

REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

Heartland

CM Murad Reviews
Muharram Arrangements
in Sukkur

Money

Pakistan Strikes
Major Oil and Gas
Deposits in Attack

NATIONAL

'Ban Military
Interference, Not
Political Parties,'
Says ANP's Aimal
Wali

SPORTS

Five Pakistan
cricketers roped
in for CPL 2024

Home Minister Directs
Security
Arrangements for
Muharram Processions

Kim Kardashian
adds fuel to old
Kourtney
Kardashian feud

KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 207 Regd. No. 114 visit us at

www.regionaltimes.com

Wednesday, July 17, 2024, Muharram 10, 1445 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION
CERTIFIED BY ABC

'No One Can Dare Ban PTI': CM Gandapur Admonishes PML-N Government

PESHAWAR: After the federal government announced taking adverse actions against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said Tuesday that "no one can dare to ban the PTI which secured highest number of votes" in the February 8 nationwide polls.

PTI-backed CM Gandapur made the statement in a press conference in Peshawar today after the controversial decision of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led coalition government to slap a ban on the Imran Khan-founded party opened Pandora's box amid ongoing political crisis.

The chief minister visited Supreme Command Post Kohi Gate in Peshawar along with the Peshawar commissioner, the KP Assembly speaker, CCPO, and others to review security arrangements for Muharram processions. While talking to the journalists, he said that Muharram events were going on peacefully across the province and all provincial departments were working in complete coordination to maintain law and order.

Reacting to the Federal Information Minister Ataullah Tarar announcement to ban the former ruling party, Gandapur slammed the federal government and alleged that the current rulers "stole the mandate" to get into power.

Upping the ante against the embattled PTI, the PML-N-led government decided to ban the former ruling party as well as file references against the top party leaders founder



— Imran Khan, Arif Alvi and Qasim Suri — under Article 6 (high treason) for dissolving the National Assembly in April 2022.

"They are talking about banning a political party [PTI] that secured the highest number of votes," the PTI stalwart said.

Welcoming the Supreme Court's verdict declaring PTI eligible for reserved seats for women and minorities, the chief minister termed it the "victory of PTI's stance" on reserved seats matter.

He demanded Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja to step down following the verdict — which overturned the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) rulings to deny reserved seats to the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) successful candidates.

To another question, he replied that his party was "not in favour of ad hoc judges' appointments at the top court" and announced that the issue would be taken up in the assembly. He insisted that the appointments of the jurists should be based on merit instead of ad hoc basis.

He said that PTI founder

Imran Khan will decide on initiating political dialogue with the ruling parties.

After the government's decision drew condemnations from PTI political rivals, CM Gandapur termed it a political gimmick, asking the opponents to openly oppose the government's plan to ban the former ruling party.

He added that all parties should come forward with a united stance if they wanted to counter unjust move.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar clarified earlier in the day that the decision to impose a ban on the former ruling party has not been taken yet by the federal government.

Dar, while addressing a press conference in Lahore, said that Information Minister Tarar had clearly announced a day ago that the government would deliberate on the ban on the PTI and make a decision after consulting its allies.

The ruling PML-N faced a backlash following the PTI ban announcement which was strongly opposed by its major ally in the coalition government, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and other opposition parties. —RT/Agency

Two Soldiers, Five Civilians Martyred In Terrorist Attack On DI Khan Health Centre

ISLAMABAD: Seven people including two security forces' personnel and five civilians including children were martyred in a terrorist attack on the Rural Health Centre (RHC), Kirri Shamozai area in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday. As per the military's media wing, the civilians who lost their lives in the gun attack were the staff of RHC, including two lady health workers and a watchman of the facility, besides the two minors. "On the night between July 15 and 16, the terrorists carried out a cowardly attack on Rural Health Centre (RHC), Kirri Shamozai in Dera Ismail Khan District



and opened indiscriminate fire on RHC staff," the ISPR said in a statement after the incident. "Security forces in vicinity were immediately mobilised for clearance operation in RHC and in ensuing fire exchange, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists as a result of which three terrorists were sent to hell."

Meanwhile, the security forces personnel who were martyred during the intense exchange of fire were identified as Naib Subedar Muhammad Farooq, 44, and Sepoy Muhammad Javed Iqbal, 23. The military's media wing stated that sanitisation of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. —RT/Agency

Imran And Bushra Bibi Questioned For Four Hours By NAB In Toshakhana Case

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) grilled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi for about four hours in Adiala Jail in a new Toshakhana reference.

The anti-graft watchdog team, led by Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon, arrived at the jail at 11 am and left after 3 pm on Sunday.

The interrogation focused on allegations that the accused failed to deposit a Bulgarian set in the Toshakhana, sold the set at a low price, and violated the Toshakhana Procedure of 2018. They were also questioned about alleged abuse of authority, illegal use of



government assets, and selling these assets unlawfully. The Bureau arrested Khan and Bushra Bibi on Saturday evening and secured an eight-day physical remand on Sunday. Following the completion of this remand, the accused will be presented before the accountability court on July 22. Sources indicate that the investigation aims to uncover the misuse of official positions and misappropriation of state gifts, highlighting ongoing efforts to uphold accountability and transparency in government. —RT/Agency

8 Soldiers Martyred As Security Forces Neutralize 10 Terrorists In Bannu Clash

RAWALPINDI: At least eight Pakistan Army soldiers embraced martyrdom as security forces effectively thwarted a terrorist attack at Bannu Cantonment killing all 10 militants, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday.

The military's media wing said that the terrorists attacked the Bannu Cantonment in the early hours of July 15, but their attempt to enter the facility was effectively thwarted by the security forces personnel.

Following their failure to enter the premises, the militants rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the cantonment, said the ISPR.

The suicide blast, the ISPR said, led to the collapse of a portion of the wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure, re-



sulting in the martyrdom of eight brave sons of soil.

This timely and effective response by the security forces prevented a major catastrophe, saving precious innocent lives. The gallant and selfless action of the security forces is a testament to their unrelenting resolve in the fight against terrorism," read the statement.

The attack, as per the

appropriate against these threats emanating from Afghanistan.

It is to be noted that Pakistan, back in November 2023, had summoned the head of the Afghan diplomatic mission in Islamabad and demanded the extradition of terrorist Gul Bahadur — the leader of a faction of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Bannu Cantt attack comes as Islamabad time again called on the Afghan Taliban administration in Kabul to prevent its soil from being used by various banned outfits for terrorist attacks against Pakistan.

Last month, the government approved the launching of operation "Azm-e-Istehkam", a renewed national anti-terror drive, in light of the surge in terrorist

attacks in the country in recent months.

The country, during the second quarter of 2024 witnessed 380 violence-linked fatalities and 220 injuries among civilians, security personnel, and outlaws, resulting from as many as 240 incidents of terror attacks and counter-terror operations, said a Security Studies (CRSS) Annual Security report.

This includes 236 fatalities among civilians and security forces personnel, the report said. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, both of which share borders with neighbouring Afghanistan, have faced the brunt of the terrorist attacks and reported nearly 92% of all fatalities and 87% of attacks — wherein the former suffering 67% and the latter 25% of all fatalities in Q2, 2024. —RT/Agency

Fazl Blames Political Instability On Military Involvement



ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam chief Fazl-e-Islam has stated that one of the major reasons for instability in the country is the interference of military institutions.

Speaking at the JUI's provincial council session on Tuesday, Fazl said that powerful circles should understand that their interference in politics is detrimental to the country.

He pointed out that the results of the 2018 and 2024 elections have exposed widespread interference by institutions.

The JUI-F leader further stressed that Operation Azm-

e-Istehkam will exacerbate unrest across the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the council session, discussions were held on the overall national situation, and crucial decisions were made regarding tackling inflation, deteriorating security conditions, and other issues.

Plans were also prepared for upcoming events including a farmers' convention in Mardan on August 10, a traders' convention in Peshawar on August 11, and a peace rally in Lucky Marwat on August 18. —RT/Agency

Four Pakistanis Among Six Fatalities In Shooting Near Mosque In Oman

MUSCAT: At least six people including four Pakistanis and an Indian were killed by gunfire in the vicinity of a mosque in Oman's capital of Muscat, the Omani police said on Tuesday, a rare breach of security in one of the most stable countries in the Middle East.

Police say three gunmen behind attack were also killed as officers conclude "procedures for dealing with shooting".

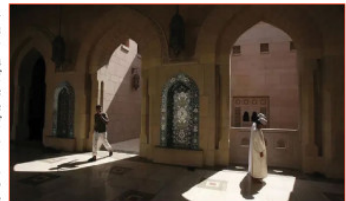
A police officer was among those killed in the gun attack, according to Omani officials.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Oman Imran Ali told The National that at least 50 Pakistani expatriate workers had been injured in the deadly attack, of which 20 were being "treated for bullet wounds in three hospitals in Muscat".

Others with minor injuries had been discharged, he added.

However, the Omani police said that 28 people of "various nationalities" including a security personnel were also wounded.

"The Royal Oman Police have responded to a shooting incident that occurred in the vicinity of a mosque in the Al-Wadi Al-Kabir area," police said in a statement.



They have not said whether they have identified a motive for the attack or if they had made any arrests. The identity of the attackers has also not been released.

The law enforcement officials also said that all security measures have been taken to deal with the situation while procedures are underway for collecting evidence and probing the attack.

According to the Embassy of Pakistan, a terrorist attack took place on July 15 in the Wadi Kabir Muscat area by unknown assailants.

It said that the authorities have cordoned off the area with drone and the surveillance is underway, adding that the operation by the Omani authorities started at 2:30am Muscat time after evacuation.

"Government has put up high alert and emergency at

state level as well as some injured are shifted to nearby hospitals," said the embassy, adding that it established an Emergency Response Centre and teams which are in contact with patients and their families.

It also mentioned that Ambassador of Pakistan in Oman Ali has visited the hospitals and meeting with affected Pakistani families.

Indian embassy in Oman confirmed the death of one of its citizens. In a statement posted on X, the embassy said that the casualties included one Indian national, while another was among the injured.

Meanwhile, US embassy in Muscat said it was following the situation closely.

"US citizens should remain vigilant, monitor local news and heed directions of local authorities," it said in a statement. —RT/Agency

PTI's Sanam Javaid Moved To KP House On Gandapur's Orders

KP: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Sanam Javaid has been shifted to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad on KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's orders, the CM's spokesperson confirmed on Tuesday. "KP CM was in touch with Javaid's father and husband," said Focal Person to CM Gandapur on Digital Media Yar Muhammad Khan Niazi, adding that the PTI activist along with her family would remain at the KP House in the federal capital. The spokesperson's remarks come a day after the prominent PTI campaigner got relief in her months-long legal woes after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered her release and stopped the police and other law enforcement agencies from arresting her. Javaid has faced arrests and re-arrests in multiple cases related to the May 9 riots, triggered after former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan's ar-



rest in a graft case, which saw several military installations being vandalised. She has been behind bars for almost a year, embroiled in various cases all linked to the vandalism and unrest triggered by Khan's arrest in May last year. Before a latest case lodged in Balochistan, there were 12 cases registered against her, including the Zaman Park vandalism, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) house fire and a Racecourse Police Station incident. She has been acquitted in a total of four cases counting the latest Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) case, and has acquired bail in the remaining eight cases. —RT/Agency

Mushir Alam Declines To Become Ad Hoc Supreme Court Judge

ISLAMABAD: Justice (ret) Mushir Alam has declined to accept the nomination for his appointment as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court.

"After careful deliberation, under present circumstances, it is with a heavy heart that I regret to inform you that I am unable to accept this esteemed appointment," read Justice (ret) Alam's letter addressed to SC Chief Justice and Chairman Judicial Commission Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

The former judge's refusal to accept the said post comes after sources told media that CJP Isa had nominated him along with Justice (ret) Maqbool Baqir (ret) Mazhar Alam (Miankhal) and Justice (ret) Sardar Tariq Masood for appointment as ad hoc judges due to increasing accumulation of cases.

A retired judge can be appointed ad hoc judge in three years or less and four former judges of the SC



have been proposed to be made ad hoc judges for three years.

The meeting of the Judicial Commission will be held on July 19 at 3pm in the top court's conference room.

Appointment of ad hoc judges is aimed at ensuring more cases are decided than instituted and to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, the cases which are pending adjudge for several years, said the SC notification.

As per the statistics reflected in the bi-annual report of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan,

the number of pending cases in the courts surged to 2.26 million during the second half of the year 2023, increasing the overall percentage of cases by 3.9%.

The report revealed that 82% of the pending cases (1.86 million) were at the district judiciary level and the remaining 18% (0.39 million cases) were at the upper tier, including the SC, Federal Shariat Court, and high courts. As per the report, 2.38 million new cases were filed during the period, while the courts managed to decide 2.30 million cases. —RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



UMERKOT: MPA Rajveer Singh Sodho is meeting with the area notables, who reached to felicitate him after being posted as the Advisor to Sindh CM.—RT

PTI has still not evolved into a political party: CM Sindh



By Abdul Qudoos Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed deep sorrow and regret over the situation, stating that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is not just a political party but a commitment for us.

This he said while talking to the media after offering condolence over the sad demise of the PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Chief Media Coordinator Nazir Dhoki. Sindh CM lauded the services of Nazir Dhoki rendered for the party and extended assured the bereaved family of full support in this time of sorrow. He added that the PPP Chairmen could not offer condolence as he is out of country and there were many security threats also due to Muharram-ul-Haram.

The Sindh CM further said that the PTI has still not become a political party due to which its leadership is responsible of all the conditions being created for it including banning the party. If the PTI becomes a political party then PPP can raise voice for it. On the occasion, former CM Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah, Syed Javed Ali Shah, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Dr Mahreen Bhutto, Dr Nafisa Shah and others were also present.



JACOBABAD: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is visiting the Control Room at Pir Bukhari Point and getting a briefing on security measures for the 10th Muharram processions.—RT

CM Murad Reviews Muharram Arrangements in Sukkur

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: The Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements for Muharram processions and gatherings during a briefing held at the Mayor's House in Sukkur. This crucial meeting was attended by Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi, DIG Pir Muhammad Shah, and Deputy Commissioner Sukkur Dr. Muhammad Bux Dharejo, who provided detailed updates on the preparations undertaken to ensure the security and comfort of mourners during this significant period.



Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, Dr. M.B. Raja Dharejo, provided further insights into the expected scale of participation and the logistical arrangements made. It is anticipated that around 90,000 mourners will converge in Rohri for the processions on the 9th and 10th of Muharram. The district will host a total of 1,209 Majalis, 145 mourning processions, and 74 Imambargahs. To oversee these activities, four additional control rooms have been established for the effective supervision of the mourning processions. These control rooms will operate throughout Muharram, with special attention on the main processions scheduled for the 5th and 9th of Muharram.

In an effort to enhance the comfort of the participants, 32 umbrella fans have been installed along the main procession routes. Additionally, over 700 street lights have been set up to ensure adequate lighting, and 15 portable wash-room containers have been strategically placed to provide sanitation facilities for the mourners. Shuttle services have also been arranged to assist mourners in reaching the main procession sites, demonstrating the administration's commitment to their convenience and safety.

personnel have been deployed to provide security and manage crowd control during the events. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, while expressing his satisfaction with the arrangements, emphasized the importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of the mourners. He issued directives for comprehensive security measures and adequate provisions for all participants. "Our aim is to ensure that the arrangements are foolproof and that we can provide a secure and conducive environment for the mourners during Muharram," stated CM Shah.

The meticulous planning and execution of these arrangements reflect the administration's dedication to facilitating a peaceful and respectful observance of Muharram. The collaborative efforts of various departments and officials underscore the commitment to upholding tradition while prioritizing the safety and comfort of the community.

As Muharram approaches, the measures in place promise to support the mourners in their solemn commemorations, ensuring that the events proceed smoothly and respectfully.

Tando Bago's growers rally against acute water shortage

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: A protest demonstration was recorded in Tando Bago against the shortage of water in Hadachhar Branch. They accused the irrigation department of failing to provide water to the farmers despite ample water being available at the Kotri barrage. They attributed the water crisis in Badin Tando Bago road and blocked the Main Badin Tando Bago road by placing heavy vehicles and other obstacles. During the protests, leaders including SUP leader Ameer Azad Panhor, Dilbar Sindhi, Lala Nawaz Shaikh, Gul Muhammad Gurgez,

Abdul Ghafoor Chandio and others stated that a severe water crisis is ongoing in all canals, including the Hadachhar branch. They accused the irrigation department of failing to provide water to the farmers despite ample water being available at the Kotri barrage. They attributed the water crisis in Badin Tando Bago road and blocked the Main Badin Tando Bago road by placing heavy vehicles and other obstacles. During the protests, leaders including SUP leader Ameer Azad Panhor, Dilbar Sindhi, Lala Nawaz Shaikh, Gul Muhammad Gurgez,

Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider reviews arrangements for Youm-e-Ashura

By Farooq Junjo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division, Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider, visited various mourning processions' routes and Murtazavi Imbargah, Qamar Bani Hashim, and Imbargah Husainiya Sajjadiya last night in connection with Youm-e-Ashura. He reviewed the security, cleanliness, lighting, and other arrangements and met with the organizers to understand their issues. Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Shehryar Gul Memon, Mayor Qazi Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti, Deputy Mayor Mubashir Arain, DSP Police Abdul Hamid Jalbani, and Municipal Commissioner Abdul Razaq Shaikh accompanied the Commissioner. During the discussions with the organizers, the Commissioner stated that the divisional and district administrations, with the help of the police, are providing security to the mourning processions and gatherings, as well as every possible

facility to the mourners. He emphasized that maintaining law and order in the division is a top priority. The Commissioner further remarked that Karbala teaches the lesson of patience and support for the oppressed. He stressed the importance of working together to promote unity among Muslims, which is essential for societal harmony, peace, and the country's development and stability. He added that the philosophy of Hazrat Imam Hussain's (AS) martyrdom teaches standing up against oppression and supporting the oppressed. He emphasized that understanding Hazrat Imam Hussain's (AS) philosophy of sacrifice is more necessary today than ever before. Before this, the Commissioner also visited Safe City Police Line and reviewed the city through CCTV cameras. On this occasion, Safe City In-charge Mahmood Akhtar Arain briefed the Commissioner about the monitoring of mourning processions' routes and gatherings through CCTV cameras.

Umerkot notables felicitate MPA Rajveer Singh Sodho on his appointment as the CM Sindh's Advisor

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The recent appointment of MPA Rajveer Singh Sodho as the Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sindh has brought a wave of excitement and activity in Umerkot. This prestigious appointment is being celebrated by many in the community, who see it as a recognition of Sodho's commitment and service.



UMERKOT: The recent appointment of MPA Rajveer Singh Sodho as the Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sindh has brought a wave of excitement and activity in Umerkot. This prestigious appointment is being celebrated by many in the community, who see it as a recognition of Sodho's commitment and service.

MPA Sodho has been a significant political figure in the region, known for his dedication to addressing local issues and improving the lives of his constituents. The meeting with area notables was an event marked by both celebration and discussion of future plans. Notables from various walks of life, including community leaders, business owners, and representatives from various sectors, gathered to congratulate Sodho and express their support for his new role. The atmosphere was one of optimism and anticipation, with many hopeful that Sodho's new position will bring positive changes to the region.

During the meeting, Sodho expressed his gratitude for the support and trust placed in him. He emphasized his commitment to working closely with the community to address pressing issues such as infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between the government and the local community to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life for all residents. Sodho's appointment is seen as a strategic move by the Sindh government to strengthen its presence and influence in the region. His deep understanding of local issues and his ability to connect with the community are expected to be valuable assets in his advisory role. Many believe that Sodho's appointment will help bridge the gap between the government and the people, ensuring that the voices of the community are heard and addressed at the highest levels of government. The meeting also provided an opportunity for local leaders to voice their concerns and suggestions directly to Sodho. Topics such as agricultural development, water management, and rural development were discussed in detail. Sodho assured the attendees that their feedback would be taken into consideration in the formulation of policies and programs aimed at regional development. Overall, the meeting was a significant step towards strengthening the relationship between the government and the community. It underscored the importance of dialogue and collaboration in achieving common goals. With MPA Rajveer Singh Sodho at the helm as an advisor, there is a renewed sense of hope and determination among the people of Umerkot to work towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

Daulatpur's Junejo Community Protests Against Influential Landlord Jam Feroz Unar

By Aijaz Ali Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Residents of village of Mithu Marri in Qazi Ahmed taluka, led by Muhammad Siddique Junejo, Haji Yousuf Junejo, Haji Khan Junejo, Ghulam Abbas Junejo, and others, staged a protest in front of the Daulatpur Press Club. They were demanding justice against the alleged excesses committed by influential landlord Jam Feroz Unar.



The protesters alleged that Jam Feroz Unar had filed eight false FIRs against their relatives without any justification. They claimed that the Qazi Ahmed police, acting under the influence of the landlord, raided their homes daily to intimidate them. The protesters stated that Unar's ultimate goal was to displace them and seize their land. Additionally, the protesters accused Unar's henchman, Dino Lakho, of colluding with Dr. Asif to issue false medical certificates in exchange for bribes. They claimed, they fabricated false cases against them. The community leaders said their lives had become unbearable due to these injustices. Muhammad Siddique Junejo, speaking on behalf of the protesters, said, "We have been living in constant fear and harassment. Our homes are raided, our families threatened, and our livelihoods at risk. We demand that the authorities take immediate action to stop these illegal activities and provide us with justice." The protesters called on Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, IG Sindh, DIG, and SSP Shaheed Benazirabad to take notice of the injustices being perpetrated by Jam Feroz Unar. They demanded the cancellation of the false FIRs and immediate intervention to protect their rights. Haji Yousuf Junejo added, "We have approached various authorities, but our pleas have fallen on deaf ears. We are left with no choice but to protest and bring attention to our plight. We urge the government to step in and ensure that justice is served." The protest was a clear demonstration of the community's frustration and desperation. They carried placards and banners, chanting slogans against the landlord and calling for justice. The peaceful protest drew the attention of passersby and local media, highlighting the severity of their grievances. The allegations against Jam Feroz Unar and his associates are serious and paint a picture of systematic abuse of power and corruption. The involvement of local police and medical professionals in these alleged activities further complicates the situation, making it imperative for higher authorities to intervene. The protesters vowed to continue their demonstrations until their demands were met. They expressed hope that their voices would be heard and that justice would prevail. The protest at Daulatpur Press Club was just one step in their ongoing struggle against oppression and injustice.

HESCO continues excessive load shedding during Muharram in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The authorities in Badin have canceled Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement not to cut off electricity during Muharram. Due to power outages, Imbargahs, mosques, and hospitals are facing significant issues, causing

severe anxiety among mourners and patients. The local community has strongly condemned this action, highlighting the injustice of sending heavy bills to consumers while cutting off electricity during the intense heat of Muharram. They have demanded that the Chief

and the Commissioner of Hyderabad take notice of HESCO's behavior towards Badin's electricity consumers and ensure the provision of electricity. They have also warned that if this issue is not resolved, they will file cases in court and protest against HESCO's actions.



KHAIRPUR: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is condoling the death of PPP leader Nazir Dhoki, at Pir Jo Goth.—RT

NATIONAL



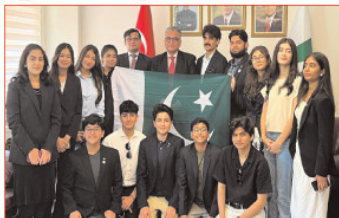
Pakistani Students Win Top Awards in Turkiye's Largest Public Speaking Contest

Nine Pakistan students emerged victorious in their respective committees winning distinguished awards in Turkiye's largest public speaking competition – the Istanbul University Model United Nations – held from July 8 to 11, 2024, according to a statement issued by Pakistan Consulate General Istanbul.

The statement said that the Consul General hosted a group of 13 students who participated in the speaking event held at Istanbul University.

It was a composite team of 13 students selected from Bay View Academy, Nixor O'Levels, Karachi Grammar School and The Cedar School, the statement added.

The competition, established in 1453, is one of the largest public speaking moots in Europe. "Boasting 57 disciplines, 10,000 students from over 143 different countries, the university has had many notable alumni, including former Turkish President Mr. Ab-



dullah Gul, and former Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Taran Gunes. The competition hosted over 750 students from more than 17 countries in addition to students from Turkey. The team from Pakistan consisted of some of the youngest students at the conference, competing against college and university level students," the press release said.

"The competition consisted of four days of intense debate across 10 debate committees. The Consul General of Pakistan in Istanbul, H.E. Mr. Nauman

Aslam, hosted the Pakistan team and their trainer at the Pakistan Consulate and congratulated the team on their achievement.

Pakistan's consul general emphasised the need for positive cultural and educational exchanges between Pakistan and Turkiye to assist in projecting Pakistan's soft image abroad. He also stressed the deepening of linkages between educational institutions of both countries and stated that the Pakistan Mission in Turkiye is always ready to assist students in any way it can.—RT/Agency

Gandapur Pledges to Eradicate Terrorists at All Costs



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has vowed to fight and eliminate terrorism at all costs.

Addressing the media, he criticized the restrictions imposed on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) by those in power.

He highlighted the ongoing challenges facing the country, including deteriorating law and order and the provinces being denied their legitimate rights.

The Chief Minister asserted that PTI's stance on the Election Commission was justified and expressed gratitude to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

He called for the resignation of the Election Commissioner and emphasized the

need to follow proper procedures for the appointment of judges in the Supreme Court, rejecting ad hoc appointments.

Gandapur urged political opponents to engage in dialogue rather than making divisive statements to save their political careers. He lamented the injustices faced by PTI and the unfair treatment meted out to the party.

On a positive note, he mentioned that his government has successfully reduced line losses, leading to a decrease in load shedding.

Furthermore, he announced plans to install solar panels for citizens, aiming to improve energy access and sustainability in the province.—RT/Agency

Political Leaders Condemn Bannu Terrorist Attack, Praise Security Forces

ISLAMABAD: Political leaders across Pakistan have united in condemnation of the terrorist attack on Bannu Cantonment, lauding the swift and courageous response of security forces that thwarted the assault.

They also prayed for the martyred soldiers and expressed solidarity with their grieving families.

President Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi were among the dignitaries who strongly denounced the attack, expressing solidarity with the families of the martyred soldiers and emphasizing the nation's resilience in combating terrorism.

President Zardari commended the security forces for their timely action and paid tribute to them for foiling the terrorist attack, which he stated prevented significant loss to the nation. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to eradicating terrorist elements.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also strongly con-



demned the terrorist attack and paid homage to the martyred personnel of the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps (FC). He also expressed condolences to the families of the soldiers.

He underscored that their sacrifices were pivotal in the ongoing battle against terrorism, and reassured the nation of unwavering support for security forces in this critical endeavour.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi echoed similar sentiments, praising the bravery of the security personnel who thwarted the terrorists' plans.

He said the brave men of the country had sacrificed their lives and thwarted the terrorists' plans.

Naqvi insisted that the enemy was plotting to create instability in Pakistan, and emphasized the importance of national unity in overcoming terrorism. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Privatisation and Communications Minister Abdul Aleem Khan also condemned the attack.—RT/Agency

'Ban Military Interference, Not Political Parties,' Says ANP's Aimal Wali

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) President Aimal Wali Khan has voiced his opposition to the government's decision to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), despite political and ideological differences.

"We oppose the ban on PTI. Our history shows that we have never supported undemocratic and dictatorial measures," Wali Khan lamented on Tuesday.

He recalled that the precedent for banning political parties in Pakistan was set by military dictator General Ayub Khan, he added that lessons from history are often ignored in the country.

It has emerged the PML-N-led government has not taken all coalition partners on board before announcing a ban on PTI on Monday. Earlier, Central Secretary Information of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Shazia Marri, reacted to the decision to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stating that PPP was not taken into confidence regarding this decision, adding that the party will discuss the government's decision internally.

ANP's leader criticised the shifting allegiances to-



wards military leadership depending on political power. "In power, the army chief is treated like a father, but once out of office, the same figure is branded as a traitor," he remarked.

He further highlighted the irony in political slogans, stating, "Respect the vote" is only chanted when out of power, but once in control, that "vote" becomes "boor".

He drew parallels between the current government and PTI's actions between 2018 and 2022. "The game and its reference remain unchanged; only the players have switched sides. Those who benefited from this dirty game yesterday are suffer-

ing today," he commented. He also noted the cyclical nature of political power in Pakistan.

"Today's beneficiaries will be tomorrow's victims, who will once again raise hollow slogans of revolution and democracy when out of power."

Khan stated, rather ironically, "The military dictator who set the trend of imposing bans now sees his grandson's party facing a ban."

He reiterated that the ANP, valuing democratic traditions, cannot support any ban on political parties. "If a ban is to be imposed, it should be on the military's interference in politics," he concluded.—RT/Agency

Children Among 14 Injured in Traffic Accident



Sibi: Fourteen persons, including three children and 10 women, sustained injuries after a Quetta-bound over speeding pickup vehicle turned turtle in Sibi area of Balochistan province on Tuesday.

According to rescue sources, Quetta-bound pick up vehicle overturned in Sibi, result-

antly, 14 persons were injured. The injured were rushed to a hospital in Sibi where after providing initial treatment, four injured stated to be in critical condition, were referred to Quetta for further treatment. Further investigation was being conducted by the authorities.—RT/Agency

LESCO Lifts Ban on Green Meters for Solar Systems



Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has lifted the ban on green meters used in solar systems.

According to sources, LESCO has issued the notification to lift the ban on green meters for solar systems.

According to the notification, the temporary installation of bi-directional green meters is permitted until October 15.

The notification said consumers will be given a No Objection Certificate (NOC)

for bi-directional green meters for solar systems.

It is noteworthy to mention that LESCO had ordered the installation of AMI meters instead of green meters starting from July 1, 2024. The notification for AMI meters resulted in a significant price increase. Due to a shortage of stock at meter manufacturing companies, the supply of meters had become impossible, so now the government has lifted the ban on green meters.—RT/Agency

PML-Q Urges Caution on PTI Ban

The Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) expressed on Tuesday caution regarding the federal government's decision to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Expressing his thoughts, PML-Q spokesperson Mustafa Malik emphasised that the government should avoid rushing into a ban on the PTI. He stated, "The heart of the country is big, and it must show broad ability and the PTI must also reflect on its behaviour, as the country cannot tolerate extremism."

Malik said: "PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain's stance on the issue is clear that the government must substantiate the reasons for the ban on the PTI before the Supreme Court."

Rebuking the PTI, he said, "The PTI as a political party and the opposition had not fulfilled its responsibilities."

Malik warned that escalating confrontations could hinder the path to political and economic stability in the country.



On the other hand, JI Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman on Monday said that the decision to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) reflects "fascism."

Reacting to the government's decision to ban the PTI, Rehman said: "There is no room for such decisions in democratic societies. There exist both the constitution and courts in this country."

He took a dig at the government, saying, "Only the political parties with the dictatorial mindset can think this way."

Meanwhile, JI acting emir Liaquat Baloch condemned the government's

decision during a press conference describing it as a "mockery of the constitution, democracy, and the parliamentary system."

He criticised the government for what he termed "negative politics," asserting that a controversial and unrepresentative government has no right to ban any political party.

Baloch emphasised that such undemocratic tactics pose a significant threat to both the constitution and democracy in Pakistan. He warned that the announcement would likely lead to increased instability and negative consequences for the country.—RT/Agency

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Punjab Ministers Azma Bukhari, Zeeshan Rafique Review Muharram Arrangements in Toba Tek Singh on CM Maryam Nawaz's Orders

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBATEK SINGH: Following the directives of Punjab's Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Provincial Minister of Information Azma Bukhari and Provincial Minister for Local Government, Zeeshan Rafique visited Toba Tek Singh to review arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram. They were warmly welcomed at the DPO Office by DPO Toba Tek Singh, Ibadat Nisar, and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sindhu.

The provincial ministers held a detailed meeting at the DPO Office to discuss security measures and other arrangements related to Muharram-ul-Haram. In attendance were DPO Toba, Ibadat Nisar, Deputy Commissioner Naem Sindhu, members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, and their representatives. The meeting focused on ensuring the safety and security of mourners during processions and gatherings.

DPO Ibadat Nisar and Deputy Commissioner Naem Sindhu provided a comprehensive briefing on the security measures in place. They highlighted the deployment of additional police personnel, the establishment of control rooms, and the coordination with various law enforcement agencies to

maintain peace and order. The ministers were informed about the use of technology, such as surveillance cameras, to monitor key locations and prevent any untoward incidents.

Following the meeting, the provincial ministers, along with district police and administration officials, conducted a flag march throughout the district. This march was a demonstration of the government's commitment to maintaining law and order during Muharram. It was also aimed at reassuring the public of the security measures in place.

The ministers then visited the control room established for Muharram-ul-Haram, where they inspected the monitoring systems and received updates on the real-time surveillance of processions. They also toured the routes of significant processions to assess the arrangements firsthand. During these visits, the ministers interacted with members of the District Peace Committee, emphasizing the importance of community cooperation in maintaining peace.

DPO Toba Tek Singh assured the ministers that fool-proof security arrangements had been made for processions and gatherings. He stated that members of the peace committee would accompany processions to resolve any issues promptly

and prevent disruptions. Continuous monitoring of social media platforms was also highlighted as a key measure to address any potential threats or misinformation.

The primary objective of the visit was to ensure peace and security during Yaum-e-Muharram and to evaluate the measures taken for public safety. The ministers expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements and praised the efforts of security personnel and the administration. They reiterated the government's commitment to protecting the public and ensuring a peaceful observance of Muharram.

Provincial Minister Azma Bukhari commended the coordination and preparedness of the district administration. She emphasized the need for vigilance and proactive measures to address any emerging challenges. Minister Zeeshan Rafique echoed these sentiments, stating that the government's priority is the safety and well-being of its citizens.

The visit concluded with a pledge to continue working together to maintain peace and security during Muharram and beyond. The ministers assured the public that the government is taking all possible steps to ensure their protection and convenience during this sacred period.

Data Ganj Bakhsh's Urs Commences in Lahore

LAHORE: The 981st annual Urs celebrations of renowned sufi saint Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh Ali Hajwary (RA) started in Lahore today.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar along with Provincial Ministers and officers performed Ghul of the shrine with rose water. On the occasion, prayers were offered for development, peace and prosperity of the country. Thousands of devotees are visiting the shrine.

Data Ganj Bakhsh was a 11th-century Sunni Muslim scholar and mystic from Ghaznavid Empire, who became famous for composing the Kashf al-

ma'jub, which is considered the "earliest formal treatise" on Sufism in Persian.

He is believed to have contributed "significantly" to the spread of Islam in South Asia through his preaching, with one historian describing him as "one of the most important figures to have spread Islam in the Indian subcontinent."

In the present day, Data Ganj Bakhsh is venerated as the main saint of Lahore, Pakistan by the traditional Sunni Muslims of the area. He is, moreover, one of the most widely venerated saints in the entire South Asia, and his tomb-shrine in Lahore, popularly

known as Data Darbar, is one of the most frequented shrines in South Asia.

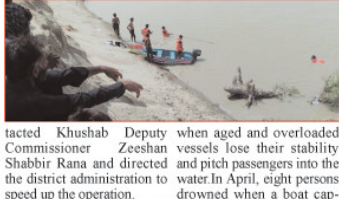
At present, it is Pakistan's largest shrine "in numbers of annual visitors and in the size of the shrine complex," and, having been nationalized in 1960, is managed today by the Department of Awaqaf and Religious Affairs of the Punjab.

He migrated to Punjab from Afghanistan and brought the light of Islam to a land where majority of the people were Hindus. Data Ganj Bakhsh was born in Ghazni, in present-day Afghanistan, in around 1009 to Uthman ibn Ali or Bu Ali.—RT/Agency

Boat Capsizes in Khushab: 4 Teenagers Rescued, 6 Missing

KHUSHAB: Four teenagers were rescued while six remained missing as a boat capsized in Khushab's Noorpur Thal teshil on Tuesday, according to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

According to a statement from the Punjab PDMA spokesperson, the rescue team immediately reached the location and began searching for the teenagers, who were all said to be between 14 and 16-years-old. "Four youths have been rescued and the search for the rest is on," the statement said. It added that Punjab PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia also con-



tacted Khushab Deputy Commissioner Zeeshan Shabbir Rana and directed the district administration to speed up the operation. "Strict legal action should be taken against those who put youth on the boat without life jackets," the statement quoted DG Kathia as saying. All of the teenagers belonged to the rural village of Pelowaince. Mass drownings are common in Pakistan

when aged and overloaded vessels lose their stability and pitch passengers into the water. In April, eight persons drowned when a boat capsized in the Indus River near Kund Park in the Nowshera district on the second day of Eidul Fitr. Separately, a woman and five children were killed after a boat ferrying them across a swollen river capsized in Indian-held Kashmir.—RT/Agency

Protests decry atrocities being committed against Kashmiris

SRINAGAR: People took to streets in Kupwara district in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir against anti-people policies of the Modi-installed regime in the territory. According to a Kashmir Media Service report on Tuesday, residents of Tangdar in Karnah area of the district came out of their houses to protest against the deplorable condition of the roads and lack of other

basic amenities. The roads have been plagued by deep potholes, sand accumulation, dust, and the absence of protective walls, posing serious safety hazards, resulting in traffic accidents every now and then. The locals, voicing their frustration, have demanded immediate blacktopping of the roads and the construction of protective walls to prevent further loss of lives in accidents.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, July 17, 2024



Medieval Healthcare In Sindh Exposes Government's Shameful Neglect

The recent incident in Sindh's Dadu district, where a woman was treated on a donkey cart at a government hospital in Khairpur Nathan Shah, is a stark and shameful illustration of the medieval state of healthcare in the province. This appalling event, caught on video, has rightly provoked outrage, highlighting the dire conditions and abject neglect in Sindh's healthcare system, despite the provincial government's substantial budget. For too long, Sindh's heartland, which consistently votes for the PPP-led government, has endured this gross negligence. The lack of basic medical facilities, such as stretchers, in a province that supposedly receives millions for healthcare, is not only embarrassing but also a severe indictment of the provincial administration's priorities and effectiveness. This incident

must serve as a final wake-up call for the Sindh government to address its systemic failures. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari must take immediate



and decisive action. He must publicly admonish the Sindh government for this shocking revelation and declare that this level of apathy and incompetence will no longer be tolerated. The people of Sindh deserve far better than a healthcare system that fails to provide even the most basic necessities. Furthermore, the federal government and its coalition partners, including the PPP, need to shift their focus away from

political bickering and towards delivering tangible improvements in governance and public services. The current obsession with banning political opponents must end, and the government should concentrate on fulfilling its primary duty to the citizens: providing good governance, which includes ensuring access to quality healthcare. The video of the woman on a donkey cart receiving medical treatment should haunt every public official responsible for this disgraceful state of affairs. It is a glaring reminder of the urgent need for reform and accountability in Sindh's healthcare system. Enough is enough. The people of Sindh can no longer be subjected to such indignity and neglect. It is high time for the Sindh government to step up and deliver the healthcare services its citizens rightfully deserve.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Qadri Movement's Pir Syed Muhammad Sardar Ali Shah Jilani Pays Tribute to Martyrs of Karbala



By Azhar Kubar

SETHARJA: In a grand assembly at Dargah Shadi Faqir, the Qadri Movement, led by Pir Syed Muhammad Sardar Ali Shah Jilani and Pir Syed Muhammad Ismail Ali Shah Jilani, paid tribute to the timeless sacrifice of Syed al-Shuhada Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions in the field of Karbala. The event was a solemn reminder of the enduring legacy of Hazrat Imam Hussain's (AS) martyrdom for the survival of Islam.

Pir Syed Muhammad Sardar Ali Shah Jilani, addressing the gathering, emphasized the significance of the sacrifices made by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). He stated, "The martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) is a beacon of truth and justice. His unwavering stance against tyranny and his ultimate sacrifice for the preservation of Islamic principles continue to inspire generations."

Pir Syed Muhammad Ismail Ali Shah Jilani echoed these sentiments, highlighting the importance of re-

membering and honoring the sacrifices of Karbala. He said, "Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions set an unparalleled example of courage and faith. Their sacrifice is a testament to the strength of belief and the willingness to stand against oppression, no matter the cost."

The event at Dargah Shadi Faqir was marked by various activities, including recitations, sermons, and prayers. Followers of the Qadri Movement from different regions attended the assembly, reflecting on the lessons of Karbala and its relevance to contemporary challenges. The atmosphere was one of reverence and reflection, with participants deeply moved by the tributes paid to the martyrs.

Pir Syed Muhammad Sardar Ali Shah Jilani also spoke about the need for unity and resilience in the face of adversity. He urged the followers to embody the principles of justice, compassion, and steadfastness as demonstrated by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). "In our times of trial, let us draw strength

from the sacrifices of Karbala. Let us remain united and uphold the values of truth and righteousness," he added.

The assembly concluded with prayers for peace, justice, and the well-being of the community. The attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to the ideals upheld by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). The event was a powerful reminder of the enduring impact of Karbala on the collective conscience of the Muslim Ummah.

The Qadri Movement's tribute to the martyrs of Karbala underscores the continuing relevance of their sacrifice in today's world. It serves as a call to action for individuals and communities to stand against injustice and to strive for a society based on ethical and moral principles. The message of Karbala, as conveyed by Pir Syed Muhammad Sardar Ali Shah Jilani and Pir Syed Muhammad Ismail Ali Shah Jilani, remains a guiding light for all who seek to uphold the values of Islam.

-Can you believe this? Handcuffed thief escapes from Daulatpur Police's custody



By Aijaz Ali Jochio

DAULATPUR: A man named Shahid Kori, who was apprehended by local residents for stealing two goats, managed to escape from police custody despite being handcuffed. The incident occurred after the locals handed him over to Daulatpur Police. Following the escape, a protest was led by Dildar Gaincho, Mukhtar Gaincho, Ghulam Mustafa Gaincho, and others against the police's performance. The protesters demanded the immediate re-arrest of the thief and criticized the police for their negligence.

This incident brought to light the challenges faced by law enforcement in maintaining custody of detainees and the community's expectation for accountability and effective policing. The protest underscored the need for improved security measures and stricter protocols to prevent such occurrences in the future.

SSP Captain (Retd) Asad Ali Chaudhry reviews security arrangements in MPK

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: SSP Mirpurkhas, Captain (Retd) Asad Ali Chaudhry, personally reviewed the security arrangements for the mourning processions in Kot Ghulam Muhammad, Mirwah, and Mirpurkhas City. During his visits, he met with police officers on duty and emphasized the importance of thorough checks for all mourners entering the processions.

He stressed the need for heightened vigilance to ensure the safety of citizens, commending the officers for their diligent work. Alongside him were officials from Civil Defense, Rangers, CIA In-charge Inayat Ali Zardari, and DIB In-charge Danish Ahmed. Their collective efforts aimed to maintain law and order, ensuring that the religious observances proceed without any incidents.

The SSP's visit under-



scored the commitment of law enforcement agencies to provide a secure environment for the participants of the Muharram processions. His presence and active involvement were appreciated by both the officers and the community members, who felt reassured by the stringent security measures in place.

Jacobabad's Dr. Wali Muhammad Khan Pathan secures first position in PFCPS Exam from Sindh

By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: Pathan community notable, Haji Abdul Wahid Khan Pathan has expressed great pride in his nephew, Dr. Wali Muhammad Khan Pathan, who passed the FCPS Gastroenterology examination in Islamabad with an A grade, securing first position at the Sindh level. On this occasion, Haji Abdul Wahid Khan Pathan, remarked, "I am proud that he



passing the exam. On this occasion, members of the social society, doctors, and political leaders extended their congratulations to Dr. Wali Muhammad Khan.

Dr. Wali Khan expressed gratitude, saying, "I thank Allah Almighty and with the prayers of my family and my uncle Haji Abdul Wahid Khan Pathan, I am determined to serve the needy people of Jacobabad tirelessly in my current position."

MPK Laborer protests for recovery of his wife and children

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: A laborer named Muejeb Ahmed Jatt from Mehmoodabad staged a protest demanding the recovery of his wife and children, who he claimed were detained by his in-laws. Speaking to the media, Muejeb Ahmed accused his father-in-law Ramzan Arain and brother-in-law Abdul Rehman of issuing threats and detaining his family.

He expressed his desperation, stating that he would escalate his protest if his wife and children were not returned. The emotional appeal highlighted the personal struggles and conflicts faced by many individuals, drawing legal intervention into the need for domestic disputes.



He expressed his desperation, stating that he would escalate his protest if his wife and children were not returned. The emotional appeal highlighted the personal struggles and conflicts faced by many individuals, drawing legal intervention into the need for domestic disputes.

-Can you believe this? 2-year-old boy tortured to death in TMK

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Near the city of Tando Muhammad Khan, in the village of Deh Baran Kolhi, a two-year-old innocent boy named Dilbar, son of Ranjho Kolhi, was held hostage and brutally killed by a young man. The young man allegedly strangled and brutally tortured the child to death in an agricultural field, then discarded the body in a hedge and easily escaped. The villagers brought the boy's body back to their home, where his mother, upon seeing the lifeless body, screamed in agony and fainted. The body was then taken to a government hospital for a post-mortem examination, where the hospital administration informed the police and sent the relatives to the police station for a letter. The B-Section

police gave a letter to the relatives and sent them back, but no FIR was registered regarding the incident. In response to the brutal murder, the Kolhi community, including women, men, and nationalist activists, held a protest and chanted slogans. The mother of the murdered child, Rekha, along with his grandmother Lali, grandmother Rashi Kolhi, nationalist leaders Javed Halipoto, Ali Sher Parhiyar, Saleem Halipoto, and others, accused the young man Zakir Laghari of holding a minor boy hostage and brutally torturing and killing him, breaking his arms and legs. They criticized the B-Section police for not registering an FIR for the murder and demanded the immediate arrest of the culprit and the filing of an FIR against him. They warned that the protest

would continue if no action was taken. Political and social circles in Tando Muhammad Khan strongly protested the brutal murder of the innocent child, demanding the registration of a murder case and the arrest of the brutal young man responsible.

Meanwhile, the police stated that the relatives had taken the child's body to Umerkot for final rites and would register an FIR upon their return, after which the police would proceed with further action and arrest the culprit. Villagers claimed that the main culprit, Zakir Laghari, had already been taken into custody. The father of the brutally murdered child, Ranjho, being a resident of Umerkot, had taken the body there, where the final rites were performed according to Hindu customs.

9th Muharram observed in Shadi Palli



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: On the occasion of 9th Muharram, a mourning procession was taken out from Shadi Palli Imambargah. The procession passed through various routes and culminated at Shadi Palli Railway Chowk. Due to the intense heat, some mourners fainted and were immediately provided with first aid.

Molvi Asad Iqbal Zaidi addressed the procession, emphasizing the significance of the sacrifices made by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions. Participants included Syed Aftab Hussain Shah, Master Ghulam Qadir, Syed Inayat Hussain Shah, Syed Imran Hussain Shah, Syed Sajid Ali Shah, Mola Baksh Wajjo, and Rab Nawaz Wajjo. Strict security arrangements were in place under the leadership of SHO Anwar Qaimkhani, with officers PC Muejeb Rehman, PC Bashir Panhwar, PC Saddam Hussain, and PC Noor Muhammad Hussain Bux Nahri ensuring the safety of the participants. At Civil Hospital Shadi Palli, Surgeon Dr. Gandhi Lal and his team provided immediate medical assistance to the injured mourners, demonstrating their dedication to public service during this important religious observance.

SPORTS



Bowlers star as Sixers down Strikers in home-scoring contest



COLOMBO: A combined bowling effort led Dambulla Sixers to defend a low total against home side Colombo Strikers in the 20th match of the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024 here on Tuesday.

Despite the 28-run victory, the Sixers crashed out of the playoffs race as they finished at the bottom with six points in eight matches.

Meanwhile, defending champions Kandy Falcons, who also boast alike record in the ongoing tournament, advanced into the next stage of the LPL 2024, owing to a superior net run rate.

Put into bat first, Dambulla Sixers recovered from a disastrous start to register 123 runs on the board.

The Sixers had lost half of their side inside eight overs with just 38 runs on the board.

Following the slump, Mohammad Nabi joined forces with Chamindu Wickramasinghe and launched an astounding recovery.

The duo batted sensibly and added 62 runs for the sixth wicket before Binura Fernando dismissed Nabu

on the 16th over.

The veteran all-rounder remained the top-scorer for the Sixers with a 33-ball 40, laced up with four fours and two sixes.

Wickramasinghe soon followed in his senior's footsteps and perished in the 18th over after scoring an important 26 off 29 deliveries.

Fernando led the bowling charge for the Strikers with 3/15, followed by Matheesha Pathirana and Dunith Wellalage, picking up two wickets each.

Chasing a modest 124, the Sixers' batting unit unfolded on a paltry 95 despite skipper Thisara Perera's fighting knock.

Perera waged a lone battle after coming out to bat at No.7 with the Strikers reeling at 48/5.

He scored a gutsy 30 off 31 deliveries with the sixes and was the last batter to be dismissed.

Nuwari Pradeep was the star with the ball for the Sixers with his three wickets while Chamindu Wickramasinghe bagged two.—Agency

Brian Lara names THIS player who he believes is better than himself, Tendulkar



West Indies legend Brian Lara, who has broken several records during his time as a cricketer, named a player who he believes more gifted than him and even India's Sachin Tendulkar.

Lara holds the record for the highest score by a batter in Tests (400) and First Class Cricket (501) while Tendulkar is the all-time leading run-scorer in both Tests (15,921) and ODIs (18,426).

However, Lara named his former teammate Carl Hooper the best player he has ever seen in terms of raw talent.

"Carl was easily one of the best players I've ever seen. I would say that not even Tendulkar and myself would come close to that talent. Separate Carl's career from playing to captaining and his numbers are very different. As a captain he averaged near to 50, so he enjoyed the responsibility. It's

said that only as a captain did he fulfil his true potential," Lara wrote in his new book, as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

Lara also picked two players each from England and India who he believes can break his record of 400 runs in a Test innings.

"There were players in my time who challenged, or at least went past the 300 mark — Virender Sehwag, Chris Gayle, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Sanath Jayasuriya. They were pretty much aggressive players," Lara told The Daily Mail.

"How many aggressive players do you have playing today? Especially in the England team. Zak Crawley and Harry Brook. Maybe in the Indian team? Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill. If they find the right situation, the records could be broken — both of them," he added.—Agency

Colombia football head, son arrested on battery charge after Copa America



The head of the Colombian Football Federation Ramon Jesurun and his son Ramon Jamil were arrested after a getting involved in a conflict during the Copa America final in Miami on Sunday.

The 71-year-old top football official and his 43-year-old son were taken into custody by the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) on charges of battery involving a sports official or employee.

The charges stem from an altercation at the stadium after Colombia's 1-0 loss to Argentina during extra time.

However, neither Ramon nor his son have publicly commented on the issue.

What happened? A statement from the

MDPD said that the altercation occurred immediately after the football match at the Hard Rock Stadium in Florida, the BBC reported.

It suggested that Ramon and his son were "walking towards the entrance of the field" but they became "irate and began shouting" at one of the security officers, who was instructed by his man-

Ramon's son also grabbed and pushed a female official who tried to assist, the police said.

It added that the two men had also punched a security manager.

Ramon, his son and other family members are believed to have been trying to go on the pitch to take part in the awards ceremony.

The start of the final of the Americas' most prestigious football tournament was delayed by 80 minutes after ticketless fans forced their way into stadium, leading to several arrests after clashes with police and security personnel.

Meanwhile several supporters needed treatment from paramedics.—Agency

England unveil Playing XI for second West Indies Test



England have announced their Playing XI for the second Test match against the West Indies, scheduled to commence at Trent Bridge on Thursday, 18 July.

The hosts, who lead the three-match series 1-0, made one change to their Playing XI as Durham pacer Mark Wood replaced James Anderson, who concluded his decorated career on a winning note as England crushed West Indies by an innings and 114 runs in the first Test at Lord's.

Wood, who has 108 international wickets to his name in the longest format, will pair up with in-form Gus Atkinson and Chris Woakes to form England's fast bowling unit, bolstered by their all-rounder captain Ben Stokes.

Youngster Shoaib Bashir will lead England's spin bowling attack with Joe Root providing the cover.

England started their busy summer season on a high as Gus Atkinson's heroics with the ball gave them a confidence-boosting victory.

The debutant pacer dismantled the West Indies batting lineup in the first innings with a seven-for. The touring side, as a result, only managed to register 121 runs on the board.

England batters banked on the momentum provided by Atkinson and scored 371 runs in response with Zak Crawley, debutant wicketkeeper batter Jamie Smith, Joe Root, Ollie Pope and Harry Brook scoring half-centuries.—Agency

Gareth Southgate resigns as England boss after Euro 2024 final defeat



Gareth Southgate resigned from his role as England manager on Tuesday after yet another heart-breaking final loss at the European Championship, their second straight failure in the title decider of the continental tournament.

England lost 2-1 to Spain in Sunday's showpiece in Berlin and the 53-year-old Englishman said after the game that he would discuss his future in charge of the national team.

"As a proud Englishman, it has been the honour of my life to play for England and to manage England. It has meant everything to me, and I have given it my all," Southgate said in a statement.

"But it's time for change and for a new chapter. Sunday's final in Berlin against Spain was my final game as England manager.

"I have had the privilege of leading a large group of players in 102 games. Every one of them has been proud to wear the three lions on their shirts, and they have been a credit to their country in so many ways."

Britain's Prince William, who is also the president of the FA, thanked Southgate for his service.

"Thank you for creating a team that stands shoulder to shoulder with the world's finest in 2024," he said.

"Thank you for showing humility, compassion, and true leadership under the most intense pressure and scrutiny. And thank you for being an all-round class act.

"You should be incredibly proud of what you've achieved."

From youth to senior team

Having coached the England youth side for several years, Southgate took the senior job when Sam Allardyce resigned after one match in charge when he sought a lucrative sideline role while talking to undercover reporters.

A former international with 57 caps, Southgate took over an England side that had seen its "golden generation" of players fail to impress at major tournaments.—Agency

Five Pakistan cricketers roped in for CPL 2024



A total of five Pakistan cricketers were roped in for the upcoming Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2024 after the player auction took place on Monday.

The 12th edition of the CPL will run from August 29 to October 6 and will feature six teams competing for the silverware.

Although the six CPL 2024 franchises had already completed most of their recruitment through retentions and pre-signings, Kyle Mayers was the first to be signed in the players' draft, joining St Kitts and Nevis Patriots.

However, it was the United States of America (USA) international Aaron Jones, who headlined the players' draft as the right-handed batter, a Barbados passport holder, was picked by St Lucia Kings as a local signing.

Guyana Warriors, the defending champions, focused more on all-rounders as they roped in Raymon Reifer and Ronaldo Alimohamed.

Earlier, they retained Pakistan internationals Saim Ayub and Azam Khan and South African veteran Imran Tahir, who played a pivotal role in leading the side to their maiden title.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, which emerged as a new team, picked the most players in the draft including the Pakistani trio of Mohammad Amir, Imad Wasim and Fakhar Zaman.

Pakistan Cricketers to participate in CPL 2024

Guyana Warriors: Saim Ayub and Azam Khan.

Antigua and Barbuda Falcons: Mohammad Amir, Imad Wasim and Fakhar Zaman.

CPL 2024 squads

Barbados Royals: Rovman Powell, Jason Holder, David Miller, Quinton de Kock, Maheesh Theekshana, Alick Athanaze, Naveen-ul-Haq, Obed McCoy, Kevin Wickham, Keshav Maharaj, Kadeem Alleyne, Rakheem Cornwall, Isai Thorne, Nathan Sealy, Nyeem Young, Rivaldo Clarke, Ramon Simmonds.

Guyana Amazon Warriors: Imran Tahir, Shimron Hetmyer, Saim Ayub, Shai Hope, Romario Shepherd, Azam Khan, Gudakesh Motie, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Keemo Paul, Dwaine Pretorius, Kevin Sinclair, Raymon Reifer, Ronaldo Alimohamed, Shamar Joseph, Kevlon Anderson, Matthew Nandu, Junior Sinclair.—Agency

Former Pakistan cricketer slams Diva Shaheen Afridi over alleged altercation with Yousuf



Former Pakistan Test cricketer Atiq-uz-Zaman commented on the reports regarding Shaheen Afridi's altercation with batting coach Mohammad Yousuf during the team's tour to Ireland and England before the T20 World Cup 2024.

Atiq, a qualified coach, expressed his disappointment with Shaheen Afridi and emphasized that the pacer should have put his head down and tried not to bowl no-balls in the nets.

"If Mohammad Yousuf bhai said that, Shaheen Afridi shouldn't have made the comments he did. I'm not sure if he made them or not, as these are just rumours. If he did, I'm really disappointed because Yousuf Bhai is a bigger name than Shaheen Afridi," said Atiq-uz-Zaman.

"So, he got to understand that there is something called respect. If the coach instructs you, you should just put your head down and try not to bowl no-ball in the nets," he added.

According to recent reports, Shaheen engaged in a heated argument with batting coach Mohammad Yousuf during the team's tour ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Sources asserted that the incident occurred during Pakistan's net practice session if he made them or not, as these are just rumours. If he did, I'm really disappointed because Yousuf Bhai is a bigger name than Shaheen Afridi.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Nehal Amin
Location: Karachi
About me: I love modeling!

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

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Natalie Portman talks about working in 'Lady in the Lake'



Natalie Portman recently opened up about her new show, Lady in the Lake in Baltimore.

The actress recently sat down for a candid chat on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon on Monday night, where she talked about the cuisines she could not try while filming the TV series in Maryland.

She explained, "I'm vegan so I couldn't try the crabcakes and that's the thing there."

"But they do have vegan crabcakes at all the vegan restaurants, which is very exciting. They use like jackfruit or heart of palm, some substitute crab-sque (alternative)," she also added.

For those unversed, the series, slated to release on 19th July 2024, is based on a novel of the same by Laura Lippman.

The synopsis of the thriller show reads as, "In 1960s Baltimore, an investigative journalist working on an unsolved murder clashes with a woman working to advance the agenda of the city's black community."

The protagonist ditches her dotting husband and big Pikesville home to pursue a career as a newspaper reporter," it also mentions.

The premise's cast includes Natalie Portman, Mikey Madison, Sean Ringgold, Moses Ingram, Y'lan Noel, Noah Jupe, Mike Epps and Brett Gelman.

Kim Kardashian adds fuel to old Kourtney Kardashian feud



Kim Kardashian just took a playful dig at the Dolce & Gabbana feud between herself and sister Kourtney Kardashian.

On Monday, the 43-year-old TV personality reenacted a scene from their infamous argument that occurred in the season 3 of their reality show, The Kardashians.

As she and her younger sister, Khloé Kardashian, went to see Andrea Bocelli perform at the Teatro del Silenzio in the Tuscany region of Italy, the 40-year-old Kardashian uploaded some videos on her social media account.

On Khloé's official Instagram Stories, Kim could be seen wearing a head scarf, matching sunglasses and a black shimmering dress and lip-syncing to her confessional comments back from the feud.

"I got married in Italy. Am I saying you copied me by getting married in Italy?" Kim said adding, "Who performed at my wedding? Andrea Bocelli. Who performed at Kourtney's wedding? Andrea Bocelli."

Then the 65-year-old musician proceeded to make an appearance in the same clip with Kim embracing him in her arms before Khloé, entered the shot.

The two Kardashian sisters then posed on either side of caption that read, "I win the Italian tenor with a after all."

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

-Can you believe this indignity?

Medieval Healthcare In KN Shah Exposes Government's Shameful Neglect As Woman Treated On A Donkey Cart!

KN SHAH: In a shocking and distressing incident from Sindh's Dadu district, the administration of a government hospital in Khairpur Nathan Shah has come under fire for providing medical treatment to a patient on a donkey cart. The media reported this alarming occurrence on Tuesday, sparking widespread outrage and concern.



A video circulating on social media shows a female patient receiving medical aid on a donkey cart, a sight that has shocked viewers and raised serious questions about the state of healthcare in Sindh. The woman, who arrived at the hospital on a donkey cart, was administered a drip while still on the cart, illustrating the severe lack of basic medical provisions at the facility.

This incident has prompted calls for immediate action and accountability. The provincial administration must address these glaring deficiencies and ensure that such humiliating and unacceptable conditions are eradicated. The people of Sindh deserve access to proper medical care and facilities, not the indignity of receiving treatment on donkey carts.—RT

Police constable injured in Badin shootout

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: ASI Saifullah and his team from Gulab Laghari police station engaged in a shootout with unidentified bandits at Tel Mori. The police were acting on information about the bandits' intent to commit a crime. During the encounter, Constable Manthar Chandio sustained serious injuries. He was initially taken to a nearby hospital for first aid and later referred to Civil Hospital Hyderabad for further treatment. The incident highlighted the ongoing risks faced by law enforcement officers in their efforts to combat crime and protect the public.

Wife of senior Tando Adam journalist Sultan Khaskheli passes away

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: The wife of Tando Adam Press Club's President Sultan Khaskheli passed away due to liver disease after a short illness. She was laid to rest in the presence of family members and prominent political and social figures in Tando Adam. Many people participated in the funeral prayers held at the largest mosque. Among them were PPP leaders Arif Shaikh from MQM District Sanghar, PPP leader Aamir Khaskheli, Azad Abbas Khaskheli, PPP leader Qalandar Bux Dero, Akhtar Hussain Mari, Baghi Mujahid Thaheem, Sardar Shafi Muhammad Sand, Sarwar Abru and many others expressed their condolences over the death of Sultan Khaskheli's wife at his residence.

DIO Tando Allahyar Zubair Aqlani Memon's grandmother passes away

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The District Information Officer Tando Allahyar, Zubair Aqlani Memon, Mansoor Memon's grandmother and Deputy Secretary Muhammad Hassan Memon's aunt passed away due to divine will. The funeral prayer was held in Tando Jam, attended by Advocate Mushtaq Memon, Nisar Memon, Abdul Ghafoor Memon (Mirpurkhas), Nasrullah Memon (Karachi), Tariq Memon (Nasrpur), Irfan Memon (Islamabad) and a large number of dignitaries.

Jacobabad man kills two over Karo-Kari

By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: In the vicinity of Poni Tala, near Jacobabad, Irfan Mugheri allegedly shot and killed his cousin, Mushtaq's young wife Nasima, and Abdul Ghaffar. The news of this incident spread like wildfire in the area. Upon receiving the information, the police rushed to the scene of the incident. The bodies were taken into custody and transferred to Civil Hospital Jacobabad for postmortem. When the bodies reached home after the postmortem, unrest ensued. Upon contacting the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), it was revealed that this incident occurred due to allegations of Karo-Kari. The suspect has been apprehended by the police.

REGIONAL TIMES
NATIONAL

Nation Stands United with Army, Says CM Bugti



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday condemned the attack of terrorists at Banu Cantt. In a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Secretariat, he praised the security forces for foiling a big terrorist attack, adding that the whole nation was standing shoulder to shoulder with security forces to root out the menace of terrorism. Bugti said, "We are proud of the immortal sacrifices of our security forces. The CM said security forces killed ten terrorists while bravely fighting the terrorists. He paid tribute to the martyred soldiers for foiling the attack of terrorists. He prayed that may the departed souls rest in eternal peace.—RT/Agency

300,000 Farmers Registered for Kisan Cards



LAHORE: Punjab Agriculture Secretary Ifthikhar Ali Sahoo said that registration of Kisan Card is being done on 'first come first serve basis' and till now around 300,000 farmers have been registered. Chairing a meeting regarding issuance and registration of Punjab Chief Minister's Punjab Kisan Card, the secretary said that the results related to registration of Punjab Chief Minister Kisan Card are very encouraging. Ifthikhar Ali said that complete record regarding registration of 121,000 farmers has been provided to the Bank of Punjab, adding that the manufacturing of 250,000 kisan card is under way, he added. He also directed the relevant authorities to speed up final printing process of the cards and added that by August 1, registration target of more 200,000 farmers should be achieved. He said that Punjab CM Kisan Card is mandatory to avail subsidy schemes and facilities of the Punjab Agriculture department. Ifthikhar Ali said that mechanization was being finalized to buy diesel and mobil oil from PSO filling stations. Earlier on April 1, the Lahore High Court (LHC) dismissed a plea against the printing of former PM Nawaz Sharif's picture on a Kisan Card in Punjab. LHC Justice Shahid Karim dismissed a petition filed by a citizen Mashkoor Hussain. The applicant Mashkoor Hussain in his plea stated that CM Maryam Nawaz okayed to emboss the picture of Nawaz Sharif on the cards but the public fund cannot be used for personal publicity.—RT/Agency

14 Policemen Dismissed for Negligence During Muharram Duty



LAHORE: In a significant development, 14 police officers assigned to security duty on the 9th of Muharram have been dismissed from their positions, media reported on Tuesday. The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) operations took this decisive step after the officers were found to have abandoned their duties during the procession of Muharram 09. The officers were supposed to be on duty ensuring security during the sensitive period of Muharram. However, their disappearance from their posts prompted immediate action. A formal report against the 14 officials has been filed at Shadman police station, marking a serious breach of duty and accountability within the police force. The 9th of Muharram to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions is being observed with due solemnity and respect across the country today (Tuesday). Majalis will be held in all small and major cities while processions of Tazia and Alam will also be taken out in some cities. Islamabad Police has finalized a detailed security and traffic management plan for 9th of Muharram. The main 9 Muharram Al Haram Procession will commence from Main Imambarah in G/6-2, follow its designated route, and return to its starting point. To ensure the smooth flow of the procession, the traffic arrangements have been made.—RT/Agency

Muharram 9 Processions Held Nationwide

The 9th of Muharram to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions is being observed with due solemnity and respect across the country today (Tuesday). Majalis will be held in all small and major cities while processions of Tazia and Alam will also be taken out in some cities. Islamabad Police has finalized a detailed security and traffic management plan for 9th of Muharram. The main 9 Muharram Al Haram Procession will commence from Main Imambarah in G/6-2, follow its designated route, and return to its starting point. To ensure the smooth flow of the procession, the traffic arrangements have been made.



The road from Fazal Haq Road, Polyclinic to Kulsom Plaza, will be closed to general traffic. Citizens have been advised to use Jinnah Avenue from Kulsom Plaza to China Chowk instead. Sadar Road will be closed between Iqbal Hall and Melody Chowk on both sides. Citizens can use Ahpara Suhrawardy Road as an alternative. Citizens are urged to use alternate routes during the procession and cooperate with traffic police to ensure a smooth flow of traffic.—RT/Agency

PML-N's Javed Latif Voices Opposition to Government's PTI Ban Decision

LAHORE: Senior Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) leader on Tuesday opposed the government's decision to ban Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stressing that banning political parties is not a solution to any problem, media reported. Speaking at a press conference, Javed Latif said that the 'local political parties' serve the state and nation, arguing that if certain individuals threaten the state, they should not be considered a national party. He highlighted that parties contributing to national prosperity should be recognized and that hidden forces weakening the state should be exposed. Latif criticized the judicial curfew of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who fortified Pakistan's defense. He expressed concerns over the potential banning of PTI, noting that PTI's founder had previously banned a party without similar public concern. He warned that weakening national political parties undermines democracy and likened the current situation in Pakistan to Kenya.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
METRO KARACHI

Illegal Water Hydrant Discovered in Karachi

KARACHI: An illegal water hydrant was uncovered in Karachi, where two individuals were accused of stealing water, depriving the citizens of Baldia Town of their access to clean water, media reported on Tuesday. Following the report published on media, a case has been registered over the complaint of Assistant Executive Engineer of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board at Mochko Police station. As per the report, the two individuals - named Mushtaq and Amir - accused of breaking the 33-inch official water line near Northern Bypass and created a 2-inch hole to steal water. The FIR report indicated that the collected water was being sold through water tankers, further worsening the ongoing water crisis in Baldia Town area of Karachi.—RT/Agency



Following the report published on media, a case has been registered over the complaint of Assistant Executive Engineer of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board at Mochko Police station. As per the report, the two individuals - named Mushtaq and Amir - accused of breaking the 33-inch official water line near Northern Bypass and created a 2-inch hole to steal water. The FIR report indicated that the collected water was being sold through water tankers, further worsening the ongoing water crisis in Baldia Town area of Karachi.—RT/Agency

Sindh Food Authority Finds 11 Lotte Kolson Products Unfit for Human Consumption

KARACHI: The Sindh Food Authority (SFA) has identified eleven products from Lotte Kolson as unfit for human consumption. The products in question include Slanty Vegetable, Snackers Hot Masala, Snackers Pizza, Twitch Classic, Potato Sticks, Cheese Ball Masala, Cheese, Kai Korean Hot, Kai Spicy Mala, Kai Mala Wok, and Kai Korean Kimchi. Director General Sindh Food Authority, Muzamil Hussain Halepoto, has instructed the company to withdraw these products from the market within three days. Failure to comply will result in legal action under the SFA Act. Halepoto emphasized that this action is being taken to safeguard public health. Furthermore, the DG has urged other provincial food authorities to investigate the issue within their respective jurisdictions to ensure the safety of public health.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES
ENTERTAINMENT

Emma Roberts radiates joy with Cody John in engagement announcement

Emma Roberts got engaged to boyfriend Cody John. On Tuesday, July 16, Emma shared the news of her engagement with boyfriend Cody with her fans on Instagram. Sharing a heartwarming photo with Cody, the American Horror Story actress humorously captioned the post. "Putting this here before my mom tells everyone," Emma jokingly wrote alongside a red heart emoji. The photo featured Emma proudly flaunting her circular engagement ring. She looked stunning in a flowing pink top, while Cody sported a blue button-up shirt. The couple, who went public with their relationship in August 2022, has since shared their love openly on social media. Cody, in particular, celebrated Emma's 33rd birthday earlier this year with a heart-felt post. Fans and followers expressed their love and admiration for the newly engaged couple. One fan commented on the post, "I will cry I love you both so much." Another added, "Congratulations queen! Love is love kissesss from mmm Argentina." However, pal Lea Michele excitedly wrote, "Already planning the bachelorette!!!! So happy for you babe!!!!"



REGIONAL TIMES
MONEY

Pakistan Strikes Major Oil and Gas Deposits in Attock

In a major breakthrough for Pakistan's energy sector, a major oil and gas deposit has been unearthed in the city of Attock Pakistan Oilfields Limited (POL) announced today that its exploratory well in the Ikhlas block has yielded promising results. The newly discovered well is currently producing a substantial 714 barrels of crude oil and 10 million standard cubic feet of gas per day. This is a remarkable achievement that has the potential to bolster Pakistan's energy independence and economic growth. Drilling operations for this promising well commenced in October 2023 and reached an impressive depth of 17,778 meters. POL has officially informed the Pakistan Stock Exchange about this monumental discovery, signaling its significance for the country's economy and energy independence.—Agency



METRO KARACHI

Quaidabad Police Accused of Killing a Youth in Fake Encounter

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The family members of a youth named Atif Khan staged a protest demonstration against the alleged murder of their loved one in a fake police encounter. The incident, which has sparked outrage and demands for justice, occurred in the Quaidabad area and has raised serious questions about police conduct and accountability.

Atif Khan, a young man from the Quaidabad neighbourhood, was reportedly shot dead by officers from the Quaidabad Police Station. According to the family, Atif was not involved in any criminal activity and was wrongfully targeted by the police. The family members, along with local community leaders, have accused the police of fabricating the encounter to cover up what they claim is a cold-blooded murder.

Adding to the family's claims, CCTV footage has surfaced, purportedly showing the sequence of events leading up to Atif's death. The footage allegedly depicts Atif standing with the police officers shortly before he was

shot. This visual evidence contradicts the police's version of events, where they described the encounter as a shootout with a criminal. In the video, the officers can be seen opening fire on Atif, who appears unarmed and non-threatening, casting significant doubt on the legitimacy of the police's account.

The protest organized by Atif's family attracted a significant number of supporters, including neighbors, friends, and local activists. They gathered outside the Quaidabad Police Station, holding placards and chanting slogans demanding justice for Atif. The demonstrators called for an immediate and impartial investigation into the incident and urged higher authorities to hold the responsible officers accountable for their actions.

Leading the protest, Atif's uncle, Imran Khan, addressed the crowd, expressing the family's grief and anger. "We have lost a son, a brother, and a friend. The police are supposed to protect us, not kill us. We demand justice for Atif. This was not an encounter; this was murder," he said. Other community leaders echoed these

sentiments, emphasizing the need for police reforms and greater transparency to prevent such incidents in the future.

The protesters have also announced plans to escalate their demonstrations if their demands are not met. "We will not rest until we get justice. If the authorities do not take immediate action, we will widen our protest and seek justice through every possible means," warned one of the protest organizers.

The case of Atif Khan has garnered widespread media attention and has put the Quaidabad Police Station under intense scrutiny. Human rights organizations and civil society groups have condemned the incident and called for comprehensive investigations to ensure justice is served.

As the investigation continues, the public awaits a response from the authorities. The family of Atif Khan remains steadfast in their pursuit of justice, hoping that their efforts will not only bring accountability for Atif's death but also prevent future abuses of power by law enforcement agencies.

Home Minister Directs Security Arrangements for Muharram Processions



KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar said on Tuesday that security of 9th Muharram processions and congregations should be ensured as per the lists.

According to home ministry's information, Mr Lanjar said that the code of conduct for Muharram should be implemented according to its spirit while the security of the central processions should be ensured under the strategy.

The monitoring of mourning procession should be made conducted properly through the watch towers established along the routes of the main procession, the home minister said.

He said that the snipers posted on the high buildings along the routes should be diligent and alert besides strict surveillance should be conducted at the entry points of the main procession.

CPO and civic center command and controls should keep a close watch on the routes of the processions. If suspicious items, parcels, bags, or abandoned vehicles are seen, citizens should immediately report to the police about them, the home minister concluded.—RT/Agency

Karachi Police Introduce Robot for Muharram Processions Security



KARACHI: In addition to the strict manned security arrangements, the city's police on Monday deployed a bomb disposal robot to ensure the security of mourning processions during Muharram in a more effective manner in the metropolis.

The explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) robot helps in defusing an explosive device without physical human interaction, as the remote-controlled robot's operator can drive it to find and defuse a bomb from a significant distance, said a police official talking to Geo News.

Various types of built-in cameras are installed in the unmanned vehicle, which assists in surveilling or taking a closer look of the device's surroundings.

It is pertinent here to mention that Youm-e-Ashura, the tenth of Muharram-ul-

Haram, will be observed on Wednesday across the country to commemorate martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA), his family members and devoted companions in Karbala.

On this occasion, mourning processions will be taken out in major cities of the country. Ulema and Zakireen will highlight the teachings of Hussain (RA) and various aspects of the Karbala tragedy.

Meanwhile, mourning processions are being taken out in different parts of the country today to mark 9th of Muharram. Majalis will also be held at Imambargahs.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made to avoid any untoward incident during the mourning processions.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Shia mourners of Imam Hussain (A.S) are participating in a mourning procession on account of 9th Muharram-ul-Haram, at M.A Jinnah road.—RT

Karachi Heatwave Alert: Feels-Like Temperature May Hit 43°C or Higher

KARACHI: Feels-like temperature in Karachi is expected to touch 43°C or surge past it, said a weather expert on Tuesday, as the citizens continue to bake under the heat.

Weather expert Jawad Memon said mercury in the port city is likely to hover between 38-39°C on Tuesday and Wednesday.

However, he added that thunderclouds could develop in the north, north-east and north-west neighbourhoods of Karachi from today to July 18.

"Clouds may form after afternoon because of moist winds blowing from the Arabian Sea," the weather analyst said.

Moreover, he predicted light to moderate rain for Gadap, Superhighway areas, Malir, Surjani and Gulshan-Maymar till Thursday.

The Met Office on Monday forecast that the city will potentially experience a rise in temperatures, after experiencing a cloudy weather for the past few days.



Despite prediction for growth in heat intensity, the meteorology department, on Sunday, had ruled out another heatwave in the megapolopolis, and predicted a new monsoon spell that would affect Sindh, including its provincial capital from July 19.

Although the country's financial hub received some scattered downpour last week, the residents did not have much respite from the heat.—RT/Agency

Youm-e-Ashura to be observed today with solemnity

KARACHI: Youm-e-Ashura, the tenth of Muharram-ul-Haram, will be observed today across the country with due solemnity to pay homage to the supreme sacrifice rendered by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his devoted companions in Karbala.

Mourning processions and congregations will be taken out in all cities and towns of the country. Ulema and Zakireen will highlight the bright and candid teachings of Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A) and various aspects of Karbala tragedy in the congregations.

Meanwhile, mourning processions are being taken out all over the country today to mark 9th of Muharram in which a huge number of devotees of Imam Hussain are taking part to pay homage to the martyrs of Karbala (may Allah be pleased with them).

Taaazia and Zuljannah processions are being taken out in different parts of the country in memory of martyrs of Karbala.

In the Federal Capital, the main procession of Taaazia and Zuljannah took out from Markazi Imambargah G-6/2 which is passing through its traditional route and will culminate at the same place.

In Karachi, the main procession was taken out from



Nishtar Park. The procession, after following its traditional route through Old Numasih, Saddar, Empress Market, Regal Chowk, M.A Jinnah Road and Bolton Market, will culminate at Hussania Iranian Imambargah in the evening.

In Peshawar, the main procession of 9th Muharram was taken out from Imambargah Hussania Hall, Saddar Road Peshawar this morning. Several other processions were taken out from different Imambargahs which will join the main procession.

The procession after passing through its traditional routes will terminate at its starting point in the evening. Similar processions were also taken out in Kohat, Hangu, Dera Ismail Khan and Kurram districts.

The main procession of the 9th of Muharram in Lahore started from Pandu

Street, Islampura and proceeded to Khaima-e-Sadaat in which mourners are paying their respects to the martyrs of Karbala. The procession will culminate at Pando Street.

In Gilgit, the main procession took off from Imambargah Qasr Akbar Dakpora. The procession of Alam and Zul-Janah passed through Amir Jahandar Shah Punyal Road culminating at the main Jamia Imamia Mosque Gilgit.

Ulema and Zakireen are highlighting the bright and candid teachings of Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A.) and various aspects of Karbala tragedy. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to avoid any untoward incident during the mourning processions.—RT/Agency

More NADRA Officials Linked to Fake Passport Scandal



KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) identified more officials of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) allegedly involved in issuance of Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) to Afghan nationals, ARY News reported.

The FIA's investigation has reached its final stages, and responsible officials have been identified. It was revealed that Afghan citizens were issued Pakistani ID cards in exchange for bribes, with the help of Pakistani families, the sources said.

The investigation was initiated after the arrest of an Afghan national, Majidullah, who attempted to obtain a Pakistani passport. The investigation revealed that Majidullah bribed and pretended himself a member of the family to obtain an ID card. The FIA already recorded statements from relevant NADRA officials and is set to take action against the accused persons.

The sources said that more arrests are expected to be made soon as the investigation progresses.

Earlier, the Ministry of Interior directed to initiate the legal proceedings against the Afghan nationals who were caught in Saudi Arabia for possessing fake Pakistani passports and identity cards.

According to the FIA sources, in light of Ministry of Interior directives, the relevant authorities decided to issue the notice under section 18 of the NADRA ordinance to 12,500 Afghan nationals.

Sources within the FIA revealed that the fake Pakistani identity cards to the 593 Afghan nationals were issued from Islamabad, while a total of 5,500 Pakistani identity cards were issued from Quetta and Peshawar.—RT/Agency

Nine-Year-Old Girl Victim of Sexual Assault in Karachi

KARACHI: A shocking incident emerged in Karachi, where a nine-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a self-taught fake doctor in Surjani town area, media reported on Tuesday.

According to the details, the doctor involved in the alleged sexual assault of the girl was caught by the local residents and handed over to the police after being subjected to torture.

In her statement, the victim girl said that she was forcibly grabbed and raped by the self-proclaimed doctor in the clinic located in Surjani town area.

According to Surjani police, the girl is undergoing medical treatment



The police in a statement disclosed that a case from SSP West. In his statement, the provincial interior minister directed that after a comprehensive investigation, the accused involved should be brought to justice, and directed to ensure the safety of the victim and her family.—RT/Agency

Meanwhile, Sindh Interior Minister Ziaul Hasan Linjar took notice of the incident and sought details



KARACHI: Shia mourners are burning US and Israeli flag during a mourning procession on M.A Jinnah road.—Agency



KARACHI: A large number of mourners are participating in a mourning procession which was taken out from the Dargah of Jalali Baba (RA) and Bugti Goth.—Photo by Asif Qureshi

"Everything that deceives may be said to enchant."

—Plato

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 News Agency at (0300-241465). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990)

WEDNESDAY JULY 17 2024

No Decision On PTI Ban Yet: Dar

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar said Tuesday that the decision to impose a ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has not been taken yet by the federal government.

Upping the ante against the embattled Imran Khan-founded party, the federal government led by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) decided to ban the former ruling party as well as file references against the top PTI leaders...



It is noteworthy to mention here that Dar blamed the former ruling party for May 9 riots, foreign funding from questionable sources and illegal dissolution of assemblies during the no-confidence move against the former premier Khan in April 2022.

"PTI is foreign-funded" "May 9 events are unacceptable," said Dar, adding that however, national integrity should be prioritised at any cost.

"Whoever is involved in the May 9 riots must face penalties. Either it's us or anyone else, if someone is working against the country, then it will be unacceptable," Dar insisted.

The May 9 riots had erupted following ex-PM Khan's arrest from Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises last year in which protesters targeted government and military installations.

Commenting on possibilities to initiate political dialogue, he said, "Reconciliation is possible as I have always worked for it."

of the law and the Constitution. "We are not like Imran Khan, neither we are summoning FIADG [Federal Investigation Agency Director-General] at all times nor calling the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) DG or chairman."

"The cabinet is doing its work [...] the law and the Constitution will make their way."

The statement came after the former premier Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were arrested and remanded in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) custody in a new reference related to Toshakhana gifts last week.

The arrest was made after their acquittal in the iddat case — also known as the un-Islamic nikah case — which was the last hurdle in the couple's release from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

Moreover, Khan's arrest had also been declared in 12 cases related to May 9 mayhem a day ago and an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore granted his 10-day physical remand.

"PML-N, PDM took responsibility in his initial remarks, the former minister said that Pakistan became the 24th largest economy in a short period of three years in 2016 under the leadership of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif when "inflation rate was only 2%, general inflation rate was standing at 3.6% and with the growth rate of 6%."

Pointing towards the PTI and its founder Khan, he alleged that ex-PM Nawaz had been removed from office through a "conspiracy", political chaos was created in the country and "a hand-picked [leader] was introduced by spending millions at Minar-e-Pakistan in 2011".

He further alleged that the 2018 general elections were "stolen" to defeat the Nawaz-led party which led to severe outcomes for the country's economy, politics and diplomacy.

Dar added that Pakistan's economic ranking had dropped to 47th from 24th during the PTI's rule and faced the risk of default due to the poor governance of the former rulers.

"The PML-N and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had no eagerness to get a chance to rule the country, but it took responsibility to pull the country out of the crises," he said.

"We saved the country from default after much effort in the short tenure of 16 months and restored diplomatic ties with foreign countries."

It is pertinent to mention here that after ousting ex-PM Khan from office via a successful no-trust move in 2022, the PDM — a multi-party opposition alliance — came to power in the Centre with the PML-N's top leader Shehbaz as the prime minister.—RT/Agency

'Not Consulted': PPP Distances Itself From Government's PTI Ban Move

ISLAMABAD: The federal government's announcement to ban the main opposition party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) hasn't bode well with its key ally Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which has distanced itself from the arguably controversial move.

PPP's Information Secretary Shazia Atta Marri has said the Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's party, a key ally of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led government in the centre, wasn't consulted on the move to ban the Imran Khan founded party.

Marri's remarks come against backdrop of the PTI which in return has also 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. The party has called on allies of the ruling coalition government, including the PPP and the Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) to clarify their position on the said issue.

Elaborating on the PPP's stance, Marri said that the party would hold consultations on the government's decision to ban the PTI. Shehbaz said that the PPP is not in the favour of banning any political party. "We were not consulted," he said.

The minister also said that the government would further file treason cases against the then-prime minister Khan, the then National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri and former president Arif Alvi — owing to their roles in cipher case, dismissal of the no-confidence motion and the subsequent dissolution of the lower house. The move drew a strong reaction from the PTI which in return has also 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. The party has called on allies of the ruling coalition government, including the PPP and the Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) to clarify their position on the said issue.



Qasim Suri and former president Arif Alvi — owing to their roles in cipher case, dismissal of the no-confidence motion and the subsequent dissolution of the lower house. The move drew a strong reaction from the PTI which in return has also 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. The party has called on allies of the ruling coalition government, including the PPP and the Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) to clarify their position on the said issue.

Elaborating on the PPP's stance, Marri said that the party would hold consultations on the government's decision to ban the PTI. Shehbaz said that the PPP is not in the favour of banning any political party. "We were not consulted," he said.

The minister also said that the government would further file treason cases against the then-prime minister Khan, the then National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri and former president Arif Alvi — owing to their roles in cipher case, dismissal of the no-confidence motion and the subsequent dissolution of the lower house. The move drew a strong reaction from the PTI which in return has also 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. The party has called on allies of the ruling coalition government, including the PPP and the Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) to clarify their position on the said issue.

Gohar Claims Ad Hoc Judges' Appointments Aimed At Reserved Seats Judgment

ISLAMABAD: Reacting to the proposal of appointing ad hoc judges at the apex court, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Tuesday said "there is a genuine apprehension the move is aimed at PTI's reserved seats judgment and its standing as a party".



"The move to appoint ad hoc judges and that too four judges at once and during vacation, is uncalled-for and unprecedented," PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan stated expressing suspicion about the proposal, in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

The Imran Khan-founded party raised alarm through four judges — Justice (ret'd) Mushir Alam, Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqir, Justice (ret'd) Mazhar Alam Miankhal, and Justice (ret'd) Sardar Tariq Masood — as ad hoc judges in the Supreme Court.

According to sources, the JCP stated that it would consider the proposal to reduce the number of pending cases in the country's top court.

The apex court, in its July 12 short order, ruled that the PTI is allowed to have seats reserved for women and minorities in all legislatures including the National Assembly.

"In view of the huge number of pending cases and the ever-increasing trend of the institution of cases in the SC, an effective way to ensure that more cases are decided than instituted and to reduce, and hopefully eliminate the backlog, it would be appropriate to appoint experienced judges as ad hoc judges of the SC," said the notification. Percentage of cases surges by 3.9% to 2.6m. The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), in its bi-annual report of judicial statistics, said the number of pending cases in the courts surged to 2.26 million during the second half of the year 2023, increasing the overall pendency by 3.9%.—RT/Agency

Dissenting from the argument regarding easing the SC's workload, the PTI leader said that the appointment of four ad hoc judges would not reduce the case burden. Instead, he stressed that these appointments would compromise the entire Supreme Court and its judges. It should be mentioned here that the JCP will meet on July 19 at 3pm in the top court's conference room. The official note for the meeting says that despite best efforts, the cases in the top court continue to accumulate.

"The PTI chairman argued that not a single ad hoc judge had been appointed in the apex court since 2015. It was decided in principle that 'ad hocism' is prejudicial to the 'independent judiciary,' Gohar said.

Khawaja Asif Intensifies Criticism Of Judiciary After Reserved Seats Verdict

ISLAMABAD: Doubling down on the criticism of the judiciary following the Supreme Court's July 12 verdict on the reserved seats case in favour of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday urged the courts to refrain from giving "political verdicts" and to pass judgments that uphold their respect.



"I respect the courts but courts should also get themselves respected and the politicians should not be mistaken as being too weak," he said while addressing a press conference in Sialkot on Tuesday.

The defence minister's remarks came days after the Supreme Court issued its short order in the reserved seats case, declaring the Imran Khan-founded party eligible for reserved seats for women and minorities in the assemblies.

Amid criticism pouring in from all political quarters, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has defended its decision to ban the PTI as Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said consultations would be held with the allies of the ruling coalition and the ruling party would bring the matter in parliament. Information Minister Attaullah Tarar announced Monday that the federal government had decided to ban the PTI and initiate Article 6 proceedings against then prime minister Imran Khan, then president Dr Arif Alvi and then deputy speaker of the National Assembly Qasim Suri for dissolving the National Assembly in April 2022. The PTI only intends to ascend to power. Article 6 applies to those who violate the Constitution," the defence minister said highlighting the need to invoke the treason charges against the PTI leaders.—RT/Agency

PTI To Revise Reserved Seats List



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to revise its list of reserved seats.

The party's committee is set to recommend additional names for these lists, which will undergo approval by PTI's constituent bodies.

For the National Assembly, PTI plans to submit a list of 40 names for women's reserved seats. Similarly, close to 100 names are being compiled for the Punjab Assembly, with another list for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.

Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, overseeing the process, aims to finalize around 77 to 78 names for these reserved seats within the stipulated timeframe.

Once approved by PTI founder Imran Khan, these lists will be formally submitted, ensuring comprehensive representation across key legislative bodies.

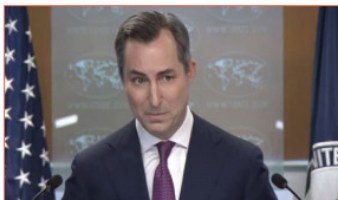
On July 11, the Supreme Court set aside the Peshawar High Court and election commission verdicts and declared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible for reserved seats in the case of the Sunni Itehad Council.

The 8-5 majority verdict was announced by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, who is heading a 13-member full court of the Supreme Court. The proceedings are being broadcast live. All the judges have recognized the PTI as a legal and competent party.

The Supreme Court declared that the deprivation of an election symbol does not terminate the right of a party to participate in elections. The PTI was and is a political party. The election commission submitted the data of 80 candidates to the Supreme Court.—RT/Agency

'Matter Of Great Concern': US Opposes PML-N Government's Plan To Ban PTI

ISLAMABAD: Hours after the well in debate issue in Pakistan, the United States on Monday expressed concerns over the PML-N-led government's surprise announcement that it is planning to impose a ban on its political rival PTI over its alleged involvement in anti-state activities.



Information Minister Attaullah Tarar earlier today announced that the federal government would file a reference against then-former prime minister Imran Khan and then president Arif Alvi and then National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri — for treason under Article 6 for dissolving the lower house of parliament in April 2022.

"This is a fact and on the record that the PTI has been involved in anti-state activities. And, to this end, the government and its allies have decided to initiate legal proceedings to ban the PTI under Article 17 of the Constitution which empowers the federal government to ban any such a party," the informal minister announced at a press conference in Islamabad.

Responding to a question during a daily press briefing, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar earlier today announced that the federal government would file a reference against then-former prime minister Imran Khan and then president Arif Alvi and then National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri — for treason under Article 6 for dissolving the lower house of parliament in April 2022.

State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller referred to the media reports and the Pakistani government's announcement, saying the development "is a beginning of the 'complex process'."

"[...] certainly banning of the political party would be of great concern to us," he added. The spokesperson stressed his country supports the peaceful upholding of the country's Constitution and democratic principles including respect for human rights and freedom of expression.

"We support the democratic processes and broader principles including the rule of law and equal justice under the law and as these internal processes continue to play out we will monitor the further decisions," Miller said. The government's announcement drew severe criticism from several quarters including leaders of mainstream political parties.

IMF Deal Expected To Enhance Pakistan's Funding Needs: Moody's



ISLAMABAD: Global rating agency Moody's on Tuesday said that Pakistan's recent staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will improve funding prospects for the cash-strapped South Asian nation. The Shehbaz Sharif-led government and the IMF reached a three-year, \$7 billion aid package deal on Saturday, providing much-needed respite to the nation. This agreement marks a critical step towards stabilizing Pakistan's economy, which has been under severe strain.

Abbasi and Ismail Criticize Government's Decision To Ban PTI

LAHORE: Awami Pakistan (AP) convenor Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Tuesday that the attempts to ban political parties have always failed.



Expressing his thoughts on media, Abbasi said: "Whenever any step is taken, questions raise on the country's premier. How will one [government] enforce Article 6 on others whose jurisdiction is questionable?"

Abbasi said, "None of the political parties cannot be banned. The government's reputation will be damaged further if they take the decision to ban the PTI."

Meanwhile, expressing his thoughts, former finance minister Miftah Ismail has taken the government by force and is implementing restrictions.

ment's hasty decision to ban the PTI, Ismail said: "The government will retract its decision to ban the PTI."

Ismail asserted: "The government came to power with a suspected mandate, is in a state of panic."