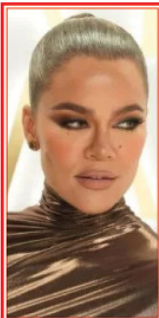


REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



Khloe Kardashian shares insights from Indian Billionaire wedding

Heartland

Sacrifice of Karbala Martyrs will always serve as a beacon of truth and integrity for future generations: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Junior



Money

-Zafar Moti is Happy! PSE 100-index up by 1211.51 points to close at 81,155.60



NATIONAL

Maryam vows to make Punjab's youth skilled



SPORTS

Argentina beat Colombia to win second consecutive Copa America title



Civil society slams PTI ban, treason reference against Imran and Arif Alvi

-Can you believe this?

Petrol hiked by Rs10 per litre

ISLAMABAD: The government has announced another increase in petroleum product prices, adding to the financial strain on the public amid ongoing inflation.

As per the latest notification, the price of petrol has risen by Rs 9.99 per litre, now costing Rs 275.60 per litre. High-speed diesel has also seen a significant hike, increasing by Rs 6.18 per litre, bringing its new price to Rs 283.63 per litre. Additionally, kerosene



prices have gone up by Rs 0.83 per litre. This latest household budgets and price surge is expected to threaten economic stability. —RT/Agency

PPP Opposes PTI Ban, Urges Political Resolution

LAHORE: General Secretary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab, Hasan Murtaza, criticised the decision to impose restrictions on political parties and Article 6 sanctions on PTI leaders, deeming it unjustified.

PPP leader emphasised that political disagreements should not lead to the dissolution of any party and stressed the importance of political entities adhering to democratic norms. Murtaza clarified that Article 6, historically applied to former Generals Musharraf and Zia-ul-Haq but not enforced against political leaders or workers, does not encompass leaders and workers of political parties.

Read Non-bailable warrants issued for top PTI leader. He further stated that im-



posing restrictions cannot eliminate any political party, advocating instead for dialogue as the primary solution to national issues. Just days after the Supreme Court resurrected PTI, the PML-N-led ruling coalition decided on Monday that a reference will be sent to the top court seeking a ban on PTI, adding that the government will also initiate Article 6 (high treason) proceedings against ex-PM Imran Khan, ex-President Dr Arif Alvi and ex-deputy

Government To Ban PTI, File Treason Charges Against Imran Khan And Arif Alvi: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Upping the ante against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the federal government has decided to ban the former ruling party as well as file references against PTI founder Imran Khan and former president Arif Alvi for treason under Article 6.

"PTI and Pakistan cannot co-exist," Tarar told a press conference in Islamabad, saying that the matter would go to the federal cabinet and the Supreme Court.

The decisions, as per Tarar, were taken in light of the former ruling party's involvement in the May 9 events and the PTI's former or current leaders' attempts to sabotage Pakistan's deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The development comes following PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi's indictment in cases related to the May 9 riots and Khan's arrest in cases pertaining to the incidents taking place on the day.

Touching upon the foreign funding issue, the information minister said that the PTI failed to defend itself in the foreign funding case wherein, he claimed, the ex-ruling party received funds from Indian-born United States citizens.



"Why did you [PTI] seek a stay order [in said case] for six years?" he questioned, adding that the Khan-founded party had nothing to say in its defence.

Stressing that whoever provides financial support to a political party, does so with the hopes that the party would serve its interests if it comes to power, Tarar said that the PTI failed to explain and defend itself regarding the funds received by certain lobbyists abroad, including Israeli ones.

Reflecting on the May 9 riots, triggered after Khan's arrest in a graft case wherein party workers and supporters vandalised several military installations, the minister said that the PTI founder targeted national interests for his own personal ones.

"Your whole family was involved in those attacks. Your three sisters were pres-

ent to the Supreme Court after the cabinet's approval. Referring to what is known as the cipher case, Tarar said that the PTI founder and his party "played" with the diplomatic cable and used it to create a false narrative around it.

The cipher case controversy revolves around Khan claiming that Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Affairs Donald Lu had sought his removal from the prime minister's office.

The same month, the then NA opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif tabled the no-confidence motion against the then PM Khan.

However, the then NA deputy speaker Suri dismissed the motion citing sufficient evidence of alleged US interference.

Subsequently, the then president Alvi dissolved the lower house on the advice of the then PM Khan.

The SC, however, later restored the NA and it declared the government's decision to dissolve the assembly and Suri's ruling against the Constitution.

Referring to the US House of Representatives Resolution 901 — which urged an impartial probe into the claims of irregularities

during the February 8 general elections — underscored that the party, despite creating a narrative on the US intervention behind Khan's ouster, was involved in lobbying in Washington.

"Our ambassador in US Asad Majeed said that there was no threat [but you] [PTI] still maintained that it was otherwise," he said, adding that the party damaged the country's relations with other countries for its own interests.

Lambasting the former ruling party, Tarar said that a perception has been made that the party is "untouchable" despite its leaders being involved in May 9 cases, iddat case or £190 million case.

"He [Khan] was the worst fascist leader. He inherited the pattern of putting mothers and sisters to jail," said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader.

The information minister, speaking about mending ties with the PTI, said that the government's patience and tolerance were considered its weakness.

"No more," said Tarar. "Enough is enough. They have played with the country's fate too much," he added. —RT/Agency

PML-N Split Over PTI Ban Decision



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) is reportedly divided over the federal government's decision to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), media reported citing sources.

According to an inside story of the party's meeting revealed by sources, the PML-N leadership has differing opinions on the matter, with some leaders expressing reservations over the government's political strategy.

The party's meeting, which was scheduled to discuss the ban on PTI, was postponed due to internal disagreements.

A senior party leader told sources that they were not invited to the meeting because they would have expressed opposing views, which could

Terrorism Attempt Foiled At Bannu Cantt

PESHAWAR: The security forces foiled terrorists' attempt to launch an attack at the Cantonment Board Bannu (CBB) in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, sources told media on Monday.

According to the people familiar with the development, the terrorists bombed the road between Bannu Cantt's wall and the supply depot at 4:40am.

The terrorists, who were inside a vehicle, detonated an improvised explosive device (IED). The police said that those who sustained injuries were brought to the district headquarters hospital.

The sources revealed that the terrorists tried entering the Cantt but the security forces foiled their attempt by taking timely action and cornered the militants.

They added that the security forces began a clearance operation in the area following the attack.

The incident comes as violence and casualty rates



across the country plummeted in the second quarter of 2024, according to the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) Annual Security report.

As per the report, the country experienced a 12% reduction in overall violence, with 380 fatalities recorded compared to 432 in the first quarter of this year.

During the second quarter of 2024, Pakistan witnessed 380 violence-linked fatalities and 220 injuries among civilians, security personnel, and outlaws, resulting from as many as 240 incidents of ter-

ror attacks and counter-terror operations. This includes 236 fatalities among civilians and security forces personnel, the report said.

KP and Balochistan provinces — both bordering Afghanistan — were the epicenters of violence, accounting for nearly 92% of all fatalities and 87% of attacks (including incidents of terrorism and security forces operations) during this period.

Individually, KP suffered 67% of all fatalities in Q2, 2024. —RT/Agency

PTI Founder, Alvi, And Suri To Face Article 6 Charges

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's government has decided to file a reference before a Supreme Court to try former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan, former president, Arif Alvi and former deputy speaker NA, Qasim Suri under Article 6.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar announced this in a press conference on Monday. The reference will be forwarded to Supreme Court after approval from the federal cabinet, he added.

The minister said the country had been toyed with a lot and if there has to be any development in the country, Pakistan and the PTI could not co-exist.

The minister further said the government believed that under Article 17 of the Constitution, it was empowered to ban political parties, adding that looking at the



"evidence", the PTI should be banned. "They tried to sabotage the IMF deal," he alleged.

Read more: PTI to be banned, decides fed govt. The Information Minister said the government and its allied parties have also decided to file a review petition against Supreme Court's judgment in the reserved seats case.

He emphasized that the judgment has legal lacunae and that they have strong

legal grounds to file the review. He pointed out that the PTI had not sought relief in the case.

The Information Minister said the government will complete all these processes while remaining within the domain of law and constitution. He said these matters will be taken forward so that in future nobody could dare to violate the constitution, hurt the national interests and attack the defense institutions. —RT/Agency

have led to disagreements.

Another leader said that they are against ban on any political party being banned, but will stand with the party's decision.

It is pertinent to mention here that the federal government has decided to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Federal Information Minister Ata Tarar said in a presser that Article 17 of the constitution empowers the federal government to ban a political party. He said there is credible evidence to support a ban on the PTI and cited the party's involvement in foreign funding, the May 9 incident, its role in the resettlement of terrorists in Pakistan, the cipher episode, and the resolution passed in the United States. —RT/Agency

PTI Calls Government's Ban Attempt Desperate And Illegal

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said on Monday that the federal government was attempting to ban the party "out of desperation" as the Supreme Court had ruled in its favour in the reserved seats case. Speaking to Geo News, senior PTI leader Senator Ali Zafar said his party would not allow the decision's implementation "even for a second" as it is against the law of the land. Zafar's comments came in response to Information Minister Attaullah Tarar's announcement that the government had decided to ban the PTI and file treason references against the party founder Imran Khan and former president Arif Alvi. "As far as their announcement of banning PTI is concerned, I believe that they live in a world which exists outside



the law. There's no provision in the law that allows the government to resort to such a move." The senator further said: "This statement itself disqualifies him [Tarar], and even if they think about such an impossible thing, then the courts are present and so are we. We will not allow such a decision to be implemented even for a second." Taking a jibe at the information minister, Zafar said he thinks the minister spoke out of "desperation" after the reserved

Government Lacks Authority To Ban Any Political Party: Shahid Khaqan

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that the government has no mandate to impose ban on a political party, media reported on Monday.

Convener Awam Pakistan Party (APP), talking to media said that if the Article six invoked against anyone than those in government today could also face it.

He was commenting on the government's decision to ban the opposition's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

"This is the time to unify the country, are you want more grouping and chaos," he questioned.

"An year and two months have passed to the May 9 incidents, the government didn't prosecute," he said. "Three days after the supreme court's decision on



reserved seats, the government has started talking about ban on a political party," he said.

"These decisions of courts boost democracy. The government's holding press conferences and criticism has not been appropriate," Abbasi said.

"What impression you wants to give, confrontation among institutions," former PM questioned. "Are you want more chaos," he asked.

"You were happy when these judges were giving decisions in your favour," he remarked. —RT/Agency

Non-Bailable Arrest Warrants Issued For PTI MNA Sher Afzal Marwat

ISLAMABAD: A local court on Monday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat in a case pertaining to his alleged involvement in illegal construction.

A case was lodged in Naserabad Police Station against Marwat, wherein he was accused of illegal construction on a piece of land near the Thallian Motorway Interchange, without obtaining permission from the authorities.

The judicial magistrate directed the police to arrest the MNA and produce him before the court on July 30.

The order comes after the former ruling party accused the government of using various tactics to coerce PTI leaders to change their allegiance after the Supreme Court verdict pertaining to



the reserved seats. PTI Chairman Gohar Khan said on Saturday his party had prepared a list of MNAs, including Marwat, in compliance with the apex court verdict.

Talking to journalists in Adiala jail, he had said they would submit the lists to the Election Commission of Pakistan within 15 days.

Seeking the top court's intervention to resolve the matter, Gohar claimed on Sun-

day that lawmakers of his party were being forced to switch their loyalties.

He condemned the "abduction" of PTI leaders and their family members — including MNA Sahibzada Ameer Sultan, PTI media wing member Rizwan Malik, Mian Fayyaz Ahmad Chajra's son Mian Tajamal Hussain and brother Mian Intiaz Hussain and other social media activists. —RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



TALHAR: PPP Minority Wing leader Sunil Kumar is distributing cold water (Sabih) amongst locals in connection with the month of Muharram-ul-Haram.—RT

MNA Malik Asad Sikandar condoles demise of Late Abdul Qadir Qambrani



By Shaikh Sindhi
KOTRI: MNA Malik Asad Sikandar offered condolence over the sad demise of Late Abdul Qadir Qambrani with his brother Ghulam Rasool Gharaq and son Ghulam Murtaza Qambrani on Monday. Fateha, prayers were offered for the eternal peace of the departed soul. On the occasion, Habibullah Qambrani, Sohail Ahmed Qambrani, Abdul Razaq Qambrani, Saleem Burtaf, Muhammad Hassan Qambrani, Zafar Khaskheli, Manzoor Hussain Qambrani and others were also present.



TALHAR: Ailama Syed Muhammad Abbas Naqvi is addressing a Majlis-e-Aza at the Central Imambargah in Talhar.—RT

-Condoles with bereaved journalist Muhammad Ali Shar

PPP has a promising future ahead of it: MNA Naveed Dero

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: MNA Naveed Dero offered condolences to journalist Muhammad Ali Shar over the sad demise of his nephew.

During his visit, he expressed deep sorrow and solidarity with the bereaved family. Fateha, a prayer for the eternal peace of the departed soul, was offered, and MNA Naveed Dero assured the family of his support during this difficult time. Speaking to the media after offering condolences, MNA Naveed Dero took the opportunity to discuss the future of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

He confidently stated that the PPP has a promising future ahead and highlighted the leadership qualities of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. According to Dero, Bilawal's wisdom and vision will elevate the party to new heights,



bringing about positive change and progress for the party and the country.

MNA Naveed Dero also addressed the current political scenario, emphasizing that the PPP has always been clear about its stance before the Supreme Court.

He reiterated that the party respects the role of all institutions and believes that each must fulfill its duties as per the constitution. He stressed the importance of

upholding constitutional roles to maintain the integrity and functioning of the country's democratic framework.

During his visit, MNA Naveed Dero was accompanied by notable figures, including Taj Muhammad Dero and others. Their presence underscored the collective support of the party members and their commitment to standing by their colleagues and the community in times of grief.

PPP Umerkot's Burhanuddin Kumbhar refutes news about differences amongst party leaders



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Information Secretary of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) District Umerkot, Burhanuddin Kumbhar, stated that there is no dissent or factionalism among the members of the Municipal Committee of PPP. He expressed that the phone call I made to the Vice Chairman regarding the water issues in Umerkot and city has been misrepresented to the media. False

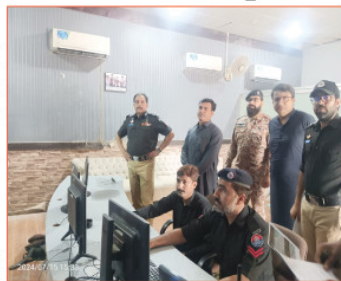
and baseless news has been spread in the media, which lacks any truth. Burhan Kumbhar said that in Umerkot, MNA Nawab Muhammad Yousif Talpur, Provincial Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, MPA Syed Ameer Ali Shah, MPA Nawab Taimoor Talpur of the Pakistan People's Party are continuing developmental work in Umerkot. PPP is a public organization and our politics is focused solely on public service.

Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, DIG Pir Muhammad Shah review Muharram arrangements in Khairpur

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Commissioner Sukkur, Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, visited Khairpur on Monday to review the arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram. He was accompanied by DIG Sukkur, Pir Muhammad Shah, and Shabbaz Rangers Colonel Umar.

During the visit, Deputy Commissioner Khairpur, Syed Fawad Hussain Shah, and SSP Khairpur provided a comprehensive briefing on the arrangements. Commissioner Sukkur inspected the procession routes in the city, assessing the security measures, sanitation, lighting, and medical facilities. He also visited medical camps established in various parts of the city, inquiring about the availability of first aid facilities and ambulance services. The Commissioner further visited the Police Control Room and evaluated the performance of the CCTV cameras installed across the city. On the occasion, he added that stringent security arrangements have been made in Sukkur Division, with police and other law enforcement agencies remaining vigilant. Commissioner Abbasi emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination to ensure the



smooth conduct of Muharram processions. He directed the concerned authorities to remain on high alert and to promptly address any issues that may arise during the religious observances. DIG Pir Muhammad Shah highlighted the efforts being made to ensure the safety of the participants, mentioning that additional police personnel had been deployed at key points to maintain law and order. Colonel Umar of Shabbaz Rangers reiterated the Rangers' commitment to supporting the local administration and police in maintaining peace and security during Muharram. Community leaders and religious scholars also met with Commissioner Abbasi, expressing their satisfaction with the arrangements and offering suggestions to further improve the management of the events. The Commissioner assured them that their feedback would be taken into consideration and that the administration is committed to ensuring a peaceful and orderly Muharram. He urged citizens to cooperate with the authorities and to report any suspicious activities to help maintain security during this critical period. Commissioner Abbasi's visit underscores the administration's dedication to upholding the safety and sanctity of Muharram, reflecting a collaborative effort to facilitate the observance of this significant period in the Islamic calendar.

MNA Zulfiqar Sattar Bachani reviews arrangements for Youm-e-Ashura in Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In the context of observing the Ashura of Muharram, the processions and gatherings across the district are being held very peacefully. The arrangements made by the district administration, municipal committee, and the police department are satisfactory, and we aim to ensure that the main processions on the 9th and 10th of Muharram are also conducted with religious harmony and peace. These views were expressed by Member of the National Assembly Zulfiqar Sattar Bachani while speaking to media representatives during his visits to various Imambargahs in Tando Allahyar city.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar Saleemullah Odho, SSP Tando Allahyar Abrez Ali Abbasi, Chairman Municipal Committee Tando Allahyar Syed Samar Hussain Shah Rizvi, and other district officers from relevant departments accompanied him. Member of the National Assembly Zulfiqar Sattar Bachani stated that every year, the Ashura of Muharram is observed in the district with great devotion, religious brotherhood, and peace, and the arrangements made by the district administration have been commendable. Scholars from all schools of thought are also satisfied with these arrangements. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Tando Allahyar

Saleemullah Odho mentioned regarding electricity load shedding that the HESCO administration has assured that there will be no load shedding throughout the district, especially on the 9th and 10th of Muharram. SSP Tando Allahyar Abrez Ali Abbasi added that more than 1800 personnel from the police and Rangers are performing their duties during the processions and gatherings related to Ashura of Muharram across the district, and foolproof security arrangements have been made to ensure peace and order. Subsequently, Member of the National Assembly Zulfiqar Sattar Bachani also visited various Imambargahs in Taluka Chambar to review the arrangements.

Badin's growers protest against acute water shortage in Sultani Wah



By Jibrin Talpur

BADIN: The local growers of Talhar and Raju Khanani recorded a protest demonstration against the shortage of water in Sultani Wah, Bahro Branch and Manahki Branch on Raju Khanani-Saedpur Road. The protesting growers including Salam Thebo, Moomal Lanjwani, Layar Lanjwani and others said that their agricultural

lands have been affected due to shortage of water which has resulted in a loss of millions of rupees to them. The concerned authorities despite their several complaints have not taken any step in this regard, they added. On the occasion, the protest leaders demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the shortage of water, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Dejected Pithoro woman ends her life

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: A woman named Zulekha W/o Krishan Oad committed suicide by jumping in Thar Wah over a domestic matter on Monday. After hectic efforts the local

divers managed to fish out the body of the deceased which was immediately transferred to the hospital. The body of the deceased was handed over to her heirs after completing necessary medico legal formalities.

Commissioner MPK Faisal Ahmed Uqaili chairs meeting to prevent the spread of AIDS



By Narain Das & Younid Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The Divisional Commissioner Mirpurkhas Faisal Ahmed Uqaili is committed to saving lives and believes that saving one life equals saving humanity. He emphasized the need for increased cooperation, enhanced coordination, and concerted efforts at every level to combat diseases such as AIDS and save those affected. In this regard, a meeting was convened under the chairmanship of the Commissioner to prevent the spread of AIDS. AIDS is a deadly and dangerous disease that has affected many people, and it is imperative to take steps at every level to prevent it. This health coordination commission has been established, and district officers have been informed that action will be taken against any doctor or registered laboratory found violating the rules in any district. Additionally, focal persons have been appointed in each district, and awareness programs on AIDS prevention and treatment will be organized for the community. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rashid Masood Khan, Regional Director PPHI Mazhar Weesar, Regional Health Director Dr. Abdul Shakoor Jarwar, District Health Officer Mirpurkhas Dr. Jairam Das, Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar Abdul Haleem Jagrani, Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naveed Rehman Larik and Deputy Director Dr. Tariq Memon from the Sindh Healthcare Commission attended the meeting.

Sukkur Police arrest three drug dealers

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: On the directives of SSP Sukkur, Amjad Shaikh, crack-downs against local drug dealers have been intensified in various police stations of Sukkur, on the instructions of SSP Sukkur, SHOs in their respective jurisdictions have accelerated operations against drug dealers. According to details, in the past few days, SHO Jahanzab Mahar from SITE Area conducted successful operations with his team, apprehending drug dealers from two different locations, seizing narcotics, and registering cases against them. Among those arrested is a man named Zahida S/o Zahir Khoso, while another drug dealer Amjad alias Amir S/o



Ali Gohar Khoso was also arrested. Additionally, in the jurisdiction of the Abad Police Station, on actionable intelligence, SHO Abad with his team arrested drug dealer Irfan Ali Khoso and registered a case against him.

NATIONAL



Maryam vows to make Punjab's youth skilled

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz shared her vision to make every young citizen of Punjab skilled for financial independence.



Sharing her message on World Youth Skills Day, she emphasised the pivotal role of youth for a sustainable future as skilled youth was an investment and asset, she described.

She stated that middle tech, matric tech and intermediate tech were being introduced for students interested in IT. Every year, on July 15th World Youth Skills Day is being observed across the world including Pakistan.

Mohsin Naqvi's senate membership challenged in IHC



ISLAMABAD: A petition has been filed in Islamabad High Court (IHC) challenging the senate membership of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, media reported.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs introduces apostille attestation service thru courier companies

In a bid to facilitate applicants seeking apostille attestation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, and its liaison offices in Karachi and Lahore have collaborated with courier companies to provide document attestation services.



As part of this initiative, designated courier companies will collect documents from applicants, which will then be attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The courier companies authorized to collect documents for apostille attestation in Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi include TCS, M&P, Gerry's, Leopard, and ECS.

Two sanitary workers die while cleaning Faisalabad manhole

FAISALABAD: In a tragic incident, two sanitary workers lost their lives while cleaning a manhole in Faisalabad, media reported.

Earlier, three sanitary workers lost their lives while cleaning a manhole in Bhawal area of Sargodha.

Man cuts off buffalo's tongue for eating fodder from his loader



SARGODHA: In yet another cruel act against animals, a man in Sargodha cut off buffalo's tongue for eating fodder from a loader rickshaw.

PTI submits affidavits confirming party affiliations of 25 MNAs to ECP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has submitted affidavits to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) confirming the party affiliations of 25 out of 41 Members of the National Assembly (MNAs).



The court ruled that the 39 PTI-affiliated MNAs had secured their seats on behalf of the PTI, for the purposes of Article 51 provisions.

Government will crumble under its own weight: Barrister Saif

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Advisor Barrister Saif said on Monday that 'London Plan' had met its disastrous end, suggesting that people should keep an eye on those who might flee to London in a few days.

"The apex court verdict in reserved seats case has shaken the foundations of this fake government. Decisions awaited in the election tribunals, once announced, will further expose the ugly face of this Form-47 government," he added.

MERIT KARACHI

Icon of the Nation Awards: Celebrating True Merit and Achievements

KARACHI: The prestigious national awards series in Pakistan has come to a conclusion, marking a significant shift in the recognition of outstanding individuals.



gratitude to the attendees and reiterated their commitment to merit-based awards. They emphasized that the ICON Awards are awarded purely on performance and reject any monetary influence or favoritism.

Cement dealers go on nationwide strike



LAHORE: Cement dealers in Pakistan began their nationwide strike for an indefinite period against higher withholding tax on cement in the federal budget 2024-25.

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

ADC Malik Abbas Zulqarnain Awan reviews performance of Price Control Magistrates

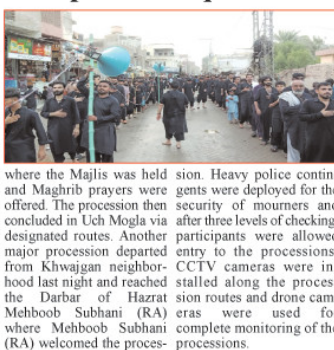
TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the directive of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, district administration is actively working to provide relief to consumers.



around 425 shopkeepers were fined more than 1.409 million rupees. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Punjab Malik Abbas Zulqarnain Awan directed Price Control Magistrates to review the performance of Price Control Magistrates reviewed the performance in July, where Arif Hussain briefed that 27 profiteers were arrested and

8th Muharram-ul-Haram observed in Ahmedpur Sharqia

BAHAWALPUR: In Ahmedpur Sharqia, including Uch Sharif, 13 processions and 19 Majalis have been organized in connection with the observance of 8th Muharram-ul-Haram.



where the Majlis was held and Maghrib prayers were offered. The procession then concluded in Uch Mogla via designated routes. Another major procession departed from Khwajgan neighborhood last night and reached the Darbar of Hazrat Uch Mogla led by Syed Kashif Raza, which reached the Khwajgan neighborhood

Board Of Directors meeting held at C-Arts ADHD center

KARACHI: On Monday, July 15, 2024, the board of directors of c-arts convened at the c-arts (adults) and ADHD Center in Korangi, adjacent to Ibrat eye hospital.



The board discussed a comprehensive Agenda focusing on the establishment of new centers and the upgrading of Existing facilities throughout Sindh province.—RT

EDITORIAL

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

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

The Ban

The government's decision to ban Pakistan's largest political party, the PTI, has sparked widespread concern among civil society, raising critical questions about democracy and constitutional rights. This move, described as "ridiculous" and "desperate" by various legal and political experts, threatens to undermine the very fabric of the nation's democratic principles.

Banning a political party is not only a drastic measure but one that history has shown to be fraught with peril. The dissolution of the National Awami Party during the Bhutto regime serves as a grim reminder of the potential for political instability such actions can unleash. Pakistan's constitution, under Article 17, ensures citizens the right to form political parties, emphasizing that any re-

strictions must be reasonable and justified in the interest of the nation's sovereignty and integrity. The government's reliance on this article to justify



its actions against PTI raises significant legal and ethical questions.

Legal experts, such as Barrister Asad Rahim, argue that banning PTI would equate to silencing the voice of a substantial portion of the electorate, effectively disenfranchising millions. This sentiment is echoed by politicians and journalists who fear that such a move would not only destroy democracy but also erode public trust in the gov-

ernment and judicial processes.

The reference to the Supreme Court, as mandated by Article 17, must be approached with utmost caution and transparency. The court's role in upholding constitutional values is crucial, and any decision to dissolve a political party must be based on irrefutable evidence and legal merits, not political expediency. The lessons from Pakistan's political history underscore the dangers of using bans and legal proceedings as tools of political retribution. The government's actions must be scrutinized not only for their immediate impact but also for their long-term implications on the nation's democratic health. As Pakistan navigates this contentious issue, it is imperative that all stakeholders prioritize democratic norms, legal integrity, and the will of the people.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Sacrifice of Karbala Martyrs will always serve as a beacon of truth and integrity for future generations:
Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Junior

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Junior, while offering salutations to the martyrs of Karbala for their sacrifice, bravery, and courage, said that even today, the war between Yazidism and Hussainism continues. The role of truth and righteousness played by the martyrs of Karbala and the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) will serve as a beacon of truth and a symbol of integrity for future generations. During his visit to Badin, he participated in the Muharram meeting held at the Inmabargah on Sirani Road and met party workers at the residence of Shaheed Sajjad Ghaghro, the central leader of the PPP-SB, along with Shahnawaz Shani Ghaghro. Speaking on this occasion, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Jr paid tribute to the martyrs of Karbala, stating that the war between right and wrong



continues in the form of Yazidism and Hussainism. He emphasized that the role of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in upholding truth and righteousness will be a guiding light and a symbol of integrity for future generations. Zulfikar Jr remarked that Yazid-like rulers of every era have committed extreme oppression to forcibly rule over the people. He expressed pride in their martyred comrades who sacrificed their lives in the struggle against false forces for the sake of truth and righteousness. He highlighted that even today, Yazid-like rulers are causing suffering by depriving people of basic needs such as food and water. He criticized the ruling group's destruction of agriculture, which has led to widespread unemployment and hunger in the region. Zulfikar Jr concluded by stating that Sindh is the land of Sufi saints, whose message was one of love, peace, and brotherhood.

8th of Muharram-ul-Haram observed with religious fervor in Sehwan



By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: On the 8th of Muharram-ul-Haram, mourning procession and Majlis-e-Aza were organized by Lakari Sadats, who devotes paid homage to the Martyrs of Karbala under the leadership of Syed Ghulam Muhammad Shah Lakari and Syed Allah Bux Shah Lakari. The procession culminated at the Hussaini Imambargah in Zuljanah Chowk, winding through various routes. At the ancient courtyard of the Qalandar's (RA) shrine, mourners chanted "Ya Hussain, Ya Hussain" as they beat their chests and recited dirges amid chains. Following the procession, Majlis-e-aza (mourning gathering) was held. Rangers and police had been deployed to ensure strict security arrangements during the mourning procession and mourning gatherings.

Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider reviews arrangements for monsoon rains in Shaheed Benazirabad

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Commissioner Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider chaired a meeting in the committee room of the Commissioner's office to assess the protective arrangements in light of the recent heavy rains and floods in the monsoon season. Commissioner Haider highlighted that the monsoon rains have commenced, directing all district administrations and relevant departments to establish control rooms at district and tehsil levels to manage and provide relief to the public. Municipalities, town administrations, drainage, public health and other relevant departments were instructed to formulate contingency plans for drainage disposal, cleaning of drains and sewers, installation of machinery at pumping stations, generators, and ensuring availability of fuel. Deputy Commissioners of all districts were instructed to ensure machinery presence and action on



drainage disposal through close coordination with newly elected representatives at municipal, town, and union council levels. Further directives were issued to District Disaster Management Authority to enhance readiness, including mobilization of teams and machinery for relief efforts during the monsoon. Health department, drainage, municipalities, public health, livestock, and other essential service providing agencies were instructed to cancel leaves for officers and staff to maintain operational readiness. Additional Commissioner-I Subhash Chandar, Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shahryar Gul Memon, Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Dr Imran ul Hassan Khawaja, Deputy Commissioner Nausheero Foroze Arsalan Saleem, Director Nara Nazam Memon, XEN Atta Muhammad, Municipal Commissioner Abdul Razaq Shaikh and officers of the concerned departments also attended the meeting.

-Shame on TMK Police

TMK Police accused of killing a laborer in a fake encounter

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A laborer who was also an activist of a nationalist party named Sikandar Mallah was killed in firing of the police near Bulri Shah Karim. Initially he was rushed to a local hospital from where he was referred to Hyderabad where he succumbed to his injuries. After the death of Sikandar Mallah

his wife attempted suicide by consuming poison. She was rushed to the hospital where the doctors succeeded to save her life. The body of the deceased was laid to rest at his family's ancestral graveyard after performing his funeral prayers which were attended by a large number of people belonging to different walks of life. It is worth mentioning that the leaders and activists of different organizations staged a protest demonstration under the leadership of District President of JSQM Zahoor Halipot, Gulsher Kolachi, Abdul Razaq Khaskheli, Javed Halipot and others. The protesters accused the police of killing Sikandar Mallah in a fake encounter and demanded of the concerned authorities to take notice of the incident, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Khanpur Mahar footballer selected to attend Youth Festival in France



By Shad Mahar

KHANPUR MAHAR: In Khanpur Mahar, young footballer Muhammad Hassan Mahar has been selected as an ambassador to perform at the festival in France. According to reports, Hassan Mahar, a 17-year-old student at Thatta College, has passed all tests to represent Pakistan at the Youth Festival starting on July 20th, departing from Pakistan. Hassan Mahar will participate in the France Festival held in Lyon, France. Hassan Mahar has been chosen as an international envoy for his achievements in language and physical tests. His expenses will be covered by the French authorities. In this regard, Hassan Mahar has conveyed his feelings via

Dadu Awami Forum demands measures to protect Dadu district from flooding

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Dadu Awami Forum organized public forum chaired by Chairman Ahsiq Ali Zaur, Senior Vice Chairman Gulshan Bhand, General Secretary Waryam Sindh, Legal Aid Committee Advocate Muhammad Ramzan Khushk, Abdul Hakeem Laghari, Advocate Gulzar Almani, Nabi Bux Halepoto and others highlighted significant issues with the condition of the bunds and the drainage system in various parts of the district, including Dadu city and Johi town. They pointed out that despite receiving billions of rupees in aid since 2022 for the maintenance of major bunds, corruption has severely hindered the upkeep,



resulting in critical conditions of the FP bund, Super bund and MNV Drain. It was noted that due to negligence, these structures are in a deteriorated state, risking flood threats to several districts, including Khairpur Nathan Shah, Mehar, Johi and Dadu causing concern for the safety of the residents. They announced the filing of a petition in the Sindh High Court against corruption in the maintenance of the drainage system, highlighting the urgent need for action to protect vulnerable areas from possible flooding.

Umerkot Police arrest three during ongoing operations

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Successful actions were taken by the police under the directives of SSP Umerkot Asif Raza Baloch against country liquor factories and Gutka sellers. According to the details, Police from Kunri Police Station successfully arrested Gutka dealer and peddler Raja Lohana. Approximately 700 different types of Gutka packets were seized. Case number 150/2024, Section 4/5/8 of the Gutka Act, has been registered. A raid was conducted on a country liquor distillery, resulting in the arrest of suspects Molchand Kolhi and Kaji Kolhi involved in manufacturing and selling country liquor. Around 310 liters of country liquor and equipment used in its production were



recovered. Case number 151/2024, Sections 3/4 of the Prohibition Ordinance, has been registered. Successful actions were carried out by Police Station Umerkot against Gutka suppliers and peddler Sodho Mal Oad. Sodho Mal Oad was apprehended with around 500 sachets of Gutka seized. Case number 34/2024, Section 4/5/8 of the Gutka Act, has been registered.

Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Attari Qadri stresses need for following the message of Karbala

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In the field of Karbala, the sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), the eternal symbol of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) mission, holds a significant place in history. Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) did not offer his sacrifice for worldly gain or acclaim, but rather as a beacon of truth and justice that reverberates through the ages. In this commemorative gathering held on the 8th of Muharram,

thousands of lovers of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) assembled to hear Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadri emphasize the significance of martyrdom in Karbala. Maulana Ilyas stressed that Karbala is a place of learning where the essence of Hussainiyat's message must be understood. The philosophy of martyrdom serves to protect humanity from the tyranny of Yazid's arrogance. Reflecting on these teachings, it becomes clear that God Almighty is

pleased with those who sacrifice their lives in His path as martyrs. Their blood irrigates the earth, and their sacrifice is an unparalleled example in the history of the world. We must comprehend the philosophy of Karbala's martyrdom and strive to embody its principles in our transient and ephemeral worldly existence. May Allah grant us a life of virtue, righteousness, patience, and gratitude, inspired by the noble martyrs of Karbala.

SPORTS



Lionel Messi becomes football's most decorated player



Argentina's star player Lionel Messi has secured his legacy as one of the greatest footballers of all time with his national team's latest victory in the Copa America final, after defeating Colombia 1-0.

The win marked Messi, 37, and his team's second Copa America triumph and his historic 45th trophy with both club and country, surpassing the record previously held by Brazil's Dani Alves, India Today reported.

This feat highlights Messi's remarkable journey to become the most decorated player in football history.

How many trophies does Messi have?

Once criticised for his lack of international stardom, the Argentina captain has now won four major trophies with Argentina in just three years, including one World Cup, two Copa Americas, and a Finalissima from 2021 to 2024.

The former Barcelona star has also won four Champions League titles and 10 La Liga championships.

Individually, Messi has clinched a record eight Ballon d'Or awards and six European Golden Boots.

Out of Messi's 45 titles, 39 have been achieved during his 17-year tenure with Barcelona. His accolades include 12 league titles (10 with Barcelona, two with PSG), four UEFA Champions Leagues (all with Barcelona), and 17 domestic cups (15 with Barcelona, one each with PSG and Inter Miami).

Additionally, he has won the UEFA Super Cup three times and the FIFA Club World Cup three times.

With Argentina, Messi's victories include the 2005 U-17 World Cup, the 2008 Olympic Games, the 2021 Copa America, the 2021 Finalissima, and most memorably, the 2022 World Cup, where Argentina triumphed over France in the final.—Agency

Argentina beat Colombia to win second consecutive Copa America title

Defending champions Argentina won a record 16th Copa America title by beating Colombia 1-0, thanks to a late extra-time goal from substitute Lautaro Martinez after an end-to-end contest at the Hard Rock Stadium in Florida on Sunday.

Inter Milan striker Martinez, the tournament's leading goalscorer, latched onto a precise through ball from Giovanni Lo Celso before lifting his effort over advancing Colombia goalkeeper Camilo Vargas in the 112th minute, Reuters reported.

Argentina's latest title comes on the back of their triumphs at the 2022 World Cup and 2021 Copa America.



The game was delayed by more than an hour after thousands of unruly fans without tickets, breaching security gates two hours before the game.

With this win, Argentina marks its third major international crown they earned in a three-year span, after winning the Qatar World Cup in 2022 and the Copa America title in 2021.

Argentina's best player, Messi, 37, suffered a knee injury in the 64th minute of the game when he tried to run but fell to the pitch, and immediately signaled for trainers.

Messi's right cleat and captain band was removed, and he slowly limped to the Argentine bench before bursting into tears.

His right foot was visibly swollen after sustaining an ankle injury.

Colombia was unable to extend its 28-game unbeaten streak. They've lost their last two matches against Argentina.—Agency

LPL 2024: Shadab Khan back to his best



Pakistan all-rounder Shadab Khan is in top form with the ball in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024, playing for Colombo Strikers. After facing immense pressure due to a wicketless T20 World Cup, Shadab has rebounded spectacularly, emerging as the leading wicket-taker of the tournament with 14 wickets in six games, averaging 8.64.

On Sunday, Shadab achieved his best figures of the tournament against Jaffna Kings, taking 4/10 and earning his second Player of the Match award.

He was close to a hat-trick after dismissing Avishka Fernando and Fabian Allen, but Vijayakanth Vijayakanth survived due to a positive sign for both him and the Pakistan cricket team.—Agency

was out, think it was a technology problem." "The pitch was a bit slower, but we just had to stick to our plans. The pitch is definitely helping the spinners, especially when bowling in good areas. I struggled in the last three months, but that's the beauty of cricket. Suddenly you start performing, and hopefully, that continues with Pakistan as well," he further added.

Earlier this month, Shadab took a hat-trick on his LPL debut. He dismissed Kandy Falcons' captain Wanindu Hasaranga, Salman Ali Agha, and Pavan Rathnayake, finishing with figures of 4/22.

Shadab's return to form is a positive sign for both him and the Pakistan cricket team.—Agency

PCB goes back to 'old model' of one-year central contracts, no pay cuts

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Monday announced going back to its old model of granting a one-year central contract to the national side's players, conditional to their performance.

Among several decisions taken during a meeting of the board's top brass, the officials decided against cutting the salaries of the players, who are under fire after their dismal T20 World Cup 2024.

The monthly salaries of the players and their income were under discussion after the Pakistani side failed to live up to the fans' expectations and crashed out of the tournament before even entering the Super 8 stage.

In a statement, the board said: "The central contract's tenure will be of a year. The players' performance and fitness will be reviewed every year. Inclusion of players in different categories will be made under a well-defined process."

The PCB also decided that players' fitness would be checked every three months and that it would be mandatory for the athletes to participate in domestic cricket.

Currently, Category A players, which include Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, and star pacer Shaheen Afridi, are paid Rs4.5 million per month.

Meanwhile, Shadab Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, and Naseem Shah are paid Rs3 million per month in Category B.

Category C players are paid between Rs750,000 to Rs1.5 million per month and include players such as Imad Wasim.

Meanwhile, Category D players are also paid the same as Category C and include players with the likes of Iftikhar Ahmed, Hasan Ali, Saim Ayub and others.

It is to be noted that the aforesaid figures reflect only the monthly salaries of the players who also earn match fees and win bonuses across all three formats (Test, ODI, T20I) along with sponsorship perks.

The existing three-year central contracts were awarded last year and came into effect from July 1, 2023, after the then-PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf was pressurised by players for increased remunerations, sources had told Geo News.

NOCs and 'grouping'

The statement further added that a technical process for issuing non-objection certificates (NOC) to the players would be worked out and those who would fulfil the requirements would be granted the NOC.—Agency



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Copa final was dream farewell says Di Maria



MIAMI: Argentina winger Angel Di Maria said Sunday's Copa America triumph over Colombia was the perfect dream ending to his career with the national team.

A 1-0 win after extra-time secured a third straight major title for the Albiceleste following their 2021 Copa win and their World Cup triumph the following year.

The 36-year-old winger had announced in November that he would retire from international duty after the tournament.

"I dreamt it, that's why I said it was the last Copa America and it ended here. I dreamt that I would reach the final, I dreamt that I would win it, that I would retire like this," he said.

Argentine coach Lionel Scaloni took Di Maria off in the final minutes of extra-time, ensuring he received a huge farewell from the team's fans which his eyes showed he was moved by.

"I have so many beautiful feelings. I am eternally grateful to this generation, they gave me everything, they made me achieve what I wanted so much, and today I am leaving in this way, how better than this?" he said.

Di Maria, had been part of a generation with Lionel Messi who won the Olympics in 2008 but then struggled for silverware, missing out in the final stages of tournaments to the frustration of the nation.

But the 'Triple Crown', which also hands Argentina a record 16th Copa, confirms Lionel Scaloni's team's place among the greats of South American football.

"It seems easy but it is very difficult. I know because I lived on the other side too for ten, 11 years, fighting for it," said the Benfica winger.—Agency

Sublime Spain strike late to win record fourth Euro crown

Spain's Mikel Oyarzabal scored four minutes from time as they capped a dominant Euro 2024 campaign with a deserved 2-1 win over England in Sunday's showpiece for a record fourth title and condemned their opponents to a second straight final defeat.

Oyarzabal finished off a swift counter-attack for the winner after England had fought back from a goal down for the fourth successive match and seemingly earned extra-time.

"I have done my job," said Oyarzabal, who came on for captain Alvaro Morata after 67 minutes. "Just the fact of being in the 26, you value it a lot. It happened to me but could have happened to anyone." Spain manager Luis de la Fuente added: "I couldn't be happier. A real



team. European champions. I said I was proud and today I am even prouder. It confirms what we are. For me, they are the best in the world." After a cautious first half where Spain had 65% possession

but England's Phil Foden managed the only shot on target, the Spaniards struck two minutes after the restart, despite losing influential midfielder Rodri to injury at the break. Teenager Lamine Yamal, who had been shackled completely in the first half, finally found space down the right and crossed for Nico Williams to slot home past goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

Spain then enjoyed a purple patch with a series of sharp attacks as England's previously watertight defence lost its shape and Dani Olmo, Morata and Williams all had good chances.—Agency

Spain players always believed in me, says Euros winner De la Fuente



BERLIN: Spain coach Luis de la Fuente celebrated his players for delivering a record fourth European Championship on Sunday, saying they always believed in him, while others didn't.

De la Fuente replaced Luis Enrique after Spain crashed out of the 2022 World Cup in the last 16 but many doubted whether the 63-year-old had the experience or quality to help La Roja end a decade-long trophy drought.

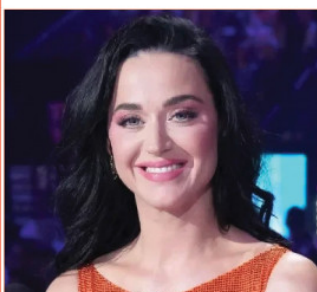
After a humiliating Euros qualifying defeat by Scotland in March 2023 in his second match in charge, some Spanish media suggested the coach, who had worked with Spain's youth sides, could even be on the brink of the sack already.

However, Spain recovered well and have not lost a competitive match since, beating prior holders Italy, hosts Germany and one of the pre-tournament favourites in France on the way to the Euro 2024 final, where they edged England 2-1. "I was sure that my players believed in me... For a year and a half they have been infallible," De la Fuente told reporters. "The only thing that I was worried about was that the players believed in me and were convinced by what we said."

"Now it's all happiness, pride and enjoying this moment that we have earned -- nobody gave us anything for free."—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT

Katy Perry gets trolled for THIS bizarre mistake



Katy Perry made an inexcusable blunder that left fans in a sigh.

On Sunday, July 14, the songstress took to her official X account (formerly known as Twitter), and wished good luck to team England before their Euro 2024 finale but things did not go in the right direction for Katy.

"She penned down on social media, 'FOOTBALL IS COMING HOME,' and closed the sentence with a flag emoji that does not belong to England, squashing her spirit of enthusiasm. It seems like the singer got confused while selecting emojis as she opted for the flag of the United Kingdom instead.

However, before any clarification would have come, fans rushed to correct her mistake.

One social media user pointed out, "This is the flag (England flag) You're welcome." Another wrote, "Thanks sis next time try to use the correct flag." "Katy, it's (England flag emoji). Quite sure that the rest of the UK won't be cheering for England," a third follower corrected her.

Khloe Kardashian shares insights from Indian Billionaire wedding



Khloe Kardashian and Kim Kardashian spend some special time making memories in India with A-list Hollywood celebrities.

The Kardashian sisters kept sharing highlights from billionaire heir Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's lavish wedding on their social accounts with their fans this weekend.

Khloe took to her official Instagram account on Sunday and posted a photo of her and her sister in Indian attire from the pair's Shubh Ashirwad ceremony held on Friday.

She wrote in her caption, "Kim and Khloe take India ???????? (heart emoji)." "While feeling excited being in India with Kim she further wrote, 'I can't believe I get to have this experience with my sister!'"

"The best memories with my bestie (heart emoji)." In the snaps, Khloe can be seen wearing a traditional Indian dress a lehenga, with Indian jewelry.

She flaunted a gold and white lehenga paired with a gold necklace and choker.

Kim also wore the traditional attire of red with glittery work and chose to pair it with an intricate necklace and headpiece.

Face of the Day



Name: Noman
Location: Karachi
About me: I love reading Regional Times

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

METRO KARACHI



Civil society slams PTI ban, treason reference against Imran and Arif Alvi

KARACHI: The federal government has announced that it plans to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in its bid to intensify measures against the former ruling party.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar made the announcement during a press conference in Islamabad where he also revealed the government's plans to file references against PTI founder Imran Khan and former president Arif Alvi for treason under Article 6.

The decision was based on a number of factors including the proven charge that Khan's PTI had received foreign funds from sources that are illegal in Pakistan, as well as the party's involvement in May 9 riots.

Analysts and experts have also given their take on the ban on PTI.

'Not an unprecedented measure' Reacting to the government's decision to ban PTI, veteran journalist Hamid Mir said that it was "not an unprecedented measure."

Mir said: "Several government ministers have previously signalled that PTI and Pakistan can't work together and they have dis-



cussed a ban as well. "This discussion began when Shehbaz Sharif became PM in 2022, and talks over this were intensified especially after May 9."

He said that previously, the government believed that if a reference were to be filed against PTI, it would have been difficult with PTI leader Arif Alvi serving as president at the time and the reference would not be forwarded.

However, with Alvi no more serving as president, this decision to ban PTI seems to have been taken yesterday during a meeting led by former PM Nawaz Sharif.

'Desperate move' Anchorperson Shahzeb Khanzada said the government's announcing to ban the

PTI, just two days after the Supreme Court ruling that declared the former ruling party a parliamentary party, was a desperate move.

He said 11 out of 13 judges of the apex court, including the chief justice, had recognised the PTI as a parliamentary party.

"Are you responding to the PTI (through this move) or the SC. If you are responding to the SC then you are responding to the current chief justice, the next CJ and the CJ after that as well," he said.

The journalist said the government would itself have to approach the top court for implementation of the government decision, as it has already announced.—RT/Agency

Karachi's BRT Green, Orange lines suspended



KARACHI: In order to ensure security, Karachi's Green and Orange lines will remain suspended during 9 and 10 Muharram, media reported on Monday.

As per the announcement, both BRTs will resume services from July 18.

Meanwhile, Peoples Bus Service also announced the suspension of its operations on specific routes during 9 and 10 Muharram.

A day earlier, the city's traffic police issued a traffic management plan for processions on the 8th, 9th and 10th of Muharram.

According to the traffic plan issued, on 8th Muharram, a procession will start from Nishtar Park and end at Hussainian Iranian Imambargh in Kharadar.

Muhammad Ali (MA) Jinnah Road will remain closed from Gurumandir to Tower due to security concerns.

The procession will go through Nishtar Park, Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Road, Mehfil-i-Shah-i-Khurasan, MA Jinnah Road (point a),

Mansfield Street, Preedy Street, Tibet Chowk, MA Jinnah Road (point b), Baba-e-Urdu, Bara Imam, Nishtar Road, Altaf Hussain Road, Bolton Market, MA Jinnah Road (point c), Nawaz Mahabat Khanjee Road, Bombay Bazar, Kharadar Police Station to Hussainian Iranian Imambargh.

On 9th Muharram (Tuesday), a procession will be taken out from Marim Road Imambargh, Lisquatabad at 9am. It will reach Nishtar Park at 12pm. Where a Majlis will be held. Afterwards, the procession will be taken out from Nishtar Park for Hussainian Iranian Imambargh, Kharadar, via Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto Road, Mehfil-i-Shah-i-Khurasan, MA Jinnah Road (point a), Mansfield Street, Preedy Street, Tibet Chowk, MA Jinnah Road (point b), Bolton Market, Bombay Bazaar, Kharadar, Nawaz Mahabat Khanjee Road and then to Hussainian Iranian Imambargh.—RT/Agency

Tariq Aziz Baloch reviews arrangements for Youm-e-Ashura in Gadap Town

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Chairman of the Town Municipal Corporation Gadap, Tariq Aziz Baloch, visited Gadap Town's boundaries in connection with Muharram-ul-Haram and reviewed arrangements. He stated that prior to the arrival of Muharram-ul-Haram, cleanliness around mosques, Imambarghs, procession routes, main streets, sewage line clearance, lime whitewashing and restoration of street lights have been ensured in Gadap Town. In this regard, Superintendent Engineer (M&E) Noor Ali Jamali and



AEE (M&E) Wasim Arain, Director Sanitation Ashraf Baloch, Deputy Director Sanitation Afzal Laghari, and Incharge Station Ali Palijo have been instructed to maintain routine operations continuously so that no difficulties are faced. Officials have been advised to provide all facilities through mutual consultation during Muharram-ul-Haram, and practical measures have been arranged for remaining tasks.

Fire engulfs Karachi University's Mass Communication Department

KARACHI: A fire broke out on Monday in Karachi University's Mass Communication Department, the alma mater of dozens of journalists across Pakistan.

Two fire tenders took part in the rescue operation and doused the blaze, which erupted in the department's audio-visual room at around 10am in the morning.

Talking to media, Mass Communication Department Chairperson Professor Dr Asmat Ara confirmed that an air conditioner in the audio-visual room caught fire when a class was being conducted there.

Talking to media, Mass Communication Department Chairperson Professor Dr Asmat Ara confirmed that an air conditioner in the audio-visual room caught fire when a class was being conducted there.

The chairperson said that the students were evacuated immediately after the fire erupted.

However, she noted that the strength of the students was comparatively less than normal.

"The AC was completely burnt and later the fire spread into the room and damaged chairs and tables [as well]," she said.

Initially, Dr Ara added, the department's staff made efforts to douse the fire, who were later joined by the university's fire rescue and



campus security personnel.

"The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation's (KMC) fire department was also called in which controlled the blaze," the official shared, adding that the KU's electrical engineering department has surveyed the institute.

Noting that "everything was under control", the chairperson said that morning and evening classes in the department will continue as per the timetable.—RT/Agency

K-Electric apprises SHC about Karachi load shedding

KARACHI: K-Electric submitted its reply in the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday over loadshedding during the "heatwave" in Karachi, media reported.

The court hearing a petition of Jamaat-e-Islami with regard to the loadshedding and unannounced power outages in Karachi during the heatwave by the city's sole power utility.

The K-Electric in its reply said that technical faults could not be counted in loadshedding. The power utility repeated its claim that 70 pct feeders of Karachi have been exempted from loadshedding.

"The power supply affected at 30 pct feeders over action against power theft," the company claimed.

The KE in its reply further claimed that loadshedding did not happen from June 24 to 27 from 1:30 to 4:30.

"K-Electric also arranged relief camps in



different areas during loadshedding," the company said.

"A plan for increasing power generation has been submitted to the NEPRA," the power company stated.

"Under the plan 95% feeders will be free from power outages and loadshedding by 2029-30," the reply read.

The court summoned arguments over the reply of the company and adjourned further hearing of the case until August 15.

The petitioner had pleaded to the court to di-

rect the K-Electric to ensure an uninterrupted power supply especially during the heatwave.

"K-Electric's claim of 71% power feeders as loadshedding free in the city has been wrong," JI petition has read. "Technical faults are also the responsibility of the power supplier, which required to be addressed."

"The city has been undergoing average 16 hours loadshedding daily," The Ministry of Energy, NEPRA and K-Electric have been made respondents in the petition.—RT/Agency

French Consul General Celebrates Bastille Day in Karachi



Karachi: The Consulate General of France in Karachi marked the annual celebration of Bastille Day on Sunday, 14th July 2024, with pomp and festivity. The event, attended by distinguished guests including the Governor of Sindh, Mr. Kamran Tessori, along with several Consul Generals and dignitaries, was a vibrant showcase of Franco-Pakistani friendship.

Mr. Alexis Chahathtinsky, the Consul General of France, underscored the significance of this year's Bastille Day celebrations in his address, citing three compelling reasons. Firstly, he highlighted France's upcoming role as host of the Summer Olympics, a historic event set to commence on 26th July, reviving a tradition dating back to ancient Greece after 124 years.

Secondly, Mr. Chahathtinsky noted the concurrent Election Year in both France and Pakistan, emphasizing the parallel political landscapes and the anticipation surrounding coalition formations in the French Parliament.

Thirdly, he expressed optimism about recent positive developments in the economy and bilateral cooperation, which he deemed pivotal for the future.

The Consul General extended gratitude to the event's sponsors and emphasized the enriching cultural and educational exchanges between France and Pakistan. The festivities culminated with a spectacular fireworks display over the creek, a cherished French tradition, marking a joyous celebration of the Bastille Day in Karachi.—RT

Sri Lanka And Pakistan Unite For Innovation As Lake Grand Project Takes Center Stage

Karachi: In a landmark move aimed at fostering cross-border collaboration in innovation and sustainable development, the Sri Lanka Consulate General in Karachi, together with the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, has announced a strategic partnership between Sri Lankan enterprises and Pakistan's OBOR Group for the ambitious Lake Grand Project in Karachi.

The alliance, spearheaded by the OBOR Group, renowned for its century-long legacy and diverse business interests spanning pharmaceuticals, tourism, and cutting-edge technologies, marks a significant milestone in strengthening economic ties between Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The Lake Grand Project, boasting a substantial budget of US\$ 300 million, represents the OBOR Group's latest multinational venture in the leisure sector, aligning with Pakistan



government's priorities in agriculture and green tourism.

A distinguished delegation, led by Chairman Shahid Firoz and accompanied by Consul General Jagah Abeywama, is set to embark on a six-day mission to Sri Lanka today. The delegation aims to explore collaborative opportunities not only for the Lake Grand Green Ecotourism project but also in sectors such as construction materials and technology.

Chairman Shahid Firoz expressed optimism about

the upcoming collaborations, highlighting their potential for mutual growth and innovation. During their visit, the delegation will engage with senior officials from over 40 Sri Lankan companies facilitated by the Sri Lanka Consulate General, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, and Sri Lanka Export Development Board. These meetings are designed to foster partnerships in eco-tourism, ayurveda, agriculture, and construction materials, further solidifying the bilateral economic relationship between Sri Lanka and Pakistan.—RT

Rain brings relief to Karachiites amid intense heat

KARACHI: On Monday experienced rainfall in some areas of the city, bringing much-needed relief from the intense summer heat, media reported. According to details, the rain was reported in Baldia Town, Sarjani Town, Hamdard University, Kathore, and Malir along with adjoining areas. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) stated that the spread of low-pressure systems and high ground temperatures have increased the likelihood of rain in Karachi. Some parts of Karachi Division could witness thunderstorms today. It

also said that light rain and drizzle are expected from evening to night on Tuesday, with the possibility of thunderstorms continuing from Wednesday evening to night, providing temporary respite from the hot and humid weather. Earlier, according to PMD, the minimum temperature recorded in the city last night was 30.4°C, while the maximum is projected to reach between 35°C and 37°C, with humidity levels at 73%. Last week, it also predicted a new monsoon spell affecting Sindh, including Karachi, starting from July 18 or 19.—RT/Agency

'Drug dealer' shot dead, two policemen hurt in Gulistan-e-Jauhar encounter

KARACHI: A suspected drug dealer was shot dead and two policemen were wounded in an alleged encounter in Gulistan-e-Jauhar on Sunday morning.

SSP-East Dr Farrukh Raza told media that acting on a tip-off the Shera Faisal police conducted a raid on the den of drug dealers in Gulistan-e-Jauhar.

He said that the criminals resorted to indiscriminate fire, resulting in bullet injuries to two policemen. The police chased the fleeing suspects and encircled them in Pehlwan Goth. Extra police contingents were called and in an ensuing exchange of gunfire, a suspected drug dealer, later identified as Samiullah,

alias Mullah, was shot dead.

The SSP identified the wounded policemen as Constables Mudassir, 40, and Akbar Muzaffar, 35. They were initially taken to a nearby private hospital from where they were shifted to the Aga Khan University Hospital.—RT/Agency



LONDON: PPP MPA from Dadu Barrister Pir Mujeeb ul Haq and his father, former Senior Sindh Minister Pir Mazhar ul Haq met with Alderman and former Deputy Mayor of Chelsea and Kensington and Chairman of Third World Solidarity, Mushtaq Lashari, in London.—RT

Quaidabad Police arrest a drug dealer

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: On the instructions of SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbas, under the supervision of DSP Quaidabad, Mansoor Bozdar, SHO Quaidabad, Ghulam Hussain Pirzada, along with the police party, successfully conducted a raid. They took action against wanted drug dealers and suppliers. During this operation, they arrested one suspect, Mubarak S/O Miskeen and seized 580 grams of hashish and 24 grams of ice. SHO Ghulam Hussain Pirzada informed journalists that they received specific information from a confidential informant around the outskirts of Bilal Colony near Chishti



Chowk, Quaidabad Police Station, that some drug dealers and dealers were planning to sell a large quantity of narcotics to a Mubarak S/O Miskeen was apprehended with 280 grams of hashish and 54 grams of ice.

Mourning procession taken out in Gulshan-e-Hadeed



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: A mourning procession was taken out from the Sahib-ul-Asr Mosque in Gulshan-e-Hadeed Phase-2. The procession proceeded through various routes in Gulshan-e-Hadeed, culminating at the central Imambargh in Steel Town. At the said event, after offering the afternoon prayers, the faithful gathered at Sindhu

Chowk for a Majlis-e-Aza (gathering of mourning), Naem Bhatti, DSP Traffic Station Fasihuddin, SHO Steel Town Agha Abdul Rashid, SHO Bin Qasim Inayatullah Marwat, SI Luqman, along with officers from intelligence agencies, all present in large numbers. During the procession, various political and social organizations distributed drinks, water, and food packets along the procession routes.



KARACHI: President of PTI Sindh, Haleem Adil Sheikh is addressing a press conference regarding electoral fraud in Karachi East's NA-238, at the Election Tribunal in the Sindh High Court.—RT

"In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure."

—Bill Cosby

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TUESDAY JULY 16 2024

SC Cannot Amend Constitution, Only Parliament Can: Rana Sanaulah On Reserved Seats Verdict

ISLAMABAD: Commenting on the recent Supreme Court's verdict on reserved seats' case, Prime Minister's Adviser on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaulah has said that the ruling does not match the clear orders written in the Constitution for independent candidates who are willing to join political parties.

The senior leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) criticised the top court's verdict for which he claimed that it violated Article 51 and relevant clauses which clearly bound independent candidates to join political parties within three days after elections.

Sanaulah was talking to Geo News programme Naya Pakistan on Sunday in which he emphasised that the Constitution provides clear instructions for dealing with independent candidates and the allocation of re-



served seats among political parties without any vagueness. While expressing his views, the senior politician claimed that the top court's bench mentioned in their joint judgement that the independent candidates would be given 15 days to join political parties, which went above the Constitution. He also criticised the ruling for granting two more weeks to process the independent candidates' affilia-

tions to their desired political parties. The PM's aide also censured that the verdict would be tantamount to "opening the front gate for horse-trading". "The judiciary cannot alter the Constitutions, but parliament can," he added. In a major legal victory for the Imran Khan-founded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the party is eligible for the allocation

of reserved seats". The decision has not only paved the way for the PTI's return to parliament, which was kicked out of the February 8 polls owing to the ECP's December 2023 ruling, but has also increased the pressure on the coalition alliance by changing the composition of the National Assembly.

Regarding the incarcerated PTI founder's arrest in new cases, Sanaulah said that Imran Khan would do nothing but spread anarchy and political chaos in the country after coming out of jail. He added that it would be better not to release the former prime minister to bring political and economic stability to the country.

Sanaulah also blamed the PTI for organising the May 9, 2023 riots and running a campaign against the heads of the defence institutions. He said that the prosecution had an equal right to pursue trials like the former premier possessed the right to defend himself. The lawyer-cum-politician said that no one had stopped the PTI founder from knocking on the doors of the courts against his arrest. Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were arrested in a new NAB reference related to Toshakhana gifts yesterday soon after getting acquitted in the iddat case — also known as the un-Islamic nikah case — which was the last hurdle in the couple's release from jail. The couple was sentenced to seven years in prison and awarded a fine of Rs500,000 each, in February this year 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. —RT/Agency

PTI MPs Being Coerced To Defect: Gohar

ISLAMABAD: Seeking the Supreme Court's intervention to resolve the matter, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Gohar Ali Khan said Sunday parliamentary members of his party were being forced to switch their loyalties, media reported.

Talking to media, Gohar condemned the "abduction" of PTI officials and their family members — including MNA Sahibzada Ameer Sultan, PTI media wing member Rizwan Malik, Mian Fayyaz Ahmad Chajra's son Mian Tajamal Hussain and brother Mian Imtiaz Hussain and other social media activists.

On this occasion, the PTI chairman was flanked by PTI Information Secretary Raaf Hasan, MNAs Atif Khan and Sheikh Waqas.

The PTI leadership urged the top court to ensure implementation of its historic judgement pertaining to the reserved seats, taking notice of the harassment and abduction of PTI parliamentary members and their relatives.

The PTI chief slammed the government for re-arresting PTI supporter Sanam Javed and the party founder's spouse Bushra Bibi, demanding their immediate release.



along with all other prisoners belonging to his party.

He claimed that Bushra Bibi was arrested again in the Toshakhana case only in a bid to "break" former prime minister Imran Khan, as his wife had nothing to do with the said case.

Meanwhile, Gohar apprised media that 25 independent MNAs had submitted their affidavits to join the PTI, while the remaining would submit theirs by Monday (today). The ECP should upload their candidates list and notify the reserved seats instantly, he asked.

He emphasised that the PTI remained united despite adversarial circumstances, enjoying 70% public support because of Imran Khan's 27-year-long political struggle.

Gohar urged the Supreme Court to fix the PTI's petition on abductions and ensure the release of kidnapped individuals.

Aiif emphasised that the country must be governed in accordance with the law and Constitution, as reliance on the use of brute force, coercion and harassment would only lead to a surge in barbarism.

Waqas said that after May 9, a reign of terror was unleashed to force defections, alleging even children being abducted.

Raof reiterated his party's demand to try the chief election commissioner (CEC) under Article 6 for conducting the "most fraudulent" elections in the country's history. —RT/Agency

PML-N Seeks Review Of SC's Reserved Seats Ruling

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Monday filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against reserved seats verdict that declared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible for the reserved seats for minorities and women.

The ruling party has nominated 11 respondents in the plea including the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) and its chairman Hamid Raza, praying the court to suspend its ruling dated July 12, 2024, on the reserved seats.

The petitioner claimed the apex court's verdict was silent on some points. The review petition asked a number of questions including whether the SIC should be granted the reserved seats.

It questioned if reserved seats could be granted to a political party who had not submitted a party list within the prescribed time, whether a political party can be given reserved seats whose candidates have not even filed nomination papers within the



time provided by the Election Commission of Pakistan and if independents could even join a political party which did not win a single general seat in parliament.

The plea also raised question if the seats could be left vacant or have to be distributed amongst the political parties contesting for the said seats.

The petition has been filed in response the apex court ruling last week, that declared the PTI eligible for the allocation of reserved seats.

The decision not only paved the way for the PTI's return to the parliament,

Government Struggling After SC Ruling On Reserved Seats: Asad Qaiser



ISLAMABAD: Former Speaker of the National Assembly and senior leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Asad Qaiser has criticised the government, stating that it is now on high alert and feeling the repercussions of recent Supreme Court decisions.

Responding to the government's decision to ban PTI, Qaiser questioned what tactics the government hasn't employed against his party, asserting that the government now understands how it has no survival.

"Our struggle is according to the Constitution and the law," he added.

He concluded by reiterating their ongoing efforts, vowing to confront the government across all forums.

Govt to challenge supreme court ruling

Hang Me, But Save The Country: Rashid Appeals To Leaders

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League leader and former interior minister, Sheikh Rashid, has raised serious concerns about the worsening state of the country and its economy.

Speaking to the media outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, Rashid emphasised the gravity of the situation, noting that during his five-year tenure as a minister, he had shown leniency and now appeals to the establishment for a general amnesty.

The former interior minister while highlighting the recent rearrest of PTI member Sanam Javed from a lawyer's chamber, condemned the police for disrespecting several individuals.

He added, "It would have been better if they had given us the two-year sentences we deserve, which we would have served."

Rashid also criticized the impending increase in electricity rates, warning that the country is on the brink of chaos, stating, "You want to create such turmoil that it becomes unmanageable. This is



not the job of politicians. The poor are suffering immensely. The country is heading towards a state similar to Kenya. Conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are dire. People are cursing this government. For God's sake, save your honour and the country."

He further commented on the current administration's inability to stabilize the economy, predicting that Nawaz Sharif would introduce a new narrative, leaving the public humiliated. Questioning the release of Rashid. —RT/Agency

Shah Mahmood Indicted In May 9 Case By Anti-Terrorism Court

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Monday indicted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) top leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a May 9 riots case.

Qureshi, who was brought to Kot Lakhpat jail from Adiala jail under tight security, has several cases related to May 9 including arman filed against him at the Shadman police station.

The court had summoned the PTI leader to initiate indictment proceedings against him.

The court has ordered to present witnesses in the next hearing, which is scheduled to take place on July 22.

The former foreign minister, currently imprisoned in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail on multiple charges, was indicted in eight more cases related to the May 9 unrest earlier this year.

In addition to those case,



a special court established under the Official Secrets Act had handed Qureshi 10 years imprisonment in the cipher case.

However, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in June nullified Qureshi's conviction in the cipher case registered under the Official Secrets Act.

The May 9 riots were triggered almost across the country after the deposed prime minister Imran Khan's arrest in the £190 million settlement case. Hundreds of PTI workers and senior leaders were put behind the bars for their involvement in violence and attacks on military installations last year.

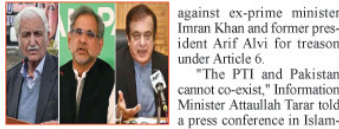
During the protests, the mercenaries targeted the civil and military installations including — the Jinnah House and General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. The military termed May 9 "Black Day" and decided to try the protesters under the Army Act. —RT/Agency

"Childish And Unconstitutional": Parties Slam PML-N's PTI Ban Plan

ISLAMABAD: Several political forces have joined the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in strongly condemning the ruling coalition's potential move revealed by Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar to ban the Imran Khan-founded party, terming "childish" and "unconstitutional".

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Farhatullah Babar dubbed banning a political party "absurd", saying, "It is also absurd to talk about launching a treason case against a political leader."

The senior party leader said no case regarding trea-



against ex-prime minister Imran Khan and former president Arif Alvi for treason under Article 6. "The PTI and Pakistan cannot co-exist." Information Minister Attaullah Tarar told a press conference in Islamabad earlier today, saying that the matter would go to the federal cabinet and the Supreme Court. The information minister said the decisions were taken in light of the former ruling party's involvement in the May 9 riots and the PTI's former or current leaders' attempts to sabotage Pakistan's deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). —RT/Agency

IHC Stops Transfer Of Activist Sanam Javed To Balochistan Police

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News/Web Desk) - The Islamabad High Court ordered the authorities to prevent activist Sanam Javed from taking out of Islamabad and also ordered them to present her in the court at 5:30 pm.

The High Court also summoned IG Islamabad and DG FIA in person.

The IHC Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb heard the petition of Sanam Javed's father for her release. Counsel Mian Ali Ashfaq appeared before the court.

Ali Ashfaq argued that the petitioner's daughter was illegally contained from the lawyer's office. He said that yesterday the magistrate ordered to discharge her from the case.

The court inquired whether the Additional Attorney General was present or not. Advocate General Islamabad appeared before the court on it.

Mian Ali Ashfaq advocate said that yesterday my client was discharged in the 12th

Democracy Or Civil Martial Law? PTI Urges Clarity From Government Allies On Ban Plan

ISLAMABAD: The PTI, without naming the PML-N, demanded invoking Article 6 of the Constitution against those who undertook the unconstitutional steps despite the fact that there is a Constitution in the country, calling on allies of the ruling coalition government to clear their position on plan to ban the former ruling party.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Monday, the party leadership also condemned the federal government's decision to ban the Imran Khan-founded party. Earlier today, the federal government decided to impose a ban on the former ruling party after filing references against ex-prime minister Imran Khan and former president Arif Alvi for treason under Article 6.

The PTI and Pakistan cannot co-exist," Information Minister Attaullah Tarar told a press conference in Islamabad earlier today, saying that the matter would go to the federal cabinet and the Supreme Court. The information minister said the decisions were taken in light of the former ruling party's involvement in the May 9 riots and the PTI's former or current leaders' attempts to sabotage Pakistan's deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan claimed the allies of the ruling coalition, including the Pakistan Peoples Party



(PPP), do not stand by the government in its potential move to ban the party.

"We call on the PPP and the MQM-P to clarify their position as the ANP has already clarified its position on the issue," he added.

All other democratic parties should clarify their position if they support the government's "unconstitutional" step, Omar said, "Are they standing by the democracy or civil martial law?"

The senior party leader said at least 30 million people voted in favour of the PTI and Imran Khan in the February 8 elections — the combined of which all other political parties could not grab.

Criticising the incumbent government over its budget, Ayub said the country is facing increased inflation based on the steps the government has taken so far. He added that the price hike is yet to scale more heights as the government has raised power tariffs. "The electricity was at Rs17 per unit under the PTI's government, which has exceeded Rs85 per unit today,"

he claimed, predicting the power tariff would touch Rs100 per unit. "The dollar has been artificially pegged at Rs275, the greenback will surmount to Rs350." The Supreme Court's 11 judges gave a declaration that the PTI is a political party, he said. Commenting on the government's intention of banning the PTI, the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly claimed that the PML-N high-ups — including Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz — sat together in Murree for three days and came up with what came to be the fore on today (Monday). "This is the same Nawaz Sharif who tried to become Amirul Momineen," he said. "What Tarar said in today's press conference could be merely his desires, he added. The PML-N has remained involved in all-out efforts to suppress the judiciary, the PTI stalwart said, adding that the N-League activists blocked roads against verdicts of the judiciary. —RT/Agency