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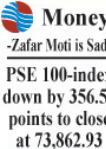
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The verdict has been reserved on the federal and provincial governments' pleas, challenging the apex court's September 15 majority 2-1 judgment, which was announced by a bench led by former chief justice Umar Ata Bandial.

In 2022, the Pakistan Democratic Movement government made amendments to the National Accountability (NAB) Ordinance, with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan challenging it in the court as it would "virtually eliminate any white-collar crime committed by a public officer holder".

In its judgment on Khan's appeal, the top court ruled on Sept 15 that the public officials whose cases had ended due to the amendments made by the PDM-led government would have to once again face corruption references.

The government then filed a petition in October 2023, saying that the majority judgement suffers from procedural impropriety and is, therefore, liable to be set aside. During the hearings, PTI founder Khan appeared before the five-member bench via video link and also expressed the issues that he's been facing during imprisonment. He had claimed that he was in solitary confinement, but the federal government Thursday submitted documents to show that the former prime minister was being provided several facilities.

After hearing arguments from all sides the bench — led by CJP Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justices Athar Minallah, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Khan Minkhail, and Hasan Azhar Rizvi — reserved the verdict. The government provided evidence, including photographs of the facilities not only provided photographic evidence of all the facilities but also the names of all those who have visited him in the prison facility so far. The former prime minister also held 105 meetings with at least 403 people during the time period of 246 days — from September 28 to May 30 — in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Loses Cricket Match But Secures Non-Permanent UNSC Membership By A Huge Margin

UNITED NATIONS: After months of hectic campaigning, Pakistan Thursday was elected, with a massive majority, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, the world body's power centre, pledging to make its contribution in meeting the grave challenges facing the world.



Pakistan, which was opposed, garnered 182 votes in the 193-member General Assembly — far more than the required 124 votes representing two-thirds majority.

Pakistan is joining the Security Council at a time of great international upheaval and challenges and plans to pay special attention to: Promotion of peace and security in South Asia; Upholding the principle of self-determination for the people of Palestine and Kashmir; Promotion of normalisation in Afghanistan; Promotion of equitable solutions to the security challenges in Africa; Enhance the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations.

Loud applause rang out in the iconic hall of the General Assembly when its president, Dennis Francis, announced the winners of the five non-permanent seats — Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama and Somalia — to replace Japan, Ecuador, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland whose terms end on December 31. He congratulated them on their victory.

Pakistan will replace Japan, which currently occupies the Asian seat, on January 1, 2022, to begin a two-year term, its eighth.

Speaking about Pakistan's priorities and goals as a member of the 15-member Council, Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, said the country's election "represents the confidence of the international community in Pakistan's ability to promote the purposes and principles of the UN Charter".

Extension Granted In Interim Bails For Omar Ayub, Shibli And Others In Vandalism Case



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad anti-terrorism court (ATC) has extended interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in vandalism case. Judge Abul Hasan Tahir Abbas Sipra Meantime, a petition has been filed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM Ali Amin Gandapur on absence of appearance in the court. —RT/Agency

Shehbaz Engages In Talks On Pragmatic Cooperation Between Pakistan And China With CIDCA Chairman



BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that wants to benefit from China's development model.



The prime minister stated this during a meeting with the chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency, Ambassador Luo Zhaohui, here on Thursday and exchanged views on the unique and enduring friendship and the promotion of pragmatic cooperation driven by common development, strategic trust and mutual benefit.

He also expressed confidence that the momentum would continue in the CPEC phase II to improve the lives and livelihoods of the people.

Termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the hallmark of ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China, they

noted that the Joint Working Group on Socioeconomic Development under the CPEC had yielded positive results. They also expressed confidence that the momentum would continue in the CPEC phase II to improve the lives and livelihoods of the people. Prime Minister Shehbaz underlined that the government and the people of both countries had always stood in solidarity with each other during times of natural disasters and calamities. He commended CIDCA's pivotal role in supporting developing countries particularly Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic, the post-2022 flood reconstruction, and the grant of polio vaccines. The CIDCA chairman expressed commitment to further deepening China-Pakistan cooperation across diverse fields. He also underlined the need to expand the bilateral partnership in infrastructure development, climate change response, and human resource development, including under the ambit of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI). —RT/Agency

Sheikh Rashid Calls On Army Chief For Amnesty In Wake Of May 9 Riots

ISLAMABAD: Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad appealed to Army Chief Gen Asim Munir and ISI Director General Nadeem Anjum on Thursday to grant amnesty [to those arrested in connection with the May 9 riots] on the auspicious occasion of Eidul Azha.



Speaking to a group of reporters on the Islamabad sessions court premises, Rashid observed that almost 80 to 90 percent of people accused of various charges [in the May 9 cases] were innocent.

funeral processions were being targeted by robbers in Rawalpindi.

Rashid accentuated the importance of the army's honour and dignity to every Pakistani, but voiced apprehension about the release of people arrested over suspicion in connection with the May 9 events after serving a year in prison.

The former minister warned that time was slipping away, noting that Pakistani investors were leaving the country. He also expressed regret that investment agreements signed with China during his tenure as

minister in the Pervez Musharraf era were stalled. Earlier, Sheikh Rashid, accompanied by his counsel Ali Nawaz Awan, appeared in the District and Sessions Court, Islamabad, for a hearing on a case related to vandalism during PTI's Azadi March.

However, the hearing was postponed until June 10 due to the unavailability of Civil Judge Malik Muhammad Imran.

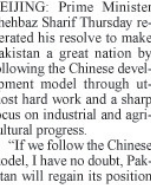
The case had been registered against PTI founder Imran Khan, Sheikh Rashid, and others. —RT/Agency

Government Dismisses Allegations Of Imran's Solitary Confinement



ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday refuted allegations that it is obstructing access to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan by his lawyers and family. In a response submitted to the Supreme Court, the government included photographs of Khan meeting with his legal team in prison. To support its stance, the government also provided a list of individuals who have met with Khan, countering claims that he is being held in solitary confinement. The former prime minister had previously claimed in the top court that he was being denied access to his lawyers. The government suggested that, if necessary, a commission could be appointed to verify these claims. Officials also stated that Khan has been afforded all necessary facilities in jail, including books, an air cooler, and a television. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for facilitating meetings with the convicted former premier were formalised in a document dated March 28. According to the SOPs, PTI leaders Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Sher Afzal Marwat, and Barrister Umair Ahmad Khan Niazi were designated as focal persons for coordinating visits at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. Under the outlined guidelines, Imran was to be allowed to meet his family and lawyers in two separate sessions on Tuesday, while a single session on Thursday will be reserved for his "lawyers/friends." Visitors intending to meet Imran must coordinate with the jail authorities through the designated focal persons, who will provide the visitor list — consisting of two individuals per focal person — one day before the scheduled meeting, adhering to the six-person limit. —RT/Agency

Shehbaz Vows To Transform Pakistan Into A 'Great Nation' Following Chinese Development Model



BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday reiterated his resolve to make Pakistan a great nation by following the Chinese development model through utmost hard work and a sharp focus on industrial and agricultural progress.



"If we follow the Chinese model, I have no doubt, Pakistan will regain its position in the comity of nations and will be respected like our Chinese brothers are done by friends and foes. [...] We will follow your model, work hard untiringly, put in our sweat and blood, and make Pakistan a great country," the prime minister said addressing the 4th Pakistan-China Friendship and Business Reception in Beijing. He told the gathering of Pakistani and Chinese business leaders that Pakistan would follow Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision to focus on progress and prosperity by avoiding conflicts and cited immense Chinese progress and projects like the Belt and Road Initiative, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI). The prime minister, who is in China on a five-day official visit, advised the Pakistani people against being dejected or losing hope rather than standing up and accepting the

challenge to reach the level of Chinese progress within a few years or decades. He said the China-Pakistan friendship had no parallel, noting that it remained unshakable and unreachably even during the storms, wars, and earthquakes. Recalling the Chinese journey of swift development to become the second biggest economic and military power under President Xi's vision, PM Shehbaz said it was achieved only through hard work and untiring efforts.

"All Pakistanis will also have to pass through this thorny process. There is no other way to earn respect in the world," he remarked. He said having come into being two years after Pakistan, China took its trade in billions of dollars while Pakistan's hovered around \$30-40 billion in terms of exports. Besides, China has excelled in information technology and artificial intelligence. He also referred to the "wonderful" bilateral cooperation in space programmes as Pakistan recently sent a lunar satellite and a space satellite recently with Chinese collaboration. Referring to the sad and gruesome attack by banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), in which five Chinese workers were killed in Becham in April, the premier condemned the incident and conveyed his deepest condolence to the families of those who were killed. He said the incident, which sent a shockwave across Pakistan, was the nefarious plot of enemies of China-Pakistan friendship and CPEC as well as those who did not want to see bilateral ties rising to the apex of glory.

Kundi Accuses Gandapur Of Murder

PESHAWAR: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has made serious allegations against Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, claiming he is involved in the murder of a provincial minister and other political figures.



In an interview with a private radio channel on Thursday, Governor Kundi criticised Gandapur, stating, "What can you expect from a chief minister who is an accused murderer?" He elaborated that Gandapur faces charges related to the murder of his own provincial minister and has also been accused of involvement in the killing of a political figure in Dera Ismail Khan. "Such a chief minister cannot be expected to deliver good governance," Kundi remarked. "Yet, it is somewhat amusing to hear

his statements. It shows that he is feeling the pressure, so let him speak." Kundi also referred to Gandapur's comments about having the power to "switch on and off" the government, responding cryptically, "I have a button which, once turned off, will not turn on again. I will reveal what this button is at the right time." Taking a jab at Gandapur's mental state, Kundi suggested, "If the chief minister is suffering from depression, he should seek medication for it rather than fearing me." Governor Kundi emphasised his commitment to democracy and his long-standing position against turning "political opponents" into martyrs. "I belong to a party that believes in democracy," he said. "I have always maintained that I will never let political opponents become political martyrs." —RT/Agency



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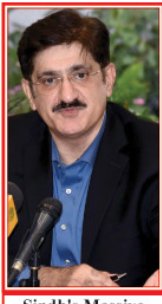
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that Khan was benefiting from during his incarceration in response to his claims of "solitary confinement" and not receiving the provisions.

In 2022, the Pakistan Democratic Movement government made amendments to the National Accountability (NAB) Ordinance, with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan challenging it in the court as it would "virtually eliminate any white-collar crime committed by a public office holder".

During the hearings, PTI founder Khan appeared before the five-member bench via video link and also expressed the issues that he's been facing during imprisonment.

In the jail, Khan is provided with an exercise bike and stretching belt for physical fitness, books, a separate kitchen, a special menu, an exclusive gallery for a walk, LED, a room cooler, and a study table. In the detailed document submitted to the court, the government not only provided photographic evidence of all the facilities but also the names of all those who have visited him in the prison facility so far. The former prime minister also held 105 meetings with at least 403 people during the time period of 246 days — from September 28 to May 30 — in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. —RT/Agency

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Ambassador Akram said Pakistan would actively work with other member countries of the Council to advance the shared objectives.

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Enhancing the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations

Upholding the principle of self-determination of the people of Palestine and Kashmir

Promotion of normalisation in Afghanistan

Promotion of equitable solutions to the security challenges in Africa

Promotion of peace and security in South Asia

Enhance the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations

Pakistan has been a leading contributor to United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. Currently, it has over 4,000 troops and other personnel deployed in UN Peacekeeping Missions around the world. The new members will join the five veto-wielding permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France — and the five countries elected as non-permanent members last year — Algeria, Guyana, South Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia. —RT/Agency

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Pakistan's earlier terms on the Council were in 2012-13, 2003-04, 1993-94, 1983-84, 1976-77, 1968-69 and 1952-53.

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The AML chief also appealed for the release of PTI women leaders Alia Hamza and Sanam Javed, expressing concern over the way they were being transferred from one jail to another, likening their treatment to that of the "queens of Jhansi".

minister in the Pervez Musharraf era were stalled. Earlier, Sheikh Rashid, accompanied by his counsel Ali Nawaz Awan, appeared in the District and Sessions Court, Islamabad, for a hearing on a case related to vandalism during PTI's Azadi March.

However, the hearing was postponed until June 10 due to the unavailability of Civil Judge Malik Muhammad Imran.

Expressing concern over the deteriorating security situation and growing inflation, Rashid lamented that even

Pakistan investors were leaving the country. He also expressed regret that investment agreements signed with China during his tenure as

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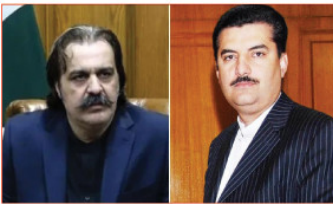
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THE HEARTLAND



MPA Syed Zia Abbas Shah Rizvi inaugurates development schemes in Tando Allahyar



By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, MPA Syed Zia Abbas Shah Rizvi, accompanied by the district administration, inaugurated various development schemes in different wards of the Tando Allahyar Municipal Committee. During the occasion, MPA Syed Zia Abbas Shah Rizvi spoke to the media, stating that development work has commenced in Tando Allahyar city. Under the World Bank

and MPA's scheme, every street in is being paved. Various roads and drainage schemes worth Rs 1.25 billion have been inaugurated, with ongoing work in 23 wards. Funds of Rs. 80 crore from the World Bank and MPA have been allocated for road schemes covering 25 kilometers.

Construction work is underway on these schemes, and they are expected to be completed by 2025. It was mentioned that significant development work has been

JUI-F kicks off membership drive in Larkana



By Saaleem Soomro

LARKANA: The inauguration ceremony for the membership drive of JUI-F in the district was held at Gulshan Shaheed Islam Jamia Islamia under the chairmanship of District Election Organizer Faqir Sikander Ali Naqshbandi.

The event was graced by the presence of special guests including Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar, Hafiz Abdul Hameed Mahar, Mohabbat Ali Khuro, Maulana Tahir Khalid Mahmood Soomro, Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Channa, Maulana Jamal Mustafa, Maulana Muhammad Tariq, Maulana Basheer Ahmed Bhatti, Maulana Muhammad Sanaullah Jatoi, Maulana Abdul Rehman, Hafiz

Ahmed Khan, Abdul Shakoor, Maulana Hameedullah Siyal, along with district and sub-district election organizers, executive committee members, and Union Council election organizers.

The membership drive booklet was handed over to the election organizers during the meeting. Speaking to the media on the occasion, the special guest, Provincial Election Organizer Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar, and others said that the formal commencement of the membership drive of JUI-F has begun. Similar to the rest of the country, leaders of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam in Sindh province will conduct membership drives at the district, sub-district, town, and Union Council levels.

DC Umerkot Naveed Rehman Larik reviews arrangements for monsoon season



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: An important meeting was held at the Hall of Soorah Badshah Complex under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Umerkot, Naveed Rehman Larik, to review the arrangements made to handle the potential monsoon rains and floods. Speaking at the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik said that the previous rains and floods caused significant damage. Therefore, keeping in view the past rains, officials from all relevant departments in the district should complete their necessary arrangements before the monsoon rains so that the emerging situation can be timely addressed, and the public can be saved from any trouble. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik directed the XEN Mithrao Canal, XEN Thar Canal, XEN Jamrao Canal, XEN Drainage Division Umerkot, Chief Municipal Officer, XEN Public Health Engineering Umerkot, and Town Officers to remove encroachments from the channels, branches, pocket drains, and main drains of the city and ensure their cleaning so that rainwater can be easily drained in case of rainfall. He also directed them to arrange stand-by generators and pumping machines for the

drainage of rainwater in the low-lying areas of the city and to present a report on the machinery available with the municipal and town administration. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the irrigation department officials to strengthen all protective embankments, channels, and branches passing through the Umerkot boundaries and to immediately remove any private embankments.

He also emphasized ensuring the advance availability of necessary materials and machinery for the flood season. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the HESCO XEN to immediately remove trees and other obstacles from over the electric wires and to make advance arrangements for the uninterrupted power supply to the city's drinking water supply and drainage pumping machines during the rains to avoid any water shortage or drainage issues in the city.

He directed the health department officials to ensure the availability of life-saving medicines and snakebite vaccines in all hospitals in the district and to keep their ambulances on standby so that any untoward incident during the rains can be promptly addressed. He further instructed to set up medical camps in the relief camps and prepare mobile medical teams and to conduct anti-mosquito sprays before and after the rains to prevent any potential diseases.

SEPA commemorates World Environment Day in Tando Allahyar



By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the direction of Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), a seminar and tree plantation drive were organized in Tando Allahyar district, regional office Hyderabad, Sindh, to commemorate World Environment Day. According to the details, Sindh's Minister for Environment, Climate Change, and Coastal Development, Dost Muhammad Rahmon, along with Director General of SEPA, Naeem Ahmed Mughal, and Regional Incharge of SEPA Hyderabad, Abdul Jabbar Johkio, instructed the SEPA office in Tando Allahyar to organize an awareness seminar on World Environment Day at Mehran Sugar Mills, followed by a tree plantation drive. The awareness seminar was attended by professors, lecturers, students, various political and social figures, as well as officers and staff of SEPA. Special guests at the awareness seminar included Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Ali and Resident Director of Mehran Sugar Mills, Syed Itteshamuddin. During the event, District In-



charge of SEPA Shah Khalid, Abdul Hafeez Ghori (DDP-PP), President of Tando Allahyar Press Club Ghulam Rasool Dars, and General Secretary Syed Abdul Rashid Jaffari addressed the participants. District Officer of NRSP, Sahar Khatoun, District DIO Education

Ghazala Tahseen Samo, Deputy Director Social Welfare, also spoke to the participants, emphasizing the importance of celebrating World Environment Day to raise environmental awareness among the public, as a better environment ensures a better future.

-Can you believe this? Journalist Altaf Ahmed Soomro detained for hours for asking question from AC Moro

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: In Moro, Assistant Commissioner Mustaqem Qureshi went to the shopkeepers to check the rate lists in the city. During this time, journalist Altaf Ahmed Soomro questioned the Assistant Commissioner and spoke about imposing fines amounting to thousands of rupees. In response, the Assistant Commissioner expressed anger towards the journalist. Subsequently, the Assistant Commissioner called the police, had the journalist arrested, and detained him in the lockup at Moro police station. He ordered a case to be registered for obstruction of duty. Later, citizens, political and social organization leaders, and journalists strongly condemned this action and reached Moro police station. They spoke with the Assistant Commissioner and managed to secure the journalist's release.

SEPA commemorates World Environment Day in Badin



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Sindh Environmental Protection Agency Badin organized a seminar in connection with World Environment Day. During the seminar, Deputy Director Environment Badin In-charge Abdul Rauf Qureshi, Dr. Noor Ahmad Nahiyan, Assistant Director Shoab Jaffari, Assistant Director Abdul Salam Samo, education expert Muhammad Khan Samo, Registrar Lad Campus Khalid Bhatti, PCWR District Officer Tariq Noonari, District Information Officer Sarfaraz Samo, Riyaz Soomro, President of Social Union Badin Muhammad Soomro Mullah, and others addressed the event. They stated that this year, the United Nations has named World Environment Day as "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Prevention of Drought," with the aim of raising awareness about environmental pollution and taking preventive measures to protect the environment from destruction. 45% of Badin's land is fenced, and 245,000 acres of land have been lost to the sea, leading to the depletion of economic resources, causing large-scale migration of people. On a global level, the responsibility for reducing or eliminating environmental pollution mostly falls on developed countries, but developing countries are suffering from its effects. Pakistan is among the countries most affected by climate change, with its terrible effects being witnessed.

The destruction caused by recent floods is not a natural calamity but a result of man-made pollution. Pakistan is among the first 10 countries affected by climate change.

The heat wave in summer is becoming unbearable, and the intensity of cold is also increasing in winter. Climate changes are becoming precursors to sometimes droughts and sometimes catastrophic floods in the region. Every person has to realize their individual responsibility. If we want to deal with climate change, we must stop not only deforestation and water wastage but also prevent other sources of pollution, including plastic.

It is necessary for both the government and the people to take joint measures for environmental protection to restore the natural environment to its original state. At the end of the seminar, trees were planted as part of the plantation campaign.

SAU launches farmer registration drive to propel agricultural development

By Irfan Ali khushk

TANDO JAM: In a groundbreaking move, Dr. Fateh Marri, Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tando Jam, has announced the establishment of a foundation comprising retired professors, officers and employees.

This initiative, under the university's supervision, aims to significantly contribute to agricultural development. Addressing the farewell ceremony of the retiring Director of Admissions, Ahmed Khan Mangi, Dr. Marri unveiled ambitious plans to register over 12,000 farmers. This effort is designed to support farmers through outreach programs facilitated by agricultural graduates, providing them with essential resources such as seeds, nurseries, animal breeding, and modern agricultural technology. Dr. Marri emphasized that the foundation will be modeled after successful initiatives like the Green Pakistan Drive, NLC, and Fauji Foundation. "We aim to leverage the experience of our senior professors and officers, and various projects will enable effective fundraising, he stated.

Highlighting the university's responsibility towards its 10,000 enrolled students, Dr. Marri noted that SAU recently registered progressive farmers during the Mango Festival in Mirpurkhas and signed MoUs with them. Our future plans include registering 12,000 farmers across the country, with a focus on Sindh, he added. Dr. Marri reiterated that SAU is a responsible institution with stakeholders holding high expectations.

He stressed the need for the university's academic and research efforts to be closely linked with the farming community. Over the past three years, we have introduced new degree programs, faculty and staff development initiatives, capacity building, and international linkages. Our budget and internal resources have seen a significant increase and our infrastructure has improved considerably, he elaborated.

Dr. Marri expressed optimism that SAU will soon overcome financial challenges and achieve the status of one of the top developed universities in the country. During the event, the retiring Director of Admissions, Ahmed Khan Mangi, also addressed the audience.

The ceremony was attended by Dean Dr. Inayatullah Rajpar, Registrar Ghulam Mohiuddin Qureshi, Director of Finance Anil Kumar, President of the Officers Association Manzoor Hussain Lakher, General Secretary Muhammad Ashraf Rustamani, heads of various departments, and a large number of officers.

SUP holds national conference on Sindh's issues



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Nationalist leader Syed Zain Shah, Hasmain Mirza and other political, social, academic, literary figures, settler leaders and journalists participated in the National Conference under the auspices of SUP. The speakers of the conference expressed the problems and dangers facing Sindh in the current situation, giving the people the right to rule, protecting lives, property, resources and minerals, demanding practical measures to eliminate corruption and corrupt rulers.

National conference organized under the auspices of Sindh United Party. In the conference held at Gymkhana Badin, Central President of Sindh United Party Syed Zain Shah, former Member of Provincial Assembly and Parliamentary Leader Hasmain Mirza, political, social, academic and literary figures. Addressing the participants of the conference, Syed Zain Shah mentioned the violation of human rights in Sindh, killing of journalists and ordinary citizens, unrest, poverty, unemployment, shortage of agricultural canals and drinking water, the black marketing of pesticides and seeds, the increase in

drug trafficking, the seizure of Sindh's resources, minerals and lands, expressed their views on the problems and dangers faced by Sindh in the global and domestic situation. On this occasion, Syed Zain Shah, Central President of Sindh United Party, said that the usurping Sindh and anti-people forces are in power and these powers have not only seized the resources and minerals of Sindh, but also stolen the valuable land of the cities and towns and the agricultural land of the villages. It has been handed over to local and unrelated individuals and institutions.

Power interest and the greed for favors have ended the oppositional politics in the name of reconciliation. Addressing the conference, former Member Provincial Assembly Hasmain Mirza, Central President of Awami Jamhoori Party

PKMT protests against prevailing economic hardships



By Adeel Awi

SHIKARPUR: The Pakistan Kisan Mazdoor Tehreek is in full protest due to the ongoing climate and economic crisis. Small and landless farmers have raised their voices in protest. In this regard, a seminar was organized by the Pakistan Kisan Mazdoor Tehreek in Shikarpur. On this occasion, Hakim Gul, a leader of the PKMT, said that we, the small and landless farmers and laborers of this country, simultaneously reject the policies of the global capitalist and imperialist system, the International Monetary Fund, WTO, Codex, and SPS. Due to these policies, our hardworking people, especially the small and landless farmers and industrial workers, are trapped in severe hunger, poverty, unemployment, and inflation. He further said that today, farmers are being forced to abandon farming. Factories are shutting down, and a large number of workers are facing unemployment. In such conditions, women farmers and laborers are suffering from hunger, malnutrition, and poverty due to the current climate and economic crisis, agriculture is deteriorating on one hand, while farmers and laborers are suffering from economic hardship on the other. Additionally, Najeeullah, Manzoor Ahmed, Gul Hassan Naper, Safiullah Suhnndri, Abdullah Bhatti and others also addressed the seminar, stating that the government immediately reject capitalist, feudal, and imperialist policies and the conditions of the IMF. It is necessary for the state to prioritize the interests of the imperialist countries and multinational companies and take immediate steps to provide better employment opportunities for the working and farming classes.

THE HEARTLAND



MPA Syed Zia Abbas Shah Rizvi inaugurates development schemes in Tando Allahyar



By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, MPA Syed Zia Abbas Shah Rizvi, accompanied by the district administration, inaugurated various development schemes in different wards of the Tando Allahyar Municipal Committee. During the occasion, MPA Syed Zia Abbas Shah Rizvi spoke to the media, stating that development work has commenced in Tando Allahyar city. Under the World Bank

and MPA's scheme, every street in is being paved. Various roads and drainage schemes worth Rs 1.25 billion have been inaugurated, with ongoing work in 23 wards. Funds of Rs. 80 crore from the World Bank and MPA have been allocated for road schemes covering 25 kilometers. Construction work is underway on these schemes, and they are expected to be completed by 2025. It was mentioned that significant development work has been initiated in Sindh, including Tando Allahyar, during our provincial ministry's tenure. The schemes initiated will soon be completed, bringing substantial progress to the area. During the event, Syed Zia Abbas Shah Rizvi was warmly welcomed at various locations. Present at the occasion were Chairman Syed Samer Hassan Shah Rizvi, Vice Chairman Saleem Jani Khanzada, Zawar Parvez Samo, DC Ibrahim Almani and other officials.

JUI-F kicks off membership drive in Larkana



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The inauguration ceremony for the membership drive of JUI-F in the district was held at Gulshan Shaheed Islam Jamia Islamia under the chairmanship of District Election Organizer Faqir Sikander Ali Naqshbandi. The event was graced by the presence of special guests including Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar, Hafiz Abdul Hameed Mahar, Mohabbat Ali Khuro, Maulana Tahir Khalid Mahmood Soomro, Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Channa, Maulana Jamal Mustafa, Maulana Muhammad Tariq, Maulana Basheer Ahmed Bhatti, Maulana Muhammad Sanaullah Jatoi, Maulana Abdul Rehman, Hafiz

Ahmed Khan, Abdul Shakoor, Maulana Hameedullah Siyal, along with district and sub-district election organizers, executive committee members, and Union Council election organizers. The membership drive booklet was handed over to the election organizers during the meeting. Speaking to the media on the occasion, the special guest, Provincial Election Organizer Maulana Muhammad Saleh Indhar, and others said that the formal commencement of the membership drive of JUI-F has begun. Similar to the rest of the country, leaders of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam in Sindh province will conduct membership drives at the district, sub-district, town, and Union Council levels.

DC Umerkot Naveed Rehman Larik reviews arrangements for monsoon season

By Muhammad Bachal



UMERKOT: An important meeting was held at the Hall of Soorah Badshah Complex under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Umerkot, Naveed Rehman Larik, to review the arrangements made to handle the potential monsoon rains and floods. Speaking at the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik said that the previous rains and floods caused significant damage. Therefore, keeping in view the past rains, officials from all relevant departments in the district should complete their necessary arrangements before the monsoon rains so that the emerging situation can be timely addressed, and the public can be saved from any trouble. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik directed the XEN Mithrao Canal, XEN Thar Canal, XEN Jamrao Canal, XEN Drainage Division Umerkot, Chief Municipal Officer, XEN Public Health Engineering Umerkot, and Town Officers to remove encroachments from the channels, branches, pocket drains, and main drains of the city and ensure their cleaning so that rainwater can be easily drained in case of rainfall. He also directed them to arrange stand-by generators and pumping machines for the

drainage of rainwater in the low-lying areas of the city and to present a report on the machinery available with the municipal and town administration. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the irrigation department officials to strengthen all protective embankments, channels, and branches passing through the Umerkot boundaries and to immediately remove any private embankments. He also emphasized ensuring the advance availability of necessary materials and machinery for the flood season. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the HESCO XEN to immediately remove trees and other obstacles from over the electric wires and to

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to the climate and economic crisis. Barkat Naper said that as a result of the IMF's conditions, the current imperialist and capitalist oppression has caused the prices of electricity, oil, gas, and essential food items to skyrocket, making them unaffordable for the working class. Ali Gul stated that hunger, destitution, poverty, and unemployment have created difficulties in people's lives, while on the other hand, the elite of this country, under the guise of state privileges, are burdening the national treasury with free electricity, gas, and illegal expenditures worth billions of rupees. The working-class people are paying the price for the loss of dignity. Muhammad Hayat Suhndri said that due to the current climate and economic crisis, agriculture is deteriorating on one hand, while farmers and laborers are suffering from economic hardship on the other. Additionally, Najeeullah, Manzoor Ahmed, Gul Hassan Naper, Safiullah Suhndri, Abdullah Bhatti and others also addressed the seminar, stating that the government immediately reject capitalist, feudal, and imperialist policies and the conditions of the IMF. It is necessary for the state to prioritize the interests of the imperialist countries and multinational companies and take immediate steps to provide better employment opportunities for the working and farming classes.

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TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the direction of Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), a seminar and tree plantation drive were organized in Tando Allahyar district, regional office Hyderabad, Sindh, to commemorate World Environment Day. According to the details, Sindh's Minister for Environment, Climate Change, and Coastal Development, Dost Muhammad Rahmon, along with Director General of SEPA, Naeem Ahmed Mughal, and Regional Incharge of SEPA Hyderabad, Abdul Jabbar Johkio, instructed the SEPA office in Tando Allahyar to organize an awareness seminar on World Environment Day at Mehran Sugar Mills, followed by a tree plantation drive. The awareness seminar was attended by professors, lecturers, students, various political and social figures, as well as officers and staff of SEPA. Special guests at the awareness seminar included Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Ali and Resident Director of Mehran Sugar Mills, Syed Itteshamuddin. During the event, District In-



charge of SEPA Shah Khalid, Abdul Hafeez Ghori (DDP-PP), President of Tando Allahyar Press Club Ghulam Rasool Dars, and General Secretary Syed Abdul Rashid Jaffari addressed the participants. District Officer of NRSP, Sahar Khatoun, District DIO Education Ghazala Tahseen Samo, Deputy Director Social Welfare Zohaib Khanzada, also spoke to the participants, emphasizing the importance of celebrating World Environment Day to raise environmental awareness among the public, as a better environment ensures a better future.

Journalist Altaf Ahmed Soomro detained for hours for asking question from AC Moro

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: In Moro, Assistant Commissioner Mustaqem Qureshi went to the shopkeepers to check the rate lists in the city. During this time, journalist Altaf Ahmed Soomro questioned the Assistant Commissioner and spoke about imposing fines amounting to thousands of rupees. In response, the Assistant Commissioner expressed anger towards the journalist. Subsequently, the Assistant Commissioner called the police, had the journalist arrested, and detained him in the lockup at Moro police station. He ordered a case to be registered for obstruction of duty. Later, citizens, political and social organization leaders, and journalists strongly condemned this action and reached Moro police station. They spoke with the Assistant Commissioner and managed to secure the journalist's release.

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sponsibility for reducing or eliminating environmental pollution mostly falls on developed countries, but developing countries are suffering from its effects. Pakistan is among the countries most affected by climate change, with its terrible effects being witnessed. The destruction caused by recent floods is not a natural calamity but a result of man-made pollution. Pakistan is among the first 10 countries affected by climate change. The heat wave in summer is becoming unbearable, and the intensity of cold is also increasing in winter. Climate changes are becoming precursors to sometimes droughts and sometimes catastrophic floods in the region. Every person has to realize their individual responsibility. If we want to deal with climate change, we must stop not only deforestation and water wastage but also prevent other sources of pollution, including plastic. It is necessary for both the government and the people to take joint measures for environmental protection to restore the natural environment to its original state. At the end of the seminar, trees were planted as part of the plantation campaign.

SUP holds national conference on Sindh's issues

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BADIN: Nationalist leader Syed Zain Shah, Hasmain Mirza and other political, social, academic, literary figures, settler leaders and journalists participated in the National Conference under the auspices of SUP. The speakers of the conference expressed the problems and dangers facing Sindh in the current situation, giving the people the right to rule, protecting lives, property, resources and minerals, demanding practical measures to eliminate corruption and corrupt rulers. National conference organized under the auspices of Sindh United Party. In the conference held at Gymkhana Badin, Central President of Sindh United Party Syed Zain Shah, former Member of Provincial Assembly and Parliamentary Leader Hasmain Mirza, political, social, academic and literary figures. Addressing the participants of the conference, Syed Zain Shah mentioned the violation of human rights in Sindh, killing of journalists and ordinary citizens, unrest, poverty, unemployment, shortage of agricultural canals and drinking water, the black marketing of pesticides and seeds, the increase in



drug trafficking, the seizure of Sindh's resources, minerals and lands, expressed their views on the problems and dangers faced by Sindh in the global and domestic situation. On this occasion, Syed Zain Shah, Central President of Sindh United Party, said that the usurping Sindh and anti-people forces are in power and these powers have not only seized the resources and minerals of Sindh, but also stolen the valuable land of the cities and towns and the agricultural land of the villages. It has been handed over to local and unrelated individuals and institutions. Power interest and the greed for favors have ended the oppositional politics in the name of reconciliation. Addressing the conference, former Member Provincial Assembly Hasmain Mirza, Central President of Awami Jamhoori Party

METRO KARACHI

Preparations Complete For Style Runway Fashion Show Season 15

KARACHI: Final preparations are complete for the highly anticipated Style Runway Fashion Show Season 15 (SRF15), set to showcase the work of Pakistan's top fashion designers. The event will feature collections from renowned names such as In Style Meena Kaari, Nook Palak, Uzair Bridal, Umo by Ifthikhar, and Fashion Zone, emphasizing Pakistani fashion on an international stage.

The runway will feature a stellar lineup of models: Female Models: Aruba Mirza, Zarneena Ikram, Anum Aqeel, Benita David, Sidra Sajid, Areej Chaudhry, Saameh Rajput, Neha Laaj, Rida Ali, and Sonia Asif. Male Models: Taqi



Ahmed, Shoab Hasan, Fawzan Khan, Ali Raza, Ikram Khan, Rafay Mughal, Adil Khan, and Kashif Khan.

Naz. Organizer Zia Zafar expressed excitement for the event, stating, "SRF15 will be held at Clock Tower Seaview on June 9. This event will feature unique designs from the country's renowned fashion designers, showcasing the remarkable growth and talent within Pakistan's fashion industry. Both emerging and established designers are making their mark on the international stage, reflecting the dynamic evolution of our fashion scene."

The event promises a spectacular display of creativity and innovation, highlighting the vibrant and diverse talent of Pakistan's fashion industry.—RT

Sindh Government To Strengthen Karachi Development Authority: Saeed Ghani



By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: The Sindh government will bolster the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) to enhance its effectiveness as a civic agency, announced Sindh Minister for Local Government, Saeed Ghani. During a meeting with a delegation from the KDA Labour Union led by Patron-in-chief Muhammad Ashraf, Ghani discussed issues related to the KDA, particularly its land department. Ghani assured that the promotion process for KDA officers and staff would commence soon and pledged to address the urgent issues faced by KDA employees. Ashraf expressed gratitude for the minister's commitment to resolving these matters and praised the Pakistan Peoples Party for its dedication to Karachi's development. The delegation included Syed Hassan Naqvi, Zeeshan Abdul Qayyum, Arsalan Naqvi, Muhammad Ali Ghouri, and Arsalan Qureshi.

Murad Emphasizes For Environmental Protection For Future Generations

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has called for urgent measures to address environmental challenges, including freshwater decline, marine and urban air pollution, inadequate waste management, ecosystem destruction, and environmental health risks. Speaking at a World Environment Day gathering at the CM House, Shah stressed the importance of preserving the planet for future generations.



Saeed Ghani stressed the need for cleanliness and tree planting initiatives. Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro reported measures against the release of untreated industrial water into rivers and canals. Environment Minister Dost Rahimoo discussed efforts to ban plastic bags. Shah concluded by urging everyone to act now for the sake of future generations, stating, "Let us unite in this fight and make a difference, one small step at a time."—RT

Provincial ministers, the Mayor of Karachi, and other officials attended the event, where Shah urged departments to play an effective role in tackling environmental issues and to keep him updated on their progress through monthly meetings. Shah highlighted the global environmental challenges of climate change, pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem destruction, but expressed hope that with the right knowledge, technology, and collective will, positive change is possible. He directed departments to engage all stakeholders in addressing these issues, emphasizing the government's responsibility to provide a healthy environment by reducing carbon footprints, conserving water and energy, planting trees, and promoting sustainable practices. Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho mentioned improvements in hospital waste management, while Local Government Minister

SHC Permits Journalists To Cover Court Proceedings

KARACHI: After the Islamabad High Court (IHC), the Sindh High Court (SHC) also allowed journalists to report on court proceedings, but asked them to ensure following "the guidelines and law". The SHC's decision came as it heard a petition of the Pakistan Federation of Journalists (PFJ) challenging the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra)'s restriction on airing of court proceedings on news channels.



The chief justice, however, maintained that the ban was, in fact, on "irresponsible reporting". "The problem is only with running sensational tickers," said Justice Farooq. The petitions were filed in the high courts after the electronic media watchdog issued two notifications ordering TV channels to not report on court proceedings and for reporters to only report courts' written orders.

The high court said the apex court's guidelines should be adopted while reporting as the Pemra could take action upon violation of the rules and guidelines established by the SC. Meanwhile, on a similar plea by the Press Association and PFJ, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had Wednesday assured journalists that there was no ban on court reporting but "irresponsible" court reporting. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq said: "There is no ban on court reporting. The media can report the court proceedings"

In a notification issued on May 21, the media watchdog directed all satellite news channel licensees that no content, including commentary, opinions, or suggestions about the potential fate of such sub-judice matter which tends to prejudice the determination by a court shall be aired. "Further, TV Channels are directed to refrain from airing tickers/headlines with regard to court proceedings till the final order," it added. All satellite TV channel licensees were also directed to ensure strict compliance to the Pemra laws in line with the judgment of the Supreme Court "in Suo Moto Case No. 28 of 2018 (reported as 2019 PLD SC 1) in letter and spirit". The media watchdog also warned of legal action in case of any violation.—RT/Agency

Hafiz Naeem Warns Of Targeted Killings Among Karachi's Youth



KARACHI: Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has said that the youth in Karachi being subjected to targeted killings, media reported on Thursday. Jamaat Islami's Ameer has said that the law and order situation has not been satisfactory in country. "Unfortunately, the ruling class disowns Karachi, and the city is not being given its due rights". Hafiz Naeem said that the national economy depends mostly on Karachi. "Around 54 percent exports of Pakistan belong to Karachi," he said.

"The city pays 42% of total income tax and generates 67% of revenues," JI chief said. He said that drug dens being run in Karachi. He alleged that the People's Party, MQM and the PML-N are responsible for the prevailing situation in the city. He alleged that the MQM joins every government, it has destroyed the young generation. "By imposing such people if someone thinks that the conditions would improve, how could it be possible," he questioned.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

Investment in Gilgit-Baltistan will bring economic prosperity: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined the need for focusing on the socio-economic uplift of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), adding that investment in GB would bring economic prosperity to the region. The President expressed these views while talking to members of the GB Council, who called on him, at Awan-e-Sadr, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and GB, Engineer Amir Muqam, Chief Minister GB, Mr Gulzar Khan, members of the GB Council, and senior government officials attended the meeting. The delegation apprised the President about the developmental and financial needs of GB. The President assured the delegation that the steps would be taken to develop health, education and road infrastructure to provide basic facilities to the people of GB at their doorsteps. He highlighted the need to expand the airport in Gilgit, besides finding new ways and



means for the development of GB. He said that GB was the gateway to China, having immense vast economic potential that needed to be fully capitalized upon for the people's benefit. The President informed the delegation that the issue of compensation to the affected of the Diamer-Bhasha dam would be taken up at the appropriate forum. The delegation told the President that the discontinuation of the Sehat Sahulat Programme was causing the problems of the people of GB.—RT

MPA Muhammad Sajid Jokhio commits to resolving problems of Gulshan-e-Hadeed residents



KARACHI: Under the leadership of PPP Mali's General Secretary and MPA Muhammad Sajid Jokhio, a meeting was held with the administration of Steel Mills to discuss the issues of Gulshan-e-Hadeed Phase I. Present at the occasion were UC Chairman Rao Safdar Hayat, Vice Chairman Mir Abbas Talpur, UC Steel Town Chairman Gulam Raza Jatwi, Vice Chairman Amanuddin Jokhio, Pakistan Steel's Director Technical Services

Syed Mehmood Abbas Shah, Director Administration Chaudhry Akram, CEO Pakistan Steel Staff Officer Faisal Khan, and officials from the water and electricity departments. During the meeting, it was decided that the electricity issue in Gulshan-e-Hadeed Phase-I would be referred to K-Electric within a week, and the remaining dues would be paid to Pakistan Steel by June. It was also decided to provide water to Gulshan-e-Hadeed, with all illegal connections being cut by

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REGIONAL TIMES THE HEARTLAND

Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman Atif pays tribute to poet Ishaq Rahi

By Shaikh Sindhi

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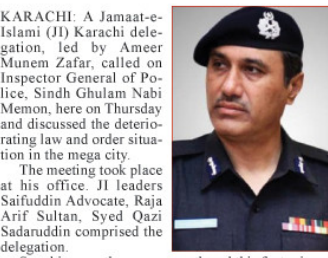
Solid Waste Management Board To Collect And Dispose Of Offals

KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the lifting and dumping of offals of sacrificial animals on Eid-ul-Azha.



It was decided in the meeting that the Solid Waste Management Board would lift and dispose of the offals at the dumping sites in collaboration with the Town Municipal Administrations and Cantonment Boards, ensuring coordination and communication to avoid any lapses.

The Karachi Municipal Corporation would also carry out fumigation on this occasion. The Solid Waste Management Board would continue its routine cleaning work. The Commissioner directed the Solid Waste Management Board to ensure that no complaints of uncleanness are received in the city on Eid-ul-Azha and that the work of lifting and dumping is carried out smoothly without any issues. The Executive Director of the Solid Waste Management Board, Tariq Ali Nizamani, briefed the Commissioner on the plan and arrangements for lifting and dumping of offals. It was decided that all Deputy Commissioners would hold meetings with the Solid Waste Management Board, Town Municipal Corporations, and Cantonment Boards in their respective districts to review the arrangements. The Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners to assist and guide the Solid Waste Management Board and municipal institutions for lifting and dumping offals of sacrificial animals.—RT/Agency



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By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A newlywed couple named Raju S/o Mevo Johi and Jogan recorded a protest demonstration for the provision of

Jogan are issuing dire threats to them. On the occasion, the protesters demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter and provide protection to them.

All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union records protest in Jacobabad

By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: The All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union staged a vigorous protest in Jacobabad against the management's failure to meet their legitimate demands regarding staff salaries, benefits, and inflationary pressures. Under the leadership of Abdul Tawab Nizamani, Adnan Ali Lashari, Ahmed Nawaz Lashari, a large number of workers participated, including Khalid Ali, Imtiaz Abbasi, Ayub Mughal, Imdad Ali Panhwar, Noor Muhammad Lashari, Zulfikar Ghani, Aftab Qureshi, Parvez Dashti, and many others. The representatives of the All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union expressed their concerns, warning that if their legitimate demands were not met, the protests would escalate further.

METRO KARACHI

Preparations Complete For Style Runway Fashion Show Season 15



KARACHI: Final preparations are complete for the highly anticipated Style Runway Fashion Show Season 15 (SRF15), set to showcase the work of Pakistan's top fashion designers. The event will feature collections from renowned names such as In Style Meena Kaari, Nook Palak, Uzair Bridal, Uomo by Iftikhar, and Fashion Zone, emphasizing Pakistani fashion on an international stage.

The runway will feature a stellar lineup of models: Female Models: Aruba Mirza, Zarneena Ikram, Anum Aqeel, Benita David, Sidra Sajid, Areej Chaudhry, Saameh Rajput, Neha Laaj, Rida Ali, and Sonia Asif. Male Models: Taqi

Naz. Organizer Zia Zafar expressed excitement for the event, stating, "SRF15 will be held at Clock Tower Seaview on June 9. This event will feature unique designs from the country's renowned fashion designers, showcasing the remarkable growth and talent within Pakistan's fashion industry. Both emerging and established designers are making their mark on the international stage, reflecting the dynamic evolution of our fashion scene."

The event promises a spectacular display of creativity and innovation, highlighting the vibrant and diverse talent of Pakistan's fashion industry.—RT

SHC Permits Journalists To Cover Court Proceedings

KARACHI: After the Islamabad High Court (IHC), the Sindh High Court (SHC) also allowed journalists to report on court proceedings, but asked them to ensure following "the guidelines and law".

The SHC's decision came as it heard a petition of the Pakistan Federation of Journalists (PFJ) challenging the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra)'s restriction on airing of court proceedings on news channels.

The high court said the apex court's guidelines should be adopted while reporting as the Pemra could take action upon violation of the rules and guidelines established by the SC.

Meanwhile, on a similar plea by the Press Association and PFJ, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had Wednesday assured journalists that there was no ban on court reporting but "irresponsible" court reporting.

IHC Chief Justice Ameer Farooq said: "There is no ban on court reporting. The media can report the court proceedings."



The chief justice, however, maintained that the ban was, in fact, on "irresponsible reporting". "The problem is only with running sensational tickers," said Justice Farooq.

The petitions were filed in the high courts after the electronic media watchdog issued two notifications ordering TV channels to not report on court proceedings and for reporters to only report courts' written orders.

In a notification issued on May 21, the media watchdog directed all satellite news channel licensees that no content, including commentary, opinions, or suggestions about the potential fate of such sub-judice matter which

tends to prejudice the determination by a court shall be aired. "Further, TV Channels are directed to refrain from airing tickers/headlines with regard to court proceedings till the final order," it added.

All satellite TV channel licensees were also directed to ensure strict compliance to the Pemra laws in line with the judgment of the Supreme Court "in Suo Moto Case No. 28 of 2018 (reported as 2019 PLD SC 1) in letter and spirit".

The media watchdog also warned of legal action in case of any violation.—RT/Agency

MPA Muhammad Sajid Jokhio commits to resolving problems of Gulshan-e-Hadeed residents



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Sindh Government To Strengthen Karachi Development Authority: Saeed Ghani



KARACHI: The Sindh government will bolster the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) to enhance its effectiveness as a civic agency, announced Sindh Minister for Local Government, Saeed Ghani. During a meeting with a delegation from the KDA Labour Union led by Patron-in-chief Muhammad Ashraf, Ghani discussed issues related to the KDA, particularly its land department.

Ghani assured that the promotion process for KDA officers and staff would commence soon and pledged to address the urgent issues faced by KDA employees.

Ashraf expressed gratitude for the minister's commitment to resolving these matters and praised the Pakistan Peoples Party for its dedication to Karachi's development.

The delegation included Syed Hassan Naqvi, Zeeshan Abdul Qayyum, Arsalan Naqvi, Muhammad Ali Ghouri, and Arsalan Qureshi.

"The city pays 42% of total income tax and generates 67% of revenues," JI chief said. He said that drug dens being run in Karachi. He alleged that the People's Party, MQM and the PML-N are responsible for the prevailing situation in the city.

He alleged that the MQM joins every government, it has destroyed the young generation.

"By imposing such people if someone thinks that the conditions would improve, how could it be possible," he questioned.—RT/Agency

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He highlighted the rapidly growing unrest among masses against the situation. He said the street criminals have not spared any one - doctors, teachers, youth, traders, industrialists, street vendors and all others have been victimized by them.

He also highlighted the gap between the police and the society and stressed the need to take concrete measures in this regard. The majority of those killed by street criminals and robbers are



youth and this factor is not only painful but also increases the intensity of situation, he said, adding that it is very painful to know that youth are killed for the sake of just a cell phone, a bike or for a few hundred rupees. Munem made it clear to the top cop that the JI will react strongly and Karachiites will be invited to cordon off the chief minister house, if the situation is not addressed properly. He also highlighted the issue of bribery by the traffic police in Karachi. He said that the traffic police personnel have been spotted depriving bikers and others motorists of their hard earned money. IGP Sindh Memon assured the JI delegation that the police department has been trying its level best to curb the crimes. He added that several alleged criminals have been arrested in the recent past in the mega city.—RT/Agency

Murad Emphasizes For Environmental Protection For Future Generations

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has called for urgent measures to address environmental challenges, including freshwater decline, marine and urban air pollution, inadequate waste management, ecosystem destruction, and environmental health risks.



Speaking at a World Environment Day gathering at the CM House, Shah stressed the importance of preserving the planet for future generations.

Provincial ministers, the Mayor of Karachi, and other officials attended the event, where Shah urged departments to play an effective role in tackling environmental issues and to keep him updated on their progress through monthly meetings.

Shah highlighted the global environmental challenges of climate change, pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem destruction, but expressed hope that with the right

knowledge, technology, and collective will, positive change is possible. He directed departments to engage all stakeholders in addressing these issues, emphasizing the government's responsibility to provide a healthy environment by reducing carbon footprints, conserving water and energy, planting trees, and promoting sustainable practices.

Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho mentioned improvements in hospital waste management, while Local Government Minister

Saeed Ghani stressed the need for cleanliness and tree planting initiatives. Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro reported measures against the release of untreated industrial water into rivers and canals. Environment Minister Dost Rahimoo discussed efforts to ban plastic bags.

Shah concluded by urging everyone to act now for the sake of future generations, stating, "Let us unite in this fight and make a difference, one small step at a time."—RT

Investment in Gilgit-Baltistan will bring economic prosperity: President Zardari

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined the need for focusing on the socio-economic uplift of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), adding that investment in GB would bring economic prosperity to the region.



The President expressed these views while talking to members of the GB Council, who called on him, at Awan-e-Sadr. Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and GB, Engineer Amir Muqam, Chief Minister GB, Mr Gulzar Khan, members of the GB Council, and senior government officials attended the meeting. The delegation apprised the President about the developmental and financial needs of GB. The President assured the delegation that the steps would be taken to develop health, education and road infrastructure to provide basic facilities to the people of GB at their doorsteps. He highlighted the need to expand the airport in Gilgit, besides finding new ways and

means for the development of GB. He said that GB was the gateway to China, having immense vast economic potential that needed to be fully capitalized upon for the people's benefit. The President informed the delegation that the issue of compensation to the affected of the Diamer-Bhasha dam would be taken up at the appropriate forum. The delegation told the President that the discontinuation of the Sehat Sahulat Programme was causing the problems of the people of GB.—RT

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said that Ishaq Rahi has rendered matchless services in the field of Sindh romantic poetry which will always be remembered.

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Why is the PML-N government not wanting to disband NAB now that it's in power?

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has long been a contentious entity in Pakistan's political landscape, often perceived as a tool for political victimization rather than a legitimate anti-corruption body. Recent statements by former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who asserted that NAB was not under his control during his tenure, highlight the bureau's problematic role. Khan's revelation raises critical questions about transparency and accountability in his government. Had Khan publicly clarified his lack of control over NAB while in office, it could have sparked essential reforms or at least a more informed public discourse.

Ironically, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which currently leads the government,

was vociferous in demanding NAB's disbandment when it was in opposition four years ago.



Senior PML-N leaders, including Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, decried NAB as a tool for political engineering and victimization, particularly following the Supreme Court's damning verdict on NAB's conduct. The PML-N's failure to dismantle NAB now, despite their previous condemnation, underscores a glaring hypocrisy and double standard that pervades Pakistani politics.

This duplicity has allowed NAB to remain an instrument of political victimization, undermin-

ing the very essence of democracy. Each ruling party appears more interested in wielding NAB against its opponents than in pursuing genuine reform. The ongoing saga of NAB's misuse not only discredits individual politicians but also erodes public trust in the democratic process.

It is imperative for the current government to take decisive action to disband NAB and establish a transparent, accountable mechanism for combating corruption. This would mark a significant step towards restoring integrity in governance and ensuring that anti-corruption efforts are not subverted by political agendas. Only by addressing these systemic issues can Pakistan hope to foster a truly democratic and just society.

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By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Deputy Commissioner Tando Muhammad Khan, Dharmoon Bhawani chaired a meeting at the drainage outfall drain to review the situation of River Indus' embankments passing through the district, focusing on flood protection and conservation measures.

On this occasion, XEN Irrigation Officer Mukesh Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Azizullah Soomro, Mukhtiar Riaz Patoli, Gulam Shabbir Mashori of the Drainage Division, Sanaulah Mallah, Azad Burdi and other relevant officials were present. Deputy Commissioner Tando Muhammad Khan detailed the situation of the River Indus and its embankments in Aimees and Alipur embankments and instructed practical measures for conservation and management to be taken to address the sensi-



tive situation of silt accumulation in the river water. During the meeting, briefing was given to the Deputy Commissioner by the irrigation officers. The embankment of the River Indus is approximately 22 miles long, and there is a significant pressure on the embankments due to the silt accumulation in the river water, which poses a risk to the embankment's stability. Many briefing sessions were conducted to discuss the need for conservation measures, and it was emphasized that

the stone pitching for flood protection is essential. However, due to budget constraints and pending fund releases, necessary arrangements for flood protection and vital maintenance are being delayed. Gulam Shabbir Memon of the Drainage Division emphasized the need to monitor the situation of possible rainfall in the district and to continue ongoing work on drainage and culverts in order to ensure the efficient drainage of water during monsoon season.

Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani's mother leads protest rally for arrest of her son's killers



By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: The mother of martyred journalist Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani named Pathani led a protest rally for the formation of judicial commission for the arrest of her son's murderers. The rally was also participated by Assad Pirafi, Malik Aslam, Maqbool Bozdar, Adam Pitaifi, Dr Niaz Kalani, Punhal Sario, Jam Mashooq Samejo, Zahid Mirani and others. Addressing on the occasion, mother of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani said that

the Ghotki Police have still not taken any step for the arrest of her son's murderers despite passage 18 days. She expressed dissatisfaction over the performance of the Sindh Police and demanded formation of judicial commission for the provision of justice to Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani. The leaders of different nationalist parties and social organizations also expressed concern over the performance of the police and demanded arrest of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani's murderers.

JSQM condemns Bahria Town administration for registering cases against Sindhi nationalists



By MM Faisal

KUNRI: In Kunri, a protest demonstration was organized by the JSQM district of Umerkot against the illegal encroachment of Sindhi lands by Malik Riaz of Bahria Town and the filing of false cases against Sindhi nationalists. According to reports, around 33 Sindhi nationalist leaders, including Sanan Qureshi, the central leader of JSQM and other activists and residents, were arrested in 2022 for protesting against Malik Riaz's illegal occupation of Sindhi lands for the construction of the new city project under the Bahria Town banner. Fabricated cases were registered against these activists by the Bahria Town administration. Dozens of workers, led by Ramzan Khakheli,

the organizer of JSQM district in Umerkot, staged a protest at the Press Club in Kunri. Gul Ahmed, Nadir Sindhi and others addressed the gathering. They stated that the illegal occupation of Sindhi lands for the new city project will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Strongly condemning the false cases, they demanded their immediate dismissal. They further accused the ruling mafia, supporting Malik Riaz, of forcefully evicting Sindhi landowners under the pretext of urban development, and called for an end to this exploitation. They urged an immediate halt to the illegal occupation of Sindhi lands and warned of further protests and sit-ins across the province if their demands were not met.



HYDERABAD: PPP's Leader of the Opposition in the Cantonment Board Hyderabad, Mr. Kazi Ashhad Abbasi is condoling with the President of the Hyderabad Gymkhana, Dr. Agha Taj on the tragic passing of his mother.-RT

NWM's growers protest against shortage of water in Malwah Branch

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: The local growers of Nawab Wali Muhammad staged a protest demonstration against the artificial water shortage in Malwah Branch in Nawab Wali Muhammad. The growers including Sher Rind, Yousif Rind, Bakhshal Rind, and others, while protesting and speaking to the media, said that due to artificial obstruction in the Malwah Branch, the water shortage has intensified. Crops such as cotton, sugarcane, guar and others standing on millions of acres are drying up. The overseer appointed at Malwah Branch is taking heavy bribes, break-



ing the modules of illegal watercourses, and selling the water meant for the tail-end to the upstream, becoming millionaires from paupers. They further said that the overseers and baildars, whose job is to strengthen the banks of the branch and maintain it by sprinkling water, are instead selling the tail-end's water to influential landlords at the upstream in exchange for millions of rupees. The farmers have demanded from the authorities to end the artificial obstruction in Malwah Branch.

Social Welfare Dept's Syed Hidayat Ali Shah warns stern action against use of child labor

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: In Phulji Station, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Syed Hidayat Ali Shah, along with Assistant Social Welfare Officer, Sher Muhammad Panhwar, conducted a surprise raid in several areas. The Deputy Commissioner, Fahim Ahmed Chachar, directed the heads of towns and cities in the district to

take action against the forced labor of innocent children in hotels and shops. A crackdown is underway against those involved in employing innocent children forcibly. The DC's instructions also include conducting raids on centers, colleges, and schools. A report is being prepared regarding these incidents to be presented to the Deputy Commissioner. Today, a raid was conducted near the Phulji station at various places including shops, hotels, and brick kilns. However, our innocent children were not found. We are taking action against these oppressors and striving to enforce the law. We appeal to our people to inform us of any form of injustice or illegal activities against innocent children, so we can take immediate action against them.

30th death anniversary of poet Ishaq Rahi observed throughout Sindh

By Hanif Panhwar

MEHAR: On June 6th, Sindh's eternal bard, Ishaq Rahi's 30th death anniversary was observed. Thirty years have passed since his demise, yet his poetic verses and ghazals continue to resonate in our hearts. Ishaq Rahi, the pride of Sindh, was born in Mehar on April 9th, 1935 in the home of Muhammad Saleh Soomro. He received his initial education in his hometown. He then pursued higher education under the guidance of prominent literary fig-

ures such as Maulana Ghulam Muhammad Girami and the renowned translator MN Mahazoon (Muhammad Nawaz Bhatti). Rahi began his career as a primary school teacher. Later, he served as a field assistant in agriculture. Ishaq Rahi embarked on his poetic journey in 1956 and continued to enrich Sindhi literature presently. He greatly benefited from the companionship of the esteemed poet, Natan Shahi, and Maulana Ghulam Muhammad Girami, who provided leadership and guidance in his poetic endeavors. Ishaq Rahi's Sindhi poetry is distinguished by the eloquent use of local dialects, metaphors, similes, idioms, and unique composition techniques, which have made his name prominent in Sindhi literature. His poetic talent is marked by evoking versatility, evolving with the passage of time. His poetry encompasses themes of love, nationalism, and religious devotion. His religious poetry is free from bias towards any particular faith, reflecting a universalistic approach.

Talhar youth shot dead in Umrani community clash

TALHAR: In a village near Talhar, during a dispute within the Umrani community, a tragic incident occurred resulting in the fatal shooting of Ghulam Allah Umrani S/O Ilyas Umrani, aged 22.

Upon receiving the information, Talhar Police was alerted. The body of Ghulam Allah Umrani was transferred to the Panigiro Hospital mortuary, and later shifted to the Rural Health Center in Talhar. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter, and security has been heightened in the surrounding areas. As of now, no arrests or further details have been reported.—RT



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JSQM condemns Bahria Town administration for registering cases against Sindhi nationalists



By MM Faisal

KUNRI: In Kunri, a protest demonstration was organized by the JSQM district of Umerkot against the illegal encroachment of Sindhi lands by Malik Riaz of Bahria Town and the filing of false cases against Sindhi nationalists. According to reports, around 33 Sindhi nationalist leaders, including Sanan Qureshi, the central leader of JSQM and other activists and residents, were arrested in 2022 for protesting against Malik Riaz's illegal occupation of Sindhi lands for the construction of the new city project under the Bahria Town banner. Fabricated cases were registered against these activists by the Bahria Town administration. Dozens of workers, led by Ramzan Khakheli,

the organizer of JSQM district in Umerkot, staged a protest at the Press Club in Kunri. Gul Ahmed, Nadir Sindhi and others addressed the gathering. They stated that the illegal occupation of Sindhi lands for the new city project will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Strongly condemning the false cases, they demanded their immediate dismissal. They further accused the ruling mafia, supporting Malik Riaz, of forcefully evicting Sindhi landowners under the pretext of urban development, and called for an end to this exploitation. They urged an immediate halt to the illegal occupation of Sindhi lands and warned of further protests and sit-ins across the province if their demands were not met.



HYDERABAD: PPP's Leader of the Opposition in the Cantonment Board Hyderabad, Mr. Kazi Ashhad Abbasi is condoling with the President of the Hyderabad Gymkhana, Dr. Agha Taj on the tragic passing of his mother.-RT

NWM's growers protest against shortage of water in Malwah Branch

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: The local growers of Nawab Wali Muhammad staged a protest demonstration against the artificial water shortage in Malwah Branch in Nawab Wali Muhammad. The growers including Sher Rind, Yousif Rind, Bakhshal Rind, and others, while protesting and speaking to the media, said that due to artificial obstruction in the Malwah Branch, the water shortage has intensified. Crops such as cotton, sugarcane, guar and others standing on millions of acres are drying up. The overseer appointed at Malwah Branch is taking heavy bribes, break-



ing the modules of illegal watercourses, and selling the water meant for the tail-end to the upstream, becoming millionaires from paupers. They further said that the overseers and baildars, whose job is to strengthen the banks of the branch and maintain it by sprinkling water, are instead selling the tail-end's water to influential landlords at the upstream in exchange for millions of rupees. The farmers have demanded from the authorities to end the artificial obstruction in Malwah Branch.

Social Welfare Dept's Syed Hidayat Ali Shah warns stern action against use of child labor

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: In Phulji Station, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Syed Hidayat Ali Shah, along with Assistant Social Welfare Officer, Sher Muhammad Panhwar, conducted a surprise raid in several areas. The Deputy Commissioner, Fahim Ahmed Chachar, directed the heads of towns and cities in the district to

take action against the forced labor of innocent children in hotels and shops. A crackdown is underway against those involved in employing innocent children forcibly. The DC's instructions also include conducting raids on centers, colleges, and schools. A report is being prepared regarding these incidents to be presented to the Deputy Commissioner. Today, a raid was conducted near the Phulji station at various places including shops, hotels, and brick kilns. However, our innocent children were not found. We are taking action against these oppressors and striving to enforce the law. We appeal to our people to inform us of any form of injustice or illegal activities against innocent children, so we can take immediate action against them.

30th death anniversary of poet Ishaq Rahi observed throughout Sindh

By Hanif Panhwar

MEHAR: On June 6th, Sindh's eternal bard, Ishaq Rahi's 30th death anniversary was observed. Thirty years have passed since his demise, yet his poetic verses and ghazals continue to resonate in our hearts. Ishaq Rahi, the pride of Sindh, was born in Mehar on April 9th, 1935 in the home of Muhammad Saleh Soomro. He received his initial education in his hometown. He then pursued higher education under the guidance of prominent literary fig-

ures such as Maulana Ghulam Muhammad Girami and the renowned translator MN Mahazoon (Muhammad Nawaz Bhatti). Rahi began his career as a primary school teacher. Later, he served as a field assistant in agriculture. Ishaq Rahi embarked on his poetic journey in 1956 and continued to enrich Sindhi literature presently. He greatly benefited from the companionship of the esteemed poet, Natan Shahi, and Maulana Ghulam Muhammad Girami, who provided leadership and guidance in his poetic endeavors. Ishaq Rahi's Sindhi poetry is distinguished by the eloquent use of local dialects, metaphors, similes, idioms, and unique composition techniques, which have made his name prominent in Sindhi literature. His poetic talent is marked by evoking versatility, evolving with the passage of time. His poetry encompasses themes of love, nationalism, and religious devotion. His religious poetry is free from bias towards any particular faith, reflecting a universalistic approach.

Talhar youth shot dead in Umrani community clash

TALHAR: In a village near Talhar, during a dispute within the Umrani community, a tragic incident occurred resulting in the fatal shooting of Ghulam Allah Umrani S/O Ilyas Umrani, aged 22.

Upon receiving the information, Talhar Police was alerted. The body of Ghulam Allah Umrani was transferred to the Panigiro Hospital mortuary, and later shifted to the Rural Health Center in Talhar. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter, and security has been heightened in the surrounding areas. As of now, no arrests or further details have been reported.—RT

SPORTS



Misbah-ul-Haq wants Azam Khan to counter criticism citing Virat Kohli's example



LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq suggested wicketkeeper-batter Azam Khan to counter criticism and get mentally stronger.

The 25-year-old has been under heavy criticism due to his performance lately as well as his fitness.

While talking on a local sports channel, Misbah said Azam has given up on the discipline he had in the past.

"There was a time when he reduced his weight, did training and delivered performances. Nowadays, I have observed that the discipline he had in the past has been given up and I can see that he has increased his body weight. So, he also needs to think about it," Misbah said.

Meanwhile, he advised Azam to accept criticism

from every corner since players like Virat Kohli also often get criticised.

"If there are no performances, criticism will come and even a player like Virat Kohli gets criticised. He needs to get mentally stronger and criticism will come but he should just stay focused for the longer run," he added.

Remember, Azam saw himself under fire and first restricted comments on his posts and then deleted all of the posts from his Instagram handle on June 3.

Azam's record in T20 cricket has been poor with just 88 runs in 12 innings at an average of just 9.78 and Latif declared that the trolling is affecting his game.—Agency

Pakistan reach Nations Cup hockey semis



KARACHI: Pakistan and France joined New Zealand in the semi-finals of the FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup in Gniezno, Poland after playing out a 11-goal thriller.

Pool B saw France finish first, followed by Pakistan. Malaysia finished third after defeating Canada in the first game of the day.

France topped Pool B with a third straight win, beating Pakistan 5-6 in a nail-biter.

The Olympic hosts turned on the heat from the world go and came prepared to exploit the weaknesses in Pakistan's backline. It was Victor Charlet who broke the deadlock in the seventh minute.

With a minute to go for the first quarter, Eliot Curty found Blaise Rogeau, who sent a rocket that bounced off the bar for their second. There was no coordination at the back as Gaspard Baumgarten made it 0-3 with seven minutes to go in the first half.

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For all their defensive frailties, Pakistan has been one of the most exciting teams to watch while attacking. One such attempt in the 26th minute led to a penalty stroke that was converted with ease by Abu Mahmood.

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they were before, allowing Pakistan to get under their skin. A penalty corner in the 29th minute saw Sufyan Khan's initial shot saved only for Murtaza Yaqoob to score the rebound.

The third quarter was all France again as Charlet delivered from the penalty corner yet again with an emphatic finish for his hat-trick in the 39th minute. Pakistan responded in the first minute of the final quarter thanks to Ashraf Rana Waheed who finished a superb ball from Amad Butt, who found him from a long way out. Pakistan continued to threaten Les Bleus and Butt was sensational in the build-up for the fourth, as Rehman Abdul made it 4-5 in the 52nd minute. Pakistan made it 5-5 as Hanan Shahid reacted quickly after Mahmood's initial shot was saved. Everyone believed the comeback was complete, but Pakistan switched off and Charlet, who started the scoring, finished it with another penalty corner.

Victor Charlet of France was full of praise for Pakistan after winning the match and said: "It's hard to describe this game - lots of goals.—Agency

-Babar and his boys find another way to self destruct! T20 World Cup 2024: US embarrass mercurial Pakistan In Super Over challenge

TEXAS: The US successfully defended a 19-run target in the Super Over challenge against Pakistan as earlier they managed to tie the score in the nail-biting 20-over play.

The match between Pakistan and the United States (US) was decided in the Super Over as the hosts managed to level the score on the last ball of the last over.

Pakistan lost the match by 5 five runs in the one-over eliminator.

Pakistan posted a 160-run target while batting first which the US managed to level on the last ball of the last over as they concluded their innings at 159-3.

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istan's Mohammad Amir took the ball and the USA concluded their innings 18-1 and in reply, Pakistan could only score 13-1 and ended up losing the match by five runs.

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Form 47 Babar Azam advised to manage pressure by learning from Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli



NEW YORK: Pakistan's star batter Babar Azam has been advised by former national wicketkeeper Rashid Latif as the cricket realm's much-anticipated T20 World Cup clash between India and Pakistan is just days ahead in New York.

Latif, a former national batter, urged Azam to learn from the Indian star cricketers Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli how to handle the game's biggest pressure moments.

The 29-year-old Azam will lead the Green Shirts for the third time in the T20 World Cup as he took his team to the semi-final in 2021 and then to the final in the following year, where Pakistan suffered a defeat from Australia and England respectively.

The Pakistani coach Latif believed that, as a

captain, Babar has a long way to go as he still needs to learn how to handle the pressure because the match against India will invite much stress than the World Cup.

While speaking with the Press Trust India, Latif said Thursday: "The focus is on the game on June 9 against India. Babar [Pakistan captain] will be under a lot of pressure because of the game against India rather than performing in the World Cup."

"But he has to learn to carry pressure, he should learn that from Virat and Rohit. They know how to carry the game. As a batter, Babar is one of the best but there's a lot that he needs to learn," the former cricketer added.—Agency

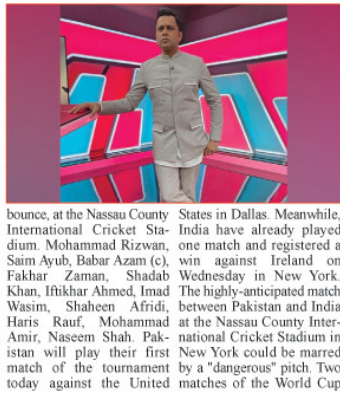
India's ex-batter Aakash Chopra predicts Pakistani squad against India

The much-awaited Pakistan vs India clash in the T20 World Cup is slated to take place on June 9 in New York but there are speculations about who would be playing in the Green Shirts squad.

Aakash Chopra, who played for India and is currently the cricket commentator predicted Thursday the playing XI of Pakistan for the historic T20 World Cup tournament.

The 46-year-old said that the star Babar Azam would be leading the team going one-down before Mohammad Rizwan and Saim Ayub commence the batting for Green Shirts.

In the bowling arena, the commentator Chopra went with four pacers due to the pitch, which offers variable



bounce, at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium. Mohammad Rizwan, Saim Ayub, Babar Azam (c), Fakhar Zaman, Shadab Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Amir, Naseem Shah, Pakistan will play their first match of the tournament today against the United States in Dallas. Meanwhile, India have already played one match and registered a win against Ireland on Wednesday in New York.

The highly-anticipated match between Pakistan and India is made in Adelaide, kept at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York could be marred by a "dangerous" pitch. Two matches of the World Cup

have been played at the drop-in pitch, so far, but there have been clear signs, especially evident from the variable bounce, that the surface hasn't settled. Former Indian cricketer Dinesh Karthik said on Cricbuzz: "It's not the best of pitches. T20 cricket as a format is generally tilted in favour of the bowlers but not for the right reasons." Karthik, who is also a commentator, added: "It is spongy and the odd one bounces over the head. Then it stays low too. Does not make for good viewing. This pitch hasn't settled. It was made in Adelaide, kept at Miami because the weather is better there and then re-laid in New York two weeks back.—Agency

ICC is 'unbothered' by India's concerns about New York Pitch



NEW YORK: The International Cricket Council (ICC) is not bothered by India's concerns about the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium pitch fears as well as indicated no plans to move any T20 World Cup 2024 matches, BBC reported Thursday.

Among many teams, the unpredictable drop-in wicket in New York has become a matter of concern. At the venue, two matches have been played so far. More-over, a total of 350 runs have been scored.

South Africa and Sri Lanka played the first match at the venue, where the Islanders batted first and bundled out for just 77 runs. This was their lowest score in T20s. Whereas, India managed to bowl out Ireland for 96 runs in the second match. Pundits and experts criticised the New York as they raised serious concerns on the surface, however, the ICC has no contingency plans to shift the matches from New York to Florida or Texas, as per BBC.

In New York, the most anticipated Pakistan vs India match of the T20 World Cup will also be played. This match is expected to host a crowd of 32,000 or more to fill the ground.

As it is the biggest rivalry in cricket, a low-scoring encounter would not fit the stature of the match.

Due to the unpredictable bounce of the pitch, it is worth mentioning that India expressed concerns over the safety of their batters.

Dinesh Karthik, a former Indian cricketer, expressed his dissatisfaction with the New York earlier.—Agency

Mohammad Amir eyes to lead Pakistan's pace attack in T20 World Cup

DALLAS: Left-arm experienced pacer Mohammad Amir on Thursday, revealed his goals to lead Pakistan's star-studded pace attack at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Amir, who reversed his retirement earlier this year, lauded Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah for carrying the national team's pace attack in his absence while stating that he always strives to lead from the front being the senior of them all.

"I am looking forward to playing here and perform well as a cricketer, whether it's league cricket or international cricket, at the end of the day you have to perform. As a senior bowler, I will always try to lead from the front," stated Amir.



"But if you look at Naseem, Haris, or Shaheen, they are performing well for the last four years. So, I have an extra responsibility to perform well for them and for the team."

Pakistan are placed in Group A alongside arch-rivals India, Ireland, Canada and the co-host United States of America (USA).

The Green Shirts will kick start their T20 World Cup 2024 campaign against the USA here on Thursday before taking on arch-rivals India at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on June 9.

However, Mohammad Amir insisted that the team is unfazed by their opponents and is eyeing a perfect run in the group stage.

"You know what, for us it's about ourselves," Amir said. "We are here to win and we want to win every single game."

"This is World Cup cricket and there is no margin for error, we have to perform every single game."

"When you come to ICC Events, it's a big challenge. But we are ready to accept that challenge and to perform well here."

He further backed struggling all-rounder Shadab Khan and young wicketkeeper batter Azam Khan, asserting that the two have the ability to win the match single-handedly.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Ash Jawaaid
Location: Karachi
About me: I love taking selfies!

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Selfish Jennifer Lopez worried about her brand amid Ben Affleck divorce rumours

Jennifer Lopez is reportedly concerned about her brand amid rumours she and Ben Affleck are headed for divorce after failing to make their marriage work.

An insider has revealed that JLo is mostly worried about her work and public image as a fourth divorce would damage her years of hard work.

Lopez is said to be taking steps to 'protect herself' after taking vow to come out on top in case the divorce happens.

"JLo knows how to handle a divorce, and she's already been meeting with lawyers," a source told Closer Magazine. "Even though they've been married such a short time, there's still a ton of assets to divvy up."

"She's also hired a special crisis PR team, and they're brainstorming how she and Ben can cut the cord with as little collateral damage as possible," they added.

However, her main concern is her well-established brand and reputation. "It's crucial for J-Lo's brand that she doesn't appear to be dumped," the tipster revealed.

The publication claimed that Affleck flashing his phone screen to the paparazzi during one of their recent joint appearances was staged.

"He made sure to flash his phone screen with J-Lo's photo and married name on it for photographers to catch, and he agreed to put his wedding ring back on," the source spilt.

Before concluding, the source said Lopez hopes "these photo ops will calm the frenzy down."

Khloe Kardashian discloses her paranoia with dating

Khloe Kardashian won't be returning to the dating scene for some time and she's got her reasons.

Khloe, 38, recently revealed her fear with dating as a mother of two children.

"Let's just say I'm dating. I have no idea how you're supposed to date with kids because I'm not bringing you to my home where my kids are, and I'm not going to your home where you're gonna chop me up in your basement and kill me and I'm also not going to a public restaurant or space where people can take pictures and you're gonna be another notch on my belt in the public's eyes. I don't f***** think so," she told Scott Disick in June 6 episode of The Kardashians.

The reality star, however, did clear misconceptions about her long she plans to abstain from romance for.

"You think I'm just gonna be celibate for the rest of my life?" Khloe asked, before noting once more, "I don't want anyone stopping my routine [right now] I'm comfortable in my rhythm."

During the chat she also shunned any chances of a rebound with her ex partner Tristan Thompson with whom she shares True, 6, and Tatum, 2.

"Oh my god, are you kidding me? This is life, we all gotta grow up and move on... Everyone has been really judgy about how I spend my time because I'm not dating. I stopped dating Tristan when Tatum was in utero. Two and a half years is not that crazy!" Khloe reaffirmed as Scott asked of her her chances of getting back with Tristan.

"I do love that it's good for living close to her ex and seeing him often." But now that he's in Cleveland [for the Cavaliers], this is really, really healthy for us 'cause when he was next door, he was always over... he loved the routine and I was like, 'F***'."

"If he wanted to torture himself, that's on him! You want to see all these men pulling up to my house? That's your problem," she concluded.

SPORTS



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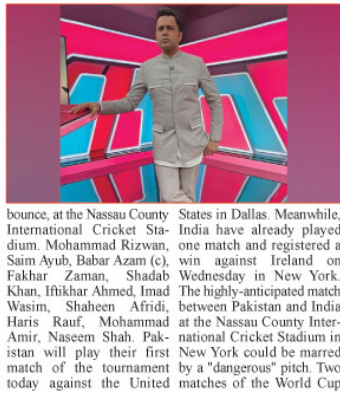
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Face of the Day



Name: Ash Jawaaid
Location: Karachi
About me: I love taking selfies!

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Selfish Jennifer Lopez worried about her brand amid Ben Affleck divorce rumours

Jennifer Lopez is reportedly concerned about her brand amid rumours she and Ben Affleck are headed for divorce after failing to make their marriage work.

An insider has revealed that JLo is mostly worried about her work and public image as a fourth divorce would damage her years of hard work.

Lopez is said to be taking steps to 'protect herself' after taking vow to come out on top in case the divorce happens.

"JLo knows how to handle a divorce, and she's already been meeting with lawyers," a source told Closer Magazine. "Even though they've been married such a short time, there's still a ton of assets to divvy up."

"She's also hired a special crisis PR team, and they're brainstorming how she and Ben can cut the cord with as little collateral damage as possible," they added.

However, her main concern is her well-established brand and reputation. "It's crucial for J-Lo's brand that she doesn't appear to be dumped," the tipster revealed.

The publication claimed that Affleck flashing his phone screen to the paparazzi during one of their recent joint appearances was staged.

"He made sure to flash his phone screen with J-Lo's photo and married name on it for photographers to catch, and he agreed to put his wedding ring back on," the source spilt.

Before concluding, the source said Lopez hopes "these photo ops will calm the frenzy down."

Khloe Kardashian discloses her paranoia with dating

Khloe Kardashian won't be returning to the dating scene for some time and she's got her reasons.

Khloe, 38, recently revealed her fear with dating as a mother of two children.

"Let's just say I'm dating. I have no idea how you're supposed to date with kids because I'm not bringing you to my home where my kids are, and I'm not going to your home where you're gonna chop me up in your basement and kill me and I'm also not going to a public restaurant or space where people can take pictures and you're gonna be another notch on my belt in the public's eyes. I don't f***** think so," she told Scott Disick in June 6 episode of The Kardashians.

The reality star, however, did clear misconceptions about her long she plans to abstain from romance for.

"You think I'm just gonna be celibate for the rest of my life?" Khloe asked, before noting once more, "I don't want anyone stopping my routine [right now] I'm comfortable in my rhythm."

During the chat she also shunned any chances of a rebound with her ex partner Tristan Thompson with whom she shares True, 6, and Tatum, 2.

"Oh my god, are you kidding me? This is life, we all gotta grow up and move on... Everyone has been really judgy about how I spend my time because I'm not dating. I stopped dating Tristan when Tatum was in utero."

Two and a half years is not that crazy!" Khloe reaffirmed as Scott asked of her her chances of getting back with Tristan.

"I do love that it's good for living close to her ex and seeing him often." But now that he's in Cleveland [for the Cavaliers], this is really, really healthy for us 'cause when he was next door, he was always over... he loved the routine and I was like, 'F***'."

"If he wanted to torture himself, that's on him! You want to see all these men pulling up to my house? That's your problem," she concluded.

THE HEARTLAND



JSQM Daulatpur demands arrest of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani's killers

By Aijaz Johkio

DAULATPUR: The leaders and activists of the Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz recorded a protest demonstration for the arrest of journalist Nasrullah Gadani's murderers on Thursday. While talking to the media, the protest leaders, who included Nazir Dahri, Rasheed Otho, Ahmed Bux Pirzado and others said that the journalists of Sindh are performing their duties under very difficult conditions



but the concerned authorities have shown an indifferent approach in this regard. They condemned the murder of Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani and demanded arrest of his murderers, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

STP Tando Jam demands justice for Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mahar and Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani

By Irfan Khushk



TANDO JAM: The leaders and activists of the Sindh Tarqappas Party recorded a protest demonstration against the murder of journalists Nasrullah Gadani and Jan Muhammad Mahar. The protesters have announced to protest leaders, who included Hassan Sipio, Mumtaz Saraz, Ayaz Gadhi, Mansoor Solangi and others expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the province of Sindh and demanded arrest of slain journalists' murderers, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Sita Sarjanhar Forum demands restoration of train service

By Munawar Chandio

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SSP Tanvir Hussain Tunio chairs meeting at Sakrand Police Station

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: SSP Shaheed Benazirabad, Tanvir Hussain Tunio chaired a meeting of the police officials at the Sakrand Police Station on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by all the SHOs, DSP and other officials. Addressing on the occasion, SSP Tanvir Hussain Tunio directed the police officials to expedite operation against the criminals and deal the drug dealers with the iron hands. The SSP Shaheed Benazirabad announced to



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Arrest of Sajjad Rind's killers demanded

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: In Qazi Ahmed, the family members of the young man Sajjad Rind, who was shot and killed by unknown individuals, held a protest and staged a sit-in with his body outside the Nawabshah Press Club, blocking the road. The protesters included Altaf Hussain Rind, Shahid Hussain, Hidayatullah Rind, Sarwar Rind, and others. On this occasion, the family members of the deceased said that members of their community, including Mumtaz Rind, Yamin Rind, Bano Rind and Abu



Bakr Rind, called Sajjad Rind to a hotel and shot him dead. They claimed that the Qazi Ahmed police, under the influence of local feudal lords, have not yet arrested the killers of their young man. The family members of the deceased young man demanded from the DIG, SSP Shaheed Benazirabad, and other authorities to arrest the culprits involved in their young man's murder and ensure justice for them.

Bago Wadadani Police arrest and release gutka dealers

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: Bago Wadadani Police conducted operations at two different locations, seizing a large quantity of intoxicating betel nuts and arresting four individuals, who were released after a transaction involving millions of rupees. According to the report, Bago

Wadadani police near Tando Adam, during separate vehicle searches on Shahdapur Road and other locations, seized a large amount of intoxicating betel nuts and arrested four individuals, including Jameel Punjabi. They were reportedly released from the police station after a deal worth lacs of rupees. The villagers expressed regret, stating that despite the arrest of the culprits and seizure of drugs in front of the public, the police made a deal with them, took money, and released them. On the other hand, Bago Wadadani Police Charge Abdul Hameed Jaffari denied any involvement in the arrests when contacted.

Pahar Mori residents protest against their UC Chairman and Vice Chairman

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: The Union Council Pahar Mori's large number of children from Bacho Halopota and other villages staged a protest demonstration against corruption by the Chairman and

Vice Chairman of the Union Council Pahar Mori. On this occasion, the protest leaders said that the UC Chairman and Vice Chairman have even not provided any hand pump to any poor man in their tenure. They accused the elected representatives of corruption into the funds by depriving the people of their basic rights. They demanded of the higher authorities to take notice if the inept performance of the UC Chairman and Vice Chairman, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Five injured in Bhitshah gas cylinder blast



By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: Five people were injured due to a gas cylinder explosion at a LPG gas shop in Bhitshah. The accident occurred due to a gas cylinder explosion, which caused a fire in the shop. Following this, three out of six gas cylinders in the shop exploded, resulting in severe injuries to five individuals identified as Nadir Gahilo, Abid Gahilo, Munthar Lakho, Pappan, and Dilshad. The injured were taken to Bhitshah Hospital, and three of them, who were in critical condition, were transferred to Hyderabad Hospital. The Deputy Commissioner of Matiari and SSP Matiari arrived at the scene of the incident. The police have cordoned off the area and closed it to the public.

Environmental abuses spreading diseases in Taluka Kaloi

By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI: In various areas of Kaloi Taluka, hundreds of people have been affected by different diseases due to mining of coal and other process being done in the region of 7-Mail. While talking to the media, local people including Abdul Qasim, Maoji, Razi Khan and others have highlighted this issue at various times of staging protests, but to no avail. It is noted that the inadequate environmental conditions have caused significantly affected the human lives. Furthermore, in several areas complaints have been lodged against safety concerns. However, no action has been taken against the owners responsible for these environmental issues causing several diseases. The local people have demanded of the Sindh CM and other higher authorities to take notice of the matter and save the lives of the people of Kaloi Taluka.

BISP beneficiaries facing problems due to lack of facilities in Sehwan

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SEHWAN SHARIF: In Sehwan Sharif, many deserving women, who were eligible for installment payments under the Benazir Income Support Program, faced severe difficulties due to heat

wave and the link down of the system at the centre. Some women even fainted due to the heat and lack of proper ventilation, against the slow process of providing stipends to them for water or any other relief to the women at the BISP Centre set up at the auditorium shown down by the device hall.

Kandiari Police arrest a murderer

By Usama Ayaz Abbasi

KANDIARO: The Kandiari Police have successfully apprehended Shah Nawaz Malah, the main suspect in the

brutal murder case. According to reports, the arrested suspect Shah Nawaz Malah confessed to the heinous crime of murdering his wife and another young man, Subhan Malah, in the name of honor, in their village Ramzan Malah. The case was registered against the arrested man at the Kandiari Police Station.

10-year-old Ghotki boy killed in Malik-Bozdar clash

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GHTOKI: A clash erupted between two rival groups of Malik and Bozdar communities over an old emmity in village Peeri Bari on Wednesday. In the clash the people

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MALIR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MDA/MPD/NMHP-132/2023/148

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SAV NO TO DRUGS

METRO KARACHI



Sindh's Massive Housing Rehab Initiative Aims To Rebuild 2.1 Million Homes: Murad

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced the launch of a project to reconstruct 2.1 million homes, targeting over 12.6 million flood-affected individuals. With funding of Rs 39 billion secured for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions, the initiative aims to connect 264,250 homes with safe sanitation facilities.



Driven by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision, the project is already making significant strides, with over 100,000 homes completed and \$25,000 currently under construction. Utilizing modern technologies, including drone mapping, the initiative not only rebuilds homes but also empowers communities.

Beneficiaries, particularly women, are granted land titles, promoting inclusivity and empowerment. Additionally, the project fuels local economies, with billions of rupees invested. The initiative also emphasizes sustainability, with plans to provide solar energy to reconstructed homes.

Despite challenges, including pending federal commitments, Shah remains optimistic about the project's success. The initiative, originally a housing program, is now expanding to create resilient communities, marking a significant step towards recovery and empowerment in flood-affected areas.

Sindh Government Contemplating Religious Corridor Similar To Kartarpur With India



DUBAI/KARACHI: Sindh Tourism Minister Zulfiqar Ali Shah Thursday said a Kartarpur-like religious corridor could be established on the Pakistan-India border in the province to facilitate devotees of the Hindu and Jain faith.

Addressing an event in Dubai related to the promotion of tourism in Sindh, Shah said the corridor could be built in Umarnot and Nagarparkar, among which the latter houses multiple historical Jain temples.

He apprised that there were legions of Hindus and Jains willing to visit Sindh.

Shah suggested that the Sindh government could commence a weekly flight from India to Sukkur or Larkana as well for the religious tourists.

Umarnot is home to Shri Shiv Mandir, which is considered one of the oldest Hindu temples in Sindh.

Some people believe it was constructed more than 2,000 years ago. But in an interview to an international news agency, a local Hindu community leader claimed was as old as 5,000 years.

Meanwhile, there are numerous abandoned Jain temples in Nagarparkar.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Sindh Police Inspector General (IG), Ghulam Nabi Memon is presiding over a high-level meeting, at the CPO Headquarters.—RT

Pakistan Solutions And ZR Karwan To Host Awards Ceremony And BTK Build Summit On June 8

KARACHI: Pakistan Solutions, in collaboration with ZR Karwan, is organizing an Award Ceremony and BTK Build Summit on June 8 at the Bahria Town Karachi Auditorium. This event will honor prominent builders, architects, consultants, and engineers in the construction sector for the first time in Pakistan's history.



Abdul Jalil, Managing Director of Pakistan Solutions, announced the event at a press conference held at the Karachi Press Club, alongside Pak Arab Managing Director Muhammad Shoaib and ZR Karwan representatives Muhammad Arsalan and Muhammad Nadir.

Jalil emphasized that while various professionals have been recognized in the past, the contributions of

those in the construction industry have often been overlooked. The ceremony will honor figures like Shaheen Sarwana and Faisal Sattar for their significant contributions to Pakistan's construction sector.

The event aims to be inclusive, allowing individuals from various backgrounds and their families to attend and gain valuable information from the BTK Build Summit. The summit will feature entertainment by renowned comic artist Shaheel Siddiqui, with Faisal Qazi hosting.

Muhammad Shoaib assured that such events will continue to be held regularly to appreciate and support the construction sector.—RT

FIA Secures Two-Day Custody Of Sarim Burney

KARACHI: A local court has granted a two-day physical remand of Sarim Burney, a prominent rights activist, to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on charges of human smuggling.

Investigation Officer Chaudhry Bilal presented Burney before Judicial Magistrate Khaleeq Zaman, requesting a 14-day remand to record Burney's statement, gather relevant records, and apprehend his co-accused. Bilal argued that custody was necessary to prevent the destruction of evidence.

The court, after reviewing the arguments, granted a two-day remand and directed Burney to be produced with a progress report upon completion. The court denied Burney's request for discharge from the case.

Burney's lawyer, Syed Asif Ali, contended that the charges were false and highlighted Burney's contributions to society. Burney, who leads the Sarim Burney Welfare Trust International, was arrested at Jinnah International Airport on allegations of trafficking over 25 children to the US for illegal adoption. The FIA claimed he admitted "wrongdoing" during initial interrogations and revealed ongoing surveillance by US authorities during his visit.

The court granted a brief adjournment to allow Burney's legal team to arrive, amidst confusion about the court's location.

The FIA continues its investigation into the human trafficking and document fraud charges against Burney.—RT/Agency

Collaborative Efforts Key To Resolving Industrialists' Issues: Jam Ikram

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, presided over a coordination committee meeting at Tughlaq House. The meeting, attended by officials including Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasin Sher Balooh, Secretary Environment, Secretary Labor, Director General of Sindh Building Control Authority, and representatives from Sui Southern Gas, K-Electric, and the business community, focused on addressing the concerns of industrialists.

During the meeting, it was agreed that the Karachi Water Board would ensure uninterrupted water supply to industrial zones, while the Sindh Solid Waste Management Control Board would sign an MOU with relevant departments appointing focal persons to address industrialists' issues. Sui Southern Gas was tasked with ensuring uninterrupted gas supply to industrial areas.

Additionally, the MD of SITE would oversee the removal of encroachments from industrial zones, with the cooperation of local administration. The Sindh Solid Waste Management Control Board would sign an MOU with relevant departments appointing focal persons to manage waste removal from industrial zones.

The Department of Labor and the Department of Environment were committed to ensuring industrialists' problems.—RT

Minister Jam Ikramullah Dharejo reiterated efforts among stakeholders would be pivotal in resolving the industrialists' problems.—RT

Collaborative Efforts Needed To Elevate Dairy Industry: DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain



KARACHI: Director General of the Sindh Food Authority (SFA), Agha Fakhar Hussain, addressed the Pakistan Dairy Summit held at the prestigious Faletti's Hotel Lahore on World Milk Day. Themed "Milk Matters: Building a Healthy Nation for Life," the summit underscored the pivotal role of dairy in national health promotion.

The event saw prominent figures like Punjab's Minister of Food, Bilal Yasin, and Minister of Primary Health, Khawaja Imran Nazir, as chief guests. Additionally, dignitaries from various food authorities, including Punjab, KPK, and Sindh, as well as representatives from regulatory bodies and academic institutions, graced the occasion.

The summit served as a platform for stakeholders to deliberate on innovations, policies, and practices essential for the dairy industry's future.

Highlighting the need for collaborative efforts, the event emphasized the imperative of collective action to enhance the dairy industry, paving the way for progressive advancements and fostering a healthier nation through improved dairy practices.—RT

Pakistani Industrialists Encouraged To Invest In Turkish Free Zones



KARACHI: Turkish Consul General Cemal Sangu announced that Pakistani industrialists can now invest in Turkey's free zones, allowing for tax-exempt exports to the European market. Immediate visas will be issued based on Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) recommendations to facilitate this initiative.

During a visit to KATI, Sangu emphasized the need to increase the current trade volume of \$1.3 billion between Turkey and Pakistan.

He highlighted Turkey's significant investment in Pakistan, totaling \$3.5 billion, and the operation of 40 Turkish companies within the country. KATI President Johar Qandhari underscored the potential for increased trade and joint ventures, particularly under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He stressed the importance of university partnerships and a more convenient visa policy to further strengthen bilateral ties.

Rashid Ahmed Siddiqui, Chairman of KATI's Standing Committee on Diplomatic Affairs, noted the Turkish business community's lack of awareness about Pakistan's top products and tourism potential. KATI Vice President Muslim Mohammadi announced a Pakistani trade delegation's upcoming visit to Turkey for B2B meetings in September.

The event highlighted the importance of enhancing trade relations, investing in various sectors, and promoting mutual economic growth.—RT

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KARACHI: The wheat flour prices in Karachi have been reduced by Rs 25 per kilogram (kg) as a notification in this regard is issued, media reported.

The new official retail price of fine flour has been fixed at Rs 100 per kg while its wholesale price is Rs 95 per kg.

The new official ex-mill price of fine flour is Rs 92 per kilogram.

The retail price of chakki flour is reduced by Rs 8 per kilogram. According to the notification, the price of chakki flour has been fixed at Rs 115 per kilogram.

Earlier on May 9, the Karachi administration fixed prices of different essential commodities including flour and sugar in the city. According to the notification issued, the wholesale market price of sugar was fixed at Rs 137 per kg, while the retail price was fixed at Rs 140 per kilogram. As per the notification, Chakki flour's price was fixed at Rs 123 per kilogram. The city administration had also fixed a price of 120 grams of tandooni naan at Rs 17 and 100 grams of chapati at Rs 12. The Commissioner Karachi had also warned that action will be taken against those who violate the official prices.—RT/Agency

AKU, WHO And UNICEF Advocate For Youth Health To Combat Non-Communicable Diseases

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's Department of Community Health Sciences, in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, has launched a three-day conference titled "Healthy Futures: Preventing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Young Hearts and Minds."



The event addresses critical adolescent health issues such as screen time, obesity, substance abuse, and mental health. Key speakers, including Dr. Fouzia Khan and Dr. Lamia Mehmud, emphasized the need for collective efforts from parents, teachers, and institutions to promote healthy

lifestyles. The conference features research presentations, panel discussions, and activities to engage youth in NCD prevention strategies.—RT

KCCI's Real Estate Committee Calls For Austerity And Support

KARACHI: Muhammad Akram Rana, Chairman of the Real Estate Committee of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and Vice Chairman of the All Karachi Tajir Ittehad, has called for a frugal expenditure policy that aligns with available resources. He urged the government to implement the previous administration's austerity measures, highlighting potential savings of 10 trillion rupees through the consolidation of 80 federal departments.

Rana warned that halting free petrol and electricity provisions to the elite could save 770 billion rupees, while the energy sector's annual wastage stands at 28 billion rupees.

Addressing the severe challenges facing the real estate industry, Rana called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to prioritize the real estate sector's issues and warned against compromising economic independence under IMF pressure.—RT



such taxes would further harm the real estate sector, which supports 72 related industries.

Rana emphasized that the real estate sector is a crucial source of government revenue and suggested that instead of imposing additional taxes, the government should provide support to builders and developers to boost economic activity and reduce unemployment. He also pointed out the significant capital outflow, with 20 to 25 billion dollars being transferred abroad.



KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is seen with MNA Alaudin Junjoo and other leaders after discussing various issues related to Sanghar District with them, at Bilawal House.—Photo by Fahim Soomro



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is addressing a press conference held at the office of the Sindh Peoples Housing for Flood Affected.—RT

METRO KARACHI



Sindh's Massive Housing Rehab Initiative Aims To Rebuild 2.1 Million Homes: Murad

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced the launch of a project to reconstruct 2.1 million homes, targeting over 12.6 million flood-affected individuals. With funding of Rs 39 billion secured for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions, the initiative aims to connect 264,250 homes with safe sanitation facilities.



Beneficiaries, particularly women, are granted land titles, promoting inclusivity and empowerment. Additionally, the project fuels local economies, with billions of rupees invested. The initiative also emphasizes sustainability, with plans to provide solar energy to reconstructed homes.

Despite challenges, including pending federal commitments, Shah remains optimistic about the project's success. The initiative, originally a housing program, is now expanding to create resilient communities, marking a significant step towards recovery and empowerment in flood-affected areas.

Sindh Government Contemplating Religious Corridor Similar To Kartarpur With India



DUBAI/KARACHI: Sindh Tourism Minister Zulfiqar Ali Shah Thursday said a Kartarpur-like religious corridor could be established on the Pakistan-India border in the province to facilitate devotees of the Hindu and Jain faith.

Addressing an event in Dubai related to the promotion of tourism in Sindh, Shah said the corridor could be built in Umarnot and Nagarparkar, among which the latter houses multiple historical Jain temples.

He apprised that there were legions of Hindus and Jains willing to visit Sindh. Shah suggested that the



KARACHI: Sindh Police Inspector General (IG), Ghulam Nabi Memon is presiding over a high-level meeting, at the CPO Headquarters.—RT

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KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is seen with Sindh Minister for Education, Syed Sardar Ali Shah after holding a meeting about the Education Department.—Photo by Fahim Soomro



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is addressing a press conference held at the office of the Sindh Peoples Housing for Flood Affected.—RT

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FRIDAY JUNE 07 2024

Imran Informs SC About "Unannounced Martial Law" In Country

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has complained of the "victimisation" that he faced since his ouster from power in April 2022 during the hearing of the NAB amendments case hearing in the Supreme Court.

The jailed PTI founder appeared before the Supreme Court's five-member bench via video link from Rawalpindi's Adiala jail, where he has been incarcerated since his conviction in the Toshakhana case last year.

The SC bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Aminuddin, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi heard the case.

Presenting his arguments, Khan told the bench that unannounced "martial law" had been imposed in the country and he was convicted in a matter of five days to keep him from the general elections.

He also cited an example



of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying the judge was released on bail ahead of the Indian general elections to run the campaign.

Khan also expressed dismay over the SC's judgment rejecting the PTI founder's plea requesting the live streaming of the case.

"You wrote [in the judgment] that I did political point scoring during the last hearing. I did not get it, what political scoring did I resort to," the PTI founder asked the CJP.

At this, the CJP said a judge does not owe an ex-

planation to anyone over the verdict. "You can file a review petition," the top judge said in response to Khan's question.

The CJP also asked the former premier to speak only about the matter currently pending before the court.

The PTI founder lamented that he was sentenced to 14 years in the Toshakhana case, claiming that prosecution falsely estimated the value of the watch he received from a foreigner to Rs3 billion.

Lamenting political victimisation, the PTI founder said the Supreme Court should appoint a NAB chairman.

"When opposition and government fail to evolve consensus on the name of NAB chairman appointment then a 'third umpire' makes the decision," he said, adding that the anti-graft body is working under the "third umpire".

Addressing the PTI founder, Justice Minallah said: Khan sahib, there was no reason to declare the NAB amendments invalid."

"You might not have read my note. What is left of NAB after your statement," the judge added. He further asked Khan whether he still trusted the NAB.

"After what NAB did to me in 5 days, what credibility is left," the PTI founder replied.

Khan said he was currently facing NAB inquiries and called for improvement in the anti-corruption body.

After Justice Minallah reminded the founder about the issue of the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner, he said restoring the



KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is seen with Senior Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Excise and Taxation, Sharjeel Inam Memon after reviewing the performance of his departments.—Photo by Fahim Soomro

Imran Declines To Take Part In FIA Probe Once Again

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder once again refused to reply to queries of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), probing "controversial" social media posts from his official X (Twitter) account, media reported.

According to sources, the FIA team reached the Adiala jail to interrogate Imran Khan as it is probing into the alleged controversial post from his X account. The PTI founder refused to answer any question of the FIA team in the absence of his legal team.

The FIA sought Imran Khan's 'refusal in writing' before leaving the prison.

Earlier in a similar happening on May 31, the PTI founder did not answer any query from the FIA.

The FIA Cybercrime



Cell penned down a letter to the authorities seeking access to the incarcerated PTI founder to inquire about a "controversial" post from his social media X handle.

The text of the letter stated that anti-state propaganda was disseminated through the official social media account of the PTI founder, targeting institutions, particularly the Pakistan Army.

The video posted on May 26 aimed to distort facts, prompt rebellion among officers and soldiers, and create unrest within various state institutions.

The FIA Cybercrime Cell noted that this video is a clear violation of the PICA Act 2016 and seeking access to the PTI founder in jail for further investigation.—RT/Agency

Government Establishes Cabinet Committee On SIFC To Enhance Investment

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has constituted Cabinet Committee on Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to ensure implementation of recommendations within the contours of SIFC.

A notification has been issued to this effect.

As per the notification, the committee will submit decisions to the federal cabinet for approval.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will be chairman of the committee while the army chief, chief ministers and national coordinator will attend the committee meetings on special invitation.

The prime minister has also formed another cabinet committee on immigration, overseas employment and technical vocational education and training.

The committee will act as a central forum for all gov-



ernment agencies related to overseas employment and technical training and will review policies in this regard.

It will also approve curriculum, monitoring and evaluation framework for vocational training institutions and will devise plans to combat illegal immigration, human trafficking and exploitation of skilled workers.

The committee will also develop an action plan to engage with international partners.

Earlier, Minister for In-

UK Court Rejects Adil Raja's Appeal To Waive £10,000 Fine



ISLAMABAD: A UK court has dismissed controversial YouTuber Major (ret) Adil Raja's appeal to waive a £10,000 fine. The court ruled that Raja must also pay an additional £3,000.

The fine was originally imposed following a campaign against him by Brigadier (ret) Rashid Nasir. The British court had ordered Raja to pay £10,000 for defamation and security costs. Deputy High Court Judge Richard Spearman issued the latest ruling, denying Raja's appeal and mandating the extra payment.

Raja's appeal was filed on April 16, 2024, just a day before the original deadline for payment. The court found

that Raja's defamatory statements against Brigadier Nasir had been published on his X, Facebook, and YouTube accounts.

Brigadier Nasir's legal action was initiated on August 11, 2022, following a campaign against him by Raja that began on June 14, 2022.

In the past, Raja has claimed financial hardship to garner support and funds from his followers. However, the court's ruling indicates that this plea did not convince the judges. "The noise is tightening around those who use foreign bases to spread discord against their homeland," commented a legal expert familiar with the case.—RT/Agency

66 Terrorists Neutralized In Balochistan Operations Since January 1



RAWALPINDI: From January 1, 2024 to May 31, Pakistan Army eliminated 66 terrorists during various operations against Khawarij in Balochistan.

The Pakistan Army carried out operations against terrorists in Balochistan during the year 2024. After the Afghan Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021, a new wave of terrorism started in Pakistan.

The modern-day Khawarij Tehreek-e-Taliban stepped up their at-

Shehbaz Apprises Chief Of China EXIM Bank About Government's Reform Measures

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the reform measures taken by his government had started yielding results in form of successfully tapered food inflation, reduced current account deficit, and public debt down to a more sustainable level.

The prime minister, talking to Chairman of China Export-Import Bank (EXIM) Dr. Wu Fulin here, highlighted his government's reform agenda focused on governance, taxation, and ease of doing business to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

He appreciated the EXIM Bank's continued support for the modernization of industries,



agriculture and IT sectors of Pakistan.

He also discussed the possible role of the China EXIM Bank in financing Pakistan-China joint venture projects and trade financing as part of efforts to boost Pakistan's exports to international markets.

The EXIM Bank chairman underscored the critical role of economic and financial cooperation under CPEC phase II and China EXIM Bank's strategic partnership with Pakistan and support to advance sustainable development under the concept of "shared prosperity".—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Invites China's NORINCO Firm To Invest In KCR And Other Communication Projects

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday invited the China Northern Industry Corporation (NORINCO) to invest in Pakistan's communications infrastructure project, particularly the Karachi Circular Railway.

The prime minister, talking to NORINCO Chairman here, highlighted that the government was taking measures to bring ease of doing business and had established the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for the purpose.

He said that China and Pakistan enjoyed cordial and time-tested friendly relations which were strengthening with the passage of time.

The NORINCO chairman particularly mentioned Punjab and Pakistan Speed, referring to the swift completion of



development projects during Shehbaz Sharif's stint as Punjab chief minister, and also appreciated him for ensuring projects' quality under his supervision.

The company head recalled that under Shehbaz Sharif's supervision, the Lahore Orange Line project was completed timely.

Later, a representative of NORINCO, in a statement said that in the Pakistan's development projects minister, they discussed the Lahore Orange Train project which was an important component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and a symbol of Pak-China friendship.

-How about having a zero tolerance policy towards corruption?

Pakistan Aims To Replicate China Model For Uplift: Dar

BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday said that by holding the Pakistan-China Business Forum in Shenzhen, the government had written a new chapter of bilateral cooperation and in the coming months, the model would be reciprocated by inviting Chinese companies to Pakistan.

The deputy prime minister, in his address at the 4th Pakistan-China Friendship and Business event here, said that the

highly attended Business Forum aimed at tangible, targeted, substantive and result-oriented economic cooperation with a focus on attracting and facilitating Chinese investments in 13 export-oriented sectors inside Pakistan.

He told the gathering that Pakistan's Ambassador in China Khalil Hashmi and his team successfully mobilized over 400 Chinese businesspersons and entrepreneurs who came together to network with around 120 Pakistani counterparts on a scale that was unprecedented.

"I am confident they have started a new journey of win-win partnership and joint cooperation. In the months ahead, we will reciprocate this model further and invite Chinese companies to Pakistan," the deputy prime minister remarked.

Calling the Friendship and Business event a "cherished tradition" and the "essence of friendship



and mutual respect", Dar said that over the years, the platform had played a pivotal role in bringing together leaders, policymakers, business executives, and entrepreneurs from both countries.

He said the gathering was aimed at engaging to further strengthen our iron-clad and space-partnership. It sets the tone for our future interactions, providing a foundation for deeper economic ties and stronger cultural connections, he added.

He said in the local context, the forum served as a testament to China's dedication to fostering international partnerships. It is a symbol of how traditions and cultural exchanges can be harnessed to promote understanding, peace, prosperity and development.

Dar said that currently, the world was at the cusp of a new era, witnessing profound and fast-paced changes which would, as before, test the resilience of China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship.

"Our partnership has already risen to a strategic level, encompassing economy, trade, social and defence sectors. We wholeheartedly support President Xi's Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI). I would like to reaffirm that Pakistan has been, is, and will always be China's trusted friend and partner," the deputy prime minister reiterated.

He particularly appreciated the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), China-Pakistan Friendship Association (CPFA), China International Cultural Communication Centre (CICCC), and all other supporting units - JDB group and Anhua County Yuntiange Co., Ltd.

He also lauded Pakistan's Ambassador Khalil Hashmi and his team and particularly expressed gratitude to Ambassador Sha Zukang for his steadfast and long-standing support to Pakistan.—RT/Agency

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He also cited an example



of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying the judge was released on bail ahead of the Indian general elections to run the campaign.

Khan also expressed dismay over the SC's judgment rejecting the government plea requesting the live streaming of the case.

"You wrote [in the judgment] that I did political point scoring during the last hearing. I did not get it, what political scoring did I resort to," the PTI founder asked the CJP.

At this, the CJP said a judge does not owe an ex-

planation to anyone over the verdict. "You can file a review petition," the top judge said in response to Khan's question.

The CJP also asked the former premier to speak only about the matter currently pending before the court.

The PTI founder lamented that he was sentenced to 14 years in the Toshakhana case, claiming that prosecution falsely estimated the value of the watch he received from a foreigner to Rs3 billion.

Lamenting political victimisation, the PTI founder

said the Supreme Court should appoint a NAB chairman.

"When opposition and government fail to evolve consensus on the name of NAB chairman appointment then a 'third umpire' makes the decision," he said, adding that the anti-graft body is working under the "third umpire".

Addressing the PTI founder, Justice Minallah said: Khan sahib, there was no reason to declare the NAB amendments invalid."

"You might not have read my note. What is left of NAB after your statement," the judge added. He further asked Khan whether he still trusted the NAB.

"After what NAB did to me in 5 days, what credibility is left," the PTI founder replied.

Khan said he was currently facing NAB inquiries and called for improvement in the anti-corruption body.

After Justice Minallah reminded the founder about the issue of the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner, he said restoring the



KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is seen with Senior Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Excise and Taxation, Sharjeel Inam Memon after reviewing the performance of his departments.—Photo by Fahim Soomro

Imran Declines To Take Part In FIA Probe Once Again

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder once again refused to reply to queries of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), probing "controversial" social media posts from his official X (Twitter) account, media reported.

According to sources, the FIA team reached the Adiala jail to interrogate Imran Khan as it is probing into the alleged controversial post from his X account. The PTI founder refused to answer any question of the FIA team in the absence of his legal team.

The FIA sought Imran Khan's 'refusal in writing' before leaving the prison.

Earlier in a similar happening on May 31, the PTI founder did not answer any query from the FIA.

The FIA Cybercrime



Cell penned down a letter to the authorities seeking access to the incarcerated PTI founder to inquire about a "controversial" post from his social media X handle.

The text of the letter stated that anti-state propaganda was disseminated through the official social media account of the PTI founder, targeting institutions, particularly the Pakistan Army.

The FIA Cybercrime Cell noted that this video is a clear violation of the PICA Act 2016 and seeking access to the PTI founder in jail for further investigation.—RT/Agency

Government Establishes Cabinet Committee On SIFC To Enhance Investment

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has constituted Cabinet Committee on Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to ensure implementation of recommendations within the contours of SIFC.

A notification has been issued to this effect.

As per the notification, the committee will submit decisions to the federal cabinet for approval.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will be chairman of the committee while the army chief, chief ministers and national coordinator will attend the committee meetings on special invitation.

The prime minister has also formed another cabinet committee on immigration, overseas employment and technical vocational education and training.

The committee will act as a central forum for all gov-



ernment agencies related to overseas employment and technical training and will review policies in this regard.

It will also approve curriculum, monitoring and evaluation framework for vocational training institutions and will devise plans to combat illegal immigration, human trafficking and exploitation of skilled workers.

The committee will also develop an action plan to engage with international partners.

Earlier, Minister for In-

UK Court Rejects Adil Raja's Appeal To Waive £10,000 Fine



ISLAMABAD: A UK court has dismissed controversial YouTuber Major (ret) Adil Raja's appeal to waive a £10,000 fine. The court ruled that Raja must also pay an additional £3,000.

The fine was originally imposed following a campaign against him by Brigadier (ret) Rashid Nasir. The British court had ordered Raja to pay £10,000 for defamation and security costs. Deputy High Court Judge Richard Spearman issued the latest ruling, denying Raja's appeal and mandating the extra payment.

Raja's appeal was filed on April 16, 2024, just a day before the original deadline for payment. The court found

that Raja's defamatory statements against Brigadier Nasir had been published on his X, Facebook, and YouTube accounts.

Brigadier Nasir's legal action was initiated on August 11, 2022, following a campaign against him by Raja that began on June 14, 2022.

In the past, Raja has claimed financial hardship to garner support and funds from his followers. However, the court's ruling indicates that this plea did not convince the judges. "The noise is tightening around those who use foreign bases to spread discord against their homeland," commented a legal expert familiar with the case.—RT/Agency

66 Terrorists Neutralized In Balochistan Operations Since January 1



RAWALPINDI: From January 1, 2024 to May 31, Pakistan Army eliminated 66 terrorists during various operations against Khawarij in Balochistan.

The Pakistan Army carried out operations against terrorists in Balochistan during the year 2024. After the Afghan Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021, a new wave of terrorism started in Pakistan.

The modern-day Khawarij Tehreek-e-Taliban stepped up their at-

tacks in Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Pakistan armed forces adopted an effective strategy to neutralize the terrorists.

Under this strategy, the Pakistan Army, launched various operations in a coordinated and systematic manner to root out terrorism in Pakistan this year.

From January 3, to May 31, Pakistan Army killed 66 terrorists, injured 27 and arrested 4 alive during various operations against Khawarij in Balochistan.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Apprises Chief Of China EXIM Bank About Government's Reform Measures

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the reform measures taken by his government had started yielding results in form of successfully tapered food inflation, reduced current account deficit, and public debt down to a more sustainable level.

The prime minister, talking to Chairman of China Export-Import Bank (EXIM) Dr. Wu Fulin here, highlighted

his government's reform agenda focused on governance, taxation, and ease of doing business to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

He appreciated the EXIM Bank's continued support for the modernization of industries,



agriculture and IT sectors of Pakistan.

He also discussed the possible role of the China EXIM Bank in financing Pakistan-China joint venture projects and trade financing as part of efforts to boost Pakistan's exports to international markets.

The EXIM Bank chairman underscored the critical role of economic and financial cooperation under CPEC phase II and China EXIM Bank's strategic partnership with Pakistan and support to advance sustainable development under the concept of "shared prosperity".—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Invites China's NORINCO Firm To Invest In KCR And Other Communication Projects

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday invited the China Northern Industry Corporation (NORINCO) to invest in Pakistan's communications infrastructure project, particularly the Karachi Circular Railway.

The prime minister, talking to NORINCO Chairman here, highlighted that the government was taking measures to bring ease of doing business and had established the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for the purpose.

He said that China and Pakistan enjoyed cordial and time-tested friendly relations which were strengthening with the passage of time.

The NORINCO chairman particularly mentioned Punjab and Pakistan Speed, referring to the swift completion of



development projects during Shehbaz Sharif's stint as Punjab chief minister, and also appreciated him for ensuring projects' quality under his supervision.

The company head recalled that under Shehbaz Sharif's supervision, the Lahore Orange Line project was completed timely.

Later, a representative of NORINCO, in a statement said that in the Pakistan's development projects

minister, they discussed the Lahore Orange Train project which was an important component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and a symbol of Pak-China friendship.

He said both countries worked jointly on the said project and reiterated that NORINCO would come up with new projects to continue contributing to the Pakistan's development.—RT/Agency

-How about having a zero tolerance policy towards corruption?

Pakistan Aims To Replicate China Model For Uplift: Dar

BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday said that by holding the Pakistan-China Business Forum in Shenzhen, the government had written a new chapter of bilateral cooperation and in the coming months, the model would be reciprocated by inviting Chinese companies to Pakistan.

The deputy prime minister, in his address at the 4th Pakistan-China Friendship and Business event here, said that the

highly attended Business Forum aimed at tangible, targeted, substantive and result-oriented economic cooperation with a focus on attracting and facilitating Chinese investments in 13 export-oriented sectors inside Pakistan.

He told the gathering that Pakistan's Ambassador in China Khalil Hashmi and his team successfully mobilized over 400 Chinese businesspersons and entrepreneurs who came together to network with around 120 Pakistani counterparts on a scale that was unprecedented.

"I am confident they have started a new journey of win-win partnership and joint cooperation. In the months ahead, we will reciprocate this model further and invite Chinese companies to Pakistan," the deputy prime minister remarked.

Calling the Friendship and Business event a "cherished tradition" and the "essence of friendship



and mutual respect", Dar said that over the years, the platform had played a pivotal role in bringing together leaders, policymakers, business executives, and entrepreneurs from both countries.

He said the gathering was aimed at engaging to further strengthen our iron-clad and space-partnership. It sets the tone for our future interactions, providing a foundation for deeper economic ties and stronger cultural connections, he added.

He said in the local context, the forum served as a testament to China's dedication to fostering international partnerships. It is a symbol of how traditions and cultural exchanges can be harnessed to promote understanding, peace, prosperity and development.

Dar said that currently, the world was at the cusp of a new era, witnessing profound and fast-paced changes which would, as before, test the resilience of China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship.

"Our partnership has already risen to a strategic level, encompassing economy, trade, social and defence sectors. We wholeheartedly support President Xi's Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI). I would like to reaffirm that Pakistan has been, is, and will always be China's trusted friend and partner," the deputy prime minister reiterated.

He particularly appreciated the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), China-Pakistan Friendship Association (CPFA), China International Cultural Communication Centre (CICCC), and all other supporting units - JDB group and Anhua County Yuntiange Co., Ltd.

He also lauded Pakistan's Ambassador Khalil Hashmi and his team and particularly expressed gratitude to Ambassador Sha Zukang for his steadfast and long-standing support to Pakistan.—RT/Agency