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## FO Slams Modi's 'Counter-Productive' Anti-Pakistan Rhetoric

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Friday rejected the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "belligerent remarks" against Pakistan made in Ladakh today where Indian soldiers and top army brass gathered to commemorate the 1999 Kargil conflict.



The 1999 Kargil conflict was the last major battle between the two nuclear-armed foes, who have fought numerous wars since their partition into two nations upon independence from British colonial rule. It came just a year after tit-for-tat atomic weapons tests by the neighbours and spurred international alarm that the confrontation risked tipping into all-out nuclear war. Friday marked the 25th anniversary of the conflict's end.

During Friday's event, PM Modi held Islamabad responsible for the conflict and said that while "India was trying for peace, Pakistan had once again showed its untrustworthy face".

In response to Modi's comments, the FO said in a

## JI Announces Sit-Ins In Islamabad And Rawalpindi Amid Crackdown

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced sit-ins at three locations in Islamabad and Rawalpindi following the arrest of its workers and road blockages at D-Chowk. JI workers removed containers at Faizabad and opened the route, allowing a convoy to enter Rawalpindi and set up at Liaquat Bagh.



JI's central spokesperson, Qaiser Sharif, stated that due to the arrests and barriers at D-Chowk, JI decided to hold sit-ins at three locations. "We will hold sit-ins at Murree Road in Rawalpindi, Zero Point, and Chungi No. 26," he said.

The sit-in at Murree Road will be led by Amirul Azeem, Deputy Amir Dr Osama Razi, along with provincial and district leadership. JI chief Hafiz Naeem Rehman will lead the sit-in at Zero Point, with Deputy Amir Liaqat Baloch, Mian Muhammad Aslam, and other provincial and Islamabad leaders joining.

The third sit-in at Chungi No. 26 will be led by Deputy Amir Dr Attaur Rehman, Professor Muhammad Ibrahim, and provincial leaders. "These sit-ins will continue until their demands, including the shutdown of IPPs and relief from tax burdens on the salaried class, are met."

Qaiser Sharif declared, "Under the direction of JI leader Hafiz Naeem, wherever there is an obstacle, participants will hold a sit-in. Jamaat-e-Islami will now hold multiple sit-ins."

He claimed that the police had arrested 1,150 of their workers and subjected dozens to violence. "Seeing the large public turnout at

"Billions are being embezzled, and the IPPs are exploiting this country. Our sit-in has commenced. We have one demand from the government: provide relief to the public and shut down the IPPs."

He further emphasised, "Protest is our constitutional right. Our arrested workers must be released, and the government should not obstruct our path, or we will hold sit-ins from Karachi to Chitral."

Media reported that police blocked all routes to D-Chowk with containers to prevent the sit-in, citing security concerns, and detained several workers in Islamabad. Police sources indicated that no formal arrests were recorded; individuals were detained to prevent public disorder. No demonstrations had yet reached the press club, where police had stationed vans and personnel.

To stop people from reaching the sit-in, containers were placed at city entry points, and only one lane remained open on major roads, causing long traffic queues and inconvenience for residents.

Ji workers blocked one side of Murree Road, threatening to block both sides if routes to D-Chowk were not opened. At H-8 Interchange, workers gathered, some wearing masks of JI leader Hafiz Naeem, chanting slogans against the government.

Heavy police presence at H-8 Interchange attempted negotiations with the workers.

Ji's strategy shift included relocating all workers to H-8 Expressway, where sound systems and a stage were set up. Thousands of workers had already gathered, and senior JI leaders started arriving.

led by Hafiz Naeem, a convoy from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa crossed barriers at Chungi No. 26 to enter Islamabad.

Balochistan Assembly member and provincial leader Maulana Hidayatullah Khan Baloch also arrived from Gwadar with supporters.—RT/Agency

## Harris to Netanyahu: 'I Will Not Be Silent' On Gaza Suffering

WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris pressured Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday to help reach a Gaza ceasefire deal that would ease the suffering of Palestinian civilians, striking a tougher tone than President Joe Biden.



"It is time for this war to end," Harris said in a televised statement after she held face-to-face talks with Netanyahu.

Harris, the likely Democratic presidential nominee after Biden dropped out of the election race on Sunday, did not mince words about the humanitarian crisis gripping Gaza after nine months of war between Israel and Hamas militants.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be numb to the suffering and I will not be silent," she said.

Harris' remarks were sharp and serious in tone and raised the question of whether she would be more aggressive in dealing with Netanyahu if elected president on Nov. 5. But analysts do not expect there would be a major shift in US Open policy toward Israel, Washington's closest ally in the Middle East.

Israel's retaliatory attack in Gaza has killed more than 39,000 people and caused a humanitarian calamity with

## Terrorist Eliminated In North Waziristan Operation: ISPR



NORTH WAZIRISTAN: On Friday, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan District on the reported presence of terrorists, according to the military's media wing.

As per a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), after an intense fire exchange, terrorist Khawarji Razzaka was killed during the operation.

He was a close associate of Khawarji Gul Bahadur and was actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area, including the targeted killing of Malik Sher Muhammad, grandson of Fajr of Ippi on January 6, 2023, as well as the facilitation of a suicide bombing attack in North Waziristan on March 16, which resulted in the martyrdom of seven soldiers.

ISPR stated that a military operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area as the armed forces remain determined to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country.—RT/Agency

## Ogra Eyes Policy Overhaul For Petrol Pricing

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) is mulling changing the prevailing government policy for deciding fuel prices in the country, sources told media on Friday.



He added that Ogra has chalked out two proposals with the first one seeking the authority to decide fuel prices itself as a regulator. Whereas the second one suggests that the market will decide the prices itself which will be monitored by the government body.

The petroleum prices in the country are revised on a fortnightly basis where Ogra works out the rates by assessing various factors and forwards the summary to the Finance Division which then consults with the prime minister and notifies the official fuel prices.

The prices of petroleum products hold key significance as any change in them eventually has a trickle-down effect on the inflation-weary masses.

The government, earlier this month, increased the petrol and high-speed diesel prices by Rs9.99 and Rs6.18 per litre, respectively.

The prices, as per the statement issued by the Finance Division, were assessed on the basis of price variations in the international market by Ogra.

Following the price hike, petrol and diesel are being sold at Rs275.60 and Rs283.63 per litre, respectively.

Sources say that it is also possible that the oil marketing companies (OMCs) will be given the authority to decide fuel prices — a proposal on which the petroleum dealers have expressed their reservations.

However, there's a risk that empowering OMCs to fix prices might lead to a monopoly in the market, the sources warned.

The prospective change in policy comes in light of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directions to get rid of the responsibility of deciding fuel prices.

Stressing that all the criticism is on the government for the increase in the prices of petroleum products, sources have said that the government does not set the price of anything except petroleum prices. Ogra's suggestions will be tabled in a high-level meeting, will be duly consulted with the Petroleum Division and subsequently will be approved by the prime minister. The Petroleum Division is expected to reach a final decision on the said issue within one week.—RT/Agency

## President Zardari Approves Ad Hoc Judges For Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the appointment of ad hoc judges to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.



According to a statement issued by the Presidency on Friday, the president gave his approval under Article 182 of the Constitution.

Following the president's approval, former Supreme Court judges Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel will be appointed as ad hoc judges to the Supreme Court.

Despite severe criticism from a segment of lawyers and the PTI, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) last week approved the

nomination of two retired Supreme Court judges for appointment as ad hoc judges of the apex court for one year.

A JCP meeting was held on last Friday to consider the nominations of both retired judges, with Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa pre-

## Ambreen Jan Named Federal Secretary For Information



ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Friday appointed Ambreen Jan, a senior officer of the Information Group, Grade 21, as the Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting.

The Cabinet Secretariat's Establishment Division issued a notification confirming Ambreen Jan's appointment to the position of Secretary for

## Tajikistan Ambassador Holds High Stakes Meeting With PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir Friday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House. The prime minister welcomed the ambassador and wished him a successful tenure in Pakistan.



While fondly recalling his recent visit to Dushanbe earlier this month, the prime minister said he was touched by the warm welcome extended to him and hailed the friendly and productive discussions with President Emomali Rahmon during the visit.

Expressing satisfaction at the MoUs/agreements signed between the two sides during his visit, PM Shehbaz Sharif urged that timely implementation and follow-up would help strengthen bilateral ties even further.

He renewed his invitation to President Rahmon to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest con-

venience, while adding that Pakistan was looking forward to Tajikistan's participation in the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad in October this year.

The Tajik Ambassador briefed the prime minister on a number of proposals aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields including education, agriculture and defence as well as connectivity through land and air routes. While noting the proposals, the prime minister tasked relevant ministries to get in touch with the Tajik Ambassador for further discussions. Regional connectivity projects including CASA-1000, also came under discussion. The Tajik Ambassador thanked the prime minister for receiving him, conveyed greetings of his President to him and expressed his country's desire to further enhance its relations with Pakistan.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Leaders of the Larkana Social Alliance are protesting against prolonged load shedding of gas and electricity in Larkana.—RT

## Chairman District Council Sukkur Syed Kumail Haider Shah chairs budget session

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: The eighth budget meeting for the fiscal year 2024-25 was convened at the District Council Hall, presided over by Chairman Syed Kumail Haider Shah. During the session, council members tabled various proposals, which were subsequently approved by a majority vote. Key approvals included a grant of Rs 20 million for free medical treatment of underprivileged patients at Sukkur Blood Bank Hospital, as well as Rs 5 million for the construction of an additional emergency ward at Sukkur Civil Hospital. The meeting gave the green light to a proposal to levy new taxes on industrial establishments, cold storage facilities, fueling stations, LPG outlets (registered), poultry farms, and other commercial ventures in Sukkur. Furthermore, the meeting approved a revision of the existing tax structure and rental fees for shops of District Council. It also approved to establish mud checkpoints to enhance the security of police personnel. A proposal for transportation facilities for students from rural areas enrolled in Aror University's Art and Architecture



programs was presented in the council, and a bus was approved by a majority vote. Earlier, a lucky draw was held for Umrah tickets for District Council employees (grades 1-11), in which two employees, Allah Bakhsh Khattar and Kazim Sarohi, were declared winners. Addressing the session, Chairman Syed Kumail Haider Shah said, that several beneficial proposals are being considered, including the Sukkur to Karachi air ambulance service, which are currently under discussion with relevant parties. He assured that the District Council is making every effort to utilize its available resources to provide maximum facilities to the public in all union councils of Sukkur. He announced that rural households will be equipped with solar panels, complete with batteries, fans, sewing machines, and water pumps. Furthermore, the District Council Sukkur has collaborated

## PPP Thatta lauds visionary leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari on his 69th birthday



By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Leaders, workers and well-wishers of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) gathered at Zamin House to celebrate the 69th birthday of President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari. Born on July 26, 1955, in Nawabshah, Zardari has been a pivotal figure in Pakistani politics and is recognized for his unwavering dedication to democracy and his significant contributions to the country's political landscape. Zardari's efforts have ensured the stability and endurance of democracy in Pakistan and set a high standard of wisdom, tolerance and decency in politics. His dedication to reconciliation and democratic principles has been instrumental in navigating Pakistan through immense challenges, securing a prosperous future for the nation.



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of PTI are holding a protest demonstration for the release of PTI Founder Imran Khan, at Hyder Chowk.—RT

## CMC students end their strike after DC Larkana's assurances

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa and SSP Larkana Mir Rohail Khan Khoso have resolved the issues of the protesting students at Chandka Medical College by accepting their legitimate demands and ending their protest. Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa and SSP Mir Rohail Khoso held discussions with the college administration and the protesting students, where the students presented their demands. During the meeting, the DC assured the students that all their legitimate issues would be addressed. He promised



that students would be provided with essential facilities such as water, gas, and a mess in the hostel. Air conditioning would be installed in the library, and students would be provided for winter. Additionally, a Zameer Somro, other officials and students.

## TMK newlyweds demand protection



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In Deh Nakhari Farm, Taluka Bulri Shah Karim, the couple Najma Kolhi and Khuda Dino Kolhi from the village Chakar Kalu told journalists that they got married of their own free will. However, their families have become hostile towards them, forcing them to live a life of hardship. Najma further explained that her previous husband, Asghar Kolhi, had passed away, leaving her

## Ongoing clash amongst Junejo, Kalhoro and Bhutto communities settled on Pir Sahab Pagara's orders

By Abdul Qudoos Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: With the efforts of Pir Sahab Pagara and Syed Pir Muhammad Rashid Shah, a settlement has been reached regarding the deadly conflict over land ownership between the two communities of Junejo, Kalhoro, Bhutto and local landowners in the Kachho area of Kongri. The conflict resulted in 3 deaths, 6 injuries and damages amounting to a total of 2 crore 83 lac 88 thousand rupees. The land involved in the dispute will be seized. According to the report, the spiritual leader Pir Sahab Pagara and his son Syed Muhammad Rashid Shah facilitated the resolution of the ongoing tension in the Junejo, Kalhoro, Bhutto and local landlord communities in the Kachho area. The de-

cision was made by the Darbar Sharif Pir Jo Goth's decision committee, led by Mir Abid Khan Jatoti and Pir of Bharchundi Mian Abdul Khaliq. The committee included Riaz Chando, Najaf Kamario, Moazzam Ali Abbasi, Aijaz Ali Bughio, Mir Sheh Nawaz Khan Talpur, Syed Gul Muhammad Shah Rashidi, Dur Muhammad Sangi, Syed Ali Haider Shah Rashidi, Diwan Topan Das and Azhar Kamario, among others. The ruling stated that the Bhutto community would be paid 50 lac rupees for the murders of Azizullah Bhutto and Amir Bhutto, 6 lac rupees for the injuries of Muhammad Safar and Musal Narejo, 50 lac rupees for the firing on Sardar Amir Bux Khan Bhutto's residence, 50 lac rupees for damages to honor, 48 lac 80 thousand rupees in total damages. This amount will be paid by the Junejo and Kalhoro communities to the Bhutto community. 25 lac rupees will be paid for the death of Ghulam Mir Kalhoro, 9 lac rupees will be paid for the injuries of 3 individuals. In total, a fine of 2 crore 83 lac 80 thousand rupees was imposed, and the land in dispute in Deh Rajoo Dero and Deh Dosoo Dara will be seized. After the verdict, prayers were offered. It is worth noting that three months ago, a dispute over land ownership in the Kachho area between the Junejo, Kalhoro, and Bhutto communities resulted in 3 deaths, 5 injuries and the burning of the local landlord community's standing wheat crop, shelters, and solar panels.

## Khairpur traders host reception in honor of SSP Zubair Nazir Shaikh

Reception By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The Traders Association of Luqman Phatak organized a prestigious ceremony in honor of SSP Khairpur Zubair Nazir Shaikh for his outstanding performance in the district. The event was attended by prominent political and social leaders, including the President of the Traders Association Khairpur, Haji Lala Abdul Ghaffar Shaikh, Shahzab Phulpot, Haji Yar Muhammad Shaikh, Haji Altaf Memon, Syed Kamal Shah, Altaf Lashari, DIB Incharge Ali Gul Mallah, SHO Syed Azhar Shah, SHO Sikkandar Panhwar, Mazhar Shaikh, Faheem Shaikh, and many traders



from Luqman. The host of the ceremony, Javed Ahmed Shaikh, President of the Traders Association Luqman Phatak, presented SSP Khairpur with a traditional Sindhi cap and Ajrak as gifts. SSP Khairpur Zubair Nazir Shaikh, SHO A Section Syed Azhar Shah, SHO B Section Sikandar Panhwar, and Incharge Luqman Chowki Wali Muhammad Memon were awarded honorary shields for their excellent performance."

## Birthday of MPA Nawab Taimur Talpur celebrated with zeal in Umerkot



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: On the occasion of PPP MPA Nawab Taimur Talpur's birthday, a celebration was held at Anand Pump in Umerkot, organized by PPP leader and Vice Chairman of the Municipal Committee Umerkot, Kumar Talwani. The event was attended by numerous PPP leaders and workers, including Jai Chouhan, Manthar Arisar, Sarwan Singh,

## Larkana man kills his cousin over a domestic matter

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In the Murad Wahan neighborhood of Larkana city, within the limits of the Darri Police Station, Sheeraz Wagan shot and killed his 19-year-old cousin, Koonji Wagan, over a familial dispute and then fled. The police arrived at the scene, gathered details about the incident, and later

transferred the deceased's body to the Trauma Center, where doctors confirmed her death. The victim's brother, Babar Wagan, stated that three years ago, his sister Koonji's engagement was arranged with her cousin Faisal Wagan, but Faisal was an addict and did not work, which led them to send him to Karachi for employment. Following this, today Faisal's brother, Sheeraz Wagan, entered their home and shot Koonji, killing her before fleeing. Babar Wagan demanded the arrest of the accused Sheeraz Wagan and called for justice. Meanwhile, after the postmortem, the victim's body was handed over to the family. No case of the incident was lodged till the filing of this news.



HYDERABAD: Police officials are arresting activists and leaders of the PTI during their protest demonstration for the release of PTI Founder Imran Khan, at Hyder Chowk.—RT

## Umerkot man commits suicide after his wife gets angry at him

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In the village of Abdullah Khan Kapri near Samaro, a 28-year-old young man named Jeevo, son of Somji Kolhi, committed suicide inside his house due to his wife's anger. Upon receiving the information, Samaro police arrived at the scene, took the body into custody, and transported it to Taluka Hospital Samaro. After completing the necessary formalities, the body was handed over to the family.



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against the Supreme Court's decision in the Mubarak Sani case.—RT

# NATIONAL



## Legal Action Announced Against Creators Of Deep Fake Video Targeting Azma Bokhari

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima has vowed to identify and take legal action against those responsible for creating and spreading a deep fake video of Azma Bokhari.

Speaking at a press conference with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) women leaders, Shaza Fatima condemned the use of deep fake technology to malign Azma Bokhari and announced a crackdown on those involved in the dissemination of such propaganda. The Minister stressed that legal measures would be pursued against individuals creating fake photos and videos.

PML-N leaders alleged that a specific political party



was behind the negative campaign against Azma Bokhari. Shaza Fatima emphasized that social media would not be tolerated as a platform for such propaganda.

PML-N leaders expressed concern over the misuse of Islam by certain political groups to further their agendas. Shaista Pervez, a PML-N leader, reiterated the party's commitment to supporting women affected by political propaganda and called for an end to the use of such tactics against women.—RT/Agency

## Maryam Announces Expansion Of Safe City Project To 18 More Cities



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has pledged to extend the Safe City project to 18 additional cities across the province.

Speaking at a ceremony organized by the Safe City Authorities on Friday, CM Maryam described the Safe City project as a key initiative of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N). She emphasized the project's role in enhancing public safety through advanced surveillance and response systems.

The Chief Minister noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had launched a similar pilot project in Lahore and expressed her intention to request further support from the PM to expedite the project's rollout across Punjab.

CM Maryam also highlighted the Women and Children Virtual project, which began three months ago with 1,200 personnel from the Dolphin force involved. She assured that female employees' concerns, particularly regarding hotel accommodations, would be addressed promptly.

"The welfare of our people is our top priority. Punjab is setting new benchmarks in development and aims to surpass previous records of growth," she said, adding that cities benefiting from the Safe City project would also offer free public Wi-Fi.—RT/Agency

## Punjab Approves Solarisation Project For Agricultural Tube Wells

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has approved a new initiative to solarize agricultural tube wells across the province.

Under this project, farmers with at least 25 acres of agricultural land will be eligible for solarisation. The government will cover 67% of the project costs, leaving farmers responsible for only 33% of the payment.

In the first phase, approximately 7,000 tube wells will be converted to solar energy. The project will expand in the second phase, aiming to solarize around 10,000 additional tube wells in collaboration with the federal government.

Currently, operating a tube well on diesel costs around Rs. 3,000 per acre, whereas using electricity costs approximately Rs. 1,500 per acre. This initiative aims to reduce these costs and promote sustainable energy use in agriculture.—RT/Agency

## PA Speaker Announces Vacancy Of Opposition Leader Position Following SC Verdict

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has announced that the position of Opposition Leader is currently vacant due to the Supreme Court's recent verdict on reserved seats.

At a press conference on Friday, the Speaker explained that the Opposition Leader, who represented the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), no longer holds the position since SIC is no longer recognized as a parliamentary party in the Punjab Assembly following the court's decision.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has now assumed the status of the parliamentary party.

"The office of the Opposition Leader is now vacant because SIC has been replaced by PTI as the parliamentary party," Speaker Malik Muhammad Khan stated. "You cannot



continue as Opposition Leader when your parliamentary party status has changed."

He also addressed the issue of conduct within the Assembly, stating that he holds the authority to suspend the membership of any MPA who uses abusive language. He expressed his disapproval of such behavior, particularly when it involves family members, and emphasized his commitment to ending this abusive culture.

The Speaker announced the formation of an ethics committee, which will soon present its findings to the Assembly. He also noted that 26 seats are still under legal scrutiny, but assured that the government's stability would not be affected if the verdict favors the opposition.—RT/Agency

## Amir Muqam: Provincial Government Responsible for Maintaining Peace and Law & Order

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, asserted on Friday that maintaining peace and law and order is the responsibility of the provincial government.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Tarar, Amir Muqam emphasized that there is currently no ongoing operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). He dismissed Opposition allegations of false and unfounded, affirming that these claims are fabricated.

Muqam highlighted that law enforcement agencies are effectively maintaining peace in KP. He noted that political forces had united under the National Action Plan and that the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government had authorized the establishment of Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) offices in KP to address security challenges.—RT/Agency

## Women's Rights Protection Is A Top Priority For Punjab Government: Hina Parvez Butt

RAWALPINDI: Chairperson of the Punjab Women Protection Authority, Hina Parvez Butt, emphasized on Friday that safeguarding women's rights is a top priority for the Punjab government. She noted that the government is implementing anti-violence measures to ensure women can contribute to society with full legal protection and freedom.

Speaking to the media after visiting the Women Command and Control Room at the District Women Protection Center, District Women Protection Center, and Social Welfare Complex, Hina Parvez Butt highlighted that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is a staunch advocate for women's rights. She stated that the development of a country is incomplete without the active participation of women in all sectors of life.

At the District Women Protection Center, women victims of violence and abuse are provided comprehensive protection, she added. Hina Parvez Butt emphasized that, like across the province, the



Punjab Women Protection Authority in Rawalpindi is actively working to ensure timely responses to protect women.

She also mentioned that virtual Women Police Stations operate around the clock to address any incidents of violence and that a Women Protection Counter is functioning in the Command and Control Room at the Police Line for addressing women's complaints.

During her visit, Hina Parvez Butt reviewed the facilities and arrangements at the District Women Protection Center and the Social Welfare Complex. She was briefed by SP Headquarters Benish Fatima about the special women's counter, complaint cell, and virtual women police station established in the command and control room.

She noted that women's complaints are promptly addressed, and their safety is ensured. Director Social Welfare Rawalpindi Rana Shahid, District Women Protection Officer Rizwana Bashir, and other officials were present during her visit.—RT/Agency

## Madrassa Student Brutally Beaten By Teacher In Faisalabad



FAISALABAD: A disturbing video showing a madrassa teacher violently beating a student has gone viral, sparking outrage on social media. The incident occurred in Faisalabad's Thikriwala area.

Following a complaint from the boy's father, Rashid, the police have filed a first information report (FIR). The case has been registered under Sections 328A (exposure and abandonment of a child under twelve years) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

According to the FIR, the teacher, Mohammad Rizwan, a cleric at Jamia Ghousia Rizvia, began beating the student on July 24 after Zuh prayers for reasons that remain unclear. Two other students, Mohammad Raza and Munawwar, intervened, pleading with Rizwan to stop.

When Rashid confronted Rizwan about the incident, the teacher reportedly became enraged and began verbally abusing him. The police investigation is ongoing.—RT/Agency

## Governor Kundi: Art Key To Boosting Pakistan's Soft Image

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Friday highlighted the remarkable talent of the people of Pakistan and stressed the importance of encouraging individuals involved in the arts. He said this while speaking at an art exhibition held at the Pakistan National Council of Arts in Islamabad, accompanied by Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Punjab Provincial Assembly member Amna Sheikh.

Governor Faisal Kundi underscored that artists play a crucial role in presenting a positive image of the country through their works. Faisal Kundi noted that, now more than ever, there is a need for artistic exhibitions and other positive activities. He expressed deep interest in the displayed artworks and praised the performance of young artists, encouraging them to align their craft with current trends and to continually improve their skills.

The Governor stressed the necessity of developing an effective strategies and measures to enhance the field of fine arts in Pakistan. He urged artists to stay informed about contemporary trends and explore new dimensions in their work. Governor Kundi also congratulated the organizers for the successful exhibition and expressed hope that similar events will soon be held in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which he believes will surely attract public interest. Governor Kundi said that such exhibitions inspire students to advance and work harder, enhance their intellectual and creative skills, and contribute to societal reform.—RT/Agency

## METRO KARACHI

## Sindh Lifts Ban On Issuing Arms Licenses

KARACHI: The Sindh Home Department on Friday lifted ban on issuance of arms licences at Deputy Commissioners offices across the province with effect from August 01, 2024.

"With the approval of Minister for Home, Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Criminal Prosecution Sindh, ban on issuance of Arms licences has been

lifted with effect from August 01 at Deputy Commissioner's offices across the province as per existing quota/ceiling as mentioned in Rule 4.1 of Sindh Arms Rule 2018," stated a notification issued here.

The Additional Chief Secretary Home Department Muhammad Iqbal Memon has issued a notification in this regard.

The ban was imposed by caretaker government led by Chief Minister Maqbool Baqar in October 2023. The Interior secretary issued a notification on the direction of caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Maqbool Baqar. The notification stated that the ban would be imposed on the issuance of licenses of arms from the district commissioner offices and the interior ministry.—RT/Agency

## PTI Postpones Islamabad Protest To Monday



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had previously imposed Section 144 in the capital and sealed the red zone following PTI's initial protest and announcement.

Earlier on Friday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) reserved its verdict on PTI's plea to stage the protest. The court directed the district administration and PTI leaders to negotiate the details of the protest within two hours.—RT/Agency

## SOUTHERN PUNJAB

## AC Ali Sameer Monitors Vegetable and Fruit Prices in Toba Tek Singh



TOBA TEK SINGH: Acting on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindh, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Ali Sameer conducted an early morning inspection of the vegetable and fruit market. During his visit, he reviewed various market sections, monitored auctions, and checked the issuance of price lists.

Assistant Commissioner Sameer emphasized that strict action is being taken against those involved in hoarding and creating artificial inflation. He noted that continuous monitoring and enforcement of district administration-set prices are in place, with price control magistrates conducting regular visits.

He urged shopkeepers to prominently display price lists and sell goods at the rates prescribed by the district administration. Non-compliance will result in stringent action. Additionally, he advised citizens to report any instances of overpricing to the Assistant Commissioner's office for immediate intervention against inflation-related issues.

## One sentenced to death, another murderer jailed for life in Toba Tek Singh

TOBA TEK SINGH: Additional District and Sessions Judge Gojra Abbas Rasool Warich has sentenced Abid Mahmood to death and his accomplice, Zeeshan alias Shani, to life imprisonment for a murder that occurred three years ago in the jurisdiction of the City Police Station. Abid Mahmood was found guilty of the murder of Sheeraz Butt, who was killed in 2021 over allegations of being a police informant. His accomplice, Zeeshan alias Shani, received a life sentence. The other accused—Falak Sher alias Baloch, Gulsar, and Arif alias Gali—were acquitted due to insufficient evidence.

Strict security measures were enforced at the court premises during the announcement of the verdict. The court acquitted three other ac-

# EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, July 27, 2024



## The Right To Peaceful Protest Must Prevail

The recent wave of protests led by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in Islamabad highlights a fundamental right that is intrinsic to every democratic society: the right to peaceful protest. This right, enshrined in democratic principles, is crucial for citizens and political parties to voice their grievances and demand accountability from their government. However, the government's knee-jerk reaction to these protests—marked by arrests, roadblocks, and the imposition of Section 144—is a stark sign of desperation from an administration that appears increasingly unpopular and barely clinging to power through controversial and outdated measures.

The decision to limit JI protestors to Zero Point and the subsequent arrests of several JI workers aiming to stage a sit-in at D-Chowk underscore a government strategy more suited to autocracies than modern democracies. The heavy-handed approach, including sealing routes, placing containers at critical access points, and deploying anti-terrorism squads, only exacerbates the public's frustration and paints a picture of a

government out of touch with the realities and hardships faced by its citizens.

The imposition of Section 144 across Punjab and Islamabad, banning public gatherings and rallies, is a blunt instrument



intended to stifle dissent under the guise of maintaining law and order. Such measures are increasingly seen as tools of suppression rather than genuine attempts to address security concerns. The inconvenience caused to residents, with severe traffic jams and restricted movement, further alienates the populace and adds to the growing discontent.

Ji's call for a protest against the hike in power tariffs and inflated electricity bills is a legitimate expression of public discontent. The party's peaceful approach, as emphasized by its leaders, stands in stark contrast to the government's op-

pressive tactics. Arresting protestors, raiding homes, and even targeting guests underlines a fear-driven response that is more about silencing opposition than ensuring public safety.

This crackdown reflects an administration desperate to maintain control in the face of mounting criticism and diminishing public support. The use of tear gas and water cannons, as threatened, would only deepen the rift between the government and its citizens, making peaceful resolution of grievances increasingly unlikely.

In a true democracy, the right to protest is a vital mechanism for citizens to hold their leaders accountable. The government's current strategy not only undermines this right but also signals a worrying trend towards authoritarianism. It is high time for the authorities to recognize the legitimate concerns of the populace and engage in meaningful dialogue rather than resort to outdated and repressive measures. The health of a democracy depends on its ability to accommodate dissent and address the issues raised by its citizens, not on suppressing them through force and intimidation.

# THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Larkana Social Alliance are holding a protest rally against prolonged electricity and gas load shedding in the district, at Jinnah Bagh-RT

## HESCO SDO Ajiz Ghulam Ali Jamali leads operation against power theft in Daulatpur

By Ajiz Ali Jokhio

DAULATPUR: On orders of the SE Farman Ali Dahani and XEN HESCO Aziz Ahmed Bhutto an operation was carried out by the HESCO (Hyderabad Electric Supply Company) officials under the leadership of SDO (Sub-Divisional Officer) Ajiz Ghulam Ali Jamali and Line Superintendent Ali Asghar Mallah. The operation targeted various wards of the Daulatpur Town Committee, focusing on illegal electric connections and power theft. During the operation, several unauthorized connections were cut, and numerous wires and cables were removed from various poles.

Three separate cases have been registered against electricity thieves at the Daulatpur Police Station. During the media briefing, SDO HESCO Ajiz Ali Jamali and Line Superintendent Ali Asghar Mallah stated that no leniency will be shown towards electricity thieves. They emphasized that they have been instructed by higher officials to take strict action against illegal connections and file FIRs against the culprits. They also appealed to the citizens of Daulatpur to use legal electricity meters, avoid theft, and clear their outstanding dues to help eliminate load shedding in the city.

## FFC, Agriculture Dept hold an awareness seminar in Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: A seminar on profitable paddy cultivation was organized by Fauji Fertilizers Company and the Agriculture Department of Dadu. The event featured several distinguished guests, including Director General of Agriculture Extension Department Munir Ahmad Jamani, Chairman of District Council Dadu Syed Muhammad Shah, Director of Major Crops Department Sindh Rafiq Ahmad Raho, Director of Plant Protection Department Shankar Lal, and Additional Director of Agriculture Department Arbab Ali Khokhar. Munir Ahmad Jamani, the chief guest, provided information about various schemes issued by the

Department of Agriculture. These include the rehabilitation of agriculture in flood-affected areas and Hari cards for small farmers. He encouraged farmers to improve their agricultural production and expressed gratitude to the agricultural experts present. Regional Manager of Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) Muhammad Ali Anis Guraya introduced the company to the farmers and highlighted its marketing methods. He informed them about the recognition sticker on FFC fertilizers to ensure quality. Abdul Hameed Lodhi, Head of the Farm Advisory Center Hyderabad, emphasized agriculture as the backbone of the country's economy and outlined Fauji Fertilizers' agricultural services. He noted that using micro-components with DAP would increase production. Arbab Ali Khokhar shared key principles for achieving the best paddy yield, while Agricultural Service Officer Nawabshah Ali Raza provided detailed information on the balanced use of fertilizers to optimize rice yield. He also discussed various methods to enhance production while reducing costs for farmers. The seminar saw participation from over 120 progressive farmers who appreciated Fauji Fertilizer Company's efforts in improving crop production. The session concluded with a Q&A segment where participants' queries were answered satisfactorily.

## Regional Head of Federal Ombudsman's Secretariat holds an Open Katchery in TMK

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Retired Ambassador and Regional Head of the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat, Dr. Syed Rizwan Ahmed, has stated that any complaints lodged today against federal and provincial departments will be addressed promptly, and no individual will face injustice. He expressed these thoughts while addressing an open katchery held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Tando Muhammad Khan, in line with federal government instructions. Deputy Commissioner Tando Muhammad Khan, Dharam Dass

Bhavani, and officials from all provincial and federal departments of the district attended the event. Dr. Rizwan Ahmed used his special authority to listen to complainants against various provincial departments, including issues such as HESCO sending unjustified bills under over-reading, failure to install electric meters despite demand notices, harassment by NADRA regarding ID cards, and over-reading and unjustified bills from Sui Southern Gas Company, among many other complaints. Complainants against the Health Department included a lack of basic facilities at health

## Case registered against former Nawabshah SHO and Police personnel for theft and assault

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: Following the orders of Second Additional Sessions Judge Shahid Awan in Shaheed Benazirabad, a case has been registered at the A-Section Police Station based on a complaint by Mrs. Shabana, daughter of Sadiq Malik, residing in Gofimar, Nawabshah. The complaint alleges that former SHO of

and six unidentified police officers forcibly entered the house, assaulted the complainant and her sisters, and stole Rs 150,000. According to the complaint, three months ago, former SHO Rashid Memon, along with six police personnel, entered the house of the complainant and her sisters, Iqra, Shazia and Saima. They allegedly assaulted them and stole Rs 150,000 before fleeing the scene.

## Children take out a mourning procession for Shahzada Ali Asghar (AS) in Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In commemoration of the martyrdom of the 6-month-old son of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), innocent Shahzada Ali Asghar (AS), an 18-year tradition was observed in which a children's caravan was taken out from the residence of the late caravan leader Bashir Foji Tittar in Mithan Shah Muhalla, Tando Allahyar city. The caravan was led by Rashid Qambrani, Shehzada Qambrani, Javed Qambrani, Azam Qambrani

and Naem Qambrani. The annual procession followed its traditional route through Mithan Shah Muhalla, Sinhaar Muhalla, Rahib Faqir Muhalla, Inambargah Haider Shah Kazmi, Main Bazaar, MCB Chowk, Sheedi Muhalla, Zaman Shah Muhalla, Court Road, Unar Muhalla, Mir Ka Goth, Choodi Muhalla, Bara Pard (Inambargah Jano Shah), Dargah Mai Hajra, and Inambargah Syed Sakhi Mouj Darya, eventually returning to Mithan Shah Muhalla at the residence of the late Bashir Foji Tittar. Along the route, people arranged chilled water stalls and offered food and refreshments with great devotion and respect for the children participating in the procession. The procession included hundreds of innocent children holding wooden replicas of Zuljanah. Large numbers of participants from Chamber, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Bakkira Sharif, Dhegano Buzdar, and nearby areas joined the procession, which was monitored by the Tando Allahyar police.

## Shortage of water intensifies in Hingorja's branches

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: In the Hingorja area, farmers and laborers have taken to the streets in protest against the severe water shortage in the three branches including Machhar Mines, Benazir Mines and Mehrab Branch. Due to the failure to control water theft, the farmers and laborers, led by Haji Muhammad Hassan Mangnejo, Sardar Hussain Mangnejo and Comrade Ali Khan Mangnejo staged a protest demonstration. They strongly criticized the irrigation department officials and alleged that their crops, including cotton, wheat, orchards, and vegetables, are

being destroyed due to the lack of water. They also accused the department of corruption and water theft by breaking watercourses and bribing officials. They demanded that the branches be cleared and water be provided to the tail-end growers. If their demands are not met, they will hold a sit-in in front of the Chief Engineer's office on July 31. Details reveal that there is a severe water shortage in the tail ends of Machhar Mines, Benazir Mines and Mehrab Branch. Due to the failure to control water theft, the farmers and laborers, led by Haji Muhammad Hassan Mangnejo, Sardar Hussain Mangnejo and Comrade Ali Khan Mangnejo staged a protest demonstration. They strongly criticized the irrigation department officials and alleged that their crops, including cotton, wheat, orchards, and vegetables, are

## ADC-I Ghulam Dastagir Shaikh chairs meeting of District Mirpurkhas' Benevolent Fund Board

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Following the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the District Benevolent Fund Board Mirpurkhas, a board meeting was held in the office of Additional Deputy Commissioner-I, Ghulam Dastagir Shaikh. During

the meeting, 190 applications for the benevolent fund from the relatives of deceased employees of various government departments were reviewed and approved for payment. The amount will be disbursed to the heirs of the deceased employees at a rate of 2,000 rupees per month.



## Lower staff of Education Dept to launch protest movement against lack of facilities

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: A crucial meeting of the Sindh Lower Staff Education Taluka Sakrand was held under the chairmanship of District President Manzoor Jamali in Sakrand. The meeting concluded with a decision to initiate a protest movement from July 30, Tuesday, if their demands for promotions, uniform allowances, and other legitimate issues are not addressed. The protest will take the form of a hunger strike in front of the Director Educa-

tion Shaheed Benazirabad's office until the demands are met. During the meeting, District President Manzoor Jamali addressed the attendees, expressing frustration over the longstanding neglect of lower staff. He highlighted that the rights of lower staff are being ignored and that promotions are not being granted. Despite numerous large meetings, the concerns of lower staff are consistently overlooked. He called upon President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, MNA Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Adil Faryal Talpur, the Minister of Education, the Secretary of Education, and other relevant authorities to address their legitimate demands promptly, warning that the hunger strike will continue until their issues are resolved. The meeting was attended by Imdad Shahani, Shahjahan Shah, Arshad Daudi, Imam Bux Siyal, Aziz Jan, Mukhtiar Jamali, Amin Marri, Allahdad Mallah, Nadeem Khanzad, Shehddad Jamali, Anwar Keerio, Amjad Jamali, Shamir Rind, Nawab Keerio and others.

## Khairpur man killed after being hit by a train

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: A person was killed in a train collision near Khairpur Railway Station, and the deceased has not yet been identified. According to reports, a collision occurred

between the Multan Express, the body, and transferred it to the Civil Hospital Khairpur, where it is currently kept in the morgue. As of the latest updates, the identification of the body has not yet been determined.

the scene, took possession of the body, and transferred it to the Civil Hospital Khairpur, where it is currently kept in the morgue. As of the latest updates, the identification of the body has not yet been determined.

# SPORTS



## Jason Gillespie reacts to PCB's stance on players' workload management



LAHORE: Pakistan's newly-appointed Test coach Jason Gillespie backed the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) stance to ensure the workload management of the all-format players.

Earlier, the cricketing body denied the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to Naseem Shah for the Hundred and also to Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi for the Global T20 Canada 2024.

Meanwhile, Gillespie, in an interview with ESPN Cricinfo, said that the centrally contracted players are compensated well and thus the management has the right to instruct the players to rest, considering their availability for the national team.

"Players are centrally contracted and getting compensated really well. We have the right to be able to say, 'Look, in this situation, we need you to rest or have some downtime to give your body and mind a break, be ready for the next challenge for Pakistan'" Gillespie said.

Jason Gillespie, however, acknowledged the importance of the franchise leagues for the players to get exposure but if that participation impacts a player's readiness for national duty then a discussion and a decision would be essential.

"We want players to go and play in these leagues and have these great experiences. But if we believe it's going to be to the detriment of representing Pakistan in an upcoming series, then we'll have a discussion and have a decision to make."

"These are honest and difficult conversations. Ultimately, we're tasked with doing what's right by Pakistan cricket."

"If being honest is telling a player something they might not want to hear, well, then I'm willing to do that. I want to help them be the best player and person they can be."

It is worth mentioning here that the Pakistan men's team will embark on a busy international calendar 2024-25 with a two-match home Test series against Bangladesh, scheduled to take place from August 21 to September 3.—Agency

## Babar Azam, Rizwan's replacement for GT20 Canada 2024 unveiled



LAHORE: Vancouver Knights have announced replacements for Pakistan's white-ball captain Babar Azam and wicket-keeper Mohammad Rizwan for the ongoing Global T20 (GT20) Canada 2024.

Pakistan's most reliable batting duo was scheduled to represent Vancouver Knights in the GT20 Canada 2024, however, they failed to secure the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

According to the cricketing body, the three all-format players were denied NOCs, in light of Pakistan's busy and packed cricket calendar in the period from August 2024 to March 2025 which includes ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

"The PCB had received NOC requests from Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Afridi for the Global T20 event, amongst other players," stated PCB.

"The three are all-format cricketers and their services are expected to be required in the upcoming eight months during which Pakistan will play nine Tests, 14 ODIs, and nine T20Is.

"As such, and in line with the PCB's workload management policy, it is in the best interest of Pakistan cricket and the players that they skip the upcoming event in Canada so that they are in their best mental and physical shape for the season which commences with the two-Test series against Bangladesh."

The announcement rained on the Knights' parade as Mohammad Rizwan was set to lead the side, while Babar Azam was a major cog in their batting unit.

But they were forced to replace the duo, roping in South Africa's Reeza Hendricks for Babar, while Australian top-order batter Usman Khawaja replaced Rizwan.

Khawaja led the Vancouver Knights in the GT20 Canada 2024 opener against the Toronto Nationals.

While batting first, the Knights were bowled out for a meagre 110, thanks to Junaid Siddiqui's four-fer. Toronto Nationals' captain Colin Munro led his side to a comfortable victory with a 44-run knock.—Agency

## Shoaib Malik urges India to visit Pakistan for Champions Trophy 2025



LAHORE: All-rounder Shoaib Malik urged India to visit Pakistan to participate in the Champions Trophy 2025 which is set to take place in the country from February to March next year.

"I think there are many players in the Indian team who haven't played in Pakistan, so it would be great for them. We are good people. We're very hospitable people, so I'm sure the Indian team should come."

Three venues - Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore - will host the matches of eight matches and according to PCB's proposed schedule to ICC, all of India's matches will take place in Lahore. Except India, all eight teams that will participate in the Champions Trophy have already played in Pakistan and the PCB believes that India does not have a strong reason not to come here.—Agency

## Paris ready to host 2024 Olympic Games under enhanced security



PARIS: France aims to wow the world on Friday with an extravagant Olympics opening ceremony through the heart of Paris, officially kicking off a Games fraught with security risks at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions.

Some 45,000 police, 10,000 soldiers and 2,000 private security staff will ensure the safety of the parade along the river Seine, its banks and surrounding monuments, in an unprecedented display of security.

A procession of barges will take nearly 7,000 athletes along the river past Paris's most famous landmarks, while more than 300,000 spectators will watch from the banks.

Since the last Olympics in Beijing in 2022, wars have erupted in Ukraine and Gaza, providing a tense backdrop to the Games. France is at its highest level of security - though officials have repeatedly said there is no specific threat to the opening ceremony or the Games.

As part of a vast security operation, authorities have turned to power passed under an anti-terrorism law, placing 155 people under surveillance measures that strictly limit their movement, according to official data and a Reuters review of cases.

Meanwhile, Israeli commentators are being escorted by elite tactical units to and from events and given 24-hour protection throughout the Olympics, officials say.

Scores of world leaders will be in Paris for the opening ceremony, which will be protected by snipers on rooftops. The Seine's riverbed has been swept for bombs, and Paris' airspace will be closed.—Agency

Paris is ready to host the 2024 Olympic Games under enhanced security. The city is implementing a massive security operation, including the deployment of thousands of police and soldiers, to ensure the safety of the event. The opening ceremony will take place on the banks of the Seine river, a historic location for the Olympics.

## Australian swim coach avoids being kicked out of Olympics



PARIS: An Australian swimming coach who backed a South Korean rival to beat two of his countrymen avoided being kicked out of the Olympics Friday, with officials deciding it would be too disruptive.

Michael Palfrey told South Korea media this week he hoped Kim Woo-min won gold instead of Sam Short and Elijah Winnington in the men's 400m freestyle.

The trio -- all former world champions -- will face off on Saturday in the opening day of action at La Defense Arena.

Head coach Rohan Taylor blasted Palfrey as "un-Australian", deeming his actions "extremely disappointing".

But he stepped short of following through on a threat to send him home, saying athlete welfare across the 41-member pool team factored into his decision.

"We took the time to consider the two options -- for Mick Palfrey to stay, and for him to be sent home," he said in a statement.

"After extended conversations with athletes, the athlete leadership group, and coaching staff we have made the decision for Michael to stay."

"It is not one we have taken lightly and I stress this is an ongoing discussion for when we return home."

Palfrey works with Australian swimmers Zac Incerti, Abbey Connor and Alex Perkins, but also mentored Kim while he was training in Brisbane ahead of the Games.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, Palfrey was wearing Australian team colours when he was interviewed by South Korean journalists and declared "Go Korea" while talking about his hopes for Kim.

"I support Rohan Taylor and his team and the decision they have taken in the interests of the swimming team," said Australian chef de mission Anna Meares.—Agency

## Jasprit Bumrah praises Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli's leadership skills



India pacer Jasprit Bumrah lauded the leadership skills of two veteran cricketers, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, after the Blues ended their 11-year-long ICC trophy drought by lifting T20 World Cup 2024 in West Indies.

Bumrah was key to India's success in the tournament as he bagged 15 wickets and was also named the Player of the Tournament due to his heroics, especially in the final when all hopes were for Sharma's men.

"The speedster was asked how his favourite Indian captain is to which he hilariously picked himself.

"My favourite captain is me because I have captained a few games. Obviously, there are great captains, but I will take my name. I am my favourite captain," Bumrah told The Indian Express.

After sharing some laughter, Bumrah went on to praise Sharma for the way he has been leading the team. Especially during the five-Test against England where India played several youngsters.

"In the recent England series, when the youngsters came, Rohit made the atmosphere very comfortable," Bumrah said. "He took extra effort, he will take them out, he will talk to them about the game; he will try and push them to take the responsibility, as the youngsters should think all are equally important, there is no senior or junior."

"A captain needs to have empathy towards bowlers and Rohit Sharma is one of the few captains who has empathy for bowlers.

"Playing in the IPL as well, I even used to go and tell Rohit that 'You set the field, I am going to bowl this ball. You set the field, and I trust you whatever you feel is right. You set the field,'" Bumrah revealed about his early days at Mumbai Indians.

The pacer also hailed Kohli, who retired after T20 World Cup win, saying that he brings energy and passion to the team.

"Virat is energy-driven, his heart is on his sleeves. He pushed us in terms of fitness. He changed the narrative that way. Even though Virat is not the captain, he is still the leader," Bumrah said of the 35-year-old.—Agency

Paris: Rafael Nadal suffers injury scare ahead of Paris Olympics opener. The tennis star is recovering from a shoulder injury that occurred during a match in Hungary. He is expected to play on Sunday.

Paris: Rafael Nadal suffers injury scare ahead of Paris Olympics opener. The tennis star is recovering from a shoulder injury that occurred during a match in Hungary. He is expected to play on Sunday.

## Rafael Nadal suffers injury scare ahead of Paris Olympics opener



PARIS: Rafael Nadal suffered an injury scare ahead of his first round of the singles match against Hungary's Marton Fucsovics which is set to be played on Sunday.

Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam winner, will face his old rival Novak Djokovic in round two should he beat Fucsovics in the opener.

However, just two days before his doubles with Carlos Alcaraz, Nadal sustained a setback in training and according to his coach, Carlos Moya, they will give the Spaniard 48 hours before making a decision on his participation in the tournament.

"It has been a setback and we have decided that Rafa should rest today and not the first time they have played together and it will be something his tennis going to give ourselves 48 hours. I can't say anything for sure. We have to wait."

"He had some discomfort yesterday [Wednesday 24th July] morning. In the afternoon he was more limited and before it got worse he decided to stop. I can't guarantee anything, neither that he won't play or he will play. At the moment he needs to rest, undergo treatment."

He is obviously very excited to play these Olympics. It has been something marked on his calendar for years. He is a born competitor and wants to play singles and doubles. He is very excited about the doubles with Alcaraz. It will be the first time they have played together and it will be something his tennis going to give ourselves 48 hours. I can't say anything for sure.—Agency

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Jennifer Lopez returns to the Big Apple post birthday celebration



Jennifer Lopez is back in the New York City after her birthday bash.

The 55-year-old singer was spotted at Balthazar in Manhattan on Thursday, July 25.

According to People, the This Is Me... Now singer was pictured with her longtime manager, Benny Medina, as she walked down the busy SoHo streets in a sophisticated summer dress.

As reported by the earlier publication, Lopez donned an oversized white blazer with cut-outs on the sleeves, and she paired the linen jacket with a white crop top and light-wash blue barrel jeans.

In regards to the accessories, she kept it minimal by carrying a black purse while wearing nude and white platform heels and a pair of light brown oversized aviator sunglasses.

Furthermore, the Wedding Planner actress went for a slick-back ponytail and neutral makeup.

As per the reports by People, while at the popular eatery, she was with a "small, talkative group of people" and then she headed to a nearby hotel in the New York City neighborhood, where she hung out with her mother Guadalupe and another intimate group.

Before returning to the city, Lopez also celebrated her Bridgerton-themed garden birthday party in the Hamptons on Saturday, July 20.

## Jennifer Aniston wishes Matt LeBlanc in true 'Friends' style



Jennifer Aniston hopes Matt LeBlanc spends his birthday doing "nothing" as Friends star turned 57 on Thursday, July 25.

It is worth mentioning that His co-star Jennifer Aniston who played Rachel Green on the show posted a story of her Instagram in order to wish him happy birthday.

In regards to the caption, the Murder Mystery actress wrote, "Happy Birthday @matleblanc," while adding a white heart emoji.

She continued by saying, "I hope you're doing so much nothing today. LOVE YOU."

Furthermore, alongside the sweet note, Aniston also added an interview video of Friends star who played Joey on the show, in which he stated, "My favorite thing in the world to do, my absolute favorite thing in the world to do, is nothing. I'm great at it. I should be a professional nothing. That's what I could be. I could be really good at that. Because it's so easy! There's no rules. What are you gonna do today? I'll tell ya, 'Nothing.' Pretty simple."

According to People's reports, Aniston had previously shared the same video on her Instagram page back in March, as she agreed with him saying, "Same @matleblanc same."

Moreover, both of the stars have appeared together on a beloved sitcom Friends along with who died at age 54 in October 2023, between 1994 to 2004.

## Face of the Day

**Name:** Ali Khan  
**Location:** Karachi  
**About me:** Strike a pose if you love modeling like me!

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

# NATIONAL

## Millions in Banned Indian Medicines Seized At Torkham Border

**LANDIKOTAL:** The district administration, under directives from the provincial government, conducted a major operation against smuggling at the Torkham Border, seizing millions worth of banned foreign cigarettes, Indian medicines, and paan from a warehouse, officials said on Friday.



The operation, led by Assistant Commissioner Landikotal Adnan Mumtaz and a special team from FC (North), took place late at night at Bacha Mena, near the Torkham Border.

"Over 12,000 packs of illegal foreign cigarettes stored in the warehouse were seized," said Deputy Commissioner Khyber Captain (retd) Sanaullah Khan. The warehouse also contained 272 packs of banned medicines, paan, and other items, he confirmed.

"The banned items, including cigarettes, were intended to be transported from the Torkham Border to Peshawar and other districts," added the deputy commissioner.

"Over 12,000 cigarette packs and 272 packs of other items have been taken into government custody, and legal action is being undertaken," he stated.

The district administration continues to carry out ongoing operations at joint checkpoints and the Torkham Border against the smuggling of sugar, urea, and other non-banned items, according to the deputy commissioner.—RT/Agency

# THE HEARTLAND



## Naushehro woman's legs hacked for trying to end abusive marriage

**SUKKUR:** In a shocking incident in Sindh's Naushahro district, both legs of a woman named Sobia Batool Shah were savagely hacked by her bloodthirsty father and uncles in the name of patriarchal 'honour' for filing for divorce to end an abusive marriage.

The deeply disturbing act of violence occurred in Gul Town of the district, leaving the victim in severe physical as well as mental trauma, which may result in a life-long handicap — with the possibility that she may never be able to walk again.

Reportedly, Syed Mustafa Shah, Sobia's father, and her uncles Syed Qurban Shah, Ehsan Shah, Shah Nawaz, and Mushtaq Shah, who were armed with axes, injured Sobia, and fled the spot leaving her screaming for help in a pool of blood.

As soon as police reached the crime scene, Sobia was rushed to a Nawab Shah hospital. Sobia revealed to the police the savageries her patriarchy inflicted upon her for seeking a divorce from her abusive and deadbeat husband, who never took responsibility for his family.

The poor woman further told police that her husband would regularly abuse her and failed to provide for her and their two children, leaving her to suffer on her own in Karachi.

According to Sobia, she repeatedly alerted her parents about the plight she was in, but her family turned a deaf ear to her grievances and dismissed her, calling her a disgrace.

In a desperate attempt to escape her abusive marriage, Sobia filed for divorce, which incited her father and uncles to confront her.

According to the police, Sobia's enraged patriarchs accused her of bringing dishonour to the family by taking legal action against her husband. When she refused to withdraw her case, they attacked her with axes, they added. Taking immediate notice of the incident, the senior superintendent of police (SSP) of Naushahro, ordered the local station house officer (SHO) to bring all the accused to justice and ensure the victim's security.

Responding to the directions, the police have so far managed to arrest one suspect, Mushtaq Shah, and are conducting further raids in search of the remaining culprits.—RT/Agency

## Allama Aqeel al-Gharavi addresses Majlis-e-Aza in Khairpur



**By Naeem Shaikh**

**QURAN,** followed by a brief discourse on the virtues and countless scholarly qualities of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad's (SAWW) family, Allama Aqeel al-Gharavi then recounted the sufferings of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), who, along with his family, children, friends, and loved ones, sacrificed their lives for the glory of Islam in the plains of Karbala. His narration created a mournful atmosphere in the Majlis. A large number of believers, both men and women, participated in the Majlis-e-Aza. The participants were served cold water, sherbet, milk, rose water, and tea, along with special offerings (Niyaz) in honor of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS).

**By Naeem Shaikh**

**KHAIERPUR:** A historic Majlis-e-Aza was held at Qasr-e-Hussaini Imambarah in Khairpur to pay tribute to the martyrs of Karbala. The Majlis-e-Aza featured local scholars, as well as Allama Aqeel al-Gharavi from London. The event began with the recitation of the Holy

## Achakzai: 'We Will Not Live Like Slaves,' Vows To Overthrow Government

**QUETTA:** Mahmood Khan Achakzai, leader of the opposition alliance Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP), has announced a bold move to overthrow the current government, pledging to rescue the nation from alleged corruption.

The rally saw leaders and workers from various opposition parties, including Tehreek-e-Insaf, Pashtun Khawa Map, and BNP Mengal, come together to demand change.

In a fiery speech at a rally in Quetta, the TTAP leader vowed to restore constitutional and legal supremacy in Pakistan and called for re-elections within three months condemning the current government as corrupt and illegitimate.

Achakzai emphasized the need for the supremacy of the constitution and law, saying, "We will not live like slaves in Pakistan." "If our resources are targeted under the guise of combating terrorism, it will lead to disaster."

He criticized the current government, accusing it of corruption and asserting that the national assemblies had been compromised. "This government is a



thief, and the assemblies have been sold," Achakzai declared.

The TTAP leader underscored his commitment to justice and fairness, recalling his stance at the Afghan Jirga, where he supported the oppressed against their oppressors. He emphasized that the fight for justice is a divine mandate and condemned the current government's handling of national issues.

The opposition leader also pointed out unresolved issues, such as the murder of Benazir Bhutto, and expressed his frustration over the country's ongoing challenges. "We do not want the country to fall into ruin," he said. "We must

## Four killed, ten injured in a fatal Nooriabad accident

**By Shams Palari**

**NOORIABAD:** Near Nooriabad, at the Bula Khan Interchange, a passenger coach traveling from Hyderabad to Karachi collided with a trawler. As a result of the accident, four passengers, including the coach driver, were killed and ten others were injured.

According to reports, at the Bula Khan Interchange on the motorway within the jurisdiction of the Lonkot Police Station, a passenger coach from Hyderabad collided violently with a trawler. The collision resulted in the deaths of the coach driver Sohail Ahmed and passengers Shaman Ali Kandhro, Abdul Latif Kandhro, and one unidentified person. The injured passengers include Maryam, Areefa, Sanam, Urooj, Anil Kumar, Abdul Jabbar and Hanifan. The deceased and injured were transported to the Nooriabad Trauma Center and the Kotri Taluka Hospital. The motorway was closed for several hours due to the accident but traffic was restored after removing the wreckage of the trawler and the coach. The Lonkot Police have taken both the coach and the trawler into custody.

## DC Saleemullah Odho orders operations against encroachments in Tando Allahyar



**By Afaque Kharzada**

**TANDO ALLAHYAR:** Deputy Commissioner of Tando Allahyar, Saleemullah Odho, has instructed the relevant department officers to strictly remove illegal encroachments from the main markets, roads, parks, and other public places in Tando Allahyar city and other tehsils. He emphasized that no leniency would be tolerated in this regard. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office to review the arrangements for the district-wide Soft Encroachment Drive. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ibrahim Almani, Additional Deputy Commissioner-II, Sajid Ali Pahore, Assistant Commissioner of Tando Allahyar, Faheem Shakir, Assistant Commissioner of Chamber, Abdul Shakir Solangi, Chief Municipal Officer of Tando Allahyar, Aabid Wali and district officers from the police, revenue, municipality, and other relevant departments. Deputy Commissioner Saleemullah Odho instructed the officers to take immediate action to remove illegal stalls from the main markets, roads, parks, and other places in Tando Allahyar city and other tehsils. He warned that legal action would be taken against those who violate these instructions.

## Punjab Scraps Job Quota For Families Of Deceased Civil Servants

**LAHORE:** The Punjab Government has recently amended the Civil Servant Rules, implementing significant changes.

One of the most notable amendments is the abolition of Rule 17A from the Civil Servant Rules of 1974.

Previously, Rule 17A allowed the children or spouse of a civil servant who passed away during service to receive government jobs under the service quota.

With the removal of this rule, family members of deceased civil servants will no longer be eligible for such employment benefits.

This change marks a significant shift in policy, affecting many families who previously relied on this provision for job security following the loss of a loved one in government service.

## Certificates distribution ceremony held at Tech Zone in Pithoro



**By M Ismail Khilji**

**PITHORO:** With the joint collaboration of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Memon from the social organization APP-SUKF and Dr. Muhammad Anees Dosani, founder of World Memon Doctors (WMD), a state-of-the-art free computer center called Tech Zone was established in Pithoro. Recently, a prestigious ceremony was held under the leadership of Dr. Pardeep Kumar Malani to distribute diploma certificates to the students of the computer center. The event was attended by a large number of students, along with the Taluka Education Officer of Pithoro (Male), Muhammad Hassan Nohri, Principal Tara Chand Maharaj of Government Higher Secondary School Pithoro, Counselor Zulfikar Ali Nohri, and Master Madan Lal Suthar. In their speeches, the speakers emphasized the importance of computer education for the development of any country or society in the modern age. The speakers emphasized that in today's modern era, a person is incomplete without computer education, and they urged parents to ensure their children receive education to secure their future.

## New office-bearers of Awami Press Club Kumb elected

**By Naz Solangi**

**KUMB:** An important meeting of the Awami Press Club Kumb was held under the chairmanship of APC President Naz Solangi, attended by the office-bearers and members of the Awami Press Club. The meeting reviewed the performance of 2023 and highlighted issues such as inflation, unemployment, law and order, and the challenges faced by journalists in Sindh. During the meeting, certificates of excellence were awarded to the office bearers and members who showed exceptional performance in 2023. The Khairpur Journalists Union honored senior journalist and columnist Naz Solangi, President of the Awami Press Club, with the Best Writer Award. Following the meeting, the elections for the Awami Press Club Kumb for 2024 were held. The newly elected office bearers and members included President Naz Solangi, Vice President Salman Ali, General Secretary Irfan Mukhtar, Joint Secretary Syed Mohsin Ali, Finance Secretary Mohsin Ali Solangi, Office Secretary Mujahid Hussain Khakheli, Information Secretary Sufi Darshan and Chairman Chief Executive Committee Saira Solangi. The members included Sanam Rajpar, Sanam Mangi, Sameen Solangi, Sanam Solangi, Waheed Ali Wassan, Muhammad Meinal Lashari, Ali Hassan Solangi, Ali Danu Suhag, Kashif Ali Solangi, Abdulhaz Kaladi, Suhail Solangi, Shaqat Abbas, Ejaz Baloch, Shahid Ali Mangi, Imran Gopang, Ranjab Mallah, Zabeer Gopang, and Abdul Razzak Shar. On this occasion, all journalists pledged to continue highlighting the issues of the poor and bringing them to the attention of higher authorities, and to play their role in promoting honest and truthful journalism.

## MRDO, SCI distribute 150 bicycles amongst girls in District Khairpur

**By Salman Ali**

**SUKKUR:** Marvi Rural Development Organization (MRDO) Sukkur, with the support of Save the Children International (SCI) Pakistan, organized distribution of 150 bicycles for girls in District Khairpur. Suhra Solangi, Chief Executive Officer of MRDO, shared that with the support of Save the Children International, MRDO is implementing Hum Localization Project to address Child Protection (CP) and Climate Change (CC) issues faced by children in Shadi Shaheed and Bughro union councils in District Khairpur. Mir's as part of this project, MRDO has established 10 Safe Spaces for children to ensure the provision of psychosocial support to children in need and the establishment of community-based child protection mechanisms by establishing & strengthening the child protection committees and child clubs and their networking with the district stakeholders. Salman Ali, Manager Programs MRDO, said, through this activity MRDO and SCI is providing Sustainable Transportation Initiatives provision of bicycles to girls for a "Bike to School" initiative, encouraging the use of eco-friendly transport choices. Deputy Director Social Welfare Department Khairpur appreciated the efforts and shared that, girls who received these bicycles will be feeling more in control of the decisions affecting their lives and the ratio of absentees in targeted union councils will also be less.

## JSQM rallies against open sale of drugs in Matiari

**By Sajjad Ali Abbasi**

**MATIARI:** In Matiari, members of the Jeay Sindh Quami Mahaz (JSQM) protested outside the Matiari Press Club against the increasing drug use and lack of preventive measures. The protest was led by Sachal Salaryo, Zulfikar Detho, and Mazhar Umar. They stated that the sale of drugs is widespread throughout the city and accused the police of supporting the drug dealers instead of arresting them. Alcohol, ice (crystal meth), and other substances are openly sold in Matiari, yet the actions being taken in other districts are not happening here. Ice dealers from Hyderabad flee to Matiari and sell ice openly, but no one is stopping them. They demanded action from the Chief Minister of Sindh and the Excise Minister to protect young students and other youths from these dangers.

## DC Shehryar Memon forms committee to improve NWM's health facilities

**By Samad Ayaz**

**NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD:** DC Shaheed Benazirabad, Shehryar Memon, formed a committee with the collaboration of PPHI to provide the best possible medical facilities to patients at Nawab Wali Muhammad Hospital. The Chairman of the committee is Khamiso Khan Bhand, who is also the chairman of Union Council Ahmed Bughio, while Dr. Nauman Mustafa Solangi, the in-charge of the hospital, has been appointed as the secretary. Speaking to the media, Chairman Khamiso Khan Bhand said that the purpose of forming the committee is to address any complaints or issues related to medicine shortages in the hospital and to provide the best medical facilities to the patients. Additionally, the committee aims to organize hepatitis camps in various villages and areas, and raise awareness among the residents about vaccinating children against various diseases.

## XEN Asad Pirzada leads operation against power theft in Matiari District

**By Sajjad Ali Abbasi**

**MATIARI:** In Matiari, Bhit Shah, Hala, New Saheedabad and all surrounding areas HESCO's operations against individuals involved in electricity theft and those with outstanding dues were launched on Friday. Cases were registered against 1500 consumers across various police stations in the district for electricity theft and failure to pay dues. The cases named individuals involved in electricity theft and those with outstanding bills are not paid, all named individuals in the cases will be arrested in the second phase.

# METRO KARACHI

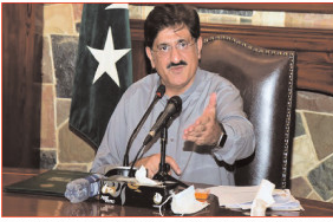


## Murad Approves Rs16 Million Grant And Vehicles For Pakistan Association Of The Blind

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has approved a Rs16 million grant and vehicles for the Pakistan Association of the Blind, Sindh, to facilitate the transportation of blind children from their homes to school.

During a meeting with the association's delegation, the Chief Minister emphasized the implementation of the five percent quota for differently-abled individuals in government jobs. The meeting was attended by PSCM Agha Wasif and Secretary DEPD Tauha Farooqi. The delegation included Association President Riaz Memon, Senior Vice President Ghulam Dastgir, General Secretary Saad Noor, and Secretary Finance Mohsin Ali.

The Chief Minister noted that President Asif Ali Zardari had directed him to address the issues faced by visually impaired individuals. Riaz Memon, President of the Association, men-



tioned that Zardari had previously granted a travel concession card for PIA and Railways, which was revoked after his tenure. Memon also noted that support from the PPP government under Yousaf Raza Gillani was discontinued after the change in government. The association requested that CNICs for blind individuals reflect their vision impairment. The Chief Minister assured that he would discuss the issue with NADRA authorities. In response to the association's request for an

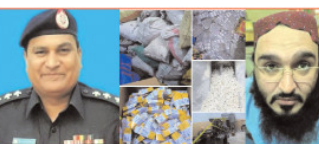
## Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin Meets President Asif Ali Zardari



KARACHI: The head of the Dawoodi Bohra community, Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, met with President Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House on Friday.

During the meeting, President Zardari praised the Bohra community for its significant contribution to Pakistan's socio-economic development. He highlighted the community's active participation in the nation's economy and business sectors.

## FIA And Drug Control Authority Shut Down Unregistered Pharmaceutical Company



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Drug Control Team, with police assistance, conducted a significant operation against a fake and unregistered pharmaceutical company. SHO Quaidabad Ghulam Hussain Pirzada reported that in the Quaidabad area of Gulshan-e-Bohaira, a counterfeit drug factory was operating under the pretense of being a mosque and madrasa. The factory was producing harmful and narcotic drugs. Acting on a tip-off, an intelligence-led raid resulted in the arrest of eight individuals, including the owner Abdul Wahab, who also serves as the Imam of the mosque and madrasa.

## Mumtaz Magasi Assumes Charge As DSP Bin Qasim



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: AIG Javed Alam Odho has appointed DSP Mumtaz Magasi as the new Deputy Superintendent of Police for Bin Qasim. Upon assuming his new role, DSP Magasi pledged to enhance security and tackle crime effectively in the area.

## SBCA Establishes Help Desk At NKATI To Assist Industrialists



KARACHI: The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) is launching a one-window facility to address construction issues faced by industrialists in the North Karachi Industrial Area. This initiative includes setting up a Help Desk at the North Karachi Association of Trade and Industry (NKATI), where SBCA staff will assist the industrial community with various problems related to industrial building construction.

In connection with this effort, Abdul Rasheed Solangi, Director General of SBCA, visited NKATI at the invitation of its President, Faisal Moiz Khan. During the visit, Solangi met with senior NKATI members and officials for a comprehensive discussion. At the meeting, Solangi assured NKATI members

## High-Rise Building Catches Fire On Shahra-e-Faisal

KARACHI: A fire broke out at a high-rise building on Sharea Faisal near Metropole on Friday, leaving at least six people, including rescue officials, unconscious. The blaze affected the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th floors of the 16-storey building and was extinguished in a rescue operation involving one snorkel and 12 fire tenders, including those from the Pakistan Navy and Rescue 1122.



Of the six unconscious individuals, two are women who have been transported to the hospital for medical assistance.

The track from Jinnah Hospital to Metropole, which was closed due to the blaze, has now been reopened for traffic. Initially, traffic police diverted vehicles from FFC to Kala Pul.

The fire department reported that the blaze was contained, preventing further spread, and all 50 people in

the building were safely evacuated. No one else was reported to be inside the building.

Earlier, police suggested that some people might be trapped inside due to heavy smoke, leading to a temporary halt in the rescue operation.

This marks the third significant fire incident in Karachi this month. On July 15, a fire broke out in Karachi University's Mass

Communication Department after an air conditioner caught fire in its audio-visual room, prompting the immediate evacuation of attending students. On July 8, a blaze on the fourth floor of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) building halted trading for two hours. Five fire tenders, one snorkel, and a bowser were used to tackle the blaze, which was caused by a short circuit.—RT/Agency

## Faqeerabad Town Chairman Nisar Hussain Khakheli Commits To Honoring Election Promises

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Faqeerabad Town Chairman Nisar Hussain Khakheli has reaffirmed his commitment to fulfilling the promises made to the people during the 2024 election, in line with the vision of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

In a recent interview with Daily Ibrat, Khakheli highlighted the provision of solar panels to poor households, enabling them to receive up to 200 units of electricity. He mentioned that 1,000 solar panels had already been installed in various villages within the town from the town's budget. Additionally, 100 solar street lights were installed in Imambaghs and mosques during Muharram. Khakheli announced that each ward in the town would receive 115 solar panels, with work orders already issued. He emphasized that the distribution of these panels was conducted without bias to ensure the comfort of families during extreme weather conditions.

He also noted the PPP's commitment to addressing local issues, stating that dur-



ing the election campaign, the leadership had promised to resolve people's problems at their doorsteps. The local leadership, including Manzoor Wassan and MPA Halar Wassan, along with central leaders like Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Fayyal Talpur, were actively working to support this mission.

Khakheli highlighted the PPP's efforts to mitigate the impact of rising inflation by expanding the Benazir Income Support Program and installing solar plants to reduce electricity load shedding. He also mentioned ongoing efforts to create employment opportunities and support the federal government in addressing security and economic challenges.

## Jam Ikramullah Meets Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo welcomed Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and his delegation during a technical stopover at Jinnah Airport, Karachi. Also present were Turkish Consul General Cemal Sangu and Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Paçaç.



In a brief meeting, Minister Dharejo and Foreign Minister Fidan discussed matters of mutual interest. Dharejo highlighted investment op-

portunities in Sindh for Turkish investors. Foreign Minister Fidan expressed gratitude for the invitation to Turkish investors and appreciated the hospitality of Pakistan, especially the Sindh Government. After the meeting, Fidan departed for his destination.—RT

## Rotary and EOC Sindh Join Hands To Combat Polio

KARACHI: The Rotary Foundation Trustee 2020-24 and National Chair Polio Plus, Aziz Memon, organized a meeting with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Sindh to discuss the current polio situation and update Rotary delegates on EOC Sindh's efforts. The Rotary delegation included IPDG Hanif Khan, PP Shahzad Sabir, PP Muneeb Khan, and Asher Ali PNPPC.

The meeting, chaired by EOC Coordinator Irshad Sodhar, was attended by WHO Team Lead Dr. Asif Ali, UNICEF Team Lead Dr. Shokat Ali, N-STOP Team Lead Dr. Shumaila Rasool, and other EOC officials. Irshad Sodhar welcomed the Rotary delegation and presented an overview of the team's initiatives to eradicate polio. Trustee Aziz Memon emphasized the importance of gaining insights into Sindh's polio eradication efforts and the need for Com-

munity-Based Volunteers (CBVs) to improve community engagement and address vaccine refusals effectively.

Dr. Asif Ali provided an update on current polio cases and environmental positive samples in Sindh, reporting two cases: one in Shikarpur and another in the Kemari district of Karachi. He linked the Shikarpur case to low immunity due to malnutrition, affecting 52% of children in Sindh. While local virus circulation has been halted, current cases involve inactivated polio viruses. To prevent spread, mop-up sessions are being conducted in Jamshoro, Dadu, Mirpurkhas, and Badin districts, along with planned IPV and OPV campaigns. Jet Injection will be administered to children aged 4-59 months in areas with persistent environmental positivity.

Irshad Sodhar emphasized the need for collaboration among PPHI, EPI, EOC, and Rotary. He suggested using gift packs containing soaps for hygiene purposes and balloons to attract children and parents to outreach sites. Trustee Aziz Memon shared that the Trust for Malnutrition & Stunted Growth (TMSG) is actively working in Pakistan and offered full support for interventions in needed areas. He also mentioned that Rotary has developed a Speaking Book in Urdu, Sindhi, and Pashto to promote hygiene in high-risk communities. Dr. Shaikh reported that two PITP shelters on the Karachi-Balochistan border and the motorway have been renovated and requested an inauguration. The meeting concluded with EOC Coordinator Irshad Sodhar expressing gratitude for Rotary's support and reaffirming EOC Sindh's commitment to eradicating polio from Pakistan.—RT

## SITE Industrialists Laud SSGC MD For Dedicated Gas Pipeline

KARACHI: The SITE Association of Industry members praised SSGC Managing Director Muhammad Imran Maniar for the completion of a dedicated 24-inch, 31-kilometer high-pressure gas pipeline for industrial consumers in the SITE area. The new pipeline addresses the long-standing issue of low or zero gas pressure.



At a reception in his honor, MD Maniar explained how the pipeline isolates industrial from domestic connections, ensuring better gas pressure for industries and reducing unaccounted-for gas (UFG) losses. He highlighted the automation of 70% of Karachi's TBS, allowing one-touch regulation of gas pressure.

Discussions also covered RLNG blending, pricing, and billing. Maniar suggested the future might require a shift to LPG cylinders for domestic

users to minimize line losses. He answered various questions from the association members.

SITE President Muhammad Kamran Arbi and Patron-in-Chief Zubair Motiwala commended Maniar's efforts and achievements. Motiwala urged the elimination of gas blending and the replacement of conventional gas geysers with solar ones, funded through monthly bills. Former President Jawed Bilwani proposed setting up a biomass gas plant in the SITE area.

As a gesture of appreciation, a bouquet and shield were presented to Muhammad Imran Maniar. The event was attended by several notable members, including Muhammad Hanif Tawakkal, Abdul Hadi, and others.—RT

## 17 Arrested Following Armed Clash Between Bugtis In DHA

KARACHI: Police arrested 17 people during raids conducted on Friday at various locations in connection with an armed clash that left five people dead in Karachi's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) Deputy Inspector General (DIG) South Syed Asad Raza confirmed the recovery of weapons from three suspects during these raids.



The violent incident occurred between the Fahad Bugti and Ali Haider Bugti groups in DHA's Khayabane-Nishat, resulting in the deaths of five individuals and injuries to two others. The deceased and the injured were relatives of the slain Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti.

The deceased were identified as Mir Esa Bugti, Ali, Fahad Bugti, Naseebullah, and Mir Mesum Bugti. Mir Ali Haider Bugti and Qaim Ali sustained bullet injuries and were treated at the hospital.

While no first information report (FIR) has been registered yet, DIG Raza stated that two cases will be filed in coordination with both groups. The clash, attributed to an "old family dispute," occurred when both groups, initially meeting for talks,

opened fire after their vehicles encountered each other. Heavy weapons were used in the altercation, and Fahad Bugti's body, which had two bullet wounds to the chest, has been handed over to his family. Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Larjar has taken notice of the clash and requested a detailed report from the Additional IGP Karachi. He reassured the public that all necessary measures will be taken to uphold the law.—RT/Agency

## Probe Launched Against PTA For Failure To Recover Rs78 Billion From Telecom Companies

KARACHI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Karachi has initiated a probe against the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) for failing to recover over Rs78 billion in dues from telecom companies, media sources reported. According to the sources, the PTA has been directed to submit a response to NAB by July 29. The investigation has revealed that the delay in recovering dues has caused significant losses to the national exchequer. NAB has requested detailed information on the out-

standing amounts, court cases, and all relevant records from the PTA. PTA officials have been summoned to appear before NAB Karachi with the required documents. Sources also mentioned that Long Distance and International (LDI) companies have agreed to pay 100% of the principal amount. However, the recovery of dues has been impeded by court stay orders. To address the issue of dues recovery, the Ministry of IT has formed a steering committee to oversee the matter. In a related development, the Pakistan



KARACHI: Ishtiaq Baig, President of the Business Forum of the PML(N), hosted a dinner in honor of Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program. The event was attended by Arif Habib, Senator Jam Karam Ali, Anwar Qureshi, Dr. Junaid Ali Shah, and cricket great Saleem Yousuf.—RT

"Do not compare yourself to others. If you do so, you are insulting yourself."

—Adolf Hitler

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# Sanam Javaid On PTI's Reserved Seats List Submitted To ECP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has submitted a list of the candidates for the reserved seats to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), picking Sanam Javaid, Aliya Hamza Malik, Yasmin Rashid among others for the seats reserved in assemblies for women and minorities, party sources said on Friday.



The development came after the Supreme Court, in its July 12 short order in the reserved seats case, allowed the former ruling party to have reserved seats in assemblies, paving the way for the party to potentially become the largest parliamentary party.

In the landmark ruling, the apex court directed the PTI to submit a list of its eligible candidates for reserved seats in national, Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies, according to the sources.

The list includes 67 names for seats reserved for women and 11 for minorities seats, sources said, adding the names of Javaid, Hamza, Kanwal Shauzab, Rubina Shaheen and Seemab Tahir have been chosen for the National Assembly reserved seats for women. Meanwhile, Lal Chand Malhi has been nominated by the party for the minority seat in the lower house of parliament, the PTI sources said, adding Dr Yasmin Rashid has been named for the reserved seat for women in Punjab Assembly.

A day earlier the polls regulator declared 39 PTI lawmakers — who contested the February 8 elections as independent candidates and later joined the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) — as PTI members in line with the Supreme Court's ruling.

Earlier this week, the PTI submitted relevant documents with declaration of party's affiliation to the Election Commission to be entitled to have reserved seats in the assemblies in line with the court's order. Having been deprived of its election symbol, the PTI's candidates contested the February 8 elections as independents. However, these independents were directed by the party to join the SIC to be eligible for the reserved seats. The SIC in multiple petitions, pleaded with the top court to allow the party to have reserved seats in legislature. On July 12, the court announced its short order in the PTI's favour. However, the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) filed a review petition against the SC ruling declaring the PTI eligible for the reserved seats —RT/Agency

# Gandapur Pledges K-P Autonomy, Rejects Military Operations

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur criticised the decisions of the past governments, asserting that his administration will make its own decisions and will not allow any operations in the province. Addressing a peace procession in Bannu on Friday, Gandapur highlighted the historical significance of the Pashtun people in the province, emphasising their crucial role in Pakistan's independence. He stated, "We have shed blood and made sacrifices. We have suffered due to flawed policies influenced by America's wrong strategies."



Gandapur firmly declared that as the Chief Minister, he would not permit any operations in the province. He remarked, "Dollars have been taken in our name, but sacrifice is in our blood, and we will continue to sacrifice for this country." He paid tribute to the people of Bannu for their sacrifices and commended the administration for its efforts. "We will make our own decisions. I salute the sacrifices of the people of Bannu, and the administration has played a significant role. We have followed your wishes in the Apex Committee."

He further urged, "Identify and fight against corruption and drugs, and I will stand with you." Gandapur underscored the importance of national duty, adding, "We may disagree individually, but no one will be allowed to insult or hurt the martyrs. The martyrs of the Pakistan Army and police are our martyrs."

He concluded by saying, "There will be development work in the province without any publicity. I promise to build the Bannu ground for you and ensure we get our rightful share." —RT/Agency

# ADB Approves \$400M Loan For Pakistan's Flood Rehabilitation

MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today approved a \$400 million concessional loan to support the reconstruction of houses and community infrastructure in Sindh damaged by the devastating floods in 2022.



The Sindh Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project will rehabilitate flood-damaged houses and community infrastructure and support livelihood recovery, with a focus on strengthening communities' resilience against climate change-induced natural hazards.

"ADB's support will not only help Pakistan build back better, but it will also promote community-led climate resilience and disaster risk management strategies to better prepare for future hazards," said ADB Director for Water and Urban Development Srinivas Sampath.

This project is a key part of ADB's multifaceted response to Pakistan's flood crisis and forms part of the government's commitment to provide \$1.5 billion in total assistance from 2023 to 2025 to accelerate the country's flood recovery.

Two years on, many victims still reside in inadequate, temporary shelters lacking essential services such as water, sanitation, and electricity. The project will support conditional cash grants for the reconstruction of 250,000 houses with multi-hazard resilient and environment-responsive designs.

"It will also support community-driven construction of infrastructure such as drinking water facilities, sanitation facilities, covered drainage, and renewable energy solutions for 100,000 households in around 1,000 flood-damaged villages in Sindh.

The project will also support conditional cash grants for livestock, agriculture, small enterprises, and e-commerce. "We are coordinating closely with other development partners to support the government's recovery and reconstruction priorities."

"This project will help rebuild homes and communities, and restore livelihood and basic services in Sindh, the province most affected by the devastating 2022 floods," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeny Zhukov.

—RT/Agency

# Law Minister Tarar Rules Out Early Elections



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law, Azam Nazeer Tarar, has categorically rejected any possibility of early elections, stating that such a notion is merely a wish of the opposition leader.

In his statement, Azam Nazeer Tarar emphasized that the elections will be conducted as per the scheduled timeline, asserting the government's commitment to constitutional mandates. Tarar highlighted that the constitution clearly stipulates a five-year term for the assemblies, thereby negating any speculations or rumors about early elections. He assured that the current situation does not necessitate premature elections, affirming that everything is functioning smoothly within the political framework. Addressing the stability of the governmental operations, Tarar expressed confidence that, with God's will, the assemblies will successfully complete their designated five-year term. His statement comes in the wake of ongoing discussions and conjectures about the political climate and the potential for early elections.

# Finance Minister Briefs China On Bold Reforms And IMF Plans

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, during a meeting with high-ranking officials from the Chinese institutions on Friday, briefed them about the government's reform agenda and engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



According to press release issued by finance ministry here, the finance minister and Minister for Power, Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari held meetings with Governor of People's Bank of China (PBOC), Pan Gongsheng and Vice Administrator National Energy Administration (NEA), Ren Jingong. Ambassador Khalil Hashmi and officials of the Embassy accompanied the Ministers, according to the press release. The discussions focused on the significant strides made by Pakistan in improving its macroeconomic indicators by focused reforms in taxation, energy and privatization of the state-owned enterprises. The reforms have already started showing their results, particularly, reducing inflation from 38% to 13% marks a substantial achievement for the economy.

Additionally, the stabilization of the exchange rate and the bolstering of foreign exchange reserves were highlighted as key factors contributing to the economic upturn. There was consensus was that such reforms are indispensable for achieving long-term stability and fostering sustainable economic growth. The Governor's recognition of Pakistan's policy measures reflects a broader international perspective on the importance of economic resilience and the positive impact of prudent fiscal management, the statement added.

Underlining Pakistan's plan to launch Panda Bonds, Minister for Finance briefed PBOC and other Financial Institutions about the steps taken so far and sought cooperation of the Chinese institutional investors in the capital market and seek benefit from the pro-business policies of the new Government. Lauding President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) both the Ministers noted the achievements during the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of BRI, for strengthening the infrastructure in energy, transport sectors along with others.

It was highlighted that during the next phase of CPEC, focus is on strengthening B2B cooperation, with the former's recent visit to China. —RT/Agency

# Government Still Open For Talks: Tarar Accuses JI Of Sit-In Venue Violation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar accused Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) of breaching the agreement with the government about concluding their protest against inflation with a rally at Liaquat Bagh. However, the government remains open to dialogue, he added.



"When it was agreed to hold the rally at Liaquat Bagh, the march towards Islamabad is incomprehensible," he said while addressing a press conference alongside Amir Muqam in Islamabad on Friday.

Tarar emphasized that the government is still willing to engage in talks with Jamaat-e-Islami. Reacting to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's speech at the Bannu rally, Tarar remarked, "We understand his constraints. He reassures in the Apex Committee, but speaks differently in public. After the decision to bring back TTP terrorists, terrorism has increased."

Tarar criticised the CM Gandapur further, saying, "What should have been only allowing one lane of traffic. This has resulted in long queues of vehicles and significant inconvenience for residents. Additional containers have been placed under the Zero Point Bridge too, leaving only two lanes open for traffic. A heavy police presence is deployed at Faizabad, equipped with water cannons and tear gas. Operational police units have been issued 10,000 tear gas shells from police lines to manage the protesters. Heads of three government hospitals have been instructed to keep their emergency departments on high alert until Monday to handle any potential emergencies arising from the situation." —RT/Agency

The arrested individuals have been transported in prisoner vans, and the routes leading to D-Chowk have been blocked with containers by the police and administration. Containers have also been placed at the city's entry points, and major roads and intersections are

# Ahsan Iqbal: AI Policy Set For Cabinet Approval Next Month

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal announced on Friday that the final draft of Pakistan's Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy will be presented to the Federal Cabinet for approval in August. Addressing a meeting of the Special Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, Iqbal urged relevant parties to expedite consultations with stakeholders. He emphasised AI's current role in global advancement, stating, "Artificial intelligence is not the future but the present reality in the world." Iqbal highlighted the PML-N government's achievements in AI, noting the establishment of the National Center for Artificial Intelligence in 2017 and the National Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in 2023. He stressed that these initiatives were crucial for Pakistan's progress in this field.



Reflecting on past challenges, Iqbal criticised previous inconsistencies in policy that hindered economic development. He also highlighted ongoing obstacles to economic progress, attributing these to disruptive elements within the country. During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China, a commitment was made to provide IT training to 200,000 Pakistani youths. This initiative aims to address modern technological challenges Iqbal stressed the importance of catching up with global advancements in AI and mentioned that some countries have been restrictive regarding Pakistani students' access to technology education. Despite this, he affirmed Pakistan's commitment to acquiring modern technology. He called for the sharing of task force recommendations with provincial authorities and announced a forthcoming National Conference on Artificial Intelligence. Iqbal expressed confidence that AI would revolutionise key sectors including health, education, finance, and agriculture. He challenged the notion that Pakistani youth could not create successful technology platforms comparable to global giants like Facebook and Twitter. —RT/Agency

# Britain Drops ICC Challenge Against Netanyahu And Gallant

LONDON: Britain said on Friday it would not proceed with efforts to question whether the International Criminal Court (ICC) has jurisdiction to issue arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. In May, the ICC's prosecutor said he had requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant and three Hamas leaders over alleged war crimes. Court documents made public in June showed Britain, an ICC member state, had filed a request with the court to provide written observations on whether "the court can exercise jurisdiction over Israeli nationals, in circumstances where Palestine cannot exercise criminal jurisdiction over Israeli nationals (under the Oslo Accords)". Since then, Britain has elected a new government run by the Labour Party, and Prime Minister Keir Starmer's spokesperson said the previous government had not submitted its proposal before the July 4 election. "On the ICC submission... I can confirm the government will not be pursuing (the proposal) in line with our long-standing position that this is a matter for the court to decide on," the spokesperson told reporters. —RT/Agency



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