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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

I Will Resign If Necessary, But Won't Bow To Pressure: Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) authorities to tighten their belts and serve the nation by formulating a strategy to broaden the tax net base without further burdening the honest tax payers.

During a visit to FBR Headquarters, the prime minister said that the incumbent government had the sole agenda on putting Pakistan on path of progress with consistent improvement in the economic indicators.

"Though it may be a difficult journey which requires collective and individual efforts, sincerity and sacrifices and putting forth the national interests supreme over all other interests," he emphasized.

Termining the staff level arrangement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a positive omen for the country's economy, he expressed the hope that IMF board would also give a go ahead in this regard.

The prime minister expressed the confidence that Pakistan could become a great and prosperous country with collective and individual efforts.



The prime minister made it clear that he would not tolerate any lapses, adding that when determination was made with sincerity, paths leading to future were usually carved out.

"I will quit if I need to, but I will not come under any pressure, I want that to be loud and clear."

Earlier, the prime minister arrived at the FBR Headquarters where he was welcomed by Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik and Chairman FBR Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana.

The prime minister laid down floral wreaths on memorial of shuhada and offered Fatha, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.—RT/Agency

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced that it has reached staff-level agreement with Pakistan for an extended fund facility (EFF) of around \$7 billion.

The IMF issued a statement in the wee hours of Saturday according to Pakistan terms, praising the country for adhering to the terms set out in the Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) that Shehbaz Sharif led PDM government signed with the Fund in 2023.

Faced with chronic mismanagement, Pakistan's economy has found itself on the brink, challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic, the effects of the war in Ukraine and supply difficulties that fuelled inflation, as well as record flooding that affected a third of the country in 2022.

With its foreign currency reserves dwindling, Pakistan found itself in a debt crisis and was forced to turn to the IMF, obtaining its first emergency loan in the summer of 2023.

The latest bailout, coming to Pakistan in the form of loans, follows a commitment by the government to implement reforms, including a major effort to broaden the country's tax base.

IMF Reaches \$7 Billion Staff-Level Loan Agreement With Islamabad

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According to the statement, Pakistan will be receiving the money in the next three years if it lives up to the promises the current government has made with the Fund. These include measures to tax everyone in the county and privatise the state's own organisations.

Additionally, Pakistan will be required to secure more loans from its friends, namely China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.



Building on the economic stability achieved under the 2023 Stand-by Arrangement (SBA), IMF staff and the Pakistani authorities have reached a staff-level agreement on a 37-month Extended Fund Facility Arrangement (EFF) of about US\$7 billion. This agreement is subject to approval by the IMF's Executive Board" the statement from the Fund read.

In a nation of over 240 million people and where most jobs are in the informal sector, only 5.2 million filed income tax returns in 2022.

During the 2024-25 fiscal year which starts July 1, the government aims to raise nearly \$46 billion in taxes, a 40 per cent increase from the previous year.

As part of the push, Pakistan's tax authority earlier this month blocked 210,000 SIM cards of users who have not filed tax returns in a bid to widen the revenue

bracket. The IMF said the new program would help authorities improve macroeconomic stability and create conditions for stronger, more inclusive, and resilient growth.

"This includes steps to strengthen fiscal and monetary policy and reforms to broaden the tax base, improve State-Owned Enterprises' (SOE) management, strengthen competition, secure a level playing field for investment, enhance human capital, and scale up social protection through increased generosity and coverage in the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)," the statement added.

"Continued strong financial support from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners will be critical for the program to achieve its objectives," it said.—RT/Agency

Nawaz Convenes High-Level PML-N Meeting Following Supreme Court Verdict

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif summoned an important meeting to devise further course of action after the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan's verdict in the reserved seats case, media reported citing sources.

The meeting will be attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Maryam Nawaz, and other bigwigs of the PML-N, the sources privy to the development said.

The federal cabinet members will also attend the meeting which is specifically called for discussing crucial matters aftermath of the apex court's verdict, declaring the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) eligible for reserved seats.

The sources added that the Nawaz Sharif-headed meeting will also engage in consultations on other key issues.

Prime Minister's Advisor on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah said on Friday that the decision in the reserved seats case cannot be termed a "conspiracy" against the government.

Addressing a presser in Islamabad, Rana Sanaullah



said that the judges are also human beings and their opinions can be disagreed with. The PM's advisor said the federal cabinet will decide availing the option of filing a review petition into the matter, adding that the legal team will be consulted to file a review petition in the apex court.

"If the government does not file a review petition, the suspended members of the assembly may file review appeals," he added.

Rana Sanaullah said that the government has great regard for the apex court and the judges.

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.

In 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.

Immediate Release of Imran and Bushra Bibi Unlikely After Arrests In Other Cases



ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is expected to issue arrest warrant for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi in a new Toshakhana case, Geo News reported citing sources.

A team of the anti-corruption watchdog headed by Deputy Director Mohsin Harper reached Adiala Jail to question the former first lady over alleged "misuse of power for acquiring



Toshakhana gifts". In another development, the sources revealed that Lahore police did not make any progress to nab the former prime minister after his interim bail was dismissed by the anti-terrorism court (ATC) two days ago. It emerged that Khan's arrest was not declared in May 9, 2023, riots cases as per the Adiala Jail records. A police team is expected to reach Adiala Jail tomorrow to arrest the PTI founder, the sources added.—RT/Agency

-It's also going to kill the masses with unprecedented inflation!

IMF Program To Aid In Achieving Macroeconomic Stability: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Saturday said that the newly inked bailout deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will help achieve macroeconomic stability.

The finance minister made the remarks after the cash-strapped country reached a 37-month, \$7 billion aid package deal, with the Washington-based institution, giving much-needed respite to the struggling economy.

Aurangzeb said that under the programme "we need to ensure structural reforms and bring self-sustainability in areas of public finance, energy, and state-owned institutions" which he hoped to achieve in the next few years.

The new loan program, which needs to be validated by the Fund's Executive Board, should enable Pakistan to "cement macroeconomic stability and create conditions for stronger, more inclusive and resilient growth," the IMF said while announcing the deal.

Faced with chronic mismanagement, Pakistan's economy has found itself on the brink, challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of the war in Ukraine and supply difficulties that fuelled inflation, as well as record flooding that affected a third of the country in 2022.

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During the 2024-25 fiscal year which starts July 1, the government aims to raise nearly \$46 billion in taxes, a 40% increase from the previous year.

As part of the push, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) blocked 210,000 SIM cards of users who have not filed tax returns to widen the revenue bracket earlier this month.

Pakistan initiated discussions with the lender for the new multi-billion dollar loan agreement — its 24th bailout in more than six decades — to support its economic reform program.

While around 40% of the population already lives below the poverty line, the World Bank said in April it feared that 10 million additional Pakistanis would fall below this threshold.

Islamabad also aims to reduce its fiscal deficit by 1.5% to 5.9% in the coming year, heading another key IMF demand.

The last loan — a nine-month \$3 billion IMF deal — proved a lifeline.

But it came on the condition of unpopular austerity measures, including an end to subsidies cushioning consumer costs.

In recent months, the current account balance has recovered slightly, high inflation is just starting to come down, but Pakistan's foreign debt remains very high at \$242 billion.

Servicing it will still swallow up half of the government's income in 2024, according to the IMF.

The Fund also anticipates 2% growth this year, with inflation still expected to reach nearly 25% year-on-year, before gradually coming down in 2025 and 2026.—RT/Agency

PML-N To Challenge Supreme Court Ruling On PTI Reserved Seats

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has announced it will challenge the Supreme Court's ruling on PTI's reserved seats. During a press conference in Rawalpindi, PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi criticised the decision, stating that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was not even a party in the case but was granted undue relief.

Abbasi questioned the constant reinterpretation of the Constitution, which he claimed favoured PTI.

Abbasi revealed that independent members have been given 15 days to join a party, a period he argued is excessive.

He pointed out that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) only withdrew the party's electoral symbol due to a failure to conduct



intra-party elections, and not because it dissolved the party. Abbasi also condemned the Supreme Court's recognition of 39 PTI candidates for reserved seats, calling it an illegal move.

He announced that PML-N, along with other political parties, would file a review petition against the decision.



Abbasi criticised what he described as judicial facilitation reminiscent of former chief justice Saqib Nisar's tenure.

He accused the court of violating constitutional and legal principles and mentioned planned protests and legal battles against the ruling.—RT/Agency



GUJRANWALA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and social worker Sanam Javed was re-arrested by Islamabad police immediately after her release from Central Jail Gujranwala on court orders on Saturday, media reported.

Javed was released on judicial orders from Judge Naeem Saleem of the Gujranwala Anti-Terrorism Court, following directives from the Lahore High Court. Despite her release, Islamabad police detained her as soon as she stepped out of the jail.

Three days earlier, the Lahore High Court had acquitted Javed of charges related to the May 9 incident, ordering her release.

According to Express News, her lawyers arrived at the jail with court orders, and the jail authorities completed the legal formalities for her release. However, before she could leave, a heavy contingent of Islamabad police, in coordination with Gujranwala police, was waiting outside and took her into custody.

During the process of her release and subsequent re-arrest, all routes to and from Gujranwala Jail remained closed for eight hours.

Islamabad police did not allow anyone, including her family, to approach Javed during her re-arrest, and no reasons were provided for her detention.—RT/Agency

President Zardari Urges Collaborative Efforts For Sustainable Development

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasised the need for collaborative efforts to ensure sustainable development and common prosperity through China's Global Development Initiative (GDI).

Virtually addressing the 2nd High-Level Meeting of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development, organised by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) in Beijing, President Zardari highlighted the initiative's potential in shaping the future of global development.

During his address, the president underscored the importance of viewing global challenges such as progress, development, and health from an Eastern perspective.



He pointed out that a significant portion of the world's population resides in the Eastern hemisphere, particularly in countries like China, Pakistan, and their neighboring nations.

President Zardari also lauded the GDI for its potential to foster shared development and urged developing countries to take a leading role in the global development process. He stressed that initiatives like GDI could pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous world by promoting collaborative efforts among nations.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



Federal Ombudsman Sukkur Region's IRD Dr. Abdul Waheed Indhar holds an open katchery

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: Federal Ombudsman Sukkur Region's IRD, Dr. Abdul Waheed Indhar, chaired Open Katchery at Khairpur Circuit House to address public complaints regarding accumulated garbage. Numerous federal agencies were involved, including local citizens, SEPCO Khairpur, Sui Southern Gas, NADRA, PTCL, Pakistan Railways, National Bank of Pakistan, PASCO, FBR, Passport Office, National Highway, and various other offices. Several officers and practical actions were initiated against complaints of malpractice.



During the meeting, Federal Commissioner Dr. Abdul Waheed Indhar highlighted that over 60 complaints against various federal agencies had been received, of which 30 were promptly addressed with immediate instructions for action. He emphasized timely investigations into administrative inquiries and prompt resolution of civic issues raised in the complaints. It was further mentioned that additional complaints from citizens would be addressed swiftly to expedite the resolution process.

Muharram-ul-Haram being observed with solemnity in Thul



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In Thul, the mourning processions of Muharram-ul-Haram are being taken out with solemnity and reverence. Majalis are being held in various Imambarahs where speakers illuminate the events of Karbala, shedding light on the sacrifices made. Streets in different parts of Thul have been secured with barriers and arrangements have been made for the old mourning processions on the 8th of Muharram-ul-Haram. Local council members like Ghulam Yaseen Burdi, Shah Nawaz Mangi, and others are actively participating in organizing these events in collaboration with the administration.

Chairman LP Gas Association Irfan Khokhar favors operations against unlicensed LPG shops

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Chairman of the LP Gas Association Irfan Khokhar met with the Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Dr. MB Raja Dharejo at his office on Saturday. Chairman Irfan Khokhar briefed Deputy Commissioner Sukkur and Assistant Commissioner Pano Aqil, Rida Zahra Talpur that the association coordinates with district administrations on these issues to take all possible measures. The DC Sukkur said that the district administration has taken action on illegal LP Gas shops and distribution points in the district. Significant operations against illegal LP Gas in Pano Aqil have also been carried out. The registered shops have permission to operate LP Gas businesses. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Sukkur for successful operations against illegal LP Gas, along with Masroor Khan on the phone, Assistant Commissioner Pano Aqil Rida Zahra Talpur. Additional Deputy Commissioner-II Bushra Mansoor was also present on the occasion.



Reception hosted in honor of Maulana Mufti Tanveer Ahmed Naqshbandi in Jhudo

By Shahid Majed

JHUDO: A reception was organized by Ashraf Dubai at the guest house of Khalid Makar in honor of the esteemed religious figure Maulana Mufti Tanveer Ahmed Naqshbandi. Political and social personalities from Jhudo, including Haji Nasar Khan Qaim, former Chairman Shakeel Yasin Qaimkhani, Khalid Jaffar, Habibullah Pathan, Atif Latif, Shafiq Jan, Hasan Bannho and others attended the occasion.



Abdul Salam Arif mentioned that Mufti Tanveer Ahmed Naqshbandi is a dedicated individual who has consistently defended Islam on every platform. Recently, he promptly took action against blasphemy in Panigro, organizing a protest sit-in for 24 hours and not only initiating legal proceedings but also ensuring the arrest and imprisonment of the offender. Most importantly, he managed to control the emotions of his followers, ensuring that all actions were conducted within the confines of the law and positively contributing to peace and security.

Justice demanded for killed Hingorja shopkeeper Javed Bhutto



By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: In Hingorja, during the last two months, the shopkeeper named Javed Bhutto who has been shot dead by extortionists. They demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest. It is worth mentioning that the SHO Hingorja and SHO Ranipur reached the spot and held talks with the protesters, who refused to end their protest.

Water shortage intensifies in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In Umerkot, the scarcity of drinking water has intensified due to the crisis in water supply during the month of Muharram-ul-Haram. Municipal administration officials have been absent, prompting civilian protests. Various areas of the city such as Chang Muhalla, Shaikh Muhalla, Chana Muhalla, Ayesha Market, Shivani Muhalla, Makra Chowk, Kunbar Muhalla, Chandiram Muhalla and Harchandani Muhalla are facing severe water shortages, causing distress among residents. The lack of water has led to the emergence of various diseases, forcing residents to use contaminated water sources, exacerbating health concerns. The municipal committee has remained silent and inactive, drawing criticism from political and social circles in Umerkot. Leaders like Abdul Ghaffar Nagori, Ali Muhammad, Ramesh Kumar, and others have blamed administrative negligence for the ongoing water crisis, which has persisted for 12 days without any relief in sight. The municipal administration's failure to address the water shortage during Muharram-ul-Haram has further intensified the difficulties faced by the citizens. In response to the protests, Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naveed-ul-Rehman Larik has issued a notice regarding the water supply issue and assured prompt resolution. He has pledged to personally oversee the matter and ensure the immediate provision of water to affected areas.



PML-N's TMK chapter rallies against Supreme Court's decision

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The Pakistan Muslim League (N) District Tando Muhammad Khan staged a protest rally against the Supreme Court's decision to allocate reserved seats to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The rally culminated in a strong demonstration in front of the press club. On this occasion, the district President of PML-N Tando Muhammad Khan, Qazi Ghulam Hussain Solangi, along with Arshad Panhwar, Hussain Ahmed, Nanji Thakur, and others, expressed that the Supreme Court's decision will have negative impacts on Pakistan's economy. They asserted that efforts to weaken the PML-N government will not succeed. They further stated that the Supreme Court's decision is contradictory and not unanimous, which is why PML-N rejects it. They claimed that PML-N has not always received justice from the courts, citing examples such as the disqualification of Mian Nawaz Sharif and the continuous rulings against PML-N leadership. The protesters rejected this perceived injustice and appealed to the Supreme Court of Pakistan to reconsider the given decision.



Reopening of LPG shops demanded in Nawabshah



By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: The leaders of the LP Gas Association, Engineer Rasheed Ahmed Bhutto, Syed Rustam Ali Shah, Kashif Zardari, Umar Farooq, Zahir Hussain, Lal Chand, Sohail Ahmed, Rizwan Ahmed, and other district leaders addressed a press conference at the Nawabshah Press Club regarding the unauthorized closure of LP Gas shops. The district administration closed our shops without any prior notice, which we strongly condemned. We approached Deputy Commissioner Shahid Benazirabad in writing, and although he met with us, no resolution was reached. We were informed that we must comply with the closure, which has caused us significant financial losses since our shops have been closed for a week. In several cities of Sindh, LP Gas shops remain open, but only in Nawabshah District did they unlawfully close them. Deputy Commissioner Shahid Benazirabad was requested to allow us to reopen our shops so that we can continue to support our families.

Tail-end growers of Noor Wah Canal protest against acute water shortage

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: The growers living along the tail-end areas of the Noor Wah Canal, Jacobabad, protested against the shortage of irrigation water. Under the leadership of Syed Qurban Shah, Hashim Brohi, Farhan Bhangar, Syed Imtiaz Shah, Gulsher Khoso and Hakim Manjho, they staged a protest march against the water scarcity and shouted slogans against the officials of the Irrigation Department. Demonstrators gathered at the location of 11-Miles, stating that there is no shortage of water in the Indus River and Began Canal, but engineers and the district police officer of Jacobabad have illegally cut off water to the growers of Noor Wah Canal. They mentioned that due to the lack of water, thousands of acres of agricultural land are turning barren, and seeds for rice crops on hundreds of acres are drying up, causing significant financial losses to the residents. They further noted that despite several complaints to the Irrigation Department officials about water scarcity, no action has been taken. Last year, water was provided on the basis of bribes, and now they are demanding that Chief Minister Sindh and other high officials provide full-flow water to the tail-end growers of Noor Wah Canal to prevent economic disaster. They also announced plans to continue their protest to bypass if their demand is not accepted.



Two Kashmir cops embrace martyrdom in the line of duty



By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMIRE: The Sindh Police, particularly Kashmir Police, have faced numerous casualties in the line of duty, combating terrorism, crime, and lawlessness. These martyrs have made significant sacrifices to safeguard the residents of Sindh and uphold peace and order in the region. Recently, a tragic incident occurred where Constable Allah Dino Sabzoi of District Police Kashmir laid down his life while bravely resisting a cowardly attack by bandits, resulting in the martyrdom of another brave soul, Head Constable Nisar Ahmed Kalhoro. The sacrifices of these brave personnel have never gone unnoticed. The Kashmir Police have consistently treated the families of these martyrs as their own on every occasion. Now is the time for all of us to come together to pay homage to our martyrs and honor their sacrifices. In tribute to the martyrs, the Sindh Police have established memorials in Karachi and other parts of Sindh to honor the memory of those who have laid down their lives while protecting the public in the line of duty. The Government of Sindh has also announced several commendable initiatives to support the families of martyred police officers and officials, including financial assistance, educational opportunities, employment support, and healthcare facilities. Ultimately, the valor, bravery and sacrifices of our martyrs will never be forgotten and their legacy will continue to inspire future generations of the police force. The fight against terrorism and criminal culture will persist until this menace is completely eradicated once and for all.

Shikarpur Police arrest a notorious criminal

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: Shikarpur Police led by ASP City Munib Ahmed and SHO Mashooq Ali faced an encounter in the jurisdiction of the New Faidari Police Station. During the confrontation, a reward-wanted outlaw Atta alias Atta Muhammad, son of Janu Brohi, was arrested. The Sindh government announced a reward of Rs 50 lac for the arrest of the wanted outlaw, said SSP Shikarpur. At least 29 criminals have been arrested, including the arrest of a wanted outlaw, in police confrontations, incidents of murder and attempts to commit murder. SSP Shikarpur is determined to maintain peace and security in Shikarpur and surrounding districts.

Meghwar community protests against Khanpur Mahar Police

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: In protest against the raid conducted by Khanpur Mahar police officers Abdul Hakim Mahar, Ashraf Gabol, and others on the house of Advocate Pradeep Kumar Chauhan, members of the Meghwar community, led by Dwarka Das, Lalchand Arshi, Sham Lal, Diwan Lal, Gobind Ram, and others, held a demonstration at Panch Gali Chowk in Khanpur Mahar. The protesters chanted slogans against Assistant Sub-Inspector Abdul Hakim Mahar, officer Ashraf Gabol, and others. During the protest, the demonstrators told the media that Khanpur Mahar police officers ASI Hakim Mahar, Ashraf Gabol, and others unjustifiably raided their house at night, breaking down doors to enter and assaulting women and children. They stated that the police violated the sanctity of their homes by forcefully entering without any reason. They warned of more intense protests if their demands were not met.



NATIONAL



Aleem highlights potential for French investment in Pakistan

The French Embassy in Islamabad hosted a special event to celebrate French National Day, with Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Communications, and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan serving as the chief guest.

The event was attended by a distinguished gathering of federal ministers, senators, assembly members, diplomats, and prominent political, business, and social figures.

The ambassador of France, Nicolas Galey, welcomed the guests and provided an enlightening overview of the history and significance of the French National Day. He expressed gratitude for the warm relations between Pakistan and France and looked forward to continued collaboration.

In his address, Abdul Aleem Khan highlighted the strong bilateral friendly relations between Pakistan and France. He emphasized the importance of mutual cooperation in various fields, including trade, economy, edu-



agreement on the bilateral cooperation roadmap. Minister Khan commended the progress made and the strengthening of ties between the two countries. "Last year, the agreement of the two countries on the road map of bilateral cooperation is commendable," he said.

Khan also spoke about the upcoming Olympics in France, which are set to take place later this month. He expressed his pleasure at the participation of Pakistani athletes and others in the global event. "The holding of the Olympic Games in France this month and the participation of athletes and others from Pakistan is a welcome development," he noted.

Reflecting on last year's agreement on the bilateral cooperation roadmap, Minister Khan commended the progress made and the strengthening of ties between the two countries. "Last year, the agreement of the two countries on the road map of bilateral cooperation is commendable," he said.

The minister also underscored the potential for French investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. "France can invest in minerals, energy, agriculture, information technology, and defence production in Pakistan," he suggested.—RT/Agency

Article 151, 106 rewritten in reserved seats case verdict: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Saturday said that the Supreme Court's decision in reserved seats case was not constitutional.

Talking to media Khawaja Asif, a PML-N veteran, said that political ramifications can be clearly seen in the verdict.

Federal minister claimed that in decision the court has rewritten the constitution's Article 151 and 106. "Re-writing the constitution has not been the judiciary's function, this can be done by the parliament," he pointed out.

Khawaja Asif said that the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) went to the court in the case, the PTI was not anywhere in it. "When the complainant didn't knock the door for justice, you are providing relief to it," minister said.

He said, when the members have submitted affidavit of the Sunni Ittehad Council,



it is home delivery of the decision.

Khawaja Asif said the government will decide on Monday to go for the review of the court decision or give any other reaction.

The Supreme Court announced its split verdict with 8-5 division on Friday over a petition with regard to allocation of special seats filed by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announced the court verdict.—RT/Agency

Maryam forms 'Examination Task Force' in Punjab

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz has constituted an Examination Task Force to review and improve the examination system in the province, media reported.

As per details, the task force will be headed by renowned educationist Muzammil Mehmood whereas the task force will also include special secretaries of school education and higher education, the managing director of the Punjab Textbook Board, and the chairman of the examination commission.

The task force has been directed to review the examination system in Punjab and other provinces, identify flaws, and suggest measures for improvement.

The authority has been given the task of developing a mechanism to bring about



changes in the educational boards of Punjab. The chief minister has also directed the task force to seek administrative support from the relevant departments.

Recently, a female examiner in Karachi admitted to leaking the second year's Zoology paper.

The examiner of Government Degree Girls Arts and Commerce College admitting to her involvement in the paper leak apologized to the chairman Board of Intermediate Examination, Karachi (BIEK).

The teacher in her apology said that the college staff was not involved in the Zoology paper leak but it was her. Seeking forgiveness for the act, the female examiner said she will try to avoid such mistakes in the future.

Meanwhile, the BIEK chairman said action would be taken against the female examiner for leaking exam papers during inter-exams as per the rules and regulations.—RT/Agency

Children caught stealing motorcycles in Lahore

LAHORE: The Lahore police have apprehended a three underage motorcycle thieves.

The juvenile offenders were found in possession of three stolen motorcycles.

The underage motorcycle

thieves were taken into custody by the Johar Town police.

The arrested suspects include 10-year-old Azmat, 9-year-old Zohaib, and 13-year-old Mughes.

After investigating multiple incidents, the Johar Town police were able to track down these motorcycle thieves with the help of CCTV footage.—RT/Agency

PTI not planning to form government with PPP: Barrister Gohar



ISLAMABAD: Barrister Gohar has said that the Supreme Court's decision has put full stop on those who were predicting ban on the PTI, media reported on Saturday.

Talking to a media franchise, Chairman PTI Barrister Gohar Ali said that the party was not intending to form a government in coalition with the People's Party. "This option was also available to us on February 09," he added.

"We will act as a strong opposition party," he said. Barrister Gohar also said that the party didn't take any decision so far with regard to the no-confidence motion.

"The option of talks still been open," he added.

The Supreme Court of

Pakistan, in a major legal victory for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Friday overturned the denial of reserved seats to the PTI.

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

Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice 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.—RT/Agency

Cellular and internet services to be suspended in Quetta on Muharram 7 and 10

QUETTA: In a bid to scale up security measures, the Balochistan government has announced to suspend mobile phone and internet services in Quetta on Muharram 7 and 10, while imposing Section 144 in seven districts.

"The cellular and internet services will remain suspended from 6am to 12am midnight," said Balochistan Home Minister Meer Ziaullah Langau on Friday.

Muharram started on July 8 in the country, after the lunar month's crescent was sighted.

Faithful hold processions and majalis across the country in Muharram, while religious scholars address huge gatherings amid tight security, with thousands of law enforcers deployed to ensure security.

During his visit to review security arrangements in various areas of the metropolis, Langau said 8,000 security personnel would be deployed in Quetta on the day of Ashura, 10th Muharram.

Meanwhile, five Quick Response Force platoons of the Pakistan Army would remain



on standby.

Whereas, the home minister said that the cellphone services would be suspended in Jhal Magsi, Jafarabad and Usta Muhammad districts on Muharram 9 and 10.

The provincial government has also banned pillion riding and imposed Section 144 from Muharram 1 till 10 in seven districts.

It was the government's responsibility to maintain law and order situation in the city, stated Langau, apprising media that security arrangements regarding Muharram had been completed.

On the other hand, the federal government on July 8 approved the deployment of the Pakistan Army and Civil

Armed Forces (CAF) across the country as a security measure during Muharram.

According to a notification issued by the interior ministry, the government has sought the deployment of the military to maintain law and order.

The notification states that the details of troop deployment, which will be enforced for an indefinite period, will be finalised with the authorities concerned.

Additionally, the notification stated: "The date of de-requisitioning of said deployment will be decided subsequently after mutual consultation among all stakeholders."—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Sindh Energy Minister Nasir Shah Criticizes Judiciary's Pro-PTI Ruling

Karachi: Sindh Provincial Minister for Energy and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Syed Nasir Hussain Shah expressed criticism towards the judiciary and political opponents during a press conference in Karachi. Shah emphasized that PPP members have consistently respected court decisions, despite feeling that their leaders, including Shaheed Bibi, President Asif Ali Zardari, and Ms. Farayal Talpur, have not received justice. He cited the removal of former Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani as an example of perceived judicial bias against the PPP.



evidenced by their recent electoral success and the election of a PPP mayor.

Despite expressing reservations about the Supreme Court's decision, Shah reiterated the PPP's respect for the judiciary and other institutions. He attributed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's current challenges to its own mistakes, including the failure to conduct intra-party elections, which he argued was not the fault of the Election Commission.

Shah also commented on the Supreme Court's verdict, mentioning social media claims that the judgment did not explicitly call for the immediate swearing-in of a new prime minister. He reassured that the election process would proceed on schedule

and invited all parties to discuss electoral reforms.

Addressing the economic situation, Shah criticized the previous PTI government, accusing it of worsening economic conditions despite initially pledging not to approach the IMF. He stated that the PPP had offered to support the Sunni Ittehad Council or PTI in forming the government, but ultimately supported the PMLN for the sake of democracy and parliamentary stability.

Shah questioned how media and the public seemed aware of Supreme Court decisions in advance and dismissed rumors of Mian Shehbaz Sharif's potential resignation, asserting that there was no such situation.—RT

Hafiz Naeem calls Supreme Court verdict a 'gust of fresh air'



LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami's Ameer has termed the Supreme Court's decision in special seats case a gentle fresh air in current political situation, media reported on Saturday.

Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman talking to media demanded resignation of the chief election commissioner and all other concerned persons after the court's decision.

"These political parties, playing on both sides of the wicket, should accept the apex court's decision in totality," he urged.

JI chief also demanded electoral reforms.

Talking on local governments, Hafiz Naeem said, "We don't talk about the local bodies but the local

governments like the federal and provincial governments."

Hafiz Naeem said that the supreme court's decision should be accepted in totality, while pleading to the court to form a judicial commission over the entire election.

JI chief commenting on the dynastic politics called the hereditary politics murder of the democracy.

The apex court, on Friday overturned the denial of reserved seats to the PTI.

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

FBR to enforce retailers tax scheme in 42 cities

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to expand the fixed tax scheme for retailers to 42 cities with a minimum tax amount ranging from Rs100 to 10,000 per month, depending on the valuation rates of shops.

Under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, the FBR has envisaged an annual collection of Rs50 billion from the scheme during the current fiscal year.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to visit the FBR headquarters on Saturday (today) to get a detailed briefing on digitisation and the way forward for placing end-to-end connectivity for broadening the tax base.

Official sources said the FBR shared a detailed working of fair valuation rates of all 42 cities with the retailers' representatives. A minimum



tax of Rs1,200 to Rs120,000 was proposed for retailers depending on the valuation of shops across the country.

"A detailed working has been done by the FBR and shared with retailers. Now the FBR chairman has taken the firm stand that all retailers will have to contribute to national kitty," said the sources.

The FBR has not yet been notified to expand the tax the Tajir Dost Scheme net.—RT/Agency

from six to 42 cities. All schemes for bringing retailers had failed in the past mainly because the political leadership bowed before the pressure exerted by shutter owners/retailers.

Based on the valuation of different markets in different cities, the FBR has proposed to introduce a fixed slab-based scheme for all cities. The FBR has not yet been notified to expand the tax the Tajir Dost Scheme net.—RT/Agency

SSP Traffic Azam Jamali reviews traffic plan for Muharram-ul-Haram

By Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: Following the instructions of IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, SSP Traffic Malir Azam Jamali convened an important meeting at his Malir office with all DSPs, SHOs, and other officials of Malir. During the meeting, he discussed security arrangements for the routes of processions and gatherings from the 1st to the 10th of Muharram in various areas. He also issued instructions for maintaining traffic flow in the sensitive areas of District Malir, including Steel Town, Pirthi, Quaidabad, Malir, Sandabad, Jafar Tayyab and Model Colony, and for keeping them open via different routes. In a conversation with the media, SSP Traffic Malir Azam

Khan Jamali stated that during the 1st to the 10th of Muharram, traffic will be controlled on routes of gatherings and processions, and legal action will be taken against various transports violating laws on the National Highway. Additionally, motorcyclists and drivers of four-wheeled vehicles will be continuously warned not to

drive in wrong-way lanes or one-way streets and to avoid illegal parking; otherwise, they will be fined. The meeting was attended by Malir DSPs Yameen Gujar, Muhammad Aslam Umar, Fasihuddin, Majnu Khan Umar, SHOs Ghulam Sarwar, Shabbaz Ali, Asad Ali, Malik Safdar, Abdul Rahim, Gaji Dino Shah, Nisar Ahmed, Ali Hassan, Jamal Abdul Mansoor, Raza Muhammad, Naseebullah, Muhammad Saeed, and record keepers Ghulam Nabi, Hassan Mazhar, Sajid Gujar, Abdul Hafeez Kalor, Ghulam Rasool, Naqem Jan, Imran Ahmed, Nasir Khan, Abdul Jabbar, Ghulam Muhammad, Muhammad Safar, and Nazir Ahmed, among other officers and personnel.

Petrol and diesel prices set to rise again in upcoming review

ISLAMABAD: Continuing with the rising trend, the major petroleum products — petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) — are estimated to increase by more than Rs7.60 and Rs3.50 per litre, respectively, with effect from July 16 for the next fortnight, mainly because of higher global oil prices.

Sources said the prices of petrol and HSD had increased in the international market by about \$4 and \$2 per barrel, respectively, in the last fortnight. Depending on

final calculation and existing tax rates, the price of petrol is projected to rise by Rs7.60 per litre and that of HSD by Rs3.50.

The government has jacked up the maximum limit of petroleum development levy (PDL) to Rs70 per litre in the Finance Bill to collect Rs1.28 trillion in the current fiscal year against Rs960bn collection during the previous year, at least Rs91bn higher than the Rs869bn budget target.—RT/Agency

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Municipal Committee Gojra's inept performance irks masses

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: The rainfall that occurred more than 36 hours ago has exposed the Municipal Committee of Gojra's failure, despite their grant from the World Bank. The rainwater is still visible on the streets and lanes, while the administration is deflecting blame for their poor performance.

Meanwhile, at the busiest and most critical location in the city, the underpass in Gojra is presenting a lake-like view, while instead of draining rainwater from the underpass, the Municipal Committee has blocked the drains during train movements and further exacerbated severe problems for the citizens. The administration seems indifferent to the escalating railway line, posing a situation.

EDITORIAL

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

Sunday, July 14, 2024

The ridiculous persecution of Imran Khan is beyond the ordinary

The continued persecution of Imran Khan by the government of Pakistan is not only a massive travesty of justice but also a blatant abuse of fundamental rights. This relentless mockery must end to allow Pakistan to move forward and recover from the deep well of despair it has descended into over the past two and a half years. Despite the acquittal of Imran and Bushra Bibi in the Iddat case, their arrest in a new Toshakhana case hours later epitomizes the extent of judicial harassment they face.

Imran Khan's journey through the labyrinth of the Pakistani legal system reveals a pattern that goes beyond the ordinary. Each time hope arises for his release, a new case conveniently surfaces,

dragging him back into incarceration. The timing of these new charges raises serious questions about the integrity and motives behind the judicial actions against him. This calculated maneuvering is nothing short of a blatant abuse of power and a perversion of justice.



The government's resolve to keep Imran Khan imprisoned for its entire term, as admitted by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, speaks volumes about the political nature of his persecution. Such an approach not only undermines the rule of law

but also erodes public trust in the judicial system. The courts must take notice of this egregious misuse of the legal process and act to restore fairness and justice.

Imran Khan's continued incarceration serves no purpose other than to stifle political dissent and maintain a façade of stability. This relentless pursuit of a political vendetta must cease. Pakistan's progress and the restoration of its democratic values hinge on the fair and just treatment of all its citizens, including political leaders. It is high time that the government stops this farcical persecution and allows Imran Khan to participate freely in the political process. Only then can Pakistan hope to emerge from its current state of turmoil and despair.

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THE HEARTLAND



JSQM protests against lack of facilities at Taluka Hospital Tando Adam

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: A protest demonstration was recorded against the lack of facilities at the Taluka Hospital Tando Adam at the main Makkah Chowk in the city. The protest was led by JSQM leaders Allahdad Marri, Ghulam Shabir Kurejo, Tanveer Ahmed Nagshbandi and others, who voiced their concerns over the lack of facilities at the hospital. They

highlighted issues such as the absence of sufficient staff for patient care, shortages of medicines, including essential government medications, and the unavailability of various specialists like cardiologists, gastroenterologists, TB specialists, and surgeons. It was pointed out that while wards for heart and kidney patients are under construction, doctors, equipment, and necessary supplies are inadequate, with government doc-

tors being deputed to various private hospitals. Furthermore, they demanded that the hospital's monthly budget is insufficient, with patient numbers far exceeding capacity. The demonstrators also called for the establishment of specialized departments within the trauma center to meet quality standards, urging comprehensive renovation of cardiac and kidney departments within the hospital.

DC Yasir Bhatti, SSP Sheeraz Nazir visit different Imambargahs in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti, and SSP Badin, Sheeraz Nazir, have been visiting central Imambargahs in various tehsils to assess the security situation and arrangements during Muharram. They also visited Imambargahs in Matli, where they gathered information about the arrange-

ments from the organizers and mourners. During their visits, they were accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Talhar, Abdul Ghaffar Mallah, Assistant Commissioner Matli, Syed Noor Hussain Shah, Chairman Municipal Committee Matli, Haji Rizwan Ahmad Qaimkhani, Focal Person Rehman Qaimkhani, and others.

Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi stresses need for promoting love for Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS)

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi in a message issued on Monday has emphasized that the mourning for the grandson of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW), Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), fostered love and brotherhood among all sects and schools of thought. This devotion to the Ahle Bait (family of the Prophet) also grew. However, this situation became intolerable for narrow-minded extremist elements, who devised unholy plans to eliminate this culture of love for Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) by spreading sectarianism. A specific group was utilized to spread sectarianism, issuing fatwas of disbelief against the Shia school of thought, publishing vile and inflammatory literature, and using mosques, madaris and public places in this filthy campaign. Public meetings openly poisoned the minds of the naive against the Shia school of thought. Despite

these provocations and lawlessness, no miscreant was arrested or prosecuted. This prolonged sectarianism was turned into violence, leading to mourning ceremonies being held under tight security. Allama Sajid Naqvi noted that despite constitutional protections for fundamental rights, civil liberties, and religious rights, oppressive measures were taken under sectarian pressure. Unauthorized orders were issued to allow only licensed and traditional processions, halting the initiation of new mourning processions. Over the past few years, even further steps have been taken, including filing illegal procession charges against any new mourning procession. All processions were planned to be traditional, eventually being phased out. First, the transfer of licenses to the heirs of deceased license holders was stopped. In the second phase, some traditional processions were halted through conspiracies involving miscreants, with administrative promises to allow these processions the following year, which were then denied. He also pointed out that this systematic plan included false reports leading to FIRs and placing peaceful, law-abiding citizens on the Fourth Schedule, imposing unjustified restrictions on the use of loudspeakers in mourning gatherings, requiring permission for Majalis, limiting the duration of Majalis and processions, restricting or altering mourning processions, canceling licenses after the death of the license holder without transferring them to heirs, canceling licenses for processions, silencing scholars and speakers, and preventing public participation in Majalis and processions. These unconstitutional and illegal measures aim to limit the mourning for Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). Therefore, he urged the police and administration to refrain from taking steps to abandon their fundamental, constitutional, and legal right to mourn.

Jacobabad Police make foolproof security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Jacobabad Police has prepared a security plan for Muharram-ul-Haram, with 24 processions and gatherings marked as highly sensitive, 59 as sensitive, and duties assigned to over 2,990 security officers and personnel. There will be 163 processions and 207 gatherings held in total. According to details, Jacobabad police have formulated a security plan for Muharram-ul-Haram to maintain peace and security, deploying over 2,990 officers and personnel across the district. There will be 163 processions and 207 gatherings, with 24 marked as highly sensitive, 59 as sensitive, and 80 as normal. On the 9th of Muharram, 38 processions and 17 gatherings will take place, while on the 10th, 53 processions and 17 gatherings are scheduled. In the interest of peace and security, 33 additional police checkpoints have been established on internal and external routes of the district, with



searches conducted for every incoming vehicle. Over 100 CCTV cameras have been installed along procession routes, and surveillance will be carried out using 2 drone cameras. Additionally, more than 20 police mobiles will remain present during processions, streets have been sealed off with barbed wire

and a bomb disposal squad is on standby for immediate response in case of any incidents. SSP Jacobabad Syed Saleem Shah has appealed to the public to remain vigilant in their surroundings and immediately inform the nearest police station or helpline about any suspicious or unusual situations.

Shahdadpur notable Zavar Mir Ali Hassan passes away



By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: The esteemed personality of Shahdadpur city, Zavar Mir Ali Hassan S/o Sher Muhammad Imam Bux Talpur, Qureshi, Syed Ehsan Shah, Mohsin Wasseem, Imran Ali Shah, Nisar Baladi, Nisar Detho, Zavar Ali Hassan Talpur is survived by his sons Ali Raza, Aun Raza, Sibtain Raza, and other de-

scendants. The funeral prayer of the deceased was offered at the Municipal Ground, where Zavar Fahad Wasseem, Muhammad Sher Muhammad Imam Bux Talpur, Qureshi, Syed Ehsan Shah, Mohsin Wasseem, Imran Ali Shah, Nisar Baladi, Nisar Detho, Zavar Ali Hassan Talpur, along with city's political, social, business, and media figures participated in the condolences.

Dadu Public Forum holds an awareness session on expected monsoon floods

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Due to possible heavy rains and river floods, posing significant risks to large-scale destruction in district, including urban and rural areas, and to mitigate potential dangers, a public forum chaired by Ashiq Ali Zaun, Chairman of the Dadu Public Forum, was held. The meeting, attended by Senior Vice Chairman Gulam Bhatto, General Secretary Waraam Sindh, Joint Secretary Muhammad Mureed Panwar, Information Secretary Nabi Bux Haliputo, Treasurer Dildar Ali Zaun, Legal Advisor Advocate



Abdul Hakim Laghari, to address the imminent dangers posed by possible heavy rains. It was also planned to arrange a visit of the district officials to the weak points of the embankments so that the dangers of the flooding could be reduced.

Thatta court sentence two to life in murder case

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In a recent judgment, a model court in Thatta has sentenced Muhammad Shaikh and Muhammad Ali Shaikh to life imprisonment for the murder of Noor Mohamed Kaloi, who was killed while resisting an attempted animal theft in the Sakro police jurisdiction. Furthermore, both individuals have been fined Rs 300,000 each. The case was filed by Aziz Kaloi, and the prosecution was led by renowned advocate Aijaz Jumani.

Tando Allahyar Police arrest a notorious criminal in an injured state

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, a fierce confrontation erupted between the police and armed assailants at a checkpoint, resulting in an injured arrestee and another escaping. This incident led to the imposition of a curfew in the area of Tando Allahyar, as police and armed assailants clashed at a checkpoint. In response to police gunfire, an armed assailant, identified as Mumtaz alias Fauji Khoso, was apprehended in a wounded state, while another managed to flee the scene. The police immediately transferred the injured criminal to the civil hospital in critical condition, where DSP City Usman Laghari and SHO Mazhar Mehndi said that the Mumtaz alias Fauji Khoso is under police custody, facing serious charges including the intent to murder. The case has been registered against him and his accomplice, Ghulam Qadir Kalro, who is still at



large and is wanted in connection with this incident. The police have seized a motorcycle and weapons from their possession. The investigation is ongoing to apprehend Ghulam Qadir Kalro and to further probe this case.

SHRD Director Ali Palh demands justice, protection for Sindh's journalists

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Director of Sindh Human Rights Defender, Ali Palh has demanded justice and protection for the journalists in Sindh. He demanded justice in the pending cases of Ali Thebo from Sanghar, Zam Zam Syed from Karachi, Raza Rind from Mirpurkhas, Nasrullah Gadani from Ghotki, Mir Khan Shar from Sanghar and Peeral Azad from Tando Allahyar. He stated that some of these journalists have either been ruthlessly killed or continuously received threats to their lives. He further said that immediate action regarding the taken across Sindh should be taken across Sindh regarding threats and cases of their killings, providing protection to journalists and addressing their pending issues by senior officials of the Sindh government, because journalism is such a field and role that only speaks for justice. Sindh Human Rights Defender will stand firm with such journalists and will continue to raise voice for journalists on every platform until they are provided protection.

SPORTS



Villa close to signing Everton's Onana for £50m



Aston Villa are in advanced talks to sign midfielder Amadou Onana for Everton for a fee in the region of £50m.

The 22-year-old featured for Belgium at Euro 2024 and would have the opportunity to play Champions League football next season.

Onana joined from Lille for £33m in August 2022 and has gone on to make 72 appearances for the Toffees, scoring four goals.

Arsenal held an initial conversation with Onana's representatives earlier this year but did not follow up on their interest.

It is understood Villa's fee meets Everton's valuation of the midfielder, who also had interest from Manchester United.

Senegal-born Onana has also played for Hamburg, having progressed through

the ranks at Hoffenheim after starting in Anderlecht's academy.

Villa have been in the market for a new midfielder after selling Douglas Luiz to Juventus for £42.35m last month.

They are also expected to complete the return of Jaden Philogene in the coming days after the Hull winger flew back from the Tigers' training camp in Turkey on Friday.

The England Under-21 winger is due to sign a five-year contract in a move worth about £18m, returning to Villa Park less than 12 months after being sold to the Tigers.

Villa included a matching option in his move last September and snatched him from Ipswich, who had agreed an £18m deal with Hull. —Agency

Australia win thriller to clinch series against Wales



Wales suffered a ninth successive international defeat as Australia wrapped up the series 2-0 with victory in an eight-try thriller in Melbourne.

Two tries from Filipo Daugunu, further scores from Jake Gordon and Allan Alaalatao and 13 points from Noah Lolesio's boot helped Australia achieve a successful start to Joe Schmidt's era following the 25-16 win in Sydney last weekend.

Wales responded with two tries from inspirational captain Dewi Lake, while returns Liam Williams and Rio Dyer also crossed.

Warren Gatland's side rallied from a sluggish start as they slipped to a 17-0 deficit inside 25 minutes, but left themselves with too much work to do.

Lake has been the Wales' success story of this tour with his tries coming from rolling mauls, which have proved the tourists' most potent attacking threat.

Gatland under scrutiny

Gatland will find himself under pressure because of the wretched recent record with Wales having not won a Test match since the 2023 World Cup pool win against Georgia nine months ago.

They are now just one loss away from equalling the nation's worst losing sequence of 10 under Steve Hansen between 2002 and 2003.

This ninth defeat marks the longest number of matches without a Test win during Gatland's association with Wales that began in 2008, ended 11 years later and resumed ahead of the 2023 Six Nations.

Gatland has only won six out of 21 matches since his return and Wales have finished bottom of the Six Nations for the first time in 21 years and slipped to 11th in the world rankings, their lowest ever position.

Their losing record against the Wallabies in Australia has also extended to 13 consecutive defeats with no victory since 1969.

While there is a tour match to follow against Queensland Reds in Brisbane next Friday, Wales do not play another international until Fiji arrive at Cardiff's Principality Stadium in November. —Agency

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Face of the Day
Name: Khawar Ejaz
Location: Karachi
About me: I'm passionate about modeling!
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

India beat Pakistan to win World Championship of Legends

BIRMINGHAM: Ambati Rayudu's half-century after Anureet Singh's three-for led India Champions to beat Pakistan by five wickets and win the World Championship of Legends here at Edgbaston on Saturday.

Set to chase 157, India Champions knocked the winning runs on the first delivery of the final over when Irfan Pathan hit Sohail Tanvir for a four.

Younis Khan's decision to bat first after winning the coin toss did not bear fruits for the Pakistan Champions as they put a par total on the board.

Pakistan Champions had a shaky start to their innings as their in-form hard-hitting opener Sharjeel Khan (12) fell victim to Anureet Singh in the second over with just 14 runs on the board.

Sohaib Maqsood then joined Kamran Akmal in the middle for a briefly anchoring partnership as the duo could raise 29 runs for the second wicket.



Maqsood, who tried to counterattack the India Champions bowlers fell prey to Vinay Kumar in the fifth over after scoring a quick 21 off 12.

Pakistan Champions then lost two more wickets in quick succession — Kamran Akmal (24) and Younis Khan (7) — and consequently slipped to 79/4 in 11.3 overs.

Shoaib Malik, the leading run-scorer of the World Championship of Legends, took the reigns of Pakistan Champions batting expedition against India Champions and kept the scoreboard ticking with an anchoring knock.

Malik put together brief partnerships with Misbah-ul-Haq (18) and Aamer Yamin (7) before walking back to the dugout on the last delivery of the 18th over.

He remained the top-scorer for Pakistan Champions with a gutsy 41 off 36 deliveries, laced up with three sixes. —RT/Agency

Barrett sparks fightback as All Blacks beat England

Replacement Beauden Barrett inspired a New Zealand fightback in their 24-17 win over England to claim the series 2-0 at Eden Park.

The All Blacks trailed by four points before two-time world player of the year Barrett was introduced off the bench to set up Mark Tele'a's second try and break English resistance.

England had threatened to become the first side to win at Eden Park in 30 years after excellent tries by Immanuel Feyi-Waboso and Tommy Freeman handed them a slender advantage at half-time.

In a frenetic game littered by handling errors on the grassy Auckland surface, the All Blacks struggled to wrestle back momentum and Marcus Smith stretched England's lead with a penalty before Barrett's arrival from the bench.

The full-back cut a composed figure as he first kicked Scott Robertson's era as head coach.

Opportunity evades spirited England again



England arrived at the spiritual home of All Black rugby sensing an opportunity to spring a famous upset after their narrow defeat in last week's first Test in Dunedin.

Many of England's young squad were not born the last time New Zealand were beaten at Eden Park, by France in 1994, but they were undaunted.

Tele'a handed the All Blacks the lead as he reacted quickest to pick up the ball from a ruck and scamper clear but England hit back through his opposite number Feyi-Waboso.

The wing latched on to a pinpoint Marcus Smith crossing-field kick before beating Tele'a and Damian McKenzie to score his fourth try in six England appearances.

Smith was disappointing from the tee in Dunedin but his accurate kicking from hand is a real weapon for England and New Zealand failed to heed the early warning as Freeman was the beneficiary of another smart cross-field kick to hand the visitors the lead.

They held a one-point advantage at the break but the All Blacks were boosted by the introduction of Beauden Barrett — the oldest of the three Barrett brothers in the matchday squad.

The utility back prowled the back field and nullified England's kicking game as the hosts began to control the battle for territory. —Agency

'England fire first Ashes shot, now must make sure it does not backfire'

James Anderson is now a former England fast bowler. No wonder he was enjoying the Guinness.

Firstly while being interviewed by Nasser Hussain, then downing a pint on the dressing-room balcony, an appearance like the King at Buckingham Palace. This was cricketer royalty taking his final bow.

Even if Anderson's Test farewell didn't quite have the drama achieved by his old mates Alastair Cook and Stuart Broad, the Friday Lord's atmosphere was filled with love as spectators flooded the



outfield, taking selfies, throwing catches and caressing the manicured turf.

What a contrast to the last Test played on this ground, in the Ashes last summer. If home fans had been allowed of the series had on England skipper Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum. England's own mistakes contributing to them going 2-0 down, a titanic effort to get back to 2-2 either side of a Manchester washout that denied the chance to regain the urn. For the first two years of the Stokes-McCullum era, everyone from the England set-up would tell anyone who would listen that they "live where their feet are". Now, England have put their feet 10,000 miles and 16 months away on the next tour of Australia. —Agency

Wood added to England squad for second Test



England have added fast bowler Mark Wood to their squad for the second Test against West Indies at Trent Bridge.

Wood, 34, missed the huge win in the first Test after being part of the England squad for the T20 World Cup in June.

The Durham man takes the place of James Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker who ended his international career at Lord's.

If England opt to retain Chris Woakes and Gus Atkinson in their XI, Wood will be vying with Matthew Potts and the uncapped Dillon Pennington for the remaining pace-bowling slot.

Should Nottinghamshire's Pennington, 25, make his debut, it would be on his home ground.

The second Test in the three-match series begins on Thursday, with the third Test at Edgbaston starting on 26 July.

England men's squad for second Test v West Indies: Ben Stokes (Durham), Gus Atkinson (Surrey), Shoaib Bashir (Somerset), Harry Brook (Yorkshire), Zak Crawley (Kent), Ben Duckett (Nottinghamshire), Dan Lawrence (Surrey), Dillon Pennington (Nottinghamshire), Ollie Pope (Surrey), Matthew Potts (Durham), Joe Root (Yorkshire), Jamie Smith (Surrey), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire), Mark Wood (Durham). —Agency

The Hundred 2024: PCB denies NOC to Naseem Shah



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided not to grant fast bowler Naseem Shah the No Objection Certificate to play The Hundred cricket league, under the workload management, sources told media.

This will deprive Naseem of around Rs 45 million as he was signed by Birmingham Phoenix team for £125,000.

As per the sources, the decision has been taken as a preventive measure ahead of the crucial matches of the World Test Championship, after reviewing the application submitted by the Pakistani cricketer for the NOC.

They said his application has been dismissed to protect him from injuries, since he plays in all three formats of the cricket for the national side and he faced some fitness challenges last year.

Naseem underwent a successful surgery to treat his shoulder injury in October 2023. Following which, he had been ruled out of the ICC World Cup 2023.

After that, doctors had advised the young pacer to rest and undergo rehabilitation for a period of four to six weeks before making his return to the ground. This injury forced him out of action for at least three to four months.

In the 46th over, during Pakistan's second game against India at the Asia Cup 2023 in September 2023, the pacer walked off the field after suffering an injury on the reserve day organised for that game. Soon after, the PCB issued a press release stating that the right-armers had been ruled out of the rest of the tournament. —Agency

ENTERTAINMENT

Billie Eilish reveals her secret to liking people



Billie Eilish candidly revealed that the first thing that grab her attention is how a person smells.

On Friday, July 12 during the recent episode of Chicken Shop Date, the 22-year-old Grammy winner said a major role in determining who she finds attractive.

She told the show host, Amelia Dimoldenberg, "[Smell is] kind of No. 1."

The singer-songwriter continued, "I can get around it, but I'm definitely like — that's the first thing I notice."

"And I have a very strong nose, so if someone smells good, I like them more," she added.

Elsewhere in the show, the host asked Eilish, "What's the difference between a craving and a crush?"

Upon the singer's counter question, Amelia said, "A craving seems a bit more intense. Maybe actually a craving is a better way of describing an intense crush."

While Billie shared her views saying, "I get absolutely insane. When I was growing up, no one I had a crush on ever had a crush on me back, that I know of. It's demoralizing. It's sad."

Kate Middleton finally returns to her royal duties amid cancer battle



Princess of Wales Kate Middleton is finally returning to her royal duties amid cancer battle as Kensington Palace has confirmed that she will attend the men's Wimbledon final tomorrow but not the women's final today.

Royal expert Kate Mansley told to X, formerly Twitter handle, and revealed the palace statement on Kate Middleton's Wimbledon attendance.

She tweeted, "Kensington Palace confirms that the Princess of Wales will attend the men's Wimbledon final tomorrow but not the women's final today."

However, she said "Wimbledon chair Debbie Jevans will present the trophy today in the Princess's absence."

Another royal expert Roya Nikkha also tweeted, "The Princess of Wales will attend the Wimbledon men's singles final tomorrow, while Prince William, president of the FA will be in Berlin to support England for their EURO 2024 final against Spain."

Kate Middleton, who usually is in the Royal Box at Wimbledon on Sunday, is also the patron of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

The future queen is currently undergoing cancer treatment and she has only made one public appearance with the royal family in 2024.

Kate Middleton traditionally hands out the award to the winner in her role as the patron.

THE HEARTLAND



NATIONAL

Badin Police continue their operations against criminals

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: On the orders of SSP Badin, Sheeraz Nazir, actions are being taken against hidden and advertised suspects and drug dealers throughout the district. Ghulam Mustafa Aqlani, along with his team, has arrested accused Altaf Jamali, a hashish seller, along with 900 grams of hashish.

The police have returned the recovered motorcycles to their rightful owners. Additionally, SHO Police Station Badin, along with his team, has arrested 2 accused sellers of Gutka, Khamiso Junejo and Shahzad Junejo, along with 400 pieces of harmful Gutka. The In-charge of CIA Badin, Inspector Shahjahan Lashari, along with his team, has arrested accused Gutka seller Amin Mallah, along

with 350 pieces of harmful Gutka. Similarly, Ahmed Nahrio, along with his team, has arrested accused Gutka seller Azeem Lakhato and recovered 330 sachets from his possession. Furthermore, accused drug dealer Sukhiv Kohli has been apprehended with 20 liters of country liquor. SHO Raju Khanani Police Station Inspector Tu-fail Ahmed Jalalani, along with his team, has apprehended Chetan Kohli, the wanted accused in the Gutka case.

Banglani community notable Khan Muhammad Banglani passes away in Thul



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Banglani community notable Khan Muhammad Banglani passed away at the age of 65 due to a heart attack on Monday. The body of the deceased was laid to rest at his family's

ancestral graveyard after performing his funeral prayers in village Arsalah Khan Banglani which were attended by a large number of political, social, journalistic, and farming leaders, along with people from various walks of life.

US ambassador, Naqvi emphasize stronger cooperation against terrorism, narcotics

US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome met with federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to discuss Pakistan-US relations and matters of mutual interest. The meeting focused on increasing cooperation in the fields of anti-terrorism, narcotics control, and security. During the discussions, both parties agreed on the importance of



strengthening collaboration to combat terrorism and drug trafficking. Minister Naqvi emphasized the significance of US support in enhancing the capacity of Pakistan's law enforcement agencies. "US cooperation is important in enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies," he stated. Minister Naqvi assured Ambassador Blome of the Interior Ministry's commitment to making bilateral

relations more stable and fruitful. "The Ministry of Interior will provide full support in making mutual relations more stable," he affirmed. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the announcement that a delegation from the Islamabad Police will visit New York soon to benefit from mutual cooperation. Naqvi highlighted the desire of Islamabad police officers to receive training from the New York Police Department. "Islamabad police officers want training from New York police department," he said. In addition to security cooperation, the protection of minority rights in Pakistan was also discussed. Naqvi reiterated that all minorities in Pakistan have equal rights under the Constitution and that the government is committed to their protection.—RT/Agency

Mallah community man demands justice in Sujawal land dispute

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: A man named Aari S/o Yousef Mallah staged a protest demonstration against the illegal occupation of his land by his community men. He stated that his agricultural land measuring 20 acres has been forcibly occupied. The land is located in Tapo Amra and has been grabbed by his community men, who also threatened his family and at-



tempted to kill them. He appealed to the authorities to take action against the oppressors who are continuously harassing him and his family, urging the authori-

ties to intervene and provide justice. He also expressed concern over the performance of the police for not taking action against the occupants.

CCF distributes nutrition kits in Naukot



By Mushahid Nohrio

NAUKOT: In the aftermath of the 2022 floods in Saindabad Aliani, nutrition kits were distributed by the Custom Care Foundation to the affected families to fulfill their nutritional needs. Representatives from the Custom Care were seen spending time with the affected families, bringing them happiness and boosting their morale. During this time, social activist Muhammad Ramzan and Muhammad Sharif were also present.

1 killed in roadside blast near FC vehicle in Quetta

QUETTA: A Frontier Corps driver was killed in a roadside blast in Quetta's Akhtarabad area near the Northern bypass on Saturday, rescue officials said. Edhi Foundation in-charge Muhammad Zeeshan told Dawn.com that an FC vehicle

was out for routine patrolling when the blast took place, leaving the driver critically wounded. He was immediately moved to the Bolan Medical Complex Hospital Zeeshan, citing the Quetta police, said that four kilograms of explosives were used in the explosion. On the other hand, a heavy contingent of police, bomb disposal squad and FC reached the blast site immediately after the incident was reported and cordoned off the area for investigation.—RT/Agency

Youth found dead in Nabisar Canal identified

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: In the vicinity of Nabisar Canal, the body of a young man in an advanced state of decomposition was identified through digital means and handed over to his family. According to reports, the body of a young man was discovered near Kanjagi Bridge close to Kunri in Nabisar Canal. Local residents spotted the body and alerted the police. A postmortem examination was conducted at Kunri Taluka Hospital, identify-

ing the deceased as Rasool Bux, aged 35, resident of Deh 208. Police used digital forensic techniques to confirm his identity. His family had reported him missing three days prior and had been searching for him extensively. They were informed by Kunri Police today about the discovery of his body. Relatives stated that Rasool Bux had no known enmity with anyone. The deceased was mute and married, with four children. Kunri Police completed necessary proced-

ures and handed over the body to the family, although Kunri Police mentioned that the family did not wish to pursue legal action. Further investigation is ongoing. Preliminary findings from the post-mortem indicate severe injuries to the right side of the deceased's head, possibly caused by a sharp object, and injuries to the back of the head consistent with a blunt weapon. The deceased, who had been in the water for some time, emitted a strong odor.

Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori visits Imambargahs in Mirpurkhas



By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The Mayor of the Municipal Corporation, Abdul Rauf Ghori, along with Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rashid Masood Khan and SSP Chaudhry Asad Ali, visited various Imambargahs, including Imambargah Makhani Shah, Taqi Shah, Azakhana Zahra (SA) and Hyderi Imambargah, to review the arrangements made for Muharram. The mayor issued immediate orders to his staff to resolve the issues identified by the administrators of the Imambargahs. On this occasion, the SSP assured the administrators of full cooperation regarding security. During the visit, the administrators appreciated the better arrangements made for Muharram by the Deputy Commissioner and the Mayor.

Corporate Watch

AMPAK BDF & PACC Host Mango Festival 2024 & US Independence Day Celebration

AMPAK BDF and PACC jointly hosted a vibrant Mango Festival 2024 and US Independence Day celebration at PACC, underscoring the cultural exchange and diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the United States. The event commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the national anthems of both nations, fostering a spirit of unity and respect.



Mr. Conrad Tribble, Consul General of the United States, graced the occasion, emphasizing the significance of cultural events in strengthening bilateral ties. He praised the organizers for their efforts in promoting cultural and business exchanges between the two nations. Dignitaries including diplomats, business leaders, and government officials attended the event, highlighting the importance of US-Pakistan relations. President of AMPAK BDF, Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain, highlighted Pakistan's significant mango exports and thanked Mr. Tribble for his presence. President of PACC, Makhdoom Syed Riaz Ali,

acknowledged the successful collaboration between the two organizations. The festival showcased various mango varieties and culinary delights, celebrating the agricultural heritage shared by Pakistan and the US. A cake-cutting ceremony marked US Independence Day, symbolizing the friendship and mutual respect between the two nations. Organizers expressed gratitude for the event's success and announced plans to continue the Mango Festival and Independence Day celebration annually, reinforcing the partnership between AMPAK BDF and PACC.—RT

TEA, UNESCO distribute science equipment amongst 43 schools in Tharparkar

By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI: The Thar Education Alliance, in collaboration with UNESCO, distributed science lab materials to 43 schools. A ceremony was held at the Tharparkar Education Alliance office for the distribution of these materials, attended by educational officers, head teachers, and social workers. This initiative aims to promote scientific education among girls in Tharparkar and establish science labs in

schools. Chief Executive Officer of Thar Education Alliance, Partab Shivani, emphasized that this initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with UNESCO to provide scientific education materials, scholarships for girls, and travel allowances for lady teachers, thereby enhancing girls' education and making scientific education more accessible. He further stated that additional projects are under consideration with the cooperation of the Edu-

cation Department to enroll girls in schools and bring out-of-school children back into the educational system. Primary Deputy Commissioner Jan Muhammad Baig praised the Thar Education Alliance's efforts for the improvement of education and assured continued cooperation with social institutions. Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners from Mithi, Kaloi, Diplo and Islamkot also expressed their views during the event.

Increasing number of encroachments making life difficult for people of MPK

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Lawlessness is at its peak in Mirpurkhas, while on the other hand, encroachments are increasing everywhere in the city, narrowing the main mar-

ket streets. On the other hand, drugs are being sold openly in cabins at various city intersections. Civil society, social activists, and the media have repeatedly pointed out these issues, but despite this, no one is ready to take action or

legal measures. Although Mirpurkhas is a major city in Sindh, it has been left abandoned due to which the civil society has urged higher authorities to take steps to improve conditions in Mirpurkhas district.

Daulatpur notable Khan Muhammad Unar passes away



By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: The Unar community notable and former UC Chairman named Khan Muhammad Unar passed away after suffering from paralysis on Monday.

The body of the deceased was laid to rest at his family's ancestral graveyard after performing his funeral prayers which were attended by a large number of people belonging to different walks of life.

Company exploring gas stopped from working in Khairpur

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: In the Achhro Thar area of Khairpur district, a few unidentified armed individuals attacked and fired shots at laborers working on the site of a company tasked with gas exploration, forcing them to cease operations. This incident has instilled fear and anxiety in the area. The company, engaged in searching for gas reserves in the desert area of Head Jamrao in Nara tehsil was ex-

cavating wells to extract gas when unidentified assailants attacked their site. They seized the company's vehicle, intimidated employees at gunpoint, subjected them to physical violence, and continued firing shots, ultimately halting their operations by force. Upon inquiry, the police informed us through the media that if the responsible parties from the company come forward, a case will be registered.

MONEY

Government bans wheat imports and flour exports

ISLAMABAD: The federal government of Pakistan on Friday imposed a ban on import of wheat and export of flour following excessive import of wheat than country's requirement, stated a notification issued by Ministry of Commerce.



The government has made amendments to the Import and Export Policy Orders 2022, imposing a ban on the import of wheat and export of flour. Moreover, a ban has also been imposed on export of flour prepared from imported wheat, the notification added. Earlier in March, the federal government had conditionally allowed the export of flour made from imported wheat under the Export Facilitation Scheme 2021. On July 10, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told the National Assembly that the government had made no de-

cision for the export of wheat even as the State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Bill, 2024 was rushed through the legislature. "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 amendment, which allows the government to remove board members of SOEs based on recommendations from the board nomination committee, had been passed by the Senate the previous week and will become law upon President Asif Ali Zardari's assent.

Dejected Larkana grower ends his life

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In a tragic incident of desperation due to not receiving water for his agricultural land, a young man named Qaim Khan S/o Hakim Brohi, hailing from Malook Brohi village, consumed a poisonous substance in an attempt to end his life, facing severe financial

losses. He was rushed to Chandka Hospital's emergency ward, where doctors confirmed his demise. At the time of the incident, the deceased young man's uncle, Ghulam Ali Brohi, a journalist by profession, stated that we own 25 acres of agricultural land where we cultivate rice. Due to water scarcity, the rice crop was

severely affected, resulting in significant financial losses. Distraught over this situation, he consumed poison and was rushed to the hospital, where doctors confirmed his death. Subsequently, necessary legal procedures were initiated, and the body of the deceased man was handed over to his heirs for burial.

Unidentified youth found dead in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A young man was found on Station Road in Larkana city, which was reported to

the police immediately. Upon arrival, the police transferred the body to the hospital, where no signs of life were detected. Subsequently, necessary legal

procedures were initiated, and the body was handed over to Edhi Center in Larkana, from where it was buried in the local graveyard.

METRO KARACHI



Traffic plan announced for Karachi's Muharram processions

KARACHI: Karachi Traffic Police has issued a comprehensive traffic diversion plan in light of Muharram processions that will be taking place in the country's financial hub from 8 to 10th Muharram, The News reported on Saturday.

The metropolis, each year, witnesses thousands of mourners participating in several Muharram processions wherein the government and law enforcement agencies chalk out a detailed security plan including cordoning off several streets as part of relevant security measures.

For the Ashura — the 10th day of Muharram falling on July 17 — the Sindh government has banned 143 ulema and zakireen hailing from 13 districts for 60 days as part of security measures during the month of Muharram.

The primary procession will start from Nishtar Park and will culminate at Imam-bargah Hussainian Iranian at



Kharadar.

In light of the procession, MA Jinnah Road will be closed off to traffic from Guru Mandir to Tower and only vehicles possessing the necessary permits will be allowed access to it — vehicles with relevant stickers will be allowed to enter the procession through the Highway Leaders Society Light Signal.

No vehicles will be allowed to go beyond Guru Mandir and will be diverted towards Bahadur Yar Jung Road Soldier Bazar from there.

District Central

Justice Shafi Siddiqui takes oath as Chief Justice of Sindh High Court



KARACHI: Justice Shafi Siddiqui took the oath of the chief justice of the Sindh High Court on Saturday, media reported.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori administered the oath at a ceremony held on the premises of the SHC.

President Asif Ali Zardari approved his appointment as the Sindh High Court's (SHC) top judge, under Article 175-A(13) of the Constitution. The JCP had also unanimously recommended Jus-

Justice Siddiqui's elevation as the SHC chief justice to fill the vacant seat created by the elevation of Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi to the Supreme Court.

Born on August 12, 1965, Justice Siddiqui was appointed as a judge of the SHC on March 20, 2012. He was enrolled as an advocate of the subordinate judiciary and the high court in 1992 and 1994, respectively, and enrolled as an advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2008. —RT/Agency

CJP Isa 'not interested' in extension: Law Minister Azam Tarar

KARACHI: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said Saturday that Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa had told him that he was "not interested" in extension of his tenure as the top judge.

Tarar gave the clarification about CJP Isa's extension in tenure while speaking during Geo News programme "Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sath".

The law minister said that the chief justice, after the meeting of the judicial commission, had told him in the presence of the attorney general that he was not interested in extending his tenure.

He said that CJP Isa had told him that rumours had been circulating about his extension.

"I told him (CJP) no such thing is happening at all," he said, adding that the top judge then appreciated him for clarifying the matter.

The law minister noted that he informed the chief justice that work on pension reforms was however underway, which included a sug-



gestion for increasing the age of retirement by two years across all sectors.

He then recalled that when the government was considering increasing the retirement age by two years, a suggestion was made that the judges should also be considered in this regard. However, he did not mention who suggested it.

Justice Isa's tenure as the country's chief justice, however, is quite brief, as he is set to retire from the position on October 25, 2024. —RT/Agency

Karachi to sizzle again from July 15

KARACHI: After receiving some respite from the scorching heat due to light rain earlier this week, Karachiites are once again expected to witness another heat spell next week with temperature expected to increase by up to 3°C from July 15 (Monday).

The metropolis, as per weather expert Jawad Memon, is likely to experience an increase in temperature as there's a possibility of a decrease in the speed of the sea breeze due to the formation of a low-pressure area.

The weather update comes after the city received heavy rain on Tuesday in several areas of the city followed by light showers. However, despite the rain, the residents have not yet experienced significant relief from the heat.

Memon said that a rain system might affect the country's southern parts including Karachi between July 16 and 18.

Earlier, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast heavy rains in the metropolis after July 20.

NDMA warning



Several parts of the country are currently witnessing monsoon rains with Lahore receiving 315 millimetres of downpour a day earlier which broke a 30-year-old record.

A day earlier, the National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) National Emergencies Operation Centre said that it anticipates an increase in flows in the River Ravi nullahs (Deg, Basanter and Bein) and River Chenab catchments in the next 48 hours.

Consequently, people living in low-lying areas may be affected, said the NDMA body.

The downpour may disrupt transportation and dam-

FIA's help sought as digital thieves impersonate Sindh Police online



KARACHI: The Sindh Police have approached to the FIA and PTA regarding the discovery of fake accounts in the name of the Sindh Police on social media platforms.

These accounts were being run by digital thieves. Over 70 digital theft accounts have been identified on social media, with these

accounts misusing the name and identity of the Sindh Police. About 47 accounts have been identified on Facebook, 12 on Instagram, and 6 on Twitter.

In total, more than 70 accounts are using the Sindh Police's name and identity incorrectly. —RT/Agency

PIA plane meets with an accident at Jinnah International

KARACHI: A collision occurred between a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane and a water supply vehicle at the Karachi airport, affecting the scheduled additional flight PK-8300 from Karachi to Islamabad.

The mishap resulted in damage to the ATR aircraft when the water supply vehicle accidentally struck it on the tarmac. Fortunately, no casualties were reported among the passengers who were awaiting boarding in the flight's lounge.

Following the collision, the authorities decided to cancel the flight to Islamabad. The damaged plane was immediately taken to the engineering department for a thorough inspection to assess

the extent of the damage and ensure necessary repairs are carried out. Passengers who were scheduled to travel on PK-8300 were reassigned to alternative flights to minimize inconvenience. PIA officials have assured that arrangements are being made to accommodate affected passengers on other flights departing for Islamabad.

The incident has prompted an investigation to determine the cause of the collision and to prevent similar incidents in the future. Airport and airline authorities are coordinating to ensure safety protocols are reinforced and operational disruptions are minimized. —RT/Agency

CTD arrests TTP terrorist in a raid

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested Hidayatullah alias "Abdul Hakeem", a member of a banned Tareekh E Taliban (TTP) organisation, during an operation in the site area of Karachi.

CTD spokesperson stated that the arrested terrorist is affiliated with the TTP's



involved in fundraising for the terrorist group.

The CTD reported that Hidayatullah was apprehended along with 6,000 rupees in donation funds.

The department noted that Hidayatullah's father, Muhammad Ghaus, was killed during an operation in Afghanistan in 2000, and his brother, Fazalullah, has been missing since the Swat operation. —RT/Agency

Office of the Executive Engineer
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS
Government of Sindh Hyderabad.

No.XENG-55/LGP/GOS/737/2024 Date: 12/7/2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(Single Stage One Envelope)

Executive Engineer, Local Government Project, Hyderabad invites sealed tenders as per SPP Rules 2010, (Amended upto date) from interested contractors/firms for the following work(s).

S#	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Million)	Bid Security %	Category	Disciplines	Tender Fees	Time for Completion
1	Construction of CC Paving Block, CC Block & open Surface Drain in Various Streets of UC-31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 UC-50, 51, 52, 53 & 54 Taluka City District Hyderabad. (UC-31, 32, 33, 34)	39.000	1.950	C-5 or Above	CE-01 CE-10	5000/-	24 Month
2	Construction of L.S.R and H.S.R I/c Construction of pump room & installation of Electric motors and pump in NA-227 District Hyderabad	76.300	3.815	C-5 or Above	CE-01 CE-10	5000/-	24 Month
3	Construction of CC Paving Block, CC/Block & Open Surface Drain in Various Streets of Lalifabad Unit NO: 02, Unit No: 06, Unit NO: 09 & Unit NO: 08 Taluka Lalifabad District Hyderabad. (Unit NO: 02, Unit No: 06)	47.000	2.350	C-5 or Above	CE-01 CE-10	5000/-	24 Month
4	Construction of CC Paving Block, CC Block & Open Surface Drain @ Paka Qilla, Pathan Colony, Gareebabad, Sarfraz Colony, Khahi Road, Tando Wali Muhammad, Wadha Mohalla, Duaba Line, Gauskhala & Liaquat Colony Taluka City District Hyderabad. (@ Sarfraz Colony, Khahi Road, Tando Wali Muhammad)	70.000	3.500	C-5 or Above	CE-01 CE-10	5000/-	24 Month
5	Construction of CC Paving Block, CC Block & Open Surface Drain in Various Streets of Parelatab, Rehman Town, Phulleli & Mirza Para Taluka City District Hyderabad	82.134	4.107	C-5 or Above	CE-01 CE-10	5000/-	24 Month
6	Construction of CC Paving Block, CC Block in Various Places in NA- 266 Taluka City, Taluka Lalifabad District Hyderabad. (Phase-II)	37.000	3.700	C-5 or Above	CE-01 CE-10	5000/-	24 Month

2. Eligibility: Valid Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and discipline as mentioned above against each work.
3. Qualification:
(i) List of similar assignments at least (03) Projects with equal cost, undertaken during the last (03) years;
(ii) Details of completion certificate along with bid evaluation report (SPRPA BER-ID)
(iii) Details of equipments, machines and transport owned/leased/rented by contractor relating to above mentioned works (if any);
(iv) Bank Statement and income tax return for the last (03) years;
(v) List of litigation (if any) their nature and status; outcomes;
(vi) The bidder is not disallowed or debarred by any Procuring Agency;
(vii) PEC registration Certificate in relevant Category/ Discipline (year);
(viii) Valid NTN/STRB Certificates;
(ix) Annual audited reports at least last (03) years;
(x) Annual financial turnover at least last (03) years not less than bid cost.
(xi) Bid Security in form of CD-R will be accepted.

4. Method of Procurement: (Single Stage One Envelope).
5. Bidding/Tender Documents:
(i) Issuance: Blank tender documents will be issued from date of publication to 31/07/2024 (during office hours) on payment of tender fee as mentioned above against each work. Documents can also be downloaded from SPRA web site. <https://sprra.gov.pk/>
(ii) Submission: Last date will be 31/07/2024 @10:30 am.
(iii) Opening: Bids will be opened on same date i.e. 31/07/2024 @11:30 am.
(iv) Place(s) of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be:
Address : Office of the undersigned situated at Bangalore No- C-8, G.D.R Colony, Hyderabad.
Telephone No : 022-2107293
E-mail Address : xeng_lgp@gmail.com
(v) Un-responsive tenders will be again issued/submitted/opened on following dates:
Attempt: (a) Issue date: 12/07/2024 (during office hours) (b) Submission & opening date (c) 11:30 am & @ 11:30 am.
6. Funding Problem: Funds are available.
7. Terms & Conditions:
(a) Under following conditions bid will be rejected:
(i) Conditional, electronic and illegible bids/tenders;
(ii) Bids not accompanied by bid security of required amount and form;
(iii) Bids received after specified date and time.
(b) Bid validity Period: - 90 days.
(c) Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject all or any bids subject to the relevant provisions of Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010.

Executive Engineer
Local Government Project
Hyderabad

INF-KRY No: 2283/24

Wahab announces plans to redirect heavy traffic to Lyari Expressway

Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab announced plans to divert heavy traffic to the Lyari Expressway to alleviate the pressure on Karachi's main roads.

During a meeting with senior officials from the National Highway Authority, Karachi Port Trust, and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) on Friday, Wahab emphasised the need for efficient use of existing infrastructure to manage the city's increasing traffic.

Wahab noted that Karachi's roads are unable to withstand the continuous pressure from heavy traffic. He stated that, pending a positive third-party report, heavy traffic would be redirected to the Lyari Expressway, which is expected to improve overall traffic flow in the city.

The meeting, held at the KMC headquarters, reviewed various aspects of using the Lyari Expressway more ef-



fectively. Wahab highlighted the urgent need to organise traffic on Karachi's major roads due to increasing congestion.

He pointed out that the Lyari Expressway's opening to heavy traffic would reduce the burden on other key roads and enhance traffic movement. The mayor also noted that heavy traffic passing through various parts of the city severely affects areas from Mauripur to Landhi. This leads to traffic jams

on roads such as Mauripur Road, M.T. Khan Road, Sunset Boulevard, Korangi Road, and Jam Sadiq Bridge. The resulting delays not only waste valuable time but also have adverse environmental impacts.

Wahab concluded by stressing the importance of resolving these traffic issues promptly, with a third-party report on the feasibility of using the Lyari Expressway for heavy traffic expected by Thursday. —RT/Agency



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman along with other party leaders is addressing a press conference against the government at the Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq-RT

