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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Punjab Unveils Massive Rs5.4 Trillion Tax-Free Budget

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Thursday unveiled a budget with a total outlay of Rs5.4 trillion, terming it a first tax-free budget of the incumbent government.

Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman presented the budgetary proposals, saying no new tax has been levied in budget for next fiscal year, reported Radio Pakistan.

He said revenue collection will be increased by 50% through other means and the next Annual Development Programme will be of Rs42 billion.

He said as many as 77 new mega projects will be part of the ADP, while the revenue target for next fiscal year set at Rs960 billion.

The Punjab finance minister said minimum wages were enhanced from 32,000 to 37,000 in the budget and the salaries of government employees will be increased by up to 25%.



He said Minority Development Fund has been increased by Rs1 billion for first time and Rs6 billion were earmarked for laptop scheme while Rs5 billion for the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Transplant Institute Endowment Fund.

He said inflation rate has been brought down to 11.8% and significant reductions are being made in government expenditures. The provincial minister said revolutionary measures were being taken in the health sector in Punjab, and free Wi-Fi facilities have been provided at several locations in Punjab.

The Punjab finance minister said that solar panels will be provided to electricity consumers using hundred units and easy loans will be provided to those building houses up to five marlas.

Earlier, Punjab cabinet approved the tax-free budget for next fiscal year at a meeting presided over by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in Lahore today.

Addressing the meeting, the CM said all out efforts will be made for fulfillment of our promises made with the people.—RT/Agency

FM Aurangzeb Sets Sights On 13% Tax-To-GDP Ratio By 2027

ISLAMABAD: Reiterating the pressing need for reforms and broadening of the tax base, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb asserted on Thursday that a tax-to-GDP ratio below 10 per cent was not sustainable.

"We have to take it up to 13 per cent in the next three years gradually," the minister said while addressing the post-budget press conference in Islamabad.

He added that, according to international benchmarks, no country could sustain a 9.5 per cent tax-to-GDP ratio without external assistance. Hence, there is a dire need to enhance the tax-to-GDP ratio, he added.

He also underscored the importance of eliminating the undocumented economy with end-to-end digitisation to reduce human intervention as much as possible, make the tax mechanism transparent, and mitigate the chances of corruption.



The minister admitted that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had not achieved the level of compliance. Hence, there is a dire need to enhance the tax-to-GDP ratio, he added.

He said that the government had introduced progressive taxes in the federal budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25 to tax more those with high incomes.

He stated that the country needed to move towards broadening the tax base to make the economy sustain-

able. Therefore, it was imperative to bring retailers and wholesalers into the tax net to share the burden.

The minister said the government had launched a tax scheme for retailers and wholesalers, offering them voluntary registration. However, it was termed unsuccessful as of April 2024.

In May, he added, the FBR workforce mobilised itself, and as of now around 31,000 retailers had registered with the scheme.

He said the registration would continue, and tax would also be imposed from July 2024. "We have no other option but to get this sector into the tax net," he remarked.

Hence, keeping this real-

ity in view, the government had provided record allocations for the Information and Technology sector to improve digital infrastructure and provide the youth with an enabling environment.

He said the country's IT exports stood at \$3.5 billion, which could be increased to \$7 billion provided an enabling environment was given to the youth.

He admitted that proper financing was not provided to SMEs because banks had no appetite for them and assured that banks would now come up with specific schemes in three sectors, including agriculture, IT, and SMEs. Talking about PSDP priorities, the minister said the government had focused on completing ongoing projects, allocating 81 per cent of funds for these schemes, while only 19 per cent was allocated for new schemes, which included important projects and those with foreign funding.—RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz Sparks Political Resolution Talks In High-Stakes Meeting With Fazl

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has proposed forming a committee for finding solutions political issues through collaboration in meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman in Islamabad.

The visit comes as the prime minister expedites his efforts to win back Maulana's trust, inviting him to join the ruling coalition.

Fazl, on the other hand, continues to refute the results of the February 8 general elections after his party faced defeat, terming the polls "rigged".

According to a statement released by the PM's Office on Thursday, the premier visited Maulana's residence to inquire about his well being.

In his meeting with the JUI-F chief, PM Shehbaz acknowledged the veteran politician's role in promoting peaceful struggle to protect democratic values as well as appreciated his religious services for the nation. Addressing a presser in Multan last month, the politician, whose party has remained a traditional ally of the PML-N but didn't join the government this time around, said that the country would constantly move towards "slavery" if the nation didn't protect the votes.

Since his defeat in the polls, the JUI-F chief has also softened his stance to-



wards Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stating that he doesn't have any personal enmity with the Imran Khan-founded party. Maulana Fazl has also spoke about negotiations with the PTI and encouraged an environment for talks. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, who is also PTI's president in the province, said that the party should benefit from Maulana Fazl's "experience".—RT/Agency

Budget 2024: PPP Stands Firm On Demands, Refuses To Back Down



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party has decided not to compromise on its budget 2024-25 demands, media reported citing sources.

According to sources, PPP has been in talks with the government to resolve the issue, but the negotiations have not yielded any results.

The party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has given the negotiating team full authority regarding talks with the government, sources added.

Sources said that PPP is disappointed with the government's attitude and feels that it has not stood by its commitments.

Hereby, the party has decided to adopt a confrontational approach and will no longer tolerate the government's "non-serious" attitude, sources added. PPP may consider boycotting the budget session and voting on the budget.—RT/Agency

Atta Tarar Optimistic As Economic Indicators Signal Strong Economic Recovery

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar asserted that inflation rate was decreasing gradually and all the economic indicators were indicating that economy was improving.

Addressing a press conference, Atta Tarar stated that country's economic indicators were improving during their incumbent government. He insisted that last years were hard when Pakistan was near to default.

Federal minister claimed that Pakistan will rank among the top economies of the world one day. He added that the developed countries were acknowledging the progress of Pakistan. He said there has been record reduction in inflation and the foreign exchange reserves were enough for two months' worth of imports. He stressed that provi-



sion of IT skills were crucial for young people as 68 pc of population comprised of youth. He acknowledged that youth workforce was in-demand in IT, minerals and other sectors. Atta Tarar affirmed that government has been taking effective measure to provide resources to youth. Federal minister insisted that government's main focus was education. He also highlighted the performance of PM Shehbaz, provision of laptops to students during his tenure as Punjab chief minister. Information minister also underscored the importance of PM's recent visit to China. He disclosed that a framework agreement was signed with notable tech company of China which will provide IT training to 0.2 million children every year. Atta Tarar added that agreements with the world's top firms were also being initiated. He revealed that smart board will be installed in the schools of Islamabad and IT trainings will be provided in schools.—RT/Agency

Security Agencies Stop TTP's Attempt To Establish Bases In Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: After expressing the commitment to wipe out terrorism from every part of the state, law enforcement agencies conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) Thursday foiling the bids of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to set up offices in Balochistan, the Counterterrorism Department (CTD) said.

During the successful operation, the intelligence agencies also detained several dangerous terrorists, including those involving high-value and most wanted targets, the CTD officials stated.

Authorities revealed that among those captured include the notorious and most wanted commander of the TTP Khawarij's Shura.

According to the preliminary investigation by the agencies, the arrested terrorists have been involved in several activities against Pakistan, alongside having linkages with domestic and international terrorists.

The CTD expected that crucial information



would be obtained about the secret activities of such networks within the country, as law enforcers continue to investigate the arrested people.

The successive operation shows the resolve of Pakistani law enforcement agencies to detain high-value targets and foil their ill attempts against the state.

The operation also highlights the professional capabilities and skills of the law enforcement agencies of Pakistan and their commitment to peace.

The country has been seeing a surge in terrorist attacks, resulting in the deaths of several civilians and law enforcement officials.

Shibli Faraz Slams Government Over Anti-People Budget



ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in the Senate Shibli Faraz on Thursday lashed out at the federal government for presenting an anti-people budget.

Speaking on the floor of Senate a day after the government announced its budget, Faraz emphasised that the PTI was the biggest of all political parties in the country and it deemed this an anti-people budget.

He contended that there was a clear divide between the man in the street and the elite.

During his speech, he took potshot at the PPP and the PML-N by describing them as representatives of the ruling elite. He lamented the taxes imposed on the salaried class and also criticised the government for im-

IHC Orders Sessions Court: Decide Sentence Suspension In Iddat Case Within 10 Days

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday directed a district and sessions court to decide the pleas seeking the suspension of the sentence of former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the iddat case in 10 days.

The IHC further ordered the court to decide on the pleas challenging the conviction of couple in the said case in one month.

The development comes as Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb heard multiple pleas filed by Khan and Bushra.

In his petition, Khan had sought the announcement of the district and sessions court's reserved verdict and had further requested the high court to hear the appeals in the said case.

Meanwhile, Bushra had sought for a decision on her plea filed in the sessions court seeking sentence suspension.

Last week, the former first lady had also moved the IHC seeking suspension of her sentence in the iddat case.

It is to be noted that in January, Khawar Maneka, Bushra's ex-husband, had challenged the couple's mar-



riage and had termed their nikah as fraudulent, stressing that the marriage was solemnised during her iddat (the time a woman goes into isolation after a divorce or her husband's death).

A trial court had then handed down a seven-year sentence to the couple in February and imposed a fine of Rs500,000 each on the duo.

Khan and Bushra had then filed various appeals including the ones against their conviction and those seeking suspension of their sentences.

Judge Shahrukh Arjumand had reserved the verdict on their appeals challenging their conviction on May 23.

However, in light of Maneka's repeated expression of no-confidence, the IHC, on Judge Arjumand's request, had then transferred the case to the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majid.

During the hearing at the IHC today, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Khan's lawyer Salman Akram Raja sought the announcement of the verdict reserved by Judge Arjumand.

The lawyer urged the IHC to either hear the appeals itself or transfer them to the additional sessions judge West.

He said that the court should set a time for the session court to decide the appeals. Meanwhile, Maneka's counsel Rizwan Abbasi opposed the transfer of appeals to a sessions judge and contended that the court's administrative orders can neither be directly challenged nor indirectly.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the All Hyderabad LPG Gas Distributors Association are holding a protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi Leads Intensive Review Of Eid-ul-Azha Arrangements In Sukkur Division



By Absar Ali

SUKKUR: During Eid-ul-Azha, strict action will be taken against unauthorized slaughter of sacrificial animals in Sukkur District. A complete ban has been imposed on establishing makeshift cattle markets without permission letters in place. During the Eid-ul-Azha period, special arrangements have been made for cleanliness in the city, smooth flow of traffic, and provision of clean water for ablation.

These concerns were expressed by Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi while chairing a meeting to review arrangements for the Eid-ul-Azha. Deputy Commissioners of Khairpur and Ghotki districts, along with representatives from various departments including the Deputy Commissioner Sukkur, local government, police, health, transport, municipal, livestock, and other relevant agencies, participated in the meeting. The Commissioner

Sukkur directed strict enforcement of Deputy Commissioners for livestock slaughter during Eid-ul-Azha. It was emphasized that concerned organizations must obtain permission letters from the district administration before establishing makeshift cattle markets, and no permission will be granted for setting up camps or loudspeaker installations for slaughtering animals. Police and other law enforcement agencies have been instructed to ensure security arrangements to prevent possible terrorism during Eid-ul-Azha. Special arrangements have been made for the protection of mosques, imambargahs, and public places.

The Commissioner of Sukkur Division directed Municipal Committees and Town Committees to ensure proper disposal of waste and cleanliness after the sacrificial slaughter to avoid any health hazards. Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi instructed that no unauthorized makeshift cattle

markets should be allowed to operate, and no roads should be blocked without permission, as it affects traffic flow. Special efforts are being made by the police to prevent such actions.

The Commissioner Sukkur directed the Livestock Officer to maintain records of sacrificial animals and ensure vaccination to prevent various diseases. It was emphasized that obtaining permission letters from the market committees is essential for setting up camps for animal sales.

The Regional Transport Secretary was directed to take strict action against drivers charging excessive fares from passengers during this time, and the Municipal Commissioner Sukkur was also instructed to start cleanliness campaigns and drain cleaning in public parks and nullahs. Furthermore, a meeting was held to brief the district officials of Sukkur, Khairpur and Ghotki about the arrangements for sacrificial slaughter during Eid-ul-Azha.

Korkani Community Men Rally For Justice Amid Intense Land Dispute



By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: Korkani community people, who were the residents of Ward No-6 of Sanghar city recorded a protest demonstration against the illegal occupation of their land.

The protest leaders, who included Raees Bakho Khan Korakani, Saeed Khan Korakani, Gulab Korakani, Umeed Khan Korakani, Bachal Korakani, Bahadur Khan Korakani and Idrees Korakani claimed that 578 acres of land, as confirmed in a letter by the Deputy Collector in 1944 and also mentioned in the 1957 revenue record of Sanghar, belonged to their family. They accused their opponents, including Laung Korkani, Qabil Ko-

rakani and Fateh Khan Korkani of occupying their land by offering bribes to officials to illegally issue them fake documents.

They demanded legal action against those involved in the illegal encroachment and corrupt practices. The local administration of Sanghar has been urged to take action against the adversaries and resolve the matter legally. Furthermore, they emphasized that the resolution of these issues should be fair and just, ensuring that their family's rightful ownership of the land is restored, and any losses incurred are compensated. The Korkani community expressed grave concerns over the situation, urging prompt action from the authorities.

Tando Adam Police Nab Notorious Drug Dealer



By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: The crackdown against drug dealers by the Tando Adam police is ongoing. In this regard, District Task Force Incharge DSP Muhammad Musa Abro and SHO Ghulam Shabbir Dilwani, under their supervision, conducted successful operations against drug dealers, resulting in the arrest of 03 major dealers and the

seizure of more than 04 kilograms of hashish. The arrested drug dealer Shahjahan Makrani is currently in custody. However, three other drug dealers, Salman alias Karo Makrani, Allah Bakshi, and Asghar Makrani, managed to flee the scene and are currently on the run. Efforts are underway to apprehend them. The arrested drug dealers have been booked under the Narcotics Act.

Thatta's Civil Society Outraged By Rampant Cutting Of Mangroves



By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The destruction of mangrove trees along Pakistan's coastline, which are crucially planted by the Environmental Department, Forest officials and NGOs, continues despite their importance in enhancing the environment and serving as a natural defense against tsunamis and cyclones. They also provide vital habitats for aquatic life. Despite public outcry, illegal chopping of mangroves persists, with allegations suggesting complicity of some officials, which undermines efforts to protect these essential ecosystems. In an attempt to strengthen mangrove forests, environmentalists, civil society activists, and representatives from growers' organizations gathered on Khedewari Island along the Keti Bunder coastline. On July 15, 2009,

they set a Guinness World Record by planting 451,176 'Rhizophora mucronata' mangrove saplings in a single day.

The Sindh Forest Department has continued these efforts, aiming to surpass previous records. Notably, on April 19, 2018, they set another record by planting 1,129,294 saplings in a day along the Sindh coast, in collaboration with the National Bank.

However, ongoing deforestation by influential figures poses a risk to these achievements. Civil society groups have strongly condemned these actions and are urging authorities to intervene and safeguard the mangrove forests. The continued destruction poses significant environmental threats and undermines collective efforts to protect and restore these vital coastal ecosystems.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Matiari are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against their local police officials.-RT

Pak Army, MERF, And Health Dept Organize Massive Free Medical Camp In Keti Bandar

By Sajid Ali Janyaro

KETI BANDAR: The collaboration between the Pak Army, the Health Department Thatta and MERF Thatta in organizing a one-day free medical camp in Keti Bandar is a commendable effort to address the healthcare needs of the local population. The camp provided essential medical services to residents who often lack access to such facilities. The presence of dedicated healthcare professionals, including dermatologists,



women's health specialists, and pediatricians, ensured that patients received comprehensive care.

Their commitment and hard work were evident in the thorough examinations and appropriate treatments provided to patients suffering from various ailments. Major Sajid of the Pak Army rightly highlighted the significant

challenges faced by the residents of Keti Bandar regarding healthcare, education,

and access to clean water.

His address to the media underscored the urgent need for improvements in these

areas to enhance the quality of life for the local population. The supervision of the camp by Major Abdullah, Major Sajid Bughyo, Captain Zeeshan Arain, and Dr. Suleman Shah ensured the efficient operation of the medical camp.

Their coordination and management ensured that patients received not only medi-

cal attention but also free medicines and diagnostic services.

This initiative reflects the Pak Army's commitment to the welfare of the nation's citizens beyond its traditional role in defense. By directly engaging with communities and addressing their healthcare needs, the Pak Army demonstrates its dedication to improving the overall well-being of the population and bridging gaps in healthcare accessibility.

Irrigation Dept Employees Stage Fiery Protest Against District Accounts Officer Auditor Khalid Memon



By Shaikh Sindh

KOTRI: The employees of the Sindh Irrigation Department Center, Kotri Barrage, Lower Sindh, Mechanical Workshop staged a protest in front of the Treasury Office against the non-processing of bills and the injustices of District Accounts Officer and Auditor Khalid Memon. They held a sit-in and chanted slogans demanding the removal of Khalid Memon. Regarding this protest, irrigation depart-

ment employee leaders Bhalay Dino Khaskheli, Allah Dino Khoso, Muhammad Mithal Shoro, Syed Abid Shah, Rashid Ahmed Rajar, and others said that Auditor Khalid Memon in the District Accounts Office has been continuously committing injustices against the employees of the irrigation department. He harasses them in various ways for the verification of bills, demands hefty bribes, and refuses to stamp or verify bills if the bribe is not

given. Those who pay the bribe get their bills verified quickly, while the poor, helpless employees are made to wait for months. The market for bribes is flourishing, and despite numerous written complaints to the District Accounts Officer, no action has been taken. They have been forced to protest and demand that the issues of the irrigation department employees be resolved immediately and Auditor Khalid Memon be removed from his position.

ACs Hassan Zafar And Rameez Raja Crack Down On 13 Unregistered Clinics

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: The Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon has directed all the Assistant Commissioner to conduct operations against illegal laboratories, medical centers, and medical stores in Sakrand, Daur and Nawabshah. In this regard 13 clinics and one laboratory were sealed as per the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon. Assistant Commissioner Nawabshah Iqbal Ahmed Tunio, Assistant Commissioner Daur Hassan Zafar, and Assistant Commissioner Sakrand Rameez Raja, along with health commission officials, conducted raids against unregistered laboratories, med-



ical centers, medical stores, and unauthorized doctors. During the operations, three clinics were sealed in Nawabshah, along with two clinics and one laboratory in Daur, besides eight clinics being sealed in Sakrand. Additionally, Assistant Commissioner Nawabshah Iqbal Ahmed Tunio, Assistant Commissioner Daur Hassan Zafar and Assistant Commis-

sioner Sakrand Rameez Raja briefed Deputy Commissioner Shahryar Gul Memon about complaints lodged by the public regarding unregistered medical centers and unauthorized doctors endangering human lives. These actions were taken in compliance with the directives of the Deputy Commissioner and will continue as part of daily operations.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Hyder are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad press club against their area police officials.-RT



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of Muslim League Functional's HDA Labor Wing are holding a protest demonstration for the acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

METRO KARACHI

Sindh Unveils World's Largest Solar Power Projects

KARACHI: Sindh Provincial Energy Minister Syed Nasir Shah participated in the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Energy and Go Energy Pvt Limited for the 550 MW floating solar energy project on Kenjar Lake.

Secretary Energy Mosaad Ahmad Khan, CEO-STDG Salim Shaikh, CEO-Go Green Amar Ali Talat and Director K-Electric Haris Siddiqui were also present. Syed Nasir Shah said that Go Energy Private Limited is making this project with the cooperation of STDG, Sindh Energy Department and Sindh Irrigation Department. STDG Kenjar Lake Power Project will lay a 220 kv transmission line of about 60 km to K-Electric grid station Dhabhi Karachi.

Shah said that K-Electric is the off-taker of the 500MW floating power project for which K-Electric has provided Letter of Intent (LOI) and Energy Department has also provided a Letter of Intent (LOI). He said that this project is environmentally friendly as it will help prevent water evaporation and will be beneficial for aquatic life. He added that project will also benefit land conservation and this project is environment friendly which will promote green energy in Sindh and provide source of affordable electricity. He added that this project



will boost the economy of Sindh province by creating jobs. Shah said that, Government of Sindh is determined and trying hard to utilize these renewable resources at a faster pace and our effort is to reduce the overall basket tariff of NEPRA and make it more affordable electricity for the common people of the country. Apart from tariff reduction, renewable energy will also contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals to create a clean, reliable and sustainable environment and we hope to complete the project by the end of 2026.

Secretary Energy Mosaad Ahmad Khan said that on the special directives of Minister Energy, work is underway on several projects to provide cheap and free electricity to the people. He added that mini-grid stations will be set up at the district level to provide affordable and environment-friendly electricity to the remote areas of Sindh. The Secretary Energy

Defamation Bill Guarantees No Impact On Working Journalists, Assures Azma Bukhari

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari said that the defamation bill would not affect the working journalists.

"Only those social media influencers are disturbed with this legislation who are involved in insulting someone and earn dollars," said the provincial information minister.

She was talking to media outside the Punjab Assembly on Thursday.

"We have allocated a hefty amount of 1 billion for the healthcare of journalists' community," Azma said. She added that protest is the right of journalists but the defamation bill has been challenged in court and therefore we should wait for its verdict.



Talking about the provincial budget that was presented in Punjab Assembly on Thursday, she said that 77 new schemes would be initiated in this budget. She added that the OPD of new cancer hospital would be functional within one year. "The government is establishing an authority to control inflation," she said.—RT/Agency

Aimal Wali Slams Budget As Disconnected From People's Input

PESHAWAR: Lambasting the federal government, Awami National Party (ANP) President Aimal Wali Khan on Thursday said the budget showed that it was not prepared by the people's representatives.

In a statement, he said the budget reflects that it was prepared on the IMF (International Monetary Fund) dictates. "There is no relief for common man [in the budget]," he added.

"The country has been put in the grip of taxes. Tax the life and death, and even the birth of a child. Tax the people for breathing," said fuming Aimal. This is not a budget document, it is a tax document, he continued.

The ANP president suggested that all privileges of



senators and parliamentary leaders should be abolished. "Our ministers do not need salaries and perks. We are here only to serve the people."

Civil bureaucracy in Pakistan is leading a lavish life while we do not have funds to pay pension, Aimal stated.

He "strongly condemned" cancellation of passports of those who sought political asylum abroad.—RT/Agency

Lahore Girl Allegedly Brutally Raped After Meeting Doctor On Matrimonial App

LAHORE: A girl was allegedly raped by a man she met on a matrimonial app in Lahore, police said on Thursday.

As per details, the woman was 'raped' by a doctor in the area of Nawab Town in Lahore.

A case has been registered against the accused in Nawab Town police station, investigation is ongoing, police said. The 'rape-victim' girl

in her statement in FIR said that she met the doctor on the app related to marriage and met with him at the hospital's cafe.

"The doctor reportedly forcefully took the girl with him and raped her," the FIR further said. According to police, the victim girl's medical treatment is going on, and the accused will also be arrested soon.—RT/Agency

Dr. Zahid Hasan Ansari Appointed Central Convener Of FPCCI's Medical And Health Sciences Committee

KARACHI: Dr. Zahid Hasan Ansari, a renowned public health specialist, former Secretary of the Sindh Blood Transfusion Authority, and CEO of Popular Labs, has been appointed as the Central Convener of the FPCCI Standing Committee for Medical and Health Sciences. With 37 years of extensive experience in the health sector, Dr. Ansari is a staunch advocate for advancing health facilities at both primary and tertiary levels to



ensure quick and easy access for all. He has reiterated his commitment to serving Sindh and Pakistan with his full expertise.—RT

Altat Shakoor Slams Federal Budget For Favoring Lenders Over Citizens

KARACHI: Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altat Shakoor criticized the federal budget on Friday, labeling it as "a budget of the lenders, by the lenders, for the lenders." He argued that the budget reflects a nation ensnared in debt, prepared under the influence of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and presented by a finance minister from abroad. Shakoor asserted that the budget serves the elite at the expense of the poor, offering lavish subsidies to entities like Karachi Electric (KE) while neglecting essential food subsidies. He high-

lighted that over half of the budget would go to lenders, with the government needing to borrow an additional Rs9000 billion to bridge the deficit, further tightening the debt trap.

He noted that only government employees might find some relief, while private sector workers and laborers face increased inflation and poverty. Shakoor called for a budget overhaul to focus on job creation, food production, and local industry development, rejecting what he termed an "anti-people and pro-IMF budget."—RT

Shopkeeper Fatally Shot While Resisting Robbery

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In a tragic incident early this morning, Baqir Ali, a shopkeeper, was shot dead by armed robbers in the Shah Latif Police Station area near Hamal Goth. The fatal encounter occurred around 7:00 AM when the assailants, riding motorcycles, targeted Baqir Ali's milk shop.

Eyewitnesses reported

that the robbers demanded money and other valuables. However, when Baqir Ali resisted, they opened fire, killing him instantly. After the shooting, the robbers fired additional shots into the air to dissuade any pursuit and then fled the scene.

The police have launched an investigation, focusing on gathering evidence and reviewing nearby CCTV footage to identify and apprehend the culprits. Despite the urgency of the situation, no case has been registered as of the last update.

This incident has sparked fear and outrage among the local community, highlighting the growing concern over safety and security in the area. Residents are calling for increased police patrols and more stringent measures to curb the rising crime rate.

Deputy Mayor Declares Shocking Toll Tax Hike On Karachi Roads To Boost KMC Revenue

KARACHI: Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad on Thursday said the toll tax is being imposed so that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) could stand on its own feet to serve the metropolis.

Speaking on media, Abdullah said the toll tax on roads under the KMC jurisdiction would be charged through the Sindh Excise Department.

While responding to a question, he shared that work on thoroughfares within the KMC's limit was in progress in order to provide convenience to commuters.

In a meeting on Tuesday, the City Council approved the toll tax collection in collaboration with the Sindh Excise and Taxation Department from vehicles using the roads and bridges of Karachi.



The forum approved the new tax on a demand made through a resolution presented by Irshad Ali Advocate and Dil Muhammad.

Addressing a press conference after the session, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab had said many institutions, including the National Highway, collected the toll tax, but no one gave tax in Karachi.



Meanwhile, Abdullah said the local government had taken all the towns on board for lifting of offal on Eid ul Adha. He urged the citizens not to throw offal on roads. "We will try that all of us collectively work for the city's cleanliness," he said.—RT

SHC Sends Shockwave Notices On Petitions Regarding Three Missing Persons

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday expressed its concern over disappearance of three citizens and issued notices to the Sindh government, federal government, police and other parties.

Three more citizens including a retired officer of the FIA have been reported missing. The high court directed the government to take steps for prompt recovery of the missing persons.

The court summoned SHOs of the Dhabhi, Khokharap and Sohra Goth police stations. The bench also ordered the home department to submit its report over the matter by June 28.

Earlier, petitioner Waqas



Ahmed pleaded to the court that Ahmed Jan Khan, who served the FIA for 33 years, was retired as assistant director investigation from the FIA's Commercial Banking Circle in 2021. Unknown persons took him with them on April 28. He pleaded for recovery of the missing person.

Maulana Aurangzeb petitioned to the court that Shahzeb, who is running a Chingchi rickshaw, was taken along on gunpoint by unknown persons in a Vigo from Al-Asif Squire on June 04.

Petitioner Shehroz Shirazi pleaded to the court that Younus Shirazi 53, was abducted by unidentified persons on June 09 from Khokharap. Petitioners requested to the court for an immediate recovery of the abducted citizens.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL



ISLAMABAD: Senator Inamuddin Shouqeen and his son, Zubair Imam, Ambassador to South Sudan, met with President Asif Ali Zardari at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.—RT

PTI's Central Secretariat In Islamabad Liberated From Seals

ISLAMABAD: The Central Secretariat of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was reopened on Thursday following Islamabad High Court (IHC) orders.

IHC Justice Aijaz Ishaq handed over the orders for de-sealing PTI's central secretariat to the court bailiff during a hearing of contempt of court.

The IHC over a week ago had ordered the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to immediately de-seal PTI's central secretariat in the federal capital.

Accepting the PTI's plea, the court noted that the authority had not issued any notice prior to the order to seal the party's secretariat.

It added that the CDA had neither sent the order to seal the office to the party, nor its copy.



The CDA had partly demolished the secretariat before sealing it on May 24, saying it had been built in violation of the building bylaw.

As part of an anti-encroachment operation, a portion of the PTI headquarters was demolished, while the political party's office was sealed, earlier this month.

As per the CDA officials' statement, a large-scale encroachment was established by occupying land adjacent to the plot. Despite several warnings and notices, including ones issued on November 19, 2020, February 22, 2021, June 14, 2022, and September 4, 2023, the violations were not addressed, while on May 10, 2024, the CDA issued orders to seal the plot, the CDA spokesperson added.—RT/Agency

Salaried Class Squeezed By Federal Budget, Says Muzammil Aslam

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Adviser Finance, Muzammil Aslam, has declared federal budget as 'killing poison', media reported on Thursday.

"The federal budget has not been the government's intent, it is an IMF budget," KP finance official claimed.

"Thirty-eight percent tax has been enhanced on the instructions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," he alleged.

"The salaried class has been strangled in this budget," Muzammil Aslam said.

Provincial finance adviser has said that first 15% tax imposed over real estate sector.

He said the tax on non-filers has been hiked to 45 percent adding that non-filers are mostly



poor class of masses which have been overburdened with 45% tax.

He said the federal government would remain 9,111 billion rupees after releasing share to provinces. "This amount would even be insufficient for debt-servicing,"

Provincial adviser said there is nothing in agriculture sector except five billion rupees mark-up sharing. He also contested the inflation figure of 12 percent in budget, calling it incorrect adding that the price hike will be above the given figure.—RT/Agency

Benjamin Netanyahu's Legacy Overshadowed By War Crimes



By Shahnoor Waqas Malik

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's longest serving prime minister, is now finally facing an arrest warrant sought by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity and which include 'causing extermination, causing starvation as a method of war, including the denial of humanitarian relief supplies, deliberately targeting civilians in conflict.'

Having served a total of 16 years, his tenure has been nothing short of a genocide of the Palestinian people, the forcible occupation of their homes and razing of their land. His country's military, the IDF, has bombed the entire Gaza Strip turning homes into rubble. Without abiding to the Law of War, the IDF has ruthlessly targeted hospitals, refugee camps, schools, residential

blocks, aid trucks, journalists, doctors, humanitarian relief workers, women, children, the disabled, the elderly and new-born babies.

With an insurmountable amount of evidence/footage to back up these charges and despite a total of 153 countries (UNGA) voting in favour of a ceasefire in Israel's war on Gaza, Benjamin Netanyahu continues to lead the total destruction and extermination of the people of Gaza through the IDF, seemingly unfazed.

Netanyahu's response to the Hamas-led attack/kidnapping on the 7th of October was the implementation of the 'total blockade' of the Gaza Strip - blocking the entry of food, water, medicine, fuel and electricity - which would only be lifted by Israel if the hostages abducted by Hamas are returned. A collective punishment of this scale is a war crime of itself constituting a humanitarian crisis of the Gazan people and since then, the death toll in Gaza has passed 37,000 people in only 8 months - while there have been a reported 204 hostages held by Hamas. Amnesty International has described this measure as having been taken to punish civilians in Gaza for the actions of Palestinian armed groups' with Israel also having mass detention cells of Palestinian people akin to the holocaust of Nazi Germany.

There is an estimated 2.2 million people in Gaza currently experiencing food insecurity at emergency levels - the continued blockade has led to famine type conditions with catastrophic hunger/malnutrition. Airstrikes have destroyed food infrastructure such as bakeries, mills and food stores. Direct attacks on telecommunication infrastructure by Israel has rendered Gaza with a near-collapse cell network. Scarcity of essential supplies and blockade of aid has triggered lack of sanitation and deadly infectious diseases. Shortage of fuel has meant no electricity crippling its people. Horrifyingly enough, when Israel allowed partial humanitarian aid to pass through into Gaza, the IDF soldiers pretended to be humanitarian aid workers and doctors, killing the Palestinian people within hospitals and on the streets.

Ethnic cleansing, cultural genocide, forcible population displacement or the extermination of Palestinians - Benjamin Netanyahu is guilty of all. His legacy is being a war criminal. A man running on borrowed time with an eternity to pay for his crimes.

EDITORIAL

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

Friday, June 14, 2024

Unchecked authoritarianism masquerading as legal rectitude

The recent rearrest of anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan is not just another legal proceeding; it's a stark reminder of the precarious state of press freedom and judicial integrity in Pakistan. Imran Riaz, known for his outspokenness and journalistic pursuits, was apprehended under contentious circumstances, further complicating a narrative already marred by accusations and legal maneuvering.

Riaz's latest detention, reportedly on charges related to financial impropriety, comes amidst a backdrop of prior legal battles and a purported abduction saga, casting shadows over the legitimacy of the charges and the motivations behind his repeated incarcerations. His arrest at the Allama Iqbal International Airport, clad in religious attire as he prepared for Hajj, evoked public outcry and drew widespread condemnation on social media—an image that not

only resonates with the violation of personal dignity but also underscores the brazenness of the authorities.

What is particularly alarming is the silence echo-



ing from our nation's institutions, notably the judiciary, which stands as the bulwark of justice and safeguard against abuse of power. The judiciary's role in upholding constitutional rights, including freedom of speech and due process, is now under scrutiny as Imran Riaz's legal battles continue to unfold without clear resolution or adherence to fair trial standards.

Pakistan, as a nation, stands at a crossroads where the protection of individual liberties and the integrity of its legal framework must not be compromised for

expediency or political expediency. The recurring cycle of arrests, legal battles, and subsequent releases underscores a troubling trend that erodes public trust in the rule of law and jeopardizes the fundamental freedoms enshrined in our constitution.

The case of Imran Riaz Khan demands urgent attention from all stakeholders concerned with justice and democratic principles. The arbitrary use of legal tools to silence dissent or settle personal scores cannot be tolerated in a society aspiring for democratic maturity. As citizens, we must collectively raise our voices against such abuses and demand accountability from those entrusted with the solemn duty to uphold justice and protect our freedoms. Imran Riaz Khan's ordeal must end now, and the nation must reflect on the perils of continuing down this treacherous path of unchecked authoritarianism masquerading as legal rectitude.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Residents of Kotri are holding a protest demonstration against at the Hyderabad press club against their area police officials.-RT

Glittering Award Ceremony Lights Up Pishan Elementary Public School



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The annual award distribution ceremony was held at Pishan Elementary Public School in Machhiari Muri, supported by the Sindh Education Foundation. District Officer of Excise and Technician, Abdul Jabbar Gharana, graced the event as the chief guest and addressed the gathering. Information Officer Sarfaraz Samo highlighted the significance of education, stating that development is impossible without it, and education provides awareness. He acknowledged the hard work of teachers and the talent of the children, which was showcased through tableaux, poems, and speeches. Samo expressed high expectations from the children, recognizing them as the future doctors and engineers. He emphasized the importance of platforms like this event to showcase their abilities. Muhammad Hanif Gharana, while providing a detailed overview of the school, mentioned that there are 12 teachers catering to more than 350 students, who receive free education supported by the foundation. He stressed the school's efforts to ensure every child receives education up to the university level. Trophies and medals were distributed to students who achieved positions, and certificates of appreciation were awarded to teachers for their outstanding performance.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Bachal Bhatti Goth are holding a protest demonstration against their area's land grabbers, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

SWO, CDA, And IRC Spearhead High-Impact Workshop To Combat Child Marriages

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: With the joint collaboration of Sukar Welfare Organization, Chanan Development Association (CDA), and Indus Resource Center (IRC), a one-day workshop was held under the Young Omang Project at a local hotel to enhance coordination and cooperation among various stakeholders for the prevention of child marriages.

The workshop saw participation from Deputy Director of Social Welfare Ghulam Murtaza Gohar, District Information Officer Muhammad Aslam Bhatti, Deputy Director of Population Ali Muhammad Panhwar, EDO Umerkot, RSU focal person, Local Government's EDL Haresh Chander Khatri, representatives from the Women's Development Department, social organization SPO's Shevaram Suthar, CWSA's Madam Kainat, Madam Saiga Khan, and all district stakeholders. They assured that strong measures would be taken to prevent child marriages and that the Sindh Child Mar-



riages Restraint Act 2013 would be fully enforced. During the event, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Umerkot Ghulam Murtaza Gohar emphasized that every society recognizes the social and moral status of children. He highlighted that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a prominent document in the modern era that outlines the fundamental rights of children.

Advocate Muhammad Baksh Kumbhar, Executive Director of Sukar Welfare Organization Umerkot, cited UNICEF statistics, stating that 21% of girls in Pakistan are married before

their 18th birthday and 3% before they turn 15. UNICEF's data reveals that Pakistan ranks 6th in the world for child brides, with 1,909,000 cases.

If the current trend continues, 1 billion girls will fall victim to child marriage by 2030. IRC Project Manager, Farzana addressed the workshop, stating that Pakistan has committed, alongside other countries, to reduce child marriages by 2030 and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality. Other stakeholders also shared their thoughts and presented suggestions for strict implementation of the 2013 Act to prohibit child marriages.

Writer Malika Kalwar's 3rd Death Anniversary Commemorated With Reverence



By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: The 3rd death anniversary of a writer and educator affiliated with the Shikarpur Literary and Social Forum, and a member of the educated class, Malika Kalwar, was observed at the government primary school in Shikarpur on Thursday.

The program was chaired by Shaikh Ayaz's daughter Dr. Adeel Mahar, Pervaz that Apa Malika despite her association with a significant literary stature, remained committed to her individual identity. She has served as an exemplary education officer, fulfilling

her duties with the highest level of administrative integrity, despite facing reluctance from political and administrative circles, which posed considerable challenges. Special guest Safiya Abbasi expressed that Malika Kalwar is a prominent figure among Kalwar women and has made significant contributions. Another prominent guest, author Dr. Raja Seelro, Lashari, columnist Veengas Ayaz, who said that Apa Malika despite her association with a significant literary stature, remained committed to her individual identity. She has served as an exemplary education officer, fulfilling

Ghotki Journalist Warns Of Compromise In Nasrullah Gadani Murder Case Amid Controversial SHO Appointment

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: At the Mirpur Mathelo Police Station, an SHO known to be close to Sardar Khalid Ahmed Lund has been appointed, raising concerns among journalists and the civil society.

The appointment of the controversial SHO, Qabil Bhayo, has sparked fears that the case of the murdered journalist, Shaheed Nasrullah Gadani, may be compromised. Journalists have expressed strong reactions on social media regarding the appointment of the new SHO.

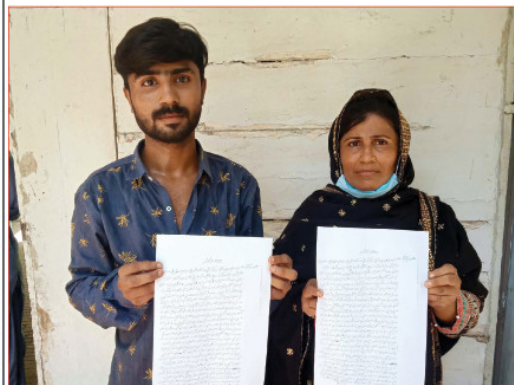
Previously, SHO Raza Baloch was removed from the post and the SSP Ghotki then appointed another SHO Qabil Bhayo. Following his appointment, a photograph of within two days, the SSP of an officer with a good reputation viral on social media, further intensifying the backlash. Senior journalists from Ghotki, including Asad



Pitafi, Shabbir Bhatti, Adam Pitafi and Maqbool Boddar, have voiced their concerns. The journalists demand that the immediate appointment of an officer with a good reputation and the arrest of all further intensifying the backlash. Senior journalists from Ghotki, including Asad



HYDERABAD: All Hyderabad LPG Gas Distributors Association President, Nawab Khan is addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad press club.-RT



HYDERABAD: Residents of Qasimabad are holding a protest demonstration against at the Hyderabad press club against their area's police officials.-RT

SPORTS



Cristiano Ronaldo cools off in Portugal after beating Ireland



Cristiano Ronaldo seems to be making the most of his little break from the field before heading to Germany for the Euro 2024 after leading Portugal to a victory over Ireland in an international friendly.

Ronaldo, 39, took to social media to update his fans about his activities. The Al Nassr striker utilised his time off the field to cool off in the Portuguese summer with a dip in the pool.

He shared a photo of himself on his Instagram Story in which he can be seen showing off his ripped biceps while standing inside a swimming pool.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner also reunited with his

former roommate Miguel Paixão whom he lived with during his days at his first club, Sporting Lisbon.

Earlier, the former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus star had reposted his longtime friend's Instagram Story which featured a selfie of both friends.

Cristiano Ronaldo is now gearing up for Germany where his national team will take on Czech Republic on June 18 as part of the European Championship which kicks off on Friday.

Then, the team is set to face Turkey and Georgia in Group F.—Agency

Brian Lara wants USA to qualify for T20 World Cup Super 8 instead of Pakistan



Former West Indies captain Brian Lara wants the USA to join India in the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup 2024 instead of Pakistan.

Keeping their hopes alive in the Super 8 race, Babar Azam's Pakistan revitalised their campaign in Group A by defeating Canada on Tuesday.

The Men in Green outclassed Canada by seven wickets to secure their first win in the competition. Despite Pakistan having an outside chance of progressing to the Super 8 alongside India, Lara has predicted an early exit for Pakistan in Group A.

Speaking to Star Sports, he admitted that Pakistan have a chance to enter the business end of the competition. However, Lara is backing the USA to join India in the Super 8 from Group A.

"Of course mathematically they (Pakistan) have a chance. I think the USA just got to take care of a win in

their last game, they do captain that and they qualify. But we're hoping that they get to win plus the stage of the T20 World Cup. So my money is on the USA, I think they're full of confidence and they would want to make it to the Super 8 historic for US cricket," Lara said.

Remember, India favoured Pakistan after they defeated the USA by seven wickets in their Group A encounter in New York.

Pakistan are now ahead of the USA on net run rate, having suffered two defeats and secured a solitary win. Pakistan can maintain their NRR lead over the USA with a victory against Ireland.

If Ireland beat the USA and Pakistan win their final Group A match, Babar and his team will advance to the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup. Co-hosts USA need at least a point against Ireland. If Pakistan drop a point, the USA will enter the Super 8 stage.

Lauderhill will host both matches and if either game is washed out, the USA will secure their place in the Super 8.—Agency

T20 World Cup 2024: Bangladesh defeat Netherlands by 25 runs

KINGSTOWN: Bangladesh grabbed victory over Netherlands by restricting the batters to 134/8 in the 27th match of the T20 World Cup being played at Arnos Vale Ground, Kingstown.

Chasing the target, the Netherlands didn't have the best start as they lost both of their openers Michael Levitt (18 off 16) and Max O'Dowd (12 off 16) walked back to the pavilion leaving their side 32-2 in 5.4 overs.

However, after losing two wickets, the Dutch got back in the game with Vikramjit Singh and Sybrand Engelbrecht combining for 37-run before the former departed after scoring 26 runs on 16 balls.

After losing the wicket, Engelbrecht (33 off 22) and



skipper Scott Edwards (25 off 23) scored but their knocks were not enough as the Dutch kept on losing wickets and eventually concluded their innings at 134-8 in 20 overs.

For Bangladesh, Rishad Hossain starred with the ball as he took three wickets, Taskin Ahmed got two while Mustafizur Rahman, Tanzim

Tanzid Hasan and Shakib Al Hasan built a 48-run partnership which was crucial for Bangladesh as they got the much-needed stability. Tanzid played a quick knock, scoring 35 off 26 with six boundaries before losing his wicket to Paul van Meekeren. Shakib stayed on the pitch and he was supported greatly by Mahmudullah (25 off 21) down the order. Jaker Ali's quick seven-ball 14-run cameo helped Bangladesh conclude their innings at 159-5 in the allocated overs.

Shakib top-scored for the Tigers with 64 runs on 46 balls. Meanwhile, for the Netherlands, Aryan Dutt and Van Meekeren bagged two wickets each while Tim Pringle managed to get one.—Agency

Squash Championship: Pakistan qualify for quarter-finals after crushing China



DALIAN: In yet another victory in the squash, Pakistan cruise to victory over China by 3-0 Thursday, qualifying for the quarter-finals of the Asian Team Squash Championship in Dalian, China.

The victory was secured in the participants' final pool stage match, marking the three consecutive successes. Pakistan were undefeated in Pool C of the event where they were at par with South Korea, Chinese Taipei, and China.

The Men in Green beat Taipei 3-0 and Korea 2-1 Wednesday commencing the tournament with high spirits.

Noor Zaman, Farhan Mehboob and Nasir Iqbal won their matches against Chinese players Thursday.

Nasir Iqbal, Asim Khan

and Noor Zaman won their matches against Taipei. Meanwhile, Nasir Iqbal and Noor Zaman won against Korea with Asim Khan the only Pakistan player to lose a match.

The quarter-finals of the event will be played tomorrow. Pakistan's opponent in the last-eight clash is arch-rivals India.

The Pakistan team is being coached by the experienced Fahim Gul, who is eager to ensure that the national side wins the gold medal.

Pakistan are the most successful team in the Asian Men's Team Squash Championship's history with 15 gold medals. However, their last win in the event came in 2016.—Agency

Traces of two missing Japanese climbers found in Gilgit Baltistan

GILGIT: Army helicopters found "traces" of the two mountain climbers from Japan who went missing Wednesday while attempting to summit 7,027-metre Spantik Peak, also known as Golden Peak, in the Karakoram range, but their whereabouts and condition remains unknown, according to a statement released from Karrar Haidri, secretary of Alpine Club of Pakistan.



"The Shigar deputy commissioner stated that they had identified a potential location for the climbers, but it was still unclear if the climbers were actually there, and their health status remained unknown," the statement added.

The missing Japanese hikers Ryuseki Hiraoka and Atsushi Taguchi, were climbing Alpine style, which involves climbing quickly with minimal gear and no fixed camps, the statement read, adding "they

reached Camp 2 at 5,300 meters on Monday, however, when another seven-member Japanese expedition team arrived at the camp the next day, Hiraoka and Taguchi were not there."

"The team then halted their expedition and returned to the base camp to alert the authorities."

"The Deputy Commissioner reported that the rescue operation took place twice early Thursday around 6:30am, pinpointing the possible location of the climbers at approximately 5,500 meters, between Camp 2 and Camp III," Haidri said.

Pakistan has five of the world's 14 mountains higher than 8,000 metres including K2, the world's second highest.

More than 8,900 foreigners visited the remote Gilgit-Baltistan region in 2023, according to official figures from the government, where the summer climbing season runs from early June to late August.—Agency

Messi to skip Olympics but leaves door open for 2026 World Cup



MIAMI: Eight-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi has confirmed in an interview with US broadcaster ESPN that he will not attempt to win a second gold medal with Argentina at this summer.

"I spoke with (Argentinian Olympic coach Javier) Mascherano, and we immediately agreed on the situation," Inter Miami forward Messi said in the interview broadcast on Wednesday.

"It's a difficult moment, because there's the Copa America, and that would mean two or three consecutive months away from my club."

"At my age, I don't want to play everything and I need to make the right choices," added the former Barcelona star who was a member of Argentina's 2008 Olympic gold medal winning team.

Messi, who turns 37 on June 24, will be with defending champions Argentina at the Copa America from June 20 to July 14 in the United States, just a few weeks before the Olympics start on July 26.

Messi, however, has not closed the door on taking part in a record-breaking sixth World Cup, to be held in 2026 between the US, Canada and Mexico.

"It's great to have records and continue to achieve things but I won't take part in a World Cup just to say I've done six," said Messi.

"If I feel good and everything is in place for me to be there, fine, but I won't go just to go."

"It's very difficult to imagine what can happen because it's still two years away. I don't need to commit right now to whether or not I'll be there.—Agency

Lionel Messi hints he may be retiring very soon



Inter Miami star Lionel Messi recently hinted at bidding farewell to the football world sooner than fans may have thought.

In an exclusive interview with ESPN Argentina, Messi, 36, talked candidly about his worries and ideas regarding life after football - a sport towards which he has dedicated his entire life, Marca reported.

During the interview, the Argentine football legend acknowledged approaching the end of his illustrious career on the football field, revealing the fear that he may not be ready for it.

"I'm not prepared to leave football," Messi told ESPN Argentina. "I did this all my life, I enjoy the trainings, the games. The fear that everything is going to be over, it's always there."

He also named the club that he thinks will see the final moments of Messi in action.

"I think Inter Miami is going to be my last club."

Messi's contract with Inter Miami will expire at the end of 2025, potentially marking the end of an extraordinary career that has seen him achieve every major accolade in the sport.

As one of the world's top players, the former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star has achieved several Champions League trophies, league titles in Spain and France, and a Copa America and World Cup victory for Argentina.

He has also bagged numerous Ballon d'Or awards recognising him as the best player in the world.—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT



America's sweetheart Taylor Swift makes big difference amid 'Eras tour'



Everywhere Taylor Swift goes she leaves marks of her presence and in Edinburgh the Grammy winner proved this by giving a hefty donation to a food bank.

During her Eras tour leg in Scotland, the Carolina hit-maker gave loads of charity to the Edinburgh Food Project.

Thanking the pop icon for her generous contribution, the charity wrote on social media, "As fans gathered at Murrayfield on Friday for the first of three record-breaking gigs, Edinburgh Food Project found out that Taylor Swift would be making a donation

to support food banks across the city."

The post continued, "Taylor's visit will live in Edinburgh's memories for years to come, and this gift will mean people in crisis will also feel the long-lasting impact."

It is not the first time Taylor put her charity work on display. Earlier on her Eras Tour American leg, she contributed largely to a food bank in Seattle.

It was made to Food Lifeline and said to help thousands of families in Western Washington.

Khloe Kardashian agrees to become Malika Haqq's 'baby daddy'



Khloe Kardashian seemingly has no problem in becoming Malika Haqq's "baby daddy."

On the upcoming episode of The Kardashians, Khloe Kardashian advised her close pal Malika Haqq regarding her second pregnancy, as per People Magazine.

Malika started the discussion and asked Khloe, "I do want to ask you, if you can, whenever, I can make an appointment when you can go with me."

She also shared that she was unsure about her decision regarding "the sperm bank" and was having "a head thing about it."

"And what are your fears about the sperm bank?" the 39-year-old asked in response.

"I guess it's maybe my disappointment with not doing it the way I thought I would do it, like being married and all those things," Malika expressed.

Advising her friend, the mother of two suggested her to get rid of her girl-like fantasies and think about it like a mature woman.

"Like these aren't things that you think about as a kid. But for women, the older you get, time is ticking, and blah blah blah, so women put the pressure on themselves."

"I really can't believe I'm gonna do it. Can just make you my baby daddy?" Malika requested the Good American founder.

Face of the Day



Name: Asif Khan
Location: Karachi
About me: I love using social media!

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

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Malhi Community Throws Grand Reception In Honor Of MNA Naveed Dero

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: In honor of former MNA Naveed Dero, the Malhi community of Ward No-3 hosted a reception. The former MNA also attended a tea party organized by Dr. Satram Das and retired teacher Jhaman Das of the Malhi community. During the event, the Malhi community expressed their gratitude to the former MNA for providing a paved brick road from Utility Store Street to Malhi Para and Dhak Para. Dr. Jhaman Das mentioned that the Malhi community

has a significant voter base in Sanghar. The lack of roads had caused considerable hardship for the people of this area, and the new development will greatly benefit the residents. Former MNA Naveed Dero stated that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is a party of the people that has always prioritized public welfare projects. He highlighted that Sanghar district is currently a stronghold of the PPP, and the party is committed to its development, strengthening, and the welfare of its citizens. He emphasized that the PPP has

achieved more development in ten years than the opposition could in seventy years, and these developments are evident to the public. During the event, the Malhi community also presented Naveed Dero with traditional Ajrak. PPP leaders Aijaz Zardari, Vice Chairman of the Municipal Committee Naimat Ali, also known as Badshah Pathan, Councilor Rashid Arain, PPP City Sanghar President Ghulam Haider Panhwar, Dr. Sohail Manghat, Amir Qureshi, Rana Munawar Ali, Mazhar Qalandari, and others were present.

DC Yasir Bhatti Storms Taluka Hospitals In Tando Bago Inspection



By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti, visited the Taluka Hospitals Tando Bago to inspect the cleanliness and the condition of patients in the hospital wards. During his visit, he ensured that patients receive all necessary facilities during emergencies. He also directed doctors and hospital staff to perform their duties with honesty and dedication. He emphasized not to withhold any facilities from patients and to promptly attend to their needs. Patients expressed satisfaction with the services provided by the hospital staff. Assistant Commissioner Tando Bago, Sanaulah Soomro and Mukhtiar, along with Dr. Fazal-ur-Rehman Memon, also accompanied Deputy Commissioner Badin during the visit.

Media Team Descends On TMK For Explosive Documentary Shoot



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A team of the electronic media for filming a documentary in Tando Muhammad Khan on orders of the Senior Provincial Minister of Information Sharjeel Inam Memon regarding the losses and rehabilitation work after the floods in 2022. In this regard, a documentary film is being made under the supervision of the Deputy Director Information Ghous Muhammad Pathan. The Sindh Government, along with technical support from the NRSP team, is collaborating to conduct assessments and construction for the homes for the affected families. Deputy Director Information Ghous Muhammad Pathan and District Program Officer National Rural Support Program along with the communication coordinator from Hyderabad were present at the site. On this occasion, Deputy Director Information Ghous Muhammad Pathan stated that providing shelter to the poor and destitute is a commendable step by the Sindh Government. Under this project, 1633 houses in Tando Muhammad Khan have been identified, of which, 940 houses have been included in the program. So far, 28,456 families have been surveyed and financial aid of Rs 300,000 has been provided to 1300 families, with the remaining 27,156 families scheduled to receive assistance gradually.

Sakrand Sugar Mills And Sajinta Agricultural Group Host Groundbreaking Awareness Seminar

By Aijaz Johio

DAULATPUR: Sakrand Sugar Mills and Sajinta Agricultural Group organized an agricultural seminar at the Rang Mahal Marriage Hall in Qazi Ahmed to provide agricultural guidance to farmers. Especially to eradicate diseases prevalent in crops, special attention was given to cultivation. Sajinta Agricultural Group, a trusted company in agricultural matters, continuously provides services for the improvement of agriculture. Currently, the company's recommendations are resulting in better yields in agricultural crops. Moreover, to ensure peace of mind for all landowners regarding their crops, only Sajinta Company provides crop insurance for a mere 100 rupees per acre. In the unfortunate event of crop



loss due to natural calamities such as storms and others, the company compensates the loss with an insurance payout of up to 13,000 rupees. Additionally, Sajinta Company also provides the convenience of Down Spray, where, upon the landowner's request, they can spray their fields in just 6 minutes. On

this occasion, DG Cane Sakrand Sugar Mills, Nazir Ahmed Jai and officers from the company aimed to achieve better yields in crops through the use of agricultural medicines and the market's fertilizers and pesticides. It is crucial to act on the advice of agricultural experts for agricultural prosperity.

Hazardous LPG Cylinders Removed From Ghotki Public Transport



By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: The Deputy Commissioner Ghotki, Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali, has directed a strict operation against the use of LPG in public transport in the district of Ghotki. In this regard, Assistant Commissioners have taken action and seized gas cylinders from various buses and vans where precautionary measures were not observed. In this series, the Deputy Commissioner's stance is that the use of gas in public transport is dangerous. Incidents of concern have been reported in various areas. If anyone is found without proper authorization in the district, they will not be allowed to use LPG in public transport.

Shahdadpur Mourns the Passing of Distinguished Dr. Muhammad Qasim Rajput

By Sajani Detho

SHAHDADPUR: Dr. Muhammad Qasim Rajput, a renowned doctor and political-social figure, passed away, leaving a significant void in this transient world. His funeral prayers were attended by political and social figures, dignitaries, officers, citizens, and a large number of relatives who participated in his burial at the cemetery. The news of his demise has saddened the atmosphere at Shahdadpur Press Club, where condolences are being offered to his sons, Dr. Nadeem Rajput, Saleem Rajput and Kaleemullah Rajput.

AC Sanjay Kumar Conducts Surprise Inspections At Pithoro Petrol Pumps

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: On the directive of Deputy Commissioner Umerkot, Assistant Commissioner Pithoro/Samaro, Sanjay Kumar, conducted raids on various petrol pumps in Pithoro following complaints from the local public. During the raids, discrepancies in petrol/diesel measurement and overcharging were observed. A served at several petrol pumps. Upon investigation, it was found that some petrol pumps in Pithoro were not adhering to the correct standards for petrol pumping, resulting in fluctuating fuel gauges and overcharging. Notices with stamped papers were issued to correct the rates and measurements at various petrol pumps. The public has been assured of the Deputy Commissioner Umerkot's active support in addressing their concerns, and further actions will be taken as necessary. A weekly check on petrol pumps' measurements and rates has been scheduled to ensure compliance.

Urgent Demand Raised For Construction Of Vital Link Road To Village Ghulam Qadir Lashari

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: Near Thul, in the village Ghulam Qadir Lashari, funds allocated for the construction of a link road scheme have been embezzled. This scheme, approved in 2014, has not been completed even after ten years. Local residents, speaking to the journalists, stated that the contractor Gul Brohi, surveyor Dodo Khan Kundrani, and the Roads Department staff colluded to embezzle nearly two crore rupees. Despite the passage of ten years, not a single stone has been laid, and no work has been done. They further revealed that on paper, the scheme is marked as complete. The absence of the road has caused significant hardship for the villagers. The village elder, Jahangir Khan Lashari, along with other villagers, has appealed to NAB, the Anti-Corruption Department, and senior officials of the Roads Department to take notice of the issue. They demand an investigation into the corruption by contractor Gul Brohi, Dodo Khan Kundrani, and the involved officials, and to hold them accountable. They also request the completion of the road project to alleviate the suffering of the local residents and villagers.

Sehto Community Men Demand Immediate Justice And Protection

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The residents village Paro Khan Sehto in Hingorja, led by GSTA leader Atta Muhammad Sehto, Muhammad Budhal Sehto, ex-soldier Shaman Sehto, and Mir Muhammad Sehto, reached the press club to protest against the injustices by an influential person. The protesters staged a sit-in and, while speaking to the media, alleged that the influential individual, Muhammad Nawaz Sehto, along with his accomplices, is attempting to file false cases against them. The protesters explained that they have had an ongoing land ownership dispute with Muhammad Nawaz Sehto since 1983, with several local decisions made over the years. Now, they claim, he is fabricating a theft drama to falsely implicate their young men. They emphasized that they come from a respectable family and that their opponents have made their lives miserable. They called for an open inquiry into the alleged two crore theft case, for which they have already submitted a request to the DIG for investigation. The protesters appealed to the IG of Sindh to conduct a thorough inquiry into the matter and ensure justice.

Jhudo Residents Fume As Prices Of Daily Essentials Skyrocket

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: The residents of Jhudo and its adjoining areas are facing many hardships as the profit-oriented traders have hiked the prices of essential commodities, including meat, fruits, vegetables, and oil. In this regard, political and social organizations' leaders, including Ali Hassan, Atif Qaimkhani, Muhammad Ashraf, Asif Khan, and Mudassir Afzal, have expressed their concerns through various media platforms. They have highlighted that the prices of various items have skyrocketed, making it difficult for the common people to afford them. However, no immediate action has been taken by the authorities to address this issue. It is evident that traders are indifferent to the unemployment crisis and are not concerned about the poor living conditions of the marginalized communities. Therefore, it is imperative for esteemed individuals like the Assistant Commissioner and other relevant authorities to take prompt and strict action against such exploitation.

Sardar Khalid Lund Accused Of Shocking Kidnapping Of Woman

By Mumtaz Ali

QAZI AHMED: Near Qazi Ahmed, in the village of Hashim Rahu, the relatives of a woman who was allegedly kidnapped eight months ago have been protesting for her recovery. For the fourth consecutive day, both men and women, holding the Holy Quran, have been staging a protest and symbolic hunger strike in front of the police station. The SHO (Station House Officer) arrived at the protest camp but was sent back amidst slogan shouting. Protesters Anjad Rahu, Soonhan Rahu and others accused that influential individuals connected to Sardar Khalid Lund from Ghotki had kidnapped their woman at gunpoint. They complained that the police had taken no steps for her recovery. Meanwhile, the SHO stated that he had asked the woman's relatives to accompany them to take action against the accused and assured them of cooperation. Leaders of political and social organizations, including Qurban Mahar of STP, Dado Mahar, Basheer Johio, and others, visited the protest camp. They assured the woman's relatives of their full support and declared their solidarity with the cause of recovering the kidnapped woman.

DC Munawar Abbas Soomro Issues Ultimatum To Wind Power Project Representatives To Ensure Local Community Facilitation

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Deputy Commissioner Munawar Abbas Soomro of Thatta has instructed wind power project representatives in the district to ensure that local residents are provided with employment opportunities and that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds are utilized within the local communities. He conveyed these directives during a meeting with representatives of wind power projects operating in the district. Stressing the importance of social responsibility, he urged the wind power administration to undertake initiatives that enhance and benefit the local communities. Additionally, he directed all project representatives to promptly submit a list of all employees working in their companies and details of the CSR funds utilized within the district. This data will facilitate a comprehensive study to formulate further strategies.

Malmari Adabi Forum Hosts Groundbreaking Kohistan Conference in Makli

By Shams Palari

NOORIBAD: Malmari Adabi Forum organized the Kohistan Conference in Makli which was attended by a large number of literary figures, area notables and a large number of people belonging to different walks of life.

The books of the writers including Jasarat Ilyas Khoso Sindhu Sindhi Khaskheli, Mujahid Johio, Darya Khan Johio, Sufi Zulfiqar Ali Qadri, Wadero Hamzo Khan Johio, Prof Bedar Jaffari, Imran Johio, Muhammad Bux Behrani and others were also present.

Bheel Community Demands Urgent Justice And Security

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: Victims of brutal violence, including women and children, staged a protest and sit-in after their homes were broken into and ransacked in Kunri. According to details, the accused kiln owner entered the houses of the kiln workers in the village of Faqir Abdullah near Kunri, abused children and women, and tore their clothes after being told not to sit near the house. It is noted that the kiln owner is a bully who harasses them daily. Six people were seriously injured in the violence, including Ramesh Bheel, Ramchand, Bhalu, Hero, Kamli



and Lachmi. No one is listening to their complaints, and no FIR (First Information Report) is being registered. Instead, they are being pressured to settle the matter amicably despite the terror attack.

The affected people then staged a protest and sit-in in front of the police station, shouting slogans and saying that they are poor, helpless, and forced. They demanded immediate attention, justice, and security.

Qazi Ahmed Man Shockingly Robbed of Rs 50,000

By Mumtaz Ali

QAZI AHMED: In the livestock market of Qazi Ahmed, Mir Hassan Zardari, a resident of Moro, was drugged and rendered unconscious by unidentified assailants while he was purchasing an animal for sacrifice.

The assailants then took him outside the market and abandoned him, stealing 50,000 rupees in cash, his mobile phone, and other belongings. Mir Hassan Zardari was transferred to Qazi Ahmed Hospital, where his nephew, Bakshan Zardari, informed that they received the news from his uncle's phone. His uncle had come alone to the market with 50,000 rupees to buy a sacrificial animal when the incident occurred. They have informed the police about the robbery, but the police have not yet arrived.

Samaro Woman Applauds Media For Highlighting Her Powerful Protest

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A woman named Shabana Rooinjo along with her family members reached the Samaro Press Club to

thank the media persons for taking notice of the threats being issued to her son. She added that the area notables including Muhammad Essa Shar, Muhammad Khan Shar and others took notice of their protest and settled the problem with local man named Babu Hingoro. She further said that now there is no threat to her family.

METRO KARACHI



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is presiding over a meeting at the CM House to review the overall law and order situation of the province.—RT

Karachi Pan Shop Robbery: DSP's Son Among Three Arrested For 'Dacoity'

KARACHI: Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) Zafar Javed and his son were among three suspects arrested for their alleged involvement in a dacoity at a pan shop in Karachi.

Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Arif Aslam told the media that three suspects including a senior police officer and his son were nabbed following a robbery at the pan shop in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal area late Wednesday night.

A case was registered over complaint of the shop owner Shahzeb at the Gulshan-e-Iqbal Police Station. The police van used in the crime was also seized.

CCTV footage of the incident showed at least three men including two covering their faces with masks came out of a police van and stormed a pan shop. They threatened the shopkeeper and later forcibly jumped into the shop premises to snatch the products and cash.

SSP Aslam confirmed that the police van used in the



robbery belongs to DSP Zafar. He added that all suspects who appeared in the footage were being identified.

According to the police, the DSP's son and his friends were found involved in the crime after initial probe. The police added that efforts are underway to arrest other accomplices.

The crime rate in the port city has gone out of control as at least 71 people have been shot dead by robbers in the first five months of 2024.

According to a report regarding Karachi crime in April, 6,780 street crime inci-

dents took place in Karachi in one month, while 20 vehicles were snatched and more than 130 others stolen.

The report also stated that 830 motorcycles were snatched and 4,200 others stolen during Ramadan, whereas the number of mobile phones snatched was 1,600.

Following a sharp increase in street crimes, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah issued directives to the police to boost security and monitoring in Karachi and to ensure that people's lives and properties are protected.—RT

Murad Acquires State-Of-The-Art E-Tagging Devices And Drones To Combat Crime In Sindh

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a law and order meeting, deciding to acquire 4000 E-tagging devices for repeat street and drug criminals. The CM directed the implementation of GEO-tagging and GPS to combat crime in hotspot areas. Additionally, 14 drones will be deployed in Sukkur, Ghotki, Kashmore, and Shikarpur districts to monitor dacoits and their hideouts.

The CM praised the police and law enforcement for progress in controlling street crime and kidnappings, emphasizing the need for advanced technology. He committed to making Karachi a drug-free city, noting that 574 drug dealers were identi-



fied, with 299 arrested and five eliminated. Murad Shah highlighted the installation of trackers in 3302 police vehicles and the deployment of facial recognition/ANPR cameras at entry and exit points of the province. The first phase of

the Karachi Safe City project, involving the installation of 1,300 cameras, has begun with Rs5.6 billion already allocated. The CM also directed the use of laser-guided fencing and GPS technology to enhance security measures.—RT

Russia Day Extravaganza Lights Up Russian Culture Centre In Karachi

KARACHI: The Russian Culture Centre, also known as the Friendship House, celebrated Russia Day in grand style yesterday. Hosted by Fariba Aqib, the event was attended by media partners.

Director of the Russian House, Ruslan M. Prokhorov, welcomed the guests and thanked them for their support in promoting cultural exchange between Russia and Pakistan. The evening featured a delicious dinner, gift hampers, and a joyful atmosphere.

Media partners were awarded shields and certificates of appreciation for their contributions to promoting Russian culture and language in Pakistan. Their dedication



was praised for strengthening the cultural bond between the two nations.

Russia Day commemorates the declaration of Russia's sovereignty on June 12, 1990. The country has a rich cultural heritage and a history of warm relations with Pakistan.

Ruslan M. Prokhorov, Vice Consul and Director of the Friendship House, expressed his gratitude to the

media partners for their collaboration in promoting cultural events and activities. He also appreciated the support of the Pakistani community in celebrating Russian cultural festivals.

The evening was a testament to the strong friendship between Russia and Pakistan, and the Friendship House remains a symbol of this enduring relationship.—RT

Rafiq Sulaiman Urges Prime Minister To Retain Fixed Tax System For Exporters

KARACHI: Rafiq Sulaiman, former Chairman of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan, EC member of FPCCI, and Chairman of the East Africa Committee, has written a letter to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, urging him to reject the federal budget proposal to remove exporters from the fixed tax system.

Sulaiman expressed deep concern over the proposed shift to the normal tax system, highlighting the significant challenges it would pose to the business community. He argued that this move could harm the growth of the country's export sector under the guise of enforcing equity laws. The transition to a common tax system introduces complex bureaucratic processes, increasing the risk of corruption and bribery, and making exporters more vulnerable to undue influence from income tax officers.

He emphasized that the uncertainty and instability resulting from moving away from a fixed tax system could hinder business growth and competitiveness in the global market. Exporters, who are crucial for earning foreign exchange for the country, require a predictable and supportive tax environment to thrive.

Sulaiman warned that un-



favorable tax policies could discourage investment and expansion in the export sector, ultimately affecting the country's export performance and economic health. He appealed to the Prime Minister to advocate for tax policies that promote a business-friendly environment, encourage growth, investment, and export efficiency, reduce bureaucratic challenges, and ensure a fair and transparent tax system.

Maintaining a fixed tax regime for exporters is crucial for demonstrating the government's commitment to supporting the business community and promoting economic prosperity. Sulaiman urged the government to consider these concerns and take necessary action to protect the interests of exporters and the wider business community.—RT

Qatar's Consul General Holds High-Stakes Meeting with Sharjeel

KARACHI: Consul General of Qatar to Karachi, Nayef Shahein, called on Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon in his office and discussed bilateral-friendly relations between Pakistan and Qatar, mutual interests, cultural harmony between the two countries, and other pertinent issues.

At the meeting, the Consul praised the hospitality of Pakistan, particularly the people of Sindh. He emphasized that Qatar felt like a second home to the citizens of Pakistan.

Mr Memon extended an invitation to the Consul General to consider investing in Sindh. He highlighted numerous investment opportunities available in Sindh, expressing the government's readiness to host a delegation from Qatar for exploring these prospects.

Mr Memon emphasized the abundance of investment opportunities available in the region.

He emphasized that there are vast investment opportu-



nities across all sectors, particularly in the transport sector in Sindh. Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon expressed that investment from the Qatari government or private investors would be a welcome step for them.

Mr Memon expressed the desire for businessmen from Qatar to establish relationships with businessmen in Sindh, similar to the cooperation between the governments.

During the meeting, the senior minister of Sindh presented a souvenir, a Sindh Ajrak and Cap, to the distinguished guest. In return, the Consul General also presented a souvenir to the Sindh Senior Minister.—RT

Karachi Police's Dramatic Encounter Ends In Fatal Shootout With Katcha Area Criminals

KARACHI: Two robbers killed in encounter with police in Defence area of the city were found to be most wanted to the law enforcement agencies, media reported on Thursday.

Sher Ali alias Piyaro and Zulfiqar alias Zulfi, killed in encounter with police in Karachi this morning, were linked with a katcha area gang of bandits in interior of Sindh, police officials said.

These criminals had organized a group in Karachi and committing crimes in the port city.

"They had recently killed an industrialist Asif Balwani in Defence area,"

police said. Both accused killed today and their other accomplices were involved in the Balwani's murder and key evidence found in this respect, police officials said.

Police has found videos of the slain accused, in which they were seen committing crimes. "They can be identified in these videos," police said.

They were coming from the Sindh's interior areas to commit crimes in Karachi. "The gang has been comprised of 10 to 15 members," police said. They have been booked in various criminal cases in interior of Sindh and Karachi, police said.—RT/Agency

Dr. Imran Ali Shah's New PC Hotel In Skardu To Boost Tourism

KARACHI: Congratulations to Dr. Imran Ali Shah on the opening of a state-of-the-art hotel in Skardu, part of the prestigious PC Hotels and Resorts group. Transitioning from healthcare to hospitality, Dr. Imran Ali Shah's new venture aims to boost Pakistan's tourism and attract foreign visitors, enhancing the region's economic growth and portraying a positive image of the country. With top-notch facilities, the hotel aspires to offer a visitor experience akin to Switzerland, especially during the winter season. Notable attendees at the inauguration included Dr. Farhan Essa of Dr. Essa Labs and Syed Ghanzfar Agha, Chief Compliance Officer of Samba



Bank. On the occasion, they conveyed their good wishes for distinguished guests and the hotel's success.—RT

Karachi Mayor Vows Unwavering Support For PFL's Upcoming Programs

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Thursday chaired a meeting at his office with Pakistan Football League (PFL) Chairman, Farhan Junjo, who briefed him on PFL's future programmes which have been designed in a way to cater the requirements of the football frenzy youth of Pakistan.

From ensuring basic level playing ground facilities to ensuring easy access for the less privileged children in Pakistan, who dream to make their names on the soccer field but are forced from doing so due to financial constraints.

It is pertinent to mention that this was the second round of meeting between Mayor Karachi and the PFL team, following the previously hosted reception in honour of Former English Football Star and PFL's Brand Ambassador Michael Owen, alongside other renowned international players, who were later invited to the Karki Football Ground to boost the spirit of local players.

Welcoming the former football stars in Pakistan, he added that the Sindh Government will be extending complete support to PFL



in its aim to revive football in Pakistan, as that will also boost the sports economy of Pakistan. Welcoming the kind gesture and support, Farhan Junjo, Chairman, Pakistan Football League said, "I am extremely grateful and honoured to have received such a welcoming gesture from Mayor Karachi for his support, who not only appreciated PFL's vision in making football the next loved sport of the country but also discussed his ideas towards the expansion of KMC Football Stadium in Karachi, which could serve to millions of local football players in Pakistan, and can facilitate them to live their dream of representing the country on International fronts.—RT

MALIR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MDA/MPD/DEH-305/2023/206

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED LAYOUT PLAN FOR CONSOLIDATED LAND OF LAND MEASURING 03-04 AC-GH, SURVEY NO. 214, DEH TORE, TALUKA MURAD MEMON, DISTRICT MALIR, KARACHI.

It is hereby informed to the General Public that the Additional Deputy Commissioner-I, District Malir, Karachi has confirmed and forwarded the ownership title for Consolidated land of land measuring 03-04 Ac-Gh in Survey No. 214, Deh Tore Tappo Konkari, Taluka Murad Memon, District Malir, Karachi to the Director General MDA, in favour of Mr. Muhammad Younus Biloo S/o Sharief Ibrahim Biloo, holding CNIC No. 42201-4966404-5 R/o. Flat # A-8-9, 2nd Floor Hill View Apartment, KMCHS Block-7/8, Karachi vide his letter No. DC/MALIR/K/Rev.Br./1841/2023 dated: 24-08-2023 along with the Mukhtiyar, Taluka Murad Memon, District Malir, Karachi w.r.t his letter No. Mukh/M.M/Malir/1028/2023 dated: 24-08-2023 duly endorsed by the Assistant Commissioner, Sub-Division Murad Memon, District Malir, Karachi w.r.t his Letter No. AC/Murad Memon/822/2023 dated: 24-08-2023 for approval of proposed layout plan from planning point of view only.

In this regard, Public Notice Published in the light of Malir Development Authority (MDA) Act 1993-94 & (Revival & Amending) Act-2013 & KBTPR-2002 (Amended up to date) its Clause 20-4.3 Sub-Clause [20-4.3.1 to 20-4.3.7] and Malir Development Authority Town Planning Regulations-2015 of Clause No. 15.5-2 that any concerned person(s) / organization(s) having any objection(s) may submit their objection(s) directly to the Director General, MDA, Director (Estate & Enforcement) or Director, Town Planning Department, MDA having office at G-4/B, Block-17, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Phone # 021- 99239120, 021-99244762 respectively within 07 working days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Any objection(s) received after expiry date shall not be entertained.

LOCATION PLAN:

Town Planning Department

MALIR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

G-4/B, Block-17, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi Phone: 021-99239120, 021-99244762

SAV NO TO DRUGS



KARACHI: Group photo of the members and office-bearers of the Council of Economic and Energy Journalists, including Kashif Munir, Masood Ahmed Siddiqui, Ashraf Khan, Ehtisham Mufit, Anjam Wahab, Shehryar Janjua, Rizwan Bhatti, Syed Rizwan Amir, and Kafeel Ahmed, during a meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.—RT