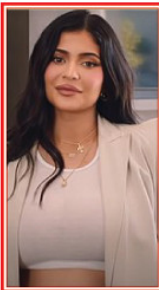


REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



Kylie Jenner keeps Timothee Chalamet away from 'Kardashians' reality TV

Heartland

Bilawal condoles martyrdom of two Kandhkot cops



Money

-Zafar Moti is Happy! PSE 100-index up by 680.79 points to close at 80,233.67



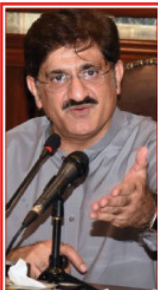
NATIONAL

Maryam Orders Overhaul Of Food Department



SPORTS

Babar, Shaheen, Rizwan brace for setback ahead of GT20 Canada



Murad Declares IDEAS A Unified Platform For Global Peace And Prosperity

PM Shehbaz Affirms Strong Pakistan-Russia Relations In Putin Meeting

ASTANA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday told Russian President Vladimir Putin that Islamabad and Moscow's relationship stood on its own, stressing the need for further bilateral cooperation.

"Our relations stand on our own strength, neither our relations are driven by any geopolitical contingency nor are these impacted by our relations with other countries," the prime minister said.

The premier is currently in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana to attend the twin Summits of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State and SCO plus.

PM Shehbaz emphasised the need to overcome financial and other banking issues to expand barter trade between Pakistan and Russia.

In his exclusive meeting with the Russian president today, he said Pakistan has long business relations with Russia. He recalled that Pakistan used to import a lot of machinery and goods from Russia and export textile and leather goods under the barter trade.

The premier further said the two countries can certainly enhance trade, which is



at the moment, touching one billion dollars, Radio Pakistan reported.

He also commended the Russian top leader for promoting cooperation in the field of energy at his request. He added Pakistan has received a shipment of oil from Russia and there is a need to further move in this direction.

As regards bilateral relations between both countries, PM Shehbaz said these have been on a positive trajectory over the last many years and this is a matter of great comfort for the two countries.

The prime minister, on the occasion, also expressed the desire to work closely with President Putin to further cement bilateral relations. During his ongoing visit

to Kazakhstan, PM Shehbaz was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, senior cabinet members and officers.

The prime minister will present Pakistan's perspectives on key regional and global issues at the SCO Heads of State meeting. He will also address the SCO plus summit, a PM Office press release said.

He will present Pakistan's position on key regional and global issues, emphasising the importance of the global organisation's role for the welfare of the SCO region's people. The prime minister is also likely to attend a round of trilateral meetings between Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan expected to take place on Wednesday (today).—RT/Agency

Government Fulfills All Conditions For New IMF Bailout Deal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is looking to clinch a staff-level agreement on an International Monetary Fund bailout of more than \$6 billion this month after addressing all of the lender's requirements in its annual budget, Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Wednesday.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led coalition government has set challenging revenue targets in its annual budget to help it win approval from the IMF for a loan to stave off another economic meltdown, even as domestic anger rises at new taxation measures.

In the budget, the government has increased the taxes on the already burdened salaried class, bought exporters into the normal tax regime, increased the petroleum levy to Rs70, and im-



posed new taxes on the real estate sectors, among others, to increase tax collection.

"We hope to culminate this (IMF) process in the next three to four weeks," Malik told Reuters, with the aim of thrashing out a staff-level agreement before the IMF board recess.

"I think it will be north of \$6 billion," he said of the size of the package, though he added at this point the IMF's validation was the primary

focus. The IMF did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

Earlier on Sunday, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb expressed optimism about the country's chances of securing a new IMF bailout, following President Asif Ali Zardari's approval of the tax-intensive budget for the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1.

"The IMF programme is our assurance in terms of macro stability. We are taking it forward; it is inevitable. I'm very optimistic that we'll be able to take it through the finish line for an Extended Fund Programme which is going to be larger and longer in nature," the minister said addressing a press conference in Islamabad.

According to analysts, "Obviously they (budget reforms) are burdensome for the local economy but the IMF programme is all about stabilisation," Malik said.

Sakib Sherani, an economist who heads private firm Macro Economic Insights, said a quick deal with the IMF was needed to avoid pressure on Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and the currency given the country's maturing debt repayments and the effects of unwinding of capital and import controls that were applied earlier.

"If it takes longer, then the central bank may be forced to temporarily re-instate import and capital controls," he said. "There will be a period of uncertainty, and one casualty is likely to be the rally in equities."—RT/Agency

Fawad Chaudhry: Dialogues With Establishment Viewed As Pursuing A Bargain

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has expressed surprise at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) willingness to engage in talks with establishment, saying that this decision was tantamount to 'deal-seeking', media reported on Wednesday.

Speaking to an international media outlet, the former minister said that negotiating with the establishment is equivalent to seeking a deal, and that talks will only be successful if held on an equal footing.

Fawad Chaudhry suggested that the PTI should only be talking to opposition parties at this stage, and that negotiations with the government should come later.

He also criticised PTI's approach to negotiations, saying that seeking a deal with the establishment would be no different from what Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would do.

When asked about his decision to leave the party, Chaudhry said that he had not left PTI, but was still a



part of it. He also referred to his press conference with IPP leaders, saying that the circumstances surrounding it were well-known. He also claimed to have met with PTI founder Imran Khan in jail multiple times.

Regarding resignation from parliament, he said that the decision was made by Imran Khan himself, and that PTI's popularity was due to two key decisions: resigning from assemblies and dissolving them. Fawad Chaudhry recently made headlines once again for launching broadsides against the present PTI leadership over the past week. Chaudhry, who left the PTI in the aftermath of the

state's crackdown against the party following May 9 riots, said earlier this month that the current PTI leadership had badly failed to provide a political strategy.

Speaking at private tv a day earlier, the former minister said that a few individuals took over the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and newcomers like Raoof Hassan became seniors. Criticising the current leaders of the PTI, the former federal minister said that Shibli Faraz did not handle the party's affairs and stay at his house for six months. "Hamid Hassan continued to take care of his farmhouse in Australia," he added.—RT/Agency

Imran, Shah Mahmood, And Others Cleared In Explosive ECP Protest Case



ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in the federal capital acquitted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and several other leaders in case registered at Aapbara Police Station.

Judicial Magistrate Yasir Mehmood announced the verdict, which was reserved last week on the petitions seeking acquittal, during the hearing today.

Other leaders who have been exonerated in the case are Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Sheikh Rasheed, Asad Qaiser, Shehryar Afridi, Faisal Javed, Raja Khurram Nawaz and Ali Nawaz Awan.

PTI lawyers, Advocate Sardar Masroof and Advocate Ansar Kayani, made the arguments in the case on behalf of the former prime minister and others.

A case was registered against the PTI founder and other politicians for protesting against the ECP's Toshakhana verdict in 2022, which disqualified him from holding office for a limited time.

Imran Khan has been facing a slew of charges ranging from corruption to terrorism since his removal as the premier in 2022.

The PTI founder has been in jail since last August and was convicted in some cases ahead of a nationwide election earlier this year. He is also fighting dozens of other cases. The only hurdle keeping him behind bars is the iddat or the un-Islamic marriage case, whose proceedings are underway, and the judge expects the case to be wrapped up within this month.—RT/Agency

Former Senator Hidayat Ullah Among Five Slain In Devastating Bajaur Explosion

BAJAUR: At least five people, including former senator Hidayat Ullah, were killed in a "remote-controlled" bomb explosion targeting a vehicle in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district on Wednesday, according to police. The incident took place in Bajaur's Damadola village where the former senator's vehicle was targeted via a remote-controlled device, Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) Bakht Munir said.



Hidayat, who was a former independent senator from erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), was killed in the

horrific bomb attack while returning to Bajaur's headquarters, Khar town, police said. According to the police, Malik Irfan from the tribal district's Niag Banda area and Nazir Deen from Nawagai town were also among the deceased in the horrific explosion which completely destroyed the vehicle. Hidayat belonged to an influential political family whose father was former National Assembly lawmaker Haji Bismillah Khan and his brother was former governor Shaukat Ullah.—RT/Agency

Former Federal Minister Late Kazi Abdul Majeed Abid's Daughter Feroza Sattar Abbasi Passes Away In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES/KARACHI: With profound grief and heavy hearts, the Kazi/Abbasi Family of Hyderabad announced the passing of Mrs. Feroza Sattar Abbasi, daughter of Ex-Federal Minister and veteran publisher Late Kazi Abdul Majeed Abid, in Los Angeles, California, on July 3, 2024.

Feroza Abbasi was the wife of prominent Los Angeles based cardiologist Dr. Sattar Abbasi and the mother of prominent real estate investor Robert Abood Abbasi of RTI Properties and internationally renowned jazz musician Rez Abbasi. She was also the mother-in-law of Canadian singer-songwriter Kiran Ahluwalia.

At 83 years old, Feroza Abbasi was the elder sister of former MNA and Chairman of the Ibrat Group, Kazi Asad Abid, former Speaker of the National Assembly and for-



mer Federal Minister Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Farida Abbasi, prominent businessman Kazi Amjad Abid, Dr. Farah Abbasi, and Dr. Fareeha Soomro. Her extended family includes her brother-in-law former Sindh Home Minister Dr. Zulfiqar Mirza, PPP's Leader of the Opposition in the Cantonment Board Hyderabad, Kazi Ashad Abbasi, former Senior Sindh Minister Pir Mazhar ul Haq, Imran

ATC Demands Federal Government's Immediate Response To Imran's Request For Meeting With Sons



RAWALPINDI: The anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi has sought response from the federal government and Adiala Jail administration on a petition moved by incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan seeking permission for a meeting with his sons.

During the proceedings on Wednesday, the court sought response from the federation, Ministry of Interior and

Adiala Jail administration on Khan's plea requesting a meeting with his sons. Subsequently, the court adjourned the hearing. In his petition, the PTI founder states that he wants to meet his sons Qasim and Sulaiman, arguing that this was his constitutional and legal right. He has requested the court that this family meeting be arranged at Adiala Jail.—RT/Agency

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

KAZI AFZAL ABID

Who passed away on 02 July 2024

SOYEM

will be held today (Thursday) 4th July 2024 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)
 Umaima and Kazi Khurram Abbasi (Son)
 Uzma (Daughter) and Zia Hussain
 Kazi Asad Abid (Brother), Kazi Amjad Abid (Brother)
 Mrs. Farida Abbasi (Sister)
 Dr. Fehmida (Sister) & Dr. Zulfiqar Mirza
 All Grandchildren & Family Members of the Kazi/Abbasi Family

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Former PPP Federal Minister Moulana Bux Chandio along with other party leaders is addressing a press conference.-RT

Sindh Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani orders to open a new college in Badin

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: The Sindh Minister for Universities and Boards, Muhammad Ali Malkani, specially directed for the establishment of a college in district Sujawal. A committee chaired by Vice Chancellor of Sindh University Jamshoro comprises Pro VC SU Lar Campus Prof Dr. Khalilur-Rehman, along with Dean of Faculty of Arts Professor Dr. Muhammad Khan Sangi and several other members, met with Deputy Commissioner

Zahid Hussain Rind to discuss the feasibility report for establishing the college. Detailed inspections of classrooms, library, and building premises were conducted for the feasibility report. Regarding the establishment of the college in Sujawal, Principal of Government Boys Degree College Sujawal, Muhammad Hassan Bhatti, was also present during the inspection. Following this, the committee held a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind in his office to discuss preparing a detailed feasibility report for the establishment of the college. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the establishment of the college in Sujawal should not be detrimental to the students of the district, enabling them to access quality education under standardized legal frameworks. He highlighted that efforts are being made to bring significant changes in these sectors, not just for social service but to elevate the interests and motivations globally.

DC Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali chairs meeting of District Peace Committee for Muharram



By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: The strict security measures will be implemented in District Ghotki during Muharram-ul-Haram. Gatherings and processions are to be conducted at designated times and routes, with full adherence to the code of conduct. The District Peace Committee will be activated. According to details, an important meeting was held in the office of Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali to review arrangements for Muharram. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners, Rangers from the 73 Wing, DSPs, DHOs, SEPCO and Municipal Department officers, as well as leaders from various sects. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated

that foolproof security arrangements will be made to maintain peace during Ashura, and no one will be allowed to take the law into their own hands. Strict legal action will be taken against those who violate the code of conduct or engage in disruptive activities. The purpose of the meeting was to identify and resolve issues faced by leaders from different sects to prevent any untoward incidents during Ashura. He emphasized that Islam teaches love, peace, and brotherhood, and it is everyone's duty to perform their religious responsibilities within their respective domains, solve minor issues, and respect each other's sentiments to thwart the malicious intentions of enemies. The Deputy Commissioner also mentioned that loudspeakers cannot be used without the district administration's permission during Ashura, and there will be a complete ban on misuse and display of weapons. Cooperation with the district administration is essential to ensure peaceful observance of Ashura. He appealed to the leaders of different sects to remain calm and contact the district administration immediately in case of any untoward incident or information, rather than paying attention to rumors. Processions and gatherings should be conducted according to the scheduled routes and times to enable better management by the administration. The DC He instructed hospitals on alert with doctors, paramedical staff, and ambulances ready.

PPP Minority Wing's Sunil Kumar felicitates Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar on becoming Special Assistant



TALHAR: Sunil Kumar, the leader of PPP's Minority Wing, extended warm congratulations to several political and social leaders across Sindh, including Dr. Lal Chand Ukrani, Abdul Wahid Halipota, and Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, on their appointment as Advisor to the Sindh Chief Minister. In a statement issued from Talhar, Sunil Kumar expressed his optimism that the newly elected advisors would effectively serve the people of Sindh and uphold the legacies of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto across every village in the province. He emphasized their role in advancing the PPP's mission of social justice and equality. Sunil Kumar also reaffirmed his unwavering support and confidence in President Asif Ali Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, pledging to work tirelessly towards the party's goals under their leadership.—RT

DC Jacobabad Zahoor Ali Memon reviews arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram



By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: Deputy Commissioner Jacobabad, Zahoor Ali Memon, has emphasized rigorous security arrangements during the period of Muharram-ul-Haram to ensure peace and safety at all costs. He has instructed the police officials to guide them thoroughly, ensuring each of them performs their respective roles efficiently to facilitate smooth observance of mourning processions and gatherings in the district. Street lights and other arrangements have been ensured for the routes of mourning processions and Majalis to maintain a secure environment. In this regard, various administrative officers, including police, Rangers, intelligence agencies, local government, and health officials, along with religious scholars and community leaders, are actively participating. The aim is to ensure comprehensive security measures during Muharram-ul-Haram, including traffic management, maintenance of routes and gathering places, protection of Imam-bargahs and proper utilization of loudspeakers. Deputy Commissioner has also instructed to facilitate emergency services in hospitals and provide necessary medical supplies, ambulance services, and ensure uninterrupted power supply during the sensitive period. He urged cooperation from all sectors to maintain an environment of peace and security, emphasizing unity and harmony among all Muslims. The efforts are aimed at resolving any potential issues swiftly and effectively during the mourning period.

Shia Rabta Council demands proper facilities for mourners during Muharram

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The General Secretary of the Shia Rabta Council in Khairpur District, Chaudhry Syed Muhammad Mutahir Zaidi, alongside Dar Muhammad Karbalai, Raees Haider, Asghar Abbas Taqvi, Ali Azmat Baloch, Saeed Buledi, and other council members, convened a press conference to address grievances against the District Council Khairpur. Zaidi expressed deep concern over the Council's failure to provide essential amenities to residents, particularly in rural areas where roads are in dire need of repair. Highlighting the imminent arrival of Muharram, Zaidi criticized the District Council for not initiating any developmental projects. He warned that inadequate facilities are not provided for mourners during the sacred days of Muharram-ul-Haram, severe protests will be staged against the Chairman of the District Council Khairpur. Emphasizing the urgency of development initiatives, Zaidi urged immediate commencement of infrastructure projects and provision of basic services across rural Khairpur. He stressed that failure to meet these demands would prompt a robust protest movement during Muharram-ul-Haram, aimed at securing fundamental rights and dignified arrangements for religious observances. Efforts to reach District Council officials for comment on the matter were unsuccessful at the time of reporting.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Hosri blocked the busy Tando Fazal road in protest against their area police.-RT

Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi reviews arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Sukkur Division, Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, in the conference hall of the Commissioner's office to discuss the arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram in Sukkur Division. The meeting was attended by DIG Sukkur Pir Muhammad Shah, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Sukkur, Khairpur and Ghotki districts, DHO Sukkur, officers from law enforcement agencies, Rangers, PPHI, SEPCO and Chief Engineers of SSG along with Shia and Sunni scholars and other concerned officials. On this occasion, the Commissioner of Sukkur Division stated that Muharram is a sacred month and all scholars should maintain harmony and play an effective role in resolving any issues that arise seriously. He noted that all these problems stem from miscommunication, and everyone should play their positive role. He directed



the police and law enforcement officers to ensure foolproof security arrangements within the division, keeping personnel on high alert to prevent any untoward incidents. He also instructed the senior officials of SEPCO and the gas company to avoid load shedding during Muharram. The Commissioner gave directions to municipal officials regarding cleanliness, desilting of drains, lighting, and setting up heat stroke camps. On this occasion, DIG Sukkur Syed Pir Muhammad Shah said that Muharram is a sacred month, and everyone should demonstrate unity and solidarity. He mentioned that approximately 9,000 police officers will perform their duties within the division until the 14th of Muharram. All scholars should remain in contact with the administration to avoid any issues. He also called for intensified checking at internal and external routes. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioners of Sukkur, Khairpur and Ghotki briefed about the arrangements for Muharram in their respective districts. They informed that control rooms have been established in all three districts, with full persons from all concerned departments assigned. Similar instructions have been issued to the Assistant Commissioners of the talukas. The Deputy Commissioners further explained that a strategy has been formulated to ensure the availability of ambulances and medicines in coordination with DHOs and MS.

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum protests against occupation of sweet water lakes

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A protest rally was taken out by the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum against the seizure of livestock and fresh water by influential people, particularly targeting the public water bodies like Petaro Kahnwari Tas and other lakes in the Kakahu area of Kapri taluka. The rally proceeded from Chowk Badin to the Press Club and Awan Journalism Badin. The rally was led by Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum President Haji Nabi Bakhsh Mallah, Senior Vice President Abdul Rahim Jandani, General Secretary Muhammad Umar Mallah and Joint Secretary Muhammad Qasim Bacho. During the rally, strong slogans were raised against the occupation of the lakes and for the restoration of employment. Addressing the participants, the leaders stated that after the contract system ended on 1209 sweet water lakes of Sindh, local influencers have started the process of occupying the lakes, which is still ongoing. The Fisherfolk Forum is constantly fighting for the rights of local people on the lakes, and this protest was part of their efforts. They mentioned that the government sweet water lakes, including Petaro Kakahu Wari Tas and others, have been seized by influential individuals like Nour Muhammad Hanghuro, Akram Hanghoro, Salahuiddin Hunghoro, Abdullah, and other powerful policemen. The local fishermen have been deprived of their fishing jobs and are being stopped from fishing. The fishermen are also being threatened with false cases, and their nets have been confiscated by the Rab Dingo, Muhammad Khan Ghanu, Isa Mallah, Ramzan Ghanu and others. The leaders demanded that

the Chief Minister of Sindh, the Minister of Fisheries Department, the Secretary, DG Fisheries Hyderabad, Deputy Director of Fisheries Sanghar, Deputy Commissioner Sanghar, SSP Sanghar, and other high authorities take strict legal action against those preventing the local fishermen of Kakahu from fishing, despite their valid licenses. They also called for the coastal strip of Badin to be cut and water supplied to the lakes, as the advancing sea has already destroyed millions of acres of land, including 13 lakes. They emphasized the immediate need to save Badin and rejected the false departments trying to take over agriculture in the area. Participants in the rally included Muhammad Bhatti, Hanif Jagana, Soomard, Rab Dingo, Muhammad Khan Ghanu, Isa Mallah, Ramzan Ghanu and others.



HYDERABAD: Moro newlyweds who were married on their freewill are protesting at the Hyderabad press club for the provision of protection to them.-RT



LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Sharjeel Noor Channa is inspecting facilities at the Benazir Income Support Programme centers.-RT

METRO KARACHI



Governor Tessori Touts US Investments as Key to Slashing Unemployment

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has stated that Pakistan and the United States are natural allies, acknowledging the ups and downs in their relationship over time. He emphasized the importance of both countries coming closer in the broader interest of the region.

Tessori expressed these views at an event at the US Embassy in Islamabad to mark the US National Day. Upon his arrival, he was received by US Ambassador Donald Blome and Consul General Conrad Tribble.

The governor extended congratulations to the American people on their national day and noted that US investments are helping reduce poverty and unemployment in the region. He also expressed a desire to increase trade and investment with the U.S.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is seen in a group photo with the Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Assembly Anthony Naveed and his sons after holding a meeting with them.—Photo by Fahim Soomro

SHO Demoted and Suspended Following Alleged Assault On Lawyer In Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar

KARACHI: A station house officer (SHO) on Wednesday was suspended and demoted after he assaulted a lawyer, leading to hours-long clash between the law enforcement officials and several lawyers at the Gulistan-e-Jauhar Police Station.

The clash began after senior lawyer and Sindh High Court (SHC) member Qadir Rajpar arrived at the police station with a client with a court order for the release of a vehicle.

However, Rajpar alleged that the SHO and other staff members misbehaved with him and did not comply with the court orders. Following this, a large number of lawyers gathered outside the station and blocked the road.

A scuffle between the lawyers and policemen broke out with both sides claiming that they have been injured. The police said that the lawyers tried entering inside the station and several officials sustained injuries in the attack.

On the other hand, the police said that a plain-clothed person, who was neither in a lawyer's uniform nor introduced himself, entered the SHO's side room.

The official said that it was a matter of vehicle release which does not fall under SHO's authority.

When asked to leave the room, the person started verbally abusing and said 'now see how many people will come!'

He said that after some time, a number of lawyers came at the police station and attacked the gate.

Speaking to media persons, Rajpar said that he came to the station with his client as there was a dispute over the custody of the vehicle after which he approached GM East for the order of his car's release.

"The SHO tortured me, broke my finger and injured my head," said the lawyer.

Following the incident, negotiations between the senior superintendent of police (SSP) East, superintendent of police (SP) Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Bar Association President Amir Nawaz Warraich and lawyers began.

Karachi Bar Association General Secretary Ikhtiar Channa, while speaking to media persons, said that one of their lawyers had come to the station for the release of his vehicle.

SHO prohibited the investigating officer not to follow the vehicle, claimed Channa, adding that the fellow lawyer was locked up and tortured.

After the negotiations, President Warraich said the SHO has been suspended and demoted at their request and a case has been filed against him and the staff.

The lawyers kept on protesting until they got a copy of the first information report.

The police also said that the SHO misbehaved with lawyers and a case with provisions of terrorism, attempted murder and torture have been filed against him. He added that more than 15 policemen have been named in the case.—RT/Agency



REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

AKU And US Mission Commemorate Climate Action Fellows In KP

PESHAWAR: The Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED), in partnership with the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar, celebrated its Climate Action Fellows and their innovative action plans at an event in Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The top 10 plans will receive funding, marking a key milestone in the "Raise Awareness and Inspire Action on Environmental Protection" project.

KP, home to 30 million people, faces severe climate challenges, including extreme weather events, water scarcity, and agricultural impacts. The project, running from September 2023 to October 2024, aims to equip educators with the skills to promote environmental stewardship. Teachers are implementing hands-on projects in their schools and communities to foster environmental education.

Dr. Fozia Parveen, Assistant Professor and Project Lead at AKU-IED, highlighted the dedication of the fellows: "Their commitment to implementing action plans has inspired me to continue working towards systemic change for a sustainable planet."

The fellowship received 500 applications, with 50 educators selected for intensive training in Chitral and Peshawar. These workshops set the stage for ongoing mentorship and support.

U.S. Consul General Peshawar Shante Moore emphasized the U.S. commitment to environmental protection and education in KP, stating, "By empowering teachers, we are fostering a generation of environmentally conscious individuals who will drive positive change in their communities." Mr. Abdul Akram, Additional Secretary Education, Government of KP, remarked, "Teachers can act on pressing environmental issues through climate change education." As the project advances, AKU-IED continues to build a network of environmentally conscious educators, aiming for a lasting impact on environmental protection and climate resilience in KP.—RT



Maryam Orders Overhaul Of Food Department

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed displeasure with the officers of the Food Department for presenting wrong flour prices.

Maryam Nawaz presented flour prices in the meeting. The prices in the brief of the Food Department were different from the market prices. It was decided to determine the flour prices according to the category of Pakistan Quality Control Standard. Maryam Nawaz directed the restructuring of the food department. She also ordered to take legal action against the corrupt elements besides a mechanism for digital monitoring of the officers of the food department.—RT/Agency

Police Crack Down On Protesting Teachers With Batons Outside Karachi Press Club

KARACHI: The teachers protesting outside the Karachi Press Club (KPC) were baton-charged by the police when they attempted to march to the Sindh Assembly.

Earlier, the department had assured the teachers that all of them would be given permanent positions. However, the department failed to fulfill this commitment.

Previously, the Education Department had decided to make all the teachers permanent after the final results of their tests.—RT/Agency

The teachers had been protesting and holding a sit-in for several days, seeking permanent employment. They were appointed by the Federal Education Department in Sindh.



REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND

PTA's Prof Raees Ahmed Mansoori condemns removal of DEO Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

Imran Shah sends a damaging message about the government's commitment to education. "We cannot afford to lose competent leaders who are instrumental in shaping the educational landscape of our district," he declared.

The Teachers' Organization of Pakistan, Sindh Province, echoed these sentiments, denouncing Shah's dismissal as evidence of anti-education sentiments within governmental decision-making. They argue that such actions not only jeopardize educational standards but also erode public trust in educational governance.

Syed Imran Shah's abrupt removal has been viewed by many as a manifestation of manipulation and hostility towards educational leaders who prioritize academic excellence and administrative integrity. The community in Badin, along with educational stakeholders, demands Shah's immediate reinstatement to safeguard the continuity and progress of educational initiatives in the district.

Efforts to reach government officials for comment on the matter have so far been unsuccessful.

Sindh Governor Strongly Condemns Brazen Assault On Police Checkpost

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has strongly condemned the attack by bandits on a police checkpost in the Kashmir area of Kandhkot.

In a statement, Tessori paid tribute to the two police officers who were martyred in the attack, praying for the elevation of their ranks and offering condolences to their families.

"Such sacrifices strengthen our resolve," Tessori remarked, adding that he stands with the families of the martyrs. He affirmed the determination of law enforcement agencies to completely eliminate the bandits.—RT/Agency

Doctor assaulted at Al-Khidmat Hospital in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The administration of Al-Khidmat Hospital in Tando Allahyar, represented by Younis Qaimkhan and Javed Randhawa, held a press conference at Tando Allahyar Press Club. They stated that influential individuals, under the influence of drugs, came to the hospital early in the morning the previous day. They were accompanied by a person with minor injuries who received first aid on the on-duty doctor. Despite this, the influential individuals misbehaved with the doctor, beat him, and subjected him to severe violence. The administration condemned this act in the strongest terms and mentioned that they had all the CCTV footage and evidence. They tried to file a case against the influential individuals at the A-Section police station, but the police had not taken any action and were only making promises. They emphasized that doctors are in hospitals to serve the public, and such behavior towards them is intolerable. They warned that if the influential individuals responsible for the attack on the hospital were not arrested immediately, they would call for a protest movement.

Sindh CM Unveils Ambitious Development Maps For Union Councils And Towns

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has decided to create development maps from the Union Council (UC) to Town levels to avoid duplication, fill gaps in the development plan, and ensure comprehensive coverage of essential services.

"We need to map the population of each area, from the UC to the Town level, to identify the available municipal, educational, health, sports, and recreational facilities, as well as the development of infrastructure," Shah said during a meeting at CM House. Chief of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), Dr. Nadeem Zafar, provided a detailed briefing on population, education, health, and the provincial Bureau of Statistics.

The meeting, attended by Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, and PBS officials, discussed the sectors covered in Census 2023, including education, employment, disabilities, housing, and geocoding of structures. Shah emphasized the need for migration data to plan policies and services effectively.

"We must know how many people from other countries and provinces come to Sindh each year to assess the pressure on provincial resources," Shah said. He directed the P&D department to develop and maintain a data bank through regular surveys by the provincial Bureau of Statistics.

Shah expressed interest in education mapping to identify deprived areas and target resources effectively. He noted disparities such as Karachi Central having a high literacy rate of 83.6%, but 22.7% of children out of school, while Thatta has the highest rate of out-of-school children at 75.8% and the lowest literacy rate at 26.9%.

He highlighted the need for mapping electricity access, citing Karachi Central's 99.1% electricity sources compared to Tharparkar producing 3500 MW of electricity. Shah proposed covering deprived households with solar systems.

The CM directed the P&D department to activate the provincial Bureau of Statistics to develop maps of every UC and town in terms of facilities. "The PBS would support the Sindh Bureau of Statistics, and further surveys would be conducted independently," Shah said.—RT



Murad Champions Landmark Legislation Against Gender-Based Violence

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah highlighted the Sindh Assembly's efforts in enacting laws against gender-based violence, anti-rape measures, protection of minority rights, and handling cases involving transgender individuals. He spoke at the launch of the Sindh Prosecution Roadmap 2025-2030 at a local hotel, organized by the Sindh Criminal Prosecution Service Department and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Shah emphasized the PPP's commitment to upholding the rule of law and noted the assembly's role in introducing innovative, citizen-centric initiatives. He mentioned the significant achievement of enacting Sindh Correction Services, making the assembly the first in Asia to adopt major jail reforms. The Sindh Criminal Prosecution Service Department has been actively participating in national causes, with the PG Sindh serving as a national legal expert on FATF. The Sindh Roadmap 2025-2030, developed with UNODC's support, addresses gaps in the criminal justice system related to transgender rights, human trafficking and minority rights. He commended the Sindh Criminal Prosecution Service Department's dedication and the UNODC's support in enhancing the prosecutorial system's performance. Shah underscored the importance of policy and governance reforms for evidence-based decision-making and expressed confidence in UNODC's technical support. The event featured speeches from Minister for Agriculture & Anti-Corruption Establishment Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Dr. Jeremy Mison and Mr. Zia Hashmi of UNODC and PG Dr. Fiaz Shah.—RT



Dr. Salman Sharif Makes History As First Pakistani Surgeon To Chair WFNS Committee

KARACHI: Professor Salman Sharif, Head of Neurosurgery at Liaquat National Hospital & Medical College, has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Pakistani surgeon to be appointed as Coordinator of the World Federation of Neurological Societies (WFNS) Committee.

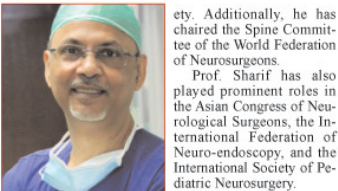
Dr. Sharif has also played prominent roles in the Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons, the International Federation of Neuro-endoscopy, and the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery.

During his tenure as Chair of the WFNS Spine Committee, Dr. Sharif's mission is to provide "Equal Spine Care for All," aiming to bring advanced neurosurgical treatment to underdeveloped areas and countries.—RT

etly. Additionally, he has chaired the Spine Committee of the World Federation of Neurosurgists.

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Residents of Dadu's Hussain Jamali Colony protest against unauthorized poultry farms in their area

By Javed Laghari

DADU: The residents of Hussain Jamali Colony near the vegetable market, including Gulam Rasool Sand, Muhammad Ayub Naich, Muhammad Ali Sand, Yaseen Bhutto, and Ali Raza Panwar, staged a protest and complained to the media. They stated that waste from poultry farms is being collected in their colony, causing a foul smell that has made living conditions unbearable. Due to the stench, four children Asma, Bablio, Dilbar and Rafiq Sand have fainted and been admitted to Dadu Hospital. The odor has led to various illnesses among the colony's residents. They demanded that the poultry waste be collected outside the city. The protesters called on the Deputy Commissioner of Dadu, the Chairman of the Municipal Committee, and the Assistant Commissioner of Dadu to take legal action against those responsible for the collection of the foul-smelling waste and to protect the children from diseases. They urged for justice for the colony's residents and warned that they would expand their protest if their demands were not met.

Sanghar educationist Nazir Muhammad Laghari injured in a botched assassination attempt

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: Near the village of Khair Muhammad Lund, Nazir Muhammad Laghari, an educational expert from Taluka Sanghar, was severely injured in an assassination attempt while inspecting his land. He was immediately taken to the Taluka Civil Hospital Sanghar, where he received first aid. Due to the critical nature of his injuries, he was then referred to Hyderabad for further treatment. Speaking to the media about the incident, Nazir Muhammad Laghari's son, Zameer Hussain Laghari, and his assistant, Hashim Lund stated that Nazir Muhammad Laghari was visiting his land in Doh 41 Jamrao when he was ambushed by Pahar Lund, who was armed with a Kalashnikov. Accompanying Pahar Lund were his sons, Ferooz Lund, Murtaza Lund, and Mazhar Lund, who were equipped with axes and iron rods. They launched a brutal attack on Nazir Muhammad Laghari, causing him to lose consciousness. He was then wrapped in a cloth and carried from the site to the main road, from where he was transported to the Taluka Civil Hospital Sanghar. Despite the timely notification of the incident to SHO Sanghar and the Sanghar police, no police personnel arrived at the scene of the altercation.

The stock market's bullishness is not a substitute for a genuine economic recovery

As the government eagerly anticipates securing an IMF deal, it must tread carefully, for the costs could be significant in terms of political capital. The enthusiasm in government circles, highlighted by the Minister of State for Finance, Ali Pervez Malik, suggesting the loan package could exceed \$6 billion, reflects a dangerous overconfidence. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's admission that the IMF played a role in the budget process has buoyed the stock market to record highs. However, this bullish sentiment is a poor barometer for the nation's ailing economy and the everyday struggles of its citizens.

The stock market's rise, crossing 80,000 points on the KSE Index, is a testament to investor confidence in the anticipated IMF deal. Yet, this surge

does not mirror the economic reality faced by the common man. The market's gains largely benefit a



narrow segment of society, while the broader population grapples with inflation, unemployment, and stagnant wages. The stock market's performance should not be mistaken for a comprehensive indicator of economic health. It reflects the optimism of investors who anticipate higher profits and dividends, not the lived experiences of the general populace.

Securing the IMF package might temporarily bolster the government's standing among investors,

but it comes at the cost of imposing austerity measures that will deepen the misery for many. The government's legitimacy, already questioned by its opponents and critics, could be further eroded by the unpopular policies dictated by the IMF. The optimism surrounding the stock market is likely to be short-lived if the IMF-sponsored budget leads to greater economic hardship for the masses.

Thus, the government must recognize that the stock market's bullishness is not a substitute for a genuine economic recovery. While the IMF deal might seem like a lifeline, it carries the risk of exacerbating political instability and public discontent. The true measure of economic success lies in the well-being of all citizens, not just the fortunes of a few investors.

THE HEARTLAND



SSP Umerkot Asif Raza Baloch reviews arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A meeting was held at the SSP Office under the chairmanship of SSP Umerkot Asif Raza Baloch regarding the security and administrative aspects of Muharram-ul-Haram. All SDPOs, SHOs of the district, heads of all branches, units, and sections, along with other relevant police officers, as well as scholars of all sects, religious leaders, administrators of Imambargahs, caretakers, founders, and members of the peace committee participated in the meeting. In the meeting, a

detailed review was taken regarding the code of conduct for Muharram, the activation of the peace committee, interfaith and sectarian unity, mutual coordination with district administration and other institutions, especially security arrangements. SSP Umerkot gave instructions to all officers, stating that they should monitor social media, prevent inflammatory speeches, slogans, wall chalking, and hate-spreading literature, and ensure the complete implementation of the Code of Conduct. Permission for licensed/traditional processions, adherence to the timings and specified routes for processions and gatherings, traffic and security clearance, video recording of processions and gatherings, arrangements such as drone cameras, and CCTV cameras will be ensured in collaboration with the organizers. For the integrated security of Imambargahs and processions, scouts and volunteers, along with the police and other law enforcement agencies, will be included. Security cards will also be issued. All necessary security measures will be taken.

Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar leads JUI-F's membership campaign in Matiari



By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) has launched an ambitious membership campaign in Matiari, drawing crowds to join their ranks, as confirmed by the district council of the party. Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar took center stage at the membership camp, rallying locals to unite under the JUI-F banner for the betterment of the nation.

Addressing the gathering, Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar underscored the inclusive ethos of JUI-F, inviting individuals from all walks of life, regardless of ethnicity or caste, to contribute towards humanitarian causes through the party. He emphasized the party's commitment to serving the people of Pakistan, upholding the values of justice and equality.

Supporting this message, Maulana Fazl Rehman, the leader of JUI-F, reiterated the party's dedication to serving humanity without discrimination, a principle deeply rooted in the teachings of Islam.

The event witnessed the presence of prominent religious scholars from Sindh, including Maulana Asadullah Hyderi, Haji Sarang Mangi, and Maulana Ahmed Ali Khaskheli, among others, underscoring the significance of the campaign in Matiari.

As the membership drive gains momentum, JUI-F leaders and supporters expressed optimism about expanding their influence in Matiari and beyond, pledging to uphold the values of unity, justice, and social welfare across the region.

Thul's civil society demands abducted Behram Khoso's recovery

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Tensions ran high outside the Press Club Thul as relatives and local civil society leaders gathered to protest the abduction of Behram Khoso, demanding immediate action from authorities. Led by prominent figures including Shaman Soomro, Li-aquat Sarki, Waseem Qureshi, Arbab Ali Golo, Gulzar Khoso, and Suhno Burro, the protestors voiced their anguish over the abduction of Behram Khoso, who was forcefully taken from his home in Pyaro Khoso village, under the jurisdiction of RD-52 police station, 24 days ago.

JSCM leaders and Khoso's relatives expressed deep frustration with the police's handling of the case, accusing them of incompetence and providing only empty promises instead of concrete efforts to secure Behram's safe return. The lack of progress has exacerbated the family's distress and disillusionment.

In a passionate appeal, they called upon the Inspector General of Sindh, DIG Larkana, and SSP Jacobabad to prioritize the recovery of Behram Khoso and ensure justice for the victim and his family. They emphasized that unless swift and effective action is taken, they are prepared to escalate their protest to press for justice.

Efforts to contact police officials for comment on the progress of the investigation and measures being taken were ongoing at the time of filing this report. The community remains on edge, awaiting a resolution to the harrowing ordeal faced by Behram Khoso and his loved ones.

HESCO Cracks Down On Illegal Connections And Defaulters Across Multiple Subdivisions: Over 11,000 Connections Disconnected

HYDERABAD: The Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has intensified its efforts to recover dues and curb electricity theft across multiple subdivisions, following directives from Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Roshan Otho. According to a HESCO spokesperson, special recovery teams, including SDI and M&T teams, have been deployed to inspect and disconnect illegal connections and defaulters' connections.

A significant number of illegal connections have been identified and disconnected across various subdivisions: In the City Mirpurkhas subdivision, 1034 illegal connections were disconnected, and 465 connections of defaulters were severed.

The Satellite Town Subdivision saw 947 illegal connections and 426 defaulters' connections disconnected. In Heraband Mirpurkhas, 965 illegal connections and 434 defaulters' connections

were cut off. Mirwah Gorchani reported 879 illegal disconnections and 396 defaulters' disconnections.

Dulong Subdivision disconnected 1027 illegal connections and 462 defaulters' connections. New Kot Subdivision saw 1139 illegal connections and 513 defaulters' connections severed.

Jhudo subdivision had 1178 illegal connections and 530 defaulters' connections disconnected. In Mithi subdivision, 997 illegal connections and 449 defaulters' connections were cut off.

Across other subdivisions, a total of 5731 illegal connections and 2579 defaulters' connections were disconnected. In total, over 11,000 illegal connections have been severed.

More than 794 FIRs have been submitted to the respective police stations against electricity thieves, and over

112.478 million rupees have been recovered from defaulters. Additionally, more than 6254 electricity connections have been disconnected due to non-payment, and these will only be restored upon settlement of dues.

HESCO urges consumers to resolve any billing issues by contacting their nearest Sub-Divisional Customer Service Center or Complaint Center at 118, or by visiting the HESCO website to print duplicate bills. Consumers are reminded to pay their bills on time to avoid disconnection and potential legal action. CEO Muhammad Roshan Otho emphasized that electricity theft is both an illegal and moral crime, and that HESCO will take strict action against offenders.

The HESCO chief appeals to consumers to clear their dues promptly to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply.—RT

NA's Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah condoles sad demise of Late Muhammad Moosa Rind

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and MNA, visited the residence of the late Muhammad Moosa Rind in Nawab Wali Muhammad Town to offer his heartfelt condolences. Late Muhammad Moosa Rind, a revered personality in Nawab Wali Muhammad Town, passed away recently, leaving behind a legacy of service and leadership in the community. Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah extended his sympathies to the family of the deceased, including Haji Muhammad Urs Rind, a prominent figure in the Rind community, and Amjad Rind, the former UC Chairman.



During his visit, Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah praised the contributions of Late Muhammad Moosa Rind to the social and political fabric of Nawab Wali Muhammad Town. He emphasized the loss felt by the entire community and assured them of

his support during this difficult time. The visit underscored the Deputy Speaker's commitment to standing in solidarity with the bereaved family and honoring the memory of Late Muhammad Moosa Rind, whose presence will be deeply missed in the local community.

8-year-old Radhan boy drowns in a canal

By Hanif Panhwar

MEHAR: The serene town of Radhan was gripped with sorrow as tragedy befell the family of 8-year-old Farhan Ali, son of Riaz Hussain Bhand, who tragically drowned while seeking respite from the scorching heat and prolonged electricity load shedding. Farhan had ventured into a nearby canal for a cooling bath, unaware of the dangers that awaited him. The incident unfolded

swiftly, leaving the family and community in shock. Farhan's lifeless body was retrieved from the canal and rushed to Radhan Hospital, where doctors, despite their best efforts, confirmed his untimely demise. As the news of his death spread, the atmosphere at his home turned mournful, with relatives and neighbors consoling the grieving family. The sight of Farhan's lifeless form brought his mother to her knees in inconsolable grief, causing her to lose consciousness multiple times. The community gathered to offer prayers and support, deeply affected by the sudden loss of a young life. Local authorities have been urged to investigate the circumstances leading to Farhan's death and to take measures to prevent such tragedies in the future. As the family prepares for the funeral rites, the entire town of Radhan mourns the loss of a beloved child, taken too soon.

Provincial Ombudsman's Regional Director Manzoor Ali Soomro holds an open katchery in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An event organized by the Provincial Ombudsman's office in Badin by the Regional Director Manzoor Ali Soomro on orders of Provincial Ombudsman Muhammad Sohail Rajput. The open katchery was held at the District Accounts Office Badin. Officials from various departments attended the meeting. The Regional Director of the Ombudsman's Office listened to the problems and issued orders to resolve many of them immediately. The objective of the session was to prioritize and resolve the issues of government employees and retired personnel. District Account



Officer Badin Arif Hussain Mirani reported that 83 GP Fund cases, 6 teaching allowance cases and 41 pension cases were completed this month. Some cases are pending due to budget constraints, including LPR (Leave Preparatory to Retirement). Out of 161 total cases, 86 have been completed and efforts are underway to process the remaining 75 cases with the assistance of

the AG Sindh. The event saw significant participation from retired and serving employees of various institutions, as well as officials like Farooq Channa and District Information Officer Sarfraz Samo. This event appears to have been a proactive effort to address and resolve longstanding issues faced by government employees and retirees in the district of Badin.

Tando Jam notable Wadero Gul Muhammad Nahyon robbed at gunpoint

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: Wadero Gul Muhammad Nahyon fell victim to a daring robbery when armed assailants intercepted him in Tando Jam. The incident occurred as Nahyon was returning from collecting payment from a local trader and inspecting his land. The robbers, brandishing weapons, forcefully took away his newly acquired 125

motorcycle, along with cash and a mobile phone. Narrating the ordeal, Gul Muhammad Nahyon

lamented the increasing incidents of motorcycle thefts in the region.

He highlighted that similar robberies have recently plagued areas such as Tando Jam, Kisana Mori, Musa Khaityan, Tando Qaiser, and Usman Shah Rahooki, causing concern among residents

and prompting calls for heightened security measures.

Local authorities have been urged to investigate the recent surge in thefts and take proactive steps to apprehend the culprits responsible for these criminal activities. Residents, including Gul Muhammad Nahyon, hope for swift action to curb such incidents and restore safety in their communities.

SPORTS



Cricket Australia CEO hints at possible tri-series with Pakistan, India



SYDNEY: In a significant development for cricket fans in the subcontinent, Cricket Australia's Chief Executive Nick Hockley has expressed a strong desire to facilitate a high-profile tri-series involving India and Pakistan.

This move comes amidst growing excitement for the long-awaited clash between these traditional rivals, which has always been a major attraction in the cricketing world.

During an online press conference, Hockley highlighted the immense enthusiasm that surrounds India-Pakistan encounters.

"Pakistan and India are traditional rival teams; there is a lot of excitement for their matches," the CEO remarked.

He further elaborated that Cricket Australia is keen to support and assist in organising both bilateral and tri-series with these nations.

"We are ready to support both teams for a bilateral and a tri-series," Hockley added, emphasising the Australian cricket governing body's readiness to facilitate these

high-stakes matches.

"We would be happy to play a role in the revival of Pakistan-India bilateral series," said Hockley, reflecting Cricket Australia's eagerness to bring these two cricketing giants together on the same pitch.

However, he also mentioned that any such plans would require coordination between the respective cricket boards and governments of both India and Pakistan.

"The two boards need to decide first, and we will assist in hosting," he said, adding that formal discussions have yet to take place due to the busy schedules of the cricket boards involved.

Considering Afghanistan's remarkable win against Australia, Hockley congratulated the Afghan team for their exceptional performance.

He acknowledged the challenges the Afghan cricketers faced, particularly in the context of human rights issues affecting women's cricket in the country. —Agency

Kusal Perera's century in vain as Jaffna Kings edge past Dambulla Sixers

PALLEKELE: Kusal Perera's unbeaten century went in vain as Avishka Fernando and Charith Asalanka scored quick half-centuries to guide Jaffna Kings to a thrilling victory over Dambulla Sixers in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024 clash here on Wednesday.

Jaffna Kings registered their first victory in the LPL 2024 and jumped to the second spot in the points table with two points from two games. Meanwhile, the Dambulla Sixers are lying at the bottom of the points table with two losses in two games.

Set to chase 192, Pathum Nissanka (27) gave Jaffna Kings a stable start with a 30-run opening stand with Kusal Mendis (6).

However, Dambulla Six-



ers halted their progress with three wickets in quick succession, reducing the Kings to 36-3 in 5.2 overs.

Avishka Fernando and Charith Asalanka then joined hands to take their team out of trouble with a fiery partnership of 134 runs for the fourth wicket in only 66 balls.

Asalanka, who scored a 36-ball 50, laced with four boundaries and four sixes.

Fernando also followed suit in the next over as Nuwan Thushara after scoring 80 runs from 34 balls with the help of seven boundaries and six sixes.

With 15 required off two overs, Jaffna Kings chased the target on the final ball with Fabian Allen hitting a six off Vimukthi.

For the Sixers, Thushara and Rahman claimed two wickets each, while Mohammad Nabi bagged one.

Earlier, Dambulla Sixers were invited to bat first and lost opening batter Danushka Gunathilaka (9) in the fourth over with 18 runs on the board.—Agency

Babar, Shaheen, Rizwan brace for setback ahead of GT20 Canada



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has withheld the issuing of the no-objection certificates (NOCs) for the team's skipper Babar Azam, star pacer Shaheen Afridi, and wicket-keeper batter Mohammad Rizwan for taking part in Global T20 Canada League, sources told Geo News.

The board, the sources added, has in fact contacted the International Cricket Council (ICC) regarding the affiliation of the said tournament and the decision on issuing the NOCs will be made after the ICC's response on the matter.

The development comes as several players had sought PCB's permission to participate in various cricket leagues across the world.

A day earlier, 12 cricketers were issued the re-

quired NOCs for their participation in different leagues across the globe.

Some of the players from the list are Pakistan's central contract while the others have not played for the Green Shirts in a long time.

As many as seven Pakistani cricketers have been picked by various franchises in the Global T20 Canada League.

This includes Babar, Rizwan, Shaheen, Asif Ali, Mohammad Amir, Iftikhar Ahmed and Mohammad Nawaz.

Babar, Asif, Amir and Rizwan have been picked by the Vancouver Knights, whereas Shaheen and Nawaz are going to represent Toronto Nationals and leagues across the world.

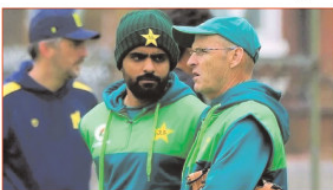
Iftikhar will be a part of Bangla Tigers whereas Rizwan will be part of the re-

Pakistan coach Gary Kirsten submits 'confidential' report to PCB on team's horrific performance

LAHORE: Pakistan's white-ball coach Gary Kirsten has submitted a "confidential" assessment report on the national side's disastrous performance in the recently concluded T20 World Cup 2024 to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), sources told Geo News on Wednesday.

The report, the sources added, has been sent to PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi who will review the document highlighting players' fitness, discipline and game awareness among other things that led to the team's early exit from the mega event.

The development comes as the Green Shirts failed to even make it to the Super Eight stage of the World Cup after suffering an upset loss



against the minnows United States followed by a defeat against arch-rivals India.

The Babar Azam-led side only managed to win matches against Canada and Ireland which were insufficient to propel the team to the next stage of the tournament.

The below-par performance by the national side resulted in scathing criticism from fans and former crick-

eters alike prompting the PCB chief to announce a "major surgery" in the squad.

However, the board decided to wait for Kirsten and senior manager Wahab Riaz's report to make any decision with regard to the team's future.

After going through the report, the PCB chief will also consult other board officials and former cricketers

before taking a decision on the way forward.

Earlier, media while citing sources had reported that Kirsten had expressed concerns over the players' fitness levels, stating they are not up to the mark.

In a discussion with the team after their elimination from the World Cup, the coach pointed out that the team's skill level is significantly lagging compared to the rest of the world.

"Despite playing so much cricket, no one knows which shot to play and when," he said, adding that only players who value unity, focus on fitness, and improve their skill set will be part of the team moving forward.—Agency

Netherlands crush Romania to reach Euro 2024 quarter-finals



MUNICH: The Netherlands swept into the Euro 2024 quarter-final as Donyell Malen scored twice in a 3-0 win over Romania in the Last 16.

Cody Gakpo gave the Dutch an early lead but they were unable to convert pressure into a crucial second goal until the Liverpool forward set up Malen with seven minutes remaining in Munich.

Romania were gritty but outclassed, lacking the quality to punish their opponents' profligacy before Malen added his second on the counter in stoppage-time.

The victory put the Netherlands on course for a Euro 2024 quarter-final clash with Turkey or Austria.

"We played a good game. I'm very pleased. Especially after the last game we needed a reaction and today was a good step in the right direction," Gakpo said.

"We talked a lot about the aggression, the intensity and defending like a team. It was a good step.

"Sacrifice something for each other and work really hard to be at your best. Good game overall." —Agency

Ronald Koeman's side would to improve their effectiveness in front of goal should they wish to emulate their manager, who was a player for the Dutch when they won the 1988 Euros on German soil.

Koeman said, "The only critical point was that it took us too long to score the second one," but praised the performance overall.

"We are Dutch, we have to play well. The performance today was outstanding and that's why we have a chance to continue," added the 61-year-old coach.

"This is the level we need. If we drop our level, we won't make the final."

Romania coach Edward Iordanescu said his team "tried to surprise the Netherlands today and it worked - until the 20th minute," but added he saw "good things that can inspire us for the future."

Prior to the game, Netherlands' captain Virgil van Dijk said his side lacked energy and the "will to win" in the loss to Austria in the group stage of Euro 2024.—Agency

Djokovic believes Murray has one more Wimbledon left in him

LONDON: Novak Djokovic described Andy Murray as an inspiration to fellow players for his resilience and backed him to return to Wimbledon in 2025 despite the Briton announcing his farewell after pulling out of the singles competition.

Murray, who lifted the 2013 Wimbledon title to end Britain's 77-year wait for a men's singles champion and also won the crown in 2016, will only play doubles this year after having surgery for a spinal cyst on June 22 and failing to recover fully.

The latest injury denied the 37-year-old Scot, who had hip-resurfacing surgery in 2019 to resurrect his career, a fitting swansong at the site of his most famous triumph.



"Hopefully he can get another shot at next year's Wimbledon with singles. Knowing him, he's going to try to do that," said Djokovic, who lost to Murray in the final of the grasscourt Grand Slam 11 years ago.

"Incredible resilience throughout his career. Multi-

ple Grand Slam winner. Legend of the game. Number one in the world. Just a huge inspiration to all the players. He doesn't mind getting on court for hours every day. Incredible professional." His approach is something to study. His will to push and see how far he can go, even

with an artificial hip, is something that's inspiring but also serves as a great example to a lot of athletes, younger ones, that complain about this and that. "He has left a great mark on and off the court for tennis. But something tells me that he'll keep going. He has every right to say when it's the finish line for him. If he wants to keep going, no doubt people will be very happy about it."

Murray may not have reached the heights he did before his hip operation but world number four Alexander Zverev said the latter part of the three-times major champion's career was equally significant.—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT

Kylie Jenner keeps Timothee Chalamet away from 'Kardashians' reality TV



Kylie Jenner refuses to spill the beans on her romance with Timothee Chalamet for a reason.

The beauty mogul, who has been dating the A-list actor for a year now, hasn't once talked about her romantic dynamics on her family's reality TV show The Kardashians, despite their \$100million Hulu deal.

A source now tells PEOPLE that Kylie is "very protective" of her relationship with Timothee, and specifically chooses to keep him off the camera.

"Things are great with Timothee. Kylie is happy. They are both busy, but making time to see each other, especially on the weekends," the insider spilled.

Saba Qamar joins Mahira Khan on Khalilur Rehman Qamar's blacklist



Pakistani playwright and director Khalilur Rehman Qamar is once again making headlines, this time for declaring that he will never work with leading actress Saba Qamar.

Previously, the firebrand screenwriter had drawn controversy when he publicly refused to work with megastar Mahira Khan.

During a recent podcast, the host asked Qamar if there

was any actress he would never cast in his dramas. In response, Qamar explicitly mentioned Saba Qamar, stating that he would not cast her in any of his projects due to her choice of "vulgar" attire, which he believes is against his standards.

"There is no doubt that Saba Qamar is an excellent actress and she performed brilliantly in one of my past dramas. However, her current

choice of clothing is against our culture and my principles," the playwright explained.

He acknowledged that Saba Qamar's wardrobe choices are her personal preference and that he has no issue with her liking them. However, he emphasized that he has the right to select actors for his projects based on his own criteria.

The playwright further mentioned actors Humayun Saad and Adnan Siddiqi as those he would like to work with repeatedly.

It's worth noting that in the past, Qamar faced significant criticism from the entertainment industry, including from Mahira Khan, for his inappropriate comments towards Marvi Sirmed during a TV program on the Aurat March.

Face of the Day

Name: Farzeen Ahmed
Location: Karachi
About me: I love taking selfies!

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

THE HEARTLAND



Bilawal condoles martyrdom of two Kandhkot cops

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned the tragic killing of two policemen in an attack on a check post in Kashmirat-Kandhkot district.

Chairman PPP conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the martyred officers and extended prayers for the swift recovery of the injured personnel. He emphasized that the sacrifices made by Sindh's police officers and jawans in maintaining law and order are unparalleled



and deeply appreciated. Chairman Bhutto Zardari contacted Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Provincial Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar to obtain details of the incident. He urged swift and decisive

7-year-old Shahpur Jahania boy sexually abused

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: A 7-year-old boy named Ali Channa was held hostage by a youth named Puppy S/o Mukhtiar Dahri, who sexually abused the boy at gunpoint in village Nangar Makan near Shahpur Jahania. The father of the raped boy said that the influ-

ential men of his area are issuing dire threats to him for raising voice for the provision of justice to his son. The police have also refused to register a case of the incident. On the occasion, the protesting man demanded arrest of the accused men in the incident to provide justice to his minor son.

8 day suspension of power supply irks Tando Allahyar residents

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Residents of Ward-13 in Tando Allahyar city blocked the road at Chamber Naka Chowk in protest against an 8-day power outage. The protest led to long queues of vehicles, while women and men chanted slogans against HESCO. The residents complained to the media that the power in their area had been out for 8 days. They said they had already paid multiple times, but HESCO officials were demanding a large amount of money to install a transformer, which they

couldn't afford. They explained that there was no drinking water in their homes, and even the mosquitoes had no water for absorption. The extreme heat was causing children to fall ill, and no one was listening to their pleas. The residents emphasized that they were forced to come out onto the streets because HESCO officials were not addressing their issues. They vowed to continue their protest until the transformer was installed in their area. The protest ended and traffic resumed after discussions with the administration.

-Can someone please take notice of their plight?

Poor women being humiliated at BISP Centre in Kunri

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Centre in Kunri has turned into a site of distress and humiliation for deserving women seeking their monthly support. Despite the commencement of the third monthly tranche, the newly established center in the local market area has failed these women, subjecting them to harsh treatment and inadequate facilities under the scorching sun.

Reports from Kunri reveal a disturbing scene where women, reliant on the BISP for financial aid, endure physical and verbal abuse

while attempting to collect their entitled funds. Many have returned empty-handed after futile attempts spanning two days, highlighting systemic failures and mismanagement.

Witnesses report instances of women being beaten with sticks and subjected to public humiliation by law enforcement personnel, exacerbating their already dire circumstances. The lack of basic amenities at the center, compounded by the token system enforced by BISP officials, has further complicated matters for these vulnerable women, many of whom travel from remote areas with young children in tow.

The Center Incharge defended the token system as protocol, but voices across Kunri demand immediate reforms and compassionate handling of distribution procedures. Community leaders and activists have called for urgent intervention to restore dignity to these deserving women and ensure they receive their rightful support without further delay.

As the situation escalates, local authorities are urged to swiftly address grievances, uphold human dignity, and implement necessary reforms to prevent such incidents from recurring at BISP centers across the region.

Father of two murdered brothers protests against their killers and Johi Police

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: A week ago, in the village Merero Pat within the jurisdiction of Kasbo Police Station in Kachho, two brothers, Amjad and Sajid Ali Laghari, were brutally murdered by over seven armed men in broad daylight at their shop for not paying extortion. Following the incident, the father of the deceased, Ali Hassan Laghari, along with Nazir Ahmed Laghari, reached National Press Club Johi to stage a strong protest and hold a press conference. Ali Hassan Laghari accused the Kasbo Police of releasing the perpetrators after taking heavy bribes. He stated that instead of providing protection, the Kasbo police are giving protocol to the killers, who are roaming freely with weapons. He expressed frustration that the police seem blind to the killers who are in plain sight. He claimed that due to the police's criminal silence, the area has become a haven for



criminals, with long-time fugitive and wanted criminals establishing their bases there. Instead of taking legal action, the police are allegedly collaborating with the criminals. He lamented that his sons, who were the breadwinners of the family, were targeted and killed because they refused to pay extortion. The mother and wife of one of the deceased are in shock due to the tragedy. On the occasion, Ali Hassan Laghari made an impassioned plea to the Chief Justice of the Sindh

NADRA officer Mumtaz Gurgez suffers a fatal heart attack during Badin property clash

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: NADRA officer Mumtaz Gurgez died due to a cardiac attack during a land dispute, clash, and attack. A case of harassment and attempted murder has been registered against eight persons, including four women involved in the clash. The 48-year-old Mumtaz Gurgez, the former president and social leader of Sindh Student Tehreek's student wing at Badin College unit, died due to car-

diac arrest following the attack, violence, and intense heat. A case has been registered against four women and four men, including Mushtaq Waraich, Aqeel Waraich, Muhammad Bakhs Gurgez, Noor Ahmad Gurgez, and Arshad Arain, who were involved in the quarrel and attack. The complaint was filed by Abbas Gurgez, the uncle of the deceased Mumtaz Gurgez, on charges of harassment and attempted murder.

Tando Adam newlyweds appeal for protection

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: Parti, a 20-year-old girl from Haji Sangwan Gopang village in Bahuk, District Hyderabad, has married Ramesh from Berani, District Sanghar, at the Tando Adam court. Now known as Mrs. Ramesh, she clarified to the media that her marriage to Ramesh was voluntary and not the result of any abduction.

Parti expressed concern over continuous threats to

their lives from her father, Veero, and uncle. She and her husband Ramesh have appealed to SSP Sanghar and the Session Judge of Sanghar for protection from potential harm.

The couple's plea for security comes amidst fears of retaliation due to their inter-district marriage. They are hopeful that authorities will intervene swiftly to ensure their safety and uphold their right to live peacefully as a married couple.

Tando Allahyar youth found dead in watercourse

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The lifeless body of a 30-year-old man was discovered submerged in a watercourse near Tando Allahyar. The grim discovery of Hunzala Qaimkhani, a resident of Fayaz Colony, was made early this morning by local residents who immediately alerted authorities.

Emergency services swiftly responded to the scene, and the body was carefully transported to the local area hospital for

necessary medical procedures and identification. After formal identification by authorities, the body was respectfully handed over to the grieving family members to proceed with funeral arrangements.

Law enforcement officials have initiated a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the tragic demise of the young man. Further details are expected to emerge as authorities continue their inquiries into this unfortunate incident.

TMK residents demand action against local builders

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In the urban area of Tando Muhammad Khan, in the People's Colony area of Sonpuri, there was an alleged attempt by a builder to demolish hundreds of houses, leading to protests by the affected residents. Residents of the area, including women, men, and children, protested against the builder in front of the SSP office on Station Road, staging a sit-in. During the protest, the affected individuals, including Uzma Brohi, Mst. Zaib, Mst. Rahiman and others, stated that the builder mafia attempted to destroy their houses, which

have been built for over 50 years, using heavy machinery such as bulldozers and tractors. They said that their resistance had temporarily stopped the demolition, but they feared that the influential builder could demolish their houses at any time, leaving them homeless. They mentioned that there is a judicial restriction on the lease of the land, and after taking over government plots in Sonpuri, the builder is now trying to attack their homes, putting their families in a state of fear and anxiety. Depute informing the elected public representatives of the area and the district administration, no justice has been done.

Two cops martyred, two injured in Kandhkot

By Adnan Bhatti

KANDHKOT: Tragedy struck in the jurisdiction of Durran Mahar Police Station as bandits launched a brazen attack on a police outpost, sparking a fierce gun battle. The exchange of gunfire resulted in the martyrdom of two brave police officers and left two others critically injured. The fallen officers, identified as Allah Dino Sabzoi and Nisar Ahmed Kalhoro, displayed exemplary courage in the face of danger.

The injured officers, Zahid Hussain Nasirvani and Nisar Ahmed Jalrani, were swiftly transported to Civil Hospital Kandhkot for urgent medical care. Due to the severity of their injuries, they were later transferred to Sukkur Hospital for further treatment. The incident has raised concerns about ongoing security challenges in the region, with police forces continuing to engage the bandits in a bid to restore order. Reports indicate that one bandit was neutralized during the exchange,

highlighting the intensity of the confrontation. Local authorities and law enforcement agencies are working tirelessly to bring the situation under control and ensure the safety of residents. The sacrifice of these officers underscores the risks faced by law enforcement personnel in the line of duty, and their dedication to protecting the community. Efforts to reach police officials for further details on the incident and the status of the operation were ongoing at the time of reporting.

Tribute paid to Shams-ul-Ulema Mirza Qaleech Baig on his 95th death anniversary

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: On the occasion of the 95th death anniversary of the esteemed scholar Shams-ul-Ulema Mirza Qaleech Baig, speakers gathered to honor his exceptional contributions to the Sindhi language and literature. They celebrated him as a versatile writer whose works spanned poetry, prose, theology, horticulture, agriculture, and bibliography. Addressing a program organized by the Shams-ul-Ulema Mirza Qaleech Baig Research Chair at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro, the speakers highlighted the significance of the title "Shams-ul-Ulema," meaning "Sun of Knowledge," which was conferred upon him by the British Government in recognition of his educational contributions. Dr. Nawab Kaka, Director of the Chair, emphasized the need for further re-

search into Mirza Qaleech's extensive literary contributions. He stated that the Sindh University's Qaleech Research Chair was dedicated to exploring and promoting the diverse aspects of his literary legacy. He noted that Sindhi has historically been a hub for literary activities, attracting scholars from regions such as Iran, Iraq, and Turkey, and that the famous poet Firdousi had mentioned Sindhi in his "Shahnama." Dr. Kaka praised Mirza Qaleech for his fundamental work in various fields, including history, legends, literary literature, and linguistics, and recognized his pivotal role in enhancing the scientific foundation of Sindhi. Renowned writer Taj Jyoy acknowledged Mirza Qaleech as a monumental figure in Sindhi's academic and literary spheres. He shared anecdotes about Qaleech's relationship with

Sain GM Syed, noting that Qaleech not only helped secure land for Syed from the government but also took special care of him during his childhood. Jyoy highlighted that Sain GM Syed constructed Bab-e-Qaleech in his Sann town to honor Qaleech Baig's literary contributions. Prominent writer and broadcaster Naser Mirza commended Mirza Qaleech Baig's extensive body of work, which included writings on language, literature, history, poetry, and various other subjects. Earlier in the day, a group of writers, intellectuals, and poets, under the aegis of SU's Shams-ul-Ulema Mirza Qaleech Baig Research Chair, visited Syed Buland Shah Graveyard. They laid floral wreaths on Qaleech's shrine and paid their respects, recognizing his lasting impact on Sindhi literature and scholarship.

Villagers demand justice in Hingorja land dispute

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Tensions escalated in Paro Khan Sehto village as residents, led by Shaman Sehto, Budhal Sehto, Badshahzadi, and Husina Sehto, staged a passionate sit-in protest against Muhammad Nawaz Sehto, Saleh Sehto, and their associates. Accusing them of unjustly seizing agricultural land, the protesters claimed that ongoing disputes had turned their lives into a nightmare.

The aggrieved villagers alleged that false accusations of theft were being or-

chestrated to forcibly evict them from their ancestral lands. They further lamented being subjected to physical assaults and harassment, with their womenfolk also reportedly targeted. Despite filing complaints with the police, no actions were taken, fostering a sense of impunity among the accused. In a heart-wrenching plea, the protesters highlighted their vulnerable socio-economic status, asserting their inability to fight against powerful adversaries alone. They voiced concerns of daily harassment, includ-

ing gunfire aimed at intimidating their households. Calling upon IG Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, and DIG Sukkur, Pir Muhammad Shah, the villagers demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged atrocities and swift action against those responsible. They warned of escalating their protests if justice remained elusive, determined to secure their rights and restore peace to their community. Efforts to contact the accused parties or police officials for comment were unsuccessful at the time of reporting.

Climate resilience rice cultivation- a sustainable approach

By Muhammad Waqas

Climate change is one of the most devastating threats to sustainable agriculture. More than 570 million farms around the globe are vulnerable to climate change. Nurturing the growing population is a challenge for the world. Pakistan is an agricultural country where agriculture sector contributing 22.9 percent in Gross Domestic Product and one of the chief employments provider segments. Food security for growing population is a challenge issue for stakeholders. Despite increasing demands, our agriculture sector is facing a lot of challenges due to global climate change, suddenly altering weather conditions, uneven distribution of rains, heat waves during summer and frosting temperature during winter. Changes in rain patterns with hailstorms relentlessly wedged our crops in the last few years. Rice is one of the main staple foods for Pakistan after wheat. Rice is nutritious diet for human beings that provides 70 pc daily

calories by adding minerals, vitamins, protein, zinc, iron and fiber to their daily consumption. Rice contributes 0.4 pc in GDP and is the 2nd most exported agriculture commodity after cotton. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics 2022-23, area under rice cultivation was declined to 15.9 pc leading to 21.5 pc lower production compared with last year. Core rice cultivation areas of Pakistan are Gujranwala, Mandi Bahau-Din Hafizabad, Sialkot, Sheikhupura, Kasur Okara, Larkana, Jacobabad and Quamir Districts. Rice cultivation in Pakistan is facing problems of floods, high temperature, drought, or salinity. To tackle all the issues, "climate smart rice" can be an effective solution. Intensive research in the field of agriculture to breed climate resilient crops to cope with climate change was carried out across the world. International Rice Research Institute, Manila, has developed cultivars that can survive under intense weather conditions like floods, drought, or salinity

stress. Farmers across the world have access to these climate smart rice cultivars for sustainable rice production. Climate change is a promising challenge and food production is vulnerable to this change. Under increasing risks of this mighty climate change, resilience in food production system is mandatory. Sustainable crop production is only possible if we transform our cropping system corresponding to climate change. Development of resistant varieties that can stipulate optimum production under elevated temperature, water scarcity, floods, and marginal lands. Cultivating climate smart rice can be optimal solution to grow rice under suboptimal conditions. FFC Agri Services Department is playing vital role for transferring new technologies to farmers through its Agri services activities for better understanding the climate change. Farm Advisory Centers are pleasing setups of FFC Agri Services where Soil & Analysis laboratories are working under professional team.

METRO KARACHI



Murad Declares IDEAS A Unified Platform For Global Peace And Prosperity

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has declared that the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) is a shared platform for global peace, stability, and prosperity. He made these remarks during the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting for the 12th Edition of IDEAS 2024 at CM House.



"IDEAS provides enhanced opportunities for commercial exchange between delegates, trade visitors, defence officials, and manufacturers from Pakistan and abroad," Shah said.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Sharjeel Memon, Saeed Ghani, and Zulfiqar Shah, along with Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, DG DEPO Major General Asad Nawaz, PSCM Agha Wasif, DG Rangers Major General Azhar Waqas, IG Police Gulam Nabi Memon, and Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi.

event showcases Pakistan's commitment to technological growth and strategic international relations.

Shah highlighted that preparations for IDEAS 2024 have already begun in coordination with all relevant stakeholders. "Today's meeting aims to further propel these efforts," he said, reiterating the full support of the Sindh government for the event.

The CM noted that IDEAS, organized biennially by the Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) since 2000, has become a prominent international event for defence manufacturers, entrepreneurs, R&D specialists, and policymakers to promote cooperation and knowledge sharing in defence.

Nationwide Petrol Pumps To Shut Down Friday Amid Dealer-Announced Strike



KARACHI: Talks between the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) and the government have failed, leading the PPDA to announce the closure of petrol pumps nationwide from Friday, media reported.

PPDA President Abdul Sami Khan announced that the strike could last more than one day, advising dealers to keep fuel stocked at petrol pumps until July 4.

Khan urged citizens to fill their vehicle tanks before the strike begins.

"We met with the finance minister, the chairman of the FBR, and the chairman of OGRA, but the talks yielded no results, which is why we are striking. Double taxation is a violation of the Constitution," Khan stated. The government has been advised to prepare for potential disruptions in the fuel supply chain due to the strike, which could significantly impact daily life across Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Sindh Health Minister Hosts High-Level Delegation To Forge Landmark Cooperation with New York For Pakistani Nurses

KARACHI: Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister for Health & Population Welfare Sindh, hosted a visiting delegation from various U.S. states and the Pak-US Doctors Association. The delegation, led by Deputy Speaker of the New York Assembly Philip Ramos, focused on cooperation between New York and Sindh to encourage Pakistani nurses seeking employment in the U.S.



The delegation included Assemblyman Alec Krasny, Cristian Marcario, Dr. Dabeer, Director of Health Development, and Brigadier (R) Tariq Qadir of Sindh Ambulance. They discussed and agreed on several steps to facilitate this cooperation.

Liaison between Governments: Establishing a link between the governments of New York and Sindh to integrate Pakistani nursing graduates through community nursing schools in the U.S. for accreditation via state regulatory nursing boards.

enhancement: Assessing and enhancing technical support to Pakistani nursing institutions through public-private partnerships in both regions.

Nurses Committees: Forming committees in both states to identify gaps and address them through a pilot project for refresher courses, to be launched at DUHS Karachi and LUMHS Jamshoro.

Participation of Nursing Leaders: Eminent nursing leaders Dr. Rafaf Jan, Ms. Parveen Imdad, Ms. Rubina Qasim, and Shabir Hussain Jhalati participated in the meeting and briefed the delegation on the nursing situation in Pakistan.

Acknowledgment by Speaker: Deputy Speaker Philip Ramos praised the Health Minister's result-oriented approach.

Pak-American Nurses Association: Creating an association to facilitate communication and understanding between Pakistani nurses and their diaspora in the U.S., addressing service contextual requirements.

Technical Support En-

Support from Pak-US Doctors Association: The head of the Pak-US Doctors Association highlighted the success of their seven-year initiative in Pakistan and offered to fund an office for the Pak-American Nurses Association in New York City.

Minister's Commitment: Dr. Pechuho expressed her gratitude to the delegation and pledged continued support, emphasizing the mutual benefits for both state governments.

Inauguration of Refresher Courses: The meeting concluded with the launch of refresher course modules at DUHS-DIONAM and PNS-LUMHS to equip nurses with advanced skills and competencies.

The delegations exchanged contact information and took group photos during the refreshments organized by the Health Minister's office.—RT

K-Electric To Slash Loadshedding Hours Soon, Announce Nasir Shah and Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Wednesday claimed that K-Electric would reduce loadshedding across Karachi in the next few days.



The K Electric was trying to reduce loadshedding timing specially, during night and peak hours in the hot day to provide relief to the people, the minister said while talking to media on the occasion of MoU signing ceremony between Sindh Transmission and Dispatch Company (STDC), K Electric and NSCL here at the office of Sindh Energy department.

confidence of private investors in the STDC and Energy Department Government of Sindh to develop projects that will benefit Sindh province by creating jobs and boosting the economy.

Chief Executive Officer STDC Muhammad Salim Shaikh, CEO NSCL Zaigham Adil Rizvi and CEO K-Electric Moinis Abdullah Alvi signed the MoU to lay transmission line of 40 megawatts electricity from Pipri Grid Station to NSCL located at Port Qasim Authority.

The project is the first Provincial Grid Company (PGC) license holder with the mandate to develop electric power transmission infrastructure of 132 KV and above.

Nasir Shah said that K Electric through STDC, will supply 40 megawatts of electricity to National Steel Complex through 132 KV transmission line.

The energy minister said this project also includes the construction of 132 KV transmission line.

Syed Nasir Shah said that the project will increase the

On this occasion, CEO STDC Muhammad Salim Shaikh said that on June 13, MoU was signed between STDC and GO Energy for Pakistan's first 500 MW floating solar power project in collaboration with Department of Alternative Energy and Department of Irrigation. He said the STDC will lay 220 kv transmission line from Kenjar Lake Power Project to K-Electric Dhabaji Grid Station Karachi, adding that the K Electric would get 500 MW of power from the floating solar power project.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. Similarly, he said on June 15, 2024, MoU was signed between STDC and Gul Ahmed Group for construction of 132KV transmission line from identified power plant location in Jhampir Wind Corridor to Gul Ahmed Group in Landhi area.

reliant on expensive grid-supplied electricity.

Addressing concerns over power shortages in Karachi, Ghani reported on-going discussions with Karachi Electric (K-Electric) officials to minimize loadshedding durations, particularly at night, assuring residents of imminent relief from these issues. He highlighted recent budgetary increases for developmental activities compared to neighboring provinces, emphasizing enhanced financial allocations for local government councils and towns to ensure timely salary and pension disbursements.—RT

MQM Clarifies Political Differences With PPP, Kamal Insists: No Hostility Involved



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal said they have political differences with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), no enmity.

In an exclusive talk with media, Mustafa Kamal, they have had differences with the PPP for a long but no enmity. He also denied impression of affiliation with the Sindh's ruling party.

Kamal said, MQM-P told Asif Ali Zardari that they do not have candidate for the premiership but they will need them.

He asked PPP leadership to look, at who is causing harm to the party as loss of MQM-P's strength will ultimately harm PPP.

The MQM-P leader and former Karachi mayor said candidates winning the elections are respected in the Parliamentary system but unfortunately Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf introduced such culture of calling 'thieves' 'dacoits' who win the elections.

On July 1, in a scathing criticism of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's policies in the early 1970s, MQM-P Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui

Sindh Government Launches Revolutionary Free Solar Panels For 2.6 Million Off-Grid Homes: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani announced on Wednesday that the Sindh government will provide free solar power systems to 2.6 million households in under-served areas of the province lacking proper electricity infrastructure. Ghani made this announcement during a luncheon reception for journalists, highlighting the government's commitment to fulfilling PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's electoral promise of free electricity for disadvantaged communities.



The solar panels, Ghani explained, will allow recipient households to operate light bulbs and fans without incurring any costs. He also mentioned discussions with Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah about launching a public-private partnership program to offer solar power systems on affordable monthly installments to consumers currently



KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with Speaker of the Sindh Assembly Syed Awas Qadir Shah to discuss various issues facing the province.—Photo by Fahim Soomro



KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is seen with Sukkur Mayor Barrister Arsalan Shaikh after discussing various issues of Sukkur with him.—Photo by Fahim Soomro

HYDERABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY (HESCO) RE-INVITATION TO BID

Hyderabad electric supply company (HESCO) a power Distribution Company, its core function is to supply, distribute and sell power (Electricity) in the area of 13 District of Sindh Province invites sealed bids from the firms, who have Valid PEC license (Renewed for the year 2024-25), registered with Sindh sales Tax and income tax department and who are on active taxpayer list of SRB and Federal Board of Revenue for the following works.

Tender No.	Name of work	Bid Security	Dropping Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
Re-Tender 2024-25 XEN/Civil-01	Repair & Maintenance of Boundary Wall including draining, repair & maintenance of shade 1 & 2 in MCPL Workshop Building at CTC HESCO Jamshoro	Rs. 450,000.00	22.07.2024 02:00 PM	22.07.2024 02:30 PM
Re-Tender 2024-25 XEN/Civil-02	Estimate for the Construction and Establishment of Transformer Reclamation Workshop at 132KV Grid Station Mirpurkhas	Rs. 18,84,800.00	22.07.2024 02:00 PM	22.07.2024 02:30 PM
Re-Tender 2024-25 XEN/Civil-03	Estimate for the Construction and Establishment of Transformer Reclamation Workshop at Shaheed Benazirabad Nawabshah	Rs. 17,26,300.00	22.07.2024 02:00 PM	22.07.2024 02:30 PM
Re-Tender 2024-25 XEN/Civil-04	Construction of Watch Towers in Existing MCPL Building at CTC HESCO Jamshoro	Rs. 540,000.00	22.07.2024 02:00 PM	22.07.2024 02:30 PM
Re-Tender 2024-25 XEN/Civil-05	Construction of Drainage System including Network of Sewerage Line in existing MCPL Workshop at CTC HESCO Jamshoro	Rs. 167,000.00	22.07.2024 02:00 PM	22.07.2024 02:30 PM

Bid Security of BOQ Cost in the Shape of call deposit in favor of Executive Engineer Civil Works Division HESCO Hyderabad.

- Other Conditions**
- Tender/bidding documents could be purchased upto 19.07.2024 during office hours, from the office of undersigned at PDOS, E GSCO Office at 132KV Grid Station Colony Qasimbabad Hyderabad. Bid security must be accompanied with the application mentioned against each work.
 - Tender can be purchased from the undersigned office by the owner or his authorized person having current authority letter with original CNIC. Price of bidding documents is Rs: 3000/- each tender (Non Refundable)
 - The tender documents will be issued on the written request along with CDR mentioned for particular work on original letter pad of the firm, duly attested by Notary Public (only one authorized representative can purchase tender for one firm).
 - Un-sealed / improper sealed tenders will be rejected straight away rate should be carefully mentioned (in figure & words) in the B.O.Q as well as on tender documents otherwise the tenders will be rejected.
 - Affidavit in which the bidder undertakes that he is not involved in any litigation, Affidavit in which it should be undertaken that the information provided is true and correct duly attested by Oath Commissioner.
 - Affidavit in which it should be undertaken that he has not been Black listed by any government / autonomous body duly attested by Oath Commissioner.
 - The Bidder will show the Original Documents & (submit one set attested copy) at the time of Purchase/ Sale of Tender.
 - 10% Performance Guarantee from any scheduled Bank in Pakistan or Bank Guarantee from an Insurance Company having atleast AA rating from PACRA/JCR, will be provided by the lowest bidder at the time of letter of acceptance.
 - The CDRs of those firms who dropped their tender in tender box will be not returned till the finalization of Bid Evaluation.
 - Under rule 33(1) of PPRA Rule 2004, the HESCO Authority reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of bid or proposal.

This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk and HESCO website at www.hesco.gov.pk.

(ZAFAR ALI SOOMRO)
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CIVIL WORKS DIVISION, HESCO, HYDERABAD
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Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something.

—Plato

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THURSDAY JULY 04 2024

Pakistan Demands Immediate Action From India On 'Dangerous' Rise In Islamophobia

GENEVA: Pakistan has told the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) about India's "abysmal" treatment of religious minorities, with a forceful call for New Delhi to reverse the "dangerous" Islamophobic trend in the South Asian country, as also advocated by UN human rights experts.

"Can the representative of India justify the recent incident where a BJP leader openly threatened to slaughter 200,000 Muslims," Pakistani delegate Rabia Ijaz asked India's representative who earlier accused Pakistan of mistreating its minorities, while also alleging that it was involved in terrorism.

"We witnessed India's leadership's unabashed use of anti-Muslim rhetoric for political gain, including their Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) calling Muslims 'infiltrators' during one of his (recent) campaign speeches. Moreover, Hindu preachers have openly called for geno-

cide of Muslim minorities in India," Ijaz, a second secretary in the Pakistan Mission to the UN said.

India's representative, Kunal Bhat, a counsellor in the Indian Mission to the UN, made the allegations in response to Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram's sharp speech on Monday in which the Pakistani envoy, apart from New Delhi's atrocities in Jammu and Kashmir, also highlighted the grave human rights abuses of Muslim in India.

"Muslims face systematic, officially sanctioned, discrimination, violence and oppression," Ambassador Akram said. "The law-enforcement and judicial machinery was complicit in this oppression as lynching of Muslims by cow vigilantes and RSS thugs goes unpunished," the ambassador said.

Rabia Ijaz, the Pakistani delegate, reacting to the allegations by the Indian representative, said, "Our leader-

ship swiftly intervenes, condemns the acts (involving minorities), and ensures swift justice for the perpetrators."

In sharp stark contrast, she said, India's leadership was bent on escalating communal tensions, pointing out that India stands out where the government not only endorses but is complicit in these serious crimes.

"There is a glaring lack of political will to curb these atrocities in India, unlike Pakistan's unequivocal stance in similar circumstances," the Pakistani delegate remarked, noting that UN human rights experts issued a statement in March stating, "We are alarmed by continuing reports of attacks on religious, racial and ethnic minorities, on women and girls on intersecting grounds, and on civil society, including human rights defenders and the media in India,"

"Instead of making vtri-

olic remarks and fabricating information with no evidence against my country, they (Indians) should better address the concerns being consistently raised by the UN experts and reverse the dangerous Islamophobic trend in their country," she said.

About the Indian representative's reference to the 1971 events, Ms Ijaz said those were not a question of genocide but of India's foreign aggression and attack on national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan.

As regards terrorism, the Pakistani delegate said it was ironic for India that uses terrorism as an instrument of State policy against its neighbours to point fingers at others when it is itself a state sponsor of terrorism, running a global franchise of assassination campaigns and had even abused sanctions regimes in the UN Security Council to prevent the listing

PM Shehbaz Extends Bold Invitation To Tajikistan For Utilizing Pakistan's Seaports In Transit Trade

DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has invited Tajikistan to "avail the facilities of Pakistani seaports" for transit trade, a joint statement issued by the two countries said on Wednesday, as the premier concluded his two-day official visit to the Central Asian country.

The PM's official visit commenced at the invitation of the Tajik president, Emomali Rahmon. During the visit, the two sides held meetings, signed several memoranda of understanding (MoUs), and expressed satisfaction over the "steadily expanding bilateral cooperation" in all areas of mutual interest.

"The prime minister informed the Tajik president about the operationalisation of Gwadar seaport and offered Tajikistan the opportunity to avail the facilities of Pakistani seaports," the joint statement said.

"It was highlighted that the Pakistani seaports offer the most efficient, shortest, and economic route for the Central Asian countries including Tajikistan to the markets in the Middle East and beyond."

Both leaders also signed the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the two nations, the joint statement highlighted, calling it a "true reflection of growing mutual trust and partnership" that would "pave a new way for further enhancement of bilateral cooperation."

The two sides also noted



the progress in operationalising the Agreement on Transit Trade which was signed during the visit of the Tajik president to Pakistan in December 2022.

The joint statement said that while noting the current level of bilateral trade, it was underlined that there was a "vast potential that needs to be tapped through mutual efforts."

To enhance trade ties, the two sides also agreed to explore the provision of preferential market access for each other's goods, including through negotiations of a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), the statement highlighted.

It stated that President Rahmon welcomed Pakistani entrepreneurs and the business community to contribute to the countries' bilateral economic ties by investing in free economic zones of Tajikistan.

Underlining the importance of a reliable electricity supply for sustainable economic growth, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to early completion of the

Imran-Bushra Iddat Nikkah Case Verdict Set To Rock Nation By July 12

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad district and sessions court Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka has emphasised that the verdict in Imran Khan-Bushra Bibi Nikkah Iddat case will be announced by July 12.

The district and sessions court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing on appeals against the conviction of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi in the Nikkah Iddat case until July 8.



Earlier, an Islamabad court on June 27 had rejected pleas seeking the suspension of sentences handed down to PTI founding chairman Imran and his wife Bushra Bibi in the iddat (mandatory waiting period for Muslim women between two marriages) case.

Today, the additional district and sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka presided over the hearing.

PTI's counsel Salman Akram Raja. Yesterday, Raja had partially argued against the rejection of the suspension of the sentence.

At the outset of the hearing, Advocate Raja commenced his arguments as he cited Section 7 of the Muslim Family Law.

To which Judge Majoka asked, "Are you saying that Section 7 does not apply in this case?"

Raja referenced various judicial decisions on Muslim law, arguing that family law is part of personal law and falls under the jurisdiction of the Shariah Court.

He contended that, according to the previous rul-

ings by the country's apex court, a divorce becomes effective even if the Union Council procedure is not completed.

The court noted that Section 7 cannot be used to exert pressure.

Judge Majoka observed that in one case, a woman claimed maintenance despite the lack of a Section 7 notice, and the court granted her the right to maintenance.

Raja argued that a woman could marry without a Union Council certificate and that invalidating thousands of marriages annually would create numerous inheritance issues.

He cited the Allahad dard case, where the court ruled that the Iddat (waiting period) restarts upon the husband's death. Various interpretations of the Iddat period were discussed, including the acceptance of 39 days and three menstrual cycles.

Judge Majoka questioned whether the trial court had accepted these references or sought evidence.

Raja responded that if the references were not accepted,

the court should have requested evidence.

He further argued that the trial court overlooked the Shariah appellate bench of the SC and that the focus should be on the legitimacy of the Nikkah ceremony, not the accusation of adultery.

Raja concluded his arguments saying everything in this case was dependent on Lati's testimony. The statements of all witnesses, including Khawar Maneka and Latif, are based on lies, he alleged.

He stated that the woman's testimony should be given importance.

PTI's Raja completed his arguments, while Barrister Salman Safdar was summoned to provide counterarguments.

Safdar requested that his arguments be scheduled for Monday as he was unavailable the next day. He assured the court that he would conclude his arguments within two hours.

Judge Majoka reiterated that the court must deliver its decision by July 12.—RT/Agency

IHC Slams Government For Mishandling Missing Persons Cases



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) criticised the government on Wednesday over its handling of enforced disappearances, questioning who would come to a country where people are vanishing.

IHC's Judge Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb presided over the hearing regarding the recovery of missing person Atiq-ur-Rehman, a resident of Abbottabad who has been missing for 20 years.

The petitioner, Hajra Bibi, requested the court to enforce the production order issued by the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances. "You can do it a hundred times in ordinary cases, but in such cases, we are under great pressure. What kind of commission is this?" Justice Aurangzeb said, addressing the commission officials. The officials informed the court that the case had been pending in the Supreme Court (SC) since 2007. The court questioned why contempt of court proceedings had not been initiated for non-compliance with the production order. The officials responded that contempt of court applies to individuals, not institutions.

Iked by the response, "I want to see the government's position. Is it that those we

take will remain taken? Is it the government's position that those who die will remain dead, and those alive will remain alive? People are disappearing in Pakistan. Who will come here?" Justice Aurangzeb remarked.

The court also commented on economic implications: "You are hoping the dollar will come down from 280. Why would it when this is happening here?"

The commission claimed it lacked the authority to enforce production orders.

The court suggested that the commission should include people who can prevent Pakistan from disgrace.

"When judges work according to the law, they go against us, saying you worked according to the law. We are here for everything, we are ready for public service," the court added.

The court summoned the Attorney General Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan for assistance in the missing persons case.

The court indicated that a detailed order would be issued on May 28, the state's top lawyer assured the capital's high court that all people who have allegedly been forcibly disappeared will return to their homes.—RT/Agency

PTI Rift Deepens: Imran Acknowledges Party Divisions, Plans High-Stakes Meetings

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) incarcerated founder Imran Khan has admitted to rifts, grouping within the party and will be meeting both factions tomorrow in Adiala jail, media reported on Wednesday.

Refuting reports of any forward bloc within the PTI, Khan, while speaking to reporters in a courtroom at the Adiala facility, stressed that there were no major differences within the party.

The PTI founder's remarks came as the former ruling party has been hit with internal turmoil as leaders are speaking against each other with the PTI's core committee also rejecting the existence of any division earlier this week.

Last month, the party's Secretary-General Omar Ayub stepped down as secretary-general of the party to focus on his role as National Assembly Opposition Leader instead.

Ayub's resignation came amid reports of rifts in the ranks of the PTI with sources telling Geo News that 27 PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) lawmakers deliberated on the option of resignation from the National Assembly in protest



against the party's top leadership.

Of the 27, the insiders had said 21 of its lawmakers hinted at forming a forward bloc over top leadership's inability to secure the release of party founder from jail, the sources added.

However, Ayub's resignation has since been rejected by the PTI's parliamentary party which was further followed by the party's core committee asking him to withdraw his decision to step down from the party's coveted post. It is to be noted that PTI's prominent leader Sher Afzal Marwat was issued a show-cause notice after he had refused to work with Ayub and others.

Furthermore, a PTI report has held the firebrand leader responsible for a scuffle between the leader of the opposition and workers which

took place outside the judicial complex in Islamabad when a district and sessions court turned down Khan and his spouse's pleas seeking suspension in their sentences in iddat case. Last week, Marwat also demanded the resignation from Shibli Faraz, saying that the party would only then be freed from the "qabza mafia". Putting his weight behind Ayub, the former premier said: "[Omar] Ayub has sacrificed immensely for the party and has seen a lot of hard times. His services to the party are unforgettable." However, when asked about whether former federal minister and ex-party member Fawad Chaudhry had sent him a meeting message and his continuous criticism of the PTI's current leadership, Khan chose not to respond.—RT/Agency

PM Unveils Tripartite Plan To Boost Pakistan-Turkey-Azerbaijan Economic Ties

ASTANA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday proposed to establish tripartite institutional mechanisms particularly in economic and investment areas to further strengthen Pakistan-Turkey-Azerbaijan trilateral economic and commercial cooperation. Sharing his views during an inaugural session of Pakistan-Turkey-Azerbaijan Trilateral Summit held on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, the prime minister underscored that Pakistan deeply valued its fraternal ties with Azerbaijan and Turkey which were grounded in deep-rooted cultural, historic and religious bonds as well as mutual respect and support towards each other on core issues. The summit was attended by Premier Shehbaz, President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Azerbaijan President Ilham Heydar Aliyev. PM Shehbaz welcomed the convening of inaugural session of Pakistan-



Turkiye-Azerbaijan Trilateral Meeting at the summit level, the PM Office said in a statement. He termed it as a natural progression of trilateral engagements amongst the three brotherly Muslim countries which shared a similar outlook on a host of issues of mutual interest and common concern. The PM noted excellent trilateral cooperation in political, parliamentary and defence domains since the First Trilateral Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the three countries held in Baku in 2017. He also affirmed Pakistan's commitment to working together with

Turkiye and Azerbaijan to elevate the tripartite cooperation into a strong multifaceted partnership across all areas of mutual interest including economic, energy, tourism, cultural, educational, technology and innovation, healthcare and environmental cooperation.

Emphasising strong bonds of friendship and robust people-to-people contacts amongst the three countries, the prime minister also outlined significant potential for collaboration in the areas of culture, tourism, academia as well as science and technology.—RT/Agency

SC Nullifies Death Penalty Decision After 12-Year Delay

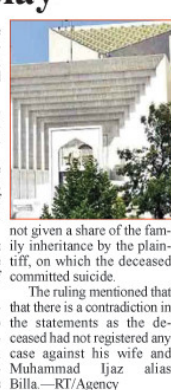
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday declared the verdict in death sentence null and void thus releasing 12 prisoners.

Justice Jamal Mandokhel, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Naeem Afghan announced the decision.

Hence, the death sentence of Muhammad Ijaz aka Billa and the life imprisonment of Naseem Akhtar stood null and void.

In 2010, Muhammad Ijaz and Naseem Akhtar were proven guilty in the killing of the latter's husband.

In the ruling, it was further said that according to their lawyers, no illicit relationship was proved between the two criminals. It was alleged that the deceased was



ISPR Announces Elimination Of Local Terrorist Commander In High-Stakes Bajaur Operation

RAWALPINDI: The security forces killed a high-profile terrorist during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Bajaur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednesday.

The forces conducted the IBO on the reported presence of local commander Irfan Ullah Adnan, who was killed during an intense exchange of fire, the military's media wing added. The slain terrorist was actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as extortion and target killings of innocent civilians, according to the ISPR. He was a most-wanted terrorist by the law-enforcement agencies.

Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to the security forces in elimi-



nating the menace of terrorism in the country.

Earlier this week, nine terrorists were killed by security forces in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Security forces killed seven terrorists including HVT, terrorist commander Najeeb-Abdul Ur Rehman and terrorist commander Ishaq Muavia in an intelligence-based operation in the Tira area of Khyber district a day earlier, according to an ISPR statement.

"The killed terrorists were actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area and were wanted by law enforcement agencies. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists," the ISPR said.

"In another operation, conducted in Lakki Marwat District, our troops effectively engaged terrorists' location in which two more terrorists were killed.—RT/Agency