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PML-N And PPP To Continue Discussions On PTI Ban

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) decided on Friday to hold further consultations regarding the ban on Imran Khan-founded PTI and actions under Article 6 against Imran Khan, Arif Alvi, and Qasim Suri, media reported, citing sources.



A meeting was held between the ruling coalition - PML-N and PPP - to discuss administrative matters in Punjab, the current political situation, and the government's proposal to ban PTI. The PML-N delegation included National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Rana Sanaullah. The PPP delegation comprised of Sherry Rehman, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, and Nadeem Afzal Chan. Meanwhile, the Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) and other officials were also present at the meeting.

Sources told media that the PPP delegation emphasised the party's commitment to democratic processes and reviews. During the meeting, it was decided that further consultations would be held regarding the ban on PTI. It was also agreed that the parties will reconvene after con-

sulting with their leadership to finalise their decisions. The federal government had announced its plans to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and seek Article 6 proceedings against its founder Imran Khan, ex-president Dr Arif Alvi, and former deputy NA speaker Qasim Suri.

The announcement came following the relief given to the party by the top court in the reserved seats case as well as to the party founder Imran Khan in the Iddat case.

Addressing a presser, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said the country could not move forward with the Imran Khan-founded party's existence.

"In view of the foreign funding case, May 9 riots, and the cipher case as well as the resolution passed in the US, we believe that there is credible evidence present to have the PTI banned," he said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said that the decision to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will be made after consultations with allied political parties.

He also noted that the Election Commission has evidence of PTI being a foreign-funded party.

Dar highlighted the importance of following the constitution and laws, and mentioned that Federal Minister of Information Attaullah Tarar's recent statements would be discussed with allied parties before any decision is made.—RT/Agency

JCP Approves Appointment Of Two Ad-Hoc Judges To Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan on Friday approved the appointment of Justice (ret) Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice (ret) Mazhar Miankhal as ad-hoc judges to the Supreme Court (SC), media reported.



Tariq Masood as an ad-hoc judge.

Sources privy to the development said that the Judicial Commission meeting considered the proposals for the appointment of ad hoc judges and approved two names for the ad-hoc judges with the majority of votes.

The sources said that the apex court's Justice Munib Akhtar opposed the appointment of Justice (ret) Sardar Tariq Masood as an ad-hoc judge.

After Justice Munib Akhtar's disagreement, the name of Justice (ret) Sardar Tariq Masood was approved for the ad-hoc role with a majority of 8-1.

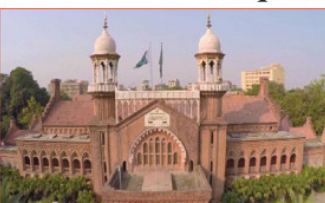
The sources added that three members of the Judicial Commission also opposed the appointment of Justice (ret) Mazhar Miankhal as he was okayed with a ratio of 6-

Justice Masood on March 10, 2024. Earlier on Thursday, the Pakistan Bar Council called for the formation of more courts in the country through a constitutional amendment.

The council has also expressed support for the appointment of ad hoc judges to help expedite the decision-making process in cases.

"Currently, a significant amount of the Supreme Court's time is spent hearing political cases, and the establishment of a constitutional court would help alleviate this burden," the PBC viewed.—RT/Agency

LHC Chief Justice Denies CEC's Tribunal Reformation Request



LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Aaliya Neelum rejected the request of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) seeking the reformation of the election tribunals in the province, media reported, citing sources.

Chief Election Commissioner Sultan Akram Raja met the LHC chief justice and requested her to reconstitute the existing election tribunals, the sources said.

Justice Aaliya Neelum turned down the CEC's request, maintaining that the present election tribunals will continue to function as usual.

The LHC chief justice said that the final decision on the election tribunals will be made by the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan.

Earlier on June 20, the Supreme Court (SC) re-

jected an appeal moved by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against formation of election tribunals by the Lahore High Court.

The two-member bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa and also comprising Justice Naem Afghani, heard the Election Commission's appeal. The commission's lawyer, Sikanar Bashir, and PTI lawyer Salman Akram Raja appeared before the court.

Justice Isa questioned whether the Chief Election Commissioner and the CJP could not meet to resolve disputes. He remarked that if every issue is to be made contentious, then Parliament should be shut down. He asserted that using ordinances is a disregard for Parliament and a violation of its authority.—RT/Agency

Bangladesh imposes curfew after deadly protests

DHAKA: Bangladesh on Friday announced the imposition of a curfew and the deployment of military forces as police failed to quell days of deadly unrest that has spread throughout the country.

This week's clashes between student demonstrators and police have killed at least 105 people, according to an AFP count of victims reported by hospitals, and pose a momentous challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's autocratic government after 15 years in office.

"The government has decided to impose a curfew and deploy the military in aid of the civilian authorities," Hasina's press secretary Nayemul Islam Khan told AFP.

He added that the curfew would take immediate effect. Police in the capital Dhaka earlier took the drastic step of banning all public gatherings for the day - a first since protests began - in an effort to forestall more violence. "We've banned all rallies, processions and public gatherings in Dhaka today," he added. "Shocking and unacceptable." At least 52 people were killed in the capital on Friday, according to a list drawn up by the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and seen by AFP. Police fire was the cause of more than half of the deaths reported so far this week, based on descriptions given to AFP by hospital staff.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk said the attacks on student protesters were "shocking and unacceptable."

"There must be impartial, prompt and exhaustive investigations into these attacks, and those responsible held to account," he said in a statement. The capital's police force earlier said protesters had on Thursday torched, vandalised and carried out "destructive activities" on numerous police and government offices. Among them was the Dhaka headquarters of state broadcaster Bangladesh Television, which remains offline after hundreds of incensed students stormed the premises and set fire to a building.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Faruk Hossain told AFP that officers had arrested Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, one of the top leaders of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)—RT/Agency



FO: Political Party Bans Are Pakistan's Internal Affairs

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch on Friday emphasised that countries should refrain from commenting on Pakistan's domestic matters, asserting that Islamabad can handle its internal issues independently. "Banning political parties is an internal issue of Pakistan," said Mumtaz during a media briefing.



Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, FO spokesperson, during a media briefing.

Addressing the recent attack on Bannu Cantt by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Mumtaz revealed that Pakistan has expressed its serious concerns to the Afghan interim government.

The FO spokesperson expressed alarm over the use of Afghan territory for terrorism against Pakistan and urged the Afghan government to take immediate and effective action against the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group.

She said that Pakistan has shared intelligence with Afghanistan regarding terrorist groups and has maintained continuous communication with Afghan authorities.

Concerning immigration, Mumtaz clarified that Pakistan's immigration laws are strict, with daily deportations of illegal Afghan residents. "Currently, 44,000 Afghan citizens are awaiting relocation," she added.

While the spokesperson was not aware of Malala Yousafzai's recent statements on this issue, she expressed hope that Yousafzai would advocate for the expedited relocation of these refugees.

The FO condemned the attack on a Shia mosque in Muscat on Muharram 9, describing it as a barbaric act of terrorism.

Pakistan expressed solidarity with the victims and highlighted the importance of collective action against terrorism.

Additionally, Pakistan condemned the Israeli attacks on Palestinian refugee camps, particularly the assault on Khan Younis camp, which resulted in the deaths of 19 Palestinians, calling it a violation of United Nations regulations.—RT/Agency

Leaked phone call of TTP chief surfaces



ISLAMABAD: A leaked call between the leader of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Noor Wali and his associate revealed the plans to carry out terrorist attacks on schools, hospitals, and security forces, media reported.

The TTP leader, Noor Wali, can be heard directing his associate to target government schools and hospitals with explosives and not to claim responsibility for the attacks.

He also directed his subordinate to attack the homes of police and military personnel, and to target schools and hospitals in order to create fear and chaos.

Noor Wali can be heard saying that on the call to blow up the houses of the police and army personnel who are on duty.

Earlier on July 11, Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday said that it has no plans to enter into any talks with the banned TTP.

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the terrorist entity is involved in the killing of Pakistani and foreign citizens inside the country. She said that Pakistan respects Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"We expect the Afghan authorities to uphold their sovereignty and take action against terrorist groups which have found sanctuaries inside Afghanistan and using their territory for terrorist attacks against Pakistan," Mumtaz Zahra Baloch added.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Pledges Counterterrorism Support To Oman

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday offered Pakistan's support to Oman in dealing with menace of terrorism while condemning the recent attack on an imam-bargah in Muscat that claimed six lives and injured over 30 people.

The offer was extended during a courtesy visit by the Ambassador of Oman Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi to the premier at the Prime Minister's House, said a statement issued today.

Talking to Ambassador, PM Shehbaz appreciated Oman's swift response and cooperation with the Pakistan mission in the repatriation of the dead bodies and treatment of the injured.

The attack on imam-bargah had resulted in the death of six people, including four Pakistani nationals, and over thirty injured, nearly all of whom were Pakistani.

On Thursday, Omani police said that three suspects — all brothers and Omani nationals — adhering to "misguided ideas" were behind the attack and were killed upon resisting security forces.

Meanwhile, the prime minister said Pakistan had itself been the victim of terrorism for the past several decades.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also conveyed his good wishes for Sultan Haitham bin Tariq while fondly recalling his telephone conversations with the Sultan on Eid ul Adha as well as Eid ul Fitr earlier in the year.

The prime minister reiterated his invitation to the Sultan of Oman to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

On the bilateral front, the prime minister stressed that Pakistan and Oman enjoyed close, brotherly ties with a shared history, faith and culture. He expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, particularly in trade, investment, energy, and defense.

In this regard, Prime Minister Shehbaz thanked the ambassador for encouraging a trade and investment delegation to undertake a visit to Pakistan next week, while assuring him that the relevant Pakistani authorities would extend full cooperation to the delegation while seeking mutually beneficial outcomes.



K-P Assembly Passes Resolution Opposing PTI Ban, Calls For Imran Khan's Release

KPK: The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Assembly passed resolutions against a possible ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and in support of Imran Khan's release from jail.



Later, Provincial Law Minister Aftab Alam presented another resolution concerning the potential ban on PTI.

The assembly session, chaired by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, saw Law Minister Aftab Alam presenting a resolution regarding the release of PTI founder Imran Khan.

The resolution cited a report from the United Nations General Assembly's Human Rights Committee, stating that the cases against Imran Khan and his associates violate laws.

The K-P Assembly urged that Imran Khan be released in light of the UN report.

Subsequently, the resolution was passed.

stated that despite the Supreme Court's ruling, the federal cabinet is formulating a narrative to ban PTI.

It argued that such a ban would violate Article 17 of the Constitution, which guarantees the freedom to form political parties. The PTI, standing with the Constitution, pledged to challenge any such ban both judicially and publicly.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Hindu Panchayat are holding a protest demonstration for the recovery of missing Piyra Kumari.-RT

Sindh Minister Shahid Abdul Salam Thaheem visits Shahdadpur on Youm-e-Ashura

By Asif Niaz Detho

SHAHDADPUR: The Sindh Minister for Labor and Human Resources, Shahid Abdul Salam Thaheem, visited Shahdadpur on the occasion of Youm-e-Ashura, where during the mourning processions, proper security arrangements were observed. Every year, PPP Shahdadpur pays homage to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) at "Emergency Medical Camp" and "Ali Chowk" under the leadership of Provincial Minister Shahid Abdul Salam Thaheem, President PPP Sindh, MNA Javed Nayab Laghari, PPP Shahdadpur President Zulfikar Ali Zardari, City President Chacha Mushtaq Ahmed Qureshi, Vice Chairman Rana Luqman Rajput, Councillor Rana Abdul Razaq Rajput and other political party friends.

The best arrangements for the camp were made by Dr. Muhammad Bahal Girwan, Dr. Muhammad Irfan



Girwan, and the medical staff, as well as a management committee including Liaquat Ali Kalhoro, Ziaullah Solangi, Agha Khudadad Khan, Abdul Saboor Ghori, Usman Rajput, Anwar Ali Zardari, Khalid Zahoor Baig, Ali Murad Dazkani, Man-

CM Murad condoles over sad demise of Late Nazir Dhoki

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah reached Pir Jo Goth. The Chief Minister offered condolence over the sad demise of the Chief Media Coordinator of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Nazir Dhoki. Also present with the Chief Minister of Sindh were former Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah Jilani, senior leader Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah, PPP central leader and Member of National Assembly Dr. Nafisa Shah, Provincial Ministers Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Zia ul Hassan Langjar, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's PS Javed Saleem, and other party representatives.

Mochi community demands justice in Daulatpur land dispute

By Aijaz Jolkho

DAULATPUR: Mochi community people, who were the residents of village Mitho Marri recorded a protest demonstration outside the Daulatpur Press Club. While talking to the media, the protest leaders, who included Muhammad Latif Mochi, Muhammad Rafique Mochi, Ali Akbar Mochi, and others said that their plot has been occupied by Sadiq Mochi, Shah Mochi, Yousuf Mochi, Phottu Mochi and Haji Mochi. Those responsible for the incident have also injured Muhammad Latif. Qazi Ahmed Police have not intervened in the police investigation.

Machhi community protests against occupation of Pithoro graveyard

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Machhi community people including Ali Muhammad Machhi, Rab Nawaz Machhi, Muhammad Yousif Machhi and others addressed a press conference against the occupation of a graveyard near village Sadhar. The protesting men said that the influential men have started constructing homes

Youm-e-Ashura observed with utmost reverence and respect in Jhudo

By Shahid Murad

JHUDO: In Jhudo, like across Pakistan, Youm-e-Ashura was observed with utmost reverence and respect. The annual central mourning procession and congregation were held at Shahi Bazaar Chowk under the leadership of Engineer Zulfikar Shah Rizvi, Vice President of Shia Ulema Council, Sindh. Renowned scholars including Zakir Allama Abbas Mehdî Turabi and Allama Gulam Nabi Jaffari addressed the gathering. Assistant Commissioner Jhudo, Chairman and Vice Chairman Jhudo, Town Officer Jhudo, along

PML-N has not consulted PPP regarding PTI ban: Nisar Khuhro

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sindh, Nisar Khuhro stated that in his opinion, no political party should be banned. However, he emphasized that PTI should disassociate itself from its militant wing, including the Tiger Force. Khuhro made these remarks in a statement he issued. Nisar Khuhro said that if PTI considers itself a political party, it must practically prove itself to be a complete political party. He stated that no political party should have a militant wing, and therefore, Imran Khan should publicly disassociate PTI from any militant elements within the party. He further added that the federal government led by Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) has never consulted PPP nor taken it into confidence regarding the potential ban on PTI. Khuhro said that when the federal government approaches PPP for consultation on banning PTI, PPP will inform them of its final opinion and decision. Khuhro highlighted that the federal government has not yet made a final decision on whether to ban PTI. When the federal government formally initiates consultations, PPP will then communicate its final stance to PML-N. He explained that constitutionally, the final decision to ban any party lies with the Supreme Court. The federal government sends a reference to the Supreme Court regarding any ban, and the court makes the ultimate decision. Khuhro also addressed ambiguities surrounding the Supreme Court's decision on reserved seats, which he said remain unclear to the public. He pointed out that the Sumi Ittehad Council had filed the petition regarding reserved seats, and the decision was made in favor of PTI, which had not filed the petition. He questioned how PTI could be entitled to reserved seats when it did not even have a party symbol in the elections and independent candidates contested on various symbols. Khuhro further criticized the Supreme Court for allowing members of the Sumi Ittehad to join another party, effectively setting aside the anti-floor crossing clause. He questioned whether this decision has nullified the anti-floor crossing clause, stating that clarification is needed. Additionally, Nisar Khuhro visited the village of Nazir Dhoki, the media coordinator of PPP chairman, to offer condolences to his sons and other relatives on his passing. He expressed his sorrow and grief during the visit. PPP Sukkur Division President Syed Bachal Shah and other leaders were also present.

Lady police constables become messiahs for BISP beneficiaries in Kunri

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: The ladies police constables, who have been posted at the BISP Centre in Kunri have become messiahs for deserving women. Benazir Income Support Program was established at Qazi Sultan School, due to the large number of deserving women receiving stipend, women police officers on duty have started playing a very important role for distressed women. BISP District Director Hussain Bux Dahani reached Kunri Centre and announced the addition of more devices to the number of available devices at the centre. District Director Hussain Bux Dahani said that there is a shortage of devices and the number of deserving women is high. Many women fainted due to heat at BISP center and were shifted to taluka hospital Kunri.

Renowned Sufi singer Sodhal Faqir passes away

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: A renowned Sufi singer and literary figure of Sindh, Sodhal Faqir passed away after battling various illnesses for quite some time. He was admitted to Nawabshah's hospital where he eventually succumbed. Throughout his time there, he received ongoing medical treatment, but unfortunately, his health continued to deteriorate. The ambulance carrying Sodhal Faqir Laghari's body arrived at Laghari Bijrani, where funeral prayers were offered. The funeral was attended by a large number of admirers, including artists, actors, poets and many others from literary circles, all mourning his loss deeply. He was laid to rest in the ancestral graveyard of Laghari Bijrani, where mourners continue to offer their condolences and pay tribute to his memory.

Thul's civil society protests for recovery of Behram Khoso

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In Thul, leaders of various organizations, relatives and citizens, led by Mumtaz Burro, Asif Josh Burro, Shama Soomro, Abid Lashari, Liaquat Sarki, Bashere Sarki, Waseem Qureshi, Arbab Ali Golo, Gulzar Khoso, Suhno Burro and others, held a protest in front of Thul Press Club against the kidnapping of Behram Khoso. On this occasion, the police have not been able to recover him. They criticized the incompetent police administration for only giving false assurances to the family instead of taking serious action to rescue Behram Khoso. This negligence has caused great despair among Behram Khoso's relatives. They further stated that not only has Behram Khan Khoso from the kidnapped, but also the consciousness of society has been abduced as well. The conscience of Sindh must play its role in rescuing teacher Behram Khoso. His image in shackles stands as a question mark before the entire society and the education department. Finally, they demanded from the Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, the Minister of Education, Syed Sardar Shah, the IG Sindh, DIG Larkana, and SSP Jacobabad to take immediate action to rescue the honorable teacher Behram Khan Khoso from the kidnappers and alleviate the anxiety of his family, otherwise, they warned that the scope of their protest would be expanded.

Mir Gajo Khan Mallah accuses President of PPP Dadu City of attacking his brother

HYDERABAD: Speaking to the media in Hyderabad, Mir Gajo Khan Mallah accused PPP City Dadu President Khalid Mirani of orchestrating a fatal attack on his younger brother Waheed Mallah. He claimed that his brother Waheed was shot three times and after initial treatment in Dadu, was transferred to Hyderabad and is currently in critical condition at a Karachi hospital. Mir Gajo Khan Mallah alleged that the Dadu police and local elected representatives are supporting the attacker. He further accused the Dadu police of pressuring them to settle the matter with the attacker. Mallah mentioned that his party leadership, including Asif Ali Zardari and Fayyal Talpur have struggled for their release throughout

Sindh Food Authority bans 11 packaged snack products of Korean company

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The Sindh Food Authority (SFA) has prohibited the sale of 11 packaged snack products following a laboratory assessment deeming them unfit for human consumption. SFA Director General Muzamil Hussain Halepoto instructed the concerned private company to promptly withdraw Slanty Vegetable, Snackers Hot Masala, Snackers Pizza, Twitch Classic, Potato Sticks, Cheese Ball Masala, Cheese Balls Cheese, Kai Korean Hot, Kai Spicy Mala, Kai Mala Wok and Kai Korean Kimchi from the market. Laboratory tests conducted by the Food Testing Laboratory at the University of Karachi's Department of Food Science and Technology determined these products were unsafe for consumption. The company, which submitted 24 products for registration around two and a half months ago, was notified that 11 of them failed to meet essential safety and quality standards as of the April 19 report. A letter addressed to the company on Monday highlighted the significant health risks posed by these products and cited violations of law and regulations. Consequently, the SFA invoked relevant sections of the Sindh Food Authority Act 2016 to order a full recall of the affected products, emphasizing the severity of the public health threat. The SFA directive mandates the company to immediately cease production and sales of the specified products, withdraw them from the market, and provide detailed information on the remaining stock within three days. Failure to comply will result in legal action. The order also allows the company recourse. If aggrieved by this directive, the company may appeal to the SFA Board within one week under the relevant provisions of the Sindh Food Authority Act.

8-year-old Mehar boy brutally tortured after being tied up to a tree for picking a few dates

By Hanif Panhwar

MEHAR: An 8-year-old boy named Muzaffar Lahari was brutally subjected to torture after being tied up with a tree for picking a few dates from the orchard of Molvi Wahan Jatoi. The employees of the influential man after tying up the minor boy subjected him to torture and recorded his video also which they bravely circulated on the social media to mock the Sindh Police like dacoits of Kashmir-Kandhot. The police have still not taken any step in this regard, while the minor boy has been hospitalized as the culprits left him in unconscious condition. The father of the tortured boy condemned the torture on his minor son and demanded arrest of the accused men in the incident including Molvi Wahan Jatoi, otherwise he has announced to widen his protest.

NATIONAL



Maryam urges Supreme Court judges to support Pakistan's progress

LAHORE: Launching a salvo against the Supreme Court verdict allowing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to claim reserved seats in the parliament, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday said the apex court judges should let the country progress.

"I would like to ask the SC judges to let the country function," Maryam said addressing an event in Lahore.



She alleged the apex court judges of rewriting the constitution to bring one person back to the mainstream politics. "Who are those (people) who do not like the country making progress and re-write the Constitution," she said.

In a major legal victory for the PTI, the SC on July 12 ruled that the party was eligible for the allocation of reserved seats.

The decision has not only paved the way for the PTI's return to the parliament, which was kicked out of the February 8 polls owing to the

enormity will complete its five years' tenure. If anyone tries to create political instability, they will be dealt with iron hands," the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader warned.

"It was said that verdicts were announced according to their conscience," Maryam noted, adding that decisions should be according to the constitution, not according to a person's conscience.

She said the one they were trying to bring back was the nation's criminal. "No one knew from where he was launched and from where he was sourcing funds," she maintained.

The PML-N leader said a group of few people gave such orders which halted the process of development. She also said that the law and Constitution did not allow floor crossing, while the "SC judge's ruling said, you can commit floor crossing". —RT/Agency

Osama bin Laden's associate arrested in Gujrat: CTD Punjab



LAHORE: In a significant development, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab said Friday that the law enforcers had arrested Amin al-Haq, a close aide of Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden.

"The terrorist was apprehended during an intelligence-based operation," DIG CTD Usman Akram Gomadd said, adding that he was taken into custody from Sarai Alamgir, a town in the Gujrat district.

Associated with bin Laden since 1996, the CTD noted that Haq was among the top fighters of the extremist group and that he was involved in several terrorist activities. Haq — responsible for coordinating security for the deceased Al-Qaeda chief — has also been designated as a terrorist by the United Nations.

The high-ranking official said that a case had been registered against Haq, noting that the authorities would probe what was a high-profile terrorist doing in Pakistan.

"He was seen in Afghanistan in 2021. He also has Pakistan's ID Card, on which Lahore and Haripur's addresses have been added," the CTD officer added.

The United Nations Security Council's website shows that Haq, who was born in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province in 1960, was designated as a terrorist on January 25, 2001.

In 2011, the United States troops carried out a raid on bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and eliminated the global terrorist, who was also involved in the deadly 9/11 attacks. —RT/Agency

Punjab police unable to justify 30% crime reduction claim

LAHORE: The Punjab police adamantly disputed Geo Fact Check's report which showed a 46% surge in registered crimes across the province in 2023. But the provincial police has failed to present any data, facts, or evidence supporting their department's stance, to date.



On May 13, Geo Fact Check released a report refuting the assertions made by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who claimed a notable 30% reduction in crime rates during his tenure as caretaker chief minister Punjab in 2023.

Naqvi had headed the province from January 2023 to February 2024.

Contrary to Naqvi's statements, a factual analysis conducted by Geo Fact Check revealed a stark reality: registered cases of all crimes had in fact surged by 46% in 2023 compared to 2022, showed official police data and that documented by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCPC).

In fact, heinous crimes such as rape, gang rape, murder and acid attacks witnessed a significant increase over the past year in the province.

Check's findings, the Punjab police issued a press release on May 15, denying the accuracy of the report while asserting that several critical factors had been overlooked by the fact check.

The press release claimed that a policy was rolled out in 2023 which allowed for the free registration of crimes. Due to which all old cases and first information reports (FIRs) which could not be recorded in the online system in the year 2022, were instead registered in 2023.

Specifically, the press release addressed the category of "crime against properties," claiming that over 130,000 cases from this category, were registered in 2022, were added in 2023, therefore bringing the overall tally of 2023 up.

Curiously, the press release ignored all other categories of crimes.

Furthermore, the release claimed that the true measure of crime rate lies in the calls received on the police helpline (15), which purportedly reduced by 30% in 2023.

In an attempt to verify the Punjab police's assertions, Geo Fact Check reached out to Punjab's Inspector General Police, Dr Usman Anwar.

Requests were made for copies of all FIRs not recorded in the 2022 tally but added in 2023, specifically cases of rape, gang rape, murder, honor killing, dacoity, acid attacks, attempted murder, kidnapping and abduction, kidnapping and ransom, robbery, motor vehicle theft, and hurt. —RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Murad Directs For Review of Solar Projects for Free Electricity for Low-Income Households

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a meeting, has decided to implement the PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhattu's program to provide free-of-cost electricity to consumers living off-grid and to those using 50 to 100 MW electricity by implementing the solar energy solution.



This decision was taken in a meeting held at the CM House in which different proposals were discussed. Minister P&D and Energy Nasir Shah, CM Advisor for Cooperative Societies Ahsan Mazari, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasef, Secretary Energy Musadiq Khan, and others attended the meeting.

On-Grid: Minister Energy Nasir Shah, briefing the CM, said that on his directives, his department has worked out that around 80,000 households were using 50 MW of electricity per month. They

include 441,483 in KE jurisdiction, 229,338 in HESCO, and 125,500 in SEPCO. Similarly, the number of households using 100 MW per month comes to 1.9 million, with 1,054,000 in Karachi (KE), 566,427 in the Hyderabad region (HESCO), and 356,073 in the Sukkur region (SEPCO).

Off-Grid: The CM said that there were 2.6 million off-grid households of them 500,000 may be provided Solar Home Systems (SHS) in the first phase. The CM said that a

100-watt SHC was enough for 3 LED bulbs, a 35W DC fan and a 6-hour battery backup with Mobile charging ports. Nasir Shah told the CM that the cost of an SHS comes to around Rs50,000 each and the total cost for 2.6 million SHS would be around 25 billion.

Microgrids: The CM said that six microgrids, each one of 75kW, could be established in all six divisions as a pilot project to cover a 100-household cluster. —RT

Pakistan and Romania Ink Agreement to Enhance Trade Ties



KARACHI: Pakistan and Romania have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

The MoU signed by Edward Robert PREDA, Charge D'Affaires, Embassy of Romania to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Chairman of PRBC, Sohail Sharim FIRPO, and recognized the outstanding services rendered by PRBC since 2011 in promoting bilateral trade between the two countries.

The agreement establishes a framework for cooperation between the Embassy of Romania and PRBC, with the Embassy extending full support to PRBC's endeavours to promote and strengthen bilateral trade.

Additionally, the protocol acknowledges the recent expansion of PRBC through the formation of its North Chapter.

The embassy and PRBC have agreed to collaborate in enhancing economic cooperation and bilateral trade between Romania and Pakistan. This partnership aims to foster greater economic ties and mutual benefits for both nations.

The signing of this protocol marks a significant milestone in the bilateral relations between Romania and Pakistan. —RT

IHC orders recovery of missing citizen

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday ordered the recovery of missing citizen Samiullah within three days and warned police that failure to recover him within this timeframe would result in legal action against them. The directive came during a hearing led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, who addressed the case involving Samiullah's disappearance from the Sangiani Police Station jurisdiction.



At the hearing, officials including the SSP Operations, SP Saddar, and SHO Sangiani were present.

Justice Kayani questioned the progress of the investigation, specifically asking whether CCTV footage had been reviewed. The petitioner's lawyer reported that while Safe City cameras did not provide useful evidence, footage of the vehicle used in the abduction was available.

The vehicle was captured on camera picking up Samiullah at the Sangiani Toll Plaza and was later observed in the Red Zone, near the Judges' Sector. In response to concerns about potential judicial involvement, Justice Kayani clarified that while the evidence did not suggest any judges were involved, the vehicle's presence in the Red Zone for two days was concerning. The Assistant Attorney General confirmed that the vehicle was not currently in Islamabad, prompting the court to suggest it might be held by another agency. Justice Kayani emphasized that if no progress was made within eleven days, it would imply that further progress might be unlikely. He gave the police a final three-day period to recover Samiullah, warning that if the individual was not found within this time, he would order a case to be filed against the Inspector General (IG).

The court adjourned the case until July 22 and transferred it to another bench for further proceedings. —RT/Agency

KCCI Calls on Government to Reevaluate Anti-Business Tax Policies, Energy Rates

KARACHI: Keeping in view the perpetually intensifying hardships being suffered by small traders, industrialists, exporters, salaried class, daily wagers and many other segments due to harsh taxation measures, unbridled discretionary powers to FBR and unbearably high energy tariffs, President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Ifthikhar Ahmed Sheikh vociferously appealed the government to revisit all the highly unjust taxation measures and bring down gas and electricity tariffs which were leading to descending exports, closure of small businesses as well as industries and subsequent retrenchment of employees, besides bringing a large number of small businesses and

industries at the verge of bankruptcy.

"The alarming situation calls for extensive relief measures on war-footing basis to ensure that the wheels of industry continue to spin otherwise, our beloved country, which is already fighting hard for economic survival, would be plunged into the darkness of anarchy as the jobless and poor segment of society with empty stomachs will have no other choice but to come out on streets which would trigger a host of other issues and unmanageable challenges for the government," warned Ifthikhar Sheikh in a statement issued here on Friday.

While referring to his recent meetings and discussions with a large number of traders and industrialists who have been constantly complaining about the repercussions of all-time high cost of doing business, Ifthikhar said, "We have never seen so many complaints, demonstration and depression in the history of Karachi Chamber as ever day, we hear someone looking forward to either shutting down his business or curtailing production activities and go for layoffs which is really disheartening and a matter of grave concern as widespread closure of industries would only lead to further amplifying the economic crises. —RT

Humza Yaqoob Tabani Appointed Head of Tabani Group



Karachi: Tabani Group has announced the promotion of Humza Yaqoob Tabani to Chairman, following the passing of his father, Muhammad Yaqoob Tabani.

With 28 years of experience at Tabani Group, including 12 years as CEO, Humza Yaqoob Tabani has been instrumental in driving significant growth and innovation. In his new role, he will continue to lead with the dedication and vision that have been his hallmark.

"I am honored to lead Tabani Group into the future," said Humza Yaqoob Tabani. "We will build on our strong foundation and pursue new opportunities." —RT

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Punjab CM's Comprehensive Ashura Security Measures in Toba Tek Singh Yield Positive Results

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the directives of Punjab's Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhur and District Police Officer Ibadat Nasir remained actively engaged in monitoring arrangements on the occasion of Ashura. They were present throughout the processions in the districts of Gojra, Kamalia, Pir Mahal and Tehsil Headquarters, coordinating with organizers to ensure smooth conduct of events. During this time, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Malik Abbas Zulqarnain Awan, Assistant Commissioner Ali Saeed, Nauman Ali Dogar, Saqib Adnan, Aqra Naseer, DSPs and Chief Officers of Municipal Committees were also present. They held meetings with members of peace committees, license holders, organizers, and local administration to gather information about the arrangements.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhur emphasized that stringent security measures were put in place across the district for Ashura. Participants were directed to pass through three points, and intersections were monitored via CCTV cameras and drones. A central control room was established at the Deputy Commissioner's office and the Municipal Committee Garden for this purpose. It was highlighted that 78 processions and 13 Majalis were scheduled across the district.

With special arrangements made for the welfare of staff from all departments deployed on duty during Muharram-ul-Haram duties. Additionally, for the first time in Pakistan's history, points were set up along procession routes to provide chilled beverages for mourners as per the directive of Punjab's Chief Minister. Emergency services of Rescue 1122, ambulances, bomb disposal vehicles, and other security equipment were also ensured to be present during processions. Health authorities' camps were checked along procession routes to provide first aid to mourners.

New Developments Surface in Minor's Death Inside Locked Car

KARACHI: A case pertaining to the death of a four-year-old boy due to suffocation inside a car took a shocking turn as his mother accused her in-laws of 'deliberately killing the child, media reported.

The four-year-old boy died after being suffocated inside a car in the Gulistan-e-Johar area of Karachi on 15th

June 2024. Initially, the case was registered under a clause pertaining to accidental death but now the police incorporated Section 302 (premeditated murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) on the complaint of the boy's mother.

The deceased boy's mother Khatija named his uncle and aunt as suspects in the case. The grievd mother told media that her son was deliberately killed, adding that his uncle and aunt locked him in the car with the intention of killing.

Khatija said that her plan was deliberately killed, alleging that the investigation officer is not cooperating with her. —RT/Agency



KARACHI: Group photo at the Haleem invitation hosted by Faisal Moiz Khan, President of the North Karachi Association of Trade and Industry (NKATI). Pictured are renowned businessman Asad Hanif, former NKATI chairman Mahmood Rangoonwala, Majid Bhatti, Imran Moiz Khan, Faraz Mirza, and Tahir Rangoonwala. The event also saw attendance from Akhtar Ismail, Shahid Ansari, Younis Khamisani, Tariq Rashid, Fawad Elahi, Faisal Shaboo, Yasir Ali, Naseem Haider, and other distinguished guests. —RT

Uch Sharif youth found dead

By M Siddique

BAHAWALPUR: In Bukhari Muhalla Uch Sharif, the lifeless body of a young man who was brutally assaulted was found. Upon receiving

the information, the police and Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) team reached the scene. The victim, identified as 21-year-old Shahzad, was found deceased. Police have initiated proceedings after taking custody of the body. However, the exact cause of death will be determined once investigations are completed.

Toba Tek Singh youth stabs his friend to death

TOBA TEK SINGH: The police of Gojra Police Station arrested a youth named Sunny S/o Shoukat Machhi, who stabbed his

friend Muhammad Adnan to death in Dastagir Colony. The body of the deceased was handed over to his heirs after completing necessary medico legal formalities from a local area hospital. A case was registered against the arrested youth.

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, July 20, 2024

Are Ad Hoc Judges A Quick Fix Or Judicial Quagmire?

The recent approval by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) to appoint two retired judges, Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Mazhar Miankhel, as ad-hoc judges to the Supreme Court (SC) has reignited the longstanding debate about the practice of ad hocism within Pakistan's judiciary. This decision, met with both support and opposition within the commission, underscores the controversial nature of appointing temporary judges to the highest court in a country already grappling with a highly polarized political environment.

Ad hocism, by its very nature, is a stopgap measure. While it may provide short-term relief, it raises significant concerns about the stability and integrity of judicial processes. The appointment of ad-hoc judges often appears as a quick fix to systemic issues, rather than addressing the root causes of judicial inefficiency. In this context, one must question the optics and implications of these recent

appointments. Can temporary judges, no matter how competent, truly offer the same consistency and long-term vision as their permanently appointed counterparts?

The JCP's decision was not unanimous, highlighting the



contentious nature of these appointments. Justice Munib Akhtar's opposition to Justice Masood's appointment and the narrow approval margins for both judges reflect deep divisions within the commission itself. Such dissent signals a broader unease about the reliance on ad hoc solutions in a system that requires permanent, sustainable reforms.

Furthermore, in the current charged political climate, the optics of appointing ad-hoc judges can be particularly troubling. The perception, whether accurate or not, that such

appointments might be influenced by political considerations, undermines public confidence in the judiciary. It also raises questions about the independence of the judiciary, a cornerstone of democratic governance.

While the Pakistan Bar Council has supported the move, citing the need to expedite the decision-making process amidst a backlog of cases, the call for constitutional amendments to establish more courts seems a more prudent long-term solution. Ad hoc measures, while expedient, cannot replace the need for comprehensive judicial reforms that ensure both efficiency and impartiality.

In conclusion, the practice of ad hocism in Pakistan's judiciary remains fraught with controversy and potential pitfalls. As the nation navigates its complex political landscape, it is imperative to seek solutions that reinforce the judiciary's independence and integrity, rather than relying on temporary fixes that may exacerbate existing challenges.

THE HEARTLAND



Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi chairs meeting to review Municipal Services Delivery Program

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: An important meeting regarding the Municipal Services Delivery Program, ongoing with the support of USAID, was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi and the Project Director of the Municipal Services Delivery

Program, Shahzaman Khuro. The meeting was attended by Deputy Divisional Superintendent Railways Sukkur Syed Muallim, Director Planning SEPCO Irshad Ali Baloch, along with officers from the Municipal Services Delivery Program, SEPCO, and Railways Sukkur. The meeting discussed the new electricity

connections for 18 pumping stations of the Municipal Services Delivery Program in Jacobabad by SEPCO and the NOC for the crossing of drainage pipelines at four locations by Pakistan Railways. The Municipal Services Delivery is an important project of the Sindh government, said Commissioner Sukkur.

Nawabshah's BISP beneficiaries decry illegal deductions from their stipends

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: In various centers of Nawabshah city, under the Benazir Income Support Program, the monthly installment distribution has started. However, the mafia agents have also become active. On Court Road in Nawabshah, at Government Girls Higher Secondary School where the BISP Centre is located, agents of the mafia are involved in extorting illegal cuts ranging from two to five thousand rupees from help-

less and poor women under the pretext of installment payments. When affected women complained to the district administration about the Benazir Income Support Program's helpline, administrative agents turned a blind eye to the mafia's illegal activities. These affected women have been crying week after week, but their money has not been returned to them. We are not sure if the money is in our account or if all the money has been cut by the agents.

4 cops and a criminal injured after roof of Jamshoro Police Station's warehouse collapses

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: An incident involving a loud noise was reported at the police station warehouse and as a result its roof also collapsed in Jamshoro. The disturbance caused fear and heightened security concerns in the surrounding area. Police officers rushed to the scene and found several officials including Wireless Operator Rasool Bakhsh Barjo, who were shifted to the Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi. The incident

reportedly stemmed from motorcycles parked inside the warehouse causing a disturbance. SSP Jamshoro Tariq Nawaz and Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Riaz Hussain Wasseen personally investigated the incident and confirmed it was not an act of terrorism. The police have maintained custody of the warehouse where the incident occurred and are continuing investigation.

Measles outbreak intensifies in Sujawal

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: In Sujawal, the measles outbreak has worsened, claiming the lives of two innocent children from the same area of the city within a week, who were named Shahid S/o Abdul Raheem Shaikh and Abu Bakar S/o Naseebullah Bhaan. The bereaved families, including Haji Abdul Sattar Shaikh, Abdul Raheem Shaikh, Jameel Shaikh and Irshad, blamed the hospital administration, stating that Tived Hospital Sujawal has turned into a slaughterhouse. They

claimed that measles patients are given a single injection and then referred to Thatta, Hyderabad or Karachi. Due to the lack of a measles ward in such a large hospital, they are forced to carry the coffins of their children.

The grieving families highlighted the double blow of losing their children and facing the indifferent attitude of the doctors and nurses at the hospital. They were even denied an ambulance to transport the bodies, compelling them to use a rickshaw to carry their beloved children's bodies. They

called on the Chief Minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah and the Provincial Minister of Health to take action against the hospital administration, establish a measles ward in the hospital and provide all necessary treatment facilities to prevent more deaths of innocent children. It is worth noting that in the same Shaikh Muhalla, four more children are suffering from measles and are struggling for their lives at home including Ayaan Ali, son of Abdul Raheem, Sunil and Zameer, sons of Jameel and Mahira daughter of Irshad.

Services of district administration Tando Allahyar lauded after peaceful Youm-e-Ashura

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The central figure of mourning, Agha Ghulam Shabir Hyderi, in his recent statement, expressed gratitude to Deputy Commissioner Saleemullah Odho, SSP Tando Allahyar, Abrez Ali Abbasi, DSP Usman

Laghari, SHO Mazhar Mehdi, DSP Anti-Car Lifting Cell Hameed Kashigar, Ranger officials and all journalists. He praised them for their exemplary duty during Muharram-ul-Haram, acknowledging their dedicated service rendered in the best possible manner.

Boy killed, two injured after roof of Kotri home collapses

By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: The roof of the home of a man named Sadiq Jatt collapsed near Jhatali Farm in Kotri and as a result his 12-year-old son named Amanullah Jatt died on the spot, while his par-

ents sustained critical injuries. The dead body and injured were rushed to a local area hospital. The body of the deceased son was transported to his home in a rickshaw due to having no ambulance in Kotri hospital.

TMO Tando Jam barred from excessive use of his powers

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: The Chairman of the Town Committee Tando Jam Badar Memon has issued a letter to the TMO Shahjahan Panhwar stopping him from using powers of transfer and posting in the

Municipal Committee without permission of the Town Chairman. It has been observed that the transfers and postings were being made by the TMO without informing the Chairman due to which he stopped him from such practice.

AAWT, Rotary Club Mirpurkhas organize a free medical camp

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: Al-Ashraf Welfare Trust and Rotary Club Mirpurkhas organized a free medical camp for mourners on the Yaum-e-

Ashura. The Niyaz (free food) was also distributed amongst the people. The General Secretary of Al-Ashraf Welfare Trust, Farhan Ashraf, Rauf Arain of Rotary Club, Walid

SSP Sumair Noor Channa launches Ghotki Police's website

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: SSP Ghotki Dr Sumair Noor Channa has launched a website of the Ghotki Police to provide online facilities to the people.

While talking to the media, SSP Ghotki said that the website has been developed on orders of the IGP Sindh and through this facility people could get verification forms and other facilities online. The details of the police officers with their numbers has also been shared for the general public, while the names of wanted criminals have also been placed in the website.

District Council Kashmore-Kandhkot passes budget for fiscal year 2024-25

By Aftab Bhatti

KASHMORE: The budget session of the District Council Kashmore-Kandhkot was held under the chair of Chairman of District Council Mir Gul Muhammad Khan Jakhriani. The meeting passed the budget of Rs 628,641,927

for the fiscal year 2024-25. The funds were allocated for the development works, welfare projects, scholarships and other heads. Addressing on the occasion, District Council Chairman said that the steps will be taken for the maintenance of peace in the district and in this regard he will con-

sult with the higher authorities as the district council members are condemning the deteriorating law and order situation in Kashmore-Kandhkot. He also announced to ensure the completion of all the development works and facilitate the masses without any discrimination.

Larkana heatwave leads to 28 Gastro cases

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A heat wave persists in Larkana city and its surrounding areas, resulting in 28 individuals contracting gastroenteritis. Their relatives brought them separately to the emergency ward of CMC Hospital, where they received

medical treatment. Among the affected patients were Qadir Bux, Mumtaz Ali, Rustam Ali, Inayat, Qurban, and Bibi Javeria. Doctors stated that the new heat wave, characterized by high temperatures and humidity, necessitates precautions. They warned that such weather often leads to an in-

crease in gastroenteritis cases, advising citizens to take measures to protect themselves from the heat. Additionally, doctors recommended that patients and their families avoid unnecessary outings and consume cool items to mitigate the effects of the heat.

Muhammad Iqbal Kunbhar assumes charge as Director Education Mirpurkhas

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The Director of the Education Department Mirpurkhas,

Arshad Baig has been transferred from Mirpurkhas. Muhammad Iqbal Kunbhar has been posted as the new Director

of the Education Department Mirpurkhas. The newly posted Director has assumed the charge of his office.

NATIONAL

Pakistan Urges Afghanistan to Act Against Terrorist Groups

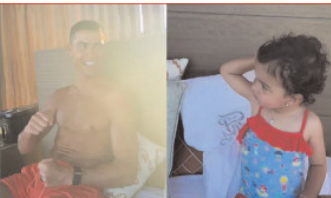
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has once again asked the Afghan authorities to take immediate and effective action against terrorist groups including their sponsors and backers.

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan will continue to defend itself against all terrorist groups and ensure the safety and security of its people. Alluding to the Indian oppressive tactics in illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said Pakistan will continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people for the just and peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan security forces killed 10 terrorists who attacked Bannu Cantonment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the early hours of Monday. The attackers attempted to infiltrate the Bannu cant but were repelled, leading them to detonate an explosive-laden vehicle against the perimeter wall.—RT/Agency

SPORTS



Cristiano Ronaldo shares playful moment with daughter by the beach



Cristiano Ronaldo is spending some much-needed time off with family following a devastating exit from the Euros 2024 after Portugal was defeated by France in the quarterfinals round.

The 39-year-old Al Nasser striker seems to be having fun with his partner Georgina Rodriguez and his children on a beachy getaway.

He even shared his playful side with fans as he posted a video on social media in which he can be seen playing with his two-year-old daughter, Bella Esmeralda.

Ronaldo posted the video on his Instagram, which he captioned: "Daddy loves you, Mommy loves you."

The five-time Ballon d'Or award winner was seen consoling teammate Pepe after Portugal's defeat.

Taking to X after the exit, the five-time Ballon d'Or award winner wrote: "We

wanted more. We deserved more. For us. For each one of you. For Portugal. We are grateful for everything you have given us and for everything we have achieved so far."

"On and off the field, I am sure that this legacy will be honored and will continue to be built."

Portugal's defeat to France was Ronaldo's 212th cap, and the attacker has scored 130 goals for his country.

The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus star has played for Portugal in six Euros and four World Cups. He helped Portugal reach the 2004 and 2016 Euros, winning the latter.

In the 2022 World Cup, he became the first and only male player to score in five consecutive editions of the tournament with eight goals.—Agency

Babar, Shaheen, Rizwan 'unlikely' to get NOC for Canadian league



LAHORE: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi and wicket-keeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan are unlikely to get a no-objection certificate (NOC) to participate in the upcoming league Global T20 Canada, sources told Geo News on Friday.

The insiders revealed that the players will not get a NOC despite the Canadian league, which is scheduled from July 25 to August 11, not clashing with any series.

This is because all-format players will not be issued the certificate as per the policy. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is not in favour

of this due to busy international schedule, said the sources.

The development comes days after the cricket body decided not to grant fast bowler Naseem Shah the NOC to play The Hundred cricket league due to being an all-format player.

However, the Global T20 Canada has not yet received an approval from the International Cricket Council (ICC) due to several issues, the sources said.

"They added that the NOC of the players will be formally decided only after the league gets an approval.

Pacer Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Nawaz, Asif Ali and Iftikhar Ahmed also have contracts in the Global T20 Canada.

Earlier this week, the PCB said that it would work out a technical process to issue NOC to the players and those who would fulfil the requirements would be granted the NOC.

"The players will be promoted on the basis of their fitness and performance. There's no place for players who do not fit the criteria. There'll also be no compromise on discipline," said PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi.—Agency

Pakistan's chances bleak as Women's T20 Asia Cup begins today



DAMBULLA: The Pakistan women's cricket team will be back in action for the first time after their series defeats against West Indies and England, in the Women's T20 Asia Cup, which starts here on Friday.

While the opening fixture of the eight-team tournament will feature Nepal and UAE, Pakistan's first outing in the event will come against archrivals and favourites India a day later.

The Nida Dar-led team is drawn in Group 'A', along with India, UAE and Nepal. Group 'B', meanwhile, consists of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Given Pakistan's recent performances, their prospects to lift the trophy are bleak. In their last 14 matches, which included both One-day Internationals and T20Is, Pakistan have tasted victory only once.

The disastrous run resulted in yet another change in their coaching setup, with Moham-mad Wasim taking over as the team's third head coach in the last 12 months.

"Our aim is to play positive and fearless cricket. We intend to remain positive in our approach and showcase our abilities according to the requirements of the conditions here.—Agency

Pakistan go into the tournament with as many as six players dropped from that of their squad that toured England, which was their last assignment before the T20 Asia Cup.

The 15-member squad underwent an 11-day training camp in Karachi before flying to Sri Lanka, and for Nida, it helped the team prepare well.

"As a captain I am looking forward to give my best," she said in a statement on Thursday. "We have worked very hard in the camp and tried to overcome all the weaknesses in the team.

"The disastorous run resulted in yet another change in their coaching setup, with Moham-mad Wasim taking over as the team's third head coach in the last 12 months.

"Our aim is to play positive and fearless cricket. We intend to remain positive in our approach and showcase our abilities according to the requirements of the conditions here.—Agency

Zverev outlasts Gaston to reach Hamburg quarter-finals



HAMBURG: Roared on by Hamburg fans defending champion Alexander Zverev battled through to the quarter-finals Thursday with a 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Frenchman Hugo Gaston.

Hope Zverev is recovering from a knee injury he suffered at Wimbledon but still covered the court as Gaston played a string of drop shots.

Gaston took the first set after a 30-ball rally, which Zverev was convinced should have been halted for a double bounce.

Zverev bounced back to break in the next game on his way to taking the second set.

The decider included five breaks of serve but Zverev took the last to lead 6-5 before holding serve to 15 to seal victory.

In the quarter-finals the German will face Chinese eighth seed Zhang Zhizhen who beat Flavio Cobolli, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5).

French fifth seed Arthur Fils also advanced, beating Serb Laslo Djere, last year's losing finalist, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

Fils, who made the semi-finals in Hamburg a year ago, reached his sixth tour-level quarter-final this season.

That consistency has the 20-year-old top of the rankings in the ATP's 'Race to Jeddah', where the Next Generation under-21 finals will be played in December.

Fils has reached just one final, when he won on clay in Lyon in May 2023.

"When I'm practising super hard like I'm doing, of course I am able to show a great level and great fitness for a few hours," said Fils. "If a guy

wants to beat me, it has to be tough. I am not going to let the match go."

Fils will face second seed Holger Rune, who beat Marco Tringoliti 6-4, 6-3 in 80 minutes.

The Dane said he had tried to turn his round of 16 straight sets loss to Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon into motivation.

"It's been very intense since Wimbledon. I only had one day off, actually," said Rune on court.

"I was like, 'I don't want to rest, I want to go straight back to practice', because I was very disappointed. I went straight back to work on the things that needed to be done, and now I have the chance to train those things in matches."—Agency

Fresh injury concerns for Australia ahead of T20 World Cup



Australia are monitoring injuries to a pair of key players less than three months out from the start of this year's ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.

Spinner Sophie Molineux is the major injury concern, with the left-armed sufferer an acute rib fracture after being struck in the chest by a ball while batting last week.

Molineux is expected to be sidelined for up to eight weeks, leaving the 26-year-old with little time to return to full fitness ahead of Australia's first match at the T20 World Cup against Sri Lanka in Sylhet on October 4.

Molineux was named Player of the Series during Australia's recent T20I series in Bangladesh and is expected to lead a strong spin bowling contingent at the T20 World Cup alongside the likes of Georgia Wareham, Ash Gardner and Alana King.

Teammate Grace Harris is also battling her own injury concern, with the hard-hit-

ting all-rounder aggravating a calf problem recently and forced to withdrawal from England's domestic T20 competition The Hundred.

Harris was part of Australia's side when they won the most recent T20 World Cup in South Africa last year, while Molineux played her role in helping the six-time champions to success at the two tournaments prior in 2018 and 2020.

Cricketer Australia confirmed the injuries via a short statement.

"Molineux suffered an acute rib fracture after being struck by a ball in the chest while batting last week," the statement read.

Harris suffered an aggravation of a calf injury sustained in her preparation for the Hundred and the upcoming season. She is now working through a graduated rehabilitation and return to play program.—Agency

Japanese gymnast sent home from Paris Olympics for smoking



PARIS: Japanese gymnast Shoko Miyata has been sent home from the Paris Olympics over allegations of smoking, local media reported Friday.

The Japan Gymnastics Association was investigating the 19-year-old captain of the women's gymnastics team to decide if she had breached their code of conduct, reports said.

Smoking is illegal under the age of 20 in Japan.

Several reports said that Miyata, who was expected to contend for a medal in Paris, had already left the team's training camp in Monaco.

Her participation in the Games was still "unclear", according to reports.

The reports said she did not attend training on Wednesday, with a JGA official saying her absence was "for certain reasons".

Japanese Olympic officials were set to hold a press conference in Tokyo on Friday afternoon.

Miyata won bronze in the balance beam at the 2022 world championships in Liverpool.

She won the all-around title at Japan's national championships earlier this year.—Agency

Double-winning Leverkusen sign French striker Terrier



PARIS: German champions Bayer Leverkusen on Thursday signed uncapped French striker Martin Terrier from Ligue 1 Rennes, the two clubs announced.

"It's been my wish to move to a big club abroad in Europe after seven years as a professional in France," Terrier told the Bayer web site.

"It's fantastic to be a part of this team."

Bayer said they had signed the 27-year-old until 2029 but did not mention a fee.

"In Martin Terrier we've gained a prolific, fast and intelligent forward," said Bayer managing director Simon Rolfes.

"Martin is a strong finisher and versatile - a good footballer who fits into our team superbly."

Terrier, who has appeared for France at under-21 level, started his career at Lille and has had stints at Strasbourg and Lyon. He played 141 matches and scored 51 goals for Rennes and has "written his name in the club's history," said the team on his web site.—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT

Kesha hints at relationship status with new move



Popstar Kesha is letting all the people know about her current relationship status.

The 37-year-old singer was seen carrying a cardboard sign that read: "I'M SINGLE" as she ran errands in West Hollywood, Los Angeles.

She proudly held it up over her head for nearby photographers before getting into her parked car.

As per pictures dropped by Daily Mail, the TK ToK singer donned a bubblegum pink sports wear which she styled it with a hot pink satin Western shirt and white sneakers.

Earlier this month, Kesha released her single titled, Joyride, making her musical comeback after settling her nearly decade-long legal pursuit against producer Lukasz "Dr. Luke" Gottwald.

In her exclusive conversation with Forbes earlier this month, the singer declared that she aspires to "change the world," especially for any artists who are going through situations similar to what she endured.

Giving advice to all the

Jennifer Lopez sends message to Ben Affleck after lonely second anniversary



Jennifer Lopez does not shy away from putting her hard work on display.

Lopez, 54, seemingly sent a message to her estranged husband Ben Affleck, 51, with her chiseled abs on Thursday after spending their second wedding anniversary away from him.

The Papi songstress was exiting a Hamptons gym with her longtime manager Benny Medina to get to a vintage Mercedes-Benz convertible parked outside the gym.

The Atlas star had put her toned abs on full display in a white bralette and mauve sweats and a pair of oversized white-framed sunglasses and silver hoops. She tied her hair into a sleek bun.

Lopez ditched the wedding ring yet again after her inconsistency over the past few weeks.

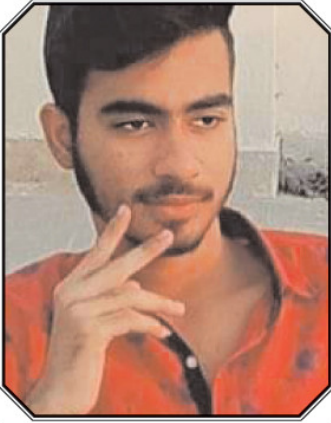
She was last spotted with her wedding band on a bike ride in the Hamptons Tuesday, which she paired with her rare green engagement diamond ring as she spent her wedding anniversary away from her estranged husband.

While Lopez was out with her manager in the same Mercedes-Benz with Medina, Affleck stayed behind in Los Angeles for work on the special occasion. He was spotted arriving at his office wearing a gray suit on Tuesday.

Affleck and Lopez have been fueling split rumours for months, with some sources claiming their marriage has been over since March.

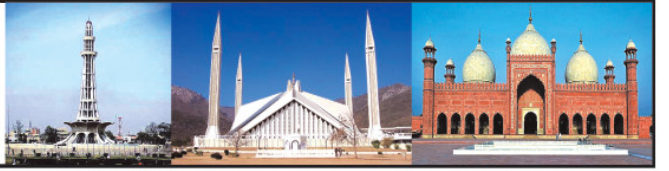
Lopez and Affleck are currently in the process of selling their Beverly Hills mansion for \$68 million.

Face of the Day



Name: Tajamul Butt
Location: Karachi
About me: It's all about modeling for me!

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



Pakistani prisoners in Sri Lanka to return within a week

ISLAMABAD: Sri Lankan High Commissioner Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Srivijay Gunaratne on Friday met Minister of Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi and discussed issues of mutual interest including the release of Pakistani nationals imprisoned in Sri Lanka, media reported on Friday.

Both sides agreed to expedite the necessary steps for the release of Pakistani nationals imprisoned in Sri Lanka jails within 7 days.

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner, Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Srivijay Gunaratne assured all possible support in this regard. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed gratitude to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner for his support in facilitating the repatriation process.

"All necessary steps are



being finalized to ensure the swift return of Pakistani citizens imprisoned in Sri Lanka," he said.

In addition to the prisoner repatriation, the meeting also discussed anti-narcotics and border security issues. Naqvi emphasized the need to further develop mutual relations and promote cooperation in counter-narcotics and border security.

Sri Lanka's High Com-

missioner reiterated the importance of Sri Lanka's relations with Pakistan, highlighting the strengthening of ties between the two nations over time.

This breakthrough marks a significant milestone in the diplomatic efforts between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, paving the way for enhanced cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.—RT/Agency

Aleem Khan announces to fund expenses for Pakistani prisoners in Sri Lanka

Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Communications, and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan has announced to bear all expenses for the repatriation of Pakistani prisoners being repatriated from Sri Lanka.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his gratitude to Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan for taking a personal interest in the release of prisoners, saying that his good work is a breath of fresh air for Pakistani prisoners and their families.

Pakistanis imprisoned in Sri Lanka for many years will be able to return to their homeland after paying the expenses, the Ministry of Interior was in contact with the Sri Lankan authorities for the release of Pakistani prisoners.



The release of Pakistani prisoners was delayed due to difficulties in expenses and financial payments, now Pakistani prisoners will be able to return home soon after completing the necessary procedures.—RT/Agency

K-P Assembly sets electricity rates at Rs. 15 per unit

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has approved a contract to set electricity rates at Rs. 15 per unit in the province. According to details, the agreement on electricity tariffs was presented by government member Fazal Elahi and has been accepted.

The contract stipulates that electricity generated at a cost of Rs. 2 per unit will be sold to the public at 70 to 80 rupees per unit, providing relief by supplying electricity at 10 to 15 rupees per unit and ending load shedding.

It was clarified in the agreement that under the constitution and laws, the province has the first right on its production. The issue of prolonged load shedding and hefty bills has sparked strong public reactions, evidenced by protests at electricity houses and forcible power reconnections, while provincial and federal governments have exchanged accusations over the matter.—RT/Agency

Stray dog kills infant inside home



PAKPATTAN: In a tragic incident occurred in Pakpattan, a seven-month-old baby died after being mauled by a stray dog, media reported quoting rescue sources.

According to the details, the stray dog entered the house and attacked the infant, who succumbed to his injuries during treatment at the hospital.

The rescue sources said that the infant was attacked by the dog inside his home in Pakpattan's Kamriyari village. The child was being rushed to the hospital in injured condition but died on his way. The dog was later caught and beaten to death by the area people.

A staggering 5,641 dog-bite cases have been reported across Pakistan in just one week, ARY News reported earlier citing National Institute of Health (NIH) sources.

Punjab topped the list dog, media reported quoting rescue sources. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 615 cases, while Balochistan saw 80 cases. Meanwhile, 75 cases were reported in Azad Kashmir and 6 in Gilgit-Baltistan, sources added.

Last month, a shocking increase was reported in the number of dog bite cases as 7,957 cases were reported in one week across Pakistan. In a significant development, the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) in Karachi launched its own anti-rabies vaccine (ARV), namely DowRab, for the dog bites victims in Sindh.—RT/Agency

The Balochistan Police Department has dismissed over 200 personnel due to negligence and prolonged absence from duty.

The notification stated that the dismissed personnel include constables, head constables, and Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs). The notification further elaborated that the dismissed officers belong to various regions across Balochistan, including Quetta, Loralai, Sibi, Kalat, Zhob, Naserabad, and Makran. This widespread dismissal reflects the

department's commitment to upholding high standards of professionalism and dedication among its ranks. The police department reiterated that negligence and absenteeism would not be tolerated, as they undermine the overall effectiveness of law enforcement operations. The department urged all remaining personnel to adhere strictly to their duties and responsibilities, warning that similar actions would be taken against those failing to meet the required standards.—RT/Agency

Khawaja Asif warns of potential constitutional crisis, election annulment

Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has acknowledged that the PML-N government acted hastily in announcing a ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He added that a constitutional meltdown is about to happen.

While speaking on Geo News on Thursday, Asif admitted that the decision was made prematurely and that consultations with coalition partners were crucial.

The government's surprise announcement on Monday, which also included plans to charge former Prime Minister Imran Khan, former President Arif Alvi, and Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri with high treason under Article 6, has faced strong opposition from both within and outside the ruling coalition. Even the PML-N's key ally, the PPP, has criticized the move as undemocratic.

Asif clarified that the government will now seek a broader consensus among its allies before taking any fur-



ther action against the PTI. He emphasized that the decision to ban the party will be made only after achieving a unified stance.

He added that there is increasing chatter about elections being annulled by October.

When questioned about the perception that the government is facilitating a crackdown on Imran Khan, Asif vehemently denied the claim. He asserted that the government's actions are solely in the best interest of Pakistan. SC sets aside PHC and

ECP orders, awards reserved seats to PTI. Govt will decide on Monday whether to challenge reserved seats decision: Asif

Federal government to ban PTI, file treason case against Imran Khan

Asif further accused the PTI of posing an existential threat to the country due to its behavior since being ousted from power. He claimed that the party is receiving significant support from the United States, both diplomatically and legislatively, through hired lobbyists who have secured backing from various US interest groups.

Expressing concerns about a potential constitutional crisis, Asif warned of a "constitutional meltdown" in Pakistan. While he did not elaborate on the specifics, he clarified that he was not referring to a possible military takeover.—RT/Agency

Gohar Ejaz urges increased employment opportunities

Former interior minister Gohar Ejaz on Friday called for increasing employment opportunities.

Expressing his thoughts, Ejaz said: "We had given subsidies worth billions of rupees during our tenure. The industries are not being run due to the costly electricity."

Ejaz urged the business community to take up the responsibilities with honesty.

Ejaz acknowledged the role of the business community, saying: "The country cannot lead to prosperity without the role of the business community."

Just a few days back, Ejaz underscored the importance of reviewing the agreements with the independent power producers (IPP) in a bid to steer the country towards the prosperity.

Taking to X, Ejaz said: "We are aware of the ca-



capacity payments going to the IPP sector. Coal power plants are operating below 25 percent capacity yet receiving over Rs692 billion as full capacity charges. Wind operations get below 50 percent but getting Rs175 billion with exorbitant per unit charges."

"RLNG-based gas power plants are operating below 50 percent and receiving Rs180 billion per year, while solar operations get Rs110 billion with high per unit rates," he said.—RT/Agency

Cement and construction material prices surge post-strike

Lahore is experiencing a significant spike in cement prices and those of other construction material following a strike by the cement industry and the imposition of new taxes. This price hike is likely to impact the construction process.

The price of a cement bag has risen by Rs250 to Rs300, now ranging from Rs1,480 to Rs1,500. This increase has had a ripple effect, causing prices for other construction materials like sand, gravel, and bricks to also rise.

The strike by cement dealers, coupled with the new tax measures, is creating a crisis for both consumers and businesses.

Shopkeepers are expressing deep concern about the impact on construction activities and the potential for a complete halt in business if the strike persists.

The dealers association strike has exacerbated the sit-



uation, leading to further worries about the continuity of employment for thousands of families dependent on the construction sector.

Shopkeepers are calling on the government to reconsider its decision on the new taxes to help stabilize prices and ensure the ongoing employment of those in the industry. They argue that the increased costs are not only affecting their businesses

but also putting a strain on the broader construction process, which could lead to delays and halted projects.

As the situation unfolds, both buyers and sellers are anxiously awaiting resolution, hoping for an end to the strike and a reassessment of the tax policies to mitigate the financial strain on the construction industry and protect jobs.—RT/Agency

Senate body requests details of IPP agreements

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Power sought details from the Power Division regarding the payments made to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) over the past 20 years, media reported.

The committee sent a questionnaire to the secretary Power Division and sought information of the payments made to IPPs.

The Senate Standing Committee on Power also sought the reasons behind these payments, and the details of the sponsors of all power plants set up in the private sector.

The committee also asked the Power Division to apprise on the construction costs of wind power plants and the production costs of electricity in the last six years.

The Ministry of Power has been directed to provide



all relevant details to the committee.

The secretary has been directed to submit all relevant record within three weeks. Earlier, Federal Minister of Energy Awais Leghari said that the issue of the IPPs has been under consideration.

Talking to media, Awais Leghari said that the issue of the independent power producers (IPPs) being seen

from various angles. "We are seeing, how much time of an IPP is remaining," he said.

"We also seeing, how much benefit or loss given by an IPP and what mechanism required to remove an expensive power producer and what price we have to pay for it," energy minister said. "Can we bear the price of removing the IPPs," he questioned.—RT/Agency

Balochistan dismisses over 200 police officers



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The notification stated that the dismissed personnel include constables, head constables, and Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs).

The notification further elaborated that the dismissed officers belong to various regions across Balochistan, including Quetta, Loralai, Sibi, Kalat, Zhob, Naserabad, and Makran. This widespread dismissal reflects the

department's commitment to upholding high standards of professionalism and dedication among its ranks. The police department reiterated that negligence and absenteeism would not be tolerated, as they undermine the overall effectiveness of law enforcement operations. The department urged all remaining personnel to adhere strictly to their duties and responsibilities, warning that similar actions would be taken against those failing to meet the required standards.—RT/Agency

Flour Mills threaten strike over wheat tax dispute

LAHORE: Following unsuccessful negotiations between Flour Mills and a government committee regarding the wheat holding tax issue, Flour Mills have once again threatened to strike. Last week, flour mills across Pakistan had initiated a strike, prompting the government to announce talks and form a negotiation committee.

The government had proposed a resolution to end the strike announced by the Pakistan Flour Mills Association, but with no progress in negotiations between the government committee and Flour Mills Association, there's a renewed threat of nation-



wide strikes and mill closures. Chairman of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association, Aamir Abdullah, warned that if the government does not abolish the wheat holding tax, mills will shut down again from July 23.

Just days ago, the Flour Mills Association had announced the postponement of their strike for 10 days, citing record price increases in flour across many cities due to the strike.

It is clear that the Chairman of the Flour Mills Association has stated that the unfair tax measures will open a new door to corruption, leading to an additional Rs. 8 per kilogram increase in flour prices due to FBR taxes.—RT/Agency

CM Bugti calls for integrated coordination to improve Balochistan's law and order

LORALAI: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, on Friday said that integrated coordination amongst all institutions was inevitable for improving law and order situation in Balochistan.

These views were expressed by him while chairing a high level meeting held here during his one-day visit to Loralai. Directing the relevant authorities to ensure the timely completion of ongoing development schemes

in Loralai, Bugti said that completion of development projects would usher in the era of progress and prosperity in Loralai division.

He directed to issue appointment orders at divisional and district level on contract basis besides making appointments of teachers at union council level for overcoming the deficiency of staff in dysfunctional schools of Loralai division.

The CM expressed indignation over the poor perform-

ance of Teaching Hospital Loralai and other healthcare facilities of Loralai division and also issued directives for taking strict action against drug peddlers.

Commissioner Loralai delivered a detailed briefing regarding law and order situation in Loralai division and about ongoing development projects in Loralai, including education, health and irrigation sectors.—RT/Agency

Minister Marriyum announces 5000 new registration centers

LAHORE: Senior Punjab Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb announced establishment of five thousand registration centers in Union Councils across Punjab under the Punjab Social Economic Registry program.

Chairing a meeting in Lahore today, she revealed that approximately 268,337 registrations have been completed in the registry so far.

She said people can access various government benefits by registering in the

Punjab Social Economic Registry, including the Himat Card, Kisan Card, Laptop, Scholarship Program, Cattle Card, Solar Panel Scheme, Tractor Scheme, and Ramzan Package.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI



Faisal Vawda Foresees PTI's Political Decline Amid Rising Tensions

KARACHI: Senator Faisal Vawda has warned that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is heading towards political turmoil, comparing its trajectory to that of the Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), media reported on Thursday.

Speaking on the media program, Faisal Vawda emphasized that PTI will face significant challenges, hinting at approach political turmoil.

"No anarchist party can operate in Pakistan. Just as MQM becomes MQM-P PTI will also need to transform into PTI-P," Vawda stated.

He criticized PTI's current political strategy, suggesting that recent actions and slogans stem from confidence gained from court decisions. Vawda believes these actions have pushed PTI beyond constitutional limits, leading to a shaky position.

"After the court order,



PTI has gone 10 times ahead raising slogans against institutions, now they should be ready for the bulldozer," Vawda said.

Vawda further predicted that PTI's founder is unlikely to release from the jail, suggesting that internal calculations and government strategies will determine PTI's future.

He asserted that the Pakistan Democratic Movement II (PDM-2) has

the intelligence to topple the government if needed. The senator also accused the government of creating confusion and presenting an image of conflict with PTI and the institutions.

He anticipated that the political climate will heat up, predicting that the government may not adhere to the Supreme Court's decisions, further complicating the situation.—RT/Agency

Rain Hits Karachi After Prolonged Heatwave



KARACHI: Heavy to light rain lashed different areas of Karachi on Friday after residents of the port city experienced sizzling temperatures in the last few days, with two deaths reported in the port city due to heatstroke a day earlier.

The areas that received showers include Gulistan-e-Johar, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Surjani, North Karachi, New Karachi, Malir, Cantt, Mosmiyat, Shabrae Faisal, Bahadurabad, Tipu Sultan, Gulshan-e-Maymar and Gadap and others.

The metropolis has been in the grip of a heatwave for the last few days making life miserable for the masses as they face hours-long unannounced load-shedding despite the power utility's assurances.

The normal temperature in the city in July, as per the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), has been

27.9°C and Tuesday night was the second hottest of this year after July 1 — when the temperature was also 32°C.

Two days earlier, the mercury in the port city reached a sweltering 40.5°C which in reality felt like scorching 56°C.

In a weather forecast today, the Met Office said monsoon currents from Arabian Sea were penetrating southern parts of the country and a westerly wave was affecting upper parts of the city.

As per the forecast, rain coupled with thundershower is likely to take place in Sindh, south Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, northeastern Balochistan, Potohar Region, Islamabad and Kashmir.

In addition, heavy falls are expected at isolated places in south Punjab and lower Sindh during the period.—RT/Agency

Sindh Government Revitalizing Waterways with LBOD Syphons, Espinal Escape: Murad

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the construction of LBOD Syphons and Espinal Escape regulator at RD-210 has revived old and natural waterways intending to protect the lands of Badin, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, and Nawabshah from deterioration.

This he said while presiding over a meeting to review the revival of natural routes of old and natural waterways here at the CM House on Friday. Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Advisor to CM Ahsan Mazar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary Irrigation Zarf Khero and others attended the meeting.

Minister of Irrigation, Jam Khan Shoro, briefed the CM, stating that the Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD) Syphons have been constructed to restore the natural old waterway route from Dhoro Puran to Shahkoo Dhandh. Additionally, he mentioned the benefits of diverting the MM Drain and Digri Dhoro discharge into Dhoro Puran via a siphon at RD 275, connecting to Hakro Dhoro.

The CM said that during



the heavy rainfall of 2022, Pangrio Dhoro posed a significant threat to the LBOD system and its vicinity. He observed that the siphon would manage the higher discharge from Pangrio Dhoro by diverting it into Dhoro Puran, which ultimately falls into Shakoor Lake, thus mitigating the risk and enhancing the system's capacity.

Minister Irrigation told the CM that during monsoon 2022, the spinal gauges have risen over to its ever-maximum gauges of 2011. The spinal was designed for providing 4600 causes, whereas at present about 12000 causes water passing through it sea.

Murad Ali Shah said that the two major breaches in Puran Dhoro occurred in RD-7 & 8 on August 28, 2022, out of which the breach of RD-8 of Puran Dhoro was closed on the very next day

while the efforts for the closing breach of RD-7 Puran Dhoro were successful at the first attempt. "After the construction of syphons this issue would be resolved," he said.

Rehabilitation of LBOD Spinal Drain Secretary of Irrigation Zareef Khero told the CM that after the revival of natural Dhoro through the construction of siphons and the rehabilitation of the LBOD system, the excess load on the spinal drain will be alleviated. This will lower the spinal drain levels, providing unimpeded access to the main drains of the LBOD system, including the drainage networks of Nawabshah, Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, and Badin. The High Flood Level (HFL) of the Spinal Drain recorded in 2022 was 27.53 feet. The top level has now increased by 4 feet, reaching 31.53 feet.—RT

Karachi's Peoples Bus Service Introduces New Routes

KARACHI: The Sindh Transport Department has announced to launch of three new routes for the Peoples Bus Service in Karachi, media reported.

Sindh Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the new routes for the Peoples Bus Service include Hawksbay to Tower, which will commence operations on July 22, and an extension of Route 12.

From July 23, the Peoples Bus will start its service from Qaidabad, Korangi, and Memon Goth to Tower, which was earlier from Khokhrapur.

Additionally, an electric bus route will be introduced from Kathore to Numash, starting on July 24, and a new route from Yousuf Goth to Tower will begin operations on July 25.

The transport minister



said that the aim of these new routes is to provide affordable transportation services to the citizens of Karachi.

Furthermore, the department plans to introduce more new buses and routes in the future to enhance the public transport system in the city. Last month, the Sindh government announced new routes for People's Bus Service in Karachi.

Sindh Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon addressed the transport workers of Karachi by announcing additional Peoples Bus Service routes. The meeting, attended by elected MPs from Karachi, deputy mayor and others decided to launch new routes in Malir, Keamari, Lyari and district West of the port city. The meeting decided to launch a new bus route from Numash to Hawks Bay.—RT

Karachi Police Capture Six Notorious Dacoits in Landhi



KARACHI: The police on Friday arrested a group of wanted dacoits, who used to loot people withdrawing cash from banks, from Karachi's Landhi area.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Korangi Theohed Rehman said the arrested group has confessed to several incidents in different areas of the city.

Rehman said that the police recovered 18 stolen mobile phones and cash from the group as well as weapons. He added that the group was very active in Shah Latif, Sohrab Goth, Saddar, Sharea Faisal and Korangi.

The SSP also said that the initial investigation revealed that the suspects also looted dozens of shops.

"The suspects had robbed the shop of a famous biryani seller in Landhi no 6 and a CCTV footage of them robbing Rs55,000 had also gone

viral," said SSP Rehman.

The group also robbed a citizen of Rs170,000 in Shah Faisal on the sixth day of Eid ul Fitr. The suspects also stole Rs300,000 from a person in Qaidabad 1.5 months ago, Rs168,000 in a robbery at general store in Akhtar Colony last month.

Rehman said that they also committed robberies at Singer Chowringhi and Landhi 89, adding that they used to loot people withdrawing cash from bank as well as shops.

"One of the suspects, Abid, revealed that he shot a citizen during a robbery in New Karachi area," said the SSP.

He said that Ali Raza, Zafar Iqbal, Haider, Abdul Rehman, Liaquat and Abid have been arrested while raised are being conducted to arrest two other accomplices.—RT/Agency

Home Minister, IGP Attend Funeral of Martyred Policeman

KARACHI: The funeral prayer of constable Yusuf who was martyred in the firing of unknown suspects in the limits of Sumanabad Police Station, was performed at Police Headquarters Garden South in Karachi.

According to home ministry information on Friday, Sindh Home Minister Zia-ud-Din Khan and IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IGP

Karachi, Zonal DIGs, District SSPs, Pakistan Rangers Sindh officers, relatives of the martyred constable, friends and local people attended the funeral prayer. The Sindh Home Minister expressed his condolences and sympathy

with the relatives of the martyred constable and said that the Sindh government and the Sindh Police Department were with them in the time of sadness. Paying

tribute to the services of the martyred constable of the Sindh Police, Lanjar said that the sacrifices of the police martyrs for the security of life and property of the people and the establishment of peace were priceless and unforgettable. On this occasion, the home minister issued special orders to the senior officers present there to provide the prevailing benefits to the heirs of the martyr.—RT

Pakistan Bar Council clarifies about letter issued against Secretary Irrigation

KARACHI: The Pakistan Bar Council has intervened in a matter involving Advocate Akhtar Hussain Jabbar and Advocate Sajid Qamar Shaikh of the Sindh Bar Council. It appears that Advocate Jabbar caused a disturbance during a visit to the office of Secretary Irrigation, Zarf Iqbal Khero. Following this incident, Advocate Sajid Qamar Sheikh, on advice from Advocate Jabbar, issued a letter on the official letterhead of the Sindh Bar Council requesting the filing of a case against Secretary

Zarf Iqbal Khero. Upon learning of this development Secretary Zarf Iqbal Khero reported the matter to the Pakistan Bar Council. Subsequently, the Pakistan Bar Council has suspended the letter issued by the Sindh Bar Council, emphasizing that no bar council has the authority to request the filing of a case against any individual citizen. The Council has sought explanations from Advocate Sajid Qamar Sheikh and Advocate Akhtar Hussain Jabbar regarding their actions. It has also warned that their bar

licenses may be suspended pending further investigation and explanations. Secretary Zarf Iqbal Khero has expressed gratitude for the swift action taken by the Pakistan Bar Council, stating that Advocate Jabbar's unwarranted behavior led to the unjust letter being issued against him by the Sindh Bar Council. He appreciates the Pakistan Bar Council's intervention, which he believes upholds the integrity and prestige of the legal profession.—RT

German Consulate in Karachi Reopens Services for Non-EU Nationals

The German consulate general in Karachi has resumed its normal operations for non-European Union citizens, said a statement on Friday.

"The Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Karachi has resumed normal operation for non-EU citizens," the consulate said in a statement shared on Facebook.

Earlier this month, the consulate closed its services for non-European Union citizens until further notice. It did not mention any reason for that. But already issued visas for non-EU citizens were allowed to be picked up.

Germany is one of the top destinations for international students, including those from Pakistan.

The EU country recently launched an Opportunity Card to entice skilled workers from outside the bloc to come to the country and seek work for up to a year if they fulfill the right criteria.

According to the Face-



book groups, several people from Pakistan have filed for visa interviews and waiting for appointments.

The German embassy in Pakistan opened the student visa registration list for students holding university admission letters for the winter semester of 2024-2025 on May 21.

An exclusive online registration category called "Registration to Apply for a Master's Program" is specifically for students with a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.7 or above, who will also re-

ceive prioritized consideration.

The basic documents required for this include an application form, a biometric picture, passport copies, ID copies, an applicant declaration and appointment confirmation email, and information about any previous visa refusals with a curriculum vitae, admission letter, enrollment certificate, confirmation of sufficient language skills in the language of instruction, sufficient financial means, and health insurance.—RT/Agency

SHO Allegedly Frames Citizen in Drug Case

KARACHI: The Station House Officer of Shah Latif town allegedly threatened a citizen and later arrested in the bogus case of possessing two kg of hashish in Karachi, media reported on Thursday.

The Station House Officer of Shah Latif Town, Malik Saleem, allegedly harassed a citizen, Jawed, and fabricated a case of 2 kilos of hashish on him.

DIG East and SSP Malir Kashif Abbasi have taken notice of the incident and ordered an internal investigation.

DSP Malir City Abid Afzal has begun the inquiry,



recording the initial statement of the alleged victim, Jawed.

According to police sources, Jawed in his initial statement reported that the SHO had threatened to imprison him with a fabricated case of 10 kg of hashish after he filed a petition against the SHO in court.

Javed also claimed that SHO Malik Saleem had closed down his legal coal godown. Police officials have stated that no one is above the law, and departmental action will be taken against the SHO if the inquiry confirms the allegations.—RT/Agency

Bodies of Four Pakistanis Killed in Oman Returned Home

KARACHI: The bodies of four Pakistanis who were killed in a rare attack at a mosque in Muscat, Oman, were repatriated to the country, a spokesperson for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said Friday.

The assault — for which the terrorist organisation Daesh took responsibility and Pakistan labelled as a "dastardly" terror attack — occurred on Monday evening at the Ali bin Abi Talib mosque in the Wadi al-Kabir neighbourhood of Muscat.

The Royal Oman Police said the three gunmen — all Omani nationals — were brothers and "were killed due to their insistence on resisting security personnel".

It said that police investigations had indicated the three gunmen were "influenced by misguided ideas". The six people killed by the gunmen were four Pak-

istani nationals, an Indian, and a police officer responding to the attack. Twenty-eight others were injured.

In the statement, the PIA said the body of deceased Syed Qaiser had been brought to Karachi and would later be transported to Lahore. Meanwhile, the bodies of Ghulam Abbas and Hasan Abbas have been transported to Islamabad, while Suleman Nawaz's to Lahore.

It was the first known operation claimed by the Daesh group in the sultanate, which is among the most stable countries in the Middle East.

Monday's attack came ahead of Ashura, an annual day of mourning that commemorates the seventh-century martyrdom of Imam Hussain, his family, and companions in the battle of Karbala.—RT/Agency

Majlis-e-Aza held at District Jail Malir



KARACHI: A Majlis-e-Aza was organized at the District Jail Malir in connection with the martyrdom day of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), his family members and companions in Karbala. Jail Superintendent

dent Syed Arshad Ali Shah while talking to the media said that all the religious and national days are being observed in the District Jail Malir. The facilities of sports have also

been provided to the prisoners. After the Majlis-e-Aza, the inmates performed Azadari as Martyrs of Karbala and paid tribute to them by beating their chests.—RT

New office-bearers of Malir Press Club elected

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The election of the District Press Club Malir in 2024-25 was held, where President Hanif Soomro, Vice President Sanjiv Singh, General Secretary Syed Rahim Shah, Joint Secretary Sajjad Chhajro, Finance Secretary Raja Baloch, Office Secretary Asif Qureshi, Ex-

ecutive Committee Member Mustafa Abbasi, Jamil Chandio and Sanuallah Shaikh were elected. The swearing-in ceremony for them will be held tomorrow, Saturday evening at 4 o'clock, with special guests including District Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Deputy Mayor

Salman Abdullah Murad, elected MNAs and MPAs from Malir, district officers and Town Chairmen. The oath-taking ceremony will be attended by political, social, journalists, Sindh Police officers, Secretary Information, special assistants to the Chief Minister and other elected representatives.

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain!"

—Unknown

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Uniting People Every Day

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SATURDAY JULY 20 2024

TLP Ends Faizabad Sit-In After Reaching Agreement With Government

Faizabad: The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) on Friday called off its sit-in in the Faizabad area of Islamabad after the federal government assured them that they would ramp up efforts to help out Palestinians, who have been facing Israeli atrocities since the clash began in October last year.

The TLP's decision came this afternoon after the incumbent government engaged in successful negotiations with them.

Before the TLP started their protest sit-in at the Faizabad Interchange almost a week ago, the party's activists, led by their top leader Saad Rizvi, took out a protest rally from Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi to Faizabad last Saturday.

The TLP, in their demands, asked the PML-N led government to officially boycott Israeli products and send food and medical aid to Palestinians, especially those suffering from Israel's relentless military aggression in Gaza.



One of their demands was that Pakistan's government declare Israeli PM Netanyahu a "terrorist." The federal government will continue and boost its efforts to help the Muslims of Palestine and the TLP people will assist the government for the purpose," Prime Minister's Adviser on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaulah said, flanked by Information Minister Attaulah Tarar and TLP leaders.

"A shipment of goods comprising fruits and medicines weighing more than 1,000 tonnes will be dispatched to Palestine before July 31," Sanaulah said.

He added that Israel emerged as a terrorist state and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu committed war crimes against innocent citizens.

"The Israeli PM is committing war crimes in his personal capacity," the PM's adviser said, adding that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had condemned Israeli atrocities in Palestine during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held earlier this month in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana.

The government will push ahead in its condemnation of Israel in the future as well, he said, adding that the government would seek to tap into every resource possible to extend assistance to people in Gaza as well as condemn the Zionist state and its head of government involved in terrorism against innocent Palestinians.

"Netanyahu is a terrorist who has perpetrated war crimes," the former security czar said, calling on the community of nations to bring the Israeli PM to task.

He also called on world leaders, particularly the Muslim world, to play their due role in the resolution of the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Palestine.

In their talks with the TLP leaders, the government negotiators have also decided that the government

will boycott the products of Israeli companies and the companies that are directly or indirectly involved in the barbarism being committed in Palestine.

The government also decided to form a committee that will ascertain the details of companies, and products which Pakistanis are consuming without knowing their truth.

The week-long protest posed serious traffic problems for the residents of the twin cities as the TLP workers in large numbers remained camped at Faizabad Interchange, a main traffic junction linking the two cities. The sit-in brought vehicular traffic to a complete halt between Murree and Rawalpindi, and Peshawar and Lahore. The activists effectively also blocked the Islamabad Expressway which caused massive gridlocks in the area, leaving commuters to face troubles for hours at a stretch.—RT/Agency

ECP To Enforce Supreme Court's Order On Reserved Seats

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to implement the Supreme Court's order on allotting reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

In a major legal victory for the PTI and a setback for the rulers, the apex court had on July 12 ruled that PTI was and is a political party that won general seats in the national and provincial assemblies in the February 8 elections, thus, is entitled to reserved seats.

The court, by a majority of 8, set aside the Peshawar High Court's judgement of March 25 and declared the ECP order of March 1 to be ultra vires the Constitution, without lawful authority and of no legal effect.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the SC's full bench announced the 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying the PHC's order wherein it had upheld the ECP's decision denying the reserved seats to the PTI-backed SIC.

In a statement, the ECP said the decision was taken after the electoral body held two meetings on Thursday and Friday to deliberate on the reserved seats case verdict.

The statement further said that directives have been issued to the ECP's legal team to immediately "identify" any obstacle in the implementation of the verdict so that the apex court could be approached for guidance.

"Moreover, the commis-



sion strongly condemned and rejected the undue criticism of the chief election commissioner and honourable members by a political party," the ECP's said without naming the Imran Khan-founded party.

"Demanding the resignation [of CEC and members] is ridiculous," it added while referring to the demand put forward by the PTI after a legal victory in the Supreme Court.

The commission further stated that it worked in line with the Constitution and laws while not succumbing to any type of pressure.

Moreover, the ECP stated that 39 candidates who had been declared as PTI MNAs had shown their affiliation with the embattled party in their nomination papers, while to be a candidate of any party, it is necessary to submit the party ticket and declaration to the returning officer (RO).

But in the case of the said MNAs, these documents were not submitted to the ROs; therefore the ROs couldn't declare them PTI candidates, it added.

Meanwhile, the 41 candidates who had been declared independents hadn't mentioned PTI in their nomination papers neither they disclosed their affiliation with the party nor submitted the ticket of any party.

"Therefore, the ROs allowed them to contest the election as independents. Later, these MNAs voluntarily joined the Sunni Ethah Council (SIC) within three days as required by law after winning the election," the statement read.

The party appealed the decision of the Election Commission and the PHC in the Supreme Court, but it was rejected.

It further added that the PTI was neither a petitioner in the case against the ECP in the apex court nor the PHC.

The ruling party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, has filed a review petition in the apex court against the verdict, which came as an unexpected legal victory for the main opposition party.—RT/Agency

PTI Urges JCP Members To Reject Ad Hoc Judges Appointments In Open Letter

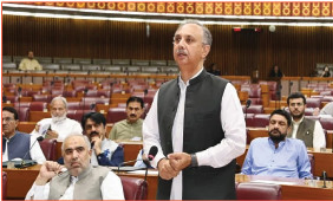
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Friday asked the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) to turn down a proposal of hiring ad hoc judges to the Supreme Court as it may create concerns about the judiciary's independence.

The PTI has been raising concerns over the appointment of ad hoc judges, claiming that the move is aimed at targeting the party, while the government has supported the decision, saying it falls under the ambit of law.

The JCP, set to meet today, was about to consider the appointment of four ad hoc judges for a three-year term — Sardar Tariq Masood, Mushir Alam, Maqbool Baqar, Mazhar Alam Minkhel. However, Baqar and Alam have rejected the offer.

While Alam noted that he was busy with philanthropic work post-retirement, Baqar opted out due to "personal reasons" and said that the criticism of the appointment of ad hoc judges was baseless.

In his letter to the JCP members, Ayub said that he has "great concern" at the recent proposal to appoint as many as four ad hoc judges in the Supreme Court for a period of three years.



Ayub noted that he was writing the letter as the matter of the appointment was not being presented before the parliament's committee, therefore, PTI lawmakers did not have a platform to voice their concerns.

"This is particularly so since the Opposition in the National Assembly and Senate, which may otherwise have had an opportunity of presenting its perspective in the Parliamentary Committee in the matter of appointment of judges, would not have any other opportunity of presenting its view in the matter of appointment of ad hoc judges."

In such a serious matter as the appointment of judges, Ayub said, there should not be any room to give any impression that the appointment of ad hoc judges in the Supreme Court is an attempt to affect the balance of opinions on judicial matters in the apex court against one political party.

Regrettably, he said, the timing of the proposal for appointment of ad hoc judges, their proposed term of office, the number of judges sought to be appointed, and the arbitrary manner of their selection creates such a perception.

"This is damaging to the standing of the Supreme Court in society, in which we are all stakeholders, and which must at all times be seen to be above the political fray," the leader of the opposition in the NA said. He also noted that since the judges would be appointed for three years and the JCP himself was retiring in October, it would be better that the next top judge decides on such issues.—RT/Agency

US Urges Protection Of Journalists After Hassan Zaib's Murder



WASHINGTON: The US State Department has stressed the need to protect journalists across the globe after the murder of Pakistani reporter Malik Hassan Zaib, who lost his life last week in a targeted attack in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Zaib — who, according to the International Press Institute, was the eighth journalist to be killed in Pakistan since the beginning of 2024 — was in a car with his brother when two unidentified assailants on a motorbike stopped his vehicle and shot the journalist dead on the spot.

His brother survived the attack and filed a first information report (FIR) of the incident. The motive behind the 40-year-old journalist's killing is unclear.

"Journalists need to be protected and they need to be allowed to do their jobs, whether that be the United States, whether that be Pakistan, whether that be in the Gaza Strip," State Department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said Thursday.

His response came during a press briefing when he was asked to comment on the death of Zaib.

"That is something that we feel strongly, and it's something that is deeply personal to the Secretary [Antony Blinken]," he noted. "It's obviously personal to us and this team having — spending most of our days engaging with you all. But simply put, journalists need to be protected and need to be able to do their jobs," Patel added.

At a daily publication, Zaib covered health and city beats. He was also a member of the Khyber Union of Journalists and the Peshawar Press Club (PPC).—RT/Agency

PTI And PML-N Warn Of 'Constitutional Crisis'

ISLAMABAD: After the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has also expressed fear of a constitutional breakdown in the country, amid an ongoing tug of war over reserved seats.

Talking on media programme "Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Sath", senior PTI leader Hamid Khan said Thursday that the incumbent government was dragging the country towards a constitutional breakdown with its unconstitutional moves.

Pointing towards the PML-N government's opposition towards the Supreme Court verdict allowing the PTI to claim reserved seats in the parliament, Hamid said the entire constitutional system would collapse if the apex court's judgments were not implemented.

On the other hand, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, during the same programme, also expressed fears about a "constitutional meltdown" in the country.

"I don't have any information [but] this is just my gut feeling that constitutional breakdown is about to happen, sooner or later [but] it is going to happen," he said without elaborating further.

However, the PML-N leader clarified that he was



not discussing the possibility of martial law being imposed in the country. "There should be a political solution to political problems," he maintained.

Amid facing opposition from friends and foes alike, the federal minister admitted that the PML-N-led government announced the move to ban the PTI in a haste. "Yes, you can say that we declared this prematurely and consultation with the allies [in this regard] is mandatory," he added. Asif said any decision regarding imposing a ban on the PTI would be taken in line with the consensus among the allies. "We will take this major step after creating broad consensus InshaAllah," he maintained.

When asked about the perception that the incumbent rulers are playing the role of facilitator in the institutions' alleged fight against jailed PTI founder Imran Khan, he rejected the perception saying: "This is about Pakistan."

"Since their [PTI] ouster from power and the attitude they adopted, the PTI has become an existential threat to the country," the senior PML-N leader said, adding that the embattled party was receiving all-out support from the US "either diplomatic or legislative".

He also claimed that the PTI hired lobbyists in the US "who have garnered [them] support of different lobbyists". Separately, speaking in another news channel programme, the defence minister warned "we would go to every extent to save the government", media reported. He said the PML-N government would go to any extent to salvage the current setup.

He said there were whispers, "let October come, and then they will also file an application regarding elections.—RT/Agency

Microsoft Announces Fix For Worldwide IT Outage



Microsoft (MSFT.O) said on Friday that underlying cause for a global outage has been fixed, but the residual impact of cybersecurity outages are continuing to affect some Office 365 apps and services.

A software update wreaked havoc on computer systems globally on Friday, grounding flights forcing some broadcasters off air and hitting services from banking to healthcare. An update to a product offered by global cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike (CRWD.O), appeared to be the trigger, affecting customers using Microsoft's (MSFT.O) Windows Operating System. Microsoft said later on Friday the issue had been fixed. CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz said on social media platform X that

the company was "actively working with customers impacted by a defect found in a single content update for Windows hosts" and that a fix was being deployed.

"This is not a security incident or cyberattack," Kurtz said in the post.

Early on Friday, major U.S. airlines — American Airlines (AAL.O) Delta Airlines (DAL.N) and United Airlines (UAL.O) — grounded flights, while other carriers and airports around the world reported delays and disruptions. Banks and financial services companies from Australia to India and Germany warned customers of disruptions and traders across markets spoke of problems with executing transaction.—RT/Agency

PM Consults Allies on Supreme Court Reserved Seats Decision

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday will begin consultations with allied parties including Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) over the Supreme Court's 8-5 verdict on reserved seats.

According to the sources, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided to take its main ally, PPP, into confidence. The talks will take place at the President's House this afternoon.

The leadership of both the political parties will meet today, said the sources, adding that the meeting will also be attended by President Asif Ali Zardari.

The sources revealed that Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tatar, Information Minister Attaulah Tarar will attend the meeting on behalf of the PML-N.

Meanwhile, Special Assistant to PM for Law Irfan Qadir, Ahmed Cheema Irfan Qadir, Ahmed Cheema, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq will also participate in the talks, they added.

From PPP's side, Farook H Naek, Sherry Rehman and Nayyar Bokhari will participate in the talks, claimed the sources. Attorney General Mansoor Awan will give a



briefing to President Zardari and other members.

The development comes a week after the top court ruled that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was eligible for the allocation of reserved seats for women and minorities.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the SC's full bench announced the 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) order wherein it had upheld the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision denying the reserved seats to the SIC. Following the verdict, the PML-N on Monday filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against its verdict. It nominated 11 respondents in the plea including the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) and its chairman Hamid Raza, praying the court to suspend its ruling

dated July 12, 2024, on the reserved seats.

The review petition asked a number of questions including whether the SIC should be granted the reserved seats.

It questioned if reserved seats could be granted to a political party who had not submitted a party list within the prescribed time, whether a political party can be given reserved seats whose candidates have not even filed nomination papers within the time provided by the Election Commission of Pakistan and if independents could even join a political party which did not win a single general seat in parliament.

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

PTI And JUI-F Agree To Start Formal Talks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) have agreed to hold formal talks, ending a three-week-long deadlock between the two parties, media reported.

As per details, the meeting was held at the residence of JUI-F chief Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman last night, attended by PTI leader Asad Qaiser and Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri.

The meeting discussed various issues, including the country's political situation, economy and parliamentary affairs.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of forming an alliance, on the situation emerged after February 8 elections.

PTI and JUI-F agreed to establish negotiating committees to hold formal talks. The PTI has already formed a five-member committee, while the JUI-F is expected



to announce its committee soon.

The development was confirmed by Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, stating that the talks will focus on finding common ground between the two parties.

Earlier, Maulana Fazul Rehman said that it would be "fortunate" if his party and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) develop a consensus. Maulana Fazul Rehman said that there were big "mountain-sized" differences between the two parties. "PTI's delegation has come to us and as per our tradition, we have welcomed them," Maulana Fazul Rehman added. The JUI-F chief said that if their issues with the PTI get resolved, it would be good. "If not, every political party has its stance and opinion," he said. Maulana Fazul Rehman said that PTI's delegation had suggested resolving some issues, and both parties agreed to do so.

He said one or two people from PTI come up with "inappropriate" statements to hold formal talks, adding that they don't take those statements seriously.—RT/Agency