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KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is chairing a meeting regarding the Karachi Port Trust, Port Qasim Authority and Pakistan National Shipping Corporation-RT

Shehbaz Orders For Karachi Port's Upgrade

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to take comprehensive measures for the upgradation of the Karachi Port and ease of access to the harbour via rail and road connectivity.

During his one-day visit to Karachi on Sunday, the premier issued the directives while chairing a session in which he was briefed on the Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Port Qasim and Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC).

The high-level session was attended by federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Jam Kamal Khan, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Board of



Revenue (FBR) chairman and others.

PM Shehbaz said that steps should be taken to reduce Customs clearance time by installation of modern machinery. He also emphasised on connectivity of the KPT via road and rail network for the ease of access for goods.

He also directed that the Lyari Expressway should be opened 24/7 to ensure an unhindered

supply of goods to the KPT, as well as linking the port to the Malir Expressway to improve the delivery of goods.

He ordered to enhance the goods' supply by linking the port to a rail network.

PM Shehbaz ordered the Port Qasim Authority to reduce charges for LNG cargo vessels and bring them in line with the international rates.

He sought a comprehensive strategy for the regulation of shipping lines besides ordering the PNSC to cut its expenditures.

"Development of private sector, ease in doing business and facilitation of investors are our top priorities," the premier said, adding that the national economy was stable and on the path of growth and development.

with the leaders of the Central Asian states and the Russian president during his Kazakhstan visit.

He said that Pakistan provides a convenient route for the Central Asian states to gain access to maritime trade while the countries also expressed interest in using Pakistani ports for trade.

PM Shehbaz said that Pakistan could earn billions of dollars via modernisation of ports. He vowed that Islamabad eyes enhancement of exports through its value-added industry after the upgradation of its ports.

He directed port authorities to ensure the installation of modern machinery at the earliest and adopt effective steps for the utilisation of full advantages of the country's ports.—RT/Agency

Top Hamas Official Open To Hostage Deal Talks Without Permanent Ceasefire

Gaza: A Hamas official said Sunday the Palestinian group was ready to discuss a hostage release deal with Israel even without a "complete" ceasefire.

The apparent easing of Hamas's position comes as long-stalled diplomatic efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage release have gathered pace with a new proposal and meetings hosted by Qatari and Egyptian mediators.

"Hamas had previously required that Israel agree to a complete and permanent ceasefire," the top official told AFP as the war entered its 10th month.

But mediators have offered assurances "that as long as the... negotiations continued, the ceasefire would continue," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Israel, which vowed to destroy Hamas in response to the group's October 7 attack that sparked the war, has repeatedly rejected demands for a permanent ceasefire.

US President Joe Biden announced a plan in late May that included an initial six-week truce and the exchange of hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners held in Israel.

Talks quickly stalled but a US official said Thursday that a new text from Hamas



"moves the process forward and may provide the basis for closing the deal."

Egypt's state-linked Al-Qahera News said late Saturday that Cairo was "hosting Israeli and American delegations" and mediators were in contact with Hamas amid "intensive Egyptian meetings this week with all parties" in Israel, anti-government protesters demanding a hostage release deal blocked roads in the commercial hub of Tel Aviv on a nationwide "disruption day" from 6:29 am, the time Hamas launched their attack on October 7. Data scientist Yoni Peleg, 34, said protesters were crying "out for help."

to end the war" and pressure Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to secure the release of the remaining hostages. Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on southern Israel resulted in the deaths of 1,195 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures. Hamas seized 251 hostages, 116 of whom remain in Gaza, including 42 military says are dead. Israel has carried out a military offensive that has killed at least 38,153 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to data from the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Israel has said it would send a delegation to continue talks with Qatari mediators, though a government spokesman said Friday there were still "gaps" with Hamas. An official with knowledge of the mediation said US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director William Burns would also go to Qatar this week. If negotiations start, Hamas expects them to take between two to three weeks, according to the official from the Islamist movement.—RT/Agency

Sargodha ATC Issues Arrest Warrants For PTI's Omar Ayub



ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Sargodha has issued arrest warrants for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub, as his party leaders remain embroiled in legal battles.

Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Ayub, in a statement on X, also confirmed that the warrants have been issued, and slammed the "desperate" authorities for trying to nab him.

"Bailable arrest warrants issued for me by ATC Sargodha, but Mianwali Police and Islamabad Police teams went to my Islamabad home to arrest me a few minutes ago," he said. The top PTI leader, whose party has recently rejected his resignation from the top office added: "The form 47 Federal Government, Punjab Government, and agencies must be very desperate to arrest the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly." Slamming the authorities

President Zardari Urges Unity And Reflection As New Islamic Year Begins

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the nation to cultivate qualities of affection, forbearance, and tolerance by setting aside differences and playing a role in strengthening national unity and interfaith harmony in the country.

In a message marking the beginning of the new Islamic year 1446 Hijrah, he extended felicitations to the nation and prayed for peace, stability, progress, and prosperity, as announced by the President's Secretariat in a press release on Sunday.

President Zardari emphasised the special significance of Muharram-ul-Haram in Islamic history, highlighting the importance of prayers and worship during this month. He stressed the need to avoid sins, adhere to Islamic teachings, and devoutly worship the Almighty, while also reflecting on and introspecting Islamic teachings.

He noted that Muharram-ul-Haram serves as a



reminder of the unparalleled sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his loyal companions, underscoring the true objective of life's struggles, which involves sacrificing everything in the path of religion.

The president remarked that Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions sacrificed their lives confronting the forces of cruelty and oppression, symbolising unwavering determination and sacrifice.

He further emphasised that this month teaches them to stand against cruelty and evil by upholding righteousness amidst life's challenges.

He highlighted that the new Islamic month presents an opportunity to transform lives in accordance with Islamic teachings, stressing the importance of discerning between virtue and evil and promoting awareness and understanding of Islamic principles.—RT/Agency

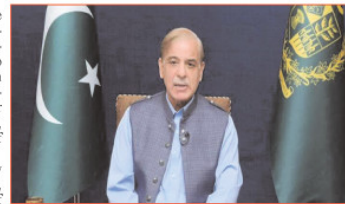
PM Extends New Islamic Year Greetings, Prays For End To Oppression In IIOJK And Palestine

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his good wishes to the nation and the Ummah on the beginning of the new Islamic year and prayed for the peace, stability, progress and prosperity of both.

In a message on the new Islamic year 1446 Hijrah, he also prayed for relief of those Muslims facing atrocities across the globe including oppressed Kashmiri people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister prayed that the shadows of oppression and atrocities on these areas might recede and there might be a dawn of peace, progress and prosperity.

The new year also reminded them of the unforgettable sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions in the battle of virtue and evil while strictly adhering to the principles of truthfulness and justice and they would be always remembered for their supreme sacrifices, he added.



He further said that their unwavering courage, sacrifice and passion against oppression had been an unprecedented example in the world.

"That incident also reminds them of those sublime characteristics including sympathy, justice and unity which are ingrained in our faith and encourage us to stand against injustices and oppression by contributing towards a society based upon values of peace, harmony and mutual respect," he added.

The prime minister stressed upon to follow the supreme qualities set by our Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and his companions.

He opined that the new Islamic year provided them an opportunity to lead a life in accordance with the Islamic teachings.

The prime minister said that the economic challenges had been reduced and the country's economy was on the right track but they were cognizance of fact to further strive for making life of the common man easier, provision of equal opportunities to all and taking the country on the path of progress and prosperity.

He called upon the nation to set aside their differences and work for the bright future of Pakistan with unity.—RT/Agency

PM Congratulates Julian James On Promotion To Major General



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday congratulated an officer of Pakistan Army belonging to the Christian community, Julian Moazzam James, on his promotion to the rank of Major General.

The prime minister expressed his good wishes for his future, PM Office Media Wing said in a press

PM Announces Development Of Country's Ports For Regional Corridor

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday that the government was taking steps for the provision of shortest corridor to the regional countries, especially to the Central Asian States.

He said with a spur in sea trade by the Central Asian States, China and other countries of the region via Pakistani ports, the country could earn worth billions of dollars as foreign revenue every year.

The prime minister expressed these views during a visit to Hutchison Port, South Asian Pakistan Terminal where he was given a briefing, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

On the occasion, he directed the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to prioritize installation of latest scanners on Pakistani ports.

The prime minister said that the customs authorities in collaboration with the ports authorities should ensure immediate steps for complete utilization of the sea ports in Pakistan.

The prime minister was briefed that process for in-



stallation of latest scanners on ports by the FBR, was in the final stages which would enable rapid scanning of containers in the shortest time with the assistance of latest gadgets and artificial intelligence.

The prime minister said for the progress of the country, it was imperative that its ports were also developed.

He said for increasing country's exports, the government was taking measures on priority basis.

Federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Jam Kamal Khan, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister

Syed Murad Ali Shah, chairman FBR and other relevant officials accompanied the prime minister.

The prime minister was apprised that Hutchison Port, South Asian Pakistan Terminal was amongst the few global terminals located in deep sea which was being automatically operated upon.

The terminal had been equipped with latest technology and scanners and its operations were of the international standards.

The prime minister was further informed that port had the capacity to handle the shipment of 35,00,000 containers annually.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Senior Vice President of PML-N's Sindh chapter, Shah Muhammad Shah is addressing a reception ceremony.-RT

Development Budget Of Kunri Town Committee Set At 14 Crore Rupees

By Mian Muhammad Faisal

KUNRI: The Town Committee of Kunri has allocated 14 crore rupees for various development projects in its budget for the fiscal year 2024-25. The budget meeting, chaired by Town Committee Chairman Haji Shaheel Bajwa, saw the presentation of a comprehensive budget plan aimed at enhancing infrastructure and addressing community needs.



Present at the meeting were Vice Chairman Sivanand Sindi, Councilor Syed Manzoor Ali, Gulam Hussain Dars, Imran Mughal, Usman Baloch, Sajid Bhatti, Imran FM Zeib Amjad, Haji Jahanzeb Arayan, Pappu Raza, Rizwan Sunny, and other committee members.

Chairman Haji Shaheel Ahmed Bajwa outlined the budget details, revealing that the Town Committee anticipates an income exceeding 48 crore 22 lakh rupees from various sources, including taxes, capital funds, and other revenues. The budget allocates 3 crore 54 lakh rupees for retired employees' pensions, 3 crore 44 lakh rupees for district employees' salaries, and 1 crore 20 lakh rupees for town employees' wages.

Highlighting the focus on development, Bajwa emphasized the allocation of 14 crore rupees specifically for city development schemes. He expressed determination to beautify Kunri and address citizens' essential needs despite resource limitations. Bajwa also acknowledged the support of PPP MPA Nawab Taimur Talpar in securing funds for upcoming projects.

Among the planned initiatives, construction and repairs are set to commence on Sampur Block Road and the CCC at a significant cost. These efforts aim to improve local infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for residents, ensuring better service delivery and community welfare. The budget session concluded with a commitment to promptly initiate the outlined projects, underscoring the Town Committee's dedication to advancing Kunri's development agenda in collaboration with governmental support.

Sindh Government Proposes Major Expansion Of Keenjhar Lake To Address Karachi's Water Needs

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In response to the escalating water demand in Karachi, the Sindh government is moving forward with plans to significantly expand the storage capacity of Keenjhar Lake, located in Thatta district. This initiative is critical for the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV project), which aims to increase Karachi's water supply by 650 million gallons per day (MGD).

Phase-1, it can supply an additional 260 MGD of water. However, the lake's current capacity is insufficient for the planned second and third phases of the K-IV project, necessitating an expansion to support the increased storage requirements. Syed Salahuddin Ahmed, CEO of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, emphasized the urgent need for this expansion. He noted that Karachi's current daily water supply is 650 MGD, significantly below the city's actual requirement of over 1,200 MGD.

The Sindh irrigation department has developed a comprehensive proposal to enhance Keenjhar Lake's storage capabilities, which has been submitted to Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah for approval and funding. The project, estimated to cost approximately \$300 million, has attracted interest from the World Bank for financial backing. Currently, Keenjhar Lake is a vital water source for both Thatta district and Karachi. Upon the completion of the K-IV project's

tem and the development of comprehensive social and environmental strategies. The World Bank has expressed its support for the project. In addition to discussing the Keenjhar Lake expansion, Shah and the World Bank team deliberated on a \$200 million initiative to modernize the Right Bank canals of the Sukkur Barrage, currently under feasibility review as part of the Sindh Water Agriculture Transformation Project (SWAT). They also explored the broader 10-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for 2025-34. This framework aims to tackle critical issues such as child stunting, learning poverty, climate resilience, economic decarbonization, and inclusive job creation. This comprehensive approach underscores the Sindh government's commitment to addressing Karachi's water challenges while fostering sustainable development and resilience across the region.

Motorcyclist Killed In A Hit-and-Run Incident Near Kunri



By MM Faisal

KUNRI: In a tragic hit-and-run incident near Kunri, a motorcyclist from the Bheel community lost his life after being struck by a speeding van. The accident has left the local community in shock and mourning. The incident occurred when the van, traveling at high speed, collided with the motorcyclist, leading to fatal injuries. Bystanders quickly called for emergency services, and the victim was rushed to a local area hospital. Despite their efforts, the motorcyclist succumbed to his injuries.

Following the completion of the necessary medico-legal formalities, the body of the deceased was handed over to his family. The loss has deeply affected his loved

ones and the wider Bheel community, who are now calling for justice. The driver of the van fled the scene immediately after the accident, evading capture. Local authorities have launched an investigation to identify and apprehend the responsible driver. They have urged anyone with information about the incident to come forward and assist in bringing the perpetrator to justice. This tragic event has highlighted the dangers faced by motorcyclists on the roads and the need for stricter enforcement of traffic laws. The community is rallying together, hoping that the authorities will act swiftly to ensure that such incidents do not happen again and that those responsible are held accountable.

Tragic Drowning Incidents Near Kunri: One Child Dead, Two Hospitalized



By Mian Muhammad Faisal

KUNRI: In two separate incidents near Kunri, three young girls tragically drowned in a canal, resulting in the death of one and the hospitalization of two others. The first incident occurred near Karunghar Colony, where 6-year-old Kajal, daughter of Bilawal Linju, drowned while washing clothes with her mother in the Rahmur canal. Despite immediate rescue efforts, Kajal could not be revived. She was rushed to a local hospital in Kunri, where doctors sadly confirmed her death.

In a second, unrelated incident in Harijan Colony, two young girls, Priya Kohli, 5, and Anjali Kohli, 4, fell into the canal while playing. Both girls were quickly rescued and taken to the hospital for emergency treatment. Their current condition remains under medical supervision. The local community is deeply shaken by these tragic events. Authorities have urged parents and guardians to exercise increased vigilance and ensure the safety of children near water bodies. These incidents underscore the need for enhanced safety measures and public awareness to prevent such heartbreaking occurrences in the future.

Notorious Dacoit Imdu Bhayo Killed In Kandhkot Shootout

By Aftab Bhatti

KANDHKOT: In a significant development in the ongoing operations against organized crime in the forest areas of Kandhkot, Imdad alias Imdu Bhayo, the notorious leader of the Imdad Bhayo Gang, was killed during a shootout with law enforcement. The operation, led by SSP Bashir Ahmed Brohi, marks a pivotal moment in the efforts to curb criminal activities in the region. Imdu Bhayo and his gang were infamous for their violent activities, and their reign of terror had plagued the area for a considerable time. Just a few days ago, the gang had launched a brazen attack on a police picket, resulting in the tragic martyrdom of two police officers. During that confrontation, Imdu Bhayo's brother was also killed, escalating the tension between the gang and law enforcement.

the completion of the necessary medico-legal formalities. The local community and authorities view the elimination of Bhayo as a crucial step towards restoring peace and security in the area. SSP Bashir Ahmed Brohi, who spearheaded the operation, emphasized the commitment of the police force to dismantling criminal networks and ensuring the safety of the residents. He acknowledged the bravery and dedication of the officers involved in the operation and extended his condolences to the families of the martyred policemen.

The successful operation against Imdu Bhayo and his gang is expected to have a significant impact on the overall security situation in Kandhkot. Local residents are hopeful that this decisive action will deter further criminal activities and bring a sense of normalcy back to their lives.



HYDERABAD: Markaz-e-Wilayat-e-Ali (A.S) Pakistan Leader, Allama Fawad Kazmi is addressing a press conference, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

Pakistan Hindu Council Distributes Books Among Students and Teachers In Talhar

TALHAR: In a heartwarming initiative aimed at promoting education and supporting underprivileged children, the Pakistan Hindu Council distributed books and prizes among teachers and orphan children in Shaheed Fazil Rahu. The event was graced by the presence of notable leaders, including Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Chairman of the Pakistan Hindu Council and former PPP MNA, Kirshan Sagar, Rajkumar, and PPP Minority Wing leader Sunil Kumar.



The distribution ceremony saw enthusiastic participation from the local community, with students eagerly receiving their new books. The gesture not only aimed to enhance educational resources but also to inspire and encourage the young learners to pursue their studies with renewed vigor. In his address, Dr. Ramesh Kumar emphasized the importance of education in empowering individuals and building a stronger community. He highlighted the Pakistan Hindu Council's commitment to supporting educational initiatives and improving the quality of life for minorities.

The event concluded on a positive note, with students and teachers expressing their gratitude for the support and the promise of continued efforts to uplift the community. The Pakistan Hindu Council's initiative stands as a testament to their dedication to fostering education and inclusivity in the region.—RT

Major Drug Bust Reported By CIA Police In Thatta

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: In a significant operation, the CIA Police, under the leadership of Incharge Mumtaz Brohi, conducted a successful raid on the National Highway near Makli, intercepting a large consignment of contraband. This operation resulted in the seizure of 8,000 sachets of Safina Gutka, a banned substance, which were being clandestinely transported in an ambulance. The police arrested the accused, identified as Rana Asghar, and filed charges against him under the Narcotics Act.



This successful operation highlights the ongoing efforts of the CIA Police in Thatta to combat illegal activities and drug trafficking in the region. Since Mumtaz Brohi's appointment as the in-charge, the CIA Police have intensified their crackdown on narcotics and other illegal substances.

In recent months, the CIA Police have seized substantial quantities of various drugs, including hashish, raw liquor, and Safina Gutka. These efforts have also led to the apprehension of numerous individuals involved in criminal activities across the district. The crackdown has not only targeted drug trafficking but has also addressed the distribution of other contraband items, such as cancer causing chewing items commonly abused in the area. The dedication and rigorous enforcement by the CIA Police under Brohi's leadership have significantly disrupted the supply chains of these illicit substances.

The arrest of Rana Asghar is part of a broader strategy to dismantle the networks facilitating the spread of narcotics in the region. Authorities believe that this bust will serve as a deterrent to others engaged in similar activities and reaffirm the commitment of the police to maintaining law and order in Thatta. Community members have expressed their appreciation for the CIA Police's efforts to safeguard the area from the perils of drug abuse and criminality. The police department continues to urge citizens to report any suspicious activities, ensuring a collaborative effort in the fight against crime.

The police department continues to urge citizens to report any suspicious activities, ensuring a collaborative effort in the fight against crime.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party Chairman, Dr. Qadir Magsi is addressing the Sindh Sawanro Conference.-RT



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the Samo Alliance of Sindh are holding a boisterous protest demonstration against the dastardly killing of Saira Samo and demanding justice for her and her family, at the Larkana press club.-RT

NATIONAL



Maryam Aurangzeb Meets Global Expert Sir Michael Barber To Discuss Punjab's Reform Agenda

LAHORE: PML-N leader Maryam Aurangzeb met with renowned international expert Sir Michael Barber to discuss reforms in various sectors including education, in a high-level meeting. The meeting saw the minister expressing gratitude for Sir Michael Barber's past collaboration with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and thanked him for technical assistance across education and other sectors.

They briefed him on the agenda for fundamental reforms in governance, including education, youth empowerment, and environmental initiatives. Maryam highlighted the launch of a mega project ensuring quality education for every child in Punjab, aimed at reforming the entire education system to ensure the availability of facilities and teachers in schools.

She noted the initiation of a program providing meals and milk to children in the most deprived districts, funded with Rs20 billion. Additionally, they have introduced the "Early Years Education System" to provide global standard education in the early years.

She further informed that students from Punjab's 10 universities will receive international scholarships and emphasized the introduction of modern technology in agriculture, including the



provision of quality seeds, fertilizer, and machinery through farmer credit cards. Maryam also announced the launch of the "Himmat Card Program" and school development initiatives, alongside the commencement of extensive programs promoting information technology through Digital Punjab, aimed at delivering government services to homes via digital means.

Regarding healthcare, the minister mentioned the overhaul of the entire healthcare system by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, with treatments already provided to millions through clinics and field hospitals.

New facilities for maternal and child health in cities and rural areas, along with free medicines and advanced diagnostic equipment, have also been made available. She briefed the delega-

JI Plans Sit-In Protest Against Soaring Electricity Bills On July 12



MULTAN: In what appears to be a strong censure of the incumbent government over the skyrocketing price of electricity bills and fuel, Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman said on Sunday the party would hold a historical sit-in on July 12 in Islamabad.

He said the people have been forced to sell their precious savings to pay the ever-increasing power bills. He added the southern Punjab has not been awarded its deserving status of a separate electorate as successive governments

PIA Launches 'Operation Ashura' Special Flights To Najaf



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has launched a series of special flights to Najaf and Iraq to facilitate Shia pilgrims during the upcoming Ashura in commemoration of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain (A.S) days. According to a private news channel, the operation, dubbed "Operation Ashura," commenced on July 5, with additional flights scheduled for July 7 and July 11.

DPO Ibadat Nisar Reviews Muharram Security Measures In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood TOBA TEK SINGH: The District Police Officer Toba Tek Singh, Ibadat Nisar chaired a meeting of the police officials to review security arrangements for the Muharram-ul-Haram. Addressing on the occasion, DPO Ibadat Nisar directed the police officials to beef up the security measures and

Pakistan Army Rescues Samina Baig From K2 Base Camp Emergency

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army on Sunday successfully rescued renowned mountaineer Samina Baig, who was on an expedition to summit the world's second highest peak K2, from the base camp after her health deteriorated.

Samina became the first Pakistani woman to summit the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, in 2013 at the age of 21 and has since set off on a number of expeditions around the world.

She has also claimed Nanga Parbat, and the Seven Summits in seven continents. Currently, Samina Baig was part of an eight-member Pakistan-Italy joint women's K2 expedition team. She was forced to abandon her climb on July 5, 2024, due to severe health issues.

She was shifted from the K2 base camp to Shigar's



Askole area earlier in the day after undertaking a lengthy journey on horseback while in critical medical condition. Due to inclement weather, the Pakistan Army's rescue flight was unable to reach the base camp, and Baig was instead transported to Skardu by road early this morning.

A team of Pakistani Army doctors is now high which only comes ready to provide Baig with medical care at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Skardu. According to sources, Baig's health has improved slightly due to the decrease in altitude. The decision to further transfer Baig from Skardu will be made after assessing her health condition. It may be noted that K2 summit is 8,611 meters second to Mount Everest which trails it by 200 meters.—RT/Agency

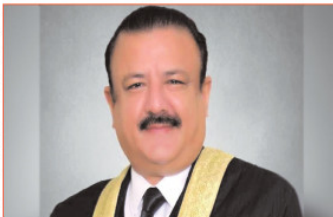
IHC Bar Association Convenes Meeting To Address Malicious Campaign Against Justice Tariq Jahangiri

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Bar Association has called an immediate meeting on a malicious social media campaign against Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri.

The IHC Bar Association's Executive Committee has summoned a meeting on July 9 pertaining to the matter.

The IHC Bar Association has condemned the malicious social media targeting Justice Tariq in a notification, asserting, that Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri is a competent and honest judge.

The notification mentioned Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri's excellent career spanning as a lawyer and Deputy At-



torney General. The IHC Bar Association stressed its commitment to ensure judicial independence and autonomy. It is pertinent to note that a letter is circulating on social media purporting to be from the Karachi University's (KU) con-

AJK PM Announces Rs4 Billion Development Package For Poonch Division

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has announced Rs 4 billion development package, in a bid to promote the scenic beauty and positive image of Poonch division.

The package aims to highlight the region's picturesque landscape and promote tourism. PM Haq announced this while meeting with a delegation from Tain area of Poonch, led by Sardar Mumtaz on Saturday, and assured his full support for the construction of the Tain Majeed Gula to Thor Road.

He emphasised the need for good governance and criticized previous rulers for failing to address the region's problems. The PM stressed the importance of promoting



a positive image of his commitment to establishing good governance and serving the people, vowing to continue his battle against mafias and uphold the writ of the state. The development package is expected to bring new opportunities and prospects to the region.—RT/Agency

2 suspects arrested for sexually abusing disabled minor boy in Mandi Bahauddin

MANDI BAHAUDDIN: Two men were arrested in Punjab's Mandi Bahauddin on Sunday for allegedly sexually abusing a disabled minor boy, filming him, and uploading a video of the assault to social media, police said.

Mandi Bahauddin District Police Officer (DPO) Ahmed Mohiuddin told media that as the video of the assault went viral, he took immediate notice and directed the Malik police station to register a case against the suspects and ensure their timely apprehension.

Following the DPO's instruction, Malikwal Police Station House Officer (SHO) GA Hashmi registered a case against the suspects and arrested both of them from Mandi Bahauddin's Chak No. 20 area.

"Malakwal police station obtained a three-day physical remand of the arrested suspects from the magistrate's court," DPO Mohiuddin said, adding that during interroga-



tion, both suspects confessed to the crime.

A mobile phone was recovered from the suspects, which they allegedly used to make videos, he added.

SHO Hashmi, while speaking to media added that the victim, who is mute, identified both suspects through hand gestures. He further said that the suspects lured the victim to a large house in the village where the alleged assault took place.

According to the first information report (FIR) of the incident, a copy of which is

available with media, the victim was "almost 18 years old". It added that the police registered a case against the suspects upon the complaint of the victim's grandfather under sections 376 (3) (punishment for rape of a minor or a person with a mental or physical disability), 292 (c) (takes part in [...] the sale, etc., of obscene books, etc.), 114 (abetter present when offence is committed) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention)—RT/Agency

Nine Friends Reported Missing After Trip To Kaghan Valley

SARGODHA: Nine friends, who had gone on a trip to Kaghan valley, have gone missing from Salim interchange, Motorway-2 near Sargodha, media reported on Sunday.

The family members of the missing individuals have blocked the road in protest, demanding action from the authorities.

According to details, the 9 individuals, including Faisal, a resident of Chak-75 North, had gone on a trip to Kaghan valley on June 18.

The nine friends arrived at the Salim interchange on Motorway 2 on June 22 at 11 pm and have been missing since then. Their mobile phones have been switched off, and their whereabouts are un-



known. Meanwhile, the police have registered a case against the missing individuals in response to the protest by the family members.

The police claimed that the 9 individuals are in the custody of the FIA (Federal Investigation Agency)

in Faisalabad in connection with a fraud case. The police have stated that the missing individuals were wanted by the FIA, and they have contacted the FIA in Faisalabad. The family members have also been asked to contact the FIA for further assistance.—RT/Agency

IT Ministry To Remain According To Official Statement

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication here on Sunday clarified that no directions have been issued to abolish the Ministry and its other departments.

The news item in a section of media giving the impression that the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, among others, is being abol-



ished is distorted and fabricated, the Ministry said in a press release. "It is to clarify that the Committee on the Right Sizing of the Federal Government has sought recommendations for right-sizing the attached departments from the respective ministries and there is no directive to abolish the said ministries"—RT/Agency

HEC Invites Applications For Pak-France PERIDOT Research Programme



ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has invited applications from Pakistan's faculty members of public and private universities, for funding under the Pak-France PERIDOT Research Programme (Phase XI).

According to the HEC, PERIDOT is the Franco-Pakistani Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) Programme aimed at providing opportunities for Pakistani and French researchers to interact for executing joint research activities.

The programme is being implemented in Pakistan by HEC and in France, jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR). The objective of this programme is to develop new scientific and technological cooperation between French

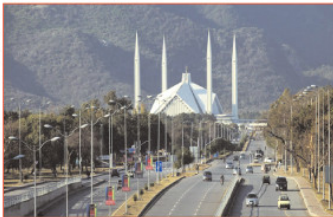
Muharram Security: Over 16,000 Personnel To Be Deployed In Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has devised a special security plan including deployment of over 1600 personnel during Muharram-ul-Haram, media reported.

The plan was chalked out at a high level meeting chaired by IG Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi in Islamabad today.

From 1st Muharram till 2nd Rabi-ul-Awwal, 181 processions and 965 majalis will be held in Islamabad during which over 16,000 police officials will perform security duties.

The processions will be monitored by Safe City cameras while armored vehicles will be deployed to deal with any emergency. Strict checking will be done at the entrance and exit points of the city.



All roads and streets in the route of the processions will be closed with barbed wire and special checking will be done and disposal squad will clear the route of the procession before its start. All gatherings and processions will be video recorded by drone cameras. Locals and non-locals will be allowed to enter the procession after thorough search. Entry of vehicles and motorcycles will be completely prohibited in the procession. People joining the processions and majalis will be checked by metal detectors while walk-through gates will also be installed at entrances and exits. Earlier, the police also held meetings with scholars of different schools of thought, members of the peace committee and intellectuals before the meeting.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Monday, July 08, 2024



Ending the cycle of poverty and violence against children in Pakistan

In recent news that shocks the conscience, two incidents from Naushehro Feroze and Lahore vividly underscore the harrowing reality faced by children across Pakistan. In Naushehro Feroze, a father resorted to burying his 15-day-old daughter alive, driven by desperation due to financial constraints that prevented him from affording her medical treatment. This act of unimaginable cruelty reflects not only an individual's despair but also a broader societal failure to protect the most vulnerable. Similarly distressing is the case from Lahore, where a 13-year-old domestic worker named Tehreem was subjected to brutal torture by her employers, allegedly over suspicions of theft. The incident, where the child was stripped naked and suffered broken bones, paints a chilling picture of

abuse and exploitation.

These incidents are not isolated; they are symptomatic of a deeper crisis of poverty and disconnect



between the ruling elites and the masses in Pakistan. The gap between those in power, who often exhibit apathy towards the struggles of ordinary citizens, and the populace struggling to survive, has widened to a breaking point. For children like Tayyab's daughter and Tehreem, this disconnect translates into a dire lack of protection and support. To end this cycle of poverty and violence against

children, immediate and concerted action is imperative. It starts with addressing the root causes: poverty alleviation measures that provide economic security to families, robust social welfare programs that ensure access to healthcare and education, and stringent enforcement of child protection laws. Moreover, it demands a shift in societal attitudes towards empathy and responsibility, where every child is seen as deserving of dignity and protection.

The tragedies in Naushehro Feroze and Lahore should serve as a wake-up call. They remind us that the safety and well-being of our children must be a top priority, not an afterthought. It is time for Pakistan's leadership to bridge the gap, to listen to the cries of its people, and to act decisively to ensure that no child suffers such atrocities again.

GLOBAL WATCH

-Might as well declare Trump the next President from now!

Sleepy Joe Biden returns to campaign trail amid calls to end White House re-election bid

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden heads back out on the campaign trail on Sunday, desperate to salvage his re-election bid as senior Democrats meet to discuss growing calls that he quit the White House race.

The 81-year-old Democrat kicks off a gruelling week with two campaign rallies in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, before hosting the NATO leaders' summit in Washington.

He will do so under an increasingly unforgiving spotlight, as pressure mounts for him to drop out after his disastrous debate against Donald Trump last month ignited panic over his age and fitness to serve another four years. Biden has remained defiant, unequivocally declaring - at a rally, to reporters and on social media - that he is fit to serve, the only one who can defeat Trump, and stay in the race.

"I beat Trump in 2020. I'm going to beat him again in 2024," his campaign social media account posted on Saturday. But a televised interview with ABC News on Friday has failed to quell concerns. His next major test in the public eye will be a press conference scheduled for Thursday, during the NATO summit.

So far, five Democratic lawmakers have called on Biden to drop out, with the drumbeat of dissent slowly rising.

The House minority leader, Hakeem Jeffries, has scheduled a virtual meeting of senior Democrat representatives for Sunday to discuss the best way forward, and Democrat Senator Mark Warner is reportedly working to con-



Joe Biden and Kamala Harris at a campaign event.

vene a similar forum in the upper chamber. Meanwhile, for Biden and his campaign team, the strategy seems to be to ride it out. The campaign has unveiled an intense battle plan for July, including an avalanche of TV spots and trips to all the key states. That includes a visit to the southwest of the country during the Republican convention from July 15-18, at which Trump is set to be anointed the party's official presidential nominee.

In what had been billed as a make-or-break interview with ABC News on Friday, Biden flatly dismissed the falling poll numbers and concerns over his mental and physical fitness triggered by his dismal June 27 performance against Trump. He blamed a severe cold for the debate debacle and insisted it was just a "bad night" rather than evidence of increasing frailty and cognitive decline. The sit-down has not soothed the concerns of critics who say that - away from a teleprompter - Biden can struggle to communicate. Some of his answers were tentative, meandering and difficult to follow, even as he sought to deflect questions about his mental acuity and dismissed the notion that his party would consider replacing him. —Agency

First Lady Jill Biden, who - according to some US media reports - is urging her husband to stay in the race, is scheduled to campaign in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina on Monday. But after Sunday's rallies in Philadelphia and Harrisburg, the president will have to step away from the campaign for the NATO summit beginning Tuesday. Here, too, he will find himself having to reassure allies at a time when many European countries fear a Trump victory in November. The 78-year-old Republican has long criticized NATO as an unfair burden on the United States, voiced admiration for Russian strongman Vladimir Putin, and insisted he could bring about a quick end to the fighting in Ukraine, where the Russian invasion is now in its third year. For now, Democrat heavyweights are largely keeping a lid on any simmering discontent with their leader - at least in public. But with election day just four months away, any move to replace Biden as the nominee would need to be made sooner rather than later, and the party will be scrutinized for any signs of more open rebellion.

-Can you believe this?

Father Arrested for Burying 15-Day-Old Daughter Alive In Naushehro Feroze

NAUSHEHRO FEROE: Shock and outrage spread through Tharu Shah as news broke of a tragic incident where a father was arrested for burying his 15-day-old daughter alive, citing financial constraints for her medical treatment.

According to police officials, Tayyab, the father of the infant, confessed to this heinous act, explaining that he resorted to burying his daughter after feeling helpless due to the lack of funds needed for her treatment. He report-

edly placed the infant in a sack before burying her.

The local police have swiftly registered a case against Tayyab upon his confession, and legal proceedings are underway. Authorities have also indicated that, following court orders, the grave of the minor child will be exhumed for a postmortem examination to ascertain the circumstances leading to her death. The community in Tharu Shah has been deeply disturbed by this

incident, prompting calls for justice and support for vulnerable families facing financial hardships. The tragic event has highlighted the urgent need for social welfare initiatives and support networks to prevent such distressing outcomes in the future.

Meanwhile, the local authorities are committed to ensuring that the case is thoroughly investigated, with stringent measures taken against those responsible for such heart-breaking incidents. —RT

THE HEARTLAND



Setharja Resident Demands Justice Over Police Inaction And Threats



By Azhar Kubar

SETHARJA: Ghulam Rasool, a resident of Setharja, has staged a protest demonstration against the local police, alleging gross misconduct and a failure to deliver justice. The protest was prompted by a disturbing incident involving Rasool's 7-year-old daughter, Rukhsar, who was bitten by a dog belonging to Ghulam Shabbir Ansari. Rasool himself had also been attacked by the same dog just a few days earlier. Rasool recounted his ordeal, explaining that when he went to the police to lodge a complaint about the dog attacks, instead of taking his concerns seriously, the police registered a case of a clash against him. This unexpected turn of events has left Rasool and his family feeling vulnerable and betrayed by those who are supposed to protect them.

Adding to his distress, Rasool claimed that influential local figures, allegedly in cahoots with the police, have been issuing dire threats to him and his family. These threats have intensified Rasool's fears for their safety, prompting his public plea for justice. During the protest, Rasool called on the concerned authorities to take immediate action, investigate the matter thoroughly, and provide the justice he and his family deserve.

The incident has raised significant concerns about the influence of powerful individuals over local law enforcement and the urgent need for accountability and protection for ordinary citizens. As the situation develops, the community and observers await a response from the concerned authorities, hoping for a resolution that ensures the safety and rights of Ghulam Rasool and his family.

Police Rescue Two Hostages From Bandits In Khairpur

KHAIRPUR: A daring police operation successfully rescued a kidnapped trader and his driver from the clutches of bandits in Khairpur, according to reports on Sunday.

The incident unfolded when a gang of bandits abducted trader Ganhwar Khan Jatoti and his driver from Mehboob Kalhoro road in the day. The criminals later abandoned the hostages' car near a police post in the area.

SSP Khairpur, Zubair Nazeer Shaikh, detailed that upon receiving the report, a substantial police force was swiftly dispatched to the katcha area. This extensive operation culminated in the safe recovery of both hostages from the bandits' hideout. The katcha area, sprawling across vast tracts of land from Kashmir to Dadu along the Indus River in southern Sindh and Punjab, is known for its challenging terrain. It often serves as a refuge for outlaws and individuals involved in tribal disputes, seeking to evade law enforcement. The successful rescue marks a significant achievement for the police in their ongoing efforts to combat criminal activities in the region. Authorities continue to maintain vigilance and enforce law and order to ensure the safety and security of residents in Khairpur and surrounding areas. —RT

Prominent Berani Community Leader Haji Moosa Mughal Passes Away at 85

By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: The local Mughal community mourns the loss of a notable leader, Haji Moosa Mughal, who passed away at the age of 85 on Sunday. His death marks the end of an era for the community, where he was widely respected and admired.

Haji Moosa Mughal's funeral prayers were held in Berani, where a large number of people from various walks of life gathered to pay their respects. The body of the deceased was then laid to rest in his family's ancestral graveyard, in accordance with traditional customs.

The funeral was attended by family members, friends, community leaders, and local



residents, all of whom expressed their deep condolences and shared fond memories of Haji Moosa Mughal. His contributions to the community were numerous, and his presence will be greatly missed.

Throughout his life, Haji Moosa Mughal was known for his unwavering commitment to his community, his generosity, and his wisdom. His leadership and guidance helped shape the lives of many, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations. The passing of Haji Moosa Mughal is a significant loss for the Mughal community, and his memory will be cherished by all who knew him.

Residents Protest Severe Water Shortage In Badin's Sultani Wah

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Residents of Sultani Wah have taken to the streets to protest against the severe water shortage plaguing their region. The demonstration, led by local scholar Mahchi Gul Bok, Rashid Koso, Halar Koso, and other concerned citizens, highlighted the devastating impact of the water crisis on the community and its agricultural livelihoods.

The protesters expressed their frustration over the lack of water, which has caused crops to dry up and cultivated fields to deteriorate. This water shortage is resulting in significant financial losses for the farmers, amounting to millions of rupees. The dire situation has left many farmers struggling to sustain their livelihoods, as their primary source of income is being destroyed due to the inadequate water supply.

During the protest, Mahchi Gul Bok and other



leaders accused local officials of negligence and collusion. They claimed that the people of Mand, in collaboration with incompetent officials from the irrigation department, have exacerbated the water crisis, leaving the villagers of Tel and surrounding areas to suffer the consequences.

The demonstrators demanded immediate action from the authorities to address the water shortage and ensure a fair distribution of water resources. They called for a thorough investigation

into the alleged corruption and mismanagement within the irrigation department, urging for accountability and effective solutions to prevent further damage to their crops and livelihoods. As the protest gained momentum, the residents of Sultani Wah hoped that their voices would be heard and that the necessary steps would be taken to resolve the water crisis. The community remains united in their fight for a sustainable and equitable water supply, essential for their survival and prosperity.

6th All Badin Azadi Cricket Tournament: JI Youth Team Triumphs In Thrilling Final

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The 6th Azadi Cup 2024 cricket tournament, organized by Jamaat-e-Islami Youth, concluded with an exhilarating final match where the JI Youth team defeated All-Friend Cricket Club to claim victory. The tournament, held in All Badin district, saw enthusiastic participation from 24 teams.

The event featured a well-structured format with teams divided into groups of three, leading to a series of competitive matches. Over the course of the tournament, a total of 38 matches were played, including 24 group matches, 8 pre-quarter finals, 4 quarter-finals, 2 semi-finals, and the grand finale. The matches took place at the construction ground of Millat Public School, drawing large crowds and vibrant support from the local community.

The final match was a nail-biting contest between All-Friends and JI Youth Blue. Sajid Rostamani, captain of All-Friends, won the toss and opted to field first. Batting first, JI Youth, led by captain Dr. Ali Asghar, set a challenging target of 132 runs in 10 overs. Despite a shaky start, the All-Friends team made a strong comeback with impressive performances by Rahab and Inayat.

In a thrilling climax, All-Friends required 7 runs in the last over. Nauman emerged as the hero, hitting a six and then a four, securing a dramatic victory for his team. Saqyan Ashraf was declared the hero of the tournament, while the Man of the Final award went to Nauman for his match-winning performance.

The closing ceremony was graced by prominent figures including Maulana Ghulam Rasool Ahmadani, Azim Usmani, Abdul Latif Khosa, Fateh Khan Khosa, and Hanif Mallah. In his address, the chief guest emphasized the importance of sports in the holistic development of students. He highlighted that many students neglect physical activities, which are crucial for their mental and physical growth. Encouraging students to excel in both academics and sports, he stressed the need for balanced development.

The tournament concluded with the distribution of cash prizes and trophies to the winning team and outstanding players. The successful organization of the 6th Azadi Cup 2024 has set a positive precedent for future sports events in the district, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and healthy competition among the youth.

SPORTS



England beat Switzerland on penalties to reach Euro 2024 semi-finals



England's quest for a first major tournament win in 58 years remained alive after another late fightback before beating Switzerland 5-3 on penalties to book their place in the Euro 2024 semi-finals.

After the 120 minutes finished level at 1-1, goalkeeper Jordan Pickford was the Three Lions' hero in the shoot-out as he saved Switzerland's first spot-kick from Manuel Akanji.

Cole Palmer, Jude Bellingham, Bukayo Saka, Ivan Toney and Trent Alexander-Arnold converted their penalties to send England into a semi-final meeting with Turkey or the Netherlands in Dortmund on Wednesday.

After needing Bellingham's 95th-minute equaliser before going on to beat Slovakia in extra time in the last 16, England were again starting at defeat with 10 minutes to go.

A dreary encounter for the first 75 minutes came to life after Breel Embolo put Switzerland in front.

Saka's fine strike from outside the box levelled with England's first shot on target

Video of Ajay Devgan's interaction with Shahid Afridi in England goes viral



BIRMINGHAM: Co-owner of World Championship of Legends and Bollywood actor Ajay Devgan Saturday had a small talk with former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi, prior to the start of the match between Pakistan Champions and India Champions.

Video of the legends from the neighbouring countries is doing rounds on social media, with fans expressing delight over the rare sight when a Bollywood film actor gets to meet a Pakistani cricket great.

Ajay and Afridi can be seen shaking hands and having a pleasant conversation, before the action moves on to meet other players at Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham, UK.

Last night, Pakistan



Champions inflicted a 68-run defeat on Indian Champions in the 8th encounter of the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2024.

This was their third win for Younis Khan's men and they are now top of the points table of the six-team competition. They defeated mighty Australia and West Indies previously.

Pakistan smashed 243/4



against India, after being put into bat. The Men in Green were provided a blistering start by the opening pair of Sharjeel Khan and Kamran Akmal. The duo hit 145 runs for the first wicket before Sharjeel departed in the 11th over.

Sharjeel made a 30-ball 72 powered by seven fours and five sixes. While



Kamran continued the aggressive approach, scoring a 40-ball 77 before being bowled by Pawan Negi in the 14th over.

Sohaib Maqsood chipped in with a powerful 26-ball 51. He hit five sixes and two fours. Afridi went for a golden duck while Shoaib Malik remained not out on 18-ball 25.

India replied strongly at the start of the chase with Robin Uthappa scoring 12-ball 22. Sohaih Khan removed him to bring the first wicket for Pakistan.

Ambati Rayudu and Suresh Raina paired up to trouble the Men in Green but Shoaib Malik had the better of Rayudu (39) to put India under pressure.—Agency

Rohit Sharma to lead India in Champions Trophy, WTC: BCCI



Triumphant captain Rohit Sharma who recently won his country the T20 World Cup 2024, will be leading team India in the Champions Trophy 2025 and the 2023-25 World Test Championship (WTC).

"I am confident that under the captaincy of Rohit, we will win the WTC Final and the Champions Trophy," said the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah.

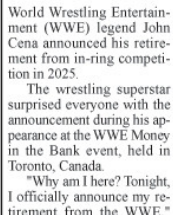
Shah's remarks come after India ended their 11-year-long ICC trophy drought after beating South Africa in the final of the T20 World Cup 2024 under the leadership of Rohit.

The star batter was appointed India's captain in 2021 after Virat Kohli stepped down and since then, the Blues made it to the WTC 2021-23 final and the ODI World Cup 2023 final where they lost to Australia on both occasions.

In a video message shared by the BCCI, Shah dedicated India's World Cup win to previous head coach Rahul Dravid, whose last match in charge was the final and said the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah.

"Many congratulations to Team India for this historic victory [..] this was our third final in the last year. In June 2023, we lost in the final of the World Test Championship. After ten wins in November 2023, we won hearts but couldn't win the cup," the BCCI official said.—Agency

WWE legend John Cena announces retirement from in-ring competition



World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) legend John Cena announced his retirement from in-ring competition in 2025.

The wrestling superstar surprised everyone with the announcement during his appearance at the WWE Money in the Bank event, held in Toronto, Canada.

"Why am I here? Tonight, I officially announce my retirement from the WWE," Cena addressed the crowd.

"This farewell, it does not end tonight," he added. "It is filled with opportunity. Everybody, Raw makes history next year when it moves to Netflix. I've never been a part of Raw on Netflix, that is history. That is a first, and I



will be there."

"And along with that history-making first, we are going to build so many unforgettable lasts. The 2025 Royal Rumble will be my last. The 2025 Elimination Chamber will be my last. And I'm here tonight to announce that in Las Vegas, WrestleMania 2025 will be the last WrestleMania I compete in," continued Cena.

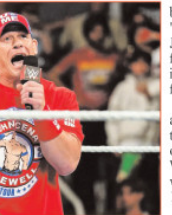
"What an incredible gesture of kindness," he said as fans chanted "thank you Cena."

Donning a t-shirt emblazoned with the words "The Last Time is Now" John Cena thanked WWE fans for "letting me play in the house that you built for so many years."

The wrestler-turned-actor is considered one of the greatest pro wrestlers of all time. He made his WWE debut in 2001 and went on to win a record 16 World Championships.

He shares the record with the legendary wrestler "Nature Boy" Ric Flair.

Cena is also a four-time tag-team champion and won the United States (US) championship on five occasions.—Agency



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Stuart Broad hails 'bowling addict' James Anderson ahead of final Test



LONDON: Former England pacer Stuart Broad has praised his long-time bowling partner James Anderson as "an addict of the art of bowling" as the veteran fast bowler prepares for his final Test against West Indies.

Anderson, 42 later this month, will face the West Indies in a series opener at Lord's starting on Wednesday before ending an England career which has so far yielded 700 wickets in 187 Tests - both records among quick bowlers.

Broad, who played alongside James Anderson in 138 of those games before retiring from Test cricket after last year's Ashes, said his longstanding new-ball partner's excellence was down to a sheer love of bowling.

"He loves the rhythm of running into bowl, the control of the technique of his action, the tactical side of whether he's bowling away swing, inswing, wobble seam," Broad wrote in the Sunday Times.

"When you talk about

Seifert's 82 trumps Hasaranga's fifty as Galle Marvels beat Kandy Falcons



DAMBULLA: Wanindu Hasaranga's explosive half-century went in vain as Tim Seifert played a modest 82-run knock to help Galle Marvels defeat Kandy Falcons in the ninth match of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2024 at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Sunday.

Set to chase 176, Galle Marvels steered to victory in 17.1 overs with a loss of four wickets courtesy of Seifert's unbeaten half-century.

Niroshan Dickwella set the tone with three boundaries in the first over, however, he fell on the last ball of the over.

Alex Hales was joined by Seifert and together they attacked the Falcons' bowlers, constructing a 79-run stand for the second wicket in just 34 balls.



Hasaranga broke the partnership in the seventh over when he enticed Hales to attempt a slog sweep, only to get caught by Pavan Rathnayake at deep mid-wicket.

Hales played a quick 38-run cameo off 19 balls with four boundaries and three sixes.

Seifert continued his onslaught as he got involved in a brief 38-run partnership with Bhanuka Rajapaksa (16) before Niroshan Dickwella invited Kandy Falcons to bat first and the bowlers proved the decision right by taking four wickets in quick succession with 32 runs on the board.—Agency



Sahan Arachchige (9) joined Seifert and they safely steered Marvels to their third victory in the LPL 2024 with an unbeaten partnership of 29 runs.

Seifert finished with an unbeaten 82 off 49, with the help of 13 boundaries, including two sixes.

Shoriful Islam led the bowling attack with two wickets, aided by Hasaranga and Sandakan, who bagged one each. Galle Marvels' captain Niroshan Dickwella invited Kandy Falcons to bat first and the bowlers proved the decision right by taking four wickets in quick succession with 32 runs on the board.—Agency

Jongwe reveals reason behind 'shoe celebration' after Zimbabwe's win over India



Zimbabwe caused a major upset at Harare Sports Club, successfully defending a modest target of 116 against a youthful Indian team captained by Shubman Gill.

The Indian batsmen struggled to apply themselves, losing half their side by the 10th over, with Dhruv Jurel falling victim to Luke Jongwe on his T20I debut.

Jongwe's distinctive 'shoe celebration' after taking the wicket stemmed from a playful pre-match conversation with his girlfriend Brenda Jasi.

"I came up with the idea for the celebration while I was on a call with my girlfriend Brenda. We were discussing a celebration I would do if I got a wicket, so I went with the shoe celebration. I told her each time I got a wicket, I would be calling her the room for improvement," Jongwe explained.

Zimbabwe's captain, Sikandar Raza, expressed delight at his team's victory while acknowledging the ongoing challenge posed by an inexperienced Indian lineup.

"Feel really happy about the win. Need to take one game at a time. The job is not done, series is not over. World champions play like world champions, so we need to be ready for the next game," Raza said.

Raza also highlighted the team's focus and determination.

"This isn't a wicket where you get bowled out for 115. Credit to the bowlers of both sides. Clearly an indication we need to up our skills. Our catching and ground fielding was amazing, but we did make some errors, showing there's room for improvement," Jongwe explained.

Face of the Day



Name: Huzaiifa
Location: Karachi
About me: I love Cricket and taking selfies!
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Lopez pays tribute to Ben Affleck with meaningful jewellery



Jennifer Lopez is sending a message of love with her jewellery.

The Atlas star was shopping in Bridgehampton with her manager, Benny Medina, and some friends on Friday when she was spotted wearing a charm bracelet on which Ben's initials were obvious.

Lopez, 54, kept the rest of the look relaxed with white linen shirt, matching pants, and a wide-brimmed hat.

She accessorised her outfit heavily though with a silver necklace, hoop earrings, a chunky gold bracelet, sunglasses and a handbag.

Lopez has been speaking through her outfits for some days now as she previously wore a crop top tee earlier this week that read, "JLO BE MY MAMA."

However, the recent message of endearment comes after reports that Lopez has given up on saving their marriage, while an insider told Page Six that Affleck regrets making her his wife.

The Papi songstress also went back to wearing her wedding ring again briefly taking it off to promote her J.Lo Beauty line.

The couple has been inconsistent with their wedding rings ever since divorce rumours began and haven't addressed their separation.

America's sweetheart Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce make first move towards getting married



Taylor Swift doesn't want to waste a lot more time when it comes to getting a proposal from her boyfriend Travis Kelce.

Swift and Kelce have been dating for a year now and seem serious, supporting each other at Eras World concerts and NFL matches. An insider now says the duo are discussing marriage since the singer wants to make sure they're on the same page.

"Taylor is head over heels in love with Travis. She doesn't want to waste more time, so she needs to make sure they're on the same page about getting married," a tipster told Radar Online.

The Lavender Haze hit-maker has reportedly learned from her last long relationship, which was with Joe Alwyn. The Grammy winner was with the Kinds of Kindness actor for over six years and never got a proposal from him.

"Taylor changed so many things to accommodate Joe - she moved to London and agreed to reel in her outgoing personality because he was more of a homebody," the mole revealed.

"They'd spoken about starting a family and she patiently waited for him to propose. Every time Joe would arrange a romantic vacation or quiet dinner, she imagined the time had come. But after almost seven years, Joe was dragging his feet and she had to walk away," they noted.

Explaining Taylor Swift's expectations of a proposal from Travis Kelce, the tipster added: "She's not expecting a proposal tomorrow, but she does want to know propose. Every time Joe would arrange a romantic vacation or quiet dinner, she imagined the time had come. But after almost seven years, Joe was dragging his feet and she had to walk away," they noted.

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NATIONAL

Punjab Government Enhances Polio Eradication Efforts

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government has decided to establish specialised polio vaccination counters at the entry and exit points of the province to reinforce polio eradication efforts.

The directives issued by the Minister and Chief Secretary of Punjab aimed to ensure inclusive vaccination coverage across the province.

Dedicated polio vaccination counters would be strategically positioned at all entry and exit points throughout Punjab, facilitating streamlined vaccination processes.

Chief Secretary instructed health authorities



and local administrators to identify and resolve any obstacles hindering vaccination goals promptly.

Officials pledged to utilize all available resources to eradicate polio and combat other diseases prevalent in the province.

The Chief Secretary underscored that any instances of negligence by officials during the polio eradication campaign would be met with appropriate action. —RT/Agency

Punjab Police Raid Opposition Leader Omar Ayub's Residence

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Police on Sunday raided the house of Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub to arrest him.

A Mianwali police contingent, along with Islamabad police raided PTI leader's residence in F-10 here in the federal capital.

Omar wrote on social media website X, former Twitter, that a Sargodha ATC (Anti-terrorism Court) issued his bailable warrant. A Mianwali and Islamabad police posse raided his house some time ago to arrest him, he continued.

The federal and Punjab governments, created on the basis of law there is no rule of Form-47, are eager to arrest the opposition leader of the National Assembly, Omar wrote.

The opposition leader said that the raid proved that there is no rule of law in the country. "Let me make it clear that our struggle will continue until Imran Khan becomes prime minister," he said.



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Man Accused Of Rape Arrested At Islamabad Airport

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) immigration circle on Sunday conducted an operation and arrested a wanted individual who trying to flee abroad, media reported.

The FIA spokesperson stated that the accused, named Amir Abdullah, was wanted in a rape case registered in Margalla police station.

In a move to thwart his attempt to flee the country, the authorities included the name of the accused in the stop list.

The FIA handed over the arrested individual to Islamabad police for further action.

A day earlier, the FIA Immigration wing arrested a passenger at Sialkot airport for traveling on fake documents.

As per details, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) spokesperson said that a passenger, Usman Ali, who was traveling to Azerbaijan was arrested for possessing a fake Greece Residence Card.

The accused has been shifted to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Karachi for further legal action and further investigation is underway. —RT/Agency



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Pakistan Railways To Operate Trains Through Public-Private Partnership

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways has decided to run its all trains under the public-private partnership mode, sources said.

Citing railway officials' sources said that the decision has been taken to provide better facilities to railway passengers and bringing stability in the department's income.

Several trains including Karakoram Express, Karachi Express, Awam Express, Green Line, Mahar, Chenab, Suman Sarkar and Mohenjo Daro passenger train will be run under the public-private partnership mode, officials said.

Moreover, Pak Business, Bolan Mail, Thal, Sukkur Express, Marvi, Chaman and Hazara Express would also be operated by the private sector, officials said.

Railways officials said that Shalimar Express, Bahaudin Zakaria, Kohat, Mehran Express, Attock, Jund and Rawalpindi passenger train also been run under this mechanism.

Chief Executive Officer Amir Baloch has stated that the railways intend to provide the best travel experience to its passengers.

Sources apprehended that the railway fares would skyrocket under the public-private partnership mode. —RT/Agency



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Couple Accused Of Brutally Torturing Domestic Worker In Lahore

LAHORE: Another distressing incident was reported from Lahore's Defense B area in which a husband and wife allegedly stripped and tortured a 13-year-old domestic worker, media reported on Sunday.

Following the torture incident, the police filed an FIR over the complaint of the mother of the domestic worker - Tahreem - and arrested the accused - Hassam - allegedly involved in the incident.

Meanwhile, the police officials claimed that raids were being conducted to



arrest Hassam's wife.

As per the FIR, the accused continued to torture the minor domestic worker Tahreem by stripping her naked over the suspicion of theft, the mother of the victim also claimed in the FIR that the bones of the girl's hand and nose were broken. The victim girl was handed over to her mother after her medical examination, while the SP Cantt stated that the perpetrators involved in the incident would be brought to justice. —RT/Agency

GLOBAL WATCH



US Election 2024: NATO allies concerned over Sleepy Joe Biden's ability to beat Trump



As the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) summit is just around the corner, diplomats and world leaders are expressing concerns about US President Joe Biden's age and health.

To defeat Donald Trump in the November 5 election, Biden is required to prove that he's ready and strong at the summit, which will be held in Washington next week.

According to Politico, allies want Biden to compete for his second term against Trump, but they are concerned about his ability to defeat the former president in the forthcoming elections.

Following the 81-year-old's poor performance in the first presidential debate against the Republican, some European officials have voiced doubts about Biden's stamina and leadership capabilities.

"It doesn't take a genius to see that the president is old. We're not sure that, even if he wins, he can survive four years more," one of the officials of the European NATO stated.

Another EU official remarked: "We all want Biden to have a second term to avoid dealing with Trump again, but this isn't really reassuring."

Moreover, NATO allies are concerned about how long Biden can keep US support for European defence, since Trump is sceptical about extending support for other countries.

"We're having more conversations about our own defences since it looks like Trump is coming back," an official from one NATO country said after the debate. —Agency

"Need Plan To Control Immigration": Ex UK PM Tony Blair's Advice To Keir Starmer

London: Former Labour prime minister Tony Blair made an early intervention in British politics on Sunday after Keir Starmer's landslide election victory, urging him to have a "plan to control immigration".

Blair warned Starmer, who is beginning his second full day as prime minister with a visit to Scotland, that the anti-immigration Reform UK Party also posed a challenge to Labour, not just the Conservative Party.

The Reform UK party, led by Brexit firebrand Nigel Farage, maximised the damage to the Conservatives at the election by splitting the right-wing vote.

It won five seats in the Westminster parliament and 14 percent of the vote, prompting Farage to warn that it will target Labour voters next.

In a piece headlined "My advice to Keir Starmer",



victories starting with his own landslide win in 1997, couched his "advice" in an article about harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI).

He said he believed digital ID technology offered the best solution to controlling irregular immigration, a key issue on the doorstep during the election campaign.

"We should move as the world is moving to digital ID. If not, new border controls will have to be highly effective," he wrote.

Other suggestions included "a tough new approach to law and order" due to the fact that "at present criminal elements are modernising faster than law enforcement".

And he said the government should "avoid any vulnerability on 'wokeism'", warning against policies that many regard as overly politically correct. —Agency

Overnight Ukraine Drone Hit Sets Russian Munitions Depot Ablaze

Moscow: An overnight Ukrainian drone attack set a Russian munitions depot ablaze the Voronezh region, near the two countries' shared border, Russian and Ukrainian officials said Sunday.

"Several drones were detected and destroyed overnight by air defence systems above the Voronezh region," regional governor Alexander Gusev wrote on Telegram.

"Their falling debris set off a fire in a depot" in the Podgorenskiy district, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the Ukrainian border.

"Explosives began to detonate", Gusev said, adding that there were no indications anybody had been hurt.

Rescue teams were at the scene and Gusev said local



people living near the depot were being evacuated.

A Ukrainian defence source told AFP that its drones hit the munitions factory in an overnight attack.

"The enemy stored surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, shells for tanks and artillery and boxes of ammunition" at the site, which was hit by drones resulting in a "powerful" explosion, the source said.

Russia and Ukraine have used drones, including large explosive devices with a range of hundreds of kilometres (miles), extensively since Russia launched its military offensive in February 2022. Ukraine has stepped up its attacks on Russian territory this year, targeting both energy sites it says supply the Russian army and towns and villages just across the border. —Agency

Israeli Strike On School Sheltering Displaced Gazans Kills 4, Second Attack In 2 Days

Gaza: The civil defence agency in Hamas-run Gaza said a strike Sunday on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians killed at least four people, the second such Israeli attack in two days.

The Israeli military, which has long accused Palestinian operatives of using schools and other civilian infrastructure, confirmed the strike "in the area of the school" in Gaza City. It said in a statement the school complex was used as a hideout and housed "a Hamas weapons manufacturing facility".

The civil defence agency said Ihab al-Ghusaini, the Hamas government's deputy labour minister, was among those killed in the

strike on the Holy Family school. The strike came a day after a UN-run school in the central Nuseirat refugee camp was hit, in an attack that the Gaza health ministry said killed 16 people and drew condemnation from the United Nations. Israel said militants were hiding there. —Agency

Woman and Daughter Killed In Multan Roof Collapse Tragedy



MULTAN: A woman and her daughter have died while the father and son suffered injuries after the roof of their house collapsed in Multan.

Rescue sources said the tragic incident occurred in Chowk Shaheen Nala Wali Muhammad due to extensive rainfall.

The roof of the house collapsed because it was rotten, burying the family members under the debris.

As a result, the mother and daughter lost their lives, and the son was seriously injured.

The deceased were identified as Saima Bibi and four-year-old Sania, while the injured included 50-year-old Riaz and Miraj.

The bodies and the injured were shifted to Nasir Hospital, the rescue sources said. —RT/Agency

Couple Killed As Vehicle Plunges Into Ravine Near Babusar Top

MANSEHRA: A tragic accident occurred near Babusar Top when a car carrying a family of five plunged into a ravine, leaving a couple dead, media reported.

As per details, the incident took place when the family was returning from a trip.

According to the Kaghan Development Authority, the car was carrying a family of five from Lahore, including three children, who were left injured in the incident.

The authorities have launched a rescue operation to retrieve the bodies and provide medical assistance to the injured children.

Earlier today, at least two tourists died, while three others injured in Chitral car accident.

The incident which claimed the lives of two tourists occurred in Ashrit due to damaged road. —RT/Agency

MONEY

Rupee Depreciation Expected By End of 2024 Despite IMF Bailout Prospects

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee, which is currently being exchanged at Rs278 against the dollar, is expected to depreciate to Rs 295 by the end of December 2024 despite the government's hope of securing a new bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), media reported on Sunday.

"As Pakistan navigates these turbulent waters, we expect economic challenges to persist in the near term with elevated inflation and demand contraction," said Tresmark in a client note issued a day earlier.

The prediction comes after Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik's remarks claiming that the government was looking forward to an IMF bailout in excess of \$6 billion after addressing all of the lender's requirements in its tax-heavy budget.

In the budget, the government increased the taxes on the already burdened salaried class, brought exporters into the normal tax regime, increased the petroleum levy and imposed new taxes on the real estate sectors, among others, to increase revenue generation aimed at stabilising the country's economic indicators.



"We hope to culminate this [IMF] process in the next three to four weeks," Malik told Reuters.

This week, the rupee traded within narrow ranges due to balanced supply and demand dynamics for dollars in the market and saw slight fluctuations throughout the week before recovering losses to close at Rs278.37 on Friday.

Elaborating on the performance of the local currency, Tresmark's note said that the rupee is projected to trade at Rs295 against the dollar by this year's end and at Rs325 by June 2025.

Positive indicators such as a narrowing trade deficit and a resilient stock market suggest a gradual economic recovery and an expected IMF agreement, anticipated to bring in between \$6 billion to \$8 billion, is seen as crucial for stabilising the economy, Tresmark noted.

However, potential implications from the Finance Bill's tax measures and escalating fuel prices may further strain purchasing power and demand, the report cautioned.

On the policy rate issue, it said that it is anticipated to remain between 17 to 19% by December 2024 to counter growth-related inflationary pressures.

Meanwhile, Sakib Sherani, an economist who heads the private firm Macro Economic Insights, is of the view that a quick deal with the IMF was needed to avoid pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves and the currency due to maturing debt repayments and the effects of unwinding of capital and import controls that were applied earlier. —RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is receiving a briefing about Hutchison Ports Pakistan Terminal at the Karachi Port.—RT

SAU Tando Jam Hosts Inaugural Three-Day Family Mango Festival And Exhibition In Karachi

By Irfan Ali Khushk

KARACHI: The first three-day Family Mango Festival and Exhibition, hosted by Sindh Agriculture University, commenced at the Pakistan Maritime Museum in Karachi.

This festival and exhibition were organized with the collaboration of the Pakistan Maritime Museum, TCN Executive Forum, and various institutions and farms. The festival was inaugurated by Provincial Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar, along with Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri, Vice Chancellor of Begum Nurat Bhutto Women University Sukkur Dr. Tahmina Mangan, DG Maritime Farooq Azam, and DG Research Noor Muhammad Baich.



The exhibition featured stalls showcasing mangoes and their by-products from various institutions, including the Institute of Food Sciences and Horticulture Department of Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam, Agriculture Research Sindh, Sub Campus Umerkot, Horticulture Institute Mirpurkhas, MH Panhwar Farms, Pahl Farms Tando Allahyar, among others. There were also mango grafting demonstrations, Sindh cultural stalls, and food stalls.

In his inaugural address, Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar, stated that climate change is impacting mango orchards in Sindh. Efforts are being made to establish modern research centers for mango production in Sindh. Additionally, they plan to introduce new varieties of mangoes to other countries to increase the global export of Sindh's mangoes. He urged the Sindh Agriculture University to also train the youth of Ghotki and establish a center there.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri said that the purpose of this festival and exhibition is to highlight the potential business opportunities in agriculture and the agricultural industry in Sindh and Pakistan, to encourage greater inclination towards agricultural education, and to foster connections between urban investors and agriculture.

He said next year, a larger mango show will be organized in Karachi in collaboration with the Sindh government and Maritime Museum, the SAU is also researching making powder from second-grade mangoes and other by-products of mangoes.

DG Pakistan Maritime Museum Captain Farooq Azam expressed his gratitude to the minister for attending the mango festival. He said he was pleased to hold the festival and announced plans to organize a date festival in collaboration with the Sindh government on August 14

PSQCA Releases New List Of Mandatory Items, Introduces Strict Quality Checks

KARACHI: The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has unveiled an updated list of mandatory items, featuring several new products, and has launched special inspection teams nationwide to enforce quality standards rigorously.

Director General Tawfiq Ali Abbasi emphasized that the newly formed teams are empowered to scrutinize the quality of goods across the country. Stringent measures will be enforced against unlicensed items, including confiscation of stock and the closure of non-compliant factories.

The revised list encompasses a wide range of food and non-food items, including medical devices, shaving cream, car and bicycle tires, coffee, and electric sockets. Units failing to apply for a license within 14 days will face legal consequences.

These initiatives are aimed at guaranteeing the availability of high-quality, licensed products to the public. For further information, please visit the PSQCA official website or their offices nationwide.—RT



Karachi school headmaster rapes a 10-year-old



KARACHI: In a harrowing incident, a school's headmaster allegedly raped a 10-year-old female student in the city's Moach Goth area.

A case has been registered at the Mochko Police Station on the complaint by the victim's father, said the police officials.

The mother, in the first information report (FIR), said that three of her daughters take tuitions from the headmaster.

"The headmaster called and asked to send our daughters on June 21, saying he wants to give them eid. However, when I refused, the headmaster insisted after which I sent my daughters," said the FIR.

The FIR said that when their daughters came back to home, the victim told her mother that the suspect had taken her to another room where he raped her.

The victim also told her mother that he had threatened to kill her if she told anyone about the assault, said the FIR.—RT/Agency

DSP CTD Ali Raza Fatally Shot In Karachi Attack

KARACHI: Unidentified assailants gunned down Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Investigations Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) Ali Raza in Karachi's Karimabad area on Sunday.



The senior police officer, who was a close friend of another martyred officer senior superintendent police (SSP) Chaudhry Aslam, was targeted by two gunmen near a residential building in the area.

Ali received a bullet in the head following the heavy firing by the culprits and was immediately taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

A security guard of the residential building also lost his life in the fierce gun attack.

Police officers confirmed that one of the armed men donned an ajrak — a traditional block-printed shawl in Sindh — while the second gunman hid his face with a helmet. The attacker used a 9mm pistol with a silencer to

target the senior cop, they added.

They said that Ali frequently used to visit the area to meet his childhood friends which increased suspicions that the assassins carried out the attack after full revenge.

The police personnel also found 11 spent bullet casings of a 9mm pistol from the crime scene.

The attackers opened fire at DSP Ali after he came out of his "bullet-proof vehicle". CTD Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Asif Aijaz Shaikh while speaking to journalists following Ali's killing today said that the culprits behind the attack would

not be spared at any cost. He confirmed that the slain police officer "uses a bullet-proof vehicle". To a question regarding any threat to DSP Ali, Shaikh replied that "all CTD officers face threats". He added that two persons were involved in the attack who fired 11 times at Ali. DIG Shaikh further said that it would be too early to comment on the motives behind the attack which would be ascertained after a thorough probe. Following the attack, senior CTD officers including Raja Umar Khattab, Mazhar Mashwani and Khurram Ashraf also visited the crime scene.—RT/Agency

Strengthening Indonesia-Pakistan Trade Relations: Key Stakeholders Convene For Bilateral Talks

KARACHI: The Indonesian Consulate in Karachi, in collaboration with the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Policy Advisory and Research Council

Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, Consul General of Indonesia in Karachi, opened the session by acknowledging esteemed guests such as Mr. Muhammad Zubair Motiwala from TDAP, Mr. Arief Wibisono from Indonesia's Ministry of Trade, and Mr. Mohammad Younus Daqra, Chairman of PRAC.

He underscored the robust growth in bilateral trade, which surged from USD 2.581 billion in 2020 to USD 4.511 billion in 2022, despite global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Hadiningrat also highlighted the increasing popularity of Indonesian consumer products in Pakistan, signaling a strengthening economic partnership.

Mr. Zubair Motiwala emphasized the need for enhanced regulatory frameworks and logistical support to facilitate smoother trade operations between the two nations, stressing the importance of market dynamics and consumer preferences in revitalizing trade relations.

The President of KCCI emphasized collaborative efforts and mutual understanding as pivotal to overcoming current trade challenges, affirming that joint initiatives can unlock new opportunities and bolster economic prosperity for both countries.

Detailed trade trend analyses were presented by Dr. Usmania, with Mr. Ahmad Sofyan, PhD, moderating a focused group discussion to address trade barriers and propose actionable solutions. The session concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders to sustain dialogue and implement discussed recommendations, marking a significant step towards fostering stronger business ties and enhancing trade performance between Indonesia and Pakistan.—RT

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Protest Resolved As Police Agree To Judicial Probe Into Woman's Death From Karachi Police Firing

KARACHI: The hours-long sit-in at Karachi's National Highway to protest the death of a woman allegedly by police's firing in Steel Town last week was called off on Sunday after the latest episode of talks with the law enforcers.



Area locals and the victim's family staged a sit-in at the National Highway - where a woman was shot dead in what police said was "collateral damage" during a purported encounter with an officer (SHO) for leading the encounter that left the woman dead.

However, police claimed that the said SHO was not engaged in the cross-firing as he was present at the police station at the time of the encounter. They said that the police party was chasing the criminals when the woman was caught in the line of fire.

The police said that they had registered a case against four cops who were part of the encounter but the family did not accept these terms. They claimed that they had the call detail record (CDR) and CCTV footage as evidence in SHO's defence.

Meanwhile, the victim's brother stressed that SHO should be booked as the police party couldn't engage in an encounter with criminals without the former's consent. However, the family ended the protest following talks led by East Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ghulam Azfar Mahesar, saying that they "left the matter to Allah".—RT/Agency

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Junaid Hamid takes over as President of the Rotary Club of Karachi Nexus for 2024-25

KARACHI: The inauguration ceremony of Junaid Hamid as the newly elected president of the Rotary Club of Karachi Nexus 2024-25 took place at Urban Forest, attended by a large gathering of Rotary members and distinguished Rotarians from District 3271.



The ceremony commenced with a special plantation event at the Main Grove of Urban Forest, where Vice President RI Hans Herman Kesten graced the occasion as the guest of honor, accompanied by his wife. Director RI Faiz Qadwai, District Governor 2024-25 Rizwan Hadia, and Secretary General District 3271 Raza Tabish Farooqi were also in attendance.

Following the plantation ceremony, a second event was held at the Mangrove Plantation, where Vice President RI addressed attendees. He commended the club's efforts in transforming Rotary International's seventh focal area into a tangible project within two years. Ali Haider highlighted the project's significance, noting the distinguished visits of RI President Stephanie A. York and RI Vice President Hans Herman Kesten, underscoring RC Nexus's prominence within the district.

In his inaugural address, Junaid Hamid expressed his commitment to building upon the club's achievements under the leadership of Dr. Khalid Sheikh. He thanked his team for their support and outlined his goals for the upcoming term, emphasizing continuity and innovation in club projects and community service. Dr. Khalid Sheikh, in his remarks, lauded the club's outstanding performance over the past year and affirmed his dedication to furthering its legacy of service and excellence. The ceremony concluded with Junaid Hamid presenting shields of recognition to Rotary President, Vice President, and a commemorative shield to the district.

During the event, District Governor Rizwan Hadia conducted a pinning ceremony, presenting Secretary Faraz Sheikh with an honorary pin in recognition of Junaid Hamid's inauguration. In his address, Rizwan Hadia extended New Year greetings to the Rotary Club of Karachi Nexus, urging increased membership and enhanced contributions to the Rotary Foundation to achieve Donor Club status. He emphasized the pivotal role of RC Nexus

Former IG Sindh Mushtaq Mahar's Mother Passes Away

KARACHI: The mother of former IG Sindh Police, Mushtaq Ahmed Mahar, has passed away. The senior police official's mother, who was also the matriarch of the Mahar family, was a well-respected figure within the community. Her demise marks a significant loss for the Mahar family, who have long been prominent in the region.



According to details, her passing has triggered an outpouring of grief and sympathy from various segments of society. A large number of members and leaders of the civil society, including notable personalities, politicians, and Mr. Mahar's colleagues in the police and civil bureaucracy, have been offering their condolences. Many have expressed their deep sorrow over the Mahar family's irreplaceable loss and have been visiting the family to pay their respects.

The Mahar family's residence at House Number 87 on Shahrah-e-Iran road, opposite 70 Clifton Block 2, has seen a continuous stream of visitors. Friends, family, and well-wishers are gathering to support the family during this difficult time and to honor the memory of a woman who was highly regarded and loved by those who knew her.

The community's response highlights the significant impact she had on those around her and the legacy she leaves behind. The Mahar family, in their time of mourning, are surrounded by the warmth and support of their community, friends and family, reflecting the deep connection and respect that have been cultivated over the years.—RT



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Munam Zafar is addressing a press conference, at the Idara Noor-ul-Haq regarding his party's initiatives for people's rights.—RT



KARACHI: Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, is presenting a memento to Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.—RT

"In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure."

—Bill Cosby

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MONDAY JULY 08 2024

New Poll Shows Biden Leading Trump In Key Battleground States Ahead Of 2024 Election

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden is ahead of former president Donald Trump in two key battlegrounds — Michigan and Wisconsin — however, he faces challenges in swing states and trails behind his nemesis in Pennsylvania, a new poll showed, mostly due to his debate debacle.



On the night of June 27, Biden and Trump locked horns in the first presidential debate of the 2024 election cycle, which left America shell-shocked.

Political analysts attributed the surprise not to the latter's falsehoods and personal attacks but to the former's complete failure to grasp the situation.

Biden's doddering performance against the main Republican candidate in the debate could potentially end his campaign just four months before the election.

Desperately, the incumbent US president is now urging voters to consider

his 3½-year record of achievements in office rather than dwelling on his 90-minute debate debacle.

In Michigan, Biden has 48% of the vote compared to Trump's 43%, while in Wisconsin, the 81-year-old is leading with 47% of the vote compared to Trump's 44%.

Nevertheless, the Democrat is behind Trump in Pennsylvania, a state where Biden grew up and expected a lot of support. The Republican is leading with

51% of the vote there, while Biden has 44%.

Additionally, he's trailing in other swing states as well, like Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and North Carolina, but the difference is small and within the poll's margin of error.

As per the poll conducted by Bloomberg News between July 1 and July 5, there are 4,902 voters in the seven swing states, with a one percentage point margin of error.

This poll comes follow-

ing Biden's poor performance in the presidential debate, which raised concerns about his age and his capability of serving as president for another term.

Around half of the people surveyed said Trump won the debate, with only 13% believing Biden had.

Some Democrats are reportedly considering urging Biden to withdraw from the race. The president, however, has stated publicly that he remains committed to running for re-election.

Speaking to ABC on Friday, Biden called his debate performance a "bad episode" and further added that there were no serious concerns about his health. He also mentioned that "most of the Democratic Party still supports him."

To the dismay of the entire America, the commander-in-chief wobbled on the debate stage, murmuring, muttering, and frequently fading out as if in a

trance — during the first presidential debate.

Between speaking, he stood quietly hunched over, with his mouth occasionally wide open and his eyes switching between confusion and clarity.

Even after 90 minutes, he seemed to have the same demeanour as when he entered, as his wife gently escorted him offstage, holding his hand.

However, in households across the country, this worst showing on the part of President Biden, triggered off some serious existential questions.

The octogenarian inadvertently became the poster child for many families' ageing and sometimes infirm relatives — showing how inherently fragile the human life is.

For many Americans, it was a heartbreaking portrayal of a man deep in the twilight of his otherwise eventful life.—RT/Agency

Mohsin Naqvi Orders Crackdown Against Drug Mafia

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has directed to launch a comprehensive crackdown against drug mafia to protect the future generations from the scourge of drugs and sought a comprehensive plan in this regard.



Chairing a meeting at the Anti-Narcotics Force Headquarters in Rawalpindi today, he also sought a plan to stop online sales of drugs.

Mohsin Naqvi said the scourge of drugs, especially of drugs, especially ice, in the educational institutions, hostels and universities. In this regard, consultations performance of ANF against drug traffickers across the country, despite limited resources. The Interior Minister laid floral wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial, offered Feteiha, and paid tribute to the great sacrifices of the martyrs. Later, he planted a sapling in the lawn of the ANF Headquarters.—RT/Agency

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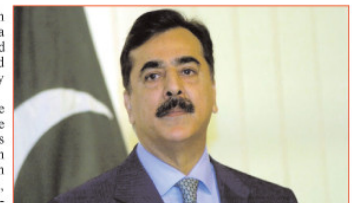
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Gilani Congratulates Newly Elected Iranian President

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday extended his felicitations to Masoud Pezeshkian, the newly elected president of Iran.



In a message, the Chairman expressed the hope that the historic ties between Pakistan and Iran would further strengthen under the new leadership, emphasizing the importance of continued collaboration between the two nations in promoting regional stability and prosperity. He noted that both

countries enjoy strong bilateral ties anchored in history, culture, and religion. Gilani expressed optimism that the newly

elected president of Iran will contribute further to cementing the fraternal ties between the two nations.—RT/Agency

UNHCR Chief Begins Pakistan Visit, Meets Afghan Refugees In Peshawar

PESHAWAR: UN refugee agency chief Filippo Grandi on Sunday met Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in Peshawar as he began a three-day visit that will focus on the problems of Afghan refugees, a UNHCR spokesperson said.



Spokesperson Qaisar Afridi told media that Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), met delegations of Afghan refugees who apprised him about their problems in Pakistan.

The UNHCR chief assured Afghan refugees that he would discuss with Pakistani officials about all issues of the refugees," the spokesperson said.

According to Afridi, the Afghan delegation comprised registered refugees and those who arrived in Pakistan after the Taliban takeover in August 2021.

The UNHCR chief also met Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Amir Muqam in Peshawar, the minister's office

in Islamabad said. SAFRON ministry also deals with Afghan refugees. "Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for 40 years despite serious economic difficulties," an official statement quoted the SAFRON minister as telling Grandi. This is the first visit of the UNHCR chief to Pakistan after the country announced a repatriation plan for "illegal foreigners" in October last year. Taliban rulers in Afghanistan had angrily reacted to Pakistan's decision to expel what Pakistan call illegal Afghans and called for a halt to the operation.

nearly 500,000 Afghans, who did not have legal documents, have been repatriated to Afghanistan since November 1, 2023. Officials had earlier stated that about 1.7 million illegal Afghans are living in Pakistan. "The refugee issue is becoming complicated across the world. Conflicts are leading to refugee issues and attention must be paid to resolve conflicts," Minister Muqam told the UNHCR chief. Grandi-led UNHCR delegation praised Pakistan for taking care of Afghan refugees for a long time, the statement further said.—RT/Agency

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UN Reports Lack Of Safe Havens For Palestinian Families In Gaza City

UNITED NATION: The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said families in the Gaza Strip are facing dire circumstances with nowhere safe to seek refuge.



"Palestinian families in the Gaza Strip have nowhere safe to go," said UNRWA on X. The agency also quoted its spokeswoman in Gaza, Louise Wateridge, in an interview with The New York Times, saying: "It's an endless cycle of death and displacement."

"People express here that they are losing hope, they are losing the willpower, faced with another forced displacement and absolutely no certainty of safety," Wateridge said.

"In terms of people's ability to move, it's been eight months of war, people are extremely fatigued, they're exhausted, they're malnourished."

weaker, there are more injuries, there's been less medicine available, less fresh fruit, less water."

Israeli army spokesman Avichay Adraee on Monday called for the evacuation of Palestinians from areas east of Khan Younis, forcing them to flee towards al-Mawasi area in Rafah.

Israel has continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by the Palestinian group Hamas.

More than 38,000 Palestinians in Gaza have since

been killed, mostly women and children, and vast tracts of the territory lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine.

Israel also stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered it to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.—RT/Agency

Mohsin Naqvi Addresses Over-Billing Issue In Electricity Bills



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday took strict notice of the increasing complaints of overbilling of protected consumers and ordered legal action against the officers and staff involved in it.

The Minister issued directions to all Directors of FIA to immediately redress the injustice being faced by consumers using up to 200 units.

He has strictly prohibited the inclusion of protected consumers in the non-protected category, terming it a criminal act that will not be tolerated.

Mohsin Naqvi ordered

FIA to review the entire situation and take action against those responsible without any discrimination, in light of the facts.

He reiterated that adding protected consumers in the list of non-protected consumers is unacceptable under any circumstances. He further said that the overbilling has put an additional burden of millions of rupees on consumers, and protected consumers who are already facing difficulties have been further affected. He emphasized that the overbilling complaints and injustices faced by protected consumers must be addressed immediately.—RT/Agency

Multiple Victims, Including Women, Injured in Acid Attack

PESHAWAR: Two unidentified men threw acid on a woman travelling along with five others in rickshaw in Peshawar, media reported on Sunday.



The incident — a CCTV footage of which is available with media — took place on Peshawar's Abdara Road, where a woman along with five others was travelling in rickshaw.

Despite having CCTV footage, the police have failed to arrest the culprits.

A first information report (FIR) has been registered against the attackers, according to which four people, including a 28-year-old woman and a 15-year-old girl, were

injured in the acid attack.

The victim woman alleged that her former husband had been threatening to kill her and was behind the acid attack. The police are investigating the incident and searching for the culprits.—RT/Agency

Speaker And Deputy Speaker Felicitate Muslim Ummah On New Islamic Year



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah on Sunday extended their warm felicitations to the Muslim Ummah on the advent of the new Islamic year Hijri 1446. On this occasion, the Speaker said that this day was a divine blessing, affording an opportunity to re-juvenate faith, resolve and recommit to noble values of peace, justice and compassion. He expressed the hope that this occasion would inspire people to rededicate themselves to the service of humanity and the pursuit of excellence. The Speaker said that the Muslim Ummah was facing numerous challenges, including conflicts, terrorism and economic inequality, which required united efforts to address. He emphasized the need for Muslim countries to stand

together in solidarity and work towards peace, stability and prosperity.

He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination and urged the international community to play its role in resolving the conflict.

The Speaker prayed that the new Islamic year may bring peace, prosperity and harmony to the country and the world at large, and urged the people to work together for the progress and development of the country.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa said that the new Islamic year heralds new hopes and opportunities. He urged the people to harness this momentum to propel themselves towards a brighter future, built on hard work, dedication, and service to humanity.—RT/Agency

-Can you believe this?

Landlord Breaks Donkey's Spine, Chops Off Ear

WAZIRABAD: Another disturbing incident was reported from Wazirabad, Punjab, where a cruel landlord brutally tortured and cut off the ear of a donkey as punishment for scavenging in his field, media reported on Sunday.



The police officials stated that a case had been registered against the landlord, named Owais Gujjar, for breaking the spine of the donkey after brutally torturing him.

The local police took action after the video of the injured donkey went viral.

In the video shared on social media, the landlord can be seen torturing a donkey.

Similar to this, a donkey, who was subjected to

severe torture in Hyderabad, died in Karachi's Shelter home. The donkey's two legs were broken due to severe torture and was rushed to Karachi for treatment.

The news of the donkey's death was shared by the NGO on social media. It is to be noted that the

donkey was tortured by its owner in a fit of anger that broke his two legs. As per the details, another animal was brutalized in Hyderabad, the second largest city of Sindh, where the owner cut off the leg of another donkey over a dispute with the other donkey cart driver.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Dr. Zahid Hasan Ansari, a renowned public health specialist and former Secretary of the Sindh Government's Sindh Blood Transfusion Authority, and Convener of FPCCI's Central Standing Committee for Medical & Health Services, organized a seminar on World Blood Donor Day. The Chief Guest was Provincial Minister for Universities and Boards, Government of Sindh, Muhammad Ali Malkani. Attendees included Mr. Saqib Farayaz Magoon, Senior Vice President FPCCI, Mr. Asif Sakhi, Vice President FPCCI, Mr. Azeem Siddiqui, Dr. Syed Sarfaraz Hussain Jafri, Dr. Agha Umar Daraz, Prof. Dr. Bushra Moiz (AKU), Dr. Lubna Hafeez Siddique, Dr. Tasneem Kausar, Dr. Mudassar Thabim (NICVD), Salam Nini, Advocate Hamera Qazi, renowned anchor Hussain Thebo, Tasmia Billoo, Rashid Nawab, Noor Afshan, Zubair Dada, Aslam Khalqi, Dr. Atif Anjum (NICH), Ateeq Rehman, Isman Ghani, Aman Pir, and Samira Anwer.—RT