

Heartland

PPPNA Dr Nafisa Shah inaugurates Institute of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences



Money

-Zafar Moti is Happy!
PSE 100-index up by 353.41 points to close at 80,566.20



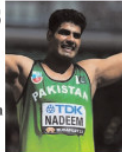
NATIONAL

President Zardari Directs For Completion Of Kachhi Canal Project Within 1.5 Years



SPORTS

Arshad Nadeem expresses satisfaction over fourth place finish in Diamond League



Adi Faryal Talpur Appointed Chairperson Of Sindh Assembly's Home Affairs Committee



Jennifer Garner shares her recipe for a good time in the pool

Terrorism Issues Can't Be Solved Over Tea: Bilawal

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stated that the problems between Pakistan and Afghanistan cannot be resolved simply through visits or casual meetings.

Speaking at a press conference at the Governor House in Peshawar on Monday, he stressed the importance of finding solutions for the complex issues facing both countries.

Bilawal reiterated that numerous countries and armies have failed there, stating, "A visit to Afghanistan or a cup of tea will not solve the issues. As foreign minister, I facilitated China-Pakistan-Afghanistan negotiations. The problems of Afghanistan and Pakistan should be resolved, acknowledging that not all issues are under Afghan control."

He questioned the silence on terrorism, recalling that it was the PPP's demand that led to briefings by General (R) Bajwa and Faiz Hameed to the parliament. He expressed anticipation for the APC to present their position based on facts, neither criticizing nor praising every government decision.

Bilawal accused the K-P government of facilitating terrorists for 15 years. He praised the governor for including provincial projects in the PSDP and proposed free 300 units if made prime min-



ister. He further shared plans for free solar systems for the poor in Sindh's budget, addressing economic burdens, and advocating for a shift of indirect taxes from the poor to the elite.

He emphasised the need for broad consultation on security issues, involving not just allies but the opposition as well. "How long will we continue to carry bodies? When will good days come? Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the worst law and order situation. Facilitators of terrorists are presented as heroes," he lamented.

Bilawal highlighted the significant security challenges in the province, noting that peace was established through great sacrifices.

"We defeated terrorists with public support and the bravery of our forces. Terrorist organisations are resurging from K-P to Balochistan. We will participate in the prime minister's APC with our stance, working together to address these issues. We

PM Expresses Concern Over Potential Return To IMF After 3 Years

QUETTA: Lamenting that the burden of debt has mortgaged the future of nation's generations, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said it will be a matter of great shame if Pakistan has to once again return to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for another loan after three years.

"To free ourselves from this cycle of debt, the federal and provincial governments, along with the relevant institutions, must work together," the premier said while addressing a signing ceremony to launch a significant initiative aimed at the solarisation of agricultural tube wells in Balochistan on Monday.

"If we make this collective effort, future generations will be grateful. However, if we fail to make tough decisions, we will find ourselves seeking assistance from the IMF once again," the PM, who was on a daylong visit to Quetta, said.

Pakistan is looking to strike a staff-level deal on an IMF bailout of more than \$6 billion this month after addressing all of the Washington-based lender's requirements in its annual budget.

Moreover, the country's debt has soared since the mid-2000s, as authorities failed to invest a gusher of loans from international bondholders and countries including China and Gulf nations into productive, export-oriented sectors.

Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb



warned on Sunday that Pakistan would continue to seek the IMF bailouts "if it fails to boost tax revenue".

The finance czar said that he is "relatively confident" of reaching a staff-level agreement with the global lender this month for an estimated loan of \$6 to \$8 billion.

"But it will not be our last fund programme if we don't bring our tax revenues up," said the finance minister while speaking during an interview with the Financial Times.

The federal government presented the tax-loaded Rs18.877 trillion budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) last month, aimed at shoring up public revenue and satisfying the IMF, which has repeatedly demanded improved tax collection.

The budget aims to raise Rs13 trillion by next July, a roughly 40% increase from the current financial year, to bring down a ruinous debt burden that has caused 57% of government revenue to be swallowed by interest pay-

ments. Balochistan, the premier said, was part of the broader government efforts to address the economic challenges facing Pakistan and to promote sustainable development in the region.

"The government is committed to economic reforms, security, and development, particularly in the underserved regions of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," the PM added.

During the ceremony, the prime minister oversaw the signing of the agreement between the federal and the Balochistan governments in Quetta. Federal ministers, the governor and the chief minister of Balochistan, and members of the provincial cabinet were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, PM Shehbaz said the federal government in cooperation with the Balochistan government would shift around 28,000 agricultural tube wells of the province from electricity to solar energy.

He said the total cost of "this project is Rs55 billion and its 70% will be provided by the federal government," while the rest by the Balochistan government.

Premier Shehbaz said that Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti had assured that the solarisation of tube wells would be completed in three months and it would help save around Rs90 billion annually.

"In the next phase, we are

CJP Isa Raises Legal Ambiguity Concerning Form-47

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa raised a query regarding the definition and legal term used for "Form-47" during a hearing on an electoral dispute involving Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) leader Azhar Qayyum Nahta in the NA-81 constituency.

At the outset of the hearing, Ahsan Bhoon, the counsel for Nara, argued that his client was declared successful after a recount and had approached the Election Commission Pakistan (ECP) to challenge the administrative officer's ruling.

On April 4, Justice Shahid Karim of the LHC suspended the notification declaring PML-N leader Azhar Qayyum victorious from Constituency NA-81, Gujranwala.

The ruling occurred during a hearing on a petition filed by Bilal Ijaz Chaudhry of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), who raised concerns over the election results.

Today at the hearing, Advocate Bhoon informed the court that the returning officer issued Form 47 on February 9.

To which CJP queried, "What is Form-47, and



what term is used in the law for it?"

"Form-47 is the preliminary result, and the final result is issued on Form 48. Legally, Form-47 is termed the provisional result," Advocate Bhoon replied.

He added that the returning officer issued Form-48 for the constituency on February 11.

Form-48 is crucial in the preparation of election results as it includes the total number of votes cast for each candidate in a specific constituency.

"Can the Election Commission declare someone a winner and then change its decision? Indeed, the returning officer should have conducted a recount based on your request," Justice Aqeel Abbasi remarked.

On April 26, ECP restored victory notification of PTI's Chaudhry Bilal Ejaz as MNA from NA-81, Gujranwala.

Bilal Ejaz won the general elections with a clear margin of 8,000 votes but lost in a controversial recount.

The ECP issued the victory notification pursuant to orders passed by the LHC.

On April 4, LHC nullified the victory notification of PML-N leader Azhar Qayyum Nahta from NA-81 and reinstated Bilal Ejaz as a Member of the National Assembly (MNA).

The petitioner contested the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision, which declared Azhar Qayyum the successful candidate from NA-81.

Bilal Ejaz stated that he was originally declared the winner by a margin of 8,000 votes, but the ECP's recount illegally favoured Azhar Qayyum.—RT/Agency

-Can you believe this major cover-up?

Family Of Slain Journalist Arshad Sharif To Receive Rs21.7m In Compensation



ISLAMABAD: Kenya's High Court has ordered its government to compensate the family of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif with 10 million Kenyan Shillings (Rs21.7 million) after ruling that his shooting by police in Kajiado County in 2022 was "arbitrary and unconstitutional."

According to Kenyan news agency NTV, Justice Stella Mutuku of the Kenyan court declared that Sharif's rights to life, equality before the law, and dignity were violated in the incident on October 23, 2022. Arshad Sharif, who had fled Pakistan in July 2022 amid allegations of criticising the military, was fatally shot by Kenyan police in the Tinga area of

Kajiado County, later attributed by police to a case of "mistaken identity". The court suspended the monetary award for 30 days to allow for a potential government appeal. "I find that the respondents, through their actions, violated the rights of the petitioners," Justice Mutuku stated. The widow, Javeria Siddique, had filed a lawsuit against several government officials, accusing them of delaying the investigation into Sharif's shooting and failing to provide updates to the family.

Kenya's court has also dismissed police claims that firing on Arshad Sharif's vehicle was based on mistaken identity.—RT/Agency

Balochistan Governor And CM Meet Shehbaz In Quetta

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti and Balochistan Governor Jaffer Khan Mandokhail met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday on his visit to Quetta.

The governor expressed his gratitude to the prime minister for his special interest in the development and prosperity of the province.

They discussed the conversion of province's tube wells to solar power, party matters, and other issues of mutual interest.

The governor briefed the

Gandapur Threatens Nationwide Hunger Strike In Support Of Imran

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur announced that if Imran Khan initiates a hunger strike, similar protests will erupt across Pakistan and globally.

Addressing the concerns of the PTI founder, he said, "His reservations are completely valid. If he goes on a hunger strike, the protest will spread throughout Pakistan and around the world. We adhere to the law and respect it, and we can engage in peaceful protests to claim our rights."

Speaking to the media after an appearance at the Anti-Terrorism Court in Islamabad on Monday, he mentioned discussions with an American delegation regarding the cypher issue.



Gandapur also highlighted that for the first time under his leadership, the K-P government has not taken any loans and has instead presented a surplus budget of Rs100 billion.

He further shared that the Health Card scheme is being reintroduced in the province, aligning with the vision of the PTI founder for K-P to be self-sufficient.

Qureshi Transferred To Lahore, Scheduled To Appear Before ATC

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi has been transferred from the Adiala jail to Lahore and is set to be produced before an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in the cases pertaining to the May 9 riots, sources told Geo News on Monday.

The prison sources said Qureshi was transferred amid tight security, in the wee hours of the morning, to Lahore, where he would be produced before the anti-terrorism court established in Kot Lakhpat Jail.

Multiple cases related to May 9 riots are lodged against him in Lahore.

Tahirur Malik confirmed that the judges of ATC Lahore will hear the May 9 cases in Kot Lakhpat Jail and the PTI leader would appear in the court today.

Qureshi, already imprisoned in Rawalpindi's



Adiala jail in multiple cases, was implicated in eight more cases in connection with the May 9 mayhem on May 26.

In addition to those cases, a special court established under the Official Secrets Act had handed Qureshi 10 years imprisonment in the cipher case on January 30.

The May 9 riots were triggered almost across the country after the deposed prime minister Imran Khan's arrest in the £190 million settlement

Notice Issued To Imran And Fawad In Contempt Cases Involving ECP, CEC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry have gotten notice in contempt of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and chief election commissioner (CEC) cases.

The ECP member Nisar Durani will hear the contempt cases against Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry on July 11.

It is pertinent to note that the case is pending for two years and Fawad Chaudhry could not appear before the

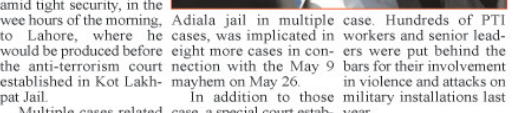


court in the last hearing of the case.

It is noteworthy that Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry have been indicted



in contempt of ECP, CEC cases. Fawad Chaudhry has requested the open trial of the ECP contempt case.—RT/Agency



case. Hundreds of PTI workers and senior leaders were put behind the bars for their involvement in violence and attacks on military installations last year.

During the protests, the civil and military installations including — the Jinnah House and General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. The military termed May 9 "Black Day" and decided to try the protesters under the Army Act.—RT/Agency



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the All Hyderabad LPG Gas Distributor Association of Sindh are holding a protest demonstration at Hyder Chowk against the closure of LPG Gas shops.-RT

MPA Bibi Yasmin Shah commits to ensuring reopening of closed schools in Badin

By Jibril Talpur

BADIN: PPP MPA Bibi Yasmin Shah addressed concerns regarding the closure of several schools in the district of Badin, particularly impacting the education of girls. Speaking to the media, she emphasized the urgent need to re-open these schools to ensure continued access to education for all children.

"A Special Needs Estimate (SNE) has been submitted to the Sindh CM for the approval of 400 teacher posts, aimed at facilitating the reopening of these closed schools," MPA Bibi Yasmin Shah announced, highlighting her commitment to improving educational opportunities in the region.

Daulatpur's brother and sister demand protection

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: A protest demonstration was held on Monday by Ayesha, wife of Naik Muhammad Otho, along with her brother, in the village of Nango Shah. Addressing the media, Ayesha alleged that members of her community, including Shoukat Otho and Kalu Otho, forcibly entered her home and subjected her and her brother, Asif Panhwar, to severe torture.

The incident stemmed from a dispute related to a matrimonial issue, leading to a violent clash with their relatives.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Husri are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad press club against their area's influential persons.-RT

PPP MNA Dr Nafisa Shah inaugurates Institute of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: MNA Dr Nafisa Shah inaugurated the Institute of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, marking a significant milestone in healthcare education. During the ceremony, Dr Nafisa Shah administered the oath to the Physiotherapy Batch-III, emphasizing the crucial role of nursing professionals in meeting the healthcare needs of the nation.

"Increasing the number of trained nurses is vital for improving healthcare services across the country," Dr Nafisa Shah remarked, highlighting the government's commitment to promoting nursing education and professional-



Water shortage in Mirpurkhas triggers intense protests

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Severe water scarcity in Mirpurkhas has ignited a wave of protests across the city, drawing participation from women, children, and elders alike. Residents from Malhi Colony, Shadman Town, Dastagir Town, and other affected areas gathered in protest, staging sit-ins to voice their grievances.

Naveed Dero expresses gratitude to Khattak community for their consistent support to PPP

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: Former PPP MNA Naveed Dero, addressing a gathering organized by the Khattak community in Gajri, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Khattak community for their unwavering support of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Recognizing the significant backing from the Pathan community in Sindh, Dero praised their consistent allegiance to the PPP over the years.



Dero commended the Khattak community for arranging a large and meaningful event in honor of Umar Hayat Khattak, describing him as a unifying figure who has brought pride to his community. He expressed confidence in Khattak's leadership and urged him to continue uniting and guiding his people. In a gesture of respect and tradition, Umar Hayat Khattak was presented with a traditional Turban during the event.

MNA Khurshed Shah orders to plant 1 million tree saplings in Sukkur

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Senior leader of the Pakistan People's Party and MNA Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah has instructed the planting of 500,000 to 1,000,000 trees on both sides of the Indus River. He directed the Commissioner of Sukkur to coordinate with the irrigation department to ensure tree planting on both riverbanks.



These directives were issued by Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah while presiding over a meeting at the Commissioner's office in Sukkur regarding afforestation and the establishment of a green belt in the city. The senior leader of the PPP stated that a third party should also be invited to participate in the afforestation in Sukkur. In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner should prepare a list of all landowners/farmers, encourage them to plant trees and compensate them accordingly. MNA Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah also emphasized the need for a comprehensive strategy to waive the water charges for tree planters. He further noted that while there are penalties for cutting down trees world-

wide, in our country, people cut trees at will, which is causing the groundwater in Sukkur to become increasingly saline. If tree cutting is necessary, permission should be obtained from the relevant Deputy Commissioner. MNA Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah said that to address climate change, afforestation and the establishment of green belts have become essential. A healthy environment requires serious commitment from all related departments. He added that to improve sectors like education and health, the environment must also be improved. On this occasion, Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah stressed ensuring the attendance of municipal corporation employees, who are drawing millions in salaries. Commissioner Sukkur, Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, formed a task force headed by the DC Sukkur for afforestation, including officers from the forest, irrigation, agriculture and police departments. He mentioned that there has been significant improvement in education and health within the division, but work on the environment is needed, which will be addressed with comprehensive planning. He instructed the task force led by the DC Sukkur to start work within 15 days. Additionally, a meeting with the community will be convened regarding the establishment of a green belt and afforestation in the city. The meeting was attended by the DC Sukkur, Municipal Commissioner of Municipal Sukkur, and officers from the revenue, forest, agriculture, and irrigation departments.

Arrest of Hingorja shopkeeper's killers demanded

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Family members of Javed Bhutto, a shopkeeper who was tragically killed 52 days ago, staged a protest demonstration demanding justice and the arrest of his murderers. According to the victim's widow and son, Javed Bhutto was fatally attacked by robbers in Hingorja, yet the police have not taken any significant steps towards apprehending the culprits despite the passage of several weeks.



"We demand swift action from the authorities to arrest those responsible for my father's murder," declared the grieving son during the protest. The demonstrators expressed frustration over the delay in justice and warned of escalating their protests if immediate steps are not taken to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"We will intensify our protests if the murderers of Javed Bhutto are not arrested promptly," vowed one of the organizers of the protest. The community stands in solidarity with the Bhutto family, urging law enforcement agencies to expedite their efforts and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly.

Man deprived of his motorcycle

Unidentified armed men intercepted Sultan Arain, a motorcyclist, on Gabir Khaskheli link road and forcibly took away his motorcycle. The incident occurred



HYDERABAD: Residents of District Matiari are holding a protest demonstration against the killing of Ayaz Ali Machi and demanding justice for him, outside Shabbaz Building.-RT

SHO Mithal Khakhrani returns money to a shopkeeper in Khanpur Mahar

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: SHO Mithal Khakhrani of Khanpur Mahar Police Station has restored faith in law enforcement by returning Rs 600,000 to trader Seero Ram, which was stolen from his shop recently. The act of returning the stolen money comes after the police, under SHO Khakhrani's leadership, apprehended two criminals identified as Imdad Shaikh and Imam Bux Soomro. The

recovered funds were traced to their possession. "We are committed to maintaining peace and providing protection to the business community," SHO Mithal Khakhrani affirmed, highlighting the police's swift action in apprehending the perpetrators and recovering the stolen money. The gesture has been hailed by locals and serves as a testament to the police's dedication to upholding justice and safeguarding the interests of the public.

HESCO employee killed in a hit and run

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: A devastating hit and run incident claimed the life of Wali Hassan Quaimkhanji, a HESCO employee, when his motorcycle collided head-on with a van near Amb Mori bus stop on Monday. The collision resulted in severe injuries to Wali Hassan Quaimkhanji, who was immediately rushed to a local hospital in Digni for urgent medical attention. Despite receiving initial first aid, the gravity of his injuries necessitated his transfer to Civil Hospital Hyderabad. Tragically, Wali Hassan Quaimkhanji succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at a hospital. The incident has sent shockwaves through the community and underscores the importance of road safety measures to prevent such tragic accidents in the future.



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of the Muslim League Functional (PML-F) are holding a protest demonstration against killing of Haji Khuda Bux and demanding justice for him, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

METRO KARACHI

Fire At Pakistan Stock Exchange Building Quickly Extinguished

KARACHI: A fire that broke out on the fourth floor of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) building located on Karachi's I. I. Chundrigar Road earlier today has now been doused.

The blaze, which led to a temporary suspension of trading on Monday, was brought under control by the fire brigade, who swiftly responded to the incident.

Initially, trading was suspended at 10:25am due to the incident, with activities scheduled to resume at 11:25am. However, the suspension of trading has been extended by an additional hour and will now remain in effect until 12:25pm, according to sources.

Cooling operations are currently underway to ensure no further flare-ups. Initial



reports indicate that there were no casualties, though minor financial damage is anticipated.

The people present inside the PSX building were evacuated to the parking lot.

According to officials, the blaze broke out on the fourth floor of the stock exchange building due to short-circuiting.

The fire brigade promptly dispatched three fire hydrants to the scene upon receiving reports of the blaze.

Authorities worked to contain the fire and prevent it from spreading to other parts of the building.

Trading was suspended at the stock exchange following the fire incident.—RT/Agency

Customs Chief Pledges To Address Business Community's Issues And Expedite Digitalization

KARACHI: Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President of FPCCI, announced that Chief Collector of Customs Appraisalment (South), Mohsin Rafiq, has agreed to improve ease of business by expediting the digitalization of the customs appraisalment system to reduce human interaction.

FPCCI Vice President Asif Sakhi emphasized the importance of correct and timely GST and income tax imposition, highlighting that delays at customs increase demurrage and detention charges for businesses. He called for rightful facilitation during customs appraisalment without seeking concessions or waivers.

Aman Paracha, VP FPCCI, suggested that the business community could provide real-time prices to



customs for free, urging customs to involve them in the process. Shabbir Mansha, another VP, pointed out the financial losses due to outdated rules on wharfage fees and the wrongful inclusion of clearing agents in FIRs.

Khurram Ijaz, FPCCI President's advisor on FBR affairs, called for due diligence before suspending clearing agents'

licenses and the appointment of a focal person at customs for FPCCI-related issues.

Chief Collector Rafiq assured that business community grievances are being addressed, focusing on improving the MIS and resolving HR shortfalls to enhance efficiency at customs appraisement.—RT

Nisar Khuhro Elected Chairman Of Sindh PAC

KARACHI: People's Party's Nisar Khuhro has been elected unopposed as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Sindh Assembly, ARY News reported on Monday.

All PAC members endorsed Nisar Khuhro's name as chairman.

The committee comprises of Qasim Soomro, Saadia Javed, Farrukh Ahmed, Fakhr uz Zaman, Khurram Karim Soomro and Sunni Ittehad Council's Mohammad



Rehan Rajput.

Khuhro, a PPP MPA elected from Larkana, after his election as chair vowed to monitor the utilization of funds and expenditures in all districts of Sindh.

He said illegal use of government funds won't be tolerated at any cost.

PPP's Rehana Laghari was elected chairperson of the house's standing committee for rules and regulations and discipline. Farzana Hanif was elected chairperson of the house's standing committee for cooperative societies. Moreover, Mehmoood Alam Jamote was elected chairman standing committee for forests and environment.—RT

Murad Reviews Flood Situation, Orders Contingency Plan

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah directed the Irrigation and PDMA departments to prepare a contingency plan for expected Riverine floods following a Met Office forecast of above-average rains. He emphasized coordination among all concerned departments and agencies, including law enforcement and the Navy, for timely emergency response.

The meeting, attended by provincial ministers, senior officials, and representatives from various agencies, highlighted the Met Office's prediction of a wetter-than-average monsoon season with a 60-70% probability of higher



precipitation. Urban flooding in Karachi and the vulnerability of key points along the Indus River were discussed, with instructions given to inspect and strengthen bunds and other flood defenses. The PDMA reported a 95% chance of high flows in the Indus River and detailed

preparations, including stockpiling necessary supplies. The Chief Minister stressed the need for close coordination between the Irrigation, PDMA, and local government departments, alongside law enforcement agencies, to manage the flood risk effectively.—RT

Wahab Meets All Parties Hurriyat Conference Delegation

KARACHI: Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for Kashmiri self-determination during a meeting with a delegation from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC). The delegation was led by Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi and included General Secretary Pervez Ahmed Shah, Kashmiri leader Sardar Nazakat, senior Hurriyat leader Syed Ejaz Rahmani, Raja

Khadam Hussain, and Intiaz Iqbal Wani. Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad and Political Affairs Spokesperson Karamullah Waqasi also attended.

Mayor Wahab highlighted the Pakistan Peoples Party's long-standing advocacy for oppressed nations, emphasizing the significance of Kashmir to Pakistan and honoring the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs like Burhan Wani. He urged the documentation of Kash-

mir's freedom movement for future generations and called on the international community to pressure India to comply with UN resolutions for a just solution.

Prayers were offered for Kashmiri martyrs and Ghulam Muhammad Safi emphasized the continued resistance against India's occupation. He affirmed the Kashmiri people's commitment to their struggle for freedom.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND



Chairman Market Committee Muhammad Hassan Lashari calls on DC Zahoor Ali Marri

By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: Responding to public grievances, DC Zahoor Ali Marri convened a meeting with Chairman Market Committee Muhammad Hassan Lashari to address concerns over escalating vegetable prices. The meeting, prompted by community feedback, focused on curbing profiteering and stabilizing market rates.

During the meeting, DC Jacobabad instructed Chairman Muhammad Hassan Lashari to monitor and regulate vegetable prices, particularly emphasizing daily assessments of tomato rates. This proactive approach aims to ensure fair

pricing and alleviate financial strain on consumers. "We are committed to maintaining transparency and affordability in the market," stated DC Zahoor Ali Marri, underscoring the importance of effective market regulation for public welfare. Chairman Muhammad Hassan Lashari assured cooperation and pledged to implement measures to control price hikes, thereby providing relief to residents of Jacobabad. The collaborative effort between the Market Committee and local administration aims to mitigate economic pressures and foster a conducive market environment.



HYDERABAD: Film star Mustafa Qureshi, Anti-Corruption Department officer Muhammad Shakil and RT Correspondent Asif Qureshi are attending a wedding ceremony in Hyderabad.—RT

Dars Ittehad rallies for arrest of Haji Khuda Bux Dars' killers

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: A protest rally demanding justice for the murder of Hur Jammat leader Khuda Bux Dars in Khipiro was organized by Dars Ittehad in Tando Allahyar. Led by Abdul Jaleel Dars, Abdul Hafeez Dars, and Saddam Dars, the rally gathered at the Tando Allahyar Press Club, with participants holding banners and placards urging the arrest of the perpetrators.

"We demand immediate action from the police to arrest the killers and their accomplices," stated Abdul Jaleel Dars, expressing frustration over the perceived inaction of law enforcement



and community members. Speaking to the media, the leaders of Dars Ittehad condemned the killing as unjust and criticized the SSP Sanghar for failing to apprehend the culprits.

The rally underscored widespread concerns over law and order in the region, emphasizing the community's resolve to seek justice for their slain leader.

Shahzeb Chachar assumes charge as SSP Shikarpur

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: Shahzeb Chachar has officially taken charge as the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) for Shikarpur District. Upon his arrival at the SSP office, Chachar was warmly welcomed by the office staff and personnel.

He promptly convened an introductory meeting with department heads to discuss the district's current challenges and future strategies. Addressing the gathered officers, SSP Shahzeb Chachar underscored the importance of unity and collaboration among all departments to enhance Shikarpur's security and public safety.

He particularly emphasized the crucial role of the police force in maintaining law and order during the upcoming Muharram period, urging heightened vigilance and adherence to legal protocols.

"Effective policing and visible results are non-negotiable," SSP Chachar affirmed, pledging zero tolerance for any lapses in crime prevention and citizen protection efforts across Shikarpur. He concluded the meeting with a firm commitment to uphold the rule of law and ensure that the community feels safe and secure under his leadership.

Criminal arrested by IG's Task Force escapes from Jamshoro Police Station

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: In a startling turn of events, Fida Hussain, a suspect apprehended by the Sindh IG's task force, managed to escape from the Jamshoro police station, highlighting a serious lapse in security protocols. Hussain, originally detained at the Karachi Toll Plaza by the task force aimed at combating criminal activities, reportedly fled late at night due to negligence on the part of local police officials.

Upon learning of the escape, the Sindh Inspector General of Police (IG) swiftly intervened, ordering the immediate confinement of SHO Rahim Gopang and head clerk Gulab Khoso at their own station. However,

reports suggest that efforts to shield the accused officers have led to their accommodation in a comfortable air-conditioned room instead of the designated lockup, raising concerns about political interference in the case.

The incident has sparked outrage among local communities and calls for accountability within law enforcement ranks. The Sindh IG has vowed to thoroughly investigate the matter and ensure that those responsible for the escape and subsequent misconduct face appropriate consequences.

Efforts to apprehend Fida Hussain are ongoing with authorities urging anyone with information on his whereabouts to come forward promptly.

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

Ummah Conference Promotes Harmony In Gojra

By Abid Mehmoood

TOBA TEK SINGH: The "Unity of the Ummah Conference," organized by the Interfaith Peace Commission in Gojra, convened to commemorate the sanctity of Muharram. The event drew a diverse gathering of scholars, political figures, and members of civil society. Notable attendees included Maulana Ehsan Alam, Chairman of the Punjab Interfaith Peace Commission, alongside Hafiz Abdul Hayee, Mufti Ifkhar-ul-Hassan, Maulana Asadullah Madani, Syed Sibtain Shah, and Maulana Abdul Qadir Usman. Provincial Assembly candidate Rafiq Gujar



and Allama Ali Muhammad Shakri also participated. During their addresses, the speakers paid homage to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), emphasizing the month of Muharram as a time to promote unity within the Ummah. They condemned sectarianism and urged scholars to

combat prejudice disguised as religious fervor. The speakers also highlighted the plight of the Palestinian people, urging the Muslim Ummah to provide support and solidarity. They called for proactive efforts among scholars to foster harmony and eliminate divisions within the Ummah.

PFA Seizes 450 Kilos Of Dead Chicken, Arrests Two In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmoood

TOBA TEK SINGH: Acting under the directives of DG Punjab Food Authority Muhammad Asim Javed, a rigorous crackdown is underway against the illicit trade of selling dead chickens. A significant operation led by the food safety team under Deputy Director (Operations), in collaboration with police and livestock officials, resulted in the apprehension of suspects involved in transporting dead chickens. The operation took place late at night, intercepting two loader rickshaws on the Gujra Bypass at separate locations.



The suspects, caught red-handed with a large consignment of dead chickens concealed in white bags,

were promptly handed over to the police. Over 450 kilograms of contaminated chicken intended for distribution to various food outlets were seized and destroyed on site. Two separate cases have been registered against the suspects at Sadar Police Station Toba Tek Singh. The DG Punjab Food Authority, Muhammad Asim Javed, condemned the reprehensible practice of selling unfit meat, emphasizing zero tolerance for compromising public health. He urged the public to report any such activities promptly to the Food Authority. The arrested individuals, identified as Shehzad and Ramzan, have been formally charged in connection with the case.

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

DHO Dr. Abu Bakr Vows Crackdown Against Quacks In Ahmedpur Sharqia


By M Siddique

BAHAWALPUR: Dr. Abu Bakr, Deputy District Health Officer of Ahmedpur Sharqia, conducted an inspection at the Rural Health Center in Balajhelan to evaluate the healthcare facilities available. Addressing the media, Dr. Abu Bakr announced plans for a rigorous operation aimed at eliminating malpractice within the healthcare sector across Ahmedpur Sharqia. He emphasized the



grave risks posed by unqualified individuals masquerading as medical professionals, stressing a zero-tolerance policy. Dr. Abu Bakr reaffirmed the administration's dedication to eradicating malpractice and

illegal activities, promising imminent raids on all unauthorized clinics. He urged the public to prioritize government hospitals and licensed medical practitioners for their healthcare needs.



IN LOVING MEMORY

The 9th of July, marks the day when our beloved (late) Chaudhry Abdul Ghafur, (Ex-Chairman Adarits Karachi (Pvt) Ltd., set forth on his eternal journey. Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to recite the Holy Quran and offer Fateha for the departed soul to live in eternal peace.

Hope Lives When People Remember
 Bereaved: Hassaan Mansoor, Salman Mansoor, Kanaan Mansoor and all the family members.

EDITORIAL

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

Tuesday, July 09, 2024



An international cover-up

The tragic and senseless murder of investigative journalist Shaheed Arshad Sharif in Kenya exposes a deeply unsettling web of international conspiracy and judicial negligence. Sharif, who had sought refuge in Nairobi after fleeing Pakistan due to mounting threats from powerful adversaries, was brutally gunned down by Kenyan police on October 23, 2022. Despite the High Court in Kenya's Kajiado awarding 10 million Kenyan shillings to his family, the narrative of "mistaken identity" posited by the authorities is an outrageous travesty of justice.

Justice Stella Mutuku rightly ruled the lethal force used against Sharif as unlawful and unconstitutional. Yet, this ruling does little to assuage the

pain of his family or address the underlying conspiracy that led to his death. The official explanation of mistaken identity crumbles under scrutiny,



especially when considering the clear signs of torture, including pulled fingernails, found on Sharif's body. These indicators suggest a premeditated and brutal assassination rather than an unfortunate error.

Sharif's enemies, whose influence extended across borders, orchestrated a plot that ensured his demise even in exile. The failure of Kenyan au-

thorities, including their esteemed courts, to transparently investigate and prosecute those responsible reeks of complicity or, at best, a disturbing incompetence. The delayed and inconclusive investigations, as highlighted by Kenyan journalist Brian Obuya, only fuel suspicions of a cover-up.

The international community must demand a thorough and impartial investigation into Sharif's murder. His death is not just a loss for his family and Pakistan but a severe blow to journalistic freedom and the fight against corruption. The Kenyan judiciary's apparent compliance in perpetuating a false narrative dishonors Sharif's legacy and tarnishes the very principles of justice and truth.

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the HDA Mehran Workers Union are holding a protest demonstration against the non-payment of their salaries, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

Several women faint due to overcrowding at BISP Centre in Kunri



By MM Faisal

KUNRI: The BISP Centre in Kunri witnessed chaotic scenes as overcrowding and inadequate facilities led to several women fainting in the extreme heat. Reports indicate that many others experienced deteriorating health conditions during the distribution of stipends, raising concerns about potential accidents.

Located at Government Qazi Sultan High School, the BISP Centre reportedly faced challenges due to the closure of its administrative block's main gate. This forced women to climb and jump over obstacles, exacerbating the overcrowding situation inside.

"The limited number of service devices contributed to the overcrowding, making it difficult for women to access their stipends smoothly," stated concerned participants at the centre.

In response to the situation, women present at the centre have urged authorities to increase staffing and deploy additional service devices to streamline the stipend distribution process. They emphasized the need for improved facilities to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Authorities are urged to take immediate action to address these concerns and ensure the safety and well-being of all beneficiaries at the BISP Centre in Kunri.



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Civil Society are holding a protest demonstration for the recovery of missing girl Dua Shumaila Brohi, at SSP Chowk.-RT

Awami Ittehad holds APC on deteriorating law and order situation in Matiari

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Awami Ittehad District Matiari convened an All Parties' Conference (APC) to address the alarming decline in the law and order situation across the district. Leaders from various political parties, including JUI-F, STP, JSQM, and others, gathered to discuss pressing issues affecting the community.

Key figures present at the APC included Muhammad Saleem Sindhi, Haji Sarang

Mangwano, Tariq Ahmed Memon, Shoukat Abro, Muhammad Ali Abro, Rasheed Detho, Zulfqar Detho, and other prominent leaders.

During the conference, speakers voiced grave concerns over the rising incidents of rape, murder, kidnapping for ransom, and street crime plaguing Matiari. They criticized the perceived inefficiencies of the local police and called for immediate measures to safeguard the lives and properties of resi-

dents. "The deteriorating law and order situation demands urgent attention and action from the authorities," emphasized one of the speakers, reflecting the collective sentiment of the participants.

The conference concluded with a unified call for enhanced security measures and effective policing to curb criminal activities in the district. Leaders warned of escalating their efforts, including potential protest movements, if substantial improvements are not swiftly implemented.

MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro reviews upcoming monsoon rains

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Jameel Ahmed Soomro, the Political Secretary to the Chairman of Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and MPA of Larkana City, chaired a crucial meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office to assess preparations for the upcoming monsoon season. The meeting, attended by key administrative officials, focused on ensuring effective measures to mitigate the impact of monsoon rains on the city.

Deputy Commissioner of Larkana and other administrative heads provided detailed briefings on preparedness plans during the session. Also present were Khair Muhammad Shaikh, President of PPP City District Larkana, Mayor Larkana Anwar Ali Nawaz, Shafiq



Ahmed Chandio, and representatives from the Larkana administration. Jameel Ahmed Soomro underscored the importance of proactive measures to safeguard residents during the monsoon period. He instructed the Larkana administration to prioritize relief efforts and ensure swift responses to any emergencies arising from heavy rainfall.

"We must be prepared to provide immediate assistance to our citizens and mitigate any potential risks posed by the monsoon," emphasized Jameel Ahmed Soomro, highlighting the commitment to public safety and well-being.

The meeting concluded with directives to expedite preparations, enhance coordination among departments, and implement preventive measures to safeguard Larkana during the monsoon season.

Tomatoes being sold at Rs 400 per kilo

TALHAR: In towns across Badin district, including Talhar, the price of tomatoes has surged dramatically, reaching Rs 400 per kilogram. This sharp increase has left citizens dismayed, prompting calls for a consumer boycott in protest. Residents of Talhar expressed frustration over the high cost of tomatoes amidst

already soaring inflation. Many have suggested that a temporary boycott could pressure vendors to lower prices. "Prices were already high, and now tomatoes have become unaffordable," remarked a local resident, highlighting the financial strain on households.

In response, vegetable

vendors acknowledged a decline in sales due to the exorbitant prices, resulting in financial losses for their businesses.

The situation has underscored ongoing concerns over food affordability and economic pressures faced by residents in Talhar and surrounding areas.—RT

Ali Akbar Jamali chairs budget session of District Council Shaheed Benazirabad



By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: The District Council of Shaheed Benazirabad convened to discuss and propose a budget totaling Rs 647,743,000 for the fiscal year 2024-25. The session, presided over by District Chairman Ali Akbar Jamali, took place at Pir Qurban Hall, where Additional Accounts Officer Munir Kaleri presented a comprehensive breakdown of projected revenues and expenditures.

During the meeting, concerns were raised by various chairpersons and councilors regarding the adequacy of the proposed

budget. In response to these concerns, the session was adjourned until the following day for further deliberations and adjustments.

Chief Officer Ghulam Raza Zardari, alongside Director Abdul Sattar Rathore and other officials, also attended the session, emphasizing the collaborative effort required to finalize a budget that effectively addresses the needs and priorities of Shaheed Benazirabad District.

The ongoing discussions aim to ensure that the finalized budget aligns with the district's developmental goals while meeting the essential service requirements of its residents.



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Umrani National Alliance are holding a protest demonstration against the killing of Mir Muhammad Aslam Umrani and demanding justice for him, at Jinnah Bagh.-RT



LARKANA: MPA and Political Secretary to PPP Chairman, Jameel Ahmed Soomro is presiding over a meeting regarding upcoming monsoon rains, at the Deputy Commissioner's office.-RT

SPORTS



Mushtaq Ahmed joins England U19 coaching panel



LONDON: Former Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed has signed a contract with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to join their under-19 cricket team on Monday.

The 1992 World Cup winner will join the England U19 team for a short stint, bringing his extensive experience as a player and coach to the young spin bowlers.

The England U19 team is currently playing the first of a two-match home Test series against Sri Lanka.

Prior to signing with England, Ahmed served as the spin bowling coach of the Bangladesh men's cricket team during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

It's worth noting that Nizamuddin Chowdhury, the CEO of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), expressed his willingness to extend Mushtaq Ahmed's contract.

"We wanted him for a certain number of days. Before we communicated with Mushtaq [regarding the appointment], he had prior engagements till December which included the England U19 job. So we said that we will have him till the [T20] World Cup and then we will sit and sort it out," Chowdhury said.

"That discussion [on renewal] is still ongoing with him. If he lets us know how many days he can be available for us till December in combination with his prior engagements, we will lock him down for those days. After December 2024, we will have a long-term agreement with Mushtaq," he added.

Ahmed has previously served as the spin bowling coach for England (2008-2014), West Indies (2018-19) and Pakistan (2020-22).—Agency

Gary Kirsten arrives in Lahore to discuss changes in team with PCB chief

LAHORE: Pakistan white ball head coach Gary Kirsten Monday arrived in Lahore to discuss about changes in the Pakistan team including captaincy with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi.

Following the disappointing T20 World Cup campaign, the PCB chief had summoned him for consultation about Pakistan team's future.

Whereas, Naqvi's discussion with the head coach over maintaining Babar Azam's captaincy is extremely important.

Raising numerous questions, Kirsten has already submitted a report pertaining to Pakistan's dismal performance in the World Cup. Sources told Geo News on July 3 that he had submitted



a "confidential" assessment report to the PCB.

The sources said the PCB chief would review the document highlighting players' fitness, discipline and game awareness among other things that led to the team's early exit from the mega event.

The development comes as the Green Shirts failed to even make it to the Super

Eight stage of the World Cup after suffering an upset loss against the minnows United States followed by a defeat against arch-rivals India.

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

The below-par performance by the national side resulted in scathing criticism from fans and former cricketers alike prompting the PCB head to announce a "major surgery" in the squad.

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

After going through the report, the PCB chief will also consult other board officials and former cricketers before taking a decision on the way forward.

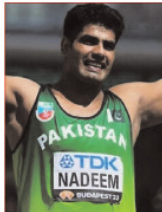
Earlier, media while citing sources had reported that Kirsten had expressed concerns over the players' fitness levels, stating they are not up to the mark.—Agency

Arshad Nadeem expresses satisfaction over fourth place finish in Diamond League

LAHORE: Pakistan's top javelin thrower, Arshad Nadeem, expressed his satisfaction after finishing in fourth place at the Paris Diamond League on Sunday.

Nadeem, while talking to a local media channel, stated that he is pleased with his return to the field after a year and is preparing for the upcoming Paris Olympics.

"Hopefully, I'll be able to do my best at the Olympics," he said.



Arshad Nadeem will return to Pakistan and train under his coach Salman Butt before returning to Paris to participate in the Olympics.

"God willing, I'll use these two weeks of training to make up for any deficiencies," Nadeem added.

The star athlete kicked off in Diamond League with a 74.11-meter throw on his first attempt, followed by an \$0.28-meter throw on the second try.

The star athlete's third throw went for 82.71 meters, which placed him in the top three, however, he was surpassed by the Czech Republic's Jacob Vadlejch, who threw at 85.04.

Nadeem needed a big throw in his fifth attempt to trump Vadlejch, but he failed to do so, achieving an 84.21-meter throw, thus ending in fourth position.

Germany's Weber Julian won the gold medal in the javelin throw competition, courtesy of an 85.91-meter throw, which he achieved in his fifth attempt.—Agency

Paris Olympics 2024: Taliban govt 'doesn't recognise women' on Afghan Olympic team

PARIS: Afghanistan's Taliban government does not recognise the three female athletes who will represent the country at the Paris Olympic Games this month, a spokesman for their sports department said.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has invited a squad of six Afghan athletes - three women and three men - in consultation with Afghanistan's largely exiled national Olympic committee.

"Only three athletes are representing Afghanistan," said Atal Mashwani, the spokesman of the Taliban government's sports directorate, referring to the male competitors.

"Currently, in Afghanistan



girls' sports have been stopped. When girls' sport isn't practised, how can they go on the national team?" he told AFP.

All three of the women and two of the male athletes are living outside Afghanistan.

The only one training in the country is a judo fighter, whilst his squad mates will

feature in athletics and swimming.

The women will compete in athletics and cycling.

The IOC said it had not consulted Taliban officials about the team and they were not invited to the games.

Spokesman Mark Adams last month confirmed Afghanistan's national Olympic committee - including the president and secretary-general who are both living in exile - remain "its sole interlocutors for the preparation and participation of the Afghan team".

But Afghan committee CEO Dad Mohammad Payenda Akhtari, who is still in the country, said whilst female athletes were organised abroad, his committee coordinated with Taliban authorities over the male ones.

Mashwani claimed the government was supporting them with training and scholarships.

"We only take the responsibility for three male athletes participating in the Olympics," he told AFP.—Agency

Controversial decision sparks petition for Euro 2024 quarter-final replay



SPAIN: An intense quarter-final clash between Germany and Spain at Euro 2024 has ended with a petition garnering nearly half a million signatures, calling for a replay of the match following a contentious decision.

In a nail-biting encounter in Stuttgart on Friday, tournament hosts Germany faced off against Spain, ultimately bowing out of the competition in a dramatic 2-1 defeat.

The match saw Florian Wirtz scoring a crucial 89th-minute equaliser for Germany, pushing the game into extra-time.

However, hopes were dashed for the Germans when Spain's Mikel Merino scored in the 119th minute, securing their victory.

The controversy erupted over a disputed penalty decision during extra-time, where German supporters argue that their team should have been awarded a penalty. The incident occurred when Jamal Musiala's shot struck the hand of Spain's Marc Cucurella.

Referee Anthony Taylor and Video Assistant Referee Stuart Attwell chose not to award a penalty, aligning with UEFA's guidelines that emphasise penalties should not be given when a defender's arm is in a natural position close to the body.

Despite these regulations, German coach Julian Nagelsmann expressed frustration post-match, "I cannot understand why it was not evaluated, even though there were 48,000 replays."

"There is a rule and I hope there is no wrong decision. They applied the rule and it was not a penalty. I do not feel cheated," Nagelsmann stated, acknowledging the decision's adherence to the guidelines.

However, Nagelsmann called for a reconsideration of the practicality and logic of the handball rule in football. "For me the question is about making it more practical, more logical, in terms of how this (handball) rule is assessed. I say this for football (in general) not today.—Agency

New red-ball coach Jason Gillespie focuses on importance of Pakistan squad's fitness



LAHORE: Pakistan's newly appointed red-ball coach Jason Gillespie emphasised the importance of fitness culture in the team as he held his first press conference upon arrival in the country on Sunday.

Gillespie, who is considered Australia's one of the finest bowlers in history, is excited about working with the Pakistan cricket team and also confirmed he will travel to Australia with the Shaheens.

"I am excited to work with the Pakistan cricket team and will also travel to Australia with Shaheens," he said.

Besides fitness, the former Australian cricketer also shed light on consistency and other important matters.

"During the last tour to Australia, Pakistan lost the series 3-0 but they played well. There were moments in the series where they were also dominating the opponents.

"The Pakistan cricket team is very talented but the lack of consistency in performances is the main problem, we will see how we can bring continuity and consistency in performances."

He said categorically that there will be no compromise on players' fitness as in international cricket, there are no excuses for fitness.

"In international cricket, you have to remain fit, there are no questions on that," Gillespie added. "In international cricket, everyone should know about the importance of fitness. It is the main component of a sportsman."

"I have talked to Shan Masood [Pakistan's red-ball captain] one to two times, I'm hoping we will play positive cricket. I will [also] discuss with the players about what brand of cricket they want to play, the team will be selected while taking the opposition and conditions in mind.

"If a player is good for the team, he will definitely be selected. I'm in contact with Gary Kirsten [Pakistan's white-ball coach] for players' workload management."

The former star pacer asserted that his focus is on red-ball cricket and he will do whatever it takes to improve the team before adding that he wants the team to improve in fielding.—Agency

Footballer Abdullah Shah discusses challenges, growth of football in Pakistan

KARACHI: Abdullah Shah, a promising young centre-back from Pakistan, opened up about his journey in football in an exclusive interview with The Express Tribune.

Beginning his youth career with Mehran FC in 2013, Shah quickly caught the eye of selectors and earned a spot on Islamabad's under-14 team for national youth championships.

His breakthrough came in 2022 when, at just 21 years old, he became the youngest Pakistani player to join a foreign league, signing with Dhivehi Sifainge Club in the Maldives' second division.

Subsequently, he received a call-up to Pakistan's senior national team in August 2022, culminating in his debut against Nepal later that year.

"After returning from



Maldives, I received a call from the Pakistan football national team and made my debut against Nepal. Although I played well, we lost the match," Shah said.

Beyond his football pursuits, Shah has also dabbled in futsal, notably participating in Neymar Jr's 5 tournament in Brazil with Chitral Futsal Club Highlanders FC

in 2017, where he had the honor of meeting Neymar himself.

"I went to the Neymar Junior League in Brazil, where I met Neymar. It was a big moment for me to meet Neymar and watch him play in his own tournament," Shah said.

Currently playing for Abu Muslim in the

"I believe in Allah, and I trust that He is the best planner. Life has its ups and downs, and I'm working hard, hoping to return to the national team if God wills it. My family has been very supportive, as have my coaches and relatives. When Pakistan was banned, many boys left football due to financial and family pressures. It was a difficult time for me, and I questioned whether I should continue. However, my family encouraged me to persevere and not give up on the path I had chosen," he said.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Sameer Imran
Location: Karachi
About me: I love taking selfies!

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Nicki Minaj cancels Romanian festival gig due to 'safety concerns'

Nicki Minaj cancelled her headlining set at the SAGA Festival in Bucharest, Romania, in the wake of a planned protest.

On Sunday night, July 7, the 41-year-old Queen of Rap took to X, formerly Twitter, to announce that she will not be travelling to the capital of Romania due to a protest on Monday in the city.

"Out of concern for the well-being of our team and myself, I have been advised by my security detail not to travel to Romania's Festival tonight due to safety concerns regarding protests in the area," she explained the reason for the abrupt cancellation.

The Tukoh Taka songstress added she will meet her fans in the next gig as for the time being, she has to prioritise her and her family's well-being.

"As a mom, I have to make sure I'm making sound decisions for me to make it home to my son and for my team to make it home to their families," she continued, "To not heed the advice of security at this time is simply not what I think I should be doing."

Minaj expressed love and gratitude to the fans for their consideration of her reasons.

"I am very excited to see my fans this Friday in London for another very special headlining show at Wireless Festival," she ended the latest update by confirming her upcoming performance.

Jennifer Garner shares her recipe for a good time in the pool

Jennifer Garner recently revealed her recipe for spending a good time in the pool.

The 52-year-old actress took to her Instagram to offer an insight into her favorite backyard pool game with her children.

Garner shared clips of her playing the 'fun' game alongside a caption that read: "If you have access to a pool, spoons and goggles-please borrow my recipe for a good time. Kid not required."

Describing the course of the game, the Daredevil actress explained using three metal spoons in the pool: "It's the best game. We throw our spoons, three spoons each and we start the stopwatch. We each have to go and collect three spoons but in different parts and come back and turn off the stopwatch."

To which, one of her children replied: "No, I'll go that way."

She concluded the discussion as the actress changed her direction: "Okay, I'll go that way."

THE HEARTLAND



Town Vice Chairman Syed Shafqat Hussain Shah reviews arrangements for upcoming monsoon rains

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: Syed Shafqat Hussain Shah, Vice Chairman of the Town Municipal Committee Tando Jam, conducted a comprehensive inspection of various water disposal stations as part of preparations for the upcoming monsoon season, following directives from Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Rawal Sharjeel Memon.

During his visit, Vice Chairman Shah directed municipal officials to mobilize all available resources to ensure effective drainage of



rainwater and maintain cleanliness across the city. He assured residents that all water disposal stations are fully operational, with backup generators in place to

mitigate any potential disruptions due to power outages. "We are fully committed to providing relief and support to the people of Tando Jam during any emergency situation," Shah affirmed, highlighting the municipality's proactive measures to preemptively address challenges posed by the monsoon.

Shah emphasized the importance of proactive planning and community engagement to enhance resilience against seasonal weather impacts, reaffirming his dedication to serving the local population.

PPP leader Soomar Chandio goes missing under mysterious circumstances

By Muhsaid Nohrio

NAUKOT: Soomar Chandio, a prominent figure from Long Khan Chandio village in Naukot and a member of the PPP's District Council, has gone missing under suspicious circumstances. Reports suggest that Chandio was allegedly abducted from his farmhouse near Gagh Mori, within the jurisdiction of Jhudo police station, late last night. Chandio's family claims that he was asleep at his farmhouse when police officers, without providing any reason, apprehended him under the cover of darkness. They have expressed outrage over the incident, condemning the police's actions and demanding immediate information about Chandio's



whereabouts. They have threatened to organize protests and a sit-in if he is not released promptly. In response to inquiries, both the Jhudo police and Sanghar police have denied any involvement in Chandio's disappearance, stating that they have no knowledge of the incident. The situation remains tense as locals and PPP supporters await updates on the search for Soomar Chandio.

Dokri growers protest against shortage of water in Dadu Canal, Rice Canal

By Irfan Morio

DOKRI: Farmers from various villages in Dokri staged a vehement protest against severe water shortages affecting branches of Dadu Canal and Rice Canal, including Buth Branch, Mehrapur Branch, Sama Branch, Jatoti Branch, and Bakrani Branch. The protest, marked by road blockades on Dokri-Larkana-Mohenjodaro road, witnessed farmers setting tires on fire and chanting slogans, disrupting traffic flow between Larkana, Dokri, Badah, Mohenjodaro, Bakrani, Khair Muhammad Atrija, Gerelo, and Radhan.

Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM) from Taluka Dokri also participated in the protest, amplifying the demand for adequate water supply. Farmers and laborers, including Sirai Fa-reez Ahmed, Abdul Ghaffar, Qamar Din, and Muhammad Malook, alongside JSQM leader Ruk Sindh, accused officials from the Larkana irrigation department of orchestrating an artificial water shortage in the canal branches.

"Our rice crops are drying up due to these unjust water shortages," lamented one of the protesters, highlighting the dire economic impact on agricultural livelihoods. The demonstrators vehemently demanded an

immediate end to the alleged manipulation of water distribution in Dadu and Rice Canals, urging authorities to prioritize farmers' needs to prevent further economic devastation.

"We will escalate our protests, including besieging elected representatives' homes and staging sit-ins at the Engineer's office of Dadu Canal, if our demands are not met promptly," warned the protesters.

The protest underscores ongoing challenges faced by farmers in securing essential resources for agricultural sustainability amidst bureaucratic inefficiencies and alleged corruption in water management.

All Dars Community Welfare Association demands justice for Haji Khuda Bux Dars

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The All Dars Community Welfare Association staged a protest demonstration outside the Badin National Press Club, demanding justice for the late Haji Khuda Bux Dars, a respected public figure. Protest leaders condemned what they described as the targeted killing of Haji Khuda Bux Dars, attributing it to the intolerance of the ruling authorities towards his rising influence. Addressing the media, the protest leaders expressed dismay over what



they perceived as the police's indifferent response to the murder case. They called for the immediate arrest and prosecution of those responsible for Haji Khuda Bux Dars's death. "Haji Khuda Bux Dars was a beacon of hope for our community, and his un-

timely demise has left a void that must be filled with justice," remarked one of the protest organizers. The association warned of escalating their protest actions if prompt action is not taken by the authorities to apprehend the perpetrators.

Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi pays tribute to Karbala Martyrs



By Dildar Samo

TANDO ADAM: Quaid Milat Jafaria Pakistan, Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi, issued a heartfelt message in anticipation of Muharram-ul-Haram, emphasizing the enduring significance of the martyrs of Karbala. Reflecting on the solemn occasion, Naqvi underscored the timeless mission of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions, who valiantly stood against injustice and oppression. "As we approach Muharram, it is a reminder for us to uphold the principles of justice and resistance against tyranny, as demonstrated by

the martyrs of Karbala," Naqvi stated in his message. He announced that Majlis-e-Aza (mourning gatherings) will be organized throughout the month, and mournful processions will be held to honor Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), his family members, and companions. These events are a solemn tribute to their sacrifices in the name of Tauheed (monotheism). Naqvi also stressed the importance of following the path of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) to transform Pakistan into a welfare state, ensuring justice and equality for all citizens.

Sehwan's farmers protest to make Shahbaz Pumping Scheme fully operational

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: The farmers of Sehwan Sharif Taluka and the Sindh United Party protested against the closure of the Shahbaz Pumping Scheme, chanting slogans against the irrigation officials in front of the press club. On this occasion, the affected farmers and SUP leaders Meharab Talpur, Mari Burdi, Muharram Burdi, Nawaz Ali Rind, Abdul Hakim Burdi, Taj Muhammad Panhwar, Imam Ali Jatoti, Farid Bughio and others took the media that by keeping the Shahbaz Pumping Scheme closed, the farmers of various union councils of our Sehwan Taluka, including Boobak, Arazi, Jafarabad and UC Dal, are being deprived of agricultural water. As a re-



sult, we are compelled to continue protesting against the incompetence of the irrigation department because we are desperately waiting for a drop of water. The irrigation department is mocking the farmers by operating only 3 out of the 15 motors installed at the Shahbaz Pumping Scheme, while the rest remain shut down. Due to this, we have not been able to cultivate the cotton crop. Our agricultural lands

remain uncultivated, and our children and livestock are dying of thirst. The leaders demanded the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, to remove the incompetent irrigation officials, operate all 15 motors of the Shahbaz Pumping Scheme, and provide us with water to live. Otherwise, the scope of the protest will be expanded.

Hur Jamaat demands justice for murdered Haji Khuda Bux Dars

By Muhsaid Nohrio

NAUKOT: Hur Jamaat and PML-F staged a vehement protest outside the Naukot Press Club, demanding immediate action to apprehend the perpetrators responsible for the murder of Khuda Bux Dars. Leaders including Faqir Ishaq Chandio, Nawaz Junjo, Mehboob Noikani, and others expressed deep dissatisfaction over the lack of progress in the investigation, even a week after the incident.



They accused the police of incompetence and suggested that influential figures within the ruling party were shielding the culprits, thereby obstructing justice. The leaders emphasized that the community's trust in law enforcement is at stake due to this perceived impunity. In a stern

warning, the protest leaders announced the possibility of a province-wide wheel-jam strike if the authorities fail to arrest the suspects promptly. The gathering concluded with calls for solidarity and intensified pressure on local authorities to ensure justice for Khuda Bux Dars.

Mourning processions, Majalis start with Muharram-ul-Haram in Khairpur

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: In Khairpur, to honor the eternal sacrifice in Islamic history, mourners of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) began the observance of Muharram upon sighting the crescent moon. They donned black attire, raised cries of "Ya Hussain" and commenced the establishment of Alams (sacred flags), setting up sabils (water distribution stalls), performing azadari (ritual mourning) and holding majalis (gatherings) and distributing Niyaz (food of-

ferings) in Imambargahs. In various locations, including the ancient Grand Alam Pak by His Highness, Majlis Ashra at Central Imambargah Anjumam Haidery, Imambargah Qasr-e-Hussaini, Imambargah Baqira, Mirbahar's quarter, Imambargah Faiz-e-Hussaini, Imambargah Dabeer Hussain, Imambargah Qasr-e-Zainab Than Zahra (SA), Imambargah Zainabia, Banaras Colony, Mill Colony, as well as in Kordiji, Faiz Ganj, Thari Mirwah, Gambat, Kingri, Naro and Sobhodero talukas,

the series of ancient and historical mourning processions have begun. Alam Pak, Zuljanah (symbolic representation of Hazrat Imam Hussain's (AS) horse) and Taziyas (replicas of Hazrat Imam Hussain's (AS) shrine) have been displayed for mourners' visitation, and all Imambargahs have opened their doors. Small and large sabils stalls have been set up everywhere, with people of all ages, including young children, commemorating the memory of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS).

13-year-old boy killed after being attacked by dogs

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Near Tando Allahyar, in the village of Jado Laghari, a tragic incident occurred at a poultry farm where dogs attacked Zahid Ali, a 13-year-old boy who had come with his father, Inayat Ali alias Pappi Kalani Gopang, to gather firewood. The

poor farmer's son lost his life due to the continuous bites from the dogs. The body was taken to the Civil Hospital Tando Allahyar for necessary formalities, after which it was handed over to the family. The arrival of the young boy's body at his home caused an outpouring of grief and sorrow.

Samo community continues protest against Steel Town Police

By Syed Daim Shah

GHARO: Members of the Samo community staged a vigorous protest against the Steel Town Police following the tragic incident where two women were fatally shot by police gunfire aimed at a car. The protest, marked by strong emotions and demands for justice, reiterated calls for the registration of a case against the responsible police officers.

from DIG East Karachi regarding the registration of a case, the heirs of the deceased women have rejected the proposal to register an FIR, insisting on their right to decide on the matter themselves. "The community seeks justice and accountability for the loss of innocent lives," declared one of the protest organizers. The incident has sparked widespread condemnation and calls for transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the tragic shooting. Community members vowed to continue their protest until their demands for justice are met.

CDF installs water hand pumps

By Salman Ali

SUKKUR: The Charity Doings Foundation (CDF) has undertaken a significant initiative by installing water hand pumps across various union councils in Ghotki, Sukkur, and Khairpur districts. These installations aim to enhance community health, sustainability, and hygiene standards, benefiting a total of 250 families.

"Hundreds of water hand pumps have been strategically placed in village centers to maximize accessibility for families," Ahmad Malik stated, emphasizing the foundation's commitment to improving living conditions through essential water infrastructure. The initiative has received positive feedback from local communities, appreciating the CDF's efforts to provide sustainable access to clean water, which is crucial for daily living and overall community well-being.

Hur Jamaat, PML-F protest against Haji Khuda Bux Dars' killers

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Leaders and activists of Hur Jamaat staged a protest demonstration outside the Dhoronaro Press Club, demanding justice for the late Haji Khuda Bux Dars and his security guard Abdul Khaliq Dars, who were tragically murdered in Khipro. The protest, led by Hur Jamaat leaders including Noor Jadir Mangrio, Habibullah Rajar, Raja Kabir, Faqir Anwar Bhatti, and Sharif Rajar, gar-

nered strong public support. Speaking at the protest, leaders of Hur Jamaat condemned the brutal assassination of Haji Khuda Bux Dars, a former Taluka Nazim of PML-F, and his security guard. They criticized the authorities for their failure to apprehend the perpetrators even after ten days have passed since the incident.

"We demand immediate action from the Sanghar Police and the Government of Sindh to arrest the real cul-

prits behind this heinous crime," declared one of the protest organizers.

The demonstrators called for a swift and thorough investigation into the murders, emphasizing that failure to do so would lead to an escalation of their protests across Sanghar district.

The community stands united in seeking justice for Haji Khuda Bux Dars and his guard, urging authorities to ensure the safety and security of all citizens.

Sujawal Police arrest a notorious criminal

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Sujawal Police launched a targeted raid near the grid station on Banu Road following actionable intelligence. In a daring encounter, law enforcement successfully apprehended a notorious criminal, albeit in injured condition, while his two accomplices managed to evade capture. The arrested individual has been identified as Amin, son of Gul Baig Chandio. Following his arrest, Amin was promptly transported to Civil Hospital Sujawal for medical treatment under police custody.



This operation demonstrates our commitment to maintaining law and order in Sujawal," stated a police spokesperson, highlighting the department's proactive

stance against criminal elements. Authorities are continuing their efforts to track down and apprehend the remaining suspects involved in the incident.

METRO KARACHI



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is presiding over a meeting of the Agriculture Department at the CM House.—RT

Murad Upset Over New Polio Cases, Orders Health Dept To Intensify Eradication Efforts

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed displeasure over two new polio cases in the province, directing the health department to intensify efforts to eradicate the disease.



In a meeting at the CM House, attended by officials including Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, and Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, the Chief Minister was briefed about the cases detected in May and June 2024. The first case involved a 30-month-old malnourished boy from Shikarpur, and the second case involved a three-year-old girl from Karachi's UC Keamari-3.

Adi Faryal Talpur Appointed Chairperson Of Sindh Assembly's Home Affairs Committee



KARACHI: PPP leader Faryal Talpur has been elected as the Chairperson of the Sindh Assembly's Standing Committee on Home Affairs. In her first meeting as chairperson, Talpur emphasized the committee's commitment to improving the home department's initiatives.

SCPJMP Discusses Key Issues And Approves New Measures In Annual Meeting

By Rahib Gaho KARACHI: The second annual meeting of the Sindh Commission for the Protection of Journalists and Other Media Practitioners (SCPJMP) was held under the chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) Nazar Akbar.

Members offered Fateha for the departed souls of the father of DG(PR)s Muhammad Saleem Khan and the brother of Qazi Asad Abid. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Saleem Khan, Director General Public Relations; Shah Nawaz Soomro, Additional Secretary Home Department; Imtiaz Ahmad Sheikh, Special Secretary Law Department; Professor Tauseef Ahmed Khan of HRC; Dr. Jabbar Khattak of CPNE; Mr. Ubaidullah of APNEC; and Muhammad Faiz Aleemuddin, Secretary SCPJMP.

Government Defends X Ban As Crucial For National Security

KARACHI: The federal government, in its response submitted to the Sindh High Court (SHC) over the suspension of services of social media platform X, has said that the move does not violate Article 19 of the Constitution as all necessary legal prerequisites were satisfied in this regard.



Telecommunication Authority (PTA) had told the SHC that it blocked social media platform X on February 8 across the country after receiving directions from the federal interior ministry. The ministry ordered the shutdown on the basis of reports it had received from intelligence agencies, said the PTA.

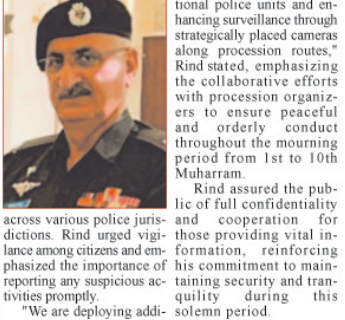
Sindh Home Minister Orders Enhanced Security For Muharram Events



KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar directed top police officials to ensure foolproof security for Muharram congregations, processions, and events during a high-level meeting at CPO on Monday.

SP Malir Saeed Rind Vows To Ensure Foolproof Security During Muharram-ul-Haram

By Asif Qureshi KARACHI: SP Malir, Saeed Rind, in an exclusive interview with RT Correspondent, underscored the sacred importance of Muharram-ul-Haram as a time of reflection and reverence.



Fatal Dispute Claims Life In Karachi Office

KARACHI: A tragic incident occurred in a commercial building on Shahrae Faisal, resulting in the death of one individual, media reported on Monday.

ports, the deceased, identified as Naveed Khan, was killed with a sharp instrument during a dispute in the office building. The police are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the altercation and have begun questioning witnesses and gathering evidence from the scene.

EFP and ILO Join Hands To Eradicate Forced Labor In Agriculture Sector



KARACHI: The Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) emphasized the urgent need to eliminate forced labor in the informal sector for sustainable business practices. Secretary General Syed Nazir Ali highlighted this during a capacity-building session in Hyderabad, organized by EFP in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) under the BRIDGE Project.

Korangi Police Conducted 21 Encounters In A Month, Reveals SSP Tauheed Rehman Memon

By Asif Qureshi KARACHI: The Korangi District witnessed a flurry of police operations over the past month, with authorities conducting 21 encounters across various police stations.



Tessori Introduces Scholarships For Talented Youth

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori announced free scholarships for talented students of the province who wish to study abroad, media reported.



KARACHI: The funeral prayers of martyred Ali Raza, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) CID Investigation, who was assassinated in Karimabad on Sunday night, are being offered at the Central Police Office (CPO). The martyred Police officer was gunned down in a targeted attack by two gunmen.—RT

MQM-P Objects To Lyari Expressway Opening For Heavy Traffic

KARACHI: The Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) opposed opening the Lyari Expressway for cargo traffic round the clock, media reported.

damage to the road and inconvenience citizens. The MQM-P MNA said that Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif had been wrongly briefed in this regard. Syed Mustafa Kamal suggested that the Northern Bypass should be used for heavy traffic instead of the Lyari Expressway. The MQM-P leader demanded that the prime

"Every heart sings a song,
incomplete, until another heart
whispers back."

—Plato

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TUESDAY JULY 09 2024

Aurangzeb Urges For Increased Tax Revenue To Break Free From IMF Stranglehold

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb warned on Sunday that Pakistan will continue to seek International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailouts if it fails to boost tax revenue.

The finance minister said that he was "relatively confident" of reaching a staff-level agreement with the global lender this month for an estimated loan of \$6-\$8 billion.

"But it will not be our last funding programme if we don't bring our tax revenues up," said the finance minister while speaking during an interview with Financial Times.

The federal government presented the tax-loaded Rs18.877 trillion budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) last month, aimed at shoring up public revenue and satisfying the IMF, which has repeatedly demanded improved tax collection.

The budget aims to raise



Rs13 trillion by next July, a roughly 40% increase from the current financial year, to bring down a ruinous debt burden that has caused 57% of government revenue to be swallowed by interest payments.

The tax rises will mostly fall on salaried workers, who comprise a relatively small part of Pakistan's mostly informal economy, as well as some retail and export businesses. The budget also threatened punitive measures for tax avoiders, including re-

strictions on mobile phones, gas and electricity access and the ability to fly abroad.

"We do not have five years for our programme," Aurangzeb warned in the wake of a budget that seeks to reset the country's ailing economy. "We have to start showing, start delivering, in the next two to three months," he said.

"The direction of travel is positive, and investors are showing confidence in the stock market," said Aurangzeb, referring to the

KSE-100 index, which is one of Asia's best-performing year to date. Still, the government faces a considerable challenge in putting Pakistan on the path for longer-term growth and debt sustainability, he said.

Pakistan's debt has soared since the mid-2000s, as authorities failed to invest a gusher of loans from international bondholders and countries including China and Gulf nations into productive, export-oriented sectors. Instead, the country remains reliant on imports, forcing Islamabad to borrow to pay off existing and accumulating debts, Aurangzeb said.

"We need to create the capacity to repay loans," the finance minister said. "As long as this economy stays import-based, what happens is the moment it heats up, we run out of dollars [and] we have to go back to the lender of last resort on our knees."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has travelled recently to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and China to solicit investments on top of the IMF programme, which would be Pakistan's 24th with the multilateral lender.

"It's about time we get real," the finance minister said, pointing to Gulf investors' demands of equity and board seats. "The ball is in our court to provide bankable, investable projects."

He also slammed a reputation for corruption at the Federal Board of Revenue. "People don't want to deal with the tax authority because of corruption, because of harassment, because of people asking for speed money, facilitation money," Aurangzeb said. "That's not sustainable." "I empathise with the pain people will feel, I was one of the highest taxpayers, at least in the banking sector," he added.—RT/Agency

SC Directs AGP To Address Families' Concerns Over Meetings With Civilians On Military Trials

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday ordered Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan to address the concerns of the families of the May 9 suspects who said that they haven't been able to meet the prisoners.

The order came during the hearing on the intra-court petitions filed against civilians' trials in military courts who were involved in the May 9 incidents last year.

A seven-member bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin and comprising Justice Jamal Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Musarrat Hilal and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, presided over the hearing.

"The families have said that they haven't been meeting with the prisoners. The attorney general should address these complaints," said the SC order.

The court then adjourned the hearing till July 11.

The apex court in May had referred the matter to and Procedure Committee for re-constitution of the bench after reservations raised



against the six-member bench.

Petitioner former chief justice Jawad S Khawaja's lawyer Khawaja Ahmad Hasan had raised an objection on the bench, saying that a larger bench should be constituted in light of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Yahya Afridi's note.

On January 29, Justice Tariq Masood rescued himself from hearing intra-court appeals against civilians' trial in military court, leading to the dissolution of a six-member larger bench.

In October last year, the Supreme Court declared the trial of civilians in military courts as unconstitutional and held that 103 persons and others, who may be placed on the events arising

from May 9-10 could be tried by criminal courts, established under the ordinary or special law of the land.

However, the SC, by a 5-1 majority, suspended its October 23 order wherein it declared civilians' trials in military courts null and void in connection with the May 9 riots.

May 9-10 events refer to the violent protests that broke out in different parts of the country following Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's arrest in a corruption case last year with alleged party supporters attacked and ransacked government and military installations, prompting the authorities to try the rioters in military courts.—RT/Agency

IHC CJ Holds Pemra, PTA, FIA Responsible For Blocking Campaigns Against Judges

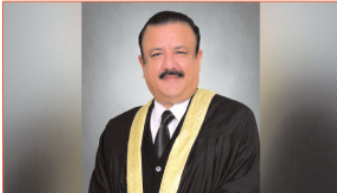
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq on Monday observed that the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) are responsible to stop campaigns against the judges.

The remark came as a full court bench headed by the IHC top judge initiated the proceedings against those involved in vilifying campaign against Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz are part of the full court bench.

In the social media campaign, questions have been raised over genuineness of Justice Jahangiri's educational degree, terming it "invalid". Subsequently, a case was also filed on the same matter in the Supreme Judicial Council.

It should be noted that Jahangiri was a member of the IHC judges' group who wrote a letter on March 25 seeking Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa to convene the judicial convention to consider the matter of alleged interference of intelligence operatives in the judicial functions or "intimidation" of judges in a manner that undermined the independence of the judiciary.



given that the government was behind the malicious campaign.

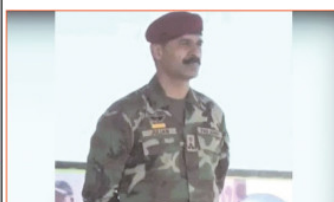
Meanwhile, Justice Faizur Rahman said they were not afraid of the accountability, however, any such campaign in the name of accountability would not be tolerated.

The chief justice asked whether they should tell the government and Pemra what their responsibility was and what they were supposed to do. Blasting the ongoing campaign on national and social media, he wondered if the judges should now give clarification in tweets that their educational degrees were authentic.

After this, the IHC issued notices to the Pemra, PTA, FIA director general and PTA, as well as journalist Gharidah Farooqi, Anmar Solangi, and Hasan Ayub.

The hearing was adjourned till the end of summer vacations. As per the sources, the full court of IHC was set to meet Monday evening to discuss the matter of social media campaign and a reference against Justice Jahangiri's educational degree.—RT/Agency

PM Congratulates Christian Officer James On Promotion To Major General Rank



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday felicitated Pakistan Army officer Julian Moazzam James, who belongs to the Christian community, for being promoted to the rank of major general.

In his congratulatory message, PM Shehbaz said that the services of Christian community for the progress, development and defence of country are unforgettable.

Expressing best wishes to James for the future, the prime minister termed his professional skills and hard work as a beacon for young generation.

James is the first Christian army officer who has been promoted to the rank of major general.

Last month, Helen Mary Roberts from minority Chris-

tian community was promoted to the Pakistan Army's rank of brigadier. She served at the Army Medical Corps.

During a Christmas celebration at Christ Church in Rawalpindi last year, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir lauded the Christian community's role in Pakistan's development.

The army chief had also commended the community's contributions in promoting quality education, healthcare and philanthropy, as well as national defence.

COAS Munir had expressed his profound respect for the Christian community and underscored the importance of fostering interfaith harmony to achieve Qaid's vision of a united and progressive Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Iddat Case: Bushra's Lawyer Challenges Adjournment Request By Maneka's Counsel

ISLAMABAD: The District and Sessions Court on Monday conducted proceedings on the central appeals filed by former prime minister Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi against their sentence in the Iddat case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka presided over the hearing.

Representing Bushra Bibi in court were lawyers Salman Safdar, Usman Gul and Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry.

During the proceedings, lawyer Salman Safdar stated that he would adopt the same arguments advocate Salman Akram Raja had completed in the previous hearing regarding the duration of Iddat period.

Appearing before the court, the assistant lawyer for Khawar Maneka's counsel Zahid Asif filed a request seeking adjournment of the hearing.

Bushra Bibi's lawyer, Salman Safdar, argued against the adjournment, later filing an application opposing it.

The judge then indicated he would seek direction from the Islamabad High Court regarding the adjournment.

After a brief break, Judge Majoka discussed the matter



with Bushra Bibi's lawyer, Salman Safdar, informing him that the high court had been informed about the application, and requested him to proceed with his arguments.

However, Zahid Asif objected, insisting that arguments should only proceed after direction from the high court. Salman Safdar questioned why advocate Zahid Asif was absent from the courtroom when available in Islamabad, citing tactics used in court of judge Shahrukh Arjamand.

The lawyer reminded the judge that the Islamabad High Court's directions should be followed for a prompt decision on the central appeals. Judge Majoka emphasised the importance of complying with the high court's order without violation.

Bushra Bibi's counsel suggested that if Khawar Maneka's side wanted an adjournment, they should approach the high court.

Upon resuming after another break, Salman Safdar filed an application against the adjournment sought by Khawar Maneka's lawyer.

The judge stated that if no direction came from the high court, he would hear the case daily starting the day after tomorrow.

The lawyer insisted on holding the hearing the next day (Tuesday).

Judge Majoka informed that a murder case trial would commence the next day but assured Bushra Bibi's lawyer that he would adhere to the schedule provided by the Islamabad High Court for announcing a decision on the central appeals in the Iddat case.—RT/Agency

Supreme Court Urges Dialogue Between LHC CJ And ECP To Resolve Election Tribunals Dispute

LAHORE: The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday issued a written order regarding the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) appeal against the establishment of eight election tribunals by the Lahore High Court (LHC).

In the order, the apex court stated that both the ECP and the office of the Chief Justice Lahore High Court (LHC) are constitutional institutions deserving of the highest respect. It emphasised that a face-to-face, meaningful consultation between these two bodies could resolve the issue.

The top court also noted that the attorney general also agreed on the need for meaningful consultation.

The court decided to keep the case pending without delving into its merits, considering it appropriate for the CJ of LHC and the ECP to engage in meaningful consultation.

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) unanimously approved Justice Aalia Neelum's elevation to the position of chief justice of the LHC on July



3. The court further ordered the suspension of the Election Commission's letter dated 26th April, the notification, and the Lahore High Court's decisions dated 29th May and 12th June, until the next hearing.

It stressed the urgency of holding meaningful consultations as soon as the chief justice LHC takes oath, after which the case will be scheduled for hearing.

On July 4, the apex court suspended the decision of the LHC and the notification by the ECP concerning the establishment of elec-

tion tribunals in Punjab.

Additionally, the court dismissed PTI leader Niazzullah Niazi's objection to the inclusion of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the larger bench in the election tribunal case.

A five-member larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Isa, convened to hear the Election Commission's appeal against the Lahore High Court's decision on forming election tribunals.

The hearing, however, commenced with a heated exchange between CJ Isa and PTI lawyer Niazzullah Niazi.—RT/Agency

Army Deployment Planned Nationwide For Muharram Security



ISLAMABAD: The federal government has approved the deployment of the Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces (CAF) across the country as a security measure during Muharram.

According to a notification issued by the interior ministry, the government has sought the deployment of the military to maintain law and order during the month, which began on Sunday.

The notification states that the details of troop deployment, which will be enforced for an indefinite period, will be finalised with the authorities concerned, including the government of Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad.

Additionally, the notification stated: "The date of de-

requisitioning of said deployment will be decided subsequently after mutual consultation among all stakeholders."

It is pertinent to know that provincial governments, including Punjab, have requested the federal government to suspend social media platforms for one week to curb the spread of hate material on the internet.

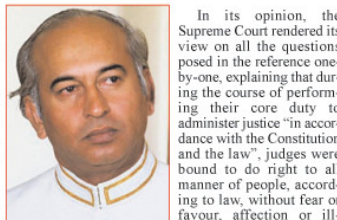
However, the federal government has not yet taken any decision to suspend internet services during Muharram and any decision in this regard will be taken with the consultation of provinces, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior earlier today.—RT/Agency

Zulfiqar Bhutto's Trial Unfair, Courts Were Captive To Martial Law: SC

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan has observed that the murder trial of former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was 'unfair and lacked due process', noting that the country and the courts were captive to Martial Law, media reported on Monday.

The Supreme Court issued a 48-page detailed opinion on a presidential reference filed by former president Asif Ali Zardari more than a decade ago.

Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, a nine-member larger bench consisting Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Musarrat Hilal heard the reference. The case was filed in April 2011 on behalf of former president Asif Ali Zardari sought an opinion under the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction



on revisiting the death sentence awarded to the PPP founder. In the detailed opinion issued today, the SC said the proceedings of the trial by the Lahore High Court (LHC) and of the appeal by the Supreme Court of Pakistan "do not meet the requirements of the Fundamental Right to a fair trial and due process enshrined in Articles 4 (right of individuals to be dealt with in accordance with the law) and 9 (security of person) and later guaranteed as a separate and independent Fundamental Right under Article 10A of the Constitution."

"The country was captive to Martial Law and so too were its courts. When take oath of allegiance to dictators, the courts are no longer of the people," it added.—RT/Agency