been adjourned till July 2.

It is to be noted that in January, Khawar Maneka, Bushra's ex-husband, had challenged the couple's marriage and had termed their nikah as fraudulent, stressing that the marriage was solemnised during her iddat (the time a woman goes into isolation after a divorce or her husband's death).

A trial court had then handed down a seven-year sentence to the couple in

February and imposed a fine of Rs500,000 each on the duo.

Khan and Bushra had then filed various appeals including the ones against their conviction and those seeking suspension of their sentences.

Judge Shahrukh Arjumand had reserved the verdict on their appeals challenging their conviction on May 23. However, in light of Maneka's repeated expression of no-confidence, the IHC, on Judge Arjumand's request, then transferred the case to the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Mian.—RT/Agency