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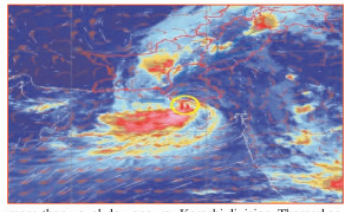
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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Cyclone Threat: Deep Depression Forms 170km From Karachi

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorology Department (PMD) on Friday said that the deep depression, which is slowly progressing towards the Arabian Sea from India's Rann of Kutch, is now 170 kilometres south-east of the port city.



According to the PMD, this deep depression — a very strong low-pressure area — is expected to keep moving west-southwestward along Sindh's coastal belt.

Further stated that it lies around Latitude 23.5 N & Longitude 67.9 E at about 170km south/southeast of Karachi and 88km south of Kati Bander.

The low pressure area may further intensify into a cyclonic storm upon entering the Arabian Sea by today afternoon or evening, if environmental conditions remain favourable, the PMD said in its latest cyclone alert.

PMD Director General Mehrabuddin Khan said in a press conference that the cyclone named Asna brewed off the Karachi-Gwadar coast which may result in heavy rainfalls after hitting western coastal areas.

"Cyclones usually advance from sea to land but Asna's advancement is vice versa [...] It will intensify into a hurricane whose impacts will be seen in the next week," he added.

"Our country is receiving

more than usual downpours due to this cyclone. Upper areas of the country will experience more rain from September 2 to 4."

Mehar predicted that the weather conditions would improve in southern areas after two days.

Additionally, the Met Office said that there is a possibility of heavy rain in Karachi in the next 24 hours, accompanied by strong winds and thundershowers.

The meteorology department's forecast on Friday recorded the minimum temperature in the metropolis at 26°C while the maximum temperature in the city is likely to be 28°C to 30°C.

Meanwhile, winds in the metropolis are blowing from the northeast at a speed of 22km/hour.

According to the Met Office, heavy rainfalls are likely in Sindh areas under the influence of the potential cyclonic storm.

These areas include

Security Forces Neutralize Five Terrorists In Balochistan IBOs

RAWALPINDI: At least five terrorists have been killed and three others injured by security forces in separate intelligence based operations (IBOs) in Balochistan's District Keach, Panjgur and Zhob.



In a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Friday, the security forces are conducting extensive IBOs to hunt down the perpetrators of the Balochistan incident.

According to the military's media wing, the operations are being conducted in the backdrop of cowardly terrorist activities that targeted innocent civilians across Balochistan on August 26.

"On Night August 29-30, in three separate IBOs in District Keach, Panjgur and Zhob, five terrorists were sent to hell by the security forces, while three terrorists got injured during the intense fire exchange," said the statement.

Moreover, sanitisation operations will continue until all perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these atrocious acts are brought to justice, it added.

The statement further mentioned that the forces, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

US Defense Department Condemns Balochistan Terrorist Attack

WASHINGTON: The United States Department of Defense has "strongly condemned" the recent attack on Balochistan days after the province was marred by terrorist leaving dozens of civilians and security forces martyred.



Responding to a question regarding the Washington's support to Islamabad in dealing with such terrorist groups, Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said she was not aware of any US involvement or assistance to Pakistan at this time.

"But if that changes, I can certainly let you know," she maintained.

"We strongly condemn any terrorist attack like that and of course our thoughts are with those who lost their lives during that attack, but I don't have anything beyond that," said Singh, addressing a press briefing at the Pentagon on Thursday.

Singh's statement comes in the wake of the recent bloodshed in Balochistan where over 50 people were martyred in different terrorist attacks.

In response to the series of horrific attacks, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the provincial capital on Thursday and vowed to completely eradicate terrorism from the province at all costs, saying the "blood of martyrs will not go in vain".

The press secretary,

Naqvi: Balochistan Attacks Targeting SCO Summit Preparations

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said that the horrific attacks in Balochistan, wherein dozens including security personnel lost their lives, was a "plot to subvert" upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to be hosted by Pakistan next month.



Balochistan, on August 26, faced a series of horrific attacks that resulted in over 50 deaths, including 14 security personnel, as militants affiliated with the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) targeted civilians, police, and security forces.

In one of the deadliest attacks, at least 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from passenger buses and trucks in the Karasham area of Balochistan's Musakhel.

Furthermore, at least 14 brave sons of soil, including 10 security forces soldiers and four personnel of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), were martyred in clearance operations, wherein at least 21 militants were neutralised.

Amid the latest terrorist incidents, Pakistan is set to host SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting from October 15-16.

In this regard, Islamabad extended invitations to all heads of government of the member states, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra

Modi despite strained ties.

Speaking on the floor of the Senate today, the interior minister said that the "completely-planned" Balochistan attacks were carried out by "two to three terrorist organisations".

"A lot of people are in anguish as they don't want Pakistan to host the [SCO] meeting," he said, adding that the August 26 incident was a "conspiracy to sabotage the summit".

Naqvi further said that no operation was being launched in Balochistan while "stringent action would be taken against those who did not accept the state and took up arms".

He also said that the apex committee reviewed the decisions related to the National Action Plan (NAP) and coordinated with the federal and provincial institutions, adding "Parliament is supreme and will remain supreme".

Giving details of the Thursday's meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Quetta, the minister said that dialogue could only be held with those who respect the Constitution of Pakistan and salute the national flag.

He said the meeting decided to provide Rs5 billion to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) to enhance capacity against terrorism while Rs8 billion including Rs1 billion would be given to each division of the province for the development which would be spent

with their local parliamentary recommendations.

The security czar said that to overcome the shortage of federal government employees as many as 30 to 40 officials would be deputed in the province within two days.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant attacks since the Taliban government returned to power in neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021, mostly in the northwestern border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but also in southwestern Balochistan, which abuts Afghanistan and Iran. There were at least 170 militant attacks killing 151 civilians and 114 security personnel in Balochistan last year, according to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies Islamabad accuses Kabul's new rulers of failing to root out militants sheltering on Afghan soil as they prepare to stage assaults on Pakistan — RT/Agency

Shehbaz And Fazl Discuss National Political Landscape



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the residence of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JU-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Fazlur Rehman warmly welcomed the prime minister.

The prime minister expressed best wishes for Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed overall political situation of the country PM Shehbaz Sharif was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attullah Tarar — RT/Agency

Aleema Khan: Imran Khan Facing Increased Restrictions



ISLAMABAD: Aleema Khan, the sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, has claimed that authorities have intensified pressure on her brother, aiming for a swift conviction in the £190 million case.

permitted to visit her yesterday, while many others were left waiting outside.

During her address, Aleema mentioned that when they filed a bail application in the Toshakhana case, the prosecution claimed they were unprepared, leading the judge to adjourn the hearing until Monday.

She expressed concern that efforts are being made to secure a quick conviction for Imran Khan in the £190 million case, citing remarks allegedly conveyed by Justice Qazi Faez Isha.

Aleema further warned that a conviction in the £190 million case could lead to additional legal challenges for Imran Khan in the High Court. — RT/Agency

No Room For Deserters In PTI: Imran



ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has announced a policy for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) deserters, stating that there is no room for those who left the party during difficult times.

"I want to clearly state that there is no space for those who abandoned the party during difficult times," the PTI founder said while speaking to the journalists in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.



Refusing to name anyone, the embattled party founder said that he knows who abandoned the party during difficult times.

"Those who were active during good times but left during hardships have no place in the party," he added that some deserters desired to join the party's ranks once more, but the PTI leadership categorically denied taking anyone back.

Most prominently, former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry — who is also a strong critic of current PTI leadership — expressed desire to rejoin party's fold, which was denied by the party's core committee.

"The PTI core committee strongly condemns those politicians who parted ways during the difficult time, a resolution read, adding that such politicians have no moral rights or powers to comment on the party affairs.

The violent protests saw attacks on state properties including military installations, with the civil and military authorities vowing to try the rioters under the Army Act.

A few months later and ahead of the February 8 elections, reports had emerged that some deserters desired to join the party's ranks once more, but the PTI leadership categorically denied taking anyone back.

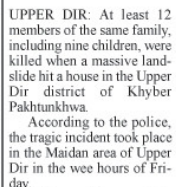
The ex-Imran's aide, on May 24 last year announced "taking a break from politics" and parting ways with PTI over the May 9 mayhem when party workers and supporters allegedly attacked public and military installations almost across the country immediately after the arrest of the PTI founder.

A group of disgruntled PTI leaders also formed a separate political party — Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) led by Jahangir Tareen.

The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician has been in prison for more than a year after he was booked in plethora of cases, including the Toshakhana case, cipher case, and the un-Islamic marriage case.

Despite securing relief in several cases, the PTI founder remains behind bars after he was booked in new Toshakhana case and other cases related to May 9 mayhem. — RT/Agency

Landslide In KP's Upper Dir Claims Lives Of 12 Family Members

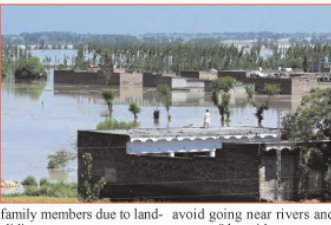


UPPER DIR: At least 12 members of the same family, including nine children, were killed when a massive landslide hit a house in the Upper Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to the police, the tragic incident took place in the Maidan area of Upper Dir in the wee hours of Friday.

The law enforcers said all 12 bodies have been retrieved from the debris and sent to the hospital for medico-legal formalities.

"Two women, one man and nine children were killed in the incident," said the officials.



President Asif Ali Zardari expressed his condolences to the family members of the deceased.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif expressed regret over the incident, saying he is deeply saddened by the deaths of 12

family members due to landslide.

"We are standing with the bereaved families in this difficult time of sorrow," said Barrister Saif while directing all authorities concerned including Rescue 1122 to remain on alert.

The KP information adviser said an advisory has been issued regarding landslides and flooding in mountainous areas, adding that advance measures have been taken to reduce losses in natural calamities.

"People are requested to avoid going near rivers and streams," he said.

Meanwhile, a road in Upper Dir's Kumrat was washed away due to rains and landsliding. Moreover, many tourists are stuck as the water is flowing through the road near the river bank.

The development comes as Pakistan is hit by heavy monsoon rains with the Pakistan Meteorological Department forecasting more widespread rain with windstorm all across the country during the next 24 hours. — RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



Sindh Minister Mir Tariq Ali Talpur visits rain affected areas

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Sindh Minister and Focal Person for Rain Emergency in Mirpurkhas, Mir Tariq Ali Talpur, conducted a comprehensive visit to various rain-affected areas including Jhudo, Digri, and other towns. Accompanied by key officials such as Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Junaid Buland, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan, MPA Khair-un-Nisa Mughal, Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghouri, and Municipal Commissioner Rafique Sehar, the team assessed the ongoing relief efforts following the recent heavy rains.



During their visit, the officials reviewed the measures in place to assist affected residents and evaluated the progress of drainage operations. Minister Talpur informed the media that rainwater is being effectively managed through the Paran Dhoro, LBOD, and Spinal Drain systems. He reassured the public that the situation is under control and that authorities are working around the clock to monitor and address any issues.

The visit also saw the presence of Assistant Commissioner Gulam Hussain Kanhio, Town Chairman Mir Sher Muhammad Talpur, and other local leaders, all of whom expressed their commitment to ensuring the community's safety and providing necessary support during this challenging period.

Doctors' team attends a reception at Pir House



By Javed Laghari

DADU: A warm reception was held at the Pir House in honor of a team of doctors who arrived in Dadu to conduct a free medical camp.

The event was attended by several prominent figures, including District Council Chairman Dadu, Syed Muhammad Shah, Deputy Commissioner Mukhtiar Ali Abro, and Medical Superintendent of DHQ Hospital Dr. Amjad Mastoi. The reception was hosted by MPA Pir Mujibul Haq, Chairman of the Municipal Committee Pir Danish Ali, and Junior Pir Mazhar. In a gesture of traditional Sindhi hospitality, the hosts presented the doctors with Ajrak, a symbol of the region's rich culture, and copies of a book authored by the late former Sindh Chief Minister, Pir Illahi Bux.

The gathering was marked by a spirit of appreciation for the doctors' efforts to provide healthcare services to the community. Among the attendees were Principal of Law College Shafi Muhammad Memon, former Administrator Imdad Hussain Dawach, Shahmir Khan Chehwan, Alam Memon, Pir Amir Ali, Riaz Dawach, Jansher Ali, and Ifkhar Abro. The event highlighted the collaborative efforts between local leaders and healthcare professionals, aiming to bring essential medical services to those in need and strengthen community ties in Dadu.

Focal Person for Rain Emergency Sarfraz Rajar Visits Civil Hospital Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Sarfraz Rajar, the Focal Person for Rain Emergency in Tando Allahyar, conducted an unannounced visit to the Civil Hospital Tando Allahyar on Friday. During his visit, Rajar toured all sections of the hospital, personally checking on the conditions of patients and speaking with their attendants.

Addressing the media, Rajar criticized the hospital's management for failing to meet the needs of the public. He committed to submitting a detailed report on his findings to the Sindh Chief Minister and vowed to take all necessary measures to address the deficiencies. His visit was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Saleemullah Odho and SSP Abrez Abbasi, who also expressed concern and support for resolving the issues.

The visit revealed significant issues within the hospital, including complaints from patients' families about the lack of essential medicines and the absence of medical staff. Rajar expressed his astonishment at the hospital's performance, particularly given its substantial budget. He highlighted the dire situation faced by patients and their families, who were seen struggling due to inadequate facilities and support.

DG M&E Zain-ul-Abideen Ansari visits schools in Ghotki district

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Zain-ul-Abideen Ansari, the Director of Monitoring and Evaluation (DG M&E), conducted a thorough inspection of government schools in Ghotki district, focusing on areas such as Sar-dargah and its surroundings. The visit aimed to assess the current state of educational facilities and the effectiveness of the distribution of educational resources.



During his visit, Ansari scrutinized various aspects of the school system, including the inventory of books distributed to students and the attendance records of both students and teachers. This comprehensive evaluation was part of an ongoing effort to enhance educational standards and ensure that resources are utilized effectively.

Accompanying the DG M&E were Assistant Commissioner (ADC) Liaquat Ali Kalhoro, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Babar Ali, Assistant Monitoring Officer (AMO) Ranjeet Kumar, Bhagwandas, and other key officials. The team emphasized the importance of regular attendance by teachers and the delivery of high-quality education. They also pledged to improve facilities in government schools, addressing any deficiencies identified during the visit.

Thul Police Recover Two Abducted Boys and Arrest Kidnapper



By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In a successful operation by the Thul Police, two abducted cousins, Qadeer Banglani and Nadir Banglani, were safely recovered following a dramatic encounter within the jurisdiction of the B-Section Police Station. The recovery came after a tense standoff with the suspects involved in the abduction.

During the operation, the police managed to apprehend one of the alleged kidnappers, identified as Dilsher Banglani. The arrested individual is reported to be affiliated with the Muchhu Gang, a notorious group involved in criminal activities in the region. The recovery highlights the police's commitment to combating crime and ensuring the safety of residents.

SSP Zafar Siddique visits Dargah Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar (RA)

By Munawar Chandio & Qaimuddin

JAMSHORO/SEHWAN: On Friday, SSP Janshoro Zafar Siddique conducted an important visit to the revered Dargah of Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar (RA) to assess and reinforce the security measures in place. This visit was part of a broader initiative to ensure the safety of worshippers and visitors at the historic site.



During his visit, SSP Siddique laid a chaddar on the grave of Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar (RA) as a mark of respect and prayed for the country's peace and prosperity. This gesture reflected his commitment to upholding the sacredness of the site and the well-being of the community. In his review of the security arrangements, SSP Siddique emphasized the importance of maintaining a fool-proof security system. He instructed police officials to remain on high alert and ensure that all security protocols are strictly followed. The SSP made it clear that any lapse in security would not be tolerated, reinforcing the need for constant vigilance and preparedness.

The visit underscored the SSP's dedication to ensuring that the Dargah remains a safe and secure place for all visitors, reflecting the broader efforts to enhance public safety in the region.

Setharja woman protests against her husband

By Azhar Kubar

SETHARJA: Rashida Lund, a resident of village Gul Khan Lund, staged a protest demonstration to highlight her distressing situation caused by her husband, Ali Raza Lund. The protest, held in the village, was aimed at drawing attention to the severe impact of her husband's abandonment on her family.



Speaking to the media, Rashida Lund described how Ali Raza Lund has been absent from their home for the past four months. This prolonged absence has left her struggling to manage the household and provide for their children. She revealed that Ali Raza has failed to contribute financially towards the family's needs, including essential expenses for their children's education.

As a result, the children's schooling has been severely affected, jeopardizing their future prospects. Rashida Lund's protest was a call for justice, urging local authorities to intervene in the matter. She demanded that the authorities address her grievances and provide the necessary support to ensure her family's well-being and secure her children's education. The demonstration underscored her plea for accountability and assistance in the face of her husband's neglect and abandonment.

Director Education Ali Akbar Kalhoro leads an awareness walk



By Sajjad Chang

HINGORIA: In a spirited effort to boost school enrollment, Director of Education Sukkur Ali Akbar Kalhoro, along with DEO Secondary Abdul Sami Bhambhro, TEO Secondary Sobhodoro Javed Ahmed Rappar, TEO Primary Sobhodoro Liaquat Larik, and other officials, spearheaded an awareness rally through various parts of Hingoria, highlighting the government's ongoing enrollment campaign.

During the event, the leaders emphasized the importance of enrolling children in government schools and informed the public about the facilities and resources available to students. They stressed the quality of education and support provided by these institutions, aiming to encourage parents to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered.

Two children injured in rain related incident

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In a tragic incident in Sadorabad, heavy rains caused the roof of a house belonging to Yousif Buriro to collapse, resulting in injuries to two young children, Salman Buriro and Hajran Buriro. The roof's failure was attributed to the severe weather conditions, which overwhelmed the structural integrity of the home.



The injured children were promptly transported to a local area hospital, where they are receiving medical treatment for their injuries. The collapse not only endangered the lives of the children but also caused significant distress to the Buriro family.

In response to this calamity, the affected family has made an urgent appeal to the government for financial assistance. They are seeking support to reconstruct their damaged home, as the current state of the property is uninhabitable and poses further risks to their safety. The family's plea underscores the need for emergency aid and disaster relief to help those affected by the ongoing severe weather conditions. The incident highlights the urgent need for robust infrastructure and support systems to protect vulnerable communities from the impacts of extreme weather events.

Record flow of water passing through LBOD Spinal Drain

By Mushahid Nohrio

NAUKOT: The LBOD Spinal Drain near Naukot is experiencing an unprecedented flow of water, raising significant concerns among local residents. Currently, the water level is reaching the Thaparkar-Mirpurkhas Bridge, leading to severe stress on the embankments and causing widespread alarm in the affected areas.



The LBOD Spinal Drain, designed to handle up to 4,500 cuses of water, is now managing a staggering 7,000 cuses flowing through RD-305. This increase in water flow is partly due to the additional release of water from the Nara Canal, which has exacerbated the situation. The surge has overwhelmed the drainage system, leading to fears of potential flooding and damage.

Authorities have been urged to closely monitor the situation around the clock to prevent any potential disasters. An advisory has been issued for residents to remain vigilant and consider relocating to safer areas if necessary. The current flow conditions in the LBOD Spinal Drain pose a serious risk, and timely intervention is critical to mitigate any adverse impacts on the community.

Two Kalhoro community men shot dead in Naushehro

By Hasnain Shahid

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: In a tragic incident on a link road near Naushehro Feroze, two men from the Kalhoro community, Munawar Kalhoro and Manik Kalhoro, were shot dead by three unidentified armed assailants. The attackers opened fire indiscriminately, resulting in the immediate death of both victims. The assailants managed to escape from the scene before law enforcement arrived. The incident has left the local community in shock and mourning as they grapple with the sudden loss of their members.

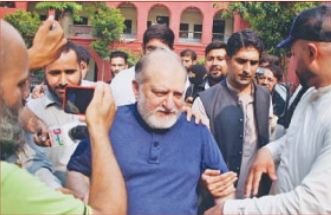
After the shooting, the bodies of Munawar and Manik Kalhoro were taken to a local hospital where necessary medico-legal procedures were completed. Following these formalities, the bodies were returned to their families for burial. As of the latest reports, no formal case has been filed regarding the incident, leaving many questions unanswered. The local authorities are under pressure to investigate the shooting thoroughly and bring the perpetrators to justice. The community is calling for swift action to address the violence and ensure the safety of their members.

NATIONAL



Court Denies Physical Remand For Orya Maqbool Jan In Cybercrime Case

LAHORE: A district court on Friday rejected a request for a physical remand of columnist Orya Maqbool Jan. Duty Magistrate Sarwat Batool denied the plea for a six-day physical remand and instead ordered Jan to be sent to jail on a 14-day judicial remand. Orya Maqbool Jan is facing charges related to cyber-crime and hate speech. Previously, the court had granted a four-day physical remand, placing Jan in the custody of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). He was arrested a few days ago. On August 27, a judicial magistrate in Lahore ex-



tended the physical remand of anchorperson Orya Maqbool for an additional four days in a cybercrime case related to alleged hate speech against the country's top judge. The extension followed the expiry of the anchorperson's initial four-day remand. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) presented Orya Maqbool, known for his controversial remarks, before the magistrate and requested further custody to complete the investigation.—RT/Agency

Security Forces Eliminate 12 Militants In Tirah Valley IBO

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 12 militants in the Tirah Valley of Khyber District during an intelligence-based operation, said ISPR. According to a statement released by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the security forces have been conducting an operation in the Tirah Valley of Khyber District since August 20, following intelligence about the presence of militants. ISPR reported that on August 28 and 29, security forces effectively targeted the militants' hideouts, killing 12 militants after an intense exchange of fire. The statement mentioned that these operations have dealt a significant blow to the militants and their affiliated organisations, with 37 terrorists killed and 14 others severely injured so far. "Intelligence-based operations will continue until peace is restored in the area and the militants are eradicated. Pakistan's armed forces are committed to eliminating the scourge of terrorism from the country," said ISPR.—RT/Agency

BISP Partners With Riphah International To Provide Skill Training To Beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Riphah International University will collaborate for providing market-oriented skill training for the beneficiaries of BISP. In this regard, a meeting was held between Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid and a delegation of Riphah International University. The meeting was aimed at exploring possible avenues for collaboration between BISP and Riphah in providing market-oriented skill training for BISP beneficiaries and their family members. During the discussion, Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of international certifications in fields such as hospitality,

nursing, midwifery, and home care, highlighting how these qualifications can improve job prospects for beneficiaries. The delegation shared that Riphah International University has already launched several skill development programs in partnership with NAVTTC. Additionally, Senator Rubina Khalid proposed engaging fresh graduates of media and mass communication for internships in BISP's media wing. She also suggested organ-



izing a graphic design competition at the inter-university level to raise awareness about BISP's mission. Senator Rubina Khalid reaffirmed BISP's commitment to empowering women, a vision championed by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. She urged the swift finalization of modalities with Riphah University to launch these skill development programs, which will also include education on basic work ethics and hygiene.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Jam Kamal Reviews Overseas Trade Missions' Performance, Meets With Zubair Tufail

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan assured that the government is prioritizing the resolution of business community issues and strengthening the economy. Speaking during a meeting with Zubair Tufail, former FPCCI President and current President of the United Business Group (UBG), Khan highlighted the government's commitment to improving trade performance and easing business operations under the Prime Minister's vision. Khan emphasized that past free trade agreements (FTAs) with Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and China had not served Pakistan's national interest, resulting in trade imbalances. He assured that current efforts are focused on rectifying these issues and promoting economic growth.



Tufail criticized previous FTAs, suggesting that they favored other countries over Pakistan. He called for future agreements to include business community input to enhance export potential. Specifically, he urged the government to negotiate increased meat exports to China and address trade challenges with Turkey due to a 25% duty. Tufail also advocated for a re-balanced FTA with Thailand. Additionally, Tufail raised concerns about the current contract for bulk chemicals import through Port Qasim, which is held by Engro and incurs high costs. He recommended not renewing Engro's contract and exploring alternatives to benefit local industries. Tufail further suggested leveraging Balochistan's mineral reserves and Gwadar Port to reduce reliance on the IMF.—RT

PM Praises Security Forces For Anti-Terror Operations In Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday lauded the security forces for carrying out operations against the terrorists involved in attacks killing innocent people in Balochistan. The prime minister paid tribute to the officers and personnel of the armed forces for killing five terrorists and injuring three others in different operations in Panjgur, Kech and Zhob districts. "The war against terrorists will continue till the complete elimination of this scourge. We will make an example of those trying to create disorder in the country, he remarked.—RT/Agency



Among the arrested were the most wanted human traffickers, including six who were previously tagged as fugitives. The operations uncovered that these traffickers had defrauded innocent citizens of approximately Rs 120 million by promising them overseas jobs. In addition to Pakistani passports, the FIA recovered fake documents of Spain, the UK, Italy, and Greece during various raids. The FIA Gujranwala Zone also conducted significant operations against electricity theft.—RT/Agency

Faisalabad Police Arrest Two For Assaulting Female Workers

FAISALABAD: Khurrian Wala police have booked five people including a mill owner and arrested two accused on the charges of torturing female workers, media reported. Police spokesman Tal-

ish Abbas Jutt said here on Friday that workers of a local mill were protesting peacefully due to non-payment of their arrears by the mill management. The security supervisor of the mill called the protestors for dialogue but he

along with his accomplices, including mill owner Rana Anwar, severe torture the workers including Sonia Javid, Sumaira Javid, Mehmood Ali, Usman Shehzad, Muhammad Amir, Gulam Fareed, etc.—RT/Agency

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

CEO Shahid Abbas Leads Cleanliness Campaign In Gujranwala

GUJRANWALA: Gujranwala Waste Management Company has launched a cleanliness campaign to clean the streets around graveyards and mosques across the city. CEO WMC Shahid Abbas said that in addition to the regular cleaning operation, special squads have been formed for the cleaning of the cemeteries of the city. In addition to this, the cleaning staff also cleared the small ponds of water so that water standing in the cemetery for a long time due to rain could protect the graves from damage. CEO WMC Shahid Abbas Jota has issued instructions to the officers of the operation department to take special care of the cleanliness around the graveyards and mosques in their areas. The paths of the mosques should also be specially cleaned on Friday so that the wor-

shippers do not face any kind of problem. He further said that under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Sutrah Punjab, practical steps are being taken to further improve the cleanliness of the city and the activities of the cleaning staff are being monitored and those who show negligence are being punished. Departmental action is also being taken against.

Toba Tek Singh Police Arrest Seven Notorious Criminals

TOBA TEK SINGH: Toba Tek Singh continued operations against the criminal elements on orders of DPO Ibadat Nisar. In this regard it was learnt that the police led by SHO Saddle Police Station Inspector Muhammad Akram. The police managed to arrest seven notorious criminals including Shahzad Arbaz, Akmal, Yasir, Hasnain, Ali Jatt and

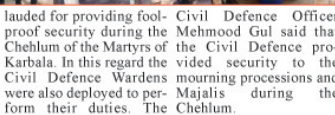
Wajahat Mughal. The police recovered a motorcycle, a mobile phone, and cash from possession of the arrested men, who were wanted by the police in different cases. The DPO said that he ordered to intensify the crackdown to eradicate organized crime. Effective planning and targeted operations should be done to eliminate criminals by identifying hotspot areas. All resources should be used to protect the life and property of the citizens and eradicate crimes.



Gujrat Police Bust 4,364 Criminal Gangs In Eight Months

GUJRANWALA: Gujrat Police led by DPO Mustansir Bajwa has shown an impressive performance by maintaining peace by taking stern action against the criminal elements. The DPO Gujrat has restored the public trust in the police by promoting community policing and engaging with the people to resolve their legal problems. In 8 months of this year, 4364 gangs involved in serious crimes were eliminated. 10929 criminals of criminal gangs were arrested by the police including Gujrat. In the police operations, stolen

property worth 05 billion 56 crore 71 lac rupees was recovered from the possession of the criminals. Mobile phones, 3074 goods and cattle were recovered and handed over to the owners. 3 billion 75 crore 70 lac rupees cash was recovered from wanted criminals in various incidents. IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar congratulated Gujrat Police for the excellent performance in suppressing criminal gangs. The DPO said that he ordered to intensify the crackdown to eradicate organized crime. Effective planning and targeted operations should be done to eliminate criminals by identifying hotspot areas. All resources should be used to protect the life and property of the citizens and eradicate crimes.



Murad Allocates Rs500 Million For IT Certification Program

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has approved Rs500 million to launch IT certification programs aimed at enhancing the IT skills of students and professionals across the province. The initiative, part of a poverty reduction strategy, will offer industry-recognized certifications in nine trades. The program, designed to benefit 10,000 youth initially, will be implemented in two phases. NED University will provide IT courses in Karachi Division and Tharparkar District, Mehran University in Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas Divisions, and IBA University in Larkana Division. The certifications will cover a range of skills, including JAVA Development, Python Development, Database Administration, Graphic



Design, E-Commerce, Digital Marketing, Web Development, Mobile Application Development, and Data Science. Each certification course will last two months, with classes held five days a week, from Monday to Friday, accommodating 30 to 35 participants per batch. The Chief Minister emphasized that the program would equip participants with practical skills to excel in the job market. An MOU was signed with NED University, IBA



Sukkur, and Mehran Unital meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman HEC Prof Tariq Rafi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Information, Science & Technology Noor Ahamad Samon, Secretary U&B Abbas Baloch, and vice-chancellors from participating universities. The MOU signing meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman HEC Prof Tariq Rafi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Information, Science & Technology Noor Ahamad Samon, Secretary U&B Abbas Baloch, and vice-chancellors from participating universities.

FIA Files 85 Cases And Arrests 240 Suspects In August

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Gujranwala Zone during the month of August filed a total of 85 cases and arrested 240 suspects involved in human trafficking, white-collar crime, and electricity theft, media reported on Friday. The FIA Gujranwala zone released its performance report for the month of August 2024, highlighting significant achievements in the fight against human trafficking, white-collar crime, and electricity theft. During the month, the FIA submitted challans (formal charges) for 209 accused to the court, after registering 85 cases, resulting in the arrest of 240 suspects. Notably, 63 cases were registered specifically against human traffickers, leading to the arrest of 39 individuals involved in these crimes.

Solar Power Conclave Emphasizes Need To Maximize Solar Potential For Energy Security

LAHORE: At the Solar Power Conclave & Technology Excellence Awards 2024, energy sector leaders underscored the urgent need to harness Pakistan's solar power potential to transition from fossil fuels and alleviate high electricity tariffs. The event, organized by The Energy Update in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy (Power Division), Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), and Pakistan Solar Association, featured discussions on expanding solar energy use and improving regulatory frameworks. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, the chief guest, expressed concern over the rising electricity bills and called for immediate government action to address the energy crisis. He advocated for utilizing natural resources like solar and wind energy to provide affordable electricity, particularly to lower-income households. Faizan Ali from the Prime Minister's Solarization Committee revealed plans to add 10 gigawatts of solar power over the next decade, with a proposal soon to be submitted for approval. He suggested that a distributed scale approach could offset costs and encouraged self-consumption over net metering, proposing adjustments to buyback rates and incentives for battery installation. PPIB Managing Director Shahjahan Mirza highlighted the conference's role in advancing clean energy goals and supporting private sector involvement in solar power. He emphasized the importance of transitioning from government-only electricity purchases to a multi-buyer market.—RT



Iranian Delegation Urges Elimination Of Unofficial Trade With Pakistan To Boost Official Channels

KARACHI: Reza Babak Afghahi, Chief Executive of Iran's Ta'min Petroleum & Petrochemical Investment Company (TAPPICCO), emphasized the need to eliminate unofficial trade between Iran and Pakistan during a visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He stressed that many Iranian products currently enter Pakistan through unofficial channels, and called for a shift to official trade to enhance economic benefits for both countries. Afghahi highlighted that Pakistan imported LPG, methanol, motor oil, and other products worth \$5 billion last year, which could be produced locally through joint ventures with Iranian companies. He reassured that despite international sanctions, Iran has successfully exported goods worth \$200 million to the U.S., and sim-



lar strategies could be used to facilitate trade between Iran and Pakistan. The meeting, attended by Commercial Attaché of the Iranian Consulate Karachi Morad Nemat, KCCI President Ifthikhar Ahmed Sheikh, and other KCCI officials, also addressed the need to improve bilateral trade, streamline customs procedures, and establish a formal banking channel. Present Sheikh noted that the current trade volume falls short of its potential and urged for the reduction of trade barriers and support for SMEs. Sheikh suggested that enhancing connectivity, investing in infrastructure, and establishing border markets could strengthen economic cooperation and reduce illegal trade. He also invited Iranian investors to explore opportunities within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), particularly in special economic zones offering significant incentives.—RT

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, August 31, 2024

Desperate Times

The recent chaos at the grand opening of a clothing and homeware store in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Johar is a stark reminder of the growing desperation and unrest in our society. The incident, where baton-wielding individuals stormed the venue, leading to widespread vandalism and destruction, highlights the depths to which we have sunk in these troubled social and economic times.

As a society, we seem to have lost our moral compass, replacing values of integrity and respect with desperation and unruliness. The root of this chaos lies in the widespread economic hardships that have left many feeling hopeless and ready to seize any opportunity, no matter

how extreme, to improve their circumstances. The incident at the mall opening is not just about a store launch gone wrong; it is a symptom



of a much deeper issue—our collective loss of patience, respect for others, and the rule of law.

This incident should serve as a lesson on multiple fronts. For the public, it is a reminder that destructive behavior only exacerbates our societal problems, further eroding the fabric of our community. For business owners, particu-

larly the mall owner, it underscores the power of social media and the need for responsible marketing. When offers are so enticing that they tap into the desperation of a struggling population, the potential for chaos increases dramatically. Businesses must be aware of the social context in which they operate and plan accordingly, ensuring that their promotions do not inadvertently incite violence or unrest.

And while the economic challenges we face are real and severe, responding with violence and chaos only deepens our societal wounds. It is time to reflect on the values we have lost and to strive towards rebuilding a society where respect, patience, and order prevail over desperation and unruliness.

THE HEARTLAND



Mayor Abdul Rauf Ghouri visits rain hit areas of Mirpurkhas

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: In the aftermath of heavy rains, Mayor Mirpurkhas Abdul Rauf Ghouri, along with the Deputy Commissioner and Municipal Commissioner, conducted an inspection of various rain-affected areas across the city. The visit focused on assessing the ongoing efforts to drain accumulated rainwater from residential neighborhoods.

The officials visited key water disposal stations and inspected the sewerage lines to ensure that the drainage system was functioning effectively. During the visit, Mayor Ghouri emphasized the importance of providing swift relief to the residents, urging the teams on the ground to remain vigilant and responsive to any emerging issues.

The mayor and his team also directed the local authorities to stay on high alert throughout the rain emergency, highlighting the need for a coordinated ap-



proach to manage the situation and prevent any potential hardships for the citizens. The visit underscored the administration's commitment to addressing the challenges posed by the heavy rainfall and ensuring the safety and well-being of the Mirpurkhas community.

Hingorno's growers protest against ZTBL Manager

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Local growers in Hingorno staged a protest on Friday against Abdul Ghaffar Detho, the Manager of the ZTBL Hingorno Branch. The demonstration, led by protest leaders including Ali Nawaz Shar, Alauddin, Ghulam Qadir, and Fayaz, was a response to mounting grievances concerning the handling of their agricultural loans.

The growers expressed

their frustration over the bank's lack of empathy following recent heavy rains that have devastated their standing crops. The adverse weather conditions have resulted in significant financial losses for the farmers, who are now struggling to recover from the damage.

Despite their plight, the protestors claimed that the ZTBL Hingorno Branch Manager has been persistently sending them notices demanding repayment of their loan instalments. They

accused Manager Abdul Ghaffar Detho and his associates of harassing them, exacerbating their already dire situation. The protestors have appealed to higher authorities to intervene in the matter, seeking relief and a reevaluation of their loan obligations under the current circumstances. Their demonstration

Town Chairman Asif Hussain Shoro, Vice Chairman Vikram Kumar visit rain hit areas



By M Ismail Khilji

PITHORO: In response to the recent heavy rainfall, Town Chairman Asif Hussain Shoro and Vice Chairman Vikram Kumar Maheshwari conducted an extensive visit to various rain-affected areas in Pithoro. Their inspection covered key locations including Eidgah, Faizan Madina, Taluka Hospital, Imambargah, and other impacted sites.

During their visit, they assessed the ongoing efforts to drain accumulated rainwater

from residential zones. Both leaders stressed the importance of prompt action, instructing local officials to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to provide immediate relief to the affected residents. They emphasized that negligence in addressing the issues faced by the community would not be tolerated. The visit underscored their commitment to resolving the challenges posed by the severe weather, ensuring that the town's infrastructure and services are swiftly restored to normalcy.

Woman injured in Otho community clash

By Aijaz Ali Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Tensions erupted in the village of Dolo Otho when two rival factions of the Otho community clashed over the issue of rainwater drainage. The dispute escalated into violence, with members of one faction opening fire on the other. During the confrontation, Farhana, the wife of Fayaz Otho, was struck by gunfire and sustained injuries.

The injured woman was promptly transported to a local hospital for treatment. Her condition remains a concern as the community reels from the violence. The clash highlights the severe

divisions within the Otho community, with the argument over drainage leading to dangerous and unlawful actions. In response to the incident, Daulatpur Police intervened and arrested two suspects, Sattar Otho and Nisar Ali Otho, believed to be involved in the shooting. Despite the arrests, no formal case had been filed at the time of reporting, leaving the community anxious about the resolution of the situation. Authorities are urged to address the root causes of the conflict and ensure that justice is served to prevent further violence and restore peace in the village.

Education Dept initiates probe into use of funds during past two years

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: The Education Department has taken a significant step to ensure accountability by initiating a probe into the use of funds allocated to schools in Sanghar district over the past two years. Authorities have issued a formal directive to local officials demanding the submission of detailed financial records for this period.

The directive specifically targets District Education Officers (DEOs) and Taluka

Education Officers (TEOs), instructing them to collect and compile comprehensive reports from headmasters and institute heads regarding their fund usage. This effort aims to scrutinize how funds were allocated and spent within the educational institutions.

Previously, a similar request was made to Sanghar's Education Department officials, but it did not result in the necessary documentation being provided. As a consequence,

the department has issued a renewed letter emphasizing the urgency of compliance and warning of stringent actions if the records are not submitted promptly.

This investigation underscores the department's commitment to financial transparency and proper management of educational resources, ensuring that funds are used effectively to enhance educational infrastructure and services in the district.

Influential men insult a youth after detaining him

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: In a disturbing incident in village Bela, Zahid Hussain Shoro, a local youth, was forcibly abducted and subjected to a humiliating ordeal by a group of influential individuals, including Mehrab Sehto and Rafique Sehto. The perpetrators detained Shoro in a private residence, where they subjected him to severe mistreatment.

During his detention,

Shoro was forcibly shaved, with his head, mustache, and beard being completely removed as part of the assault. The act of violence and public humiliation has shocked the local community and drawn widespread condemnation.

In response to this grave incident, Shoro's family organized a protest demonstration to voice their outrage and demand justice. They have called on local authorities to intervene and address

the matter promptly. The family has warned that if their demands are not met, they will escalate their protest, further pressuring the authorities to take appropriate action against the influential men responsible for the assault.

The incident underscores ongoing concerns about the abuse of power and the need for effective law enforcement to protect vulnerable individuals from such egregious acts of violence.

NIC Hyderabad Celebrates Graduation of Startups; SU VC Dr. Kalhoro Praises their Determination and Success

JAMSHORO: The National Incubation Centre (NIC) Hyderabad hosted a graduation ceremony for its first and second batches of startups at the Sindh University Elsa Kazi Campus. The event was chaired by Sindh University Vice-Chancellor Professor (Meritorious) Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro and attended by MPA Rashid Khan, former Vice-Chancellor of Sufi University Bhit-shah Dr. Parveen Munshi, and officials from the federal ministry.

Organized in collaboration with Ignite and the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, the ceremony highlighted NIC Hyderabad's impact on Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Dr. Kalhoro commended the centre for its role in mentoring, training, and funding entrepreneurs, which has been pivotal in shaping the startup landscape. Dr. Kalhoro emphasized that the gradua-



tion was a testament to the startups' determination and hard work. "NIC Hyderabad, the sixth of its kind in Pakistan, has become a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship, thanks to the efforts of former Federal Minister Syed Amin-ul-Haque," he said. He expressed pride in the 25 startups graduating, noting their potential to drive economic growth, create jobs, and enhance Pakistan's global standing.

The Vice-Chancellor also discussed future plans, including securing funding for the solarization of the Elsa Kazi Campus to save costs and support the development of academic facilities. Dr. Kalhoro concluded the event by distributing certificates and shields to the graduates. MPA Rashid Khan and other dignitaries joined in celebrating the startups' achievements.—RT

District Council Khairpur starts air ambulance services

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The District Council Khairpur has introduced a new air ambulance service to address emergency medical needs in the district. Chairman Nadir Shoukat Rajpar announced the initiative at a press conference, revealing that the service was arranged following a series of tragic incidents that highlighted the need for rapid medical evacuation.

Rajpar credited PPP Chairman Bilawal

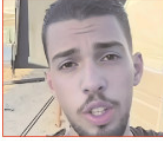
Bhutto Zardari for facilitating the provision of the air ambulance, which will be utilized to transport critically injured patients to Karachi for urgent treatment. This service aims to significantly improve emergency response capabilities and enhance patient survival rates in critical situations. The air ambulance service will be provided free of charge to residents, with the District Council Khairpur covering the cost. Chief Officer Yousef Shaikh con-

firmed that the council will allocate Rs 2 million each month to sustain the service. The announcement was made in the presence of Director GIMS Dr. Rahim Bux Bhatti, Medical Superintendent Ashfaq Soomro, Lala Abdul Ghaffar Shaikh, Sartaj Birhamani, and other notable figures. The new service is expected to greatly benefit the community by providing timely medical care and improving emergency response in the region.

GLOBAL WATCH

Blogger documenting life in Gaza killed in alleged Israeli airstrike

A Gaza-based blogger who gained a substantial following on Instagram and TikTok...



Halimy had built a following of over 250,000 on Instagram and TikTok...

and detailing his day's activities. Both Palestinian organisations that confirmed his death...

Germany departs first Afghan nationals since Taliban govt took control



FRANKFURT: Germany said it carried out Friday the first deportation of Afghans back to their home country...

Hebrewist said Germany had asked key regional partners for support...

Nearly 100 Pakistani Students Awarded Chevening And Commonwealth Scholarships



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott has invited Pakistani students looking for scholarships at the United Kingdom universities...

Baluchistan, Pakistan administered Kashmir, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and the Federal Capital Territory. Over 60% of this year's Chevening scholars are women...

early." Fareeha Gull Hashmi, Assistant Manager of Oral History Project Citizens Archive of Pakistan and upcoming Chevening scholar...

Five Iranian policemen arrested after suspect dies in custody amid torture allegations

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has ordered an investigation into the death in custody of a defendant in the northern city of Lahijan...



Following the tragic incident in Lahijan, the president ordered the interior minister to form a committee to investigate all aspects of this incident and report its results to the cabinet as soon as possible...

low-ups to determine the cause of death of the accused, without providing additional information. Iranian activist rights group Hengaw reported that the deceased, who it identified as 36-year-old Mohammad Mirmousavi...

Doha talks yield no progress on Gaza cease-fire as Israeli delegation leaves



DOHA: Israeli delegation leaves Doha with no progress in Gaza cease-fire talks. A view of the massive devastation after the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the eastern part of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza City...

daily, an Israeli negotiating team made up of representatives from the intelligence agency Mossad, the security agency Shin Bet, and the military returned to Israel from Qatar.

NADRA Reaffirms Commitment To Financial Inclusion and Digitalization At Stakeholders' Conference



ISLAMABAD: The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) hosted a Financial Sector Stakeholders' Conference at its Islamabad headquarters...

customer onboarding processes. The conference also covered Digital Economy Enhancement Projects (DEEP), indigenous R&D, and initiatives like NADRA's Smart Card and PakID online application...

NADRA Chairman addressed concerns about cybersecurity and data privacy, stressing the importance of secure, resilient systems. Participants discussed the need for interoperability, standardization, and better...

Musk's X braces for Brazil shutdown as authorities call for accountability

SAO PAULO: An ongoing feud between a Brazil Supreme Court justice and Elon Musk left social media platform X on the brink of being blocked in the country...



Each and every citizen from any part of the world that has an investment in Brazil is subject to the Brazilian constitution and could still enjoy good ties in the "coming weeks"...

Sullivan said the goal of stable, healthy, and sustainable development of China-US relations hasn't changed. "We hope that the US will work with China to meet each other halfway," he added...

Kamala Harris defends immigration shift



SAVANNAH: Kamala Harris defended some personal shifts in policy toward the center on Thursday and said she might name a Republican to her cabinet if elected...

Senate Body Reports Decrease In Electricity Demand



ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) Wassam Mukhtar on Friday apprised the Senate Standing Committee on Power Division that demand of electricity was continuously decreasing...

The committee debated load shedding and projects costs. The minister also discussed the implications of load shedding and questioned the need for 1875 MW capacity if load shedding persists...

Mohsin Aziz raised concerns about the high cost of wind projects in Pakistan compared to international standards, urging a reassessment of why local projects are significantly more expensive.

President Xi says China committed to good ties with US

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping told top White House aide Jake Sullivan on Thursday that Beijing remained committed to good ties with the United States, despite "great changes"...



METRO KARACHI



PMD Issues Warning For Fishermen As Deep Depression Nears Sindh

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a warning for fishermen and sailors, advising them to avoid venturing into the sea until Sunday. This precaution follows the movement of a deep depression towards Sindh in the Arabian Sea.



The PMD noted that the depression has the potential to intensify into a cyclonic storm, which could lead to flooding in urban areas and flash floods in hilly regions in the coming days. Heavy rains and strong winds have already impacted several districts across the country. According to the PMD alert, fishermen in Sindh are advised not to go to sea until August 31, while those in Balochistan should refrain from fishing until September 1 due to the threat of rough sea conditions. Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, and Sindh dis-

tricts are expected to experience intermittent heavy rainfall until August 31. Similarly, Hub, Lasbela, Awaran, Kech, and Gwadar districts in Balochistan may witness torrential showers until Sunday. The PMD's third alert for the tropical cyclone indicates that the deep depression is currently situated near India's Rann of Kutch and its adjacent areas. The system has been slowly moving west and southwest over the past 12

Murad Proposes Electricity Tariff Reforms In Meeting With Federal Power Minister

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah proposed significant changes to electricity tariffs during a video conference with Federal Minister for Power Awaiz Leghari. Shah suggested that, given the current electricity production exceeds demand, peak-hour tariffs and various pricing slabs should be abolished to provide relief to the public, particularly low-income customers.



Syed Nasir Shah, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, and Secretary Energy Munsaf Khan on the Sindh

households. Shah recommended a flat rate for all domestic consumers, with specific relief for those using 300 to 500 units per month, potentially through the BISP program.

Federal Power Minister Awaiz Leghari agreed that a detailed plan to support low-income customers is necessary and mentioned that the Prime Minister and President Asif Ali Zardari have directed him to explore solutions. Leghari acknowledged the need to lower production costs through the use of local fuels to enable tariff reductions but noted that the proposal to abolish different tariff slabs is still open for debate. Shah also proposed offering subsidized electricity rates to factories that operate night shifts, suggesting that this could optimize power usage and create job opportunities. Leghari indicated that a follow-up meeting would be arranged to further discuss and finalize these proposals.

Third Offshore Patrol Vessel PNS HUNAIN Arrives In Karachi



KARACHI: The Pakistan Navy's third Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), PNS HUNAIN, arrived in Karachi on Friday, with a reception ceremony held at the Pakistan Navy Dockyard.

Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, Commander Pakistan Fleet, was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. In his address, he emphasized that the addition of PNS HUNAIN to the fleet will significantly enhance the Pakistan Navy's capability to protect the country's maritime borders. He highlighted that the vessel's advanced features will bolster ongoing maritime security operations in the Indian Ocean. PNS HUNAIN is a state-of-the-art, multi-purpose medium-sized patrol vessel equipped with advanced electronic warfare, anti-air, and anti-air warfare systems, as well as self-protection and terminal defense capabilities. The vessel was built and commissioned in July this year at Damen Shipyard in Romania. The reception ceremony was attended by numerous Pakistan Navy officers, CPOs, sailors, and the families of the crew members.—RT

Bilawal Appoints New Office Bearers For PPP Sindh's Districts And Cities

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has appointed new office bearers for various districts and cities of PPP Sindh, effective immediately.



District Larkana President: Khurshid Ahmed Junejo, General Secretary: Aijaz Ahmed Laghari Larkana City President: Khair Muhammad Shaikh, General Secretary: Anwar Lulur District Kambar @ Shahdadkot President: Qamaruddin Gopang, General Secretary: Ghulam Muhammad Isran District Shikarpur President: Babul Bhayo, General Secretary: Zulfiqar Khan Kamario District Kashmir District Sanghar President: Gul Muhammad Jakhri, General Secretary: Altaf Ahmed Khoso District Jacobabad President: Liaqat Lashari, General Secretary: Rizwan Odho District Sukkur President: Javed Shah, General Secretary: Barrister Wiram Khan Mahar District Khairpur President: Nawab Khan Wassan, General Secretary: Aijaz Ahmed Khuuro

District Shaheed Benazirabad President: Salim Zardari, General Secretary: Ali Hyder Shah District Naushehor Feroze President: Sohail Abbasi, General Secretary: Masroor Ahmed Rajpar District Sanghar President: Ali Hassan Hingoro, General Secretary: Jahangir Junejo District Mirpurkhas President: Mir Munawar Talpur, General Secretary: Junaid Buland District Tharparkar President: Dr. Ghulam Hyder Samejo, General Secretary: Sushil Malani District Thatta President: Sadiq Memon, General Secretary: Intiaz Qureshi District Badin President: Asghar Halepoto, General Secretary: Dr. Sajjad Chandio District Tando Allah Yar President: Zaheer Pitaif, General Secretary: Ghulam Muhammad Baqshi District Jamshoro President: Syed Asif Ali Shah, General Secretary: Dr. Mohan Lal District Sujawal President: Muhammad Ali Malkani, General Secretary: Rehana Leghari Notifications regarding these appointments were issued from the Chairman's Secretariat by his Political Secretary, Jameel Soomro, today.

Dr. Baig Meets KW&SC CEO To Discuss Damloti-DHA Pipeline And Water Supply Issues

KARACHI: Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, MNA PPP NA-241, met with Syed Salahuddin Ahmed, CEO of Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC), to address water supply issues in his constituency and review the progress of the dedicated water supply pipeline from Damloti to DHA/CBC Karachi.



During the meeting, the CEO provided a presentation on ongoing water supply projects in Karachi. Dr. Baig urged the acceleration of these projects to better meet

the area's water needs. He also toured the KW&SC control room, where he observed the management of water tankers and hydrants.—RT

Sindh Food Authority Seals Dairy For Selling Chemical-Mixed Milk

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In a decisive action against food adulteration, a team from the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) raided Khair Dairy Farm in Cattle Colony, discovering a large quantity of milk mixed with harmful chemicals. The operation, led by Food Safety Engineer Huzafa Masood, resulted in the seizure of the contaminated milk and the arrest of Muhammad Riaz, the dairy's operator.

legal action. A case has been registered against Riaz, who faces charges related to the sale of unsafe food products. This move reflects the SFA's commitment to ensuring food safety and protecting public health.

food items across Karachi. Huzafa Masood, who led the raid, emphasized the SFA's resolve to continue its crackdown on food adulteration. "Our mission is to eliminate unsafe food practices and ensure that all food products in the market meet the highest standards of safety and hygiene," he said.

The raid uncovered evidence of chemical adulteration, prompting immediate

During the raid, the SFA team, accompanied by police, found significant quantities of the tainted milk, which was being sold in violation of food safety regulations. The operation was part of the SFA's ongoing efforts to combat the distribution of unhygienic and unsafe

The SFA has vowed to intensify its efforts in monitoring and inspecting food establishments to prevent similar incidents and safeguard consumer health.

Chaos At Karachi Shopping Mall Opening: Vandandalism And Disorder Erupt

KARACHI: The grand opening of a clothing accessories and homeware store in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Johar descended into chaos on Friday when baton-wielding individuals stormed the venue, leading to significant vandalism and disorder.

The event, which was heavily promoted on social media to attract public attention, did not proceed as planned. Eyewitnesses reported that the unruly crowd caused extensive damage to the property and disrupted the opening ceremony. Despite the turmoil, there was a notable absence of police presence at the scene.—RT/Agency

Airport Authorities Issue Alert Amid Thunderstorm Forecast In Karachi

KARACHI: In light of the forecasted torrential rains, the Pakistan Airport Authority (PAA) has implemented emergency and safety measures to ensure secure flight operations at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport. Authorities have emphasized the urgent need to drain accumulated water from tarmac areas to prevent aircraft accidents.

the next 24 hours. Fishermen are advised to avoid venturing into the open sea for the next 48 hours due to severe weather conditions.

As a precaution, light-weight fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft have been relocated to safer locations, and additional weight has been added to smaller aircraft to prevent damage.

Rain is expected in several areas, including Tharparkar, Badin, Thatta, Sajawal, Hyderabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Ullah Yar, Matiari, Umakot, Mirpur Khas, Sanghar, Jamshoro, Dadu, and Shaheed Benazirabad Karachi Division is anticipated to experience intermittent stormy rains until August 31, with concerns about potential flooding in urban areas and canals in Balochistan.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a warning for heavy rains across coastal regions of Sindh in

the NDMA advises residents to stay vigilant and prepare for possible emergencies.—RT/Agency

PTI Sindh President Urges Immediate Action From CM On Rain Damage Across Sindh

KARACHI: Haleem Adil Sheikh, PTI Sindh President and former Leader of the Opposition in the Provincial Assembly, has called on the Chief Minister of Sindh to address the severe damage caused by recent heavy rains. In a letter, Sheikh criticized the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), the Relief Department, and the Irrigation Department for their inadequate response to the crisis.



Sheikh highlighted the extensive damage in Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, and Shaheed Benazirabad, where standing crops have been

submerged, threatening farmers' livelihoods and regional food security. He also condemned the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and the Sindh Government for the ineffective management of drainage systems, which exacerbated urban flooding.

Activate and equip the PDMA and Relief Department for immediate relief. Mobilize resources to drain floodwaters, especially from agricultural areas. Restore Karachi's drainage systems to prevent further flooding. Launch emergency relief activities, including food, shelters, and medical aid.

Sheikh stressed the urgency of these measures and pledged his support to the people of Sindh during this crisis, urging the Chief Minister to act swiftly to mitigate further disaster.—RT/Agency

Sheikh's letter urges the Chief Minister to:



KARACHI: Advisor to the Sindh CM Syed Najmi Alam and Chairman of Malir Town Jan Muhammad Baloch are inspecting the rainwater drainage work on the National Highway near Popular Factory. —Photo by Asif Qureshi



KARACHI: The Sparks Business Club, a prominent organization for women entrepreneurs in Pakistan, hosted a Tree Plantation Drive in collaboration with Maas World and Plant a Million at the Kulsom Bai Valika Civil Aviation Model School 3, Karachi Airport.—RT

