

# REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



Shakira concludes 'best' month with wishes of 'love and friendship'

**Heartland**

Nisar Khuroo accuses MQM Pakistan of conspiring for Jinnahpur's formation



**Money**

-Zafar Moti is Happy!

PSE 100-index up by 728.55 points to close at 79,552.88



**NATIONAL**

Maryam's Election Victory Challenged In Tribunal



**SPORTS**

Shoaib Malik believes Form 47 Babar Azam "can't fit" in any top T20 International side




Saeed Ghani Blasts MQM-P For Inciting Hatred And Spreading Deceptive Claims

## Justice Aalia Neelum Makes History As First Female Top Judge At Lahore High Court

ISLAMABAD: Justice Aalia Neelum has been nominated as the chief justice (CJ) of the Lahore High Court (LHC) in a first event of a woman judge being named for the post, sources said on Tuesday.

The jurist was unanimously nominated by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) during a meeting headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa earlier in the day.

Justice Aalia is third in the seniority list of the LHC after the elevation of former LHC CJ Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan to the Supreme Court.

After Justice Shahzad's



elevation, Justice Shujaat Ali Khan had been appointed as the acting CJ for the high court by President Asif Ali Zardari under Article 196.

Meanwhile, Justice Shafi Muhammad Siddiqui was also unanimously nominated for post of Sindh High Court (SHC) top judge. The slot was vacated after former SHC CJ Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi's elevation as a top court judge with Justice Shahzad and Justice Shahid earlier this month.—RT/Agency

## Afghan Taliban, Pakistani Diplomats Meet In Doha Amid Terrorism Dispute

DOHA: In a fresh diplomatic engagement after Islamabad announced an operation against Afghanistan-based terrorists, an Afghan Taliban delegation headed by Afghan interim government's spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid met Pakistani diplomats on the sidelines of the Doha-III conference.

Pakistan and Afghanistan enjoyed close and brotherly ties as South Asian neighbours which lately became strained due to frequent cross-border attacks largely carried out by the banned outfit — Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) — which, according to Pakistan's security officials, operates from the Afghan soil.

The Afghan interim government's representatives are currently visiting Doha to attend talks to "discuss increasing engagement with Afghanistan and a more coordinated response to the country, including economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts".

They were due to meet UN officials and over 20 envoys, including the US special representative to Afghanistan as the international community grappled with its approach to Kabul's new rulers, according to Reuters.

During their visit,



Pakistani Ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Aejaz hosted a dinner for the Afghan Taliban delegation at his residence in Doha which was attended by senior diplomats, including Pakistan's Special Representative to Afghanistan Asif Durrani and the country's Deputy Head of Mission in Kabul Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani.

Durrani posted photos of the occasion on X (formerly Twitter) while welcoming and hosting the Taliban representatives where they discussed developments at the "Doha-III conference, bilateral and regional issues".

The Pakistani envoy to Qatar also reacted to the recent meeting on X, saying: "Very delighted to have hosted tonight the AIG [Afghanistan interim government] and

Pakistan delegations attending the Doha-III [conference]."

"Both remain neighbours and brothers and have a lot in common, including a strong desire for regional peace and security," Aejaz added.

It was an "unusual meeting" between both sides, diplomatic sources told me, adding that the Taliban representatives also met an Indian delegation in Doha.

The sources said that the latest diplomatic engagement was held in a "positive environment" in which the representatives of the Afghan interim government thanked Islamabad for supporting Kabul's stance in the Doha conference, as well as the latter's backing on a national level.

Mujahid wrote on the microblogging website

regarding the meeting, "We had a very good evening meeting with Pakistan's special representative Asif Durrani, the ambassador and consuls in Doha."

"We thank them for their hospitality and hope for good and constructive relations for both countries," he added.

From a diplomatic point of view, the high-ups' gathering from neighbouring South Asian states is an apparent move to improve relations by discussing bilateral issues. The federal government last week approved a fresh operation — Operation Azm-e-Ishtekam — a reinvigorated and re-energised national counter-terrorism drive, to eliminate terrorism from the country. A few days back, Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif, in an in-

terview with BBC Urdu, rebuked the Afghanistan government for inaction against militants along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, despite repeated requests made by the Pakistan government.

The defence czar, in another interview with the Voice of America (VoA), said that under Operation Azm-e-Ishtekam, Pakistan could target terrorist hideouts across the border in Afghanistan. He had also dismissed the possibility of negotiations with the outlawed TTP.

Amid concerns over the impacts of the newly-launched operation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif clarified that it was not a large-scale military operation and that there would be no population displacement. During the Afghan Taliban's rule, Pakistan had carried out intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in the border regions inside Afghanistan against terrorists belonging to Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group in March, which was responsible for the March 16 attack in Mir Ali, North Waziristan and multiple other terrorist attacks in the country.

However, the Afghan interim government strongly reacted to the "air strikes" and warned that it "does not allow anyone to compromise security by using Afghan territory".—RT/Agency

## Court Grants Pre-Arrest Bail To Bushra Bibi In Landmark £190 Million Reference Case

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court on Tuesday granted former premier Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi pre-arrest bail in a £190 million corruption reference.

In December, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had filed a corruption reference against Khan and seven others, including his wife, in connection with the Al-Qadir University Project Trust. The case alleged that Khan and Bushra Bibi obtained billions of rupees and land worth hundreds of kanals from Bahria Town Ltd for legalising Rs50 billion that was identified and returned to the country by the UK during the previous PTI government.



court on February 27, a day after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had issued notices to NAB on the couple's post-arrest bail plea in the same case.

As of March 13, Khan, Bushra bibi, property tycoon Malik Riaz, his son Ahmed Ali Riaz, former accountability czar Mirza Shahzad Akbar, Farhat Shahzadi (also known as Farah Khan), and Zulf Bukhari had been nominated as accused people in the reference. Except for the ex-premier and his wife, the rest have been declared proclaimed offenders.

In May, the IHC had approved Imran's bail application in the case, setting it at Rs1m.

Accountability court judge Muhammad Ali Waraich conducted a hearing related to the case today in which lawyers Salman Saf-

dar, Zahir Abbas Chaudhry, and Usman Riaz Ghul appeared in court on behalf of the married couple. Meanwhile, NAB Prosecutor General Sardar Mazhar Abbasi, Amjad Parvez, Irfan Bhola, and others appeared on the watchdog's behalf.

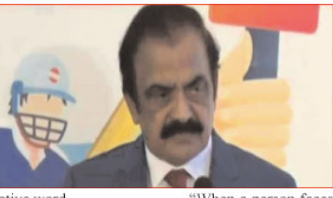
During the hearing, Bushra Bibi's lawyers submitted a bail request for her in the case.

Meanwhile, Abbasi argued that the request was not merited since her arrest was not sought in the case and nor had any warrants been issued to this effect, adding that the watchdog had previously maintained this position as well. The judge reserved his verdict decision on the bail application after the completion of arguments by both sides and later applied to the case today in a brief recess.—RT/Agency

## Rana Asserts: Only Politics Can Govern The Country

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Political Affairs and Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Rana Sanaullah said that the country can only be run through politics and political parties.

Addressing a seminar on Tuesday, Rana Sanaullah urged the people to dispel the impression that politics is a negative word.



"When a person faces

injustice or inequality, we say that politics is being done with him," Rana Sana said.

"We all should be clear in it that this country can only be run through politics," said the veteran politician.

He added that we should move forward in form of a movement and there is a dire need to

bring change in ourselves. The provincial sports come in the ambit of Inter-Provincial Coordination ministry and it needs drastic changes, he added.

"Athlete Arshad Nadeem achieved success without any support and it was his personal struggle that made him a star," he said.—RT/Agency

## Veteran Publisher Kazi Afzal Abid Passes Away At 82

KARACHI: Kazi Afzal Abid, the son of the late ex-Federal Minister Kazi Abdul Majeed Abid and a veteran publisher, has passed away at the age of 82 in Karachi.

Kazi Afzal was a prominent figure in the political and publishing spheres of Pakistan, known for his significant contributions to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) during its early years. He was the former PPP president of Hyderabad City and played a pivotal role in the party's formative growth.



Mazhar ul Haq, Imran Abbasi of PPL, and Regional Times' Publisher Kazi Sajjad Akbar. He was also the nephew of the late Kazi Mohammad Akbar, former Sindh Education Minister and Ambassador to Portugal. Kazi Afzal is survived by his wife, Najma Afzal, his sons Dr. Mozam Abbasi and Kazi Khurram Abbasi and their spouses, his daughter Uzma Hussain and her husband Zia Hussain, a prominent businessman in Islamabad, along with several grandchildren and extended family members of the Kazi/Abbasi family of Hyderabad.

## Imran Accuses Intelligence Agency Of Meddling In Jail Affairs



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan has criticised the alleged interference of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in civilian matters. In an informal media talk inside Adiala Jail today, the incarcerated former prime minister said, "We have filed a petition in court questioning the presence of ISI Majors and Colonels in Adiala Jail." The ISI has no authority in civil matters or judiciary interference. The prison superintendent is following ISI orders, leading to the transfer of two officers to ensure no leniency



is shown to me."

Talking about the results of the February general elections, the PTI founder expressed confusion stating, "Five months have passed since the elections, and I still do not know who won or lost." He also spoke about the recent resolution by the US Congress on alleged election irregularities in Pakistan highlighting that it had passed with 85% support.

"Even the most powerful Israeli lobby has never managed such a resolution. The US conducted thorough research before approving this resolution"—RT/Agency

انا لله وانا اليه راجعون



With a heavy heart, we inform about the loss of our beloved Brother/Father

### KAZI AFZAL ABID

who passed away this Afternoon the 02nd JULY 2024.

The Funeral Prayers shall take place, Today (Wednesday, 03rd JULY 2024 after the Asr Prayers at Masjid Sakina Sultan, Khayaban-e-Shaheen and Burial will take place at the DHA Phase-VIII Graveyard.

SOYEM will be held on (Thursday) 4th JULY '24 at his residence, House No: 93/1, Khayaban-e-Muslim Phase VI, DHA, Karachi between Asar and Maghrib.

**MOURNERS:**  
 Najma Afzal (Wife)  
 Mona and Dr. Kazi Moazam Abbasi (Son)  
 Umama and Kazi Khurram Abbasi (Son)  
 Uzma (Daughter) and Zia Hussain  
 Kazi Asad Abid (Brother)  
 Kazi Amjad Abid (Brother)  
 Dr. Fehmida (Sister) & Dr. Zulfikar Mirza  
 All Grandchildren & Family Members of the Kazi/Abbasi Family

# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Sindh Minister for Prisons, Work and Service Department, Ali Hassan Zardari presented shields to the position holders during the passing out parade ceremony of the 18th Basic Training Course for Prison Constables and Lady Prison Constables held at the Sindh Prisons Staff Training Institute.-RT

## Shahdadpur's civil society rallies against excessive load shedding of gas and power



By Asif Niaz Detho

SHAHDADPUR: In Shahdadpur, civil society, lawyers, political and social leaders, and citizens staged a shut-down strike against the additional electricity and gas bills, extra taxes and unannounced load shedding. Social reformer Suleman G Abro, President of the Shahdadpur Bar Association Advocate Ghulam Mustafa Soomro, Chairman of The Mughals Sindh Khalid Zahoor Baig, Sindh-Pak Tehreek's Zulfiqar Narban, Advocate Tariq Mehmood Arain, Aman Nagar, Hakeem Chandio, Rao Yousuf and other leaders led hundreds of citizens in a protest rally from Ali Chowk to the Shahdadpur Press Club, braving the extreme heat and scorching sun. The leaders stated that WAPDA and SSGC management are oppressing the public by imposing addi-



HYDERABAD: Participants are showing their professional skills during the passing out parade ceremony of the 18th Basic Training Course for Prison Constables and Lady Prison Constables held at the Sindh Prisons Staff Training Institute.-RT

## Nisar Khuhro accuses MQM Pakistan of conspiring for Jinnahpur's formation

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Nisar Khuhro, President of the Pakistan People's Party Sindh, has leveled serious accusations against MQM Pakistan, alleging a conspiracy to revive the controversial "Jinnahpur" issue in Sindh's history. In a press conference, Khuhro criticized the recent appointment of a Governor from the Muslim League-N as part of what he called an internal understanding with MQM Pakistan.



Khuhro asserted, "The blame on Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto for dividing the country was propagated by MQM, which now conspires to sow division within Sindh." He pointed to historical grievances and alleged criminal activities of MQM Pakistan, which he claimed are orchestrated from London. Further addressing MQM Pakistan's political alliances, Khuhro accused the party of supporting figures like Pervez Musharraf, Imran Khan, and PML-N, while remaining silent on issues like the abolition of the quota system. He also remarked that the people of Karachi no longer support MQM and its leader Altaf Hussain, attributing this to current circumstances sur-

## SUP protests against prolonged power outages in Jacobabad



By Muhammad Ali Surhio

Jacobabad: The Sindh United Party (SUP), led by Maqbool Ahmed Lashari, organized a sit-in protest on the National Highway in Jacobabad to oppose SEPCO's 18-hour daily load shedding. This demonstration led to long lines of vehicles traveling to and from Balochistan, causing significant hardships for travelers enduring the scorching heat. Numerous citizens and party workers participated in the protest, including Haris Lashari, Faqir Niaz Ahmed Hussaini, Majeed Sarki, Parvez Ahmed Lashari, Saqlain Lashari, Mohsin Soomro, Naem Akhtar, Israr Ahmed, and Hafeez Lashari. In his speech, SUP leader Maqbool Lashari emphasized that the 18-hour daily load shedding in Jacobabad has become routine, making life unbearable for residents. He highlighted the severe impact on public and private hospitals, where surgeries are often delayed due to the lack of electricity, posing significant risks to patients' lives. Lashari warned that if the load shedding is not reduced, the protests will intensify and expand.

## TDAP Sukkur Hosts Seminar on Handicrafts to Boost Exports

SUKKUR: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Sukkur held an awareness seminar to explore and promote the handicraft potential of the region. The event aimed to connect local artisans with national exporters to unlock and enhance export opportunities.

under Craft Enterprises Development (CED), generating local sales worth Rs 15 million from July 2023 to June 2024. He emphasized the need for further support, training, and protection to enhance exports. The Senior Vice President of SCCI noted the high demand for Pakistani handicrafts in the US and European markets, suggesting that proper support and training could significantly boost exports. The Director of ICMA Sukkur shared insights into their training programs for women on income generation, savings, and cost management.

The artisans called for the establishment of a common display center in Sukkur, backed by the Provincial or Federal Government, and urged TDAP to promote their work at international exhibitions and delegations. The Deputy Director of TDAP Sukkur proposed that SRSO design brochures showcasing potential products with accurate statistics to aid in national and international promotion. The seminar saw participation from around 50

## Two men injured for resisting robbers in Tando Jam

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: Concerns over public safety have heightened in Tando Jam city following a surge in theft incidents. Recently, in an area along the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas Road, unidentified robbers targeted traders Adnan and Imran Punjabi. The robbers forcefully took their motorcycle, cash, and mobile phones, inflicting injuries on both men when they resisted the robbery attempt. The incident has stirred unrest among local residents, who are increasingly worried about the deteriorating law and order situation in Tando Jam. Speaking to the media, community members expressed frustration over the perceived ineffectiveness of the police in addressing rising crime rates. "This incident has left us deeply concerned about our safety. The robbers have become more brazen, targeting innocent citizens

## Provincial Minister Ali Hassan Zardari commits to reforming Sindh's prisons into rehabilitation centres

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In a bold initiative to reform Sindh's prison system, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, Minister for Jails and the Works and Services Department, has announced sweeping reforms aimed at transforming correctional facilities into centers focused on rehabilitation. Speaking at the graduation ceremony for the 18th Basic Training Course at the Sindh Prisons Staff Training Center in Hyderabad, Zardari outlined a progressive agenda aligned with the directives of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari.



The Minister emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing public service and ensuring that prisons contribute positively to society. He highlighted ongoing efforts to modernize prison infrastructure across Sindh, aiming to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates. Zardari also highlighted a recent operation at Sukkur Central Jail,

where authorities seized contraband items, including mobile phones and scissors, demonstrating the administration's dedication to maintaining strict security measures. In a significant move towards sustainability and improved living conditions, Zardari announced the installation of solar power systems in prisons throughout the province. This initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance inmate welfare and quality of life. Addressing the new societal reintegration graduates, which included 20 female constables, Zardari expressed optimism about the future and encouraged officers to serve with integrity and compassion in their interactions with inmates. This reflects the government's vision of a more humane and effective correctional system. Overall, Zardari's remarks underscore a comprehensive strategy for Sindh's prisons, focusing on skill development, improved living conditions, and a renewed emphasis on rehabilitation and societal reintegration.

## DC Jamshoro Riaz Hussain Wassan condoles sad demise of 13-year-old boy

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro, Riaz Hussain Wassan, visited the home of Azharuddin Gurgez, a 13-year-old boy who tragically drowned in Karachi Wah, to offer his heartfelt condolences. Upon reaching the boy's residence, the Deputy Commissioner met with Azharuddin's father, Dilawar Gurgez, to express his profound sorrow and support during this difficult time. Deputy Commissioner Riaz Hussain Wassan shared the family's grief, conveying his deep sadness over the loss. He assured the family of his unwavering support, emphasizing that he stands with them in their time of mourning and considers the deceased as his own child.



"This is a tragic loss for the entire community," he stated, "and I share in your pain." During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner also offered prayers for Azharuddin's departed soul, asking the Almighty to grant him a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and to bestow patience and strength upon the bereaved family. He stressed the importance of community solidarity in times of such profound loss and encouraged the neighbors and relatives to support the family through their grief. The Deputy Commissioner's visit was a significant gesture, highlighting the importance of compassion and community support in times of tragedy. His empathetic approach was a source of comfort to the grieving family, reaffirming the community's role in standing together during times of sorrow.

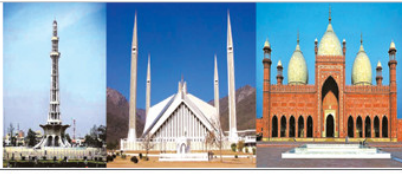


HYDERABAD: Residents of Mehar are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad press club against the poor law and order situation in their city.-RT



HYDERABAD: Residents of Ghummanabad are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad press club for the acceptance of their demands.-RT

# NATIONAL



## PTI To Hold Major Power Show In Islamabad On July 6

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced plans to hold a major rally in Islamabad on July 6, following a meeting with PTI founder in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Tuesday.

PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan addressed the media, urging the nation to join the rally in support of freedom and the rule of law.

"On July 6, PTI will organize a significant rally in Islamabad," stated Khan. "This is a message for the entire nation to step out for freedom and the rule of law. Our fight is to bring the powerful under the law," he added.

Khan further mentioned that this was the first meeting with the PTI founder since Eid. He expressed sorrow over the conditions faced by the PTI leader, stating, "It is deeply saddening to see the nation's leader kept in such harsh conditions. The PTI founder has been fighting against a corrupt system and mafia."

He emphasized the nation's desire for a leader who



stands for the country, noting, "People from all walks of life wanted a leader like him. Over the past 340 days, he has been kept in temperatures ranging from 40 to 45 degrees. No other party, whether PML-N, PPP, JUI, or Jamaat-e-Islami, has a leader like him."

Khan conveyed the PTI founder's message to the nation, highlighting the deteriorating conditions over the past two years since his departure from power. "Electricity and gas have become expensive, and promises made in the budget have been broken. Taxes are not being imposed where they are

needed, and no one is addressing these issues," he stated.

He criticized the budget allocations, mentioning, "The PTI founder reduced the Prime Minister House budget, but Asif Zardari increased it by Rs 700 million. Bills to increase MPs' salaries are being presented in the assembly. We opposed the increase in MNAs' and MPAs' salaries. Taxes on mobile phones have been raised, but no action is taken against the powerful."

Khan also addressed the plight of government employees, stating, "They are being suppressed, and the powerful remain untouched. The prime minister has stated that the nation, highlighting the deteriorating conditions over the past two years since his departure from power."

"Electricity and gas have become expensive, and promises made in the budget have been broken. Taxes are not being imposed where they are

## Maryam's Election Victory Challenged In Tribunal



LAHORE: The Lahore High Court's Election Tribunal (ET) has directed the Election Commission of Pakistan to produce the record of Form-45 related to the Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz.

The court summoned the record as the success of the CM in the general elections has been challenged. Justice Anwar Hussain of the ET judge heard the appeal filed by Mehar Shafiq who contested against Maryam Nawaz from PP 159, Lahore.

Submitting his application, the applicant claimed that the victory notification of Maryam Nawaz is contrary to the facts and should be invalidated. During the proceedings, the CM's lawyers argued that the appeal is not admissible. In response to a query from the tribunal judge, the Election Commission lawyer said that 102 polling stations were set up in the constituency.

The tribunal judge asked why Form-45, carrying the signature of the presiding officer and other candidates, was not uploaded on the website.

The Election Commission's lawyer sought time to produce the original record of Form-45, and the tribunal accepted the request.—RT/Agency

## SSP Abid Baloch vows to continue operations against TMK's criminals and drug dealers

By Abdul Sattar



TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: SSP Abid Baloch of Tando Muhammad Khan has pledged to prioritize establishing peace and security across the district, with a firm focus on cracking down on drug dealers and smugglers. In a statement, SSP Abid Baloch affirmed that stringent measures are being implemented against those involved in illicit drug activities, emphasizing that there will be no leniency towards drug dealers and smugglers.

"Under my leadership, we are conducting targeted operations against drug traffickers throughout the district," stated SSP Abid Baloch. "Numerous arrests have already been made, and cases have been filed against the offenders."

He highlighted significant progress in reducing drug trafficking under his tenure, attributing it to ongoing raids on drug dens and relentless efforts against drug-related crimes.

"The district has witnessed record seizures in recent crackdowns," SSP Abid Baloch added, underscoring the severity of the measures taken against drug dealers and smugglers operating within Tando Muhammad Khan district.

The community's safety and well-being remain a top priority for SSP Abid Baloch, who reiterated his commitment to maintaining law and order and ensuring that those engaged in illegal drug activities face the full force of the law.

operations against drug traffickers throughout the district," stated SSP Abid Baloch. "Numerous arrests have already been made, and cases have been filed against the offenders."

He highlighted significant progress in reducing drug trafficking under his tenure, attributing it to ongoing raids on drug dens and relentless efforts against drug-related crimes.

## DC Tando Allahyar Saleemullah Odho reviews arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar, Saleemullah Odho, directed the officers of relevant departments in the district to ensure peace, cleanliness, provision of drinking water and proper street lighting during the processions and gatherings of Muharram-ul-Haram 2024. He emphasized that these arrangements should be in place to prevent any inconvenience to the public, especially the mourners.

He also urged scholars from all sects to promote brotherhood, sacrifice, tolerance and vigilance during Muharram to handle any untoward incidents promptly. He expressed these views while presiding over a high-level meeting to review the arrangements for Muharram in the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner Office Tando Allahyar. The meeting was attended by SSP Tando Allahyar, Abrez Ali Abbasi, Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Muhammad Ibrahim Almani, Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Sajid Ali Pehoro, Assistant Commissioner Jhandu Marri Shahzad Umair Jarwar, Assistant Commissioner Chamber Abdul Shakoor Solangi, District Health Officer Dr.

Amin Bhatti, Town Committee Chairman, Union Council Chairmen, officers from HESCO, municipal and relevant departments, and scholars from all sects. During the meeting, SSP Tando Allahyar Abrez Ali Abbasi shared that a foolproof security plan has been prepared to maintain peace and order in the district during Muharram. He mentioned that police personnel would be deployed during the processions and gatherings. He also appealed to the scholars to adhere to the given timings for gatherings and processions and to keep a close watch on any disruptive elements.

Amin Bhatti, Town Committee Chairman, Union Council Chairmen, officers from HESCO, municipal and relevant departments, and scholars from all sects. During the meeting, SSP Tando Allahyar Abrez Ali Abbasi shared that a foolproof security plan has been prepared to maintain peace and order in the district during Muharram. He mentioned that police personnel would be deployed during the processions and gatherings. He also appealed to the scholars to adhere to the given timings for gatherings and processions and to keep a close watch on any disruptive elements.

## Punjab Issues SOPs For Majalis During Muharram

LAHORE: Punjab home ministry on Tuesday issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for majalis during Muharramul Haram.

According to directions, walk-through gates installation has been declared mandatory at the sensitive places during Muharramul Haram.

The security of majalis will consist of three layers to avoid any untoward incident. The entry and exit routes of the majalis will be fixed before the programme, while the attendants will be checked with the metal detectors.

The car parking facility will be established at least



200 meters away from the place of majlis, the SOPs read.

The use of loudspeakers will be limited to the majalis and punctuality of the time is also advised.

Expected dates of

Ashura in Pakistan are 16 or 17 July, 2024. Ashura is known as Youm-e-Ashura the tenth day of Muharram. Ashura observes every year in the month of Islamic Date of Muharram 10.—RT/Agency

## Robbers Break Into ATM And Steal Cash In Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT: Robbers broke into an automated teller machine (ATM) of a private bank at Peshawar-Karachi Indus Highway and fled with the cash, media reported on Tuesday, citing police.

According to police, the shrewd suspects broke open

part of the ATM installed outside a gate of a cement factory in Lakki Marwat and fled with the cash.

The exact amount of the looted cash from the ATM remains unknown. The police have launched investigation into the matter.—RT/Agency

## 52nd birthday of senior journalist Ghulam Hussain Chang celebrated in Hingorja

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The 52nd birthday of the Chairman of Khairpur Journalists' Alliance, Ghulam Hussain Chang was celebrated at the Press Club in Hingorja. The event saw a large number of journalists and dignitaries from Ranipur, Seharja, Sagyon, Sobhoro, Debarja, Hingorja and Halani press clubs participating. Speakers at the event included the President of Khairpur Journalists' Alliance, Jamal Mehmood Khuuro, Vice Chairman Bachal Hingoro, Yasin Rajpar, Mian Asadullah Channa, Gulab Siyal, Fayaz Solangi, Zahid Samto, Shaman Rajpar, Aziz Memon, Kashif Shaikh, Moini Sindi and Ashiq Islami. They praised Ghulam Hussain Chang, calling him a hero in the world of journalism who has always been a supporter of the oppressed and the poor. They high-

lighted his dedication to truth and justice through his writing and noted that journalists trust him because of his impeccable character. In 2005, Chang united journalists in the Khairpur district under the banner of Khairpur Journalists' Alliance, creating a strong organization for journalists' rights. The celebration included the participation of journalists Ali Abdullah Sehto, Arbab Sehto, Jam Hanifullah Dharejo, Kifayat Janwari, Baqir Solangi, Alidad Rajpar, Zulfiqar Sehto, Abdul Qadir Haji, Bashir Solangi, Haider Solangi, Aslam Memon, Hakim Sehto, Haq Nawaz Solangi, Gulzar Sehto, Bilawal Soomro, Abdul Mutalib Shambhani, Fazal Mangi, and Momin Jamro. They cut a birthday cake for Ghulam Hussain Chang and presented him with traditional Sindhi gifts including an Ajrak, a cap, and garlands.

## Sujawal's residents decry acute water shortage

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Residents of various neighborhoods and coastal areas in Sujawal staged a protest today against severe water shortages and inadequate supply from irrigation channels. The protest took place on Main Road, where demonstrators gathered to voice their frustrations over the negligence of officials in managing water distribution, particularly through channels like Jati Minor Channel and Tango Nullah.

Prominent figures among the protesters included Tufail Ahmed Qureshi, Adil Laghari, and Abdul Ghani Thaheem. They highlighted that the lack of sufficient water has created significant hardships across the coastal belt, exacerbating difficulties during the ongoing heat wave.

"We demand immediate action to ensure water supply through all essential channels to mitigate further damage and alleviate public suffering," stated one of the protest organizers.

Following negotiations with newly appointed irrigation engineer Najeeb Shah and SDO Mumtaz Mangro, the protest concluded peacefully with assurances of addressing the community's concerns. Residents expressed hope that the authorities would expedite measures to improve water management and ensure reliable supply to affected areas in Sujawal. The protest underscores growing frustrations among locals over persistent water scarcity issues, urging authorities to prioritize sustainable solutions to alleviate the hardships faced by residents.

Following negotiations with newly appointed irrigation engineer Najeeb Shah and SDO Mumtaz Mangro, the protest concluded peacefully with assurances of addressing the community's concerns. Residents expressed hope that the authorities would expedite measures to improve water management and ensure reliable supply to affected areas in Sujawal. The protest underscores growing frustrations among locals over persistent water scarcity issues, urging authorities to prioritize sustainable solutions to alleviate the hardships faced by residents.

Following negotiations with newly appointed irrigation engineer Najeeb Shah and SDO Mumtaz Mangro, the protest concluded peacefully with assurances of addressing the community's concerns. Residents expressed hope that the authorities would expedite measures to improve water management and ensure reliable supply to affected areas in Sujawal. The protest underscores growing frustrations among locals over persistent water scarcity issues, urging authorities to prioritize sustainable solutions to alleviate the hardships faced by residents.

## Chang community demands justice in Talhar dispute

TALHAR: Residents of Mir Muhammad Chang village in Tehsil Tando Ghulam Hyder, Talhar, staged a protest today against influential individuals in their area. The protest was led by Jaffar Chang, Chakar Chang, Nadeem Chang, Achar Chang, Ghanwar Chang, and several others from the village.

According to the protesters, Mir Muhammad Chang village, which has been established on government land in Mirwah for the past 50 years, is facing alleged injustices at the hands of powerful landlords. They claim that false cases have been filed against them, and there have been threats to forcibly evacuate the village.

"We have been residing on this land for five decades



peacefully, and now we face threats and false accusations," said one of the villagers participating in the protest.

The community has appealed to the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court, the Chief Minister of Sindh, and local police officials to intervene and ensure justice in their dispute with the influential landlords. They seek

immediate attention to prevent any forced eviction and to address the legal challenges they are facing.

The protest highlights ongoing tensions over land ownership and rights in rural Sindh, underscoring the community's plea for fair treatment and legal protection in their longstanding residency on government land.—RT

## Shahbandar man demands justice in land dispute

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Abdul Razaq, son of Jamo Bheel and a resident of Tapo Gungani in Taluka Shahbandar, district Sujawal, held a press conference at the Sujawal Press Club to protest the illegal occupation of his agricultural land by influential individuals. He expressed his grievances to journalists, revealing that his 8 acres of land in Deh Ameer Baksh Jamari, Tapo Gungani, has been forcibly taken over by powerful figures who are now threatening his life.

Abdul Razaq described the dire situation, explaining that these influential occupiers are using their power to intimidate and harass him,

making it impossible for him to reclaim his land. "These individuals are not only occupying my land but also posing serious threats to my life and the safety of my family," he lamented.

During the press conference, Abdul Razaq made a fervent appeal to higher authorities, including SSP Sujawal and Deputy Commissioner Sujawal, urging them to intervene and help reclaim his land from the illegal occupiers. He called for legal action to be taken against the perpetrators, stressing the need for justice and the return of his rightful property.

"I am pleading with the authorities to take immediate action against

these powerful occupiers. My family and I have been living in fear, and we need the law to protect us and ensure that justice is served," Abdul Razaq stated.

His appeal highlights a broader issue of land disputes and the misuse of power by influential individuals in the region. Abdul Razaq's case underscores the urgent need for authorities to address such grievances and ensure that justice is accessible to all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic status.

The press conference concluded with a call for community support and solidarity, as Abdul Razaq continues his fight for justice and the rightful return of his land.

# METRO KARACHI

## CM Sindh Names 10 New Special Assistants

KARACHI: Chief Minister (CM) Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah expanded his cabinet by appointing 10 more Special Assistants, media reported.

According to a notification issued here, Lal Chand Ukran, Sardar Faraz Raja, Qasim Naveed Qamar, Waqar Mehdi, Rajveer Singh, Mansoor Shahani, Usman Ghani, Abdul Jabbar Khan, Junaid Baloch, and Muhammad Saleem Baloch have been appointed as special assistants by the chief minister.

Meanwhile, the Sindh government also appointed six more spokespersons, including MPA Saadia Javed,



who has been approved by the PPP leadership. Saadia Javed has been given the responsibility of advocating for women's rights in the Sindh Assembly.

Zaman, Arsalan Sheikh, Muhammad Ali Rashid, Sarmad Palijo, and Abdul Wahid Halepoto have also been appointed as Sindh government's spokespersons.—RT

## Abbasi Shaheed Hospital In Crisis: Shortages Of Medicine And Staff Plague Operations

KARACHI: Abbasi Shaheed Hospital is facing a severe shortage of life-saving medicines and staff as only Rs 900,000 has been allocated for medicines in the current fiscal year, media reported.

Sources privy to the development said that only 50 of the required staff is available to treat the 1,100 patients who visit the OPD daily. They added that out of 154 posts for Resident Medical Officers, only 89 are filled, and out of 200-250 nursing staff positions, only 93 staff nurses are available.

Abbasi Shaheed Hospital - a medical facility administered by Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) - also lacks life-saving drugs as millions of rupees are required for the purchase of medicines.

Dr. Faisal said that the hospital has been facing staff and medicine shortages for many years, with no new



hires since 2012. He said that the hospital is being run despite limited resources, adding that they have arranged medicines for the OPD themselves.

Dr. Faisal said that the hospital needs more than Rs 190 million to meet its drug requirements.

Earlier, it was reported that along with

medicine shortage, CT Scan and X-ray machines are also not functional for nearly four years. The X-ray machine is partially functional but it has no film and physicians take photos through mobile phones to examine the patients' fractures.

Sources said that Karachi Medical and Dental College was also facing financial crisis, whereas, its teaching hospital was facing scarcity of funds.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Ms. Mahnoor Fatma, Chairperson of SKVM Foundation, is presenting a traditional Ajrak to a worker during the anti-drug awareness seminar and walk that was held at the Skill Development Academy.—RT

# EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, July 03, 2024



## Persistent inflation silences the government's economic spin doctors

The recent inflation figures are a stark reminder of the economic turmoil that continues to plague the nation. The June inflation rate, at 13.8 percent, marks the first increase after three months of decline, a clear sign that the government's battle against rising prices is far from over. This development spells trouble for the administration, which rightly sees inflation as a formidable adversary, eroding public support and economic stability alike.

The harsh reality the government faces is compounded by factors beyond its control. International fuel prices, for instance, have forced a domestic increase in fuel costs, which inevitably drives inflation higher. Furthermore, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has mandated hikes in power tariffs and additional taxation, both of which will further inflate costs for consumers.

In a recent move, the State Bank of Pakistan reduced the interest rate to 20.50 percent from 22 percent. This decision reflects a shift in strategy, though the IMF continues to advocate for high interest rates as a cure-all for inflation. However, this approach neglects the significant impact of rising oil prices, leading to economic stagnation. High interest rates suppress growth, with the government's savings and spending taking a hit, and crucial development programs being cut under IMF pressure. This, in turn, condemns the nation to a period of sluggish growth.

Despite the efforts of the government's economic spin doctors to paint a rosy picture, the reality is that the economy remains in disarray. Average inflation for the year stands at 23.4 percent, a slight improvement from the previ-

ous year's 29.2 percent, but still alarmingly high. The slight slowdown in inflation decline suggests that the monetary measures employed may have exhausted their effectiveness, leaving intrinsic factors like oil prices to drive inflation.

If the IMF's approach continues unchallenged, it risks further damaging an



already fragile economy. The government must recognize this and take proactive steps to address the underlying issues before it is too late. The path forward requires a balanced strategy that not only controls inflation but also fosters sustainable economic growth. Persistent inflation silences the government's economic spin doctors.

The recent inflation figures are a stark reminder of the economic turmoil that continues to plague the nation. The June inflation rate, at 13.8 percent, marks the first increase after three months of decline, a clear sign that the government's battle against rising prices is far from over. This development spells trouble for the administration, which rightly sees inflation as a formidable adversary, eroding public support and economic stability alike.

The harsh reality the government faces is compounded by factors beyond

its control. International fuel prices, for instance, have forced a domestic increase in fuel costs, which inevitably drives inflation higher. Furthermore, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has mandated hikes in power tariffs and additional taxation, both of which will further inflate costs for consumers.

In a recent move, the State Bank of Pakistan reduced the interest rate to 20.50 percent from 22 percent. This decision reflects a shift in strategy, though the IMF continues to advocate for high interest rates as a cure-all for inflation. However, this approach neglects the significant impact of rising oil prices, leading to economic stagnation. High interest rates suppress growth, with the government's savings and spending taking a hit, and crucial development programs being cut under IMF pressure. This, in turn, condemns the nation to a period of sluggish growth.

Despite the efforts of the government's economic spin doctors to paint a rosy picture, the reality is that the economy remains in disarray. Average inflation for the year stands at 23.4 percent, a slight improvement from the previous year's 29.2 percent, but still alarmingly high. The slight slowdown in inflation decline suggests that the monetary measures employed may have exhausted their effectiveness, leaving intrinsic factors like oil prices to drive inflation. If the IMF's approach continues unchallenged, it risks further damaging an already fragile economy. The government must recognize this and take proactive steps to address the underlying issues before it is too late. The path forward requires a balanced strategy that not only controls inflation but also fosters sustainable economic growth.

# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Property Dealers Association Vice President, Khurram Khokhar is addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad press club about his Association's demands from the government.-RT

## DC Umerkot Naveed Rehman Larik reviews Muharram arrangements

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Deputy Commissioner of Umerkot, Naveed Rehman Larik, has directed all relevant departmental officials in the district to ensure the restoration of law and order, cleanliness, and provision of drinking water during Muharram-ul-Haram. He instructed that all necessary arrangements be completed promptly for the mourning processions and congregations throughout the district. He emphasized to religious scholars and leaders of all sects the importance of maintaining religious harmony, unity, and peace, and staying in close contact with the district administration and other relevant departments to avoid any difficult situations. These remarks were made during a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Umerkot to review the arrangements for



Muharram-ul-Haram. The meeting was attended by SSP Umerkot Asif Raza Baloch, Captain Wahid bin Rashid of Pakistan Army Chhor Cantt, SR Wasem of Muhammad Aslam Bhatti, Pakistan Rangers Sindh, Chairman of District Council Umerkot Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli, Assistant Commissioner Umerkot Rajib Ali Sathio, Assistant Commissioner Samaro and Pithoro Sanjay Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Kunri Muhammad Khan, Executive Engineer Public Health Engi-

## SUP rallies against rampant inflation in Sehwan



By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: The Sindh United Party (SUP) took out a protest rally against the rising prices of essential commodities, particularly petrol and diesel from the party office to the Sehwan Press Club. The protest, led by members of the SUP, included marches through various localities to highlight their grievances. At the Sehwan Press Club, intense protests were observed against the ongoing price hikes, emphasizing the severe impact on the poor and working-class communities. During the demonstrations, speeches were delivered by SUP leaders including Nawaz Ali Rind, Abdul Haqueem Buzd, Faraed Bughio, Imam Ali Jatoti, and others. They criticized the federal government for continuously increasing fuel prices, which have escalated the cost of living and pushed many marginalized individuals into dire economic circumstances, compelling some to contemplate drastic measures such as suicide. The failure of the government to provide relief to the public amidst these repeated price hikes has intensified public discontent, prompting strong protests from the lower socio-economic classes. They urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take notice of the issue, issuing a directive to address the plight of the lower classes and urging for immediate action to alleviate their suffering.

## District Council Thatta approves budget for fiscal year 2024-25

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In a recent session, the Thatta District Council approved its fiscal year 2024 budget amounting to 719.4 million rupees, projecting a surplus of 500,000 rupees. The budget was passed with a majority vote under the leadership of Chairman Abdul Hameed Panhwar. The meeting addressed several urgent local issues, including security concerns, corruption, hoarding, black marketing, and revenue recovery challenges. Chairman Abdul Hameed Panhwar emphasized that 40% of the budget will be allocated to student aid programs, demonstrating a strong commitment to education. Only 5% of the budget has been allocated for salaries and pensions, indicating efforts to minimize administrative costs and prioritize district welfare. Panhwar underscored the council's commitment to reducing unnecessary expenditures to maximize the budget's impact. Council member Abdul Khaliq Soomro expressed disappointment over the Sindh government's lack of financial support for the families of the 20 Jokhio community members who tragically perished in a recent road accident near the Shah Noorani shrine. He criticized officials for ignoring the concerns of elected representatives and failing to fulfill their responsibilities. Soomro also highlighted issues in Thatta's agricultural sector, particularly the exploitation of farmers by suppliers charging exorbitant prices for fertilizers, seeds, and medicines. Councillor Ahmed Palari raised concerns about land allocations in Kohistan, particularly the lack of benefits to local communities from 25,000 acres, including 5,000 acres near Lohani Kot designated for coal mining leases. He cautioned that unrest seen in other regions could spread to Thatta if these issues remain unresolved. Additionally, members Mansoor Lashari and Salam Tanoli addressed the severe water crisis affecting Thatta, which is adversely impacting agriculture, drinking water supplies, and daily life and business operations in the district. They called for immediate actions to tackle issues such as overbilling, overloading, and staff negligence exacerbating the water crisis. The approved budget reflects the council's strategic approach to balancing fiscal responsibility with addressing critical social and economic challenges in Thatta.

## DC Matiari holds an open katchery in New Saeedabad

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: The district administration of Matiari organized an open katchery at the Government Boys High School in New Saeedabad, aimed at addressing local grievances and providing immediate solutions to community issues. Residents from both urban and rural areas of New Saeedabad came forward to voice their concerns on various aspects of district governance. Deputy Commissioner Matiani presided over the session, listening attentively to the complaints and grievances raised by the public. He emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability in resolving community issues promptly. "Every officer present here today is accountable to the public. We are here to ensure that your problems are addressed and resolved effectively," assured the Deputy Commissioner. During the open katchery, residents expressed concerns regarding deficiencies in bureaucratic delays in public services. Issues related to education, healthcare, road maintenance, and water supply were prominently highlighted by the attendees.



"In our rural areas, access to clean drinking water remains a major challenge," remarked a concerned resident during the proceedings. Another resident voiced frustrations over inadequate healthcare facilities in the locality, urging swift improvements. Responding to the concerns raised, Deputy Commissioner Matiani instructed local officials and department heads to take immediate action on each complaint. "I expect all officers to prioritize these issues and work diligently to provide tangible solutions," he directed sternly. The open katchery served as a platform for constructive dialogue between the district administration and the local community, reinforcing the principles of public accountability and participatory governance. Residents appreciated the opportunity to directly engage with government officials and voiced optimism that their grievances would be effectively addressed in the coming days.

As the session concluded, Deputy Commissioner Matiani reaffirmed his commitment to holding regular interactions with the public to ensure responsive and accountable governance in Matiari district. He pledged to follow up on the issues raised and ensure that improvements are implemented swiftly for the benefit of all residents.

## Kapri community youth shot dead in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Shock and grief engulfed village Kano Khan Kapri in the jurisdiction of Bodar Farm Police Station as 25-year-old shopkeeper Haq Nawaz Kapri was tragically shot dead in his shop late at night. The incident, which occurred under mysterious circumstances, has left the community reeling. Local residents, deeply shaken by the incident, expressed their shock and sorrow over the loss of a promising young member of their community. "Haq Nawaz was a well-respected individual who contributed positively to our village," remarked a neighbor who preferred to remain anonymous. "We demand justice for him and his grieving family."

The tragic incident has underscored the pressing need for enhanced security measures in the area and swift action from law enforcement to ensure the safety and well-being of residents. The community awaits further developments in the investigation, hopeful that the perpetrators will be swiftly brought to justice. According to eyewitnesses and preliminary police reports, unidentified assailants entered Haq Nawaz Kapri's shop and engaged in a confrontation with him. Despite initial resistance from Kapri, the situation escalated into a fatal shooting, with the assailants fleeing the scene immediately afterward. "The assailants shot

## Fida Hussain Baladi assumes charge as Director Information Sukkur Division

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Newly appointed Director of Information for Sukkur Division, Fida Hussain Baladi, has assumed his responsibilities and commenced work. During his introductory meeting with officers and staff members, he emphasized that the Sindh Government has successfully executed several development projects in the Sukkur region. He underscored the Information Department's role in disseminating information about these accomplishments to the public. Mr. Baladi urged his team to work diligently and maintain strong coordination with journalists. He highlighted that the Sindh Government has completed significant projects across education, health, and social sectors in Sukkur, thereby enhancing the region's economic, educational, and healthcare significance. He directed officers to foster robust relationships with media outlets and journalists to counter any misinformation effectively and to showcase the government's achievements accurately to the public.



# SPORTS



## Pakistan's cueist triumphs in Asian 6-Red Snooker Championship



KARACHI: Adding a new feather to his hat, Pakistan's Awas Munir defeated Hong Kong cueist Nansen Wan to win the Asian 6-Red Snooker Championship in Riyadh on Tuesday.

Munir secured a 6-3 victory against his opponent. The game was tied at 2-2 and Munir won three sets straight and made his lead 5-2. In the eighth frame, Nansen made a comeback.

However, in the ninth frame, Munir displayed excellent control and potting to clinch the victory. Munir won the match with the scores 0-65, 35-26, 27-36, 38-20, 0-65, 13-46, 8-60, 34-0, 27-40.

Remember, Munir defeated countryman Asjad Iqbal 5-2 in the semi-final yesterday. He secured victory by winning five consecutive frames after initially trailing 0-2.

Earlier, Pakistan's Mohammad Hammad beat compatriot Ahsan Ramzan 4-3 in the final of the Asian U21 Snooker Championship. Ramzan was the defending champion after winning the trophy in Iran last year.

Earlier, Hammad defeated Shawn Lee of Hong Kong in the last four clash. The semi-final, which consisted of best-of-seven frames, saw Akhtar emerge victorious with a score of 4-1. Hammad's victory came with scores of 54-64, 21-59, 61-15, 10-86, and 35-63.

Hammad had also defeated Ranveer Duggal of India 4-3 in the quarters.

Hammad also remained undefeated during the group stage of the tournament.

Ramzan also didn't lose a single match in the championship before the final against Hammad. —Agency

## Shaheen Afridi reacts to national team's "surgery" reports

LAHORE: Pakistan ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi on Monday, reacted to the reports regarding a "major surgery" of the national team's run at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

The left-arm pacer interacted with the media in London and was asked to opine on a "major surgery" expected in the national team's setup.

"Whose surgery, Is somebody ill?" asked Shaheen. "Keep me out of politics. Please ask questions related to cricket," he insisted.

The pacer then claimed that he did not know about any potential change in the team.

Shaheen Afridi also commented on India winning the recently-concluded T20



World Cup 2024 after beating South Africa in a nerve-testing final and termed them a deserved winner.

"I watched the match and enjoyed it and both the teams played well. On the day whichever team handles the pressure wins. India played a good brand of cricket and deserved to win," Shaheen Afridi told reporters.

The left-arm pacer then acknowledged the need to address the shortcomings of the team following their early exit from the mega event.

"Strong teams compete in the World Cup and they come after going through a process. I think we need to correct few things and if we

work hard, results will be with us," Afridi said.

It is pertinent to mention that the Pakistan team is in hot water following their dismal run in the T20 World Cup 2024.

The 2009 champions, in a first, were knocked out from the group stage of the tournament, majorly because of their upset defeat against the USA, followed by a gut-wrenching defeat against arch-rivals India.

The back-to-back defeats had put Pakistan on the verge of an early exit from the tournament while the abandonment of the crucial group-stage fixture between USA and Ireland officially marked the end of their campaign in T20 World Cup 2024. —Agency

## Mercurial Pakistan qualify for T20 World Cup 2026, confirms ICC



DUBAI: With the recent conclusion of the T20 World Cup, the 12 teams for the next edition of the mega event - which will take place in 2026 in India and Sri Lanka - have been finalised.

The upcoming ICC tournament will also have 20 teams, divided into four groups of five sides each.

The first two spots of the event have been taken by India and Sri Lanka as hosts. The next 10 spots were determined by the Super Eight qualifiers at the 2024 and T20I team rankings.

Through this, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, South Africa and the West Indies all secured 2026 T20 World Cup spots as well as United States.

However, the Babar Azam's side managed to secure a place in the next edition with their T20I ranking (7th), alongside New Zealand (6th) and Ireland in 2026 in India and Sri Lanka - have been finalised.

Meanwhile, the final eight teams for the 2026 World Cup will be confirmed by regional qualifiers.

There are two qualification spots for Africa, Asia and Europe and one spot for Americas and East-Asia Pacific regions.

India secured the T20 World Cup 2024 trophy after beating South Africa by seven runs.

Rohit Sharma's men joined England and West Indies to win the T20 World Cup title two times as they won their first in 2007 by beating Pakistan in the final. —Agency

## Shoaib Malik believes Form 47 Babar Azam "can't fit" in any top T20 International side

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain and seasoned all-rounder Shoaib Malik did not mince his words to criticise ace batter Babar Azam following the national team's below-par performance in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

In a video, which went viral on social media, Shoaib Malik claimed that despite being labelled as Pakistan's best batter, Babar Azam can not make a cut in the T20 International sides of top cricket-playing nations like Australia, India or England.

"Who is our best player? Our best player is Babar Azam. I am just talking about the top 4-5 teams. Can Babar fit in the playing



XI of those teams? Of Australia, India or of England in just this particular format? The answer is NO!" he said while speaking at a talk show.

Although the video went viral and caught the attention of cricket fans today, it was recorded on June 27 when India thrashed England by 68 runs in the second semi-final of the T20 World Cup 2024.

Earlier, former Indian

cricketer and legendary opener Virender Sehwag made a similar claim regarding Babar Azam, stating if the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) decides to remove Babar Azam as white-ball captain then he should not be considered for selection in T20Is.

"But as a leader you have to think whether this game is useful for his team. If not, then demote yourself and send someone who can play big shots in the six overs and get the team 50-60 runs," stated Sehwag. "I may sound harsh, but if the captain changes, Babar doesn't deserve a place in the T20 team. His performances are not as per the demands of today's T20 cricket," he added. —Agency

## Pakistan team 'deserves' criticism, says Rizwan after T20 World Cup debacle



PESHAWAR: Admitting as well. Rizwan said it was disappointing for the team members as well as they could not fulfill the nation's dreams. After the T20 World Cup debacle, the Green Shirts could not claim that they wielded strong batting and bowling, he added.

On grouping, he said the speculations about bias in the team were not true as they all played for the green flag.

On Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi's remarks of need for "major surgery" in Pakistan team, the right-handed batsman said, "When you get ill, you get a surgery. He's chairman of the board and it is his right. It's his right whom he wants to retain and whom not." —Agency

PESHAWAR: Admitting the shortcomings, opening batter Mohammad Rizwan said Tuesday the Pakistan cricket team deserved criticism over dismal performance in the T20 World Cup 2024.

"After the poor show, we deserve criticism. Those who can't face the flak, cannot succeed," the right-handed batsman said talking to media in Peshawar.

He said there was no single reason behind a team's defeat. There were multiple "weaknesses" which led to Pakistan's early exit from the tournament, he maintained.

It should be noted that Pakistan exited from the T20 World Cup at the hands of minnows US

## Mohammad Amir among 12 players granted NOCs

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday, granted No Objection Certificate (NOC) to 12 players including Mohammad Amir to participate in foreign leagues across the globe.

The 12 players granted NOC by the cricketing body include centrally-contracted players as well as those, who have not represented the country in a long time.

Experienced pacer Mohammad Amir, who came out of retirement for the T20 World Cup 2024, is poised to feature in the County Championship from July 4 to 20. Whereas, leg-spinner Usama Mir will participate in The Hundred from



July 23 to August 20. Pakistan's first-choice right-arm pacer Haris Shadab Khan, Mohammad Haris, Salman Ali Agha and mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed will participate in the Major League Cricket (MLC) 2024, have also been given the green signal by the board.

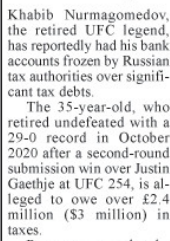
Left-handed batter

Fakhar Zaman has been granted NOC from 29 August to 6 October to participate in the Caribbean Premier League.

The set of players, granted the NOCs by the PCB, also features Sohail Maqsood and Sharjeel Khan, who last represented Pakistan in 2021. The duo will participate in the World Championship of Legends from July 3 to 13.

It is worth mentioning here that the PCB has a policy which prohibits centrally contracted players from participating in more than two leagues besides the Pakistan Super League (PSL). —Agency

## Khabib Nurmagomedov's bank accounts frozen by Russia



Khabib Nurmagomedov, the retired UFC legend, has reportedly had his bank accounts frozen by Russian tax authorities over significant tax debts.

The 35-year-old, who retired undefeated with a 29-0 record in October 2020 after a second-round submission win over Justin Gaethje at UFC 254, is alleged to owe over £2.4 million (\$3 million) in taxes.

Reports suggest that the former UFC champion has diversified into various business ventures post-retirement.

However, these ventures appear to have been less successful than his fighting career, leading to his current financial predicament.

Adding to his troubles, police in Russia's Dagestan region recently raided a fight club linked to his late father, Abulmanap Nurmagomedov, as part of an investigation into suspected supporters of a terrorist cell.

Despite these controversies, rumours of Khabib's potential return to the Octagon have persisted.

There were claims that he could make a comeback for UFC 300 after the sport's top officials allegedly reached out.

However, Khabib has remained firm on his retirement.

"I told Ali [his manager], it doesn't matter who calls you, but never call me about a fight," he stated to MMA Inkie.

As Khabib navigates these financial and personal challenges, the MMA world watches closely, wondering if the undefeated champion might ever return to the ring. —Agency

## Face of the Day



Name: Sumair Sheikh  
Location: Karachi  
About me: Show me the money!  
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Shakira concludes 'best' month with wishes of 'love and friendship'



Shakira just revealed how she spent the month of June, also famous for being pride month.

As everyone steps into the month of July and pride month concludes the Hips Don't Lie singer took to her official Instagram account to express her sentiments.

Dressed in a unique black and gold codd top, her collar and the border of its sleeves, had the colours of the rainbow on it, which is a depiction of the LGBTQ+ community and their rainbow flag.

"Hope everyone had the best pride month!" the Waka Waka hit-maker captioned her post.

She continued, "Forever supporting equality, freedom to love and friendship!"

Rocking her curly hair, she uploaded to selfies, the first one with a wide smile while the second one being a pose for a flying kiss towards her followers.

In the comments section, many were quick to comment their love and praises for the Colombian singer, as one fan wrote, "Shakira you will always be the favorite."

A notable comment was from Donatella Versace, who commented, "You are an angel @shakira love you so much."

## Cardi B tells fans to 'shut up' after on-stage outburst at BET Experience



Cardi B came to justify her actions after a video showing her cursing at her production team went viral.

During her performance at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, where she headlined the BET Experience concert ahead of Sunday's BET Awards, Cardi encountered multiple technical issues.

In a viral video, the rapper can be seen cursing her production team mid-performance.

"Y'all messing up my pyros, the fans is off, y'all messing up my music. What am I paying y'all for? Turn my fan on, bitch." Cardi can be heard in the video.

This outburst sparked controversy with fans criticizing her behavior. One X user wrote, "No one should ever be disrespected like this in a workplace."

However, taking to X Cardi responded to the criticism, explaining that she paid 350,000 dollars upfront for the show's production elements, including pyrotechnics and fans, which were not properly managed.

"Girl shut up, when you do a show you don't pay after you pay before. I paid 350,000 up front the least they could do is get my pyro ready and turn the fans on because guess what??? At the end of the day that money is not returnable..." the rapper wrote.

Cardi added, "don't half ass my show because you comfortable when I definitely don't half ass when it comes to paying, don't tell do a show you don't pay after you pay before. I paid 350,000 up front the least they could do is get my pyro ready and turn the fans on because guess what??? At the end of the day that money is not returnable..." the rapper wrote.

# THE HEARTLAND



## PPP Umerkot condemns Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui for issuing remarks against Shaheed ZA Bhutto

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) District Umerkot staged a protest demonstration from the People's Secretariat to Veero By-pass Road against MQM leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui for making derogatory remarks about Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The protest was attended by PPP District Umerkot leaders including Burhanuddin Kumbhar, Information Secretary PPP Umerkot District, City President Umerkot Ghansham Das, Youth District General Secretary Manthar Arisar, Moti Meghani, Shodan Kohli, Hoto Kohli, Moleedino Bajir, Ashraf Bajir, Ejaz Soomro, Raja Ramchand Malhi, Lachman Oad, Rajesh Oad, Jeevat Oad and other party workers. In their speeches, PPP leaders Burhanuddin Kumbhar, Ghansham Das and Manthar Arisar condemned the inflammatory statements made by MQM leaders against Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in strong terms. They demanded that MQM abandon its politics of blackmailing



and hatred. They questioned whether Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui would also demand a judicial commission for MQM's target killing and death squads. They emphasized that the nation can no longer be misled in the name of ethnicity and hatred and urged the government and state institutions to take notice of MQM's nefarious intentions. Speaking at the protest rally, PPP Information Secretary Burhanuddin

## Dadu Police Arrest Three Criminals

By Javed Laghari



DADU: SHO of B-Section Police Station, Inspector Intesham Jamali, along with Head Muharrar Shah Nawaz Wright, addressed a press conference on Tuesday regarding recent developments in a criminal case. The police officials informed that on June 27, 2024, a fatal clash between two groups of the Gopang community resulted in the death of one individual and injuries to three others.

Following the incident, a case was promptly registered, and the Dadu Police launched an investigation leading to the arrest of three suspects involved in the altercation. The arrested individuals have been identified as Safdar son of Muhammad Hassan Gopang, Azeem son of Taj Muhammad

## SUP protests against inept performance of Municipal Committee Bolhari

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: Sindh United Party (SUP) Kotri Taluka organized a protest camp at Municipal Committee Bolhari today, denouncing alleged malpractices including the issuance of fake certificates to Afghans and the municipality's failure to provide adequate clean water and sanitation services. The protest, spearheaded by SUP Kotri Taluka President Khalid Hussain Lashari, Secretary Abdul Latif Bhatti, and Information Secretary Mir Murtaza Rind, drew attention to several issues plaguing the local administration.

Joining the demonstration were MC Bolhari President Mir Buledi, Vice President Umar Jatoi, Secretary Ghulam Sarwar Burro, Khalid Bhatti, and other concerned



citizens. They voiced strong objections against the alleged issuance of fraudulent certificates to non-residents and demanded strict action against the responsible municipal staff. "We demand a thorough audit of the municipality's annual budget, which amounts to crores of rupees," stated Khalid Hussain Lashari, highlighting concerns over financial mismanagement and corruption within the municipal authority. Furthermore, the protesters urged authorities to take immediate measures to restore cleanliness and sanitation services in Bolhari, emphasizing the municipality's obligation to effectively utilize public funds for the benefit of residents. The SUP's protest underscores growing discontent over governance issues in Bolhari, urging transparency, accountability, and improved service delivery in local administration practices.

## Daulatpur Police stops Mufti Ubaidullah Dahri from delivering speech in village Mitha Khan Jokhio

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: The residents of Mitha Khan Jokhio staged a protest demonstration against the Daulatpur Police for preventing Mufti Ubaidullah Dahri from delivering a speech at a scheduled program in their village. The protesters expressed their frustration and anger over the police's sudden intervention, which they deemed unjust and unwarranted.

The protest leaders claimed that they had obtained permission from the police a month prior for Mufti Ubaidullah Dahri's speech. However, the police unexpectedly stopped the event at the last moment.

"We followed all necessary procedures and received approval well in advance. This abrupt decision is both disappointing and unfair," stated one of the protest leaders.

The demonstrators condemned the actions of the Daulatpur Police, accusing them of acting without just cause. They demanded that the concerned authorities take immediate notice of the incident and hold the responsible officials accountable for their actions. "We urge the higher authorities to investigate this matter and ensure that such arbitrary decisions are not repeated," said another protestor.

The protest saw participation from a large number of villagers who stood in solidarity with Mufti Ubaidullah Dahri and voiced their discontent with the police's actions. The event highlighted the community's demand for respect towards their rights to organize and participate in peaceful gatherings without undue interference.

The protesters vowed to continue their demonstrations until justice is served and their grievances are addressed. This incident underscores the ongoing tensions between the residents and local authorities, calling for a more transparent and respectful approach to handling community events.

## Nawabshah newlyweds Mariam and Shahbaz Ali demand protection



By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: Mariam, daughter of Shah Nawaz Malik from Shahpur Chakar's Kamal Shah Colony, and Shahbaz Ali, son of Muhammad Yousif from Nawabshah's Golimar, staged a protest today demanding protection from authorities. The newly married couple expressed concern over threats they have been receiving following their marriage, which they assert was a decision made by their own free will.

"We urge the authorities to intervene and ensure our safety," stated Mariam and Shahbaz during the demonstration. The couple emphasized that the threats from Mariam's relatives have created a sense of insecurity for them, prompting their appeal for immediate protection. They called on concerned officials to take notice of their situation and provide necessary security measures to prevent any potential harm.

The protest underscores the couple's plea for safeguarding their rights and personal choices amidst familial opposition, highlighting the need for authorities to uphold their safety and well-being during this sensitive period.

## DC Yasir Bhatti reviews health facilities in Badin



By Raja Zafar Iqbal and Jibrin Talpur

BADIN: Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti chaired a meeting to address health-related issues on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by representatives from the health department, PPHI, Indus Hospital, and various social organizations dedicated to healthcare. Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti emphasized the importance of dedicating oneself to the welfare of the people, stating that history remembers those who serve selflessly. He praised doctors as modern-day messiahs and stressed that their duty is a fundamental right of the people. He directed the social organizations to collaborate closely with the District Health Officer (DHO) and submit progress reports regularly. Instructions from the DHO office were to be followed rigorously to ensure effective resolution of health-related challenges through dialogue. Furthermore, he instructed district and tehsil health officers to ensure the presence of all doctors and paramedical staff in hospitals during the mourning period of Muharram. He emphasized zero tolerance for medicine shortages in any hospital. The meeting was attended by District Health Officer Dr. Zaheeruddin Memon, Civil Hospital MS Dr. Mir Akhtar Talpur, PPHI District Manager B. Razia Ajan, District Information Officer Sarfaraz Samo, along with Dr. Mumtaz Ali Chaudhry, Dr. Gulab Kashmiri, Dr. Abbas Ali Shah, District Manager of HANDS Haider Panwar, Rescue 1122 In-charge Abdul Razak Soomro, and other concerned officials and leaders from social organizations.

## DC Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali condoles with family of 6-year-old Tahira

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Deputy Commissioner of Ghotki, Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali, expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family of 6-year-old Tahira, who tragically died after being bitten by stray dogs in the village of Shams Hyderi near Uburo.

Upon learning of the incident, Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali visited the grieving family to offer his support and sympathies. He expressed profound sorrow over the untimely and tragic death of the young girl. "This is a heart-wrenching incident, and I stand with Tahira's family in

their time of grief," he stated. In response to the tragedy, the DC Ghotki has directed ADC-I Liaquat Ali Kalhor to submit a detailed report on the incident. Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali has also ordered an immediate anti-rabies operation in the district to prevent such incidents in the future.

"We must take swift and decisive action to ensure the safety of our children and the entire community. An anti-rabies operation will be conducted to control the stray dog population and prevent further tragedies," he announced. The Deputy Commissioner's visit and prompt actions underscore the importance of addressing public safety concerns and ensuring that such preventable incidents do not recur. The community has been urged to cooperate with the authorities during the anti-rabies campaign and to report any stray dog sightings to help mitigate the risk.

## Jaffaria Alliance Pakistan leads protest in Daulatpur

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Tensions flared in village Jumo Khan Lashari near Qazi Ahmed as residents, led by Jaffaria Alliance Pakistan Nawabshah, Maulana Ameer Hussain Sajidi, Ayaz Lashari, Muharram Lashari, and others, staged a protest demonstration



against the closure of a crucial road leading to their village. The closure, allegedly enforced by influential figure Ishaq Rahu, has severely hindered residents' access to essential services during emergencies.

Addressing the gathered protesters, Maulana Ameer Hussain Sajidi denounced the arbitrary closure of the government-mandated route. "The closure of this road has imposed undue hardships on our community, especially during critical times when swift access to medical and other essential services is paramount," he declared passionately. Ayaz Lashari and

Muharram Lashari echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the urgent need for the concerned authorities to intervene and rectify the situation promptly. "We demand that the occupation of this public thoroughfare be immediately removed, allowing unfettered access for all residents of Jumo Khan Lashari," Ayaz Lashari asserted firmly.

The protest highlighted widespread community dissatisfaction with the road closure, which has disrupted daily life and posed significant challenges during emergencies. Residents expressed frustration over the lack of action from local authorities to resolve the issue, calling for swift and decisive measures to reopen the vital route. "We urge the relevant authorities to take immediate notice of our plight and ensure that justice is served by reopening the road without further delay," urged Muharram Lashari, amid chants of solidarity from the gathered crowd. The protest by Jaffaria Alliance Pakistan underscores the community's determination to uphold their rights and access to public infrastructure. As tensions escalate, residents remain resolute in their demand for justice and the restoration of unrestricted access to their village.

## Tando Adam growers decry shortage of water in Sui Kandhar Branch

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: The local growers of Tando Adam continued their protest demonstration against the ongoing water shortage in the Sui Kandhar Branch, gathering at Qasir Ghot stop on Tuesday. The protesting growers, including prominent figures such as PPP Councillor Imran Brohi, Ibrahim Hakro, PML-F leader Muhammad Qasim Hakro, Nazir Pathan, Saeed Brohi, and others, voiced their frustrations and concerns to the media.

The protesters highlighted that water theft from the Sui Kandhar Branch has been rampant for the past 20 years, severely impacting the agricultural productivity of the region. "Our fields

have turned barren, and our crops are dying due to the lack of water, yet the authorities remain indifferent," said PPP Councillor Imran Brohi. He added that the negligence of the concerned authorities has led to the desolation of thousands of acres of agricultural land, particularly in the tail-end areas.

Muhammad Qasim Hakro from PML-F emphasized the long-standing issue of water mismanagement and the authorities' failure to address the growers' concerns. "For two decades, we have been suffering from this water shortage. The authorities' lack of action is unacceptable," he stated.

Nazir Pathan and Saeed Brohi echoed these sentiments, calling for immediate

intervention from higher authorities. They demanded that the issue of water theft be addressed and that measures be taken to ensure a fair distribution of water to all farmers in the region. "If our demands are not met, we will have no choice but to escalate our protests," warned Saeed Brohi.

The growers' demonstration underscored the critical situation faced by the farming community in Tando Adam. The protesters urged the higher authorities to take swift action to resolve the water shortage and prevent further agricultural damage. They reiterated their commitment to continue the protests until their grievances are adequately addressed and a sustainable solution is implemented.

## Jan Muhammad Dahri demands pensioners' rights

By Ayaz Latif

MAQSOODO RIND: Jan Muhammad Dahri, President of the All Sindh Government Retired Pensioners' Welfare Organization, issued a stern statement demanding the protection of pension rights for widows and orphans under the Sindh Government. Expressing grave concern, he criticized the decision to halt pensions for widows and orphans above the age of 90, attributing it to unjustified policy changes rather than genuine pension reforms.

In his statement released on Tuesday, Jan Muhammad Dahri emphasized the potential dire consequences of such measures. "Forcing widows and orphans to contemplate suicide due to pension cuts is unconscionable. This decision affects vulnerable segments of society and must be reversed immediately," he declared passionately.

Highlighting the broader impact, Jan Muhammad Dahri warned of significant



societal upheaval if the Sindh Government does not rescind its decision promptly. "If the government does not repeal this unjust law within 10 days, it will push 300,000 pensioners onto the streets," he asserted, underlining the scale of the issue.

The President of the Welfare Organization urged the Sindh Government to take proactive steps to safeguard the welfare of pensioners. He called for reforms that prioritize the well-being of retirees and ensure their financial security in their twilight years. "We demand concrete meas-

ures from the government to support pensioners and alleviate their hardships. Failure to do so will compel us to escalate our protests," Jan Muhammad Dahri cautioned.

The statement by Jan Muhammad Dahri reflects growing discontent among pensioners over perceived neglect and arbitrary policy changes affecting their livelihoods. As tensions escalate, pensioners and advocacy groups are preparing to mobilize further if their demands for justice and fair treatment are not met promptly by the authorities.

## DC Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa warns to take action against substandard LPG and CNG cylinders

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa, presided over a crucial meeting in his office addressing the rampant use of illegal and substandard gas cylinders by local vendors across the district. The meeting convened to discuss the serious implications of these cylinders, both LPG and CNG, on public safety.

During the session, strong demand for crackdowns on drugs and banning the sale of alcohol. During the protest, prominent figures including Saeed Ahmed Rajput, Vice Chairman Rana Naeem Rajput, and others highlighted that drug abuse and excessive alcohol consumption were widespread issues in the city. They criticized the authorities for fail-

"Legal actions will be swiftly initiated against all involved parties, including stringent measures against local vendors and dealers found distributing illegal cylinders," stated Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa.

This initiative by the Deputy Commissioner underscores a proactive approach to safeguard public welfare against potential hazards associated with non-standard gas cylinders.

## Dhoronaro man dies from consuming alcohol

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: In the town of Dhoronaro, a tragic incident occurred where a 40-year-old Atif Rajput died after consuming some alcohol. Following his death, his heirs protested by placing his body on the main bus stand. This demonstration led to a clash with the police due to the

strong demand for crackdowns on drugs and banning the sale of alcohol. During the protest, prominent figures including Saeed Ahmed Rajput, Vice Chairman Rana Naeem Rajput, and others highlighted that drug abuse and excessive alcohol consumption were widespread issues in the city. They criticized the authorities for fail-

# METRO KARACHI



## Sindh CM And Russian Sberbank Forge Groundbreaking Investment Talks On Education, Health, And Steel Mills' Revival



KARACHI: PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with a delegation led by Phil Ramos, Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly.—RT

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah met with a delegation from Russian Sberbank, led by Mr. Timur Kozintsev, to explore investment opportunities in education, health, and infrastructure development, including the restoration of the steel mill.

During the meeting at CM House in Karachi, Shah highlighted potential collaborations in educational technology (EdTech) startups, aimed at enhancing education delivery in Sindh. He proposed



partnerships with educational institutions and suggested initiatives such as student financing for studies in Russia. Mr. Timur Kozintsev, International Head of Sberbank, expressed interest in

investing in various sectors, including healthcare innovations like the Doctor's Smart Assistant, which utilizes artificial intelligence for medical diagnostics. Discussions included potential partnerships with leading health institutions in Sindh, facilitated by the investment department.

Regarding infrastructure development, CM Murad Ali Shah emphasized the importance of CSR initiatives to improve educational facilities, especially in flood-affected areas. The discussion also touched upon the historical significance of the steel mill, installed during the tenure of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, with plans for its restoration to benefit workers and the economy.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including Sberbank's Deputy Trade Representative, Russian Consul General, and Sindh government secretaries. It concluded with assurances from Sberbank to continue dialogue with the provincial government to explore and finalize investment opportunities in these crucial sectors.—RT

## Saeed Ghani Blasts MQM-P For Inciting Hatred And Spreading Deceptive Claims

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh's Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, criticized Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), accusing them of perpetuating divisive politics reminiscent of their founder, Altaf Hussain. Ghani, addressing a press conference at the Sindh Assembly, highlighted MQM-P's recent statements, labeling them as inflammatory and misleading, particularly regarding PPP's founder, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. He clarified that the quota system in government jobs originated during Liaquat Ali Khan's era, not Bhutto's, emphasizing historical accuracy.

Ghani underscored the lack of public service by MQM-P in Sindh amidst what he termed as toxic rhetoric. He also discussed the impact of nationalization policies introduced during Bhutto's tenure, claiming they broke the economic monopoly of influential families, which he noted had in-



creased exponentially over time. The Minister asserted PPP's dominance in Karachi and addressed ongoing discussions with PML(N) regarding the replacement of Sindh's Governor, urging prompt action to avoid political contention.

Regarding recent legal disputes over Sindh government drives, Ghani reaffirmed the administration's commitment to transparency, despite MQM-P's objections. He dismissed MQM-P's demand for committee involvement in hiring processes, citing legal provisions and the need for impartiality.

PPP Sindh General-Secretary Waqar Mehdi criticized MQM-P's withdrawal from recent local elections in Karachi and Hyderabad, alleging it stemmed from declining popularity and resorting to misinformation tactics.

In conclusion, Ghani reiterated PPP's commitment to governance and transparency in Sindh, emphasizing merit-based recruitment and challenging MQM-P's narrative on various fronts.

## APNS Mourns The Loss Of Kazi Afzal Abid, Esteemed Brother Of Former MNA Kazi Asad Abid

KARACHI: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Kazi Afzal Abid, elder brother of Kazi Asad Abid, publisher and chief editor of Ibrat Group of publications. Ms. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani, President, and Mr. Sarmad Hassan Secretary General of (APNS) conveyed their heartfelt condolences to Kazi Asad Abid and his bereaved family to cope with this loss.—RT

## Justice Shafi Siddiqui Elevated To Prestigious Role Of Chief Justice Of Sindh High Court



KARACHI: The Judicial Commission sanctioned the nomination of Justice Shafi Muhammad Siddiqui as the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court (SHC).

A meeting of the Judicial Commission was held under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. In the meeting, the name of Justice Shafi Muhammad Siddiqui was approved for the position of top slot of the Sindh High Court.

Justice Shafi Muhammad Siddiqui was unanimously approved by the commission, sources said. The names of Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto and Justice Salahuddin Panhoor were also considered in the meeting.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Police Crush Notorious Gang Stealing And Selling Motorcycles Online

KARACHI: Police in Gulbhar Colony, also known as Golimar, on Tuesday arrested a gang of high-tech young thieves specialising in stealing motorcycles, forging documents, and then selling them online—cleverly staying off the radar of anti-vehicle lifting agencies.

According to SSP Central Zeeshan Siddiqui, the modus operandi of the motorbike lifters was a sophisticated three-stage operation, which they had been successfully using to make illegal money for quite a while now.

"The gang members would first acquire legitimate documents for motorcycles. These documents were the foundation of their illicit trade," said Siddiqui while talking to the media.

"Then, using these genuine papers, they would forge fake documents for the stolen motorcycles, ensuring that the bikes appeared legal and trustworthy."

With tampered engine and chassis numbers, these motorcycles were then listed and sold on various online platforms, conning unsus-



pecting buyers, the SSP revealed. Siddiqui said that the gang was highly active across various parts of Karachi. The culprits, identified as Bilawal, Shah Rukh, and Rizwan, have confessed to tampering with and selling dozens of stolen motorcycles.

During the operation, police recovered eight stolen motorcycles and five chassis from the gang's possession. The police said that each gang member had his own expertise in this criminal operation.

Rizwan, one of the gang members, admitted to faking the documents and later selling the stolen motorcycles online. Bilawal, another of the thieves, confessed to lifting the motorcycles, often targeting specific models on demand. Shah Rukh, an expert in tampering with engine and chassis numbers, used to charge Rs3,000 for each alteration, the police said.

"With the gang now in custody, formal legal proceedings have been initiated against them," SSP Central said, adding, "The successful operation marks a significant step in curbing motorcycle theft and fraud in Karachi."—RT/Agency

## Sindh Imposes Hefty Sales Tax Hike On Wedding Halls, Restaurants, And Cafes

Karachi: The Sindh government increased the sales tax from 13 to 15 percent with effect from July 1, media reported.

The provincial government hiked the Sindh Sales Tax to 15 percent in a recently passed budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 which will apply to various businesses, including restaurants, hotels, and wedding halls.

According to the revised tax, restaurants, cafes, bakeries, and hotels will have to pay 15 percent sales tax.

The guest houses, farmhouses, clubs, and wedding halls will also be charged 15 percent sales tax. The credit card payments will be subject to an 8 percent sales tax while the cash payments will be subject to a 15 percent sales tax.

"To promote digitalisation in the economy, it was proposed to reduce SST rate to 8 percent for the restaurant services involving customers' payments through digital means like debit/credit card, mobile wallet, QR Scanning, etc. For promoting the Telecom services which pay high rate of 19.5 percent SST to utilize input items paying Federal Sales Tax of up to 18 percent (which was previously 17 percent), it is proposed instead of 17 percent as at present," Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said while presenting the budget.—RT



## Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Demands The Abolition Of Controversial NAB

KARACHI: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi demanded to abolish NAB, otherwise, he warned the country will remain paralysed.

Talking to the media in Karachi, Abbasi also criticized the justice system.

He said that NAB has been created to make political cases. He said that former NAB Chairman Javed Iqbal used to say that he didn't make cases without the direction of former PM Imran Khan.

He said that the government's people said that the budget was a failure, the additional tax of Rs four thousand billion was a new thing in this budget, and the burden would fall on the people. He said that if the government starts taxing its



the government was also angry at my press conference yesterday, the government has increased its expenses by 25% by putting a burden of Rs 4000 billion on the people. He said that additional tax was imposed on the income of the common man, petrol, diesel and that cigarettes are being smuggled.

He said that the steel mills in Karachi and Lahore pay all the taxes. He noted that economic depression was happening due to the unfair tax policy. The former prime minister said that they support whatever operation is done for the country, but we have to think about why these operations are needed. He said that they were forming a political faction 'Awam Pakistan Party'.—RT/Agency

## Karachi Police Launch Special Committee To Probe Shocking Murder Of PPP Councillor

KARACHI: Karachi police on Tuesday constituted a six-member committee to probe the killing of a Pakistan People's Party (PPP) councillor in Korangi.

As per details, SSP Korangi Tauheed Rahman has formed a committee following the PPP chairman took notice of the killing of Aamir Abbasi, a councillor, elected from Bhattai Colony, Korangi.

SSP Tauheed said the team will probe the killing of businessman Waseem and Aamir Abbasi.

The probe team will be headed by the SDPO Landhi, while SHO Zaman Town, Awami Town and two inspectors of Sindh police will be the member of the probe team.

The team will present its progress report on a daily basis, the SSP said.—RT/Agency

## Ministers Nasir Shah And Saeed Ghani Demand Daily Public Updates On Muharram Electricity Measures



KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Minister Local Government Saeed Ghani presided over a meeting with religious scholars to discuss electricity arrangements during Muharram at the Sindh Energy Department office in Karachi. They directed HESCO, SEPCO, and K-Electric to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply from 1st to 12th Muharram for Majlis and processions, with special instructions issued accordingly. Energy Secretary Mossadiq Ahmed Khan, Karachi Commissioner Hasan Naqvi, and other officials attended the meeting.

Shah and Ghani emphasized that HESCO, SEPCO, and K-Electric must daily inform the public via media about no load

shedding between midnight and 6 AM, providing relief and notifying any reductions in peak hours. They stressed that regular reports should be submitted to ensure transparency and public awareness. The ministers expressed the government's commitment to easing public discomfort by minimizing peak-hour disruptions and ensuring uninterrupted night-time rest.

Additionally, it was decided in the meeting to exempt 8th, 9th, and 10th Muharram from load shedding. HESCO, SEPCO, and K-Electric pledged full cooperation in implementing these arrangements.—RT

## Pakistan's Agro And Food Exports Skyrocket To \$8 Billion, Shattering Previous Records

KARACHI: Pakistan has achieved a historic milestone in its agro and food exports, reaching \$8 billion during the financial year 2023-2024, up from \$5.8 billion in the previous year—a remarkable increase of 37%. This surge underscores the growing importance of Pakistan's agricultural sector in the global market.

Rice Exports: Pakistan's rice exports soared to \$3.8 billion from July to June 2023-2024, compared to \$2.179 billion in the previous year, marking a growth of 78.26%. This increase is attributed to strong performance in the EU, Africa, ASEAN, and GACC countries, bolstered by Minimum Export Price (MEP) regulations and improved compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards.

Sesame Seed Exports: Export of sesame seeds surged to \$410 million, up from \$151 million, showing a growth of 171%. Increased production and heightened demand from China, Korea, and Japan contributed to this growth, supported by awareness campaigns in key production areas.

Maize Exports: Maize exports reached \$421 million, up from \$190 million, marking a growth of 121%. Global price increases following the Russian-Ukraine conflict boosted demand, with major markets in Vietnam, Malaysia, Korea, and Oman benefiting.

Meat Exports: Meat exports grew by 17.66%, totaling \$507 million, compared to \$431 million in the previous year. Expansion into new markets and the addition of new slaughterhouses contributed to this growth.

Fruits, Vegetables, and Others: Significant growth was seen in onion exports, surging by 402.4% to \$224 million. Mango exports also increased by 12.74%. Spices exports rose by 7.8% during the same period.

Mr. Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), attributed this growth to robust efforts in the agro sector. TDAP conducted workshops across various regions to boost production capacity and facilitate export registration. Motiwala highlighted new opportunities in the Chinese market for Pakistani meat, including the historic export of cherries. He emphasized efforts to explore non-traditional export products and expand into new markets like Jordan, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, and Egypt. With recent legislation supporting inland fisheries export, Motiwala expressed optimism in achieving a \$10 billion target for the current fiscal year.—RT

## Sindh Assembly Set To Declare Karachi As New York's Sister City, Announces Murad Shah



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in a meeting with Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Mr. Phil Ramos, and his delegation at CM House Karachi, has agreed to pass a resolution declaring Karachi as the sister city of New York.

The meeting, attended by senior officials including Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho and Education Minister Sardar Shah, focused on strengthening ties between Karachi and New York. The 32-member delegation, which included NY Assembly Member Alec Brook and members of the American Pakistani committee, discussed mutual cooperation and cultural exchange initiatives.

Mr. Phil Ramos informed the Chief Minister about previous discussions in 2023 regarding the sister city agreement, expressing optimism for its realization following the Sindh Assembly's resolution. CM Murad Shah confirmed that the resolution would be tabled in the upcoming budget session of the Sindh Assembly, with reciprocal action expected from the New York Assembly thereafter.

Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah was tasked with drafting the resolution in consultation with Mr. Ramos, underscoring the commitment to formalize this diplomatic and cultural relationship.

Additionally, the meeting concluded with agreements to enhance professional standards at the province's Nursing College, supported by AAPAC, and to foster educational and trade partnerships between Sindh and New York. A gesture of cultural exchange saw the Chief Minister presenting Ajrak and Sindh caps to the visiting delegation as tokens of respect and honor.—RT

Work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt and dance like no one is watching.

—Randall G Leighton

# 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 (0300-2719454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0302-2647713), (0302-3028990)

WEDNESDAY JULY 03 2024

## PM Shehbaz Demands Revolutionary Boost In Trade And Connectivity With Tajikistan

DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged for increased trade, investment, and connectivity between Pakistan and Tajikistan, Radio Pakistan reported.

Addressing a joint news conference with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon in Dushanbe on Tuesday, Sharif emphasised the need for further cooperation in diverse fields such as agriculture, education, health, and trade.

Numerous Memorandums of Understanding were signed today between the two countries, which will be instrumental in furthering our relations," said Sharif. He highlighted the strategic partnership agreement's importance, congratulating Tajikistan for its role in strengthening brotherly relations and expanding cooperation.

The prime minister stressed the necessity of rail connectivity between Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and the



port of Karachi, to boost regional trade and integration. Regarding bilateral cooperation, "Sharif mentioned that the CASA-1000 project is expected to be completed next year, bringing prosperity to the region.

Sharif also held a one-on-one meeting with President Rahmon, discussing the China-Tajikistan and Afghanistan corridor.

Touching on the fight against terrorism, Sharif noted the significant sacrifices made by both Pakistan

and Tajikistan. "Pakistan is ready to offer its cooperation in fighting the scourge of terrorism," he asserted, highlighting Pakistan's commitment to collective efforts against terrorism.

Addressing global challenges, the premier condemned the ongoing oppression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Gaza. "Peace in South Asia will remain elusive until the Kashmir dispute is resolved in light of UN Security Council

resolutions," he stated. Sharif thanked President Rahmon and the people of Tajikistan for their warm welcome and extended an invitation to the Tajik president to visit Pakistan.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz met with Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon, emphasising the vast potential for foreign investment in Pakistan's energy, mining, industry, agriculture, and other sectors.

Upon arrival at Qas-e-Millat, Prime Minister Shehbaz was warmly welcomed by President Rahmon, followed by a guard of honour from the Tajik armed forces.

President Rahmon underscored the cordial and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan. The leaders discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in various fields and improve regional connectivity and linkages between their peoples. "Pakistan offers immense

potential for foreign investment in numerous sectors," Prime Minister Shehbaz stated, inviting Tajikistan to explore these opportunities.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, on a two-day visit at President Rahmon's invitation, was received with full honours, including the playing of national anthems and a guard of honour, which he reviewed.

The leaders introduced their respective delegations, which included Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, and Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi. Prime Minister Shehbaz also laid a wreath at the monument of Tajikistan's national hero Ismail Somoni, a revered historic figure who significantly developed the region during his rule in the 9th and 10th centuries.—RT/Agency

## Justice Minallah Slams ECP For Misinterpreting SC Verdict In Reserved Seats Case

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Athar Minallah said Tuesday that it is a "proven fact" that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) misinterpreted the apex court's verdict denying the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of its "bat" symbol over failure to hold valid intra-party polls.

"Should the court give its validation to an unconstitutional interpretation done by a constitutional body? [...] Do you want us to re-visit the doctrine of necessity?" Justice Minallah remarked.

His remarks came as a 13-member global SC bench heard the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) plea against the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) verdict upholding the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision denying them the reserved seats.

The bench, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, 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 Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan.



During the hearing today, Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman argued that independent candidates are considered to be a part of a political party if they join it.

"The question is whether independent candidates can join the SIC under Article 51? The AGP said. At this, Justice Minallah stressed that a political party has rights under Article 51 of the Constitution and remarked that people voted for a political party, however, the ECP excluded a political party from the polls. The attorney general further contended that independent candidates can neither form a parliamentary party nor they can join a political party which doesn't have the status of a parliamentary party. Additionally, SIC lawyer Faisal Siddiqui submitted the notification issued by the National Assembly Secretariat regard-

ing Zartaj Gul's appointment as parliamentary leader and argued that the ECP — in its response — acknowledged the independent candidates' joining of the SIC. This prompted Justice Muneeb to remark that the electoral body was in fact accepting the independent candidates as belonging to the SIC. "Now, the ECP's own record is accepting these people as belonging to the SIC [...] tell me how is the ECP depriving them of the reserved seats despite acknowledging them as a parliamentary party?" the judge questioned, adding that independent candidates become a parliamentary party if they join a political party. Furthermore, Justice Ayesha questioned how could the electoral body consider the SIC a parliamentary party when it doesn't regard it as a political party in the first place.—RT/Agency

## US Labels Imran's Detention As Pakistan's 'Internal Crisis'

WASHINGTON: The US State Department has said that the detention of former prime minister Imran Khan is an internal matter for Pakistan.

This statement was part of a broader discussion during a recent press briefing where Vedant Patel, Principal Deputy Spokesperson of the State Department, addressed various concerns involving Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Patel addressed the United Nations arbitrary detention committee's declaration that Khan's detention was illegal and deferred to the UN for further clarification on their statement, emphasising that the US has no additional assessment to offer on the matter.

Yesterday, a UN human rights working group stressed that the former premier's detention is arbitrary and in violation of international law, adding the jailed politician should be released immediately.

It also alleged "wide-



spread fraud on election day, stealing dozens of parliamentary seats."

The department further reiterated its call for Pakistan to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, freedom of association, peaceful assembly, and freedom of religion.

"We urge the government of Pakistan to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression, freedom of as-

sociation, peaceful assembly, and the freedom of religion as well," he said.

To a question about the credibility of Pakistani elections and allegations of massive rigging, Patel said Pakistani elections continued to be an area of focus for the US.

"This is something that we have continued to raise with our partners in Pakistan, yes. That continues to be an area of focus of ours."—RT/Agency

## Government Tarnishing Country And Military's Reputation: Bushra Bibi



ISLAMABAD: Bushra Bibi, the jailed wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) imprisoned founding leader Imran Khan has said that the government is responsible for bringing disrepute to the country and its military.

While having an informal conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail, Bushra Bibi stated that in the afterlife, there are two places: Alim Barzakh, where there are muttaqis, abstainers, and righteous people, while the other is the prison where souls come to Earth, where there is a place where there is a government of devils.

She went on to say that the country is ruled by fraudsters and thieves, and labelled every individual within the government as the devil.

Bushra, who was sen-

tenced to 14 years in prison on January 31 along with Imran in a gift repository case, was confined to a room at Bani Gala which was declared a sub-jail on the order of Islamabad chief commissioner on the same day, January 31. The couple was later acquitted in the case.

Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were later also convicted in the Nikkah Iddat case in February, just days before the general elections.

Earlier during the day, an accountability court in Islamabad had granted bail to Bushra Bibi, in a £190 million corruption case, providing some relief in the ongoing legal battles faced by the former first lady. However, prison officials stated that she cannot be released due to her conviction in the Iddat case.—RT/Agency

## Government Defends Imran's Arrest As Pakistan's 'Internal Crisis' Amid UN Criticism

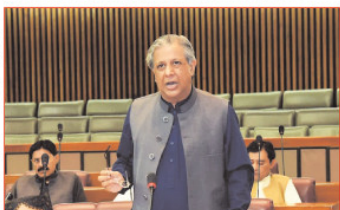
ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar asserted on Tuesday that the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan and the ongoing legal cases against him are strictly a domestic matter of the country.

A UN human rights working group stressed that the former premier's detention is arbitrary and in violation of international law, adding the jailed politician should be released immediately.

Responding to these developments, Tarar emphasised that Pakistan is a sovereign state where constitutional and legal matters are upheld through the judiciary.

He confirmed that the former premier is serving his sentence as a lawfully convicted individual, entitled to all rights under national laws and international norms.

Following this, the minis-



ter further highlighted that granting relief to the founder of PTI in various cases reflects a commitment to transparent and impartial trials, adhering strictly to constitutional principles, laws, and international standards.

Earlier in the day, the US State Department had also said that the detention of Imran Khan is an internal matter for Pakistan.

This statement was part of a broader discussion during a recent press briefing

where Vedant Patel, Principal Deputy Spokesperson of the State Department, addressed various concerns involving Pakistan and Afghanistan. Patel addressed the United Nations arbitrary detention committee's declaration that Khan's detention was illegal and deferred to the UN for further clarification on their statement, emphasising that the US has no additional assessment to offer on the matter.—RT/Agency

## Government Courts Opposition For High-Stakes PAC Chairmanship Negotiations

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has contacted the PTI-backed opposition in the National Assembly for appointment of a new Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), media reported on Tuesday, citing sources.

Sources told media that Chief Whip Tariq Fazal has written a letter to Leader of Opposition in National Assembly, Omar Ayub, seeking four names for the position of PAC Chairman.

The letter stated that the government wants senior and experienced individuals to be considered for the position, and that the selection will be made through mutual consensus.

A copy of the letter has also been sent to PTI Chief Whip, Amir Dogar.

Earlier, it was reported that Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) had replaced maverick Sher Afzal Khan Marwat with Sheikh Waqas Akram for Chairmanship of the Na-



tional Assembly's Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

SIC chief Hamid Raza formally apprised the National Assembly (NA) Secretariat about the party's nominee for the slot. "Sheikh Waqas Akram has been nominated for the chairmanship of the PAC," Hamid Raza told the NA secretariat.

It is pertinent to mention here that the slot became a bone of contention and triggered a tug-of-war between senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) members as Sher Afzal Marwat, who was earlier named by the party, openly criticised the party leadership.

Earlier on May 11, the PTI issued a show-cause notice to Sher Afzal Marwat for making 'irresponsible' statements.

The notice was issued by PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan who asked Marwat to explain his statements within three days, which have been deemed damaging to the party's reputation.—RT/Agency

## ECP Issues Ultimatum: Parties Must Submit Financial Statements For 2023-24 By August 29



ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has advised political party heads to file their 'Consolidated Statement of Accounts' for the financial year 2023-24 (ended on June 30) on Form-D by August 29. This directive follows section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017, according to a press release issued on Tuesday. Section 210 mandates that political parties must submit a consolidated statement of accounts, audited by a Chartered Accountant, within sixty days of the financial year's end. This statement must include details of annual income and expenses, funding sources, and assets and liabilities. The submission to the ECP must be complete,

including an auditor's report on the party's accounts and a certificate from an authorised party official stating no prohibited funds were received under the Elections Act, 2017. This ensures an accurate financial representation of the party Form-D, as outlined in the Elections Act, 2017, is available free of charge at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad. Provincial Election Commission offices in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, and on the ECP website. Additionally, political party leaders must provide an attested copy of the Auditor's Membership Certificate from ICAP and the latest renewal certificate with Form-D.—RT/Agency

## Muhammad Zubair Slams Government For Burdensome Tax-Heavy Budget

KARACHI: The former governor of Sindh, Muhammad Zubair, voiced his concerns regarding the newly imposed taxes on the salaried class in the budget 2024-25, media reported on Tuesday.

In a discussion on private TV, the former governor criticized the unequal tax imposition by the federal government, stating that both direct and indirect taxes have affected salaried citizens.

"If everyone was taxed equally, no one would ob-

ject," Zubair said. He pointed out that the new budget includes not only a tax but also an additional surcharge on the salaried class.

Responding to a question, he noted that the current government is unpopular among the salaried and middle-class sections, who traditionally do not favor the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Addressing the issue of

rising electricity bills, Zubair predicted that prices of electricity bills are expected to increase by 20 percent.

"If a consumer have to pay a bill of Rs 100 today, it will be Rs 120 soon. People do not understand the reason behind constant increase in bills," he remarked. Opposition, he remarked. Opposing the nature of taxes imposed, Zubair expressed argued that despite higher taxes, the revenue remains unchanged, making them ineffective.—RT/Agency

## Shibli Faraz Warns: Political Turmoil Threatens Pakistan With Economic Catastrophe

ISLAMABAD: Former federal information minister, Shibli Faraz has claimed that Pakistan is facing a crisis due to political instability.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader, talking to the media accompanied by Kanwal Shauzab in Islamabad, asserted that only elected representatives' presence in parliament can ensure improvements. He said current occupants of parliament hold their seats due to Form-47, not through a public vote. These people lack legitimacy as public representatives, he added.

He said the budget announced by the federal government is not public friendly.

Criticizing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), he said the commission has failed to perform its constitutional duties. He said



we are worried about the case which is being dragged out. The last general elections are being criticized globally. A UN report reads it will be made a case study, he claimed.

Shibli Faraz said the economy of Pakistan is deteriorating owing to the unfair elections.

He categorically said that the IMF does not hold a soft

corner for Pakistan. Only the genuine public representatives can put the country on the right track, he added.

Kanwal Shauzab alleged that the ECP has violated Article 17 of the constitution of Pakistan by unjustly delisting the largest party—PTI. She also claimed that the PTI candidates were pressured to contest as independent candidates.—RT/Agency

## Mohsin Naqvi Celebrates Victory In Wiping Out Terrorists In KP

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday lauded the army for eliminating terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



He said the security forces eliminated nine terrorists in Tirah and Lakki Marwat, ridding the areas of the scourge of terrorism. He said fight against terrorism would continue. The security forces eliminated nine terrorists in two operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday, said ISPR.—RT/Agency