

# The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

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## Muharram Moon Not Sighted in Pakistan; Ashura To Be Observed On July 17

QUETTA: The crescent moon for Muharram has not been sighted in Pakistan and the first day of the month will fall on Monday (July 8), Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khair Azad announced on Saturday.

Accordingly, Ashura — the 10th day of Muharram will fall on July 17.

The announcement was made after the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee met in Quetta to sight the crescent of Muharram Haram 1446 Hijri.

Chairman of the moon-sighting body Maulana Abdul Khair presided over the meeting to sight the moon of the first month of the Islamic calendar.

The meetings of zonal and district bodies of the Ruet-e-Hilal Committee will also simultaneously be held at their respective headquarters.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) had predicted unlikely sighting of Muharram moon sighting today due to partly cloudy or cloudy weather in most parts of the country as the moon-sighting body gets



busy. The Met Office had said that the new moon would be born on the crossing conjunction point at 03:57 PST on July 6. Muharram is regarded as one of the four sacred Islamic months. Ashura falls on its 10th day when grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Hazrat Imam Husain (RA) along with his family members were martyred in the battle of Karbala. Faithful hold processions and majalis across the country in Muharram, while religious scholars address huge gatherings amid tight security, with thousands of law enforcers deployed to ensure security. To curb the spread of hate material on the internet, the provincial

governments have sought the suspension of six social media applications for about a week during Muharram so that security is not compromised. Moreover, Sindh government has banned 143 ulama and zakireen for 60 days as part of security measures during the month of Muharram, while Punjab government has requisitioned the services of the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Rangers while announcing a ban on pillion riding across the province.

However, the federal government has not yet taken any decision to suspend internet services during Muharram, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior Friday said.—RT/Agency

## Oil and Gas Exploration Firms Commit To \$5 Billion Investment In Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A group of local and international oil and gas exploration and production (E&P) companies is ready to pump \$5 billion in Pakistan's petroleum sector, showing trust in the government's investor-friendly policies and assurances for the security of their capital, according to state-run APP.

An announcement to this effect came to light in a meeting held between a delegation of the local and international E&P firms with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday as the pressure continues to mount on Islamabad to shore up the country's wobbly energy infrastructure.

If it materialises, it will not only help provide more reliable energy supplies to the country's growing population but also cut reliance on expensive oil imports.

"Exploring the oil and gas reserves at the local level in Pakistan is our top priority," PM Shehbaz said during the meeting with the delegation at Prime Minister House, inviting the oil and gas explorers to also tap Pakistan's offshore reserves.

Pakistan spends billions of dollars every year on importing oil and gas, the PM lamented. "Production from local reserves will save Pak-



istan's valuable foreign exchange, and fuel and gas will become affordable for the common man."

Facing a severe balance of payments crisis, record inflation, and sharp currency devaluation, Pakistan lacks sufficient resources to operate its oil and gas plants, leading to the import of most of its energy needs.

Consequently, planned power cuts, known as loadshedding, occur every summer due to fuel shortages and high demand. The duration of these power cuts varies across different areas of the country, which has a population of 241 million.

The delegates informed the Prime Minister that over the next three years, around 240 exploratory wells would be drilled for \$5 billion to explore petroleum and gas in Pakistan.

State Bank of Pakistan (SB) Governor Jamil Ahmed told the meeting that, on the prime minister's special instructions, all the remittances (profit of the business) had been sent to the respective countries of the oil and gas production companies.

The delegation thanked the prime minister for making the petroleum and gas exploration and production sector part of the consultation process, listening to their problems, and finding serious solutions to them.

The meeting was attended by Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Engineer Amir Muqam, Ahsan Iqbal, Sardar Awas Khan Leghari, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan, Coordinator to PM Rana Ehsan Afzal, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Amjad Zubair Tiwana, representatives of domestic and international companies, and relevant high officials.

According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24, Pakistan's petroleum import bill decreased in the first nine months (July-March) of the fiscal year 2023-24 not because of higher local produc-

tion but due to lower consumption.

The Economic Survey states that the drop in consumption was caused by reduced economic activity and higher product prices. Total petroleum product imports fell to 11,047 thousand metric tons, valued at \$8.36 billion.

The main imported products are motor spirit (MS), high-speed diesel (HSD), and crude oil. Compared to the same period last fiscal year (2022-23), the import bill for MS dropped from \$3.704 billion to \$3.156 billion, for HSD from \$1.646 billion to \$1.050 billion, and for crude oil from \$4.287 billion to \$4.051 billion.

Oil and gas exploration companies showed mixed results during this period. Gas exploration declined by 2%, while crude oil production increased by 1.5%. Gas production decreased from 1,190 million cubic feet in the first nine months of the previous fiscal year to 1,166 million cubic feet in the same period this year. However, crude oil production rose by 1.5%, from 25.5 million barrels to 25.7 million barrels.—RT/Agency

## Court Reserves Verdict On Imran's Interim Bail In Three May 9 Cases

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court has reserved its decision on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's interim bail requests related to the May 9 incidents, including the Jinnah House case and two other cases.

During the hearing on Saturday, Imran counsel, Barrister Salman Safdar, argued that the PTI founder was being targeted for political reasons.

"In my entire career, I have never seen so many cases against a single individual. Those who were actually inciting against institutions at the scene were not arrested," Safdar alleged.

How could a case be filed against him when he was in custody at the time of the crime?" PTI chief's counsel questioned.

The government lawyer countered, stating that according to a special branch report, the former premier had instructed his followers to attack civil and military installations if he were arrested.

"The directive to attack military installations across Pakistan resulted in the events that transpired," the



prosecutor claimed. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court reserved its judgement on Khan's interim bail requests. Earlier this week, on July 3, a district and sessions court in Islamabad acquitted the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, along with all other defendants in a case registered at Islamabad's Aahpara police station.

Judicial Magistrate Yasir Mahmood announced the reserved verdict, clearing Imran Khan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Sheikh Rasheed, Shehryar Afridi, Faisal Javed, Raja Khuram Nawaz, Ali Nawaz Awan, Asad

Qaiser, and others of all charges. The acquittal came after the defence, represented by Advocate Sardar Masroof and Ansar Kiani, presented their arguments on behalf of accused Imran Khan, Sheikh Rasheed, and others.

On July 1, at least 140 workers of PTI were acquitted in a case related to holding a rally before the general elections. The court found that the accused were neither arrested at the scene nor was any incriminating material recovered from them. Furthermore, there were no complaints from local residents regarding road blockades.—RT/Agency

## Imran Appeals for Improved Jail Conditions In Letter To President Zardari And Shehbaz

LAHORE: Imran Khan the incarcerated founding leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has urged President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to ensure proper jail facilities through a letter penned by his counsel, Azhar Siddique.

On Saturday, Siddiqui, who is the head of the Judicial Activism Panel said through the letter that the PTI chief was not being provided with the facilities mandated by law and was being denied visits from people.

"Why is there an obstruction in Imran Khan's meetings?" the letter questions, emphasising the need for Khan to be given basic amenities in prison.



Imran's counsel said that if these conditions were not met, the ex-PM would take the matter to the higher courts. During a court appearance on Friday, Imran expressed his lack of confidence in Chief Justice of

Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa. Khan announced his intention to go on a hunger strike, stating, "I will announce the final date for the hunger strike after consulting with my lawyers."—RT/Agency

## Dar Chairs Meeting To Discuss Agenda Items For 52nd CCI Meeting



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired the meeting of a Committee constituted by the Prime Minister.

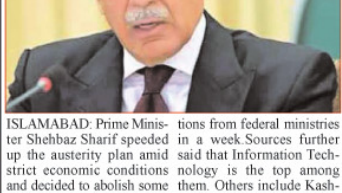
The meeting deliberated and discussed the proposed agenda items and firmed up the agenda for the upcoming 52nd meeting of the Council of Common Interests, according to a Foreign Office press release.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb,

Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political & Public Affairs Rana Sana Ullah Khan.

Federal Secretaries of Power, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Finance, Water Resources, Petroleum, Human Rights, Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony, and Overseas Pakistanis & HRD Divisions were also present in the meeting.—RT/Agency

## Shehbaz Decides To Eliminate Key Ministries As Part Of Austerity Measures



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif speeded up the austerity plan amid strict economic conditions and decided to abolish some ministries. According to the sources, prime minister asked for a plan to eliminate five ministries. The Reforms Cell established by the PM started working on the right sizing. It also sought recommenda-

## Operation Azm-e-Istehkam: Nawaz Urges Full Support For Armed Forces

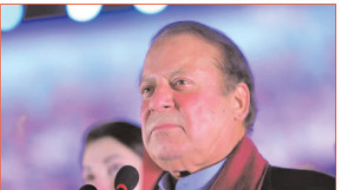
ISLAMABAD: After the announcement of a new anti-terrorism drive — Operation Azm-e-Istehkam (Resolve for Stability), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif on Saturday called for extending "unwavering support to armed forces and security institutions to root out terrorism from the country."

"[The] issues which were countered seven years ago have now become a serious crisis, again," Nawaz said in a meeting with PML-N Parliamentary Leader in the Senate Irfan Siddiqui in Murree today.

Slamming the opposition's criticism against Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, the former prime minister said that some elements behind "instability" and "defamation" of the country abroad were not interested in [fortifying] democracy.

He demanded all stakeholders to show firm support to the security institutions to eliminate the menace of terrorism.

The PML-N's top leader made the statement after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif decided to organise an all-parties conference (APC)



take all stakeholders into confidence on the newly launched anti-terrorism operation — a reinvigorated and re-energised national counter-terrorism drive following a spike in terrorist attacks.

The federal cabinet last week approved the launching of the counter-terrorism operation following the National Action Plan's Central Action Committee's recommendations to turn up the heat on militants targeting Pakistan — which would be focused on intelligence-based operations instead of large-scale military action.

Regarding the scope of the new operation, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif also revealed in a recent interview with the Voice of America (VoA) that Pakistan could

target terrorist hideouts across the border in Afghanistan to target outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant outfits for carrying out attacks in the Pakistani territory.

However, opposition parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F), Awami National Party (ANP), and others have voiced concerns over the military operation, demanding that parliament must be taken into confidence before taking any such decision.

Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan announced a day ago that his party would participate in the PML-N government-sponsored APC and "hear what the government has to say".—RT/Agency

## Pensions Place Significant Burden On Government: Aurangzeb



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance, Muhammad Aurangzeb, on Saturday termed the pension for retired employees as a burden on the government, media reported.

Addressing industrialists and businessmen at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Aurangzeb highlighted several critical economic issues and measures.

He stressed that the federal cabinet's decision not to take salaries had not substantially alleviated the treasury's burden.



He highlighted that the substantial expenditure reduction would be achieved through the closure of inefficient departments.

The Finance Minister also mentioned plans to reduce the policy rate this year, noting that while making emo-

tion to avoid entertaining any Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) personally.

Additionally, Aurangzeb noted that the caretaker government has consistently supported various initiatives, despite the industry's struggles due to difficult economic decisions. He promised to consider the recommendations from businessmen regarding the budget.

Addressing the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) issue, Aurangzeb criticized the previous PTI government's insufficient efforts and expressed a desire to resolve the matter. He also pointed out that 60% of the total tax revenue is allocated to the provinces, with taxes on farmhouses and large houses being imposed in consultation with provincial governments.—RT/Agency



# THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Secretary Health Rehan Baloch is reviewing the health facilities being provided by PPHI in Larkana.—RT

## Sindh Being Subjected to Injustice in Power Supply: CM Murad

JAMSHORO: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has voiced concerns over the perceived injustice in the province's power supply, despite Sindh contributing significantly to the national grid. Speaking to the media, Shah highlighted that Sindh provides 3,000 megawatts of cheaper electricity generated in Thar, yet its residents suffer from severe power shortages, especially in the scorching heat.



"Sindh's people are suffering most in this hot weather, and we are making every effort to provide relief," the Chief Minister stated. He also mentioned that Bilawal Bhutto has raised this critical issue in the National Assembly, seeking redress. Addressing other matters, Shah dismissed the possibility of further changes in the Sindh cabinet. He also praised the Sindh Police for their major success in recovering abducted trader Nareesh Kumar, attributing the success to the implementation of smart city systems. "The recovery of Nareesh Kumar is a success of the smart city system," he noted, announcing plans to install these systems in all divisional headquarters, including Karachi and Hyderabad. Commenting on political developments, Shah criticized the past approach of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stating that their policies of issuing threats had caused damage to the party. "Those who believe in

democracy engage in dialogue on political matters," he said. He welcomed the Prime Minister's invitation to PTI to attend the All Parties Conference (APC), calling it a positive step towards unity. "We all are victims of terrorism, and we must join hands to eliminate it," he added. Murad Ali Shah's remarks underscore the ongoing challenges faced by Sindh in terms of power supply and governance, while also highlighting efforts to improve security and political cooperation in the province.—RT

## SAFCO Microfinance Company Achieves Milestone with Sharia-Compliant Financing for 100 Customers

HYDERABAD: SAFCO Microfinance Company has reached a significant milestone by disbursing Sharia-compliant financing to 100 customers through "YAQEEEN ISLAMIC FINANCING," a specialized window of SMCL dedicated to extending financial services in accordance with Shariah principles. This milestone reflects SAFCO's commitment to ethical finance and marks a pivotal moment in Pakistan's financial landscape. The achievement was celebrated at a ceremony held at the SAFCO Head Office, where certificates of appreciation were awarded to the dedicated staff involved. Key contributors included the Shariah Compliance Department, operational heads, branch teams, and departmental leaders instrumental in the success of this initiative. Founder and Leader of SAFCO, Suleman G Abro, highlighted the company's pioneering role in providing Sharia-compliant microfinance, underscoring its differentiation in the financial sector. "SAFCO is honored to lead the way in small-scale, Sharia-compliant financing, aligning with our commitment to transition the financial sector to Islamic principles by 2028," Mr. Abro stated. Mr. Syed Sajjad Ali Shah, Managing Director of SMCL, emphasized the dedication and hard work of the team in achieving this milestone. "This accomplishment underscores our dedication to ethical finance and our mission to positively impact our clients' lives through Sharia-compliant services," he remarked. Head of the Sharia Compliance Department, Mufti Arslan Maqbool, emphasized the rigor and adherence to Islamic principles in developing financial products. "Ensuring our offerings align with Shariah guidelines is crucial



for building trust and integrity with our clients," Mr. Maqbool affirmed. Looking ahead, Bashir Ahmed, Head of Business Operations, reiterated SAFCO's commitment to maintaining high standards of service and efficiency. "Reaching 100 Sharia-compliant loan clients is a testament to our operational excellence. We are poised to expand our reach and continue supporting our clients' financial needs," he concluded. The ceremony, attended by heads of all SAFCO departments, reaffirmed the company's dedication to ethical financial solutions and its goal to expand Sharia-compliant financing services across Pakistan.—RT



HYDERABAD: Residents of Manjhand are holding a protest demonstration against a robbery incident and their area police, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT

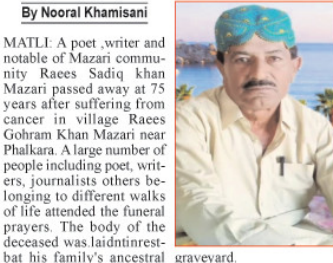
## PPP Sanghar observes Black Day



By Khadim Khaskheli  
SANGHAR: PPP Sanghar observed the black day in Sanghar by observing a program at the District Council Hall on Saturday. General Secretary of PPP Sanghar Jangir Junejo, President of District Council Sanghar Syed Riaz Hussain Shah Khurasani, MNA Alaudin Junejo, Vice of District Council Sanghar Jam Zaheruddin, Mashooq Chaudhry, President of PPP Shahdapur Zulfiqar Ali Zardari, President of SPSP Sanghar Khadim Hussain Khaskheli, Raja Aftab Laghari, Sajid Jaffari, Rana Rashid, Rana Muhammad Anwar Rajput, Ibrahim Chang, Ali Murad Dazkai, Ghulam Nabi Zardari, Raja Khair Muhammad Laghari, Mir Muhammad Wassan, Sheela Noshad Baloch, Mamohan Das, Khushhal Das, Mir Ibrahim Marri and others attended the black day observance. Addressing in the occasion, the speakers termed the 5th July as a black day when the elected government of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was toppled by dictator General Zia-ul-Haq. The leaders paid tribute to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and vowed to continue his mission of serving the people of the country.

## Mazari community notable passes away

By Nooral Khamisani  
MATLI: A poet, writer and notable of Mazari community Raees Sadiq Khan Mazari passed away at 75 years after suffering from cancer in village Raees Gohram Khan Mazari near Phalkara. A large number of people including poet, writers, journalists others belonging to different walks of life attended the funeral prayers. The body of the deceased was laid in rest at his family's ancestral graveyard.



## Builder and Social Activist Anwar Jamal Launches Massive Plantation Campaign



By Sajjan Jani  
SHAHDADPUR: Renowned builder and social activist Anwar Jamal, along with Vinod Kumar, has initiated an ambitious plantation campaign at the Jamal Paradise Grand City, aiming to plant 100,000 tree saplings within a week. This significant environmental initiative saw active participation from civil society leaders, traders, government officials, and religious leaders who gathered to support and contribute to the cause.

Among the prominent figures who took part in the plantation campaign were Mansoor Attari, Akbar Attari, Mushtaq Qureshi, Abdul Sattar Chandrigar, Niaz Jani Detho, M. Anwar Abbasi, Tehseen Qureshi, and others. The event underscored the collective commitment of various community segments towards environmental sustainability and urban greenery. During the campaign launch, Anwar Jamal Rajput and his team honored the



HYDERABAD: Women residents of Qasimabad are holding a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club for the acceptance of their demands.—RT

## CM Murad condoles with MNA Rafique Ahmed Jamali

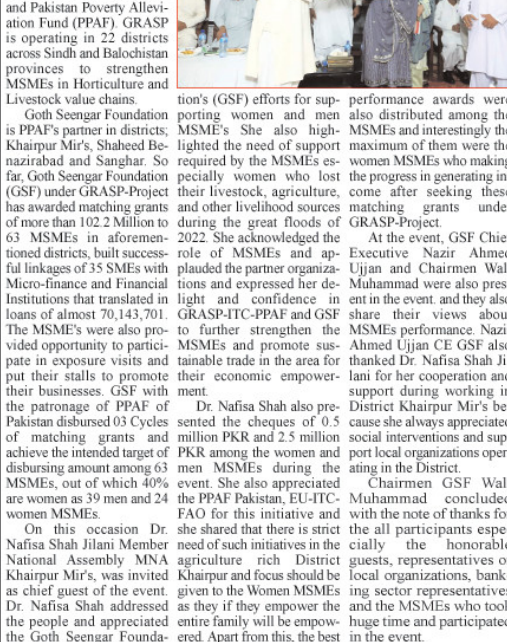
By Javed Laghari  
DADU: Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah offered condolence with the District President of PPP Dadu, MNA Rafique Ahmed Jamali over the sad demise of his brother Zakaria Jamali. He offered Fateha for the eternal peace of the departed soul. While talking to the media, CM Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the sovereignty of the motherland is dear to all and in this regard we all need to be united. He added that the terrorism has affected the country and in this regard the armed forces have rendered many services. He added that the orders from grade one to



five were distributed after getting the courts into confidence and presently a political party is misguiding the court. He further said that the flood affected people of Dadu are being provided relief and financial assistance and Sindh government is committed to protect the people from any natural disaster and in this regard arrangements have been made. On the occasion, local journalists including Sajjad Ali Solangi, Ali Gul Channa, Mukhtar Soomro, Sarwar Jalal Solangi, Nadeem Shahani, Aziz Khaskheli and others were also present.

## International Day of MSMEs celebrated under EU funded GRASP Project

By Ayaz Burro  
KN SHAH: The International Day of MSMEs was celebrated under the EU funded GRASP Project which is being implemented by International Trade Centre in partnership with FAO, SMEDA and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF). GRASP is operating in 22 districts across Sindh and Balochistan provinces to strengthen MSMEs in Horticulture and Livestock value chains. Goth Seengar Foundation is PPAF's partner in districts: Khairpur Mir's, Shaheed Benazirabad and Sanghar. So far, Goth Seengar Foundation (GSF) under GRASP-Project has awarded matching grants of more than 102.2 Million to 63 MSMEs in aforementioned districts, built successful linkages of 35 SMEs with Micro-finance and Financial Institutions that translated in loans of almost 70,143,701. The MSMEs were also provided opportunity to participate in exposure visits and put their stalls to promote their businesses. GSF with the patronage of PPAF of Pakistan disbursed 03 Cycles of matching grants and achieve the intended target of disbursing amount among 63 MSMEs, out of which 40% are women as 39 men and 24 women MSMEs. On this occasion Dr. Nafisa Shah, Member National Assembly MNA Khairpur Mir's, was invited as chief guest of the event. Dr. Nafisa Shah addressed the people and appreciated the Goth Seengar Foundation's (GSF) efforts for supporting women and men MSMEs. She also highlighted the need of support required by the MSMEs especially women who lost their livestock, agriculture, and other livelihood sources during the great floods of 2022. She acknowledged the role of MSMEs and applauded the partner organizations and expressed her delight and confidence in GRASP-ITC-PPAF and GSF to further strengthen the MSMEs and promote sustainable trade in the area for their economic empowerment. Dr. Nafisa Shah also presented the cheques of 0.5 million PKR and 2.5 million PKR among the women and men MSMEs during the event. She also appreciated the PPAF Pakistan, EU-ITC-FAO for this initiative and she shared that there is strict need of such initiatives in the agriculture rich District Khairpur Mir's and focus should be given to the Women MSMEs as they if they empower the entire family will be empowered. Apart from this, the best performance awards were also distributed among the MSMEs and interestingly the maximum of them were the women MSMEs who making the progress in generating income after seeking these matching grants under GRASP-Project. At the event, GSF Chief Executive Nazir Ahmed Ujjan and Chairmen Wali Muhammad were also present in the event and they also share their views about MSMEs performance. Nazir Ahmed Ujjan CE GSF also thanked Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani for her cooperation and support during working in District Khairpur Mir's because she always appreciated social interventions and support local organizations operating in the District. Chairmen GSF Wali Muhammad concluded with the note of thanks for the all participants especially the honorable guests, representatives of local organizations, banking sector representatives and the MSMEs who took huge time and participated in the event.



## Political and social organizations protest against prolonged load shedding in Kandiaro

By Usama Ayaz  
KANDIARO: Leaders and activists from various political and social organizations staged a protest demonstration in Kandiaro against prolonged, unannounced load shedding and the non-replacement of faulty transformers. The protest was spearheaded by JSQM leader Sohrab Khoso, SAS leader Sarwar Syed, SSSF's Aziz Sindhyar, Sheeraz Agro, Abdul Jabbar Mangrio, and others. The protesters highlighted that despite Sindh generating thousands of megawatts of electricity, its residents suffer from daily power outages lasting up to 20 hours. They condemned the authorities for what they described as unfair treatment towards the people of Sindh, arguing that such extensive load shedding is unjustifiable given the province's contribution to the national grid. The leaders voiced their frustration, stating that the prolonged power cuts and lack of timely maintenance of transformers have severely disrupted daily life, affecting businesses, households, and essential services. They demanded that the relevant authorities take immediate action to rectify the situation and ensure a stable power supply. The protesters urged the authorities to enhance their performance and address the grievances of the people, warning that failure to do so would result in an escalation of their protest. They emphasized that the residents of Sindh deserve reliable electricity and fair treatment, calling for their rights to be respected and upheld. The demonstration in Kandiaro reflects the growing discontent across the region, with community leaders and citizens alike calling for swift and effective measures to alleviate the ongoing power crisis.



# NATIONAL

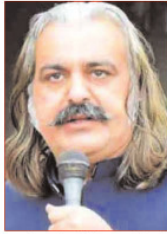


## Nation To Join Imran Khan In Hunger Strike: Gandapur

**RAWALPINDI:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said on Tuesday that the government was sitting on the crutches, adding that neither did it comply with the law nor did it obey courts. He decried absence of rule of law from the country.

He made these remarks while interacting with the reporters in the garrison city.

"We respect the judiciary. Nothing came out of the cases registered against Imran Khan. We have always talked about institutions instead of individuals. Cases have also been regis-



tered against Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari. A legal case is still registered against Nawaz Sharif in Cant Police Station," he added.

Speaking about the recent nod of participation of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the All Parties Conference (APC) by its founding chairman Imran Khan, the KP CM said that his party was ready for dialogue only if its stolen mandate was returned.

Gandapur further said that if former PM Khan went on for hunger strike then it would be followed by the whole nation.

He also hit out at former KP CM Pervez Khattak by saying that latter shouldn't give false testimony as it would affect his health.—RT/Agency

## US Envoy Highlights Significance Of Religious Freedom In Pakistan



**LAHORE:** United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome and US Consul General Lahore Kristin K Hawkins marked the 248th anniversary of American independence during his visit to Lahore, according to an official statement issued on Saturday.

The July 5 event which hosted a wide range of government, business, and civil society representatives highlighted key areas of partnership between the two countries.

This included a robust trade and investment relationship, innovative collaboration through the US-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework on climate challenges, extensive people-to-people ties, and more.

In his remarks, Ambassador Blome said that the US will remain a committed partner of the people of Pakistan in strengthening fundamental freedoms and democratic institutions, as well as in expanding economic opportunities for Pakistanis.

The envoy also commended US business representatives in attendance for their work in creating high-quality jobs for the citizens, fostering women's inclusion in the workforce, introducing innovative business practices, and supporting local communities through their corporate social responsibility efforts.

During his trip to Lahore, Ambassador Blome also met representatives of Ahmadi community and visited the Cathedral Church of the Resurrection.

On the occasion, he reaffirmed the principle that every individual should have the freedom to live and worship peacefully, without fear of violence or harassment.—RT

# THE HEARTLAND

## Action demanded against Mirpurkhas' predatory loan sharks

By MY Chandio

**MIRPURKHAS:** Residents of Mirpurkhas from various backgrounds have fallen victim to a pervasive network of predatory loan sharks operating in the city and its outskirts. These loan sharks have established a formidable presence, targeting not only businessmen and government employees but also vulnerable groups such as sanitary workers.

The predatory lenders offer loans under exploitative terms, leveraging the borrower's desperation. They often seize ATM cards, cheque books, prop-

erty documents, and other valuables as collateral, trapping borrowers in cycles of debt and exploitation.

Local authorities have been criticized for their lackluster response to this growing issue, which has wreaked havoc on countless households in Mirpurkhas. The community has called upon higher authorities to launch a decisive operation against these predatory lenders, who profit from the misfortune of others.

The prevalence of predatory lending has led to financial ruin and psychological distress among many families in Mirpurkhas, prompting urgent appeals for intervention. Community leaders and concerned citizens stress the need for swift action to dismantle the illegal lending networks and protect vulnerable individuals from further exploitation. Efforts to combat this menace are seen as crucial to restoring financial stability and safeguarding the economic well-being of Mirpurkhas residents. The plea to authorities underscores the community's determination to eradicate predatory lending practices and restore trust in financial transactions within the city.

## Mother of SAU Professor Pir Ahmed Naqi Shah passes away

By Irfan Khushk

**TANDO JAM:** The community of Sindh Agricultural University (SAU) mourns the passing of the mother of Professor Pir Ahmed Naqi Shah during this time of profound loss.

The passing of Professor Pir Ahmed Naqi Shah's mother leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew her, remembered for her warmth, wisdom, and enduring contributions to family and community life. Her legacy of love and resilience will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of

knowing her. SAU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr Fateh Marri, expressed heartfelt sympathy and support to Professor Pir Ahmed Naqi Shah during this time of profound loss.

As preparations are made for her final journey, the community gathers in solidarity to honor her memory and offer solace to the grieving family. The occasion serves as a poignant reminder of the preciousness of family bonds and the resilience of the human spirit in facing moments of sorrow. The SAU community extends its deepest condolences to Professor Pir Ahmed Naqi Shah and his family, affirming solidarity and support during this time of bereavement.

## Tando Allahyar police recover abducted girl Seema Khaskheli

By Afaque Khanzada

**TANDO ALLAHYAR:** A sense of relief swept through Tando Allahyar as the police successfully located and rescued 15-year-old Seema Khaskheli, daughter of Hyder Khaskheli, who had been abducted from the jurisdiction of Pyaro Lund Police Station a few days ago. The swift action by law enforcement led to the apprehension of the kidnapper, identified as Rajib Khaskheli, who had disguised himself as an Amil.

The incident had sent shockwaves through the community, prompting an

immediate response from local authorities and concerned citizens alike. The police, acting on crucial leads, tracked down the location where Seema was being held captive, ensuring her safe return to her family.

"The recovery of Seema Khaskheli marks a significant victory in our ongoing efforts to combat crime and protect our citizens," stated a spokesperson for the Tando Allahyar Police. "We remain committed to upholding justice and ensuring the safety of every individual in our community."

The arrest of Rajib Khaskheli underscores the seriousness with which authorities are addressing cases of abduction and ensuring perpetrators are swiftly brought to justice. The community has expressed gratitude for the diligent efforts of the police in swiftly resolving this distressing incident. As Seema Khaskheli reunites with her family, the incident serves as a reminder of the importance of vigilance and prompt action in safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable individuals. The case against Rajib Khaskheli continues to unfold as authorities pursue further legal proceedings to ensure justice prevails.

## Villagers catch a mysterious animal in Pithoro

By M Ismail Khilji

**PITHORO:** A sense of intrigue and curiosity swept through the village of Jhando Rajar as local residents successfully captured a mysterious animal in the expansive agricultural lands. The creature, described as unfamiliar and elusive, was apprehended alive after considerable efforts by the villagers.

Eyewitnesses recounted the event with a mix of excitement and caution, noting the unusual appearance and behavior of the captured animal. "It was unlike anything we've seen before," remarked one villager, highlighting the creature's unique features that sparked specu-



lation among the community. Upon securing the mysterious animal, villagers promptly notified wildlife officials to ensure proper handling and identification. Authorities were urged to investigate the nature and origin of the captured creature, emphasizing the importance of preserving local wildlife and understanding biodiversity in the region. "The discovery of this mysterious animal has piqued our interest and raised questions about its presence in our surroundings," stated a village elder, underscoring the need for experts to assess and safeguard such findings. As the investigation unfolds, villagers remain vigilant, eager to learn more about the enigmatic creature and its significance within their local ecosystem. The collaborative efforts between villagers and wildlife officials exemplify a commitment to environmental stewardship and conservation in Pithoro and beyond.

## Man Arrested For Harassing Women With Obscene Pictures

**RAWALPINDI:** The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime Cell nabbed a man from Rawalpindi over his alleged involvement in harassing women by sharing their obscene videos, media reported. The FIA spokesperson said that the Cybercrime Circle took action and arrested the accused involved

in online harassment. The FIA spokesperson maintained that the accused, Shahzeb Ejaz, shared obscene images and material of multiple women.

The accused had also shared objectionable photos of a girl on WhatsApp and sent them to her family members as well. According to the FIA, the accused was involved in blackmailing the victims for money. The FIA spokesperson said that two mobile phones and three WhatsApp accounts were recovered from the accused. He added that multiple fake Facebook accounts were also traced.—RT/Agency

# SOUTHERN PUNJAB

## Makhdoom Syed Zamrad Hassan Bukhari Advocates For Promoting The Message Of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS)

By M Siddique

**B AHAWALPUR:** Makhdoom Syed Zamrad Hassan Bukhari attended the Muslim ummah by following the message of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). Karbala gives a lesson to stand firm against evil and have strong belief in God due to

media, Makhdoom Zamrad Hassan Bukhari said that there is a need of promoting peace and unity amongst the Muslim ummah by following the message of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). Karbala gives a lesson to stand firm against evil and have strong belief in God due to which we all need to understand this message and work in this direction. He stressed the need of cooperating with the police and other authorities for the maintenance of peace and interfaith harmony in the month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

# METRO KARACHI

## Sindh Government To Launch Pakistan's First EV And Pink EV Taxis: Sharjeel

**KARACHI:** The Sindh government on Saturday announced that it would soon launch Pakistan's first EV taxis in the province.

"Pakistan's first EV taxis and Pink EV taxis will be started soon by Transport Department Government of Sindh," Sindh Minister for Information, Excise, Narcotics and Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

The announcement comes as province's largest city, Karachi, suffers from high air pollution levels due to an overwhelmingly large number of gasoline-engine vehicles in light of an arguably insufficient mass-transit system to meet its needs.

However, the minister did not disclose any timeline for EV vehicles' launch in Sindh.

The introduction of EV



taxis is likely to not only address the air pollution issue but might also provide an alternate and hopefully cheaper commute option to the masses owing to the soaring fuel prices which not only have resulted in high fares being charged by various online ride-hailing apps but also costs heavily to private vehicle owners as well.

Furthermore, the introduction of electric vehicles also falls in line with the global trend and shift towards environment-friendly vehicles as several countries around the world strive to shift away from fossil fuels.

Earlier this year, Karachi received 30 hybrid and 50 electric buses as part of the Peoples Bus Service fleet being run in the city - pushing the total number to 300 vehicles.—RT

## NEPRA Announces Relief Of PKR 1.67 Per Unit under April FCA Notification

**KARACHI:** The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has issued its decision regarding the Fuel Charges Adjustment (FCA) requested by KE for April 2024, indicating a benefit of PKR 1.67 per kWh to be passed on to customers in their July 2024 bills.

Earlier, NEPRA had notified a decision that specified the FCA rate of PKR 1.7111 per kWh and PKR 1.3946 per kWh, pertaining to July 2023 and September 2023 respectively, to be applied to customers' July 2024 bills.

Fuel Charge Adjustments are incurred by utilities due to global variations in fuel prices used to generate electricity and changes in generation mix. These costs are passed through to the consumers following NEPRA's scrutiny and approval.

Earlier to this, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Anti-Corruption Circle Lahore initiated an inquiry against Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO).

The FIA spokesperson stated that the power distribution company - LESCO - allegedly overbilled millions of protected customers by sending the consumers more than 200 units of power bills. Due to the alleged over-billing, the category of the protected consumers changed, resulting in an additional burden of millions.—RT/Agency



## TDAP Seminar Explores Export Potential Of Balochistan's Handicrafts



**QUETTA:** The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) recently organized a seminar at Doch Railway Cooperative Society aimed at unlocking the export potential of Balochistan's local handicrafts. The event convened artisans, entrepreneurs, and industry experts to strategize on promoting Balochi handicrafts globally.

The seminar featured two informative sessions. The first session highlighted the pivotal role of women entrepreneurs in the handicraft industry, showcasing success stories and discussing empowerment strategies. The second session focused on leveraging online markets to reach international buyers, offering insights into digital marketing and e-commerce platforms.

Mr. Zain ul Abideen, a renowned expert in online earning and digital marketing, delivered a keynote address emphasizing the potential of Balochi handicrafts in foreign exchange earnings. Drawing from his

experience with platforms like Amazon and eBay, he underscored the need for a robust digital presence and effective social media strategies to attract global buyers.

Mrs. Deedar Mengal, a prominent businesswoman in the handicraft sector, set the stage with a welcoming speech that framed the day's discussions. Mr. Noor Ali Achakzai, Director for TDAP Quetta region, concluded the seminar reaffirming TDAP's commitment to supporting local handicrafts and enhancing their export prospects.

The seminar benefited participants by enhancing their understanding of export opportunities and online marketing strategies, particularly empowering women artisans. TDAP strengthened its engagement with the handicraft sector, fostering potential collaborations for future initiatives. Government efforts included promoting Balochistan's cultural heritage and boosting foreign exchange through handicraft exports.—RT

## Karachi Bakery Employee Robbed Of Rs 30 Million

**KARACHI:** In a brazen daylight robbery in the Sharafabad area of Karachi, armed suspects escaped after robbing Rs 3 million from a bakery employee in just 20 seconds, media reported on Saturday.

The incident - which occurred after the employee was returning from a bank in Muhammad Ali Society - was captured on CCTV footage.

The footage of the incident revealed that the bakery employee stopped the car outside the bakery while another employee can be seen approaching the vehicle to help with the cash in the meantime the security guard was helping the employee to park the car. During this period, the robbers - allegedly following the victim from the bank - snatched the bag full of cash from the hands of the other employee and attempted to flee from the scene. The security guard tried to stop the robbery but was met with gunfire. Fortunately, the bullets did not hit the guard, while his weapon also fell during the scuffle. The robbers seized the guard's weapon and made their escape towards Jail Road.—RT/Agency

## Tessori Announces Rs1 Million Grant for PILER

**KARACHI:** Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has pledged a Rs1 million grant for the Pakistan Institute of Labor Education and Research (PILER) and announced the launch of free IT courses at the Governor House for 200 children of workers.

In a statement issued from the Governor's House on Saturday, Governor Tessori highlighted the importance of providing essential training, safety equipment, and educational opportunities for the children of workers. He made this announcement during the closing ceremony of a conference focused on wage issues in Pakistan's garment sector, emphasizing the critical role of such forums in addressing workers' rights.

The conference drew participation from government officials, representatives of textile and garment sector associations, international buyers, civil society organizations, and both domestic and international trade unions.



Governor Tessori underscored the conference's objective to safeguard and enhance the rights of workers in Pakistan, urging all stakeholders to contribute towards this collective effort.

Responding to queries at the conference, Governor Tessori expressed confidence in addressing prevailing issues if granted sufficient authority and resources.

The grant to PILER and the launch of IT courses reflect Governor Tessori's commitment to empowering laborers' families through education and skill development initiatives.—RT/Agency



# EDITORIAL

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

Sunday, July 07, 2024



## Old wine in a new bottle!

The launch of Awaam Pakistan by former Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail heralds yet another attempt to rejuvenate the political landscape of Pakistan. However, the history of similar ventures suggests that this initiative is likely to be another exercise in futility. While the party's slogan, "Awaam Pakistan: Badlein ge nizam" (People of Pakistan: We will change the system), offers a tantalizing promise, it risks being perceived as nothing more than old wine in a new bottle.

The assertion that Awaam Pakistan will eschew hereditary politics is commendable, yet the skepticism surrounding its efficacy is hard to dispel. Pakistan's political history is replete with new parties emerging with lofty ideals and revolutionary rhetoric, only to succumb to the same pitfalls of self-

preservation and political expediency. Abbasi and Ismail's critique of traditional parties and their focus on the public interest over political survival is a familiar refrain, yet tangible results remain elusive.

The real issue lies in the disconnect between political leadership and the genuine will of the people. For decades, the Pakistani populace has witnessed promises of systemic change from new political entities, only to see them absorbed into the existing power structures or dissipate into irrelevance. The true catalyst for change will not be another political experiment but a sincere and sustained effort to engage with and empower the

citizenry.

If Awaam Pakistan aspires to be more than a transient phenomenon, it must transcend the conventional model of political parties and establish a genuine connection with the people it aims to represent. This requires more than rhetoric; it demands a commitment to transparency, accountability, and grassroots engagement. The people's will, not the machinations of political elites, should be the driving force behind any meaningful transformation.

Ultimately, the success of any political movement hinges on its ability to honor the aspirations of the populace. The repeated failures of similar initiatives underscore the need for a paradigm shift in how political change is envisioned and enacted in Pakistan. It is only by respecting and amplifying the genuine will of the people that Awaam Pakistan can hope to achieve its ambitious goals.

# THE HEARTLAND



## MPA Makhdoom Fakhar Zaman reviews arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: MPA Makhdoom Fakhar Zaman convened a crucial meeting at the DC office to oversee preparations for the sacred month of Muharram-ul-Haram. The meeting, attended by district officials including DC Muhammad Yousif Shaikh, SSP Syed Asghar Shah, DHO Pir Ghulam Hussain, AC Abdul Sattar Shaikh, and other key personnel, focused on ensuring comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming religious observances.

Makhdoom Fakhar Zaman received a detailed briefing on the measures taken thus far to ensure security and provide essential services during Muharram-ul-Haram. Emphasizing the importance of foolproof security, he underscored the need to maintain peace and harmony across Matiari district during this sensitive period.

"I have forwarded the SNE (summary note for expenditure) to the Sindh CM for the District Headquarters Hospital Matiari," announced Makhdoom Fakhar Zaman, highlighting ongoing efforts

to enhance healthcare facilities for local residents. He expressed his commitment to improving public services and ensuring that the community receives the necessary support.

The meeting concluded with directives to intensify efforts in implementing the planned arrangements effectively. Makhdoom Fakhar Zaman reiterated his resolve to collaborate closely with district officials and law enforcement agencies to uphold safety, tranquility, and the spirit of Muharram-ul-Haram in Matiari.

## JSQM protests for abducted Khoso community man's recovery



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Leaders and activists of the Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM), along with members of the Khoso community and local civil society leaders, staged a robust protest demonstration demanding the immediate recovery of Behram Khoso, who was abducted 27 days ago. The protest, led by Shaman Soomro, Liaquat Sarki, Wasim Qureshi, Arbab Ali Golo, Gulzar Khoso, and others, highlighted the community's anguish over the Jacobabad Police's alleged failure to locate the abducted man despite the passage of considerable time.

Expressing deep concern, protest leaders pointed out that the kidnappers had circulated a distressing video of Behram Khoso on social media platforms. They criticized the authorities for what they perceived as a lack of

effective action to ensure his safe return. During the protest, participants passionately urged higher authorities to intervene swiftly and take decisive steps to secure the release of Behram Khoso. They emphasized that every moment was critical for his safety and stressed the urgent need for a comprehensive response to address the alarming situation.

The demonstrators warned of escalating their protest if immediate measures were not taken to rescue Behram Khoso from captivity. They underscored the community's resolve to continue advocating for justice and the protection of individuals from unlawful acts, highlighting the pressing need for effective law enforcement measures to safeguard citizens' lives and rights in Thul and surrounding areas.

## 3 Kidnapped Hindu Traders Rescued From Bhayo Gang In Kashmir

KASHMIRE: In a dramatic and high-stakes operation, the Pakistan Rangers and Sindh police successfully rescued three Hindu businessmen who had been kidnapped by the notorious Bhayo gang in Kashmir's riverine area on Saturday. The operation, which involved intense gunfire exchanges, resulted in the deaths of two suspects and injuries to five others, who managed to escape.

A spokesperson for the paramilitary force detailed the operation, revealing that the deceased suspects were identified as Imdad alias Imdo Bhayo and his brother, Nazeer alias Mawali alias Miandad. Imdad Bhayo was named as the mastermind behind the abduction of the traders and was implicated in numerous criminal activities, including kidnappings, encounters, attacks on police pickets, robberies, and murders, with an estimated 25 to 50 cases against him and his brother.

The spokesperson added that Imdad's body was transported to Civil Hospital Kandhkot for legal formalities. Meanwhile, search operations are ongoing to apprehend the fleeing suspects who sustained injuries during the encounter. The Bhayo gang, which operates in Kashmir, has long been infamous for its involvement in abductions. Earlier this year, in March, a man named Agha Sohail Ali Khan was kidnapped for a ransom of Rs20 million after leaving his home in Sukkur. His body was tragically discovered in

Kashmir's riverine area in May. Police sources reported that the kidnappers had initially demanded Rs20 million for his release but later reduced the amount to Rs10 million.

The rescue of the three Hindu traders marks a significant victory for law enforcement agencies in their ongoing battle against the entrenched criminal networks operating in Sindh. The successful operation underscores the commitment of the Pakistan Rangers and Sindh police to restoring safety and security in the region.—RT

## Central President of All Ladies Health Workers Bushra Arain demands more protection for polio workers

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Bushra Arain, the Central President of All Ladies Health Workers, has called for enhanced security and protection for polio workers who are performing their duties under challenging conditions in remote areas. Speaking on behalf of her organization, she emphasized the critical need for safeguarding these workers as they strive to meet national health objectives amid significant risks.



Arain, alongside other prominent members including Noor Fatima, Shehnaz Sultana, Zeenat Chandio, Mehwish Khan, Amna Khan, Zarina Rajput, Salma Ashfaq, Soema Baloch, Nazia Memon, Aafia Khan, Aisha Ali, Salma Karim, and Aalia Salim, condemned recent incidents of harassment, verbal abuse, attempted kidnappings, and other hostile actions faced by polio workers in regions such as Hyder-

abad, Karachi South, Sukkur, and other remote areas of Sindh province.

"It is regrettable that polio workers and supervisors who are dedicated to preventing disabilities in children, are subjected to such treatment," Arain stated. The organization decried these acts,

emphasizing that the safety of health workers is paramount to the success of the polio eradication campaign. The leaders have urged the Chief Minister of Sindh, the Provincial Minister for Health, the Secretary Health, the Director General (DG) Health, the Incharge of the Polio Program in Sindh, and other relevant authorities to take immediate action to ensure the protection of polio workers.

They stressed that without adequate security measures, the vital work of these health workers could be severely compromised, threatening the broader goal of eradicating polio in the region.

Bushra Arain's demands come at a crucial time, highlighting the need for comprehensive support and protection for frontline health workers who play a vital role in safeguarding public health and preventing disease outbreaks in Pakistan.

## Two booked in Kunri water theft case

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: Tensions rose in the village of Sanuri Branch as a case was formally registered against two local villagers at Nabisar Police Station for allegedly stealing water. The complaint, lodged by Anwar Kunbar, the Daruga of Sanuri Branch at Nabisar Wah, highlighted serious disruptions in the water flow due to unauthorized tampering with watercourses.

Local authorities have been urged to expedite the investigation process and enforce stringent measures to safeguard water resources in the region. The incident has sparked concerns among residents, who are demanding justice and accountability to uphold the integrity of water management practices in Kunri.

Efforts are underway to restore normalcy and uphold the rule of law, as community leaders and officials collaborate to address the extent of the water theft and ensure appropriate measures are taken to prevent future occurrences.

AC Muhammad Arsalan Chaudhry, recognizing the solemn significance of Muharram, meticulously reviewed plans to enhance cleanliness and illuminate the procession routes. Emphasizing the paramount importance of public safety, he underscored the need for foolproof security arrangements to safeguard mourners and

## AC Muhammad Arsalan Chaudhry reviews Muharram arrangements in Qazi Ahmed

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Assistant Commissioner Qazi Ahmed, Muhammad Arsalan Chaudhry, took charge of ensuring meticulous preparations for the upcoming month of Muharram-ul-Haram during a pivotal meeting held on Saturday. Attended by officials from Town Committees of Qazi Ahmed, Daulatpur, and Shahpur Jahania, alongside leaders from various religious organizations, the gathering focused on bolstering community safety and spiritual observances.

AC Muhammad Arsalan Chaudhry, recognizing the solemn significance of Muharram, meticulously reviewed plans to enhance cleanliness and illuminate the procession routes. Emphasizing the paramount importance of public safety, he underscored the need for foolproof security arrangements to safeguard mourners and

facilitate a peaceful commemoration.

"We must ensure that all necessary measures are in place to uphold the sanctity of Muharram-ul-Haram," stated AC Muhammad Arsalan Chaudhry, highlighting the collaborative efforts required from local authorities and community leaders.

His directive aimed to foster an environment conducive to respectful mourning and spiritual reflection throughout the district.

As preparations intensify in anticipation of Muharram's observances, AC Muhammad Arsalan Chaudhry's proactive approach underscores the district's commitment to honoring traditions while prioritizing public welfare and security. The collective resolve of officials and community representatives promises a harmonious and reverent commemoration during the sacred month ahead.

## STP Chairman Dr Qadir Magso demands justice for Shaheed Khuda Bux Dars

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: Dr Qadir Magso, Chairman of the Sindh Taraqi Pasant Party (STP), expressed heartfelt condolences over the tragic passing of GDA leader Khuda Bux Dars, offering solace to his son Qalandar Bux Dars and brother Faqir Ismail Dars. Speaking to the media, Dr Qadir Magso lauded the late Shaheed Khuda Bux Dars for his unwavering dedication to advocating for the rights of the people of Sindh.



Dr Hameed Memon, Ali Dino Khakhsheli, Shah Nawaz Naich, and others, reflecting widespread community support for justice and security reforms in Sindh. As the community mourns the loss of a dedicated leader, Dr Qadir Magso reiterated his commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring that the perpetrators face the full force of justice. The call for justice resonated deeply among attendees, who expressed solidarity with the quest for accountability and the preservation of peace in Jam Nawaz Ali and beyond.

"In solidarity with the bereaved family and in recognition of Khuda Bux Dars's invaluable contributions," declared Dr Qadir Magso, "STP stands resolute in demanding swift and transparent action to apprehend those responsible for this heinous crime." The STP Chairman announced plans to support a protest demonstration scheduled for July 8th, aimed at pressuring authorities to promptly arrest the culprits behind Khuda Bux Dars's murder. The gathering included prominent figures such as Dr Soomar Mangro,

Nisar Abbasi, the FIA inquiry officer, reported that Ghulam Mujtaba Meher is accused of misappropriating funds from the Mehra account. This action followed complaints filed by Waqar Hussain and several other individuals, which led to the registration of a corruption case against the former bank officer. The FIA's decisive move underscores its ongoing efforts to clamp down on financial misconduct and ensure ac-

## FIA Arrests Former National Bank Officer Over Corruption

LARKANA: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Larkana Circle has apprehended Ghulam Mujtaba Meher, a former officer of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), on charges of embezzling funds amounting to Rs 10.41 million. The arrest, carried out under the directives of the Deputy Director of FIA, highlights the agency's commitment to tackling financial corruption within national institutions.

Nisar Abbasi, the FIA inquiry officer, reported that Ghulam Mujtaba Meher is accused of misappropriating funds from the Mehra account. This action followed complaints filed by Waqar Hussain and several other individuals, which led to the registration of a corruption case against the former bank officer. The FIA's decisive move underscores its ongoing efforts to clamp down on financial misconduct and ensure ac-

countability within financial institutions. This arrest is part of a broader initiative to root out corruption and protect the integrity of Pakistan's banking system. The investigation into the case continues, with further actions anticipated based on the findings. The FIA remains vigilant in its pursuit of justice, aiming to deter future financial crimes and maintain public trust in the country's financial institutions.—RT



# SPORTS



## PCB chief summons ex-cricketers for 'feedback' on domestic cricket



LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has summoned more than two dozen former cricketers to hold consultations regarding the country's existing domestic cricket system, sources told media on Saturday.

Around 30 to 35 international cricketers, the sources added, will meet Naqvi on Monday and will provide feedback and suggestions regarding improvement in the domestic cricket structure to make it more attractive.

Meanwhile, the cricketers will also be taken into confidence over three new tournaments by the name of "Champions".

The expected meeting comes as the national side has been under scrutiny and subjected to severe criticism owing to their dismal performance in the T20 World Cup 2024.

## Cristiano Ronaldo consoles visibly distraught Pepe after Euro 2024 exit



Cristiano Ronaldo was seen offering a shoulder to his teammate Pepe to cry on after their team was kicked out of the Euro 2024 on Friday following a 3-3 defeat from France in their quarter-final clash.

This was potentially the last international tournament for the 41-year-old Portuguese defender who has been seen crying uncontrollably on the field after France sealed a dramatic shootout win against Portugal in Hamburg.

With the latest defeat, the future of Ronaldo, who marked his record sixth European Championship this year, hangs in balance as he is yet to decide whether he will continue playing for his national side, Goal reported.

Portugal's 39-year-old captain previously said that Euro 2024 would be his last European competition with the national side but it is still uncertain whether he had played his last match with Portugal or not.

After the defeat, Portugal's head coach Roberto

where the Men In Green failed to even progress to the Super Eight stage. During the tournament, the Green Shirts showcased below-par performance in all three fields and suffered an upset loss against the minnows United States and a subsequent disappointing defeat against India, resulting in their early elimination from the tournament.

The meeting comes days after the team's white-ball coach Gary Kirsten submitted his "confidential" assessment report to the PCB chairman regarding the side's performance in the mega event.

The report, as per the sources, highlights players' fitness, discipline and game awareness among other things that led to the team's early exit from the World Cup.—Agency

## Pakistan defeat India by 68 runs in WCL encounter

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan Champions late Saturday night inflicted a mammoth 68-run defeat on Indian Champions in the 8th encounter of the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2024 at Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham.

This was third win for Younis Khan's men and they are now top of the points table of the six-team competition. They defeated Australia and West Indies previously.

Earlier, Pakistan smashed 243/4 after being put into bat. The Men in Green were provided a blistering start by the opening pair of Sharjeel Khan and Kamran Akmal.

The duo hit 145 runs for the first wicket before Sharjeel departed in the 11th over. Sharjeel made a 30-ball



72 powered by seven fours and five sixes. While Kamran continued the aggressive approach, scoring a 40-ball 77 before being bowled by Pawan Negi in the 14th over.

Sohaib Maqsood rubbed his shoulders in the middle with a powerful 26-ball 51. He hit five sixes and two fours.

Shahid Afridi went for a golden duck while Shoaib Malik remained not out on 18-ball 25.

India replied strongly at the start of the chase with Robin Uthappa scoring 12-ball 22. Sohail Khan removed him to bring the first wicket for Pakistan.

Ambati Rayudu and Suresh Raina paired up to trouble the Men in Green but

Shoaib Malik had the better of Rayudu (39) to put India under pressure.

Malik kept the run rate in check as India could not accelerate. Wahab Riaz came to the attack and removed Irfan Pathan (15), Pawan Negi (1) in one over to put a further dent.

Raina played the lone battle before he was bowled by Sohail Tanvir in the 19th over. The left-hander made 52 off 40 balls.

India managed 175/9 in their 20 overs with Anureet Singh minimising the deficit with his 14-ball 20\*.

Malik took three wickets for 38 while Wahab finished with figures of 3/22.

The matches of the World Championship of Legends 2024 are being shown live on Geo Super.—Agency

## Australia outclass England by six wickets in World Championship of Legends



BIRMINGHAM: Australia outclassed England by six wickets in the seventh match of the World Championship of Legends 2024 at Birmingham's Edgbaston stadium on Saturday.

Chasing 161-run target, Brett Lee's men chased down the total in 14 overs with Aaron Finch scoring 23-ball 56 while Shaun Marsh made 26-ball 42.

Ben Dunk (19) and Calum Ferguson (11) chipped in with vital contributions. Ben Cutting (10\*) and Daniel Christian (18\*) stayed till the end and completed the chase.

Owais Shah was England's best bowler, picking 2/31.

Earlier, England managed 160/9 after being put into bat first by Lee.

Ian Bell was the top-scorer for England, scoring 30 off 45 balls. Meanwhile, Phil Mustard made 13-ball 20 while Ravi Bopara contributed 22 off 15 balls. Ali Brown chipped in with 20-ball 26.

Australia's skipper Brett Lee was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 3/28 while Ben Laughlin took 2/25 and Dan Christian claimed 2/14.

Australia are now at the top of the table with two wins and a Net Run Rate of +2.765. India and Pakistan are second and third respectively.

The matches of World Championship of Legends 2024 are being shown live on Geo Super.—Agency

## Andy Murray's Wimbledon career over after Emma Raducanu withdraws from doubles

Andy Murray's Wimbledon career ended following Emma Raducanu's withdrawal from their scheduled mixed doubles match.

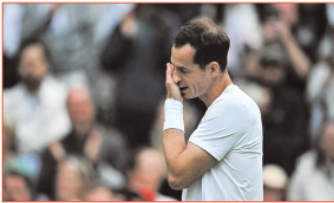
The 37-year-old former world number one was set to partner with his compatriot on Saturday evening at the All England Club.

Raducanu cited "some stiffness" in her right wrist as the reason for her decision.

The 21-year-old progressed to the fourth round of the women's singles with a commanding two-set victory over Greek ninth seed Maria Sakkari on Friday.

"I have decided to make the very tough decision to withdraw from the mixed doubles," she said.

"I'm disappointed as I was



really looking forward to playing with Andy but I've got to take care."

Murray, a two-time singles champion, was competing at Wimbledon for the final time before retiring later this year.

The Scot made his last SW19 appearance on Thursday, when he suf-

fered as 7-6(6), 6-4 defeat in the 2024 Wimbledon men's doubles alongside brother Jamie to John Peers and Rinky Hijikata.

After his defeat in men's doubles, the 37-year-old legend was honoured by Wimbledon where a montage consisting of his legendary career

was shown on the big screen. Names like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and others appeared in the video capturing the 37-year-old's memorable time on the court.

"It wasn't something that I'd asked for," said Murray. "When I was making the decision around the singles, the club spoke to me and said they would like to do something after one of my matches here. I think if I'd played singles, then would do it after I potentially lost in the singles. If the singles doesn't happen, we'd like to have it after the first doubles match, regardless of the result.—Agency

## Bowlers-led Zimbabwe beat India in T20I series opener

HARARE: Sikandar Raza-led Zimbabwe bowling attack decimated inexperienced India and sealed a narrow 13-run victory in the first T20I of the three-match series here at Harare Sports Club on Saturday.

Put into bat first, Zimbabwe managed to put 115/9 on the board in the allotted overs.

The home side got off to a shaky start to their innings as their opener Innocent Kaia (0) perished on the first delivery of the second over with just six runs on the board.

Opening batter Wesley Madhevere then joined forces with Brian Bennett and added 34 runs for the second wicket before Ravi Bishnoi dismissed the latter in the sixth over.

Bennett scored 21 off 15



deliveries with the help of five boundaries.

Bishnoi then struck again in his next over to provide India with a much-needed breakthrough with the prized scalp of Madhevere, who made 21 off 22.

Sikandar Raza then briefly took charge of Zimbabwe's batting expedition

Mayers then stitched a brief partnership with wicket-keeper batter Clive Madande. Their fifth-wicket stand yielded 15 runs and lasted with Mayers' dismissal in the 15th over.

Zimbabwe then lost three more wickets in quick succession and had slipped to 90/9 before Madande added valuable runs at the backend.

He put on a one-sided partnership with Tendai Chatara (0\*) and 25 runs for the 10th wicket.

Madande top-scored for Zimbabwe with 29 off 25 deliveries, hitting four fours.

Bishnoi led the bowling charge for India with four wickets, followed by Washington Sundar, who bagged two Avesh Khan and Mukesh Kumar made one scalp each.—Agency

## Jimmy Connors backs Novak Djokovic to win Wimbledon



Eight-time Grand Slam winner Jimmy Connors is backing Novak Djokovic to win Wimbledon 2024 despite just returning from knee surgery a month ago.

Djokovic began his Wimbledon 2024 campaign on a high note as he managed to beat Vit Kopriwa and Jacob Fearnley in his first two matches and will now take on Alexei Popyrin in the third round on Saturday.

The Serb has been ranked the third-best player in the tournament by experts, behind Carlos Alcaraz and Janik Sinner but according to the Connors, if Djokovic is fit, he can be the absolute favourite.

"You got to look at 'Djoker'. He may be the third favourite, but he has won the tournament seven times," Wimbledon said.

"If he's healthy and feeling good, then why wouldn't he be right up there as the

favourite? Sure, he's had a tough season so far, but champions like Djokovic thrive under pressure. Wimbledon could be his stage to turn it all around.

"Djokovic has this incredible knack for wearing down his opponents. His movement on the court is like no other, and his stamina is second to none."

Connors also declared Alcaraz the biggest threat to the Serb and also added that Sinner will have some additional pressure as he is the world No. 1.

"Alcaraz has that fearless spirit and, having already won a Major, he knows what it takes to perform on the big stage," Connors continued.

"Sinner has had tough outings against Djokovic in the past. Facing Djokovic at Wimbledon, where his game shines brightest, is a different challenge altogether.—Agency

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Madonna marks one year since 'Miraculous Recovery' from bacterial infection



Madonna recalled a previous health complication and expressed her gratefulness for her restored health.

Last year in June, the 65-year-old pop singer's manager Guy Oseary revealed that Madonna was admitted to a hospital's ICU due to a "serious bacterial infection".

He further wrote to his Instagram post at the time, "Her health is improving, however she is still under medical care. A full recovery is expected."

On Friday, July 4th almost one year later she is grateful for her miraculous recovery. She posted an Instagram post writing, "A year ago today, I had just come home from the hospital after surviving a life threatening illness, I could barely stand in my backyard holding one sparkler."

"I made a miraculous recovery and had an amazing year," the Material singer added.

"Thank you God. Life is beautiful!" she concluded her post.

## How filling in for father's role made Mathira stronger than any man

In a recent interview with a local channel, television host, model, and mother-of-three Mathira opened up about the pressures and traumas she faced while navigating life as a single parent after her divorce in 2018. She shed light on the strength she found in her children.

Mathira expressed that her three sons have been her greatest source of support, describing how she had to adopt both maternal and paternal roles in their upbringing. She explained, "When the relationship with the father fizzles out completely it's up to the mother to take on the man's role. To be a man, for a woman that's not her job. But when she becomes a man, she becomes stronger than a man."

The model also highlighted the double standards present in society, pointing out the stark differences in how single mothers and fathers are perceived. "When a single mother does something instead of praising her, they wonder how many others were behind the scenes helping her. When a man does something good, we appreciate him, but when a woman is running a house-



hold, there are too many accusations against her," said Mathira. She poignantly added, "It gets very tough and then she's not able to be a good mother or take on the role of a father."

She also revealed the se-

vere depression she experienced after her third pregnancy, a struggle that society largely ignores, occasionally shamed and dismissed as insignificant. "I think the education that there is such a thing as depression - as postpartum depression - and hormonal imbalances," she noted, emphasising the need for greater understanding of now people are getting mental health issues.

## Face of the Day



Name: Ahmed Raza  
Location: Karachi  
About me: Strike a pose if you love modeling like me!

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



# THE HEARTLAND



## Mistri Mines suffers 20-foot wide breach in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Disaster struck near village Khair Muhammad Khoso in Subdivision Irrigation Garhi Hassan when a massive 20-foot wide breach occurred at Mistri Mines. The breach unleashed a torrent of water that inundated hundreds of acres of fertile agricultural land, causing severe financial losses estimated in millions of rupees for local growers.

embankments at Mistri Mines, officials failed to take preventive measures, leading to the catastrophic incident. "The breach has devastated our livelihoods," expressed one affected farmer, reflecting the widespread sentiment of despair among the agricultural community. "We demand swift action against those responsible for this negligence and immediate compensation for our losses," urged another farmer, echoing the sentiments of many.

The incident has prompted calls for accountability from concerned authorities, with demands intensifying for a thorough investigation into the circumstances that precipitated the breach. Farmers emphasized the urgent need for reinforced infrastructure and proactive measures to prevent similar disasters in the future.

## Hingorja Police recover a snatched tractor

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Tension gripped the national highway in Hingorja as five unidentified armed assailants intercepted and held tractor driver Ghulam Murtaza Bhatti hostage on Saturday. In a daring daylight robbery, the armed men forcefully seized the tractor from Bhatti, leaving him shaken but unharmed.

"We are determined to bring the culprits to justice," assured the Station House Officer (SHO) of Hingorja Police Station, emphasizing the department's commitment to apprehending the perpetrators swiftly. The recovery of the snatched tractor stands as a testament to the police's proactive efforts in combating crime and ensuring public safety. The incident has prompted heightened security measures along the national highway, with authorities advising vigilance and caution among local residents and travelers.

## Four More Children Die Of Measles In Sindh, Death Toll Rises To 12 In Shikarpur

SHIKARPUR: Four more children, including an infant, have tragically succumbed to measles in Shikarpur, raising the death toll to 12 in the district over the past two months.

The latest victims included nine-month-old Uzma Khoso, three-year-old Nasser, Waqar, and Shahida. Since January 2024, over 180 children exhibiting similar symptoms have been admitted to the civil hospital in Shikarpur, underscoring the widespread nature of the epidemic. Earlier in Sujawal district, four children, including an infant and a minor girl, died of measles. The deceased were identified as two-month-old Ahmed, four-year-old Gul Muhammad, three-year-old Anila, and Aziziullah. These children were residents of a Tehsil in district Sujawal, further illustrating the extensive reach of the outbreak.

Health authorities are ramping up efforts to combat the epidemic by accelerating vaccination campaigns and establishing medical camps in the most affected areas. The recent fatalities underscore the urgent need for widespread immunization and public health interventions to prevent further loss of life and contain the spread of measles in Sindh.—RT

## Central Muslim League rallies against aftershocks of IMF sponsored budget

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Workers of the Central Muslim League, joined by local residents, took to the streets in a rally protesting the recent hikes in prices of electricity, gas, and general consumer goods. The demonstrators voiced their frustration with the federal government, accusing it of imposing burdensome taxes in the new budget that has made life increasingly difficult for ordinary citizens.

the budgetary measures, stating that the new taxes have particularly impacted agricultural laborers and the middle class, who are now struggling to afford even two meals a day. They argued that while common people suffer, the government continues to provide facilities to the nation's "thieves and looters" who show no concern for the public's hardships.

Leaders of the Central Muslim League condemned the budgetary measures, stating that the new taxes have particularly impacted agricultural laborers and the middle class, who are now struggling to afford even two meals a day. They argued that while common people suffer, the government continues to provide facilities to the nation's "thieves and looters" who show no concern for the public's hardships.

## Town Committee Chairman Pithoro Asif Hussain Shoro leads operation against water theft

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Asif Hussain Shoro, Chairman of Pithoro Town, spearheaded a decisive operation against water theft in various areas of the city on Saturday. The operation targeted illegally installed water connections that have exacerbated water shortages within the community.

Local authorities, under the leadership of Chairman Asif Hussain Shoro, took swift action to dismantle several unauthorized water connections. These connections were identified as contributing to the ongoing water scarcity issues faced by residents. Asif Hussain Shoro reiterated his dedication to maintaining transparency and accountability in local governance, urging community support in combating illegal practices that undermine public utilities. The ongoing efforts against water theft reflect a broader commitment to improving the quality of life and infrastructure development in Pithoro Town.

## APC held against increased toll tax in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The All Parties Conference (APC) was convened at the Tando Allahyar Gymkhana to address the controversial increase in toll tax on the Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad, and Tando Allahyar Road. The conference drew leaders from political, social, and religious organizations, along with local traders, all unified in their opposition to the heightened toll charges.



In their addresses, speakers such as President of the District Bar Association Tando Allahyar, Aghes-ul-Islam Tahirzada, Advocate Wali Muhammad Thebo, Advocate Aslam Laghari, Akhtar Laghari, and others voiced strong criticism of the toll tax increase. They argued that the people of Tando Allahyar are being unfairly burdened with toll charges exceeding the due amount, labeling the act as condemnable and unjust.



The leaders announced their intention to seek legal recourse if necessary, emphasizing their commitment to challenging the toll tax hike through the courts. They urged higher authorities to take immediate notice of the issue, warning that failure to address their concerns would force them to launch a broader protest movement.

## GRASP Sujawal team holds an awareness session for SMEs

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: The GRASP Sujawal team orchestrated a dynamic awareness session focused on the 4th cycle of the matching grant initiative at UC Chuhar Jamali, marking a pivotal moment for local agricultural development. Led by Ms. Bilqees Khattai, Project Officer of RDF GRASP Sujawal, the session aimed to empower farmers and entrepreneurs with vital information on accessing financial resources for agricultural advancement.

Chuhar Jamali, and Zahoor Turk, Manager of ZTBL Sujawal Branch, delivered insightful presentations. They delved into the intricacies of agricultural products and elucidated strategies to enhance access to finance (A2F) within the community.

Ahmed Otho, in his role, provided a comprehensive guide on navigating the application process for SMEs seeking the matching grant. He detailed the essential documents required and offered practical advice to streamline the application process, fostering a supportive environment for local entrepreneurs.

edge and resources crucial for their agricultural ventures," remarked Ms. Bilqees Khattai. "By enhancing understanding of financial opportunities, we aim to catalyze sustainable growth and prosperity across Sujawal." Participants expressed enthusiasm over the session's outcomes, highlighting newfound insights and actionable steps to leverage financial mechanisms for agricultural innovation. The collaborative efforts of GRASP Sujawal and its partners underscored a commitment to fostering economic resilience and empowering local communities through informed decision-making and strategic initiatives.

Local authorities, under the leadership of Chairman Asif Hussain Shoro, took swift action to dismantle several unauthorized water connections. These connections were identified as contributing to the ongoing water scarcity issues faced by residents. Asif Hussain Shoro reiterated his dedication to maintaining transparency and accountability in local governance, urging community support in combating illegal practices that undermine public utilities. The ongoing efforts against water theft reflect a broader commitment to improving the quality of life and infrastructure development in Pithoro Town.

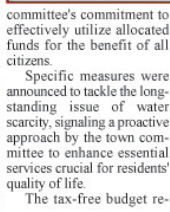
## Qazi Noor Muhammad Sand chairs budget session of Town Committee TJM

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: The Tando Jan Muhammad Town Committee unveiled a tax-free budget totaling Rs 373,522,000, with Rs 120,000,000 allocated specifically for developmental projects. The budget session, presided over by Town Chairman Qazi Noor Muhammad Sand, outlined priority initiatives to address the city's drinking water shortage.



In attendance at the session were Video Chairman Shahzad Arain, Town Officer, councilors, and other committee members. Chairman Qazi Noor Muhammad Sand, addressing the gathering, pledged comprehensive efforts to deliver the best possible facilities directly to the residents of Tando Jan Muhammad.



Specific measures were announced to tackle the long-standing issue of water scarcity, signaling a proactive approach by the town committee to enhance essential services crucial for residents' quality of life. The tax-free budget reflects the committee's dedication to fiscal responsibility while prioritizing the welfare and development of Tando Jan Muhammad.

## Population Welfare Dept observes World Population Day in Tando Jam

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: The Population Welfare Department marked World Population Day with an awareness event held at village Haji Allah Dino Jamali. The event, held on Saturday, saw active participation from local residents who gathered to learn about the implications of population growth and measures essential for building a prosperous society.



Agriculturist Salahuddin Junejo, Khalid Ahmed, Regional Manager PPHI Mazhar Veessar, Bashir Ahmed Bhattu, and other esteemed speakers addressed the audience during the awareness seminar. They emphasized the importance of controlling population growth through education and access to family planning resources.

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empowering communities with knowledge about reproductive health, contraceptive options, and responsible parenthood practices. Participants engaged in discussions on sustainable development goals linked to population dynamics, highlighting the role of individual choices in shaping the future of communities. The event served as a platform for fostering dialogue and promoting collective action towards achieving demographic balance and societal well-being.

The Population Welfare Department's initiative in Tando Jam underscored its commitment to advocating for population management strategies essential for ensuring a better quality of life and sustainable development in the region.

Speaking to the media, the leaders highlighted that numerous canals and branches crucial for irrigation have suffered from inadequate water supply. They lamented the closure of several water pumping stations in Sheru Depar and surrounding areas, exacerbating the plight of local growers who depend on these water sources for agriculture.

## Dejected TMK man ends his life

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A cloud of sorrow descended upon village Alam Khan Talpur as 28-year-old Dur Muhammad Khaskheli tragically ended his life by jumping into the unforgiving waters of the Phuleli Canal. The heart-wrenching incident, stemming from undisclosed domestic issues, occurred on a somber Saturday, casting a pall of grief over the community.

body of the deceased remains submerged in the canal, adding to the anguish of loved ones awaiting closure. The incident has left neighbors and acquaintances reeling with shock, reflecting on the unseen burdens that may have led to this irreversible decision.

The loss of Dur Muhammad Khaskheli has deeply saddened our village," shared a local resident. "He was known for his kindness and jovial nature, making this loss even more difficult to comprehend." Despite the valiant efforts of local residents, the authorities have been urged to expedite efforts to recover the body and provide support to the grieving family. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of mental health awareness and support networks to prevent such tragedies in the future.

## Prolonged power outages irk TMK residents

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The residents of Tando Muhammad Khan and its surrounding areas are enduring severe hardships due to prolonged power outages. Reports indicate that load shedding lasting 16 to 18 hours daily has nearly halted business activities and placed patients in hospitals in critical conditions.

concern over the local authorities' handling of the situation. They highlighted the detrimental impact of the extended power cuts on both the economy and public health. Businesses are struggling to operate, leading to economic stagnation, while hospitals face immense challenges in providing adequate care without reliable electricity.

As the situation worsens, there is growing pressure on local and regional officials to address the power crisis promptly and provide the much-needed relief to the affected population.

## Man shot dead near Dhamrah

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A few unidentified armed men opened indiscriminate fire on a 45-year-old man named Shahid Mahmood Pirzado near village Dhamrah and as a result he died on the spot. After the incident the murderers managed to flee from the scene. The body of the deceased was handed over to his heirs after completing necessary medico legal formalities from a local area hospital.

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# METRO KARACHI

## Municipal Agencies To Operate Round-The-Clock During Muharram-ul-Haram: Ghani

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has announced that municipal agencies across Karachi and other parts of the province will remain operational round-the-clock during the sacred month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During a comprehensive four-hour visit on Saturday, Minister Ghani inspected various Imambarghas and procession routes in Karachi. His itinerary included Nishtar Park, Mehfil-e-Shah Khorasan, Tahiri Masjid, Hussainia Imambargha in Kharadar, Bara Imambargha, Imambargha Babul Ilm, Mohsin Imambargha Anchohi, and several other significant sites. He engaged with Imambargha management to assess preparations for Muharram.

Minister Ghani assured the Imambargha representatives of adequate arrangements, including streetlights, continuous water supply, sanitation facilities, functional sewerage systems, and road carpeting to facilitate mourners during Muharram processions and gatherings. He emphasized that the provincial government has appointed focal persons to promptly address urgent complaints.



Inspecting adjacent areas, Minister Ghani also reviewed streetlights, water supply, sewerage systems, and road conditions near Imambarghas and congregation venues. He affirmed the Sindh government's commitment to ensuring comprehensive civic and municipal services for Muharram participants. Efforts are underway to swiftly carpet dilapidated roads, he added. Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation has been directed to ensure uninterrupted water supply to Imambarghas and other congregation sites, alongside robust sanitation measures. Focal persons will remain in constant communication with stakeholders to resolve any arising issues promptly.

## Mustafa Kamal Disputes Sindh CM's Claims On Development

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal has rejected Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah's claims of development in the province.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi, he denounced MQM-P's denunciation of the claims of Sindh CM about the development in Sindh on the public reaction.

He gave a response to the briefing of Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah about the 15 years of performance of his government and development projects across the province, stating that Sindh CM projected the false image of Sindh.

He suggested the Sindh government resolve the public crisis, claiming, the Sindh government had not done anything for the province.

He hit out at Sindh CM, the narrative of development



created by his government was fake and forged. Mustafa Kamal lambasted the government for using a public tax of billions for advertising, saying, "You don't have the right to public money, it's my and us (public) money."

MQM-P leader also lauded the Punjab for development, contrasting the road infrastructure between the two provinces. He raised questions about

the out-of-school children and 11 thousand ghost schools.

He asserted, "you don't need advertisement if you have done some work for development." He claimed 50 new Sindh provinces could be built in the 18 thousand billion funds spent in 15 years.

Mustafa Kamal highlighted, MQM-P MPA's strived for Sindh province rights in the assembly.

He asserted that during his mayorship, Karachi was included among the top 12 developing cities in the world.

Mustafa Kamal highlighted his achievements during his tenure, claiming his government provided water in Karachi areas including Orangi, Lyari, Baldia, and Baba Bhatt spending 300 billion.—RT/Agency

## Malir journalists condole with former MNA and veteran publisher Kazi Asad Abid

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The journalists community of Malir district has offered its condolence to former MNA and Chairman of the Ibrat Group, Kazi Asad Abid over the sad demise of his brother, Kazi Afzal and his sister, Feroza Sattar Abbasi all within a span of 24 hours last week. In this regard, the President of Malir Press Club Hanif Soomro, Vice President Naz Shar, General Secretary Syed Rahim Shah, Joint Secretary Sajjad Shajro, Raja Baloch, Asif Qureshi, Jamil Chandio, the Ghulam Mustafa Abbasi, Sanaulah Shaikh, Ayaz Bhagat, Irfan Memon, Mukhtiar Chandio, Sarwar Abbasi, Muhammad Khan Kalmati, Abdul Rehman Gabol and others extended their heartfelt condolences to Kazi Asad Abid. On the occasion, Fataha was offered for the eternal peace of the departed souls.



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KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan's (MQM-P) Rabita Committee's Senior Deputy Convener, Syed Mustafa Kamal is addressing a press conference at Pakistan House.—RT

## Muharram Security Measures: Sindh Bans 143 Ulema And Zakireen For 60 Days

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Saturday banned 143 ulema and zakireen for 60 days as part of security measures during the month of Muharram, expected to begin on July 8.

As per a notification issued by the Sindh Home Department, they will not be allowed to travel or deliver a speech for the next 60 days. The order is applicable with immediate effect.

"On recommendation of the inspector general of police, the speeches and travel of 143 scholars and zakirs hailing from 13 districts have been banned," the department said.

It said the ban had been imposed on them while viewing the law and order situation during the Islamic month.

Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar, and it is regarded as one of the four sacred Islamic months. During this month, Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), the grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW), along with his family members were martyred.

Faithful hold processions and majalis across



the country in Muharram, Committee of the Cabinet on Law and Order was convened to review security and administrative arrangements for Muharram.

In this meeting, it was decided to suspend social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, YouTube, TikTok and Instagram from Muharram 6 to 11 to prevent the dissemination of hate material and misinformation, aiming to avert sectarian violence.

However, the federal government has not yet taken any decision to suspend internet services during Muharram.

According to a Punjab spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior Friday meeting of the Standing

## Karachi Domestic Worker Allegedly Drugged And Pushed From Third Floor



KARACHI: A female domestic worker on Saturday fell from the third floor of an apartment in Clifton which led to her legs and arms fractured, media reported on Saturday.

The incident has raised serious concerns and prompted an investigation by local authorities.

The injured housemaid, in a statement, claimed she was drugged and pushed from the apartment. "I did not jump myself, someone pushed me. I am a domestic worker," she stated.

According to the police officials, the woman suffered multiple fractures, including broken bones in both her legs and hands. Meanwhile, the local authorities are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident to determine the veracity of the housemaid's claims and to identify those responsible.—RT/Agency

## Karachi's CBC Declares Rain Emergency

KARACHI: In view of upcoming monsoon spell, the Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC) of Karachi on Saturday imposed rain emergency in areas falling under its jurisdiction by appointing special teams for timely drainage of rainwater.

A CBC spokesperson said in a statement 1,288 staffers have been appointed on special duties under its rain emergency plan, including 638 in seven sectors for rain emergency while 650 other staffers will work for the drainage of rainwater.

The board also spotted low-lying areas which could be affected after downpours. Special teams have been assigned for performing specific tasks in DHA Phase-I to Phase VIII, Clifton Block 8, 9 and the market area.

It added that heavy machinery would be deployed in the affected areas, whereas, additional teams would be deputed at commercial avenues of Khayaban-e-Shujaat, Khayaban-e-Shehbaz, Khayaban-e-Badar and Khayaban-e-Tariq. The CBC teams will be equipped with 1,000-3,000-gallon water bowzers and powerful pumps for drainage purposes, the spokesperson concluded. Strong monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are penetrating the upper and central parts of the country. A fresh westerly wave is affecting most upper and central parts of the country, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD) weather report issued today. Residents of the provincial capital have longed for a break from the sweltering temperatures that have recently gripped the city. But, so far, Karachi has only received drizzle in some areas which improved the weather but was still not enough to break the heat spell.

The PMD said earlier today that despite the prediction of hot weather in the



port city, there is a chance of drizzling at night. According to the Met Office, the weather in Karachi, however, will continue to remain hot and humid in the next 24 hours.—RT/Agency

## TAAP Opposes Latest Tax Hike On Air Tickets

KARACHI: The Travel Agents Association of Pakistan (TAAP) has declared the recent increase in taxes on air tickets as illegal, stating that the sharp rise has plunged the industry into a severe crisis.

During a press conference held at their office, former chairman and member of the executive committee Nadeem Sharif emphasized that the industry could face destruction due to these measures.

APJC Chairman Muhammad Hanif Ranch criticized the government's actions over the past five days, asserting that they have violated existing laws. He labeled the tax increases as arbitrary and detrimental to the travel and tourism sector.

TAAP officials expressed deep concerns over the impact of the tax hike on air tickets, noting that bookings for economy class tickets abroad have surged by 150%, while first-class ticket prices have increased by 40%. The association warned that these measures could lead to the default of numerous travel agencies across the country.



Travel agents nationwide are currently protesting against the government's decision, highlighting the dire financial strain placed on the industry. The association has called for immediate intervention to prevent further damage and to safeguard the livelihoods of those dependent on the travel and tourism sector.—RT

## University Of Karachi Awards Degrees To 15,341 Graduates At Convocation

KARACHI: The University of Karachi conferred degrees upon 15,341 graduates from various departments during its convocation held on Saturday. The ceremony included 8,041 graduates from the class of 2021 and 7,297 from the class of 2022.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori presided over the event and personally handed degrees to the graduating students. The convocation was graced by the presence of Professor Dr. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of the Sindh Higher Education Commission, and Professor Dr. Khalid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor of University of Karachi, along with faculty members, students' parents, and the graduates themselves.

In his address, Governor Tessori expressed his pride in participating in the university's convocation, emphasizing the pivotal role of educated youth in shaping the nation's future. "I have high hopes for these graduates, as



they possess the potential to contribute significantly to our nation's economic stability and prosperity," he remarked.

Acknowledging the dedication of teachers, Governor Tessori urged the graduates to applaud their mentors, attributing their success to the hard work and guidance provided by the faculty. He further encouraged the graduates to uphold the honor of their alma mater and country, both locally and internationally.

As a final piece of advice,

Governor Tessori reminded the graduates of the sacrifices made by their parents to support their education. "Just as your parents worked tirelessly to bring you here today, it is now your responsibility to follow in their footsteps," he concluded.

The convocation at University of Karachi underscored the institution's commitment to academic excellence and celebrated the achievements of its graduating students across diverse fields of study.—RT/Agency

## CTD Officer Charged With Kidnapping And Extortion

KARACHI: A Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) officer has been booked for alleged kidnapping and extortion, media reported citing sources.

According to sources, a case was registered against CTD Sub-Inspector Razaqat Shah at the Tipu Sultan police station for kidnapping youth from a hotel and demanding a ransom of Rs 4 lac.

Sources within CTD said that the victim, Jasim, was released after the ransom was paid. Razaqat Shah was suspended on April 24 but a

high-rank officer issued an order for his reinstatement on May 1, sources added.

CTD sources revealed that the AIG has requested IG to cancel the order, and a petition has been filed in the Soldier Bazaar police station to cancel the order.

In a separate incident, Rangers personnel conducted a raid at the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) office and rescued an abducted citizen from their possession.

The DIG CTD Asif Aijaz Shaikh in a statement stated that the CTD

officials had failed to report the detained individual - who recently arrived in Karachi from Iraq - to higher authorities and had not officially recorded his detention. He further disclosed that the CTD initially demanded a ransom of Rs 500,000 from the victim's family, which was later negotiated down to Rs 100,000.

As a result, the DIG CTD announced the suspension of four CTD officials, including the Station House Officer (SHO), Sub-Inspector, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), and a Constable.—RT/Agency

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

**TENDER FOR PROVISION OF AIR COOLED ELECTRICAL RENTAL CHILLERS AT KARACHI EXPO CENTER**

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), an authority established for promotion of trade and business, under the Ministry of Commerce, invites sealed bids from firms registered with, Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue and qualified in all respects, as service provider for supply and installation of air cooled rental cooling systems at Karachi Expo Centre.

- Bidding documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, method of procurement, procedure for submission of bids, bid security, bid validity, opening of bid, evaluation criteria, clarification / rejection of bids, performance guarantee etc. are available for the interested bidders at EPADS website of PPRA. The bidding documents fees of Rs.3,000/- through pay order in favour of "Account Officer, TDAP, Karachi Expo Centre" may be submitted along with Technical & Financial Bid, at the time of Bid submission.
- Single Stage One Envelope Procedure as per PPRA rule 36(a) would be used for Open Competitive Bidding. Sealed Bid proposal should accompany a bid security equivalent to two percent (2%) of the bid amount in the shape of pay order / bank draft in favour of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.
- The bids, prepared in accordance with instructions in the bidding documents, must reach at the office of the Deputy Director (Expo), Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), 8th Floor, Block-A, FTC Building, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi on or before 11:00 AM on 17th July, 2024. Bids will be opened the same day at 11:30 AM. This advertisement is also available on EPADS & TDAP websites.
- Trade Development Authority of Pakistan reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time, however, reasons for rejection or annulling bid process will be communicated to the concerned bidder(s) in accordance with the Procurement Rules.

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Tel: 021-99232668

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MINISTRY OF COMMERCE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
Block-A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Finance & Trade Centre, Shahrah-e-Faisal,  
Karachi-75350



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

—Les Brown

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SUNDAY JULY 07 2024

## Khaqan, Miftah Launch Their New Party

ISLAMABAD: Ending months of speculation about the formation of a new political party, former Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail launched 'Awam Pakistan,' with a pledge to change the governance system of the country and deny political space to the "tainted" politicians.



"Politicians with tainted reputations won't be a part of Awam Pakistan," said Khaqan, who served as prime minister during the PML-N's 2013-18 stint in power, at the press conference in Islamabad flanked by Miftah and ex-PML-N leader Mehtab Abbasi.

The party's launch came months after Khaqan and Ismail parted ways from the ruling party following their differences with the leadership. Giving rise to speculations about a new political platform, Khaqan in April approached the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the registration of

a new party. In a hard-hitting press conference today, the former prime minister bashed the incumbent government, saying that those won elections on the basis of "Form-47" — reference to the alleged manipulation in the election results — can't build the country.

"We are just concerned about power, not about the country. Parties keep forming in Pakistan for specific purposes," he said, adding that they had not invited anyone to join the newly-launched Awam Pakistan party. Electables are part of the

politics but not acceptable, he added.

Without naming anyone, the ex-prime minister said that he and his fellow leaders remained a part of a particular political party in good or bad times but couldn't be a part of it anymore just for the sake of power.

"The government consists of a handful of elites who don't want to change the system," Khaqan added. Speaking at the occasion, Miftah came hard on the existing system in the country saying that "predatory" set-up cannot continue.

"Are you running East India Company," he said,

adding that the "system of the hunter and the hunted cannot continue".

Lambasting the federal government for its budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, the ex-finance czar said that those earning merely Rs50,000 per month are asked to pay tax, but no tax is demanded from the one owning thousands of acres of land.

"The tax on the salaried class has been doubled in the budget [...] the middle class is being crushed," Miftah said, stressing that the budget in essence is a reflection of the ruling elite's priorities. The ex-minister's comments refer to the tax-heavy Finance Bill 2024, which was assented by President Asif Ali Zardari last week, wherein the government has set out a challenging tax revenue target of Rs13 trillion for the year starting July 1, up about 40% from the current year to strengthen the case for a new rescue deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The rise in the tax target is made up of a 48% increase in direct taxes and a 35% hike in indirect taxes over revised estimates of the current year. Non-tax revenue, including petroleum levies, is seen increasing by a whopping 64%. Referring to the recently announced anti-terrorism drive "Operation Azm-e-Ishtekham," the politician said: "Today we are going to conduct another operation [...] why these operations are needed again and again because you cannot end poverty."

His remarks came as the federal cabinet last week approved the launch of the counter-terrorism operation following the National Action Plan's Central Apex Committee's recommendations to root out militance from the country.

With opposition parties voicing concerns over the anti-terror operation, the government has decided to convene an all-parties conference (APC) "to gain political parties' confidence" over its decision. —RT/Agency

## New Era of Pak-China Cooperation To Boost Economic Prosperity And Regional Connectivity: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that a new era of cooperation with China commenced in areas of information technology, communication, minerals and mining, and energy which would boost economic progress, regional connectivity and the bilateral ties.



Chairing a meeting to review implementation of agreements and MOUs between the two countries reached during PM's recent visit to China, the prime minister said that he would not tolerate any disruption in the implementation of the same.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, federal ministers including Jam Kamal Khan, Attaullah Tarar, Abdul Aleem Khan, Sardar Awaiz Khan Leghari, Dr Muhammad Malik, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Muhammad Aungmye Thazan, Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State Shaza Fatima Khawaja, PM's Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jahanzaib Khan and relevant authorities.

The prime minister also reviewed progress on sending a total of 1,000 Pakistani students on government scholarships to China for seeking the latest training in the agriculture sector.

He also directed for sending of students from the backward areas of Balochistan province on priority basis, besides other students from the four provinces, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir on merit.

The prime minister further directed for sending of students in the upcoming educational semester.

The meeting was apprised that owing to the agreements and MoUs signed during prime minister's recent visit, more than 100 Chinese companies were in contact with the Pakistani counterparts for the business and investment purposes. The meeting was also informed by the ministry of IT on the progress made for imparting of technical training, one-stop operation for business facilitation, smart governance and smart city by Huawei to a total of 3,00,000 students. The prime minister directed WAPDA authorities for the establishment of safe center for the foolproof security arrangements of Chinese nationals working on Dasu and Diamer Bhasha dams. He asked for immediate implementation of all directives. The prime minister was also apprised of the progress on different projects related to communication infrastructure, power and Gwadar. —RT/Agency

Moreover, he said about 12 renowned Chinese companies related to agriculture sector would be taking very active part in the Food and Agri Expo being held in Pakistan.

"China has emerged as the strongest economic power and Pakistan can emulate from its development," he added.

The prime minister observed that recently a delegation of Chinese shoes manufacturing companies had visited Pakistan with regard to relocation of their plants in Pakistan, adding that such companies had the capacity to invest about 5 to 8 billion dollars in Pakistan. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He said that the local shoes manufacturers association with the Chinese companies in this regard.

Moreover, he said about 12 renowned Chinese companies related to agriculture sector.

## PTI Cancels Islamabad Rally, Files Contempt Plea Against Administration

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday called off its Islamabad rally and moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking contempt of court proceedings against those responsible for the suspension of the no objection certificate (NOC) in this regard.



The former ruling party had announced to hold a rally on Saturday in the Tarnol area in the outskirts of the federal capital and had filed a petition in the IHC seeking permission for its rally.

In response, IHC's Babar Sattar on June 26 directed the party and the city's administration to amicably sort out the issue after which the deputy commissioner allowed the PTI to hold its rally.

However, Islamabad Chief Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa later suspended the NOC citing the beginning of the month of Muharram and security concerns along with complaints lodged by the local people.

The chief commissioner, in a letter dated July 5, said that the police on Wednesday confirmed recovering a heavy cache of weapons and ammunition.

Stressing that an intelligence-based operation (IBO) was still underway in Tarnol, the official highlighted insufficient manpower to secure a

local Imam Bargah and the rally at the same time, particularly during the Muharram.

The intelligence agencies, he added, had shared information about the presence of security threats in the area during this month.

Apart from the security threat, he said residents of Tarnol also conveyed their concerns over permission for the public gathering in the area.

Hence, Randhawa said he deemed it "expedient in the public interest to suspend the NOC till Chehlum".

In its petition filed in the IHC, the party said the Islamabad DC apprised the court on July 4 that the NOC had been issued.

Nevertheless, the plea added, the PTI leaders got to know about the NOC's suspension through the Islamabad Police's post via its official handle on social media platform X.

It further argued that sus-

pension of the NOC for the public gathering despite the court order amounted to contempt of the court. Hence, it said, the court should take action against violators of its order and issue an order for holding the rally.

Meanwhile, the chief commissioner, DC, inspector general, Tarnol police station's station house officer (SHO) and others have been made parties in the case.

Talking to media in the IHC premises, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan announced calling off the rally and said: "Commissioner does not have the authority to suspend the notification issued on the high court order."

The politician further maintained that a hearing on their contempt plea could not be held due to the judge's absence. He also announced to share the next course of action after their political committee's meeting. —RT/Agency

## Omar Ayub's Resignation Rejected On Imran's Directives



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, following directives from founding chairman Imran Khan, has announced that Omar Ayub Khan's resignation as central secretary general has not been accepted.

Omar Ayub Khan has been directed to continue his duties as central secretary general. The PTI parliamentary party and core committee had also expressed full confidence in Ayub.

The parliamentary party and core committee unanimously passed resolutions recommending that founding chairman Imran Khan and chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan not accept Ayub's resignation.

Imran Khan also lauded Ayub's services and sacrifices for PTI. The parliamentary party PTI showed last

month disagreement over party's founding chairman Imran Khan's decision to accept the resignation of PTI's secretary general Omar Ayub, urging him to take a U-turn and reappoint Ayub on the post.

The party's parliamentary faction's demand came within 24 hours after the incorporated PTI founder endorsed the decision of Ayub, who is also the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, to step down from his party position.

Confusion prevailed within PTI ranks over Ayub's resignation amid reports of rifts in PTI. On the one hand, the party announced that it would take out rallies for the release of the party supremo. On the other hand, the secretary general left the key party position so that he could focus on parliamentary affairs. —RT/Agency

## PM Orders Action Against Officials, Employees Of Power Companies Over Excess Units

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed for initiation of proceedings against those officers and personnel of the power distribution companies who were found sending extra units in the electricity bills of consumers.



The prime minister directed the power division to suspend such officials of power distribution companies, besides ordering the Federal Investigation Agency to launch investigation into these matters.

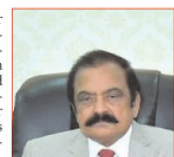
The prime minister chaired a meeting regarding reforms in power sector and solarisation process, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, federal ministers, Jam Kamal Khan, Sardar Awaiz Khan Leghari, Ahsan Iqbal, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik and relevant senior officials. The prime minister said that

exemplary punishment should be given to those officials who had included extra units in the monthly bills of consumers with their anti-public attitude, besides unmasking them who had sent extra units to the protected consumers category, using less than 200 units per month. During the meeting, the prime minister directed for accelerating efforts over renewable energy for power generation, adding that Pakistan could no longer afford to generate power on imported fuel. He also expressed his resolve not to pass on the buck to the poor

segment of society of the wrong policies measures of the past. The prime minister said that the consumers would get relief in their monthly bills after utilization of affordable renewable energy resources for power generation. He directed for immediate closure of dysfunctional government-run power units and those which had been producing expensive electricity. The prime minister observed that the world was generating power by using renewable energy, adding in Pakistan, there was immense capacity to produce solar power. —RT/Agency

## Revocation Of PTI's Rally Permission Purely An Administrative Matter: Rana Sanaullah

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Political Affairs and Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Rana Sanaullah said on Saturday that the cancellation of permission for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) rally is purely an administrative matter.



Holding rallies and mobilizing people are the essence of democracy. However, PTI should consider the sensitivity of the time (Muharram) before calling for a rally, he said while talking to a private news channel.

The local administration would have a proper justification as to why they revoked the permission, he added.

During Muharram, when the administration was fully occupied with ensuring security for the processions, it was unwise

to gather people for other events, he further added. In response to a query about the All Party Conference (APC), he mentioned that the government has invited all stakeholders to participate in it. —RT/Agency

## PM Congratulates Masoud Pezeshkian On Winning Iran's Presidential Election

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday extended congratulations to Dr Masoud Pezeshkian on his victory in Iran's presidential elections.



"I look forward to working closely with President-elect Dr Pezeshkian to further strengthen Pakistan-Iran bilateral ties and promote regional peace and stability," the prime minister wrote on his official "X" account.

He said as neighboring

countries, Pakistan and Iran enjoyed a close and historic relationship. "We must ensure a bright future

for our two peoples through mutually beneficial cooperation," he added. —RT/Agency

## PTI's Ali Muhammad Khan Criticizes Marwat For Imran Khan Criticism

ISLAMABAD: PTI MNA Ali Muhammad Khan put party maverick Sher Afzal Marwat on blast on Saturday after a video surfaced of him seemingly criticizing party founder Imran Khan.

The PTI MNA, who is known for causing controversies, has previously accused both the US and Saudi Arabia of conspiring to topple the PTI government. The PTI had publicly distanced itself from his remarks while Marwat had chalked them off as his personal opinion, even as he continued to stick to them.

In February, the PTI had issued a show-cause notice to Marwat over remarks against party leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan that had triggered a controversy within the party.

He was issued a second show-cause notice in May for violating the party's code of

conduct and hurting its interests through his remarks against senior party leaders — Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz — and Saudi Arabia. Marwat was also removed from the party's core and political committees on Imran's direction following the maverick's statements about Saudi Arabia.

A video doing the rounds on social media today, ostensibly a snippet from an interview with journalist Abrar Qureshi, showed Marwat saying: "Khan did wrong with me" and that Imran's decisions hurt the party.

About a public protest call, Marwat could be heard saying: "Khan had to make this decision and he delayed it. If he had decided to take people out and to do it after Eidul Fitr then everyone would've known that Imran wants [people] to get out and

that everyone has been assigned duties," adding that the move would have separated those who complied and those who did not with the PTI founder's order.

"Till now, Imran has not officially conveyed or announced any decision that the people come out for the recovery of the mandate or his freedom or that of the judiciary. Khan should have decided this," Marwat said.

His social media team posted a message from him saying: "This video is edited. When the entire interview is broadcast, you will see it yourself."

On his own X account, he said that his interview in London was not how it was being presented.

"I complained about my treatment but never compared myself to Khan sahib. —RT/Agency

## Tarar Questions Credibility of Awam Pakistan Party's Founders

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Saturday questioned the credibility of founders of the newly launched political party named as Awam Pakistan.

that was "full of contradictions", he maintained. Referring to former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and ex-finance minister Miftah Ismail, he asked how could a person without "loyalty" could do the "politics of ethics".

Ironically, those who de-lanching ceremony, said it was nothing but a gathering of investors who had billions of rupees in their possession. The presser was a repeat telecast of the old narrative

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The minister said the pub-