

SC hears pleas against judges transfer, serves notice to acting IHC CJ

Islamabad(News Desk) A five-member constitutional bench of the Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) acting chief justice and its two other judges as it took up pleas against their recent transfer to the court and the subsequent changes in the seniority list.

The bench — headed by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and comprising Justices Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Shahid Bilal Hassan, Salahuddin Panhwar, and Shakeel Ahmed — took up petitions filed by five IHC judges, the Karachi Bar Association (KBA) and the IHC Bar Association,

among others.

In February, Justice Sardar Mohammad Sarfraz Dogar from the Lahore High Court (LHC), Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro from the Sindh High Court (SHC) and Justice Muhammad Asif from the Balochistan High Court (BHC) were transferred to the IHC. The controversy centres around the alteration of the judges' seniority list after these transfers as Justice Dogar was made the senior puisne judge, which paved the way for his appointment as the acting IHC CJ after Justice Aamer Farooq's elevation to the SC. Today, the five-member bench took up a set of petitions over the

matter.

Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan appeared before the court to represent the government, while Idrees Ashraf was present as the lawyer for ex-premier Imran Khan and Raja Muqsit. Ex-AGP Munir A. Malik and former SHC Bar Association president Barrister Salahuddin Ahmed appeared to plead the case on behalf of the IHC judges. Faissal Siddiqui attended the hearing as the KBA counsel, while Hamid Khan was present as the Lahore Bar Association's (LBA) lawyer. The bench served notices to the three transferred judges — namely IHC

acting CJ Dogar, as well as justices Soomro and Asif. It also issued notices to the registrars of the IHC and the other three high courts from where judges were transferred. However, the bench rejected the petitioners' request to restrain the transferred judges from performing their duties.

A notice was also issued to AGP Awan. Subsequently, the hearing was adjourned till April 17 (Thursday). President Asif Ali Zardari on February 1 had approved the transfer of one judge each from the high courts of Lahore, Balochistan and Sindh to the IHC, despite opposition from five of its judges.



JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman speaks at the event. in Karachi to condemn Israeli brutalities

Nationwide protests held against corporate farming, new canals

LAHORE: (News Desk) Nationwide protests were held against corporate farming, construction of six canals, lack of wheat support price, and privatisation of Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation on Sunday. The protests were organised by the Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee (PKRC) in 30 towns and cities, including Islamabad, Lahore, Bahawalpur, Rajanpur, Jhang, Kacha Khu (Khanewal), Bhakkar, Ja-toi, Shikarpur, Larkana, Sukkur, Badin, Mardan, Dir, Malakand and Lakki Marwat. The PKRC had launched a campaign against corporate farming, construction of controversial canals, and government's refusal to fix a minimum support price for wheat. Addressing farmers in Kacha Khu, PKRC Secretary General Farooq Tariq said the government had leased out at least 1.7 million acres of agricultural land to corporate entities.

LHC says viral video of Kasur party raid 'unacceptable in any society'



Lahore (News Desk) Lahore High Court's (LHC) Justice Ali Zia Bajwa on Monday castigated the Kasur police over the circulation of a video showing people arrested at a dance party, noting that such an act was "unacceptable in any society".

Kasur's Mustafabad police raided a farmhouse near Pakki Haveli village on April 4, arresting 30 men and 25 women over allegations of obscene dancing and the use of loudspeakers and drugs.

However, the next day, a local court discharged the suspects from the case and ordered their release. Subsequently, Kasur District Police Officer (DPO) Essa Khan Sukhera suspended a total of five police officials involved in sharing a video of the suspects in custody. Today, Justice Bajwa resumed hearing a contempt petition filed by Vishal Shakir, a lawyer, against the Kasur DPO for violating earlier court orders prohibiting the filming of detainees.

During the hearing, DPO Khan appeared before the court as per its April 11 order.

The judge then issued notices to three of the suspended cops — Station House Officer (SHO) Saqlain Bukhari, Sub-inspector Muhammad Sadiq and Constable Na-deem Nagi. In December 2023, Justice Bajwa had restrained public functionaries from exposing under-trial/custody suspects to media coverage.

PM Shehbaz regrets persistent use of Afghan soil by terrorists

LONDON: (News Desk) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed regret over the continued use of Afghan soil by terrorist groups to carry out attacks inside Pakistan, calling it a "painful reality".

Speaking to reporters outside Avenfield apartments, where he met PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, the PM stressed the need for peaceful relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Deputy PM Ishaq Dar was also present during the visit.

Sharing concerns over attacks, PM Shehbaz

said, "We have repeatedly urged the Afghan interim government to ensure its territory is not used, in line with the Doha agreement, against Pakistan or its interests. Unfortunately, terrorist outfits such as TTP and other groups continue to operate from Afghan soil, taking innocent lives in Pakistan."

Asking Kabul to take action and restrain these elements, the PM said Afghanistan was "our brotherly nation" and as neighbours, it is essential for both nations to "coexist peacefully and harmoniously". The

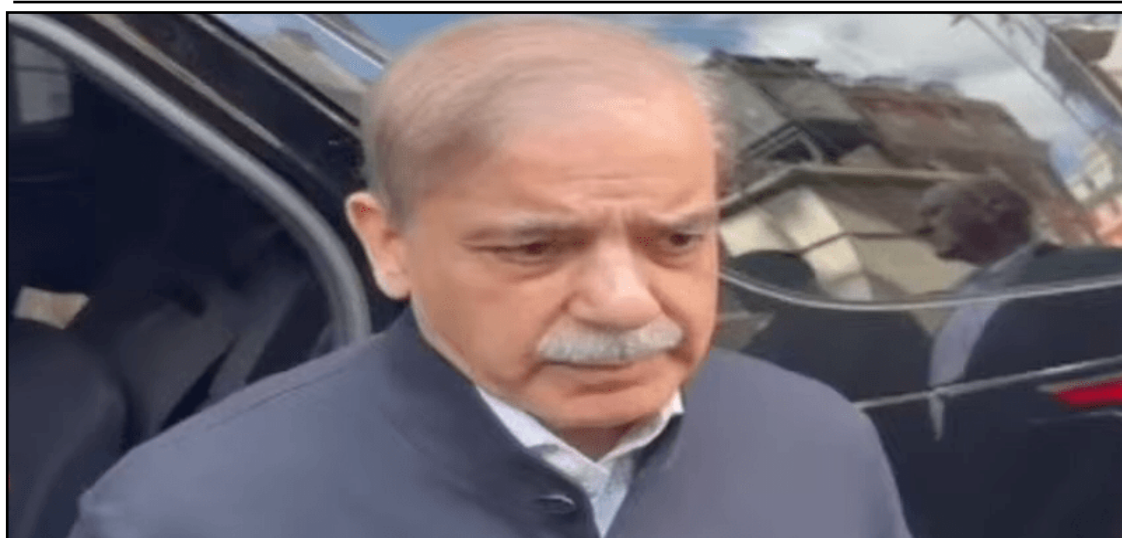
premier also reflected on his visit to Belarus, describing his talks with the Belarusian leadership as fruitful.

The premier also reflected on his visit to Belarus, describing his talks with the Belarusian leadership as fruitful. "We explored several avenues for cooperation, especially in agriculture, where Belarus possesses significant expertise. Pakistan, blessed with vast mineral wealth, can also benefit from Belarusian machinery," he said. The premier also reflected on his visit to Belarus, describing his

talks with the Belarusian leadership as fruitful.

"During the visit, we toured a factory, and an understanding was reached which could see around 150,000 skilled Pakistani workers secure employment opportunities in Belarus," the PM said.

He said, "We've steered Pakistan away from the brink of economic default, and the prayers of the people have played a key role in this journey." PM Shehbaz, along with Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, is scheduled to return to Pakistan from London on Monday.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif speaks to reporters outside Avenfield apartments after meeting his brother Nawaz Sharif, in London on April 13, 2025

Punjab CTD says it foiled major attacks by arresting 10 terrorists of banned outfits

Lahore (News Desk) Punjab's Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) foiled major attacks by arresting 10 terrorists belonging to banned organisations during 189 operations in different areas of the province, the law-enforcement agency said on Monday.

Last month, Punjab's CTD arrested 10 terrorists following 73 intelli-

gence-based operations (IBOs) across the province.

According to the CTD Punjab spokesperson in a statement issued today, the law-enforcement agency conducted 189 intelligence-based operations in different districts of the province in which 189 suspects were questioned and 10 terrorists were arrested

along with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

These terrorists were arrested during intelligence-based operations in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Jhelum and Bahawalpur.

"The arrested terrorists include Badal Singh, Suraj Singh, Siraj, Hidayatullah, Deedar Hussain, Sadaqat

Hussain and others, the statement said, adding that the terrorists are affiliated with Fitna Khawarij, Al-Zainabiyoun and other organisations. "Terrorists Suraj Singh and Badal Singh were arrested from Rawalpindi along with a large quantity of explosives. Both terrorists belong to Nankana Sahib," the statement added.

Convention for overseas Pakistanis begins in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Hundreds of overseas Pakistanis from around 60 countries arrived here on Sunday to participate in the first-ever Overseas Pakistanis' Convention, which will provide them an opportunity to connect face-to-face with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and senior government officials.

"Today Overseas Convention has started and Alhamdulillah, it will be a large historic convention. Overseas Pakistanis are coming to their home Pakistan," said PM Shehbaz in a statement from London.

He said the convention would be a great opportunity to talk to them, assuring them that he would listen closely to their just demands and would implement them speedily as much as possible. A special desk was established at the airport to welcome them. They have been given the status of state guest on PM's instructions. While the three-day event kicked off with a cultural food festival along with folk music at Lok Virsa on Sunday evening, the formal inauguration of the convention will be held on Monday.

Islamabad's Adiala Road Flyover project likely to miss April 15 deadline

RAWALPINDI: (News Desk) The Adiala Road Flyover project worth Rs2.113 billion will miss the completion deadline of April 15 set by the Punjab government due to the slow pace of work by the Communication and Works department. So far, only 65 per cent work has been completed. A senior official of the district administration told Dawn that the project will be completed by May-end as more than 30 per cent work was still pending. He said so far 15 girders have been installed on the pillars. After completing the girders, a test would be conducted which would take a week. He said the communication department had informed the administration that during Ramadan the work slowed down coupled with rain and the Eid holidays. If the construction work is sped up, it would compromise on the quality of work, said the official, adding the flyover will be open for traffic by May-end after test rides.

JUI-F holds big rally in Karachi to condemn Israeli brutalities

KARACHI: (News Desk) At a big rally in Karachi to condemn Israeli brutalities in Gaza on Sunday, Jami-at Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman warned that if anyone attempted to recognise Israel or establish political or economic ties with the illegitimate Zionist country, they would face dire consequences.

The JUI-F chief announced a "million march" in Lahore on April 27 to show solidarity with the people of Palestine.

Addressing the rally on Shahrah-i-Qadeem, the JUI-F chief said that the people of Pakistan would gather at Minar-i-Pakistan on April 27 to condemn the Israeli aggression.

"Our struggle will continue in solidarity with the people of Palestine. Anyone attempting to recognise Israel or establish political or economic ties with it will face dire consequences — we will break their legs," he warned. He said that the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, had a clear stance on Israel, declaring it an illegitimate state.

"No one will be allowed to deviate from this position," he warned. The Maulana also expressed support for a declaration of Jihad issued by scholars under the platform of Majlis Ittehad-i-Ummat Pakistan. "We endorse this call. Supporting Gaza's Muslims through moral, diplomatic, and all forms of aid is a religious duty for all of us," he said. The JUI-F chief also said that their rally sent a message of courage to the Arab world and Gaza, and that Palestinians were not alone, and the people of Pakistan were standing with them. "Over 70,000 people, including women and children, had been killed in Gaza, but Muslim leaders were still acting like puppets of the US and remained silent," he said.

Sindh govt to consult US experts as blaze in Karachi's Korangi rages unabated for 18 days

Karachi(News Desk) American experts will be consulted to help extinguish the massive fire that erupted during drilling near an oil refinery in Korangi Creek on March 28, according to a statement by the Sindh chief secretary's spokesperson.

Last Sunday, it emerged that the fire that had erupted during the digging of a housing project late last month was likely triggered due to a concentration of a larger quantity of chemicals than permis-

sible limits.

Last week, the federal government also constituted a committee of experts to conduct a detailed technical investigation to assess the cause and extent of the blaze.

"The Ministry of Petroleum has hired the services of the American company Cudd Well Control," the Sindh chief secretary's spokesperson Farhat Imtiaz Janwari said. The spokesperson added that the technical teams of Pakistan Petroleum

Limited (PPL) and United Energy Pakistan Limited (UEPL) jointly visited the affected area.

A team comprising drilling, completion and safety experts inspected the site. "During the inspection, it was observed that the intensity of the fire has not decreased, the borehole has further expanded due to the volume of gas, and hot water continues to leak," Janwari added. He said that consultations with experts are ongoing to implement the strategy

of filling the the borehole with cement, and if necessary, the decision to dig a new well and reach the source of gas will be based on the experts' report. The spokesperson continued that modern equipment is being ordered to determine the quantity and temperature of the gas.

"The Sindh government is in constant touch with the relevant agencies to deal with this emergency situation," he concluded.



Last week, a huge fire broke out in a factory inside the Export Processing Zone located in Karachi's Landhi Industrial Area Extension, police

ue ser Exposing severe emergency management flaws in the metropolis, an audit survey in November 2023 had revealed that some 260 out of 266.