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Heartland

Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi Forms District Task Force to combat climate change in Sukkur



Money

-Zafar Moti is Sad!
PSE 100-index down by 1578.71 points to close at 78,539.18



NATIONAL

President Calls For Comprehensive Plan To Prevent Urban Flooding In Karachi



SPORTS

ICC announces to review delivery of T20 World Cup 2024



Electric Vehicles Essential To Combat Pollution And Save Fuel, Says Jam Ikramullah Dharejo



Imran Khan Admits To Calling For Protest Outside GHQ Before May 9 Arrest

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has admitted that he gave a call for a protest outside the army headquarters in Rawalpindi before his arrest. Geo News reported Monday.

The former prime minister made the admission while speaking to the journalists during a hearing of a case inside Adiala prisons.

"I had given a call for holding a peaceful protest outside the General Headquarters (GHQ) before my arrest," Imran Khan said, adding that police and Rangers attacked my house in Zaman Park on 14 March.

"Later on March 18, the law enforcers again forcibly barged into my house," he said, adding that on the same day, the Judicial Complex witnessed shelling inside and outside its compound.

The cricket-turned-politician referred to an incident last year when, ahead of his appearance before the court of Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal, fierce clashes erupted between his supporters and security personnel. Then he, he had claimed that the government was planning to either assassinate or arrest him inside the Judicial Complex. Recalling the March 18 incident, he said he understood that he would be arrested, adding that he then called for a peaceful protest in front of the army's headquarters before his arrest.

The PTI founder said his counsel assured him that they would be part of the investigation and surrender to the police for arrest.



Replying to a question, the 71-year-old former premier said martial law was better than a technocratic regime, adding, "An unannounced martial law, however, remains in place in the country, already."

BMI, a Fitch Solutions company, in its "Pakistan Country Risk Report" published on July 18, predicted who would fill the vacuum created by the "anticipated ouster" of the incumbent government. "In the unlikely event that the government is replaced, the most likely alternative is a technocratic administration rather than fresh elections," the BMI said on July 15, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore approved a 10-day physical remand of the deposed premier in cases related to the May 9, 2023, violent protests. He attended the hearing via video link today (Monday) in ATC judge Arshad Nadeem's courtroom. The PTI founder denied the charges and told the court that he had neither any connection with the May 9 events nor did he order the riots. "I was attacked in Wazirabad," the PTI founder said, adding, "...but an FIR (first information report) was not registered according to

my will despite my [party's] government [in Punjab]."

He further alleged that CCTV footage disappeared from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises.

Referring to the raid on his Zaman Park residence in Lahore, the deposed PM said he had given a call for a peaceful protest in response to an "attack on my home."

The former premier, who was ousted from power via the opposition's no-confidence motion in April 2022, said that he had requested the Supreme Court to hold a judicial inquiry into the May 9 mayhem. He added that he had also reminded the chief justice to hear his petition.

The ATC was hearing 12 cases related to the May 9 riots against the former premier which erupted following his arrest from Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises last year in which protesters targeted government and military installations.

Of the 12 cases, five cases had been registered at Sarwar Road Police Station, three cases lodged at Gulberg Police Station, and one case each at Race Course, Shadman, Mughalpur, and Model Town police stations. —RT/Agency

Army Urges Nation To 'Stand Up Against Militants And Digital Terrorists'

ISLAMABAD: The military on Monday clarified that operation Azm-e-Istehkam is not a military operation but a counter-terrorism campaign, saying a strong lobby does not want the National Action Plan (NAP) to succeed.

"Comparing Azm-e-Istehkam to past operations like Zarb-e-Azb and Rah-e-Nijat is not appropriate," DG ISPR Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told a news conference in Rawalpindi.

"Our problem is that serious issues in the country are also politicised. Azm-e-Istehkam is an example of this," he added. "The government has also said that Operation Azm-e-Istehkam is a coordinated counter-terrorism campaign, not a military operation," General Sharif said responding to a question about the proposed operation.

The chief military spokesperson insisted that a narrative is being created to make Operation Azm-e-Istehkam controversial.

During a press conference on Monday, a journalist asked General Sharif about comparisons being made between past operations 'Rah-e-Nijat' and 'Zarb-e-Azb' and Azm-e-Istehkam, and concerns raised in political circles about the possible displacement of local people.

The DG ISPR said the June 22 statement by the Apex Committee of National Action Plan clearly stated that the civil and military



leaders reviewed the progress on counter terrorism efforts and agreed that there was a need for a comprehensive counter-terrorism campaign in the country.

Referring to the same statement, he said that political parties would be consulted and legislation would be enacted for the counter-terrorism campaign in the country.

However, he said that a narrative has been created that the operation will displace people and should be opposed.

"This is a matter of our survival, and we turn even serious matters into a joke due to politics," he lamented.

Citing the example of smuggling, he said that an important goal of Operation Azm-e-Istehkam is to break the nexus between terrorism and crime. He mentioned that terrorists are operating in the country through benami properties, smuggling, and non-custom paid vehicles.

He asked, "Why is Azm-e-Istehkam being made controversial? A strong lobby

on social media against the military and its leadership.

He stated, "Just as a terrorist tries to impose his will through weapons, similarly, a digital terrorist tries to impose his will by spreading anxiety through mobile phones, computers, lies, fake news, and propaganda."

The spokesperson for the Pakistani military said that there is very little information available about any 'digital terrorist,' but both extremists and digital terrorists share the common goal of targeting the military.

"Why has a big mafia, a political mafia, an illegal mafia stood up from everywhere that we will not let this happen? They want to make it controversial based on lies."

The military spokesperson presented slides detailing the objectives of the National Action Plan, the actions taken so far, and other information, stating, "We are conducting four to five intelligence-based counter-terrorism operations every hour."

The DG ISPR said that extremists involved in attacks on law enforcement agencies and 'digital terrorists' share the common goal of targeting the military and its leadership. When a journalist asked the DG ISPR how the institution is dealing with criticism against the army chief, the institution, and the Special Intelligence Facilitation Council (SIFC), General Sharif said that 'digital terrorism' is ac-

is genocide and unacceptable.

He said, "The government and institutions were trying to resolve this issue with sensitivity, without violence, through dialogue."

However, he added that "propaganda started that the institution itself had arranged it. If tomorrow Jamaat-e-Islami sits or any other protest happens, will it also be claimed that the military organised it?"

"There is no accountability for fake news in the country. The facts are in front of you that this is a sensitive issue. If you solve it amicably, further speculations are made. All kinds of conspiracy theories circulate about this."

Meanwhile, he cited the example of a sit-in in Chaman, a Pakistani city bordering Afghanistan, where there was local opposition to the requirement of passports for cross-border movement. He claimed that illegal trade is promoted at the Afghan border. The sit-in at the Chaman border, ongoing for nearly ten months over the issue of cross-border movement, was called off on Sunday after the organisers' demands were accepted. According to the government, movement from Chaman will now be based on ID cards and Afghan Tazkira, and those without a Pakistani ID card will be able to travel on an ID card token. —RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz Condemns Israeli Attack On Khan Younis As Inhumane

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday vehemently condemned the Israeli forces' violent attack on Khan Younis in Gaza, describing it as an inhumane act, particularly following the evacuation of refugees.

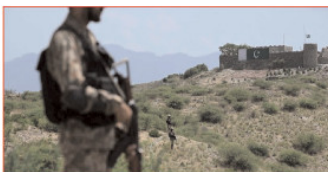
The prime minister, in a statement issued by PM Office, described the aggressive attack on the Khan Younis area of Gaza shortly after the instructions to the unarmed Palestinian refugees to evacuate as a mockery of humanity according to.

The prime minister stated that it had become clear that



the Israeli forces had been pursuing a genocidal agenda against Palestinians, noting that unarmed Palestinians had been denied the opportunity to evacuate. The prime minister emphasized that the Pakistani nation stands in solidarity with its Palestinian brothers and sisters. He called upon the United Nations to fulfill its responsibility in addressing the issue of Palestine. —RT/Agency

ISPR: Three Terrorists Killed During Infiltration Attempt At Pak-Afghan Border In KP's Dir



DIR: Three terrorists were killed by security forces during an infiltration attempt at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dir district, the military's media wing said on Monday.

A statement from the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the movements of three terrorists was detected by security forces in the district on the night between Sunday and Monday.

"The infiltrators were surrounded, effectively engaged and after an intense fire exchange, all three terrorists were sent to hell," the ISPR said.

It said Pakistan was consistently asking the interim Afghan government to ensure effective border management on its side of the border, adding that the neighbour was expected to fulfil its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for perpetrating acts of terrorism against the country.

"Security forces of Pakistan are determined and remain committed to securing its borders and eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country." —RT/Agency

US Secret Service Admits 'We Failed' In Trump Shooting Incident

WASHINGTON: US Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle admitted to Congress on Monday that she and her agency failed when a would-be assassin wounded Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at a July 13 campaign rally in Pennsylvania this week.

"We failed. As the director of the United States Secret Service, I take full responsibility for any security lapse," Cheatle, who faces Republican calls for her removal, said in testimony before the House of Representatives Oversight Committee.

"The assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump on July 13th is the most significant operational failure at the Secret Service in decades," Cheatle said.

In the face of Republican claims that the Secret Service denied resources to protect Trump, she said security for the former president had grown ahead of the shooting.

"The level of security provided for the former president increased well before the campaign and has been steadily increasing as threats evolve," Cheatle said. "Our mission is not political. It is



literally a matter of life and death."

She added that the Secret Service provided the security sought by the Trump campaign for the rally.

"What I can tell you is that for the event on July 13, the details that were requested, the assets that were requested for that day, were given," Cheatle said.

She declined to answer specific questions about the day's security plan from Republicans and Democrats, saying the matter was being investigated internally.

Monday's hearing marked the first round of congressional oversight of the attempted assassination. On Wednesday, FBI Director Christopher Wray will appear

before the House Judiciary Committee. And House Speaker Mike Johnson is also due to unveil a bipartisan task force to serve as a nexus point for House investigations.

Cheatle has resisted calls for her resignation from top Republicans including Johnson and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Republican House Oversight Committee James Comer echoed those calls at the hearing. "It is my firm belief, Director Cheatle, that you should resign," the Kentucky Republican told her. "The Secret Service has thousands of employees and a significant budget. But it has now become the face of incompetence." —RT/Agency

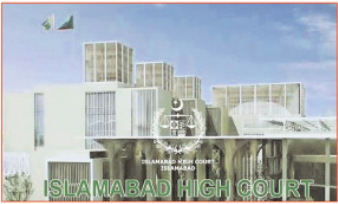
IHC Expresses Anger At Government Over 'Forced Disappearance'

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday expressed its anguish at the working of the government in the missing persons' case observing that "people go missing and the state does not know anything about them."

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir gave these remarks while hearing the petition of Farhana Barlas, the wife of PTI's International Media Coordinator Ahmed Janjua, against his disappearance.

Advocate Iman Mazari appeared before the court on behalf of Farhana Barlas, while Advocate General Islamabad represented the state.

The court was told that masked men in uniform forcibly took Ahmed Janjua away at 4 am on July 20. Advocate Mazari told the court some officials were in uniform on a query whether those police officials were in uniform.



The court remarked that if need be the court will also summon the attorney general for Pakistan.

Justice Tahir observed that they [police] also have the CCTV footage.

The police officials informed the court that an FIR has been registered. Justice Tahir remarked that if [forced disappearances] had been happening in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, now has started in Islamabad. "The state knows nothing. What the government is doing? How much time is needed to recover Ahmed Janjua?"

The court summoned the Attorney General at 12 noon and tell us what we should do and directed the additional attorney general to bring the complete details of the case.

Justice Tahir warned the additional attorney general that don't tell the court that report would be submitted. "How much time you need to bring him [attorney general] in the court?" Justice Tahir questioned the advocate general that whether the IG police is doing his duty? Why not issue a show cause notice to him? —RT/Agency

Dar Talks About Strengthening Mutual Ties With Omani Counterpart



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Omani Foreign Minister Syed Badr bin Hamd bin Hamood Al Busaidi have discussed bilateral ties on telephone.

According to Foreign Office, both the leaders condemned the recent terrorist

attack on a mosque in Wadi Kabir, Mascat.

Dar reiterated Oman's full support in combating terrorism.

The deputy PM lauded Oman's care for dead and injured Pakistani citizens in the Omani hospitals. —RT/Agency

Cabinet Meeting On PTI Ban Postponed

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the federal cabinet to give approval for ban on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was postponed on Monday, sources said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was scheduled to chair the meeting on Tuesday, July 23, when the cabinet members were likely to nod the ban on the political party.

The cabinet was also expected to give approval for pursuing cases under Article 6 of the Constitution against former President Arif Alvi, PTI founder Imran Khan, and Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri.

On July 15, Information Minister Atta Tarar said that the ruling coalition had decided to move for a ban on



the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Addressing a press conference, he said the federal government will file a case to ban the PTI. The government would keep the current situation in mind before taking a step in this regard, he added.

"The PTI and the country cannot go together," he categorically stated. He claimed that the government was trying to stabilise the country politically and economically, while efforts were being made to thwart its efforts. —RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Bagri Community are holding a protest demonstration for recovery of their missing boy, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT

Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi forms District Task Force to combat climate change in Sukkur

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: In a bid to tackle climate change and promote environmental sustainability, Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi has established a 13-member District Task Force. The task force aims to implement the National Climate Change Policy through afforestation and reforestation initiatives in urban areas, along irrigation channels, and in industrial areas of Sukkur district. The task force will be convened by the Deputy Commissioner of Sukkur, with the Mayor of Sukkur Municipal Corporation, the Principal of Ghulam Muhammad Mahar Medical College Sukkur, the Chairman of the District Council Sukkur, the Superintendent Engineer of the Irrigation Department, the Superintendent Engineer of the Buildings Department, the Municipal Commissioner of SMC, the Director of Local Government, the Director of the Agriculture Department, the Conservator of Forests of the



Social Forestry Circle, a representative from Sukkur Institute of Business Administration, Aror University, Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University, and all Assistant Commissioners of Sukkur as its members. The task force has been entrusted with the responsibility of developing long, medium, and short-term action plans to optimize public lands for tree plantation and vegetation. They will ensure the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy and integrate tree plantation into public buildings and infrastructure. The task force will also recommend legal action against tree cutting and vegetation loss, conduct periodic tree plantation drives in Sukkur focusing on urban areas and engage with civil society for tree plantation, preservation, growth and sustainability. The District Forest Officer Sukkur will act as the member/secretary of the task force. With the formation of this task force, the Commissioner of Sukkur has shown his commitment to addressing climate change and promoting environmental conservation in the region.

Mir Gajo Khan Mallah demands justice for his brother

HYDERABAD: The founder Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party's Asif Ali Zardari and Faryal Talpur Release Committee, Mir Gajo Khan Mallah, held a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club, demanding that the Sindh government and IG Sindh Police register a case against PPP Dadu City President Khalid Mirani, who has been accused of a murderous attack on his brother, Waheed Mallah, and threatening to kill him. He called for protection and justice for his brother. Mir Gajo Khan Mallah alleged that Khalid

Mirani had recently carried out a murderous attack on his brother Waheed Mallah, firing bullets and leaving him severely injured. Waheed Mallah is currently battling between life and death in a Karachi hospital. Mir Gajo Khan Mallah stated that Khalid Mirani was originally a PTI supporter who, to save himself, entered the PPP through the backdoor and is now shooting at party members. He further claimed that Khalid Mirani is continuously threatening him with murder, and if anything happens to him, Khalid Mirani, Ali

Haider Mirani, and Haji Amin Mirani will be held responsible. He also accused the SHO of Dadu's A Section police station, Benazir Jamali, of being aligned with the accused party and that the police are favoring the accused in exchange for bribes. Mir Gajo Khan Mallah appealed to PPP Chairman Asif Ali Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Adi Faryal Talpur, and other higher authorities to take notice of the issue, take strict action against Khalid Mirani and Dadu police, and ensure justice is delivered.—RT

Three die in different Thatta incidents

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In a series of tragic incidents in the coastal area of Thatta district, two children and a man lost their lives. In the first incident, two children drowned while swimming in a deep pond near their village, Jooho. The children were bathing in the pond with three other kids when the accident hap-

pened. Villagers nearby heard their cries for help and rushed to the scene. They managed to rescue the other three children, but sadly, the two victims could not be saved. In another incident, a loader rickshaw crashed into a wall and overturned into a water-course, resulting in the death of Haider Khaskhali. The driver of the rickshaw, Qadir, was injured in the

accident. The rickshaw lost control due to high speed, leading to the fatal crash. All the victims were promptly taken to the local rural health center. After completing the necessary formalities, the deceased were laid to rest in their respective villages. The community is mourning the loss of these lives and extends condolences to the grieving families.

Wife of police encounter victim Sikandar Mallah passes away at Hyderabad's Civil Hospital —SSP Abid Baloch announces to reinvestigate controversial case



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In the aftermath of the alleged police encounter in Bulri Shah Karim, Tando Muhammad Khan, which led to the death of nationalist worker Sikandar Mallah, his wife, Ms. Atiya Mallah, who had attempted suicide by ingesting poison due to the trauma, passed away a week later in Hyderabad's Civil Hospital. Her death led to a prolonged protest near Tando Muhammad Khan's Tando Syedad, on the Hyderabad-Badin road. The protest, which lasted for 7 hours, resulted in a complete traffic blockade. Protesters, including Sikandar Mallah's mother, Ms. Shehnaz Mallah, and nationalist leaders like Gulsher Kolachi, Abdul Khaliq Khaskheli, Javed Halipoto, and Muhammad Jaman Mallah, accused the police of unjustly killing Sikandar Mallah after a false encounter. They claimed that Sikandar had been arrested and subsequently killed by the police without justification. The protest led to negotiations with a team formed by SSP Abid Baloch, including CIA DSP Abdul Rauf Arbab, DSP Muhammad Bux Khaskheli and ADC-I Naem Soomro. The team assured that the demands of the protesters would be considered, and they were provided with a letter from SSP detailing the suspension of Inspector Hadi Bux Lashari, Constable Arshad Ghatko, and Constable Dildar. SSP Abid Baloch also announced that the case of Sikandar Mallah's death would be re-investigated to uncover the truth and any necessary legal actions would be taken based on the findings.

Al-Furqan Trust installs solar water plant



By Jibrán Talpur

BADIN: Near Matli in the Badin district, a new water solar project has been installed in the village of Kot Abdullah under the patronage of Mahmood Sabir Mosque and Al-Furqan Trust. This ongoing charity water project has been set up by Nazir Ahmed and Sughra Ahmed for the benefit of these poor families. Mahmood Sabir Mosque and Al-Furqan Trust have installed hundreds of water projects in these underdeveloped areas of inner Sindh, continuously aiding impoverished, needy, and destitute individuals, including those who have converted from Hinduism to Islam. Whether during difficult times such as floods, the COVID-19 pandemic, or for eye treatments, Mahmood Sabir Mosque and Al-Furqan Relief Trust have provided substantial assistance to these vulnerable people. Today, they have installed a water project in a newly converted Muslim community in Matli, Badin district, ensuring that these poor families have access to clean water. They also provide financial support to these newly converted Muslim families.

PTI condemns arrests of Barrister Gohar and Rauf Hassan

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Mirpurkhas Division, Aftab Qureshi, strongly condemned the arrests of PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar and Central Secretary Information Rauf Hassan. The Divisional Secretary, Amin Sangrasi, Divisional Vice President, Lekraj Malhi said that the PTI is a peaceful party and we will pursue our rights through legal means. We have full confidence in our country's judiciary and we believe justice will be served. The Divisional

Additional General Secretary, Advocate Ejaz Ahmed Randhawa added that Yazid was defeated and Hazrat Imam Husain (AS) prevailed. Insha'Allah, Yazidiyat will come to an end and Husainiyat will always remain alive. The Divisional Senior Vice President, Muhammad Amin Sangrasi, Divisional Vice President, Ayaz Qaimkhani and other PTI leaders have also condemned the arrests of their central party leaders and vowed to continue their struggle for the rule of law in the country.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Latifabad are holding a protest demonstration against prolonged electricity load shedding in their area, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT

DC Naveed Rehman Larik chairs meeting of Land Utilization Dept

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Sindh Government's Land Utilization Department held a meeting of the District Base Price Assessment Committee regarding government lands, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Umerkot, Naveed Rehman Larik, at his office. The meeting was attended by committee members including Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Javed Ahmed Dahri, Assistant Commissioner Umerkot Rajib Ali Suthio, District Accounts Officer Umerkot Muhammad Alam Soomro, Mukhtiarar Umerkot Azzullah Chachar, District Registrar Umerkot, Agriculture stakeholder Ghulam Akbar Dars, local estate business representative Syed Qamar Hussain Shah, Information Officer Muhammad Aslam Bhatti, among others.



During the meeting, new government rates were set for three public projects on government lands within the jurisdiction of 10 Dehs in Umerkot Azzullah Chachar. These projects include the railway track from Thar Coal Block-II to New Chhor, the new water channel lining for SIFC and the Green Pakistan project. The Deputy Commissioner, Naveed Rehman Larik, with the consensus of all committee members, set the rate for government land in various Dehs such as Chhor Thar, Kaploor, Lala Besh, Kacheli, Doolhar, and Mokel Besh at Rs. 200,000 per acre. For Deh Sarang Sar, the rate was set at Rs 600,000 per acre, and for Deh Banhari, the rate was set at Rs 500,000 per acre.

NDMA and Sindh University Laar Campus collaborate to enhance disaster management

By Munawar Chandio

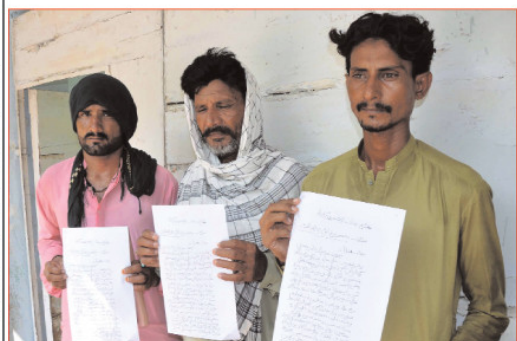
JAMSHORO: In a significant step towards enhancing disaster management capabilities, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Sindh University Laar Campus (SULC) Badin have signed a Letter of Cooperation (LoC) to ensure robust cooperation in the field of disaster management. The agreement was signed by Pro-Vice Chancellor Sindh University Laar Campus Professor Dr. Khalil-Ur-Rehman Khoumbati representing the University of Sindh and the Director General National Institute of Disaster Management M. Tanveer Piracha on behalf of NDMA. According to the letter of cooperation, the agreement aims to strengthen coordination and technical capacity to effectively manage natural and human-induced disasters. Recognizing the critical importance of disaster management in safeguarding human lives and property, both parties have committed to various areas of cooperation as outlined in the agreement. The agreement further states that the parties will exchange knowledge on past disasters, early warning systems, and innovative practices, creating synergy through

shared platforms. Efforts will focus on enhancing the capabilities of government agencies and local communities to handle geo-physical and climate-induced hydro-meteorological disasters such as floods, earthquakes, droughts, tsunamis, GLOFs, heat waves, and cyclones. According to the LoC, advanced technologies and innovative practices like remote sensing, GIS mapping, and risk-based spatial planning will be employed to bolster emergency response systems. Training experts, professors, scientists, and other disaster management staff will engage in exchanges, joint workshops, conferences, seminars, drills, and training courses. Both parties will collaborate on scientific research and practical surveys related to disaster management and climate change adaptation. The LoC does not create legally binding rights or obligations but represents a mutual commitment to collaborate and support each other's disaster management efforts. Any amendments to the LoC will require mutual written consent. Disputes arising from the application or interpretation of the LoC will be resolved through negotiations and consultations. Both parties have agreed to safeguard confidential information exchanged during the implementation of the LoC. No party will disclose classified information to third parties without prior written consent. According to the agreement, the LoC enters into force upon signature and remains valid until terminated. Either party may terminate the LoC by providing a six-month advance written notice.

This cooperation marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's disaster management efforts, promising enhanced preparedness and resilience against future disasters. After this landmark agreement between Sindh University Laar Campus Badin and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Sindh University Registrar Professor Dr. Mushtaq Ali Jariko has officially notified the establishment of the Disaster Risk Reduction Society (DRRS). According to the notification, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sindh, Jamshoro, has constituted the DRRS Committee, drawing attention to the critical importance of disaster management in safeguarding human lives and property. The committee is composed of a diverse group of experts and professionals, each bringing a unique set of skills and knowledge to the table.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Asif Zardari and Faryal Talpur Release Committee are holding a protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Hyder are holding a protest demonstration for the acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT

NATIONAL



President Calls For Comprehensive Plan To Prevent Urban Flooding In Karachi

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday directed the Sindh government to prioritize a comprehensive plan to prevent urban flooding in Karachi by adopting a sustainable, long-term strategy based on international best practices for managing sewage and stormwater.

The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting on saving Karachi from urban flooding and environmental degradation and promoting sustainable water resource development, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The President was given a comprehensive presentation by international water and sewage management experts and proposed various solutions to address the challenges of urban flooding and sewage in Karachi on the pattern of the tunnel sewer systems of Washington DC, the London Super Sewer Project, and the Deep Tunnel Sewerage System of Singapore.

Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Adjutant General Lt General Muhammad Asim Malik, Minister for Local Govern-



ment Department of Sindh, Saeed Ghani, Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed Asif Hyder Shah, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, Syed Salahuddin, Country Head Herrenknecht Pakistan, Col (r) Danyal Naveed Ahmed, senior government officials, and local and international water management experts attended the meeting. During the briefing, it was proposed that a network of small and large sewer tunnels under existing roads in high-flood zones of Karachi may be developed. It was highlighted that underground tunnelling using modern techniques would not disturb

the public, city traffic and land ownership.

The experts informed that Karachi generated almost 450 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage. They added that sewage and stormwater were collected in small and large open drains which fell into the Lyari and Malir rivers and were leached untreated into the sea, polluting the marine ecosystem.

It was further informed that the existing network of drains had limited capacity and absorbed around 50% of the rainwater under normal circumstances. The meeting was told that excess water was not absorbed by the system, causing urban flooding.—RT/Agency

Punjab Assembly Speaker Condemns Abusive Language From Opposition



LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan said this is the first assembly where people are being abused.

He made this remark while talking to the media outside the Punjab Assembly.

Khan said "a day of the meeting costs around 27 million and 60 members of the opposition attended the meeting to take TADA."

He said he would release the list of 60 members of the opposition to the media. The speaker said that since August 2014, the PTI has been attacking the country and accused it of the only political party which has been paralyzing the Parliament.—RT/Agency

Punjab Government Approves New Tram Service For Lahore

LAHORE: The Punjab government has approved the launch of a tram service in Lahore which is aimed at enhancing the city's transportation infrastructure.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif approved the project during her recent visit to the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) headquarters.

According to the LDA, the tram service will cover an 11-kilometer route with 10 stops, spaced approximately 1 to 1.5 kilometers apart.

The project is inspired by modern tram systems in Finland and China and has an estimated cost of Rs27 billion.

The route will traverse key localities, including Main Boulevard from Kalma Chowk, Liberty, Main Market, Mini Market, and Hall Road.

Additionally, MM Alam



Road will be converted into a one-way street as part of the remodeling and beautification efforts associated with the tram project.

A notable feature of the new tram service is a dedicated stop within Gaddafi Stadium, offering convenience for sports enthusiasts and event-goers.

Ticket prices for the tram service will be announced closer to the launch date.

On Sunday, a rescue air ambulance successfully transferred a patient for the first time in the country through an initiative undertaken by Chief Minister Maryam.

Following her direction, Halima Bibi was airlifted from Mianwali to Rawalpindi within the critical "golden hour," under the supervision of Dr Raza Nasir.—RT/Agency

Teenager Tragically Burned Alive In Muzaffargarh Land Dispute

MUZAFFARGARH: An 18-year-old boy was allegedly burned to death over a land dispute in Muzaffargarh, south Punjab, media reported Monday.

The teenager, Ehsanullah, was burned alive in Sestpur, a city in Alipur Tehsil of Muzaffargarh, the police revealed.

The police added that a case against the perpetrators has been registered on

behalf of the boy's uncle.

According to first information report (FIR) filed by the victim's uncle, their family and the suspects were involved in a land dispute.

It further stated that the young boy was taken to the THQ hospital in Alipur which referred him to Multan.

Additionally, the FIR stated that the victim was tied to a tree and set on fire.

It added that he later succumbed to his injuries. The uncle said that he has also been issued death threats before.

The police filed a murder case against four people at the Sestpur police station on the family's complaint. The law enforcement officials said that an investigation of the case is underway and they are conducting raids to arrest the suspects.—RT/Agency

Salman Akram Raja Requests SC To Restore Election Tribunals



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legal czar Salman Akram Raja on Monday moved the apex court for the restoration of the election tribunals.

Raja has filed an application to review the SC's July 4 judgment.

According to the petition, the applicant said that the Supreme Court had the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to consult with the Lahore High Court (LHC) chief justice for the appointment of judges to look into the applications of rigging, pointing that the SC had not issued any guidelines in its July 4 verdict.

Raja further said in the application that the LHC judges were right in the appointment of judges which must have been accepted by the ECP instead of raising objections over it.

Evaluating the SC's decision of overruling the LHC judgment, Raja said that the apex court had not suspended the judges appointed to weigh-in on electoral rigging, adding that the ECP didn't have the right to oppose the LHC judgment.

"Only LHC can decide the jurisdiction of the judges of election tribunals of Punjab," he added.—RT/Agency

PTI Media Coordinator Granted Seven-Day Remand In CTD Custody

ISLAMABAD: PTI media coordinator Ahmed Waqas Janjua has been handed over to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on seven-day physical remand.

The accused was produced in court of ATC judge Tahir Abbas Sipra in a case registered in a CTD police station.

The investigating officer informed the court that explosive materials were recovered from Janjua at the time of his arrest and therefore, the accused being given on a physical remand for further investigation and recovery.

The officer sought 15-day physical remand but the court allowed seven-day remand and ordered to produce the accused before the court on July 29.

A case of disappearance of the PTI media coordinator is being heard in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).—RT/Agency

Girls' School Blown Up In North Waziristan

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: In a distressing incident, another girls' school has been blown up by some unidentified individuals in the village of Zerakki located in North Waziristan, media reported on Monday.

According to the district administration, the blast was carried out last night with not only destroyed the Government Girls' Middle School but also severely damaged a nearby house. Fortunately, no casualties have been reported.

The intensity of the blast was so severe that it completely destroyed seven rooms, which had 255 female students enrolled.

The Education Minister, Faisal Tarakai, has taken im-



mediate notice of the incident and has instructed the director of education and the concerned deputy commissioner to launch a thorough investigation.

Emphasizing the government's commitment to education, Faisal Tarakai assured that the school will be re-

opened soon and that educational activities in the tribal districts will continue without any disruption.

"Such incidents will not discourage us," said Tarakai. "Educational reforms will persist, and we will prioritize women's education without compromise"—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

FPCCI Demands Audit And Reform Of IPPs



KARACHI: The FPCCI Standing Committee on Energy, chaired by Malik Khuda Bakhsh, held an emergency meeting to address the impact of high electricity charges on Pakistan's economy. The committee condemned the high rates, stating that the burden is unfairly placed on the public to favor 40 Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Key points from the meeting include: 25% of IPPs are closed but still receive Rs 10 billion monthly, worsening the economic crisis.

IPPs charge Rs 24 per unit for unused electricity, pushing industries towards collapse and threatening businesses.

The high charges have caused widespread unemployment, industrial closures, reduced foreign investment, and significant economic losses.

Malik Khuda Bakhsh warned that achieving the revised tax collection target of Rs 12.9 trillion and the export target of \$100 billion by 2030 is impossible under the current conditions. He called for immediate action to address the crisis.

The committee passed a resolution urging the government to revisit agreements with IPPs to lower electric charges and consider terminating contracts with non-compliant IPPs. Swift action is demanded to ensure sustainable and affordable energy for industries and the public, crucial for Pakistan's economic stability.—RT

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that led to the shortage of flour, particularly in Karachi. The flour mill owners announced and held a strike on July 11 against the imposition of the tax in the budget 2024-25. The flour mill owners said that due to increasing electricity bills, they are already facing difficulties in running their business.—RT/Agency



SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Two Detained Criminals Killed By Gunfire From Their Own Accomplices

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In a police encounter, two detained robbers were killed by their own accomplices' gunfire. The robbers had been detained by the police and were being transported to Okara for recovery when the incident occurred. According to reports, the SHO of Thana Saddar Gojra, Hakim Ali, along with police personnel, was transporting the two detained robbers when, near Chak No. 367 JB Jalianwala on Samundri Road, four armed accomplices of the robbers on two motorcycles suddenly opened indiscriminate fire on the police party. The police responded with gunfire, but the assailants



took advantage of the darkness and escaped. During this exchange of fire, the two detained robbers sustained severe injuries from the accomplices' gunfire and subsequently died at the scene. The police have transferred the bodies to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital for postmortem examination and registered a case against the unknown

attackers under charges of murder and other relevant sections. According to the police, the deceased robbers, Sher Alam and Fayaz, were both previously recorded criminals and were wanted by police in various districts for multiple cases.

Laborer Shot Dead In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In the area of Thana Nawaan Lahore, unknown armed motorcyclists ambushed him and opened fire. Umar Hayat succumbed to his injuries at the scene, and the assailants fled the area. The Nawaan Lahore police have taken

Dhani, was returning to his village on a motorcycle after irrigating the fields when two unknown armed motorcyclists ambushed him and opened fire. Umar Hayat succumbed to his injuries at the scene, and the assailants fled the area. The Nawaan Lahore police have taken

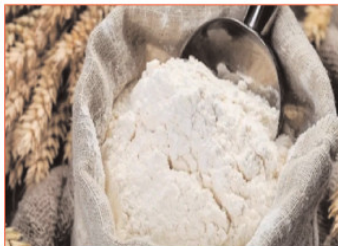
the deceased's body into custody and, after completing the necessary formalities, handed it over to the family. A case has been registered against the unidentified perpetrators based on the complaint filed by the victim's brother, Maqbool Hussain.

Government Eliminates Advance Tax Following Successful Negotiations With Flour Millers

KARACHI: The federal government abolished a 5.5 percent advance income tax after successful talks with the flour millers, media reported.

The development came after the government formed a committee to negotiate with the flour millers association as they announced and held a strike against the advance income tax imposed in the budget 2024-25.

The negotiations successfully concluded, resulting in the abolition of the tax by the government and consequently the withdrawal of the strike by the millers owners. It is pertinent to mention here that the flour millers owners held a three-day strike



that led to the shortage of flour, particularly in Karachi. The flour mill owners announced and held a strike on July 11 against the imposition of the tax in the budget 2024-25. The flour mill owners said that due to increasing electricity bills, they are already facing difficulties in running their business.—RT/Agency

CM Gandapur Orders Arrest of Armed Men Impersonating Government Officials

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur has ordered the immediate arrest of armed individuals impersonating government officials in the province.

The chief minister noted that the provincial government, police, and public have reservation about these armed men. He directed the police to take action and arrest these elements, and appealed to the public to identify them.—RT/Agency

Daughters Of Kamalia Sugar Mills Laborers Achieve Top Positions In SSC Exams

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In the Faisalabad Board's annual matriculation exams, Arfa Tariq, a student from Two Star High School Kamalia Sugar Mills, secured the first position at the tehsil level by obtaining 1162 marks. Arfa Tariq, the daughter of a worker at Two Star Sugar

Mills, credited her success to the efforts of the school administration, her parents' prayers, and the hard work of her teachers. Arfa Tariq expressed her gratitude, saying that Two Star High School helped her achieve this position and thanked the principal for their special interest and efforts. Principal Irada mentioned that Hafsa

Noor and Taskeen Zahra also achieved notable positions with 1160 and 1141 marks, respectively. She further stated that the outstanding performance of the daughters of mill employees in the school is a testament to Two Star Sugar Mills High School Kamalia's education-friendly policy.

EDITORIAL

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

Tuesday, July 23, 2024



A Call for Unity and a Pakistan First Policy

In a world rife with political divisions and conflicting interests, it is imperative that Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to a Pakistan First policy. Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif's recent press conference underscores the pressing need for national unity in the face of a relentless threat: terrorism. His stark warning about a "massive, illegal political mafia" undermining counter-terrorism efforts is a clarion call for every Pakistani to prioritize the nation's security above all else.

The valiant efforts of the Pakistan Armed Forces, who have conducted over 22,409 intelligence-based operations this year alone, are testament to their unwavering dedication to the country's safety. These operations, which aim to dismantle terrorist networks and their facilitators, highlight the tireless vigilance of our military

and law enforcement agencies. Lt. Gen. Sharif's clarification that Azm-i-Istehkam is a comprehensive counter-terrorism campaign built on national consensus, rather



than a mere military operation, reinforces the need for a united front.

Despite these efforts, a strong lobby driven by personal and monetary interests seeks to thwart the National Action Plan (NAP). This undermines not only the stability of our nation but also the sacrifices made by our soldiers. Political exploitation of critical issues, as highlighted by Lt. Gen. Sharif, distracts from the ulti-

mate goal of national security and stability.

It is essential that all Pakistanis, regardless of political affiliation, rally behind the Pakistan Armed Forces and support the NAP. The establishment of provincial Counter-Terrorism Departments and the regularization of religious seminars are vital steps in this direction. The illegal spectrum that fuels terrorism and criminal activities must be eradicated for the greater good of society.

Let us not allow political differences to sacrifice the very essence of our nation's security. The Pakistan First policy is not just a slogan; it is a necessary stance that requires the collective resolve of every citizen. Our armed forces stand as the bulwark against terrorism; it is our duty to support them unequivocally. Together, we can ensure that Pakistan remains safe, stable, and united.



THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Asif Zardari and Faryal Talpur Rehail Committee Leader, Gajju Khan Mallah is addressing a press conference, at the Hyderabad press club-RT

Sihanro community demands justice in land dispute



By Afaque Khazada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The residents of the village Qaisar Sihanro in Tando Allahyar have reached the press club seeking justice. During a press conference at the Tando Allahyar Press Club, villagers Hanif Sihanro, Muhammad Aslam Sihanro, Zahid Hussain Sihanro, and others, while speaking to the media, said that those protesting against them actually want to illegally occupy government land and are harassing them using various tactics. They mentioned that they have also filed a petition against these individuals in the court. They further explained that in 2019, they planted crops of cotton and babul (acacia) trees on their privately surveyed land, which they are currently harvesting. Due to this, influential individuals are, under the guise of patronage, making baseless accusations and creating an uproar against them to withdraw their petition and case. They are falsely accusing them of cutting down trees planted on government land but in reality, they are harvesting crops from their own private land. They demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter and provide justice to them.



HYDERABAD: Resident of Latifabad, Afaq Nasr is addressing a press conference, at the Hyderabad press club-RT

Rahu community rallies for recovery of abducted Sana Rahu

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: In a protest for the recovery of a kidnapped woman named Sana Rahu, residents of village Hashim Rahu near Qazi Ahmed organized a rally from Court Road to the Nawabshah Press Club. The demonstration was led by Sana's family, including her father Raza Muhammad Rahu, mother Gulshan, brother Amjad Ali, and sisters Soonhan, Suraya and Saba Rahu, along with other supporters. The protest saw significant participation from leaders of the Sindh United Party (SUP), such as Gul Hassan Rind, and Sindh Tariq Party (STP) members like Budhal Magasi, among others. The family claimed that nine months ago, their married daughter Sana Rahu



was abducted by armed men associated with Sardar Khalid Lund of Ghotki, including Nisar Ali Lund, Zameer Hussain Lund, and Mehboob Sehto, while she was on her way home. Despite continuous protests in various cities over the past nine months, the police have failed to arrest the culprits, even though a case has been registered against them. The family expressed concerns that Sana might have been murdered and criticized the police for not recovering her yet. They urged the Chief Minister of Sindh, the Inspector General of Police, the Deputy Inspector General and the SSP of Shaheed Benazirabad to immediately recover Sana and arrest the accused. They warned that if their demands are not met, they would escalate their protest further.

District Council Tharparkar approves budget for fiscal year 2024-25



By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI: Chairman of District Council Tharparkar, Dr. Ghulam Haider Samejo, presented a budget of Rs 305,992 in savings for the fiscal year 2025-2024, which was unanimously approved by the council members. The meeting, held under the chairmanship of Dr. Samejo, took place at the Karoonjhar Hall in Mithi. Vice Chairman Kamla Bai Bheel, Chief Officer Syed Musharrarf Hussain Shah, council members, and journalists attended. National Assembly Member Dr. Mehesh Malani also participated specially in the meeting. Dr. Mehesh Malani stated during the meeting that the Pakistan Peoples Party's manifesto emphasizes serving the people and ensuring the provision of basic facilities to their doorsteps. Chairman Dr. Ghulam Haider Samejo outlined that the budget for Tharparkar has been prepared with a tax-free surplus, and no new taxes have been imposed. The total tax-free budget for the fiscal year 2025-2024 amounted to Rs 88.63 crore. After accounting for expenses, a saving of Rs 305,992 was reported. The presented budget was unanimously approved by all council members.

Prolonged load shedding results in shortage of ice in Daulatpur

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: In Daulatpur, the HESCO administration has increased electricity load-shedding, causing severe distress among the residents. Areas such as Mehboob Shah Muhalla, Safan Muhalla, Sarmad Town, Kabir City and Langah Muhalla are experiencing power outages for 14 to 16 hours a day, making life unbearable for the people. This has also led to a severe ice shortage in many areas, leaving residents to suffer in the scorching heat. Additionally, ice factory owners have raised the prices of ice, citing electricity load-shedding as the reason. The price for a large ice cane is now set at Rs 1200 and a small cane at



Rs 900. Ordinary citizens are unable to purchase ice for less than Rs 30 to Rs 40, making it difficult for poor people to get cold drinking water. Citizens, including Sadaqat Jokhio, Syed Zaman Shah, Zameer Dahri and Shaman Langah, have complained that continuous load-shedding by HESCO officials has allowed ice factory owners to arbitrarily increase ice prices. They expressed their frustration over the increased load-shedding and expensive ice, stating that no one is addressing their complaints. They demanded an end to the load-shedding and a reduction in ice prices.

Dadu Awami Forum to protest against negligence of local authorities on July 30

By Javed Laghari

DADU: In the district of Dadu, despite a high alert for potential flooding, there has been no repair work on the FP, SP, LS and MNV drains. Over the past two months, there has been a severe water shortage in all branches of the Dadu Canal and the Johi Branch. Additionally, there has been extreme and unannounced electricity load shedding. In response, the Dadu Awami Forum, led by Chairman Ashiq Ali Zaur, held a meeting with all officials and committee members in attendance. During the meeting, Chairman Ashiq Ali Zaur, Senior Vice Chairman Gul Bhand, General Secretary Waryam Sindh, Nabi Bux Halipoto, Zameer

Korejo and other leaders expressed their concerns. They stated that despite repeated warnings from the Meteorological Department and the National Disaster Management Authority regarding severe rains and dangerous flooding in the current monsoon season, the Sindh government, elected representatives of Dadu, and the district administration have remained inactive. This inactivity suggests a possible covert scheme to deliberately flood the Dadu district in order to embezzle billions of rupees under the guise of a natural disaster. They criticized the destruction of the Sindh irrigation system by deliberately releasing water from the Indus River through the Sukkur Barrage, which they believe is part of a conspiracy to ruin Sindh's agricultural economy and force Sindh people into dire conditions. The water shortage has severely affected the district, with crops drying up due to lack of water in the Dadu Canal and Johi Branch. The leaders also condemned the extreme electricity load shedding, which has devastated city businesses and created unbearable living conditions due to the severe heat. They questioned what crimes the current rulers are punishing the people of Dadu for. As a result, they have announced a protest sit-in at SSP Chowk, Dadu, on Tuesday, July 30. A public awareness campaign has also been launched throughout the district to ensure the success of the protest.

Golo community notable Mohabbat Khan Golo passes away

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The elder brother of Thul Municipal Officer and head of the Golo community, Mohabbat Khan Golo passed away. Following the funeral prayers, he was laid to rest after offering his funeral prayers at the Jilani Madrasa. The funeral prayers were attended by a large number of people including Golo community leader Sardar Shoaib Khan Golo, Sardarzada Haider Ali Khan Golo, Dr. Sohrab Khan Sarki, Syed Rizwan Ali Shah, Rehmatullah Khan Khoso,



Dr. Muneer Soomro, Zafar Khan Golo, Imdad Ali Golo, Arbab Ali Golo, journalist Muhammad Nawaz Golo and other mourners expressed their condolences.

Kunri receives fresh spell of monsoon rains

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: After experiencing intense heat and the light rain, the temperature has decreased, with the possibility of more

rain expected tonight. Farmers in the area are hopeful for additional rainfall, as the seasonal rain, the temperature of canal water have significantly damaged crops.

SPORTS



Basit Ali slams Mohammed Shami for using 'inappropriate remarks' about Inzamam-ul-Haq



KARACHI: Indian pacer Mohammed Shami is under hot waters as he has been criticised by former Pakistani players for making inappropriate remarks about Inzamam-ul-Haq.

Inzamam had said during the T20 World Cup 2024, which India won, that the umpires should be proactive during India's bowling as the Men in Blues were getting unusual help from them.

Shami did not appreciate the former Pakistan captain's comments and said, "The team that performs against them gets targeted there. Suppose I bowled with the device and pressed the button incorrectly. I intended to bowl an inswinger, but it turned into an outswinger, resulting in a boundary. This kind of cartoonish behaviour can happen elsewhere; these are just ways to fool the public."

However, Basit Ali has slammed Shami and said that he should have been more careful while talking about Inzamam.

"When Shami talks about Inzi bhai and calls him a cartoon, that's not right. Inzamam has led this country and captained it. Shami, your choice of words isn't good. We praise your bowling, but you should have chosen your words better. You didn't pick your words well, and that hurt me," said Ali on his YouTube channel.

"If you think Inzi bhai said something wrong, say it nicely. Don't call him a cartoon and all that. Have some respect. He's a senior. You should respect your seniors. If you don't, cricket will make you cry 300 days out of 365 and only make you happy for 65 days. So, please don't do this, it's a personal request."

"Be a bit more careful, you can't just say anything anywhere. Whatever question is asked, you keep giving indecent answers. I'm using the right word, indecent. You've used indecent language. Your elders probably never taught you this," he concluded.

During the T20 World Cup 2024, Inzamam questioned Arshdeep Singh's ability to reverse swing the ball in the 15th over.—Agency

Historic Britain's cricket clubs ban players from hitting sixes



LONDON: Southwick and Shoreham Cricket Club, one of the oldest cricket clubs in the world, have imposed a ban on the players from hitting sixes.

According to a report by Daily Mail, the decision was taken in the wake of a series of complaints from the neighbours, who claim that their house windows, cars, sheds and even people have been in the wrath of big hitters at Southwick and Shoreham Cricket Club, formed in 1790 near Brighton.

Consequently, the clubs have altered the rules of the game where the first six will be counted as no runs while if a batter hits another one during an innings on the Green, he will be adjudged out.

One of the club batters heavily criticised the newly introduced rule and termed it "ridiculous".

"Hitting the bowler for a six out is part of the glory of the sport. How can you ban the players from hitting sixes?"

"To take that away removes the joy of it. I don't agree that the rules should be tinkered with in this fashion."

Another batter said, "Everything is about health and safety these days and insurance companies are charging a fortune to indemnify sports clubs against accidental damage or injury to bystanders."

"If you buy a house next to a cricket ground then you've got to expect a few cricket balls in your garden."

The West Sussex club was founded during George III's reign. The residential dwellings encircle the ground, which has brief boundaries. The club has installed nets, but the surrounding trees limit the heights.—Agency

Five-wicket Bashir excites Stokes as England seal West Indies series

TRENT BRIDGE: Ben Stokes said Shoaib Bashir had "showed the world" he belonged in international cricket after the 20-year-old off-spinner bowled England to a series-clinching victory over the West Indies in the second Test at Trent Bridge.

Bashir took 5-41 as the West Indies collapsed to 143 all out on the fourth evening, with England triumphing by 241 runs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in a three-match campaign.

It was Bashir's third five-wicket haul in just five Tests but first in England after he twice achieved the feat on spin-friendly Indian pitches earlier this year.

His latest exploits were all the more impressive given Bashir did not bowl a single ball and was out for a duck during England's innings and 114-run thrashing of the West Indies in the first Test at Lord's.

Bashir removed Kirk McKenzie, Kavem Hodge and Alick Athanaze -- all top-order batsmen -- in quick succession before bowling Jason Holder an last man Shamar Joseph as West Indies, set 385 to win, slumped to 143 all out.

"Pretty cool" - "I think what Bash has done today is to show the world what he can do," said England captain Stokes.

"That wicket hardly offered anything for a spinner throughout the whole Test match and look at what he was able to do today. The way in which he can change his pace, produce over-spin and under-spin... I think he showed his full bag of tricks. He's got so much talent and the ceiling is so, so high. He's got an unbelievable desire and a will to get better and learn.—Agency



England Cricket open to IPL investment in The Hundred

England Cricket open to IPL investment in The Hundred

LONDON: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive Richard Gould confirmed on Monday they have held talks with Indian Premier League (IPL) owners about acquiring a stake in their domestic The Hundred competition.

The fourth edition of The Hundred, which features eight specially created teams -- each with a men's and women's side -- rather than the traditional 18 first-class English counties, starts on Tuesday.

Its future remains uncertain, with the ECB looking to secure private investment in a bid to cement its position in the global calendar and boost the finances of the domestic game.

"The ECB are trying to balance a desire for a cash injection while retaining control of the Hundred by selling off a 49 per cent stake in each team to private investors, with host teams retaining the remaining 51 per cent of shares."

But the hosts could sell part or all of their shares. "Control comes at different levels, it comes at team level and it comes at competition level -- that's not something we are ceding control of," ECB chief executive Richard Gould told reporters during a conference call.

"Different investor groups have different needs, for some it is about control of what happens on the field, for others it's the commercial element."

"You're right about the strength of the Indian market - it represents probably 90 per cent of the revenues coming into the ICC (International Cricket Council) and we have seen the proliferation of IPL teams moving outside of their home market into other national markets. I think that's to be welcomed," he added.

The cash-rich T20 IPL, a multi-million dollars spectacle underpinned by the mass enthusiasm for cricket in India, the world's most populous nation, has changed the sport's global landscape, with players no longer needing to go through the grind of five-day international Test matches in order to enjoy lucrative careers.

There is a view that IPL owners, such as the billionaire Ambani family who are in charge of the Mumbai Indians, would only be interested in full control of The Hundred team.

"There is certainly the opportunity for people to have potentially 100 per cent ownership," said Gould.

"It depends on the capabilities they can bring both in terms of finance and operation delivery."

The ECB's director of business operations Vikram Banerjee said while he had spoken to IPL owners about the Hundred, he was also open to offers from American Football's NFL.

"I've now met and spoken to a number of times, all the IPL owners and WPL (Women's Premier League) owners that don't overlap and there is interest there, from what they've told me, which is fantastic and lends into a very exciting process," Banerjee said.—Agency

Pakistan's Arslan Ash becomes five-time EVO Tekken champion



LAS VEGAS: Pakistan's E-sports star Arslan Ash added another feather to his cap by winning his fifth EVO Tekken 8 title for the fifth time, defeating compatriot Atif Butt in the Grand Finals last night.

Arslan emerged victorious 3-1 in the winner's final following which Atif locked horns with Japan's Nobi in the loser's final and out-classed the latter to 3-0 to set up the Grand Final with the star Pakistan gamer.

Atif started the thrilling Grand Final on a high as he won the first game but Arslan equalised.

Atif then switched to FENG and tied the score at 2-2. In the final round, however, Atif Butt appeared favourite but Arslan Ash landed a perfect hit to clinch his fifth EVO title.

"I've done it again, Alhamdulillah, 5th EVO title in the bag, but definitely not my last," Arslan posted on X, formerly Twitter.

"This win is for Pakistan and everyone out there pushing boundaries! Onward and upward! And to my critics, I've still got it, baby! And I'm not done yet," he added.

Meanwhile, Atif Butt showcased sportsman spirit by terming Arslan Ash a deserving winner but shared that he was not satisfied with his performance.

"First of all, I would like to thank all of my supporters. As a professional player, I always wanted to win an EVO. It's a dream title of any player. I have tried hardest to win it, but failed & got the (2nd position)," wrote Butt.

"I'm not really happy with my performance. Still, I'm thankful to Allah for showering a lot of blessings on me. I will work tirelessly to present Pakistan at the highest level. In Sha Allah, he added.—Agency

Global winners of ICC Development Awards announced



DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday, July 17th, revealed the global winners in the ICC Development Awards 2023, with six emerging nations honoured for a range of groundbreaking initiatives and outstanding performances during the last calendar year.

Launched in 2002, the ICC Development Awards casts light on the world-leading work being carried out in ICC Associate Member countries to grow the game globally, whether through innovative development programmes or through inspiring efforts on the field of play.

Mexico Cricket Association were awarded the ICC Development Initiative of the Year prize for pioneering projects which included sending a team to the Street Child Cricket World Cup in India, and for their unique Cricket in Prisons programme, in which they deliver cricket sessions in prisons across Mexico City to enhance the rehabilitation and transformation of the lives of inmates.

Oman Cricket claimed the 100% Cricket Female Cricket Initiative of the Year for the CricketHer programme, which provides unique participation opportunities for women and girls and a valuable pathway through to competitive cricket.—Agency

ICC announces to review delivery of T20 World Cup 2024

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday announced that they will be reviewing the delivery of the recently-held T20 World Cup 2024 which took place in the United States and West Indies.

The review will be overseen by three directors - Roger Twose, Lawson Naidoo, and Imran Khwaja - who will report back to the Board later this year.

India won the T20 World Cup by beating South Africa in a thrilling final in Bridgetown and lifted their first ICC trophy since 2013. The ICC Annual Conference concluded in Colombo today, and all 108 ICC members of the ICC Board and ICC Annual General Meeting were present.

The four-day conference is themed 'capitalising on the Olympic opportunity' as it was confirmed earlier that Cricket will be part of the 2028 Olympics which will be held in Los Angeles.



"The ICC Board confirmed that there will be a review into the delivery of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. This will be overseen by three directors, Roger Twose, Lawson Naidoo and Imran Khwaja who will report back to the Board later in the year," the ICC said in a presser. "USA Cricket and Cricket Chile have been formally put on notice and have 12 months to rectify their current non-compliance with the ICC Membership Criteria. Neither Member is considered to have in place a fit for purpose detailed governance and administrative structure and systems.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Raman Nadeem
Location: Karachi
About me: I love taking selfies!
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Britney Spears admits 'girl crush' on past tour dancer



Britney Spears recently shared a "girl crush" she had on one of her former dancers.

On Instagram, Spears shared a photo of the unidentified dancer, expressing her admiration and respect for her.

In the caption, Spears wrote, "The best!!! You want to be great... study the greatest!!! She's my favorite... always has been!!! She's a woman to the highest degree with skills like no f----- other!!!"

"I do think she plays herself down on Instagram... but if you check her work out and scroll down she's the real deal!!! She danced with me on a tour I didn't love but she did teach me how to snap my head like a motherf---er!!!" the Toxic singer added. Spears admitted she never spoke much to the dancer due to being "extremely socially shy" but wanted to express her admiration now.

She wrote, "I guess I can tell her now I've always had a girl crush on her for reals!!! Mad respect!!!"

Katy Perry gives glimpses of love-filled vacation with Orlando Bloom



Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom just displayed their love for one another in their latest update.

On Sunday, the 39-year-old songstress took to her official Instagram account to upload a carousel of images featuring her and Bloom. It seemed the couple were on vacation according to the post, also featuring an affectionate exchange between the two in a video.

Perry and Bloom could be seen locking lips with each other in front of a sunset as the singer wrapped her arms around her beau while Bloom rubbed Perry's back. This clip comes after the first snap that shows the Firework hit-maker rocking a red patterned swimsuit as she held multiple floats.

Set to the tune of her latest song, Woman's World, she captioned the love-filled post, "WOMAN'S WORLD: sister/mother/partner/funtie/kvnty/almost 40, and FABULOUS edition."

In the third photograph, Perry's hand could be seen holding a cocktail next to what seems to be her daughter, Daisy Dove's hand, whom she shares with Orlando Bloom and who was holding a cup of chocolate ice cream.

THE HEARTLAND



Shifting of BISP Centre demanded from Govt High School Shadi Palli

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In the remaining week before the school reopens, if the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Centre is not relocated from the high school Shadi Palli to another site,

the school's cleanliness and sanitation system will not improve. There is a concern that if the BISP Centre is not moved soon, it may negatively affect the students' education. The local community has urged the Chief Minister of Sindh, the Minister of Education and the DC of Umerkot to expedite the relocation of the BISP Centre from the high school Shadi Palli and to ensure that the school is cleaned thoroughly. This is necessary to prevent any adverse impact on the students' education.

PTI protests against former MPA Adeel Ahmed

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: The PTI Students Federation Hyderabad Division leaders staged a protest at the Kotri District Press Club against the arrest of PTI Students Federation President and former MPA Adeel Ahmed. They chanted slogans and expressed their grievances to the media, asserting that Adeel Ahmed is completely innocent and has been falsely implicated in fabricated cases. During the protest, PTI leaders from Hyderabad spoke to the media, accusing the PDM government of being desperate and asserting that their leaders have been arrested and trapped in false cases related to the events of May 9. They demanded the release of their leaders.

Gazetted Field Officers of NCHD demand rights for employees

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: A meeting of the Gazetted Field Officers of the Federal Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, NCHD was held in Shaheed Benazirabad (Nawabshah). The meeting was attended by a large number of field officers from Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Shikarpur, Khairpur Mir's, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Jamshoro, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Naushahro Feroze, Sanghar, Nawabshah and other cities. During the meeting, it was reported that NCHD Head Office officers in Islamabad had been intimidating and pressuring employees to work under the Benazir Income Support Program's National Socio-Economic Registry Survey (NSER) without a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and proper mobility agreements. Additionally, corruption was alleged in the BISP Waseela-e-Taleem program, where directors at the Head Office were accused of misappropriating funds and making unauthorized deductions from field officers' earnings, despite their hard work. Shafi Mallah criticized these practices, stating that NCHD officers had allegedly exploited the organization. He expressed concerns that over 1,500 field officers across Pakistan are being



pressured to relocate to provinces, despite such transfers being under the jurisdiction of the Pakistan CCI (Council of Common Interests), which includes employee protection measures. Shafi Mallah emphasized that NCHD Head Office officials had started treating employees like slaves, but now all gazetted employees in Grade 16 have united. Other leaders, including Nazir Shar, Sada Mirani, Qamar Rajar, Khadim Baladi, and Ghulam Mustafa Sagar, stated that employees would no longer be misled by non-commissioned NCHD officers or be part of any conspiracy. They highlighted that employees are entitled to their dues and time-scale promotions after ten years of service, which have not been implemented. Legal cases regarding illegal show-cause notices and transfers are ongoing. The employees expressed full confidence in the judiciary and the Ministry of Federal Education to resolve their legitimate issues promptly. The meeting concluded with a consensus to form working committees, emphasize quarterly meetings, and resolve issues through legal channels with the ministry and judiciary. They also declared their disassociation from any plans of provincial transfers proposed by provincial directors. Notable attendees included Hakeem Jarwar, Kazim Bhutto, Abdullah Rahujo, Tanveer Pathan, Asif Jamani, Israr Dhamraj, Darya Khan Umrani, Razaq Jalalani, Ghulam Mustafa Bughio, Syed Zulfiqar Shah, Ghulam Mustafa Soomro, Abdul Hal Mangi, Talib Dahri, Mir Muhammad Dal, Ijaz Soomro, and Majid Shah Akhtar Sathio among others.

Former UC Secretary Jam Bahadur Ali Khan's wife passes away

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: The former UC Secretary Jam Bahadur Ali Khan's wife has passed away on Monday. Her funeral prayer was offered by Jam Nawaz Ali. The funeral prayers were attended by a large number of political and social leaders, including PPP MPA Jam Shabbir Ali Khan, Vice Chairman Jam Zaheer Ali Khan, Jam Sadiq Ali, Mir Sagar, Hakim Baloch, Shakir Rajput, Imdad Baloch, and



GM Junejo, among others. In addition, the condolences and expressions of sympathy are ongoing for Jam Bahadur Ali Khan following the death of his wife.

Mayor Advocate Anwar Ali Luhur distributes gratuity cheques

By Saleem Soomro



LARKANA: In Larkana, Mayor Advocate Anwar Ali Luhur distributed gratuity cheques among retired employees. On this occasion, Pakistan People's Party City District Larkana President Khair Muhammad Shaikh, Deputy Mayor Muhammad Amin Shaikh and Municipal Commissioner Dr. Javed Abbasi were also present. The employees expressed their gratitude and offered prayers for the Mayor of Larkana and others upon receiving their gratuity cheques.

Prisoner hangs himself at Central Jail Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In the Larkana Central Jail, an inmate named Ghulam Haider, son of Ghulam Hussain Jatoi, reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself using a cloth. According to jail authorities, Ghulam Haider

Jatoui, a resident of Lashari area in the Ratodero taluka, was suffering from tuberculosis and had been admitted to the jail's hospital. He took his own life inside the bathroom of the hospital. The Larkana jail police stated that Ghulam Haider Jatoui was involved in a murder case registered in 2022 at the Lashari police station and was serving time in jail for this case. The incident has been reported to his family. Following the required legal procedures under the supervision of the relevant judicial magistrate the body was handed over to the family.

Hyderabad Man Dies After Five-Day Electricity Suspension

HYDERABAD: In a tragic incident, a man lost his life due to a five-day suspension of electricity supply caused by a transformer malfunction. The incident occurred in Allah Dad Chand Goth, within the jurisdiction of the Phuleli Police Station. The locals have been struggling with the lack of electricity, and the situation has become dire with the re-

sidents report that they cannot obtain water to bathe the deceased due to the power outage, forcing them to purchase water for the ritual washing of the body. Despite paying their electricity bills in full, the residents have not received any power supply. They allege that the HESCO (Hyderabad Electric Supply Company) staff demanded 60,000 rupees for repairing the transformer. Even after collecting and paying the amount, the transformer has not been fixed, according to the residents. This incident highlights the urgent need for infrastructure improvements and accountability within utility services to prevent such tragedies in the future.—RT

Heatwave Claims 11 Lives In Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: In a tragic turn of events, 11 bodies, all suspected to have succumbed to the intense heat, were discovered in various locations across Hyderabad, media reported on Monday. The Edhi Foundation reported that these deaths are attributed to the ongoing severe heatwave. According to Edhi sources, the bodies

were found in multiple areas: one in the Thana section limits, one in the Narajil limits, two in the Thana market area, three near Civil Hospital, one on Thana Hali Road, one in Thana Ford, and two others in unspecified locations. All the deceased have been transported to the mortuary of Hyderabad Civil Hospital for further examination and identification. Prior to this, the Health Department confirmed the deaths of nine individuals in various hospitals in Karachi due to the ongoing heatwave. As of June 28, health officials reported five fatalities at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, three at Jinnah Hospital, and one at Civil Hospital.—RT

Services of Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori lauded

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori has taken another commendable step for the residents of Mirpurkhas by addressing a longstanding issue related to electricity. Due to the lack of electricity, water supply from the Bahawal Khan Lashari Water Supply Pumping Station was facing delays. Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori's personal efforts, the Municipal Corporation Mirpurkhas promptly submitted demand notices, and work is now underway to install electricity poles by HESCO. This project is expected to be completed soon. The residents of Mirpurkhas have praised Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori's public service and actions, expressing their gratitude for his efforts.

Arrested Munawar Solangi's family protests for his release

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: In protest against alleged police action, women from the village of Khuda Bux Solangi, including Fatih Khatoon, Fatul Solangi, Sahiban Solangi, and others, gathered in front of the Nawab Wali Muhammad Press Club. They expressed their grievances to journalists, stating that the Nawab Wali Muhammad police had arrested Munawar Solangi on charges of possessing ZA (a type of Gunka) and then disappeared him. The women clarified that



although Munawar had previously been involved in such activities, he had since stopped and now earns a living through manual labor to support his children. The protesting women have called on the SSP Shaheed Benazirabad to ensure Manzoor's release.



AC Raja Qureshi, Deputy Director SFA Ghulam Ali Buledi visit Sindh Small Industries

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Assistant Commissioner Larkana Raja Qureshi, along with Deputy Director of Sindh Food Authority Ghulam Ali Buledi and his team, conducted an inspection of factories and industrial units established in Sindh Small Industries in the city. During the visit, fines amounting to thousands of rupees were imposed on the owners of factories and industrial units using harmful substances for human health and not maintaining proper cleanliness. They were fined by the Sindh Food Authority. They were instructed to use quality products and ad-

here to strict cleanliness and sanitation practices. Deputy Director Ghulam Ali Buledi of the Sindh Food Authority mentioned that this action was taken following the directives of the Sindh government and district administration. A total fine of 30,000 rupees was imposed on the negligent factory and unit owners, and they were directed to comply with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). He warned that strict action would be taken against those failing to adhere to these guidelines.

Shaheed Benazirabad's civil society urges for crackdown against drug dealers

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: In Nawabshah and surrounding areas, the youth are being devastated due to drug abuse. Areas such as Sakrand, Sabu Rahu, Panj Moro, Daur, Bandhi, Jam Sahib, Qazi Ahmed, Daultpur, Shahpur Jahania and others are witnessing severe issues with heroin, ice, whiskey, raw alcohol, hashish, opium, Z21, and injections. The wide-

spread availability of these substances has contributed to the destruction of the younger generation and an increase in thefts and crimes. The community is pleased with the police's effective actions against drug trafficking, but citizens, civil society, journalists, social workers, and the SSP of Shaheed Benazirabad are urging for a stronger crackdown on drug dealers. They demand that the heroin and ice trade in Nawabshah and surround-

Two injured in Soomro-Pathan clash

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: In Kotri SITE Area, a clash erupted between the Soomro and Pathan communities after a motorcycle accident. During the altercation, Deedar Soomro was injured. To intervene and stop the clash, members of the Panwar community were also injured in the scuffle. A report (NC) was filed at the police station against the Pathan community involved in the incident. turning to his shop from Bihar and was hit by a motorcycle ridden by Pathan community youths. During the conflict, the Pathan group confronted the rickshaw passengers, leading to further violence. Two young men from the Panwar community were also injured in the scuffle. A report (NC) was filed at the police station against the Pathan community involved in the incident.

LS Fayaz Hussain Memon leads recovery campaign in Thari Mirwah

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: In Thari Mirwah, Line Superintendent Fayaz Hussain Memon, along with his team, visited the city and villages to recover outstanding SEPCO bills. Fayaz Hussain Memon said that efforts are being made to recover outstanding electricity dues on the orders of the Executive Engineer of Ranipur. He

stated that electricity consumers owe millions of rupees, and for this reason, the team continuously visits the villages. Fayaz Hussain Memon said that strict action will soon be taken against illegal connections, and cases will be filed against those involved in electricity theft.

METRO KARACHI



Sharjeel Launches Hawkes Bay Route For People's Bus Service

KARACHI: Sindh Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday inaugurated a new route of the Peoples Bus Service from Hawkes Bay to Tower.

"Sindh government has always tried to provide relief to people," Sharjeel Memon said in his inauguration remarks. "We are launching a new bus route from Mauripur to Tower, providing an inexpensive travel with AC facility," he added.

Sindh Transport Department had earlier announced to launch three new routes of the Peoples Bus Service in Karachi.

Transport Minister said that the new routes for the Peoples Bus Service include Hawkes Bay 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 Khokhara.

Additionally, an electric bus route will be introduced from Kathore to Numaish, 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. Replying to media questions, he said that this system and government both will run. "Some people are talking negative, but I am saying with full responsibility that nothing will happen what they are saying. Conditions are difficult and challenging but Pakistan will move ahead", he added.—RT

Electric Vehicles Essential To Combat Pollution And Save Fuel, Says Jam Ikramullah Dharejo



KARACHI: A meeting was held in the Sindh Secretariat, chaired by Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, with representatives from the Yusuf Dewan Group. Attendees included Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasin Shar Baloch, MD Site Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, and Dewan Group representatives Hasan Zafar, Saad Murad Khan, Captain (ret) Kashif Riaz, and Saleha Hassan.

Provincial Minister Dharejo emphasized the urgent need for electric vehicles to combat environmental pollution, noting that Pakistan is one of the most polluted countries in the world. He stated that

local manufacturing of electric vehicles would not only reduce foreign exchange expenditures but also create employment opportunities.

He highlighted the need for small-sized fire trucks that can navigate narrow streets and slum areas effectively. Dharejo also stressed the importance of installing more charging stations and promoting the use of electric vehicles among the public. He assured the Dewan Group representatives that the Sindh government would fully support the promotion of the automobile industry and advocate for the use of electric vehicles in government departments.—RT

AKU-EB Recognized For Contribution To Global Educational Assessment Standards

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Examination Board (AKU-EB) proudly announces its significant role in developing the International Standards for Educational Assessment, launched by the International Association for Education Assessment (IAEA) in May 2024. These standards set global benchmarks for best practices in examinations and assessments.

Aligned with IAEA's vision, the standards ensure valid, reliable, and fair assessment decisions across various contexts. They provide operational and technical guidance, encouraging or-

ganizations to engage in self-reflection and critical review of their practices. The creation of these standards was a seven-year effort led by the IAEA Recognition Committee, with members from various countries. Pakistan was represented by Dr. Naveed Yousuf, CEO of AKU-EB, who played a pivotal role in the committee. Their diligent efforts have resulted in a robust framework reflecting global best practices in educational assessment.

In its 2024 report, the IAEA expressed gratitude to all organizations involved in the pre-pilot and pilot evaluation of these standards, including AKU-EB. Assessment organizations from Azerbaijan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the UK, the Netherlands, Bahrain, and others also played crucial roles. AKU-EB's involvement in this initiative underscores its commitment to advancing educational assessment practices. By contributing to the development of these international standards, AKU-EB reaffirms its commitment to providing high-quality, fair, reliable, and valid educational assessments.—RT

Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani Swears In New Office-Bearers Of Malir Press Club

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani emphasized the vital role of journalism in democracy during a ceremony at the District Press Club Malir. In his address, Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani acknowledged the crucial role of journalism in the restoration of democracy, noting that during periods of military rule, journalists, like political workers, also became targets. He reiterated the Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) commitment to supporting free journalism and vowed to make efforts to resolve journalists' issues. Minister Ghani stated that journalism is a sacred profession, and the sacrifices made by journalists cannot be forgotten. He praised journalists for their significant role in the restoration of democracy. He highlighted that the PPP has always worked for the welfare of journalists. He also asserted that, like press clubs across Sindh, the District Press Club Malir deserves an annual grant as it is their right. Furthermore, journalists from the District Press Club Malir will be provided plots in the MDA (Master Development Authority) similar to those given to Karachi Press Club journalists. Ghani emphasized that if media is not free, neither is the judiciary, and if democracy in the country is not free, then democracy itself is compromised. He asserted that the importance of media and judiciary is intertwined with democracy. Historically, when military rule



has emerged, democracy has been undermined, with political parties, judiciary, and media being the primary targets. He acknowledged the immense sacrifices made by media personnel in challenging conditions and criticized those who misuse the name of media for personal gain, noting that such issues are not limited to media but are also present in political parties and among lawyers. MPA Raja Abdul Razaq Baloch, President of PPP Malir, addressed the gathering, praising the journalists of the District Press Club Malir for representing Karachi's rural areas and addressing their issues by bringing their voices to the assembly. He acknowledged the journalists' efforts in standing up for truth and justice during military rule, calling Malir a stronghold of the PPP. He expressed hope that the newly elected officials of the District Press Club Malir would continue to represent the voice of the people of Malir and address their issues effectively. The ceremony was attended by various dignitaries, including Deputy Mayor Karachi Salim Abdullatif, Provincial Advisor Muhammad Saleem Baloch, DC Malir Irfan Salam Memon, and other political, social, and media personalities. Later, District Press Club Malir President Hanif Soomro and General Secretary Syed Rahim Shah spoke, highlighting that Malir's journalists have consistently brought public issues to the forefront through their work. They have played a significant role in the restoration of democracy and have continued their welfare activities despite the lack of grants from the Sindh government. They requested that journalists' welfare be included in government incentives. Before concluding, Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani administered the oath to the journalists of the District Press Club Malir.

effectively. The ceremony was attended by various dignitaries, including Deputy Mayor Karachi Salim Abdullatif, Provincial Advisor Muhammad Saleem Baloch, DC Malir Irfan Salam Memon, and other political, social, and media personalities. Later, District Press Club Malir President Hanif Soomro and General Secretary Syed Rahim Shah spoke, highlighting that Malir's journalists have consistently brought public issues to the forefront through their work. They have played a significant role in the restoration of democracy and have continued their welfare activities despite the lack of grants from the Sindh government. They requested that journalists' welfare be included in government incentives. Before concluding, Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani administered the oath to the journalists of the District Press Club Malir.

UAE Introduces Zero Bureaucracy Initiative To Support Pakistani Businessmen



KARACHI: In a positive move for the stability of Pakistan's economy, UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum has decided to implement a Zero Bureaucracy policy, eliminating unnecessary hurdles to facilitate and expedite business for Pakistani entrepreneurs.

The Karachi Entrepreneur Organization recently visited the UAE Consulate, where UAE Consul General Bukheet Atiq al-Rumithi conducted a workshop titled "Zero Bureaucracy." The workshop aimed to eliminate interference in business operations, streamline processes, and save traders time.

Consul General al-Rumithi explained that with this initiative, Pakistani businessmen can now conduct business in the UAE without facing unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles. He emphasized that businessmen can easily start their ventures by visiting the UAE Consulate in Karachi.

The goal of this initiative by the UAE government is to stabilize Pakistan's economy, boost exports, and provide substantial support to Pakistani businesses.—RT

PSX Adopts One-Share Marketable Lot For Greater Investor Convenience

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has successfully transitioned to a One-Share Lot system for investor transactions on the regular market, aligning with international best practices. Previously, the minimum marketable lot sizes for listed companies varied from 20, 50, 100, and 500 shares based on their prices. This change aims to enhance investor convenience and streamline stock market transactions.

As a frontline regulator, PSX is committed to adding value to its customer experience and facilitating investors and stakeholders. The transition to the One-Share Lot began on April 19, 2024, and was executed in multiple phases on a weekly basis to ensure a smooth and efficient process. The conversion was based on a comprehensive evaluation conducted by the Exchange.

Expected to offer numerous benefits to investors, including: Increased Retail Participation: Smaller lot sizes make high-priced stocks more affordable for retail investors, resulting in higher liquidity and improved trading volumes. Balanced Portfolios: Investors with limited capital can now afford a wider range of stocks, allowing for more balanced portfolios.

Elimination of Odd Lot Markets: Investors no longer need to trade in odd lot markets at a discount, promoting accessibility. Simplified Operations: The single lot size reduces the need to track multiple lot sizes, minimizing administrative and operational burdens for investors and securities brokers. Mr. Farrukh H. Khan, MD & CEO of PSX, expressed his satisfaction with the transition, stating, "This

is a significant step forward for Pakistan Stock Exchange, particularly benefiting small investors. The shift to a One-Share Lot aligns with international best practices and moves PSX closer to global standards, enhancing market compatibility, competitiveness, and accessibility. From larger scale achievements like promoting ESG, introducing products like ETFs and PRIDE, and developing the investor education web-app 'My Portfolio', to transaction-level improvements such as the One-Share Lot trading facility, PSX is at the forefront of enhancing and improving the customer experience. I thank the SECP for their support and congratulate all stakeholders and market participants, especially the small investors of the Stock Exchange, on this beneficial development."—RT

Syed Hassan Farooqi: Only Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Can Lead Country Out Of Current Crises

KARACHI: Syed Hassan Farooqi, the Central Deputy Secretary of the Pakistan Naujawan Inqilabi Party, stated in a press conference that the only way to free ourselves from the IMF is to eliminate bribery and take stringent measures to collect taxes to provide relief to the public. He claimed that the Pakistan People's Party and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari are the only ones who can



save Pakistan, as democracy is on the brink of collapse. He warned that if

the United States does not pay attention, a severe crisis could occur in the country. Syed Hassan Farooqi called for strict actions against those who have embezzled billions of dollars in mineral resources, and emphasized that a thorough accountability process is needed for the billions of dollars worth of copper embezzled by KSC.—RT

Couple Killed In Alleged 'Honor' Crime

KARACHI: A young couple who had contracted free-will marriage was found dead inside their home in the Manghopir area of Karachi on Monday, media reported quoting police.



According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) West Hafezur Rehman Bugti, the bodies of the couple, identified as Adil and Sidra, were found inside their house with gunshot wounds. The police officer said that the preliminary investigations revealed that the couple had married a few months ago and were living in hiding in Sultanabad.

Hafezur Rehman Bugti said that the girl's family discovered their whereabouts, and her brothers allegedly opened fire on the couple, killing them both.

The SSP West confirmed that the double murder was an honor killing, saying that the police are currently investigating the incident further.—RT/Agency

Costly IPP Electricity Forces Industries To Close: KATI

KARACHI: President Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) on Monday said that the IPP agreements and expensive electricity has pushed industries on the verge of devastation.

President KATI Johar Ali Qandhari has stated that the IPPs, expensive electricity and huge taxes have pushed industries in Korangi to ruins. "Payments being made in dollars for the electricity which is not being utilized". He said that 350 industries have been closed and big industries have curtailed their units in Korangi, while 60,000 workers have been unemployed. He said the contracts with IPPs are unjust and

stressed for review of the IPP contracts, otherwise the situation will become more serious that will bring industries and exports to standstill.

"We are getting electricity on 16 to 17 cents per unit, which is being supplied in neighboring country by 5 to 6 cents," he said. An outcry against expensive electricity and capacity payments to IPPs from general public as well as industrialists prevailed in the public domain. Recently various trade bodies and chambers of commerce across the country have lamented against the impact of inflated electricity tariffs in the country. Former caretaker minister

Goher Ejaz in a social media statement on Sunday said that the IPPs being paid large capacity amounts without generating electricity.

Former minister said, "There is a clause of 'capacity payments' in all these contracts that allows inflated profits." He said, due to this clause staggering capacity payments made to the IPPs," he added. He had also demanded representation to all stakeholders in the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). He also demanded that the agreements with the IPPs should be converted into "take and pay" mode.—RT

President Of SITE Association Demands Rationalization Of Power Tariff

KARACHI: President of the SITE Association of Industry, Muhammad Kamran Arbi, has issued a press statement urging the government to address the issue of exorbitant electricity tariffs for all consumer categories, particularly for export and general industries. He calls for the tariffs to be rationalized, considering the actual cost of per unit production.



Arbi highlighted the unrest among the business community due to high electricity bills, which are making industries, especially export-oriented ones, uncompetitive in international markets. Pakistan's competitors, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Egypt, have an edge due to lower energy costs. He emphasized that Pakistan lacks a competitive edge in terms of industrial energy input prices and is at

the bottom of the list. Industrial production requires energy security, with utilities being competitively priced, of good quality, and having a consistent supply. Mr. Arbi described the current situation as "alarming" and called for immediate government intervention to keep the wheels of industry moving. He stressed that this is essential to ensure that the labor force remains employed and that the country does not lose export orders in the international market. "Energy security is a basic requisite for industrial growth anywhere in the world. However, for us, it remains a larger interest.—RT

AC Anis Ahmed Abbasi Leads Operation Against Price Gougers

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Malir Irfan Salam Memon, Assistant Commissioner Bin Qasim Anis Ahmed Abbasi has taken action against shopkeepers in Gulshan-e-Hadeed who were charging extra rates. In Gulshan-e-Hadeed Phase 1 and 2, Assistant Commissioner Bin Qasim conducted operations against various shopkeepers, imposing fines for



charging extra rates and issuing warnings to several

shopkeepers. Many shops were reprimanded for not displaying the official price lists. Deputy Commissioner Malir Irfan Salam Memon stated that a crackdown against those charging extra rates has been initiated. Actions have been taken against profiteers, including fines and warnings in various subdivisions. The campaign against shopkeepers selling essential items above the official prices will continue.



KARACHI: Sardar Manzoor Ahmed Khan is meeting with the Nawab of Junagadh, Nawab Murtaza Khan on the first death anniversary of his father Late Nawab Jahangir Khan of Junagadh.—RT

Being sad with the right people is better than being happy with the wrong ones.

—Philip's

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newspaper Agency at (0300-2719454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahis Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0302-2647113), (0302-3028990)

TUESDAY JULY 23 2024

Imran Khan And Bushra Bibi Request 'International-Standard Jail Amenities' From IHC

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi have approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to get jail amenities in line with international standards.



The former prime minister and the ex-first lady filed a petition in the IHC on Monday to seek high-quality facilities at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail via their lawyer Azhar Siddique.

Secretaries of cabinet, interior and law were made parties in the plea. Moreover, the IHC was also prayed to add the Punjab chief secretary, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), and Islamabad Inspector General (IG) as parties in the case.

The petition sought superior jail facilities for Imran, Bushra and other political prisoners besides looking towards the high court to summon a detail on the duo's

prison cells and facilities. Additionally, the IHC was prayed to order the Adiala Jail administration to ensure the implementation of international conventions, constitutional sections and the jail rules for the political inmates.

It was also requested that a complete list of those persons who wanted to meet the jailed PTI founder at the Rawalpindi jail should be summoned, as well as a report on the duration of their meetings.

The lawyer, in his petition, also pleaded with the court to ascertain the reasons from relevant authorities if the ex-premier was kept in solitary confinement.

The fresh petition was filed after the deposed prime minister, who was ousted from his office via a no-confidence in 2022, claimed in an interview with The Sunday Times through his lawyers that he was imprisoned in a death cell, where "terrorists" are kept to ensure they have no contact with anyone.

However, the federal cabinet rejected the jailed ex-premier's claims a day ago and termed his prison cell a "presidential suite" which is "better than a middle-class person's house".

As Imran remains behind bars, he has kept claiming that he's not being provided several facilities, but to set the record straight, the government submitted documentary evidence of facilities being provided to the PTI founder in Adiala jail, rebutting his claims that he was being kept in solitary confinement.

The pictures shared with the court showed that the PTI founder was provided with several facilities that a common prisoner cannot imagine — since he's a former prime minister.

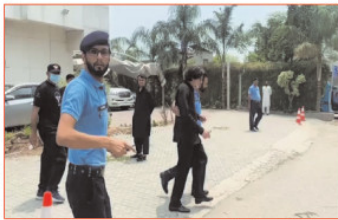
Imran has an exercise bike and stretching belt for physical fitness, books, a separate kitchen, a special menu, an exclusive gallery for a walk, LED, a room cooler, and a study table.

While there were hopes for Imran and Bushra's release in July, they were dashed when NAB arrested them on fresh charges related to the sale of state gifts.

The chances of Imran's release from jail further dimmed after the Lahore police declared his arrest in several cases related to the May 9, 2023, riots, that erupted after his detention from the IHC premises last year in which protesters targeted government and military installations. —RT/Agency

Police Arrest Raof Hasan For Allegedly Operating Anti-Pakistan Digital Media Cell

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police on Monday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Information Secretary Raof Hasan for heading a digital media cell allegedly involved in running propaganda against Pakistan and its integrity.



After reports pertaining to the arrest of the PTI spokesperson and Chairman Gohar Khan surfaced, the capital's police clarified that they only arrested Hasan during a raid "on the basis of evidence".

"The PTI digital media centre had become a centre of international disinformation, from where anti-Pakistan propaganda is run throughout the world," said police.

Meanwhile, Gohar said he went along with Hasan to the Police Lines, however, the police said since the PTI chairman was not wanted in any case, he could leave.

Police said those directly involved in the anti-national propaganda were arrested and all the evidence from the PTI's digital media cell was taken into custody.

The party, in a statement on X, said: "It's absolutely shameful how Islamabad Police continues to completely mock and disregard every law in this country. Law of the jungle is reigning over Pakistan".

PTI said police took a computer and some other equipment into custody as well from the party secretary.

Footage shared by the

party on X shows numerous police vehicles and some police officials outside its secretariat.

Police sources denied the report of the arrest of four women as well as the confiscation of a laptop and documents from the office.

Condemning the raid at the former ruling party's central secretariat, PTI leader Khuram Sher Zaman claimed the arrest was made on instructions of the "Form-47 government".

"We've been informed that they've locked staff in a room & waiting for prison van to arrive & have taken computers & important documents," he wrote on X.

Adviser to Chief Minister on Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said the arrest of PTI leaders proved that the "government was taking its last breaths".

The federal government had broken all records of fascism and had even resorted to underhanded tactics, he said, adding that they were not scared of them.

"The struggle for true democracy and to ensure the rule of law will continue," said Saif.

Meanwhile, the PTI held

Omar Ayub Claims 'Digital Terrorism' Narrative Aimed At Undermining PTI

ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Omar Ayub, stated on Monday that the narrative of "digital terrorism" was being constructed and that laws were being used to undermine their party.



Party's chairman Gohar Ali Khan and former NA speaker Asad Qaiser, also interacted with the presser that was led by Ayub at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad today (Monday).

Islamabad Police arrested PTI's Information Secretary Raof Hasan from the party's Central Secretariat on Monday for allegedly running a digital media cell engaged in propaganda against Pakistan and its integrity.

"The PTI's digital media cell has become a centre for [spreading] international disinformation, from where anti-Pakistan propaganda is disseminated globally," the police said after the raid on the PTI office.

Shortly before the PTI statement, Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told a press conference in Rawalpindi, "It is time for the nation to stand up against militants and digital terrorists."

"Digital terrorism is being done on social media. The army is standing up against terrorists and digital

terrorists. The time has come for the entire nation to stand up against them," the DG ISPR said without naming any entity.

Condemning Hasan's arrest, the PTI chairman said the party would fight for him and added that the police had seized all records from the party's main office. He stated that the party would leave no resource untapped to get Hasan released at the earliest.

The PTI chief hoped that the court would set him free as there were no cases against him. "We haven't been briefed about the FIR (first information report) so far," he said.

The government had said it would take parliament into confidence over the plan to launch a military operation, the Azm-e-Istehkam operation, against terrorism, Gohar said adding that the briefing never took place however.

He said that several PTI

lawmakers had been booked ever since the Supreme court announced its short order in the reserved seats' case, adding that, the apex court's ruling would be implemented.

The PTI's central secretariat was sealed before noon on Monday and police took away all the affidavits of the PTI's MNAs and MPs regarding their affiliation with the party, Gohar said. The PTI chief said that he had stayed with Hasan for a while after the latter's arrest because the PTI information secretary was unwell; however, the police asked him to leave as there was no case against him.

During the presser, Ayub termed Hasan's arrest as an act of desperation on the government's part after the SC's reserved seats' ruling. Today's police raid was meant to snatch the affidavits of the PTI's MNAs and MPs, he said. —RT/Agency

PM: Government Taking All Possible Steps To Create A Business-Friendly Environment For Investors



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressing the government's resolve to increase investment in the country, said the government was taking all possible steps to provide business friendly environment to the traders and investors. Chairing a meeting on increase in investment and capacity of federal government Ministries at the PM House, the prime minister directed the relevant authorities to formulate a steering committee with respect to the progress on increasing investment and capacity of the federal ministries. He said he himself would chair the committee. During the meeting, it was informed that the Public Private Partnership Authority had hired a consultancy firm Kearney to get the services of experts with regard to increasing investment and enhancing the capacity of the federal ministries. Kearney is a world renowned firm which operates across the world especially in the Middle East. In the meeting, Kearney informed the prime minister about the strategy of its ongoing consultative process with the government of Pakistan. The firm has so far consulted with 15 institutions of the federal government while 97 priority projects have been identified in this consultation process, the meeting was told. Kearney said it would develop a plan of action for sustainable development in consultation with Pakistan government while it would also provide assistance to the Government of Pakistan with respect to the privatization of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), improving the regulatory framework of public sector enterprises and attracting more investors. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Division Ahmad Khan Cheema, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ihsan Afzal and other relevant high officials. —RT/Agency

Finance Minister Updates Fitch Ratings On Pakistan's IMF Agreement And Economic Reforms

ISLAMABAD: On Monday, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb updated Fitch Ratings representatives about Pakistan's recent Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and outlined various measures aimed at bolstering the economy.



The briefing, conducted via Zoom, underscored the positive effects of the nine-month Stand By Agreement with the IMF on Pakistan's macroeconomic health.

Earlier this month, the IMF announced an SLA with Pakistan for a \$7-billion, 37-month loan program designed to foster stability and inclusive growth.

The new Extended Fund Facility (EFF), pending approval by the IMF's Executive Board, also requires "timely confirmation of necessary financing assurances from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners."

During the virtual meeting, Aurangzeb informed Fitch representatives that Pakistan plans to increase

revenues by 1.5% of GDP in FY 2025 and by 3% over the subsequent three years. He also projected achieving a primary surplus of 1% of GDP for FY 2025.

Aurangzeb highlighted Pakistan's \$9.4 billion foreign exchange reserves, strong stock market performance, and the 12.6% inflation rate in the CPI for June 2024. He also noted a 7.7% increase in foreign remittances.

Discussing fiscal reforms, Aurangzeb emphasized the government's efforts to broaden the tax base, reporting a substantial 30% rise in tax collection in FY

2024 compared to the previous year. He mentioned that over 150,000 retailers have registered as first-time taxpayers.

"The IT sector exports have surpassed USD 3 billion," Aurangzeb stated, reiterating the government's commitment to improving the tax-to-GDP ratio as part of ongoing fiscal consolidation efforts. The conversation also covered ongoing reforms in the energy sector and State-Owned Enterprises, including privatisation and streamlining of federal government entities to enhance governance and efficiency. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Lifts Ban On Passports For Asylum Seekers Abroad

ISLAMABAD: After imposing restrictions on the issuance of travel documents to asylum seekers abroad for over a month, the federal government has lifted the ban on handing over passports to overseas Pakistanis seeking refuge in foreign countries.



The decision was taken in a high-level session chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Monday. They reviewed the previous decision to suspend the issuance of Pakistani passports to asylum seekers abroad.

The session, which was attended by secretaries of the ministries of foreign affairs and interior, senior officers and others, also mulled over important matters related to the welfare of overseas nationals, a declaration read.

A circular regarding the restrictions was issued on June 5, 2024, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant authorities.

According to the letter, the step was taken in "national interest under national security and international

commitment". Furthermore, Dar also received a briefing from concerned officials over the smooth and timely issuance of travel documents to nationals residing in foreign countries.

In today's session, the federal government decided to issue passports to overseas Pakistanis within 60 days.

The ban on the issuance of passports to asylum seekers had been imposed by the Passport and Immigration Directorate which was notified via a letter last month. The News reported.

It said that Pakistanis who have applied for asylum

abroad or who have already received asylum abroad, would not be issued passports, the publication said.

Pakistani nationals preferentially seek asylum in the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, and Norway.

However, these countries do not share data with the Pakistani government, which blocks direct access for the latter's immigration authorities to track visa statuses.

As a result, the federal government decided in June to block the issuance of passports to these individuals, citing "national interests". —RT/Agency

ATC Rejects Qureshi's Plea For Video Link In May 9 Cases



LAHORE: The anti-terrorism court, Lahore has turned down the request of senior leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, to appear via video link in the May 9 cases.

During the hearing of May 9 cases on Monday, the counsel of Qureshi requested the court for appearance through video link. However, the judge rejected the plea.

The court directed Qureshi to appear in person for the trial. The former Foreign Minister is behind the bars in Adiala Jail. Four days ago, he was brought to Lahore in connection with his cases being heard by the ATC.

Court Grants Imran Khan And Bushra Bibi A 7-Day Physical Remand In Toshakhana Case

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court has approved a seven-day remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the newly filed Toshakhana reference.



The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had sought a 14-day remand of the couple, but the court turned down the request and asked the anti-graft body to produce the suspects on July 29.

The anti-corruption body's team had presented the couple before the court after the expiry of their previous eight-day remand and also submitted a progress report to the judge.

The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician has been in prison for more than a year in a plethora of cases, including the Toshakhana case, cipher

case, and the un-Islamic marriage case. His wife, Bushra, has also been behind bars for months.

However, a court suspended his sentence in the Toshakhana case, while other courts overturned his convictions in the cipher and iddat cases, respectively.

While there were hopes for his and Bushra's release in July, they were dashed when NAB arrested them on

fresh charges related to the sale of state gifts.

The chances of Imran's release from jail further dimmed after the Lahore Police declared his arrest in several cases related to the May 9, 2023, riots, that erupted after his detainment from Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises last year in which protesters targeted government and military installations. —RT/Agency