

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



Jennifer Lopez to witness 'ugliest' fate after Ben Affleck divorce

Heartland

Pakistani women are very talented: PPP MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah



Money

Zafar Moti is Sad! PSE 100-index down by 70.01 points to close at 80,212.79



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'Babar is a world class player,' says Australia's leading power-hitting coach



Sindh CM Engages World Bank In Bold Keenjhar Lake Expansion Talks

Bilawal Lambasts PML-N Government's Strategy In Budget 2024-25

QUETTA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has once again criticised its key ally in the Centre, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), for what he said not taking his part's input in the preparation of the Budget 2024-25.



The opposition should be engaged in matters related to budget and economy. The government's strategy regarding the budget was very weak," said Bilawal addressing a press conference flanked by Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti at the CM House in Quetta on Friday.

"The overall economic situation in the country has attracted criticism from various quarters," the PPP chief said adding that the allies of the ruling coalition would have been approached, had there been a consultation process in place.

The federal government presented the tax-loaded Rs18 877 trillion budget for fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) two weeks ago, drawing sharp criticism from opposition parties, which termed it "economic terrorism" against the people.

"The PPP sticks to what it says. We are not forcing that all our recommendations should be accepted," Bilawal said adding that the PPP-led government would bring everything to the lower and upper houses of parliament after creating consensus in its 2008-13 stint in power in the Centre.

Military's Bold Response To Azm-e-Istehkam Operation Criticism

RAWALPINDI: The top military brass on Friday denounced the undue criticism against the newly launched anti-terrorism operation, Azm-e-Istehkam (Resolve for Stability), stating that the "vision" was being misrepresented deliberately for "vested interests".



The statement came after the 26th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Muneer in the chair, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

It aimed at harnessing the national counter-terrorism efforts in a synchronised manner to dismantle the nexus of terrorism and illegal spectrum in the country for enduring stability and economic prosperity.

"The military's media wing said the new operation is aimed at harnessing the national counter-terrorism efforts in a synchronised manner to dismantle the nexus of terrorism and illegal spectrum in the country for enduring stability and economic prosperity.

"Forum underscored that onslaught of politically motivated digital terrorism, unleashed by conspirators, duly abetted by their foreign cohorts against state institutions is meant to induce dependency in the nation and sow discord through peddling of blatant lies, fake news and propaganda," the military's media wing said.

It said that the armed forces and the nation are fully aware of all such machinations and stand united and committed to defeating the "notorious designs of the enemies".

Moreover, the military top brass also deliberated upon the regional security situation, especially Afghanistan, and reaffirmed its commitment to regional peace and security.

They expressed solidarity with the people of Kashmir and Palestine and condemned serious human rights violations, war crimes and genocide being perpetrated in Kashmir and Gaza.

have laid their lives for peace and stability in the country. It also renewed the resolve to continue full support of ongoing efforts in uplifting socioeconomic growth and wholeheartedly assisting the government in curbing all illegal activities that hamper investors' confidence, economic stability and growth. Expressing satisfaction with the army's commitment to national security, COAS Gen Muneer stressed upon maintaining high standards of professionalism and operational preparedness.

Imran Affirms PTI's Participation In APC Despite Reservations On Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan said Friday that his party would participate in the all-parties conference (APC) in which the government is expected to take political parties into confidence over Operation Azm-e-Istehkam.



"My party will participate in the all-parties conference and hear what the government has to say," the PTI founder told reporters as he appeared in a case at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail, where he is imprisoned.

In response to the criticism, the PMO had clarified that "no large-scale military operation is being launched" in the country.

The PTI founder, while noting that his party has reservations over the new anti-terrorism action, said it would "only lead to further instability" in the country.

"The recently announced vision for enduring stability named Azm-e-Istehkam is being erroneously misunderstood and compared with earlier launched kinetic operations like Zarb-e-Azab, Rah-e-Najata etc.," read a statement issued by the PMO on June 24.

With terrorism on the rise, the government has launched a reinvigorated and re-emergent national counter-terrorism mission, which would be intelligence-based operations," focused Khan's comments came after media reported that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to organise an APC "to gain political parties' confidence" in newly announced Operation Azm-e-Istehkam.

However, opposition parties including the 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.

Imran Threatens Hunger Strike, Escalating Protest Against Government: Ali Muhammad Khan



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan has said that the PTI founder may go on hunger strike after consulting his colleagues.

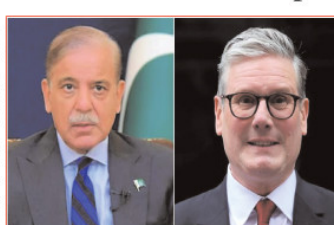
Talking to the media, Ali Muhammad Khan said that the trial of the PTI founder in the Al-Qadri Trust case was held in Adiala Jail.

He said that the founder of PTI had said that if the cruelty against him does not stop, he will observe a hunger strike in the jail.

The PTI founder further said that there will be no compromise on real freedom. He said that PTI founder said that slavery is not allowed in any case. Everyone is free to give his opinion. Talking about news of differences, he said that there is no grouping in the party. "There is only one group, that is the founder PTI group." He said that the PTI founder will decide who may come to the party.

Pakistan Pushes For Enhanced Relations With UK Following Keir Starmer's Election Triumph

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Friday congratulated UK Prime Minister-elect Keir Starmer after his party won a landslide victory in the British general elections, seeking to further boost the ties between the two nations.



Starmer's centre-left Labour won a massive majority in the 650-seat parliament. Rishi Sunak's Conservatives suffered the worst performance in the party's long history as voters punished them for a cost of living crisis, failing public services, and a series of scandals.

I am confident that under his stewardship our relationship will be further strengthened and we can work together for global peace, prosperity and development," he added.

Taking to X, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated his British counterpart, Keir Starmer on the landslide victory of the Labour Party in the general elections.

Change begins now... I say, change begins now... We did it. We said we would end the chaos, and we will, we said we would turn the page, and we have. Today, we start the next chapter, begin the work of change, the mission of national renewal and start to rebuild our country."

"Looking forward to working closely with the new UK government, under Sir Starmer's wise and able leadership, to further strengthen and broaden the Pakistan-U.K. partnership," he added.

The election victory represents an incredible turnaround for Starmer and Labour, which critics and supporters said was facing an existential crisis just three years ago when it appeared to have lost its way after its 2019 drubbing.—RT/Agency

Dar Extends Congratulations To Starmer On Labour Party's Triumph In UK Elections

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar has congratulated Keir Starmer, the leader of the UK's Labour Party, on the party's historic victory in the parliamentary election.



In a statement posted on his X timeline, Dar extended "heartfelt felicitations" to Starmer, expressing confidence that the "deep-rooted and broad-based ties" between Pakistan and the UK, founded on shared history and people-to-people contacts, will be further strengthened under Starmer's leadership. DPM Dar expressed optimism that the two countries will work together to promote global peace, prosperity and development.

in the 650-member House of Commons, with forecasts indicating they will win 410 seats. The Conservatives are expected to hold 144 seats, while the centrist Lib Dems are anticipated to claim 58 seats. Sunak, the outgoing Conservative Prime Minister, has gracefully acknowledged the electorate's verdict, conceding defeat to Starmer's Labour Party. This paves the way for a smooth transition of power, with Starmer set to assume the role of prime minister within 24 hours.

ATC Withdraws Arrest Warrants Against KP CM Gandapur Amid Controversy



ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in the federal capital withdrew arrest warrants of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur issued in the case pertaining to violent protests and violation of Section 144.

Electricity Tariff Hiked By Rs3.33 Per Unit, Sending Shockwaves Through Consumers

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Neptra) on Friday notified an additional fuel cost adjustment (FCA) of Rs3.33 per unit for electricity consumed in May, media reported.



According to an order issued by the regulator, Neptra "reviewed and assessed a National Average Uniform increase of Rs3.3287/kWh in the applicable tariff for XWDIS-COs on account of variations in the fuel charges for the month of May 2024."

The "adjustment of Rs3.3287/kWh shall be applicable to all consumer categories except electric vehicle charging stations (EVCs) and lifeline consumers. The said adjustment shall be shown separately in the consumers' bills based on units billed in May 2024, and it will reflect in the billing month of July 2024. Neptra's notification stated.

The "negative adjustment shall be applicable to all the consumer categories except lifeline consumers, domestic consumers consuming up to 300 units, EV Charging Stations and Agriculture Consumers of K-Electric." It added that negative monthly FCA is also applicable to the domestic consumers having Time of Use (TOU) meters irrespective of their consumption level.

"The adjustment shall be shown separately in the consumers' bills on the basis of units billed to the consumers in the month of April 2024," it concluded. A day earlier, the federal cabinet has approved an increase of Rs5.72 per unit in the basic electricity tariff through circulation. NEPRA made this decision for the fiscal year 2024-2025, with the implementation set to begin on July 1, 2024. The average basic electricity tariff was approved to be raised from Rs 29.78 to Rs 35.50 per unit.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of Human Rights Youth Organization are holding a protest demonstration at the Hyderabad Press Club against prolonged electricity load shedding and over billing of electricity bills.-RT

SACM Dr. Lal Chand Ukrani calls on MPA Adi Faryal Talpur

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Dr. Lal Chand Ukrani, President of the Pakistan People's Party Minority Wing Sindh, recently convened a significant meeting with Adi Faryal Talpur, Central President of the PPP Ladies Wing. The discussion focused extensively on issues concerning the minority community across the province.

During the cordial meeting, Dr. Lal Chand Ukrani conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to Adi Faryal Talpur for entrusting him with the role of Special Assistant to the Chief Minister. As a gesture of gratitude, he presented her with a bouquet, symbolizing camaraderie and mutual respect.

Reflecting on the PPP's legacy, Dr. Lal Chand Ukrani underscored the party's un-



paralleled commitment to providing robust representation to minorities throughout Pakistan's history. "Only the Pakistan People's Party has consistently championed the rights of minorities and women," he remarked proudly.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, reaffirming the party's dedication to fostering inclusivity and advocating for the rights and welfare of marginalized communities under the dynamic leadership of Adi Faryal Talpur and the PPP.

LUMHS VC Dr Ikramuddin inaugurates digital examination center



By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: A state-of-the-art computerized examination center sponsored by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Ikramuddin Ujjan at Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences Jamshoro.

While addressing at the inaugural session, Vice Chancellor expressed, the establishment of this state-of-the-art computerized examination center represents a significant advancement in our commitment to providing high-quality, efficient and secure examination services for undergraduates as well as for post-graduates. This Examination Center will help to address the escalating requirement for technologically advanced and streamlined examination procedures, this initia-

metric verification, CCTV surveillance, and secure login protocols to maintain the integrity of the examination process. Prof. Ikramuddin Ujjan informed that on-site technical support and administrative staff will be available to assist candidates with any issues that may arise during the examination process. The computerized system will significantly reduce the time required for exam administration and result processing, enabling quicker turnaround times for candidates and institutions.

Automated systems minimize the risk of human error in marking and result compilation, ensuring fair and accurate assessment outcomes. By reducing the reliance on paper-based examinations, the center supports sustainable practices, contributing to environmental conservation efforts.

Khairpur Disaster Cell volunteer electrocuted



By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The Khairpur community mourns the untimely demise of Muhammad Ali Lashari, a dedicated volunteer of the Khairpur Disaster Cell (KDC), who tragically lost his life due to an electric shock. Muhammad Ali, a young resident of the Bhurgari neighborhood, met with the fatal accident while performing his duties.

The news of his passing has deeply saddened residents from all walks of life, prompting a large gathering for his funeral prayers. With tears and heavy hearts, thousands bid farewell to Muhammad Ali as he was laid to rest amidst an outpouring of grief and solidarity.

Condolences continue to pour in for Muhammad Ali's family, who reside in the Bhurgari neighborhood, reflecting the community's profound loss and solidarity during this difficult time.

Khairpur woman stripped naked by her in-laws demands justice



By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: In a distressing press conference held at the residence of social activist Shahnaz Shaikh, a woman named Saima Shaikh from Mir Ali Bazaar, Khairpur, has spoken out against the harrowing abuse she endured at the hands of her in-laws. Accompanied by her brother, Saima detailed her ordeal on Friday.

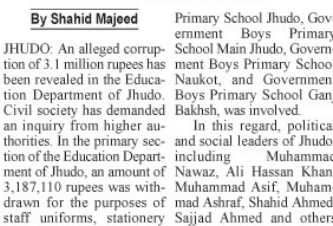
Saima recounted that she was married to Aslam Shaikh, also known as Nadeem Shaikh, a resident of Hyderabad, in 2017. Unbeknownst to her at the time, Aslam was already married. The situation escalated when Saima discovered her husband was attempting to issue B forms for her children in the name of another woman.

Her resistance to this deceit led to severe repercussions. According to Saima, she was stripped and locked in a bathroom for four days without clothes by her husband and brother-in-law, Ghulam Rasool Shaikh. During this period, she was subjected to torture.

Desperate for help, Saima managed to contact a local trader, Tufail Shaikh, who, along with the police and social activist Shahnaz Shaikh, arrived at the residence and facilitated her release.

Saima is now demanding justice for the abuse she suffered, calling for legal action against her husband and brother-in-law. Her plea has highlighted the urgent need for protection and justice for victims of domestic violence in the region.

Education Dept accused of misappropriating Rs 3.1 million of contingency funds in Jhudo



By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: An alleged corruption of 3.1 million rupees has been revealed in the Education Department of Jhudo. Civil society has demanded an inquiry from higher authorities. In the primary section of the Education Department of Jhudo, an amount of 3,187,110 rupees was withdrawn for the purposes of staff uniforms, stationery purchases, furniture repairs, and other purposes under the contingency of four schools. This money was neither spent on the schools nor did the school administration have any information regarding this.

The contingency of the four schools in Jhudo, which includes Government Girls Primary School Jhudo, Government Boys Primary School Main Jhudo, Government Boys Primary School Naukot, and Government Boys Primary School Ganj Bakhs, was involved.

In this regard, political and social leaders of Jhudo, including Muhammad Nawaz, Ali Hassan Khan, Muhammad Asif, Muhammad Ashraf, Shahid Ahmed, Sajjad Ahmed and others have demanded from the Provincial Education Minister, Education Secretary, and other higher officials to conduct a transparent inquiry into the embezzlement of funds allocated for the improvement of schools and education, and to take strict action against the officers involved in the corruption.

NOTICE

This is to inform though this notice that the former Assistant Director (Additional charge of Deputy Director) Master Plan Amir Khan Pathan was suspended for violating code of conduct and irregularities under office order No DD/A&F/ESS/SD/A48/2024 on 30.5.2024 and the enquiry has been initiated against him. All the officers, builders and developers are informed that concerned man should not be consulted for any matter and he will be responsible of his own deed.

From Secretary Selwan Development Authority, Jamshoro



HYDERABAD: Resident of Hali road, Nauman Khan is addressing a press conference, at the Hyderabad press club for the provision of justice.-RT

Pakistani women are very talented: PPP MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah



By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Under the auspices of the social organization Goth Seenghar Foundation, World Small Business Day was celebrated. A ceremony was held in the lecture hall of Khairpur Medical College, with MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah as the chief guest. The event saw significant participation from officials of various institutions, bank representatives, doctors, political and social figures, and businesswomen. On this occasion, the head of the organization, Nazir Ujjan, expressed gratitude to all the guests and presented a sou-

venir and shield to Dr. Nafisa Shah on behalf of the organization. Dr. Nafisa Shah distributed cheques and shields to businesswomen. Representatives of various banks and GSF Chairman Wali Muhammad Bozdar also received shields. The event was attended by Coordinator Zulfiqar Phulpoto, Project Incharge Muhammad Yaseen Tumo, Javed, Shehr Bano, Noor Bano, and others. During her speech, Dr. Nafisa Shah emphasized that providing financial support to hardworking women for small businesses is a precursor to a true welfare revolution in the country. She high-

lighted that Pakistani women are diligent and skilled, capable of running successful businesses. Dr. Shah suggested initiating an annual festival in Khairpur in collaboration with business institutions and bank representatives, which would facilitate businesswomen in networking and obtaining financial aid and advice. She urged the organization to continue encouraging and guiding women and to maintain complete records of women and businesses associated with these efforts. Dr. Nafisa Shah assured her full support in all endeavors.

SSP Sujawal Dr. Abdul Khaliq Pirzado convenes a special meeting to review measures for Muharram



By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: As the sacred month of Muharram-ul-Haram 1446 AH approaches, SSP Sujawal, Dr. Abdul Khaliq Pirzado, orchestrated a pivotal gathering at the district office. Representatives from diverse religious communities convened under the SSP's leadership to strategize and ensure peace and security during this solemn period.

The meeting focused on meticulous security arrangements for majalis (religious gatherings) and processions, pivotal to the observance of Muharram-ul-Haram. Discussions centered on devising foolproof security plans to safeguard participants and uphold order during mourning processions. SSP Sujawal underscored the imperative of maintaining tranquility

throughout the holy month, emphasizing community cooperation and law enforcement vigilance. A comprehensive security blueprint was meticulously crafted, outlining measures to secure procession routes. Special directives were issued for female police officers to oversee gatherings of women, ensuring their safety and comfort. The implementation of the National Action Plan was rigorously rein-

forced to deter troublemakers and preempt any disruptions, exemplifying proactive law enforcement measures. The collaborative efforts of religious leaders and law enforcement authorities culminated in a unified commitment to uphold peace and security during Muharram-ul-Haram, underscoring the community's resolve to observe the month with reverence and solidarity.

Manchar Rehabilitation Movement demands historic lake's restoration



By Qaimudin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: The Manchar Rehabilitation Movement has staged a protest outside the Sehwan Press Club, demanding the restoration of Manchar Lake to protect the residents of Taluka Sehwan from potential floods. Leaders Imam Ali Detho, Manzoor Ahmed Jamali and Kamaluddin Khakheli held a press conference, stating that due to the Sindh Government's negligence, the condition of Manchar Lake is worsening. They highlighted that since the great flood of 1942, there have been seven significant floods in the area, occurring roughly every 12 years. Currently, the area between Sehwan and Bhan Syedabad has become

"Manchar's Kacho," a 182-square-kilometer stretch that experiences recurring floods. The devastating floods of 2022 caused extensive damage, displacing homes, destroying millions of acres of crops and resulting in significant property losses. The government's assistance has been minimal, providing only Rs 300,000 to build a single room for the affected families, a scheme that is now in its third year. The leaders expressed their disappointment over the lack of comprehensive government support. After the last flood, the Manchar Rehabilitation Movement organized a high-level conference in Sehwan, involving water experts, relevant government officials, civil society members and World Bank representatives. The conference aimed to provide useful recommendations for aiding flood victims and restoring Manchar Lake. The leaders urged the Sindh Government to strengthen



NAUNDERO: Activists and leaders of the PPP Peoples Party are holding a protest rally to mark 5th July, 1977 as a Black Day, in Naundero.-RT

EDITORIAL



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

Saturday, July 06, 2024

Enough Is Enough!

The recent suspension of the no-objection certificate (NOC) for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s public gathering in Islamabad raises serious concerns about the state of democratic freedoms in our country. Such actions, reminiscent of repressive measures from our colonial past, only serve to fuel public discontent and bolster support for the PTI. History has repeatedly shown that attempts to stifle political dissent through administrative hurdles often backfire, leading to increased popular sympathy and mobilization.

The decision to suspend the NOC, purportedly due to security concerns, underscores a worrying trend where legitimate political activities are curtailed under the guise of maintaining law and order. While ensuring public safety is crucial, it should not come at the expense of fundamental

democratic rights, including the right to peaceful assembly and expression.

The PTI's determination to proceed with the public gathering despite the suspension demon-



strates a commitment to democratic principles and the rule of law. By standing firm against government attempts to suppress their activities, the PTI reaffirms its role as a major political entity entitled to equal treatment under the law.

It is imperative that the judiciary, as the guardian of constitutional rights, intervenes to rectify this unjustifiable infringement on democratic norms. The Islamabad High Court's earlier involvement in granting permission for the PTI's

gathering is a step in the right direction, but ongoing vigilance is necessary to ensure that such incidents do not become precedents for future encroachments on political freedoms.

In today's era, where transparency and accountability are paramount, the government must uphold the principles of democracy by allowing every political party, including the PTI, to conduct their activities freely and without undue interference. The public's faith in democratic institutions hinges on their ability to protect and promote these freedoms consistently. Citizens committed to democratic ideals, we must demand fairness and equity in the treatment of all political entities. Let us hope that the courts swiftly address this injustice, ensuring that such incidents do not tarnish our nation's commitment to democracy and pluralism.

THE HEARTLAND



MS Dr. Shehla Gul Shah holds an awards ceremony at DHQ Hospital TMK

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: At the District Headquarters Hospital in Tando Muhammad Khan, Medical Superintendent Dr. Shehla Gul Shah awarded doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and workers for their exceptional performance throughout the year. This recognition, including awards, shields and certificates, boosted their morale and spread joy among the staff. During the award ceremony, District Health Officer Dr. Sadiq Khawaja, Assistant Commissioner Naem Ahmed Soomro, Indus Hospital Vice Chancellor Dr. Iqbal Memon, and other speakers praised Dr. Shehla Gul Shah for her courageous leadership in re-



claiming hospital quarters and land from illegal encroachment, enforcing legal notices to end the illegal occupation. Additionally, Dr. Shah took significant steps to combat electricity theft, removing illegal connections and taking action against the thieves, setting a precedent for others. The speakers expressed confidence that with Dr. Shehla Gul Shah's leadership for another two to three years, the district hospital would continue to improve. The event was well-attended by Dr. Muhammad Ali Memon, Dr. Ambreen, Umar Memon, members of civil society, journalists, and local citizens.

MNA Khalid Ahmed Lund and his sons get bail in journalist Nasrullah Gadani's murder case

By Shad Mahar



GHOTKI: MNA Mir Khalid Ahmed Lund, accused in the murder case of journalist Nasrullah Gadani, appeared in the Ghotki court accompanied by his sons. The court granted them interim bail until July 11 amidst charges related to terrorism in Ghotki. Alongside Khalid Ahmed Lund, Shahbaz Lund and Noor Muhammad Lund also received approval for bail from the district court. During the proceedings, Lund expressed optimism

about receiving justice, maintaining his innocence regarding the allegations surrounding Nasrullah Gadani's murder. He affirmed his dedication to political service and expressed confidence in the ongoing police investigation to uncover the truth behind the journalist's tragic death. The court session underscored the gravity of the charges against the Lunds, highlighting the legal complexities and the pursuit of justice in a case that has garnered significant public attention.

CSSP holds a seminar on environmental challenges in MPK

By MY Chandio



MIRPURKHAS: The Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) convened a significant seminar at Sindh Banquet Mirpurkhas, focusing on the escalating environmental and climate challenges facing the region. The event drew together a diverse group of participants, including experts on climate change, local officials, and concerned citizens, to discuss pressing issues and potential solutions. Speakers at the seminar underscored the urgent need for proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and governmental support. Discussions highlighted the vulnerabilities of Mirpurkhas to environmental degradation, citing examples of water scarcity, pollution, and deforestation.

Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghori, civil society leaders Mohamud Bakhsh Kapri and Gohram Baloch, and advocate Nusrat Miyano were among the prominent figures who addressed the audience, stressing collective responsibility in addressing environmental concerns. Their insights and recommendations resonated with attendees, which included doctors, women activists, and representatives from various sectors. The seminar concluded with a call to action, urging stakeholders to collaborate on sustainable initiatives and advocate for policies that promote environmental stewardship. CSSP reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating dialogue and fostering practical solutions to safeguard Mirpurkhas's natural resources for future generations.

All Pakistan Hydroelectric Workers Union rallies in Tando Allahyar

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, a protest rally was organized by the All Pakistan Hydroelectric Workers Union to commemorate Martyrs' Day. The rally, led by Khalid Qaimkhani, proceeded through various streets of the city and reached the Tando Allahyar Press Club. Participants held placards and banners, speaking to the media. Khalid Mehmod Qaimkhani, Amir Soomro, Ali Qaimkhani, Khalid Sehto and others de-

mandated that the children of martyrs be given permanent employment by various distribution companies. They called for the regularization of contract and daily wage workers and the provision of contracts to part-time employees. They stressed that the stepmotherly treatment of the families of employees who die in accidents should cease, and urgent measures should be taken to prevent such accidents. They also called for performance allowances to be given to HESCO employees and officers, addressing the severe

shortage of staff in HESCO. Currently, one person is doing the work of five employees, and new recruitments are necessary to fill this gap. Additionally, they demanded timely payment of TA bills, overtime, medical, and marriage grants, along with other facilities. Given the current economic challenges, they emphasized that everyone is already struggling, and the high electricity bills are adding to their woes. Therefore, they urged for the reduction of electricity rates to provide relief to the public.

Sanghar journalist Imam Bakhsh Mangrio appeals for help in land dispute



By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: Near Sanghar in the village of Bashirabad, members of the Khari community have surrounded the house of senior journalist Imam Bakhsh Mangrio and blocked the path to his home, effectively trapping him and his children inside. Despite repeatedly informing the Sanghar Police, they have not arrived on the scene, raising fears for their safety. In a video statement sent from his besieged home, Imam Bakhsh Mangrio explained that he had legally purchased the land from Maqsood Khari and had been living there with his family. However, a faction of the Khari community now wants to forcibly evict him. When he refused to vacate, they appealed to the leader of their community, Khalifo Waryam Faqir, who then ordered

Mangrio to leave. Upon his refusal, he was threatened and his access to the village shrine was restricted. Mangrio shared his ordeal on social media, and in retaliation, the Khari community blocked the entrance to his home to pressure him into leaving. He named Khalifo Waryam Faqir Khaskheli, Albelo Mangrio and Rafiq Khari as responsible if any harm comes to him or his family. He condemned this act as outright thuggery and highlighted the Sanghar police's incompetence and corruption, accusing them of ignoring the situation in exchange for bribes. The journalist community has called on the SSP of Sanghar to take action against the Khari community members challenging the rule of law and to hold the SHO of Sanghar accountable for his failure to address the situation.

MPK residents protest for repair of faulty transformer

By MY Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Residents of Model Town have intensified their protest near the Khipro Bus Stand on Sindh Road for the third consecutive day, demanding immediate action from WAPDA to repair a faulty transformer that has left their area without electricity for the past two weeks. Despite paying 80% of their utility bills, the community contends that their grievances have gone unanswered.

Voicing frustration, protesters called upon higher authorities to prioritize the repair of their transformer and restore regular electricity supply without further delay. The ongoing outage has severely impacted daily life and essential services in Model Town, prompting residents to take to the streets in a bid to expedite resolution. Prominent among the demonstrators are local leaders and concerned citizens who have pledged to continue their protest until their demands are met. They emphasized the critical need for reliable electricity to support livelihoods and ensure community well-being. The protest underscores mounting public dissatisfaction with utility services and highlights the urgency for infrastructure maintenance to mitigate disruptions in Model Town and similar neighborhoods. As tensions persist, residents remain steadfast in their resolve to seek accountability and prompt action from WAPDA authorities.

AC Pithoro reviews arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram

By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: Assistant Commissioner Sanjay Kumar led a comprehensive meeting at his office to assess preparations for the upcoming observance of Muharram-ul-Haram. The session primarily focused on enhancing security measures, ensuring cleanliness, and efficient management throughout the sacred period. Emphasizing seamless coordination among all departments, Assistant Commissioner Sanjay Kumar directed concerted efforts to streamline arrangements, aiming to mitigate any potential challenges that mourners may encounter during Muharram. Representatives from various sectors, includ-



ing caretakers of Imambarahs and leaders of the Shia community, participated actively in the discussion. The meeting underscored the importance of collaborative action to uphold peace, facilitate smooth procession routes, and maintain sanitary conditions during the solemn commemoration. Assistant Commissioner Sanjay Kumar expressed confidence in the collective commitment of all stakeholders to ensure a safe, respectful and orderly observance of Muharram-ul-Haram in Pithoro.

1 criminal killed, 1 injured in Tando Adam shootout

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: A police encounter in the jurisdiction of City Police Station led to the death of one criminal, identified as Junaid Mastoi, while another, Aijaz Khoso, sustained severe injuries. The incident occurred during a routine patrol at the bypass, where law enforcement officials confronted a group of robbers. During the exchange of fire, two criminals

were struck. Unfortunately, Junaid Mastoi succumbed to his injuries on the spot, while Aijaz Khoso, critically wounded, was rushed to Taluka Hospital. Due to the severity of his condition, Aijaz Khoso was subsequently transferred to a hospital in Hyderabad for further treatment. Police recovered two TT pistols and ammunition from the scene of the shootout, underscoring the intensity of the confrontation. Three

other criminals managed to evade capture and fled the scene. Authorities have launched an extensive manhunt to apprehend the absconding suspects. The encounter highlights the ongoing efforts of law enforcement agencies in Tando Adam to combat criminal activities and maintain public safety. The investigation into the incident remains active as authorities continue their pursuit of the escaped criminals.

SPORTS



'Babar is a world class player,' says Australia's leading power-hitting coach



LAHORE: Australia's leading power-hitting coach Shannon Young declared Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, who has been under fire for the team's performance in the recently-concluded T20 World Cup, as a "world class player".

"He is well, he is a world class player," said Young while speaking about Babar's strike rate amid the ongoing criticism which the young skipper is facing.

The coach said that Australians are very rarely critical of their world class players.

"We back them in and we say they've been world class players, they're gonna be world class players again. I think sometimes the passion tips over that these guys carry so much expectation

Border-Gavaskar Trophy sees six times surge in ticket sales from India

Basking in the victory of T20 World Cup 2024, the Indian nation seems to be eager to watch more of their team playing electrifying international clashes as ticket sales from India for the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy series increased by record six times.

Cricket Australia, in a press release, confirmed record-breaking surge in the ticket sales.



"The excitement surrounding the fierce rivalry between India and Australia has led to a record-breaking six times increase in the number of tickets bought by fans in India compared to last season," the Australian cricket said.

The Boxing Day Test has seen a tenfold increase in ticket sales to Indian purchasers compared to 2018/19 at the same time, it said.

General Manager of Events & Operations at Cricket Australia Joel Morrison expressed his delight, stating: "We are thrilled to see so many Indian fans planning to travel to Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series. They can expect a very warm welcome here."

Additionally, there has been a strong demand from corporate groups travelling from India, particularly for Hospitality and Premium Ex-

perience packages for the Boxing Day Test," it maintained.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy will commence with the first Test from November 22 to 26 at Perth Stadium in Perth, Australia.

The second Test will kick off from December 6 to 10 at Adelaide Oval, featuring a thrilling day-night format under the stadium's lights. Then the third test will take place in The Gabba, Brisbane, from December 14 to 18 during the day. The series reaches a crescendo with the traditional Boxing Day Test, scheduled for December 26 to 30 at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne, the CA stated. The series will culminate with the fifth Test from January 3 to 7 at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney, promising an intense finish to what is expected to be a gripping contest.—Agency

Pakistan suffer defeat in Asian Team Snooker Championship final



KARACHI: Pakistan lost to Thailand in the final of the ACBS Asian 15 Red Men's Team Snooker Championship 2024 in Riyadh on Friday.

Thailand won the final 3-0 with scores of 61-4, 75-53 and 90-26 as they overpowered their opponents throughout the game.

In the first single match, Pakistan's Asjad Iqbal lost without giving a proper fight. However, in the second single encounter, Awas Munir showed resilience but ended up making a foul during colour potting after which the Thai opponent cleared the frame and won the match.

The situation remained the same in the doubles frame and Pakistan managed to secure a silver medal after a defeat in the final.

Earlier in the semi-final against Hong Kong, Pakistan's team comprising Iqbal and Munir, came from behind in the semi-final after Brian Lara captained the side against Inzamam-ul-Haq's men. Pakistan lost the West Indies for a Test series in October 2016 in the United Arab Emirates.

Apart from the home international fixtures, the men's team will tour Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa from November 4 to January 7, playing two Tests, nine ODIs and nine T20Is.—Agency

Top teams set to tour Pakistan as PCB announces bumper schedule for 2024-25 season

LAHORE: Pakistan cricket fans will find enough cricket this year at home ground to quench their thirst as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Friday announced details of men's 2024-25 home international cricket season.

The cricket board said the national team will complete in three Test series on home soil and participate in the first ODI tri-series in 21 years in the lead up to the eight-team ICC Champions Trophy 2025 on the home turf.

In the curtain-raiser series of the 2024-25 home international season, Bangladesh will play two Tests, one in Rawalpindi (August 21-25) and other in Karachi (August



30-September 3). The international season will culminate with the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 final, proposed for March 9.

Meanwhile, Pakistan will host England for three Tests - in Multan (October 7-11), Karachi (October 15-19) and Rawalpindi (October 24-28). Whereas, the West Indies will visit here for two Tests - in Karachi (January 16-20) and Multan (January 24-28). Additionally, New Zealand and South Africa will participate in an ODI tri-series in Multan from February 8 to 14.

Bangladesh last played a Test in Pakistan in February 2020, while England swept the three-Test series in December 2022. The 2025 series will also mark the West Indies' first Test tour to Pakistan since November 2006 when Brian Lara captained the side against Inzamam-ul-Haq's men. Pakistan last hosted the West Indies for a Test series in October 2016 in the United Arab Emirates.

Apart from the home international fixtures, the men's team will tour Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa from November 4 to January 7, playing two Tests, nine ODIs and nine T20Is.—Agency

Pakistan to host England for Test series in October



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board today announced the full match schedule for the Pakistan Men's Test Series against England in October 2024.

The tour begins with the First Test in Multan from October 7-11, before moving to Karachi for the Second Test from October 15-19. The Third Test will be in Rawalpindi from October 24-28.

The three-match series forms part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25. It will be the second time England Men have played Test series in Pakistan in under two years, with England having won the last series 3-0 in December 2022.

Richard Gould, ECB Chief Executive Officer, said: "We're really excited to be returning to Pakistan for this three-match Men's Test tour in October.

Euro 2024: Spain's Pedri accuses Germany star of 'disrespect' ahead of quarter-final

SPAIN: Spanish midfielder Pedri accused Germany's star, Antonio Rudiger, of disrespecting opponents ahead of the high-voltage Euro 2024 clash between the two sides which is set to be played at the Stuttgart Arena on Friday.

Rudiger, who plays for Real Madrid, often uses distractions during matches as he has been often seen pinching his opponents' nipples and while Pedri lauded the German defender, he also stated that such actions show a "lack of respect".

"He is a powerful and very good central defender. The pinching thing seemed like a lack of respect to me because it hurts and it's annoying," Pedri told Marca.

Pedri also talked about his



Barcelona teammate Ilkay Gundogan saying that he is one of the best midfielders in the world. The German midfielder made some comments last season when the Catalans had lost matches which wasn't appreciated by fans and some teammates.

However, Pedri believed that it is important to talk about issues rather than staying silent.

ger also emphasised the importance of the clash between Germany and Spain saying that it will be between the two best teams in the tournament.

"It's a big and important game, a classic, I'm just looking forward to it," Rudiger told Kicker. "For me, the two best teams in the tournament so far will face each other. I see a game on an equal footing. We have to be ready for the fight."

"We have to have the courage to go forward, because they are also vulnerable. They press high, you can get past that. But in order to do that, we have to have good possession of the ball and be calm in pressure situations. And we can't make any mistakes."—Agency

World Championship of Legends: Australia record one-sided win against South Africa



BIRMINGHAM: Australia bowlers were at the top. Xavier Doherty and Nathan Coulter-Nile bagged three each, Brett Lee picked two while Daniel Christian got one wicket.

Earlier in the first innings, an all-round batting display by Australian batters helped them put 230 in 20 overs.

Australia started with a blast as they scored 85 in the first seven overs before losing Aaron Finch for 49 runs. Shaun Marsh too missed his half-century by just one run as he lost his wicket to JP Duminy.

Ben Dunk continued the charge as he scored a 21-Kallis (6), Richard Levi (0), all five fours and three sixes—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Ali Raza
Location: Karachi
About me: I love taking selfies!

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Lopez to witness 'ugliest' fate after Ben Affleck divorce



Jennifer Lopez has seemingly fallen victim to bad luck in marriages.

For those unversed, the 54-year-old has been divorced for three times and reportedly she is headed towards her fourth one as Ben Affleck marriage is strained.

But heartbroken will not be the only loss that she goes through if her long-time love Ben Affleck decides to step back from his marital vows.

As per the latest findings of Closer Magazine, an insider spilled the beans, "Aside from the heartache and emotional ups and downs of their current situation, the fact that there is

Kourtney Kardashian discloses her favorite postpartum snack



Kourtney Kardashian Barker revealed her favourite postpartum snack.

In a recent episode of The Kardashians, the 45 year old Lemme co-founder, shared that she was constantly craving Ritz Bits.

Kourtney was shooting a promotional video for her gummy vitamin Lemme in the episode, when her long-time friend and PR guru Simon Huck asked about her post-pregnancy craving.

She replied, "Like a naughty thing I was craving was Ritz Bits. I had to eat like a pack of them a day."

For those unversed, Kourtney welcomed her fourth child, a son named Rocky Thirteen in November 2023 with her husband Travis Barker.

Moreover, in a previous episode of the reality TV show, the mother of four revealed that she stayed home straight 40 days after Rocky's birth.

The reality star went on to say, "I'm really into attachment parenting. I really don't separate from him. I love being at home right now, like my time is dedicated to taking care of my baby and bonding with him."

THE HEARTLAND



Tajpur man shot dead in Machhi community land dispute

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: Near Tando Jam, in Union Council Tajpur, three murders have occurred within forty-five days, causing fear in the area. In the village of Dhani Bux Machhi, Khan Machhi shot and killed Ayaz alias Kaz Machhi and fled. The family mourned over the body, and the police arrived at the scene, took the body into custody, and transferred it to Matiari Hospital for postmortem. The family protested on Matiari Highway. Speaking to the media, the father of the deceased Ayaz Machhi said that the notable of our village had made several unsuccessful attempts to force us to leave the village. We had complained to the local



elders about this, but no action was taken, and instead, Khan Machhi became our enemy. Last night Khan Machhi fired at our homes. In the morning, when our boys were going to work, Khan Machhi and his brothers Abdul Razaq alias Goro and Abdul Shakoor alias Goro, stopped our boys by force, and directly fired at Ayaz, killing him on the spot. We want justice for the innocent murder of our young man and demand that the killers be hanged. As of the last update, one of Ayaz Machhi's killers, Abdul Khan Machhi, has been arrested by the police. The police have also conducted raids in various villages to catch the other criminals.

CIA Police in Umerkot arrest a gutka supplier



By Muhammad Bahal

UMERKOT: In a decisive move against illegal substance trafficking, CIA Police Umerkot, under the leadership of CIA Incharge Khalil Kumbhar, conducted a coordinated operation near Bachaband Stop, Pithoro. The operation culminated in the interception of a Corolla car carrying a substantial quantity of gutka, resulting in the arrest of two suspects, Jalal Samejo and Manzoor Samejo. During the operation, law enforcement authorities seized five packets of Safina gutka, totaling 27,500 units, from the vehicle. A case has been registered against the apprehended individuals, marking a significant step in the ongoing efforts to combat drug-related activities in Umerkot district. CIA Incharge Khalil Kumbhar reiterated the agency's unwavering commitment to curbing the menace of drug trafficking, emphasizing that perpetrators who endanger the younger generation through such illicit activities will face stringent legal repercussions. The operation underscores the proactive stance of Umerkot's law enforcement in safeguarding public health and ensuring community safety.

JSQM along with Thul's civil society protests for abducted Behram Khoso's recovery

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A fervent protest erupted today led by civil society members and JSQM leaders including Mamu Shumro, Waseem Qureshi, Liaquat Sarki, Sarwan Sindh, Gul Muneer Khoso, Sattar Memon, Akhtar Jafari, Basit Sarki, Waheed Sindh, Manzoor Bhatti, Saraj Sarki, and others. The demonstrators took to the streets, brandishing banners and placards across various city markets to decry the sluggish police response in retrieving the abducted teacher, Behram Khan Khoso. Traffic disruptions ensued as the protest intensified, drawing attention to the alleged inadequacies in the police efforts. The protest's focal point was the immediate recovery of Behram Khan Khoso, whose plight gained attention after a distressing video circulated purportedly showing his mistreatment by kidnappers. Despite police assurances, attempts to locate him have so far proven futile. The demonstrators warned that if any harm befalls Khoso due to delayed action, the responsibility would squarely rest on SSP Jacobabad, echoing threats made by the kidnappers.

The protest concluded with a unified demand from authorities for swift action to ensure the safe return of Behram Khan Khoso, emphasizing the community's resolve against impunity and in favor of justice.

MS CMC Hospital Dr. Niaz Dahar orders to facilitate patients

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Dr. Niaz Dahar, the newly appointed Medical Superintendent (MS) of Chandka Medical Hospital (CMC) in Larkana, undertook a comprehensive inspection of various hospital departments to assess patient care and facilities. During his visit, Dr. Dahar engaged closely with doctors, hospital staff, patients, and their attendants, emphasizing the importance of delivering optimal medical services. Dr. Dahar issued clear directives to hospital personnel, instructing them to ensure that all patients receive prompt and adequate medical attention. He stressed the implementation of stringent measures against any lapses in patient care, underscoring his commitment to upholding high standards of healthcare provision at CMC Hospital. Accompanying Dr. Dahar during his rounds were esteemed colleagues including former MS Dr. Gulzar Tundo, Dr. Amjad Bijarani, Dr.

Rabel Noonari, Dr. Mukhtiar Dhanra, Dr. Naseer, Ismail Khoso, and other key personnel. Their collective efforts underscored a unified approach towards enhancing patient welfare and operational efficiency within the hospital. Dr. Dahar's proactive leadership and focused directives aim to instill confidence among patients and their families while ensuring that CMC Hospital remains at the forefront of healthcare delivery in Larkana.

Woman faints at BISP Centre in Kunri

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: Tensions flared at the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Center in Kunri as deserving women staged a sit-in protest, disrupting the distribution of stipends. The protest escalated into chaos, leading to road blockages and a woman fainting due to the stressful conditions. Deserving women, anxiously awaiting their stipends for three days, expressed frustration at the BISP Center, which has become a focal point of distress. The situation deteriorated as protesters blocked the main road to Mirpurkhas, demanding immediate resolution to their plight. Police intervention added to the tension, exacerbating the already fraught atmosphere.



who had traveled long distances. Amidst these challenges, one woman collapsed due to the overwhelming conditions. In response to the tumultuous scene, authorities cited technical difficulties with location identification, delaying stipend disbursement. The administration assured that once these issues are resolved, stipends will promptly resume. Consequently, the New Mirch Mandi Center has been relocated to Qazi Sultan School to manage the chaotic situation effectively.

MNA Khalid Ahmed Lund's associates accused of kidnapping Rahu community woman

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Political and social organizations, including STP, SUP, and JSQM, joined by family members of abducted woman Sana Rahu, staged a vehement protest demanding her immediate recovery. Sana Rahu, a resident of village Hashim Rahu, allegedly went missing nine months ago, prompting widespread concern and agitation. Leaders such as Amjad Rahu, Dado Mahar, MB Dahri, Qurban Mahar, Fida Hussain Kori, Irfan Rahu, and Ghulam Shabbir Sangrahal led a rally from National Highway to the press club, decrying the perceived inaction of Qazi Ahmed police in securing Sana Rahu's release. They



accused Nasir Ali Lund and Zamir Hussain, associates of Sardar Mir Khalid Lund of Ghotki, of imprisoning her, alleging police reluctance to act due to political influence. The family's anguish was palpable as they demanded Sana Rahu's appearance in court, fearing for her safety amid suspicions she may have been harmed. Threatening further action, they declared plans to block National Highway in Qazi Ahmed on July 25th if Sana Rahu is not swiftly returned. The protest underscored escalating tensions and frustrations over perceived law enforcement lapses and the urgency of resolving Sana Rahu's abduction case.

Tando Jam Police arrest a drug dealer



By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: In a proactive operation following a confidential tip-off, Tando Jam Police apprehended drug dealer Sikandar, also known as Sukho Magdi, near the New Bypass Road, Garhi Mehro Magdi Link Road. The arrest yielded a significant seizure of 1 kg 865 grams of hashish from Sikandar's possession. Preliminary investigations indicate that Sikandar alias Sukho was actively involved in drug trafficking within Tando Jam and its environs. Further scrutiny into his background revealed prior involvement in similar criminal activities and ongoing police pursuits related to narcotics and business interference. Tando Jam Police have filed a case against Sikandar under the Narcotics Act, marking a decisive step in combating drug-related offenses in the region. Investigations are currently underway to unearth additional details regarding Sikandar's network and activities.

Badin Police arrest nine during ongoing operations

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: On the orders of SSP Tando Muhammad Khan, Abid Ali Gadani, Baloch Sahib (Additional Charge District Badin), actions are being taken against undercover and advertised suspects and drug dealers throughout the district. According to the details, SHO Matli Police Station Inspector Gulam Mustafa Aqlani along with the staff have raided the country liquor box and recovered 90 liters of

with the staff arrested Gutka seller accused Ashgar Ali Machhi during a patrol operation, recovering 210 Safina sachets from his possession. Additionally, accused Ashgar Rind has been arrested. SHO Police Station Gulab Laghari has arrested drug dealer accused Hero Kolhi along with 20 liters of country liquor during another operation. Bashir Ahmed Khakhali, the accused drug dealer, has been arrested and 20 liters of country liquor have been recovered from country liquor. 2200 Gutka

Kingri man kills his stepbrother and his 4-year-old daughter

By AQ Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: A longstanding dispute between the families of Azizullah Kharos and Jamal Kharos in village Qaiser Bindi, Kingri, erupted into a tragic and violent confrontation. During the early morning hours, armed assailants, reportedly led by a stepbrother, launched a deadly attack on the household of Bilawal Kharos. The assailants indiscriminately opened fire, resulting in the fatal shooting of Bilawal Kharos, who was

asleep at the time, and his 4-year-old daughter, Farhana Kharos. Bilawal's wife, Soorat Khatoon, sustained severe injuries during the assault. The attackers fled the scene, continuing to fire shots as they escaped. Local law enforcement swiftly responded to the incident, rushing Soorat Khatoon to Pir Jo Goth Hospital for emergency medical treatment. She was later transferred to Khairpur Hospital for further care. Meanwhile, the bodies of Bilawal Kharos and Farhana Kharos were handed over to their grief-stricken relatives, sparking profound mourning within the community. Despite the gravity of the incident, authorities have yet to file a formal case or take decisive action to quell the escalating conflict. The deteriorating law and order situation, compounded by unresolved tribal disputes, has left residents in Kingri grappling with fear and uncertainty. Some community members are now contemplating relocation in search of safety and security amidst ongoing tensions.

BISP beneficiaries demand relief in Tando Adam

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: In Tando Adam, BISP beneficiaries continue to face deductions from their payments, leading to protests by the affected women. The camps set up for this purpose, located at Government Sir Syed High School and Jamia Millia High School, are reportedly lacking basic facilities. Many women have fainted due to the poor conditions. Affected women, including Samina Jamal, Hooran, Ameerzadi, and Shaakeela, spoke to journalists, expressing their grievances. They reported that there are no adequate facilities at the camps, and despite the intense heat, they have to wait for up to five hours to receive their stipends. Many times, their cards are returned



without being checked, with the excuse of network issues. The women complained about the lack of drinking water, no tents for them to sit under and male constables being appointed instead of female police officers. Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable, with many fainting from the heat and exhaustion. They suggested that instead of these poorly managed camps, the stipends should be distributed at shops where there is some dignity in the process, even if there is a small deduction. The women also pointed out that those who agree to deductions of Rs 1000-1500 face no network issues and receive their money quickly. They demanded that stipends be distributed at shops, the network issues be resolved and proper facilities be provided at the camps to ensure a dignified and efficient distribution process.

13-year-old Larkana girl ends her life

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A heart-wrenching incident unfolded in village Buthi, District Kambar-Shahdada, as 13-year-old Kainat, daughter of Nadir Magdi, tragically ended her life on Friday by consuming poison. The young girl's decision, believed to be prompted by a domestic issue, has left the community in shock and mourning. Authorities are investigating the circumstances leading to Kainat's decision and providing support to her grieving family during this difficult time. The loss of such a young life underscores the critical need for societal vigilance and intervention in addressing mental health challenges and preventing similar tragedies in the future.

Utility Stores Employees Arrested for Extortion Attempt

SUKKUR: In a startling development, police in Sukkur apprehended two Utility Stores employees for attempting to extort money from their Zonal Manager, Qaiser Saeed. Following swift action through alleged involvement with local criminals known as Katcha daocits. Reports indicate that four individuals, including Moazzam Ali, Izhar Ali, and Liaquat Ali, all employees of Utility Stores, were implicated in demand-

ing Rs4 million as ransom from their superior. The scheme involved leveraging the threat of Katcha daocits to intimidate the Zonal Manager into compliance. Following swift action by law enforcement, two of the accused have been arrested and are currently on physical remand. Authorities continue their efforts to locate and apprehend the remaining suspects involved in the extortion plot, including another Utility Stores staff member and an alleged daocit. The incident highlights growing concerns over criminal activities involving Katcha daocits in Sindh, particularly concerning incidents of kidnapping for ransom that have seen an uptick in recent times. Police efforts to dismantle such networks remain ongoing as they strive to ensure public safety and uphold the rule of law in the region.—RT

18-year-old girl electrocuted in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: A devastating incident occurred in Naudero, where 18-year-old Sitara Shaikh, daughter of Abdul Sattar Shaikh from the Gergal Shah neighborhood, tragically lost her life due to electrocution. The incident occurred while she was attempting to fix a wire of a fan into an electric board, resulting in immediate loss of consciousness.

In a rush of panic and concern, Sitara's family swiftly transported her to the emergency department of CMC Hospital in Larkana. Despite the best efforts of medical staff, doctors confirmed her untimely death upon arrival. Following necessary procedures, Sitara Shaikh's body was respectfully handed over to her grieving family by hospital authorities. The entire community is deeply saddened by this unfortunate loss, and condolences pour in for the Shaikh family during this difficult time. The incident serves as a poignant reminder of the critical importance of electrical safety measures and vigilance in households. Authorities are expected to conduct an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Sitara Shaikh's tragic accident to prevent similar incidents in the future.

METRO KARACHI



Sindh CM Engages World Bank In Bold Keenjhar Lake Expansion Talks

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah met with a World Bank delegation led by Country Director Najib Benhaime to discuss increasing the storage capacity of Keenjhar Lake to manage Karachi's growing water demand. The project, estimated to cost around \$300 million, includes improving the KB Feeder Lower Canal System, extending Keenjhar Lake, and developing social and environmental plans.



Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro provided details on the Keenjhar Lake expansion and KB Feeder improvement projects. Additionally, a detailed feasibility study for modernizing the right bank canals of Sukkur Barrage will be conducted under the Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation Project (SWAT) at an estimated cost of \$200 million.

water, sanitation, and hygiene. Reduced Learning Poverty: Enhance access to quality schools and foundational learning. Minister Education Sardar Shah highlighted efforts to increase equitable access to education, particularly for marginalized groups. Inclusive Job Opportunities: Increase fiscal space for sustainable macro-fiscal management and enhance productivity and private investment in exports, including the agricultural value chain. The CM and World Bank team agreed to review progress on these projects in their next meeting.

Petroleum Dealers Call Off Nationwide Strike, Avert National Crisis

KARACHI: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) announced the immediate cessation of the nationwide petrol pump strike on Friday.



At a press conference in Karachi, PPDA Chairman Abdul Sami Khan, accompanied by other officials, disclosed the decision to halt the strike. "We have decided to end the strike immediately due to the plight of tourists stranded in northern areas. While our one-day strike was successful, it has adversely affected daily commuters," Khan stated.

Earlier today, the association convened an emergency meeting to chart the future course of action following their nationwide strike. PPDA Chairman Abdul Sami Khan clarified that no discussions had occurred with the government or relevant authorities. Earlier in the day, the strike led by petroleum dealers in protest against the taxes introduced in the federal budget resulted in the closure of some petrol stations across many cities and major highways.

FPCCI Demands Immediate Cancellation Of Exploitative IPP Contracts

KARACHI: Acting President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, has urged the federal government to cancel all agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and procure electricity from cheaper, cost-effective sources without capacity charges.

Mr. Magoon highlighted that exorbitant electricity tariffs have led to widespread industrial closures and massive job losses. Despite an installed generation capacity of over 40,000 MW, the peak demand and transmission capacity is only 25,000 MW, resulting in significant excess generation capacity. He noted that PKR 2 trillion in capacity payments to 40 companies is paralyzing the national economy, with IPPs receiving payments even when no electricity is generated.

UAE Aviation Team Praises Pakistani Airports For Impeccable Security Measures



KARACHI: A delegation from the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has expressed satisfaction with the security arrangements at Karachi and Islamabad airports. Led by Senior Director Mr. Abdullah Al Kaabi, the UAE-GCAA team conducted a thorough aviation security assessment at both airports, which was hosted by PCAA.

PSX CEO Resigns, Shocking Financial Markets

KARACHI: Mr. Farrukh H. Khan has resigned from his position as Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX) as of July 4, 2024.

Mr. Khan stated that it was a great honor to serve as CEO and expressed his gratitude to all market participants, including domestic shareholders, PSBA, and the media. He also thanked PSX's Board, Chairperson, SECP, and the Chinese Consortium for their consistent support and guidance throughout his tenure.

KATI President Urges Axing IPP Contracts To Save Economy From Collapse

KARACHI: Johar Qandhari, President of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), has called for the cancellation of contracts with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), citing significant economic harm.

Qandhari criticized the contracts, noting that some IPPs have not generated any electricity yet receive billions in payments. He described this as a burden on the public exchequer and an oppression of the poor. He also raised concerns about capacity charges imposed on people for unused electricity, calling such agreements unprecedented worldwide.

UAE Delegation Lands In Karachi To Propel Pakistani Dates Onto The Global Stage



KARACHI: A delegation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has arrived in Karachi to introduce Pakistani dates to the world. The delegation met with the Consul-General of the UAE in Karachi, H.E. Bakheet Ateeq Al-Rumaihi, to discuss ways to increase agricultural production and industrial output in Pakistan.

Business Titans Descend On NUST For Groundbreaking Visit

KARACHI: The University Advancement Office (UAO) at NUST recently welcomed a delegation from Karachi, comprising members of the business community and philanthropists.



Key attendees included Ms. Arooba Gillani (Director Advancement), Mr. Emad

Ahsan (Director NSTP), Dr. Syed Irtiza Ali Shah (Principal SINES) Members of the delegation are steadfast supporters of the NUST Endowment for Educational Development (NEED) Initiative, which aims to provide financial support for deserving scholars enrolled at NUST, enabling them to pursue their educational aspirations without financial constraints.—RT

Murad Commands Provincial Narcotics Wing Reinforcement To Crush Drug Epidemic



KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to further strengthen the Excise & Narcotics Control Department to protect the new generation, especially children, from the dangers of drugs. This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at the CM House.

CM Shah stated that the Excise & Narcotics Control Department has 47 police stations, including six in Karachi, 11 in Hyderabad, eight in Sukkur, 10 in Larkana, five in Mirpurkhas, and seven in Shaheed Benazirabad. The department also has checkpoints, three each in Karachi and Larkana, and two each in Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Shaheed Benazirabad divisions. Murad Ali Shah directed the Minister of Excise & Narcotics to further strengthen the department's police with necessary equipment, vehicles, and gadgets to ensure they operate at full capacity.—RT

Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch Reviews Extensive Muharram Preparations In Gadap Town



KARACHI: Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch of Gadap Town Municipal Corporation presided over a crucial meeting today to oversee preparations for the upcoming month of Muharram-ul-Haram. The session, held at the municipal office, saw the participation of key officials including Superintendent Engineer M&E Noor Ali Jamali, AEE M&E Wasim Arain, and several others. Chairman Baloch emphasized the importance of providing optimal facilities for the mourners of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and stressed the need to enhance security measures across the town.

SSGC Disconnects Gas Supply To PSML Due To Unpaid Bills

KARACHI: Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has taken the decision to disconnect gas supply to Pakistan Steel Mills Limited (PSML) after repeated notices and failed payments.

SSGC faced significant financial strain. Efforts by the Federal Government and related ministries to revive PSML, including through various privatization proposals, did not materialize. A recent decision from PSML, communicated after an ECC meeting, indicated a cessation of payments beyond June 30, 2024, prompting SSGC to issue a final disconnection notice. Despite years of support and extensions, including partial payments by PSML since February 2020, outstanding dues have accumulated to Rs. 97.697 billion as of June 30, 2024, including significant late payment charges.

Senior Minister for Information and Excise & Narcotics, Sharjeel Memon, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary of Excise & Taxation Saleem Rajput, DG Narcotics Control Usman Siddiqui, and others attended the meeting. Minister Sharjeel Memon briefed the CM on



KARACHI: Prominent businessman Danish Aman hosted a lovely lunch in honor of Dr. Muhammad Anjad Saqib, Founder & Chairman of Akhswat Foundation, to discuss the formation of a council of patrons in Karachi. A group photo taken on the occasion shows Zubair Chhaya (Patron-in-Chief of KATI), Zahid Hameed (CSR Head of KATI), Danish Aman, Emran Asad Khan of Bank Alfalah, Sohail Janjua, Commander (R) Ali Haider, Atif Ashraf, Rashid Zahoor, and other distinguished guests.—RT

