

# The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



Kris Jenner reveals her wedding plans with boyfriend Corey Gamble

## Heartland

MPA Ghulam Qadir Chandio leads Population Welfare Dept's awareness rally



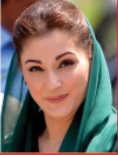
## Money

Zafar Moti is Happy! PSE 100-index up by 150.80 points to close at 79,992.35



## NATIONAL

Punjab government distributes e-bikes to students



## SPORTS

PCB chalks out new formula for selection committee formation



Sindh Cabinet Designates Karoonjhar As A Cultural Heritage Site, Approves Khasar For Granite Mining

## Supreme Court To Announce Verdict On PTI-SIC Reserved Seats Today

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court will announce its much-awaited verdict tomorrow (Friday) on a case related to the denial of reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed Sunni Itehad Council (SIC), according to a cause list issued on Thursday.

The development came after the apex court's full bench held its second round of consultation on the reserved seats case verdict for the second consecutive day on Thursday.

A special session of the country's top court's 13-member full bench was held under the chair of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, the sources said, adding all the judges of the bench attended the session.

The cause list issued on the SC website following the meeting said a full bench led by CJP Isa will announce the short ruling at 12pm on Friday (July 12) on the SIC plea challenging the Peshawar High Court (PHC) decision upholding the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) move to deny the PTI-backed lawmakers reserved seats in the assemblies.

The apex court reserved the verdict on the SIC's appeals on Tuesday after conducting nine hearings on the SIC's appeals with all parties including the federal government and the ECP presented their arguments against the



SIC's plea.

The full bench also comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Ali Shah, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

What is reserved seats case? The reserved seats' issue first emerged after over 80 PTI-backed independent candidates emerged victorious in the February 8 elections and subsequently joined the SIC in a bid to claim seats reserved for minorities and women.

However, the Imran Khan-founded party suffered a setback after the ECP, citing the party's failure to submit its list of candidates, denied allocating the reserved seats to the SIC.

The party then ap-

proached the PHC which upheld the electoral body's decision on the matter.

Subsequently, the SIC moved the apex court seeking to set aside the PHC verdict and the allocation of 67 women and 11 minority seats in the assemblies.

The allocation of reserved seats holds significance as the PTI-backed independent candidates, who make up the majority of the opposition benches, lost as many as 77 reserved seats in NA and provincial assemblies due to the PHC's verdict. It is also to be noted that the PHC verdict allowing the allocation of reserved seats to the ruling coalition comprising the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and others, led to them securing a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly.

The move propelled the PML-N's number in the lower house of parliament to 123, the PPP to 73, whereas the PTI-backed SIC number stood at 82.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan And Azerbaijan Pledge To Increase Investments To \$2 Billion

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan decided to increase their bilateral investment level to up to US\$2 billion in the sectors which will be benefiting both countries, media reported.

Addressing a joint presser with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif said that they discussed an initial figure of US\$2 billion of investment in areas of mutual beneficial projects.

Both leaders also witnessed the signing of agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in diverse areas between the two countries. The prime minister hoped that upon his November 2024 visit to Azerbaijan, the two countries would be prepared to sign agreements valued at US\$2 billion initially, given the considerable potential for both parties to increase this amount in the years to come.

"In today's in-depth conversation, we have agreed to



enhance our bilateral trade besides discussing areas of cooperation and joint investments," PM Shehbaz added.

He said that bilateral investment volume of less than US\$100 million does not reflect the strength of brotherhood and friendship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in the field of joint investment.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction with the bilateral meeting and said that both parties reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to moving forward and reaching higher levels of success in the areas of trade and investment. The discussions were based on mutual

trust and confidence, he added.

PM Shehbaz said that Pakistan consistently backed Azerbaijan's position, just as the friendly nation has consistently championed the cause of millions of Kashmiris who have given enormous sacrifices for over 70 years in order to attain their right to self-determination in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

The prime minister also recalled the President Aliyev's visit in 2017 during the tenure of then PM Nawaz Sharif, saying that history was repeating as Nawaz Sharif's younger brother was now receiving

him along with people of Pakistan.

PM Shehbaz hoped that the COP29 to be hosted by Azerbaijan in Baku would be a significant international event for all developing countries including Pakistan. "We are confident that under our wise stewardship, COP29 will deliver on the climate change related issues of developing countries like Pakistan."

He said the government was impressed by the beautification of Baku therefore it decided to copy Baku.

Speaking on the occasion, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev said the brotherhood between the two countries was based on deep feelings between peoples of the two sides. "This connection is a big asset, we are brothers, we are friends, and we support each other on every international issue," he added. The president said that Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's stance on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. "It is our commitment

to our brotherhood and also our respect to international law, the rights of Kashmiris are ignored and violated for decades."

He said the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions clearly indicated how this issue must be resolved but the resolutions had no mechanism of implementation. "But we as brothers and friends will always stand side by side with you, with our brothers in Kashmir, with International law, with justice and I am sure justice will prevail," he added. President Aliyev said the two sides are analysing the projects for the initial investment of US\$2 billion. "During our today's conversation, we reviewed several projects in the areas of energy, connectivity, infrastructure, and defence industry. We will build strong partnerships not only on the political level that we already had but on economic and trade investment levels as well," the president stated.—RT/Agency

## ATC: 'Reasonable Grounds Exist' To Link Imran Khan To May 9 Offences

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court in Lahore has issued a written verdict on dismissing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's bail in cases related to May 9, 2023, riots.

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad issued a four-page written verdict on Thursday after his court rejected interim bail pleas of the former prime minister in three cases related to the May 9 violence protests two days ago.

The May 9 mayhem referred to the riots that broke out in many parts of the country last year following the ex-PM's arrest in a corruption case.

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



The verdict stated that two witnesses produced by the prosecution told the court in their testimonies that a meeting was held at Khan's Zaman Park residence in Lahore on May 7, 2023, which they also attended along with 15 senior leaders of the former ruling party.

In the meeting, the petitioner [Imran Khan] expressed fears about his arrest in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on May 9, the verdict

read, adding that the politico also ordered the PTI leaders to gather the party workers under the leadership of Dr Yasin Rashid in case of his arrest. The party leaders, in the same meeting, was instructed by the petitioner to "attack military installations, government properties and the police officials to create pressure on the government and armed institutions for his release", the verdict read.—RT/Agency



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Energy Awaiz Leghari on Thursday said that the issue of the IPPs has been under consideration.

Talking to media, Awaiz Leghari said that the issue of the independent power producers (IPPs) being seen from various angles. "We are seeing, how much time of an IPP is remaining," he said.

"We also seeing, how much benefit or loss given by an IPP and what mechanism required to remove an expensive power producer and what price we have to pay for

it," energy minister said. "Can we bear the price of removing the IPPs," he questioned.

Pakistan's energy minister said that "We will reach to a decision soon under the instructions of the prime minister," he said.

He said the power tariff for all consumers will go down after January.

"I could not issue statements like Sheikh Rashid," the minister replied when a media person asked about the future of the IPPs.—RT/Agency

## Pakistan Agrees To Implement Tax On Agricultural Income On IMF's dictates



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has 'agreed' to the imposition of tax on agriculture income during talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), ARY News reported on Thursday, citing sources.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials held virtual negotiations with the provincial officials of Pakistan for the new loan programme.

Sources said the IMF officials urged the provincial authorities to slap tax on agricultural income, which the provinces of Pakistan reportedly agreed upon. The provincial governments of all four provinces of Pakistan sought time to submit a plan for imposing tax on agricul-

tural income. The plan would be submitted to the IMF by July 12. The sources further said that the tax on agriculture income will be slapped from yearly income of Rs600,000. Subject to signing of the new agreement, the sources said that the global lender has set the October 2024 deadline to amend the existing provincial laws to bring them at par with the federal income tax law. The IMF has also asked for rescinding any income tax exemption for the livestock sector by October this year. It is to be noted that finance ministry officials anticipate that an agreement for the new loan program will be finalized in July.—RT/Agency

-Can you believe this?

## Rana Sanaullah Quips: 'Avoid Conversations That Make You Fear Call Tapping'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah has remarked that people shouldn't engage in such controversial conversations in the first place that they have to fear their calls being tapped.

"If somebody is worried over their conversations being 'heard', then they should not engage in such verbal exchanges to begin with," Sanaullah said while speaking on Geo News' programme "Capital Talk" on Wednesday.

The senior politician's remarks come as the PM Shehbaz Sharif-led government has authorised 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 approved the relevant circular allowing a designated officer, not below grade 18, of the ISI to carry out the tracing of calls under Section 54 of the Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act 1996.

The move reflects the government's stance in favour of stricter social media regulations and comes against the backdrop of prevailing ban on X.

The decision, however, has been received with notable scepticism by the Pak-



istan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as well as the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP).

Expressing his views on the same programme, PTI leader Salman Akram Raja said that the state has no right to pry into someone's house and that no one would be safe if conversations are to be "heard" on the basis of mere suspicion.

His remarks came as a day earlier, Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub announced that 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.

"Asif Zardari, Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Maryam Nawaz will also go to prison because of this law," Ayub said, adding that all of them would be seen

pursuing their cases in courts.

Whereas, the HRCP has expressed concern over the "unconstitutional notification" of the government and has stressed that owing to the government and spy agencies' poor track record, the measure would invariably be used to clamp down on political dissent through means of blackmail, harassment and intimidation.

Slamming the "flagrant violation of citizens' constitutional protected rights to liberty, dignity and privacy under Articles 9, 14 and 1," the watchdog has called on Islamabad to urgently introduce "watertight" checks and balances to all surveillance practices. Meanwhile, the government's notification empowering the ISI to tap and intercept phone calls has been challenged in the Lahore High Court, The News reported on Thursday.—RT/Agency

## IHC CJ Aamer Farooq: Verdicts Pronounced In Anger Lead To Travesty Of Justice

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Islamabad High Court, Justice Aamer Farooq said on Thursday that decisions announced by judges out of anger did not meet the standards of justice.

The IHC CJ was speaking at a ceremony organised by the Islamabad High Court Bar Association.

Expressing concerns over young lawyers' lack of learning, the IHC CJ said that in the past, a new entrant in the field of law used to spend around six months in the chamber of a senior lawyer where he was groomed to meet grinding demands of legal practice.

He conceded that he also flew off the handles at times for grooming people, insisting that people didn't usually understand if



treated too politely.

Justice Farooq deplored that idea of chamber institution was fast fading as lawyers spent more time in gossiping instead of learning, which he said was the nursery for producing the best legal minds. He said that our predecessors kept the chamber alive while it had been kept defunct for the last ten years. "I was

part of the chamber run by Mian Nisar, the father of former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar and ex-CJP Justice. I learnt a lot from them," he added. Lawyers should come to the court fully prepared with proper notes before starting their arguments, adding that ethics to work in the courts must be learnt by the newbies of law.—RT/Agency

## JI Reschedules Sit-In Protest Against High Power Bills

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman postponed the planned sit-in against the government due to Ashura.

Earlier, JI had announced to hold sit-in in Islamabad against the exorbitant electricity bills on July 12 (tomorrow).

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, JI emir said that they will now hold sit-in on July 26 instead of July 12. "We have a track record of holding sit-ins in the country. We have only rescheduled our plan in respect of Ashura," said Hafiz Naeem.



He added that rallies will reach Islamabad on July 26 from all parts of the country. The JI emir was of the view that the government has failed to provide relief to the masses. Hafiz Naeem announced that he will visit

all the major cities of the country to hold meetings with the traders and lawyers. "If the government wants us to cancel our sit-in then it should provide relief to the people," said JI emir.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum are protesting for the acceptance of their demands, outside Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority's building.-RT

## MPA Ghulam Qadir Chandio leads Population Welfare Dept's awareness rally

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: The Population Welfare Department Shaheed Benazirabad organized an awareness rally titled "Ensuring Equal Rights through Foundation of Complete Information" from Sheeraz Chowk to Nawabshah Press Club under the leadership of Sindh Assembly member Ghulam Qadir Chandio. Following this, an awareness seminar was held at the DC Office. Speaking at the seminar, special guests including Sindh Assembly member Ghulam Qadir Chandio, Mayor Qazi Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti, Additional Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Nawab Sameer Laghari, District Health Officer Dr. Asadullah Dahri, District Population Welfare Officer Riaz Ahmed Shar, MS PMCH Dr. Yar Ali Jamali, and other officials high-



lighted that Pakistan, like other countries around the world, is celebrating World Population Day. The aim is to ensure essential facilities such as health, education, and nutrition for children born worldwide, emphasizing the importance of family planning to enhance child upbringing and provide additional opportunities. They emphasized collaborative efforts between the Sindh government, international and local social organizations to implement family planning initiatives and address nutritional deficiencies among women and children through various programs. They praised the efforts of field workers as real heroes contributing to achieving Family Planning 2030 and SDG 2030 objectives. The seminar was attended by Additional District Health Officer Dr. Riaz Shah, Additional Director Social Welfare Muhammad Sabir Qureshi, Javed Malah, as well as representatives from national programs, Lady Health Workers, Population, Health, Welfare Societies, and social organizations beyond health.

## Chairman Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli chairs budget session of District Council Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The budget meeting for the fiscal year 2024-2025 of the District Council Umerkot was held under the chairmanship of Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli. During the meeting, the budget of 994.9 million rupees for the year 2024-2025 was presented. Vice Chairman of the District Council Umerkot, Mian Khalid Walhari, shared the budget figures, stating that the budget is both a savings and public budget. The total income for the year is estimated at 337.275 million rupees, while the total expenditures are 994.930 million rupees. Salaries for employees account for 170.169 million rupees, new development schemes are allocated 263.7 million rupees, and ongoing development schemes have been allocated 463.360 million rupees. The overall savings for the year amount to 5,863 rupees. Additionally, the budget includes 300,000 rupees for grants to various press clubs in the district, 10 million rupees for financial assistance to needy students, and 1 million rupees for employee financial aid. Chairman Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli mentioned that 5 million rupees have been allocated for dealing with any natural disasters, 200,000 rupees for celebrating national days, and 500,000 rupees for malaria spraying. He stated that the budget for development schemes has been issued to all members of the District Council Umerkot, and that work will be carried out on development projects in each union council, with tenders already issued for initiating these projects. The meeting was attended



by Vice Chairman of the District Council Umerkot, Mian Khalid Walhari, Chief Municipal Officer Intiaz Ali Halipoto, Accountant Officer Altaf Qaimkhani, all district council members, officials from various district departments including DHO Umerkot Dr. Nand Lal, Principal of Degree College Umerkot Professor Abdul Rauf Soomro, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Ghulam Murtaza Gohar, Deputy Director of Livestock Dr. Ganesh Khan Mari, emerged from the Central Imambargah Waddi Pirr. This procession passed through various Imambargahs and concluded at Juman Shah Dargah. For security, alongside the Payam Wilayat Scouts, police officers are performing their duties. Stringent security measures, including checks at the entry and exit points of the mourning processions, have been put in place. In case of any emergency, special units of the Rapid Response Force are also present in large numbers within the mourning processions. A major mourning assembly (Majlis-e-Aza) was held at the Central Imambargah Waddi Pirr, addressed by Allama Mubashir Mehdi. Similarly, Allama Wali Muhammad Chandio spoke at Azakhana Zahra, and Allama Hizbullah Haider delivered a speech at Imambargah Jagir Ali Akbar.



LARKANA: Political Secretary to the PPP Chairman, MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro is distributing juices among people at a Sabeel for the Holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.-RT

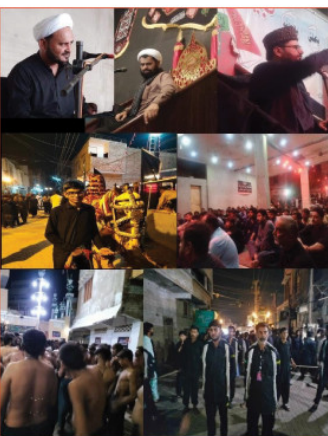
## Jinnah Law Association Pakistan, ILF hold a seminar on the rule of law



By Asif Niaz Detho

SHAHDADPUR: In Shahdadpur, a conference on the rule of law was organized by the Jinnah Law Association Pakistan team in collaboration with the Insaf Lawyers' Forum and sponsored by the Ali Bin Abi Talib Foundation. The conference was attended by Adeel Nawaz, Chairman of the Jinnah Law Association, and Advocate Farid Khan, President of the Shahdadpur team. Special guests included Chaudhry Naveed Anjum, Advocate Shakir Nawaz Shar, and Advocate Tariq Mahmood Arain. During the conference, Chairman Adeel Nawaz and others emphasized the importance of working towards the rule of law in Pakistan, highlighting that public awareness of the Constitution is crucial for this purpose. Advocates Shakir Nawaz Shar and Tariq Mahmood Arain praised the efforts of the Jinnah Law Association and pledged their support. The program concluded with the distribution of shields as tokens of appreciation to the esteemed guests and speakers.

## Majlis-e-Aza held at Central Imambargah Tando Adam



By Dildar Samo

TANDO ADAM: Like the rest of the world, Tando Adam is also commemorating the eternal sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions in Karbala. As every year, daily mourning processions are being taken out from Tando Adam. One of the major processions, led by Raees Habib Khan Mari and Raees Babal Khan Mari, emerged from the Central Imambargah Waddi Pirr. This procession passed through various Imambargahs and concluded at Juman Shah Dargah. For security, alongside the Payam Wilayat Scouts, police officers are performing their duties. Stringent security measures, including checks at the entry and exit points of the mourning processions, have been put in place. In case of any emergency, special units of the Rapid Response Force are also present in large numbers within the mourning processions. A major mourning assembly (Majlis-e-Aza) was held at the Central Imambargah Waddi Pirr, addressed by Allama Mubashir Mehdi. Similarly, Allama Wali Muhammad Chandio spoke at Azakhana Zahra, and Allama Hizbullah Haider delivered a speech at Imambargah Jagir Ali Akbar.

## DHQ Hospital Dadu lacks basic facilities

By Javed Laghari

DADU: The building of DHQ Hospital Dadu, which was inaugurated by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2012, has been stalled. Despite efforts by Education Minister Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq, the people of Dadu District have been denied modern health facilities. The control of the DHQ Hospital was handed over to the LUMHS Jamshoro but the hospital has still proved fruitless for the people due to lack of facilities. The hospital lacks essential services such as electricity which has adversely affected the medical treatment of patients and has put a strain on the hospital's operations. There are 12 wards at the hospital which are lying closed. Dr. Amjad Ali Mazdot, MS of the hospital favored the decision of handing over hospital to the LUMHS and condemned the SEPCO authorities for not supplying power to the hospital.



LARKANA: SSP Larkana, Mir Rohal Khan Khoso along with a Colonel of the Pakistan Rangers is reviewing the security arrangements for the Holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram at a local Imambargah.-RT

## SSP Shahzeb Chachar orders for foolproof security in Shikarpur

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: SSP Shikarpur Shahzeb Chachar has issued strict orders to the police to maintain law and order and uphold the rule of law during Muharram in the district. During Muharram, security arrangements for mourning processions and gatherings in the city and throughout the district have been made extremely stringent. A total of 3,124 officers and personnel from the Shikarpur police have been deployed for security during Muharram. According to SSP Shikarpur Shahzeb Chachar, there will be 231 processions and 1,019 gatherings held during Muharram. Among the gatherings, 19 are general, 107 are highly sensitive, and 110 are sensitive processions. Major processions will include those from Imambargah Karbala Maula Lakhidar, Imambargah Dargah Jhangal Shah, Panj Pir Hathidar, Imambargah Shah Najaf Hyderi Muhalla and Imambargah Javadia Lakh Ghulam Shah. Additionally, 200 Rangers personnel and 200



soldiers from the Pakistan Army will also perform their duties during Muharram. For the inspection of women, 231 voluntary lady health workers and 14 lady police officers have been appointed. The deployment of commandos aims to ensure the protection of people's lives and property and to provide a swift response to any terrorist threats. All DSPs and SHO's will increase mobile and motorcycle patrolling and will periodically review the security arrangements made by the police. Commandos will also be stationed on high-rise buildings during gatherings and processions to perform their duties. Snap checking at entry and exit points of the city has been intensified, and suspicious individuals will be closely monitored. All traffic police personnel will maintain the flow of traffic in the city to prevent any inconvenience to the citizens. A control room has been established at the police headquarters during Muharram. CCTV cameras have been installed in Shikarpur city and other important locations, and drone cameras will be used to monitor the processions.

## District and Sessions Judge Ameer Ali Mahesar visits Darul Aman Sukkur

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: The District and Sessions Judge Sukkur, Ameer Ali Mahesar, visited Darul Aman Sukkur, accompanied by Additional Sessions Judge Sukkur, Rajib Ali Shar and Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Dr. MB Raja Dharejo. Assistant Commissioner Sukkur City, Sobia Falak Rao, was also present. Judge Ameer Ali Mahesar toured various sections of Darul Aman, meeting with the women residing there, and gathered information about the amenities provided to them. He emphasized the importance of cleanliness, health care, and clean drinking water, directing the In-Charge of Darul Aman, Shama Parveen, to prioritize these amenities. At the Darul Aman clinic, he inquired from the lady doctor about the medical care provided and instructed her to send a letter to the District Health Officer and Medical Superintendent



Civil Hospital to supply essential medicines and medical supplies. He added that the concerned department Secretary should also be informed to resolve the issues of the shelter home. Mr. Mahesar ordered the provision of new water coolers, fans, solar panels, additional CCTV cameras, and other necessities, urging the district administration to cooperate. On this occasion, the In-Charge of Darul Aman/Deputy Director Aman/Deputy Director Shama Parveen, briefed that the women and children residing in Darul Aman are facing severe difficulties due to intense heat and power outages. The Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Dr. MB Raja Dharejo, assured that solar panels and fans would be provided for five to ten rooms in the initial phase to provide immediate relief to the women and children from the severe heat. Dharejo suggested the In-Charge of Darul Aman form a management committee to address all issues of Darul Aman and ensure timely communication to resolve the problems with the cooperation of the district administration.

## World Population Day observed in Jamshoro

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: On July 11, 2024, as part of the World Population Day, a successful Population Welfare campaign was conducted in Jamshoro district, engaging various officials, social organizations, NGOs, Family Welfare Centers, social mobilizers, and community members. The event included a seminar highlighting health and population welfare issues, organized by Deputy District Population Welfare Officer Dr. Mahwish Mazhar. Deputy District Officer Abdul Ghafar Sherani, District Accounts Officer Jawaid Ahmed Abro and others. The seminar aimed to raise awareness among the public about the



importance of population control and improving the quality of life through effective population welfare policies. The challenges of urbanization, growing population, and the resultant strain on resources like food, employment, health, education, and transportation were discussed. Efforts were also made to highlight the role of youth, journalists, students, and social workers in promoting responsible behavior towards population control for the country's development and stability. Certificates were distributed to employees of various sectors for their outstanding performance in population welfare in Jamshoro district.

# METRO KARACHI



## Sindh Minister Dost Muhammad Rahimoon visits Ibrahim Hyderi

By Ashraf Kunbhar

KARACHI: The Provincial Minister for Environment, Climate Change, and Coastal Development, Dost Muhammad Rahimoon, visited Ibrahim Hyderi and other areas. During this visit, the Provincial Minister, accompanied by Member Provincial Assembly Mahmood Alam Jamote, Chairman Town Committee Ibrahim Hyderi Nazir Bhutto, and other officials, reviewed various development projects. The Provincial Minister also met with the dignitaries of Ibrahim Hyderi and assured them, after listening to their issues, that the provincial government is paying special attention to development



projects in Karachi city. He stated that special attention is being given to the development of coastal areas to improve the lives of the people there. Dost Muhammad Rahimoon emphasized that the government's effort is to provide the best infrastructure in urban areas and to effectively address the impacts of climate change along with protecting the environment in coastal areas.

## Tessori announces tree plantation drive from August

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has announced the launch of a tree plantation drive across the province starting from August 1st under the Governor Initiative.

Emphasizing the urgent need for more trees in the context of climate change, he made this announcement during a meeting with a six-member delegation from the Faizan Global Relief Foundation, led by its CEO Haji Abdul Habib Attari. Mr Tessori highlighted that the Faizan Global Relief Foundation would play an active role in the tree plantation campaign under the Governor Initiative. The meeting included discussions on public welfare initiatives, Dawat-e-Islami's religious teachings, and various charitable activities, including the tree plantation drive. The governor praised Dawat-e-Islami's contributions to both religious education and welfare activities, noting the commendable efforts in aiding the poor and needy, especially in training the youth. The delegation lauded the governor's welfare projects as milestones for society. Haji Abdul Habib Attari informed the Governor Sindh that they had planted three million trees so far and expressed the desire to commence Independence Day celebrations with that tree plantation campaign.—RT/Agency

## Punjab government distributes e-bikes to students

LAHORE: The Punjab government has formally initiated the process of distribution of e-bikes to students. "I want the Punjab to go towards e-transport. The Punjab government will pay half of the down payment in the e-bike scheme," Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said while addressing a ceremony on Thursday. She said the second phase would start soon. "It is the responsibility of the government to provide education to the poor and students," she said, adding that charging points for e-bike



will also be set up. The CM said her government was bringing more schemes for the youth. Read also: LHC orders Punjab government to submit report on bikes scheme. She urged the students to ride the motorbikes slow while wearing helmets.—RT/Agency

## Haji Tariq Aziz Baloch chairs budget session of Gadap Town

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Chairman Town Municipal Corporation Gadap, Haji Tariq Aziz Baloch, has presented a budget of Rs 3,148,871,161 for the fiscal year 2024-2025. Alongside him, Vice Chairman Jam Muhammad Johkio and Municipal Commissioner Ahmed Yar are also present. The Financial Committee Chairman, Muhammad Rafique Johkio briefed the council members about the budget details. The estimated revenue from own sources is Rs 2,741,201,020. The total estimated income amounts to Rs 3,148,871,161. The total non-development expenditures including salaries amount to Rs 1,651,830,451 and other miscellaneous expenses for maintenance total



Rs 251,692,000. Chairman Haji Tariq Aziz Baloch emphasized that this is the town's second budget, aimed at providing the best facilities to the citizens, including improved street lights, sanitation, sports facilities, parks, and other development projects. He reiterated the commitment to fulfill the basic municipal needs of the people as per the manifesto of the Pakistan People's Party and to enhance the quality of life. The budget has been prepared in consultation with council members and senior officials to ensure it is people-oriented.

## -This is sheer madness! NEPRA approves massive hike in power tariff

KARACHI: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved the government's request to increase the basic electricity tariff by up to Rs 7.12 per unit, media reported on Thursday.

This tariff hike will apply uniformly across the country, including Karachi, while the Households and consumers with up to 200 units monthly are exempted from the hike for three months.

As per the notification, the domestic consumers will see a new tariff structure with the consumers between 201 and 300 units per month, the tariff will increase by Rs 7.12 to Rs 34.26 per unit. Those consuming units between 301 and 400 will experience an Rs 7.02 increase, bringing rate to Rs 39.15 per unit. Consumers using between 401 and 500 units will see their rates go up by Rs 6.12 to Rs 41.36 per unit. The tariff for those consuming between 501 and 600 units will rise by Rs 6.12 to Rs 42.78 per unit, and for those using between 601 and 700 units, the rate will increase by Rs 6.12 to Rs 43.92 per unit. Additionally, the consumers exceeding 700 units per month, the tariff will increase by Rs 6.12 to Rs 48.84 per unit. Meanwhile, the lifeline consumers, who use up to 50 units per month, will continue to pay Rs 3.95 per unit. Those consuming between 51 and 100 units will maintain a rate of Rs 7.74 per unit. NEPRA has sent the notification for this tariff increase to the federal government, which is expected to issue an official notification soon. The tariff hike will apply uniformly across the country, ensuring a standardized rate for all regions, including Karachi.

## Lahore High Court's first woman CJ Aalia Neelum sworn in

LAHORE: Justice Aalia Neelum shattered the glass ceiling, becoming the first woman chief justice in the 142-year history of the Lahore High Court. Punjab Governor Saleem Haider Khan administered the oath to the new chief justice at the Governor House, with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in attendance. Headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan had unanimously greenlighted her elevation after considering the nomination of three judges for the position of LHC chief justice.



Justice She will now be serving as the 47th chief justice of the Lahore High Court since 1920 and 54th overall since March 21, 1882, when this judicial institution was called the Chief Court of Lahore.—RT/Agency

## SOUTHERN PUNJAB

### RPO Faisalabad Dr Abid Khan reviews Muharram arrangements in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Regional Police Officer Faisalabad, Dr Abid Khan along with Commissioner Faisalabad Salwat Saeed, visited Toba Tek Singh. On this occasion, DPO Toba Ibadat Nisar and Deputy Commissioner Toba Muhammad Naem Sindhu welcomed them at the central Inambargh on Jhang Road, Toba. RPO Faisalabad Dr. Abid Khan and Commissioner Faisalabad Salwat Saeed inspected the control room and the route of the central procession prepared in connection with Muharram ul Haram, accompanied by

DPO Ibadat Nisar and DC Toba Muhammad Naem Sindhu at TMA Hall, Toba. During their visit to the Muharram ul Haram control room established in TMA Hall, DPO Ibadat Nisar briefed RPO Dr. Abid Khan and Commissioner Saeed on security arrangements, procession routes, and other important issues related to the Haram. DPO Toba Tek Singh briefed RPO Faisalabad and Commissioner Faisalabad while stating that full-proof security arrangements have been made by the district police for the processions and gatherings in Muharram ul Haram. Furthermore, committee members will be present at the processions and gatherings to immediately resolve any possible issues, while continuous monitoring is also being conducted on social media to address any issues. Later, Regional Police Officer and Commissioner Faisalabad held a special meeting at DPO Office Toba Tek Singh, attended by DPO Toba and Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh. During the meeting, discussions were held regarding the establishment of peace and security throughout the district on the occasion of Muharram ul Haram, and important matters were exchanged.

### FIA Raids MCB Bank in Karachi for Illegal Currency Trading

KARACHI: A source informed authorities about illegal foreign currency trading at MCB Bank's West Wharf branch in Karachi. Enquiry No. 45/24 was registered at the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) State Bank Circle (SBC) in Karachi.

Subsequently, a raiding party from FIA SBC was formed and proceeded to the branch, where they recovered \$10,000 and apprehended Branch Manager Shujaudin S/O Qamarudin along with two other suspects (one dealer and one rider). Initial interrogations revealed that Shujaudin had been involved in the illegal sale and purchase of foreign currency for a long time, operating with a main dealer named Hussain S/O Abdul Gaffar. Further investigations are currently underway.—RT

## Bin Qasim Police recover two abducted girls

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In the jurisdiction of the Bin Qasim Police Station, from the area of Rafiqi Qad Colony, two innocent sisters, 7-year-old Shabana Khuhawar and 4-year-old Sanam Khuhawar, were abducted. Following a complaint from the grandmother of the abducted girls, Amiran, the Steel Town Police took prompt action under the supervision of DSP Bin Qasim, Naem Bhatti and SHO Aga Abdul Rasheed. The police successfully re-



covered the abducted girls near link road and apprehended the female abductor, Faiza, and the rickshaw driver. According to SHO Aga Abdul Rasheed of Steel Town, upon interrogation, the female abductor confessed to drugging and then abducting the mentioned girls. Both abducted girls have been transferred to the hospital for medical treatment. Meanwhile, based on the complaint of the grandmother of the abducted girls, a case has been registered against the abductors at Bin Qasim Police Station.

## -Can you believe this? Poultry, egg prices to be hiked

KARACHI: The inflation hit citizens of Karachi is like to slap with another burden as the price of chicken meat and eggs per dozen is expected to increase in the next few days, media reported on Thursday.

The price of chicken meat is expected to increase by Rs 100 to Rs 150 per kg, while the price of eggs is likely to increase by Rs 50 to Rs 70 per dozen.

It is pertinent to mention here that the price of chicken meat is Rs 480 per kg while eggs are being sold at Rs 240 per dozen in Karachi.

Last month, the Senate Standing Committee on Finance supported the decision to cease tax exemptions on chicken feed. In the standing committee meeting, FBR officials stated that a 10 percent tax exemption on chicken feed is being abolished. The officials said that 10 percent sales tax will be imposed on livestock feed, including cows and buffaloes, which will generate Rs 47 billion in terms of sales tax.—RT/Agency

## Labor organizations not happy with Sindh Labor Code

KARACHI: The leaders of representative labor organizations today rejected the anti-worker draft of the "Sindh Labor Code" presented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Sindh Labor Department without consultation.

While rejecting the draft while addressing a joint press conference of workers' representatives in Karachi. They declared that any attempt to legalize it will be strongly resisted.

Nasir Mansoor, General Secretary National Trade Union Federation told the press conference that the code draft was a conspiracy to impose anti-labor laws on the workers of Sindh without the established tripartite consultation process. He further said that the Sindh Labor Code draft aimed to usurp the basic rights of workers, which they had achieved through over a century of struggle. It was a blatant violation of the core conventions of the ILO, where the identity of the worker and his relationship with the employer had been eliminated.

Mansoor said that the current labor laws grant the right to permanent employment to workers, but the "Sindh Labor Code" seeks to legalize the illegal contract labor system, thereby imposing a wage slavery system in workplaces and providing capitalists with a legal excuse to evade their responsibility.

the ILO conventions.

Naseem Rao, Senior Vice President Pakistan Workers Federation said that Instead of making the definition of workers modern, comprehensive, and better aligned with current needs, this code had made it more complicated, leaving workers entirely at the mercy of contractors, sub-contractors, or third-party recruiting agencies, which will reduce millions of workers to unrecognized wage slaves. Liaquat Ali Shah, General Secretary State Bank of Pakistan CBA Union said that the proposed "Sindh Labor Code" shamelessly redefined factory owners into different categories, exempting them from their legal responsibilities and informalizing the formal sector. As a result, in the event of any industrial dispute, workers will be deprived of all basic rights such as legal action, social security, pension, unionization, bonuses, working hours, and gratuity Hussain Badshah, General Secretary People Labour Bureau said that the Sindh Labor code also proposes to legalize the inhuman system of advance (PASHGI) payments, allowing owners to buy and sell workers, which will degrade the lives of workers in kilns and agricultural fields to worse than that of animals. The advance payment system was a modern form of slavery and a clear violation of

the ILO conventions. Farhat Parveen, Secretary Legal Affairs, All Pakistan Lady Health Program Workers Union said that the worst aspect of the code was that it attempted to strip many employees in government institutions from grades one to fifteen of their right to unionize and collective bargaining, violating ILO conventions 87 and 98. Furthermore, she said that "Sindh Labor Code" aimed to end worker solidarity by eliminating their identity and dividing them into several layers & categories. Zehra Khan General Secretary of Home Based Women Workers Federation (HBWWF) said that the code, imposed by the ILO and Sindh Labor Department, places restrictions on the right to strike, making it practically ineffective and nearly impossible, even though it is a fundamental right. She further said that the "Sindh Labor Code" significantly increases bureaucratic powers. Instead of simplifying the procedure for resolving industrial disputes, it makes it more complicated, time-consuming and impractical. Imran Ali, General Secretary Pakistan Federation of Chemical, Energy and Mines (PECM) said that the code severely undermines workers' basic right to health and safety and found ways to exempt owners from their responsibilities.—RT/Agency

## Naqvi appraises Bohra community's spiritual head about Muharram security measures

KARACHI: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said that the federal government was fulfilling all demands of the provinces during Muharram-ul-Haram. He was on a visit to Karachi to check security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram. Interior Minister visited Imam Bargah Shah Shaheedan and Burhani Palace. In Burhani Palace, he met the head of the Bohra community, Syedna Muffazzal Saiful Din. Minister Naqvi expressed best wishes for Syedna Muffazzal, saying that the government welcome him in Pakistan. Duo also thanked each other for taking time out for the meeting. During his visit to the Imam Bargah Shah Shaheedan, Naqvi met Allama Aqeel Gharrawi who was on a brief visit to Pakistan for Muharram-ul-Haram. The meeting was also accompanied by Former Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Maqbool Baqar.—RT/Agency

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# EDITORIAL

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

Friday, July 12, 2024



## Successful taxation requires representation and the nation's trust

The government's recent negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to impose a tax on agricultural income reflect a broader issue plaguing Pakistan: a growing trust deficit between the government and its citizens. This trust deficit must be addressed before implementing any new taxes, as it significantly contributes to tax evasion.

History teaches us that there can be no taxation without representation. Citizens must feel represented and trust that their taxes are being used effectively and transparently. However, the controversy surrounding Form 47 has only deepened the public's mistrust. Many feel unrepresented and doubt the government's commitment to fair and equitable tax collection. This skepticism is particu-

larly pronounced when new taxes are introduced, such as the proposed agricultural income tax.

The provincial governments' recent reassurances



to the IMF about implementing this tax are a step towards meeting the lender's demands. Yet, without addressing the underlying trust issues, these measures may fall short. The government's ambitious tax revenue target of Rs13 trillion, a significant increase from previous years, will likely place additional burdens on already taxed sectors, particularly salaried workers. This approach risks further alien-

ating the public if they do not see improvements in governance and accountability.

For meaningful progress, the government must prioritize rebuilding trust. This involves not only transparent and equitable tax policies but also genuine efforts to address the grievances highlighted by the Form 47 controversy. Ensuring that all sectors, including agriculture, are taxed fairly is crucial, but it must be accompanied by a commitment to good governance and representation.

Ultimately, bridging the trust gap is essential for the government's financial strategies to succeed. Only then can the nation move forward with a unified approach to taxation, ensuring that all citizens feel represented and confident in their government's actions.

# THE HEARTLAND



## District Council Mirpurkhas passes budget for fiscal year 2024-25

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: District Council Chairman Mir Anwar Ali Talpur chaired the annual budget session for the new fiscal year 25-2024 at District Council Hall Mirpurkhas, attended by Vice Chairman Mir Ahmed Khan Talpur, Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Dr. Rashid Masood Khan, Chief Officer Syed Imran Haider Shah, Council Officer Manzoor Ahmed, council members, and journalists. On this occasion, the estimated total cost for the fiscal year 24-2023 budget was 36 crore, 48 lac, 96 thousand, 400 rupees, but after review, it has been increased to 42 crore, 86 lac, 20 thousand. Similarly, additional revenue of 6 crore, 37 lac, 23 thousand, 600 rupees



has been generated due to increased taxation. Estimated expenditures were initially 55 crore, 3 lac, 64 thousand, 500 rupees, whereas after the review, expenditures are set at 19 crore, 24 lac, 34 thousand, 700 rupees. Under the revised budget, an allocation of 6 crore, 28 lac, 5 thousand rupees has been made for employee salaries, 10 crore, 88 lac, 7 thousand, 300 rupees for monthly pensions, commissions, and LPR, 92

## SSP Umerkot Asif Raza Baloch takes notice of illegal deductions taking place at BISP centers



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: SSP Umerkot, Asif Raza Baloch, has issued directives in response to complaints from deserving beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP).

SSP Asif Raza Baloch, has issued instructions on complaints from eligible beneficiaries and citizens receiving BISP assistance, ordering immediate arrests of

those involved in unauthorized deductions, including device holders, retailers, and shop owners, with cases filed against them. SSP Umerkot has directed all police officers to ensure that all eligible women receive assistance funds smoothly and without hindrance. Ensure full assistance without any deductions or commissions. Offenders should not be pardoned under any circumstances.

## Prince Mir Mehdi Raza condemns stealing of books from Faiz Imam Library

By Naeem Shaikh



KHAIRPUR: In 1993, Faiz Imam Library was established by Khairpur State in 1993 which was the gift of Talpur family to the people of Khairpur. The library housed a collection purchased by Sir Hans Master Ali Murad Khan Talpur from Hakim Muzafar in Hyderabad, consisting of 1500 manuscripts, which were presented to the library as a gift, including bindings adorned with gold and silver plates. Additionally, the library boasts the rare manuscripts of Sachal Sarmast and ancient Arabic and Persian literary works, mentioned in the book "Kutub Khana-e-Sindh" (Library of Sindh). However, the current director, Ghulam Sarwar Chohan, has alleged the theft of these ancient manuscripts, claiming they were taken back by the Talpur family. This was confirmed through contact with Prince Mir Mehdi Raza, who confirmed that the name of

the library was changed to Sachal Sarmast Library from Faiz Imam Library after it was gifted to the people of Khairpur. It is regrettable that in this area, political powers have posted their favorites in the library who stole the books on a large scale. Prince Mir Mehdi Raza expressed concern over the favoritism which has affected the performance of the every department. He also expressed concern over the misuse of funds and destruction of the historical places needs special attention so that people of Khairpur could be facilitated. It is worth mentioning that Advocate Syed Jaffar Ali Shah, Advocate Abdul Basit Langah and Advocate Muhammad Raza Soomro while talking to the media demanded of the Sindh Minister Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah to take action against the Director of the Sachal Sarast Library Ghulam Sarwar Chohan and ensure the recovery of stolen books.

## NWM woman demands protection for her daughter

By Yousef Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: In the jurisdiction of the Pabjo Police Station in the village of Nango Shah, Nawab Wali Muhammad, an underage girl, Mishal Otho, was forcibly married off by her father, Ameer Bux Otho, in exchange for money. Mishal and her mother, Zeenat, held a protest and press conference at Nawab Wali Muhammad Press Club, revealing this injustice to journalists. Zeenat stated that her husband, Ameer Bux Otho, is a greedy man who sold their 14-year-old daughter Mishal Otho to Wajid Ali Otho, son of Haji Garo Otho, for two and a half lac rupees. She further explained that



five days ago, they were forcibly and violently married off at gunpoint. The villagers and local leaders supported this act. Zeenat claimed that attempts have been made to kidnap Mishal with weapons, and they fear for their lives from the perpetrators. They appealed to human rights organizations, the IG Sindh, the DIG Shaheed Benazirabad, and the SSP Nawabshah to arrest the accused and deliver justice. Zeenat warned that if justice is not served, she would resort to self-immolation and set herself and her daughter

## Livestock Department launches vaccination campaign in Samaro



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: On the instructions of Dr. Ganesh Khatri, Deputy Director of the Livestock Department in Umerkot District, the veterinary doctors and staff in various villages of Samaro Taluka have been directed to swiftly address the spread of diseases among livestock. Given the monsoon rains, it is crucial to vaccinate the animals to protect them. Dr. Chetan Kumar Jasani explained that an emergency plan has been prepared to address the potential spread of various contagious diseases during the rains. Under this plan, mobile teams are visit-

ing villages to vaccinate animals. Dr. Jasani further mentioned that the campaign to vaccinate animals for free was initiated before the rains to ensure immediate vaccination and to protect animals from various contagious diseases. He noted that the vaccination process is ongoing daily in different villages, including Sheedi Muhalla, Tanki Muhalla and other areas. Although there are challenges due to a shortage of staff, efforts are being made to complete the vaccination in various areas of Samaro Taluka on time. He urged the villagers to cooperate with the vaccination teams.

## Federal Ombudsman's Regional Head Syed Mehmood Ali Shah listens to public complaints in Larkana

By Absar Ali



SUKKUR: On the special directives of Federal Ombudsman, Regional Head Federal Ombudsman Sukkur, Syed Mehmood Ali Shah heard complaints against SPECO and SSGC in Larkana. Revenue Officer SEPCO Larkana Sohail Ahmed Khuhawar and Deputy Manager SSGC Saeed Ahmed Korejo and other related officers and petitioners also appeared and presented their issues against SEPCO and SSGC including complaints of over-reading and deduction. Regional Head Syed

Mahmood Ali Shah received 10 applications/complaints. However, 24 complaints were received against SSGC, 23 were reviewed and decided and only one complaint was dated for the next hearing.

## Dars community demands justice for Haji Khuda Bux Dars

By Sajid Ali Janjaro

KETI BANDAR: The Dars community in Thatta district recently held a protest at the Social House Media Center in Keti Bunder, highlighting the unresolved murders of former Taluka Nazim Khairo and GDA leader Khuda Bux Dars, along with his bodyguard, Khalique Dino Dars. The two were tragically killed in an attack while visiting land in the Khai police station area of Taluka Khairo, Sanghar district. During the protest, community leaders Manzoor Ali Dars, Mehboob Dars, Mohammad Bux Khaskhali, and Maqsood Dars voiced



their demands for justice. They criticized the Sindh government and police for their failure to apprehend the identified perpetrators and expressed deep concern over the prevailing law enforcement and governance issues in the region. Their primary demand was for swift action from the authorities to arrest the murderers and their accomplices, emphasizing the need to restore peace and security in Sanghar district.

## ADC Nawab Sameer Laghari reviews Gojra Wah Beautification Project

By Farooq Junejo

President Chamber of Commerce Muhammad Azeem Mughal, Chairman Town Municipal Committee Muhammad Hayat Kakepoto and other committee members. Addressing the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Nawab Sameer Laghari stated that initiatives would be taken to further beautify the public park and walking track constructed over the Gojra Wah Canal on Sanghar project.

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: The Additional Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad/Chairperson Gojra Wah Beautification Committee, Nawab Sameer Laghari chaired a sub-committee meeting at his office. The meeting was attended by key members including XEN Education Works Ghulam Murtaa Abbasi,

# SPORTS



## Fifa celebrates Kylian Mbappe's 'blockbuster' entry with Pakistani song

Pakistani music is once again making waves in the football world as FIFA turned to the viral hit "Blockbuster" to celebrate France's football star Kylian Mbappe's entry onto the football field. With an old folk music ring to it, "Blockbuster" is a Punjabi song which was composed and written by Pakistani artists

Zulfikar Jabbar Khan also known as Xulfi, Umair Butt, Faris Shafi, and Shamroz Butt. Faris, who is also a famous Pakistani rapper, provided the vocals for the song along with Umair and an all-female group called Gharwi Group, consisting of Abida, Rooha Rawal, Sajida Bibi, and Saba Hassan.—RT/Agency

## Wanindu Hasaranga steps down as Sri Lanka T20I captain



Wanindu Hasaranga has resigned as Sri Lanka's T20I captain after roughly six months in the role. He did not specify a reason for this decision, but said in a statement put out by the board that his decision was in the best interest of Sri Lanka's cricket.

"Sri Lanka will always have my utmost best efforts as a player, and I will support and stand by my team and leadership as always," Hasaranga said in his resignation letter, according to the board.

Although Hasaranga's resignation comes on the heels of a poor World Cup in which Sri Lanka failed to qualify for the Super Eight, it is still something of a surprise. There was little public pressure on him to be ousted, partly because he was still so new in the role. He also appeared to be relishing the job, even prioritising Sri Lanka commitments over IPL appearances this year as he recovered from a foot injury.

Sri Lanka now has the 10 T20Is they played under

While there are no obvious candidates to replace him as captain of Sri Lanka in T20Is, Charith Asalanka's name will be discussed. He took the reins in the two matches Hasaranga had been suspended for, and also leads Jaffna Kings in the LPL this year.

Sri Lanka's next T20I assignment is the three-match series against India at the end of this month. Sri Lanka will enter that series with a new coach as well, with Sanath Jayasuriya taking over in an interim capacity after Chris Silverwood stepped down following the World Cup. Mahela Jayawardene, too, had quit as consultant coach last month.—Agency

## PCB chalks out new formula for selection committee formation



KARACHI: After making notable changes in the national side's management, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has chalked out a new formula for the constitution of the selection committee, sources told Geo News on Wednesday.

The selection committee, the sources claimed, will now include coaches for white-ball and red-ball formats as well as the captain of the relevant format along with ex-cricketers Mohamud Yousuf, and Asad Shafiq.

The PCB's move comes against the backdrop of the aftermath of Green Shirts' dismal performance and elimination from the T20 World Cup 2024 which has prompted Mohsin Naqvi-led board to make changes in the team management.

A day earlier, the board confirmed sacking former pacer Wahab Riaz and all-rounder Abdul Razaq from the seven-member selection committee while retaining Yousuf, Shafiq and Bilal Afzal.

Wahab was a member of the men's selection committee, whereas Razaq was part of the selection committee for both men's and women's teams.

Furthermore, the board has also removed Riaz from the post of senior team manager along with team manager Rana Mansoor due to the lack of discipline during the last three tours of the men's team.

Both Wahab and Razaq, the sources have claimed, extended undue favours to certain players and PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi decided to oust the duo only after the culmination of the investigation into the said matter.

The players supported by the duo turned out to be the ones who didn't perform and were in fact opposed by other members of the selection committee as well, the sources added.

However, reacting to his removal, the former pacer questioned how could one individual's vote dominate six, as the selection committee comprised seven members. He stressed that everything was documented on record in the minutes of the meeting.—Agency

## Heartland

### Thatta Police recover narcotics during drug arrests



By KHUDA BUX BROHI

On the directives of SSP Thatta Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, Thatta Police have intensified their crackdown on narcotics and criminal activities. The operation aims to recover narcotics, arrest criminal elements and habitual offenders, and curb the preparation and supply of contraband cheques like Gutka and Main Puri.

In a recent successful operation, police thwarted an attempt to supply Gutka materials and drugs using a KIA vehicle with a fancy number plate. Additionally, they recovered Gutka materials hidden in the petrol tank of a Mehran car. Two suppliers of Gutka and drug materials were arrested, and cases were registered against them. The operation led to the seizure of 100 kg of Gutka materials, 2350 grams of hashish, 400 packets of Gutka Maawa, a KIA vehicle, and a Mehran car. Acting on the orders of SSP Thatta, SHO Thatta Sub-Inspector Attar Channa, along with his staff, conducted a successful operation at Ojri Mosque in Thatta based on a tip-off. They arrested one supplier, Zain son of Zahid Memon, and recovered 2350 grams of hashish, 50 kg of Gutka materials, and two fancy number plates. Separate cases have been registered against the accused at Thatta police station.

In a parallel operation, SHO Dhabaji Inspector Mubeen Pariyar and his team conducted a raid at the Dhabaji check post. They intercepted a suspect, Zia-ur-Rehman son of Fazal Rehman Pathan, who was attempting to supply Gutka materials hidden in the petrol tank of a Mehran car. The operation resulted in the recovery of 50 kg of Gutka materials and 300 packets of Gutka Maawa. A case has been registered against the accused at Dhabaji police station.

These operations underscore the commitment of Thatta Police to eradicate the menace of narcotics and contraband in the region.

## Watkins sends England past Netherlands and into Euro 2024 final

DORTMUND: Ollie Watkins struck a stunning injury-time winner as England beat the Netherlands 2-1 on Wednesday to set up a Euro 2024 final showdown with Spain in Berlin.

It was an incredible finish to an evening that began badly for England, as Xavi Simons gave the Netherlands an early lead in the semi-final in Dortmund.

However, England were soon level through a Harry Kane penalty following a contentious VAR call by German referee Felix Zwayer, and the match looked set for extra time until Watkins struck.

On for Kane, Watkins received a pass from fellow



substitute Cole Palmer with his back to goal in the first minute of stoppage time, turned and fired low into the far corner to leave the Netherlands bewildered.

"I'm lost for words really," said Watkins, the Aston Villa striker. "I don't think

as they dream of finally winning a first major trophy since 1966.

To do that they will surely have to perform better than at any point so far in Germany as they face an outstanding Spain team, who beat France 2-1 on Tuesday.

"We play the team who've been the best team in the tournament and we have a day less to prepare so it's a huge task. But we're still here and we're fighting," Southgate said. The Netherlands had been hoping to repeat their triumph at the last Euros in Germany, in 1988, but their current side lacks anyone with the star quality of Marco van Basten or Ruud Gullit.—Agency

## Inside story of Shaheen Afridi 'misbehaving' with coaches revealed



KARACHI: Pakistani cricketer Shaheen Shah Afridi misbehaved with the coaches during Pakistan's recent tour to Ireland and England before the T20 World Cup 2024 as it was revealed after Senior Manager Wahab Riaz and Team Manager Mansoor Rana were removed from the selection committee.

Sources told Geo News the inside story of what happened during the practice sessions, saying that Shaheen misbehaved with batting coach Mohammad Yousuf during the England tour.

Yousuf pointed out Shaheen for bowling too many no-balls during a practice session at Headingley, to which the left-arm pacer said: "Let me practice for now and don't talk in the middle."

Shaheen's comments were not appreciated by the former batter and the two had

a heated exchange after that. The pacer was reprimanded by the team management following the incident and he apologised to Yousuf in front of everyone.

Following Shaheen's apology, the team management dismissed the matter.

Earlier, it was reported that Shaheen misbehaved with the coaches and management during recent tours but no action was taken by the team managers on the

are also being investigated, sources added.

Meanwhile, coaches have also highlighted the non-serious attitude of some of the players in their reports.

The players also speak against each other which ruins the atmosphere in the team, sources further revealed.

It is worth mentioning that a new formula has been decided by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for the new selection committee for the men's team.

The head coaches of both white-ball and red-ball formats will be included in the national selection committee. Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten will be part of the committee along with Mohammad Yousuf and Asad Shafiq with the captain of the respective format.—Agency

## Pakistan Champions to lock horns against West Indies Champions in semi-final



Pakistan Champions are all set to lock horns against West Indies Champions in the first semifinal of the national selection committee. Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten will be part of the committee along with Mohammad Yousuf and Asad Shafiq with the captain of the respective format.—Agency

Champions in the second set to lock horns against West Indies Champions in the first semifinal of the national selection committee. Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten will be part of the committee along with Mohammad Yousuf and Asad Shafiq with the captain of the respective format.—Agency

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## Tragic Incident in Kunri: 6-Year-Old Alia Solangi Killed In A Hit-And-Run

KUNRI: In a heartbreaking incident near village Somar Bagh in Kunri, young Alia Solangi, daughter of Tamur Solangi, tragically lost her life after being struck by a hit-and-run driver. The driver fled the scene, leaving Alia critically injured. Despite efforts to save her, including initial treatment at the local hospital and subsequent referral to Hyderabad, Alia passed away en route.



Her devastated father has reported the case to the police, demanding justice for his beloved daughter. The community mourns this senseless loss and calls for swift action to apprehend the responsible driver and ensure justice is served.—RT

## REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

### Larsa Pippen backs Teresa Giudice after Photoshop fail



Larsa Pippen is defending her celebrity friend Teresa Giudice after the recent Photoshop fail.

The Real Housewives of Miami star, 50, had appeared on SiriusXM's podcast Hits 1 Miami with Mack & Jen when she shared her conversation with Giudice before the hilarious upload.

"She sent me like three photos and she's like, 'Should we be on a beach?' and I was like running around and I just heard the beach and I go, 'We look great on that beach,'" Pippen recalled.

"I had no idea where we were. No idea where that beach is, but I just thought it was funny," she continued. "I thought she

### Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez's kids beg them to stay together amid divorce

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez's blended brood have stepped up to help their parents in dealing with their ongoing issues so that they do not part ways.

According to a latest report, the kids—Violet, Fin, Samuel, Max, and Emmeline—are desperate to see their parents back together, especially before J.Lo's 55th birthday on July 24.

The blended brood have been separated since Affleck and J.Lo fell apart, however, they still share a close bond and are urging their parents to work through their issues.

Speaking on the matter, a source told Daily Mail, "The kids think Jennifer and Ben are really, deeply in love, like soul mates and they don't want them to divorce."

"They want them to work it out for better or for worse—like their vows said," the insider added. "And they do feel that the two should continue counseling and talking it out, even if it is painful."

"The kids get along great, especially Emme and Fin, they are best friends and talk every day. They tell Ben and Jenny, hey don't give up, don't lose this," they added.

## Face of the Day



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

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

## Corporate Watch

### Inspiring Success: Girls Excel In Matriculation Exams At Bunyad Foundation Khushab

Three exceptional students from Bunyad Foundation Khushab School GPS Mari Wala have achieved outstanding results in their matriculation examinations, overcoming financial hurdles that once threatened their academic aspirations.

Under the dedicated leadership of Madam Shaheen Attiq or Rehman, who is committed to providing inclusive education, these students were empowered to pursue their studies fully supported by Bunyad Foundation Khushab.

Here are the achievements of the students:

Student Name	Percentage
Lubna Shehzad (Daughter of Zafar Iqbal)	87%
Ruqayya Bibi (Daughter of Muhammad Asghar)	75.3%
Najma Khatoon (Daughter of Muhammad Ramzan)	78.5%

Many congratulations to our students who recently achieved excellent results in their matriculation board exams.

Percentage: 79.3% Expressing gratitude, Chairperson Shaheen Attiq or Rehman stated, "At Bunyad Foundation Khushab, we are dedicated to ensuring that every child has access to quality education, regardless of financial constraints. The success of these three students exemplifies the transformative impact of education when coupled with opportunity and support." The achievement of these students not only highlights their academic prowess but also underscores the foundation's commitment to fostering a brighter future through education in the Khushab community.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES

# THE HEARTLAND



## TMK woman demands protection from abusive husband

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Near UC Tando Saindand Market, Gulzadi, S/o Shamji Waghari, along with her seven-year-old daughter Amlie and her elderly mother, reached the press club and complained to journalists. She recounted that about ten years ago, her relatives arranged her marriage to a man

named Shamji, with whom she has a seven-year-old daughter named Amlie. She now faces daily physical abuse from her husband, which has made her ill and threatens her life. Additionally, her husband and his accomplices are threatening to kidnap her daughter, Amlie, causing them to live in constant fear. Gulzadi mentioned that she has filed several complaints against

her husband with the SSP Tando Muhammad Khan and has also sought a divorce through a lawyer in court. However, no action has been taken so far to address their plight. She appealed to the SSP Tando Muhammad Khan, the session court, human rights organizations, and other higher authorities for justice, demanding the arrest of her husband.

## SHC's Samar Hyder Jatoi vows to lead protest for Sindh's rights



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Sindh Hari Committee's Central President, Samar Hyder Jatoi while addressing a press conference has emphasized efforts to unite Sindh's people against the exploitation of coastal lands, which has adversely affected the people of coastal areas. He con-

demned the federal and provincial governments for their failure to stop the ongoing losses caused by land grabbing, particularly in the coastal areas where smuggling and auctioning of resources have deprived local institutions of revenue. He announced to launch a protest movement for the rights of Sindh after Yaum-e-Ashura.

## PMLC holds a Bachat Bazaar in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Pakistan Muslim League Central Tando Allahyar organized a Bachat Bazaar at Khanzada Marriage Hall, Arain, inaugurated the

benefiting the public significantly amidst the current inflationary situation. This initiative by PMLC Central is highly praised as a good step. President of PMLC Tando Allahyar, Muhammad Abid Ali Khanzada, inaugurated the Bachat Bazaar. Arain appealed to the business

community to support PMLC. Present at the occasion were Jani Khanzada, Ayub Khanzada, Sajid Baloch and Arshad Ahmed Khanzada, who also appreciated the initiative, stating that it brings great joy to the common people.

## World Population Day observed in Mirpurkhas

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: In Mirpurkhas, like the rest of the country, World Population Day was celebrated on Thursday. According to the details, a rally was organized from the District Health Office Mirpurkhas to the Population Welfare Office, through mutual collaboration between the Pop-

ulation Welfare Department, Health Department, Pathfinder, HANDS and NRSP. The rally, led by District Health Officer Mirpurkhas Dr. Jairam Das, District Population Welfare Officer Mirpurkhas Muhammad Ismail Kunbhar, District Executive Officer HANDS Mazhar Hussain Kapri and Pathfinder's Qurban Chha-

iro, was attended by doctors, LHVs, midwives, lady health visitors, and the general public in large numbers. Participants of the rally also cheered for the Khushhal Family Small House after which the Population Welfare Office Mirpurkhas hosted a seminar on Population Awareness on World Population Day on July 11th.

## Jamaat-e-Islami vows to continue struggle for people's rights

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami Mirpurkhas have set up a protest camp in the city under the leadership of Haji Noor Illahi Kughal, Mufti Tehseen Bhutto, Mufti Muslim Mansoor, Zafar Iqbal Mujahid and others. While talking to the media, the JI leaders said that the Ameer of Jamaat-

e-Islami Pakistan Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman has vowed to continue struggle for the rights of 22 crore people of Pakistan against the oppressive ruling elites. The statement emphasizes their protest on July 12 at D-Chowk Islamabad, highlighting concerns over escalating electricity prices, unjust taxes, and the lavish lifestyles of the ruling elite at the expense of the com-

mon people. The protest aims to challenge the current political parties aligned with elites and calls for unity among the public to achieve relief from economic hardships caused by inflation and corruption. He urged the nation to stand against injustice and for rule of law in the country under the leadership of Jamaat-e-Islami.

## Phulji Station's growers protest against acute water shortage

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: In protest against the shortage of agricultural water in the canals on the Indus Highway. The protest leaders, who included Abdul Rehman Panhwar, Haji Idrees Panhwar, Allah Dino Bhatti, Allah Bachayo, Shah-

nawaz Mirani and others said that the shortage of water has intensified in Gario and Khariro Branch due to which their agricultural lands have been affected. AC Dadu, Dr. Shah Nawaz Mirani after taking notice of the protest reached the spot and held successful talks with the protesting growers.

## DC Badin Yasir Bhatti chairs meeting of District Enforcement Committee

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A District Enforcement Committee meeting was convened in the committee room chaired by Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti, to address the issue of electricity theft. Instructing Ibrahim Kerio from Tando Muhammad Khan, he emphasized that his department should intensify efforts to curb electricity theft, which could potentially reduce theft by 50%. It was stressed that

public awareness about the severity of theft should be raised, and procedures for obtaining new electricity connections should be simplified. Furthermore, he mandated that any FIR registration at a police station must involve a HESCO officer of grade 17 or above. Present at the meeting were Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Dalpat, all assistant commissioners of the district, DSPs, and other relevant officers.

## Illegal deductions from BISP beneficiaries' stipends continue unabated in Daulatpur

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: In the city of Daulatpur, a shocking revelation has emerged regarding the Income Support Program, where vulnerable and poor women are being deprived of significant amounts of money. Women who are entitled to receive Rs 1,500 but Rs 2,000 per month through the Income Support Program have fallen victim to the exploitation by device agents and mafia. These agents and unauthorized individuals are involved in

fraudulent activities, misleading card checks, and creating disorder at the distribution centers, which has caused distress among the deserving recipients. Moreover, it has been observed that apart from the financial exploitation of these poor women, there are severe administrative lapses. Many centers lack basic facilities, leaving women and their innocent children suffering in extreme heat and distress. The absence of proper support and the chaotic handling of the situation at these centers

have added to their woes. The BISP Centre set up at the Government Boys High School in Daulatpur, which serves as a distribution center for Income Support Program beneficiaries, needs urgent attention. Authorities are urged to intervene promptly and ensure strict action against those responsible for exploiting vulnerable women. Efforts are underway to hold accountable those involved in these fraudulent activities and to improve the conditions for the recipients.

## Thatta Police arrest two gutka suppliers

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: On the orders of SSP Thatta, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, Thatta Police is continuing its crackdown to recover narcotics, arrest criminals, habitual offenders and curb the production and distribution of contraband substances like Gutka and Main Puri. Police successfully foiled an attempt to supply Gutka materials and drugs in a KIA vehicle with a fake number plate, and recovered Gutka materials hidden in the petrol tank of a Mehran car. Two

suppliers of Gutka and drug materials were arrested, and cases have been registered against them. A total of 100 kg of Gutka materials, 2350 grams of hashish, and 400 packets of Gutka Maava were seized from the KIA vehicle and Mehran car. SHO Thatta Sub-Inspector Attar Channa, acting on a tip-off, conducted an operation at Qjri Mosque in Thatta, leading to the arrest of one supplier, Zain son of Zahid Memon, and recovery of 2350 grams of hashish, 50 kg of Gutka materials, and two fake number

plates. Separate cases were registered against the accused at Thatta police station. Meanwhile, SHO Dhabעי Inspector Mubeen Pariyar, along with his team, conducted an operation at Dhabעי check post where they intercepted a Mehran car hiding 50 kg of Gutka materials in its petrol tank. They arrested one suspect, Zia-ur-Rehman son of Fazal Rehman Pathan, and recovered 300 packets of Gutka Maava. A case has been registered against the accused at Dhabעי police station.

## SUP observes 5th anniversary of Shaheed Qaimuddin Sarki

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The commemoration ceremony marking the 5th anniversary of the martyrdom of Shaheed Qaimuddin Sarki organized by the Sindh United Party Comrade Jamal Jokhio, President of SUP Shikarpur Division Sarwan Abdul Razaq Lashari, President of SUP Shikarpur Division Jamal Josh, Burro, elder brother of the martyr, Imamuddin Sarki, Aijaz Khan, District Organizer of National Awami Tahreek, Javed Saghir, Mir Hassan Burro, Bashir Sarki, Majid

included Prof. Mahboob Soomro, Central President of Sindh United Party Comrade Jamal Jokhio, President of SUP Shikarpur Division Sarwan Abdul Razaq Lashari, President of SUP Shikarpur Division Jamal Josh, Burro, elder brother of the martyr, Imamuddin Sarki, Aijaz Khan, District Organizer of National Awami Tahreek, Javed Saghir, Mir Hassan Burro, Bashir Sarki, Majid

Noonari, Qurban Baloch, Zafar Lashari, Nasir Tunio and others. The event highlighted Shaheed Qaimuddin Sarki's pivotal role as a brave political activist and a compassionate citizen of the city. Today, we continue our political struggle to establish peace and security in our city. We must unite to combat injustice and terrorism, ensuring a prosperous and secure environment for all.

## People of Tando Jam decry lack of facilities for Muharram-ul-Haram

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: A protest demonstration was recorded by the people of Tando Jam on Mirpurkhas-Hyderabad Road against the Town Committee Chairman Haji Badar Memon and Public Health Engineering Department for not making

arrangements for the Muharram-ul-Haram. The protest leaders said that the there has been a break in the lighting arrangements along the routes of the mourning procession during Muharram ul-Haram this year, which the Municipal Committee Chairman did not organize, resulting in grievances

among mourners. Due to the recent heavy rains, water has accumulated near the Imambargahs, causing difficulties for the people. We have appealed to Sharjeel Inam Memon to immediately drain the rainwater from the Imambargahs and allow mourners to pass through the streets easily.

## 2,700 students appear in QUEST's entry test

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: The Vice Chancellor QUEST, Professor Dr. Saleem Raza Samo, were conducted across various departments of the university in five shifts. A total of 3,900 candidates applied through an online platform,

and Technology, Nawabshah. A press conference was held where it was announced that computerized entry tests were conducted across various departments of the university in five shifts. A total of 3,900 candidates applied through an online platform,

out of which 2,700 students appeared for the entry test. We are now awaiting the results of the computer test, not only within our university but also across sixteen programs initiated, shaping the future of prospective students.

## Four men killed in Larkana's Zangejo community clash

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A clash which resulted in death of Shoukat Ali Zangejo, Ali Hassan Zangejo and Akbar Zangejo. The bodies of the deceased were shifted to the hospital by the police. SSP Larkana

armed men opened fire after taking notice of the incident. The bodies of the deceased were shifted to the hospital by the police. SSP Larkana

injured condition.

## Ismaili community celebrates 67th Imam Day of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan

TALHAR: The 67th Imam Day of Prince Karim Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of the Ismaili community was celebrated across various regions of the country, including Ismaili Jamatkhanas and Ismaili Centers. Due to the solemnity of Muharram, the occasion of Imamat was observed with simplicity. Special prayers were offered for the prosperity, peace, and well-being of the coun-



grandfather Sultan Mohammed Shah (Aga Khan III) as the 49th Imam of the Ismaili community on July 11, 1957, has established numerous development institutions in progressive countries including Pakistan. These institutions include hospitals, schools, and a microfinance bank, among others. Scholarships are also provided to children for higher education.—RT

## DC Larkana Sharjeel Noor Channa visits Dokri

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa, and Assistant Commissioner Farzana Mirani have issued directives regarding improvements at local facilities.

During their visit to the Imambargah and hospital in Dokri, instructions were issued to enhance patient care and hospital cleanliness at hospital. Additionally, public library and sanitation arrangements were reviewed, fo-

cus on cleanliness and the quality of sewerage lines in Dokri city. Moreover, they oversaw the progress of clean-up operations and supported the infrastructure program in the city through their respective roles.

## Mirpurkhas Police conduct a flag march

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The District Police Mirpurkhas organized a flag march in view of Muharram-ul-Haram. The march included participation from all division city and satellite towns, SHO Women Police Stations, and all Eagles Motorcycle Scouts. The flag march commenced with 15 police mobiles, covering various areas of the city including MA Jinnah Road, Gharbabad, Muhajir Colony, Heerabad, Chandni Chowk, Satellite Town, and concluded at Police Lines. The objective of the flag march was to maintain peace and security during Muharram-ul-Haram, instill a sense of security among the public and send a message to antisocial elements that Mirpurkhas Police and all security forces are vigilant against them and capable of handling any chal-



## Jacobabad's growers protest against water shortage in Noor Wah Branch

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: In Jacobabad, the growers staged a protest and sit-in against the shortage of irrigation water in Noor Wah Branch. According to details, residents from various areas of Jacobabad protested against the shortage of agricultural water, disrupting traffic. The sit-in caused traffic disruptions from both sides for

several hours. The protest was led by Imdad Bhatti, Afzal Brohi, and others. Residents stated that the shortage of irrigation water is turning our lands barren. They accused the irrigation department officials of economically killing poor residents by cutting off their water supply. Protesters stated that if water is not provided by tomorrow, they will protest again.

## Tando Adam Police arrest two device holders and a drug dealer

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: Tando Adam Police arrested two device holders named Zeeshan Ahmed Arain and Parvez Ahmed Dasti on allegations of embezzlement in the Benazir Income Support Program. Devices have been

seized, and during a separate operation, Tando Adam police arrested drug dealer Muhammad Ashraf alias Shabu, recovering 1 kilogram and 15 grams of hashish from his possession. The cases have been registered by the police against arrested men.

# METRO KARACHI



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is presiding over a cabinet meeting at the CM House.-RT

## Sindh Cabinet Designates Karoonjhar As A Cultural Heritage Site, Approves Khasar For Granite Mining

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: In a significant move aimed at preserving cultural and natural treasures, the Sindh provincial cabinet has declared the entire Karoonjhar as protected cultural and heritage sites, forests, and a wildlife sanctuary/Ramsar Site. Concurrently, the cabinet has designated the Khasar area for granite mining, pending clearance from the Forest & Wildlife Department.



lapping forested regions. Approval for mining was granted contingent upon fulfilling environmental regulatory requirements.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, the decision was reached during a session held at the CM House on Thursday. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, advisors, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, and other key officials.

Additionally, the cabinet approved a Rs3.84 billion grant-in-aid for the Patients' Aid Foundation (PAF) to equip a new 532-bed medical complex at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre in Karachi, enhancing health-care facilities.

Regarding granite mining, the cabinet deliberated on the potential of the Khasar Area, situated 25 km from Nagarpark, identified in the Geological Survey of Pakistan's 2015 report. The area spans approximately 3.6 sq km and was deemed suitable for extraction without over-

Furthermore, amendments to the Provincial Motor Vehicle Ordinance (PMVO) 1965 were endorsed to expedite vehicle registration processes, bolster public safety, and fortify revenue collection efforts.

## Banks to remain closed for two days next week



KARACHI: Banks across Pakistan will remain closed for two days next week on the occasion of Ashura (9th & 10th Muharram) on 16 and 17 July, 2024.

The State Bank of Pakistan will remain closed on July 16TH and 17TH, 2024 (Tuesday & Wednesday) being public holidays on the occasion of Ashura (9th & 10th Moharram 1446 A.H.), the regulator said in a notice on Wednesday.

The federal government on Tuesday declared a two-day holiday on the 16th and 17th of July 2024 to observe Ashura on the 9th and 10th of Muharram.



KARACHI: Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi is exchanging views with Ayatullah Syed Aqeel-ul-Gharavi and former caretaker CM Sindh, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar, during a meeting.-RT

## Court approves FIA's search warrant plea for Sarim Burney Trust

KARACHI: A local court in Karachi Thursday approved Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) plea to issue search warrant for Sarim Burney Trust in the 'human trafficking case', ARY News reported.

Burney was taken into custody on June 5 after he landed at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi following his US visit.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered first information report (FIR) against rights activist Sarim Burney for allegedly trafficking newborn babies to United States (US).

The FIA, in a statement, said that the records of the allegedly trafficked children were provided by the Pakistan embassy, the agency said Burney's wife was also among the beneficiaries. According to the FIA, Haya's parents are extremely poor, and their statements have been recorded. Further cases related to human trafficking and money laundering will be registered against Burney, the agency said.—RT/Agency

Sarim Burney appeared before the court in today's hearing via video link. The court of Judicial Magistrate East took up the case. At the outset of the hearing, the FIA team stated that they want to record the statements of trustees of Sarim Burney Trust and pleaded to approve the plea for issuance of search warrant of the trust. The plea was approved by the court and the hearing was adjourned until July 25.

20 newborns to the US in the past year on pretext of adoption. The FIA claimed that 15 of the trafficked children were girls. The FIA, in a statement, said that the records of the allegedly trafficked children were provided by the Pakistan embassy, the agency said Burney's wife was also among the beneficiaries. According to the FIA, Haya's parents are extremely poor, and their statements have been recorded. Further cases related to human trafficking and money laundering will be registered against Burney, the agency said.—RT/Agency

## Electricity bills have a whopping 71% capacity charges: Mustafa Kamal



KARACHI: Mustafa Kamal on Thursday said that out of 100 rupees of the electricity bill 71 are capacity charges, media reported.

"Why we pay for the electricity, which is even not being generated," MQM-P MNA talking to media here said.

MQM leader said that all governments had signed agreements with the independent power producers (IPP). He called for ending the monopoly of distribution companies and suggested issuing licenses to more power companies for a healthy competition and cheaper electricity to consumers.

## Rangers, Police ensure strict security measures for Muharram

KARACHI: In a move to provide strict security during Muharram, Sindh Rangers and Police have undertaken a joint flag march across Karachi and various regions of interior Sindh, media reported on Thursday.



Strict security protocols have been implemented in Karachi and Sindh to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens during Muharram.

According to officials, the joint flag march where held in Karachi, including the Super Highway, North Nazimabad, Sarjani Town, Orangi Town, Shah Latif Town, Shahrh Faisal, Kohar, Sanjro, Kandiaro, Badin, Thatta, and other areas.

imambargahs and the routes designated for processions. To bolster security, additional personnel have been deployed at the city's entry and exit points, ensuring a comprehensive security cover for Muharram.—RT/Agency

In addition, similar security forces inspected

## Salt Manufacturers Urge PM To Tackle Axle Load Rules For Transporters

KARACHI: The implementation of axle load regulations for truck transport has inadvertently sparked a surge in extortion targeting traders across Pakistan. This exploitation has resulted in escalated transport costs, critically impacting the nation's export operations.



Qasim Yaqoob Paracha, Chairman of the Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP), has petitioned Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Federal Minister of Communications Abdul Aleem Khan to address the mounting issue of transporter extortion. He stressed the crucial need for strict enforcement of the Ministry of Communication's axle load regulations to ensure equitable transport charges for goods.

Paracha underscored that transport cartels are exploiting loopholes in axle load limits, imposing exorbitant fees on traders for loads exceeding the mandated 30 to 32 tons. He cited arbitrary fines and delivery delays as tactics used to unjustly inflate costs, severely impacting sectors like the salt industry and impeding export activities.

The SMAP Chairman urged the government to establish clear and stringent nationwide guidelines for axle load limits, mandating transporters to adhere strictly to government-regulated charges based on prescribed load limits.—RT

## Sindh Cabinet Approves Key Decisions

KARACHI: In a significant joint press conference held today, Sindh's Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Provincial Minister Sardar Shah addressed pivotal decisions made during the latest Sindh Cabinet meeting.



Senior Minister Memon highlighted the Cabinet's approval of a comprehensive housing project for flood victims in Sindh, emphasizing a commitment to rectify inclusion issues through thorough surveys conducted by Pakistan Army, Rangers, and private entities. The project aims to construct 2.1 million homes.

measures against unregistered vehicles to curb crime and boost revenue.

Furthermore, Memon announced the green light for the master plan of Rani Bagh Hyderabad under a Public-Private Partnership, focusing on enriching recreational facilities for children.

Addressing mineral concerns, Provincial Minister Sardar Shah affirmed the Cabinet's stance against mining in Nagar Park, asserting protection of cultural heritage sites. He disclosed plans to declare Nagar Park a UNESCO World Heritage Site and highlighted Sindh High Court's backing to declare Karunjhar as a heritage site.

In addition, the Cabinet approved the recruitment of teachers for Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical College, Lyari, and implemented stringent

Both ministers assured readiness to manage mon-

## Petition filed in SHC against tree cutting in Karachi

KARACHI: A citizen has filed petition in Sindh High Court (SHC) against tree cutting by the city government of Karachi, media reported on Thursday.

The high court has served notices to Mayor Karachi and others in the case and summoned reply from the respondents on the next hearing of the case.

The bench adjourned further hearing of the case until August 21.

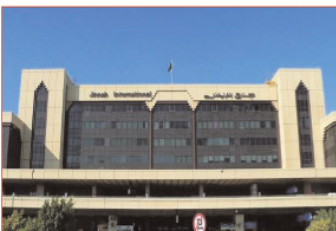
The petitioner has made the KMC, D.G. Parks and other respondents in the case. Petitioner pleaded to the court that the D.G Parks has ordered cutting of trees on the instructions of the city's mayor. "The trees have been cut around the city's Jail Chowrangi (roundabout)," according to petitioner.

"It is violation of the court's prohibition order of cutting trees," according to the petitioner.

Cutting of trees amid extreme weather events has been seen as a step that will further aggravate the climate problems for the city including prolonged heatwaves and soaring temperatures.—RT/Agency

## Sri Lankan woman's death: Flight makes emergency landing at Jinnah International

KARACHI: A foreign airline flight en route from Dubai to Colombo made an emergency landing at Karachi airport following the sudden deterioration of a female passenger's health.



Tragically, the 57-year-old Sri Lankan woman, identified as Palawini, died during the flight.

the aircraft to check on the passenger. Despite their efforts, Palawini was pronounced dead. Sources confirmed that she suffered from a cardiac arrest during the flight.

According to sources, the incident occurred when Palawini's health, a passenger on the Dubai-Colombo flight, suddenly worsened mid-flight. The flight captain immediately requested Karachi's air traffic control for an emergency landing at its airport to seek urgent medical assistance.

The federal health officer stationed at the airport subsequently issued a death certificate for the woman. After completing the necessary formalities, the flight carrying her body departed from Karachi airport to its original destination in Colombo. The airline has not yet commented on the incident. Passengers and crew members expressed their condolences to the family of the deceased.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi is meeting with the head of the Dawoodi Bohra community, Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin.-RT

## Second spell of Karachi monsoon rains expected after July 20

KARACHI: The Meteorological Department said the next spell of monsoon rains is anticipated to begin after July 20.



The weather office has forecast partly cloudy, hot, and humid weather for Karachi.

Currently, the temperature stands at 32 degrees Celsius, with a maximum likely to reach 37 degrees and a minimum recorded at 30.5 degrees.

The humidity level is at 76%, and north-south winds are blowing at 16 kilometers per hour. The hot and humid conditions are expected to persist for the next 24 hours.—RT/Agency

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newsagent Agency at (0300-2719454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990).

FRIDAY JULY 12 2024

## Islamabad Rules Out Talks With TTP Involved In Killing Pakistanis And Foreigners

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has ruled out any dialogue with the banned terrorist outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan with the Foreign Office saying no talks are possible with elements involved in the killings of Pakistanis and foreigners.

"The TTP is involved in the killing of Pakistani and foreign citizens inside Pakistan," FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday.

She said that Pakistan respects Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and expects the authorities in the neighbouring country to uphold their sovereignty and take action against terrorist groups that have found sanctuaries on its soil and are using it for launching terror attacks across the border.

Responding to a question, Baloch said Pakistan is committed to implementing the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan [IFRP].

"The IFRP is meant for the implementation of the laws of Pakistan," she said, adding that the plan was



designed to launch an action against the illegal immigrants residing in Pakistan without documentation. She further stated that illegal immigrants from several countries have been sent back to their respective countries under the IFRP. While referring to the repatriation of illegal foreigners including Afghans to their home countries, the FO spokesperson said that the first phase of this plan was near completion.

Clarifying there were multiple categories of Afghan refugees residing in the country, the spokesperson stressed the country had not given any understanding to the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) about the "sustainable" plan.

She pointed out that the government had extended the validity of the Proof of Registration cards of the Afghan refugees for a year.

In a July 9 meeting with top Pakistani officials including Prime Minister Shehbaz, UNHCR Filippo Grandi appreciated the country for "suspending the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan", a statement by Grandi said.

The statement further said that Grandi had also sought assurance from Pakistani authorities that the repatriation plan would

remain on hold. To a question, Baloch said Pakistan and the United States have a multifaceted and robust partnership.

She said we believe this relationship should move forward on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. "Kashmir Martyrs Day to be observed on July 13 in her media briefing, Baloch also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to providing political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people for the just and peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

Baloch said the 93rd 'Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Kashmir' (Kashmir Martyrs Day) would be observed on July 13 to honour the martyrdom of 22 Kashmiris who sacrificed their lives in Srinagar in 1931, bravely facing the indiscriminate firing of Dogra forces under the former Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. "We salute their courage, which ignited a determined movement for

the rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people and their right to self-determination. This movement continues to this day," she said. The FO spokeswoman mentioned that like the Dogra forces, Indian occupation forces have killed thousands of Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in recent decades simply for advocating their rights.

"Burhan Muzaffar Wani, an iconic youth leader from Kashmir, was among the hundreds who fell victim to extrajudicial killings in the IIOJK. His eighth martyrdom anniversary was observed on July 8th," she remarked. Commenting on Israeli aggression in Gaza, Baloch said Pakistan strongly condemned this week's indiscriminate attacks by Israel on four schools in the besieged territory, which resulted in the massacre of dozens of women and children seeking shelter there. These attacks are further evidence of Israel's genocidal campaign against the people of Gaza, she concluded. —RT/Agency

## Shehbaz Orders For Removal Of Obstacles In Customs Operations

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday emphasised taking all-out measures to do away with corruption in customs operations, removing unnecessary hurdles and using artificial intelligence and hi-tech equipment to ensure full enforcement of customs duties.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters related to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Pakistan Customs, called the customs sector a backbone of the country's economy and said the FBR reforms and complete digitisation would guarantee economic security.

He instructed the authorities concerned to ensure the third-party audit of reform initiatives in FBR and other departments and bring all such projects under one umbrella.

Prime Minister Shehbaz directed to increase revenue collection through better enforcement and establish a project management unit for reforms in the customs sector.

He said all the issues related to the mis-invoicing should be resolved and under-invoicing be eliminated to protect Pakistan's in-



terests and products. He also sought details of revenue Rs240 billion in additional revenue through valuation enforcement and also instructed establishing a regulatory framework for the operations of the shipping industry.

The prime minister called for a third-party audit of a web-based one-customs system (WeBOC).

During the briefing on the customs operations, it was told that the operations of the Pakistan Customs had been fully automated and experts of international repute had been engaged to bring in reforms that would feature modern AI-based systems.

It was told that around 72.4 percent of imports and exports were cleared through

the green channel and Pakistan Customs collected Rs240 billion in additional revenue through valuation controls from July 2023-June 2024, which was around 80% above the previous year's collection.

Federal cabinet members Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, Attorney General Mansoor Awan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal, Member of National Assembly Barrister Aqeel Malik, FBR Chairman Zuber Tiwana and relevant senior officers attended the meeting. —RT/Agency

## Flour Shortage Feared As Millers Strike Against Withholding Tax

ISLAMABAD: Flour mills in several cities of the country have stopped wheat grinding and flour supply across the country from today (Thursday), prompting fears of a flour crisis, as they observe a strike against the newly-imposed withholding tax.

In the budget 2024-25, the government has imposed withholding tax on different stages of the supply chain of staple food by up to 5.5%, the flour mills association leaders have said, making the product more expensive.

Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) Central Senior Vice Chairman said that the authorities had also asked the mills to collect another 2.5% and 2% withholding tax on the sale of flour from non-filer retailers and wholesalers, respectively.

Meanwhile, PFMA Chairman Asim Raza reiterated that the mills would not bear the responsibility of collecting the withholding tax as it made the flour dearer by Rs200.

The PFMA said at least 1,725 flour mills had ceased their operation across the country, including 1,100 in Punjab, 300 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, more than 300 in Sindh and 25 in Balochistan.



Additionally, it also said flour consumption during summer was 40-45,000 tonnes in the country.

After the announcement of strike by the PFMA against the withholding tax, 73 flour mills of Gujranwala district are completely shut down, whereas, all 100 flour mills are closed in the four districts of the Multan Division, including 60 flour mills in Multan.

According to the spokesperson of the PFMA, due to the closure of flour mills in Faisalabad, the supply of 200,000 bags of flour per day has stopped, while all 10 flour mills in Kamalia city and four flour mills in Khasab district are closed.

On the other hand, the strike is being observed in Peshawar and Quetta too, where mills have been locked.

PFMA Chairman (South Zone) Amir Abdullah said

flour mills in Sindh had stopped grinding wheat and the supply of flour as well.

"Tax collection is the FBR's job, we should not be made tax agents. Until our demands are approved, the supply of wheat products will remain closed," he said.

The flour mills association sources warned that it was feared that the commodity would go scarce if the deadlock between the government and association persisted. As per the association, flour bags of 5kg, 10kg and 20kg will not be prepared from today.

It should be noted that a few days ago flour mills owners had announced a strike, while holding a press conference, and said that they had tried to negotiate with the government. They had conveyed their demands to the government through talks, but negotiations failed. —RT/Agency

## Azeri President Ilham Aliyev Receives A Warm Welcome During Pakistan Visit



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday received Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, who touched down in Islamabad on a two-day official visit on the premier's invitation.

President Aliyev landed at Pakistan Air Force's Nur Khan base where he was greeted with a red carpet welcome as PM Shehbaz along with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi received him. The foreign dignitary was also presented with a 21-gun salute.

During his visit, President Aliyev will hold meetings with the PM, President Asif Ali Zardari, and other senior officials.

With the two sides set to engage in wide-ranging discussions on areas of mutual interest to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) are expected to be signed between Islamabad and Baku.

Earlier, The News had reported that President Zardari would host a banquet in the president's honour and that the foreign dignitary would also meet Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir.

The foreign ministers of the two countries will have talks at the Foreign Office, the publication said.

On Monday, it reported that five heads of state, including the Azeri president, were expected to visit Pakistan in the next five months namely Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Thani, and Turkey's President Recep Erdogan.

In April this year, Islamabad hosted late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi on a three-day visit wherein the two sides held productive discussions and agreed to advance bilateral cooperation in multiple domains including trade, connectivity, energy and people-to-people contacts. During his three-day visit to the country, the Iranian president held meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Army Chief General Munir, Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani, Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and the chief ministers and governors of Sindh and Punjab. —RT/Agency

## ECP Issues Arrest Warrant For Fawad In Contempt Case

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued a bailable arrest warrant to former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry in the (ECP) contempt case.

A four-member commission, headed by ECP member Nisar Durran, heard the contempt of ECP case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry.

Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry's counsel absent. Imran Khan's counsel Shoaib Shaheen's assistant counsel appeared before the court during the hearing and informed the court about the presence of the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

ECP member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa inquired from assistant counsel that wasn't this case crucial and did he possess legal licence.

ECP deputy director law stated that the last hearing of this case was held in January but the high court prohibited it from issuing final verdict on this case, however, proceedings could be done.

PTI founder's counsel said the ECP could allow virtual appearance of respondents during the hearing.

ECP inquired about the virtual appearance of the respondent through video link. ECP members remarked that respondents appearance was necessary in criminal cases but not in civil cases.



Court can allow virtual appearance of respondents. PTI founder's assistant counsel stated that technology could be utilised in cases and the court might allow virtual appearance.

ECP Sindh members inquired about Fawad Chaudhry and his lawyer. Fawad Chaudhry's lawyer's assistant lawyer Faisal Chaudhry informed that Fawad Chaudhry's counsel was also present in the IHC like Shoaib Shaheen.

ECP issued a bailable arrest warrant to Fawad Chaudhry on continuous absence in the hearing.

ECP members stated that Fawad Chaudhry was not in jail, an arrest warrant could be issued against him. Absence of lawyer could be acceptable but where was Fawad Chaudhry, verdict must be issued on Fawad Chaudhry's matter.

Assistant counsel stated that Fawad Chaudhry's case was ongoing in high court and their cases were challenged in the high court.

ECP is independent, not subordinate to anyone. The ECP member responded that Fawad Chaudhry's appearance in the high court was not necessary; however, the ECP commission was independent and not subordinate to anyone.

Consequently, ECP issued the bailable arrest warrant to Fawad Chaudhry adjourning the case hearing until August 7.

It is pertinent to note that cases of ECP and CEC contempt against Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry were fixed for hearing on June 20.

Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry were indicted in the ECP contempt case on January 3. It is worth noting that ECP issued notice for levelling allegations on CEC and ECP during public gatherings and TV interviews. —RT/Agency

## Centre Agrees To Settle Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dues

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has accepted the stance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) regarding its dues and has agreed to pay Rs37 billion within a year, ARY News reported, citing sources.

Sources indicate that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's longstanding demand regarding the Net Hydrol Profit has been accepted, resolving a dispute that had been pending for two years.

The Ministry of Finance sources confirmed that the federal government is now willing to pay Rs3 billion monthly for the Net Hydrol Profit instead of the previous Rs1.5 billion.

For the past two years, there have been disagreements between the federal government and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the accurate calculation of the Net Hydrol Profit dues. Sources report that KP's Finance



Advisor, Muzammil Aslam, held extensive negotiations with the federal Secretary Energy and Finance secretary on the matter.

The Council of Common Interests also played a crucial role in resolving the dispute between the federal government and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to sources.

Earlier, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur put forward KP demands in Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) meeting and asked the federal government to clear its dues to the province.

Speaking to journalists after SIFC's meeting, the KP chief minister said that his government will not compromise on province rights and will not allow anyone to take "undue advantage". —RT/Agency

## Azm-e-Istehkam: Government Decides To Initiate National Dialogue On New Anti-Terror Operation

ISLAMABAD: Finalising its strategy regarding Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government has decided to initiate a national dialogue to root out terrorism and extremism in the country, sources told Geo News on Thursday.

PM Shehbaz, the sources added, has taken cabinet members into confidence over the new counter-terrorism operation's scope and the reason behind launching the new anti-terror drive.

Last month, the federal cabinet approved the decisions taken by the National Action Plan's Central Apex Committee including the Launch of Operation Azm-e-Istehkam.

The sources said that the security forces handed over the cleared areas from the terrorists to the provincial governments.

"Due to the failure of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, terrorists returned



to the cleared areas," the added.

The government's decision drew reservations from several political parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F), the Awami National Party (ANP), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and others.

In response, the Centre has maintained that "no large-scale military operation is being launched" in the country which might result in mass evictions and has reassured that the matter will be brought before

the parliament.

PM Shehbaz has also decided to convene an all-parties conference (APC) to evolve consensus on the operation with PTI founder Imran Khan supporting the initiative, saying his party would attend the government-hosted huddle. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Army has also denounced the undue criticism against the newly launched anti-terrorism operation stating that the "vision" was being misrepresented deliberately for "vested interests". —RT/Agency

## Parvez Elahi Granted Exemption From Appearing In Graft Reference



LAHORE: The accountability court in Lahore on Thursday granted former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi's request for exemption from physical appearance in a case involving alleged corruption in development projects.

Appearing before the court, a counsel for the PTI leader filed a request for his absence from the hearing, citing his health condition.

Through the application, Elahi informed the court that he was unwell and his physician had advised bed.

He requested the court to approve his application for exemption from physical appearance.

The court, while granting Elahi's request, adjourned hearing until Aug 16 (Tuesday). —RT/Agency