



Jennifer Lopez chooses to bond with Ben Affleck's daughter amid split rumours

Price Rs. 10

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

The only comprehensive English daily with a regional perspective

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



Bilawal Mourns the Loss of His Chief Media Coordinator Nazir Dhoki

Heartland

CM Sindh's Advisor Rajveer Singh Sodho receives a warm welcome in Umerkot



Money

Nationwide car sales up 137.9% in June 2024



NATIONAL

CM's Climate Leadership Program Launched in Punjab



SPORTS

Champions Trophy 2025: PCB to 'stand its ground' on holding all matches in Pakistan



KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 205 Regd. No. 114 visit us at

www.regionaltimes.com

Monday, July 15, 2024, Muharram 08, 1445 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Court Approves 8-Day Remand For Imran And Bushra Bibi

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court on Sunday approved eight-day physical remand each of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in a fresh graft reference. The order comes less than a day after the PTI founder and his wife were acquitted in the iddat or illegal marriage case, but their hopes of coming out of prison were dampened as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrested them in a new Toshakhana reference. Additional Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoeka had a day earlier nixed the couple's conviction — in which they were sentenced to seven years in prison and awarded a fine of Rs500,000 each after a trial court found their nikah to be fraudulent as Khawar Maneka, Bushra's ex-husband, moved the court against the couple's marriage. However, soon after the verdict overturning their conviction, a team of the anti-corruption watchdog headed by Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon arrested the couple in the Adiala Jail in the new reference related to alleged "misuse of power for acquiring Toshakhana gifts".



The PTI, after securing a key legal victory after a 13-member Supreme Court bench declared the party eligible for the allocation of reserved seats, was looking forward to their founder's release — which if it had happened would've given a major boost to the former ruling party. However, the accountability court today has directed the NAB to interrogate the two suspects in Adiala jail and also ordered to produce the couple before the court on July 22. Khan's lawyer Zaheer Abbas Chaudhary, while speaking to media persons, said that NAB had requested a 14-day physical remand of PTI founder and Bushra Chaudhary said that they opposed the physical remand, pleading that they have engagements in the £190 million reference. The lawyer said that the ex-premier and his wife's arrest was against the law, adding that their petition seeking bail was already being heard in the Supreme Court. PTI founder's legal woes Khan has been behind bars since August last year after he was sentenced in the Toshakhana criminal case and subsequently sentenced in other cases ahead of the February 8 elections. Although the former PM has been granted bail in several May 9 cases registered in Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Faisalabad, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) last week cancelled his bail in one of the May 9 cases registered against him and thousands of his supporters in connection with violence against the military and other state installations that erupted following his brief arrest in May 2023. In June, the Islamabad High Court overturned Khan's conviction on charges of leaking state secrets in the cipher case wherein he was handed down a 10-year prison sentence on charges of making public a classified cable sent to Islamabad by Pakistan's ambassador in Washington in 2022.—RT/Agency

Trump Shot At Pennsylvania Rally

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump was shot in the ear during a Saturday campaign rally, streaking the Republican presidential candidate's blood across his face and prompting his security agents to swarm him, before he emerged and pumped his fist in the air, appearing to mouth the words "Fight! Fight! Fight!"



The shooter was dead, one rally attendee was killed and two other spectators were injured, the Secret Service said in a statement. The incident was being investigated as an assassination attempt, a source told Reuters. Donald Trump, 78, had just started his speech when the shots rang out. He grabbed his right ear with his right hand, then brought his hand down to look at it before dropping to his knees behind the podium before Secret Service agents swarmed and covered him. "I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear," Trump said on his Truth Social platform following the shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles (50 km) north of Pittsburgh. "Much bleeding took place."

He emerged about a minute later, his red "Make America Great Again" hat knocked off, and could be heard saying "wait, wait," before agents ushered him into a vehicle. "I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear," Trump said on his Truth Social platform following the shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles (50 km) north of Pittsburgh. "Much bleeding took place." The shooter's identity and motive were not immediately clear. Leading Republicans and Democrats quickly condemned the violence. The Donald Trump campaign said he was "doing well." Bloomberg reported he had been released from the hospital. The shooting occurred less than four months before the Nov. 5 election, when Trump faces an election rematch with Democratic President Joe Biden. Most opinion polls including those by Reuters/Ipsos show the two locked in a close contest. Biden said in a statement: "There's no place for this kind of violence in America. We must unite as one nation to condemn it." Biden spoke with Trump following the shooting, a White House official said. Republican U.S. Representative Ronny Jackson of Texas told Fox News his nephew had been wounded at the rally. The shooting raised immediate questions about security failures by the Secret Service, which provides former presidents including Trump with lifetime protection. WITNESS ACCOUNT Ron Moose, a Trump supporter who was at the rally, described the chaos: "I heard about four shots and I saw the crowd go down and then Donald Trump ducked also real quick. Then the Secret Service all jumped and protected him as soon as they could. We're talking within a second they were all protecting him." Moose said he then saw a man running and being chased by officers in military uniforms. He said he heard additional shots, but was unsure who fired them. He noted that by then snipers had set up on the roof of a warehouse behind the stage. The BBC interviewed a man who described himself as an eyewitness, saying he saw a man armed with a rifle crawling up a roof near the event. The person, who the BBC did not identify, said he and the people he was with started pointing at the man, trying to alert security. The shots appeared to come from outside the area secured by the Secret Service, the agency said. The FBI said it had taken the lead in investigating the attack.—RT/Agency

Umer Ayub Accuses Punjab Officials Of Using Illegal Pressure Tactics Against PTI Members

ISLAMABAD: Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Umer Ayub, has accused Punjab commissioners of engaging in coercion and illegal practices. Taking to social media platform X, he alleged that government employees are pressuring MNAs and MPs not to sign their oaths of joining the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He claimed these officials are offering ministerial positions and other incentives on behalf of Shabbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader declared that he possesses evidence implicating the commissioners involved in these actions and warned of exposing their names publicly as a deterrent against such misconduct. Commissioners of various Punjab Divisions are calling our MNAs and MPAs and pressuring them not to sign the affidavit joining PTI. They are offering them ministerships and other inducements on behalf of Shabbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz. I have the names of the Commissioners and...



— Omar Ayub Khan (@OmarAyubKhan) July 14, 2024 He emphasized that this behavior is a clear warning to those involved in such tactics. "I have the names and the evidence of these commissioners," he stated, vowing to expose their actions and hold them accountable.—RT/Agency

PM Expresses Concern Over Repeated Malfunctions In Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed serious concern over the repeated malfunctions and stoppage of production in the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project and directed them to take strict action by directly identifying those who are responsible. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a meeting regarding the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project in which a preliminary report was presented on the reasons for the closure of the project. According to the report, the hydropower project was constructed in a weak geological and earthquake-prone area. In the meeting, there was opposition to conducting an inquiry through a third-party audit, on which the Prime Minister indicated to form a cabinet committee to determine the responsible parties. The prime minister said that despite spending billions of dollars, there were flaws in the project's design as well as in the construction, with places where sand should have been filled in instead of concrete infill. China Energy addressed the challenges that need to be handled to operationalize the project as soon as feasible before the Giza Group. Prime Minister said that it is not about me or WAPDA, the fate of the people of Pakistan is connected with it. In the meeting, a committee consisting of former Secretary Shahid Khan and Secretary Water Resources Syed Ali Murtaza was established and given the task of investigating the defects of the project.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz And President Zardari Condemn 'Shocking' Attack On The Donald

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday condemned the attack on former US president Donald Trump during an election rally and wished him a swift recovery. "Just learnt that former President Trump was shot at an election rally. This is a shocking development. I condemn all violence in politics," the prime minister said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. "Wish the former President swift recovery and good health."



President Asif Ali Zardari also "strongly" condemned the attack on former US president in Pennsylvania. Expressing shock over the attack, President Zardari said that such violence had no place in politics. He expressed his best wishes for the speedy recovery of Trump and also offered heartfelt condolences over the loss of life in the attack. In his statement, Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani condemned the attack, while terming it an unfortunate incident. He said that political violence has no place in democratic societies. He also expressed his good wishes for the early recovery of the former president. Trump was shot in the ear during a Saturday campaign rally, streaking the Republican presidential candidate's blood across his face and prompting his security agents to swarm him, before he emerged and pumped his fist in the air, mouthing the words "Fight! Fight! Fight!" The shooter was dead, one rally attendee was killed and two other spectators were injured, the Secret Service said in a statement. The incident was being investigated as an assassination attempt, a source told Reuters. Trump, 78, had just started his speech when the shots rang out. He grabbed his right ear with his right hand, then brought his hand down to look at it before dropping to his knees behind the podium before Secret Service agents swarmed and covered him. He emerged about a minute later, his red "Make America Great Again" hat knocked off, and could be heard saying "wait, wait," before the first bump, then agents rushed him to a black SUV. "I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear," Trump said on his Truth Social platform following the shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles (50 km) north of Pittsburgh. "Much bleeding took place." The Trump campaign said he was "doing well." The shooting occurred less than four months before the November 5 election, when Trump faces an election rematch with Democratic President Joe Biden. Most opinion polls including those by Reuters/Ipsos show the two locked in a close contest.—RT/Agency

Azma Bukhari: Gandapur Should Focus On KP, Not the Centre

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has advised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to worry about his province rather than the federal government after the Supreme Court's decision on the reserved seats case. "They [PTI] should not give a lecture to us," she said in a statement while reacting to the KP Information Minister Muhammad Ali Saif's comments. Earlier in the day, Saif said that KP CM Gandapur's actions would be a nail in the "Form 47" government. He claimed that the federal ministers could not sustain the apex court's judgment. On July 13, a full-court SC bench set aside orders of the Peshawar High Court and Election Commission of Pakistan taking away reserved seats from the Sunni Ittehad Council. The court ruled that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf should be considered a political party and given reserved seats. "Pakistan Tehreek-e-



Insaf was and is a political party which secured and won... general seats in the national and provincial assemblies in the general elections of 2024," said the majority decision read by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah Saif claimed that the federal and provincial ministers in Punjab were committing contempt of court by anti-court statements. He said that after the court rulings, the "incompetent government has become delirious and the fake representatives of the incompetent government are speculating venom against the judiciary in scheduled press conferences." He alleged that the government had earlier played politics on important national security matters like the Operation Azm-i-Ishtekham. "This group can go to any extent to save their power, and the purpose of the scheduled press conferences is to occupy the TV screen, with the aim of creating a narrative against the judiciary and suppressing the opposition's opinion," Saif said. As PML-N's Bukhari slammed Saif's comments, she criticised the PTI-led government over the state gifts case and sent a judicial reference against the CJP Faez Isa when the PTI was in power.—RT/Agency

PTI Members Submit Affiliation Statements To Party



ISLAMABAD: After the Supreme Court's verdict over reserved seats, the MNAs have started submitting their statements on oath about affiliation with the PTI, media reported on Sunday. The MNAs submitting their statements to the PTI secretary. The party's main leaders Omar Ayub, Shaharyar Afridi, Ali Muhammad Khan and others have submitted their statements on oath with Chairman PTI Barister Gohar Ali. PTI's Punjab leader Hamid Azhar's father Mian Azhar, Syed Raza Ali Gillani MNA, Ahmed Chatha, Rana Bilal Ijaz, Usama Hamza, Jamshed Dasti and most of the party's MNAs have submitted their affidavits to the party. Around 90 percent members have submitted their statements and remaining MNAs have been directed to submit affidavits by Sunday (today), party sources said. The party will submit the statements to the election commission on Monday. The apex court in its split verdict granted reserved seats to the PTI, which were earlier given to other parties by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).—RT/Agency

PTI's Sanam Javaid Rearrested Just One Hour After Release

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Sanam Javaid, who has been jailed for months, was rearrested once again just almost an hour after her release following acquittal by an Islamabad court on Sunday in a case registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The social media political activist had walked free earlier today following months of incarceration, but was taken into custody by Islamabad police soon after.



It may be noted that Javaid's release has been blocked multiple times as she had been released from a jail in Gujranwala on Saturday as well but the FIA handcuffed her again minutes after her release. The Lahore High Court (LHC) last week cleared the PTI activist of charges in a case linked to the May 9 riots, while allowing her plea against physical remand granted by an anti-terrorism court. However, the FIA team booked and arrested her in a new case pertaining to the May 9 events, upon her release from prison on Saturday. The FIA Cyber Crime Cell had lodged a case against her for allegedly posting inciting remarks on May 9, urging people to attack the Jinnah House. The News reported Following her arrest, the FIA team transferred Javaid to Islamabad, where she was presented in a district and sessions court for acquisition of remand. The magistrate on duty, Malik Imran acquitted her on her request, only to be rearrested by the Islamabad police. Her arrest was confirmed by her lawyer in an X post. However, it has not yet known in which case Javaid has been rearrested. The PTI firebrand campaigner has been embroiled in various cases, all linked to the vandalism and unrest triggered by PTI founder Imran Khan's arrest on May 9, 2023. There were 12 cases registered against her, including the Zaman Park vandalism, the PML-N house fire and a Racecourse Police Station incident.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami are holding a boisterous protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against rampant price hikes and over inflated electricity bills.-RT

CM Sindh's Advisor Rajveer Singh Sodho receives a warm welcome in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The arrival of Rajveer Singh Sodho, the newly appointed advisor to the Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, was met with a warm and enthusiastic welcome by the citizens and social circles of Umerkot. Rajveer Singh Sodho, who is also a former MPA, visited the village Rana Jagir near Umerkot, where he was greeted by a large number of well-wishers.



The visit was marked by a sense of celebration and gratitude, as the local residents and social circles expressed their appreciation for the central leadership of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Sindh Chief Minister for appointing Rajveer Singh Sodho as an advisor. They are hopeful that his appointment will bring positive changes and address the issues faced by the people of Umerkot.

On this occasion, notable figures such as PPP MPA Rana Hameer Singh Sodho's son, former Vice Chairman of the District Council Tharparkar, Kunwar Karim Singh Sodho, Ameer Halipoto, Ratan Singh, Jodhi Singh, Dharam Das, Jagmal Singh, Ramesh Kumar, Mehtab Sodho, and others were present. They expressed their confidence in Rajveer Singh Sodho's ability to effectively represent their interests and work towards the betterment of the community.

The citizens of Umerkot are optimistic that Rajveer Singh Sodho will make every effort to solve the problems faced by the people of the area. They are hopeful that his appointment will lead to improved infrastructure, better educational and healthcare facilities, and overall development in Umerkot.

Johi residents protest against deteriorating law and order situation

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: The small town of Johi, nestled in the Union Council Kamal, was thrown into a state of agitation after an alarming incident involving one of its residents, Seth Muhammad Jamali. Seth Muhammad Jamali, known for his community contributions and peaceful demeanor, faced a harrowing experience when he was accosted by more than four unidentified armed thieves on Bhan Road. This incident occurred as he was making his way from Johi to his village in Addo Khan Jamali.



The brazen thieves, wielding weapons, forcefully took from Seth Jamali his motorcycle, mobile phone, a prized Rado watch, a gold ring, and thousands of rupees in cash. Despite promptly reporting the crime to the Johi police, no immediate action was taken, leaving the residents feeling unprotected and ignored.

This incident sparked outrage among the local populace, leading to an organized protest. More than fifty village elders and residents from Union Council Kamal, alongside the victims of similar incidents, gathered to demand justice. The protest saw the participation of notable community leaders including Haji Muhammad Moosa Jamali, Muhammad Jamali, Muhammad Jamali, Muhammad Jamali, Maulvi Abdul Kareem Shahani, Muhammad Umar Jamali, Anwar Jamali, Haji Mehar Jamali, Rasheed Channa, and Dado Abdul Kareem Rodnani.

The intensity of the protest forced DSP Johi and SHO Johi to respond. They arrived at the protest site with a police force four hours after the protest began, attempting to pacify the crowd. The officials assured the affected parties that efforts would be made to recover the stolen motorcycle and goods within three days. Residents, however, remained skeptical of these promises. They emphasized that this was not an isolated incident, and without systemic changes, the safety of Johi's residents would continue to be at risk. The protesters vowed to continue their demonstrations until tangible actions were taken and visible changes were seen in the security landscape of their community.

SSP Ghulam Nabi Keerio reviews security arrangements in Shahdadpur



By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: As Muhammad-ul-Haram approaches, the district of Shahdadpur is taking extensive measures to ensure the security and safety of processions and gatherings. SSP Sanghar, Ghulam Nabi Keerio, visited Shahdadpur to personally review and oversee the security arrangements in place for the religious observances.

Accompanied by Chairman Farogh-e-Azaadari Raees Fahad Khan Wassan, SSP Ghulam Nabi Keerio inspected key locations including Imambargahs such as Ali Murtaza, Hussaini, Haider Qarar, and Hakim Shah Pirr. He also reviewed the venues of the gatherings and the routes of the processions to ensure that all security measures were adequately addressed.

SDPO Shahdadpur, Syed Tanveer Hussain Kazmi, briefed the SSP on the comprehensive security plan. The SSP met with the officers on duty, instructing them to remain vigilant and alert throughout the period of Muharram-ul-Haram, emphasizing the sensitivity.

Growers rally against acute water shortage at Daulatpur's Lundki Minor branch



By Aijaz Ali Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Farmers in Daulatpur have taken to the streets to protest against the artificial water shortage in the Lundki Minor branch and the alleged corruption of the irrigation officials stationed there. The protest, led by farmers Wajid Rahu, Punhal Khoso, Imam Bux Jamali, and others, highlighted the severe impact of the water shortage on their livelihoods.

The protesters, chanting "Why isn't there water, Karbala, Karbala?" entered the Daulatpur Minor branch and held banners while staging a demonstration in front of the media. Speaking to journalists, they claimed that the irrigation officials assigned to the Lundki Minor branch are selling the water meant for the tail-end to influential people, leaving the tail-end lands barren and causing severe devastation. The situation has become so dire that some farmers have been forced to sell their children. Every six months, irrigation officials take bribes ranging from one lac to one and a half lac per watercourse. They break the watercourses, install illegal outlets and dams, and sell the tail-end water, depriving the farmers of the essential resource they need for their crops. As a result, no water reaches the tail-end during both the winter and summer crops, rendering thousands of acres of land barren.



SUKKUR: Mayor Sukkur, Barrister Arsalan Shaikh is addressing a protest demonstration against rampant inflation and growing unemployment.-RT

Khairpur's Langah community demands justice, protection in murder dispute

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The Langah community in Khairpur is in turmoil following a series of violent incidents that have left them feeling vulnerable and unsafe. Retired government officer Abdul Waheed Langah and Advocate Ghulam Shabbir Shaikh, both residents of Pahl village within the Khairpur Babaroli police station's jurisdiction, held a press conference to shed light on these troubling events.



Younus Palah. The Pahl community has accused Naeem Ahmed of immorality involving Anita, wife of Malir Pahl, for the second time. This accusation has raised suspicions among the Langah community, especially since a similar false adultery case was filed against Naeem Langah in 2014, which allegedly resulted in a black-mail fine of 1.2 million rupees. A murder case for the killing of Zaheer Pahl has been registered against seven known and three unknown individuals from Abdul Waheed's side, who have secured bail in this case. Two days before the attack on their homes and the death of Zaheer Pahl, suspects Anwar Pahl, Rafiq, Anis, and others from the Pahl community attempted to kidnap Abdul Waheed's 15-year-old son, Hamad Langah, on his way back to the village from Therhi. Hamad's cries for help attracted people, causing

Four days prior, men from the Pahl community accused Abdul Waheed's son, Naeem Ahmed, of immorality (Karo). This accusation led to a violent attack on their homes by armed members of the Pahl community. The attackers used weapons, sticks, and axes, inflicting violence and humiliation on family members and women. They looted 22 tolas of gold, approximately 1 million rupees in cash, valuable household items, and five buffaloes before fleeing after firing shots in the air. The situation was further aggravated when the police, led by ASP City Hasnain Mirza, arrived just in time to save the victims' lives and relocate them for their protection. The celebratory firing by the suspects after the looting resulted in the death of Zaheer, son of

Abdul Waheed Langah and Advocate Ghulam Shabbir Shaikh have accused Malir Pahl and Rustam Pahl of fabricating accusations of immorality and turning murder into a business. They appealed to the Chief Justice of Sindh High Court, the IG of Sindh, and other authorities to take notice of these events and ensure justice is served. The Langah community is now living in fear and uncertainty. They demand immediate action against the perpetrators and protection from further attacks. The community is also calling for a thorough investigation into the accusations and the motives behind them. They hope that justice will be served and that they can live in peace without the constant threat of violence.

SCNTWA leaders call on Secretary Colleges Education Asif Ikram in Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: In a significant meeting that highlights the ongoing issues faced by non-teaching staff in Sindh's educational institutions, the Chairman of the Sindh Colleges Non-Teaching Welfare Association (SCNTWA), Syed Shah Raza Shah, along with Tahir Lund, met with the Secretary of Colleges Education, Asif Ikram. The meeting was both a gesture of goodwill and an opportunity to address pressing concerns.



The leaders of SCNTWA presented Secretary Asif Ikram with a bouquet to congratulate him on his appointment. However, the primary focus of the meeting was to discuss the various issues faced by the non-teaching staff. They raised critical concerns regarding the promotion of non-teaching staff from grade 1 to grade 17, the provision of time scales for employees from grade 1 to grade 4, and the upgrading of lab staff. Secretary Asif Ikram listened attentively to the issues presented and assured the SCNTWA leaders that their legitimate concerns would be addressed promptly. He emphasized the importance of resolving these issues to ensure the welfare and motivation of the non-teaching staff, who play a crucial role in the functioning of educational institutions.

This meeting is seen as a positive step towards improving the working conditions and career prospects of non-teaching staff in Sindh's colleges. The SCNTWA leaders expressed their gratitude for the Secretary's assurance and hoped that concrete actions would follow to address their concerns. The non-teaching staff in Sindh's educational institutions have long felt neglected, and this meeting has provided a glimmer of hope that their issues will finally be given the attention they deserve. The SCNTWA leaders are optimistic that Secretary Asif Ikram's proactive approach will lead to meaningful changes that will benefit the non-teaching staff and enhance the overall educational environment.

Nooriabad man shot and injured in ambush

By Shams Palari

NOORABAD: In a distressing incident that has left the community in shock, a young man named Aijaz Palari from Dada Bhai village was shot and severely injured by unidentified armed men. This incident took place near Dada Bhai stop within the jurisdiction of the Nooriabad police station. Aijaz Palari, who was returning home from his duties, found himself ambushed by three armed men on a motorcycle. The attackers, without any provocation, opened fire on him, leaving him with severe injuries. His immediate family and relatives, who were quick to respond, rushed him to the Nooriabad police station to obtain the necessary documents before

taking him to the hospital for urgent medical treatment. Aijaz Palari's brother, Mazar Khan Palari, expressed deep concern and frustration over the incident. He detailed how his brother was merely returning home from work when the attack happened. Mazar Khan has demanded that the Nooriabad police take swift and decisive action to apprehend the attackers, warning that failure to do so would lead to further protests by the community. This shooting incident has heightened fears among the residents of Nooriabad, who feel increasingly unsafe due to the rising incidents of armed attacks and robberies. The community is now calling for increased police presence and better security measures to prevent such violent crimes. The local authorities have assured the family that they will investigate the incident thoroughly. However, the community remains on edge, with many residents questioning the effectiveness of the current security arrangements. The attack on Aijaz Palari is seen as a symptom of a larger problem of lawlessness that needs urgent attention. In the wake of the incident, there have been calls for a community meeting to discuss security concerns and potential measures to enhance safety in the area. Residents are urging local leaders and law enforcement to collaborate on strategies to combat the rising crime rate and ensure that such attacks do not happen again.

NATIONAL



Army and Extra Police Deployed in Pindi Until Ashura

RAWALPINDI: As many as six companies of the Pakistan Army as well as extra police will be deployed in the garrison city from Muharram 7 (today) onwards to deal with any emergency situation. Additionally, close circuit TV (CCTV) cameras have been installed for full monitoring of category A processions.



During a briefing given to a delegation of the Punjab Cabinet Committee on Law and Order in Rawalpindi on Saturday, the meeting was informed that three-tier security had been laid out to protect processions, including metal detectors, walk-through gates and physical checking.

The delegation of the cabinet committee was headed by Cabinet Committee Chairman and Punjab Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, who also presided over a review meeting at the Commissioner's Office.

Punjab ministers Mujtaba Shujaat Rahman and Bilal Akbar Khan as well as Special Assistant Zeshan Malik were part of the delegation. Punjab Home Secretary Noorul Amin Mengal, IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar, Additional IG CTD, DIG Special Branch, Commissioner Engineer Aamir Khat-

tak and RPO Babar Sarfraz Alpa, deputy commissioners of all districts, DPOs and representatives of the departments concerned as well as members of the divisional and district peace committees were also present on the occasion.

Khawaja Salman Rafiq directed that a zero-tolerance policy should be adopted towards any violation of the code of conduct of Muharram, adding that the scheduled time and route of the procession should be followed.

He said on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, for the first time arrangements for Sabeel, Niaz and Langar were being made by the government. Apart from fool-proof security arrangements, peace committees should be

mobilised for communal harmony and inter-Muslim unity, he added. Punjab Minister Bilal Akbar said we should forget differences and discuss communalities. He alerted to deal with any emergency, adding that during an emergency situation, more damage was caused by mismanagement and thus it was necessary to conduct mock exercises. Mujtaba Shujaat Rehman said the atmosphere of inter-faith harmony and tolerance should be nurtured in the holy month of Muharram. He said apart from monitoring loudspeakers and social media, audio and video recordings of Majalis and processions should be compiled.—RT/Agency

Mustafa Kamal Condemns IIOJK for Blocking March to Mazar-e-Shuhada

Srinagar: Additional General Secretary of National Conference Sheikh Mustafa Kamal has denounced the authorities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir for preventing people from marching towards Mazar-e-Shuhada in Naqshband Sahib, Srinagar, to pay tribute to the July 13, 1931 martyrs.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Sheikh Mustafa Kamal chairing a party meeting in Srinagar said, "This egregious violation of our rights will not go

unnoticed and people will teach a lesson to Bharatiya Janata Party in the upcoming elections. The 13th July martyrs demonstrated that non-violence and perseverance always triumph over oppression and tyranny in the end."

On the occasion, a resolution was unanimously passed, denouncing the despicable act of the administration of disallowing the people to pay tributes to the martyrs at the Mazar-e-Shuhada at Naqshband sahib.—RT/Agency.

CM's Climate Leadership Internship Program Launched in Punjab



LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in a statement said registration for the Climate Leadership Internship Program has been launched in Punjab under "Mera Punjab Smog Free" initiative to combat smog in the province. The applications are open to graduates aged 18 to 25 who have completed their degree in the last 2 years. Successful applicants will receive a monthly stipend of 25,000. Punjab Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz in a statement said registration for the internship program is open until the 20th of this month, and upon completion, participants will receive a community service certificate from the Environment Protection Department and Punjab Higher Education Commission. She expressed confidence that the Punjab government's measures will lead to a reduction in smog this year.—RT/Agency

Raheel Sharif Tied Nawaz's Panama Leaks Relief to Extension: Senator Irfan Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui revealed that former chief of army staff General (ret'd) Raheel Sharif had asked then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif for extension in his tenure in return for relief in Panama Papers case, The News reported.



"It is no longer a secret that Gen Raheel Sharif used to ask for an extension. He had asked for it more than once," Senator Siddiqui said while speaking during Geo News programme "Jirga" on Saturday.

The senator recalled that a meeting was held in Raiwind a couple days after social worker Abdul Sattar Edhi's funeral. "One of our senior leaders said Raheel Sharif had given him a message that 'you are delaying in extending my tenure'," said the senator, adding that Nawaz proposed the position of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee instead.

Siddiqui said that the former army chief also suggested to extend the services of three other chiefs so that he was not singled out. "The second suggestion was that he should be promoted as a

field marshal and with it his tenure as army chief would also be extended. However, Nawaz Sharif did not accept his suggestions," he added.

The senator said that another offer was made to Nawaz Sharif, whether he wanted it or not, but the environment was entirely the same as what Raheel Sharif had left behind. Only the army chief was changed, the rest were sitting in their place. However, if Gen (ret'd) Bajwa would have wanted, he could have stopped everyone, but he did not do it, and chose an easy way for himself," he recounted.—RT/Agency

Islamabad Launches Climate Change Fund to Fight Environmental Degradation

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark move, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has established a Climate Change Fund, the first of its kind in Islamabad, aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

This initiative, driven by Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, marks a significant step towards addressing environmental concerns in the region.

Commending the efforts, Interior Minister Naqvi praised CDA Chair-

man Muhammad Ali Randhawa and his team for their proactive approach. "The CDA team deserves accolades for this initiative," he stated. As part of the Climate Change Initiative, the CDA is launching a "Carbon Credit Program" that plans to plant 4 to 5 million trees across 2000-10,000 kanals in the city.

Chairman Randhawa highlighted that new sectors, avenues, and other open spaces have been designated for this extensive tree plantation drive.

In addition to the Climate Change Fund, the CDA has also approved the "Margalla Hills Fund," which will allocate 1.5 per cent of revenue generated from recreational spots in Margalla Hills towards their protection and beautification. This initiative aims to preserve the natural beauty and ecological balance of one of Islamabad's most cherished landmarks. With these measures, Islamabad sets a pioneering example in climate action, promising a greener and more sustainable future for its residents.—RT/Agency

Internet Services To Remain Suspended During Muharram

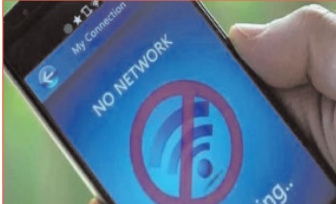
QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to suspend mobile and internet services in various cities on 7, 9, and 10 Muharram, media reported.

Balochistan home ministry spokesperson said that the suspension will affect Quetta, Kachi, Jhal Magsi, Jaffarabad, and Usta Muhammad.

The government has deployed over 18,000 personnel in Quetta to ensure security on Youm-e-Ashurah. Additionally, two helicopters will be used for aerial surveillance of processions on 7, 9, and 10 Muharram.

Section 144 has also been imposed in seven districts until 10 Muharram, banning pillion riding and imposing other restrictions to maintain law and order.

Earlier, the federal government approved the deployment of armed forces across the country to ensure



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

The Centre, under Article 245 of the Constitution, authorized the "deployment of Indian army troops/assets and civil armed forces troops/assets" to ensure peace. It is pertinent to mention here that Ashura will be observed in Pakistan on July 17 (Wednesday). The provincial government has imposed a ban on pillion riding in Sindh during 10 days of Muharram. Ashura is observed on the 10th day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic year, which marks the great martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions in the Battle of Karbala.—RT/Agency

Four Dead, Ten Injured in Chitral Ravine Crash



CHITRAL: In a tragic incident, four died, while ten others, including four women, were injured after a vehicle plunged into a ravine in the Yarkhun Valley of Chitral, media reported.

As per details, the police officials stated that the injured have been shifted to the nearby hospital. Earlier, at least 13 people, mostly women and children, were killed and another four injured after a passenger jeep plunged into the icy Neelum River in the upper belt of Neelum Valley.

The accident occurred at around 11am when a jeep skidded off the highway and plunged into Neelum River. The deceased included four women and three children. As soon as the incident was reported, the rescue officials immediately reached the site of the accident and started rescue operation.

The rescue teams shifted the bodies to a morgue for medico-legal procedures and the injured to a nearby hospital for medical assistance. In a similar incident that happened at Neelum Valley, at least six people, including women and children, had been killed in a road accident in the Taobat area of Neelum Valley district.

A jeep carrying 23 people from Kail to Taobat plunged into the river when the driver lost control over the vehicle, said police. As a result, all the passengers inside drowned in the river. The bodies were retrieved later by local rescuers, the official added. Eyewitnesses said that the car was swept away by the river's strong current, making it difficult for rescue teams to locate it.—RT/Agency

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Arrested Man Succumbs to Police Torture at New Lahore Police Station in Gojra

By Abid Mehmood



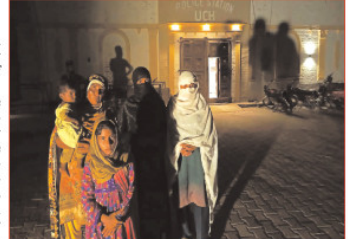
CHOTABA TEK SINGH: A tragic incident unfolded at the New Lahore Police Station in Gojra, where a man named Abid, son of Abbas, from Chak No-261 Rab Faisalabad, allegedly died due to police torture. Abid had been arrested in connection with a murder case, but his life came to a brutal end while in custody. The incident sparked outrage among Abid's family members and the local community. In response to his death, his fam-

ily staged a protest demonstration on the Jhang-Faisalabad Road, a major thoroughfare, bringing attention to their allegations against the police. The protesters accused the police officials of torturing Abid to death, a grave accusation that has sent

shockwaves through the area. According to eyewitnesses, the protesters gathered in large numbers, holding banners and placards demanding justice for Abid. The demonstrators blocked the road, causing significant disruption to traffic and daily activities in the area. They chanted slogans against police brutality and called for the immediate registration of a case against the responsible police officers. The protesters also demanded that those responsible for Abid's death be brought to justice and face the full extent of the law.

Bahawalpur woman Protests for Recovery of Her Abducted Daughter

By M Siddiqui



BAHAWALPUR: In a heart-wrenching plea for justice, Iram Bibi, wife of Muhammad Altaf Machhi, spoke to journalists at the press club about the harrowing experience of her daughter's abduction. She recounted the traumatic incident that occurred yesterday while her husband was transporting their children in a rickshaw for labor work. As they reached Boys Degree College, Uch Sharif, the accused, identified as Muhammad Rajib and Muhammad Fayaz, ambushed them on two motorcycles.

"They assaulted and beat me mercilessly, then forcibly took my 10-year-old daughter, Alishba Bibi, away on their motorcycle, Iram Bibi tearfully recounted. Despite her desperate attempts to seek help from the police, her pleas have gone unanswered. "I have visited the police station repeatedly

for three days, but the accused were released, and the case was not registered. It's as if my cries for help have fallen on deaf ears," she lamented. The lack of response from law enforcement has exacerbated her anguish. Iram Bibi has urged to higher authorities for justice, appealing to Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, DPO Bahawalpur, and other officials. "I beg the authorities to take immediate action, register the case, and arrest the accused. My daughter's life and safety depend on it," she pleaded. The abduction of Alishba Bibi has sent shockwaves through the community, highlighting issues of safety and the urgent need for effective law enforcement. As the family continues to fight for justice, their plight underscores the broader challenges faced by many in similar situations.

Man Kills Newborn Daughter in Punjab's Chichawatni

Hankering for a male offspring, a man along with his mother killed his newborn daughter in Chichawatni, Punjab, media reported on Sunday, citing police.

Police said the man married a woman, hailing from Okara, some 18 months ago and was blessed with a baby girl on July 8. However, the father and his mother [grandmother]

were not happy with the birth of baby girl, who snatched the newborn from the mother and reportedly killed her. The police said the case was registered against the accused, who are at large, however, raids are being conducted to arrest them. Earlier, a merciless man shot dead his newborn daughter in Mianwali district of Punjab

According to details, a man named Shahzeb shot dead his 7-day-old infant in Mianwali because his first child was a daughter instead of a son. Users shared pictures of the little fairy in which the seven-day-old infant could be seen dead after being shot five times by her cruel father.—RT/Agency.

Dacoits Steal Rs 300,000 in Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARGARH: Two dacoits snatched Rs 300,000 from a citizen at gun point at Jhang road Muzaffargarh, media reported. According to police sources, a citizen named Ali Sehriani was heading to his home after selling a portion of his property when he was intercepted by two armed persons. They made him hostage at gun point and snatched Rs 300,000 from him. The dacoits, who were on motorcycle, managed to escape safely. The citizen was also a worker at Jamat-e-Islami's welfare wing Ghazali Institute. In a separate incident, six dacoits looted cash and gold ornaments worth Rs 15 million from a house, at Chak No 447/E.B in tehsil Burewala. Six armed persons entered into house of

Muhammad Shehzad, the owner of tractor showroom, and made members of the family hostage at gun point. They looted cash Rs 3 million and gold ornaments worth Rs 12 million. The dacoits kept looting for one hour. City police rushed to the site and started investigation into the incident. In another incident, the Federal (FB) area police of Karachi claimed to have arrested a gang of bandit targeting citizens while accompanying children on motorcycles to dodge police. The spokesperson of FB area police disclosed that a suspect arrested in injured condition last night, confessed to carrying out criminal activities while accompanied by a three-year-old child on a motorcycle.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Monday, July 15, 2024



The world and the United States must already start preparing for Trump's second term as US President

Political violence is unequivocally deplorable and antithetical to the very essence of democracy. The recent assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump, in which a bullet narrowly grazed his right ear, underscores the critical need for civility and respect in political discourse. Such acts of violence are not only reprehensible but also threaten the foundational principles of democracy, where all voices, no matter how polarizing or controversial, must be heard and respected.

The attack on Trump, mirroring the attempt on former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, illustrates the dangerous intersection of violence and politics. Both incidents highlight how the momentum

of popular leaders can make them targets, but they



also emphasize the resilience of democratic processes and the will of the people. The fact that Trump survived this attempt with his life intact by mere centimeters is a stark reminder of the fragility of peace and order.

The FBI's ongoing investigation into the shooter, Thomas Crooks, reveals no clear ideology or mental health issues, leaving the motive a mystery. This senseless act of violence has prompted national and

global condemnation, with leaders like President Biden and international figures expressing solidarity against political violence. Biden's call for unity and a thorough review of security measures signifies a crucial step towards safeguarding democratic events and leaders.

As the world watches and prepares for what seems like an inevitable second term for Trump, it is paramount that we reaffirm our commitment to democracy. We must reject violence in all forms, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that political differences are addressed through dialogue and democratic means. In the spirit of democracy, let us stand united against such despicable acts and work towards a society where every voice is heard and respected.

GLOBAL WATCH

Biden leads condemnation after Trump wounded at rally shooting

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden led the condemnation after his election rival Donald Trump was wounded in an apparent assassination attempt at a Pennsylvania rally on Saturday, as some Republicans blamed the Biden campaign for the violence.

Political leaders on both sides of the aisle slammed the attack minutes after the Republican candidate was rushed off stage by the Secret Service with blood running down his face.

"There's no place in America for this kind of violence. It's sick. It's sick. It's one of the reasons why we have to unite this country... We cannot be like this, we cannot condone this," Biden told reporters in an emergency briefing in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

"The idea that there's political violence, or violence in America like this, is just unheard of. It's just not appropriate. Everybody, everybody, must condemn it. Everybody," Biden said.



Vice President Kamala Harris said on X: "We are praying for him, his family, and all those who have been injured and impacted by this senseless shooting."

Biden's former boss, Barack Obama, echoed his words in a statement, saying there was "absolutely no place for political violence in our democracy."

"Although we don't yet know exactly what happened, we should all be relieved that former President

Trump wasn't seriously hurt, and use this moment to recommit ourselves to civility and respect in our politics," he said on X.

Former president George W. Bush condemned the "cowardly" attack.

"Laura and I are grateful that President Trump is safe following the cowardly attack on his life. And we commend the men and women of the Secret Service for their speedy response," the Republican said in a statement.

Bill and Hillary Clinton also condemned the violence.—Agency

THE HEARTLAND

Former Taluka Nazim Mir Ali Akbar Khan Banglani Laid to Rest in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In a solemn and deeply emotional ceremony, former Taluka Nazim and notable member of the Banglani community, Mir Ali Akbar Khan Banglani, was laid to rest in his native village Arsalah Khan Banglani near Thul. The funeral prayer, attended by a large number of locals, reflected the profound impact he had on the community.

Mir Ali Akbar Khan Banglani was a respected figure known for his contributions to the social and political landscape of the region. His passing has left a significant void, and condolences have poured in from various quarters. Political and social figures from the city have extended their sympathies to the bereaved family, acknowledging his legacy and the positive changes he brought to the community.

Family members and friends spoke of his dedication to public service and his efforts to uplift the community. "He was a man of integrity and vision, always striving to make our society better," said a close associate. The community now mourns the loss of a leader who was deeply committed to their welfare and development.

Bushra Arain Condemns Decision Of Deploying LHWs To Provide Security During Muharram

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The decision to deploy lady health workers (LHWs) for security duty during Muharram congregations and mourning processions has sparked significant controversy and protest. Central President Bushra Arain, alongside other lady health workers, has vocally opposed the decision, deeming it inappropriate and burdensome.

Bushra Arain contacted the Health Secretary of Sindh to demand the withdrawal of the decision, criticizing it as a frivolous imposition on health workers who are not trained for security duties. "Our primary responsibility

is healthcare, not security. This decision undermines our role and puts unnecessary pressure on us," she argued. Health workers from various districts, including Hyderabad Division and Badin, have echoed her sentiments, expressing serious concerns over the additional responsibilities. "We are already stretched thin with our regular duties, including vaccination drives and emergency responses. Adding security duties is not only impractical but also unfair," said a representative from Badin.

Bushra Arain emphasized that lady health workers are frequently called upon for duties during elections,



floods, and other emergencies, further stretching their capacities. She warned that if the government does not reverse the decision, there will be widespread protests. "We are prepared to take strong actions if this decision is not overturned. Our focus should remain on providing essential healthcare services, not on performing security duties," she stated.

Arain has instructed lady health workers across Sindh to immediately contact central officials if they are forced to perform security duties, urging solidarity and collective action to resist the decision.

Sunni Tehreek's Shaikh Hafiz Bashir Ahmad Hussaini Urges SC to Review Its Decision

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Shaikh Hafiz Bashir Ahmad Hussaini, leader of Sunni Tehreek and Social Alliance Larkana, has expressed strong dismay and anger over the recent decisions made by the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding specific reserve seats. In a passionate statement, he called upon the Supreme Court to reconsider its decisions, emphasizing the widespread grief and frustration among the people.

"The recent decisions have caused immense distress and dissatisfaction among the public. If such rulings continue, people will lose confidence in the judicial system," he warned. Hussaini highlighted the contrasting decisions of the Peshawar High Court and the Supreme Court, questioning the consistency and fairness of the judiciary. "Which court's decisions should we trust? There is a growing perception of favoritism towards certain individuals, which undermines the very essence of justice," he added.

He urged the Supreme Court of Pakistan to review its decisions and address the concerns of the public to restore faith in the judicial system. "The judiciary must act in a manner that upholds justice and fairness. The current unrest among the people must be alleviated through transparent and just decisions," he concluded.

Former District Council Member Mir Noor Ahmed Talpur Condemns Arrest of His Brother Mir Shahid Talpur

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In a vehement condemnation of what he describes as a politically motivated act of revenge, former District Council member Mir Noor Ahmed Talpur has spoken out against the arrest of his brother, former Chairman of Talhar Town, Mir Shahid Talpur. The former chairman, who suffers from heart disease and high blood pressure, has reportedly endured inhumane treatment and torture while in prison.

Mir Noor Ahmed Talpur has been falsely convicted, and his arrest is part of a broader scheme to tarnish our reputation and undermine our political standing," he asserted. Mir Noor Ahmed Talpur called upon the Chief Justice of Pakistan and the Chief Justice of Sindh to intervene and protect his brother's life, ensuring he receives fair legal representation and due process.

The family has urged authorities to investigate the illegal and inhumane treatment of Mir Shahid Talpur in jail. "We demand justice and fair treatment. This is not just about our family, but about upholding the principles of justice and human rights," he concluded.

actions through the government and police. He detailed the harrowing experiences faced by his family, including raids that violated their property, looting of jewelry and valuables worth crores of rupees, and intimidation tactics. "Our mansions and rooms were raided, and our supporters were fired upon and intimidated. Farmers and workers associated with us have been attacked," he said. He further described the legal injustices his brother has faced. "Mir Shahid Talpur has been falsely convicted, and his arrest is part of a broader scheme to tarnish our reputation and undermine our political standing," he asserted.

The family has urged authorities to investigate the illegal and inhumane treatment of Mir Shahid Talpur in jail. "We demand justice and fair treatment. This is not just about our family, but about upholding the principles of justice and human rights," he concluded.

Establishment of Independent Living Centre Demanded in Mirpurkhas

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The demand for establishing an Independent Living Center (ILC) for the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled individuals in Mirpurkhas has gained significant momentum. Yesterday, a pivotal reception was hosted by the Patron in Chief of the Gulistan-e-Mazoorin, Afaq Ahmed Khan, and founding member Lal Muhammad Baloch, in honor of the newly elected office-bearers of the organization.

The event, attended by various dignitaries, marked a crucial step in advocating for the rights and empowerment of differently-abled persons in the region. During the reception, key speakers passionately advocated for the establishment of the ILC in Mirpurkhas. They emphasized the transformative impact such a center could have on the lives of disabled individuals, enabling them to become productive members of society.

"The establishment of the Independent Living Center in Mirpurkhas will open new avenues for the differently-abled, integrating them into the mainstream through modern sciences, computer technology, and language centers," said Afaq Ahmed Khan. He further highlighted the essential role such a center would play in the development of both the province and the country.

The achievements of the youth associated with Gulistan-e-Mazoorin were also a focal point of the speeches.



"The youth of Gulistan Mazoorin have illuminated the name of Mirpurkhas at national and international levels in various sports such as wheelchair cricket, basketball, and athletics," noted Lal Muhammad Baloch. Their success stories serve as a testament to the potential that lies within the differently-abled community when given the right support and opportunities.

Abdul Saleem Khan, Secretary of Sindh Olympics Mirpurkhas Division, Imam Baloch of the Youth Sports Committee, Muhammad Iqbal, and Razi Ansar Khan also addressed the gathering. They praised the efforts of Gulistan Mazoorin for the welfare and prosperity of disabled individuals and expressed their full cooperation and support for the newly elected officials. "The efforts of Gulistan Mazoorin in promoting sports and other activities for disabled individuals are commendable. We

stand by their mission and will provide all possible support to ensure their initiatives succeed," said Abdul Saleem Khan.

The reception ceremony also included the announcement of the newly elected office-bearers of Gulistan Mazoorin. The names of Abdul Hafeez Surbio as President, Ali Nawaz as General Secretary, Faisal as Vice President, Qamaruddin as Joint Secretary, and Salahuddin as Treasurer were met with applause and well-wishes from the attendees.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment from all participants to continue advocating for the rights and empowerment of disabled individuals in Mirpurkhas. The call for the establishment of an Independent Living Center has now become a unified demand from the community, with hopes that the relevant authorities will take swift action to turn this vision into reality.

10 Booked In A Case For Stealing Equipment From Transmission Towers In Jamshoro

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: In a significant crackdown on theft, police in Nooriabad and Jamshoro have registered a case involving the pilferage of equipment from seven transmission towers. The stolen items include 49 plates of 500 KV and 120 bolts from Mehran Engineering University, and the case has been registered against ten individuals, including Jameel Khaskheli, Shakil Khaskheli, and Qasim Khaskheli.

The accused allegedly stole equipment from the double-circuit transmission lines of the towers, causing substantial financial losses and disruptions in electricity supply. Qasim Khaskheli, in particular, is accused of steal-

ing 139 plates of 500 KV and 191 bolts from five towers and fleeing the scene.

Despite efforts to report the incident, theft of equipment worth millions of rupees from National Transmission and Dispatch Company towers has become a recurring issue.

The authorities have expressed concern over the frequency of these thefts, which not only cause financial damage but also disrupt essential services.

Investigations are ongoing, and the police have vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice. "We are committed to cracking down on such crimes and ensuring that those responsible are held accountable," said a police spokesperson.

DC Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja Reviews Muharram Arrangements in Tando Adam

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: In preparation for the upcoming Muharram-ul-Haram observances, Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja actively participated in the 7th Muharram gathering held at Azakhana Zahra (SA) Juman Shah in Tando Adam. Following the gathering, he reviewed the security arrangements and procession routes for the mourning processions scheduled at various Imam-bargahs, including Azakhana Zahra and Haji Shah Imambaragh.

The Deputy Commissioner coordinated closely with security personnel, volunteers, and Imambaragh organizers to ensure a smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram. "Our priority is the safety and security of all participants. We have deployed adequate security personnel and volunteers to monitor the processions and gatherings," he stated.

In addition to security measures, the district administration has also focused on ensuring cleanliness and provision of electricity around the Muharram sites. "We have collaborated with local authorities to maintain a clean and well-lit environment for the observances. This is crucial for the safety and comfort of the participants," said Assistant Commissioner Tando Adam Hanif Tariq Shahani.

The administration's efforts have been praised by community leaders and participants. "The arrangements this year have been exemplary. The coordination between different agencies has ensured a peaceful and respectful observance of Muharram," said Akbar Hussain Chughtai of the Shia Ulema Council.

SPORTS



Alhamdulillah', Shaheen Afridi reacts after performing Umrah



Pakistan's star pacer Shaheen Afridi on Sunday revealed achieving a religious milestone as he expressed gratitude to Allah for being able to perform Umrah.

"Ka'abe ki ronak - Ka'abe ka manzar Allahu Akbar - Allahu Akbar," Shaheen wrote in a post on his Instagram account showing him standing inside the Grand Mosque in Makkah with ka'aba in the background.

The social media post provides insight into the cricketer's life who often shares glimpses of both his sport-related activities as well as his daily activities.

The left-arm fast bowler has recently been in the limelight owing to the reports from the coaches and management staff.

On Friday, The News reported that the national selection committee, which con-

sists of coaches Mohammad Yousaf and Asad Shafiq, along with the support staff, is awaiting the final decision on Afridi's involvement in the Bangladesh Test series due to his uncooperative behaviour.

However, the sources later said that the pacer will be available for the Test series set to begin in August in Rawalpindi.

It is to be noted that the pacer's availability is also in doubt due to the prospects of his unavailability as he is expecting his first child with his wife Ansha Afridi.

Furthermore, sources have said that his heated altercation with Yousaf during a practice session and his failure to engage in team discussions before crucial matches in the World Cup have also been highlighted by team managers.—Agency

Former Pakistan all-rounder Billy Ibadulla passes away at 88



Former Pakistan all-rounder Billy Ibadulla passed away on Friday at the age of 88. He had a brief career for Pakistan during which he played four Tests from 1964 to 1967.

He is known for being the first-ever Pakistani player to score a hundred on his Test debut. The former all-rounder made his Test debut in 1964 against Australia at Karachi's National Stadium.

While opening the innings, he struck 166 runs in the first innings, during which he also constructed a 249-run opening stand with fellow debutant Abdul Kadir, who scored 95.

This partnership remains the highest between two debutants for any wicket in Test cricket.

However, Ibadulla went on to play only three more Test matches for Pakistan, scoring a total of 253 runs in four matches. He also took one wicket with his off-spin bowling.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also sent their condolences to Ibadulla's friends and family through a

statement on their official X (formerly Twitter) account.

"The PCB is deeply saddened by the passing of former Test cricketer Khalid Ibadulla on 12 July. He played four Tests from 1964 to 1967, scoring 253 runs, and was the first Pakistani batter to score a century on Test debut," the cricket board posted.

"In 417 first-class matches, he amassed 17,078 runs and took 462 wickets. PCB extends its heartfelt condolences to his friends and family."

He was one of the first Pakistani players to play county cricket in England, where he made a respectable career playing for Warwickshire.

"He was a special cricketer, one of the greatest, and we had lots of fun times together," Warwickshire president Dennis Amiss, who played alongside Ibadulla at the club, wrote in a tribute to his former team-mate as quoted by ESPN-Cricinfo.—Agency

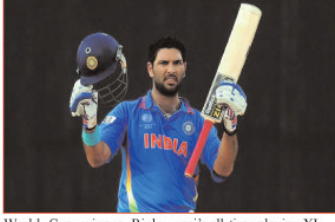
Wasim Akram makes it to Yuvraj Singh's all-time playing XI

India's former middle-order batter Yuvraj Singh has revealed his all-time playing XI that included only one Pakistani cricketer.

Yuvraj represented India in 402 international matches. He is respected as one of the best middle-order batters of all time. He is also known for his excellent performances in the T20 World Cup 2007 and ODI World Cup 2011, both of which India won.

Recently, Yuvraj led his side to the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2024 glory by beating Pakistan in the final. After the match, the left-handed batter revealed his all-time playing XI, while talking to the media.

Legendary cricketers — Sachin Tendulkar, three-time



World Cup winner Ricky Ponting, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma — were chosen as the top-order batters while AB de Villiers, Adam Gilchrist and Andrew Flintoff made it to the list as the lower middle-order players.

Only one Pakistani player, the Sultan of Swing, Wasim Akram, made it to Yuvraj's all-time playing XI.

Yuvraj Singh's all-time playing XI

Sachin Tendulkar, Rohit Sharma, Ricky Ponting, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Adam Gilchrist, Andrew Flintoff, Wasim Akram, Shane Warne, Muttiah Muralitharan, Glenn McGrath

On Saturday, India chased

the 157-run target in the last over to win the maiden edition of the World Championship of Legends.

India had a blistering start to the run chase with openers Robin Uthappa and Ambati Rayudu smashing from the first over.

Pakistan bagged back-to-back wickets by dismissing Uthappa (10) and Suresh Raina (4) to bring themselves back in the game.

But a 60-run stand between Rayudu and Gurkeerat Singh helped India to recover. Rayudu hit 30-ball 50 with the help of five fours and two sixes. Gurkeerat made 34 off 33.

Yusuf Pathan was the key for India in taking close to the total with a quickfire 16-ball 30.—Agency

Champions Trophy 2025: PCB to 'stand its ground' on holding all matches in Pakistan



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to stand firm on its stance regarding holding all Champions Trophy 2025 matches in Pakistan, sources told Geo News on Sunday.

The PCB also allocated Rs12.80 billion for upgrading of three stadiums. Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, Karachi's National Bank Cricket Arena and Rawalpindi International Cricket Stadium will be elevated ahead of the marquee event.

Except India, all eight teams that will participate in the Champions Trophy have already played in Pakistan and the PCB believes that India does not have a strong reason not to come here.

If India decides not to travel for the Champions Trophy, then Pakistan will not go to India for the 2026 T20 World Cup which the Blues will co-host with Sri Lanka.—Agency

However, the board is busy in preparations for hosting the eight teams at three venues — Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore.

The development comes against the backdrop of rumours suggesting that the Indian cricket team will not travel to Pakistan and play their matches in a neutral venue.

Shivam Dube played a quick 26-run innings from 12 balls, laced with two sixes and two fours to help India score 167-6 in 20 overs. For Zimbabwe, Blessing Muzarabwa took two wickets, while Sikandar Raza, Richard Ngarava and Brandon Mavuta bagged one wicket each.

For the unversed, Zimbabwe stunned India in the first match before the latter made a thumping comeback winning the next four matches to clinch the series.—Agency

Dominant India crush Zimbabwe to win T20I series 4-1

HARARE: Mukesh Kumar took four wickets after Sanju Samson scored a half-century to steer India to a dominant victory over Zimbabwe in the fifth T20I at Harare Sports Club, winning the series 4-1.

While batting first India posted 167-6, which they successfully defended by bundling Zimbabwe for 125 in 18.3 overs.

Kumar provided India with an early breakthrough as he bowled Wesley Madhevere in the first over, followed by Brian Bennett's wicket in his next over with 15 runs on the board.

Tadivamashi Marumani (27) partnered with Dion Myers (34) to add 44 runs for the third wicket before Washington Sundar broke the partnership.

Myers added another 26 runs with Sikandar Raza be-



fore they both departed in back-to-back overs, opening the floodgates as Zimbabwe soon reduced to 94-7.

Faraz Akram played a 13-ball cameo, scoring 27 runs with two boundaries and as many sixes but Mukesh Kumar dismissed him and last man Richard Ngarava on successive balls to lead India to a 42-run victory.

Kumar led the bowling charts with bowling figures of 4-22, while Shivam Dube claimed two wickets. Earlier in the day, Zimbabwe invited India to bat first and reduced them to 40-3 in five overs before Sanju Samson and Ryan Parag knitted a 65-run

stand for the fourth wicket.

Parag played a scratchy knock of 22 runs from 24 balls while Samson scored a cautious half-century, scoring 58 off 45 with four sixes and one boundary.

Shivam Dube played a quick 26-run innings from 12 balls, laced with two sixes and two fours to help India score 167-6 in 20 overs. For Zimbabwe, Blessing Muzarabwa took two wickets, while Sikandar Raza, Richard Ngarava and Brandon Mavuta bagged one wicket each.

For the unversed, Zimbabwe stunned India in the first match before the latter made a thumping comeback winning the next four matches to clinch the series.—Agency

Nico Williams reminds Rooney of young Cristiano Ronaldo

Star English retired footballer Wayne Rooney has lavished Spain's winger Nico Williams with praise over his fearless style of playing ahead of the European Championship (Euro) 2024 final, which is scheduled for Sunday between Spain and England at the Olympiastadion Berlin in Germany.

Rooney even compared Williams to Ronaldo, saying the Spanish player reminded him of his colleague, when he was young.

One of Spain's key players in the competition, Williams helped the team reach its first Euro final since 2012, when they won the tournament for the second time in a row after defeating



Italy. The former England striker thinks Lamine Yamal and Williams, two of Spain's talented and explosive wingers, are a huge threat to England, thus, England would have to fence their defence really well.

"England will need to defend well on the flanks against Spain, because their brilliant two young wingers provide their main threat," Rooney told The Times.

He said Yamal would be full of confidence after his brilliant goal against France and he reminded him a bit of how he was at Euro 2004 — "a teenager having the time of his life".

"Fear? Young lads like him, Nico Williams and

Mainoo haven't lived long enough to know it or understand what it is. On the big stage of a European Championship they're just playing and enjoying it and having fun, and normally that's the best way to play the game."

The Manchester United legend exalted Williams and found similarities in his style of playing with Ronaldo, his former teammate at Man United.

"Williams, for me, is exceptional. He reminds me of Cristiano Ronaldo when Cristiano was young. He's a big lad, he'll take the ball and sometimes tries too much but usually makes the right decisions," he said.—Agency

Pakistan shooter Mohsin Nawaz wins silver medal at Imperial Championship



Pakistan's long-range shooter Mohsin Nawaz has won a silver medal in the 155th Imperial Championship NRA UK in the Donegall 300 match.

This event is known for attracting top marksmen from around the world.

In preparation for the Imperial Championship, Nawaz underwent intensive training with 2023 World Champion Hermann Roloff in South Africa.

This exclusive mentorship involved one-on-one coaching sessions where Roloff, who will hold his title for four years, imparted his extensive knowledge and skills.

Mohsin Nawaz also bagged a silver medal as an individual participant in the European Long Range Shooting Championship in 2023.

He dominated the top three standings for the majority of the event with his remarkable performance and brilliant precision.

His brilliance earned him five medals in the competition — three gold and two silver — taking his overall international competitive shooting medals tally to seven.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Muzamil Butt
Location: Karachi
About me: Strike a pose if you love modeling like me!
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Kate Middleton shares her true feelings as she attends Wimbledon final



Princess of Wales Kate Middleton has shared her true feelings as she attended Wimbledon final with her daughter Princess Charlotte.

Taking to X, formerly Twitter and Instagram handles, Kate Middleton shared sweet photos from the royal event saying, "Great to be back at Wimbledon."

She further said, "There's nothing quite like The Championships" followed by tennis emoji.

Kate Middleton is still undergoing cancer treatment and this is only her second public appearance since revealing cancer diagnosis earlier this year. The future queen attended the Wimbledon

Katy Perry explains concept behind 'overplaying' 'Woman's World'



Katy Perry just revealed the creative process behind her latest song, 'Woman's World'.

Taking to her official Instagram account, the 39-year-old songstress gave insights to her followers, into the behind-the-scenes of the music video for her latest song, that was released on July 11, 2024.

As Perry wore a Rosie the Riveter-inspired red scarf in her hair, she could be heard explaining the concept behind her musical project while she was surrounded by her dancers, who wore similar themed outfits.

She playfully said some female empowerment phrase to the camera such as, "Girlboss s***," "You go girl!" and "You were born to shine!"

She then went ahead to describe the meaning behind 'Woman's World', saying, "We're kind of just having fun, being a bit sarcastic with pretense."

"We're not about the male gaze, but we really are about the male gaze," she said. "And we're really overplaying it."

Katy Perry then went on to state that during the first set of the music video, that she and her dancers shared for the music video scene, their characters were pretense.

"We're not about the male gaze, but we really are about the male gaze," she said. "And we're really overplaying it."

NATIONAL

Cotton Growers Urged to Take Precautions During Rainy Season

LAHORE: The Punjab Agriculture department has advised cotton growers to ensure special arrangements with regard to cotton care during rains.

A spokesman for the department said that occurrence of more than usual rains did not yield good impact on the crop.

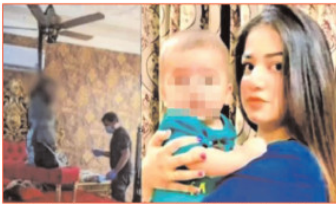
He said rainwater causes more damage to the crop if it stands in cotton field more than 24 hours.



The Spokesman said farmers should make proper arrangements to drain out rainwater from the crop in case of excessive rains.—RT/Agency

Sania Zehra Case: Forensic report reveals cause of death

MULTAN: The forensic report of the 20-year-old woman — whose body was found on July 09, hanging from a ceiling fan in her in-laws' house — came to light, revealing details of her death, media reported on Sunday.



The forensic report confirmed that the woman committed suicide, police officials revealed. The police spokesperson in a statement disclosed that the post-mortem examination revealed no signs of violence or injuries on the woman's body, adding that the woman lost her life due to suffocation from a rope.

Torrential rains expected to lash Punjab on 8th and 9th of Muharram

LAHORE: The Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Sunday said torrential rains were likely to hit the provinces in the next couple of next days — till Muharram 9 (July 16).



The PDMA spokesperson said the managements of mourning processions should take preventive measures viewing intensity of the weather as heavy downpours were expected to lash the province tonight as well as on Muharram 8 and 9 (July 15 and 16).

Moreover, the PDMA also directed the rescue department to stay alert, particularly on the aforementioned days.

The PDMA had earlier issued a flood alert sheet, which includes data on the monsoon rains situation, and water levels in rivers, barrages, and dams across Punjab.

Due to the heavy rains, 12 citizens lost their lives, 14 houses were affected, and 27 citizens were injured, including five children, three women, and four men.

Additionally, three civilians were killed by lightning in Narowal and Multan.

PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia stated that multiple cities of the province on Friday received heavy rains, including La-

hore which experienced as high as 315 millimetres of rain, breaking a 30-year-old record and leaving the city completely drenched in water.

Kathia said flood relief camps had been established in mountainous areas because of the threat of food lanes.

"There is a risk of urban flooding in Lahore, Sialkot, Faisalabad, and Gujranwala. The administration of major cities remains on high alert in view of the emergency situation," he said.

As per APP, the water flow in all the rivers and barrages of Punjab is curbed at normal levels. The water level in Mangla Dam is at 53% capacity, while Tarbela Dam is at 74%.

The water levels in Indian dams on the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers are up to 37%.

Torrential rains likely to hit Punjab on Muharram 8, 9.—RT/Agency

hore which experienced as high as 315 millimetres of rain, breaking a 30-year-old record and leaving the city completely drenched in water.

GLOBAL WATCH



Suspected Trump rally shooter had explosive devices in his car, claims report

WASHINGTON: United States authorities found explosive devices in the car of the man who officials said tried to assassinate former president Donald Trump, the American Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday, citing unnamed sources.

The car driven by the suspected shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, was parked near the Trump rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, the newspaper reported.

The newspaper and ABC News both reported that the gun Crooks used was purchased by his father. Meanwhile, CNN reported that the shooter had explosive material inside his residence as well.

The incident was being investigated as an assassination attempt Trump, who is again a candidate for US presidential elections, was attacked at a polls campaign rally.

He was shot in the ear, streaking the Republican's blood across his face and prompting his security agents to swarm him, before he emerged and pumped his fist in the air, mouthing the words "Fight! Fight! Fight!"

As identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the shooter was a 20-year-old named Thomas Matthew Crooks. He was shot and killed by the Secret Service right after he fired multiple shots towards Trump.

The US Secret Service said in a statement that the shooter "fired multiple shots towards the stage from an elevated position outside the rally" before being "neutralised" by agents.—Agency

Condemning the attack on former president Donald Trump at an election rally, a US-based Sikh rights group has likened the shooter's mindset to the ultra-nationalist Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who, it claims, "takes pride in getting his political opponents killed at home and abroad."

"We, the pro-Khalistan Sikhs seeking a referendum for Punjab's independence from Indian occupation, unequivocally condemn the assassination attempt on Trump," stated Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, General Counsel to Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

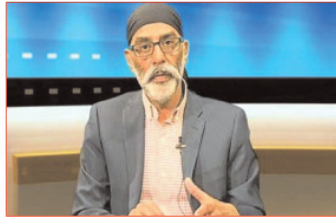
The attack occurred just before Trump, 78, was scheduled to formally accept the Republican presidential nomination at a campaign speech in Butler, Pennsylvania.

Gunshots rang out, injuring Trump's right ear and causing minor facial injuries.

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Sikh rights group likens Trump shooter's mindset to Modi's



The FBI has identified the suspect as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, a registered Republican. The incident also tragically claimed the life of rally attendee Corey Comperatore, 50, from Sarver, Pennsylvania, who Governor Josh Shapiro confirmed died while shielding his family from gunfire.

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Pannun compared the Trump attack and the alleged actions by India's Modi government, accusing them of targeting dissenting voices within the pro-Khalistan movement, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and multiple incidents of alleged "Murder for Hire" plots in New York City.

"There is no place for political violence in a democracy. Political differences should always be resolved through votes, not violence," emphasised Pannun, calling for a peaceful resolution through democratic processes like the Khalistan Referendum.—Agency

Elon Musk says he fully endorses Trump, hopes for rapid recovery



Elon Musk, the billionaire CEO of Tesla, said in a social media post on Saturday, "I fully endorse President Trump and hope for his rapid recovery."

Earlier, multiple shots rang out at Donald Trump's rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday, with the Republican presidential candidate grimacing and raising his right hand to his right ear as shots rang out, video footage showed.

Trump is "safe" after an incident Saturday at a rally in Pennsylvania, which saw him rushed off the stage after what sounded like possible shots were heard.

The Secret Service has implemented protective measures and the former president is safe. This is now an active Secret Service investigation and further information will be released when available," Secret Service communications chief Anthony Guglielmi said on X.

The former president was rushed off stage by Secret Service agents after a series of loud bangs that sounded like possible gunshots were heard at the start of a campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

Trump was seen with blood on his right ear as he was surrounded by security agents, who rushed him off the stage as he pumped his fist to the crowd.

"The former president is safe," the secret service said after Trump was bundled into an SUV and driven away.

"This is an active crime scene," secret service officers told reporters, ordering them out of the area.—Agency

Officers arrived at the scene to find three people dead "including the suspected perpetrator", Reuters police wrote on X.

Two others were injured, they said, in what appeared to be a family tragedy.

"Initial findings point to a domestic incident," they said on X Regional broadcaster SWR, citing security sources, said the gunman was a 63-year-old man who killed his mother and son and injured his wife and daughter.—Agency

Officers arrived at the scene to find three people dead "including the suspected perpetrator", Reuters police wrote on X.

Two others were injured, they said, in what appeared to be a family tragedy.

"Initial findings point to a domestic incident," they said on X Regional broadcaster SWR, citing security sources, said the gunman was a 63-year-old man who killed his mother and son and injured his wife and daughter.—Agency

Officers arrived at the scene to find three people dead "including the suspected perpetrator", Reuters police wrote on X.

Two others were injured, they said, in what appeared to be a family tragedy.

"Initial findings point to a domestic incident," they said on X Regional broadcaster SWR, citing security sources, said the gunman was a 63-year-old man who killed his mother and son and injured his wife and daughter.—Agency

Officers arrived at the scene to find three people dead "including the suspected perpetrator", Reuters police wrote on X.

Two others were injured, they said, in what appeared to be a family tragedy.

Senior Hamas official says group withdraws from Gaza truce talks



PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: A senior Hamas official told AFP Sunday that the Palestinian militant group has withdrawn from talks on a ceasefire in the Gaza war because of Israeli massacres and its attitude in negotiations.

Another Hamas official said the group's military leader Mohammed Deif was "fine" and working despite Israel's huge bomb attack on a southern Gaza camp that it said targeted the Hamas leader.

Deif's health ministry said the attack left 92 dead Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh told international mediators Qatar and Egypt of the end of the talks on a ceasefire plan first outlined by US President Joe Biden in May, according to the senior official.

The first phase of the deal would have seen a six-week ceasefire with the exchange of most hostages taken in Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Haniyeh said the Hamas wanted "halt negotiations to the occupation's (Israel) lack of seriousness, continued policy of procrastination and obstruction, and the ongoing massacres against unarmed civilians," according to the official.

"Hamas has shown great flexibility to reach an agreement and end the aggression and is ready to resume negotiations when the occupation government demonstrates seriousness in reaching a ceasefire agreement and a prisoner exchange deal.

Haniyeh said in a statement late Saturday that he had called the mediators and other countries to urge them to put pressure on Israel to halt the attacks.

Israel's Deif, who it considers one of the "masterminds" of the October 7 attacks, was the target of the strikes on the Al-Mawasi camp in southern Gaza where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians from other districts have gathered.—Agency

Haniyeh said in a statement late Saturday that he had called the mediators and other countries to urge them to put pressure on Israel to halt the attacks.

Israel's Deif, who it considers one of the "masterminds" of the October 7 attacks, was the target of the strikes on the Al-Mawasi camp in southern Gaza where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians from other districts have gathered.—Agency

Haniyeh said in a statement late Saturday that he had called the mediators and other countries to urge them to put pressure on Israel to halt the attacks.

Israel's Deif, who it considers one of the "masterminds" of the October 7 attacks, was the target of the strikes on the Al-Mawasi camp in southern Gaza where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians from other districts have gathered.—Agency

Haniyeh said in a statement late Saturday that he had called the mediators and other countries to urge them to put pressure on Israel to halt the attacks.

Israel's Deif, who it considers one of the "masterminds" of the October 7 attacks, was the target of the strikes on the Al-Mawasi camp in southern Gaza where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians from other districts have gathered.—Agency

Haniyeh said in a statement late Saturday that he had called the mediators and other countries to urge them to put pressure on Israel to halt the attacks.

Israel's Deif, who it considers one of the "masterminds" of the October 7 attacks, was the target of the strikes on the Al-Mawasi camp in southern Gaza where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians from other districts have gathered.—Agency

Haniyeh said in a statement late Saturday that he had called the mediators and other countries to urge them to put pressure on Israel to halt the attacks.

Israel's Deif, who it considers one of the "masterminds" of the October 7 attacks, was the target of the strikes on the Al-Mawasi camp in southern Gaza where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians from other districts have gathered.—Agency

Haniyeh said in a statement late Saturday that he had called the mediators and other countries to urge them to put pressure on Israel to halt the attacks.

ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Lopez chooses to bond with Ben Affleck's daughter amid split rumours

Despite ongoing marital troubles with Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez chose to spend quality time with his daughter, Violet.



The video showcased Lopez on the passenger seat wearing sunglasses and her wedding ring, while 18-year-old Violet and Frain, enjoyed the backseat view.

The video showcased Lopez on the passenger seat wearing sunglasses and her wedding ring, while 18-year-old Violet and Frain, enjoyed the backseat view.

The song GIRLS by The Kid LAROI played in the background of the video.

Despite ongoing divorce rumours between Affleck and Lopez, the 'summertime' video highlighted the shared bond between the Atlas actress and Violet.

Affleck shares Violet, along with Seraphina, 15, and Samuel, 12, with his ex-wife Jennifer Garner, while Lopez has twins Max and Emme, 16, from her previous marriage to Marc Anthony.

On Sunday, Lopez shared a selfie video of herself with Violet and her friend, actress Cassidy Frain.

The video showcased Lopez on the passenger seat wearing sunglasses and her wedding ring, while 18-year-old Violet and Frain, enjoyed the backseat view.

The song GIRLS by The Kid LAROI played in the background of the video.

Despite ongoing divorce rumours between Affleck and Lopez, the 'summertime' video highlighted the shared bond between the Atlas actress and Violet.

Affleck shares Violet, along with Seraphina, 15, and Samuel, 12, with his ex-wife Jennifer Garner, while Lopez has twins Max and Emme, 16, from her previous marriage to Marc Anthony.

Melania Trump breaks silence after Donald Trump shooting

WASHINGTON: Former first lady Melania Trump said Sunday that a gunman who opened fire at a Donald Trump rally was a "monster," as she condemned the assassination attempt in which the Republican presidential candidate was injured.

"A monster who recognized my husband as an inhuman political machine attempted to ring out Donald's passion — his laughter, ingenuity, love of music, and in-

spiration," Melania said in a statement shared on X. "When I watched that violent bullet strike my husband, Donald, I realized my life, and Barron's life, were on the brink of devastating change," she said, referencing the couple's 18-year-old son. "I am grateful to the brave secret service agents and law enforcement officials who risked their own lives to protect my husband," Melania said.—Agency

MONEY

Nationwide car sales up 137.9% in June 2024



ISLAMABAD: Sale of cars in Pakistan witnessed an increase of 137.91 per cent in June 2024 compared to the same month of the preceding year (2022-23), a data released by the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) said.

Sale of cars rose to 10,128 units in June 2024 compared from 4,257 units during the same month of the previous year.

Sale of cars during the fiscal year 2023-24 (July-June) however decreased by 15.63 per cent when compared to the sale during the same period of the last year 2022-23.

According to the data, as many as 81,677 cars were sold during the period under review as opposed to 96,811 units in the same period of last year.

The breakup figures disclosed that 11,501 units of Honda Civic and City were sold as compared to the sale of 12,823 units in last fiscal year (2022-23).

Toyota Corolla and Yaris car sales also declined by 13.44 per cent as it went last year down to 16,305 units from 18,838 units in last year.

Suzuki Swift's sales also decreased by 40.38 per cent as its sales went down to 35,379 units during the year under review, whereas the sales of Suzuki Bolan decreased to 2,774 units as opposed to sales of 4,447 units in last year.—RT/Agency

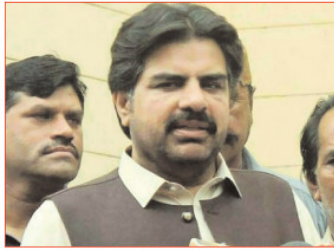
METRO KARACHI



Sindh Government To Fully Support A Clean And Encroachment-Free Karachi: Nasir Shah

Karachi: Provincial Minister for Energy, Development, and Planning, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, announced that the Sindh government will fully cooperate with local bodies to transform Karachi into an encroachment-free, clean, and beautiful city.

During a meeting focused on eliminating encroachments from roads and green belts, Minister Nasir Shah emphasized that any form of encroachment would not be tolerated. He warned that strict action would be taken against any officers showing negligence. "Encroachments on footpaths, green belts, and



service roads will not be permitted," he stated. Highlighting the issue, he noted that some private offices have placed generators on foot-

paths, obstructing public spaces. Minister Shah reiterated that the Chief Minister of Sindh is taking significant

steps to enhance Karachi's attractiveness. He added that the CM has directed the Mayor and Commissioner of Karachi to ensure the complete removal of encroachments, with full cooperation from the DC and police. Efforts to clear encroachments will also be accelerated in other cities, including Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Mirpurkhas, and all parking plazas will be made functional.

builders. A regular strategy will be implemented to maintain the city's cleanliness. Minister Shah urged towns and cantonment boards to resolve jurisdictional issues and stated that billboards could only be installed with the Municipal Corporation's permission.

"This city is ours, and we will treat it with beauty and love," Minister Shah declared. Additionally, the CM Sindh has invited the leader of the Bohra community to visit Karachi next year, signaling a commitment to the city's ongoing improvement and hospitality.—RT



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is attending a Bohra Community function at Taheri Masjid to hear the sermon of Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the spiritual leader of the Bohra Community.—RT

Intellectual Property Termed Key to National Security and Economic Growth

Karachi: Ambassador (R) Farukh Amil, Chair of IPO-Pakistan, underscored the pivotal role of intellectual property (IP) in fortifying national security and driving economic prosperity during a meeting with Ambassador (Retd) Qazi M Khalilullah, Executive Director of the Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS).



Chair IPO-Pakistan highlighted that a robust IP system is essential for attracting investments, fostering entrepreneurship, and safeguarding innovations in strategic technologies. "The effective protection and management of intellectual property are crucial for a nation's economic and national security," Farukh Amil stated. "It encourages innovation, attracts foreign investment, and helps build a competitive edge in the global market." He emphasized the importance of IP protection for the development of strategic industries such as telecommunications, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.

Key officials from CISSS and IPO-Pakistan attended the meeting, including Mr. Aftab Hussain, Director of Research at CISSS, Dr. Saba Sahar, Associate Director at CISSS, Lt Col Azfar Bilal Qureshi TI (M) (Retd), Associate Director of Research at CISSS, and Ms. Saima Kanwal, Senior Patent Examiner at IPO-Pakistan. The participants discussed the significance of IP in today's knowledge economy and its impact on national security and economic prosperity. Ambassador (R) Qazi M Khalilullah expressed interest in exploring collaborative opportunities between CISSS and IPO-Pakistan to strengthen IP regimes and promote research and development in strategic technologies. "This collaboration will help identify and protect in-

Bilawal Mourns The Loss Of His Chief Media Coordinator Nazir Dhoki



By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: By Rahib Gaho - Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the passing of his Chief Media Coordinator, Nazir Dhoki.

In a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, the PPP Chairman lauded Nazir Dhoki's decades of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to Bhuttoism. He highlighted that as a columnist, the late Nazir Dhoki boldly exposed the adversaries of democracy to the world. Despite facing the hardships of imprisonment during his political journey, Nazir Dhoki's democratic principles remained steadfast. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized that Nazir Dhoki was a loyal and true worker of the late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and stood by him through every challenging moment. "The legacy of Nazir Dhoki's dedication and resilience will always be remembered," he said.—RT

Political high-ups take part in Dawoodi Bohra's Muharram congregation

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi among others on Sunday attended Dawoodi Bohra's Muharram congregation addressed by the community's leader Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin.



The official delegation participated in the eighth sermon of Ashara Mubarakka today.

The dignitaries, along with other senior government officials, visited the landmark Dawoodi Bohra masjid in Karachi's Saddar, where they were warmly greeted by Syedna Saifuddin, his family members, and thousands of community members gathered there.

Syedna extended his gratitude to the governors, chief minister, and the government for providing the Dawoodi Bohra community with every assistance and cooperation in making necessary arrangements for the Ashara Mubarakka congregations in Karachi.

Syedna Saifuddin briefly explained to the guests the significance of the Ashara Mubarakka gatherings. He highlighted Imam Husain ibn Ali's principled stand for Islam, justice and humanity, for which he sacrificed his life and those of the Ahl Bayt.

Addressing the gathering, CM Murad said, "Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin's arrival in Karachi is a matter of pride for Sindh. We welcome him and the Dawoodi Bohra community members who have come from all over the world to Karachi for the Muharram congregation.—RT/Agency

HBL Invests in AFT to Revolutionize Pakistan's Agriculture and SME Sectors

Karachi: HBL, Pakistan's leading bank, has announced a strategic investment in AFT, an innovative fintech startup, aimed at accelerating the development of Pakistan's agricultural and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sectors. This partnership is set to enhance financial inclusion and operational efficiency across these critical, yet traditionally under-served, sectors.



AFT's Digit+ platform provides a multilingual interface, enabling farmers and merchants to easily access digital payments and financial services. HBL's investment will empower farmers with timely payments and merchants with seamless digital transactions, fostering greater financial inclusion throughout Pakistan.

Naem Bashir Ahmad, Head of Corporate Strategy at HBL, commented on the investment: "HBL looks forward to our partnership with AFT, a company that embodies our vision of leveraging technology to serve the under-served. This strategic investment is a cornerstone of our commitment to fueling innovation and economic growth across the country. Together, we aim to transform the financial landscape for Pakistan's farmers, merchants, and SMEs."

Qasim Akhtar Khan, Founder of AFT, added, "The support from HBL is a significant step forward for AFT and for the communities we serve. This collaboration will enable us to scale our solutions, enhancing our ability to make financial services more accessible, secure, and efficient for the agricultural and merchant sectors. We are on a mission to enhance financial inclusion, and HBL's investment significantly bolsters our capacity to make a lasting impact."

This strategic partnership underscores the shared commitment of HBL and AFT to revolutionize Pakistan's agri and SME sectors through innovative financial solutions and technology-driven initiatives.—RT

Pakistan Railways To Run Special Trains For Muharram



KARACHI: Pakistan Railway has announced the operation of a special train from Kotri to Rohri on the 8th of Muharram to facilitate travelers, media reported on Sunday.

According to the notification issued by the Railway Department, the special train will depart from Kotri at 2 PM, ensuring that passengers can reach their destinations in a timely and convenient manner.

This special service is part of the Railway Department's efforts to accommodate the increased travel demands during Muharram, allowing pilgrims to attend religious observances and ceremonies.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Railways has launched a special train service from Karachi in response to the increasing demand during the summer vacation season. The summer vacation special train commenced its journey today, even though two hours behind schedule, carrying more than 1,000 passengers.—RT/Agency

Brain-eating' amoeba claims Karachi youth's life

KARACHI: A 22-year-old youth died of primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) — a disease of the central nervous system caused by Naegleria fowleri, commonly called 'brain-eating' amoeba, in Karachi, taking the tally to three this year.



The 22-year-old Aurangzeb, a resident of Cattle Colony, was under treatment at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC).

The youth had gone for a picnic with friends at a farm house in Quaidabad on July 7, where they swam in the pool. Aurangzeb started showing symptoms on July 8, including fever, headache, and nausea. He was admitted to the hospital on July 10, and the virus was confirmed on July 11.

He was the third victim of the deadly infection this year in the city, with the other two cases reported in Korangi and Malir. The health department has confirmed that the virus was responsible for the deaths.

The infection is fatal in 98 per cent of the cases. A free-living amoeba, Naegleria, is commonly found in warm fresh water (such as lakes, rivers, and hot springs) and soil. Only its one species, Naegleria fowleri, infects people.

Last year, at least 10 people died of Naegleria fowleri

that's responsible for the disease called Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM). The infection is fatal in 98 per cent of the cases. A free-living amoeba, Naegleria, is commonly found in warm fresh water (such as lakes, rivers, and hot springs) and soil. Only its one species, Naegleria fowleri, infects people. It infects people when water containing the amoeba enters the body through the nose. This typically happens when people go swimming, diving, or when they put their heads under fresh water, like in lakes and rivers. The amoeba then travels up the nose to the brain where it destroys the brain tissues and causes the PAM. The first symptoms of PAM usually start about five days after infection that may include headache, fever, nausea, or vomiting. Later symptoms can include stiff neck, confusion, lack of attention to people and surroundings, seizures, hallucinations, and coma. After symptoms start, the disease progresses rapidly and usually causes death within five days. The germ cannot survive in cool, clean and chlorinated water.—RT/Agency

Wahab vows to undertake anti-encroachment operation after Ashura

KARACHI: Karachi was drowned in the past, but we will not allow the city to be drowned, the city's mayor said on Sunday.



Mayor Murtaza Wahab talking to media here said that the city authorities bringing additional water in the city from Hub Dam after 20 years.

Criticizing his predecessors Waseem Akhtar, Murtaza Wahab said that he closed running buses in the city. "We are introducing a plan of revival of these buses." Mayor said that the New M.A Jinnah Road has been a six lanes track, two of them are operational while remaining space has been encroached by the make-shift shops, cart vendors or vehicles. "We will launch an operation after Ashura to remove encroachments. We will complete this work if the anti-Karachi card not played over it," he added. It is to be mentioned here that the city is replete with encroaching spaces on public spaces for the past many years. The Supreme Court and the Sindh High Court have issued numerous orders asking the authorities to remove them, but to no avail as the footpaths, pavements, walkways, green belts, parks, grounds, service lanes, streets and roads remain encroached not only by common people or traders but even by law enforcement agencies, government and private organisations.—RT

Intermediate Board's Vigilance Team robbed in Karachi

Karachi: A vigilance and monitoring team — transporting mobile phones seized during exam cheating — was robbed at the gate of the Board of Intermediate Education in Karachi, media reported on Saturday.

According to the sources, the vigilance and monitoring team of intermediate board had confiscated phones being used for cheating at Islamia College. As the team approached the interboard gate, armed robbers intercepted them and took the seized mobile phones. The guards stationed at the gate did not resist the robbers, allowing the theft to occur without confrontation. The incident has been reported to the police station, and an investigation is currently underway. The chairman of intermediate board said Karachi Intermediate board asserted that the CCTV footage from the gate has also been produced to the police to assist in their investigation.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori along with other leaders and politicians attended the Bohra Community's function at Taheri Masjid to hear the sermon of Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the spiritual Head of the Bohra Community.—RT

"The most effective kind of education is that a child should play amongst lovely things."

—Plato

THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

READERS

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newsagent Agency at (0300-2716454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647113), (0302-3028990)

MONDAY JULY 15 2024

Former SHCBA Chief: SC Practice Law Ends Trend Of Like-Minded Benches Among CJPs

ISLAMABAD: Commending the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act after the reserved seats verdict, the Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA) former president Barrister Salahuddin Ahmed asked the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to review its decision to oppose the law which "ceased trend of chief justices' like-minded benches".

Barrister Salahuddin, while talking to Geo News on Sunday, backed the top court's decision in the case of the reserved seat related to the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) and termed it a "good decision" which paved the way for proper allocation of special seats for women and minorities candidates.

"For important matters, larger benches should be formed to get the opinions of the majority of judges," he said.



The senior lawyer was of the view that the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision was "beyond the Constitution" for not allocating reserved seats to the PTI-SIC successful candidates in the February 8 nationwide polls.

He was of the view that the ECP did not adopt a constitutional way to fully strip PTI of reserved seats and the top court rectified it.

"It becomes possible after

[the new law] the CJ's powers devolved to three senior judges to form benches," he said and recalled the past where "chief justices used to form benches of their own choice".

The SHCBA former chief said that the SC Practice and Procedure Act "stopped the trend of like-minded benches" and such decisions revolving around "one man". He added that in the like-minded benches, judges usu-

ally endorsed the CJ's decision. He urged that the top court's verdicts should be taken with consultations after taking views from all jurists where chief justices may have faced a minority while issuing verdicts.

Barrister Salahuddin asked the former ruling party should rethink its decision to register opposition to the SC practice law besides celebrating the reserved seats' verdict in its favour.

He also suggested that all political parties should welcome structural reforms which strengthen institutions and devolve powers instead of choosing short-term political benefits.

The senior lawyer expressed his views in a detailed X thread a day ago, saying "In rightful celebration of SC judgment, I wonder if some PTI friends now

reviewing their opposition to SC Practice & Procedure Act & support for CJ's God-given right to form benches."

"Last CJP in minority in a major constitutional case was Nasir-ul-Mulk [who served as the 22nd chief justice from 2014 to 2015] in 21st Amendment case. CJPs after that (esp Saqib Nisar & Bandial) just formed humkhayal [like-minded] benches so they were never in minority. Structural reform should not be sacrificed at altar of political expediency," the SHCBA former president said. "Allowing CJPs to dominate the Court through bench/case fixation was a bad idea then and now. Regardless of who is CJP," he wrote, adding "I'm always surprised by how people in power (and their supporters) never ever think about the days they will not.—RT/Agency

PML-N Lawmakers Warn SC Decision Could Lead To Instability

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) MNA from Islamabad Anjum Aqeel Khan and MNA from Rawalpindi Raja Qamarul Islam and the party's Divisional President Malik Ibraron Saturday criticized the decision of the Supreme Court on reserved seats.

Addressing separate press conferences in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, they said the decision was apparently an attempt to re-write the constitution could lead to instability in the country.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, MNA Aqeel said "The court gave the PTI what it had not asked for," he said, adding "The entire nation is bearing the brunt of the PTI's four-year rule."

The press conference was in reaction to the Supreme Court of Pakistan's decision on Friday which declared Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible for seats reserved for women and minorities, dealing a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition.

"If an MNA has joined the Sunni Ittehad Council, how can the court declare him a PTI member?" he asked.

"The people were expecting a decision that could bring stability to the country, but unfortunately, it did not



happen," remarked the PML-N MNA.

Mr Aqeel asserted the decision would not cause any trouble for the government, claiming it would complete its five-year term.

In the garrison city, PML-N local leaders at a press conference at Rawalpindi Press Club, District Coordination Committee Chairman and MNA Raja Qamarul Islam along with PML-N Divisional President Malik Ibraron said it is felt that the focus of the judiciary is on amending the Constitution instead of interpreting the Constitution.

"The legislation is the work of the Parliament and the conduct of elections are the responsibility of the Election Commission. It is not right to interfere with the powers of the Parliament and the Election Commission," MNA Raja Qamarul Islam said. He said that if a certain section of the country is

happy with the decision of the Supreme Court, on the other hand, the nation is also disappointed and surprised.

He said though the PTI was not a part of the petition, it was given a big favour.

"We accepted the decision of the courts but the question still exists in presence of the parliament how can the constitution be re-written through judiciary," he said.

"Amending the constitution is the responsibility of the Parliament, and judiciary can interpret the constitution," he said.

He said that the limits and restrictions of the constitution are more important, a clear example of which is that even if the whole of Pakistan unites, no non-Muslim can be made the president of Pakistan, because under the Constitution, only Muslim can be made president of Pakistan.—RT/Agency

PTI MNA Ameer Sultan 'Abducted' In Lahore By Unknown Individuals

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Member of National Assembly (MNA) Ameer Sultan was "abducted" by unknown men in Lahore, a top party leader said Sunday.

Sultan, who was elected to the lower house of the parliament when he won the elections from NA-110 in Jhang, was abducted while he was at his house at Sarwar Road in Punjab's capital, PTI Lahore Secretary General Hafiz Zeeshan claimed.

"Unknown men arrived [at this house] in two vehicles and abducted him last night," the PTI leader said, claiming that after Supreme Court's order on the reserved seats, the party members are "unsafe".

The apex court has ruled that the PTI is eligible for reserved seats, meaning that once the party gets those seats, it will become the largest party in the National Assembly.

In response, SSP Cantt Awais Shafiq told Geo News that neither had the



police arrested the PTI MNA nor did the law enforcers receive any complaint about his alleged abduction.

Zeeshan, when inquired as to why no complaint had been filed so far, told Geo News that the party was drafting the complaint and would submit it to the police station tomorrow (Monday).

In a statement, PTI's top leader Asad Qaiser said he had received information that his party's MNA was abducted, questioning "[how] can a country run where politicians' loyalties are shifted".

"Law of the jungle prevails here; there's no respect for the judiciary.

There's an open opposition to the court's decisions," the former NA speaker said.

Qaiser asked the government whether it would run the country's affairs "by force", but at the same time, he said that his party members would continue their struggle within the parameters of the country's laws. "The time for condemnations is over; it's time to resist," he stated, urging that PTI's MNAs, who have to submit forms showing their party affiliation following SC's order, should be allowed to make their decisions. "MNA Ameer Sultan should be released immediately," he demanded.—RT/Agency

Flour Millers Postpone Strike For 10 Days



LAHORE: The federal government and flour mill owners, in view of the first 10 days of Muharram, have reached an agreement to resume wheat grinding across the country after a three-day pause following assurances extended by the former abducting a sympathetic view to the latter's demand for abolishing the withholding tax on the supply chain.

The News reported that both sides showed a consensus on the issue on Saturday in a meeting held in Islamabad between a four-member government delegation comprising Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazir Tarar, State Minister for Finance Ali Pervez, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahsan Cheema and FBR Chairman Ahsan ul Haq and PFMA delegation headed by its Chairman Asim Raza Ahmed along with senior member Farukh Shahzad.

Accordingly, the Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) and Progressive Flour Millers Group have decided to resume operations from Sunday (today) after observing a strike since July 11.

The decision to discontinue the strike comes after the government negotiation team provided assurances of a positive resolution by July 22, said an office bearer of PFMA.

The delegation's meeting with the committee was seen as a significant step towards resolving the ongoing strike in the flour milling industry.

Earlier on Saturday evening, tandoor owners in the provincial metropolis warned that they were facing a scarcity of flour, which may lead to the closure of their shops in the next two to three days.

They called for early resolution of issues between the flour milling industry and the government, saying the sale of tandoori roti and naans could be suspended on the eve of Muharram-related gatherings.—RT/Agency

Flour Millers Group have decided to resume operations from Sunday (today) after observing a strike since July 11.

The decision to discontinue the strike comes after the government negotiation team provided assurances of a positive resolution by July 22, said an office bearer of PFMA.

The delegation's meeting with the committee was seen as a significant step towards resolving the ongoing strike in the flour milling industry.

Earlier on Saturday evening, tandoor owners in the provincial metropolis warned that they were facing a scarcity of flour, which may lead to the closure of their shops in the next two to three days.

They called for early resolution of issues between the flour milling industry and the government, saying the sale of tandoori roti and naans could be suspended on the eve of Muharram-related gatherings.—RT/Agency

"You Are Answerable To God, Not The ISI," Khan Tells Accountability Court Judge

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan urged on Sunday the accountability court judge to release his wife Bushra Bibi in the new state gifts case against them as his legal battles continue.

Hopes for the release of Khan and Bibi were dashed on Saturday when the national-graft buster arrested them in a state gifts reference hours after a court acquitted both in the unlawful marriage case. Khan is accused of illegally acquiring and selling 74 watches as the prime minister, according to the inquiry report.

The former prime minister has long denied such accusations against him and accused the security establishment of cases against him.

The jail trial notification has been issued under Section 10B of the NAB Ordinance 1999. The notification states that the accountability court may conduct the trial of the accused persons in jail if deemed necessary in view of the law and order situation.

At the outset of the hearing, Khan told accountability court judge Muhammad Ali Warrich that he would walk out if media persons were not allowed in the courtroom. On his insistence, the court ordered re-



porters should be allowed in the courtroom and the hearing started.

"Me and my wife have no link to the Toshakhana," Khan told the judge when the hearing resumed. "I have read the Quran four times in jail and Allah has placed a great responsibility on the judges."

He claimed that his wife was being jailed only to inflict him pain.

"There is no difference between NAB Chairman and prostitutes," Khan said while accusing the anti-graft body's chief of compromising with his conscience.

Without naming the individual, Khan claimed that his wife was being "targeted" by the "king". He said, "I removed him from the post of Inter-Services Intelligence chief and my wife did not make any recommendation for that."

Khan alleged that accountability court judge Mohammad Bashir, who convicted Khan and his spouse Bibi in the Toshakhana case, had made a decision under duress. He also claimed that a former prime minister was informed about a new case at midnight, right before a new case was to be heard in the morning. The PTI founder accused the National Accountability Bureau officials of being "robots" who can be made to do anything by paying them salaries. In a previous reference case where he was convicted, Khan said the jewellery set worth Rs180 million that was in their possession was later shown to be worth over Rs3 billion.—RT/Agency

TLP Faizabad Sit-In Disrupts Daily Life For Twin Cities Residents



Faizabad: Citizens' routine life has been disrupted as faced difficulties due to the sit-in by Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) that is being held at Faizabad — the confluence of the Federal capital Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Faizabad is considered the main gateway to the capital city of Islamabad. In the past, many parties blocked the road at Faizabad besides holding sit-ins.

The protesters marched from Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh to Faizabad to express 'solidarity' with the Palestinians, after which a sit-in was announced.

As per reports, the Islamabad administration started negotiations with

the three-member team of protesters. The protesters' demands are not clear.

It is pertinent to note that at least 16 Palestinians have been killed in overnight strikes in Gaza City. It follows an Israeli attack on al-Mawasi in southern Gaza that killed at least 90 Palestinians.

People there have described it as a horrific massacre, with many reported to be still missing under the rubble. Thousands of displaced people were seeking shelter in al-Mawasi, since Israeli forces had designated the area a so-called safe zone. Al Jazeera's Tareq Abu Az-Zumayl has the latest from Deir el-Balah in central Gaza.—RT/Agency

Imran Arrested In Jinnah House Attack Case

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has been arrested in connection with the Jinnah House attack case.

The Investigation Police formally detained Khan at Adiala Jail, where he will be investigated for charges related to incitement against the state.

According to authorities, the PTI founder faces charges in 12 cases, including the May 9 Jinnah House attack.

The police initially sought to transfer him to Lahore for further investigation, but the Rawalpindi court denied the request due to security concerns.

Imran Khan is scheduled to appear before the Anti-



Terrorism Court in Lahore via video link on Monday, where the police are expected to request his transfer for further investigation related to the Jinnah House incident.

In a separate case, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) arrested

Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in connection with a new reference to the Toshakhana case.

They were granted an eight-day physical remand. The federal government has since issued a directive for their trial to be held at Adiala Jail.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Aims To Strengthen Bilateral Ties With France

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed its commitment to strengthen partnership with France for mutually beneficial cooperation in all domains.

This commitment was expressed by Pakistan's Ambassador to France, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad in a message on Bastille Day.

Pakistani Envoy also expressed desire to con-

tinue working together for mutual benefit. He admired French people for resilience and determination in their efforts to shape the nation's destiny.—RT/Agency