



Scarlett Johansson reveals reason behind Colin Jost's cameo in Fly Me to the Moon movie

Price Rs. 10

FOUNDED BY (LATE) KAZI SAEED AKBAR & (Late) Kazi Jawad Akbar PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM KARACHI and HYDERABAD

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NATIONAL

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SPORTS

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KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 200 Regd. No. 114 visit us at

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Wednesday, July 10, 2024, Muharram 03, 1445 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Dar Plans Imminent Visit To Afghanistan Amid Cross-Border Terrorism Concerns

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said Tuesday that he would soon visit Kabul as Pakistan tackles a rise in terrorism, which it attributes to terrorists being harboured in Afghanistan.



Militancy has seen a spike in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces bordering Afghanistan since the Taliban administration came into power in 2021, with Pakistan persistently asking the interim rulers to stop cross-border attacks and take decisive action against militants operating on its soil.

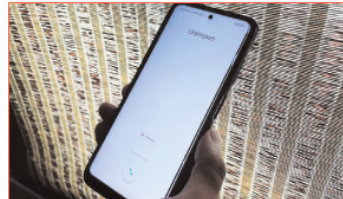
Responding to a question, the foreign minister said Chinese nationals were attacked in Dussu, adding that such attacks are meant to create rifts between Pakistan and China. Unfortunately, the clues of these incidents signal the involvement of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the outfit exists in Afghanistan, he underscored.

"I will leave for Afghanistan in a couple of days. Afghanistan is our brotherly country," he said, speaking at the first meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs chaired by Irfan Siddiqui on Tuesday.

During the second quarter of this year, Pakistan witnessed 380 violence-linked fatalities and 220 injuries among civilians, security personnel, and outlaws, resulting from as many as 240 incidents of terror attacks and counter-terror operations. This includes 236 fatalities among civilians and security forces personnel, the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) Annual Security report said.

Government Authorizes ISI To Trace And Intercept Communications

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has given its nod to the country's premier spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to intercept and trace calls and messages in the apprehension of an offence against national security.



The federal cabinet has approved the relevant circular allowing a designated officer of the ISI to carry out the tracing of calls under Section 54 of the Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act 1996. However, the officer nominated by the agency cannot be of less than grade 18.

The move comes against the backdrop of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government's steps towards stricter social media regulations citing national security concerns and the prevailing ban on popular social media platform X.

In May, PM Shehbaz approved a draft to amend the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 which suggested the establishment of a Digital Rights Protection Authority.

Moreover, the government is also installing a national firewall on different internet service providers (ISPs) to rein in social media with filters capable of blocking unwanted content from reaching a wider audience.

"The federal government in the interest of national security and in the apprehension of any offence is empowered to authorise the officers [...] to be nominated from time to time by ISI to intercept calls and messages or to trace calls through any communication system," read the notification issued by the Ministry of Information on Monday.

The national firewall will serve two purposes: identify the locations from where the propaganda material is being originated and the subsequent blockade or diminished coverage of those accounts". He added: "But, I think the main focus will remain on locating the source of such propaganda to nip the evil in the bud," said an official who was aware of the information.

Shehbaz Urges Urgent Resolution To Pakistan's Shipping Crisis

ISLAMABAD: During a press conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted Pakistan's annual payment of \$5 billion in freight charges for imports and exports, despite having insufficient vessels at its disposal.



"We annually pay \$5 billion in freight charges for importing and exporting goods through maritime vessels, and yet we have only 12 ships at the disposal of our national entity, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), with annual salaries totalling Rs5 billion," he said PM Shehbaz pointed out that countries like Bangladesh possess hundreds of ships, which not only facilitate imports and exports but also save on freight charges.

In contrast, Pakistan faces a dire situation with a nominal fleet, which he emphasized as a significant setback. "This is our misfortune—a looming crisis that demands immediate attention," remarked the prime minister, stressing the urgency of resolving this issue.

PM Announces Three-Month Tariff Concession For Electricity Consumers

-Too little, too late!

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced that the government would not be increasing the electricity rates for protected customers who consume up to 200 units of power for a period of three months.



"The household consumers who consume up to 200 units of electricity will get a subsidy for three months—July, August, September," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told an event in Islamabad.

The PM said the coalition government will overcome all difficulties together and added that the only way to overcome economic woes is to nab corruption.

The announcement comes after public outcry over a government's decision to massively increase the tariff, touted as a pre-condition to secure the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) loan.

In a bid to unlock the IMF programme of over \$6 billion, the federal government earlier this month increased the applicable end-power tariff of protected consumers by up to 51% and unprotected consumers by up to 43%, which was earlier slated to take effect from July 1, 2024 before the PM's announcement of power subsidy.

The prime minister, whose government has been under severe criticism for burdening the salaried class through the new budget, said the subsidy would cost the national exchequer Rs50 billion.

The PM said the decision has been taken to provide relief to common man in the wake of increase in prices of electricity.

"These households make up 94% of the electricity consumers. This subsidy will be funded through our budget's development fund," he said, reminding the nation that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had slashed power prices sans allocation in the budget.

He said these three summers are the hardest to cope with and ultimately from October onwards as the weather gets pleasant, the electricity consumption also gets down.

The PM Shehbaz said under the package, cost of per unit electricity will be Rs4 to Rs5 per unit and consumers of K-Electric will also be eligible for this subsidy.

The premier said the decision has been taken to provide relief to common man in the wake of increase in prices of electricity.

Earlier, Asad Umar, who recently underwent leg surgery, appeared before the Anti-Terrorism Court seeking interim bail in the May 9 arson cases.

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistan Army captain embraced martyrdom in a gunbattle with terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday.



As the security forces ramp up efforts to wipe out the scourge of terrorism from the country, 24-year-old Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad, a resident of Rawalpindi district, laid down his life in the motherland's defence.

istan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it added.

During the hearing, the former minister pleaded with the court, "I have recently had surgery. I have difficulty walking. My attendance is complete. Please allow me to leave."

Last week, the security forces conducted the IBO on the reported presence of high-profile local terrorist commander Irfan Ullah Adnan, who was killed during an intense exchange of fire, the ISPR had said.

Subsequently, the court granted him permission to leave upon completion of his attendance.—RT/Agency

The slain terrorist was actively involved in numerous security activities against security forces as well as extortion and targeted killings of innocent civilians, according to the ISPR. He was a most-wanted terrorist by law-enforcement agencies.

Pakistan and IMF Make Strides In Virtual Talks On Latest Bailout Package



ISLAMABAD: In ongoing virtual negotiations between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regarding a new program with the possibility of finalising a staff-level agreement within the next two weeks, as reported by media on Tuesday. According to sources within the Ministry of Finance, substantial consensus has been reached in the virtual sessions with the IMF on all objectives and conditions related to the new program.

The ISPR further said that the sanitisation operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

IHC Rejects Maneka's Review Plea Seeking Indefinite Adjourment Of Iddat Case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has dismissed Khawar Maneka's review petition seeking an indefinite adjourment of the Iddat case being heard in the District and Sessions Court.



Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb of the Islamabad High Court pronounced the reserved judgment.

The IHC had directed the District and Sessions Court to decide on the central appeals filed by former prime minister Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi against their sentences in the Iddat case within a month.

In the plea seeking adjourment of the Iddat case, the assistant lawyer for Khawar Maneka's counsel Zahid Asif requested the court to adjourn the case for some time, arguing that senior lawyer Rizwan Abbasi was busy with a case being heard in the Supreme Court.

THE HEARTLAND



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

MPA Adil Altaf Unar felicitates Adi Faryal Talpur



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In a gesture of appreciation and support, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MPA Adil Altaf Unar recently met with PPP Ladies Wing Central President MPA Adi Faryal Talpur to congratulate her on her new role as Chairman of the Standing Committee of Home Department in the Sindh Assembly. The meeting, held in Larkana, underscored MPA Adil Altaf Unar's commitment to fostering development in PS-13 and beyond. During their discussion, MPA Adil Altaf Unar highlighted the PPP's dedication to enhancing essential ser-

ices and launching transformative projects across Sindh, stretching from Karachi to Kashmir. Notably, plans are in motion to establish a university in Larkana, aimed at providing quality education similar to that offered in Karachi. This initiative aligns with the visionary ideals of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, emphasizing practical education to empower future generations. The meeting between MPA Adil Altaf Unar and Adi Faryal Talpur signals a collaborative effort towards advancing developmental goals and improving the lives of citizens across various cities in Sindh.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Muhammad Khan are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad press club against their local land mafia.—RT

MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro condemns prolonged power outages in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Political Secretary, MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro held a press conference in Larkana city where he stated that including across Sindh, there is a major electricity crisis and frequent load shedding in Larkana. When electricity bills are paid, consumers are still forced to endure power outages. The discretionary powers of SEPCO officials are not being used to maintain transformers, resulting in frequent breakdowns in Larkana city and imposing hardships on consumers. During peak summer, electricity is cut off from 15 to 18



hours, and even hospitals have faced power outages. This has led to severe difficulties for patients, including cases of heatstroke, which is a matter of grave concern. The Sindh government has been urged to take immediate action. On the occasion, Jameel Ahmed Soomro felicitated the newly elected

office-bearers of the Larkana Press Club including President Mur-taza Kalhoro, General Secretary Naveed Larik, Finance Secretary Abdul Qadir Jagirani, President of Press Photographers and Cameramen's Association and Member of LPC's Governing Body, Nadeem Akhtar Soomro.

Daulatpur laborer demands justice, protection



By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Ameer Bux Otho, a laborer from Nango Shah village, accompanied by family members including Aziz Otho, Gul Hassan Otho, Shaukat Otho, and others, staged a protest outside the Daulatpur Press Club, demanding justice and protection amidst a family dispute. During the demonstration, Ameer Bux Otho passionately addressed the gathered crowd, alleging mistreatment and injustice at the hands of his in-laws, particularly Asif Panhwar and others. He claimed that his home was vandalized and he was coerced into divorcing his wife under duress. The protesters, echo-

ing Otho's grievances, called upon the authorities to intervene and address the injustice he has faced. They emphasized the need for immediate action to uphold justice and protect Otho's rights in the face of alleged intimidation and coercion. The protest highlighted deep-seated familial tensions and legal rights concerns within the community, underscoring the importance of legal recourse and safeguarding individual liberties amidst family disputes. As the community rallies behind Ameer Bux Otho's plea for justice, they await a response from authorities to resolve the dispute and ensure fairness and security for all involved parties in Daulatpur.

Town Committee Chairman Kamran Abbas Kubar reviews Muharram arrangements in Setharja



By Azhar Kubar

SETHARJA: Kamran Abbas Kubar, Chairman of the Town Committee Setharja, convened a crucial meeting with leaders from religious organizations in the town to strategize and coordinate municipal services for the upcoming month of Muharram. The meeting included representatives from Ghulam-e-Haider Karrar Setharja, such as President Zawar Faiz Ali Lund, Zawar Naseem Raza Lund, and Syed Ehsan Ali Shah, alongside Ahle Sunnat leader Hafiz Ejaz Ahmed, Councilor Ghu-

lam Abbas Nol, and Town Officer Muhammad Ayub Phulio. Discussions focused on key issues including cleanliness, illumination, and security arrangements throughout Setharja during Muharram processions and gatherings. Chairman Kamran Abbas Kubar, addressing the media, affirmed that comprehensive instructions have been issued to municipal staff to ensure seamless delivery of services across urban and rural areas during the solemn observances of Muharram. He emphasized the provision of essential facilities and the establishment of an emergency cell at the town office to promptly address any arising issues. Underlining the significance of maintaining peace and facilitating religious activities, Chairman Kamran Abbas Kubar reiterated the committee's commitment to safeguarding the sanctity of Muharram and ensuring a supportive environment for all participants. As preparations intensify, Setharja residents and religious organizations express confidence in the town committee's proactive approach and readiness to uphold community welfare during this significant period of remembrance.

Town Committee Chairman TJM Qazi Noor Muhammad Sand reviews Muharram arrangements

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: Town Chairman Qazi Noor Muhammad Sand of Tando Jan Muhammad Town Committee convened a crucial meeting to assess and bolster preparations for the upcoming month of Muharram. The gathering, attended by representatives from various essential departments including WAPDA, health services, police, and council members, focused on ensuring comprehensive arrangements for security, cleanliness, electricity supply, water distribution, and emergency response protocols within the town. Chairman Qazi Noor Muhammad Sand presided over the meeting, emphasizing the paramount importance of meticulous planning and coordination to maintain peace and facilitate smooth proceedings during the sacred month of Muharram. Discussions centered on enhancing security measures, particularly around the Imam-bargahs where congregations and processions are expected to gather. Key directives were issued during the meeting



to ensure that health services remain prepared for any medical emergencies. WAPDA ensures minimal electricity load-shedding, and the police department maintains a visible and vigilant presence to safeguard public order. Additionally, arrangements were finalized to deploy ambulances, police personnel, WAPDA officials, and sanitary workers at strategic points across the town to swiftly respond to any contingencies that may arise. Vice Chairman Shehzad Arain, Town Officer Aftab Ahmed Shaikh, along with officials from police and WAPDA, actively participated in the

planning session, contributing to the comprehensive strategy aimed at ensuring a secure and conducive environment for the commemoration of Muharram. Journalists were also present to report on the deliberations and preparations discussed during the meeting. As the town gears up for the observance of Muharram, Chairman Qazi Noor Muhammad Sand reiterated his commitment to overseeing meticulous arrangements that prioritize the safety, well-being, and spiritual needs of the community during this significant period of religious observance.

Jacobabad's civil society rallies against excessive load shedding of electricity

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Leaders and concerned citizens of Jacobabad, including Nadeem Qureshi, Abdul Sami Soomro, Noor Muhammad Manjho, Babal Korejo, and Gul Hassan Soomro, spearheaded a protest rally across various parts of the city to denounce the extreme electricity load shedding amidst scorching temperatures. The demonstrators converged in front of the press club, staging a sit-in protest that disrupted traffic flow as they voiced their grievances under the relentless sun. Addressing the gathered crowd, leaders emphasized Jacobabad's status as one of Asia's hottest cities and condemned the severe electricity shortages plaguing its residents. They lamented the disparity in relief efforts compared to other cities facing similar climatic



challenges. According to the leaders, urban areas endure between 14 to 16 hours of daily power cuts, while rural areas sometimes go without electricity for days, severely impacting daily life and local businesses. Accusations were leveled at authorities, alleging deliberate negligence that has crippled businesses and exacerbated the city's economic woes. The protesters demanded immediate measures to alleviate the electricity crisis during the heatwave, urging authorities to reduce load shedding durations and rectify unfair billing practices. They issued a stern warning, threatening to intensify their protests by besieging electricity company offices if their demands for immediate relief were not met. As tensions simmered, Jacobabad's civil society rallied behind these demands, expressing solidarity in their struggle for essential services and relief from the severe electricity crisis gripping the city.

DC Mirpurkhas ordered to complete city survey of Tando Jan Muhammad

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: According to the announcement by the Regional Director of the Sindh Ombudsman in Mirpurkhas, Zulfiqar Ali Junejo, the Provincial Ombudsman of Sindh has directed the Deputy Commissioner of Mirpurkhas to complete the city survey of Tando Jan Muhammad. This directive comes following a request by Iftikhar Gandhi and other residents of Tando Jan Muhammad, who sought a survey after the burning of records on completion of the city survey within 60 days of the former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's assassination. In response, the relevant department ap-

pointed the Assistant Commissioner of Digri as the inquiry officer, who resolved 450 out of 2000 claimant cases. Further investigation revealed that the Senior Member of the Board of Revenue issued a notification appointing the Assistant Commissioner of Digri as the inquiry officer, instructing him to complete the city survey records of Tando Jan Muhammad within 180 days. Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner of Mirpurkhas was directed to oversee the completion of the city survey within 60 days and investigate any delays in the survey process, ensuring that responsible officers are held accountable.



LARKANA: Rangers and Police officials are carrying out a combing search operation against criminals as security has been heightened in the city to maintain the law and order situation during the Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram.—RT



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

METRO KARACHI



Government Intervention Urged As Iron & Steel Industry Faces Collapse

KARACHI: Khalid Tawab, Chairman of the Iron & Steel Merchants Association, has issued a stark warning about the precarious state of Pakistan's economy and industries, particularly in the iron and steel sector. Tawab cited uncompetitiveness with neighboring countries and skyrocketing energy prices as key factors pushing industries to the brink of collapse.

"The recent surge in electricity and gas tariffs has rendered production unsustainable for many of our members," Tawab stated. He emphasized the urgent need for the government to reduce power tariffs to 9 cents/kWh and lower markups to 15%, measures he believes will rejuvenate the economy,

stimulate exports, attract investments, and create jobs.

Tawab underscored the critical nature of immediate action to prevent a worsening unemployment crisis across sectors. He called for the government to terminate agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and procure electricity from more cost-effective sources, eliminating hefty capacity charges currently burdening the national economy.

"The IPPs are imposing exorbitant capacity payments of Rs 24 per unit, which are unsustainable," Tawab explained. "Canceling these agreements could relieve the economy of Rs 2 trillion in capacity charges associated with non-operational IPPs."

Highlighting Pakistan's surplus electricity generation capacity of over 40,000 MW against a peak demand of 25,000 MW, Tawab argued that providing electricity at lower rates could significantly boost exports by USD 6 billion, increase grid demand by 300 MW, generate Rs 500 billion in revenue, and reduce debt servicing by Rs 240 billion. Tawab stressed the importance of government engagement with stakeholders to create a conducive business environment and level playing field. He also advocated for lower bank interest rates, citing the current 12% inflation rate, and highlighted the potential of the business community to contribute significantly to tax revenue if supported adequately.—RT

Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch Launches Tree Plantation Campaign In Gadap Town



KARACHI: Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch of Gadap Town Municipal Corporation has launched a tree plantation campaign in Gadap Town. He was joined by Parliamentary Leader Council Member Mir Abbas Talpur and officers from Union Committee No. 4, Gulshan-e-Hadeed. The event was attended by Chairman Rao Safdar Hayat, regional dignitaries, and other officials.

Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch emphasized that the tree plantation campaign aims to play a crucial role in maintaining the environment, enhancing beauty, providing clean air, reducing the impact of storms, maintaining the balance of water and air, and providing oxygen. These efforts are particularly important in addressing the climate change challenges faced by the country.

REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND

Gambling dens operating with impunity in Dokri

By Irfan Morio

DOKRI: Civil society in Dokri has been stirred by the alarming rise in drug and narcotics abuse, coupled with the emergence of gambling dens that threaten to ensnare the city's youth. Expressing deep concern, community leaders have voiced dismay over what they perceive as a lackadaisical response from the local police in addressing these issues.

The pervasive sale of drugs and the operation of

gambling dens have sparked public outrage, with accusations of police indifference exacerbating the situation. Civil society leaders have unequivocally demanded immediate action from law enforcement to crack down on these illegal activities. They warned that failure to act swiftly and decisively will compel them to initiate a protest movement to safeguard the city's moral and social fabric.

The deterioration caused by drug abuse and gambling

dens is seen as detrimental to the well-being and future prospects of Dokri's youth. Leaders emphasized the urgent need for robust measures to curb these vices and restore community safety and integrity. As tensions escalate, the community awaits concrete actions from authorities to address these pressing concerns and restore order in Dokri. The resolve of civil society remains steadfast in their pursuit of a drug-free and morally upright environment for all residents.

Heavy rain disrupts routine life in Thatta

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Heavy and intermittent rain inundated cities and villages of district Thatta, causing gutters and drains to overflow, particularly in low-lying areas. Thatta city was notably affected, with rainwater entering several shops and causing losses for traders. Citizens of the historical city faced significant hardships due to poor sanitation work and inadequate pre-monsoon preparations, despite fore-

casts from the Meteorological Department. Areas in Thatta city, including Bukhari Muhalla, Kazi Muhalla, Islampura Muhalla, Brohi village, the vicinity of the historical Shah Jahan Mosque, Katchi Abadi, Shah Mubeen Muhalla, and wards including 1, 2, 3, 4, streets and Shahi Bazaar, resembled rivers due to the rain runoff. While the rain brought much-needed water to seasonal rivers such as Loach, Gemman, and Jangshahi, bringing relief to animal

owners in the hilly areas who had been struggling with a lack of fodder and water, it also filled ponds, ensuring sufficient water for the inhabitants. However, the residents of Thatta city faced challenges such as load shedding, overflowing gutters, and accumulated dirt. Local government authorities and the public health engineering department appeared constrained and unable to take immediate actions to provide necessary facilities to the citizens.

Mirpurkhas' civil society demands action against increasing encroachments, open sale of drugs

By MY Younis

MIRPURKHAS: Encroachment has increased at the Khipro stop bus terminal on Hyderabad Road, making it difficult for passenger vehicles to navigate. The actions of municipal staff and the police's ticket system have exacerbated the encroachment issue, leading to vendors occupying the roads. All

the entry and exit roads of the city are now under the control of encroachments, making it challenging for citizens to move around, especially in emergencies. Another main problem in Mirpurkhas city is the open sale of drug as the concerned authorities failed to curb drug trafficking. The sale of Gutka and other banned items is continuing particu-

larly in Jarwari Shakh and other areas of the city. The police have been unsuccessful in stopping the drug trade. This unchecked sale of drugs is pushing the younger generation and society toward destruction. Citizens urge the IG Sindh to take notice and take stringent action against those involved in the drug trade to eliminate this menace from society.

Badin's growers protest against shortage of water in Golarchi Taluka

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In order to address the artificial water shortage and the bribery involving irrigation staff in Taluka Golarchi, a protest rally was organized under the leadership of Ameer Azad Panhwar, Nazeer Mirza, Jakro Nohani, Tariq Bilal, Feroz Shahani, Amir Dahri, Fayaz Memon and others. The rally commenced from Ahmed Raju Road and culminated in a sit-in protest at Shaheed Fazl Rahu Chowk in the city. The

protest resulted in the complete blockade of Karachi Badin National Highway and Karro Ghanur, Ahmad Raju Road, causing hundreds of vehicles to come to a standstill. Despite attempts to reroute lands barren through water scarcity in Taluka Golarchi, the involvement of irrigation officials in this conspiracy was also highlighted. A warning was issued that all water channels in Taluka Golarchi must be immediately reopened; otherwise, those responsible would face severe

public accountability. Addressing the gathering, it was emphasized that there is sufficient water in the system, but corrupt officials are deliberately withholding water in Golarchi for personal gain. This action has led to the destruction of crops across millions of acres in Golarchi. Local leaders cautioned that if water is not restored promptly and corrupt officials are not removed, a sit-in protest will be staged on Thursday, July 11, on Karachi-Badin National Highway.

Karachi Port Sees Remarkable 24.43% Increase in Cargo Handling For FY 2023-24

KARACHI: Karachi Port Trust concluded fiscal year 2023-24 with exceptional cargo handling performance, marking a significant 24.43% increase. Total cargo throughput reached 51.65 million tons, comprising 40.24 million tons of Dry Cargo (a 31.39% growth) and 11.41 million tons of Liquid Bulk Cargo (a 1.69% increase), compared to 41.85 million tons in FY 2022-23.

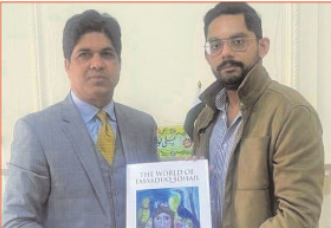
Export cargo handling surged to 18.80 million tons, up by 47.16% from 12.78 million tons in the previous fiscal year, while imports reached 32.85 million tons, a 13% increase from 29.07 million tons. Export Dry Cargo rose to 17.66 million tons (49.12% increase), driven by substantial Clinker handling, and Export Liquid Bulk Cargo reached 1.14 million tons (22.24% increase), bolstered by



Furnace Oil and Molasses. Import Dry Cargo totaled 22.58 million tons (20.21% increase), largely due to imports of Wheat, Fertilizer, R/Phosphate, and Iron Ore, while Import Liquid Bulk Cargo remained steady at 10.27 million tons. Container handling, vital for international trade, saw a notable rise to 2.28 million TEUs (17.90% increase), underscoring KPT's role in global logistics.

Ship movements also saw growth, with 1767

Crescent Art Gallery Gains Pakistani High Commission's Support For UK Art Exhibition



KARACHI: Crescent Art Gallery's Chairman Nasir Javed and Chief Executive Sameer Nasir, accompanied by Founder Sidra Nasir, met with Ali Nawaz Malik, Minister Press at the Pakistani High Commission in London, UK. The meeting, held at the Pakistani Embassy, focused on mutual interests such as promoting art and culture.

Nasir Javed, speaking on behalf of the delegation, underscored the importance of art in projecting Pakistan's peaceful image globally. He mentioned ongoing preparations for an upcoming art show in London.

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

Three Men Shot Dead In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Three men, including two brothers named Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Rehman, along with their employee Iqbal, were shot dead by their rivals in Chak No. 435 on Tuesday. The attackers fled the scene

immediately after the incident. The area police, led by DSP Akhtar Ali, arrived at the scene and transported the bodies to the hospital. After completing the necessary medico-legal formalities, the bodies were handed over to the heirs.

Speaking to the media, the heirs of the deceased alleged that Saddullah, Zainullah, Imran, and their accomplices were responsible for the killings. The IG Punjab Police has taken notice of the incident and directed the police to submit a detailed report to his office.

Imran Khan lied about marriage: Maneka

ISLAMABAD: Bushra Bibi's ex-husband Khusraw Maneka has said Imran Khan has lied about his marriage. Speaking to reporters at the Islamabad Press Club, he said on November 14, he divorced Bushra Bibi and her brother

know the fact fully well. "No one has ever asked about the marriage of the founder of PTI and a negative propaganda was launched against us," he said. He said if there was a divorce, what was wrong with getting married?

"The PTI founder denied the marriage on January 7, and married again on February 18. Today, his team of lawyers has failed to prove the period of 39 days," he said, adding that the Sharia Court was also not consulted.—RT/Agency

KCCI Urges FBR To Revisit SRO 350 Immediately

KARACHI: The President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, has called on the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to urgently revisit the contentious SRO 350(I)/2004. The unresolved issue has created significant confusion and anxiety among the business community, who have been seeking KCCI's assistance.

In a letter to FBR Chairman Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Sheikh requested an immediate visit to KCCI or

an online meeting to resolve the matter. He highlighted that complications arising from SRO 350 have even prevented utility providers like SSGC and K-Electric from timely filing their sales tax returns.

Sheikh emphasized that SRO 350's requirement linking buyers' tax return filing with suppliers' compliance has caused widespread disruption across the supply chain. The mandate for balance sheet submission, which could contradict previously submitted de-

tails, has further complicated compliance procedures, raising concerns within the business community.

Sheikh warned that further delays in addressing SRO 350 could halt exports of livestock, meat, fish, vegetables, and fruits, as the system lacks proper registration mechanisms. The uncertainty around sales tax returns and liabilities is a significant issue for businesses already facing challenging times.—RT/Agency

FIA Holds Dua Ceremony To Honor Ahmed Nabi Noor



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) conducted a solemn dua ceremony at its headquarters to commemorate Ahmed Nabi Noor, son of Director General Ahmed Ishaq Jahangir.

The gathering, marked by reverence and deep sorrow, brought together FIA officials, including Additional Directors General, Directors, and a large contingent of officers and employees.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Growers booked in a case protest against irrigation Dept officials

By M Siddique

BAHAWALPUR: In the Chani Goth area of Uch Sharif, the Irrigation Department officials have registered a case of breaking the canal against the farmers. Enraged farmers took to the streets against all engineers and met Irrigation Department officials. In Chani Goth, affected farmers under the leadership of Malik Amir took to the streets and protested vigorously. Speaking to the media during the protest, the farmers said they



against them. The protesters demanded immediate inquiry from the Chief Engineer for the provision of justice to the growers.

Malir Court Seeks Report On Woman's Death In Steel Town Police Firing

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: A woman named Saira Samo from Keeti Bandar was killed near the Steel Town Police Station during an alleged police encounter. In response, her family filed a petition in Malir Court. The

petition, submitted by Saddam Hussain Samo, the son of the deceased, seeks the registration of a case against the SHO of Steel Town and other involved officers. According to the petition, the incident occurred seven days ago near Gulshan-e-Hadeed. During an

encounter between the police and robbers, police firing resulted in the death of Saira Samo and injuries to her daughter, Ghinwa Samo. The court has issued a notice to the SP, Complaints Malir and has requested a report from the police by July 13.



CANADA: Senior PPP leader Fareed Khan Abro is being presented Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's book by his close associates Furqan Abbasi and Syed Kamal in Canada.—RT

The Perils Of Orwellian Wiretapping On The Pretext Of National Security

The recent decision by the current government to grant security agencies the authority to tap phones under the guise of national security raises serious concerns about the potential for abuse and the erosion of civil liberties. While national security is undeniably critical, this move risks turning into a tool for political suppression and unchecked surveillance. The notification, issued under Section 54 of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organisation) Act, 1996, ostensibly aims to protect the nation. However, history shows that such powers often lead to overreach and misuse. Opposition leader Omar Ayub Khan's stark warnings about the potential for this decision to backfire are not unfounded. The capacity to intercept any person's phone conversations can easily be

exploited to target political adversaries, journalists, and activists under the pretext of security concerns. The implications of such an Orwellian prac-



tice are profound. It not only threatens the privacy of individuals but also undermines democratic principles by stifling dissent and free expression. The use of wiretapping as a political weapon can lead to a climate of fear, where opposing voices are silenced not through debate and discussion, but through intimidation and coercion. This decision sets a dangerous precedent. In a democracy, the bal-

ance between security and civil liberties must be carefully maintained. The honourable courts have a critical role to play in scrutinizing this notification. It is imperative that judicial oversight ensures that the government does not trample on constitutional rights in the name of national security. The courts must act swiftly to prevent the potential abuse of power and safeguard the fundamental freedoms of the Pakistani people. Thus, while the need for national security cannot be understated, it should not come at the expense of civil liberties. The government must reconsider this notification, and the courts must intervene to ensure that Pakistan does not slide further down the slippery slope of authoritarianism. The protection of our democratic values and individual freedoms must remain paramount.

THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Political Secretary to PPP Chairman, MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro is addressing a press conference at the Larkana press club-RT

GDA's Jam Nafees condoles sad demise of Late Haji Moosa Mughal

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: The community continues to mourn the loss of the revered figure, Late Haji Moosa Mughal, from the Mughal community. Condolences poured in from across the region as GDA leader Jam Nafees Ali Khan, alongside Nawab Jam Sadiq Ali Khan, Assistant Mukhtiar Tando Adam Shahid Hussain Marri, and a host of political and social dignitaries, gathered to pay their respects to the grieving family members.

Late Haji Moosa Mughal's passing has left a profound impact on those who knew him, admired him, and benefited from his wisdom and generosity. Assembled at the solemn occasion, leaders expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members, including



Muhammad Ilyas Mughal, Muhammad Akram Mughal, and Muhammad Saleem Mughal. They offered prayers for the departed soul, seeking forgiveness and solace for the family during this challenging time of loss.

The gathering reflected the esteem and regard in which Late Haji Moosa Mughal was held within the community, highlighting his contributions and the void left by his departure. Leaders and attendees shared

Umrani community notable Ali Khan Umrani passes away in NWM

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: The Umrani community is in mourning following the untimely demise of Ali Khan Umrani, a respected figure, who succumbed to a fatal heart attack on Tuesday.

Ali Khan Umrani's funeral prayers were solemnly conducted, and his body was laid to rest at the family's ancestral graveyard. The ceremony was attended by prominent members of the community, civil society leaders, and a multitude of individuals from diverse backgrounds who gathered to pay their respects. Describing him as a pillar of the Umrani community, mourners reflected on Ali Khan Umrani's contributions and leadership, recalling his dedication to the welfare and unity of his people. His sudden passing has left a profound void among those who knew him, with many expressing their condolences and memories of his impactful presence in Nawab Wali Muhammad.

As the community continues to mourn his loss, Ali Khan Umrani's legacy of service and commitment remains cherished among all people. His sudden passing has left a profound void among those who knew him, with many expressing their condolences and memories of his impactful presence in Nawab Wali Muhammad.

-Can you believe this?

Dead chickens dumped in Rohri Canal near Khesana Mori

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: A disturbing incident unfolded early this morning as thousands of dead farm chickens were discovered dumped into the Rohri Canal near Khesana Mori. Local residents, alarmed by the sight and stench, reported that several smaller branches of the Rohri Canal converge at Khesana Mori, where these dead chickens were discarded.

According to eyewitness accounts, the farm chickens had perished due to disease and were irresponsibly disposed of in the canal. Concerns were raised about the potential contamination of water in the canal branches, which eventually flow into the main Rohri Canal. This contaminated water poses a significant risk to the health of animals and humans alike, as many villages depend on this water source for drinking and livestock purposes.

Local leaders and residents expressed outrage over the irresponsible dumping, citing previous incidents where



toxic substances discharged into these branches had led to disease outbreaks among livestock such as Sobho Magi, Allah Dino Jamali, and Murad Jamali. Such outbreaks have resulted in substantial losses for farmers, underscoring the critical need for stringent measures to prevent environmental contamination and safeguard public health.

Calls have intensified for authorities to swiftly identify and apprehend those responsible for dumping the dead chickens into the canal. Community members urged immediate action to mitigate the environmental and health risks posed by this incident, emphasizing the importance of maintaining clean and safe water sources for rural communities.

As investigations unfold, local authorities and environmental agencies are expected to collaborate closely to address the aftermath of this egregious act and prevent similar incidents from recurring in the future.



LARKANA: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Larkana, Mir Rohal Khan Khoso and Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Sharjeel Noor Chana along with other officials are reviewing the security arrangements and mourning procession routes for the Holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram-RT

Samo Ittehad leads protest against Steel Town Police

By Hyder Shah

MIRPUR SAKRO: Leaders of Samo Ittehad, accompanied by Haji Ahmed Samo, Ashraf Samo, Nabi Bux Molipoto, Usman Samo, Qadir Molipoto, and social activists including Ayaz Lashari, Mansoor Qadir Lashari, and Karim Mirani, joined by members of Jeay Sindh Mahaz, Sakro Samaji Forum, Qaumi Awami Tehreek, and other community leaders, staged a protest condemning the actions of Steel Town Police following a fatal shooting incident.

The protest was sparked by an incident where police allegedly opened fire on a car, resulting in the death of a woman and injury to another individual.

Expressing outrage, the protesters gathered to demand justice for the victims and accountability for the police officers involved.

During the demonstra-



tion, leaders of Samo Ittehad and affiliated organizations vehemently denounced the use of excessive force by law enforcement and called for immediate action to register a case against the responsible officers. They urged authorities to ensure a thorough investigation into the incident and to provide compensation and support to the affected families.

The protest underscored broader concerns about po-

Moro Police beef up security measures for Muharram-ul-Haram

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: DSP Moro Sardar Khan Chandio and SHO Moro Ali Akbar Khokhar have announced stringent security arrangements ahead of Muharram-ul-Haram to ensure the safety and peaceful observance of the holy month.

In a joint statement, they emphasized that comprehensive monitoring of every movement will be implemented to bolster security measures throughout Moro. The central Imambarah has designated a procession route encompassing key areas such as Surhio Mohalla, Shaikh Mohalla, Syed Mohalla, Langah Mohalla, Dadu Road, Main Road, Bukhari Mohalla, Jail Road, Shahi Bazaar, Hussaini Chowk, Vegetable Market, Lahoti Chowk, and the shrine of Sakhi Ibrahim Shah.



traditionally rented out during Muharram, are required to register their details at the Moro police station. Non-compliance will result in immediate legal repercussions. Furthermore, houses and shops equipped with CCTV cameras must ensure their visibility and proper alignment towards public spaces, reinforcing the local security

apparatus. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will also lead to strict legal actions being taken. The Moro Police assured the community of their commitment to maintaining peace and order during Muharram-ul-Haram, urging cooperation from residents and stakeholders to uphold safety protocols effectively.

Deduction of BISP beneficiaries' stipends continues unabated in Mirpurkhas

By MY Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The plight of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) beneficiaries in Mirpurkhas has worsened as reports of unjust deductions from their stipends continue unabated, exacerbating hardships for the already marginalized women. Despite these deductions, essential services such as access to drinking water remain glaringly absent, intensifying the suffering under the scorching summer heat.

Reports indicate that daily deductions from the stipends of poor women under the BISP have become commonplace, compounding their financial struggles. The situation has been further exacerbated by the absence of adequate arrangements for

drinking water, resulting in distressing scenes where women have reportedly fainted due to dehydration.

Adding to the distress, there have been disturbing reports of police intervention using batons against protesting beneficiaries in Bhan Singabud. Allegations suggest that local authorities and device holders have colluded in these deductions, highlighting a systemic failure in safeguarding the rights and well-being of vulnerable beneficiaries.

Affected women have come forward to voice their grievances, emphasizing the dire need for basic facilities that they are deprived of. The lack of transparency and accountability in the management of BISP funds

has only deepened their sense of disenfranchisement and despair.

As the situation unfolds, calls for immediate intervention to halt these exploitative practices and ensure the provision of essential services have intensified. Community leaders and activists are urging authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into these allegations and take swift action to address the grievances of the affected beneficiaries. In the face of these challenges, the plight of BISP beneficiaries in Mirpurkhas serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for reforms to protect the rights and dignity of those relying on social welfare programs to alleviate poverty and hardship.

SPORTS



Hardik Pandya 'likely' to replace Rohit Sharma as India's T20I skipper



India's fast bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya is likely to replace Rohit Sharma as India's T20I skipper after the latter announced his retirement from the shortest format of the game after winning the T20 World Cup 2024.

Naqvi gives 'free hand' to coaches as huddle mulls mercurial team's future

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has given a 'free hand' to the men's team's coaches during his meeting with white-ball coach Gary Kirsten, red-ball's Jason Gillespie, and Assistant Coach Azhar Mahmood, sources told media on Tuesday.



The sources say that the huddle which mulled over matters pertaining to the team's coaching, has agreed that the players' inclusion in the squad will be subject to their fitness.

tion at this time. The foreign coaches also apprised the PCB chairman of their plan to improve the performance of the team with which the board's head agreeing with their suggestions.

It is worth mentioning that Gillespie and Kirsten were appointed Pakistan's red and white-ball coach respectively on a two-year deal.

Messi fit for Copa America semi-final against Canada, says coach



NEW JERSEY: Argentina captain Lionel Messi will be fit to play in Tuesday's Copa America semi-final against Canada in New Jersey, coach Lionel Scaloni said, despite the forward's hamstring injury concerns.

Messi returned to action on Thursday in Argentina's quarter-final win against Ecuador after missing the final group-stage match due to injury.

The 37-year-old Inter Miami player missed a penalty in the shootout that decided the game at Houston's NRG Stadium.

Misbah-ul-Haq calls for evaluation of Babar Azam's inept performance

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain and head coach Misbah-ul-Haq highlighted the need for the evaluation of Babar Azam's performance as white-ball captain, following the national team's dismal run in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.



Pakistan men's cricket team, in a first, were knocked out from the group stage of the T20 World Cup, majorly because of their upset defeat against the USA, followed by a gut-wrenching defeat against arch-rivals India.

"As far as Babar's performance is concerned, we need to see where he stands after four years. It's not just the captain's fault, the blame lies with all departments, including batting, bowling, and fielding," Misbah said.

Chandimal wrecks havoc as Falcons crush Kings in LPL run-fest



DAMBULLA: Dinesh Chandimal's swashbuckling half-century eclipsed Puthum Nissanka's century and powered Kandy Falcons to a seven-wicket victory over Jaffna Kings in the 11th match of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024.

ICC Champions Trophy 2025: PCB '95%' hopeful of India's participation

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials said there is 95% hope that the Indian cricket team will participate in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan, adding that as of now, no alternative plans have been formulated for the event.



They clarified that there is no consideration for a neutral venue option and stated that the tournament will 'unquestionably' be held in the country. Pakistan has been granted the hosting rights for the tournament several years ago.

However, they underscored that the final decision rests not with the cricket boards but with their respective governments. PCB officials reiterated their commitment to hosting the event in Pakistan, expressing hope for a successful tournament.

Djokovic destroys Rune to reach Wimbledon quarter-final



LONDON: Novak Djokovic produced his best display so far at this year's Wimbledon to dispatch Denmark's Holger Rune 6-3 6-4 6-2 and reach the quarter-finals for the 15th time.

Face of the Day



Name: Hashir Khan Location: Karachi About me: I love modeling! Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Scarlett Johansson reveals reason behind Colin Jost's cameo in Fly Me to the Moon movie



Scarlett Johansson has recently spilled the reason behind her husband Colin Jost's cameo in new movie, Fly Me to the Moon.

Jennifer Lopez makes final call on Ben Affleck marriage



Jennifer Lopez has seemingly cleared her stance over Ben Affleck's alleged troubled marriage.

Scarlett Johansson has recently spilled the reason behind her husband Colin Jost's cameo in new movie, Fly Me to the Moon. The Black Widow actress also told the host Jimmy how she would learn lines for her movies with the help of Colin.

THE HEARTLAND



SCA Vice Chairman Nabi Bux Sathio urges CM Murad to make proper arrangements ahead of upcoming floods

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The Senior Vice President of the Sindh Chamber of Agriculture, Nabi Bux Sathio has demanded of the concerned authorities to remove Secretary Irrigation and Sindh's Member in IRSA as their negligence has caused historical damage to growers of Sukkur Barrage. The level of water has been decreased in the name of repairing the doors of the Sukkur Barrage without thinking that how much this step will impact on the overall agriculture in the province of Sindh and the growers who were waiting for water anxiously. The inept performance and policies have also resulted in huge loss to the growers of



command area of Kotri Barrage. The contaminated water of Manchar Lake is also being released in River Indus to barren the agricultural lands of Tando Muhammad Khan, Badin, Thatta and Sujawal districts. Nabi Bux Sathio also expressed concern over the arrangements made for the monsoon rains because the embankments of the canals and branches are not able to

sustain pressure of water in the province of Sindh due to which the growers should be ready for the worst conditions due to apathy of the concerned authorities. He urged the Sindh CM to ensure the posting of the experienced and talented people in the Irrigation Department and IRSA so that the people of the province could be saved from any natural disaster.

Young Man Brutally Murdered Over Money Dispute In Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: In a harrowing incident, a young man named Nasser Shah was fatally beaten by several individuals in Kahoot Colony, Hyderabad, allegedly over a dispute regarding borrowed money, police confirmed on Tuesday.

According to police sources, the gruesome incident unfolded when Nasser Shah confronted the accused to recover the money he had lent. The perpetrators mercilessly tortured him before dumping his severely injured body near a police station. Tragically, Nasser Shah succumbed to his injuries while being rushed to the hospital for medical treatment.

Police authorities have obtained a video capturing the heinous assault, which vividly depicts the accused brutally attacking the victim. A case has been promptly registered against the suspects, and an intensive investigation is currently underway to apprehend all involved individuals. Amer Shah, the victim's grief-stricken brother, recounted the tragic sequence of events, asserting that Nasser Shah's life was tragically cut short due to a dispute over a loan repayment. He lamented that his brother had simply sought to retrieve the money owed to him when he met with this brutal fate. —RT/Agency

Haji Abdul Razzaq Khan Mahar chairs meeting of Khanpur Town Committee

By Shad Mahar



GHOTKI: Haji Abdul Razzaq Khan Mahar, Chairman of Khanpur Town Committee, led a significant meeting attended by key members including Pradeep Kumar, Ghanashyam Das, and Mumtaz Ali Gudani. The session focused on approving the budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, a decision that received unanimous support from all committee members.

Addressing the gathering, Taluka Chairman Haji Abdul Razzaq Khan Mahar highlighted the ongoing developmental initiatives across Khanpur Taluka. He underscored their commitment to enhancing infrastructure and services, emphasizing plans for upcoming projects aimed at further extending the region's development network.

Regarding civic priorities, Chairman Haji Abdul Razzaq Khan Mahar reiterated the paramount importance of cleanliness in Khanpur Mahar city. He assured that municipal staff are diligently engaged in sanitation efforts to maintain the town's cleanliness standards.

In preparation for Muharram, Chairman Mahar instructed the staff to ensure impeccable facilities at all Imambargahs starting from the first of Muharram, underscoring the significance of facilitating religious observances with utmost care and diligence. Chairman Haji Abdul Razzaq Khan Mahar concluded by reaffirming his dedication to serving the people of Khanpur Taluka, pledging to continue prioritizing development and community welfare as core objectives of the committee's mandate.

Municipal Committee Chairman Abdul Ghaffar Memon vows to resolve Pir Jo Goth's civic issues

By AQ Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: Abdul Ghaffar Memon, Chairman of the Municipal Committee of Pir Jo Goth, addressed the media in a press conference where he outlined plans to improve civic amenities and enforce municipal regulations for the betterment of the town.



Chairman Memon issued a stern warning to individuals illegally occupying municipal properties, citing a directive from the Sindh High Court. He emphasized that those encroaching must vacate immediately, warning of legal consequences for non-compliance. This ultimatum, he stressed, marks the final notice through the media.

Highlighting future initiatives, Memon announced plans to utilize cleared areas for public benefit. Proposed projects include establishing a gymnasium, public park, community hall, and RO plants to enhance local facilities and promote community well-being.

Expressing gratitude for guidance from their esteemed leaders, Chairman Memon acknowledged the ongoing support and vision provided by Pir Sahib Pagara and his son, Syed Muhammad Rashid Shah Rashidi, in initiatives aimed at beautifying Pir Jo Goth and ensuring a clean environment.

In conclusion, Chairman Abdul Ghaffar Memon reaffirmed his commitment to serving the people of Pir Jo Goth, stating that their welfare and satisfaction bring him personal fulfillment and peace.

Six Suspects Granted Bail In Sanghar Camel's Leg Chopping Case

SANGHAR: The Additional Sessions Judge on Tuesday approved the bail pleas of six accused in the shocking case of a camel's leg being chopped off in Sanghar, as reported by media sources.

The Additional Sessions Judge granted bail to Darya Khan Shar, Jaffer Butt, Abid Shar, Abdul Shakoor Shar, Gul Baig Lashari, and Rustam Shar against surety bonds of Rs 200,000 each. The judge ordered their release on bail and postponed further hearing of the case to July 12.

According to SSP Sanghar, Abdul Shakoor Shar and Abid Shar have confessed to their involvement in the crime during the investigation.

The incident took place in Mund Jamrao village, Sanghar district, where a landlord allegedly took drastic action against a camel for entering his field in search of fodder.

Soomer Khan, the owner of the camel, recounted the distressing incident at the Sanghar press club, expressing bewilderment over the cruel act. "I have no enmity with anyone. I don't know why this was done to my camel," he stated.

The Sanghar SSP initiated action after a video showing the camel with its leg chopped off circulated widely on social media, prompting public outcry and demands for justice.

Tando Bago's growers protest against shortage of water in Akram Wah

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Local growers from Tando Bago staged a vigorous protest on Tuesday against the acute shortage of water in Akram Wah. Speaking to the media, protest leaders Aziz Dero, Abdul Ghafoor Chandio, Pir Ali Murad Shah, and others voiced their grievances over the detrimental impact on their agricultural lands. They lamented the apathetic response from concerned authorities towards resolving the water scarcity issue.

During the demonstration, protesters urged higher authorities to promptly intervene and address the pressing water shortage crisis. They emphasized that failure to take immediate action would compel them to escalate their protests further.

The protest in Tando Bago underscores the critical plight faced by local farmers, whose livelihoods depend heavily on adequate water supply for agricultural activities. As tensions escalate, the community awaits a decisive response from authorities to alleviate their hardships and safeguard their agricultural interests.

authorities to promptly intervene and address the pressing water shortage crisis. They emphasized that failure to take immediate action would compel them to escalate their protests further.

JWC rallies for abducted Sana Rahu's recovery

By Ijaz Jochio



DAULATPUR: Members of the Jaffaria Welfare Committee (JWC) in Qazi Ahmed staged a passionate protest on Tuesday demanding the immediate recovery of abducted teenager Sana Rahu. Addressing the media, protest leaders including Raza Muhammad Rahu, Amjad Rahu, Sail Lakho, MB Dahri, and others expressed deep concern over Sana Rahu's abduction nine months ago and criticized the authorities for their failure to locate her.

The protesters highlighted the distressing ordeal faced by Sana Rahu's family and emphasized the urgent need for law enforcement agencies to intensify efforts in tracing

her whereabouts. They called upon higher authorities to take decisive steps towards ensuring her safe return, warning of escalating their protests if swift action is not taken.

The demonstration in Daulatpur underscores growing community frustration over unresolved cases of ab-

Muharram Majalis start in Tando Adam

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: As the sacred month of Muharram unfolds, echoing cries of "Ya Hussain, Ya Hussain" resonate across the globe, marking the beginning of mourning and reflection in Tando Adam. At Azakhana Zahra Jann Shah, the first majlis-e-aza was convened, where revered religious scholar Allama Wali Muhammad Chandio delivered a poignant address. He emphasized that the message

of Karbala epitomizes the resilience of Islam, underscoring how the sacrifices of Karbala continue to uphold the essence of the faith in the modern world.

Throughout the city, elaborate setups and banners adorn the streets, adorned with sacred symbols to honor and commemorate this solemn occasion. The procession of mourners commenced late into the night, a solemn tribute to the martyrs of Karbala.

In light of these gatherings, stringent security measures have been put in place, overseen by the elite squad of the police force. Their vigilant presence ensures peace and order, with patrols and surveillance deployed across every neighborhood and thoroughfare.

The start of Muharram in Tando Adam not only signifies a time of mourning but also stands as a testament to the enduring spiritual legacy that continues to resonate within the hearts of believers.

MSF Chairman Advocate Abdul Hayee Soomro complains to President Zardari about Jacobabad's poor health facilities

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Advocate Abdul Hayee Soomro, a prominent social activist and Chairman of the Mehran Social Forum (MSF), has raised concerns over the deteriorating state of JIMS Hospital and Civil Hospital in Jacobabad, despite significant investments and annual budgets exceeding 60 crore rupees. In a formal complaint letter addressed to President Asif Ali Zardari, Soomro highlighted the severe lack of adequate medical facilities and essential medicines for patients.



Sindh. Acknowledging the urgency of the matter, the President's Secretariat has issued directives to the Health Secretary to promptly address the deficiencies at JIMS and Civil Hospital in Jacobabad. Abdul Hayee Soomro expressed optimism that these steps will lead to substantial improvements, making healthcare services more accessible and beneficial for impoverished patients in the region. As the community awaits tangible reforms, Advocate Abdul Hayee Soomro and the MSF continue to advocate for enhanced healthcare infrastructure and transparent governance to ensure quality medical care reaches those in need across Jacobabad.

According to Soomro, mismanagement and corruption have plagued the administration of these crucial health institutions, resulting

in substandard care for patients who rely on them for medical treatment. The complaint, forwarded to the President's Secretariat and discussed with Director Sarfraz Husain Ansari, has prompted immediate action from the Health Secretary of

Rind community demands arrest of Sajjad Hussain Rind's killers

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: The residents of the village Muhammad Hashim Rind in the jurisdiction of Qazi Ahmed police station, led by Altaf Rind, Hidayatullah Rind, Sajjad Rind and others, staged a protest outside the Nawabshah Press Club. They were holding banners to protest the murder of their young man, Sajjad Hussain Rind, who they claim was killed without any fault by influential accused individuals Ali Bux alias Bano Lund, Abu Bakar Rind, Mumtaz Rind and

Yamin Rind on June 5, 2024, at Qazi Ahmed Bypass. Speaking to the media, Altaf Rind, Hidayatullah Rind, and others alleged that their innocent brother, Sajjad Hussain Rind, was brutally murdered by the aforementioned influential accused due to a marriage dispute. They claimed that Ali Bux alias Bano Lund, due to his wealth and political backing, has influenced the police and managed to secure interim bail. They also mentioned that Ali Bux Lund is threatening them to withdraw the murder case and is causing them fur-

ther harm. They demanded from the higher judiciary and police authorities to immediately cancel the interim bail of the main accused, Ali Bux Lund alias Bano Lund, and bring all the accused to justice, ensuring they receive severe punishments. They also requested protection for themselves. They warned that if the interim bail of Ali Bux Lund is not canceled, they will immolate themselves with petrol, holding the mentioned accused, local police, and district administration responsible for their actions.

Majlis-e-Aza held at Jaffaria Masjid Azakhana-e-Zahra (SA) in Tando Adam



By Dildar Samo

TANDO ADAM: Allama Wali Muhammad Chandio delivered a compelling address during the Majlis-e-Aza held at Jaffaria Masjid Azakhana-e-Zahra (SA) in Tando Adam. He passionately expounded on the eminence of the Ahle Bait (AS), highlighting their unparalleled virtues such as knowledge and infallibility. Allama Chandio emphasized that these divine qualities affirm the Ahle Bait's rightful position of imamate and leadership.

Meanwhile, Allama Hizbullah Hyder, addressing the gathering at Imambargah Jageer Ali Akbar in Tando Adam, underscored the commandment given to the believers by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) to love his esteemed family, the Ahle Bait (AS). He elaborated on how this love and respect for the Ahle Bait (AS) are not only a sign of devotion to Prophet Muhammad's mission but also a source of spiritual enlightenment and guidance for believers. The Majlis-e-Aza gathered devout attendees who reflected on the teachings and legacy of the Ahle Bait (AS), reaffirming their profound reverence and commitment to their principles in Tando Adam.

Killers of PPP leader Syed Darbar Ali Shah sentenced to death

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In a landmark verdict, the Model Trial Court in Tando Allahyar has sentenced to death two individuals, Arzi Bhattu and Abdul Shakoor Bhattu, for their involvement in the brutal murder of PPP leader Syed Darbar Ali Shah. The court, after a thorough trial, found the accused guilty of the heinous crime that occurred in 2018 within the jurisdiction of Nasarpur Police Sta-



tion. The sentencing also includes a fine of Rs 1 million each on the convicted murderers. The verdict marks a significant step towards delivering justice for the grievous loss suffered by the victim's family and the community at large.

The judicial decision underscores the judiciary's commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring accountability for acts of violence. It sends a strong message against impunity and reaffirms the sanctity of human life and the rule of law in society.

SAU issues last date for submission of admission forms

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: The Director of Advanced Studies at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tando Jam, has announced an extension in the deadline for submission of application forms for admission to postgraduate degree programs for the 2024 batch. The new deadline for submission is now set for July 19, 2024. In addition to extending the submission deadline, the university has scheduled the entry test for these programs to be held on July 23, 2024, starting at 11:00 AM.

The tests will take place in the respective faculties of SAU, aimed at evaluating the academic preparedness and eligibility of applicants for various programs including MSc, MS, MSIT, MPHil, and PhD. Prospective candidates are encouraged to ensure timely submission of their application forms and to prepare adequately for the upcoming entry test. The university administration emphasized the importance of meeting the revised deadline to facilitate a smooth and organized admission process for all as-

piring students. SAU continues to uphold its commitment to academic excellence and aims to provide quality education through its diverse range of postgraduate programs, contributing to the development of skilled professionals in the field of agriculture and allied disciplines. As the deadline approaches, students are advised to visit the university's website or contact the admissions office for further details and updates regarding the submission process and entry test arrangements.

10 injured in Sand community clash

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Tensions escalated in village Morio Sand on Tuesday as a clash erupted between two factions of the Sand community over a minor dispute. The confrontation quickly turned violent, with individuals from both groups wielding sticks and axes, resulting in injuries to ten men. Among

the injured were Ghulam Nabi Sand, Irfan Sand, Rashid Sand, Qurban Sand, Din Muhammad Sand, Muhammad Ishaq, Ahmed Ali, Ghulam Rasool, Abdul Quos, Khalid Sand, and others.

The injured were swiftly transported to a local hospital for medical treatment. As of the reporting of this news, no formal complaint has been lodged regarding

the incident. The incident underscores the need for community dialogue and conflict resolution mechanisms to prevent such outbreaks of violence in the future. Local authorities are urged to intervene promptly to restore peace and security within the village and to prevent further escalation of tensions among community members.

METRO KARACHI



KARACHI: PPP's Central Information Secretary, Shazia Marri is addressing press conference held at the PPP Media Cell in Bilawal House.—RT

CM Murad orders for timely drainage of rainwater in Karachi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah issued directives to municipal and other institutions to ensure coordinated efforts to address issues related to rainwater drainage and traffic management during the ongoing rains, media reported.

The chief minister directed the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and cantonment boards to carry out coordinated efforts to ensure effective rainwater drainage and facilitate citizens.

CM Murad also directed the Transport Department work on the Red Line Corridor project to alleviate the difficulties faced by residents of Gulshan Iqbal and Taimur Nagar.

He directed the Traffic Police to be more active in managing traffic in Karachi especially in areas where uplift works are



being carried out to avoid difficulties for citizens. He also emphasised the need for better traffic management in areas where development work is underway.

Earlier in the day, many parts of Karachi received moderate to heavy rain. Surjani Town, New Karachi, North Karachi, Nagan Chowrangi, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Golimar and other parts received the rainfall.

Meanwhile, the Shadman Nullah in Nusrat Bhutto Colony overflowed, causing flooding and difficulties for the people in the surrounding areas.

The area around Hassan man No. 1, Sakhi Shad Graveyard Road, and adjacent parts have been particularly affected, with waterlogged streets and garbage littering the roads.—RT

DSP Ali Raza Murder: Suspect Captured On CCTV Footage



KARACHI: The CCTV footage of alleged suspect, involved in killing Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ali Raza, has been emerged on Tuesday, media reported.

The CCTV footage available with media showed the alleged attacker, wearing a white shirt, entering the flats on a motorcycle.

The CCTV footage also shows Ali Raza's vehicle arriving at the gate and stopping momentarily before the attacker strikes.

Later, the suspect can be seen fleeing from the flats after firing shots at the mar-

tyred official's vehicle.

On July 7, CTD DSP Ali Raza and a security guard were assassinated near Karachi's Karimabad area. A security guard, who belonged to a private security company, was also injured in the firing and later succumbed to wounds during treatment at the Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Centre (JPMC), Khattab said.

In a statement, the police said the investigation team has found 11 bullet shells at the scene, indicating that the attackers fired multiple shots.—RT/Agency.



KARACHI: Senior Sindh Minister for Excise and Taxation, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon is addressing a press conference held at the Excise Department's office.—RT

SHCC's Anti-Quackery Unit Achieves Significant Milestones

KARACHI: Under the leadership of Chairman Sindh Healthcare Commission (SHCC) Dr. Khalid Hussain Shaikh, the Board of Commissioners, and CEO SHCC, the Directorate of Anti-Quackery has reported substantial progress during the fiscal year.

Throughout the financial year (FY July 23 - June 24), SHCC steadfastly pursued its mission to eradicate quackery in accordance with regulatory laws. A total of 5625 inspections were conducted, identifying new "quack zones" across various districts and talukas.

In adherence to the law, 2334 quack outlets were sealed, and 1541 warning notices were issued to non-compliant healthcare practitioners to improve their practices. Additionally, 682 follow-up inspections were carried out on previously sealed outlets to ensure ongoing compliance, with 1068 outlets found operating within legal parameters.

The financial penalties recovered amounted to PKR 13.3 million, achieving an average recovery rate of 55%. Director Anti-Quackery S. Zeeshan A Shah emphasized the expansion of the work-



force to combat the growing challenge of quackery. In a proactive move, SHCC launched the SHCC HIV Outbreak Control Action Plan in collaboration with stakeholders such as WHO, CDC, SBTA, PPH District Government, and IG Office. This initiative, now in its 44th week, has led to the closure and sealing of over 1000 quackery outlets, with ongoing operations in District Mirpur Khas to address the rising HIV cases exacerbated by illegal clinics.

Key successes included effective stakeholder engagement, with Commissioners' Offices and District Commissioners forming joint task forces with SHCC Inspection & Enforcement teams. Law enforcement support from IGP Office and DIGs ranges facilitated timely deployment of police forces for on-field operations, advocating for simplified FIR processes at police stations for swift justice.

Director Anti-Quackery continued collaboration with DG Health Office to enhance support from District Health Officers in gathering authenticated quack data for expedited legal actions at district and taluka levels. Positive media coverage has been crucial in highlighting SHCC's efforts to combat and eliminate quackery. With an expanded workforce, SHCC Anti-Quackery Operations are set to intensify, extending operations to remote areas alongside major cities in the ongoing fight against quackery province-wide.—RT

Victim's Brother Reveals Startling Details About CEO's Murder



KARACHI: Karachi police lodged a murder case of a software company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who was stabbed to death allegedly by an employee over unpaid salary in Karachi, media reported.

Meanwhile, Imtiaz, the victim's brother, lodged a case against the alleged murderer, Shoaib at the Tipu Sultan police station.

The shocking incident came to light in Karachi, where the CEO of a software company was allegedly murdered by an employee over unpaid salary.

According to the complaint, the victim, Naveed, was the CEO of Euro Tech Software House, located on the fourth floor of a building at Shahrah-e-Faisal.

The complainant said that Shoaib, an employee of the company who was not paid his salary for three months, had a heated argument with Naveed over the issue.

"Shoaib attacked Naveed with a knife, leaving him severely injured. Naveed was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries," the FIR read.

The police said that accused Shoaib had been employed at the company for nine months and was to be paid Rs 150,000 salary per month.—RT/Agency

Khairpur Business Leader Haji Lala Ghaffar Shaikh Meets Former Sindh Minister Muhammad Noman Saigal

KARACHI: Khadim-Khairpur, Haji Lala A. Ghaffar Shaikh, President of Anjuman-e-Tajirani Khairpur, met today with the former Provincial Minister for Health, Information Technology, Environment, and Alternative Energy, Muhammad Noman Saigal, who also serves as the Convener of the Standing Committee on Horticulture at FPCCI.

The meeting took place at the Pearl Continental Hotel in Karachi.

Rotarian Sarfraz Korojeri, businessman Shaikh Waqar Yusuf Mago, and Qurban Mahar were also present at the meeting. They discussed various aspects of new business ventures for Sindh, including the development of recreational clubs, the cultivation of various



fruits, vegetables, and fresh flowers in different parts of Sindh, and the automation of universities, colleges, and industrial zones in the region.

Support for the transportation of horticulture products from interior Sindh to major cities was also discussed. Additionally, they talked about supporting press clubs in cultivating plants near major press clubs in Karachi.

The agenda also included the extensive cultivation of various fruits, vegetables, and plants in all universities of Sindh.

Mr. Saigal invited all the guests to the federation house for the second meeting of the Horticulture Committee, scheduled to be held on Monday, July 22nd, in Karachi.—RT

ANF Officers Accused Of Short-Term Kidnapping Incident In Karachi



KARACHI: Plainclothes officers at a recently established checkpoint allegedly detained the driver of a private ambulance and demanded bribe, media reported on Tuesday.

According to the details, the ambulance driver claimed that the narcotics officials after detaining him demanded bribe of Rs 50,000.

The ambulance driver reported that he was threatened with being falsely charged in a drug case if he did not pay the asked amount.

Under the pretext of conducting a search, the officers reportedly tore the cushions of all the ambulance seats and damaged the fuel tank and other parts of the vehicle.

The driver was on his way to deliver the body of a deceased child from a hospital in Hub area to the child's family when the incident occurred.

The narcotics control officials stopped him while he was en route to deliver the body.

The driver claimed that the officers removed his shirt, tied it around his mouth, and took him to a room where they interrogated him about an alleged drug dealer named Maryam.

The ambulance driver stated that he could identify the officials involved in the incident.

He also mentioned that a copy of the death certificate was shown to the child's family via WhatsApp during the ordeal.—RT/Agency

Nazir Ahmed Bhutto Chairs Budget Session Of Ibrahim Hyderi Town



KARACHI: Nazir Ahmed Bhutto, Chairman of Ibrahim Hyderi Town Municipal Corporation, presided over a budget session where a public-friendly budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 was presented and unanimously approved. The budget amounts to approximately Rs 11,480,000,000, leading to an expected surplus of Rs 344,942,000 for the fiscal year 2024-25.

The budget session was attended by Vice Chairman Rafique Daud Jatt, Parliamentary Leader Akhtar Yousuf Arifani, Municipal Commissioner Masroor Nawaz Maseed Ghani, and Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Saif, Chief Account Officer Ifrikhar Dayo, council members, and other departmental officials.

Addressing the session, Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto emphasized that the town's development and public service have always been his top priorities. He assured continued cooperation with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Minister of Local Government Saeed Ghani, and Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Saif, Chief Account Officer Ifrikhar Dayo, and council members, and other departmental officials.

Sindh Government Launches Legal Aid and Human Rights Complaints Portals

KARACHI: The Sindh government's Human Rights Department has launched the Legal Aid and Human Rights Complaints Portals to provide free legal aid to marginalized individuals who are victims of human rights violations.

Ms. Fatima encouraged the public to utilize and promote these services. Mr. Iqbal Detho, Chairman of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, highlighted Sindh's unique position in having an independent Human Rights Commission with the authority to take suo moto action against fundamental rights violations. "We are working to mainstream legal aid mechanisms, with the Sindh government providing Rs 100 million for legal aid to the needy and poor," he added. Mr. Detho also mentioned the Commission's process of receiving complaints, investigating, and submitting recommendations to the relevant departments.

Jameel Hussain Junejo, Executive Coordinator of TIC, explained that this initiative aims to centralize all complaint mechanisms across various organizations in the province. Ms. Shehla Qureshi, Assistant Superintendent of Police, noted that the Sindh Police have their own complaint mechanism, with the Police Complaint Centre receiving 8,433 cases between 2020 and 2024.

Bisma Memon and Shahid Abro of the Human Rights Department elaborated on the functionality and efficiency of the new portals.—RT/Agency

Mayor Wahab Warns Medical Officers Over Performance Issues

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has stated that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) aims to improve its hospitals but stressed the need for a system of rewards and penalties to achieve this goal.

Wahab announced the suspension of Dr. Ghulam Abbas, Medical Superintendent of Sarfraz Rafique Shaheed Hospital, for being absent from duty. He warned that medical superintendents and other officers who fail to improve their performance will no longer be tolerated.

During a meeting of the KMC Medical Services Department, attended by Municipal Commissioner SM Afzal Zaidi, Senior Director Medical Services, and medical superintendents of all KMC hospitals, Wahab instructed all medical superintendents to submit a report within a week detailing the number of citizens treated in the past year. He warned that strict action would be taken against those providing incorrect figures.

Wahab expressed dissatisfaction with the performance



of major hospitals under KMC and required all medical superintendents to provide a written account of the officers and staff members on duty at their hospitals. He also emphasized that service books and personnel files of all doctors, paramedical staff, and employees should be readily available in hospitals.

Additionally, Wahab mandated that all doctors working in KMC hospitals take an oath within a week affirming that they are not serving or practicing elsewhere, and submit this oath to the Mayor's Secretariat.

He urged medical superintendents to enhance the performance of their hospitals to ensure standardized medical services for patients. Immediate steps should also be taken to maintain cleanliness and ensure the availability of necessary medicines and medical equipment.

Wahab highlighted that KMC hospitals provide cost-effective medical facilities to citizens but stressed that this objective can only be achieved with improved performance and patient satisfaction. He warned that any delay or negligence would be tolerated, and those responsible, including superintendents and other officers, would face disciplinary action.

The Mayor emphasized that all instructions must be implemented without delay, and the performance of all KMC hospitals will be continuously reviewed and monitored for improvement.—RT

The only thing we have to fear is fear itself. - ...

—Unknown

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WEDNESDAY JULY 10 2024

Supreme Court Reserves Verdict In Vital SIC Reserved Seats Case

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's (SC) full bench led by Chief Justice Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has reserved its verdict regarding the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) case on reserved seats, requesting to dismiss SIC's appeal and uphold the verdict of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on the matter.



The full court, led by CJP, heard the case. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has already submitted a written response to the apex court, stating that the SIC is no longer entitled to the reserved seats. It reiterated that the SIC's eligibility was compromised on several grounds.

He continued, "Just as the prime minister cannot vote, parliamentary parties are not bound to implement political party decisions."

"You're absolutely right," acknowledged Siddiqui as Mandokhail's statement drew laughter from the courtroom. The court raised a question regarding what would happen if a political party were to secure seats in several provinces but none in a particular province.

"The Balochistan Awami Party won seats in other provinces but none in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The Election Commission's lack of transparency is evident," Siddiqui accused.

"Do you want the Supreme Court to take judicial notice?" CJP Isa inquired. He continued, "If not, why mention it? If you want to file a case regarding the 2018 elections, do it!"

The SIC's counsel Advocate urged if the "Election Commission was behaving discriminatorily, the Supreme Court should examine it."

"Does this mean the 2018 Election Commission was correct?" the CJP further questioned. "The Greeks used

to say if they couldn't speak with evidence, they would punish the individual," Siddiqui likened.

"Is the Greek example a good argument? Is it constitutional?" CJP Isa probed.

"Not a good argument, but their [ECP's] hypocrisy is evident," Siddiqui countered. Justice Mandokhail queried the potential implications for those individuals who are associated with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) but later joined the Sunni Council (SIC).

"If an independent candidate declares affiliation, they can join it [SIC]," PTI's legal counsel Salman Akram Raja said.

The PTI's counsel explained that PTI-backed SIC candidates did have any other choice apart from joining SIC. He further noted that whatever precedent ECP set about independents before was their fault. The court has reserved the verdict and adjourned the hearing. The ECP on March 1 refused to allot these reserved seats to the SIC.

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on March 25 also upheld the ECP order, prompting the SIC to approach the apex court.—RT/Agency

PTI Plans To Challenge Notification Granting Phone Tapping Powers To ISI

ISLAMABAD: In response to the government's formally allowing the top intelligence agency to trace calls of citizens to counter threats to the "national security", the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday announced to challenge the government's move.



Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub said he would challenge the notification through his lawyer Babar Awan in the court, as it was unconstitutional and against the fundamental rights envisaged in the constitution.

The federal government has given its nod to the country's premier spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to intercept and trace calls and messages in the interest of national security.

It also states that the government will have preference and priority in the telecommunication system over any licensee for the defence or security of the country against any foreign aggression.

The said section of the Telecommunications Act allows the federal government to authorise any person or persons to intercept calls and messages or to trace calls through any telecommunication system in the interest of national security.

It also states that the government will have preference and priority in the telecommunication system over any licensee for the defence or security of the country against any foreign aggression.

"The federal government in the interest of national security and in the apprehension of any offence is pleased to authorise the officers [...] to be nominated from time to time by ISI to intercept calls and messages or to trace calls through any communication system," read the notification issued by the Ministry of Information on Monday.

Meanwhile, the opposition leader said those giving authority for call tracing would themselves fall victim to it. He also said those authorising the intelligence agency to trace calls would be put behind the bars.

"Asif Zardari, Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Maryam Nawaz will also go to the prison because of this law," Ayub said, adding that all of them would be seen pursuing their cases in courts.—RT/Agency

President Advocates Holistic Approach And Prudent Financial Policies For National Development

LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday called for adopting a holistic approach and prudent financial policies to put the country on path to development.



He said that different sectors of the economy, especially the agricultural sector, needed to be developed along modern lines. He added that the government was planning to tax agricultural income as per the International Monetary Fund's conditions, however, the provincial governments would be leading the initiative to tax large land-holding farmers in accordance with their profitability and expenditures.

The President highlighted that one had to face trials and tribulations in life, however, one needed to stay steadfast in the face of challenges. He paid rich tribute to the political struggle and sacrifices of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed for democracy, saying that Pakistan People's Party had a history of facing pressures and assassinations, however, continued its struggle for the cause of democracy in Pakistan. He said, "Assassination attempts and political pressures could not deter us from our mission as we firmly believe that life and death are in Allah Almighty's hand."

The President also paid rich tribute to the services and contributions of Late Professor Waris Mir towards democracy and journalism. He also appreciated Faisal Mir and Hamid Mir for taking forward the legacy of their father. Senior Journalist Hamid Mir, while speaking on the occasion, called for putting an end to the culture of political victimization and upholding the 1973 Constitution in its true spirit. Senior journalist Sohail Warraich paid tribute to the services of the late Professor Waris Mir for journalism and democracy. Appreciating the political wisdom and the reconciliatory role of the President, he said that the country was in dire need of political reconciliation and the Presidential role in addressing the political and economic issues faced by the country.—RT/Agency

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PM Calls For International Recognition Of Pakistan's Burden With Afghan Refugees



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has asked the international community to recognise Pakistan's efforts in hosting Afghan refugees and demonstrate collective responsibility as the country itself battles with major economic issues.

The PM's remarks came on Tuesday during a meeting with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi, who is in Pakistan from July 7-9.

During the meeting, PM Shehbaz reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to address the protection and safety needs of people in vulnerable situations. He also underscored that the international community needed to be mindful of the socio-economic challenges and security threats being faced by Pakistan in this regard.

PM Outlines Digitization And SOE Privatization As Government Priorities For Economic Revival

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the government was taking effective measures for economic revival by carrying out the digitisation of the economy including the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and privatisation of the State Owned Enterprises (SOEs).



The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation led by British Educationist and former Head of British Prime Minister's Delivery Unit Sir Michael Bayldon Barber, said the decades-old ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom were getting stronger with the passage of time.

He said that Pakistan greatly values its relations with the UK as being a valued partner. The UK was assisting Pakistan in multiple sectors for which the government was grateful to them.

The prime minister reiterated the resolve to further strengthen the bilateral relation. He told the delegation that the government was

pursuing a policy of downsizing and abolishing the low-performing entities to reduce its expenditures.

The prime minister said that the government was taking measures to boost exports and tax base as the country had immense potential for exports related to information technology and agriculture.

During the briefing, the delegation members were told that a task management system had been established to examine the performance of the federal ministries. Sir Michael Barber appreciated the government's economic revival plan and said that it was moving in the right direction in its endeavours for economic reforms. The delegation head expressed the hope that under the prime minister's leadership, Pakistan would soon get rid of economic challenges and assured the UK's cooperation in all sectors.

Three Soldiers Martyred In South Waziristan Gunfight With Terrorists

RAWALPINDI: Three Pakistan Army soldiers embraced martyrdom in an exchange of fire with terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) South Waziristan district on Tuesday, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.



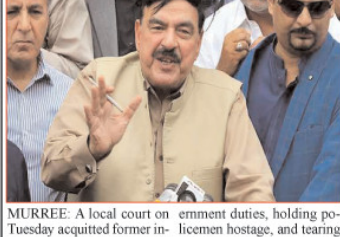
According to military's media wing, an exchange of fire took place between security forces and terrorists in South Waziristan district.

During the fierce engagement, the ISPR said, three soldiers — Sepoy Asadullah, Sepoy Muhammad Sufyan and Zain Ali — embraced martyrdom.

"Sanitisation operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area," it said, noting that security forces were determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Earlier in the day, ISPR reported that a Pakistan Army captain was martyred while two terrorists were killed in a gun fight in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) North Waziristan district.

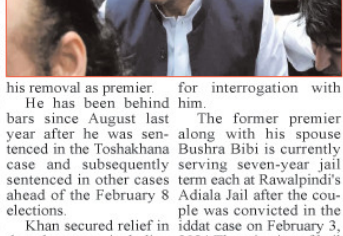
Sheikh Rashid Acquitted In Government Interference Case



MURREE: A local court on Tuesday acquitted former interior minister Sheikh Rashid in interference in government affairs case.

Imran's Bail Pleas Rejected In May 9 Cases Despite Hopes For Early Release

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Wednesday rejected interim bail pleas of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in three cases related to May 9 violent protests.



Judge Khalid Arshad of Lahore's ATC announced the verdict today that he reserved three days ago after hearing Khan's interim bail pleas in the May 9 riots cases — the Jinnah House, Askari Tower and Shadman Police Station vandalism cases.

He has been behind bars since August last year after he was sentenced in the Toshakhana case and subsequently sentenced in other cases ahead of the February 8 elections.

The alleged PTI supporters attacked several state building including military installations, prompting the civil and military authorities to try the rioters under Army Act.

Khan secured relief in the other cases, including £190 million reference and Toshakhana, and was acquitted in the cipher case last month. However, he remains behind bars due to his conviction in the iddat (un-Islamic nikah) case only.