

Heartland

Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi lauds services of Rotary Club



Money

Zafar Moti is Happy! PSE 100-index up by 335.06 points to close at 78,275.64



NATIONAL

Yasmin Rashid Criticizes Government for Placing Burden on the Poor



SPORTS

Babar, Rizwan slip as Travis Head crowned top-ranked T20I batter



Karachi to See Rs 134 Billion Investment in 1137 Development Schemes: Saeed Ghani



Jennifer Lawrence puts husband before 'hectic' work schedule

Government Authorizes Joint Ventures To Facilitate Relocation Of Chinese Industries To Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday permitted joint ventures (JVs) between the two nations to relocate Chinese industries to Pakistan, as part of its efforts to fire up the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) activities following his recent engagements with top officials from Beijing, state media reported.

Presiding over a meeting centred on the matters of the Board of Investment (BoI), the premier underscored the government's commitment to fostering both local and foreign investment, which he said were among the government's priorities.

During the meeting, he spotlighted the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led administration's contributions towards creating a truly business-friendly environment for traders and investors.

The prime minister, according to state-run APP, tasked the authorities to submit a detailed report on the follow-up actions related to the memoranda of understanding (MoUs) inked between Pakistani and Chinese companies during his recent visit to Shenzhen, China.

China's President Xi Jinping in a meeting with Prime



Minister Shehbaz in Beijing on June 7 had said that their two countries should focus on "promoting the joint construction of the CPEC," and Chinese and Pakistani firms 31 MoUs covering technology, agriculture, trade, energy, coal and gasification, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The premier also called for a review of the draft legislation for the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) One-Stop Shop, keeping in view the latest economic and business-related developments from his successful China trip.

Highlighting the potential for relocating industries, the PM identified significant potential for China's textile, leather, footwear, and other sectors to move to Pakistan, as per the state media.

During the briefing, the BoI secretary outlined steps

being taken to support this industrial relocation, including hiring Chinese experts to establish a Business Facilitation Centre in the federal capital.

Moreover, the draft "Easy Business Act" is being forwarded to the Cabinet Committee for Legislative Cases. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Privatisation and Investment Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal, and other senior government officials.

In the June 7 meeting, Xi also said that China would also help Pakistan with its economic and social development.—RT/Agency

Khawaja Asif Accuses US Of Overthrowing Democratic Governments In Response To Congress Resolution

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday strongly criticised the resolution passed by United States (US) House of Representatives on Pakistan's February 8 general elections, saying that the country has a history of overthrowing democratic governments, media reported.

In a statement, the minister pointed out that the US has a history of overthrowing democratic governments and supporting regimes that perpetuate human rights abuses, such as the oppression of Palestinians.

Khawaja Asif said that both Democratic and Republican parties have accused each other of foreign interference and election rigging.

He questioned why the international community, particularly the United Nations (UN), should not investigate allegations of election interference in the US, just as they do in other countries.

Earlier, the United States (US) House of Representa-



tives passed a resolution urging the government of Pakistan to uphold democratic institutions, human rights, and the rule of law, ARY News reported.

A total of 368 members voted in favour of the House Resolution HR 901, titled "Expressing support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan". Seven members voted against it.

The resolution — passed with 85 per cent of House members participating and 98pc voting in its favour — urged Islamabad to uphold democratic institutions, human rights, and the rule of

law, and respect the fundamental guarantees of due process, freedom of press, freedom of assembly, and freedom of speech, and the rule of law, ARY News reported.

Meanwhile, the resolution also condemned attempts to suppress the people of Pakistan's participation in their democracy, including through harassment, intimidation, arbitrary detention, or any violation of their human, civil, or political rights. It also condemned any effort to subvert the political, electoral, or judicial processes of Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Balochistan Announces Arrest Of Two High-Value TTP Commanders

QUETTA: In a major success on the anti-terror front, the Balochistan government Wednesday announced the arrest of two high-value commanders of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) namely Nasrullah alias "Maulvi Mansoor" and Idris alias "Irshad".

"We have apprehended an important terrorist network. Terrorists Nasrullah [] and Idris have been arrested after a difficult operation," Balochistan Home Minister Mir Zia Ullah Langou said while speaking at a press conference in Quetta.

The arrests came a day after the federal cabinet approved Operation Azm-e-Istehkam — a reinvigorated and re-energised national counter-terrorism drive decided by the National Action



Plan's Central Apex Committee. Highlighting external elements behind terrorist attacks inside Pakistan, Langou said, "India is behind terrorist attacks in the country [and] provides financial support to the militants." Under-scoring that a certain group of youth have been misled and are harming their country, the minister called on such individuals not to fall to

the enemy's words. The new initiative of the federal government will comprise intelligence-based operations (IBOs) instead of a new organised armed operation and will aim at uprooting remnants of militants, crimes and terrorist nexus, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said. The government's move is a response to a significant surge in terrorist attacks in recent months as reflected in the Q1 2024 Security Report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) which revealed that the country witnessed at least 432 violence-linked fatalities and 370 injuries among civilians, security personnel and outlaws resulting from as many as 245 incidents of terror attacks and counter-terror operations.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Calls US Resolution On Alleged Poll Irregularities Misinformed

ISLAMABAD: In response to a resolution passed by the United States House of Representatives on alleged poll irregularities in Pakistan's nationwide general election 2024, the Foreign Office (FO) has said that it "stems from an incomplete understanding of the political situation and electoral process in Pakistan".

"Pakistan has taken note of the passage of the House Resolution 901 by the US House of Representatives on June 25," FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in response to media queries on Wednesday.

She said, "We believe that the timing and context of this particular resolution does not align well with the positive dynamics of our bilateral ties, and stems from an incomplete understanding of the political situation and electoral process in Pakistan."

Pakistan, she said, believes in constructive dia-



logue and engagement based on mutual respect and understanding.

Earlier, the US House of Representatives expressed its support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan by a massive majority, approving the "House Resolution 901" which urged an impartial probe into the claims of irregularities during the February 8 general elections in the country.

At least 368 members of the US house voted in favour of the resolution and called for a "full and independent investigation of

opposing the results of the polls after its candidates faced immense hurdles in their run up to their participation in the vote, leading them to participate as independent candidates and being deprived of their iconic bat symbol following a legal battle with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The country's two major parties, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), along with other political parties, formed a coalition government in the Centre following the polls, leaving the candidates of PTI and other political parties with the opposition seats.

The resolution, on the other hand, has denounced "attempts to suppress the people of Pakistan's participation in their democracy, including through harassment, intimidation, violence, arbitrary detention, restric-

tions on access to the Internet and telecommunications, or any violation of their human, civil, or political rights".

The resolution also condemned "any effort to subvert the political, electoral, or judicial processes of Pakistan".

Responding to the allegations, the FO spokesperson said, "Pakistan, as the world's second-largest parliamentary democracy and fifth-largest democracy overall, is committed to the values of constitutionalism, human rights and rule of law in pursuance of our own national interest. Such resolutions, she further said, are therefore neither constructive nor objective. "We hope that the US Congress will play a supportive role in strengthening Pakistan-US ties and focus on avenues of mutual collaboration that benefit both our peoples and countries." Baloch concluded.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Offers Dialogue To Imran: "Let's Sit Down And Talk"



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended an olive branch to his political rival Imran Khan, offering him to sit and talk if he has any issues.

"If their [PTI] founder is facing troubles [in jail], then I reiterate: come, let's sit down and talk," said the premier while speaking in National Assembly.

The premier said that there was a time in this house when politicians would severely criticise one another, but they would also stand with their rivals during times of happiness and sorrow.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) have been at loggerheads for years, particularly after the February 8 elections, which Imran's party claims it won.

Speaking about the 2018 elections, the prime minister said: "We joined the parliament despite the [rigged] polls. The sort of slogans that were raised during my first speech will always be remembered as a dark chapter in the history books."

"If someone is facing any injustice, then I believe that the scales of justice should be in favour of those [being victimised], there is no difference over it — whether it be any politician or anyone from any walk of life.—RT/Agency

PTI Advocates Constitutional Supremacy and No Vendetta, Says Barrister Gohar



LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Barrister Gohar has asserted that his party has no grudge against anyone and only wants supremacy of the constitution.

Addressing the lawyers' convention in Lahore, he highlighted the significant role of the LHC for the justice and supremacy of the constitution.

The PTI leader stressed the need for uplift of the constitution and no political revenge against anyone. He insisted that the judi-

ciary and executive must be free. Gohar claimed that those who provide justice were seeking justice now. He affirmed that Punjab's people were standing with the judges.

He stated, "Law mustn't be blind in Pakistan after 70 years, it must protect the fundamental rights of the public."

He hailed the LHC's role and struggle for justice.

The chairman claimed that the public voted for the party founder for his ideology.—RT/Agency

US Lawmakers Demand Investigation Into Alleged Irregularities In Controversial Pakistan Elections

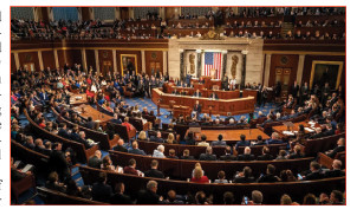
WASHINGTON: The United States House of Representatives Wednesday expressed its support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan by a massive majority, approving a resolution urging an impartial probe into the claims of irregularities during the February 8 general elections in the country.

At least 368 members of the US house voted in favour of the resolution and called for a "full and independent investigation of claims of interference or irregularities in Pakistan's February 2024 election". Around seven members have voted against it.

According to the House Resolution 901, representatives have voted to "express support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan".

Through the resolution, the US lawmakers have emphasised on the need for the Pakistani public's participation in the country's democratic process months after its general polls were contested as "rigged" and its outcome termed "delayed" by political parties now seated on the opposition benches in the legislature.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is among those opposing the results of the polls after its candidates faced immense hurdles in their run up to their participa-



tion in the vote, leading them to participate as independent candidates and being deprived of their iconic bat symbol following a legal battle with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The country's two major parties, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), along with other political parties, formed a coalition government in the Centre following the polls, leaving the candidates of PTI and other political parties with the opposition seats.

The resolution, on the other hand, has denounced "attempts to suppress the people of Pakistan's participation in their democracy, including through harassment, intimidation, violence, arbitrary detention, restrictions on access to the Internet and telecommunications, or any violation of their human, civil, or political rights". The resolution also condemned

"any effort to subvert the political, electoral, or judicial processes of Pakistan".

Sharing his views on the development, Michael Kugelman — the South Asia Institute director at the Washington-based The Wilson Center — said that at least 85% of the members of the House of Representatives have voted in favour of the resolution. "What really stands out for me is the margin of the vote, and the number of Members that voted. 85% of House members voted on it, and 98% voted in favour of the resolution. This is quite significant," wrote Kugelman in a post on X, formerly Twitter. The American scholar added that the resolution will not have much impact on US policy toward Pakistan. However, he also maintained that the Joe Biden administration itself has called for an investigation into election irregularities concerns.—RT/Agency

Former Army Chief Bajwa's Relatives Fail To Appear In Corruption Case

ISLAMABAD: Relatives of former Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa failed to appear for an inquiry into allegations of money laundering and acquisition of illegal assets, in Lahore.

Sabir Hamid Mithu, the father-in-law of the former army chief's son, along with Chaudhry Ashraf Gharkhi, and Hamid Mushtaq, had been summoned to appear before the Anti-Corruption Establishment's office on June 26.

The FIA Anti-Corruption Cell had issued notices to all three individuals on charges of money laundering and illegal assets.

According to sources, if



all three individuals did not appear before the Anti-Corruption today, they would be sent two notices at intervals of three days.

If they still do not appear, another case could be filed against them, the sources added.

The FIA and Anti-Corruption Establishment Pun-

jab had issued call-up notices to Sabir Hameed alias Sabir Mithu, and his two associates for allegedly acquiring illegal assets.

Similarly, the FIA had also summoned Sabir and Ashraf on June 27. The agency has also called Mushtaq to appear before it on June 28.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of the Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP) are holding a protest demonstration against their local police officials, outside the SSP's office. RT

Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi lauds services of Rotary Club

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi of Sukkur met with a delegation from the Rotary Club today, where he expressed heartfelt appreciation for the organization's impactful initiatives. Highlighting their significant contributions, Commissioner Abbasi particularly lauded Rotary's efforts in polio eradication and their role in supporting the rehabilitation of communities affected by floods.



During the meeting, Commissioner Abbasi emphasized the crucial role that Rotary Club plays in community engagement and awareness campaigns, especially regarding anti-polio vaccination drives. He urged Rotary Club members to extend their support in organizing workshops and sensitization programs across Sukkur Division, aiming to enhance community understanding and participation in public health initiatives.

That address pressing health challenges like polio and contribute to long-term community resilience. The meeting concluded on a positive note with mutual assurances of ongoing collaboration between Commissioner Abbasi's office and Rotary Club. The synergy between governmental efforts and Rotary's humanitarian initiatives is expected to yield broader benefits for the region, reinforcing the commitment to sustainable development and public welfare in Sukkur Division.

One of the key projects Commissioner Abbasi praised was Rotary Club's initiative in developing smart villages, which integrates technology and community development to improve rural livelihoods and infrastructure. He commended the innovative approach of smart village projects in fostering sustainable development and enhancing living standards in rural areas.

The delegation from Rotary Club expressed their commitment to continuing their partnership with local authorities and communities in Sukkur Division. They affirmed their dedication to advancing initiatives

PFF Chairman Mehran Ali Shah visits Badin's coastal area

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Mehran Ali Shah, Chairman of the Pakistan Fishermen Forum, undertook a crucial visit to Badin's coastal area, where he engaged with various delegations of fishermen to address pressing concerns. Shah lamented the detrimental impact of the construction of the Left Bank Outfall Drain (LBOD), citing its role in the destruction of approximately 13 coastal lakes and rendering thousands of acres of fertile land barren. This, he emphasized, has severely affected the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen whose employment opportunities have been curtailed as a result.



During discussions with fishermen representatives, Shah called upon the Minister of Fisheries and Chief Minister of Sindh, Muhammad Mallah, to urgently intervene and mitigate the unrest among the fishing community. He stressed the need for immediate steps to restore the ecological balance and ensure sustainable practices that safeguard both environmental integrity and livelihoods.

Highlighting a forthcoming rally planned for June 27, Shah announced that the Pakistan Fishermen Forum would mobilize against the occupation of Kakao Lake in Sanghar, Taluka Khipro. The rally, led by Syed Mehran Shah and supported by influential leaders such as Haji Mallah Muhammad Juman Mallah, Muhammad Mallah Rabbani Mullah Gul and others, aims to draw attention to ongoing environmental and socio-economic challenges faced by coastal communities. The visit underscored the commitment of the Pakistan Fishermen Forum to advocate for the rights and welfare of fishermen across Sindh, urging authorities to prioritize sustainable development practices and uphold the interests of coastal communities. As discussions continue, stakeholders anticipate concerted efforts to address the grievances voiced during Shah's visit and implement actionable solutions for long-term environmental conservation and community well-being in Badin.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Halanaka are holding a boisterous protest demonstration at the Hyderabad press club against their local land grabbers. RT

MPK Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghouri reviews arrangements for upcoming monsoon rains

By Naran Das

MIRPURKHAS: In order to keep the city safe before the monsoon rains, Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghouri and the Municipal Commissioner have set up a contingency plan for the cleaning of the main drains of the city and established a monitoring room - according to the details. Mirpurkhas Municipal Corporation Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori has issued strict instructions for the cleaning of small drains including the four main drains across the city and the upgrading of the pumping station. It was said that the work of cleaning the drains has been started with all the pumping stations. 35 drain gang members have started the process of cleaning the small drains along with the four major drains of the city. The work of changing the

pipe also started and better facilities will be provided to the citizens during the monsoon rains. Rafiq Ahmed Seehar said that a monitoring room will be established by setting up a contingency plan regarding monsoon rains in which four 17 grade officers will be appointed who will monitor all drainage works during monsoon rains. Municipal Corporation Mayor has also ordered the town chairman and UC chairman to clean the drainage canals in their respective areas on an emergency basis because of Meteorological department has predicted that heavy rains will start in the first week of July across the Sindh. Keeping this in mind, the Municipal Corporation Mirpurkhas is working on an emergency basis in this regard. He added.

Associate Adviser Engineer holds an open katchery in Kunri

By MM Faisal



KUNRI: Associate Adviser Engineer Muhammad Arif Regional Office (Mirpurkhas) organized an open katchery at Sooriah Badshah Complex Hall Umerkot on the special instructions of the Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan, in which HESCO, Railways, NADRA and others participated on behalf of the public. File complaints against departments in a timely manner. On some complaints, the concerned officers and the applicant were called to the office, on this occasion Federal Ombudsman Associate Adviser Engineer Muhammad Arif said that our coming here is to solve public problems and problems, the people should not be asked by any federal institution. If they have a complaint, they should write their complaint on a plain paper send to our office house number 59 Ali Town near FC Building Hyderabad to Mirpurkhas Road, on this occasion Assistant Commissioner Umerkot and Focal Person Rajab Ali, HESCO XEN Umerkot Imtiaz Memon, RO Officer HESCO Umerkot, DSP Umerkot Pancham Jatt, In-charge Nadra Office Umerkot Qurban Mangrio, Deputy Director Benazir Income Support Program Umerkot Abdul Haq, Information Officer Umerkot Muhammad Aslam Bhatti, District Council Member Noor Jahan Gilharo, Khair-un-Nisa Soomro and other departments officers and a large number of people were present.

Former Store In-charge of Mehar Taluka Hospital injured

By Hanif Panhwar

MEHAR: Tensions escalated in Mehar as Ahmed Khan Ashtar Balhro, the former Store In-charge of Taluka Hospital, was viciously attacked by local drug dealers from Wali Muhammad Gorar village. The assailants reportedly assaulted Balhro with sticks, leaving him with serious injuries before fleeing the scene. The incident has sparked outrage and concern among residents of Mehar.

Balhro, while recuperating at the local area hospital, identified one of his attackers as Deedar Khoso, a known figure among the drug dealers in the area. He recounted the harrowing ordeal and demanded swift justice from the authorities, calling for stringent action against Khoso and his accomplices. Local authorities have been urged to investigate the incident thoroughly and ensure

that those responsible are apprehended and brought to justice. The attack on Balhro has highlighted concerns over security and law enforcement in Mehar, prompting calls for enhanced vigilance and measures to curb criminal activities, particularly those involving drug trafficking. Residents of Mehar have expressed solidarity with Balhro and his family, condemning the brazen attack and emphasizing the need for immediate steps to safeguard the community from such acts of violence. They have called upon law enforcement agencies to act swiftly and decisively to restore peace and ensure the safety of all citizens in the region. As investigations into the incident continue, the community remains on edge, awaiting assurances from authorities that justice will prevail and that such incidents will not recur in Mehar.



HYDERABAD: Participants are holding an awareness walk against Drugs on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which organized by the District Government at Shahbaz Building. RT

Joint Action Committee protests against lack of civic facilities in TMK

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Leaders of the Joint Action Committee, comprising prominent figures such as Dr. GM Gul, Pir Ahmed Jan Sarhandi, and Dr. Ahmed Noonari, have convened to address pressing issues concerning civic amenities in Tando Muhammad Khan (TMK). In a media interaction, they voiced deep-seated concerns over the acute shortage of water supply and the overall lack of basic civic facilities affecting residents.



The committee members emphasized that the residents of TMK have been enduring prolonged difficulties due to inadequate sanitation, poorly constructed roads, and insufficient provision of essential services. They underscored the urgent need for authorities to intervene and initiate immediate measures to rectify these deficiencies. Dr. GM Gul, speaking on behalf of the committee, highlighted the community's grievances and stressed the critical importance of improving sani-

itary conditions to safeguard public health. He further urged authorities to prioritize the construction and maintenance of roads, essential for facilitating safe commuting and connectivity within the city. Pir Ahmed Jan Sarhandi echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that the persistent neglect of basic infrastructure has severely impacted the quality of life for TMK residents. He called upon government officials to heed the committee's demands promptly, warning of imminent public unrest should these issues remain unaddressed. Dr. Ahmed Noonari reinforced the committee's stance, asserting that unless significant improvements are made in civic facilities, they are prepared to escalate their protest efforts. He underscored the committee's commitment to mobilize a protest movement to demand immediate action and ensure that the rights of TMK residents to essential services are respected and fulfilled. In response to the committee's impassioned appeal, local residents have expressed solidarity with their cause, emphasizing the need for sustainable solutions to alleviate their longstanding grievances. As tensions escalate, all eyes are now on the authorities to see how they will respond to these urgent calls for reform in Tando Muhammad Khan.

Deputy Director Social Welfare Department chairs meeting to review LHDP's WASH Project

By Raja Zafar Iqbal



BADIN: A quarterly meeting was held on behalf of the social organization LHDP on the WASH project. Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Director Social Welfare Abdul Ghaffar Khoso said that the loss of defecation in the open fields. It is not an easy task to make the villages open defecating free by giving awareness, but LHDP is doing this work well, in this regard, government institutions should also take steps together with social organizations. Manager Mohanlal while giving a briefing said that under the WASH project,

washrooms have been constructed in 410 villages of 16 union councils of Taluk Badin, work is going on to construct more washrooms, 40 hand pumps have been installed, 3 filters have been installed under this project. Plants have been installed, 2 more filter plants are to be installed, model washrooms have been constructed in 10 schools and are to be constructed in the remaining 10. Washrooms have been constructed in 4 out of 7 model health care centers, while 29 hundred health sessions have also been conducted in villages. He said that this project will be completed in 3 years, out of which 2 years have been completed, 1 lakh 64 thousand people will benefit from this project. District Information Officer Sarfaraz Samon, Assistant Director Social Welfare Deen Mohammad Dero, District Manager LHDP Iqbal Haider, District Manager Sirso Ahmad Khan Soomro, WASH Project Manager Marvi Abida Samo, various government and non-government organizations were present in the WASH Forum. Local villagers along with representatives and social organizations participated in large numbers.



HYDERABAD: Mental Hospital Medical Superintendent (MS), Dr. Nisar Sohu is addressing a seminar in connection with the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which was organized by the SHF and FWO at the Hyderabad press club. RT

METRO KARACHI



REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

LADIESFUND Celebrates Mango-Themed Eid Milan



KARACHI: LADIESFUND, the renowned platform dedicated to empowering women, hosted a memorable mango-themed Eid Milan event, bringing together a diverse array of guests for a joyous celebration. The occasion was graced by the presence of over 100 esteemed guests from diplomatic circles, corporate sectors, ministries, developmental agencies, press, women SMEs, celebrities, fashion designers, all coming together to mark the joyous festival of Eid. Networking and camaraderie in this way builds professional relationships, opens doors to new opportunities, and facilitates the exchange of ideas and best practices. It also aids in career development, personal growth, and business success, and helps combat loneliness, extreme heat depression and growing mental health issues that youth are increasing facing. To build unity and engagement, attendees wore yellow and orange - mango colours - in alignment with the occasion's theme and adding to the vibrant.

"This is officially an Eid Milan, but our community gathering is about building relationships between people who may not ordinarily meet and providing opportunities for them to work together as well as support each other's projects and dreams through funding as well as basic friendship," said Tara Uzra Dawood, President, Dawood Global Foundation - LADIESFUND, who hosted the event. "Women with dreams must have access to decision-makers, access to trends and knowledge, in order to have opportunity to change their lives for the better. In addition to our traditional developmental work, it is this access that makes LADIESFUND unique in its track record of elevating women across socio-economic tiers."

Dawood Global Foundation prioritizes serving the community, training women entrepreneurs, educating girls and youth, distributing wheelchairs/food rations, building bamboo houses, disaster relief, installing hand pumps/solar lights, nominating women for loans through the State Bank of Pakistan schemes, vocational rural trainings, and conducting grassroots developmental work in some of the most remote areas of Pakistan including Dera Bugti and Laki Marwat.

Spotted at the event were British Deputy Head of Mission Martin Dawson, Geneva-based UNOPS's Moin Karim Khan, Washington, DC based Natasha Dossa of IFC, Shanzay Ramzi, Atiya Khan, Majid Aziz, Perviz Madraswalla, Saira Saigal, Sana Sharifuddin Pirzada, Faisal Kachhola, Pir Saleh, Moneeza Butt, Hassab Khan, Khurshid Hyder, Farrukh Shahab, DIG Police Quetta Ashfaq Alam, Samina Aslam, Uzma Soomro, Nasir Shekani, Sibtain Naqvi, Ahmed Chinyo and Ayaz Dawood, among others.

Igloo Pakistan has made fresh mango ice cream with pulp for guests and Vital Tea served a variety of chai. Nighat Mishbah's Duplex was Beauty Partner for the Milan. Tara wore C'est La Vie by Saba Khan.

Aatikah Hussain's Melted by A created a special mango-themed LADIESFUND cake for the occasion, as well as cake prizes for Best Dressed and Best Mango Dish, which were won by Mariam Faisal Anam and Shazleen Vahidy respectively. Although the competition was very tough with such decadent dishes as mango marzipan, mango kheer, mango trifle, mango saivyan, mango delight, mango salad, mango shots, mango sorbet, mango custard, mango tarts, mango barfi and so forth, Mariam's "mango salsa" had a unique and outstanding taste that immediately captured the imagination of secret judge Martin Dawson. Shazleen's vibrant and eye-catching bright yellow ensemble also was commented upon by many guests before being selected by secret judge Shanzay Ramzi.

There were no speeches or fanfare, but plenty of opportunities for enjoying the delicious food, mingling, networking and professional friendship building across a very diverse and dynamic group of people.

"As always DGF's LADIESFUND event provided an incredibly wonderful networking opportunity, an important accent to our day to day corporate work.

Sindh Government Implements Comprehensive HIV Prevention and Treatment Measures

KARACHI: The Government of Sindh is actively addressing the HIV epidemic with extensive measures aimed at prevention and treatment across the province. These efforts include widespread HIV screening, inaugurating new treatment centers, and digitalizing existing facilities for enhanced efficiency, all verified by the Global Fund.

In addition, the Sindh Healthcare Commission has been directed to crack down on quackery and ensure safe disposal of needles, while awareness campaigns educate communities on preventive measures. Early HIV detection through screening is crucial for prompt treatment and reducing transmission.

Efforts also extend to tracking and treating patients regardless of their location, complemented by educational programs in schools and communities. Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is being promoted to reduce infection risks among high-risk populations, with mobile health units deployed to underserved areas for testing, treatment, and education.

The government seeks media support to raise awareness responsibly, emphasizing that cases are not clustered but tracked effectively. Collaborations with local and international organizations strengthen resources and expertise in combating HIV.

Psychosocial support services are provided to patients and families, acknowledging the importance of capacity building for healthcare providers in updated HIV treatment protocols.

From January to June 2024, Sindh reported 1,453 new HIV cases, including 169 children. Addressing recent concerns in Mirpur Khas, where 24 cases were reported, the government assures that all cases are registered and managed, with ongoing efforts to locate and treat affected individuals.

With 3,072 screenings conducted in Mirpur Khas yielding 5 new positive cases, efforts continue to mitigate HIV spread. Stigma reduction remains crucial to encouraging testing and treatment uptake.

Through these measures, the Government of Sindh aims to build a comprehensive strategy to combat HIV, enhancing health outcomes for its residents. —RT/Agency

Sharjeel Warns That No One Is Above The Law

KARACHI: Sharjeel Memon, a leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and provincial minister, emphasized the principle of accountability for those who believe they are exempt from the law.

Speaking in the Sindh Assembly, Memon underscored that the public exercises accountability through their votes, as demonstrated in the February 8 elections where PPP holds a significant majority. He emphasized that the people are the ultimate judges who determine outcomes.

Memon highlighted initiatives undertaken by the excise department to recover Rs203 billion and announced the implementation of random drug testing in schools starting July 1 to combat substance abuse.

He further noted the deployment of AI software to swiftly address public concerns and highlighted legislative measures for journalist protection passed by the assembly.

Regarding governance achievements, Memon



KARACHI: RT Correspondent Asif Qureshi is seen in a photo with the Superintendent of the Central Jail Karachi. —RT

Yasmin Rashid Criticizes Government for Placing Burden on the Poor

LAHORE: Pakistan Thehreek-Insaf (PTI) leader Yasmin Rashid has strongly condemned the current government's policies, accusing them of exacerbating poverty among the poor.

Speaking to the media after appearing in the anti-terrorism court (ATC), Rashid highlighted concerns over Pakistan's rising debt, citing data from the State Bank of Pakistan indicating a significant increase over the past two years. She criticized the allocation of budget revenues towards interest payments on loans, emphasizing the detrimental impact on the country's economy.

Rashid also criticized the government's reliance on loans from international lenders, warning of further economic hardship for Pakistan.



She expressed distress over what she described as oppression against PTI leaders, noting new legal cases filed against them.

Referring to recent incidents, Rashid condemned the judicial remand of PTI women leaders Aliya Hamza and Sanam Javed, describing it as unprecedented mistreatment of doctors in Pakistan's history, particularly highlighting the crackdown on young doctors.

She sharply criticized the government's taxation policies, attributing them to increased inflation, unemployment, and the deterioration of farmers' livelihoods, all contributing to heightened poverty among the populace. —RT/Agency

Maryam Assesses Punjab's Preparedness for Above-Normal Monsoon Rainfall

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has directed comprehensive cleaning of rivers and canals across the province in anticipation of a projected 35 percent increase in monsoon rainfall this year.

Chairing a meeting at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) head office on Wednesday, the chief minister reviewed measures to ensure Punjab's readiness for the upcoming monsoon season. She emphasized timely flood information dissemination, continuous monitoring of flood dams, and urgent implementation of preventive measures.

Maryam stressed immediate drainage arrangements in flood-prone cities and towns, expressing concern over the country's inadequate early flood warning system. She called for proactive measures and highlighted the removal of encroachments from river channels like Rod Kohi.

The CM underscored the need for evacuation plans for both human lives and livestock in case of floods. She received detailed briefings from the irrigation secretary, chief meteorologist, and PDMA director general on Punjab's preparedness.

A comprehensive report was presented on the status of barrage link canals, main canals, drainage systems, and dams, highlighting forecasts predicting above-normal rainfall across Pakistan in the next three months.

Maryam instructed thorough cleaning of Punjab's drainage systems and requested daily updates from all districts to monitor potential flooding risks. She emphasized informing residents in at-risk areas about evacuation plans and ensuring availability of accommodations and food supplies.

Additionally, the chief minister visited the PDMA central control room to review the weather portal, flood forecasting division, and flood simulation model, evaluating their readiness for the monsoon season. —RT/Agency



need for evacuation plans for both human lives and livestock in case of floods. She received detailed briefings from the irrigation secretary, chief meteorologist, and PDMA director general on Punjab's preparedness.

A comprehensive report was presented on the status of barrage link canals, main canals, drainage systems, and dams, highlighting forecasts predicting above-normal rainfall across Pakistan in the next three months.

Maryam instructed thorough cleaning of Punjab's drainage systems and requested daily updates from all districts to monitor potential flooding risks. She emphasized informing residents in at-risk areas about evacuation plans and ensuring availability of accommodations and food supplies.

Additionally, the chief minister visited the PDMA central control room to review the weather portal, flood forecasting division, and flood simulation model, evaluating their readiness for the monsoon season. —RT/Agency

LHC Petition Challenges Young Doctors' Strike At Government Hospitals

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has received a petition challenging the ongoing strike by young doctors across government hospitals in Punjab.

Citizen Mazhar Abbas filed a miscellaneous petition through Advocate Safdar Shaheen, contesting the strike led by the Young Doctors Association (YDA) since June 15. The strike was prompted by the detention of doctors following a fire incident at a teaching hospital in Sahiwal.

The petitioner argued that the strike was causing severe hardships to patients, emphasizing that doctors, paid from public funds, were duty-bound to provide timely treatment instead of exacerbating patient suffering.

In a development regarding a three-year-old abduction case, Minister Lanjar informed the assembly that Priya Kumari, the abducted girl, has been located alive in the Bahawalpur area. A committee headed by the DIG Mirpur Khas has been tasked with her recovery. —RT/Agency

Petitioner Abbas urged the court to direct the YDA to immediately end the strike, citing the detrimental impact on healthcare services. Currently, only emergency services are operational in Punjab's government hospitals, affecting over 900,000 patients who rely on outpatient departments (OPDs) for care. Numerous surgeries and procedures have also been postponed due to the strike. While negotiations between the health department and doctors are ongoing, the YDA remains firm in its demand for an apology from the Punjab chief minister and the resignation of the health secretary before calling off the strike. —RT/Agency

While AJK remains relatively peaceful, the IGP cautioned against external adversaries exploiting internal issues for their agendas, urging residents to remain vigilant against such threats. —RT/Agency

AJK Government to Establish CTD and Anti-Riots Police Units

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government has announced plans to establish specialized units including a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and an Anti-Riots Police Unit to bolster law enforcement capabilities in the region.

Inspector General Police (IGP) Rana Abdul Jabbar disclosed this decision during a meeting with senior journalists at his office. He highlighted the necessity for these units following recent riots in May, underscoring the need for professional handling of such incidents.

The Anti-Riots Police Unit, comprising 500 personnel, is undergoing training by Punjab's anti-riots police trainers, previously trained by Turkish experts. Selected

PTI Sindh Sets Up Relief Camps Amid Karachi Heatwave

KARACHI: PTI Sindh has launched cold water camps across Karachi in response to the ongoing heatwave, aiming to provide relief to citizens enduring severe temperatures.

PTI Sindh's additional general secretary, Rizwan Niaz, oversaw the setup of a camp at Numaish Chowrang, despite initial attempts by police to dismantle it before PTI leaders intervened. PTI Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh, Karachi President Raja Azhar, and other party members distributed cold water bottles and wet towels to citizens at the camp.

Haleem Adil Sheikh highlighted the dire impact of the heatwave, citing reports of 714 deaths in Karachi over the past week. He criticized prolonged power outages, blaming K-Electric, and lamented the absence of relief camps despite substantial budgets allocated by the Sindh government and KMC. Sheikh emphasized the government's responsibility to establish such camps and accused authorities of neglecting Karachi's needs under current leadership. He questioned why outstanding bills with K-Electric had not been settled by the Sindh government, despite Karachi contributing significantly to provincial tax revenues.

Rizwan Niaz echoed concerns over public distress caused by the heat and power cuts, urging the Sindh government to replicate PTI's relief efforts province-wide. He called for immediate action to support vulnerable communities and suggested PTI would pursue legal measures regarding heat-related deaths.

Karachi PTI President Raja Azhar pledged continued efforts to expand relief operations across Karachi, criticizing the Sindh government's neglect and warning of potential protests if unannounced load-shedding persists. —RT/Agency



KARACHI: RT Correspondent Asif Qureshi is seen in a photo with the Superintendent of the Central Jail Karachi. —RT

EDITORIAL



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

Thursday, June 27, 2024

US lawmakers take notice of Form 47 irregularities

The recent resolution by the US House of Representatives, which called for an independent investigation into the alleged irregularities in Pakistan's February 8 polls, sends a clear message that the legitimacy of the current government is under scrutiny. With an overwhelming 368 members voting in favor, this resolution cannot be dismissed lightly. The US, as a global superpower, has significant influence, and its lawmakers' concerns about the election's validity must prompt serious introspection and action within Pakistan.

The February polls have been marred by accusations of interference and manipulation, raising doubts about their fairness. Political parties, particularly the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), have contested the results, citing numerous obstacles faced by their candi-

dates. The controversial Form 47 and other alleged irregularities have cast a long shadow over the electoral process, fueling public distrust.



For the current coalition government, led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), to gain credibility, it must heed the US resolution's call for a thorough and transparent inquiry. Ignoring these concerns would only perpetuate the stigma of being an illegitimate government. Such an inquiry would not only address the international community's concerns but also restore

faith among the Pakistani populace in the democratic process.

Michael Kugelman, a respected South Asia expert, highlighted the significance of the resolution, noting its potential impact on future US legislation regarding Pakistan. While the resolution may not directly alter US policy, it underscores the need for transparency and adherence to democratic principles in Pakistan.

The current government has a critical opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to democracy and human rights. By initiating a full and impartial investigation into the February polls, it can dispel doubts, reinforce its legitimacy, and uphold the democratic values that both the Pakistani people and the international community expect and deserve.

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Resident of Defence Plaza, Hameeda Khatoon is addressing a press conference, at the Hyderabad press club for the provision of justice.-RT

Akbar Khan Marri holds an open katchery in Sinjhora

By Mohtab Shar

JHOL. Akbar Khan Marri, the Coordinator of MNA Shazia Atta Marri, orchestrated a dynamic open katchery in Sinjhora, drawing a significant turnout of local residents and government officials alike. The event provided a platform for community members to voice their concerns directly to Marri, who pledged to address their grievances promptly and comprehensively.

Amidst a diverse crowd, Marri attentively listened to the varied issues raised by attendees, ranging from infrastructural challenges to social welfare concerns. He assured the gathering of his unwavering commitment to prioritize resolving these issues, emphasizing proactive measures to improve the quality of life for Sinjhora residents.

The presence of Town Chairman Rana Arshad Ali Rajput and other local officials underscored the collaborative effort between elected representatives and

administrative bodies in tackling community issues. Their participation signaled a unified approach towards fostering development and addressing grassroots concerns effectively.

Participants at the katchery expressed appreciation for Marri's accessibility and responsiveness, highlighting the significance of such interactive forums in promoting transparency and accountability in governance.

They voiced optimism that the outcomes of the session would translate into tangible improvements in their daily lives.

As the discussions concluded on a positive note, Marri reaffirmed his dedication to regular engagement with the community, promising continued efforts to uphold their interests and aspirations. The event concluded with renewed hope among attendees for a brighter future and strengthened community-government relations in Sinjhora.



HYDERABAD: Dr. Israt-ul-Ibad Istakbaliya Committee Leader, Nisar Malik is addressing a press conference, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

HESCO installs a new transformer in Qasimabad

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Residents of Qasimabad's Abdullah Town near Janwri House breathed a sigh of relief as HESCO (Hyderabad Electric Supply Company) swiftly responded to community needs by installing a new 200KV transformer. The replacement came after the previous transformer had suffered damage, causing inconvenience to local residents.



enhancing public welfare and addressing infrastructural challenges.

Upon learning of the residents' plight, Sheikh liaised with HESCO Chief Roshan Otho and advocated for immediate action. His proactive approach and advocacy efforts expedited the installation process, leading to the swift deployment of the new transformer near Abdullah Town Janwri House.

The successful installation of the transformer stands as a testament to effective community-government collaboration in ensuring essential services reach every corner of Hyderabad, promoting development and enhancing quality of life for all residents.

The initiative was spearheaded by HESCO Chairman Roshan Otho, who issued direct instructions for the installation of the new transformer in Qasimabad sub-division. This proactive measure aimed to restore reliable electricity supply to the affected area, ensuring uninterrupted power for households and businesses.

Notably, Muhammad Naveed Sheikh, a prominent social figure in Hyderabad, played a pivotal role in advocating for the community's concerns. He actively engaged with residents and facilitated communication between the local community and HESCO officials.

Sheikh's efforts to highlight the issue underscored his commitment to

Two women end their lives in Pithoro

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: The tranquil town of Pithoro was jolted by two devastating incidents of suicide, highlighting a concerning trend that has alarmed local residents and civil society leaders alike. In separate tragedies, two women took their own lives due to domestic issues, sending shockwaves through their respective neighborhoods.

In Gulzar Muhalla, Samina, wife of Teerath Bheel, ended her life by hanging herself. Sources close to the family revealed that she had been grappling with unresolved domestic conflicts, which ultimately led to this tragic decision. The authorities conducted necessary medico-legal procedures at a local hospital before handing over Samina's body to her grieving family.

The incidents have sparked widespread concern among local civil society leaders, who have called for urgent action to address the rising number of suicides in the district. They emphasized the need for enhanced support mechanisms for individuals facing mental health challenges, stressing that timely intervention could potentially prevent such tragic outcomes.

Community leaders have urged the concerned authorities to prioritize mental health awareness and counseling services, particularly in rural areas where access to psychological support may be limited. They have called for collaborative efforts between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to create a supportive environment that promotes mental well-being and prevents instances of self-harm.

Similarly, in Ram Nagar area, another distressing incident unfolded as Shemi, wife of Veeru Kolhi, also took the drastic step of ending her life by hanging herself. Her demise has left her family and community in deep sorrow, prompting reflections on the underlying causes that may have contributed to her decision.

New office-bearers of Daulatpur Press Club elected

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: The Daulatpur Press Club conducted its annual elections, marking a pivotal moment as new leaders were chosen to guide the club for the upcoming year, 2024-25. The election process, held with enthusiasm and transparency, saw a keen contest among dedicated members vying for key positions.

Muhammad Moosa Unar emerged victorious in the elections, securing the position of President. Known for his dedication to journalism integrity and community service, Unar expressed gratitude to the members for their trust and pledged to uphold the club's values and promote press freedom in the region.

Aslam Rajput, acclaimed for his leadership qualities, was elected as the Vice President, bringing with him a wealth of experience in media affairs. His vision includes fostering collaboration among members and enhancing the club's outreach to benefit local journalism.

Aijaz Ali Jokhio, a seasoned journalist with a deep commitment to the profession, assumes the role of General Secretary. Jokhio's agenda focuses on streamlining communication within



the club, organizing impactful events, and advocating for the rights of journalists.

Shabbir Anjum Abbasi, elected as the Finance Secretary, brings financial acumen and strategic planning skills to the club. Abbasi aims to ensure fiscal responsibility and transparency, enabling the club to sustain its operations effectively.

Ghulam Ali Jokhio, entrusted with the responsibility of Information Secretary, plans to enhance the club's digital presence and communication strategies in Daulatpur.

The newly elected office-bearers expressed their commitment to serving the Daulatpur Press Club with diligence and integrity, promising to uphold the principles of journalism while fostering a supportive environment for media professionals in the region. The elections were hailed as a democratic milestone, reinforcing the club's role as a cornerstone of press freedom and ethical journalism in Daulatpur.

At Least 12 Dead in Hyderabad Due to Heat Wave

HYDERABAD: At least 12 people have died in Hyderabad, Sindh's second largest city, in the past 24 hours due to likely heatstroke, media reported quoting Civil Hospital administration.

According to data shared by Civil Hospital, a total of 50 heat wave-affected patients were brought to the hospital in the past 24 hours, of which 12 succumbed to the extreme conditions. The deceased included two women and one prisoner.

Meanwhile,

Karachi, 100 bodies were brought to morgues over the past three days during the searing hot weather. A spokesperson for the Cheepa Foundation reported that the increase in deaths is attributed to the ongoing extreme heat.

"Thirty-seven bodies were brought to the morgue on June 23, 44 bodies on June 24, and 19 bodies on June 25," the foundation's spokesperson stated. "Thirteen of the dead bodies were unidentifiable," they added.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority—RT

the global average, with a potential rise of 2.3 to 8.8 degrees Fahrenheit by the 2090s over the 1986-2005 baseline, according to a World Bank expert panel on climate change. The country, which is one of the most vulnerable in the world to climate change, also faces the risk of heavier monsoon rains. This year's monsoon, expected to start in July, is predicted to cause flash floods, according to a statement released by Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority—RT



HYDERABAD: Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad, Ahsan Qureshi is presiding over a meeting of divisional officials.-RT

SPORTS



Babar, Rizwan slip as Travis Head crowned top-ranked T20I batter



LAHORE: Pakistan's white-ball captain Babar Azam and wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan slipped down in the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings...

Head enjoyed a stunning run since cementing his spot at the top of the order for his national side in the shortest format.

The left-handed opener was exceptional in the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 for Australia. He accumulated 255 runs in seven innings at a brilliant average of 42.50.

Travis Head also smashed two half-centuries, out of which one came against India in a losing cause.

He kept Australia in the hunt with his 43-ball 76, peppered with nine fours and four sixes. However, his departure in the 17th over eventually resulted in the 2021 champions succumbing to a 24-run defeat.

The Australian opener jumped four places to claim the top spot in the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings...

ICC unveils match officials for T20 World Cup 2024 semi-finals

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the match officials for the semi-finals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

South Africa and Afghanistan square off in the first semi-final at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Wednesday, June 26, with Richard Illingworth and Nitin Menon, serving as the on-field umpires.

Richard Kettleborough will be the TV umpire while Ahsan Raza was named the fourth umpire.

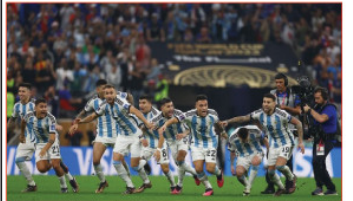
Afghanistan will feature in a T20 World Cup 2014 editions where they lost to Pakistan and India respectively.



South Africa made its maiden appearance in the 2009 and T20 World Cup 2014 editions where they lost to Pakistan and India respectively.

Consequently, both sides will be eyeing a maiden appearance in the 2009 and T20 World Cup 2014 editions where they lost to Pakistan and India respectively.

Argentina head to Copa America quarter-finals after defeating Chile



The Argentina football team has made its way to the Copa America 2024 quarter-final after defeating Chile in a super thrilling match.

In front of more than 81,000 fans, Argentina faced each other 90 times, out of which the Albiceleste have won 58 times, while Chile has won 6 times, with 29 total draws.

The two teams last met in South American Qualifiers for World Cup 2022.

In the Copa America, they have faced one another by shooting a corner kick, but was blocked, which provided Martinez the opportunity to score, ultimately leading to the win.

Inzamam-ul-Haq questions India bowlers' premature reverse swing

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq advised the umpires to "keep their eyes open" as he questioned India's bowlers' ability to reverse swing the ball early during their crucial ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 fixture against Australia.



The legendary Pakistan batter highlighted that left-arm Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh was reversing the ball in the 15th over, which according to him is a rare sight in cricket.

"Arshdeep Singh when he was bowling the 15th over, the ball was reversing. It is too early [for reverse swing] with the new ball? This means the ball was ready for reverse swing by the 12th or the 13th over, Um-"

"Because for reverse swing ... look Bumrah can do it, because of his action; but for some bowlers - their action and their speed, the ball has to be in that perfect condition and prepared well [to reverse]. It could be that the wicket was hard and rough, that could be the reason [for the ball getting scuffed up on one side], but these things have to be noticed."

India booked their spot in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 with a 24-run victory over Australia in a high-stakes clash. The 2007 champions will now take on defending champions England in the second semi-final on June 27 at Providence Stadium, Guyana.—Agency

Euro 2024: Denmark secure Last-16 spot after goalless match with Serbia



MUNICH: Denmark advanced to the knockout phase of Euro 2024 with a tense 0-0 draw against Serbia in Munich.

Finishing bottom of Group C, Serbia ended their Euro 2024 campaign with just two points from three matches.

Christian Eriksen, who set a record with his 133rd appearance for Denmark, orchestrated the midfield but couldn't break the deadlock. Despite several chances, Denmark's third draw of the tournament was enough to see them through to the next round, finishing second in the group. They will face hosts Germany in the last-16 in Dortmund on Saturday.

Both teams had goals disallowed in the match. Denmark's effort was nullified because Eriksen's corner went out of play. Meanwhile, Serbia's Luka Jovic was ruled offside after netting the ball. Serbia needed a win to progress hence, they defended robustly but struggled to create opportunities for veteran striker Aleksandar Mitrovic, who unsuccessfully appealed for a penalty multiple times.

Denmark dominated the first half with most possession of the ball. Eriksen had a shot saved by Serbia's Predrag Rajkovic and Rasmus Hojlund missed Denmark's best chance when he appeared to slip while shooting. In the second half, Serbian manager Dragan Stojkovic introduced Dusan Tadic and Luka Jovic to add some urgency to the attack. However, the changes could not pay off well.

Denmark will now focus on their upcoming clash with Germany in the knockout stage of the competition.—Agency

FIFA features Arif Lohar's banger on Lionel Messi's birthday

A crossover no one had seen coming but everyone is in for, Pakistan's Punjabi folk icon Arif Lohar, got featured on FIFA's official page on the 37th birthday of Lionel Messi.



Seems like the International Federation of Association Football aka FIFA couldn't help but fall in love with Pakistani music, as it used iconic folk singer of the country, Arif Lohar's banger 'Aa Tenu Moj Karavan, Aa Tenu Sair Karavan', to mark the 37th birthday of GOAT, Lionel Messi, earlier this week.

Sharing the edit of some of the most memorable moments of his career, with Lohar's number in the background, the federation captioned, "???? ?? ???? (Messi's magic)! Happy 37th birthday, Messi."

The reel has more than 1.5 million views on the official page and Pakistani fans couldn't contain their excitement on the feature, dropping thousands of likes and comments on the post.

"Fifa is obsessed with Pakistani songs," wrote a social user, while another commented, "We got messi edit on Pakistani song before gta6."

"The Pakistani Takeover," one more comment read. "Wait what this was not the collab I was expecting," a fourth Instagrammer noted.

One of the football fanatics also made a humble request asking, "Bado Badi on Ronaldo's birthday."—Agency

Junaid Khan, Muhammad Wasim named in Pakistan women's team coaching setup



LAHORE: Former chief selector Muhammad Wasim and former pacer Junaid Khan were named in Pakistan women's cricket team's coaching staff for the ACC Women's Asia Cup 2024.

A four-day training camp of the Pakistan women's cricket team for next month will be played in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024 started here at the Hamif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi on Wednesday morning.

Twenty-eight (28) cricketers have been invited to the camp by the women's national selection committee, which will be onsite to assess and evaluate players' performances before announcing the squad for the tournament, while matches against Nepal and UAE will be played on 21 and 23 July, respectively.—Agency

Pakistan will take on arch-rivals India on the opening day of the tournament, while matches against Nepal and UAE will be played on 21 and 23 July, respectively.—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT

Sophie Turner turns heads with striking transformations in 'Joan' first look



Sophie Turner proves she is a master of disguise in her upcoming series Joan as she drops the first look.

The Game of Thrones star treated her fans to the official teaser on Wednesday, hinting at the variety of personas she adopts throughout the ITVX series.

In the teaser, Turner can be seen changing into multiple looks in front of a vanity table switching between short blonde hair to brown wigs. The suspense builds with Turner escaping the cops in vintage London.

"Here she comes ???? #Joan." Turner wrote in anticipation of the six part reality-based series. The synopsis of the show indicates that the idea stemmed from the 1980s criminal mastermind, Joan Hannington, one of Britain's most notorious diamond thieves.

The series tap into the Joan's 'fiery' aura in her twenties, who is found to be deeply scarred and vulnerable. "She is a devoted mother to her six-year-old daughter, Kelly, but is trapped in a violent marriage with a disreputable criminal named Gary. When Gary goes on the run, Joan seizes the opportunity to create a new life for herself and her daughter." the synopsis reads. The news of Turner's upcoming release follows her highly-publicized breakup with Joe Jonas, a time she referred to in British Vogue June 2024 issue as 'the worst few days' of her life.

Jennifer Lawrence puts husband before 'hectic' work schedule



Jennifer Lawrence's husband means more to her than her Hollywood career, according to a source.

While the Oscar-winning actress has her hands full with six projects, she doesn't want her marriage with Cooke Maroney to be sidelined or suffer in any way.

The tip comes after the couple, who has been married since 2019, was seen grabbing a bite at King Restaurant in New York City last week. "Jennifer knows Hollywood can be all-consuming, which is why she's making it a point to put her relationship first," says the insider. Recently, Jennifer has taken on the project to star in and produce a new murder mystery film The Wives with Apple Original Films and A24. The film will be written by Michael Breslin and Patrick Foley and will star the Hunger Games star will produce it with her company Excellent Cadaver. However, she is adamant to still make time for her family. "She makes time for date nights with Cooke and family days with him and their 2-year-old, Cy. It's not always easy, balancing it all. It definitely takes work," the source spoke further of her marriage with the art dealer.

Face of the Day



Name: Hashir Khan Location: Karachi About me: I absolutely love modeling!

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

THE HEARTLAND



TDAP Sukkur Organizes Consultative Session on Bananas and Dates in Khairpur

KHAIRPUR: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Sukkur organized a consultative session on the banana and dates products of Khairpur to assess their potential and the challenges faced by stakeholders. The event was held in collaboration with the Khairpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sindh Chamber of Agriculture Khairpur, Sindh Abadgar Foundation Khairpur, Date Palm Research Institute Khairpur, and Banana Research Institute Khairpur.

The organizers explained that the objective of such sessions is to connect and unite the concerned stakeholders to identify structural flaws in their products. The audience, comprising growers, traders, processors, exporters, and technical experts highlighted various issues affecting these products at almost all stages.

Key issues discussed included:

- Lack of good agricultural practices
- Limited and traditional varieties
- Unskilled labor and less educated growers
- Inadequate pre- and post-harvesting techniques
- Improper tools and non-feasible infrastructure
- Inadequate transport and shortage of cold storages
- Lack of mechanization and value addition
- Natural calamities, such as prolonged monsoon rains, also force growers to harvest their crops prematurely, adding to the challenges.

During the session, an expert from SGS Pakistan gave a detailed presentation on ISO standards and other certification requirements of different importers. An ex-Director of the Date Palm Research Institute (DPR) Khairpur suggested a SWOT analysis of the highlighted problems to convert weaknesses and threats into strengths and opportunities. He emphasized that unity, sincerity, and a will to work can resolve these issues and suggested that stakeholders form a delegation of growers to approach higher authorities in both Federal and Provincial governments for support, including the supply of imported elite varieties of date palm seedlings. He also recommended that TDAP

Tragic Accident: Car Cylinder Explosion Claims Three Lives in Khairpur

RANIPUR: A devastating incident occurred in Ranipur, Khairpur, where three individuals lost their lives due to the sudden explosion of a car's gas cylinder. The tragic event took place as the car was traveling on the highway, resulting in a fire following the abrupt explosion.

Eyewitnesses reported that the occupants of the vehicle, identified as Habibullah Sohto, Zakria Bibi, and their young son Ikram Sohto, were severely burned and succumbed to their injuries on the spot. The suddenness of the explosion left little time for any intervention.

Rescue teams promptly arrived at the scene, managing to control the fire and transferring the victims' bodies to a nearby hospital. The local community is deeply shaken by this tragic accident, highlighting the potential dangers associated with gas-powered vehicles.—RT

Heirs of Pretabad tragedy victims compensated in Hyderabad

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: In a solemn ceremony organized by the Sindh Government, relief efforts were extended to the families affected by the Pretabad tragedy, where both deceased victims and injured survivors received compensation. The event, attended by dignitaries including Zahid Bhurgari, Farid Qureshi, and Mantar Jatui, aimed to provide solace and support to those affected by the devastating incident.

Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Shoro, Commissioner Ehsan Qureshi, and Deputy Commissioner Zainul Abideen Memon presided over the distribution of relief cheques, symbolizing the government's commitment to addressing the aftermath of the tragedy. Families of the 27 individuals who lost their lives in Pretabad received financial assistance, while the injured received compensation of five lakh rupees per person.

Expressing his condolences, Mayor Kashif Shoro conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families, acknowledging that no amount of compensation could fill the void left by the tragic loss of lives. He emphasized the unwavering support of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for the victims and reiterated their dedication to standing alongside those affected during their time of grief.

Commissioner Ehsan Qureshi reflected on the lessons learned from the Pretabad incident, stressing the importance of vigilance in monitoring establishments providing illegal gas services to local communities. He expressed deep regret over the lives lost and vowed to implement stricter regulations to prevent similar tragedies in the future. Moved by the emotional gravity of the situation, Deputy Commissioner Zainul Abideen Memon was visibly affected as he distributed the compensation cheques. Through tears, he lamented the irreplaceable loss of human lives and affirmed the government's commitment to prioritizing the safety and well-being of all citizens. As the ceremony concluded, the community mourned collectively while finding solace in the support extended by governmental authorities. The event underscored the resilience of Hyderabad's community spirit in times of adversity and reinforced the imperative of proactive measures to safeguard public safety and prevent such tragic incidents in the future.

Anti-Drugs Rally Staged in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zainul Abideen Memon has expressed concern over the increasing illegal drug trade, stating that "unfortunately, the illegal drug business is flourishing."

He made these remarks while speaking to the media after a rally against drugs outside the Deputy Commissioner's office in Shabbaz Building. He said that senior provincial minister Sharjeel Inam Memon had issued directives to eradicate drugs, and accordingly, relevant agencies were taking effective action against drug peddlers. Many drug dealers had been arrested and strict legal action had been taken against them.

The Deputy Commissioner added that due to increasing unemployment and economic issues in the country, drug peddlers were exploiting the youth, making them addicts. However, he warned drug peddlers that a noose was tightening around them, and without any discrimination, action was being taken to eradicate drugs. He expressed the hope that soon, drugs would be completely eliminated from the country.

A large number of officials from relevant departments and social workers participated in the rally.—RT

Three notorious criminals killed in Hyderabad shootout

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: A dramatic encounter unfolded at Hatri Bypass as Hyderabad Police engaged in a firefight with three notorious criminals, resulting in the death of Imtiaz Bhand and Ali Akbar Junjo. The third criminal sustained critical injuries.

Efforts were made to provide medical aid to the injured criminals, who were rushed to a nearby hospital. Despite intensive care, the third criminal succumbed to his injuries, marking the conclusion of the intense encounter.

The successful operation was hailed as a significant breakthrough in combating organized crime in Hyderabad. Police officials, led by Superintendent of Police (SP) and his team, exhibited exemplary bravery and tactical acumen in neutralizing the threat posed by these notorious criminals.

Residents of Hyderabad expressed relief and gratitude towards the police force for their swift action in apprehending the perpetrators of the robbery. The incident underscored the ongoing efforts of law enforcement agencies to uphold public safety and maintain law and order in the city.

As investigations continue into the criminal activities and associates of the deceased, authorities remain vigilant to prevent any potential reprisals or escalation of criminal activities in the region. The encounter serves as a stark reminder of the risks faced by law enforcement officers in their dedicated efforts to protect the community from criminal elements.

Rising Incidents of Theft in Hingorja Cause Alarm

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Concerns over security have intensified in Hingorja following a series of thefts that have shaken the local community. The latest incidents include a break-in at the clinic of Dr. Zubair Memon, located just outside the Hingorja Town Committee, where unidentified thieves forcefully entered after breaking locks. Valuable items were reported stolen, prompting Dr. Memon and his staff to assess the losses incurred.

In another disturbing development, a shop belonging to scrap dealer Shafiq Memon was also targeted by thieves, who made off with valuable merchandise. The theft has left Shafiq Memon and his associates in shock, as they evaluate the extent of the damage caused to their livelihood.

Adding to the wave of criminal activities, a motor cycle owned by Imran Rajpar was stolen from outside the BISP Centre, further highlighting the deteriorating law and order situation in the area.

Local residents have expressed deep concern over these incidents, noting a perceived rise in crime and a lack of adequate security measures. They have urged higher authorities to intervene swiftly and provide enhanced protection to the people of Hingorja. Calls for increased police patrols and community policing initiatives have grown louder as residents seek reassurance amidst growing unease.

The incidents have underscored the need for immediate action to restore confidence in the local law enforcement agencies and ensure the safety and security of all citizens in Hingorja.



Shikarpur Police Recover Kidnapped Youth

SHIKARPUR: Dharejo's whereabouts. The police recovered Dharejo while the kidnappers were attempting to move him to another hideout. Although the bandits managed to flee, Dharejo, a young tailor master, was safely rescued. He had been kidnapped from his shop in Garhiyaseo city about a month ago.

The police's swift action and successful recovery of the kidnapped youth have been praised through a raid conducted based on secret information about the kidnappers' whereabouts.

According to information from the SSP Shikarpur Office, a special team of Shikarpur police managed to safely recover Kashif Dharejo, who had been kidnapped. The recovery was made possible through a raid conducted based on secret information about the kidnappers' whereabouts.

Posts of Assistant Professor and SS sanctioned for Govt Higher Secondary School Husri

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: In a significant development for education in the region, the Education Department of the Government of Sindh has approved the allocation of new positions at the Government Higher Secondary School in Husri. The sanctioned posts include Assistant Professor and Subject Specialist roles, aimed at enhancing the academic offerings and quality of education at the school.

The decision has been met with widespread satisfaction among the local community, who view this as a positive step towards improving educational standards in Husri. Residents have expressed optimism that the new appointments will not only fill critical teaching gaps but also enrich the learning experience for students across various disciplines.

Principal Muhammad Asghar Palani's efforts in securing the approval for the School New Extension (SNE) have been particularly applauded. His proactive approach and dedication to enhancing the school's infrastructure and educational resources have garnered praise from parents, teachers, and local officials alike.

The addition of Assistant Professors and Subject Specialists is seen as a strategic move to cater to the growing educational needs of Husri, providing students with access to specialized knowledge and academic guidance. It is expected that these appointments will contribute significantly to the school's academic achievements and overall educational environment.

The community looks forward to the implementation of these new positions and remains hopeful that further initiatives will follow to continue improving educational opportunities for the youth of Husri.

Telemedicine centre inaugurated at Matiari hospital

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: A significant step towards enhancing healthcare accessibility was marked with the inauguration of a state-of-the-art telemedicine centre at the District Headquarter Hospital in Matiari. The ceremony was presided over by District and Sessions Judge Abdul Karim Ansari, who emphasized the transformative potential of telemedicine in providing remote medical consultations and treatments.

Joining the inauguration were key dignitaries including Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yusuf Shaikh, District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain, Medical Superintendent (MS) Dr. Abdul Salam Memon, and other officials. They underscored the importance of leveraging technology to improve healthcare delivery and ensure equitable access to medical expertise.

In his address to the media, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yusuf Shaikh outlined the operational framework of the telemedicine clinic, which will operate from 9 am to 3 pm initially, with plans to expand based on the availability of specialist doctors. This initiative aims to cater primarily to underserved communities, offering them the convenience of virtual consultations without the need to travel to major cities for expert medical opinions.

DHO Dr. Pir Ghulam Hussain and MS Dr. Abdul Salam Memon highlighted the clinic's potential to benefit economically disadvantaged patients who struggle to afford or access specialized healthcare services. They expressed optimism that the telemedicine centre will bridge existing healthcare gaps, delivering timely and quality healthcare solutions directly to patients' doorsteps.

The launch of the telemedicine centre marks a significant milestone in Matiari's healthcare landscape, promising enhanced medical care through innovative technology. As awareness of the facility spreads through media campaigns and outreach efforts, local authorities and healthcare professionals are committed to ensuring its effective utilization and seamless integration into existing healthcare facilities.

With a focus on patient-centric care and leveraging digital solutions, Matiari sets a precedent for leveraging technology to democratize healthcare access, ensuring that every resident can avail themselves of essential medical services regardless of geographical constraints.

NATIONAL

Naqvi and Maryam Commit to Combating Drug Abuse on International Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi emphasized the collective effort required to make Pakistan drug-free and ensure public health.

In his statement on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Minister Naqvi highlighted the necessity of a united front against the threats posed by drug abuse. He acknowledged the longstanding issues of domestic violence, crime, deteriorating health, and infertility attributed to drug abuse in the country.

Recognizing the severity of the problem, the minister outlined government initiatives under the National Anti-Narcotics Policy, aimed at curbing drug smuggling, reducing demand and supply, and enhancing international coordination.

Naqvi also paid tribute to the martyrs of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), who have sacrificed their lives in the fight against drugs, underscoring the need for continued action against drug-related hazards.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz echoed these sentiments, pledging to eliminate drug abuse from Punjab. In her message, she stressed the importance of awareness campaigns to eradicate this menace and expressed sympathy for families affected by drug abuse.—RT/Agency



Man injured in Jamshoro fire succumbs to injuries

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Jamshoro community is mourning the loss of Abdul Latif Samejo, a laborer who tragically passed away due to severe burn injuries sustained in a recent fire incident at WAPDA Colony. The incident, which occurred when a gallon of petrol caught fire, resulted in injuries to four individuals, including Samejo. Despite efforts to save him, Samejo succumbed to his injuries, leaving behind a grieving family and community.

The incident has sparked concerns among local residents regarding safety measures and the regulation of flammable substances in residential areas. Many have voiced apprehensions over the unrestricted sale of gas cylinders and petrol in large quantities, citing potential hazards to public safety. In response to the tragic event, residents have urged the authorities to intervene and enforce stricter controls over the storage and sale of flammable materials. They emphasize the importance of preemptive measures to prevent similar accidents in the future and safeguard the lives of citizens. Efforts to treat the other injured individuals are ongoing, with medical personnel continuing their efforts to ensure their recovery. The community remains vigilant, calling for immediate action from concerned authorities to address safety concerns and uphold stringent safety standards across residential areas in Jamshoro.



HEC Imposes Ban on Colleges' Affiliation with Government Universities

LAHORE: The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) has reinstated a ban on the affiliation of colleges with government universities.

HEC has directed government universities to cease any new affiliations with colleges and educational institutions in various programs until revised standards are issued. Additionally, all advertisements related to affiliations published in social and print media must be withdrawn immediately.

The commission has warned of grants suspension for universities found violating these instructions. This decision comes as government universities face annual losses amounting to billions of rupees due to the affiliation ban.

Vice-chancellors of government universities have raised concerns over these financial implications, seeking intervention from the Punjab governor to address the significant losses incurred.—RT/Agency



METRO KARACHI



Sindh Home Minister Seeks Report On Umerkot Clash



KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar has directed the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Umerkot to submit a comprehensive report following a clash between the Kolhi and Khaskheli communities in the Umerkot area. The incident resulted in injuries to several individuals, including women. A statement from the Sindh Home Department quoted Mr. Lanjar stressing the immediate cessation of hostilities between the two communities and emphasized the importance of upholding law and order in the affected area. Furthermore, the Home Minister instructed authorities to ensure prompt medical treatment for the injured and urged them to investigate the root causes of the conflict. He also called for strict legal action against those found responsible for instigating violence, underscoring the government's commitment to maintaining peace and harmony among all communities in the region.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: A tiger at the Karachi Zoo is cooling off to beat the scorching heat of the summer.—RT



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah is speaking on the floor of the Sindh assembly about the gate collapse at Sukkur Barrage and its rehabilitation.—RT

Karachi to See Rs 134 Billion Investment in 1137 Development Schemes: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh's Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, announced that Karachi will receive Rs 134 billion in the upcoming financial year 2024-25 to complete 1137 development schemes. Ghani revealed this during the ongoing discussion in the Sindh Assembly on the newly presented provincial budget. He specified that Rs 74 billion will be allocated through the Sindh Local Government Department, with an additional Rs 60 billion funded by foreign donor agencies for Karachi's development.



He also highlighted a total allocation of Rs 448 billion under four phases of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Services Improvement Project. Addressing concerns from opposition legislators about Karachi's development funding, Ghani urged them to review the budget details provided. He noted that 347 illegally constructed buildings were demolished in Karachi recently as part of ongoing operations against unauthorized constructions. Ghani welcomed the Sindh Home Minister's decision to pursue legal action against K-Electric for deaths linked to prolonged power outages, emphasizing that no

institution should jeopardize lives due to financial losses. He clarified that although the new provincial budget prioritizes ongoing projects over new schemes, Rs 12 billion has been earmarked specifically for the Hub Canal expansion project to benefit Karachi residents.

Ghani criticized opposition claims that Karachi was neglected in the budget, asserting that the Pakistan Peoples Party has been actively addressing civic issues in the city. He detailed that currently, 551 development schemes from the Local Government Department and 985 projects from other provincial departments are underway in Karachi. For the upcoming year, Rs 76.8 billion will be allocated to complete these projects.

Regarding past investments, Ghani highlighted that from 2016 to 2023-24, Rs 42 billion was spent on major development schemes in Karachi, including the construction of the Bakhtari Youth Centre. He concluded by announcing ongoing road construction in Korangi and other districts, along with plans to open the Korangi Causeway Bridge to traffic within eight months. Ghani emphasized the Sindh government's commitment to Karachi's development, particularly in upgrading water supply and sewerage services, despite a significant shortfall in water demand and supply. He noted ongoing efforts to demolish illegal water hydrants while maintaining essential legal hydrants that supply 18 million gallons daily to areas without pipelined water.—RT

KE Demands Sindh Government To Settle Rs 10.50 Billion In 'Outstanding Dues'



KARACHI: K-Electric (KE) has called upon the Sindh government to immediately settle its outstanding dues of Rs 10.50 billion, as reported by the media. In a statement on X (formerly known as Twitter), KE spokesperson Imran Rana highlighted that the power utility is grappling with severe challenges in maintaining uninterrupted power supply due to the Sindh government's non-payment of dues.

The spokesperson urgently appealed to the Sindh government to clear the outstanding amount of Rs 10.50 billion without delay. Notably, despite the ongoing intense heatwave in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, K-Electric continues to implement power shedding for up to 16 hours daily. Earlier, KE issued a stern warning regarding the potential disconnection of electricity to various Sindh government departments owing to outstanding dues amounting to billions of rupees.

Sources familiar with the matter disclosed that neither the Government of Sindh nor the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) has made any payments to K-Electric since January.

The accumulation of unpaid dues has precipitated a financial crisis for K-Electric, severely impacting its ability to maintain and upgrade its network infrastructure. In response to these financial challenges, KE has dispatched letters to key officials, including the Sindh Secretary of Finance and the Mayor of Karachi, urging immediate settlement of outstanding electricity bills.—RT/Agency

Sindh CM Assures Precautions Ahead Of Monsoon Season

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah assured on Wednesday that the provincial government has initiated preventive measures to avert potential flooding in anticipation of heavy rainfall during the upcoming monsoon season.



Addressing the Sindh Assembly session, Chief Minister Shah updated lawmakers on the timely repair of the collapsed gate at Sukkur Barrage, highlighting that the repairs were completed within a record 72 hours. He underscored the critical importance of ensuring infrastructure resilience ahead of expected monsoon rains.

Shah further informed the House about the resumption of water supply to various canals, including the vital Rahri Canal, aiming to enhance irrigation capabilities. Sukkur to oversee further operational enhancements and mitigate water-related challenges.

The chief minister emphasized the government's proactive stance in preparing for the monsoon season, ensuring comprehensive measures are in place to safeguard communities and infrastructure across Sindh. He reassured the assembly of ongoing efforts to manage potential risks and enhance disaster preparedness across the province.—RT

New Suspense Thriller "Bypass M10" Set for Theatrical Release

KARACHI: Elysium Films has finalized preparations for the release of "Bypass M10," a highly anticipated suspense thriller scheduled to hit theaters post-Muharram. Written, directed, and starring Farrukh Najam, alongside Shamin Khan as the lead actress, the film promises a gripping narrative filled with action. Shot in CinemaScope, "Bypass M10" features a diverse cast including Jaweria, Nayyar, Rashid Farooqi, Raja Shahid, Laal Shah, Danish, Anees Alam, Bilal, and others.



Produced by Quratul Aein, with Umar Khattab Khan as executive producer and Arbaaz as line producer, the film's assistant direction is handled by Ali Raza. Kanwal Zahra and Kamran Rasheed lead the senior makeup artistry, while Syed Iqbal oversees cinematography.

Metro Live Movies will manage distribution, with Fayyaz Ahmad Khan and Faisal Baig overseeing senior editing. Elysium Films is responsible for production and graphics. During a recent event, Farrukh Najam expressed optimism about the film's potential to revitalize Pakistani cinema, praising its unique script and impactful message. Shamin Khan, known for her work in dramas and commercials, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the film's role in elevating industry standards and captivating audiences. Currently in the final stages of promotion and editing, "Bypass M10" was celebrated with a dinner hosted by producer Quratul Aein Farrukh, attended by notable personalities including Sonia Asif, Nuzhat Abid Jafri, Humaira Hasnain, Ali Adnan, Mohsin, and the RK Media team. "Bypass M10" is poised to make a significant mark on Pakistani cinema, with high expectations for its success.—RT/Agency

Karachi Heatwave Claims 100 Lives in Three Days

KARACHI: Amidst a scorching heatwave, a social organization has reported that 100 bodies were brought to their morgue over the past three days, highlighting a surge in fatalities due to the extreme weather conditions. A spokesperson from the Chhpa Foundation disclosed that the morgue received 37 bodies on June 23, 44 bodies on June 24, and 19 bodies on June 25.



In response to the crisis, authorities have announced the setup of 11 heatstroke camps in Karachi South, 18 in Karachi East, 6 in West, 12 in Karachi Central, 15 in Malir, 8 in Korangi district, and 7 in Keamam. Paramilitary Rangers have also set up heatstroke camps equipped with cold water and Sharbat stalls throughout the city. A spokesperson further noted that heatstroke centers are strategically placed along major roads and thoroughfares, staffed with doctors and paramedics.—RT/Agency

Karachi to Charge for Underground Water Usage Starting August 1

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has issued a notification announcing that residents of Karachi will no longer have access to free underground water, as reported by the media. According to the notification, digital water meters will be installed to measure underground water usage across Karachi, including its industries. The new regulation, effective from August 1, will apply to corporations, commercial entities, water bottling and packaging units, educational institutions, hotels, restaurants, manufacturing plants, and processing units within Karachi Division. It will also encompass societies, residential complexes, apartments, and flats, though individual residential houses are exempt from the metering system. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab anticipates an annual revenue of Rs 1 billion from this initiative.—RT/Agency

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

HIRING OF SERVICES OF FIRMS SPECIALIZING IN PR & MARKETING REQUIRED FOR PAKISTAN'S PARTICIPATION IN EXPO 2025, OSAKA (13TH APRIL-13TH OCTOBER, 2025)

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from well reputed and experienced PR & Marketing Firm to provide integrated PR & Marketing services for Expo 2025.

- The detailed bidding documents containing scope of work, terms and conditions, method of procurement, procedure for submission of bids, bid security, bid validity, opening of bid, evaluation criteria, clarification / rejection of bids etc. are available for the interested bidders at PPRA EPADS website (<https://eprocure.gov.pk/>), at the cost of PKR 2,000/- in the form of pay order in the favor of TDAP.
- Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure will be used for open competitive bidding. Interested Individuals/ Firms will submit their sealed bids comprising a single package containing two separate envelopes. Each envelope shall contain separately the Financial and technical proposals which will be clearly mentioned in bold and legible letters on respective envelopes to avoid any confusion. Moreover, the proposals must be submitted on EPADS too.
- Sealed Request for Proposals, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must reach at the office of the Assistant Director, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Headquarters, Karachi (5th Floor, FTC Building, Shahrah e Faisal, Karachi) before 11:30 A.M., 2024 on 11th July 2024. Moreover, the technical and financial proposals must also be submitted on EPADS by 11th July 2024, at 11:30 AM too. Technical Bids will be opened the same day at 12:00 P.M.
- Trade Development Authority of Pakistan reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time in accordance with Public Procurement Rules.

Muhammad Ahmed Khan
Assistant Director (Osaka Expo 2025)
Trade Development Authority of Pakistan
Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan
5th Floor, FTC Building, Shahrah e Faisal, Karachi
Tel: 021-9925810 Email: ahmed.khan@tdap.gov.pk

God has given you one face, and you make yourself another.

—William Shakespeare

THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

READERS

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newspaper Agency at (0300-219454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990).

THURSDAY JUNE 27 2024

Attorney General: PTI-SIC Cannot Use Backdoor Entry To Assemblies, Tells Top Court

ISLAMABAD: The Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) on Wednesday submitted its written response to the Supreme Court in the reserved seats case, stating that the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) "cannot be permitted to make its way into assemblies via backdoor".

The SIC's appeal, the AGP stated in its 30-page written submissions to the 13-member full court, for reserved seats should be dismissed and the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) verdict on the matter should be upheld.

The attorney general, while elaborating on the allocation mechanism, said that reserved seats for minorities and women could be given to a political party who contested the



polls and won at least one seat besides providing a list of candidates based on the total number of seats it won as per the law.

Furthermore, independent candidates could not automatically become relevant for reserved seats under a parties' list system unless they join a political party.

"Independently elected candidates are counted towards reserved seats for women and non-Muslims only when they join political parties within 3 days of publication of names of the returned candidates in the official Gazette" under Articles 51(6)(d) and (e), as well as 106(3)(c), the AGP's re-

sponse read. The SIC neither contested the general elections as a political party nor filed any list of candidates for reserved seats for women and non-Muslims, under Section 104 of the Election Act, 2017, it further stated.

Subsequently, the aforesaid party did not present its manifesto before the February 8 nationwide polls and its candidates to the voters for their scrutiny.

"The SIC cannot be permitted to use the backdoor to make its way into the assemblies. Allowing so will set a very dangerous precedent," the AGP said.

"It will permit elements who would otherwise be rejected by the

voters to make their way into the assemblies by encouraging independents' getting elected or luring them to join such parties and benefitting from the allocation of reserved seats."

The attorney general said that the approval of the SIC's appeal would be an "antithesis of the democracy" and "will weaken the political parties who participate in the electoral process". It further elaborated that the reserved seats for women and non-Muslims would only be allocated to political parties, whereas, independently elected candidates or those parties who have not contested the polls would not be considered for the seats.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Criticizes UNSC For Ignoring Hindutva Terrorism

UNITED NATION: Pakistan has called on the UN Security Council to shift some of its focus on combating Al-Qaeda and ISIS to Hindutva groups in India terrorising Muslims as well as on state terrorism brutalising people under occupation, like those in Palestine and Kashmir.

"The Security Council's work on Counter-Terrorism needs urgent reform," ambassador Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, told the UN General Assembly, which discussed the annual report of the 15-member Council on its actions to maintain international peace and security.

The Council, he said, had focused on combating Al-Qaeda and ISIS and its associates, while terrorism proliferated across the world.

"The (current) listing and sanctions processes are cumbersome and politicised," the Pakistani envoy said.

"The Council has also ignored terrorism by extremist and fascist organisations, including the Hindutva groups terrorising Muslims. It has also ignored state terrorism which is used for oppressing and brutalising people under occupation, as in the case of Palestine and Kashmir.



In this regard, ambassador Akram said the Council also failed to distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate struggles of peoples under colonial and alien domination for self-determination.

While awaiting agreement on the reform of the Security Council, the Pakistani envoy said several steps could be taken to improve transparency and accountability in its work, including open discussions allowing inputs by the concerned states and parties following the adoption of Council decisions.

He said the selection and appointment of expert panels and special representatives of the secretary-general should be made transparently with balanced representation from the North and South and various regions.

The Council, the Pakistan envoy added, should set up a body to monitor and facilitate the implementation of its resolutions, including those in abeyance for considerable time, such as those on Palestine and Kashmir.

Expanding the number of non-permanent members was vital to enhancing its representativeness and reducing the dominance of its permanent members, ambassador Akram said.

"Adding new permanent members will erode the principles of sovereign equality and equity and further paralyse the Council," he insisted.

Opening the debate, the president of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis said what emerges from the Security Council report is "a vivid picture of a world fraught with tension and conflict".—RT/Agency

PTI Welcomes US Resolution As Ruling Parties Slam 'Foreign Intervention'

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Wednesday welcomed the passage of a resolution in the US House of Representatives, seeking an impartial probe into the claims of irregularities during the February 8 general elections in the country, something that the Imran Khan-founded party has been campaigning ever since the nationwide polls.

Expressing their support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan, the US lawmakers, many of whom have been speaking in PTI's favour, have emphasised the need for the Pakistani public's participation in the country's democratic process.

The former ruling party is among those opposing the results of the polls after its candidates faced immense hurdles in their run-up to their participation in the vote, leading them to participate as independent candidates and being deprived of their iconic bat symbol following a legal battle with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The country's two major parties — Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) — along with other political parties, formed a coalition government in the Centre.

Termining the development a move in the "right direction", former president Arif Alvi lauded the massive majority in the resolution's approval.

"What a resounding condemnation by (568-7) of the



unhinging of the democratic process in Pakistan by the US Congress. A positive push in the right direction, along the lines of our own constitution, for democracy, rule of law, civilian control over our armed forces (not vice versa), personal freedoms, etc.," he wrote on social site, X (formerly Twitter).

The PTI leader drew similarities between the Resolution 901 and the Constitution of Pakistan about upholding democracy and citizens' right to have a free and fair election.

The ex-president also mentioned the key proposals and demands in the US resolution in his post.

Meanwhile, former aide to Khan during his tenure as the prime minister, Zulfikar Bukhari also appreciated the passage of the resolution saying that the move was about to bring a "change".

"Things are about to change. The International silence is about to break," he

wrote on X. However, Raza Haroon from rival PPP voiced criticism, asking if PTI now deemed the "US intervention" right.

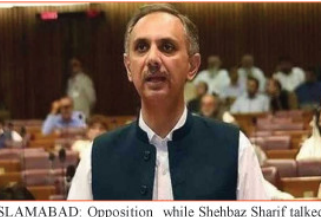
Replying to Alvi's post, the politician stated three questions.

Seeking and supporting US intervention in our internal matters?

Where does our Constitution or Law of the Land allow for it?

How do you explain the issue of jurisdiction? Haroon also responded to Bukhari's post, raising concern over the "foreign intervention in Pakistan's internal matters". "Wasn't your leader against FUSA intervention during the 2013 election? Was it of no confidence? Was I [Imran Khan] bluffing of US conspiracy on stage while he was the PM and even after?" he asked.—RT/Agency

Omar Ayub: Release Of Imran Khan And Other Detainees Precondition For Dialogue



ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub said on Wednesday dialogue with the government was possible only if PTI founder Imran Khan and other detainees were set at liberty.

Ayub said so in response to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer of talks, stating that "discussions will take place only when the PTI founder and other detainees are released."

Speaking in the National Assembly, Ayub addressed the prime minister, whom he referred to as "Form 47 PM". The speaker intervened, saying the environment was improving, to which Ayub responded that he had the right to reply.

He said the House could only function with mutual respect.

Ayub mentioned that

while Shehbaz Sharif talked about his mother's funeral, he attended Kulsom Nawaz's funeral but could not attend his own father's funeral.

The opposition leader also stated that reconciliation would only be possible if the government make amends for mistreatment of Dr Yamin Rashid, Mahmood Rashid, Hassaan Niazi and others.

At this point, the speaker asked Ayub to sit down, stating that he had made his point and had been allowed to speak.

Despite this, the opposing leader continued to speak and said his leader was detained in a death cell while others were provided with air-conditioners. He contended that the country's instability was due to a lack of rule of law.—RT/Agency

Fazl Criticizes Military Operations Since 2010 For Resulting In Instability

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has once again criticised the Azm-e-Istehkam Operation stating that military operations being conducted since 2010 have only led to instability.

Speaking in the National Assembly (NA) on Wednesday, Fazl yet again condemned Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, stating, "We have been suffering under the guise of operations since 2010. This is not stability, we are doing this for China."

"People were forced to vacate their areas for these operations. Tribal women were sent to deserts, and many places in tribal areas were cleared, forcing people to beg. Their dignity and traditions were harmed," he protested.

Fazl highlighted the insufficient compensation provided to the displaced, saying, "Victims are given Rs400,000 to rebuild their homes. This amount is not enough to build even a bathroom. It's a joke." The JUI-F chief maintained that instead of cash, the victims are given tokens.

Fazl lashed out at the current government set-up. "The state has abandoned us. Do we not have any rights as citizens? Fazl further criticised the government's policies, "The government is making people jobless. They are closing departments older



than Pakistan itself."

Commenting on the recent hike imposed on the salaried class in the recent budget, he stated, "Taxes are imposed on salaries and businesses, yet we demand taxes without providing rights. People will not pay taxes because they don't trust you. They demand peace and prosperity."

He pointed out the contradictions in government actions, "25,000 to 30,000 Afghans returned to their country, but 40,000 to 50,000 came back to Pakistan. General Bajwa told me that a fence was erected to prevent terrorists from entering. Now, it's being said that the fence has been removed."

He emphasised the dire situation in many regions maintaining that people have reached the point of starvation in many areas of the country "People in Chaman have been protesting for nine months. Is this how a country treats its border populations? These people have no alternative employment. Mothers and sisters sold their jewellery, but even that money is gone.—RT/Agency

Vawda Offers 'Unconditional Apology' To SC, Requests Withdrawal Of Contempt Charges

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda on Wednesday tendered an unconditional apology to the Supreme Court, asking it to withdraw the contempt charges against him.

On May 17, a three-judge Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa issued contempt charges against Vawda for his outburst against the judiciary during a press conference at the National Press Club in Islamabad.

The notices were issued for several "malicious" allegations against the judiciary and the judges.

The court had also issued show cause notices to 34 television channels, asking them to explain why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them for airing the remarks of Vawda as well as MQM-P's MNA Mustafa Kamal criticising the judiciary.

Kamal had already submitted an unconditional and unqualified apology for his utterances.

Earlier this month, Senator Vawda had requested SC to withdraw the contempt of court charges, stating he never intended to bring the judiciary into disrepute.

In his apology today, a copy of which is available



with media, Vawda said that he had every respect and regard for the judiciary, adding that he could not "imagine to do any act which lowers the estimation of the judiciary in any manner."

He said that the matter was not about anyone's ego and one should "act more cautiously to work towards the establishment of a better image of the judiciary."

"It will be adverse to the interests of the people of Pakistan if two Constitutional bodies are seen to be standing against each other," Vawda said in his letter.

He said he realised that the maintenance of a good public image and estimation of the judiciary was vital for the judiciary to be able to perform.

Despite his best intentions, he said, his press conference may have come across as objectionable.

He said to ensure the

prestige concerning the image of the judiciary, the respondent submitted himself before the honourable court and deeply regretted any harm that may have been caused by his press conference.

"That further, in order to show his utmost respect as per the teaching of Islam for the Honourable Court the respondent sincerely apologizes unconditionally," he said.

He said he would be willing to take any further steps that the court deemed "necessary and appropriate" for their satisfaction, adding that he never intended to impugn the dignity or independence of the judiciary.

"In light of what has been stated above, it is very humbly prayed that this Court may be pleased to withdraw the said show cause notice," the apology states.—RT/Agency

Sheikh Rashid: Imran Khan Will Remain Detained For The Foreseeable Future

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said on Wednesday the nation had rejected the budget presented by the government.

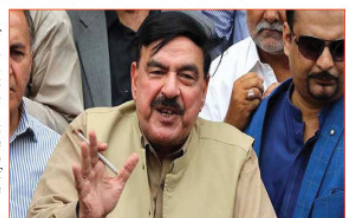
"People will not wait for anyone to take to the street after being fed up with inflation and a lack of relief in the budget," he said.

Speaking to media outside the Adiala Jail, the former federal minister lashed out at the government for not taking care of the poor while preparing the budget.

"This is the fight of the destitute as they are hardly making ends meet under extreme poverty and hunger. This government lacks understanding of the challenges being faced by the people," he said.

Directing his anger towards PM Shehbaz's recent come out of jail anytime soon, saying those expecting the PTI leader's release were mistaken.

In addition, he said, he was acquitted on Tuesday by the Islamabad High



Court (IHC). He claimed that everyone who was jailed after May 9 was asked to give statement of section 164.

Earlier, special Anti-Terrorism Court judge Malik Ijaz Asif conducted the hearing of the May 9 cases.

Sheikh Rashid, Sheikh Rashid Shafiq (Rashid's nephew), Zartaj Gul, and Rashid HaFaez appeared before the ATC. PTI founder Imran Khan's legal team represented the former premier. Attendance of the accused was marked in a makeshift court inside Adiala Jail.—RT/Agency

State Department: US Supports Pakistan's Efforts In Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

WASHINGTON: A State Department spokesperson on Wednesday said the United States supports Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism after the country announced the launching of an anti-militancy campaign — Operation Azm-e-Istehkam.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has assured that the civilian population would not be disturbed and under this initiative, intelligence-based operations would be intensified, instead of launching a new organised armed operation.

State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller, when asked about the new operation and the US reaction to its announcement, said, "We support Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism and ensure the safety and security of its citizens in a manner that promotes the rule of law and protection of human rights."

He, during a press briefing, continued that Washington's partnership with Islamabad on security issues includes its high-level counterterrorism



dialogue, including funding robust counterterrorism capacity-building programmes and supporting a series of US-Pakistan military-to-military engagements.

"Pakistanis people have suffered tremendously from terrorist attacks. No country should have to suffer such acts of terror," he said, adding that the US and Pakistan have a shared interest in combating threats to regional security.

Last week, the government decided to launch the operation amid an increase in terror incidents as "a collective multidimensional operation and national vision of the entire

state system". According to the PM Office (PMO), the new counter-terrorism push was approved with the consensus of all stakeholders including the four provinces as well as Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

However, opposition parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F), Awami National Party (ANP), and others have voiced concerns over the military operation, demanding that parliament must be taken into confidence before taking any such decision.—RT/Agency