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The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

PM's Comments On 'Black Sheep' Draw Supreme Court Judges' Ire

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recent "black sheep remarks" have drawn the ire Supreme Court's judges, who asked the top executive official to knock on the doors of relevant forums if he had complaints.

The remarks from the judges came during a hearing of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendment case earlier today.

Addressing an event on Tuesday, PM Shehbaz had said: "You are Pakistanis; you are judges. If development does not return to Pakistan, then there will be no judges, no politicians, and no one else."

Do you want this? I believe that most of these judges are Pakistanis and think about Pakistan's development, but some 'black sheep' are helping [PTI founder] Imran Khan."

The incumbent premier said when former PM Nawaz Sharif was under trial, he would not get bail in his cases, but currently, there are discussions about how the PTI founder can be



sent out on bail and his cases be dismissed. During the hearing, a five-member SC larger bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi conducted the hearing on NAB amendment case.

During the hearing, Justice Mandokhail, while interacting with Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan, observed that the prime minister labelled the judges as "black sheep." "If you like the decision then a judge is fine but if you dislike the verdict then a judge becomes black sheep," Justice Mandokhail remarked. Responding to the remarks, the AGP clarified that the PM did not label the "honourable judges" as black sheep. "This [black sheep remarks] was not aimed" at incumbent judges," the AGP added. Justice Minallah also apparently expressed annoyance over the remarks, saying: "We are not black sheep [but] we are black bumble bee so PM can get the benefit of doubt."

"The judge also told the AGP to ask the premier to file reference against 'black sheep' in the judiciary.—RT/Agency

COAS Emphasizes Justice For May 9 Culprits To Uphold Stability And Rule of Law

RAWALPINDI: The country's military leadership Thursday called for bringing to justice the planners, perpetrators, abettors, and facilitators of May 9 riots for the "collective good of the country."

The Pakistan Army also maintained that stability in the country will remain hostage to the machinations of such elements without swift and transparent dispensation of justice to the culprits and establishing the rule of law, the military's media wing said in a statement.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's resolve was communicated during the 83rd Formation Commanders Conference at the General Headquarters (GHQ) presided by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir.

The statement issued by the ISPR about the forum — attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers, and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army — comes weeks after the country observed the completion of a year to the violent riots that ravaged the nation, harming the sanctity of state institutions, on May 9, 2023.

The riots followed Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's arrest on the aforementioned date during which party workers protested and took to the



streets across the country, damaging public and private property.

During the forum, the military leadership underscored that politically motivated and vested digital terrorism, unleashed by conspirators duly abetted by their foreign cohorts, against state institutions is clearly meant to try to induce dependency in the Pakistani nation, to sow discord among national institutions, especially the Armed Forces, and the people of Pakistan by peddling blatant lies, fake news, and propaganda.

"However, the nation is fully cognisant of their ugly and ulterior motives and surely the designs of these nefarious forces will be comprehensively defeated, InshaAllah," said the forum.

The forum, the ISPR added, was briefed on the dynamics of the geo-strategic environment, emerging challenges to national security, and the Army's strategy to counter multi-domain

nally propagated narratives of exclusion, exploited by foreign-sponsored proxies to lead Balochistan's youth away from peace and progress.

It resolved to continue its full support towards government initiatives in various domains for sustainable economic growth and curbing illegal activities, including smuggling, hoarding, electricity theft, implementation of one document regime, dignified repatriation of illegal foreigners, and safeguarding of the national database, etc.

"The COAS appreciated the high standard of training displayed by formations during various exercises and the excellent performance of officers and troops in counter-terrorism operations," the statement read.

It added that the COAS commended the formations for their high morale and round-the-clock operational readiness.

The participants at the forum expressed their complete satisfaction with the steps being taken at the army level for the training, administration, and welfare of serving and retired officers and troops. The forum noted the significant milestone achieved by Pakistan on Youm-e-Takbir and its stabilising impact on the region.

Reviewing the prevailing situation on the Eastern border and the latest round of extra-judicial 'murders' in IIOJK, the forum expressed complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in UNSC Resolutions.

The forum showed concern over the treatment of minorities, especially Muslims, in India and noted the growing fascism being perpetrated to achieve vested political ends, the statement mentioned.

The country's military leadership also expressed complete solidarity with the people of Palestine and condemned serious human rights violations and war crimes being perpetrated in Gaza, supporting the International Court of Justice decision to stop Rafah Operation and all other operations within the Gaza Strip.

The conference concluded by affirming the resolve to neutralise all threats to the security and stability of the country with the full backing of the prod nation.

The leadership of the country's military also offered fatha and paid tribute to the supreme sacrifices of martyrs, including officers and men of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies, and citizens of Pakistan who laid their lives for the country's safety, security, and sovereignty.—RT/Agency

PAKSAT MM1: Pakistan Launches Second Satellite Into Space To Enhance Internet Connectivity

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's advanced communication satellite, PAKSAT MM1, has been launched into space in collaboration with China, making it Islamabad's second satellite to be sent into orbit.

The satellite, launched from China's Xichang Satellite Launch Center (XSLC), will help usher Pakistan into the digital era by helping to provide internet to remote areas, the Spa-ce and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) said.

The satellite — which will take around four days to reach space — is expected to contribute to the establishment of a sophisticated communication network and help meet the growing demands of the telecom sector and its advanced capabilities will address the increasing demand for high-speed internet and seamless connectivity.

The agency, in a statement, had said: "This high-power multi-mission satellite will provide communication services in C, Ku, Ka Bands and SBAS services in L Band."

Based on advanced



communication technologies, PakSat-MM1 will play a pivotal role in the socio-economic uplift of the country, SUPARCO said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the nation on the satellite's launch, hoping it would help provide the fastest internet facility throughout the country.

"I am particularly excited about the potential impact of PakSat MM1 on internet connectivity across Pakistan," the premier said in a statement. The prime minister said that PakSat MM1 would not only enhance the lives of Pakistani citizens but also contribute to the promotion of economic activities, e-commerce, and e-governance.

Before PAKSAT MM1, Pakistan's historic

Acting President Gilani Pledges Public Relief In Upcoming Budget



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Thursday stressed the need for extending maximum relief to the masses through the upcoming federal budget, and the formulation of a comprehensive strategy to enhance the revenue.

The acting president said this in a meeting with Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, who called on him here at the

Leghari Announces Power Outages For Areas On Loss-Making Feeders

ISLAMABAD: Energy Minister Awaiz Leghari has stated that areas that fall in the loss-making feeders would continue to face power outages amid sizzling weather with temperatures rising above 50°C in some areas of Sindh.

His statement came as sporadic protests continue in various parts of the country against unannounced loadshedding amid scorching heat.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday, Leghari said he directed the power distribution companies (Discos) to improve their overall performance and minimise loadshedding duration.

The energy minister also instructed the distribution companies to present details of the demand and supply of electricity on a daily basis before the public.

He said the management of power distribution companies will be replaced with competent personnel.

Blaming the high-loss



feeders, technical faults and Punjabicity theft as a major reason for power outages, the energy minister said a system was being revamped gradually to overcome loadshedding.

He said there is a shortfall of 4,232 megawatts in the country and high-loss feeders were not in a position to bear this shortfall.

Leghari said that there are 150 loss-making feeders in Punjab, 700 in Sindh, 350 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and around 80 in Balochistan, which will be overhauled.

He said there is an ample capacity for electricity gener-

ation available in the country and vowed to fulfil the demand for electricity during this summer and the upcoming year.

The energy minister also reiterated that the federal government was discontinuing the solar net metering policy and added that any decision in this regard would be made with the consultation of all stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for Power Ali Pervaiz Malik urged people to identify power theft as their cooperation is inevitable to overcome loadshedding.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Approves Investigation Into Four Officers Involved In Wheat Scandal

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday has green signal for a probe against the four officers involved in the wheat import scandal, media reported citing sources.

According to sources, the Prime Minister has appointed Secretary of Commerce, Muhammad Saleh Ahmad Farooqui, as the inquiry officer to investigate the suspended officials.

The investigation will be conducted under the Civil Servants (Efficiency and Discipline) Rules, and the suspended officials will be probed for poor planning and negligence.

Earlier, PM Shehbaz ordered the removal of four officers involved in the wheat import scandal. The prime minister directed to suspend four officials of the Ministry of National Food Security over

MQM Delegation Presents Its Budget Proposals To PM

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan Quami Movement (MQM) delegation led by Minister for Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Thursday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed with him matters pertaining to the Federal Budget 2024-25.

The MQM delegation presented their proposals regarding the budget to the prime minister.

PM Shehbaz appreciated the party's input for the budget. He acknowledged the significance of Karachi — the country's largest city and economic hub, and assured that the government was committed to addressing its issues as a top priority.



He said the MQM was an important ally of the government. "The government will work together with its allies to bring the country out of economic challenges," he vowed.

The MQM delegation included Dr Muhammad Farooq Sitar, Mustafa Kamal, Amin ul Haq, Javed Hanif and Abdul Hafiz.

Deputy Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah also attended the meeting.—RT/Agency

Khawaja Vows To Eradicate Extremism And Terrorism

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif reiterated that Pakistan was determined to wipe out the menace of extremism and terrorism.

Addressing a seminar on anti-terrorism in Islamabad, Asif stated that extremism not only wreaked havoc on economy and precious lives but also affected social fabric.

He stressed that the circumstances demanded new strategic approaches to mitigate the challenges of extremism. He highlighted that Pakistan had borne the price due to extremism. Pakistan was facing multiple challenges including terrorism and it was fighting it. He high-



lighted the sacrifices made by the armed forces against terrorism. He said there was evidence of all relevant state institutions performed commendable duties to eradicate extremism. The minister affirmed that the National Action Plan was

being successfully implemented. He disclosed that there was evidence of cross-border elements involved in terrorism incidents. He stressed the need for concerted efforts to fight terrorism.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Employees of Paretabad Town Committee are holding a protest demonstration against the non-payment of their salaries, at the Hyderabad press club. Photo by Nazim Photographer

MNA Dr Nafisa Shah sends two Khairpur farmers to Islamabad for training on gardening flowers

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: In a bid to empower local farmers and promote innovative agricultural practices, PPP Member of National Assembly (MNA) Dr. Nafisa Shah Jilani has taken a proactive step by sending two farmers from Khairpur village to Islamabad for specialized training in cultivating some of the world's most sought-after flowers.



Under Dr. Nafisa Shah's initiative, the selected farmers will undergo a two-day training program aimed at mastering the art of cultivating high-value flowers. Upon completing their training, they will return to their village, equipped with valuable knowledge and skills, to educate fellow farmers across the district about the techniques and benefits of flower cultivation.

The potential to uplift communities by providing opportunities for those who are currently unemployed. Dr. Nafisa Shah's endeavor underscores her commitment to fostering sustainable development and empowering rural communities through innovative agricultural practices, setting a commendable example for other policymakers and leaders to follow.

It is reported that in many foreign countries, these exotic flowers are not only prized for their beauty but also utilized in the production of beverages, fetching substantial prices in interna-

Local women, who often rely on flower cultivation for their livelihoods, have expressed gratitude to Dr. Nafisa Jilani for her visionary approach. They believe that initiatives like these hold

Tando Jam Police register a robbery case against a 15-year-old boy

By Ifan Khushk

TANDO JAM: In a dramatic turn of events, the Tando Jam Police have ignited a firestorm of controversy by registering a case of robbery against a 15-year-old student, identified as Mudaris Jamali, who hails from the village. According to reports, the teenager, a tenth-grade student, finds himself embroiled in a legal battle despite his young age. The case, filed against Jamali, has sent shockwaves through the community, prompting swift action from both law enforcement and local residents.



House Officer (SHO) of Tando Jam Police Station. They allege that the case is fabricated and have accused the authorities of targeting their community. In a display of defiance, members of the Jamali community took to the streets in a protest demonstration, demanding justice and calling for the intervention of the higher courts. They argue that the actions of the police have caused undue distress and tarnished the reputation of

The incident has sparked a heated debate regarding the handling of juvenile cases and the conduct of law enforcement agencies. Many are questioning the decision to pursue legal action against a minor and are calling for a thorough investigation into the matter. As tensions continue to simmer in Tando Jam, all eyes are now on the judiciary to ensure a fair and impartial resolution to this contentious case.

Four homes gutted in Phulji Station fire



By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: A devastating fire broke out in the village of Rukan on Thursday, leaving four homes of laborers completely gutted. The blaze resulted in significant property damage, with nearly all the valuables in the homes of Roshan Ali Chandio, Abdul Majeed Chandio, Juman Chandio, and Khadim Chandio reduced to ashes. Tragically, a youth named Khadim Hussain Chandio sustained severe burn injuries in the incident. Upon receiving information about the

fire, fire brigade vehicles promptly arrived at the scene and managed to extinguish the flames. Deputy Commissioner Fahim Ahmed Chachar and Assistant Commissioner Dr. Shahmatwaz Mirani were also present at the site. They supervised the efforts to shift the injured youth to the Civil Hospital in Dadu for urgent medical treatment. In a show of support, District Council Chairman Syed Muhammad Shah visited the fire victims and assured them of relief and assistance during this difficult time.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of Sindhi Tehreek are holding a protest demonstration against the killing of Journalist Nasrullah and demanding justice for him, at the Hyderabad press club. Photo by Nazim Photographer

PTI's Haleem Adil Shaikh concerned over problems being faced by Jhudo residents

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President, Haleem Adil Shaikh, embarked on a visit to Taluka Jhudo, where he addressed the media in front of the town committee, shedding light on the multitude of challenges confronting the local populace.



Shaikh drew attention to the persistent water supply disruptions plaguing Mir Ghulam Hussain Colony and the delayed construction of the WAPDA grid station, despite its prior approval. He also lamented the rampant unannounced load shedding, the deplorable state of roads dating back 35 years, the inadequate sewerage system, and the illegal occupation of the old river waterway by nefarious elements.

This convention aims to serve as a platform for the local populace to peacefully protest against the injustices and mistreatment they endure.

Assuring the residents of Jhudo of PTI's unwavering support, Shaikh underscored the party's commitment to

addressing the grievances of the people. He proposed a peaceful protest sit-in as a means for the community to voice their concerns effectively. In collaboration with Muhammad Iqbal Ghori, Shaikh suggested organizing a convention in Jhudo, inviting all PTI parliamentary members from both national and provincial assemblies.

Khadro Police arrest most wanted drug dealer Noor Bakhsh Brohi



By Akhtar Marri

KHADRO: In a significant breakthrough against drug trafficking, Khadro Police, acting under the directives of SSP Sanghar, executed a major operation resulting in the apprehension of a notorious drug dealer, Noor Bakhsh Brohi.

number 15/2024 u/s 9(i)3 of the CNSA (Control of Narcotic Substances Act) SHO Khadro Zakir Hussain Solangi emphasized the significance of this operation, highlighting Brohi's status as a high-profile drug dealer whose name featured prominently on the list issued by the IG Sindh.

Led by SHO Khadro Zakir Hussain Solangi and Sub-Inspector Ashiq Jai, the police patrol team conducted a meticulous operation, culminating in the arrest of Brohi with a substantial quantity of contraband. Brohi was found in possession of 1100 grams of hashish at the time of his apprehension.

Solangi confirmed the successful execution of Brohi's arrest, underscoring the relentless efforts of Khadro Police in combating drug-related crimes and ensuring the safety and security of the community. The arrest of Noor Bakhsh Brohi marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to curtail drug trafficking and uphold the rule of law.

DC Tando Mohammad Khan Dharmoon Bhawani attends prize distribution ceremony at Government Boys High School



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Deputy Commissioner Tando Muhammad Khan, Dharmoon Bhawani, graced the farewell and annual award ceremony at Government Boys Campus High School Soomra Muhalla, where he extolled the pivotal role of educators in shaping the destinies of students.

As a gesture of appreciation, lungis were presented to the esteemed guests, with the school headmistress, Apa Allah Bachai, honoring Deputy Commissioner Tando Muhammad Khan with an appreciation shield for his unwavering support to the school and its endeavors.

In his address, Bhawani underscored the importance of perseverance and hard work in effecting positive transformations in both individual lives and the broader trajectory of the nation. He emphasized that knowledge stands as the most potent instrument for national advancement, and concerted ef-

orts in this regard yield tangible outcomes, particularly in today's fiercely competitive landscape. Addressing the students, Bhawani acknowledged the emotional nature inherent to their age and urged them to remain steadfast in their endeavors, as they are the torchbearers of the nation's future. He encouraged them to embrace challenges with resilience and determination, knowing that their efforts will pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

The event showcased various competitions, including speech contests and tableau presentations, showcasing the talents and creativity of the school's students. Prizes were awarded to the deserving winners in recognition of their achievements.

Prolonged power outages irk Kunri residents

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: Despite achieving 100% recovery, residents of Kunri find themselves grappling with the onset of severe load shedding amidst scorching temperatures, sparking frustration and discontent among the populace.

necessitated the extension of the load shedding period until June 8. This extension has added to the woes of the residents, who are already grappling with the adverse effects of prolonged power outages.

The sudden escalation in power outages has dealt a significant blow to the daily lives of Kunri's residents, resulting in substantial losses and exacerbating the already challenging circumstances exacerbated by the extreme heat. Business activities have been particularly hard hit, further exacerbating the economic strain on the community.

Voicing their frustration, residents lamented the imposition of a 10-hour load shedding schedule in HESCO's Sub-Division Kunri, branding it as unjust and unreasonable.

According to sources within the local administration of HESCO (Hyderabad Electric Supply Company), ongoing WAPDA development projects in various neighborhoods, including Baloch Para, have

Residents have urged higher authorities, including the HESCO Chief, to intervene and address their grievances promptly. They emphasized the urgent need for a resolution to the power crisis, underscoring its detrimental impact on their daily lives and livelihoods.



HYDERABAD: All Sindh Primary Teachers Association (ASPTA) Provincial President, Haji Shafi Muhammad is administering oath to the newly elected office-bearers of the ASPTA. Photo by Nazim Photographer



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of PPP Shaheed Bhutto are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club for the recovery of missing Priya Kumari and Ubaid Shah. Photo by Nazim Photographer

NATIONAL



THE HEARTLAND

Teacher Suspected In Arson Attack On Girls' School In North Waziristan

PESHAWAR: Police in North Waziristan on Thursday revealed that a teacher was found involved in torching a girls' school after carrying out an initial investigation into the incident.

The Golden Arrow Girls Middle School in Shakhimmar village of Razmak tehsil was set ablaze on the night of May 25.



According to a first information report (FIR) registered against the teacher, the five masked armed men barged into the school and torched the classrooms.

The FIR stated that the school was set on fire at the behest of the teacher in a bid to create fear and harass the students.

Furniture, ceiling, computers, books, and other equipment of the school were gutted in the blaze.

The school administration said the enemies of education had also damaged the school solar system with firing some time ago.

Over 400 girl students are enrolled in the school. The locals have shown resentment over the incident and demanded restoration of educational activities in the school at the earliest.

A day earlier, federal education ministry drew urgent attention of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) chief secretary regarding the destruction of schools by terrorists in newly merged districts and demanded prompt action against the menace of terrorism.

In a letter written to KP chief secretary, the federal secretary of the education ministry had expressed grave concern over the recent incidents of destruction of schools in the newly-merged districts of the province.

"It is particularly disheartening to note that these heinous acts of terrorism are disproportionately targeting institutions dedicated to girls' education," the letter said.—RT/Agency

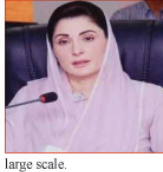
Maryam Asserts Government's Efforts Towards Economic Development

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said the government is trying to attain the economic development of the province.

She expressed this view while speaking on the occasion of inauguration of various projects at the Sheikhupura Quaid-e-Azam Business Park.

She said construction of garment city at the park would empower thousands of women.

Maryam directed the authorities to complete the link roads of the project, Garment City plug-and-play, in one month and plant trees on a large scale.



She summoned the RPO and ordered him to improve law and order situation in 10 days. She planted saplings at the premises of the park and said she wanted to resolve all issues of the business community to increase exports and employment.—RT/Agency

During the meeting, the coordinator of the divisional task force provided a comprehensive briefing on the severity of the epidemic and stressed the critical importance of vaccination in curbing its spread. Commissioner Abbas directed senior health officials to ensure the administration of two doses of measles vaccine to all children across the districts, emphasizing the need for parental cooperation in this endeavor.

A robust immunization program was proposed to maximize vaccine coverage among children. It was acknowledged that non-vaccination by certain communities was contributing to the

Sukkur Division Takes Decisive Steps To Combat Measles Epidemic

SUKKUR: Commissioner of Sukkur Division, Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi, chaired a pivotal meeting at the Commissioner's Office in Sukkur to address the escalating measles epidemic. The meeting saw the participation of all Deputy Commissioners of Sukkur Division, coordinators of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), officials from the Provincial Health Initiative (PHI), District Health Officers (DHOs), and other key health officials.

During the meeting, the coordinator of the divisional task force provided a comprehensive briefing on the severity of the epidemic and stressed the critical importance of vaccination in curbing its spread. Commissioner Abbas directed senior health officials to ensure the administration of two doses of measles vaccine to all children across the districts, emphasizing the need for parental cooperation in this endeavor.



A robust immunization program was proposed to maximize vaccine coverage among children. It was acknowledged that non-vaccination by certain communities was contributing to the

spread of measles in some areas. Commissioner Abbas urged health officials to address this issue effectively and work towards convincing communities of the safety and benefits of vaccination.

The meeting underscored the urgency of taking immediate action to control the measles epidemic and prevent its further dissemination. Commissioner Abbas assured full government support for the vaccination program and called for concerted efforts from all stakeholders.

Key decisions were made under the action plan, including the implementation of micro-plans for routine immunization by vaccinators on a daily basis. Outreach sessions were mandated to ensure maximum coverage, with announcements in local mosques to encourage participation. Additionally, infection prevention protocols and pre- and post-vaccination

counseling were emphasized. Proper supervision of routine immunization outreach sessions by DCs, ACs, and DHOs was deemed essential, along with community awareness campaigns through pamphlets and local initiatives. Furthermore, private hospitals, PPHI health facilities, and tertiary care hospitals were instructed to report all cases of fever and rash to relevant authorities promptly. Parents were urged to ensure vaccination for children between 9 months and 15 months of age, with missed doses to be completed by 5 years of age. Each district was tasked with individual efforts to combat the measles epidemic, with personal supervision by Assistant Commissioners. The meeting concluded with a resolute commitment from all attendees to work tirelessly towards controlling the epidemic and safeguarding public health.—RT

Petition Lodged In Lahore High Court Challenging Election Ordinance

LAHORE: A writ petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court challenging a specific clause in the recent Election (Amendment) Ordinance 2024, signed by Acting President Yousaf Raza Gillani. The petition contends that the ordinance violates the doctrine of judicial independence as outlined in Articles 2-A and 175 of the Constitution.

Mashkoor Hussain, the petitioner, submitted the plea through his advocate Nadeem Sarwar, requesting the court to suspend the operation of the ordinance until the final resolution of the petition.



"The acting President signed the Election (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, following approval by the federal cabinet," Hussain stated in his petition.

The disputed clause in the ordinance stipulates: "For the trial of election petitions under this Act, the Commission shall appoint as many Election Tribunals as

may be necessary for swift disposal of election petitions. An Election Tribunal shall comprise: (a) in the case of an election to an Assembly or the Senate, a person who is or has been a Judge of a High Court; and (b) in the case of an election to a local government, a District and Sessions Judge or a person who is or has been an Additional District and Sessions Judge. In the case of the appointment of a sitting judge as an Election Tribunal, the commission shall

consult with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned."

Hussain argued that the ordinance is unconstitutional and a blatant violation of the principles established by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. "The right to access justice through an independent judiciary is a fundamental right. Without an independent judiciary, the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution are meaningless," he asserted.—RT/Agency

Substandard Noodles Suspected In Two Lahore Fatalities

LAHORE: An unfortunate incident was reported from Lahore's Manawan area where two siblings died after consuming substandard noodles, media reported on Thursday.

The police spokesperson disclosed that the deceased siblings, identified as 11-year-old Maryam and nine-year-old Rafia, consumed the noodles their mother bought from the Baghanpur Bazar area of Lahore.

mother's statement, the police officials revealed that the children's health condition deteriorated after eating the noodles their mother cooked for them. "The 11-year-old Maryam died in the house while Rafia, aged nine, died at the hospital," the police said. According to the police spokesperson, the parents of the children have denied registration of the case, however, the police have initiated further legal proceedings in the case.—RT/Agency

DC Umerkot Naveed-ur-Rehman Larik chairs meeting of district officials



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Deputy Commissioner Umerkot, Naveed-ur-Rehman Larik chaired an introductory session with all district officials at the District Council Hall. On this occasion, he said that providing the best facilities to the public is our collective responsibility, and all officials of the departments should fulfill their responsibilities in the best possible manner while keeping in view the importance and benefits of the responsibilities assigned to them by the Sindh Government. He directed all officials of the departments to improve the performance of their departments and provide complete relief to the public. Legal action will be taken against officers found negligent in performing their duties. On this occasion, all officials of the departments gave a brief briefing regarding their respective departments. They were instructed to take practical steps in this regard and improve the functioning of their departments and strive to provide maximum facilities to the public. They said that communication is an important part of

Gandapur Endorses Action Plan Against Narcotics

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has approved action plan against use of narcotics.

In a meeting presided over by the CM, responsibilities of relevant departments were determined and decided to setup a special task force against narcotics.



It was decided that services of the private institutions would also be taken to rehabilitate around 2,000 addicts. It was informed that the drug's use has been on the rise in the educational institutions.

A secret and compulsory screening of the students will also be done and reports shared with the parents only. The meeting approved action against the drug peddlers.

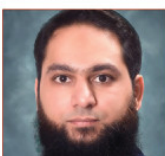
The CM said the usage of drugs had increased to an alarming level for which serious and coordinated measures for effective prevention were need of the hour.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

SAI Chief Urges Full Restoration Of Power For Industries After Haroonabad Grid Fire

KARACHI: Electricity supply to industries in Karachi's largest SITE industrial area is gradually recovering after a four-day suspension. However, 30% of industries remain without power, hindering full restoration of production activities.

Muhammad Kamran Arabi, President of the Association of Industry (SAI), stated in a press release on Thursday that the outage was caused by a fire at the Haroonabad grid station on Sunday evening.



Additionally, the employment of daily wage workers has been adversely affected due to the stoppage of production," Arabi said. Arabi added that, due to

continuous efforts by the SITE Association, about 70% of the feeders had been restored by K-Electric as of Thursday. This partial restoration has allowed some production activities to resume, albeit on a limited scale. However, power has not been fully restored to all affected industries.

Appreciating the ongoing efforts of K-Electric's management and technical team, Kamran Arabi noted that much work remains. He urged for prompt action to fully restore power to all affected industries so that production activities can return to normal.—RT

Sindhi Adabi Sangat and Daulatpur journalists demand justice for Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Local journalists and members of the SAS (Society of Asian Journalists) in Daulatpur staged a protest demanding the arrest of the accused murderers of journalist Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani. The protest, led by Mehboob Ali Jokhio, Murtaza Jokhio, Sharjeel Ahmed, and others, highlighted the ongoing targeting of journalists in Sindh for their commitment to truth, while criticizing the apparent inaction of the provincial government.

The protesters expressed deep concern over the perceived lack of effectiveness

by the Sindh Police in addressing the issue of targeted killings of journalists. During the demonstration, they emphasized the urgent need for higher authorities to take concrete steps to ensure the swift arrest of those responsible for the tragic death of Nasrullah Gadani. In a collective statement, the protesters warned that if justice is not served promptly, they will escalate their protests to further pressure the authorities into action. The demand for justice reverberated through the streets of Daulatpur as journalists and supporters rallied together, determined to see accountability for their fallen colleague.

Awami Action Committee urges oil companies to provide jobs to locals

By Asif Niaz Detho

SHAHADPUR: In Sanghar district, a growing concern has emerged regarding the lack of employment opportunities provided to local residents by oil and gas companies operating in the region. This issue has prompted the formation of the Awami Action Committee, which is actively advocating for the rights of the local populace.

In response to the perceived neglect of the community, an important meeting was convened, bringing together key stakeholders including Shadadpur Bar Association President Advocate Gulham Mustafa Soomro, Abdul Hakeem Chandio, Zulfiqar Nurbani, Mushtaq Saito, Nabi Bakhs Maloockani, and representatives from various companies operating in the area.



During the meeting, Advocate Gulham Mustafa Soomro, Abdul Hakeem Chandio, and other committee members expressed their dissatisfaction with the disregard shown towards local residents in the oil and gas sector of Sanghar district.

They highlighted the absence of basic facilities in the surrounding areas and the blatant exclusion of local inhabitants from employment opportunities. Despite the political benefits reaped by local leaders, the residents of Sanghar district continue to be marginalized in terms of employment prospects. The committee members stressed that the time has come for the rightful demands of the community to be acknowledged and addressed by the concerned authorities.

In a bold declaration, the committee announced that if their demands are not met by June 20, they will proceed with a protest, culminating in a press conference scheduled for June 21 at the Naimat Oil Field on Jhol Road. This demonstration serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Awami Action Committee to advocate for the rights and welfare of the local populace in Sanghar district.

Prisoner of Central Jail Larkana passes away

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Tragedy struck in Larkana Central Jail as a prisoner, identified as Muhammad Juman Baladi, succumbed to illness while in custody. The 70-year-old resident of Zulfiqar Bagh area was rushed to Civil Hospital Larkana after falling critically ill.

Medical professionals at the hospital conducted an examination and confirmed the unfortunate demise of the prisoner. It was revealed that

at the time of his passing, Muhammad Juman Baladi was battling heart and throat ailments, which likely contributed to his deteriorating health.

The news of the prisoner's death has been relayed to the authorities at Larkana Central Jail, prompting inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the incident. As investigations commence, questions arise regarding the provision of healthcare and the overall welfare of inmates within the prison system.

The loss of Muhammad Juman Baladi serves as a somber reminder of the challenges faced by individuals within the confines of correctional facilities, highlighting the importance of prioritizing their well-being and ensuring access to adequate medical care. As authorities delve into the matter, efforts are underway to ascertain the cause of death and address any systemic issues that may have contributed to this tragic outcome.

EDITORIAL

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

Friday, May 31, 2024



A convenient poetic justice

The sudden raid on Bahria Town's Rawalpindi office by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has been a striking development in Pakistan's ongoing struggle against corruption. For years, Malik Riaz, the influential owner of Bahria Town, has been perceived as untouchable due to his powerful connections. This recent raid seems less an act of justice and more a poetic reckoning for a man long considered above the law.

Malik Riaz's empire is marred by a myriad of alleged transgressions. From dubious land acquisition methods to unresolved legal battles, the Bahria Town saga epitomizes the systemic corruption that has plagued Pakistan for

decades. Despite numerous accusations, Riaz has managed to evade significant legal repercussions, largely due to his ties with political elites,



media, and the military establishment. This perception of invincibility has fostered a sense of disillusionment among ordinary Pakistanis, who see him as a symbol of the broken system in which the powerful operate with impunity.

The NAB's raid, purportedly to seize records related to the Al Qadir Trust case, has generated a mixed response. While some see it as a long-

overdue accountability measure, others view it with skepticism, questioning the timing and the motivations behind the action. Malik Riaz's complaints of political pressure and financial losses add another layer of complexity, suggesting that the raid might also be influenced by the shifting sands of political alliances.

This episode underscores the dire need for systemic reforms in Pakistan's accountability mechanisms. As Riaz faces the heat, it is crucial that this momentum is not merely a political gambit but a genuine step towards establishing the rule of law. The Bahria Town saga serves as a stark reminder that true justice in Pakistan can only be achieved when no one, regardless of their power or connections, is above the law.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Hyder are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of land grabbers, at Hyderabad press club. Photo by Nazim Photographer

Indus Youth Welfare Organization continues its heatstroke camp in Tando Jam



By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: With temperatures soaring across Sindh, the Indus Youth Welfare Organization persists in its efforts to alleviate the impact of the scorching heat by maintaining a heat wave relief camp for the fifth consecutive day at Naka Stop on the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas Road.

The camp, established in response to the extreme weather conditions, remains a beacon of hope for travelers and residents alike, offering essential supplies such as cold water, ORS, and refreshing drinks to help combat heat-related ailments.

Acknowledging the dedication of the youth volunteers, leaders from political and social organizations have visited the camp, lauding their selfless service to the community. Representatives of the Indus Youth Welfare Organization, including Abdullah Veesar, Azmat Abro,

Mudasir Soomro, and Shehzad Abbasi, emphasized the importance of such initiatives in providing relief during times of adversity.

In their statements to the media, the organization's leaders expressed their profound satisfaction in serving the public during this challenging period. They appealed to the Sindh Government to expand the network of heat wave relief camps across cities and bus stops, ensuring broader coverage and accessibility for those in need.

Furthermore, they urged the government to take decisive action against encroachments on forest department lands by feudal lords, emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation. They advocated for the initiation of tree-planting projects as a proactive measure to mitigate the effects of climate change and safeguard the well-being of future generations.

President of Journalists Alliance Sanghar Anjum Aftab Nizamani pays tribute to martyred colleagues

By Khuda Dino Kachhai

SANGHAR: Anjum Aftab Nizamani, President of the Journalists Alliance Sanghar District, engaged in a poignant dialogue with journalists affiliated with the Regional Times on Thursday, reflecting on the prevailing circumstances and paying homage to martyred journalists while commending the unwavering dedication of honest journalists.

In a climate where speaking truth is often discouraged, particularly in Sindh where the feudal system exerts significant influence, courageous journalists emerge as beacons of truth, fearlessly advocating for the oppressed and embodying the essence of responsible journalism. Despite facing adversity, these journalists remain steadfast in their commitment to truth and principles, catalyzing transformative change within society.



Every day, journalists strive to illuminate society with the truth, shedding light on societal issues and amplifying the voices of the marginalized. They courageously confront adversaries ranging from drug traffickers to social injustices, standing as guardians of truth and justice. However, it is lamentable that those entrusted with

power, including police officers and lawyers, often misuse their authority to perpetrate injustices against the vulnerable, with the Sindh Government's response to these matters appearing indifferent.

The recent issuance of notices to protest leaders advocating for justice in the face of journalist killings is deeply concerning, indicative of a disturbing trend where accountability is elusive. It is imperative that those responsible for such heinous acts be held accountable, with legal action initiated against the perpetrators.

Despite these challenges, the resilience and courage displayed by journalists in upholding truth amidst adversity serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration. Their unwavering dedication to journalistic integrity, even at great personal risk, deserves the highest commendation.

Tando Adam man dies of a heatstroke

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In a heart-wrenching incident, Tando Muhammad Khan witnessed the untimely demise of a 35-year-old man, identified as Aslam Memon, due to heatstroke in the vicinity of Talpur Textile Mills Colony on Thursday. The tragic incident has sent shockwaves through the local community, raising concerns about the escalating temperatures gripping the region.

According to reports, Memon was rushed to a nearby hospital as his condition deteriorated rapidly under the scorching heat. Despite efforts by medical personnel, Memon could not be revived, and doctors

solemnly confirmed his passing.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, family members of the deceased shared their grief with the media, shedding light on the circumstances leading to Memon's demise. They recounted how Memon, overcome by intense thirst in the sweltering heat, sought relief by purchasing ice and consuming cold water. However, tragically, this attempt to alleviate his discomfort led to an unforeseen and fatal outcome.

The incident serves as a stark reminder of the dangers posed by extreme weather conditions, particularly during the blistering summer months. As temperatures soar, it becomes impera-

tive for individuals to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to safeguard their health.

The loss of Aslam Memon has left a void in the community, prompting reflection on the importance of heatstroke awareness and preventive measures. Authorities and health officials are urging residents to stay hydrated, seek shade, and avoid prolonged exposure to high temperatures to prevent similar tragedies in the future. As Tando Muhammad Khan mourns the loss of one of its own, efforts to raise awareness about heat-related illnesses and promote community resilience in the face of adverse weather conditions have taken renewed urgency.

More than five homes gutted in Larkana fire

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A devastating fire engulfed multiple homes in Safdar Colony, Larkana city, inflicting significant damage and leaving several families grappling with the aftermath of the tragedy.

Upon receiving reports of the blaze, affected homeowners promptly alerted the fire brigade, seeking urgent intervention to contain the inferno. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the fire brigade faced challenges in reaching the affected area promptly, exacerbating the situation and allowing the flames to spread unchecked.

As the fire raged on, consuming several houses, the affected residents were compelled to rely on the assistance of their neighbors, who rallied together to provide support during the crisis. Nasir Sheikh, Manzoor

Ali, Sadiq Shaikh, Wazir, and Pathan Shaikh, among others, shared their accounts of distress with the media, recounting the harrowing experience of witnessing their homes succumb to the flames.

Expressing their dismay over the unexpected calamity and the delayed response from the fire brigade, the affected homeowners issued appeals for aid and support to the Sindh Government, district administration, and elected representatives. They urged swift action to address their plight and alleviate the financial burden incurred as a result of the fire's devastation.

Amidst the wreckage and loss, the affected families remain hopeful for assistance and relief measures from the authorities, as they endeavor to rebuild their lives and homes in the aftermath of this tragic incident.



HYDERABAD: Victims of a gas cylinder explosion are being treated in a local hospital after fire broke out at a shop in the Paretabad area of the city. Photo by Nazim Photographer

DC Badin Yasir Bhatti reviews arrangements for anti-polio campaign

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti, convened a crucial meeting to review preparations for the upcoming anti-polio campaign, stressing the imperative of collective action and meticulous planning to combat the scourge of polio.

Bhatti underscored the national duty shared by all to ensure the success of the anti-polio campaign, urging departments to collaborate effectively in the fight against this perilous virus. He emphasized the importance of comprehensive micro-planning and teamwork as fundamental pillars of the campaign's success.

During the readiness meeting, Bhatti reiterated the crucial role of parents in cooperating with polio teams to protect their children from the debilitating effects of polio by ensuring they receive polio drops. He emphasized the responsibility of securing children's futures and urged all organizations to unite in



this vital endeavor.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the District Health Officer, Dr. Zahiruddin Memon, to take strict action against any negligent doctors and polio workers. He stressed the importance of conducting cluster evaluations, capturing fingerprints of children, and ensuring the timely execution of the micro-plan to maximize the campaign's impact.

Acknowledging the dedication of polio workers, particularly lady health workers who brave adverse weather conditions to administer vaccines in remote areas, Bhatti commended their unwavering commitment to safeguarding future generations.

In recognition of outstanding performance, certificates of appreciation were awarded to exemplary individuals, including Stop Officer Dr. Manzoor Memon, District Information Officer Sarfarz Samo, Deputy DAO Primary Qadir Bakhsh Talpur, and District Managers PPHI Badin A and B, among others. Deputy Commissioner Bhatti expressed heartfelt gratitude for the exemplary efforts of those who called in the previous anti-polio campaign, emphasizing that their contributions are invaluable in the ongoing fight against polio and the quest to ensure a polio-free future for all.

Two children die of measles in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Concerns over the deteriorating state of health facilities in Tando Allahyar have intensified as reports of increasing complaints continue to emerge, with little action taken to address the situation.

Tragically, the district has witnessed the loss of two young lives to measles, underscoring the urgent need for improved healthcare provisions. In village Muhammad Hassan Kamboh, a

3-year-old child named Tulsu succumbed to measles, while in Mansoor Colony, an 8-year-old boy, Muhammad Moaaz son of Saleem Samo, tragically lost his battle with the disease.

These heartbreaking incidents added to the mounting death toll in the district, with more than 16 children reportedly succumbing to measles within a month. The escalating number of fatalities underscores the pressing need for immediate action to address the deteriorating state of health facilities

in Tando Allahyar. Despite the gravity of the situation, no significant steps have been taken to alleviate the concerns of residents and improve healthcare provisions.

As the death toll rises and fears deepen among the community, urgent intervention is required to prevent further loss of life and restore faith in the district's healthcare system. Residents anxiously await tangible measures to address the pressing healthcare crisis gripping Tando Allahyar.

SPORTS



Win or lose, we are with you: Mohsin Naqvi backs Green Shirts ahead of T20 World Cup 2024

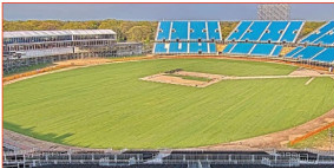


LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has backed the Pakistan cricket team ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 urging fans to support the team whether they win or lose on the field. "Support the team and assure them that we [the fans] are with you [the team] whether you win or lose," the PCB chairman said while speaking to the media in London. "This is the time to support the team, the next month is sensitive [in this regard]," he added. Commenting on the team combination in the tournament, the PCB chief said that the discretion on the said issue lies with the captain and team management. "Overall, a strategy is in place that they don't have to panic and give their best [on

the field]," Naqvi said. Furthermore, speaking at a dinner hosted by Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Dr Mohammad Faisal in honour of the Green Shirts, Naqvi reiterated his earlier remarks and said, "I just want to request one thing which we really need for the next four weeks. Let us all support our players." The event was attended by London Mayor Sadiq Khan, former caretaker prime minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti and a large number of Pakistani community living in the UK. Expressing his views on the occasion, Khan said he was proud that the Pakistani team had come to London once again.—Agency

Pakistan-India clash: New York administration fortifies security amid terrorist threat

NEW YORK: Amid threats of terrorist attack, the New York administration has beefed up security for the high-octane Pakistan-India T20I World Cup 2024 match slated for June 9. According to reports, a terrorist outfit has threatened of attack during the World Cup in New York. Pakistan will play two matches, while India has to play four matches in the metropolis. On the other hand, New York Governor Kathy Hochul has said for months she had been working with the law enforcers to ensure safety of visitors and New Yorkers during the cricket



World Cup. Dismissing the reports of threat, Hochul said there was "no credible public safety threat at this time". Although, she said they were continuously monitoring the situation closely. "I have also directed the New York State Police to engage in elevated security measures, including an increased law enforcement presence, advanced surveillance, and thorough screening processes. Public safety is my top priority and we are committed to ensuring the Cricket World Cup is a safe, enjoyable experience," she maintained. While corroborative proofs for the reported threat are yet to be found, the International Cricket Council has stated that safety and security at the event was their top priority. "The safety and security of everyone at the event is our number one priority and we have a comprehensive and robust security plan in place. We work closely with authorities in our host countries and continually monitor and evaluate the global landscape to ensure appropriate plans are in place to mitigate any risks identified to our event," an ICC spokesperson was quoted as saying by a cricket website.—Agency

Pakistan improve in T20I ranking ahead of T20 World Cup 2024



LAHORE: Pakistan men's team has improved their T20I rankings ahead of the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to be played in the United States of America (USA) and the West Indies from June 1. Pakistan moved one place up courtesy of South Africa's clean sweep loss against the West Indies in the three-match T20I series. The Proteas lost three places to seventh, and the West Indies jumped two spots to reach fourth. Meanwhile, Pakistan clinched the sixth spot. "Two-time champions West Indies have moved up to fourth position in the ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings, their players showing some great form ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which they co-host from 1-29 June," the ICC stated in a recent press release. "The winners of the 2012 and 2016 editions of the tournament are ahead of New Zealand and South Africa after their 3-0 win over South Africa, who were pushed

down to seventh position in the list led by India. "India, winners of the inaugural edition in 2007, are on 264 rating points, 2021 champions Australia are second with 257 points, defending champions England third with 254 points and the West Indies two points behind them on 252. New Zealand are on 250 while Pakistan and South Africa are both on 244 points with Pakistan slightly ahead on decimal points." Pakistan players also made significant gains in the T20I players' rankings as Fakhar Zaman jumped six places up to reach 51st in the ICC T20I batting rankings. Meanwhile, Shaheen Afridi, rose up three spots to equal 11th with Australia's Adam Zampa. Harris Rauf also gained two places to 25th after picking two wickets in the second T20I against England. Notably, this was his comeback game after missing out on the series against New Zealand and Ireland due to a shoulder injury.—Agency

Ricky Ponting predicts highest run-scorer, wicket-taker for T20 World Cup 2024



SYDNEY: Legendary Australian captain Ricky Ponting has unveiled his predictions for the highest run-scorer and the top wicket-taker for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, starting from June 1. Ponting predicted that Indian pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah would be the leading wicket-taker at the mega-event. Meanwhile, for the highest run-getter, Ponting picked Australian top-order batter Travis Head. "The former captain appreciated Bumrah's ability to swing the ball as well as his impressive economy. Bumrah claimed 20 wickets in 13 games at an economy of 6.48 during the recently concluded IPL. "My leading wicket-taker for the tournament will be Jasprit Bumrah. I just think an outstanding performer, and contributor for a number of years now. He's just come off an outstanding IPL," Ponting told The ICC Review. "What he can do with the new ball, he swings the new

ball, he has the seam up. But at the end, his economy rate at the end of the IPL was less than seven runs an over. "He takes wickets. He does bowl a lot of the hard overs too. When you bowl the hard overs in T20 cricket, it gives you a chance to pick up a lot of wickets along with him." Ricky Ponting then praised Head for his batting prowess across formats in the last two years. Head scored crucial centuries in the finals of the ICC World Test Championship and ICC ODI World Cup 2023. "My prediction for the leading run-scorer will be Travis Head. I just think everything he's done, whether it be red-ball or white-ball in the last couple of years, has been of the highest quality. I think he's playing fearless cricket at the moment," Ponting said. "His IPL had its ups and downs, but when it's been good, it's been very good. And it has won games of cricket for his team," Ponting noted.—Agency

El Kaabi gives Olympiakos Europa Conference League glory

ATHENS: Olympiakos became the first Greek club ever to win a European title after a 1-0 extra time defeat of Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final. Moroccan striker Ayoub El Kaabi scored the winning goal in the 116th minute that allowed Jose Luis Mendilibar's side to make history in the home of local rivals AEK Athens. Prior to Olympiakos' success, Panathinaikos were the only club from Greece to make a European final when they lost to a Johan Cruyff-inspired Ajax in the 1971 European Cup decider. "I'm really happy. The team has made history. Mendilibar has made us a strong team. He told us we have to play as a family," said midfielder Santiago

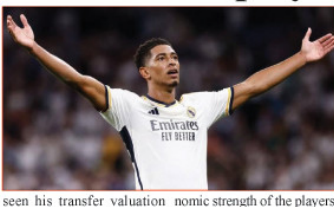


Hezze. Mendilibar, 63, became the Greek side's third manager of the season when he took over the reins in February. He will eye to win first Champions League title on Saturday when Madrid take on Borussia Dortmund at Wembley before setting his sights on a successful Euro 2024 campaign with England. According to the CIES Football Observatory, his achievements this year have seen his transfer valuation soar to an astonishing €280 million (€237 million), more than any other player in the world. The CIES study involved analysing numerous factors to calculate the value of the world's top 100 players. These factors include age, contract length, level of matches played, and the economic strength of the players' clubs and leagues. The resulting list is dominated by Real Madrid and Manchester City players. Bellingham's former Dortmund teammate Erling Haaland is valued at €255 million, with Madrid's Brazilian duo Vinicius Junior (€240 million) and Rodrygo (€220 million) next on the

list. Phil Foden concluded the Premier League season in sensational form and ranks fifth on the list at €203 million, ahead of his England teammate Bukayo Saka (€195 million). Other Premier League stars in the top ten include Julian Alvarez (€168 million) and Martin Odegaard (€135 million), while Cole Palmer's breakout season sees his value calculated at €126 million. One notable absentee from the list is Kylian Mbappe, who is not included as his contract with Paris Saint-Germain is set to expire this summer, rendering him almost worthless from a transfer value standpoint.—Agency

Jude Bellingham tops list of football's most valuable players

MADRID: England and Real Madrid star Jude Bellingham possesses the highest transfer value in world football, according to a new study. The 20-year-old has had a sensational debut season at the Bernabeu following his €100 million transfer from Borussia Dortmund last summer, scoring 19 goals as the club clinched the La Liga title. He will eye to win first Champions League title on Saturday when Madrid take on Borussia Dortmund at Wembley before setting his sights on a successful Euro 2024 campaign with England. According to the CIES Football Observatory, his achievements this year have



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PAK vs ENG: Junaid Khan names Pakistan's playing XI for fourth T20I



OVAL: Left-arm pacer Junaid Khan named his playing XI for Pakistan for the fourth T20I against England which will be played at The Oval on Thursday. The four-match series is led by the hosts 1-0 as the first and third T20Is were called off without a ball bowled due to persistent rain in Leeds and Cardiff, respectively. Khan, who represented Pakistan in 107 international matches, included Babar Azam and Mohammad Wasim as opener in his playing XI for the fourth T20I. Naseem Shah 11- Haris Rauf.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Quddous Khan
Location: Karachi
About me: I love making new friends!

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

ENTERTAINMENT



Khloe Kardashian ditches Paris getaway for kids



Kourtney Kardashian puts motherhood first at all costs. During the recent episode of The Kardashians, Khloe visits her sister's home and asks why she didn't go to the Paris Fashion Week with the rest of the family. "I just didn't feel like it was the place for me. I was just getting anxious leaving the kids. Tristan's gone and it's hard for me to leave them," Khloe shared. Khloe, who shares True and Tatum with the NBA player, added, "I don't have a parent to stay with them and then I was thinking, the whole family is out of the country. I was like, what if there's an earthquake? What if there's something and

Kylie Jenner reveals current dynamics with Jordyn Woods



Kylie Jenner opened up about the progress her and Jordyn Woods' friendship has made over the years. In the recent episode of The Kardashians, the reality TV star told sister Khloe Kardashian that she ran into her former best friend at a Paris Fashion Week show. "It was fun. I think we have a lot more healthy distance in the relationship. I think we talk once a month," Kylie spoke of Jordyn, with whom she had a falling out five years ago when she admitted to kissing Khloe's then-boyfriend Tristan Thompson. However, after years of rumored bad blood between the former friends, the duo broke the internet in July 2023 when they stepped out together in Los Angeles. "I think what I do love now is that the narrative about us online is also over. When we were seen leaving that restaurant, it was a story for a day, maybe two days, whatever, and now it's over. People know that we're cool and no one's talking about it anymore," Kylie continued in her confessional. On the other hand, Khloe initially blamed Jordyn for "breaking up our family," but let go of the grudge in 2021. "I've always told you I never want to have regrets in life and I for sure never want you to have regrets with anything that comes to me," the Good American founder added.

THE HEARTLAND



FAPUASA, SAUTA condemn decision to stop funding of provincial universities

By Ifran Khushk

TANDO JAM: Under the call of the Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association (FAPUASA), the Sindh Agriculture University Teachers' Association (SAUTA) observed a "Black Day" at Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam along with faculty members. The event was attended by President Dr. Fahad Nazir Khoso, Vice Chairman Dr. Javed Ali Gadahi, Secretary Dr. Khalid Hussain Talpur, Joint Secretary Dr. Imdad Hussain Laghari, Dr. Asmatullah Kaka, and others. Addressing the gathering, SAUTA President Dr. Fahad Nazir Khoso opposed the federal government's decision to stop funding provincial universities. He revealed that universities across the country are already facing financial difficulties, with some unable to pay their staff salaries. He further stated that this decision would worsen the situation, especially since funds for current expenses have been frozen for eight years. Additionally, the HEC has withheld grants amounting to 65 billion for



more than 160 universities. During the pre-budget meeting in Islamabad this year, a request was made to double the HEC fund. However, before finalizing the budget, the government reduced the grant from 65 billion to 25 billion and stopped HEC funding for provincially chartered universities, allocating funds only to federal universities. Moreover, the developmental grant was reduced from 50 billion to 21 billion. SAUTA Secretary and FAPUASA Pakistan's Executive Council member Dr. Khalid Hussain Talpur, during a press briefing, said that this decision is detrimental and violates the federal government's constitutional authority. According to the constitution, any decision regarding the HEC budget must be presented at the Council of Common Interests

(CCI) meeting. The sudden announcement just before the new budget means that only federally chartered universities will receive funds for current expenses, putting higher education and the country's future at risk. The speakers stated that the teachers at Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam oppose this decision and demand that the government refrain from interfering in higher education. They call for substantial funding for higher education institutions and emphasize the need for a gradual transfer of powers and responsibilities, including all stakeholders. SAUTA demands that funds be allocated for all universities in the upcoming budget and proposes forming a committee to prepare recommendations for this transition.

14-year-old Larkana boy attempts suicide

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A distressing incident unfolded in the residential vicinity of Rizwan Colony in Larkana city, as a 14-year-old student, identified as Wajid Ali, son of Gulam Hussain Kalhoro, made an attempt to end his life by ingesting poisonous substances. Reports suggest that the teenager's drastic action was prompted by a disagreement with his parents over the possession of a mobile phone, which he desired but was not granted. Faced with feelings of despair and frustration, Wajid Ali resorted to this extreme measure.

Upon discovering the boy in critical condition, his family promptly intervened and rushed him to Chandka Hospital for urgent medical

attention. Currently, medical professionals at the hospital are diligently working to provide him with the necessary treatment and care.

The incident has stirred a wave of concern and empathy within the community, prompting reflection on the underlying issues that may have contributed to the teenager's distress. Efforts are underway to extend support to the family and ensure the well-being of Wajid Ali as he undergoes treatment.

This unfortunate event serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of fostering open communication and providing adequate support to address the emotional needs of adolescents, thereby safeguarding their mental health and overall well-being.

22 homes gutted in Badin fire

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Tragedy struck the tranquil village of Samin near Badin as a devastating fire tore through 22 homes situated on Sharif Road in UC Muhammad Khan Bhargar, leaving behind a trail of destruction and despair.

The sudden outbreak of the inferno caught residents off guard, rapidly engulfing their humble abodes and reducing them to ashes. Despite frantic efforts to alert the fire brigade, the flames proved relentless, devouring everything in their path within minutes.

The aftermath of the fire has left the affected families reeling from profound loss,

with their once cherished possessions and livelihoods now reduced to charred remnants. Grain bins, household belongings, and cherished mementos have all been engulfed by the merciless blaze, leaving the families destitute and vulnerable to the unforgiving elements under the scorching sun.

As the community grapples with the aftermath of this tragedy, efforts are underway to extend support and assistance to the affected families in their time of dire need. However, the road to recovery promises to be arduous, with the scars of this devastating fire etched deep into the fabric of the village of Samin.

RT's Muhammad Bachal, PR staff set up a drinking water camp at Shadi Pali Railway Station



UMERKOT: In response to the scorching heat at the Pakistan Railway Station in Shadi Pali, Senior Journalist Muhammad Bachal Shar and Assistant Station Master Shadi Pali, along with the railway staff, have taken proactive steps to alleviate the discomfort faced by passengers.

Recognizing the absence of facilities for cold drinking water at Shadi Pali Railway Station during the blistering temperatures, Muhammad Bachal Shar and Assistant Station Master Asif Ali, Manzoor Ali, and Imdad Ali, along with other railway staff members, initiated a camp to provide chilled water for passengers arriving on the Marvi passenger train.

Speaking on behalf of the initiative, Assistant Station Master Shadi Pali and Senior Journalist Muhammad

Bachal Shar emphasized the importance of addressing the basic needs of travelers, particularly during extreme weather conditions. They highlighted the distress experienced by passengers disembarking from trains in the absence of cold drinking water facilities, prompting them to take action and establish a temporary arrangement for the convenience of travelers.

The initiative reflects a commendable display of community spirit and proactive engagement by local stakeholders to address the immediate needs of railway passengers. As temperatures soar, the provision of cold drinking water offers a welcome respite to travelers, underscoring the significance of collaborative efforts in ensuring passenger comfort and well-being during their journeys.—RT

HESCO issues clarification about load shedding hours

HYDERABAD: Electricity load management is currently underway in the HESCO region. There are 78 grids in the HESCO region, and with the help of 11,662 feeders, electricity is being provided to consumers according to the Load Management Schedule based on the AT&C Policy. The shutdown schedule for each feeder is determined according to categories one (1) and two (2), which include a total of 176 feeders with losses ranging from 10% to 20%. Load shedding is not being carried out on these feeders under the AT&C policy. Category three (3) includes 5 feeders with losses ranging from 20% to 30%, where 2 hours of load shedding is being implemented. Category four (4) includes 10 feeders with losses ranging from 30% to 40%, where 4 hours of load shedding is being implemented. Category five (5) includes 29 feeders with losses ranging from 40% to 60%, where 6 hours of load shedding is being implemented. Category six (6) includes 93 feeders with losses ranging from 60% to 80%, where 8 hours of load shedding is being implemented. And category seven (7) includes 309 feeders with losses of 80% and above, where 12 hours of load shedding is being implemented. Furthermore, according to the operational circle of Hyderabad, a total of 153 feeders are being managed according to the Load Management Schedule based on the AT&C Policy, with 38 feeders in category one (1) where no load shedding is being carried out, and 4 feeders in category four (4) where 4 hours of load shedding is being implemented, and 3 feeders in category five (5) where 6 hours of load shedding is being implemented, and 51 feeders in category six (6) where 8 hours of load shedding is being implemented, and 57 feeders in category seven (7) where 12 hours of load shedding is being implemented. In addition, according to the operational circle of Nawabshah, a total of 213 feeders are being managed according to the Load Management Schedule based on the AT&C Policy, with 92 feeders in category one (1) where no load shedding is being carried out, and 3 feeders in category two (2) where 2 hours of load shedding is being implemented, and 57 feeders in category three (3) where 4 hours of load shedding is being implemented, and 2 feeders in category four (4) where 4 hours of load shedding is being implemented, 20 feeders in category five (5) where 6 hours of load shedding is being implemented, 16 feeders in category six (6) where 8 hours of load shedding is being implemented, and 105 feeders in category seven (7) where 12 hours of load shedding is being implemented. Finally, according to the operational circle of Mirpurkhas, a total of 168 feeders are being managed according to the Load Management Schedule based on the AT&C Policy, with 24 feeders in category one (1) and (2) where no load shedding is being carried out, and 3 feeders in category three (3) where 2 hours of load shedding is being implemented, and 2 feeders in category four (4) where 4 hours of load shedding is being implemented, 20 feeders in category five (5) where 6 hours of load shedding is being implemented, and 105 feeders in category seven (7) where 12 hours of load shedding is being implemented.—RT

Kohistan's Machhi community men protest against Malik Changez Khan, Malik Waheed Khan

—Malik Changez Khan, Malik Waheed Khan refute allegations

By Shaikh Sindi



KOTRI: Tension flared in the Kohistan area of Jhampir district in Thatta as members of the Machhi community, including Wazir Machhi, Abu Machhi, Hassan Machhi, Nazir Machhi, Rashid Machhi, Haji Machhi, Mithar Machhi, and Dilbar Machhi, took to the streets in protest against alleged land grabbing by influential figures. The protesters accused Malik Changez Khan, Malik Waheed Khan, Shabbir Shoro, Akhtar Dal, Allah Dino Babar, Alam Palari, Atta Machhi, and Umar Machhi of unlawfully seizing their land and surrounding their properties with armed personnel, creating a perilous situation for the community.

Responding to these allegations, Malik Changez Khan and Malik Waheed Khan, while addressing the media, vehemently denied any involvement in the purported land grabbing. They

refuted the claims made by the protesters, asserting that they have never encountered any members of the Machhi community who are protesting against them. Both individuals warned of legal action against those spreading false accusations and defaming their names.

Furthermore, they dismissed the notion that Shabbir Shoro, Akhtar Dal, Allah Dino Babar, Alam Palari, and Atta Machhi, alleged to be their accomplices, have any affiliation with MNA Malik Asad Sikandar. They contended that these allegations

are baseless and fabricated. Malik Waheed Khan also alleged that the nephew of a prominent individual from Kotri is manipulating members of the Machhi community to tarnish their reputation. He vowed to expose the true motives behind the protest and reiterated his commitment to upholding the law.

The situation remains tense as both sides stand firm on their respective claims, with the community demanding justice and the accused individuals denying any wrongdoing.

Retired teachers protest for their rights in Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Retired teachers in Thul took to the streets in a fervent protest, staging a sit-in at Rahbar Chowk to demand the acceptance of their rightful demands, chief among them being the provision of group insurance. The demonstrators, impassioned and determined, blocked the road and voiced their grievances through resounding slogans.

Reports indicate that the retired educators are protesting against the non-receipt of group insurance and other benefits owed to them, expressing their frustration through a peaceful sit-in at Rahbar Chowk. Leaders of the protest, including retired teachers Shafiq Noonari,



Muhammad Rahim Daudpoto, Ghulam Shabbir Qureshi, Shehzado Golo, and Abdul Razzaq Brohi, addressed the media to articulate their demands.

They decry the injustice of withholding the insurance amount from retired employees, emphasizing that this money represents their lifetime savings and should rightfully be disbursed upon retirement. The leaders called

for an immediate end to the mistreatment of retired employees, warning that failure to address their demands would only escalate the intensity of their protests.

The protest stands as a testament to the unwavering determination of retired teachers to secure their rightful entitlements and highlight the pressing need for authorities to heed their calls for justice and fairness.

Sufism World's Faqir GM Mast Parwazi organizes a spiritual gathering in Nawabshah

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: Faqir GM Mast Parwazi, Chairman of Sufism World, orchestrated a deeply spiritual event at the Housing Society in Nawabshah, hosting a monthly gathering dedicated to the revered Hazrat Inam Ali (AS) within the Sufi tradition.



Reflecting on the significance of such gatherings, Faqir GM Mast Parwazi and other esteemed personalities emphasized that these monthly gatherings, held on the 21st of each month, serve as a conduit for spreading the timeless message of love, peace, harmony, and brotherhood espoused by Sufism. Despite facing opposition, they reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to continue organizing Sufi gatherings in various locales, with the aim of fostering a culture

of compassion and understanding while combating hatred and division in society. The event stood as a testament to the enduring power of Sufism in promoting unity and fostering a deeper connection to the divine, transcending barriers of creed, caste, and culture. Through the collective embrace of Sufi teachings, attendees departed with a strengthened resolve to spread love and compassion in their communities.

Dejected Pithoro woman ends her life

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Tragedy struck in the jurisdiction of Gulam Nabi Shah police station in Goth Ghazi Khan Samo, within Taluka Pithoro, as a married woman named Jagesha, wife of Thanay Bheel, took her own life by hanging herself, reportedly due to domestic troubles and issues.

Upon receiving the distressing news, authorities swiftly arrived at the scene and took custody of the deceased's body. However, due to the absence of a lady doctor at the Taluka Hospital Pithoro, the body was transferred to the District Hospital Umerkot for a medical examination. Following necessary procedures, the body was

eventually handed over to the family for funeral rites.

The tragic incident has left the community in shock, especially considering that the deceased woman leaves behind three to four children. This unfortunate event adds to a concerning trend in Pithoro, where, in the previous month of April, five suicides occurred within a span of five days, each employing different methods.

Such persistent occurrence of such incidents has sparked significant concern among local residents, prompting calls for increased awareness and support mechanisms to address mental health issues and prevent further tragedies.

Replacement of RO plant's out of order motor demanded in NWM

By Yousef Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Concerns have been raised in Nawab Wali Muhammad city as the motor of the Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant has malfunctioned, leaving residents with no choice but to consume contaminated water. Signs of water contamination have emerged in the groundwater of Nawab Wali Muhammad city and its surrounding areas, posing serious health risks to the local populace.

The malfunctioning of the RO plant's motor has led to inconvenience for residents, who are now compelled to drink polluted water due to the unavailability of clean drinking water. Despite two rounds of maintenance efforts led by supervisor Pir Bukhsar, the motor remains unresponsive, exacerbating the plight of the community.

In response to the pressing issue, the District Commissioner of Shaheed Benazirabad and Assistant Commissioner Qazi Ahmed

have been apprised of the situation. A notice has been issued urging swift action to address the damaged motor at the RO plant, ensuring the provision of clean and safe drinking water to the residents of Nawab Wali Muhammad city. The demand for the replacement of the out-of-order motor underscores the urgent need to prioritize public health and well-being by rectifying infrastructure issues and ensuring access to clean water for all.

METRO KARACHI



Unidentified Gunmen Kill Two Owner Brothers Of Baloch Ice Cream In Guru Mandir And Injure Two Others



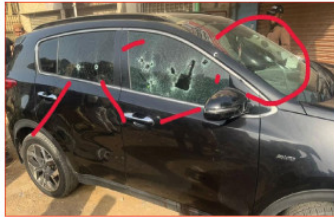
KARACHI: Senior Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon is addressing a press conference about Sindh government's ongoing initiatives.—RT

KARACHI: At least two brothers were killed and two were injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire on their car near Guru Mandir in Karachi Thursday morning, police told media.

According to Superintendent of Police Aleena Rajpar, the incident appears to be a case of target killing in which six suspects on three motorcycles targeted the car.

All the occupants of the car were identified as brothers and were commuting to the city court for a hearing, as per the police.

"Efforts are being made to find out the motive behind



the incident," said the police. The suspects are seen targeting the vehicle in a CCTV footage obtained by media.

The SP added a 9mm pistol was used in the firing,

while 18 bullet casings have been recovered from the incident's site.

The occupants of the car, the police said, were shifted to a private hospital for treatment during which two of them died and the other two remain severely injured, while one of them is in critical condition. One brother, however, miraculously survived the attack, said the police official.

The police said it had collected evidence from the crime scene and added that the gun attack had been allegedly carried out due to enmity.

Earlier SP Rajpar of the Jamshed Quarters, during a presser, said that the police were trying to obtain the CCTV video of the crime scene.

She informed the media that both brothers killed in the gun attack were identified as Sajid Aurangzeb and Omair Aurangzeb, while those injured were Wajid and Zubair.

Meanwhile, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has sought a report on the incident from the city's police chief, a spokesperson of the Governor House said.

"Those involved in the firing should be immediately arrested," the governor in his directives, adding that such an incident in the middle of the city is very alarming.—RT/Agency

Murad Announces AI Labs For DHA Suffa University, Highlights Role of Universities As Knowledge Incubators



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah emphasized that universities should serve as "technology and knowledge incubators," fostering innovative ideas and nurturing future leaders. Speaking at the 4th Convocation of DHA Suffa University, he praised the university's rapid progress since its inception in 2012.

At the event held at DA Golf & Country Club, Shah lauded the university's achievements and congratulated Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saeed Minhas and the faculty for their contributions to students' futures.

He highlighted DHA Suffa University's journey towards becoming a globally recognized institution for higher education and research, contributing significantly to nation-building.

Shah commended DHA Karachi's commitment to providing quality education from early years to postgraduate levels, emphasizing its role in Pakistan's academic and economic development.

He noted the importance of universities in shaping innovative leaders and praised DHA Suffa University's initiative, "Be the Job Providers Instead of Job Seekers," through its Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center "Aghaz."

The CM announced a grant for establishing two state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI) labs at DHA Suffa University and urged the vice chancellor to submit a proposal. He encouraged graduates to stay aware of global technological advancements and seize new opportunities in the AI-driven era.

Shah concluded by wishing the graduates success in their careers and urging them to contribute to nation-building.—RT

Karachi Police Apprehend Three Suspects In Connection With Shocking Guru Mandir Shooting



KARACHI: Just hours after Guru Mandir firing incident, the police officials reportedly arrested three suspects from different locations in Karachi, media reported on Thursday.

As per the police spokesperson, the arrested suspects are close accomplices of the individuals directly involved in the firing incident, adding that all the three suspects were allegedly in contact with the culprits.

Meanwhile, the police officials initiated the investigation with the help of geofencing and mobile call records of the individuals.

It is pertinent to mention here that the at least two brothers were killed, two other injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire on their car near Karachi's Guru Mandir area on Thursday morning.

Furthermore, recent developments have revealed that the culprits are close relatives of the deceased individuals and the incident occurred due to personal enmity.

According to the police, the attack involved four suspects who fired multiple rounds at the vehicle. "Two of the victims were critically injured and later succumbed to their injuries while the other two injured have been shifted to the hospital," she said.

A 9mm pistol was used in the firing, while 18 bullet casings have been recovered from the incident's site, she added.

The police said it had collected evidence from the crime scene and launched investigation into the incident.—RT/Agency

Nasir Shah Unveils Plan To Provide 100 Units Of Free Electricity To Low Income Users

KARACHI: Provincial minister Nasir Hussain Shah on Thursday said that a plan has been prepared to provide free electricity to consumers of up to 100 units, media reported.

Talking to media, Sindh's energy minister said that the government will provide 100 free power units to consumers from solar parks and mini grid stations.

He said the Government of Sindh has allocated amount for solar energy and mini grid in the budget. "The government initially allocating five billion rupees for solar energy in the budget," minister said.

"We are also introducing a scheme in budget to provide solar panels on an extremely concessional price," said energy minister said. "Poor and middle-class people will be provided two lac solar panels," he said. "The government will pay 80 percent of solar panel's price, while 20 percent will be taken from people," Nasir Shah added.—RT



"There are five lac houses in Sindh with no power supply," he further said. "Solar parks and mini grid stations will be installed in Karachi and other parts of Sindh," energy minister added.—RT

Sindh Cabinet Approves Major Initiatives Including Inclusive City And E-Vehicle Incentives



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a cabinet meeting, approved several key initiatives, including:

- Hub Canal Rehabilitation:** The cabinet approved the rehabilitation of the Hub Canal to restore its water capacity from 70 MGD to 100 MGD at a cost of Rs. 12.72 billion.
- Inclusive City for Persons with Disabilities:** 100 acres of land between Shaheed-e-Milal Expressway and Malir Expressway, Karachi, were allocated to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) to establish an inclusive city.
- Property Tax in Cantonment Areas:** The cabinet approved the imposition and collection of property tax in cantonment areas as per Supreme Court directives.

Electric Buses: The cabinet endorsed a plan to acquire 50 electric buses under a Rent-to-Own Financial Model, with a budget allocation of Rs. 412.5 million for 2023-24 and subsequent annual allocations for seven years.

S-BOSS Business Registry: The Sindh Business One-Stop-Shop (S-BOSS) was launched to streamline business registrations, offering 140 online approvals from 16 integrated departments.

E-Vehicle Incentives: The cabinet extended incentives for electric vehicles for two more years, including exemptions from registration fees and reduced annual motor vehicle taxes.

The meeting, held at CM House, included provincial ministers, advisors, and various department heads.

Steel Mills Revival: Plans to initiate or replace the existing Pakistan Steel Mills plant and establish a Special Economic Zone.

Corporate Agriculture Farming: Formation of a committee to review a joint venture proposal for agriculture farming over 52,713 acres.

New Infrastructure Projects: Approval of road constructions and creation of new primary school teacher posts.

The cabinet also formed sub-committees to further study and implement various proposals, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the province's development needs.—RT

Police Turn Arrested Dacoit Into A Gutka Dealer After Capture

KARACHI: After arresting the robbers red-handed in Karachi's Landhi area, Sindh Police officials allegedly took bribes and released them, media reported on Thursday.

Sources close to the development claimed that the Karachi police officials released both of the arrested robbers, one after allegedly taking bribes while another was booked for possessing Gutka.



It is pertinent to mention here that the patrolling party of police officials arrested the robbers two days ago along with weapons and stolen mobile phones.

Sources claimed that the police arrested the accused individuals in injured condition, while the motorcyclist's family also identified the accused robbers on the spot.

However, Korangi policemen arrested both the suspects and took them to the police station, and allegedly SHO Korangi and others finalized a 'deal' with the suspects.

According to sources, one of the accused was released after allegedly taking a bribe while the other accused was booked in the Gutka possession case.

The metropolis has seen an increase in the street crime as the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) report revealed that 5,789 crimes occurred in April 2024 in Karachi.

According to the report, 162 cases of robbery and 4,184 cases of motorbike theft were reported in April, with 1,368 mobile phones snatched from citizens at gunpoint.

Additionally, 15 cases of extortion and one case of kidnapping for ransom were reported, whereas 59 citizens lost their lives in various incidents during last month. In the last four months, 28,416 major crimes were reported, with 62 citizens losing their lives due to robbery resistance.—RT/Agency

SHC Reserves Verdict On Inclusion Of Municipal Tax In Electricity Bills

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) has reserved its verdict on the petition concerning the collection of Municipal Utility Charges and Taxes (MUCT) through K-Electric bills, media reported on Thursday.

After hearing the argument from both sides, a two-member bench, headed by Justice Salahuddin Panwar, ruled that the petitions were resolved on assurance of review of the tax collection agreement.

During the session, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab and various legal representatives presented their cases.

The court said that according to Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, the municipal tax agreement will be reviewed again, assuring that K-Electric will not deduct the municipal tax directly.

According to the court, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab has assured that the municipal tax agreement will be revisited, confirming that K-Electric will not directly deduct the municipal tax from consumers.

Instead, a special committee consisting of local council members will be formed to handle the tax collection process.

Additionally, the Mayor stated that citizens who pay less than Rs 10,000 to K-Electric will not be subjected to the municipal tax.

Acknowledging the already burdened citizens of Karachi due to inflation, the court directed the relevant authorities to provide direct relief to consumers using electricity below 300 units monthly.

The court has granted three months to review the agreement and complete the necessary processes.—RT/Agency

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The cabinet also formed sub-committees to further study and implement various proposals, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the province's development needs.—RT

Bin Qasim Police Arrest Three Notorious Criminals

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In a significant breakthrough, the Bin Qasim Police in Malir district, under the leadership of SHO Wilayat Shah, successfully apprehended three notorious criminals during a targeted raid on Thursday. The operation resulted in the recovery of two pistols, several bullets, and a stolen motorcycle.

The arrested individuals were identified as Amir S/o Ghulam Qadir, Humair Ali S/o Muhammad Urs Ghalu, and Muhammad Ali Bhand S/o Ali Nawaz Bhand. The police have lodged multiple cases against the trio, linking them to various criminal activities in the region.

The arrests mark a notable success for the Bin Qasim Police, reflecting their ongoing efforts to curb crime and ensure the safety and security of the community.



Police Official Imran Khaskheli Sent To Jail

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Imran Khaskheli, a Police ASI, has been sent to jail following his arrest in a case involving the sale of heroin. The arrest was made by SHO Memon Goth, Sarfraz Memon, after Khaskheli was discovered stealing seized Gutka from the police station's store.

Khaskheli's mother has strongly contested the charges, claiming that her son has been wrongfully implicated in a fabricated case. She has called on SSP Malir to intervene and ensure justice is served, asserting that the allegations against her son are baseless and demanding a thorough investigation into the matter.

As the case unfolds, there is growing concern and calls for transparency in the investigation process to ascertain the truth behind the allegations against Imran Khaskheli.

VCs Of Sindh's Varsities Appeal To PM For Rs16 Billions In Funds

KARACHI: The Vice Chancellors of 21 public universities in Sindh have penned a letter to Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif, requesting Rs 16 billion to avoid default, media reported.

The letter, signed by the Vice Chancellors, expresses concern over the withholding of federal government grants to provincial universities, including 29 public sector universities in Sindh.

The Vice Chancellors stated that the federal government provides over Rs 13 billion to Sindh's universities through the Higher Education Commission (HEC), which has been frozen since 2018.

The letter expressed hope that the Prime Minister will take necessary steps to stabilize and support universities and higher education institutions, considering the high returns on investment in education, as seen in countries like China, Korea, Malaysia, and India.

The Vice Chancellors emphasized that increasing investment in education, particularly higher and technical education, is a significant development.

given the current financial crisis in Pakistan.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Higher Education Commission (HEC) stopped funding for provincially chartered universities as the federal government has made a big cut in its grant from 65 billion to 25 billion rupees.

The HEC had requested 126 billion rupees to support 160 universities nationwide, but the federal government decided to reduce the previously allocated 65 billion rupees.

As a result, the HEC will no longer provide funds to provinces, and universities will now have to rely on provincial financing fundings.—RT/Agency



"Life is like photography. You need the negatives to develop."

—Unknown

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FRIDAY MAY 31 2024

IHC Rules Individuals Engaged In And Aiding In Surveillance Of Citizens Will Be Prosecuted

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Justice Babar Sattar has said that prima facie no state official was authorised to surveil citizens and anyone doing so or aiding such an endeavour would be "liable for offences".

The observation came in a written court order issued today (Thursday) for yesterday's hearing on a case in connection with petitions filed last year by ex-premier Imran Khan's spouse Bushra Bibi and Najam Saqib, son of former chief justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar, against alleged audio leaks.

The IHC judge had earlier dismissed multiple petitions from different authorities requesting that he recuse himself from the case.

The detailed court verdict of the April 29 hearing had said there was a "growing abhorrent practice" of using recusal requests accompanied by efforts to "scandalise the court and intimidate the judge into disqualifying himself/herself from hearing a matter, in which a party to the proceedings suspects that the outcome might not be to its liking".



In a later hearing, he had issued contempt notices to the director generals (DGs) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) as well as the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) chairman and members for filing "collusive applications" seeking his recusal.

The court order for Wednesday's hearing, a copy of which is available with media, said that the additional attorney general's responses showed that "no entity or agency of the country has been authorised to undertake surveillance or undertake legal interception of telephone calls or telecom data."

"It appears prima facie that no official of the executive/federal government, intelligence agency or police is authorised to undertake surveillance of the citizens of Pakistan. To the extent that any employee of the government or investigation or intelligence agency is undertaking surveillance and/or telecom companies and service providers are affording their facilities to facilitate surveillance, all such individuals are liable for offences under provisions of the Telegraph Act, the Telecommunication Act, the Fair Trial Act and Peca."

"Any such unauthorised surveillance would also be in breach of fundamental rights of citizens guaranteed by Articles 9, 10A, 14 and 19 of the Constitution read with Article 4 and would cause irreparable harm to the liberty, dignity and privacy of the citizens being surveilled."

He also ordered the defence, interior and law ministries to file reports on whether phone tapping has occurred since the enactment and entering into force of the Fair Trial Act.

Justice Sattar also ordered the ISI, IB, intelligence agencies of the military, navy and air force, along with the Islamabad police chief, to file individual reports on whether they discharged their statutory obligation to appoint an authorised officer in terms of Section 4 of the Fair Trial Act and complied with the act's requirements in seeking approval for surveillance.

"PTA shall file a report stating whether any SOPs or instructions have been issued to telecom operators to facilitate lawful interception and/or share telecom data with anyone in breach of provisions of the Fair Trial Act. If so, the report will accompany the SOPs or instructions issued along with an explanation regarding the legal authority under which they have been issued."

The judge also directed that the reports be filed by June 14 for perusal and adjourned the hearing to June 25.—RT/Agency

FIA Cyber Crime Wing To Investigate Imran's Controversial Post

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing (CCW) has decided to initiate action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan due to his controversial social media post on X.

A post on X, formerly Twitter, was attributed to the former prime minister, which read: "Every Pakistani should study the Hamood ur Rahman Commission Report and get to know who was the true traitor," General Yahya Khan or Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

However, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar told a local media outlet later that the post had nothing to do with Imran as he did not see the text of the posts that were uploaded to his account.

"Imran Khan has nothing to do with this [post] because he did not see its content or other things. [The PTI founder] does not approve each and every video or context."

Gohar also defended the tweet and said it was taken out of context. "The context and comparison that we drew with



1971 was in a political context and not otherwise — nothing about the army," the PTI leader said. The post on PTI supreme's account drew severe criticism from the quarters, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who said Imran's true fate was finally in front of the nation. But defending the post, PTI — the former ruling party — in a post on the same platform said that the events of 1971

were referred to only as a reminder so people can learn from history as it slammed the criticism. In response, sources in the FIA told Geo News that the decision to take action was made as a "propaganda video" which included Mujeeb was uploaded from the PTI founder's account on May 26. The PTI founder is in Adiala Jail, but his account is being used to upload propaganda videos. FIA's cyber wing will speak to four people from the PTI on this issue, the sources said. Those four include Imran, Gohar, PTI Information Secretary Raouf Hasan, and Secretary-General Omar Ayub. The agency's team will determine whether the post was uploaded by the PTI founder himself or with his consent. It will also probe who made the "anti-Pakistan propaganda" video. If this act is done by the account holder, legal action will be taken against him. In case the account holder did not post, then he would have to apply for the closure of his X account.—RT/Agency

Pakistan And Azerbaijan Vow To Further Bilateral Ties

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, investment, energy and connectivity, aiming to fully utilise the potential of their friendly ties.

During a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister [and Foreign Minister] Ishaq Dar and Azeri Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, bilateral ties and cooperation as well as international matters were discussed. In a joint press conference, Ishaq Dar accentuated the intention of both countries to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity, energy and defence sectors.

He highlighted efforts to boost bilateral investment, particularly in the energy sector, with a focus on the role of the joint working group on energy.

Dar also mentioned the mutual desire to promote parliamentary and cultural exchanges, fostering business-to-business and academic linkages, along with enhancing cooperation in renewable energy.

He extended Pakistan's support for Azerbaijan's hosting of the COP29 meeting. The discussions also



included the prevailing situation in Gaza, with both sides calling for an immediate cessation of Israeli hostilities and the establishment of an independent Palestine state with Quds Al Sharif as its capital. Dar expressed gratitude for Azerbaijan's consistent support on the Kashmir issue, reaffirming Pakistan's support for Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov stated that the meeting aimed to strengthen cooperation and strategic partnership to elevate the bilateral relationship. He emphasised the untapped potential for economic and trade cooperation, stressing the need for joint economic projects in various sectors.

Bayramov invited Pakistan's business community to explore opportunities in Azerbaijan, highlighting existing connectivity through direct flights and tourism. He appreciated Pakistan's stance on the Karabakh conflict and reiterated Azerbaijan's principled position on the Kashmir issue.

Both ministers also addressed climate change concerns, with Azerbaijan pledging support for developing countries like Pakistan in adaptation efforts. Dar highlighted Pakistan's challenges in the aftermath of floods and emphasised the country's strategic location for regional connectivity. The leaders concluded their discussions with a strong commitment to further strengthen bilateral strategic relations and broaden cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, energy, defence, education, climate action and regional connectivity.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Approves Significant Educational Initiatives For Sindh



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday gave approval for several significant educational initiatives aimed at increasing educational opportunities in Sindh, media reported.

During the meeting with the Federal Ministry of Education, PM Shehbaz Sharif gave in-principle approval for measures to increase educational opportunities in the province.

According to the Ministry of Education, a new campus of the Textile University will be established in Sindh to meet the region's growing demand for specialized education in textiles and related industries.

The resident of Karachi will see the establishment of a National Skills University campus, aimed at enhancing vocational and technical education, along with a co-campus of the Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design to provide more opportunities in fashion and design education.

Additionally, Mirpurkhas will benefit from a new co-campus of the Federal Urdu University, expanding access to higher education in the region. Furthermore, a new Danish School will be inaugurated in Karachi to offer quality education to underprivileged children. Additionally, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will provide funds for a school feeding program in Sindh, ensuring that children receive nutritious meals to support their education.—RT/Agency

PM Calls For Strengthening Pakistan-Azerbaijan Trade And Investment Ties

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday, expressing satisfaction on the positive trajectory of relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, stressed the need to further strengthen mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, energy and security domains.

He was talking to Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov, who paid a courtesy call on him at the Prime Minister's House.

The prime minister expressed appreciation that both sides had always extended their full support to each other on issues of core interest and reaffirmed that they would continue to do so at every international forum.

He felicitated Foreign Minister Bayramov on his selection as the host city for COP29 to be held in November this year and said that Pakistan would work closely with



Azerbaijan to ensure the successful outcome of that important event.

Fondly recalling his productive and fruitful interactions with President Ilham Aliyev during his visit to Baku in June last year, the prime minister reiterated his invitation to the Azerbaijan's president to undertake an official visit to Pakistan later this year.

The Azeri foreign minister thanked the prime minister for receiving him and briefed him on the

discussions held between the two foreign ministers earlier in the day.

He also conveyed warm greetings of the Azerbaijan's leadership to the prime minister and assured him of his country's strong desire to further solidify its ties with Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Bayramov is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar.—RT/Agency

Court Clears Imran Of Charges In Two Cases Linked To May 9 Riots

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court of Islamabad on Thursday acquitted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in two cases related to the May 9 riots.

The petition challenging the two cases lodged at Shehzad Town police station against the PTI founder was approved by Judicial Magistrate Umar Shabbir.

"Because of insufficient evidence presented by the prosecution, the PTI founder has been acquitted," the district and sessions court said in its verdict.

Earlier, Khan was acquitted in two cases pertaining to May 9 vandalism on May 15.

His acquittal orders were issued by Judicial



Magistrate Sahib Bilal, who approved the former prime minister's plea challenging the cases. Both those cases against Khan were filed in Khanna Police Station in Islamabad. His acquittal plea was approved by court because of insufficient evidence in the cases against him. The cases were registered against the PTI founder for long march and violation of Article 144. Khan, who remains behind the bars in Adiala jail, and several others including some PTI leaders are facing various allegations in the cases related to the violence following his arrest on May 9.—RT/Agency

KP Governor Deliberates On Political And Provincial Affairs With PM



ISLAMABAD: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here where they discussed the matters related to the KP province and the overall political situation.

The governor appreciated the prime minister for his government's pro-business and investment

policies which led to an enhanced investment in the country.

In the meeting, they also discussed the issues facing the KP province and their durable solution. Commerce Minister Abad Khan Cheema and Advisor to PM on Political Affairs Rana Sanuallah also attended the meeting.—RT/Agency

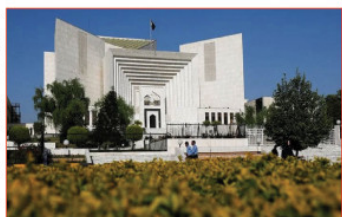
Imran Seeks Legal Advice In NAB Law Case, Complains To CJP About Difficulties

ISLAMABAD: Former premier Imran Khan complained to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday about the challenges he faced in obtaining legal assistance for the NAB law amendments case as the two interacted for the first time in the courtroom.

Incarcerated at Adiala Jail, the ex-premier attended the hearing via video link. Imran informed the CJP, "The jail authorities do not allow me to meet my legal team. I am being kept in solitary confinement without access to any materials or a library to prepare for the case."

Imran's remarks came as a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court (SC) led by CJP Isa, and including Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah, and Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, resumed hearing the accountability laws amendment case.

At the outset of the hearing, the apex court rejected the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government's petition seeking



the hearing to be broadcast live.

The federal government challenged the apex court's majority verdict in September last year, declaring amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 2002 illegal. The proceedings held on May 14 were telecast live. However, the last one as well as today's was not. Both of them had the ex-premier in attending the hearing via video link.

Justice Minallah dissented from the majority 4-1 decision and said that it is a matter of public interest and therefore should be live-streamed. The chief justice said the court has never received such a plea before and all judges deliberated on the

petition before a decision was reached.

At the outset of the hearing today, Justice Minallah said the hearing should be broadcast in the same manner earlier hearings were. However, the chief justice said the case is "technical" in nature and is not a matter of public interest.

"The last hearing was not broadcast live and neither will we broadcast today," added Justice Isa. Following these remarks, the bench took a recess to deliberate if the hearing should be broadcast live.

The hearing resumed after a break of almost an hour with the court announcing its verdict on the K-P petition.—RT/Agency