



Dozens Of Pakistanis Deported From Iraq Over Fake Visas



Jennifer Garner Unveils New Modeling Venture

Heartland

Bilawal Urgently Calls For Rescue Of Three Pakistanis Detained in Myanmar



Money

-Zafar Moti is Happy!

PSE 100-index up by 409.91 points to close at 79,397.00



NATIONAL

KP CM Bows To Bannu Jirga Demands; Proposal Heads To Apex Committee



SPORTS

Women's Asia Cup: Pakistan Clinches Semi-Final Spot Thanks to India's Triumph Over Nepal



Government 'Surrenders' Fuel Pricing To OMCs

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to relinquish its authority to set fuel prices, transferring this critical responsibility to oil marketing companies (OMCs), sources said on Wednesday, as part of a phased plan to deregulate the petroleum sector and allow market-driven product rates.

Oil sector analysts say the deregulation proposal seeks to empower the OMCs to determine fuel prices based on various market factors. However, local consumers getting petrol and diesel from places closer to ports and refineries would get relatively cheaper products due to the transportation cost.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed that the government's powers to fix the prices of petroleum products be abolished.

In response to this directive, Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik has convened an important meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

"Petroleum Division has been directed to finalise and present the deregulation framework for the petroleum sector. The Minister for Energy (Petroleum Division) has been pleased to convene a meeting on Thursday," said a notification issued by the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division).



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As per the notification, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) has been tasked to present the subject matter along with analysis, implications, and a way forward for deregulation of petroleum products.

"Accordingly, Ogra is also requested to provide the requisite presentation at the earliest as the same is to be discussed in the said meeting," the notification said.

When ready, the final framework for deregulating petroleum prices will be presented to the prime minister.

However, this decision has met with fierce opposition from petroleum dealers. They have expressed concerns that granting oil marketing companies the authority to set prices might lead to unfair profiteering, impacting their businesses negatively.

On the other hand, the refineries said the deregulation

could jeopardise nearly \$6 billion of investment, as it is better to spend money on upgrading the refineries, according to a The News report.

Despite these objections, the government appears determined to move forward with its plan, aiming to create a more competitive and market-responsive petroleum sector.

The Oil Marketing Association of Pakistan (OMAP) last week appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to intervene and finalise a mechanism to recover exchange rate losses incurred by the industry. In a letter to the prime minister, Chairperson of OMAP Tariq Wazir Ali highlighted the issue of unrecovered exchange losses due to flaws in the current system. These losses, he claimed, have accumulated to a staggering Rs26 billion.—RT/Agency

PM Vows To Crush PTI's New Tactics Against Armed Forces

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the government will not tolerate any propaganda against the armed forces of Pakistan, warning the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against running smear campaign targeting the country and the army chief.

"The perpetrators of the May 9 riots, who had also attacked parliament and PTV and besieged the PM House in the past, have resorted to new tactics to malign the country and its armed forces as a malicious campaign was run against Army Chief General Asim Munir from the official website of the PTI," said PM Shehbaz, while chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet on Wednesday.

"We will not tolerate any such steps against the country, its innocent people, and its armed forces."

The prime minister's remarks came two days after Inter-Services Public Relations Director-General (DG ISPR) Lt General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry called on the nation to stand up against militants and "digital terrorists".

"Digital terrorism is being done on social media. The army is standing up against terrorists and digital terrorists. The time has come for the entire nation to stand up against them," the chief military spokesperson stated on Monday.

On the same day, PTI's Information Secretary Raouf



Hasan was arrested from the party's central secretariat in the federal capital for being allegedly involved in propaganda against the country and its integrity.

In today's cabinet meeting, the premier also reiterated his call for national unity to protect the national interest.

The federal cabinet did not discuss about the government's decision to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) during its meeting, sources told Geo News on Wednesday.

However, the federal cabinet did not discuss the much-hyped matter of imposing ban on the opposition PTI and invoking Article 6 (high treason) against the former prime minister Imran Khan, ex-president Arif Alvi and former National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri.

There were reports that the matter of banning the Imran Khan-founded party will come under cabinet's discussion today after Information Minister Attaullah Tarar recently announced

one in DI Khan and the other in Bannu. Two soldiers and five civilians were martyred in DI Khan while eight other soldiers were martyred while trying to foil a terrorist infiltration into the Bannu Cantonment in the wee hours of July 15.

PM Shehbaz termed this current wave of terrorism a machination against the country, arguing that it was taking place at a time when the coalition government was making efforts for development as it reached a staff level-agreement with IMF despite challenges and announced a three-month relief package for 96% of domestic power consumers.

Highlighting the role of Afghanistan in the wave of terrorism, the prime minister said the government was in interaction with them as Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif also visited there.

He highlighted that the country was hosting Afghan refugees only to be rewarded with the attacks by terrorists from the Afghan soil.

"But how is it possible that he hosted millions of their people here without any complaint? We treated them like our brothers and never considered them as a burden. But we were rewarded in the form of TTP attacks on our citizens to mar the country's peace and business. This is not acceptable," he remarked.

Two days earlier, the Pakistan Army killed three terrorists who were trying to infiltrate the Pak-Afghan border from Afghanistan, in the Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Moreover, two terrorist attacks took place last week.

decision to abolish visa fees for 126 countries as a "quantum jump" to bring ease of doing business and attract businessmen, tourists and travellers to Pakistan.

The decision, made after a three-day discussion, would be tabled before the cabinet for its consideration, he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that visitors would get visas within 24 hours through the electronic travel authorisation form. Besides, E-gates would be set up at Gwadar Port and nine airports — initially at the Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi airports.

The prime minister also strongly condemned the unprecedented human rights abuses of Israel against Palestinians as around 40,000 Palestinians had been killed including thousands of children and women.

He said despite the resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council and UN General Assembly and the decision by the International Court of Justice, Israel remained adamant on its oppression which was highly condemnable.

The prime minister drew attention to the attacks on Pakistan's missions in Germany and London. He said the Foreign Office had timely taken up the matter and that the envoys of the countries concerned should be given demarches to seek the protection of Pakistan's missions.—RT/Agency

Imran Rejects GHQ Protest Claims, Labels May 9 Riots 'False Flag'

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Wednesday stated that a narrative has been created with an agenda to accuse him of inciting the public to protest at the General Headquarters (GHQ) during the May 9 riots.

In a statement released on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), he clarified that in the nearly three-decade history of PTI, there has never been an instance of violent protests. "Over the past two and a half years, the worst tactics were used against PTI to incite violence," he added.

In November 2022, he said that there was an assassination attempt on him, and even his request for an FIR of his choice was denied.

The former prime minister further revealed that his residence was attacked twice by military personnel. On one occasion, during his



court appearance, there was a deliberate plan to assassinate him by deploying plainclothes individuals, he added.

On May 9, he explained that the masses were incited by the humiliating abduction of a former prime minister and the leader of Pakistan's largest and most popular political party, which could have led to a major incident.

He added that PTI's political training does not include elements of violence and the party believes in political,

constitutional, and legal struggles. Imran Khan said that May 9 was a false flag operation. "Those who stole the CCTV footage of May 9 are the real culprits of that day. Their intellect is such that they compare the May 9 incident to the Capitol Hill protest in the USA, where a thorough investigation and review of CCTV footage led to the punishment of only those involved, without implicating the entire Republican Party," he added.—RT/Agency

Shah Mehmood Qureshi's Remand Extended Again In May 9 Cases

LAHORE: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) has extended the judicial remand of former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, by 12 days in seven May 9 cases, media reported.

The court has ordered the police to submit the challan by August 5. Due to security concerns, Qureshi was not produced in court, and the prosecution requested a proceeding without his presence.

The court allowed the proceeding without Qureshi's presence due to security concerns. Qureshi's attendance was marked through a video WhatsApp call.

Earlier, the PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi



was sent to judicial remand following his alleged involvement in May 9 riots.

The court after rejecting the plea to extend the physical remand, sent the PTI leader to judicial remand under police custody for 14 days.—RT/Agency

Biden Administration Seeks \$101 Million To Rescue Cash-Strapped Pakistan

WASHINGTON: US Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia, Donald Lu said that US President Joe Biden has requested \$101 million in aid for Pakistan to support democracy and human rights in the country. Lu, whom Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan blamed for toppling his government in 2022, made the statement before a committee of the American House of Representatives, which was summoned to discuss the United States budget for South Asia.

The assistant secretary stated that the funds would be allocated to combat terrorism, support economic reforms, and provide debt relief.

Lu highlighted that this financial assistance aims to stabilise Pakistan's economy, which is in dire straits even after the government secured a 37-month-long International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

The staff-level agreement caps negotiations that started in May after Islamabad completed a short-term, \$3 billion program



that helped stabilize the economy, avert a sovereign debt default, and set challenging revenue targets in its budget to get IMF approval.

The new agreement introduced increased tax on agricultural incomes, underscoring the need to increase government revenue and reduce recurrent deficit to win the lender's approval.

Under the IMF deal, the highest effective tax rate can rise to as much as 45% from the current 15%. It will be implemented from 2025, a move that was termed "unprecedented" by brokerage and investment banking firm JS Global.

Moving forward, he also expressed concern over the situation of women and mi-

nority groups in Afghanistan, noting that relations with the Taliban government cannot normalise until the rights of Afghan citizens are respected.

The senior State Department official also demanded the Afghan Taliban to release all American prisoners in their custody.

The US remains the largest aid donor to impoverished Afghanistan nearly three years after the Taliban seized Kabul as the last US troops followed a chaotic pullout completing 20 years of war with the Islamist militants. Since the US withdrawal was completed on August 30, 2021, Washington has provided more than \$17.9 billion in assistance to Afghanistan.—RT/Agency

ECP Holds Verdict In Election Expenses Case

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday reserved its verdict in the case related to the expenditures incurred on the general elections held on Feb 8.

The hearing was conducted by a four-member bench headed by ECP member Nisar Durani.

According to ECP officials, ANP, Move on Pakistan, People's Muslim League Pakistan, Pakistani Awami Raj, Awami Jamhoori Party Pakistan, Haq Do Tehreek Balochistan and Pakistan People's League didn't submit the details of expenditures incurred on general elections.

ECP said that ANP's Mian Iftikhar Hussain Shah was contacted sev-



eral times but the party failed to submit the details.

The Move on Pakistan party didn't attend the phone calls, said the ECP officials.

People's Muslim League said that the party didn't run the election campaign and therefore no expense was incurred in this regard. "The political parties

gave advertisement seeking applications for party tickets. The ECP gave election symbol to 149 parties," said the officials.

As many as seven political parties didn't submit the details of expenditures yet. "The election symbol of these parties should be taken back," said the ECP.—RT/Agency

Imran and Bushra Bibi Defy NAB In Toshakhana Case



RAWALPINDI: PTI founder Imran Khan Wednesday refused to be part of an investigation in the new Toshakhana case in absence of his lawyers.

The NAB team stayed in Adiala jail for an hour or so but the PTI founder and his wife did not cooperate in the investigation. The NAB team was led by Deputy Di-

rector Mohsin Haroon. The NAB team had records of the purchase of jewelry. Initially, they obtained an 8-day remand, followed by a 7-day remand.

The investigation team later left Adiala Jail as both Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, did not cooperate.—RT/Agency

Manchester Police Accused Of Brutally Assaulting Two Pakistanis At Airport

MANCHESTER: Two Pakistani young men were brutally tortured in front of family members by British police officers at Manchester Airport as video of the incident went viral.

The mother of one of the Pakistanis tried to intervene and stop the violence but the policeman kept beating him.

In the video, the police officers repeatedly punched and kicked the young men.

Five police officers involved in the incident have been suspended, and an investigation is underway against the seven officers involved. Meanwhile, the Greater



Manchester Police (GMP) said that officers were called to reports of an altercation between members of the public in Terminal 2 at Manchester Airport.

"Whilst attempting to arrest one of the suspects of the earlier altercation, three officers were subject to a violent assault, where they were punched to the ground. A fe-

male officer suffered a broken nose and all three were taken to hospital for treatment. "As the attending officers were firearms officers, there was a clear risk during this assault of their firearms being taken from them. "Four men were arrested at the scene for affray and assault on emergency service workers.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



BADIN: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah speaks during the inauguration ceremony of the LBOD System, developed to revive old waterways.—RT

Bilawal Urgently Calls for Rescue of Three Pakistanis Detained in Myanmar

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has taken notice of reported kidnapping of three Pakistanis in Myanmar and urged the concerned authorities to take measures for their recovery and repatriation. PPP Chairman stressed that Foreign Office should utilize diplomat channels to locate and recover 3 boys namely Kashif Hussain, Faraz Khan and Shehroz Khan of Hyderabad, who travelled to Thailand from where they were allegedly taken to Myanmar and held hostage. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed sympathy with the loved ones of these



boys and assured PPP will raise voice at all relevant forums for the recovery of these boys.

District Council Badin Greenlights Ambitious Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The budget meeting of the District Council Badin, chaired by Chairman Jam Ali Asghar Halipoto, took place at the Badin Gymkhana. An annual budget exceeding 91 crore 92 lacs for the fiscal year 2024-25 was presented and unanimously approved by the members. Chairman Jam Ali Asghar Halipoto provided details of the proposed budget, including an opening balance of 27 crore 56 lac 51 thousand 404 rupees. He explained that the total estimated expenditure for the budget is 91 crore 46 lac 99 thousand 638 rupees. This includes 49 crore 56 lac 60 thousand 48 rupees for development works, 4 crore 55 lac rupees for purchases, 37 crore 35 lac 39 thousand 590 rupees for the commutation and benefits of retired district council employees and 24

crore rupees allocated for new construction projects. Regarding revenue, Chairman Halipoto reported that 584.42 million rupees were collected from various sources including OZT tax, fisheries, local seas tax, sales tax, immovable property tax, tower tax, and fair tax. Additionally, 2 lac rupees were collected as fees, 9 lac ten thousand rupees from rents, and 27 lac 50 thousand rupees from other income sources, bringing the total revenue to 58 crore 81 lac 13 thousand rupees.

The budget includes allocations of 20 crore 20 lac 78 thousand 84 rupees for salaries and pensions of district council employees, 25 lakh rupees for scholarships for deserving students and girls, 90 lac rupees for social welfare, sports grants, and relief for natural calamities. Two crore rupees are set

TMK Police Fail to Capture Suspect in BISP Stipend Theft Case

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In Tando Muhammad Khan, issues have arisen at the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) center located at the Mono Technical College, where device holders and agents have been accused of making illegal deductions from the stipends meant for poor and deserving women. A case has been reported where Ms. Sabai Sehto, a resident of Pir Pauri, had 2,000 rupees deducted from her stipend of 10,500 rupees by device holder Mehmood Solangi. Ms. Noor

tioned that after filing the complaint, there has been no progress in the case. In response, DSP Syed Mujahid Khan City informed the media that multiple complaints had been received against Mehmood Solangi for unauthorized deductions from the stipends of deserving women. A case has been registered and an investigation is ongoing. The authorities assure that efforts are underway to apprehend Mehmood Solangi and other involved agents and to ensure the recovery of the deducted funds.

Promotion Orders Issued for Driver and Lady Constables



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Joining orders were issued to 5 driver police constables and 6 lady police constables who were recently promoted in the police department. These personnel were promoted through the STS (Sindh Testing Service) after passing all the test stages required for the post of constable. Following the issuance of offer letters and after verification of medical fitness, educational data, and criminal records, the joining orders were distributed. A simple ceremony was organized today at the SSP office in Badin, where the successful candidates were invited. Sheet Clerk Muhammad Zaman Memon was also present at the event. Driver Police Constables who received joining orders include Muhammad Uzair Khan, Azhar Korejo, Abdul Raziq Lund, Altaf Hussain Junejo, Rizwan Baloch, while Lady Police Constables who received joining orders include Kiran Nizamani, Savira Nizamani, Imamzadi Lashari, Fatima Bhurgari, Shaheen Parihar, Shehla Bhanbho.

Deadly Clash in Solangi-Lanjwani: One Man Killed, Another Injured

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A clash occurred between the Lanjwani and Solangi communities in the village of Rasool Bux Solangi near Samaro over a decision regarding a love marriage. During the altercation, two individuals, Abdul Razzaq Lanjwani and Kareem Bakhsh Lanjwani, were injured due to firing. One of the injured succumbed to his injuries while being transported to Hyderabad. The body was brought to the Taluka Hospital Samaro for a postmortem and was then taken to their village, Sanjar Khan Lanjwani, where the funeral prayers were performed and he was buried. During this incident, Nazir Muhammad Lanjwani informed the media that the Solangi had called them under the pretense of discussing the decision and then attacked. The dispute is reportedly related to a love marriage between Kiran Adam, a resident of Tando Adam, and Akbar Solangi from Samaro. There are also reports of injuries to three members of the Solangi community, fearing further violence, has fled the village and is hiding in an undisclosed location. The Samaro police are conducting raids to apprehend those involved.

Sajid Ali Dashti's Family Demands Arrest of His Killers



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In Thul, the family of Sajid Ali Dashti, who was brutally murdered 36 days ago, staged a protest at Rahbar Chowk, blocking roads and burning tires to demand justice. The murder occurred in the village of Fateh Muhammad Dashti on Eid night, and the family has accused the suspects of attempting to abduct their children and pressuring them to withdraw from the case. Protesters, including Abdul Karim Dashti, Abdul Rauf Dashti, Asghar Ali Dashti, and others, voiced their frustration, claiming that despite the murder being reported to the police, no significant action has been taken. They allege that the suspects have been threatening them and have tried to kidnap their children, demanding justice.



BADIN: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah unveils the plaque at the inauguration ceremony of the LBOD System, aimed at reviving the natural waterway from Dhoro Puran to Shakoor Lake.—RT

Murad Reinstates Historic Waterways on LBOD

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Chief Minister of Sindh inaugurated the project to restore the water pathway from Dhoro Puran to Shakoor Lake. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah also inaugurated the RD-210 Spinal Escape Regulator. Now, more than 1,270,000 acres of land in the districts of Badin, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, and Nawabshah will not be submerged in floods. The restoration of the old drainage routes was a long-standing demand of the people of Mirpurkhas and Nawabshah divisions, said by WAPDA, said Chief Minister Sindh, Murad Ali Shah. The Sindh Government has made some amendments to



the design of the LBOD, as it had blocked natural water pathways. The LBOD project was from the 1980s and was constructed by WAPDA, said Chief Minister Sindh, Murad Ali Shah. The Sindh Government has made some amendments to the design of the LBOD to restore the old water pathways and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto had directed to complete the project for the restoration of the old water pathways to enhance the agricultural economy, said the Chief Minister of Sindh.

JSQM Chairman Sanan Khan Qureshi Slams Sindh Government's Karoonjhar Decision

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: Sanan Khan Qureshi, Chairman of the Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM), expressed strong criticism towards the Sindh government's decision to challenge the Sindh High Court's ruling that declared Karoonjhar as a heritage site. Speaking to the media after visiting the family of the late political and social leader Muhammad Juman Khokhar, Qureshi argued that this move by the Sindh government indicates a potential intent to sell off Karoonjhar, which he considers a betrayal of Sindh's history and culture. He emphasized that such actions would not be accepted by the people of Sindh and warned that the current rulers should be cautious. He criticized the government for potentially selling or auctioning off Sindh's



heritage and culture, and urged them to halt such actions, warning that JSQM would vigorously oppose these moves. Sanan Qureshi also highlighted the widespread lawlessness, insecurity and rise of banditry in Sindh, attributing these issues to police facilitation of drug trafficking, which he claimed has contributed to the downfall of the youth. He stressed the need for a robust struggle against these

Sindh United Party President Syed Zain Shah Slams Population Misrepresentation, Demands Self-Governance

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Syed Zain Shah, the Central President of the Sindh United Party, has stated that the deceit regarding the votes of Sindh will no longer be tolerated, and the people of Sindh must take charge of their own governance. He expressed these views while addressing the party workers' convention in Tando Muhammad Khan. He criticized the attempt to misrepresent the population of Sindh by using incorrect census data, noting that while global human populations are increasing, the actual Sindh population in major cities like Karachi and Hyderabad is being underestimated. He emphasized that such misrepresentation will not be accepted under any circumstances, and he lamented that the damages from past floods have not been addressed, leaving many victims still displaced despite receiving foreign aid. Shah condemned the political ex-



ploration of Sindh's votes and vowed that the Sindh United Party will launch a vigorous public struggle to reclaim Sindh's rights and control over its resources. He declared that election politics will not be allowed to be hijacked. The convention was also addressed by central leaders including Roshan Burro, Syed Munir Haider Shah, Ameer Azad Panhwar, Jagdish Ahuja, Syed Bashir Shah, District President Imran Laghari, Munir Burdi, Muhammad Juman Mallah, Manwar Soomro, and Fared Khwaja. The convention was attended by civil society figures such as Dr. GM Gul, historian Mashkoor Phulkar, writer Azam Bhatti, Mukhtiar Nizamani, social organization leader Zahid Jiskani, and others.



LARKANA: Students of Chandka Medical College hold a protest demonstration on campus to demand the acceptance of their demands.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



DC Zahoor Ahmed Marri Pushes for Bigger Budget for JIMS Visit

By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: Deputy Commissioner Jacobabad, Zahoor Ali Marri, has taken note of public complaints and conducted an unscheduled visit to JIMS Hospital. During the visit, Deputy Commissioner Memon inspected various wards of the hospital, including the OPD Ward, General Surgery Ward, Eye Surgery Ward, Orthopedic Ward, Physiotherapy Ward, Normal Delivery Ward, C-Section Ward, OT Ward, NICU Ward, Dialysis Ward, Echo Cardiography Ward, ETT Ward, Chest Pain Unit,

Ultrasound Ward, X-ray Machine Ward, and the hospital's laboratory. He met with the hospital's Medical Superintendent and other staff members to receive a detailed briefing about the hospital's issues. Speaking to the media after the visit, Deputy Commissioner Memon said that he had been receiving periodic complaints about JIMS Hospital being non-functional, with issues related to staff shortages and lack of medication for the public. However, he reported that the situation at the hospital appeared to be contrary to the complaints he had received.

He observed a high turnout of patients and noted that the entire hospital staff was present and performing their duties. Deputy Commissioner Memon mentioned that, by 11 AM, more than 700 patients had arrived at the hospital, and daily patient numbers range from 1,500 to 2,000. He confirmed that all necessary facilities were being provided to the patients. Deputy Commissioner Memon urged the Government of Sindh to increase JIMS Hospital's budget for medicines from 150 million to 250 million rupees to prevent any future shortages.

26th Annual Yaum-e-Hussain Celebrated at Muhammad Medical College and Ibne Sina University

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: The 26th Annual Yaum-e-Hussain program was held at Muhammad Medical College and Ibne Sina University in Mirpurkhas. The event was attended by Ibne Sina University's Chancellor, Professor Dr. Syed Razi Muhammad, Maulana Hafeez-ur-Rehman Faiz, Ibne Sina University's Vice Chancellor Dr. Shams-ul-Arfeen, Director Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Chohan, and Admission Director Dr. Nadeem, along with deans, faculty members, students, and a large number of attendees. In his address, Ibne

Sina University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Syed Razi Muhammad, stated that Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) not only upheld the principles of Islam but also taught humanity in the battlefield of Karbala. The martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) serves as a lesson for the Muslim Ummah to unite and raise their voices against oppression and tyranny. He emphasized that the battle of Karbala was between truth and falsehood. Maulana Hafeez-ur-Rehman Faiz remarked that Karbala is not associated with any single sect but represents a universal lesson in humanity. The true essence of Karbala is

recognized through the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). He emphasized the need to understand the message of Karbala today, especially in the context of the ongoing oppression and brutality faced by Muslims in Palestine and Gaza. He urged everyone to adopt the character of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and raise their voices against oppression. Director Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Chohan and Syed Zulfiqar Naqvi also paid tribute to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). At the end of the program, certificates were distributed to all participants. The stage duties were performed by Tahseen Sajad.

METRO KARACHI

Commissioner Orders Market Visits To Tackle Price Hikes

KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi, visited Empress Market and Parking Plaza Saddar on Wednesday. During his visit to Empress Market, he was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner South, Altaf Sario, and Assistant Commissioner Saddar, Muhammad Inran. The Commissioner checked the prices of vegetables, fruits, and spices, directing shopkeepers to prominently display the list of official prices. He warned that those who fail to display the list will be fined. The Commissioner also spoke with customers, advising them to check the official price list before making purchases. He has instructed all Deputy Commissioners to visit markets and bazaars

with Assistant Commissioners to check prices and ensure enforcement of official prices, guaranteeing that citizens get food items at the correct rates. Additionally, the Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioner East, Shehzad Abbas, to make the Assistant Commissioner's role active in the auction process at Sabzi Mandi and to ensure that the Assistant Commissioner is present in the vegetable market every morning to monitor the auction process. The Market Committee is to be held accountable for fixing reasonable prices for vegetables and fruits. During the visit, the Commissioner also inspected Empress Market Park and directed the Deputy

Commissioner South to take measures to improve the park's condition in coordination with KMC. He emphasized the need to clean the park, make it green and lush, and provide suitable seating for citizens. The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Commissioner on the plans and work carried out to restore the city's iconic Empress Market to its original form. Later, the Commissioner visited Parking Plaza and reviewed the provision of parking facilities there. He addressed the issue of traffic congestion in Saddar and announced that measures will be taken to improve traffic flow through better management of parking in the area.—RT

Eradicating Forced Labor To Combat Poverty And Boost Businesses

KARACHI: The eradication of forced labor in the brick kiln sector is essential for the industry's sustainability and poverty reduction, emphasized EFP Secretary General Syed Nazir Ali during a capacity-building workshop organized by the Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) with the support of the International Labor Organization (ILO). The workshop, held in Lahore under the BRIDGE Project, aimed to empower members of the Brick Kilns Owners Association Pakistan (BKOAP) to understand and address forced and bonded labor issues. Syed Nazir Ali highlighted that forced labor violates human rights and local laws, harming individuals and perpetuating poverty. He underscored the importance of eliminating forced labor to ensure decent working conditions and promote responsible business practices. This session was part of a series to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of informal sector associations in

Pakistan. Shoaib Niazi, Chairman of BKOAP, expressed gratitude to EFP and ILO, noting that the workshop would enhance brick kiln owners' understanding of forced labor, international standards, and relevant laws. He urged EFP and ILO to advocate for amendments to minimum wage and social security laws to reflect the realities of the brick kiln sector. Dr. Javaid Gill, the session consultant, presented on forced and bonded labor, linking it to ILO Conventions No. 29 and 105 and local laws like the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act. He stressed the role of District and Provincial Vigilance Committees in enforcement and rehabilitation and referenced the ILO's Handbook for Employers to combat forced labor. Participants discussed various issues, clarifying that forced labor is not practiced in the sector but noting challenges with social security registration and minimum wage laws. Concerns were raised about accommodating family-based work dynamics under current labor laws.—RT

Tando Jam Residents Fume Over Terrible Sanitary Conditions

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: The residents of Liaquat Town Colony in Tando Jam are facing severe sanitation issues due to neglected drainage systems, with sewage water spilling onto streets and alleys. Despite repeated complaints to the Union Council Chairman, Town Municipal Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Public Health officials, no action has been taken to address the issue. The colony has become inundated with sewerage water, making it resemble a slum area. Local

residents have resorted to using machines to remove the sewage themselves, as the designated officials responsible for maintaining the drains and sewers have failed to address the problem. If the situation is not remedied within two days, the residents plan to hold a strong protest against the Town Municipal Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Public Health officials at the Tando Jam Press Club. They also plan to initiate a daily symbolic hunger strike to demand immediate action and proper sanitation services.

Press Union Delegation Confronts SSP Khairpur

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: A delegation from the Khairpur Journalists' Alliance, led by Chairman Ghulam Hussain Chang, President Jamal Mehmood Khuro and Sufi Yasir Rajpar along with Hussain Bux Kubar, met with SSP Khairpur Zubair Nazir Shaikh. During the meeting, they discussed various issues faced by journalists, including injustices, thefts, and other grievances. The delegation detailed the problems, such as theft of motorcycles belonging to journalists and the filing of false cases against

them. They informed the SSP that the Khairpur Journalists Alliance is a representative organization for journalists in the district and warned that if the legitimate issues of journalists are not addressed, they would stage a strong protest. In response, SSP Khairpur Zubair Nazir Shaikh assured the delegation that legitimate issues faced by journalists would be resolved and that justice would be served. He promised that matters concerning journalists would be given priority and addressed accordingly.

Probe Launched Against BISE Mirpurkhas Officials in Major Scandal

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: On the orders of the Chief Minister of Sindh, an inquiry has been

initiated against 14 officials, including the former Controller Examinations of the BISE Mirpurkhas, on charges of selling grades.

The accused officials have been suspended, and show-cause notices have been issued as part of the investigation.

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Robbers Snatch Trader's Motorcycle In Ahmedpur Sharqia, Chaos Ensues

By M Siddique

BAHAWALPUR: In Ahmedpur Sharqia, armed robbers stole a Honda 125 motorcycle from a trader at gunpoint, sparking widespread outrage among traders and residents of Ahmedpur Sharqia, Uch Sharif, and surrounding areas. The increasing incidents of theft and robbery have left citizens feeling unsafe, with criminals openly targeting people during the

day. In the jurisdictions of police stations including Uch Sharif, Dhokort, Nowshera Jadede, City, and Saddar Ahmedpur Sharqia, the frequency of thefts and robberies has made life extremely difficult for residents. Recently, robbers killed the sole breadwinner of a family in the Dhokort area who was renting out motorcycles. On the day of the robbery, armed robbers

boldly stole a motorcycle from local trader Hafiz Muhammad Sarfraz in broad daylight in the middle of a busy market. Local police arrived promptly and have started taking action. The Ahmedpur Sharqia Traders Association has demanded the immediate arrest of the culprits from the DPO Bahawalpur and called for measures to control the rising incidents of robbery in the city.

NHMP Nabs Two Drug Dealers, Seizes 823 Bottles Of Foreign Liquor

By M Siddique

BAHAWALPUR: DSP Motorway Beat Rana Aijaz, along with Admin Officer, Ghulam Mustafa Sohu and other officers, including Abdul Majid Qaisrani, Sub-Inspector Rashid Wasim, and Lady Sub-Inspector Yasmin Tahir, conducted a check near the Uch Sharif Interchange. During the inspection, a suspicious car was stopped, leading to the discovery of 823 bottles of foreign liquor.



The suspects, Saleem and Salman, hailing from Islamabad and Faisalabad, were arrested. It was revealed that they are members of an inter-provincial drug smuggling gang involved in supplying alcohol and narcotics across various regions of the country. They were transporting the liquor from Kashmir to Multan. The arrested individuals have been handed over to the local Uch Sharif Police Station, where a case has been registered, and further investigations are underway. A police team has also been formed to apprehend their accomplices.

will face severe legal penalties. The arrested individuals have been handed over to the local Uch Sharif Police Station, where a case has been registered, and further investigations are underway. A police team has also been formed to apprehend their accomplices.

NATIONAL

Woman Orchestrates Rape With Husband's Involvement

LAHORE: A woman has been arrested allegedly for orchestrating the rape of her friend as a revenge in Lahore, media reported.

with the victim two days prior to the incident. According to the police, said that Yasmin's husband entered the victim's quarters in the Kot Lakhpar area of Lahore on the pretext of a visit and raped her.

According to police, the accused woman named Yasmin, had a fight with her colleague at a workplace. The rape victim and Yasmin worked together at a factory. The police said that Yasmeen orchestrated the rape of her friend by her husband Ali Sher, as an act of revenge after a dispute

Later, Yasmin was arrested from her brother's house in the help of modern technology. However, her husband, Ali Sher is still at the large and the police said he would be arrested soon.—RT/Agency

KP CM Bows To Bannu Jirga Demands; Proposal Heads To Apex Committee



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has accepted all demands of the Bannu Aman Jirga in a meeting held earlier this week, media reported citing sources on Wednesday.

The jirga's demands will be presented before the apex committee meeting expected to be held tomorrow, wherein the terms of reference (ToRs) for the constitution of a commission to probe into the Bannu incident will be discussed as well, the sources said. The forthcoming session of the apex committee will be attended by the KP chief secretary, additional secretary, home, Corps Commander Peshawar, KP Inspector General (IG), and other senior officers. The people familiar with the meeting also said the jirga sought to dismantle armed groups operating in the province, empower police and ensure their patrolling at night, allow CTD to conduct search operations or take action against terrorists instead of security forces, and present missing persons before courts. It was learnt that CM Gandapur responded to queries of Bannu jirga members during the meeting held late Monday. He said that the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) cleared the air about Operation Azm-e-Istehkam (Resolve for Stability) - a new counterterrorism drive being launched in the aftermath of a surge in terrorist attacks. The chief minister told the jirga members that the military's media wing made it clear that Azm-e-Istehkam was "not an operation but a strategy" to root out terrorism and extremism, they added. It is noteworthy to mention here that several political parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jama Ullema-e-Islam (JUI-F), the Awami National Party (ANP), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and others had expressed reservations over the new operation, demanding the authorities to take parliament into confidence. "Azm-e-Istehkam is a comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism campaign, not a military operation per se as it is being presented," the ISPR Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said while responding to reservations during a press conference in Rawalpindi a day ago.—RT/Agency

DC Muhammad Naem Sindhu Inspects DHQ Hospital Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In alignment with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision to provide superior medical facilities to the citizens of Toba Tek Singh, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sindhu made an unexpected visit to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital. During his visit, he inspected the outdoor, emergency, and gynecology wards to assess the medical services provided. He also examined the CT scan machine, checked the stock of medicines, and interacted with patients. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sindhu noted that DHQ Hospital serves not only Toba Tek



Singh city but also a large number of patients from surrounding areas. He emphasized that providing health facilities to the public is both the responsibility of the administration and the health department. In line with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's vision, the public is receiving not only

healthcare services but also free medicines. Additionally, he issued instructions to further improve cleanliness and sanitation arrangements within the hospital premises. MS DHQ Dr. Kashif Bajwa was also present during the visit.

Powerful Figures Accused Of Abducting And Assaulting Teacher In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In a disturbing incident, influential individuals are accused of abducting and assaulting female teacher Aqsa Shafi from her home in Chak No. 361, Rajana. According to the First Information Report (FIR) filed by Shafi, the accused—Abdul Jabbar Amir, Kashif, Abdul Wadood, Shuhab, and two women, Shahina Hanif and Samera (wife of Kashif)—forcibly entered her house at 9 AM, armed with sticks. Abdul Jabbar allegedly threatened Shafi for filing complaints against him and ordered her to be taken to Kashif's residence. The assailants, with the women's assistance, dragged Shafi



through the streets, physically assaulted her, and left her partially unclothed and unconscious at Kashif's house. The assault was recorded and shared on social media, sparking public outrage. The Rajana police reportedly delayed registering the police for their delayed response and the undue influence of the accused, demanding swift justice against those responsible.

sure, the police eventually registered the FIR. Local residents intervened to rescue Shafi, and her husband alerted Rescue 1122 and the police, who provided her with medical assistance. The community has criticized the police for their delayed response and the undue influence of the accused, demanding swift justice against those responsible.

EDITORIAL

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

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Pakistan: Forever Trapped Between US and China

Pakistan once again finds itself in a precarious position, needing financial support from international allies to stay afloat. The US has recently sought a budget of \$101 million to help Pakistan strengthen democracy, fight terrorism, and stabilize its economy. While this aid is crucial for addressing immediate challenges, it highlights the deeper issue of Pakistan's ongoing dependence on foreign assistance.

The country's internal politics have left it in a state of perpetual instability. Corruption, political infighting, and inconsistent policy-making have hindered progress, preventing Pakistan from building a self-sustaining economy. This cycle of reliance on external aid raises questions about the nation's future. Will Pakistan ever reach a point where it can stand on its own two feet without

having to seek financial support from other countries?

Historically, Pakistan has balanced its alliances between the US and China, leveraging support



from both superpowers. However, this strategy has often left Pakistan in a limbo, unable to fully align with one without risking the ire of the other. The recent US budget request explicitly aims to counter China's growing influence in Pakistan, reflecting a broader strategic contest between the two nations.

China's extensive investment in Pakistan, primarily in the form of loans rather than grants, has created a significant debt burden. This depend-

ence on Chinese financial aid has drawn criticism and concern, both domestically and internationally. The US, on the other hand, frames its assistance as a means to promote democratic values and sustainable economic reforms.

While external support is vital for immediate relief, it is not a long-term solution. Pakistan must address its internal issues to achieve true independence and economic stability. Political reforms, anti-corruption measures, and consistent economic policies are essential for building a resilient economy that can withstand external pressures and reduce the need for foreign aid.

As the US and China maneuver strategically in Pakistan's affairs, we, as Pakistanis, must ask ourselves a crucial question: Are we better off today than we were two years ago? Have we ever truly been stable enough to prosper?

THE HEARTLAND



DC Naveed Rehman Larik Leads High-Stakes Meeting of District Base Price Assessment Committee

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A meeting of the District Base Price Assessment Committee, established by the Sindh government's Land Utilization Department to address issues related to government lands, was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Umerkot, Naveed Rehman Larik, at his office.

The meeting was attended by committee members including Deputy Commissioner One Javed Ahmed Dahri, Assistant Commissioner Umerkot Rajib Ali, District Account Officer Umerkot Muhammad Alam Soomro, Mukhtiar Umerkot Azizullah Chachar, District Registrar Umerkot, Agriculture Stakeholder Ghulam Akbar Dars, Local Estate Business Representative Syed Qamar Hussain Shah, Information Officer Muhammad Aslam, and others.



During the meeting, it was decided to set new government rates for government lands concerning three public projects in ten villages of Taluka Umerkot. These projects include the railway track from Thar Coal Block-II to New Chhor, the new construction of the water channel's CC lining related to SIFC and the Green Pakistan Project. Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naveed Rehman Larik, with the consensus of all committee members, fixed the rates for government land in various villages of Taluka Umerkot. The rate for government land in villages such as Kaploar, Lala Beh, Kucholi, Dodhar, Mokhal Beh, and others was set at 2 lac rupees per acre. The rate for government land in Deh Sarang Sar was set at 6 lac rupees per acre, and the rate for Deh Banhari was set at 5 lac rupees per acre.

Mufti Ubaidullah Dahri Urges Following Path of Karbala Martyrs



By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: A grand gathering was held by the Jamaat-e-Ahle Sunnat at the Jamia Mosque in the village of Mitha Khan Jokhio in memory of the martyrs of Karbala. The event was attended by political and social leaders, journalists and a large number of people from surrounding villages associated with the Ahle Sunnat community.

The gathering began with a recitation of the Holy Quran by Hafiz Khair Muhammad Jokhio. The special address was delivered by Allama Maulana Mufti Ubaidullah Dahri. He noted that the residents of the village and the surrounding areas participated in large numbers. In his speech, Allama Mufti Ubaidullah Dahri highlighted that Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), who raised the banner of truth on the land of Karbala and sacrificed his life along with his 72 companions for the sake of Islam,

was on the side of truth, while Yazid and his supporters were on the side of falsehood. He emphasized that if Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions had not stood firm on the side of truth in Karbala, disbelief would have prevailed in the world today. He urged that the lesson from the martyrs of Karbala should inspire individuals to have the courage to speak the truth against tyrannical and corrupt rulers and to raise their voices against injustices.

He further explained that the lessons from the Karbala incident such as patience, gratitude and contentment with Allah Almighty's will should be incorporated into one's practical life, and one should always support the truth and rebel against oppression. He called upon all Muslims to unite and strive in defense of Islam and Shariah. During the program, Naats were recited by Allah Dino Jokhio, Shaman Ali Jokhio, Haji Liaquat Abro, Ghayal Rind, and others.

SEPCO Recovers Rs 50.5 Million, Dismantles 5,000 Illegal Connections

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Superintendent Engineer Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) Larkana Circle Shah Muhammad Bajkani on Tuesday said that on the instructions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, the SEPCO Circle Larkana conducted crackdown against the electricity thefts in June and July during the ongoing campaign against electricity thieves and defaulters. Talking to Daily Regional Times, he said that 1895 letters issued for FIRs had been sent to the concerned police stations to file against the electricity thieves and disconnected connection of electricity more than 5,000 and registered FIRs against 127 consumers who did not pay their dues of electricity and 11 electricity thieves are in police custody. The SE further said that 7 large poles of one lac 32 thousand KV of (Joc) high transmission line from Madeji were cut off, due to storm hit the transmis-

sion which they are solving the problems of the citizens on the merit basis and waiving the deductions and wrong bills and asking the consumers who are using extra electricity units. We are ready to provide relief in installments to such users who need to resolve their issues in open dialogue to avoid further legal action. Shah Muhammad Bajkani said that illegal electricity users and power thieves by installing corner connections should avoid such illegal activities and use electricity legally by installing electricity meters, which will provide relief in slums and rural areas. To the residential consumers who have been living for many years in terms of electricity, such consumers will be restored in installments of 24 months and their bills will be corrected. He said that the citizens should support SEPCO to prevent electricity theft and pay the bills so that we can provide maximum relief to them by bringing an end to electricity load shedding in the country.

Dr. Amjad Mastoi Makes Midnight Visit to DHQ Hospital Dadu



By Javed Laghari

DADU: MS of DHQ Hospital Dadu, Dr. Amjad Hussain Mastoi, on orders of the LUMHS VC Prof Dr Ikramuddin Ujan visited the DHQ Hospital Dadu on Wednesday. They inspected various wards including the emergency ward, pediatric ward, car-

diology ward, and gynecology ward, paying special attention to cleanliness. During the visit, Dr. Amjad Hussain Mastoi observed that doctors and other staff members were performing their duties efficiently. The cleaning staff was also actively engaged in maintaining cleanliness, which had improved significantly.

Dr. Amjad Hussain Mastoi instructed the staff to ensure the best care for every patient and emphasized the hospital's commitment to public service. He noted that the hospital has previously provided relief to the public and assured that efforts would continue to offer maximum relief to the people.

District Judge Grants Bail to Ex-Chairman Talhar Mir Shahid Talpur

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: District and Sessions Judge Badin has granted bail to the former Chairman of the Town Committee Talhar Mir Shahid Talpur, and ordered his release. On this occasion, Mir Shahid Talpur's brother, Mir Noor Ahmad Talpur, expressed his sentiments, stating that for the past few years, they

have been enduring severe political revenge from their opponents. He emphasized that people have always placed their trust in them, and they have consistently stood by the people. They fulfilled the trust of their supporters, which their opponents find hard to accept. Mir Noor Ahmad Talpur further criticized the misuse of government and police power,

stating that the abuse of justice and police brutality has reached extreme levels. He condemned the situation where protesting and raising a voice against the killing of an oppressed and poor woman has become a crime. He expressed confidence in the judiciary and stated that justice has been served, maintaining faith in the court's decisions.

TMK Woman Demands Urgent Justice and Protection



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A woman named Samina Rind, resident of the village Lashkari Khan Rind in UC Haji Soobo Chandio, along with her husband Zulfikar Ali Rind, complained to journalists that her father, Jan Muhammad Rind, wanted to marry her off to another fifty-year-old man. When she refused, her father, along with her mother-in-law Imamzadi, aunt Shabana, and an influential person and drug dealer

named Muhammad Shah, threatened to kill them. She further stated that Muhammad Shah and her father have previously orchestrated several attacks on them and filed numerous false cases against them. They are in fear for their lives. She also mentioned that Muhammad Shah now intends to harm her young child. They appeal to the IG Sindh, DIG Hyderabad, SSP Tando Muhammad Khan and human rights organizations for protection and justice.

Tourists Fume Over Facilities Shortage at Mohenjo Daro

By Irfan Morio

DOKRI: At Mohenjo Daro, the ancient and significant archaeological site in Sindh, tourists are facing a severe shortage of facilities. It has been revealed that the rest house rooms, which are supposed to be reserved for tourists, are being allocated to ordinary people instead. This has led to significant inconvenience for visitors and has sparked frustration among knowledgeable circles, with protests being announced. Details indicate that both local and foreign tourists at Mohenjo Daro are deprived of basic amenities such as cold drinking water, shaded resting areas and affordable, quality food. The rest house rooms, which are supposed to be designated for tourists, are reportedly being used by local individuals under questionable circumstances. These rooms, equipped with air-conditioning, are now occupied by locals, causing a considerable loss of revenue for the Archaeology Department due to high electricity bills. The lack of facilities and the presence of local people



in tourist accommodations have led to several incidents of alleged misconduct with tourists. This situation has resulted in a decrease in the number of visitors, both domestic and international. Recent visitors to Mohenjo Daro, including Rizwan Mangi and Gul Hassan, have expressed their dissatisfaction, stating that there are no provisions for clean water, shaded resting areas, or affordable food.

They highlighted that local people have taken over the rest house rooms and have been occupying the air-conditioned rooms throughout the day, causing significant discomfort for tourists and leading to substantial financial losses for the government. In response, politi-

cal and social groups have condemned the failure to provide proper facilities for tourists and the alleged misuse of rest house rooms. They have demanded that the provincial minister and secretary of the Tourism and Culture Department, along with other officials, take notice of the situation. They have warned of potential protests if the issue is not addressed promptly. On the other hand, Mohenjo Daro's administration has claimed that the rest house rooms are reserved for foreign tourists and official authorities only, and that they are not meant for local residents. They have denied the allegations, asserting that efforts are being made to provide facilities for tourists.

SPORTS



Ollie Pope: England to Blitz 600 Runs in a Single Test Day



LONDON: Ollie Pope believes England could yet score 600 runs in a single day of Test cricket in the right circumstances for Ben Stokes' men.

Pope was one of three century-makers for the hosts as England won the second Test against the West Indies at Trent Bridge by 241 runs, with Harry Brook and Joe Root following him to three figures in a series-clinching success.

Victory in Nottingham was also the first time England had passed 400 in both innings in the 147-year history of Test cricket.

Ollie Pope was one of four batters to score a hundred when England piled up 506-4 on the first day against Pakistan at Rawalpindi in December 2022, despite facing a mere 75 overs.

The England vice-captain believes the team now have the capacity to surpass that feat, but also an ability to adapt to more bowler-friendly conditions as they refine their aggressive 'Bazball' approach.

"I think when Baz (England coach Brendon McCullum) and Stokes took over, we were a batting unit with, not a lack of experience, but a lack of confidence at the time," said Pope.

"At the time it was about building confidence, now it's about hopefully becoming more and more ruthless. "Sometimes we might score 280-300 in a day but that's OK and probably because we're reading situations."

The 26-year-old Surrey star added: "We saw at Trent Bridge, when the lights were on and it started swinging more that was the time just to manage the game a little bit and that's something we want to keep getting better and better at."

"But there might be a day where we go and get 500 or 600 at some point in the future as well. That's a cool thing to have."

England, who previously thrashed the West Indies by an innings and 114 runs at Lord's, have now won a Test series for the first time since 2022 as they lead 2-0 ahead of this week's finale at the Edgbaston ground in Birmingham.—Agency

Chief Curator Tony Hemming Makes Groundbreaking Visit to National Bank Stadium



KARACHI: Tony Hemming, the chief curator of Pakistan, visited the National Bank Stadium here on Wednesday.

Hemming met the ground staff at National Bank Stadium and carried out a detailed discussion with the ground staff regarding the pitches and outfield.

For the unversed, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), last week, appointed Australia's Tony Hemming as the new head curator on a two-year contract.

Hemming's immediate tasks will be to prepare pitches for Pakistan's upcoming five home Test matches, which are part of the ICC World Test Championship.

Pakistan will play two matches against Bangladesh in August/September, followed by a three-Test series against England, scheduled to be played in October.

Hemming will also oversee pitch preparations for the upcoming ICC Men's

Champions Trophy 2025, which Pakistan will host from 19 February to 9 March.

Hemming is a highly respected curator with nearly four decades of experience. He has worked at various iconic cricket grounds in Australia, including Melbourne, Perth and Tasmania, as well as in countries such as Bangladesh, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, where he was the ICC's Head Curator from 2007 to 2017 in Dubai.

During his time with the ICC, Hemming also oversaw pitch preparation at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, which was one of Pakistan's home venues between 2009 and 2019.

Prior to joining PCB, Tony Hemming was involved with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), where we worked from July 2023.—Agency

'Who Else but Babar Azam?': Former Pakistan Skipper Throws Full Support Behind Captaincy

LAHORE: Former Pakistan Younis Khan has thrown his weight behind current national white-ball captain Babar Azam, pointing out the lack of captaincy options in the country.

Babar Azam has been under fire following Pakistan's lacklustre ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign, where they got knocked out from the group stage.

Many fans and critics have attributed the Green Shirts' disastrous performance to Babar's captaincy and called for his removal as captain.

However, Younis Khan disagreed with the notion, highlighting the country's inadequate cricket infrastructure. He blamed it for



not preparing backup players to replace the struggling players.

"We give our views very quickly. If we talk about our current team, the players don't have a fault. Instead, I will blame the infrastructure. If we don't have the back-up, how will you replace the (out of form) players?"

Younis said during an interview with a local news channel.

He defended Babar and shifted the blame on previous management and selection committees for not building players who could lead the team.

"We generally speak that Babar Azam should not be the captain. If not

Babar Azam, who else should be the captain? That's not Babar Azam's fault," he added.

"Neither this is the current selection committee's fault. This is the fault of something that happened 5-6 years back. We should have built our bench strength," Younis Khan concluded.

It is worth noting that in the aftermath of Pakistan's T20 World Cup debacle, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) sacked Abdul Razaq and Wahab Riaz from selection committee, while the latter also lost his job as senior team manager. Meanwhile, team manager Mansoor Rana was also removed from the post.—Agency

Women's Asia Cup: Pakistan Clinches Semi-Final Spot Thanks to India's Triumph Over Nepal



LAHORE: The Pakistan women's cricket team qualified for the semi-finals of the 2024 Women's Asia Cup

after India claimed an 82-run win over Nepal at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Tuesday.

India were already in a strong position to qualify in the final four after they posted 178/3 in 20 overs. The bowlers restricted Nepal on 96/9. India had defeated Pakistan and UAE previously too.

The Girls in Green had defeated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by 10 wickets in a must-win match earlier today.

Chasing the target of 104 runs, Pakistan's opening duo of Gull Feroza and Muneeba Ali showed impeccable performances with the bat as the

Green Shirts reached home in just 14.1 overs without losing a single wicket. Feroza scored 62 off 55 balls with eight fours while Muneeba contributed 37 runs on 30 deliveries with four boundaries.

Pakistan also became the first team to win a match by 10 wickets in the history of the Women's T20 Asia Cup.

After being asked the bat first, the UAE women did not have a great start as they kept on losing wickets at regular intervals.

Skipper Esha Oza (16 off 26) and Theertha Satish (40 off 36) were the top two scorers for UAE as Khushi Sharma (12 off 13) managed to contribute runs in double figures.—Agency

Arshad Nadeem Vows to Break Pakistan's Olympic Medal Drought

LAHORE: Star javelin thrower, Arshad Nadeem on Wednesday, expressed his ambition to end Pakistan's 32-year-long wait for an Olympic medal at the 2024 Paris Games.

Pakistan last won a medal in the Olympics during the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona, however, Arshad is hopeful that he will once again bring the glory to the country.

"I'm fit and well-prepared and I've worked really hard for this prestigious event," he told reporters in Lahore. "I feel I can achieve my goal of winning a medal."



"I will continue my training in Paris to bring further improvement before competing in the event and if everything goes to plan, I will get a medal for the country at the Olympics," he added.

Arshad Nadeem will compete in the qualification round on August 6, with the final scheduled for two days later.

Notably, Pakistan will compete in shooting, athletics and swimming in the Paris Olympics. Out of the seven athletes four of them earned direct qualification while sprinter Faiqa Riaz and swimmers Jehanara Nabi and Mohammad Ahmed Durrani will feature in the biggest sporting event on the basis of the universality places.

Pakistan failed to qualify for major disciplines like Hockey, Wrestling, Volleyball, Boxing and Weightlifting.—Agency

Nacho Gives Tearful Farewell to Real Madrid Before Saudi Move

Nacho Fernandez bid an emotional farewell to Real Madrid on Tuesday following a trophy-laden 23-year stay with the La Liga club.

The Spain international, who captained the team to a Champions League and La Liga double this past season, left the club at the end of his contract. Earlier this month, he helped Spain lift the Euro 2024 trophy.

The 34-year-old defender announced earlier this month that he will play for the Saudi Pro League club Al Qadiah.

In a private ceremony closed to fans and media at the club house and attended by his teammates, former players and Madrid president Florentino Perez,



a tearful Nacho said, "It's the most beautiful ending I could have imagined. I leave as captain and having had the honour of lifting the 15th European Cup."

"I leave because I wanted another experience in my career and face new challenges. I want to be remembered as a youth player that gave his all to the club."

"I have grown up for almost 24 years in the best club in the world. Real Madrid has taught me to win and lose, but above all to live. This club is everything to me. I say goodbye knowing that I have given my all for this club."

Nacho lifted a joint-club record 26 trophies, including six Champions League titles with Madrid, having joined the club aged 10.

He made his first-team debut in 2012.

Perez handed Nacho a gold and diamond badge and said: "We are proud to have had you for these past 23 years. You came here aged 10 and you have played in all of our teams. I want you to know that we feel the utmost pride in one of Real Madrid's most legendary youth players. I want to thank you because you have given your soul to this club. You know this is and will always be your home."—Agency

Guardiola Reacts to Manchester City's Shock Pre-Season Defeat to Celtic in the USA



MANCHESTER: Manager Pep Guardiola opened up after defeat in Manchester City's pre-season opener in the USA to Celtic 4-3.

Bearing in mind the inexperienced squad available to him, Guardiola was pleased with the way his players performed.

"I saw many good things from the new and old players," the manager stated in his post-match press conference.

"It wasn't easy, we have senior players up front and back four eight or nine who are so young. It's difficult in one department when so many are young but horns with AC Milan, good things. Oscar and Barcelona and Chelsea Rico always in a high level."

"Many things I saw were nice. We created chances, but they are so good with the pace and quality they have. You have to live these situations in pre-season and we'll do it from here."

Speaking about Rico Lewis' performance, Guardiola backed the Bury-born teenager.

"Rico is exceptional and can play in the pocket, maybe it's his natural position but we didn't have players in back four."

"He's so dynamic, first control vision, it's really good and I was very pleased with his performance in one department when so many are young but horns with AC Milan, good things. Oscar and Barcelona and Chelsea Rico always in a high level."

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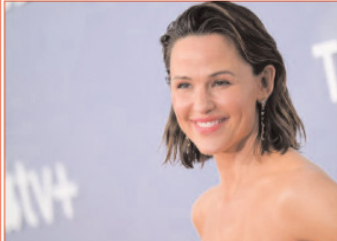
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"Rico is exceptional and can play in the pocket, maybe it's his natural position but we didn't have players in back four."

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT



Jennifer Garner Unveils New Modeling Venture



Jennifer Garner is a bird watcher, as per her Instagram post.

The 52-year-old actress jokingly revealed on Instagram that she was beginning a bird "modeling agency" after spending some of her time birdwatching.

It is pertinent to mention that Garner wrote at the beginning of her video, "Showing my cat places in the house he's never seen before."

Garner began at length by admitting in an Instagram reel, "I just became a birder and it turns out that my yard has the prettiest birds in all of California."

While having a drink can and tucking her gray t-shirt in her blue pair of jeans, Garner continued by saying, "So I have a little modeling agency for dark-eyed junco

Victoria Beckham Playfully Roasts David Over His Instagram Skills



Victoria Beckham took a playful jab at her husband, David Beckham's Instagram skills.

The 50-year-old fashion designer teased her husband David for filtering a new photo he posted with her on a France vacation on Tuesday.

It is pertinent to mention that the filter that made her hair look ginger instead of her signature brunette color.

As far as the caption is concerned, David wrote, "We have eaten in many beautiful places but WOW Domine De Peretti Della Rocca, while tagging Victoria."

In regards to the romantic snap, Victoria and David embraced while looking up and smiling at the camera while they sat at a dining table in the middle of a crop field during the sunset.

As far as Mrs. Beckham is concerned, she wore her hair loosely appearing in a reddish shade in the sunlight while donning a black vest with her band nickname Posh Spice.

Furthermore, David's latest photo with his wife came as Victoria also posted summer vacation snaps on Instagram with their children Romeo, Cruz, and Harper.

Face of the Day



Name: Sumair Sheikh
Location: Karachi
About me: I enjoy modeling and taking selfies

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THE HEARTLAND



Certificates Awarded as Latif in Colors Competition Wraps Up at SABS University

By Shaikh Sindhi & Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO/KOTRI: A certificate and shield distribution ceremony was held at Shaheed Allah Bukh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design, and Heritage, Jamshoro. The event recognized the students' achievements in the Latif in Colors Competition, organized in collaboration with Centre for Knowledge Development (CKD). The Vice Chancellor of SABS, Prof. Dr. Arabella Bhutto, awarded certificates to the talented students who participated in the competition and shields to their supervisors. The event was marked by a sense of pride and accomplishment, as students were lauded for their creative expressions and contributions to illustrate Latif's poetry.



Prof. Dr Arabella Bhutto praised the students for their dedication and encouraged them to continue exploring and showcasing their artistic talents. She emphasized the importance of such competitions in fostering creativity and preserving message of Shaif's poetry. The Latif in Colors Competition, named after the revered Sindhi poet Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai (RA), provided a platform for students to express

Newlyweds Sumera Abro and Zeeshan Katiar Demand Immediate Protection

By Shaikh Sindhi



KOTRI: A woman named Sumera Abro, resident of the Rasuah Mori area in Kotri, reached the press club with her husband Zeeshan Katiar and protested, stating that she willingly married Zeeshan and was not kidnapped. She claimed that now her relatives, Sikandar Abro, Altaf, Koro Khan, Ali Nawaz, and others, have become her enemies and are threatening to kill them. She said that her relatives have assaulted her husband and forcibly took their vehicle. She appealed to the SSP Jamshoro and others for justice and protection.

SIEHS Chief Denies Rumors of Mehar Center Relocation

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Brigadier Tariq Qadir Lakher, Head of the Sindh Integrated Emergency and Health Services (SIEHS), refuted the news circulating on print and social media and informed the Daily Regional Times correspondent that the Sindh Integrated Emergency and Health Services center in Mehar will remain established in Mehar city. It is being temporarily moved to Radhan city as the new, modern and high-quality building for the Mehar Center will soon be constructed and work on this



will commence in a few days. Therefore, the Mehar Center of the Sindh Integrated Emergency and Health Services (Rescue 1122) is being relocated to Radhan only on a temporary basis. He further stated that according to the future plan of the Sindh Integrated Emergency and Health Services (Rescue 1122), there will be separate offices in Mehar and Radhan. I assure the residents of Mehar that Mehar is my home, and I cannot forget the people of Mehar. Citizens should not pay attention to such rumors and should focus on other important matters.

Sindh University Laar Campus and NDMA Ink MoU for Disaster Management

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Sindh University Laar Campus and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have signed a cooperation agreement to work together in dealing with natural disasters. A disaster relief committee has also been established in Badin. This collaboration aims to enhance disaster management capabilities and ensure robust cooperation in disaster management. The agreement was signed by Khalilur Rahman Kumbhari and the Director General of the National Institute of Disaster Management, M. Tanveer Pracha, representing the NDMA. Recognizing the critical role of disaster management in safeguarding human lives and property, both parties have agreed to collaborate in various areas.

The focus will be on building community capacity to effectively respond to geophysical and climate-related hydro-meteorological disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, droughts, tsunamis, heat strokes, and cyclones. This will involve utilizing new technologies and methods, including remote sensing for glacier burst detection, flood geographic information system mapping, and hazard mapping. The partnership will enhance the local emergency response system through the exchange of trainees, professors, scientists, and other disaster management professionals. This will include joint workshops, conferences, seminars, exercises, and training courses. Both sides will also collaborate on scientific research and practical surveys related to disaster management and climate

CIA Police Thatta Executes Major Drug Bust

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Mumtaz Ali Brohi, Incharge of CIA Police Thatta, led a successful operation resulting in the seizure of a 16-wheeler trailer loaded with illegal drugs. The raid occurred on the main road in front of Shahjahan Mosque in Thatta. The trailer was found carrying 80 bags of betel nuts, approximately 50 kilograms in total, intended for use in Gutka, a harmful chewable tobacco product, and 500 packets of Mawa. The driver of the trailer, identified as

Urs of Hazrat Syed Makhdoom Abdul Rehman Hashmi Shaheed (RA) Draws Crowds in Makhdoom Khuhra

By Khuda Bux Brohi

SHAHRPUR: The 302nd annual Urs of Hazrat Syed Makhdoom Abdul Rehman Hashmi Shaheed (RA) was observed with great devotion and respect at the Darbar-e-Aaliya Makhdoom Khuhra, Khairpur. During the ceremonies, the Sajjadanashin (spiritual leader) of the Darbar, Pir Makhdoom Nadeem Ahmed Hashmi, along with Pir Mazhar Ali Qadri, Pir Syed Sajjad Hussain Shah (Multan), Pir Syed Ali Raza Shah Jilani (Darbar Loo Sahiban), and other prominent figures, laid a chaddar at the grave and prayed. The first session of the program commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, performed by Hafiz Sohaih Ahmed Narejo. The duties of the stage secretary were handled by Maulvi Ramiz Ali Karmi. Naat Khawans included Faqir Lalan, Faqir Meerat Gilal, Faqir Hamzoor Bux Gilal, Muhammad Amir Badruddin Soomro, Khan



Muhammad Chachar, Sarfraz Qasmi, Sameer Ahmed, Umair Ahmed, and others, who illuminated the hearts with their recitations, including Naat, Qasida in praise of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and Manqabat in honor of Makhdoom Shaheed Abdul Rehman Hashmi (RA). Special attendees included Pir Melboob Moimuddin Koreja (Sajjadanashin of Darbar-e-Aaliya Khwaja Ghulam Fadeel Kot Mithan Sharif), Pir Syed Imran Ali Shah Jilani, Pir Syed Tariq Ali Shah Jilani (Makhdaem) took place. At the end, guests, devotees, and followers were served Lungar.—RT

Town Chairman Asif Hussain Shoro Cracks Down on Water Theft

By M Ismail Khilji



PITHORO: In response to complaints about water shortages in various areas of Pithoro city, Town Chairman Asif Hussain Shoro, under his supervision, conducted an operation in Haji Badal Muhalla. During this operation, illegal water connections were removed from the water supply lines. Influential individuals who had been illegally obtaining water for an extended period were targeted. The residents of the area have praised the Chairman for this action. Chairman Asif Hussain Shoro, in an interview with Daily Regional Times, explained that daily complaints about water shortages in different parts of the city have prompted the authorities to check and excavate water supply lines. Illegal connections and pipes are being removed across the city. Shoro stated that they have been inspecting water supply lines and connections in various neighborhoods over the past few days. Outdated and illegal connections are being disconnected. The Chairman emphasized the commitment to ensuring water supply to every household in the city. He also appealed to citizens to report illegal connections and cooperate with town administration to resolve the water issue swiftly.

UC Paat Sharif Budget Meeting Chaired by Syed Ali Murad

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: The budget meeting of Union Council (UC) Paat Sharif was held under the chairmanship of Syed Ali Murad. A budget of one crore twenty lac rupees was presented during the meeting, which began with the recitation of the holy Quran. The meeting was attended by UC members, journalists, and dignitaries. He highlighted that the budget included funds for employee salaries and an increase in the salaries of sanitary workers. Funds were also designated for cleanliness, salaries for retired employees, hand pumps, sanitation, and installation of dustbins in the markets. Although the budget did not

allocate funds for sports activities, efforts were made to promote sports and encourage players. Additionally, funds were set aside for tree planting across the UC and for sanitary working materials and celebration events. Makhdoom Shafiq-ur-Rehman Siddiqui emphasized that this budget was among the best presented by the district's UC and would resolve many issues. He expressed optimism about securing major projects for street paving and other problems with the support of the District Council and MNAs. He assured that progress would accelerate, leading to a prosperous UC in the near future.

Abro Community Protests Demolition of Village Hall in Khuda Din Shah

By Khuda Dino Kachhai

SANGHAR: In the village of Khuda Dino Shah, members of the Abro community, led by Muhammad Khan Abro, have staged a strong protest against the demolition of their community hall by influential individuals using weapons. The protest included severe chanting and raised voices. Protesters, including Muhammad Khan Abro, Sultan Abro, Gulam Ali Abro, Anwar Ali Abro, Imtiaz Abro, Mir Muhammad Abro, Gulab Abro, Khan Muhammad Abro, Ashiq Hussain Abro, and Madad Ali Abro, expressed their frustration over the lack of action by the Sinjhor police, despite being informed about the incident.



They reported that the SHO was unresponsive to their calls. The protesters have appealed to the DIG Shaheed Benazirabad, SSP Sanghar and other authorities to take notice of the incident and ensure justice. They warned that if their demands are not met, they will organize a severe protest outside the Sinjhor Press Club and Sanghar Press Club. The community leaders highlighted that influential individuals demolished their community hall using modern machinery, including bulldozers, causing extensive damage to the building and its contents. They are demanding justice and redress for the destruction caused.

Villagers Protest Unnatural Sewage Drain into Hakro Dhoro

By MM Faisal

KUNRI: Villagers from Double Mori, led by Attaullah Chandio staged a protest against an unnatural sewage drain being connected to Hakro Dhoro. Fierce slogans were raised during the demonstration, which included prominent figures such as Ali Bux Khaskheli, Photo Junejo, and Ali Raza Solangi. Details reveal that the sewage drain emerging from Double Mori is being connected to Hakro Dhoro, which is ten feet higher than the surrounding area. This unnatural sewage drain threatens to impact approximately five hundred villages across four union councils and risks their submergence. The connection poses a serious threat as it may lead to the inundation of lands belonging to a few influential individuals. The floodwaters from the sewage drain endanger the four



union councils, but local concerns are being ignored. Protesters stated that if the work is not halted, they will stage a sit-in in front of the machinery to stop the project. They have called upon the Chief Minister, MPA, and MNA of the Sindh region to intervene, halt the construction of the sewage drain, and address the concerns of the affected residents.

Renowned Sindhi Artist Ramesh Kumar Dies

By MM Faisal



TALHAR: Renowned Sindhi artist and sculptor Ramesh Kumar has passed away at the age of 60 in Tando Allahyar. Ramesh Kumar, gained prominence for his exceptional work in sculpture and statuary, earning acclaim not only in Pakistan but also in various parts of the world. Many of his sculptures are still displayed in temples and prominent roads, serving as a testament to his artistic legacy. Ramesh Kumar was the maternal uncle of senior journalist Raj Rathore from Talhar. The President of Talhar Press Club, Muhammad Siddique Thebo, PPP Minority Wing leader Sunil Kumar, social activist Nadeem Ali Khawaja, and others have expressed their condolences to journalist Raj Rathore on the passing of the famous artist Ramesh Kumar.—RT

Special Task Force Busts Indian Liquor Ring, Nabs Two Suspects

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: In an operation conducted by the Special Task Force of the Sindh Police formed by IG Sindh, a significant seizure of Indian liquor and whisky near the village of Bhugra Bagh. The operation resulted in the confiscation of an estimated 80 lac rupees worth of Indian liquor and five cartons of whisky. Two suspects, Mohan Lumbani and Chela Ram Lumbani, were arrested and handed over to the Jhudo Police. Under the leadership of DSP Tando Adam, Moosa Abro, the Special Task Force raided a drug den and apprehended the suspects. The seized liquor, including high-value Indian spirits, was found to be associated with a local resident, Manan Memon. The SHO of Jhudo, Shahnavaz Khaskheli, reported that a large quantity of liquor was confiscated, and cases have been filed under the Narcotic



Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act against Mohan Lumbani, Manan Memon, Chela Ram and Faqero Khoso. SSP Mirpurkhas Chaudhry Asad commented on the situation, stating that due to the increase in drug-related activities and the alleged negligence of the Jhudo Police, SHO Shahnavaz Khaskheli has been suspended. Further actions and investigations will be carried out to address the issue. SSP Chaudhry Asad also acknowledged the citizens of Jhudo for their vigilance and reporting, which contributed to the successful operation.

Rajar Community Men Demand Swift Justice in Fierce Land Dispute

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The residents of Haji Sajjan Rajar village in Sindhri, Mirpurkhas, held a press conference and later protested against the illegal occupa-

tion of their land. They stated that influential individuals have occupied their land and are threatening them with death. They appealed to the Commissioner of Mirpurkhas, the Deputy Commissioner of Mirpurkhas and the SSP of Mirpurkhas to reclaim the occupied land, arrest the culprits and provide justice and protection. They declared that they would continue their protest until their demands are met.

METRO KARACHI



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief Hafiz Na'eem-ur-Rehman addresses lawyers at a reception ceremony organized by the Karachi Bar Association, held at City Courts premises.—RT

MQM Moves Bold Resolution Against IPPs In Sindh Assembly

KARACHI: The MQM-Pakistan has submitted a resolution in Sindh Assembly against the independent power producers (IPPs), media reported on Wednesday. Leader of Opposition in Sindh Assembly Ali Khurshidi and Najam Mirza submitted resolution in the assembly's secretariat. "It will become an issue of survival if capacity charges continued to be paid to the IPPs," the resolution read. "Per unit price of the electricity has reached to an unbearable level for the industrial and domestic consumers," according to the MQM resolution. "Agreements with the IPPs and payments are burden on the economy. The power tariff has become intolerable with erroneous agreements made with the IPPs in past," according to resolution. The resolution called the IPP agreements a threat to the national security and sovereignty. Earlier, MQM leader Mustafa Kamal demanded of government to cancel the capacity charges agreement with local IPPs. Mustafa Kamal talking to media said the situation has reached to the extreme where a brother kills another over the electricity bill payment. "I plead to the prime minister that 70 percent IPPs have been locally owned. Talk to them over the mistaken policy, they have earned thousands of billions and now we could not pay them more," MQM leader said. Mustafa Kamal said he has talked with the NEPRA to fix the K-Electric tariff. The regulator must bound the company, not to close a feeder over non-payment, he said. "The shutdown of a feeder over non-payment suspends power supply to every consumer," he said. He said the power supply system in Pakistan could not be corrected until more than one companies operating in the field. "There are more than one companies across the world and until the monopoly will not end, a common consumer could not get relief," he added.—RT/Agency

Dozens Of Pakistanis Deported From Iraq Over Fake Visas

KARACHI: Sindh Tourism Minister Zulfiqar Shah has revealed that dozens of Pakistanis were detained in Iraq for travelling on fake visas and passports. The minister noted that these individuals were subsequently deported. Shah also said that the UAE and other countries have tightened visa requirements for Pakistanis due to similar complaints. On July 12, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested two key members of a gang involved in a massive visa fraud scheme that deceived over 350 citizens. According to an FIA spokesperson, the suspects, identified as Ghulam Murtaza and Anjum Javed, were apprehended during a raid in Islamabad. Speaking at a ceremony for travel and tour operators on Wednesday, Shah stated, "We have initiated actions against companies and travel agencies involved in human smuggling, fake passports, and fake visas". "We need the cooperation of travel and tour operators in this effort. Licences of those involved in illegal activities will be revoked." The event was attended by Sindh Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani, former provincial assembly member Abdul Rashid, Chairman Gulshan-e-Iqbal Town Dr Fawad Ahmed, Jamat-e-Islami leader and CEO of Dunya Travel and Tours Hafiz Farhan Ahmed, and Waqas Azmi. Shah disclosed that the UAE Consul General had complained about a large number of Pakistanis absconding upon entering the UAE, leading to stricter visa conditions for Pakistanis. He emphasized that some travel agencies are implicated in these illicit activities. "Travel agents' associations should identify these fraudulent agents to facilitate our actions," Shah said. "These individuals not only cause problems for Pakistanis abroad but also tarnish Pakistan's reputation. Every country has tightened their visa policies for us, making it difficult worldwide." Saeed Ghani, Sindh's Labour Minister, highlighted that despite the country's economic challenges, the number of pilgrims travelling to the holy sites has not decreased. "The Sindh government will provide all possible support to those working in this sector to ensure maximum facilities for pilgrims," he added.—RT



MPA Muhammad Sajid Jokhio: Basic Needs Are Fundamental Rights

KARACHI: MPA Muhammad Sajid Jokhio has emphasized that access to basic needs is a fundamental right and criticized any organization that hinders essential services as a violation of human rights. Speaking at a meeting with leaders of the Gulshan-e-Hadeed Extension Committee in Kathore, Karachi, Jokhio highlighted that the Pakistan People's Party is committed to advancing public welfare. He underscored that providing water, roads, and sewerage systems to residents of Gulshan-e-Hadeed Extension is the responsibility of Pakistan Steel Mills. Jokhio pointed out that allottees have paid billions of rupees to Pakistan Steel Mills for these developments. Jokhio assured that he will address every issue faced by his constituents. The Gulshan-e-Hadeed Extension Committee reported cut off water connections for residents under the guise of legal settlements. Despite this, residents continue to pay hefty water bills. Additionally, the committee alleged that some officers from the Bulk Water Supply Administration are illegally supplying water to commercial establishments. Jokhio pledged to call high-ranking officials from Pakistan Steel Mills to resolve the water issue and promised to advocate for a grace period for residents to settle their bills. The meeting was attended by PPP District Malir General Secretary Imdad Jokhio and other committee members, including Ghulam Shabbir Bhatti, Councillor Bashir Ahmed Jamejo, Advocate Abdul Qadir Shar, and others.



By Asif Qureshi

Sindh Governor Holds Key Meeting With Ruet-e-Hilal Chairman

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori met with Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad. During the meeting, they discussed various matters, including the role of religious scholars in fostering religious sectarian harmony, unity, and public peace. They also expressed a commitment to promoting interfaith harmony and tolerance. Governor Tessori emphasized the invaluable role of religious scholars in assisting the government in resolving challenges. Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad praised Governor Tessori's vision for empowering the youth, calling it commendable.—RT/Agency

KATI Cheers PM's \$60 Billion Export Target, Demands Cost Cuts

KARACHI: President of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), Johar Qandhari, has expressed strong support for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directive to increase exports to \$60 billion over the next six years, issued during a recent Export Board meeting. Qandhari emphasized the necessity of reducing production costs, including electricity, gas, and interest rates, to achieve this target. He also highlighted the issue of delayed refunds from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), which exacerbates challenges for industrialists despite the Prime Minister's call for timely releases. Qandhari noted that with a supportive government policy, Pakistan's export sector could exceed \$60 billion annually. He praised the recent growth in IT exports, which reached \$3.2 billion, and stressed that sectors such as textiles, rice, surgical instruments, leather, fruits, and vegetables could similarly excel with proper incentives. He warned that high production costs and recent budget taxes on the export sector must be addressed to prevent the industry from slipping into crisis. Resolving long-standing issues faced by industrialists is crucial to fully utilizing their potential and achieving the export targets, Qandhari concluded.—RT



KW&SC Fails To Fix Gulberg Town's Water Crisis

KARACHI: The Executive Engineer of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) Gulberg Town, Arshad Rasheed, has failed to resolve the artificial water crisis affecting various areas of Gulberg Town. Despite multiple complaints about the lack of water supply in Azzabab Block 2, Muhammad Colony, and Bhangoria Goth, the concerned executive engineer and his staff have yet to address the public's grievances. According to a senior officer of the Water and Sewerage Corporation, Gulberg Town currently has the highest number of complaints about water shortages in the city. This is attributed to the failure of the officer in charge to effectively fulfill his responsibilities. Sources indicate that representatives of all political parties have held meetings with the relevant officers and staff of the Water and Sewerage Corporation regarding the water supply issues in Gulberg Town, but the situation has only worsened.—RT

Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto Vows To Make Ibrahim Haidri A Model Town

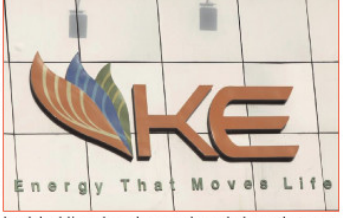
KARACHI: Nazir Ahmed Bhutto, Chairman of the Ibrahim Haidri Town Municipal Corporation, has vowed to transform Ibrahim Haidri Town into a model town. Addressing a meeting with political and social leaders, local dignitaries, and town members at the town office, Bhutto highlighted that addressing the critical issue of drinking water has been a priority and is now being managed despite limited resources. Bhutto emphasized the administration's commitment to providing basic facilities and resolving public issues by optimizing expenditures. He underscored that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is dedicated to public service in line with the party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's manifesto, ensuring that services are delivered without political bias. Announcing a comprehensive master plan, Bhutto outlined initiatives to improve drinking water, education, health services, and infrastructure. He expressed confidence that Ibrahim Haidri Town would be developed into a leading model town in Sindh within four years. The meeting was attended by prominent figures including Jan Alam Jamote, Hashim Lashari, town officers, and PPP leaders.



By Asif Qureshi

K-Electric Unleashes Citywide Crackdown On Power Theft, Files 980 FIRs

KARACHI: K-Electric, in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), has ramped up efforts to combat electricity theft across various areas of Karachi by eliminating illegal connections (kundas) from its infrastructure. Anti-theft initiatives are integral to the company's operations, ensuring network safety and minimizing line losses. Since the launch of the national campaign against electricity theft in September 2023, over 168,000 cases of electricity theft have been reported, involving the theft of more than 298.7 million units of electricity. In FY 2023-24, actions supported by law enforcement agencies have led to the filing of 980 FIRs and the arrest of 33 individuals across Karachi. Those involved in power theft not only by-pass safety protocols of the network but also negatively impact the loss profile of those areas, thus impacting the duration of loadshedding. KE acknowledges that current macroeconomic conditions may be affecting customers' propensity to pay and is organizing facilitation camps across the city. Customers can visit these camps, as well as KE Customer Care Centers located around the city, to clear their dues and receive assistance in obtaining regularized connections. K-Electric Spokesperson urged elected officials and community leaders to promote a culture of regular bill payment and actively discourage power theft. These measures are crucial for ensuring uninterrupted power supply to the city.—RT/Agency



Karachi Police Office Attack Mastermind Gunned Down In CTD Raid

KARACHI: The "mastermind" of the February 2023 terror attack on the Karachi Police Office (KPO) was killed during a shootout with the personnel of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in Mochko area of the metropolis. According to the CTD, Omar Farooq, the mastermind, was killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) near Northern Bypass in Mochko. Last year on February 17, three terrorists with suicide jackets entered the multi-storey KPO building. In the hours-long operation, all three terrorists had been killed and four persons, including two policemen and a Sindh Rangers sub-inspector, embraced martyrdom. At least 17 other people, including police and Rangers personnel, were also injured in the terror attack. Talking to journalists at Civil Hospital, CTD DIG Asif Aijaz Shaikh said that the slain terrorist was affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). "Omar Farooq was the mastermind of the KPO," he added. A pistol and motorcycle were also recovered from the possession of the killed terrorist. In a statement, the CTD spokesperson said that the terrorist was involved in the 2013 Abbas Town bombing and that 10 cases had been lodged against him in 2014. According to the Khan.—RT/Agency



Sindh Government Seizes Control Of Sarim Burney Trust

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to take control of the Sarim Burney Welfare Trust's affairs following arrest of the trust's chief Sarim Burney over allegations of child trafficking, media reported on Wednesday. The social activist is accused of trafficking children from Pakistan to the USA. As per details, the Sindh government's Department of Social Welfare has issued directives to this effect. According to the letter, the Department of Social Welfare will now manage the orphanage affairs previously overseen by Sarim Burney. Sarim Burney was arrested on June 5 upon his return from the USA following a request from the American Consulate. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered first information report (FIR) against rights activist Sarim Burney for allegedly trafficking newborn babies to United States (US). In the FIR, the investigation agency booked the rights activist for 'trafficking' a newborn baby - identified as Haya - to the US. Haya, who according to FIA was the last girl trafficked to US, was allegedly bought from her parents for \$1 million. Sarim Burney trafficked 20 newborns to the US in the past year on pretext of adoption. The FIA claimed that 15 of the trafficked children were girls. The FIA, in a statement, said that the records of the allegedly trafficked children were provided by the Pakistan embassy. Citing the Trust documents, the agency said Burney's wife was also among the beneficiaries.—RT/Agency

Business Community Forces KCCI Strike Call, Claims Iftikhar Sheikh

KARACHI: President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, expressed frustration over the lack of government attention to critical issues such as high energy tariffs, rising business costs, and excessive taxes. He noted that only street protests and strikes seem to get government attention, while ongoing appeals and press conferences by KCCI and other trade bodies have not yielded results. Sheikh pointed out that despite repeated efforts to engage the government, relief has only been granted when groups like the inhabitants of Azad Jammu Kashmir and flour mills staged strong protests. He emphasized the need for immediate action to address the business community's legitimate demands, including renegotiating agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs). While appreciating Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's willingness to meet with KCCI, Sheikh criticized the Finance Minister for not responding to KCCI's requests for meetings. He highlighted the pressure from the business community to call for strikes and protests, despite KCCI's preference for dialogue over disruption. Sheikh warned that ongoing strikes would harm daily wage workers and the poor, exacerbating the already struggling economy. He urged the government to engage in serious negotiations to find solutions and prevent further economic decline and social unrest. He also cautioned that some businesses might relocate outside Pakistan, worsening the economic situation due to capital flight. The KCCI President stressed the need for urgent relief measures to keep the industry running and prevent the country from descending into anarchy.—RT

You can do anything, but not everything.

—David Allen

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THURSDAY JULY 25 2024

PTI Ban: Fawad Chaudhry Warns Nawaz And Zardari Of 'Historic Blunder'

ISLAMABAD: Fawad Chaudhry, the former federal minister in the erstwhile Imran Khan-led administration, has claimed that PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari are standing on the wrong side of the history, warning the duo against making "worst mistake in the history by slapping a ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)".



The former minister's remarks came after Information Minister Ataulh Karar doubled down on the government's decision to ban the PTI, saying the government had made up its mind to go ahead with its "principled" decision. "We have consulted with the Pakistan Peoples Party with regards to the PTI ban and are currently in talks with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan [...]

make any difference?" he asked while talking to the media outside the anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Wednesday. "You deprived the PTI of the election symbol of the bat. You gave them myriad of symbols instead. Despite all this, people voted in favour of the PTI."

He also ruled out the PTI's role in the "digital terrorism", saying it is being executed from abroad. PTI's Information Secretary Raouf Hasan was arrested from the party's central secretariat in the federal capital for allegedly heading a social media cell involved in running anti-state propaganda. Issuing its statement after Hasan's arrest, the Islamabad police said, "The PTI digital media centre had become a centre of international disinformation, from where anti-Pakistan propaganda is run throughout the world."

Justice Minallah Urges Courts Stay Open Amid Martial Law Threat

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Athar Minallah has expressed his desire for the courts to remain open whenever there's a threat of martial law being imposed in Pakistan.



The nation has seen a total of three martial laws — 1958-1971, 1977-1988, 1999-2008 — spanning decades since its independence in 1947. Justice Minallah, in his address to an event of the New York City Bar Association, said, "I wish every time there's a threat of martial law, the courts remain open."

Justice Minallah, in his address to an event of the New York City Bar Association, said, "I wish every time there's a threat of martial law, the courts remain open." The judge's response came in response to a question, when a participant in the event asked him why did he open the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on April 9, 2022, at midnight — the day when former prime minister Imran Khan was ousted from power. The judge, who served as the IHC chief justice from 2018-2022, told the participant that when he was appointed to the high-ranking office, he issued a circular that the high court would operate 24/7. He said that he set a procedure that no matter what the time anyone could file a petition, which would then be sent to the then-IHC CJ on WhatsApp — whether it be 3am or 4am. "1,400 benefited from that circular. Nobody knows about them because they were not political people, they were ordinary people. Only the Islamabad High Court did that. The high court was open for everyone," Justice Minallah said. Clarifying that the media reports were wrong when they ran the news that he had arrived at the high court, "I was in my pyjamas [...]" when I was informed that Supreme Court Bar Association President Ahsan Bhoon wants to file a petition. But all petitions were frivolous and I didn't pass any order."

Government Launches Special Courts For PECA Law Cases

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has constituted special courts to conduct trials of cases under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca), 2016, after holding consultations with Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq.



The Ministry of Law and Justice has issued an order for the establishment of special courts wherein additional district and sessions judges, civil judge East and West have been given the authority to conduct Peca law trials in the special courts.

The said bill was passed by the National Assembly in 2016 during the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government and was largely criticised by various sections of the society who expressed concerns that the legislation denied human rights and gave overarching powers to law enforcement agencies.

The Act prohibited copying or transferring of data without securing relevant permission and also included provisions aimed at tackling unsolicited messages, hate speech, online criticism of the country, its courts, religion, armed forces etc.

In February 2022, then-president Arif Alvi promulgated the "Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022" to amend the PECA law as the

government moved to curb "fake news". However, the IHC, in response to a petition filed by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), declared the ordinance unconstitutional and struck down its Section 20 — related to defamation.

With regards to the newly constituted courts, sources say that the judges in these special courts will be nominated in consultation with chief justices of other high courts. They also added that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Information Secretary Raouf Hasan and others might tried under the Peca Act.

Hasan, who was arrested by Islamabad Police on Monday was handed over to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday in a case related to his alleged involvement in disseminating anti-state propaganda. The charges against the 12 suspects — two of whom

PM Overhauls Boards Of Six DISCOs



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reconstituted boards of six power distribution companies over unsatisfactory performance, media reported.

The prime minister reconstituted six boards including Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO), Peshawar Electric Supply (PESCO) Hazara Electric Supply Company (HESCO) and Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO).

Amer Zia, a power sector consultant, was appointed chairman of two boards (Lahore and Multan), while Himayatullah Khan will head Peshawar and Hazero power companies. Similarly, Tahir Masood will be the chairman of IESCO board and Omar Farooq has been appointed chairman board of directors of FESCO.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had previously halted the reconstitution of the boards for SEPCO and HESCO. It is worth mentioning here that the federal government recently 'okayed' deputation of Federal Investigation Officers (FIA) officers to electricity distribution companies (DISCOs) to end power theft. The move was taken to end power theft and enhance recoveries on the demand of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the sources said. In this regard, a letter has been penned to the Power Division regarding the deputation of FIA officers in five DISCOs including Islamabad Electric Supply Company, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Tribal Areas and Quetta Electric Supply Companies. It is to be noted that FIA officers are already deputed in Peshawar, Sukkur and Hyderabad Electric Supply Companies — RT/Agency

US State Department Alarmed By Arrests Of PTI Leaders

WASHINGTON: The United States has expressed concern regarding the recent arrest of opposition leaders in Pakistan, emphasising the need to uphold democratic principles and constitutional law.



US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller addressed the issue during a press briefing on Tuesday, specifically referring to the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Raouf Hasan and the raid on the party's office. Hasan, who serves as a spokesperson for the PTI, was detained by Islamabad police on Monday. The arrest followed a raid conducted by the Islamabad police and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on the PTI's digital media wing. The interior ministry has accused the PTI of spreading "anti-state propaganda".

In response to questions about the raid and the potential ban on the PTI, Miller acknowledged the reports of the arrests and stated that the US is "always concerned when we see arrests of opposition leaders".

He added a personal touch by expressing his own concern about the arrest of a fellow spokesperson, which elicited laughter from the attendees. Miller reiterated the State Department's stance on supporting constitutional and democratic principles, including the rule of law, equal justice, and human rights such as freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. He urged that these principles be respected according to Pakistan's constitution and laws. When asked about the state of democracy in Pakistan and Bangladesh, he emphasised the US commitment to democratic values worldwide. He stated that the US will continue to advocate for these values, recognising that sovereign nations make their own decisions. Miller stressed the importance of influencing countries to uphold fundamental freedoms and human rights. Regarding questions about the deportation of Afghan refugees and the Pakistan Army's stance on "digital terrorism," he reiterated the US support for media freedom in Pakistan and globally. — RT/Agency

Reserved Seats: PTI-Backed KP And Punjab Lawmakers 'Pledge Allegiance'

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has submitted the affidavits of its lawmakers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab assemblies declaring their affiliation with the Imran Khan-founded party, sources privy to the party said Wednesday.



The Supreme Court, in its short order on July 12, allowed the PTI to receive reserved seats in the assemblies for women and minorities. The top court also directed the PTI to submit a list of its eligible candidates for reserved seats to the electoral body within 15 days of the verdict. The ECP should then publish the list of reserved seats of the candidates on its website within seven days, the SC ruling stated. The PTI submitted affidavits of 91 KP Assembly members and 105 Punjab Assembly lawmakers to the Election Commission, the party sources added. Last week, as many as 37 PTI-backed MNAs sub-

mitted their affidavit of allegiance to the ECP, according to The News. Out of the total 41 PTI-backed independent legislators, another four are expected to do the needful as per the apex court order in a couple of days. When contacted, senior PTI leader Shibli Faraz, who is the Leader of Opposition in the Senate, had told The News that three lawmakers were sending their related documents from UAE and Saudi Arabia. The election regulator, in its July 19 notification, said it would implement the

Talal Chaudhry Slams PTI's Symbolic Hunger Strike As 'Pure Drama'



ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Talal Chaudhry here on Wednesday said that PTI's symbolic hunger strike was just a drama because a four-hour hunger strike is not a fast. In his statement Talal said that PTI Parliamentarians hunger strike occurs after lunch and before evening tea, only for few hours which is a big drama with the followers of party and voters. He lamented that leader of PTI was enjoying delicious foods in the jail and here political workers are doing hunger strike for him. They are doing only for photo session and part time revolution nothing more just

Senate Committee Clears Major Supreme Court Judge Expansion

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice agreed to raise the number of Supreme Court judges.



The committee, however, asked for details of cases pending in the higher judiciary. The chairman of the committee said that the number of judges of the Supreme Court will be decided upon analysing the details submitted by the Ministry of Law and Justice. The law minister said that the registrar's office would furnish the details of the cases. Committee Chairman Farooq H Naik said that the load of cases in the top court increased but the judges re-

mained the same (17). Anusha Rehman said that the bill has been pending since January 2023. The only need is to decide how many judges should be there in the top court. The Federal Law Minister said that 24 judges may be required in the apex court. The federal law minister

Government To Rake In Rs 70 Billion From Packaged Milk Tax

ISLAMABAD: Well-known industrialist Muz Zaid Hussain expressed reservations over the government's decision to impose an 18 percent sales tax on packaged milk, media reported. He said that the move will not only increase the finan-

cial burden on the already struggling masses but also benefit the dairy farmers who he said do not pay taxes. Muz Zaid Hussain said that the government will earn approximately Rs 70 billion in taxes from packaged milk, which has a market share of only 5 percent. He said that the loose milk sold by dairy farmers has a market share of 95 percent. He said that the quality of loose milk is also substantial, and the government's decision will further exacerbate the situation. — RT/Agency