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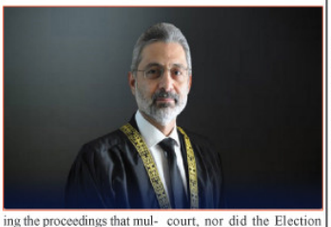
KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 203 Regd. No. 114 visit us at www.regionaltimes.com Saturday, July 13, 2024, Muharram 06, 1445 A.H 8 Pages CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Chief Justice Clarifies PTI Candidates Were Not Granted Independent Status By Election Commission



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa clarified that the Election Commission erroneously interpreted the Supreme Court's decision by granting independent status to supported candidates of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which was not within its authority.

During the hearing of a case related to seats allocated for Sunni Ittehad Council candidates, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa highlighted that the Election Commission misinterpreted the Supreme Court's decision. He noted that no PTI candidate challenged the Election Commission's decision, emphasizing that the Peshawar High Court's decision regarding the distribution of specific seats and the Election Commission's directive are deemed null because PTI was not included as a party in that decision.It was revealed during the proceedings that multiple candidates, while submitting their nomination papers, declared themselves as PTI candidates and submitted party certificates for verification, but they were designated as independent candidates, a decision not authorized by the Election Commission.The hearing underscored that neither PTI nor any of its candidates appealed against the Election Commission's order in this court, nor did the Election Commission grant independent status contrary to the judicial process in electoral matters. Therefore, the court can review the constitutional status of Election Commission decisions, concluding that PTI is entitled to specific seats as a parliamentary party, requiring the Election Commission to redistribute these seats inclusive of PTI and all parties anew.—RT/Agency

-PTI gets major relief in historic judgment!

SC Rules PTI Eligible For Reserved Seats, Declares ECP's Allocation To Ruling Coalition Unconstitutional

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was entitled for reserved seats and that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)'s decision of allocating reserved seats to the ruling colaition was unconsititional.

The verdict on the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) reserved seats case was announced by a full bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

It comprised of Justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Munib Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha Malik, Athar Minallah, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Shahid Waheed, Irfan Saadat Khan, and Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

The verdict suspended the previous decisions of ECP, PHC regarding the allocation of reserved seats.

Candidates of the PTI cannot be declared independent candidates, nor representatives of any other party, the verdict said adding that the ECP had incorrectly declared members of PTI as independents.

"The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was a political party, remains a political party", the order said while instructing the PTI to submit a list of its reserved seats candidates within 15 days.The decision was announced by a 8-5 majority of the full court bench.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Jamal Mandokhail, Justice Naeem Afghan, Justice Yahya Afridi, and Justice Ameenuddin Khan opposed the majority decision.

Justice Yahya Afridi, in his dissenting note, said that candidates who provided certificates of PTI affiliation should be declared PTI candidates and allocated reserved seats proportionally.

Candidates who joined other parties violated the public's will.

On June 27, the ECP presented an order indicating that some nomination papers had party affiliations. Of the 80 individuals, 40 were given 15 days to decide their party affiliation.—RT/Agency

President Zardari And Azerbaijani Counterpart Discuss Bilateral Cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have affirmed the commitment to expand cooperation in the areas of bilateral interest, especially energy, trade, connectivity, defence, and people-to-people linkages.

This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in Islamabad today.

Welcoming the President of Azerbaijan, Asif Ali Zardari said both countries enjoy excellent relations and have a great scope of further improving ties in various areas of mutual interest. He underlined the need for more regular engagements between the people and businessmen of Pakistan and Azerbaijan to cement bilateral ties.

The President of Pakistan highlighted the importance of Gwadar port, saying that Central Asian Countries and Azerbaijan can benefit from it for promoting regional trade, connectivity and tourism, besides bringing shared economic prosperity to the region.

He also welcomed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, adding that the MoUs would give a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce, tourism, mines and minerals, science and technology, law and justice, and culture.

He said Pakistan wants to build a sustainable and result-oriented engagement with Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ilham Aliyev said the two countries needed to promote business-to-business relations for enhancing economic relations. He added that Pakistan and Azerbaijan can also explore the possibility of working together in the renewable energy sector.

Later, the President also hosted a banquet in honour of President Ilham Aliyev and his delegation, which was also attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and journalists, at the President's House.

The President expressed his warm greetings for the people of Azerbaijan and reassured Pakistan's unwavering support for Azerbaijan.—RT/Agency

PTI Given Unwarranted Relief: Rana Sanaullah

ISLAMABAD: PMLN senior leader and PM's advisor on political affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan talking to media said the government would accept the majority verdict of the SC in the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) reserved seat case.

He said the government's legal team has been reviewing the verdict and would respond accordingly. Rana Sanaullah said the legal team would decide whether a review petition would be filed or not.

Commenting on the verdict Rana Sanaullah claimed: "SIC petitions were rejected but PTI was given that relief which was neither asked in the petition nor contest during the proceeding."

PMLN-N-led unity movement did not have a two-thirds majority as parties formed the governments with a simple majority, he said.

Rana Sanaullah said PTI should contest Elections tribunals and the government would implement the decisions.—RT/Agency

Reserved Seats Verdict: Ruling Coalition Loses Two-Thirds Majority In National Assembly

ISLAMABAD: Following the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict on reserved seats, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is poised to become the majority party in the National Assembly.

The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan overturned the denial of reserved seats to the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council.

Following the verdict of the SC, the ruling coalition has lost two-thirds majority in the lower house of the Parliament (NA), however, they still enjoy the simple majority with 210 seats in the house. The opposition will have 125 seats.

Previously, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) allotted reserved seats to other parties in the assemblies.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz was allotted 14 seats, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) 5, and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl was given three reserved seats in the National Assembly.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, JUI-F was allotted 10 seats, while PML-N and PPP each received 7 seats, and ANP got 1 seat.

In Punjab, PML-N secured 23 seats, PPP 2, and both PML-Q and Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party received 1 seat each.

In Sindh Assembly, PPP received two reserved seats, and MQM was given a single seat by the ECP.

Reserved seats issue

The issue came to limelight after over 80 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independent candidates emerged victorious in the February 8 elections.

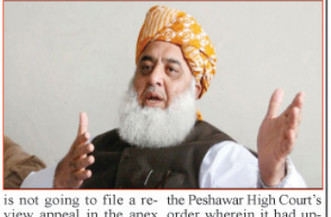
The SIC then approached the ECP on February 21 seeking allocation of reserved seats.

However, the PTI suffered a setback after the electoral body, citing the party's failure to submit its list of candidates, denied allocating the reserved seats to the SIC via its 4-1 majority verdict on March 4.

The election commission distributed the seats for women and minorities among other political parties.

The PTI-backed SIC had approached the court after the ECP refused to allocate the seats due to the party's failure to submit its list of candidates before the deadline. The Peshawar High Court (PHC) upheld the ECP's decision, leading the SIC to appeal to the Supreme Court.—RT/Agency

JUI-F Partially Accepts SC's Decision, Expresses Goodwill Towards PTI: Fazl



ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman reacted to the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan's decision declaring, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) baked Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) eligible for reserved seats, media reported.

In a statement issued here, Maulana Fazalur Rehman said that only constitutional and legal experts could give an opinion on the decision.

"The JUI-F partially accepts the SC's decision and expresses goodwill towards the PTI," he added.

Maulana Fazalur Rehman hoped that this would improve relations between the two parties and be beneficial. He said that it would be helpful in creating an environment for negotiations to address reservations between the PTI and JUI-F.

The JUI-F chief said that his party, which would lose reserved seats in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, is not going to file a review appeal in the apex court.

Earlier in the day, the SC overturned the denial of reserved seats to the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announced the 8-5 majority verdict on a petition filed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), an ally of the PTI.

Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Shahid Waheed, Muneeb Akhtar, Muhammad Ali Mazhar Ayesha Malik, Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Irfan Saadat Khan ruled in favour of the PTI.

The top court nullified the Peshawar High Court's order wherein it had upheld the ECP's decision denying the reserved seats to the SIC.

n its order, the apex court said that the Election Commission of Pakistan ECP's decision of allocating reserved seats to the ruling coalition was unconstitutional.

The bench accepted SIC's petition and ruled that the party is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. The apex court accepted PTI as political party and asked Imran Khan-led party to submit reserved seats candidates list to ECP within 15 days.—RT/Agency

PTI Suspends Controversial Sher Afzal Marwat's Membership

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has reportedly suspended the membership of Sher Afzal Marwat, a firebrand party leader who was elected to the National Assembly in the Feb 8 polls, media reported on Friday citing sources.

Sources said the PTI leaders met incarcerated party founder Imran Khan on Thursday where the decision regarding Marwat was taken.

The party leaders claimed that Sher Afzal Marwat was constantly violating the party discipline and over the past month.

"During the meeting with Imran Khan, it was agreed that no leader is above the party and all other leaders would face the same fate if they crossed the party line," they added.

Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf issued a show-cause notice to Sher Afzal Marwat for making irresponsible statements.

As per details, the notice was issued by PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan and asked Marwat to explain his statements within three days, which have been deemed damaging to the party's reputation.

The notice states that such statements are against the party's discipline and violate the clear instructions of the party's founder, Imran Khan, who has emphasized the importance of responsible behavior.

Marwat was warned that failure to respond or provide a satisfactory explanation may lead to further disciplinary action.—RT/Agency

PTI Praises Judiciary Following Landmark Victory In Reserved Seats Case

ISLAMABAD:The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has hailed the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict on the allocation of reserved seats as a 'historic decision' in the country's history.

"We finally got what we deserved," PTI chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said while speaking outside the apex court along with other PTI lawmakers following the Supreme Court's announcement of its verdict on Friday.

The chairman said that "today is a day of happiness for the 250 million people of Pakistan."

He noted that 11 judges of the top court voted in favour of PTI and also expressed gratitude to the judiciary for deciding in favour of the party.

"The greatest contribution was from KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. He delayed the oath in the KP Assembly. There is no question of re-election," Gohar added.

"The Supreme Court has granted the right to its rightful owner today," Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) leader Sahibzada Hamid Raza.

He criticised the Election Commission, accusing it of attempting to steal the mandate, and highlighted the Supreme Court's lack of confidence in the electro watchdog. Raza demanded the immediate resignation of the chief of ECP.

"We aim to uphold democracy in Pakistan," PTI's senator Shibli Faraz stated.

He emphasised that the current government was established based on Form-45 and called for the restoration of the mandate.

Faraz praised the courts for allocating them the reserved seats, paying tribute to their decision to "uphold the flag of justice".

The Supreme Court of Pakistan in its verdict said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was entitled to reserved seats and that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)'s decision to allocate reserved seats to the ruling coalition was unconstitutional.

During the announcement, PTI leaders chanted slogans on the SC premises.

Before the announcement today, Chairman Barrister Gohar expressed optimism about the allocation of their reserved seats while speaking to the media in Islamabad.

Barrister Gohar stated that the wait for the public is nearing its end and they are hopeful for a favorable decision from the Supreme Court.

"This is an issue of the basic rights of 250 million people," Barrister Gohar remarked, emphasizing the significance of the matter. He expressed confidence that PTI would receive their due seats, which he believes will strengthen democracy in the country.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

-Bilawal urged to take action against those violating party discipline in Dadu!

PPP's Pir Danish accuses Vice Chairman of trying to sabotage Dadu Municipal Committee's budget session

DADU: The Chairman of the Municipal Committee Dadu, Pir Danish Ali while talking to the media said that the budget session was held successfully in Dadu district as the majority of members attended it to pass the budget for the fiscal year 2034-25. While replying to a question he said that the Vice Chairman of the Municipal Committee Dadu, who is also the President of PPP City did not attend the very important session and he also asked the councilors not to attend the budget session. 13 members on the call of the Vice Chairman did not attend the session which is open violation of the party discipline as the party has assigned him duty as a chairman due to which all the party members should obey this decision. 20 members attended the budget session to pass the budget with majority. If anyone has any reservation then he should discuss with the party leadership but the propaganda should not be spread against the PPP's stronghold in Dadu. He further announced to contact the President of PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuhro and Adi Faryal Talpur regarding the misconduct of the Vice Chairman and a few members of the Municipal Committee Dadu. He also thanked Adi Faryal Talpur for listening to his complaint. On the occasion he vowed to stand with the decision of the party leadership.—RT

DC Yasir Bhatti, SSP Sheeraz Nazir Abbasi review Muharram arrangements in Tando Bago

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An important meeting regarding EPI and surveillance was organized at the DHO office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti. DC Badin directed the Health Department officials to ensure the vaccination of children so that they could remain safe from 12 diseases. He also urged the people to get their children vaccinated against different diseases. These vaccines can be administered free of cost at any nearby EPI center. Briefing the meeting, Dr. Salam and Ramzan Qambrani said that in Badin district, with the help of 129 vaccinators and 996 lady health workers, free vaccinations against 12 dangerous diseases are administered in 80 EPI centers of the district. Dr. Zaheeruddin Memon, Assistant Commissioner Badin Shehryar Habib, MS Civil Hospital Dr. Mir Akhtar Ali Talpar, District Manager PPHI Badin B Razia Ujjan, N Stop Officer Dr. Manzoor Memon, Dr. Sanaullah, Dr. Mumtaz Chandev, Dr. Rajneesh, Dr. Gulab Kashmiri, Dr. Soomar Khoso and officers of all concerned departments also attended.

SSP Thatta Muhammad Imran Khan pays tribute to Police martyrs

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: SSP Thatta, Muhammad Imran Khan, recently honored the enduring legacy of martyrs, emphasizing that their bravery and sacrifice ensure they are not dead but eternally alive. Speaking after laying flowers at the memorials of police martyrs and visiting their families, Khan highlighted the profound impact of their sacrifices on the nation's spirit. He stated that the death of a martyr fuels the life of the nation, igniting hope and national unity. SSP Thatta remarked that the best way to honor martyrs is by recognizing and appreciating their sacrifices. He pointed out that the police have played a pivotal role in maintaining peace and order, especially in the aftermath of terrorism. Their unwavering dedication to protecting lives and property and enforcing the law underscores their critical role in civic life.

Municipal Committee Chairman Syed Samar Hussain Shah visits Imambargahs in Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Chairman of the Municipal Committee Tando Allahyar, Syed Samar Hussain Shah Rizvi visited different Imambargahs to review arrangements for the Yaum-e-Ashura. He visited Imambargah Sakhi Moj Darya, Anjuman Safina-e-Hyderi and others, where he met with Syed Zahid Hussain Shah, Imdad Hussain Hyderi and other leaders.

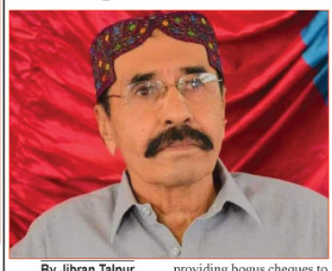
The Municipal Committee Chairman said that lighting has been ensured along the routes of the mourning processions and the municipal authorities have ensured cleanliness and other arrangements also. The stalls of Sabil have also been set up by the Municipal Committee , while all available resources are being used to facilitate the mourners of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS).

6-year-old Kunri girl killed in a hit and run

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: A 6-year-old girl named Aliya Solangi, the daughter of Taimur Solangi, who was walking near village Soomar Bagh near Kunri, was hit by an unknown car and as a result she sustained critical injuries. After the collision, the injured girl was shifted to local hospital from where first aid was given and referred to Hyderabad. The minor girl succumbed to her injuries before reaching Hyderabad. The body of the deceased was handed over to her heirs after completing necessary medico legal formalities. A case of the incident was lodged at the Kunri Police Station.

Former Town Committee Chairman Talhar Mir Shahid Ahmed Talpur jailed for issuing bogus cheques to a trader



By Jibran Talpur

BADIN: The Civil Court Badin has jailed the former Chairman of the Town Committee Talhar, Mir Shahid Ahmed Talpur after he was booked in a case of providing bogus cheques to a trader named Raja Mumtaz Khawaja. The case was registered in 2023. The former Chairman after being sentenced one and half year imprisonment was sent to jail.

Solangi community demands action against Sinjhoro Police

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: The residents of village Muhammad Arab Solangi, UC Jaffar Khan Laghari in Taluka Sinjhoro recorded a protest demonstration against the actions of the Sinjhoro Police. The protest leaders, who included Ghulam Mustafa Solangi, Mashooq Solangi, Ashiq Solangi and others said that the SHO of Sinjhoro Police Station and Incharge of Rukan Buriro are harassing them due to which they have to face many hardships. On the occasion, the protesters demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter and provide justice to them, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Population Welfare Dept, HANDS observe World Population Day in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Population Welfare Department and HANDS Pakistan observed the World Population Day by taking out a rally and holding awareness seminar. The District Officer of Population Welfare Department Abdul Hameed Memon, Focal Person of HANDS Narendar Kumar, ADHO Dr Lashman Das, DIO Muhammad Aslam Bhatti, Muhammad Bux Kunbhar, Dr Laila Pardeep, Dr Pooja, Dr Pavan Kumar and others led the rally and attended seminar.

TMK's civil society protests against illegal deductions from needy women's BISP stipends

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The local civil society leaders and BISP beneficiaries recorded a protest demonstration against the deduction from the stipends of the poor women at the centre set up at the Mono Technical College.

The protest leaders, who included Razia Sehto, Zahid Jiskani, Javed Halepoto, Azmat Brohi and others said that Rs 2000 are being deducted from their stipends by the device holders due to which they are facing many hardships. The protesters demanded of the higher authorities to take steps for the provision of justice to the BISP beneficiaries, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

DC Thatta Munawar Abbas Soomro reviews arrangements for monsoon season

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: A crucial meeting was held at Darbar Hall Makli, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Munawar Abbas Soomro, to review the arrangements for dealing with the monsoon rains. The meeting was attended by officials from various departments including Revenue, Health, Education, Livestock, Local Government, Social Welfare, Police, Irrigation, Public Health, Education Works, MURF, PPHI, Rescue 1122 and representatives from NGOs. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Munawar Abbas Soomro directed all relevant department officials to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place to deal with the monsoon rains, so that people do not face any difficulties in case of an emergency. He emphasized that all departments, particularly the Irrigation, Local Government, Livestock, and Health departments, should remain alert during such situations. He instructed the Irrigation Department officials to ensure the repair and monitoring of all vulnerable embankments of the Indus River and the presence of necessary machinery.

He also directed the officials from Local Government and other relevant departments to ensure timely drainage of rainwater, cleaning of disposals and drain channels, and to keep dewatering pumps and other machinery operational. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of coordination among all departments to effectively handle any potential emergencies. He instructed the Health Department officials to ensure the availability of necessary medicines, doctors, and paramedical staff at the district headquarters hospital, BHUs, and RHCs.

Prior to this, officials from all relevant departments provided a detailed briefing on the pre-emptive arrangements in view of the monsoon rains.

World Population Day commemorated in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: World Population Day was celebrated by the Population Welfare Department Badin on Friday. The celebration of World Population Day was held at the district office of the Department of Population Welfare under the supervision of District Population Welfare Officer. Imran Channa said that this day was set by the United Nations and celebrated for the first time in 1989, since then World Population Day is celebrated every year to create awareness about the growing population of the world.

To raise awareness of population issues and their impact on sustainable development, the day highlights the challenges faced by overpopulation, such as resource scarcity, environmental impacts, and social inequality.

It highlights the importance of family planning, gender equality, and maternal health, it is important to consider the implications of the growing population and work towards sustainable solutions for the future socio-economic of the world's population. Asghar Notkani, District Information Officer Sarfraz Samo, District Manager HANDS Haider Ali Panhwar, Project Manager HABDS Nazish, Accountant Zahid Hussain Anand and other speakers also spoke on this occasion and felicitated Family Welfare Counselors and Social Mobilizers for their outstanding performance in Population Welfare Badin. Appreciation certificates were also distributed for the best performance before the ceremony.

ARTS Foundation holds a women's assembly in Mirpurkhas

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: In Mirpurkhas, the social organization Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation, with financial assistance from Oxfam Pakistan and in collaboration with Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), organized a Women Assembly event under the Flood Recovery and Response: A Community-Wide Approach in Sindh project in the district of Mirpurkhas. Participants included workers from political parties, government social workers from the protection sector, and over 160 women, children, and men from twenty different villages. The Protection Manager of ARTS Foundation, Ali Hasan Noon, welcomed the participants on behalf of the foundation and provided a detailed introduction to the Flood Recovery and Response project. He explained how ARTS Foundation works for the protection, development, and equality of various socially and economically disadvantaged groups in society, including women, girls, and children, and aims to safeguard their social, economic, political, and human rights. The program officially began with Protection Officer Yusra informing the attendees about the project's performance. During the event, cultural gifts of Sindh, including Ajrak, various prizes, and certificates of appreciation, were distributed by the organization to highlight the importance of political party workers and government and volunteer social workers from the protection sector. Mir Anwar Ali Talpur, Chairman of District Council Mirpurkhas, and Abdul Rauf Ghori attended the event as special guests. Chairman Anwar Ali Talpur congratulated the entire team of ARTS Foundation on organizing an excellent program. He saluted all the rural women and girls, acknowledging their contributions, and emphasized the importance of highlighting the significance of women and girls living in rural areas of our society. He stressed the importance of education and urged the promotion of education among girls, stating that an educated woman can only create an educated society. Other notable attendees included Wajid Memon from the Social Welfare Department, Advocate Nusrat Miyano, In-charge of Safe House, Rehan Detho, Assistant Commissioner Kot Ghulam Muhammad, Nabi Bux Gurgez, DEO Primary School, Asif Burghari, Chairman UC Digan Burghari, Bakhtiar Shah, Radha Bheel, Razia Begum, Dr. Syeda Tahira Bilal, Maryam Zahid Ali, Protection Officer from ARTS Foundation, Irfana, Public Health Promoter, Imtiaz Ali, Public Health Promoter, Haris Najeeb, Public Engineer, Aiman Abbasi, Data Officer and Muharam Ali, SES Officer.

ECP reinstates suspended Kunri TEO Primary and 6 PSTs

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Election Commission has reinstated the suspended TEO Primary and 6 PSTs in Kunri, who had been suspended for violating the election rules. TEO Primary Ali Akhtar Siyal, PSTs including Urs, Ali Akbar, Nawaz Ali, Qurban Ali, Agha Muhammad and Dost Ali were suspended on the February 14. The Election Commission has also issued such a notification. It should be noted that under Section 55 of the Election Act, 2017, TEO Primary and others were suspended for irregularities in the postal ballot paper.

REGIONAL TIMES
Voice Peoples Every Day
NATIONAL

PM directs preparing action plan for PASSCO's privatization

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to prepare an action plan for the privatisation of the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Cooperation (PASSCO).

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters related to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research and PASSCO, also instructed to carry out the restructuring of the Wheat Board.

He said the restructured Wheat Board should include representatives of farmers, the Land Information Management System and PASSCO.

The prime minister called for taking effective measures to enhance the yield of wheat and other crops.

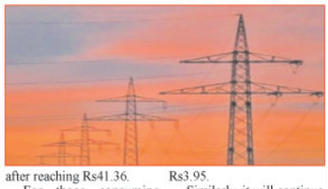
He asked the relevant authorities to formulate an alternate strategy for wheat procurement by the federal government and hold consultation with the provincial governments and also those of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as well as relevant departments.

The participants of the meeting were briefed about the ToRs and restructuring of the Wheat Board, and also on increasing the crops yield as well as reforms in the PASSCO.

Federal cabinet members including Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Attaullah Tarar, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.—RT/Agency

-When will this madness end?

NEPRA approves massive tariff hike for domestic consumers



ISLAMABAD:The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Thursday approved the government's request to increase the tariff for domestic electricity consumers in the country by up to Rs7.12 per unit — meeting yet another condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for its bailout programme.

However, according to a notification issued by the power regulator, domestic consumers using up to 200 units will be exempt from this hike for three months — from July to September.

The base tariff for other domestic consumers has been inflated by up to Rs48.84 per unit.

The consumers using 201 to 300 units per month will be charged Rs34.26 per unit with an increase of Rs7.12.

Similarly, those consuming between 301 and 400 units will be charged Rs39.15 per unit after being jacked up by Rs7.02.

Likewise, the consumers using 401 to 500 units will face a hike of Rs6.12 per unit after reaching Rs41.36.

For those consuming from 501 to 600 units, they will be slapped with an increase of Rs42.78 per unit with a hike of Rs6.12.

Those falling in the category of those using from 601 to 700 units will face an increase of Rs6.12 -- paying Rs43.92 per unit.

The consumers whose usage exceeds 700 units will be charged at the rate of Rs48.84 per unit following a hike of Rs6.12.

The per unit cost of electricity will be jacked up in accordance with the tax slabs.

The tax slab will remain unchanged for lifeline consumers using up to 50 units per month at the price of Rs3.95.

Similarly, it will continue to stay at Rs7.74 for other lifeline consumers using 51 to 100 units per month.

Nepra has sent its decision to the federal government for notifying the hike after the latter requested uniform tariff for all power distributions companies (Discos) and K-Electric.

In the same decision, the power regulator also approved the tariff increase for commercial, agricultural, general services and bulk consumers.

The base tariff for commercial consumers was hiked by Rs8.04, after which they would be charged by up to Rs77.15 per unit from July.—RT/Agency

ANP wins PK-22 Bajaur by-election

Awami National Party's (ANP) candidate Nisar Khan emerged victorious in the PK-22 by-election in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Bajaur district after securing 11,926 votes, according to unofficial and unconfirmed results released on late Thursday night.

As per the unofficial results, independent candidate Najeebullah Khan came in second with 10,622 votes, followed by Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Abid Khan, who bagged 10,593 votes in by-election.

In Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-ruled KP, Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) Rahatullah Khan was at fourth place with 7,146 votes.

It is pertinent to mention here that the polling began at 8am and continued till 5pm without any break. The KP assembly seat fell vacant after the occupant, Mubarak Zeb Khan, was elected to the National Assembly.

It is pertinent to mention here that Bajaur witnessed a second by-poll within five months of the general elections.

The total number of registered voters in PK-22 stands at 1,79,000, including 99,000 males and 79,972 females.

The February 8 general elections were postponed in this constituency after the death of a candidate Rehan Zeb Khan in an attack during his election campaign.

In the by-elections on April 21, Rehan Zeb's brother, Mubarak Zeb, was fielded by the elders and youth from NA-8 and PK-22 who won both slots with a huge support from locals.

In the April by-election, Mubarak defeated some of the stalwarts of Bajaur, including former lawmakers, fielded by different mainstream parties.

He received 74,008 votes from NA-8 while runner-up received 47,282 votes. He also won from PK-22 Bajaur-IV and received 23,386 votes while runner-up got 10477 votes.

Mubarak preferred to remain in NA and vacated the PK-22 seat.—RT/Agency

Tourist van accident injures 10 at Islamabad's Daman-e-Koh

ISLAMABAD: In a tragic incident, at least 10 people sustained injuries as tourist van crashed in Daman-e-Koh area of Islamabad, media reported.

As per details, the incident occurred in Daman-e-Koh where the van carrying tourists from Gujrat overturned due to brake failure, however, miraculously the van didn't plunge into the ravine.

The injured have been shifted to the nearby hospital where they have been given the necessary treatment.

In a separate incident, at least four people were killed while six others sustained injuries after a tourists' van suffered an accident in Skurdu's Bishu valley.

The ill-fated van was carrying 10 passengers out of which four were killed. The seven injured persons were rushed to a hospital for medical treatment.

On May 29, at least 27 people were killed after a bus overturned and fell into a ditch in Washuk, Balochistan.

The accident occurred due to overspeeding, said police adding that women and children were among the deceased. The ill-fated bus was traveling from Turbat to Quetta.

Soon after the incident, the rescue officials reached the site and shifted bodies and the injured to the Basima Civil Hospital.—RT/Agency

Flour prices hiked as mill owners' strike enters second day

MULTAN: The flour prices have jacked up as the flour mill owners' strike against the imposition of a 2.5 percent withholding tax in the budget 2024-25 has entered into its second day, media reported.

As per details, the prices of 15-kilogram flour bags have increased by Rs 100 to Rs 180, reaching Rs 1,330 to Rs 1,500. Similarly, the prices of 10-kilogram flour bags went up by Rs 50 to Rs 150, reaching Rs 900 to Rs 1,000.

On the other hand negotiations between flour mill owners and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have failed, with the FBR chairman refusing to withdraw the withholding tax.

The chairman of the Flour Mill Association Shafeeq Anjum said that the strike will continue until demands are met.

He said that there are fears of a widespread flour crisis in the next two days, with wholesale dealers having only a two to three-day stock of flour.

Earlier, the flour mill owners announced a strike on July 11 against the imposition of a 2.5 percent withholding tax in the budget 2024-25

The flour mill owners said that due to increasing electricity bills, they are already facing difficulties in running their business.

"The additional 2.5 percent withholding tax will further ruin our business," they added.

While demanding the government withdraw its decision to impose the tax, the flour mill owners announced to go on strike on July 11.

The association's chairman, Aamir Abdullah, warned that if the government does not withdraw the newly imposed tax, a strike may be called, which could include the closure of flour mills across the country.

"The government needs to reconsider and withdraw the tax on wheat products, withholding tax implementation will inevitably drive up prices, affecting consumers and retailers alike," Abdullah stated.—RT/Agency

Flight operations resume at Peshawar airport after fire incident

After a brief interruption due to a fire incident, operations at Bacha Khan International Airport in Peshawar have returned to normalcy.

Officials confirmed that all flights, including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), resumed their schedules as usual.

The runway closure on Thursday, prompted by a fire incident in a flight of the Saudia airlines, temporarily disrupted air operations. However, authorities swiftly responded to the situation, ensuring that safety protocols were adhered to throughout the incident.

Flights destined for Dubai, Sharjah, and Karachi are set to proceed according to their planned schedules today, reassured airport officials.

The Air Accident Investigation Board team promptly conducted inspections and the aircraft involved in the incident was removed from the taxiway for assessment. Under the leadership of the airport manager, efforts were underway to ensure the smooth operations of the runway.

Flights resumed gradually starting from 7:50pm on Thursday, marking a swift recovery in airport operations. A private airline flight ER-852 originating from Jeddah successfully landed at Bacha Khan airport.

On Thursday morning, a fire broke out in an aeroplane belonging to a foreign airline at the Peshawar airport. According to aviation sources, the fire broke out in the landing gear of Saudia airlines flight SV-792 from Riyadh during landing at the Peshawar airport. The air traffic controller informed the authorities about the fire. The incident triggered emergency protocols as 276 passengers and a 21-member crew were swiftly evacuated using emergency slides. The incident caused temporary disruptions at Peshawar airport. The airport was declared shut for 24 hours due to the presence of the plane on the airport taxiway. According to a Notice to Airmen (Notam), the duration of the runway closure was supposed to be from 10:35am on Thursday to the same time Friday. All flights to the Peshawar airport were to be diverted to alternative airports. —RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Water Crisis Hits SITE Area, Several Industries closed

KARACHI: The water crisis in Karachi's largest industrial area, SITE, has worsened significantly, leading to a cessation of water supply to industries and severely affecting production. Many factories have been forced to shut down due to the acute water shortage. Muhammad Kamran Arbi, President of the SITE Association of Industry, urgently appealed to the Managing Director of Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) to restore adequate water supply to enable uninterrupted industrial activities.

Mr. Arbi highlighted that water supply to SITE industries has been halted for the past week, resulting in a complete halt of production activities. Despite notifications to KWSC management, there has been no restoration of water supply, leading to substantial losses for the industrial community.

"Additionally, the unavailability of water tankers to meet industrial demands threatens the closure of a large number of factories. This situation not only jeopardizes exports but also exacerbates unemployment," added SAI Chief.

Kamran Arbi reiterated the industry's plea to the MD of KWSC to urgently intervene and restore water supply, emphasizing its critical role in preventing further economic setbacks in the SITE area.—RT

Murad Orders For Removal Of All Karachi Encroachments

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has instructed all administrative, local bodies, development authorities, and the police to create a plan to eliminate encroachments from footpaths, service roads, green belts, walkways, and streets to restore the beauty and sanctity of Karachi.

"We as a Sindh government are strengthening the local bodies so that this city can be made liable but under the nose of concerned authorities, encroachments are made in their areas to wash away all the government's efforts."

He issued these instructions while presiding over a meeting to discuss the issues of encroachments and resolve them here at the CM House. Provincial Ministers - Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Adl IG Karachi Imran Yakoob, Secretary Local Govt Khalid Hyder Shah, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Transport Asad Zamin, MD SSWMB Imtiaz Shah, DG SBCA Rasheed Solangi, CEO Water Board Salahuddin, DG KDA all the deputy commissioners.

Encroachments on walkways, Green belts and Streets: The chief minister said that encroachments on footpaths, Green Belts, walkways and streets have defaced the city and caused serious issues in the flow of traffic even for the pedestrians but no authority was ready to remove them.

Mr Shah categorically said that no institution has the authority to allow encroachment on the Green belts, footpaths and walkways. "How, some private offices have installed their generators on the footpath under the nose of the concerned local body and the deputy commissioner," he questioned.

He directed all the administration, KMC, Town Municipal Corporations (TMCs), the police, and the development authorities to clarify their role and responsibilities.

The local Govt Minister Saeed Ghani and Mayor Karachi said that the local bodies had their anti-encroachment wings but were not as active as they should have.

Three passengers offloaded from Azerbaijan-bound flight with fake travel documents

SIALKOT: Federal Immigration Authority (FIA) immigration offloaded three passengers attempting to travel to Azerbaijan on fake documents at Sialkot Airport, media reported.

As per details, suspect Zeeshan Qaiser scheduled for flight PK-179 was found with a suspicious Albanian visa, which was later revealed to be fake during immigration clearance.

Another suspect, Abubakar, had obtained a fake work visa for Italy by paying an agent Rs 1.5 million whereas the third suspect, Naveed Sarwar, was also traveling as a sub-agent.

Yesterday, the FIA offloaded eight women passengers from a Saudi Arabia-bound flight at Multan Airport.

"The women were allegedly going to Saudi Arabia for begging," a spokesperson of the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) immigration wing said.

"The women were identified as Sobia, Khadija, Aasia, Saira, Sajda, Salma, Sameena and Naghma," FIA spokesperson said.

"The women passengers are natives of Bahawalnagar. The officials recovered 200 Saudi Riyal from each woman," FIA stated.

The women were transferred to the FIA's anti-human trafficking circle Multan for further legal action.

The FIA last year in December offloaded nine alleged beggars traveling to Saudi Arabia, disguised as Umrah pilgrims from Multan.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz orders for enhanced wheat production

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has directed to take effective steps to enhance the production of wheat and other crops.

Chairing a meeting regarding Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO), in Islamabad today, he directed the preparation federal government's alternative strategy regarding the purchase of wheat after consultations with provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and other relevant institutions.

The meeting approved the restructuring of Wheat Board.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said farmers' representatives as well as those of Land Information and Management System and SUPARCO should be included in the wheat board.

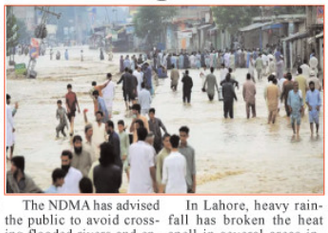
Shehbaz Sharif also directed to prepare an action plan regarding the privatization of PASSCO.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday told the National Assembly that the government had made no decision for the export of wheat.

"No decision has been made for the export of wheat. I want to bring it on record before the House that there is no such decision for the wheat export," he told the National Assembly responding to a point of order raised by a parliamentarian.

However, referring to the PTI government's sugar and wheat scams, he recalled that it was also on record that in the past wheat and sugar were first exported and later imported and where the billions and trillions of rupees went was part of the history. The prime minister also appreciated National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for showing "generosity" to give floor to the opposition leader which was not practiced during the speakership of Asad Qaiser.—RT/Agency

NDMA issues flood, landslide warning for KP



PESHAWAR: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a flood and landslide alert in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), media reported.

According to NDMA spokesperson, the alert was issued as heavy rains are expected in various districts, including Charsadda, Chitral, Mansehra, Peshawar, Shangla, and Swat.

The NDMA has warned of potential flash flooding, landslides, and hill collapse in the hilly areas, posing a significant threat to life and property.

The authority has directed emergency services to remain alert and ensure the availability of necessary equipment, machinery, and rescue resources to deal with any emergency situation.

The NDMA has advised the public to avoid crossing flooded rivers and entering waterlogged areas, urging them to take necessary precautions to ensure their safety.

It is pertinent to mention here that heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds lashed Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore and other parts of Punjab.

In Lahore, heavy rainfall has broken the heat spell in several areas including Shadman, Gulberg, Model Town, Jail Road, and Ichhra.

Heavy showers also lashed Gujarat and its surrounding areas. In Kasur's Kanganpur and nearby regions, there were also significant downpours.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Saving the system from collapse

The recent Supreme Court ruling in favor of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the reserved seats case is a monumental step toward upholding the principles of fundamental rights and democracy in Pakistan. This landmark decision, delivered by a 13-member bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, reverses the earlier judgments of the Peshawar High Court and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). It rightfully restores PTI's entitlement to seats reserved for women and minorities, reaffirming the party's constitutional and legal rights.

For the past two and a half years, Pakistan's democratic framework has faced significant challenges, with various interpretations and experiments causing substantial harm to our country's political stability and economic health. The Supreme Court's decision is a beacon of hope, signaling a crucial turning point where the democratic process begins to correct itself. This verdict underscores that the denial of an election symbol should not strip a political party of its fundamental rights to participate in elections and field candidates.

The majority opinion, backed by eight justices, brings much-needed clarity and justice, emphasizing the importance of proportional representation and the integrity of our electoral system. This decision not only strengthens the democratic process but also highlights the judiciary's role in safeguarding constitutional principles against overreach.

As PTI celebrates this victory, it is imperative to reflect on the broader implications for Pakistan's democracy. The ruling coalition's loss of its two-thirds majority in the National Assembly is a significant development, reshaping the political landscape. This judgment marks the beginning of a new chapter where democratic values and the rule of law are paramount.

Therefore, this historic ruling by the Supreme Court serves as a pivotal moment for Pakistan. It reinforces the belief that democracy, though flawed and tested, can be preserved and strengthened through unwavering commitment to justice and constitutional integrity. Let this decision be a reminder that the democratic process, when upheld and respected, has the power to correct itself and thrive.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

SABS University awards NEST scholarships to 39 students

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: The Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro awarded the cheques of National Endowment Scholarships for Talent (NEST) to 39 deserving students. In a ceremony held at the university, Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto gave away cheques to each deserving student.

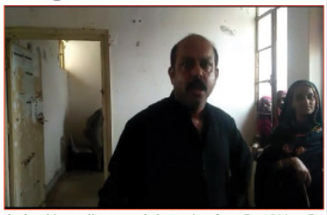
Addressing the ceremony Vice-Chancellor SABS Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto said that NEST scholarships are designed to support talented students in their educational pursuits, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their academic progress. She said that SABS university is committed to provide students with the resources they need to excel and NEST scholarships are a testament to dedication of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training to support and nurture the potential of students.

The 39 students who received the scholarships were selected based on their academic performance and financial need. The scholarship will cover various educational expenses, hostel fees, allowing the students to focus on their studies and achieve their academic goals.

Chairpersons of various departments Fazal Ellahi Khan, Shazia Abro, Muhammad Saleem Jhatial, Rajkumar, focal person NEST Scholarships Hina Marvi Khilji, Registrar Muhammad Suleman Bhutto, acting Director Finance Muneer Ahmed Khatian and other officials were present on the occasion.

Additional Director BISP misbehaves with KGM journalists for enquiring about illegal deductions

By Maqbool Dal



KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: The BISP Centre has been set up in the Irrigation Department's office in Kot Ghulam Muhammad from where the complaints are being received about the illegal deductions by the device holders. In this regard the local journalists asked questions from the Additional Director about deductions due to which he insulted the journalists and misbehaved with them. He also issued threats to the journalists by stopping them covering the BISP beneficiaries. After the incident the local journalists recorded a protest demonstration against the Additional Director Irrigation. They accused the device holders of deducting stipends of the women ranging from Rs 1500 to Rs 2000. They demanded of the concerned authorities to take notice of the matter and provide relief to the BISP beneficiaries.

Member of District Council Hyderabad Advocate Abid Hussain Thebo goes missing

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Member of the District Council and Bar Council Advocate Abid Hussain Thebo has gone missing as his vehicle was found near Hatri Bypass. The DIG Hyderabad after taking notice of the incident has formed a team under the supervision of SSP Hyderabad to ensure the recovery of missing man. DSP CIA Aslam Langah has been posted as the leader of the enquiry team.

Elderly woman found dead in Guddu Thermal Colony

By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMORE: The dead body of an elderly woman was found in the residential area of Guddu Thermal Colony on Friday. The deceased woman was identified as Jawai Shaikh, who was missing from her home since past several days. The body of the deceased woman was handed over to her heirs after completing necessary medico legal formalities from a local area hospital.

5th Muharram-ul-Haram observed in Shahdadpur

By Asif Niaz Detho

SHAHDADPUR: After the installation of the Alam of Ghazi Abbas Alamdar (AS), the mourning processions and the tradition of self-flagellation with chains have continued. From the residence of Kazim Bungalows, the residences of Zawar Mir Mehtab, Zawar Junaid Ali and Zawar Shahzad Ali, the cradle of the 6-month-old Shahzada Ali Asghar (AS) was taken out. On this occasion, the central Imambargah Hussaini's mourning group, the Qamar Bani Hashim Group, Anjuman Bab al-Hawaij, and other mourning groups performed Azadari. Hubdar Hussaini, Zawar Sher Qureshi, Syed Imran Shah, Rafiq Mallah, and others participated in the event.

Majlis-e-Aza held at Dargah Syed Gul Shah Badshah in Talhar

TALHAR: The annual Majlis-e-Aza was organized at the Dargah Syed Gul Shah Badshah in which a large number of people belonging to different walks of life participated. Allama Muhammad Abbas Naqvi addressed the Majlis-e-Aza and paid tribute to the Martyrs of Karbala. On the occasion, prayers were also offered for the eternal peace of Shaheed Zawar Khawaja Ghulam Hussain Shah.—RT

Kunri man found dead in Nabisar Canal

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: The dead body of an unidentified was recovered from Nabisar Canal near Kunri. According to the details, the residents of the suburbs near Kanjhaji Bridge informed the police after seeing the body lying in the canal.

While the body of the deceased could not be identified, there is a mark of injury on the head of the deceased, more investigations are being conducted by the police.

Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder reviews arrangements for monsoon rains

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division, Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder along with Project Director Scarp Shaheed Benazirabad Amjad Ali Memon visited sim nullahs and drainage lines in Shahdadpur, Shahpur Chakar, Jam Sahib, Amrji, West Nawabshah, Gujra, Daur and others other towns. Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Hyder directed the LBOD and Scarp Department officials to ensure cleanliness work of the sim nullahs and drainage lines in connection with the monsoon rains. He also stressed the need of keeping the machinery operational so that water could be drained out from the residential areas. He warned the negligent officials of stern action. On the occasion, XEN LBOD Shuhabuddin Bhatti, Information Officer Sher Muhammad Jamali and other officials also accompanied the Commissioner during his visit.

Justice demanded for killed Thul shopkeeper Qaimuddin Sarki

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The family members of the shopkeeper named Qaimuddin, who was killed five years ago recorded a protest demonstration for the arrest of his murderers.

While talking to the media, the protest leaders demanded of the concerned authorities to provide justice to Qaimuddin Sarki, who was killed by the extortionists five years ago. They vowed to continue their protest if justice is not provided to the killed shopkeeper.

AC Muhammad Khan Bhangwar visits Kunri's BISP Centre

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: The Assistant Commissioner Kunri Muhammad Khan Bhangwar and DSP Zain Raza Baloch visited the BISP Center in Kunri. Out of the 13 available devices only 2 were operational causing an increase in the crowd of women instead of reducing it. The number of women far exceeded the available devices. The Assistant Commissioner has contacted the relevant authorities in Umerkot to request an increase in the number of devices and to improve the conditions at the center. At the Nabisar Road, Tobhan Branch BISP Center, the devices were blocked, resulting in women being forced to go to the Kunri Center. Device holders in rural areas should ensure their devices are operational.

Youm-e-Ali Asghar (AS) observed in Khairpur

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Youm-e-Ali Asghar (AS) was observed on the first Friday of the Muharram-ul-Haram on the call of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamnei. In this regard a mourning procession was taken out to pay tribute to 6-month-old Abdullah Ibne Hussain Shahzada Ali Asghar (AS) in village Bangal Khan Chandio by Asgharia Students' Organization. A large number of mourners including men and children participated in the procession and marched through the traditional route.

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

SPORTS

Spain star Yamal's hometown buzzing over teen's Euro success

SPAIN:Every time Lamine Yamal scores, he holds up his fingers to sign the numbers 304 -- the postcode of Rocafonda, the modest Catalan district where he grew up, which is bursting with pride over the 16-year-old's success in Euro 2024.

It's not yet midday but there is a real buzz inside the local bar, El Cordobes, which is still reeling with excitement after Yamal, who used to come in with his dad, clutching a football, shot home the sublime goal against France that helped propel Spain to Sunday's Euro 2024 final.

For years, people here to the north of Barcelona knew he was different but nobody could have predicted the lad would go on to become the youngest player to score in a European Championship.

"We knew he was going to play with Barcelona's first team," bar owner Juan Carlos Serrano says with a proud smile.

"But we had no idea would have the kind of impact he's having now."

On the wall behind him is a framed Barcelona shirt signed by Yamal that his father gave Serrano as thanks for his support during the years when the pair used to go to the bar before taking the train into the city for him to train with the club's youth team -- until he signed with their famed La Masia youth academy.

That was the last day Yamal came into the bar, but not the last time he came back to this district of Mataro, a city of 130,000 people that lies 30 killometres (18 miles) up the coast from Barcelona where he spent some of his childhood and where many locals proudly show off photos with him.—Agency

BBL 14 promises action-packed tournament as schedule announced

Cricket Australia has unveiled an electrifying and action-packed schedule for the upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) Season 14, promising fans a series of thrilling matches.

The 44-game season, which is set to commence on December 15, will feature uninterrupted cricket every night, including six double headers.

According to the new schedule, the opening match, which will see the Perth Scorchers take on the Melbourne Stars, will be played at the Optus Stadium in Perth.

This match will immediately follow day two of the Brisbane Test.

Notably, the upcoming season will feature a total of 14 BBL matches overlapping with the Men's Border-Gavaskar Trophy Series.

This offers the possibility of seeing returning Australian Test players in action following the conclusion of the series on January 7, 2025.

Alistair Dobson, BBL general manager, said: "This is a brilliant schedule for fans, with uninterrupted action every night of the regular season and all the marquee games our fans love.

"We also can't wait to welcome back members of the Australian Test team once again in January, taking advantage of a bigger window following the Border-Gavaskar Trophy Series.

"The shift to an optimised competition length last season, together with the recruitment of world class players, led to incredible crowds and experiences off the field and cricket on it. We can't wait to see that grow in BBL14."

Matches to look forward to

Sydney Smash — Sydney Thunder vs Sydney Sixers at ENGIE Stadium.

Boxing Day Double Header — Sixers vs Stars at Sydney Cricket Ground, and Scorchers vs Brisbane Heat at Optus Stadium.

New Year's Eve Blockbuster — Adelaide Strikers vs Scorchers at Adelaide Oval.

New Year's Day Double Header — Hurricanes vs Sixers at Blundstone Arena and Heat vs Stars at Gabba. Melbourne Derbies Fans can look forward to thrilling Melbourne Derbies between the Renegades and Stars on January 4 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and January 12 at Marvel Stadium.—Agency

Face of the Day

Name: Shakeel Khan
Location: Karachi
About me: I love taking selfies!

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

Pakistan Champions beat West Indies Legends to reach WCL 2024 final

Pakistan Champions on Friday inflicted a 20-run defeat on West Indies Champions in the first semi-final at the County Ground in Northampton on Friday to secure a place in the final battle of the ongoing World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2024.

After setting the 199-run target, the Pakistani bowlers showcased a brilliant display and propelled their team to the tournament's final where they will face one of India or Australia.

Sohail Khan was Pakistan's best performer with the ball as he bagged four wickets and restricted the West Indies to 178 runs.

West Indies had a slow start as they had just scored seven runs in the first four overs but they soon found the rhythm as Chris Gayle started hitting boundaries in the fifth over.

However, Gayle's innings did not last long as he was removed by Sohail for 26 runs.

West Indies kept on losing wickets at intervals but Ashley Nurse played a rapid knock of 36 runs on 24 balls, he looked like the man to guide the Windies to chase but he was run out by Kamran Akmal.

Down the order, Rayad Emrit played a 9-ball 29-run innings but he fell prey to Shoaib Malik.

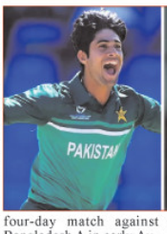
Sohail bagged four while Wahab Riaz and Shoaib Malik got two wickets each.

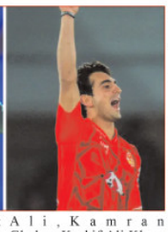
After being asked to bat first, Pakistan didn't have a great start as they lost three of their batters — Sharjeel Khan, Sohaib Maqsood and Shoaib Malik — without scoring any valuable runs.

The West Indies team looked on top as the ball was swinging under the clouds but a 77-run partnership between skipper Younis Khan and Kamran Akmal put Pakistan out of danger.

Both the batters looked set on the crease but Akmal ended up losing his wicket after scoring 46 runs on 31 balls with eight fours. Following the wicketkeeper batter's dismissal, Pakistan lost two more wickets with Shahid Afridi (1) and Misbah-ul-Haq (0) walking back to the pavilion.—Agency

Qasim Akram replaces Hunain Shah for Pakistan A's Australia tour after injury





Fast bowler Naseem Shah's younger brother, Hunain Shah, has been ruled out of Pakistan A team's tour of Australia due to an injury.

Hunain was all set to make his debut for the Pakistan A cricket team but following an injury, Qasim Akram has been selected to replace him in the squad.

The Pakistan Shaheens are scheduled to play two four-day matches against Bangladesh A during their tour of Australia.

PCT will depart for Australia at 2:45 AM on Saturday, traveling via Dubai to Brisbane. Sahibzada Farhan will lead the Shaheens in these matches, with test team head coach Jason Gillespie accompanying the team. Gillespie will oversee the national team's training camp following the second four-day match against Bangladesh A in early August.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has named Sahibzada Farhan as the captain of Pakistan Shaheens for the upcoming tour of Australia.

The 15-member Pakistan Shaheens squad includes

Sahibzada Farhan (Captain),Haseebullah,Qasim Akram,Muhammad Irfan Khan,Muhammad Ali,Kamran Ghulam,Kashif Ali,Khurram Shehzad,Mehran Mumtaz,Muhammad Huraira,Mubasir Khan,Omair Bin Yousuf,Shahnawaz Dahani,Tayyab Tahir,Umar Amin.

Pakistan Shaheens' schedule (all matches in Darwin):

19-22 Jul – Four-day vs Bangladesh 'A'

26-29 Jul – Four-day vs Bangladesh 'A'

4 Aug – 50-over match vs Northern Territory (NT)

6 Aug – 50 over match vs Bangladesh 'A'

2024 Top End T20 schedule (local time):

Friday 9 August

6:00pm: Northern Territory vs. Perth Scorchers | DXC Arena

Saturday 10 August

10:00am: Melbourne Renegades vs. Melbourne Stars | DXC Arena

3:00pm: Perth Scorchers vs. Pakistan Shaheens | DXC Arena

6:00pm: Tasmania vs. Adelaide Strikers | TIO Stadium

Sunday 11 August

10:00am: Bangladesh HP vs. Melbourne Renegades | Gardens Oval

1:00pm: Adelaide Strikers vs. Northern Territory | Gerry Wood Oval 3:00pm: Pakistan Shaheens vs. Melbourne Stars | Gardens Oval—Agency

Sahibzada Farhan to lead Pakistan Shaheens in upcoming Australia tour

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has named Sahibzada Farhan as the captain of Pakistan Shaheens for the upcoming tour of Australia.

Farhan, who boasts extensive experience in domestic cricket, will lead the team in two four-day matches against Bangladesh A.

The tour commences on July 13 and concludes with participation in the Northern Territory's T20 Series, featuring Pakistan Shaheens and prominent teams from the Big Bash League.

Haneen Shah has been ruled out of the series due to an injury. Qasim Akram has been selected to replace him in the squad.

The Pakistan Shaheens are scheduled to depart for Australia via Dubai on Saturday. This tour aims to provide valuable match experience for emerging players against a competitive Bangladesh A side.

Bangladesh's Mahmudul Hasan, the test opener, will captain the four-day squad, supported by middle-order batsman Shahadat Hossain, with another Test opener, Shadman Islam, also included in the squad for the longer-format games.

Following these fixtures, the HP Unit will shift focus to a 50-over tri-series involving Pakistan Shaheens and the Northern Territory of Australia.

Starting their campaign against Northern Territory on August 1, they will wrap up their matches against Shaheens on August 6.

Pakistan Shaheens' schedule (all matches in Darwin): 19-22 Jul – Four-day vs Bangladesh 'A'

26-29 Jul – Four-day vs Bangladesh 'A'—Agency

Cricket Diva Shaheen Afridi, wife Ansha expecting their first child

KARACHI: Pakistan's star pacer Shaheen Afridi is expecting his first child with his wife Ansha Afridi.

"Shaheen can miss Bangladesh Test matches due to childbirth. We can give him [some] rest if he wants to stay with his wife till then," said the national side's red-ball coach Jason Gillispie.

The couple's nikah was solemnised in February 2023 at the Zakaria Mosque in Karachi. However, their wedding and valima took place later in September last year.

The wedding ceremony was held on September 19 at a local hotel in Karachi and was attended by various current and former cricketers including Babar Azam and former cricketers including Misbah-ul-Haq, Saeed Anwer, Sohail Khan, and Tanveer Ahmed and others.

Whereas, the valima was held in Islamabad on September 21.

The pacer's expected unavailability for the national side comes as the Green Shirts are set to take on Bangladesh in a two-match Test series in August.

Shaheen has been recently in the limelight following the revelations that he misbehaved with the coaches and management staff.

Sources say that the pacer had indulged in arguments with batting coach Mohammad Yousuf during Pakistan's tour to England, just before the T20 World Cup 2024.

Prior to that, the star player had also become the talk of the town owing to the national side's captaincy saga wherein he was replaced by Babar as the white-ball skipper in March.

He then went on to turn down the vice-captaincy role offered to him by the Pakistan Cricket Board for the recently concluded T20 World Cup.—Agency

Asian Champion Shahir Afridi Returns Home After Knocking Out Indian Boxer in Thailand

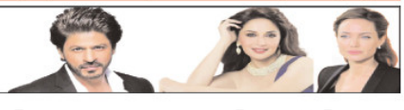
Karachi: Shahir Afridi, the Asian boxing champion who made headlines by defeating Indian boxer Ronit Solanki in Thailand, received a hero's welcome upon his return to Karachi last night. The Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) from Sindh Police was greeted with enthusiasm at the airport by officials from Genesis Town and his family.

Afridi was presented with a bouquet of flowers amidst chants of "Pakistan Zindabad" and cheers in support of Sindh Police. Speaking on the occasion, Afridi expressed his determination to continue striving for victory whenever he steps into the ring.

Shahir Afridi's victory over Indian boxer Ronit Solanki in Thailand has earned him the prestigious title of Professional Middleweight Category Asian Champion.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
Uniting People Every Day

ENTERTAINMENT



America's sweetheart Taylor Swift gives a shoutout to Switzerland during Eras tour wrap up

Taylor Swift is looking back at how far she has come with her Eras Tour as she marked off another location..

The Tortured Poets Department hitmaker — who wrapped her first-ever show in Switzerland on July 10 following two nights of her three-and-a-half-hour Eras Tour in the Zürich stadium — raised a toast to the stunningly beautiful destination on Instagram on Thursday.

"The Eras Tour has brought so many firsts with it… for example, I'd never been to Switzerland before. This place is stunningly beautiful and I loved playing for those 2 wonderful crowds in Zurich."

"Pretty wild to think we only have 7 cities left on the European leg of the tour."

The singer now looks forward to Milan, where she is set to play two nights at the San Siro stadium this weekend, which will then leave her with scheduled performances in Milan, Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg, Munich, Warsaw, Vienna, London, Toronto, and Vancouver.

She'll close out the European segment of the tour in August with five nights at Wembley Stadium in London before flying back for a final North American leg.

Perrie Edwards opens up about her anxiety and panic attacks

Perrie Edwards just revealed that her anxiety battle has been worse than it ever was.

The 31 year old singer began the conversation by telling Cosmopolitan UK that it has left her feeling completely "isolated" and she has turned to therapy after it became so "debilitating."

The Little Mix star began at length by admitting, "My anxiety is probably the worst it's ever been… It started to consume me. It's horrible."

In regards to her anxiety, she added that she is talking about it because she feels anxious or scared of thepanic attacks.

She recounted by saying that her everyday life was quite disturbed but now she has "therapy and coping mechanisms."

Still, the singer confessed, "You can never get rid of it, so you have to learn to live with it."

It is pertinent to mention that Perrie has just launched her solo career after rising to fame on The X Factor as part of girl band Little Mix.

According to Daily Mail, The songstress is engaged to Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, but she isn't planning on tying the knot anytime soon as she's busy with her career.

Last month, Perrie dropped her second single Tears, the follow-up to April's Forget About Us. Furthermore, Her debut solo track was number one for two weeks on the Big Top 40 chart and peaked inside the top 10 of the Official Charts.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

Lahore falls victim to urban flooding again despite government's tall promises

LAHORE:Lahore, the capital city of Punjab, witnessed severe flooding in several areas following torrential rains, transforming streets into virtual rivers.

More than 177 feeders operated by Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) tripped due to the heavy rainfall, causing widespread power outages across the city.

The monsoon deluge inundated various parts of the city, with Tajpura recording the highest rainfall at 242 millimeters.

At least 130 millimeters of rain is recorded at Lakshmi Chowk, 132 millimeters in Mughalpura, and 133 millimeters in Gulshan-e-Ravi.

In addition to these areas, Chauk Nakhuda received 122 millimeters, Iqbal Town 128 millimeters, Qartaba Chowk 125 millimeters, Samanabad 135 millimeters, and Airport 71 millimeters of rainfall.

Significant disruptions in power supply were reported from 120 feeders in Lahore, with 15 feeders in the Kasur circle and 10 in the Nankana circle also affected.

The Sheikhupura circle experienced interruptions in power supply from 26 feeders, while the Okara circle reported disruptions from 6 feeders.

Local authorities have initiated emergency drainage operations in response to the heavy rainfall, deploying machinery and personnel to manage water accumulation in affected areas.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed comprehensive measures to mitigate the impact of flooding and ensure swift recovery from the aftermath of the rainfall across all districts of Punjab, focusing particularly on Lahore.—RT/Agency

FIA busts visa fraud scheme in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI:The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested two key members of a gang involved in a massive visa fraud scheme that deceived over 350 citizens.

According to an FIA spokesperson, the suspects, identified as Ghulam Murtaza and Anjum Javed, were apprehended during a raid in Islamabad on Friday.

The suspects, along with their accomplices, orchestrated a fraudulent scheme that promised employment in Greece, swindling innocent citizens out of more than Rs78 million. The gang provided fake visas to Greece in exchange for large sums of money. After collecting substantial sums from their victims, the suspects went into hiding.

The arrests are part of FIA's ongoing efforts to crack down on human trafficking and visa fraud on the directive by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

The FIA urges citizens to verify the authenticity of job offers and visas through official channels to avoid falling prey to such scams.

Earlier on July 6, the FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Cell in Rawalpindi conducted a raid on the office of an overseas employment promoter, arresting a suspect allegedly involved in visa fraud.—RT/Agency

Four Pakistan Post officials arrested in Rs300mln corruption case

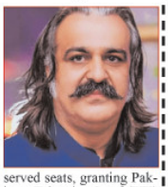
PESHAWAR: The FIA Composite Circle Abbottabad, in a major operation conducted on Friday, arrested four officials of the Postal Department in more than Rs. 300 million corruption cases.

According to details, four employees of Postal Department Abbottabad involved in corruption were arrested in the operation. The alleged four accused were identified as Hafeez, Waheed, Hameed and Khalil.

The arrested accused are employees of Postal Department Abbottabad. The accused were arrested after the bail was canceled by the Special Judge Central Anti-Corruption Abbottabad Court. The accused ransacked the savings accounts of GPO Abbottabad, the FIA spokesman said.

The accused hacked into the accounts of deceased customers and deed accounts. The accused committed corruption of more than Rs. 300 million through irregularities in profit and loss and falsification of zakat and tax rates. The accused have been arrested and investigation has been started, the spokesman of the FIA said.—RT/Agency

Supreme Court Decision Upholds Our Stance: Gandapur



Peshawar: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur has hailed the recent Supreme Court verdict, declaring it a victory for their principled stance on reserved seats.

Under Gandapur's leadership, the cabinet members, senior board members of the Revenue Board, and relevant administrative secretaries attended the session.

Gandapur remarked that the allocation of reserved seats was their rightful claim, now vindicated by the court. He emphasized that the denial of these seats had posed significant challenges for them in the assemblies.

"We worked together as a team and achieved success. I thank everyone for their full support during this period. We will continue to work as a team in the interest of public rights," Gandapur stated.

It is noteworthy that today, the Supreme Court nullified the decisions of the Peshawar High Court and the Election Commission regarding the case of Sunni Ittehad Council's reserved seats, granting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) the rightful claim to these seats. The Supreme Court remarked that depriving a political party of reserved seats cannot exclude them from elections. PTI is entitled to reserved seats as a political party, both now and in the future. According to the court's decision, out of 80 independent council members, 39 are affiliated with PTI.

The remaining 41 members have 15 days to clarify their election affiliation. The Election Commission will allocate PTI the list of reserved seats within this timeframe, affecting all national and provincial assemblies. The court rejected the Sunni Ittehad Council's appeal regarding the seats.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Tando Bago's growers demand release of water in Akram Wah

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: There is a severe water shortage in the Shadi Large Wah, Channel Wah and Bahadur Wah, which branch out from the Akram Wah. The rice seedlings are drying up and getting destroyed due to the lack of water. The watercourses are not receiving enough water because the amount released into the canals is insufficient. As a result, the seedlings are drying up and wilting. Farmers held a protest in front of the SIDA office a day earlier, where discussions took place between SIDA officials and the farmers. It was agreed that the water flow gauge would be provided to the canals, but even after two days, the flow of water in the canals and branches remains low, and the watercourses are not receiving water. Farmer leaders Aziz Dero and Pir Ali Murad Shah stated that the discussions between SIDA and the farmers were successful and water was promised to reach the tail ends within three days. Two days have passed, and one day remains. It is hoped that the water will arrive tonight.

DC Badin Yasir Bhatti urges parents to get their children vaccinated against 12 diseases

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti and SSP Badin, Sheeraz Nazir Abbasi, visited Tando Bago to review the arrangements for Muharram. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP met with the administrator of the central Imambargah Azakhana Zahra and the leader of the Khawaja community, Advocate Sikandar Ali Khawaja, along with other Shia leaders.

They discussed the arrangements for Muharram in Tando Bago. Sikandar Ali Khawaja informed the Deputy Commissioner about the need to fill the gaps created by rain and to clean the area around the Imambargahs in Tando Bago and its surroundings. Sikandar Ali Khawaja assured the Deputy Commissioner and SSP Badin that, like every year, the days of Ashura will be observed with devotion and respect, maintaining the example of Shia-Sunni brotherhood.

Justice demanded for MPK journalist Ali Raza

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The Mirpurkhas Police despite the orders of the court have not taken any step to investigate the case of attack on journalist Ali Raza.

In this regard it was learnt that the police had ended the class in B class due to which the honorable court disagreed with the decision of the police and directed to reinvestigate the case. In this regard the local journalists have demanded of the concerned authorities to take notice of the matter and provide justice to journalist Ali Raza.

Patient attacks doctor at Rural Health Centre in Tando Jam

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: A patient and his attendants attacked a doctor named Zafar Iqbal Shaikh at the Rural Health Centre Tando Jam and as a result doctor sustained injuries

. The staff of the hospital managed to apprehend one man, while his accomplices managed to flee from the scene. The area police reached the spot and arrested the man. The doctors, paramedics and other staff of the RHC Tando Jam recorded a protest demonstration against the incident demanding protection for staff of the hospital.

Chairman Pir Danish Ali chairs budget session of Municipal Committee Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: The budget meeting of the Municipal Committee Dadu was chaired by Chairman Pir Danish Ali. The elected councilors of Dadu City approved the savings budget of 930 million rupees for the year 2024-2025 with a majority vote. The budget meeting commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, and a prayer was held for the wife of a councilor, Shaman Babar, who had passed away. The proceedings of the meeting were managed by the Accounts Branch, where various resolutions were passed based on the suggestions of the council members. Councilors M Umar Panhwar, Waqar Lashari, Haji Liaquat Soomro, Habibullah Laghari, Laik Solangi, Habib Korejo, Muhammad Iqbal alias Garho Solangi, Akhtar Ali Memon, Moula Bux Lashari, Khalida Chandio and 18 other councilors participated in the meeting. The council members suggested that tickets be given for the pilgrimage through a draw. The council unanimously approved the proposal, and the draw selected five fortunate members Moula Bux Lashari, Muhammad Iqbal Solangi, Laik Solangi, Qurban Chandio and Khalida Chandio. These fortunate members were congratulated.

Larkana man sentenced to three years in fraud case

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The court od the First Judicial Magistrate sentenced three-year imprisonment to a man named Sadullah Abbasi after he was proved guilty in a case of fraud. The man had received Rs 2.3 million loan from a woman named Zakia Khatoon Jagirani but he refused to return amount to her due to which she registered a case against him. The accused was proved guilty due to which First Judicial Magistrate Niaz Hussain Kandhro sentenced him to three years in jail.

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

DPO Toba Tek Singh, Ibadat Nisar holds Open Katchery

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The District Police Officer Toba Tek Singh, Ibadat Nisar, continues to take steps to establish strong connections with citizens following the directives of the Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, and special instructions from RPO Faisalabad, Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan. In this regard, DPO Toba Ibadat Nisar organized an open katchery at Jamia Masjid Baghdadi, Mehndi Muhalla Chowk, Gojra City Police Station, to hear and resolve public issues. A large number of local residents participated in the Open Katchery. DPO Toba Ibadat Nisar listened to the complaints of the people and issued immediate orders for their resolution on the spot. On this occasion, DPO Ibadat Nisar stated that the purpose of the open court is to establish direct contact with the public so that effective measures can be taken to address their issues and provide justice at their doorstep. Similarly, open katcheries are being held in various mosques across the district by all SDPOs to promote community policing, strengthening direct relationships with citizens and prioritizing the resolution of their issues. Providing justice at the citizens' doorstep is our top priority.

Security tightened in Toba Tek Singh on CM Maryam Nawaz's directives

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, exemplary arrangements are ongoing across the district for Muharram. Under the instructions of Director of Civil Defense Punjab and Deputy Commissioner and Controller of Civil Defense Muhammad Naeem Sindhu, the Bomb Disposal Squad, under the supervision of the Civil Defense Officer, conducted technical sweeping of various Imambargahs. Civil Defense Wardens are deployed at entry and exit points and the central control room for Muharram to ensure security and safety. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu stated that all departments are active in terms of administrative and security arrangements for the Muharram period, utilizing all available resources.

Makhdoom Syed Zahid Hussain Bukhari lauds security arrangements in Muharram

By M Siddique

BAHAWALPUR: The founder of Imambargah Kotla Rehmat Shah, Makhdoom Syed Zahid Hussain Bukhari while talking to the media said that the month of Muharram-ul-Haram is observed with respect because this is month in which the supreme sacrifice was given by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW). Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) taught a lesson of bravery to the mankind against injustice. Every year in Uch Sharif Sabil and Niyaz is distributed amongst the people in the entire month of Muharram-ul-Haram. He stressed the need of spreading message of peace and interfaith harmony. He also lauded the services of the Cm Punjab Maryam Nawaz which she has rendered for the provision of facilities and security to the mourners.

MALIR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MDA/MPD/SLT-379/2023/190

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF LAYOUT PLAN MEASURING 01-00 ACRE ON SURVEY NO. 146/1 DEH KHANTO TALUKA IBRAHIM HYDRI DISTRICT MALIR KARACHI.

It is hereby informed to the General Public that the Additional Deputy Commissioner-I, for Deputy Commissioner, District Malir, Karachi has confirmed and forwarded the ownership title of Commercial Plot land measuring 01-00 Acre on Survey No. 146/1, Deh Khanto, Taluka Ibrahim Hyderi, District Malir, Karachi to the Director General MDA, in favour of Mr. Sajid Ali S/o Muhammad Ali holding CNIC 42301-0146976-9, R/o. H.No.68/216, Darakhsha Society, Kala Board Malir, Karachi, vide his letter No. DC/Malir/K/Rev. Br/2557/2022 dated: 10-05-2022 along with the Mukhtiarkar, Taluka Ibrahim Hyderi, District District Malir, Karachi, letter No. Mukh/I.H/Malir/301/2022 dated: 06-05-2022 duly endorsed by the Assistant Commissioner, Sub-Division Ibrahim Hyderi, District Malir, Karachi. Letter No. AC/I.H/Malir/240/2022 dated: 06-05-2022 for approval of proposed layout plan from planning point of view only.

In this regard, Public Notice Published in the light of Malir Development Authority (MDA) Act 1993-94 & (Revival & Amending) Act-2013 & KBTPR-2002 (Amended up to date) and Malir Development Authority Town Planning Regulations- 2015 of Clause No. 15.5-2 that any concerned person(s) / organization(s) having any objection(s) may submit their objection(s) directly to the Director General, MDA, Director (Estate & Enforcement) or Director, Town Planning Department, MDA having office at G-4/B, Block-17, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Phone # **021- 99239120**, **021-99244762** respectively within 07 working days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Any objection(s) received after expiry date shall not be entertained.

LOCATION PLAN:

Town Planning Department

MALIR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

G-4/B, Block-17, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Phone: 021-99239120, 021-99244762

SAY NO TO DRUGS

METRO KARACHI

MQM's Mustafa Kamal Criticizes Supreme Court Decision As Blow To Democracy

Karachi: Mustafa Kamal, Senior Deputy Convener of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), has voiced strong opposition to the Supreme Court's decision granting specific seats to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stating that today's verdict has inflicted damage to democracy.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi alongside MQM leaders, Kamal expressed disappointment over the long-awaited decision by the Supreme Court, describing it as a spectacle that began in 2018. He emphasized that decisions like these, influenced by strong social media presence, dictate the course of democracy and asserted that today's verdict has undermined it.

Kamal referred to the ruling as a "popular decision," highlighting his party's abstention from elections as the Sunni Ittehad Council's head had not sought this decision. He criticized the previous Chief Justices for building dams, arresting Haneef Abbasi for drugs, and restraining Rana Sanaullah.—RT/Agency

Flight with Israeli nationals makes emergency landing in Karachi

A Flydubai flight en route to Sri Lanka, carrying two Israeli citizens, made an emergency landing in Karachi, Pakistan, overnight. However, the Civil Aviation Authority has denied having any knowledge of the presence of the Israeli citizens on Pakistani soil.

The incident occurred despite the lack of diplomatic relations between Israel and Pakistan.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry confirmed the incident, stating that they worked with relevant parties to ensure the well-being of the Israeli passengers, according to Times of Israel.

The flight resumed its journey to Sri Lanka shortly after the emergency landing, with the Israelis remaining on board.

Pakistan does not recognise Israel and passports issued to its citizens are not valid for the latter based on diplomatic support for Palestine.

The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) spokesperson Saifullah Khan said on Thursday that they were unaware of any reported presence of Israeli nationals on a Flydubai flight that made an emergency landing in Karachi, Pakistan earlier this week.

The Flydubai flight FZ-569, which was traveling from Dubai to Colombo, Sri Lanka, had to make an emergency landing at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport at 11 PM on Wednesday after the condition of a passenger on board deteriorated.

"The report about the Flydubai flight 569 just had that it was en route to Colombo from Dubai and the condition of some woman [aboard] worsened and it landed at 11pm [on Wednesday] in Karachi. But she expired. Her body was sent to [Pakistani charity] Khidmat-e-Khalq Foundation in Malir and the plane left at 3am [on Thursday]. It was not mentioned [in the report] how many passengers were aboard and what their nationalities were," Khan told Arab News.

Khan clarified that the passenger who died on the Flydubai flight was a Sri Lankan national. Her body was later flown to Sri Lanka on a separate flight.

Pakistan does not have diplomatic relations with Israel and has repeatedly called for an independent Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders. The country has also demanded the world stop Israel's military actions in Gaza.

Pakistan's foreign office spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, stated that the Flydubai flight was diverted to Karachi due to a medical emergency. The Sri Lankan woman on board was examined by a medical team and declared dead, after which her body was removed from the plane. No other passengers disembarked.—RT/Agency

CTD Karachi apprehends two TTP linked terrorists

KARACHI: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) anti terrorism financing unit on Friday arrested two terrorist in Karachi for funding TTP, media reported.

As per details, the CTD carried out an operation in Karachi's Jhanjal Goth area, resulting in the arrest of two terrorists affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Hafiz Gul Bahadur group.

According to DIG CTD, Asif Ijaz, the accused were in contact with TTP leaders in Afghanistan through social media and were collecting funds for the banned outfit.

Both the arrested terrorists belong to Waziristan and have been identified as Abu and Yaqub Mehsud. They had recently returned to Karachi to carry out a funding operation and were seized with a significant amount of funds.

Earlier, police killed three terrorists in an Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) in Hasan Khel Peshawar.

The police officials stated that an intelligence-based operation was carried out in the Hasan Khel area of Peshawar on the information regarding the presence of terrorists.During the operation, two police personnel of CTD embraced martyrdom and one sustained injuries, police officials added.In a separate incident, security forces gunned down a terrorist commander Irfan Ullah aka Adnan in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Bajaur District, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

"On 3 July 2024, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Bajaur District, on the reported presence of a high profile terrorist," the statement added. It added that during the conduct of the operation, the terrorist commander was killed after intense fire exchange.—RT/Agency

French national robbed of 5,000 Euros in Karachi

KARACHI: In a shocking incident, a French citizen was robbed of 5,000 euros in Karachi's Red Zone, media reported on Friday.

As per details, the incident occurred outside a hotel in the Artillery Maidan area of Karachi. A French citizen was stopped by robbers, who introduced themselves as policemen.

The pseudo policemen robbed the French citizen of 5,000 euros and ran away, the police.

The police authorities said the French citizen had not filed any complaint of the incident so far.

Earlier, a Germany-returned citizen was robbed at his doorstep in Karachi.

As per details, the incident occurred in Buffer Zone 15A where a citizen was followed by armed assailants from the airport to his doorstep.

Police officials stated when the man reached his doorstep, his bag carrying euros, Rs 1.3 million cash, two mobile phones and a German national card was snatched at gunpoint.

Furthermore, police have registered the FIR of the robbery in Karachi's Taimoria police station.—RT/Agency

Muharram threat alert issued for Karachi

KARACHI: A threat alert has been issued for the anti-encroachment police in Karachi, warning of possible terrorist attacks during Muharamul Haram, media reported on Friday.

According to guidelines issued by DSP Tariq Islam, the anti-encroachment police personnel have been warned against going alone on official duty during Muharramul Haram in the wake of recent attacks.

The notification stated that government officials could be targeted in Karachi during Muharram. The officials were directed to use police vans for official assignments and avoid wearing uniforms and shoes while returning home after finishing duties.

The federal government on Monday approved the deployment of armed forces across the country to ensure security during the month of Muharram.

The move comes on the request of the authorities in Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir to deploy military to control the law and order situation.

The Centre, under Article 245 of the Constitution, authorised the "deployment of army troops/assets and civil armed forces troops/assets" to ensure peace.

The Ministry of Interior has clarified that the deployment of the army will be based on the ground situation and that the provinces will have the authority to determine the deployment locations.—RT/Agency

AVLC Conducts Successful Operation Against Highly Wanted Gang

KARACHI: Karachi Police Arrests Two Suspects Involved in Vehicle Snatching Through Armed Robbery, Recover Stolen Car

Karachi, July 2, 2024: Acting on a complaint filed under FIR number 433/24 at Boat Basin Police Station, Karachi, police apprehended two individuals from the vicinity of Ziauddin Hospital, Bot Basin, identified as culprits in the recent car snatching incident involving a Toyota Corolla bearing registration number 641-BFY.

In a swift operation near Qayyumabad Pump House, AVLC Clifton Division conducted a tactical raid leading to the arrest of two highly sought-after members of the notorious Snatchers' gang. The operation also resulted in the recovery of the stolen Toyota Corolla.

Search operations are underway to apprehend the remaining accomplices involved in the crime.

The recovered vehicle has been returned to its rightful owner, Mr. Saraj Ahmed, who expressed gratitude to AVLC and Karachi Police for their prompt action.—RT/Agency

Woman's body found dismembered in Sohrab Goth

KARACHI: Police on Friday found body of a woman in pieces from Karachi's Sohrab Goth graveyard, Media reported.

The women was murdered brutally and then cut into pieces before being dumped and hidden, police said.

The body pieces stuffed in a gunny bag were recovered from the Sohrab Goth area of the city.

Meanwhile, Police have launched further investigation into the matter.

Earlier in November 2023, the body of a woman was found inside a water drum in an empty plot in the Phase VII area of Karachi's Defence Housing Authority.

The body of the unidentified woman — wrapped in a plastic bag — was recovered from the water drum on an empty plot near Fatima Masjid. Preliminary investigations suggested that the woman had been murdered.—RT/Agency

Police Officer Injured in Firing Incident Near Defence Library

Karachi: Head Constable Khalid Wali Ali Khan, stationed in Security Zone 2, sustained injuries during a firing incident.

The injured officer was returning home from duty when two assailants on a motorcycle opened fire.

The suspects were riding a motorcycle and initially knocked down the police officer at the signal before firing.

While fleeing, the assailants also took away the officer's weapon.

Investigation at the scene is ongoing, with statements from witnesses and eyewitnesses being recorded.—RT/Agency

Sharjeel Criticizes Supreme Court's Decision, Accuses Judiciary Of Favoring Imran Khan

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Senior Minister of Sindh, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has stated that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) respects court decisions, even when they are unfavorable to the party. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Memon described the recent Supreme Court decision as ambiguous and criticized the federal government's discretion over appealing it. He claimed the decision exhibited favoritism, or "Ladlaism," and undermined constitutional bodies like the Election Commission of Pakistan.

The minister highlighted the reversal of the Peshawar High Court's ruling against the BRT project, previously rejected by Justice Bandial. Memon accused former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar of facilitating Imran Khan, particularly before the 2018 elections, and criticized decisions that he claimed were biased in favor of Khan.

Memon pointed out several instances where he believed the judiciary showed partiality towards Khan, including during the 2018 elections and subsequent controversies. He alleged that the judiciary's actions have consistently favored Khan and disadvantaged the PPP.

Regarding the recent Supreme Court decision, Memon emphasized that the PPP does not advocate for banning any political party but called for decisions to adhere strictly to the constitution and law. He condemned the practice of favoritism and stressed the importance of merit-based decisions.

Memon also criticized Imran Khan for hiring lobbyists in the US after accusing the country of interfering in Pakistan's affairs. He expressed concern over international reactions to Khan's arrest, particularly from Israel.

In response to a question, Memon stated that legal experts would review the detailed decision and formulate a plan for the future. He reaffirmed the PPP's commitment to engaging in dialogue with democratic parties and emphasized the need for adherence to constitutional principles.

TMC Manghopir Chairman Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi Ensures Preparedness For Muharram With Extensive Sanitation Efforts

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, Chairman of Town Municipal Corporation Manghopir, announced that extensive sanitation and drainage work is underway across the town, especially in preparation for Muharram. Brohi assured that almost all preparations for Muharram processions have been completed, emphasizing efforts to ensure the Shia community faces no difficulties during the processions.

"We are doing our best to ensure our Shia community brothers do not face any kind of problem in the processions," Brohi stated. He highlighted the ongoing spraying campaign across all union councils (UCs) of the town to protect residents from diseases.

Brohi's comments came during the launch of the spray campaign in various union councils, accompanied by Municipal Commissioner Agha Khaliq, Vice Chairman Rana Arif, Superintendent Engineer Hasan Sheikh, One CN Sami Brohi, Leader of Opposition Habibullah Swati Sagar Khan, Deputy Director of Sanitation Liaquat Province, and other officials.

The chairman reiterated the commitment to maintaining sanitation and cleanliness, ensuring the town is well-prepared for the upcoming Muharram observances.

UAE Consul General Hosts Annual Meeting with Emirates Airlines Vice President in Karachi

Karachi: Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al Remeithi of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Karachi hosted the annual meeting with Mohammad Al Nahari Al Hashemi, Vice President of Emirates Airlines, at the consulate.

During the meeting, Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al Remeithi emphasized Emirates Airlines' commitment to providing comprehensive facilities to Pakistani passengers. He highlighted the importance of ensuring all necessary amenities for Pakistani travelers, particularly during their peak travel months of June and July.

Al Remeithi stated that the annual meeting serves as a platform to discuss passenger services and address any challenges they may encounter. As a token of appreciation, the Consul General presented a shield to Mohammad Al Nahari Al Hashemi in recognition of his dedicated services.

Representative Badrul Wahdi, who oversees Emirates operations at Karachi Airport, also participated in the meeting, underscoring the consulate's ongoing collaboration with the national airline to enhance customer experience for Pakistani travelers.—RT

Karachi Intermediate Board Takes Significant Steps for Students Convenience

Karachi: In a move aimed at easing the process for students, the Karachi Intermediate Board has established a modern facility center at the Inter Board Office.

The formal inauguration of the facility center was conducted by Provincial Minister for Universities and Boards, Muhammad Ali Malkani, ensuring relief for students from various forms and paperwork.

Chairman of the Inter Board, Syed Zawar Ali Shah, announced that candidates now only need to fill out one form and can obtain all required documents, facilitating a streamlined process at the Karachi Intermediate Board's newly established Facilitation Center in the Board Office.

He highlighted that the long queues at the Inter Board Office have been significantly reduced, following directives from Muhammad Ali Malkani to halt the transfer of records to the Construction Development Project for examination.

Syed Zawar Ali Shah further stated that from the start of the new session, teachers and students will practice e-marking and OMR-based assessments, aiming to implement these in the annual exams next year.

He emphasized that to expedite operations, six assessment centers have been set up for the 2024 annual exams of the Inter Board, with the results expected to be announced before the end of August 2024.—RT/Agency

Never tell your problems to anyone...20% don't care and the other 80% are glad you have them.

—Lou Holtz

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Aurangzeb's $15 Billion Energy Debt Talks With China Rescheduled

ISLAMABAD:Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's visit to China for talks to restructure the $15 billion energy debt has been rescheduled to the third week of this month due to other engagements of the Chinese authorities.

In place of the finance minister, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has taken the letters on behalf of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Beijing. The prime minister has requested the Chinese leadership to constitute a working group to resolve the issues related to $15 billion Chinese energy debt payments and clearance of $1.8 billion outstanding dues of the Chinese power plants.

"The Chinese leadership is busy with the third plenum till July 18th, so the visit is now being scheduled for the week after", said Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb after the meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had asked the minister to take a letter from him to the Chinese leadership with a request to reschedule the energy debt. The idea was that the finance minister would fly along with the planning minister as the premier's special envoy.

"On behalf of the Prime Minister, I am delivering the letters to the Chinese leadership during my ongoing visit," said Iqbal while talking to The Express Tribune. But he said that the finance minister would also visit once the Chinese leadership is free from the plenum meetings.

Iqbal had left for Beijing on Wednesday to participate in the Global Development Initiative (GDI) meetings. Aurangzeb could not accompany the planning minister as the Pakistani mission in Beijing could not secure the meetings with the Chinese leadership.

The Pakistani embassy in Beijing had advised that the finance minister should wait until the Chinese leadership gets free from its other scheduled business.

Last Saturday, the prime minister had said that the Minister for Finance will accompany the planning minister and will carry letters from the prime minister for the Chinese leadership on loan reprofiling and coal conversion of the Chinese power plants.

The erratic decision by the prime minister put the Pakistani embassy in Beijing in an awkward situation to try to secure the meetings in an emergency. Another cabinet member ruled out that the Chinese authorities have refused to entertain the finance minister.

China has set up 21 energy projects in Pakistan with a total cost of $21 billion, including about $5 billion in equity. The Chinese investors obtained loans for the projects at an interest rate equal to the London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) plus 4.5%. Against the remaining Chinese energy debt of over $15 billion, payments by 2040 would total $16.6 billion, according to government sources.

The Pakistani proposal involves extending debt repayments from 10 to 15 years. This would reduce the outflow of foreign currency by about $550 million to $750 million per annum and decrease prices by Rs3 per unit.

According to the existing IPP deals, the current power tariff structure requires debt servicing repayments during the first 10 years, leading to a significant burden on consumers who are paying the interest and principal of these loans through higher tariffs. But due to the extended repayment period, the country will also have to make an extra $1.3 billion payment to China, sources said.

It is not clear what Pakistan is going to offer to China in return for securing debt restructuring. China's two biggest concerns are security of its national and clearance of $1.8 billion dues that Pakistan has not paid against the power that it purchased from around one-dozen Chinese power plants.

If China agrees to debt restructuring, the repayment period will be extended to 2040, including interest payments. According to Pakistani authorities, repayment would be $600 million less this year and can be reduced to just $1.63 billion after restructuring. For 2025, debt repayments would decrease from $2.1 billion to $1.55 billion—a benefit of $580 million, sources said. However, the upfront relief would result in more repayments from 2036 to 2040.

In April, the prime minister had ordered all imported coal-fired power plants, including three Chinese plants, to convert to local coal to save $800 million annually and reduce consumer rates by Rs3 per unit. At least five major imported coal-fired power plants with a total capacity of 5,940 megawatts are affected, including three Chinese-owned plants in Sahiwal, Port Qasim, and Hub, totaling 3,960 MW.

During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's last month meeting with the President Xi Jinping, the Chinese leadership had indicated reviewing the possibility of using either the blend of local or imported coal or converting to the local coal.Through these letters, Pakistan has requested China to find a win-win solution to the problems of Chinese energy debt repayments and the coal conversions.—RT/Agency

Pakistan And Azerbaijan Sign 15 MoUs To Strengthen Bilateral Ties

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan and Azerbaijan signed 15 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements on Thursday to enhance bilateral cooperation across various sectors including trade, commerce, tourism, minerals, science and technology, law, justice, and cultural exchange programs.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev witnessed the signing ceremony at the PM House.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, along with Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Samir Sharifov, signed an MoU between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries on Consular Affairs.

Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister of Economy Sahib Mammadov signed a Preferential Trade Agreement between the governments of Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

Similarly, Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan and Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister of Economy Sahib Mammadov signed an MoU on cooperation between the Ministries of Economy of both countries in privatization of state property.

An agreement on Transit Trade between the governments of Azerbaijan and Pakistan was also signed.

The two sides agreed on a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between Azerbaijan's Ministry of Justice and Pakistan's Ministry of Law and Justice, signed by Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar and Azerbaijan's Minister for Defence Industry Vugar Mustafayev.

An MoU between the governments of Pakistan and Azerbaijan on cooperation in mineral resources and geology was signed by Petroleum Minister Dr. Musadik Malik and Azerbaijan's Minister of Energy.

Minister for Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar and Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Samir Sharifov signed the Cultural Exchange Program between Pakistan and Azerbaijan for the years 2024-2029.

An MoU on cooperation in information and communication technologies between Azerbaijan's Ministry of Digital Development and Transport and Pakistan's Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication was signed.

Secretary of Information Shahera Shahid and Azerbaijan's Ambassador Khazar Farhadov signed an MoU between Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting (CJSC) and Pakistan Television Corporation (PTVC).

An MoU on establishing twinning links between Baku and Islamabad was signed, along with another MoU between Azerbaijan's Small and Medium Business Development Agency and SMEDA Pakistan.

An agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the governments of Pakistan and Azerbaijan was also signed.

Secretary IPC Nadeem Irshad Kayani and Azerbaijan's Minister of Defence Industry signed an agreement on cooperation in tourism.

Chairman of Pakistan Academy of Letters Prof. Dr. Najeeba Arif and Azerbaijan's Ambassador Khazar Farhadov signed an MoU on cooperation in literature between Azerbaijan's Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi and Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL).

Additionally, an Air Services Agreement was signed between the governments of Pakistan and Azerbaijan.—RT/Agency

"No Danger" To Government, Says Law Minister After SC Verdict

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Supreme Court's verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) reserved seats case does not pose any threat to the government.

"We still have a majority of 209 members and the verdict has not been completed yet," said the minister after the top court ruled that the PTI was eligible for the allocation of reserved seats.

Tarar said that he was unsure whether the government will file review petition challenging the verdict or not.

The development comes after the SC announced 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) order wherein it had upheld the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision denying the reserved seats to the SIC.

The verdict was supported by Justices Athar Minallah, Shahid Waheed, Muneeb Akhtar, Muhammad Ali Mazhar Ayesha Malik, Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, and Irfan Saadat Khan.

The PTI candidates did not contest the polls on a single elction symbol, forcing them to join hands with the SIC, but that could not get them the reserved seats as the ECP ruled against them.

In its decision today, the court declared that the lack or denial of an election symbol does not in any manner affect the Constitutional or legal rights of a political party to participate in an election, whether general or by, and to field candidates and that the commission is under a Constitutional duty to apply all statutory provisions accordingly.

"PTI was and is a political party, which secured general seats in the national and provincial assemblies in the general elections of 2024," read the verdict.

The court ordered the Imran Khan founded party to present a list of names the candidates eligible for the reserved seats within 15 days of this decision. "Reserved seats in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh should be given to PTI," it said.

Terming the verdict "interesting", Tarar, while speaking during a press conference, said the SIC had claimed for the reserved seats and not the PTI.

"There was no mention of PTI in the PHC verdict and the law says that no judgment can be given against someone without hearing them," said Tarar.

He pointed out that the majority of the parties were not present in the court yet the verdict was announced against them.

Tarar further said that 80 candidates had never claimed in the SC that they belonged to the PTI and why they had to join the SIC. "These 80 candidates said that they belonged to SIC," he said.

"There are constitutional and legal flaws in this verdict that will remain under discussion," said the law minister.—RT/Agency

Released TTP Members Involved In Terror Activities

ISLAMABAD:The Senate standing committee on interior was informed on Thursday that Azm-e-Istekam initiative was part of the National Action Plan (NAP) against terrorism and it was not the kind of operation being generally perceived.

During a committee meeting, chaired by its Chairman Saleem Rehman, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that the government released the people belonging to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from jails under an agreement but those people were involved in acts of terrorism in the country.The meeting was also attended by the interior secretary and officials of the subordinate institutions including the Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan and the Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG). In the meeting, several committee members raised their concerns over a deteriorating law and order situation.

Senator Umar Farooq said that his father was kidnapped from Quetta, while he himself faces threats. On the other hand, the police worked as if they had outsourced the police stations. He charged that the the inspector of police remained seated in his office while the policemen on the roads collected money.Senator Nasima Ehsan said that her house had been attacked and her children could not go out. She added that her family could not travel in their own area, while the security officials told them not to travel after 3pm. She also said that whenever she called the IG, he was nowhere to be found.

Senator Saifullah Abro pointed out that there were a few problems in Sindh: in 2023 Dr Ajmal Sawand was killed and a policeman was the accused, but he had not been arrested so far; a journalist was killed and his killer had not been arrested; killers of three journalists had not been arrested in three years.—RT/Agency

No Decision Yet In Iddat Nikah Case Against Imran And Bushra Bibi

ISLAMBAD: Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka presided over the hearing of central appeals against the sentences handed to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the iddat nikah case.

Despite extensive arguments, the court was unable to reach a decision even today, adjourning the hearing until Saturday morning.

During the proceedings, Judge Majoka remarked that both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi are followers of Hanafi jurisprudence, which stipulates that the right of recourse ends after the pronouncement of triple divorce. He emphasized that jurisprudence theories cannot be challenged in court.

Khawar Maneka's lawyer argued that the judgements referenced by the PTI founder's lawyers during the trial were based on different grounds and were not applicable to the current case. PTI lawyer Salman Safdar presented a decision before the court related to 100 days of iddat, noting that each criminal case involves distinct circumstances and reasons.Maneka's lawyer said an objection had been raised before the court that a civil case was being made instead of criminal, adding no appeal was filed for a civil case till date on behalf of both the suspects.He mentioned former US president Bill Clinton, proposing that if Imran Khan apologized to the nation, his client, Khawar Maneka, might be willing to forgive him as well. Judge Majoka remarked on a witness's testimony, who claimed he had learned about the marriage a day later. He reiterated that under Hanafi jurisprudence, the right of recourse ends after divorce, and such doctrines cannot be contested in court.Consequently, the judge noted that an iddat case might not hold up under these principles. The court adjourned the hearing until Saturday morning, leaving the fate of the appeals undecided for now.—RT/Agency

PTI Demands Resignations Of CEC And Other Top ECP Officials

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) demanded the resignations of the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) top officials including Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sultan Akram Raja after the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan's decision in the reserved seats case, media reported.

Addressing a presser in Islamabad after the apex court's verdict that declared PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council eligible for reserved seats, PTI General Secretary the immediate resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and all four provincial election commissioners.

Omar Ayub accused the ECP of 'deliberately' taking away PTI's electoral symbol to disrupt the election process.

The PTI general secretary termed the ECP's actions tantamount to treason, saying that Article 6 of the Pakistani constitution should be imposed on the CEC.

He said that the PTI is committed to upholding the constitution and ensuring justice.

Omar Ayub also praised his legal team, calling their efforts a victory for 'truth and justice'.Earlier in the day, the SC overturned the denial of reserved seats to the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announced the 8-5 majority verdict on a petition filed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), an ally of the PTI.

Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Shahid Waheed, Muneeb Akhtar, Muhammad Ali Mazhar Ayesha Malik, Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Irfan Saadat Khan ruled in favour of the PTI.

The top court nullified the Peshawar High Court's order wherein it had upheld the ECP's decision denying the reserved seats to the SIC.

n its order, the apex court said that the Election Commission of Pakistan ECP's decision of allocating reserved seats to the ruling coalition was unconstitutional.The bench accepted SIC's petition and ruled that the party is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats The apex court accepted PTI as political party and asked Imran Khan-led party to submit reserved seats candidates list to ECP within 15 days.—RT/Agency

Government Highlights Cross-Border Terrorism Efforts

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan has reported ongoing efforts to combat cross-border terrorism, particularly from Afghanistan. Security forces conducted 7,500 operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan between April and June 2024, resulting in the elimination of 181 terrorists reportedly affiliated with TTP and ISKP.

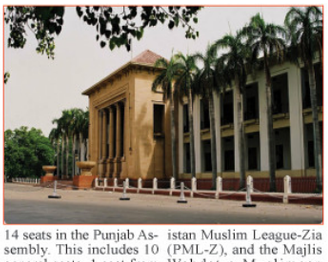
The government highlighted several recent terrorist incidents, including an attack on a marble factory in Mohmand Agency in May 2024, the killing of two miners in Duki, Balochistan on June 2, and the murder of a news reporter in Landikotal on June 19.

Pakistani officials state that evidence suggests most terrorist activities originate from Afghanistan, with the TTP having strong safe havens there. The United States has also confirmed the presence of TTP and ISKP in Afghanistan, actively planning attacks against Pakistan.

In response to these challenges, the Pakistani government has exempted terrorist-affected districts from taxes for one year.

The government also addressed claims of propaganda against Pakistan from Afghan media sources, stating that investigative reports have disproven these allegations.—RT/Agency

New Party Positions In Punjab Assembly Revealed Following Reserved Seats Distribution



LAHORE: In the latest development in the Punjab Assembly, the allocation of 27 reserved and minority seats has significantly impacted the party positions.

Despite the Sunni Ittehad Council gaining these seats, the government alliance, led by PML-N, continues to hold a substantial majority.

The total number of seats for the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the Punjab Assembly has now reached 205. This includes 164 general seats, 5 seats reserved for minorities, and 36 seats for women.

The Sunni Ittehad Council, which previously had 104 members, now has a total of 131 seats after the addition of the reserved seats. This increase, however, still leaves them behind the PML-N in terms of overall strength.

The Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) has a total of 14 seats in the Punjab Assembly. This includes 10 general seats, 1 seat from an independent member who joined them, and 3 seats reserved for women.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) holds 10 seats, which includes 8 general seats and 2 seats reserved for women.

The Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) has a total of 6 seats, including 5 general seats and 1 seat reserved for women.

The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), the Pakistan Muslim League-Zia (PML-Z), and the Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) each have one seat in the Punjab Assembly.The Punjab Assembly, with a total of 371 seats, now has 369 members after the inclusion of the reserved seats. One constituency, PP-269, has yet to hold an election. Additionally, Mian Aslam Iqbal, the successful candidate from the Sunni Ittehad Council in Constituency 171 of Lahore, has not yet taken his oath.—RT/Agency

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