

REGIONAL TIMES

Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day



Angelina Jolie believes 'pain' can impact taste in music

Heartland

Sindh Minister Mir Tariq Ali Talpur visits rain affected areas



Money

-Zafar Moti is Happy!
PSE 100-index up by 138.55 points close at 78,488.21



NATIONAL

PM Praises Security Forces For Anti-Terror Operations in Balochistan



SPORTS

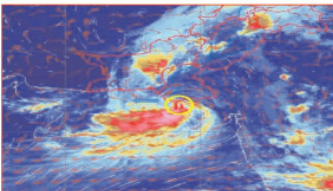
Pak vs Ban: First day of second Test called off due to rain



Murad Allocates Rs500 Million For IT Certification Program

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.

It 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

Karachi division, Tharparkar, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Hyderabad, Tandu Muhammad Khan, Tandu Allah Yar, Matiari, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Jamshoro, Dadu and Shaheed Benazirabad districts till August 31.

Additionally, heavy downpour is also likely in Hub, Lasbella, Awaran, Keach and Gwadar districts between August 30 to September 1 with occasional gaps.

Heavy rains may cause water logging or rain inundation in low lying areas of the Sindh-Makran coast while sea conditions are likely to remain rough with squally winds of 60-70kph gusting 80kph. The PMD has advised fishermen in Sindh to avoid venturing into the sea till August 31 and those of Balochistan till September 1 while residents are advised to avoid unnecessary movement.—RT/Agency

Naqvi: Balochistan Attacks Targeting SCO Summit Preparations

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Moinis 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.

Separately, at least 10 people, including police and Levies personnel, were martyred in a gun attack in Kalat.



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 parliamentarians' 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 Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-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 Moinis 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.

Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, she expressed concerns over the increasing restrictions on Imran Khan, including limitations on family visits.

Aleema Khan stated that no more than three people are being allowed to meet the former prime minister at a time, attributing this to the upcoming 8th September rally, which she believes has caused apprehension among the authorities.

She noted that only Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz were permitted to visit him 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.

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.

However, the deposed premier said, those who endured violence — which according to him include torture on their families and blackmailing — in difficult times but did not leave the party should rest assured.

After the violent protests of May 9, 2023, several PTI leaders including the party's bigwigs parted ways with Khan, while several others were detained by authorities over their alleged involvement in the mayhem.

The May 9 incidents refer to the violent protests that broke out in many parts of the country following the arrest of Khan in corruption case.

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.

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 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 — Ishtekam-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.

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.

The development comes after at least 23 passengers on Monday were killed after being offloaded from passenger buses and trucks in the Karasham area of Balochistan's Musakhel.

Separately, at least 10 people, including police and Balochistan Levies personnel, were martyred in a gun attack in Kalat.

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.—RT/Agency

US Defense Department Condemns Balochistan Terrorist Attack

WASHINGTON: The United States Department of Defence 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 that 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, when responding to another question on whether the US can help Pakistan in rooting out terrorism from that region, said that Washington is always willing to work with any nation that wants to root out a terrorist organisation.

"We have good cooperation with the Pakistani government. But in terms of these attacks, I just — I don't have anything for you other than that we, of course, condemn them," said Singh.—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.

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.

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.

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.

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. The inspection highlighted a commitment to enhancing the educational environment in Ghotki district, aiming to provide students with better learning conditions and resources.

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.

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

By Munawar Chandio & Qaimuddin

JAMSHORO/SEHWAN: On Friday, SSP Jamsoro 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.

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.

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 Sobhodero Javed Ahmed Rappar, TEO Primary Sobhodero 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.

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.

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.

NATIONAL



Court Denies Physical Remand For Orya Maqbool Jan In Cybercrime Case

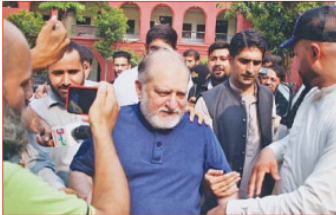
LAHORE: A district court on Friday rejected a request for a physical remand of columnist Orya Maqbool Jan.

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 anchor-

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 or-

ganizing 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 eco-



nomically. 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

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 protesters for dialogue but he

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

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

CEO Shahid Abbas Leads Cleanliness Campaign In Gujranwala

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

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.

Murad Allocates Rs500 Million For IT Certification Program

By Rahib Gaho

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.

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.

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

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 offer cost benefits 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

Toba Tek Singh Police Arrest Seven Notorious Criminals

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Toba Tek Singh continued operations against the criminal elements on orders of DPO Ibrat Nisar. In this regard it was learnt that the police led

by SHO Sadder 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, mobile phones, and cash from possession of the arrested men, who were wanted by the police in different cases.

Gujrat Police Bust 4,364 Criminal Gangs In Eight Months

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

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.

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 (TAPPICO), 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.



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 Iftikhar 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

Local Authorities' Services Praised For Chehlum Security



By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The services of the law enforcement agencies, Civil Defence and district police Toba Tek Singh were

praised for providing fool-proof security during the Chehlum of the Martyrs of Karbala. In this regard the Civil Defence Warden provided security to the mourning processions and Majalis during the

Civil Defence Officer Mehmood Gul said that the Civil Defence provided security to the mourning processions and Majalis during the

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 com-

mitment 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 protesters 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 protesters 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

underscores the need for a more supportive approach from financial institutions in times of natural calamities affecting agricultural communities.

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.

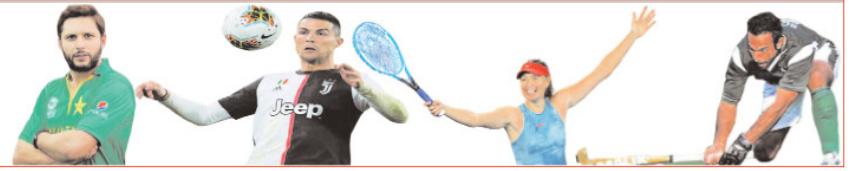
Rajpar credited PPP Chairman Bilawal

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.

SPORTS



Swiatek calls for more tools to help players combat online abuse



Five-times Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek called for the sport's governing bodies to provide players with more tools to combat online abuse after Caroline Garcia spoke about the hate she received on the internet.

On Wednesday, Frenchwoman Garcia said she received online abuse after her first-round loss at the US Open and blamed "unhealthy betting" as one of the main reasons players are targeted on social media.

The ITF, WTA, AELTC and USTA in December launched a monitoring service named Threat Matrix, which uses a combination of artificial intelligence and open-source data, to help protect their athletes.

The French Open has also made AI-powered software available for players, which is designed to block online harassment and hate speech.

"It would be nice if we can do more as (Garcia) did and try to educate people to provide players with more tools to combat online abuse after Caroline Garcia spoke about the hate she received on the internet."

"I feel like we can't be on the internet and feel safe anymore. You have to really be careful on what you're reading, who you're following. I know that there are some tools that, for example, Roland Garros offered for us."

This app that we can have on the phone, and it's going to block the hateful messages. It's also going to learn with you when you're going to tag some messages as hateful or comments, you know... It would be nice if we had more opportunities to use these kind of tools. —Agency

Pak vs Ban: First day of second Test called off due to rain

RAWALPINDI: Persistent rain and wet outfield forced the first day's play of the second Test match between Pakistan and Bangladesh to be called off at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Earlier, heavy rains in the morning marred the game's first day, leading to a delay in the toss.

Both teams were still in their hotel after the rain stopped for a short duration, with the Met Office forecasting intermittent monsoon rain.

Since morning, sporadic showers have been lashing the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Though the pitch was covered but most of the stadium got marshy because of



the downpour. Now the match will begin tomorrow morning, given that the dry field is available.

It is a bad omen for a Pakistani team desperate to square the two-match series after Bangladesh won the first Test, also in Rawalpindi, on Sunday.

Bangladesh's 10-wicket

time to spend with his newly born son.

Star pacer Afridi struggled to find his rhythm through much of the innings, with Pakistan's head coach Jason Gillespie saying he will be rested to allow him to spend time with his new-born son and family. "Obviously Shaheen will miss out on this game. We had a good conversation with him and he fully understands and appreciates the thinking behind it. We are just looking at what our best combination is for this game," Gillespie said. The hosts have been struggling through a lean spell of late, bowing out early in this year's T20 World Cup.

Their last Test series was a whitewash in a three-match tour to Australia.—Agency

Real Madrid survive Las Palmas scare thanks to Vinicius penalty



MADRID: Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr scored a second-half penalty to secure a 1-1 draw against Las Palmas, cancelling out an early opener from Alberto Moleiro. The Spanish giants avoided their first LaLiga defeat of the season in a lacklustre performance, leaving them fourth in the standings with five points from three matches, four behind leaders Barcelona.

Kyle Van der Bruggen, who joined Real Madrid on a free transfer from Paris Saint-Germain in June, is still searching for his first LaLiga goal. Despite manager Carlo Ancelotti making four changes to the team that narrowly defeated Valladolid, Real Madrid started the game sluggishly. Las Palmas capitalised on this, with Moleiro scoring from a quick counterattack in the fifth minute. The hosts missed several opportunities to extend their lead as Real Madrid's defence struggled to find stability. Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois made three crucial saves to keep the visitors in the match. After the break, substitute Rodrigo added much-needed energy and creativity to Real's attack.

Las Palmas goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen made important stops to deny Antonio Rudiger, Federico Valverde, Aurelien Tchouameni, and Vinicius Jr. However, forward Sandro squandered a clear chance to double Las Palmas' lead, sending his shot well over the bar in the 54th minute. Real Madrid salvaged a point when Vinicius converted a penalty after Las Palmas defender Alex Suarez was penalised for handball. The result sees Real Madrid continue their unbeaten run, while Las Palmas remain in 16th place. Real Madrid will face Real Betis at home on Sunday, while Las Palmas travel to the Basque Country to play Alaves.—Agency

Cristiano Ronaldo 'honoured' to receive major UEFA Champions League award

Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo was "honoured" to have been crowned the "all-time leading goalscorer" in the UEFA Champions League.

Ronaldo's remarkable feats in Europe's elite club competition, spanning over 18 years, were recognised during the inaugural 2024/25 UEFA Champions League at Monaco's Grimaldi Forum.

After receiving the award, the 39-year-old Al Nassr star said: "The first win with Manchester United was very special. Winning four times with Real Madrid was also incredible."

"In 2018, in Lisbon, I felt the pressure of being the most expensive player in the world and needing to win the Champions League. But I think goals and trophies are



like ketchup; once they start coming, they keep coming."

Taking to his Instagram after the event, the five-time Ballon d'Or award winner shared a snap from the event in a post.

In the caption, he wrote: "Honored to receive this award from @championsleague for being the all-time top scorer of the competition. Grateful for all the support along the way! Thank you!"

Ronaldo has made history in Europe several times, scoring 140 goals in 183 matches while playing for Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus and also lifted the elusive title five times, which is the second most by any player.

He has won the competition four times with Real

Madrid (2014, 2016, 2017, and 2018) and once with Man Utd (2008). He is also the only player to score in three different finals (2008 against Chelsea, 2014 against Atletico Madrid and 2017 against Juventus). Additionally, Ronaldo finished as the Champions League top-scorer in seven different seasons and holds the record for most goals in a single season, as he netted 17 goals during Madrid's historic Champions League win in the 2013/14 season.

He also holds the record for longest Champions League scoring streak having struck in 11 successive matches from June 2017 to April 2018. Ronaldo has also scored an astounding eight Champions League hat-tricks.—Agency

Afghan Khudadadi wins first paralympic medal as a refugee

PARIS: Afghan Zakiya Khudadadi completed a remarkable journey to become the first athlete from the refugee team to win a medal at the Paralympics when she clinched a taekwondo bronze.



Khudadadi, who made her Paralympics debut in Tokyo days after being exfiltrated from Taliban-controlled Kabul, secured her place on the podium when her opponent withdrew before her bronze medal bout in the K44-47kg category.

The 25-year-old, who was granted asylum by France, was cheered on like a local throughout the day by the Grand Palais crowd and by her coach, Haby Niare, who took a taekwondo silver medal at the Rio Olympics in 2016.

"This medal is fantastic for me but also for all the women in Afghanistan and all the refugees," she said in impeccable French.

"We're not giving up for equality and freedom in my country."

Khudadadi, who was already looking ahead to the next Games in Los Angeles where she said she intended to win gold, delivered a message of freedom.

"I want to give this

medal to the whole world. I hope that one day there will be freedom in my country, for all the world, for all the girls, for all the women, for all the refugees in the world," Khudadadi, who was born with an atrophied arm, said.

"And that all of us work towards that, for liberty and equality."

As the Paralympic Games begin, a new high-tech headset allows visually impaired fans to enjoy the action like never before.

The Taliban's restrictions on women and freedom of expression have drawn sharp criticism from rights groups and many foreign governments since the former insurgents resumed control of Afghanistan in 2021.—Agency

Misbah-ul-Haq to mentor Wolves in Champions Cup



LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain and all-format head coach Misbah-ul-Haq has been confirmed as mentor of the Wolves side for next month's Champions One-Day Cup, which will be played in Faisalabad from 12-29 September.

Prior to Misbah, Shoaib Malik was named as the mentor of the Stallions side on Thursday, while announcements of team names for the other three mentors - Saqlain Mushtaq, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Waqar Younis - will be made in the coming days.

While Shoaib Malik's Stallions has been allocated Sialkot Cricket Academy for training and practice during the 2024-25 domestic cricket season, Misbah's side has been allocated Faisalabad Cricket Academy to prepare for the events during the upcoming season.

The Champions One-Day Cup will feature the country's 150 best of the best cricketers. This will be a 50-over tournament that will be played in a single-league format.

All but the 16 September match between Lions and

Panthers, which will start at 9.30 am, will commence at 3 pm. There will be three play-offs in four days with the final on Sunday, 29 September.

Misbah-ul-Haq's Wolves will take on Panthers on the opening day on 12 September, followed by matches against Stallions (15 September), Dolphins (17 September) and Lions (20 September).

Misbah ul Haq is Pakistan's most successful Test captain, who led his side to victories in 26 out of 56 Tests, including the country to No.1 in the ICC Test Team Rankings in August 2016.

Before that, he equalled the then-world record of the fastest Test century by hitting a 56-ball 100 against Australia in Abu Dhabi in 2014.

Misbah-ul-Haq has featured in two 50-over World Cups, three T20 World Cups and three ICC Champions Trophy events for Pakistan.

He was a member of the side that played in the final of the ICC T20 World Cup 2007 and won the tournament two years later at Lord's.—Agency

Joe Root dedicates record-equalling century to Late Graham Thorpe

LONDON: England batter Joe Root paid an emotional tribute to the late Graham Thorpe after scoring a milestone 33rd Test hundred against Sri Lanka at Lord's on Thursday, saying much of his success was down to the impact of his former coach.

His innings meant Root equalled Alastair Cook's record for the most Test hundreds by an England batter after he came in with the side faltering at 42-2 on the first day of the second Test.

Root immediately pointed to the sky after reaching three figures in a gesture in memory of former England batter and assistant coach Thorpe, who died aged 55 earlier this month after taking his own life.

A deeply moved Joe



Root, whose composed 143 helped England reach 358-7 at stumps, told reporters: "I've been very lucky to work with a lot of people, whether it be senior players, coaches, mentors, and Thorpe was one of those people who offered me so much."

"It was nice to be able to think of him [Graham Thorpe] in that moment. He's someone I'm sorely going to miss, and who I owe a lot to. He put a lot into my game and my career, and without his help, I definitely wouldn't be where I am now."

Graham Thorpe, who won exactly 100 Test caps, was widely regarded as the best England batsman of his

generation. The stylish left-hander was also one of the first to recognise Root's talent.

"Before I'd even made a hundred at first-class level he picked me for an England Lions (A team) game against Sri Lanka at Scarborough," said Root.

"He saw something with me... He pushed very hard for me to be involved in that India tour where I made my debut (in 2012) and from that point onwards we worked together."

Root added: "It evolved into more than that, we became good friends and I really enjoyed spending a lot of time with him. It was nice to pay a small tribute. He means a lot to me and that was a small thank you.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Cardi B slams fans for not getting her 'joke'



Cardi B is hitting out at some of her fans who, she says, not only did not get her "joke" but also gave it a wrong spin.

Taking to social media, the Bodak Yellow rapper wrote a scathing tweet after she said she hilariously called her label Atlantic Records a correctional facility.

However, some on the internet came to believe this was a sign that the Grammy winners did not want to make more music.

"The fact that I made a little joke about the studio because I been mixing and mastering about 40-

Angelina Jolie believes 'pain' can impact taste in music



Angelina Jolie has dished out details about certain music she likes now as a grown up.

The Maleficent actress recently attended Venice Film Festival to promote her upcoming biopic film Maria, in which she plays opera singer Maria Callas.

Talking to the Hollywood Reporter, the Salt actress talked about her taste in music in her youth, saying

that she was "more of a punk and loved all music" but she "probably listened to The Clash more than most."

While talking about her taste in music as a grownup, the 49-year-old actress said, "As I have gotten older I have listened to classical music and opera."

Jolie clarified that she still "loves the music she did when she was younger", noting, "I would still listen to

The Mr. & Mrs. Smith stress shared. "That feeling that would move all of us if we were to hear it would be the only sound that would explain that pain, so I have learnt more towards it now."

Jolie's upcoming biographical psychological drama makes the actress' return to acting after three years. Maria has been directed by Pablo Larraín.

opera - there is nothing like

Face of the Day



Name: Farzeen Ahmed
Location: Karachi

About me: I'm loving the weather nowadays!

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

GLOBAL WATCH

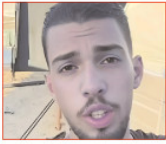
Blogger documenting life in Gaza killed in alleged Israeli airstrike

A Gaza-based blogger who gained a substantial following on Instagram and TikTok by portraying daily life in Gaza has been killed in an Israeli strike.

Mohammad 'Medo' Halimy, 20, was struck by shrapnel from an Israeli missile blast in Khan Younis on Monday, according to two youth organisations he had previously collaborated with.

The Tamer Institute for Community Education informed the BBC that Halimy was in a sheltering area near the beach when he was fatally injured by debris from the explosion.

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) told the BBC they could not confirm a strike in Khan Younis on Monday but stated they continue to "counter threats while striving to minimize harm to civilians" in Gaza.



Halimy had built a following of over 250,000 on Instagram and TikTok after his family was forced to flee their home due to Israeli military operations following the October 7 attacks.

His videos featured everything from simple cooking recipes made with limited supplies to tutorials on creating his content.

In an interview last year, he mentioned that each video cost him about \$3, a significant amount in Gaza.

He posted his final video on Monday, hours before his death, showcasing his talent

and detailing his day's activities.

Both Palestinian organisations that confirmed his death to the BBC reported that the fatal strike occurred on a nearby street, with Halimy being injured by flying debris.

He succumbed to his injuries the following day. Spark, a Gaza-based charity with which Halimy had worked in the summer of 2023, confirmed his death to the BBC, praising his "ability to add beauty and splendour to a place wherever it is."

"His sister, Rahaf, announced his passing on Instagram. Writing, 'Muhammad, your kindness will remain with us, and we believe you deserve a better world. May God accept you as a martyr.' — Agency

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 since Taliban authorities took power in August 2021, as Berlin faces pressure to crack down on migration.

"These were Afghan nationals, all of whom were convicted offenders who had no right to stay in Germany and against whom deportation orders had been issued," government spokesman Stefan Hebestreit said in a statement.

A chartered Qatar Airways flight bound for Kabul took off from Leipzig airport just before 0500 GMT with 28 Afghans on board, Der Spiegel magazine said, citing security sources.

The operation was the result of two months of "secret negotiations" in which Qatar acted as the go-between between Berlin and the Taliban

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 to apply for the Chevening and Commonwealth scholarship programmes.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the Commonwealth Scholarship programme as 46 Chevening and 47 Commonwealth scholarships have been awarded to Pakistanis, according to an official statement issued from the British High Commission in Islamabad on Friday.

These long-standing programmes have developed a network of over 1,500 Commonwealth and nearly 2,000 Chevening alumni in Pakistan, who regularly meet to discuss live issues, it added.

The statement further stated that scholars come from diverse backgrounds, representing the rich cultural tapestry of Pakistan, adding that this year's cohort come from Punjab, Sindh,

Baluchistan, Pakistan Administered Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the Federal Capital Territory.

Over 60% of this year's Chevening scholars are women. The British High Commission strongly encourages people from all backgrounds and across Pakistan to apply.

Talking to the students, the high commissioner offered advice to them for living in the UK, ahead of a year of studying at British universities.

She said, "The Chevening programme helps develop a new generation of Pakistani leaders and change-makers. Many of our alumni have gone on to achieve extraordinary things back home."

"Not only do they get the benefit of studying at some of the best universities in the world, they also get to experience the best of living in the UK. From climate studies to football coaching, I am looking forward to seeing what they achieve, and encourage all those interested to apply

early." Fareeha Gull Hashmi, Assistant Manager of Oral History Project Citizens Archive of Pakistan and upcoming Chevening scholar, said: "I am thrilled to be joining the University of Essex for my MA in Heritage and Museum Studies. This programme is exactly what I was looking for to help me on my journey to improve heritage and cultural preservation in Pakistan. I can't wait for my journey to begin." The cohort includes those on a scholarship in Football Science, with the support of Swindon Town Football Club. For the first time, this year's cohort also saw an additional scholarship for Heritage and Museum Studies with the support of Essex University. This scholarship will cover tuition fees, living expenses, and travel costs. This, and a University of Essex Scholarship for Climate Studies, are again available in this year's application cycle, as are additional scholarships from the University of Birmingham.—RT/Agency

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, state media reported.

"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," the head of government public relations Elias Hazrati said.

Five policemen were arrested by the judiciary in relation to the case, according to the judiciary's Mizan news agency, which did not reveal the deceased's name, the charges he was facing, or the date on which he died.

"Following the violation of a citizen's rights, necessary follow-ups were carried out and defendants related to the case were imprisoned based on a temporary arrest warrant," Lahijan's prosecutor, Ebrahim Ansari, said according to Mizan.

Ansari added that forensic pathologists carried out fol-



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, was arrested on Aug. 24 following an altercation and tortured to death on the same day.

A blurred video was circulated on social media showing the lacerated back of a topless man. Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the video.

The respect of citizens' rights, including women and minorities, was one of the electoral promises of the relatively moderate Pezeshkian, who won the presidency in July.

In 2022, the death in custody of young Kurdish-Iranian woman Mahsa Amini, who was arrested for flouting Iran's strict hijab laws, sparked months of nationwide protests in what became a major challenge to the Islamic Republic, public said this was the seventh case of a death in custody since the start of

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, Gaza on August 29, 2024.

The Israeli delegation that arrived in the Qatari capital Doha on Wednesday for high-stakes negotiations on the Gaza cease-fire has left without reaching any agreements, Israeli media claimed on Friday.

According to Haaretz 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.

The daily added that "there have been no breakthroughs in the talks thus far regarding the red lines set forth by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, including the issues of inspections at the Netzarim route," the presence of the Israeli army on the Philadelphia route, and the manning of the Rafah crossing.—Agency

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, as President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva demanded that the billionaire comply with local laws.

X was still working normally in Brazil on Friday morning, but the platform said late on Thursday that it expected Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes to order a shutdown "soon," after a court-imposed deadline expired for the company to identify a legal representative in Brazil.

"Each and every citizen from any part of the world that has an investment in Brazil is subject to the Brazilian constitution and



Brazilian laws," Lula told a local radio station on Friday. "Just because a guy has a lot of money doesn't mean he can disrespect (the law)," the leftist leader added. Musk on Thursday had criticized Lula as Moraes' "lapdog" in a post on X in which the billionaire also called Moraes a "dictator".

The judge, in a separate event on Friday, reiterated his view that social media needs regulation to contain

"hate speech." He did not provide any details about when he might issue an order blocking X. "Those who violate democracy, who violate fundamental human rights, whether in person or through social media, must be held accountable," Moraes said. Under Brazilian laws governing the internet, social media platforms are required to have a locally based representative.—RT/Agency

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, in her first interview with a mainstream news organization since Democrats nominated her for president.

"I think the most important and most significant aspect of my policy perspective and decisions is, my values have not changed," she told CNN anchor Dana Bash in an early excerpt from the interview to be broadcast at 9 pm ET (0100 GMT on Friday).

Harris has moved more toward the center on some issues from the time she ran for president in 2020 until she took over from President Joe Biden as the Democrats' choice to face Republican former President Donald Trump in the Nov. 5 election. She has toughened her position on migration along the southern US border with Mexico. She also no longer wants a ban on fracking, an energy production method that employs many people in Pennsylvania, one of a handful of swing states that could decide the election.

"My value around what we need to do to secure our border - that value has not changed. I spent two terms as the attorney general of California prosecuting transnational criminal organizations, violations of American laws, regarding the illegal passage of guns, drugs and human beings across our border. My values have not changed," she said.—Agency

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, gathering representatives from Pakistan Fintech Network (PFN), digital banks, electronic money institutions (EMIs), non-banking financial institutions (NBFI), and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

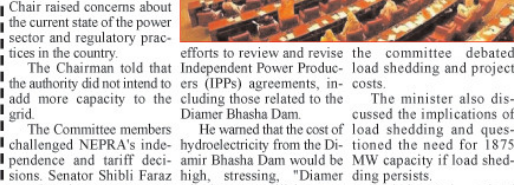
The conference focused on enhancing collaboration to leverage digital technology for improved financial inclusion, reduced fraud risks, and a more secure financial ecosystem. NADRA's role in supporting the eKYC regime was emphasized, along with its commitment to robust cybersecurity and data protection.

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

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, with a special emphasis on increasing registration of women and children.

The conference concluded with a strategic roadmap for enhancing financial inclusion and digitalization while ensuring robust cybersecurity and data protection.—RT

Senate Body Reports Decrease In Electricity Demand



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

The Committee which met with Mohsin Aziz in the Chair raised concerns about the current state of the power sector and regulatory practices in the country.

The Chairman told that the authority did not intend to add more capacity to the grid.

The Committee members challenged NEPRA's independence and tariff decisions. Senator Shibli Faraz questioned NEPRA's recent tariff adjustments. He inquired whether NEPRA increased electricity costs by three rupees instead of the anticipated five.

Faraz demanded transparency regarding the increase in electricity prices over the past two years and urged the provision of detailed reports on power projects nationwide.

Minister for Power Division, Sardar Awais Ahmad Leghari highlighted ongoing efforts to review and revise Independent Power Producers (IPPs) agreements, including those related to the Diamir Bhasha Dam.

He warned that the cost of hydroelectricity from the Diamir Bhasha Dam would be high, stressing, "Diamir Bhasha Dam will increase electricity prices."

Furthermore, the Committee also commented on the Task Force to scrutinize IPPs, a task force has been established to closely examine IPPs, following recommendations from the Mahammad Ali Report.

This report suggests a detailed study, including district audits, though the focus has shifted towards arbitration rather than direct audits. Additionally, the committee debated load shedding and project 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.

Overall, the committee's meeting underscored critical issues facing Pakistan's energy sector, from regulatory challenges to escalating costs and project evaluations.—RT/Agency

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".

Sullivan, the first US national security adviser to visit China since 2016, met Xi as he wrapped up three days of talks in the Chinese capital which also saw him meet Foreign Minister Wang Yi and other high-ranking officials.

Sullivan's visit comes as China is embroiled in security rows with US allies Japan and the Philippines.

But state broadcaster CCTV said Xi told Sullivan that in spite of "great changes", China and the US



could still enjoy good ties. "China's commitment to the goal of stable, healthy, and sustainable development of China-US relations hasn't changed," Xi said. "We hope that the US will work with China to meet each other halfway," he added, according to CCTV.

Sullivan said US President Joe Biden is looking forward to talks with Xi Jinping

in the "coming weeks". Sullivan told Xi that Biden "looks forward to engaging with you again in the coming weeks". "President Biden is committed to re- sponsibly managing this consequential relationship to ensure that competition does not veer into conflict or confrontation, and to work together where our interests align," he said.—Agency

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.



The meeting, which included Energy Minister Syed Nasir Shah, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, and Secretary Energy Munsaf Khan on the Sindh

side, and Federal Secretary for Power Dr. Fakhre Alam on the federal side, focused on the need to adjust tariffs for low-income 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 consumers 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: 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 Pitafi, General Secretary: Ghulam Muhammad Baghi, District Jamshoro: President: Syed Asif Ali Shah, General Secretary: Dr. Mohan Lal, District Sujawal: President: Muhammad Ali Malkani, General Secretary: Rehana Leghari

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.

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 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 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.

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. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a warning for heavy rains across coastal regions of Sindh in the next 24 hours. Fishermen are advised to avoid venturing into the open sea for the next 48 hours due to severe weather conditions.

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 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. Sheikh's letter urges the Chief Minister to 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

Muhammad Faizan Appointed As Secretary Information For Insaf Youth Wing Karachi

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Muhammad Faizan has been appointed as the new Secretary Information for the Insaf Youth Wing Karachi, effective immediately. This promotion comes in the wake of consultations between Ahsan Khattak, President of the Insaf Youth Wing Karachi Region, and other senior party officials.

a significant step in his political career. He expressed his gratitude to the party leadership for their confidence in his abilities and pledged to work diligently in his new position.

Faizan's appointment is expected to strengthen the Insaf Youth Wing's communication strategies and enhance its outreach efforts across Karachi. His promotion reflects the party's ongoing commitment to developing leadership within its ranks and addressing the needs of the youth in the region. The Insaf Youth Wing Karachi looks forward to Faizan's contributions in shaping its information and media policies, aiming to further engage with the community and promote the party's agenda.



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

You have to learn the rules of the game and then you have to play better than anyone else.

—Albert Einstein

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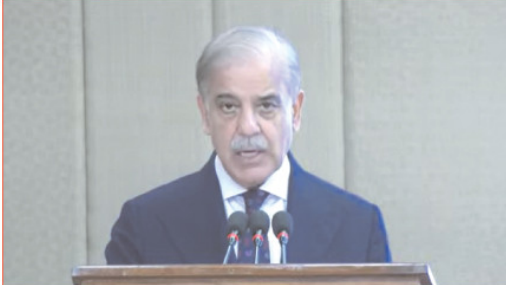
PM: Terrorists To Be Made Examples Of In Progress Journey

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday vowed that the government as well as the armed forces would collectively make the terrorists an example to accomplish the journey of the country's progress and prosperity.

"This is for sure, the armed forces and the law enforcement agencies will collectively make them (terrorists) an example. Without this, the country's journey of progress and prosperity cannot be accomplished. We have unity of thought and action on this," he remarked addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him here.

The prime minister, referring to his Thursday visit to Quetta, said that the provincial government and the political leaders unanimously viewed that any talks with the anti-state elements were out of the question.

He said the family members of the martyrs he interacted with during his visit,



were in high morale despite losing their dear ones in the terrorist incident.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the federal government would implement the proposals put forward by the provincial political leaders during his visit.

He told the cabinet members that during the visit, the Quetta Corps Commander gave a presentation on challenges faced by Balochistan

and how the terrorists, funded by foreign forces, were sowing hatred against Pakistan among the people. He said the civilian government was also taking effective measures for the youth's uplift.

Besides, the officers and the personnel of the armed forces were chasing the terrorists with the federal government's support, he said, and assured the federal govern-

ment would spend Rs55 billion to solarise agricultural tube wells in Balochistan.

The prime minister said that Moody's has recently upgraded Pakistan's rating to indicate the country's improving economic condition.

"This is a long journey. This yet needs more concerted efforts to improve the economy. The whole nation, including the provincial governments, are united on this," he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the federal government would soon unveil its five-year Home Grown Economic Revival Plan aimed at boosting exports, agriculture, industry, youth's uplift, skill and vocational training.

"We have to take this journey ahead. The nations who work hard and face challenges resolutely achieve excellence. Pakistan will soon achieve economic independence and emerge as an economic power as there is no other way out," he added.—RT/Agency

Federal Government, ECP, And Others Issued Notices In Election Act Amendment Case

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has issued notice to the federal government, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and other parties in a case pertaining to the amendment in the Election Act.

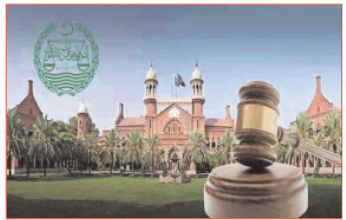
LHC's Justice Muhammad Raza Qureshi heard the application filed by Advocate Muneer Ahmed against the Election Act amendment.

The application has made the Senate chairman, National Assembly speaker, PM, opposition leader and political parties respondents in the case.

The assistant attorney general informed the court that an additional attorney general couldn't appear before the court due to its busy schedule and requested adjournment of the case hearing.

Applicant's lawyer Azhar Siddique informed that the court has issued a notice of 27 A to Attorney General of Pakistan and additional attorney general appearance wasn't necessary.

Lawyer added that the Supreme Court had directed for immediate verdict issued on the application. Azhar Siddique said that



the court was due to issue judgment on the application under the Article 187 Section 2 of the constitution.

The Election Act was enforced from the past by making amendments in it and now law could not be enacted from the past, the lawyer stated in the court.

Consequently, LHC has issued notices to the federal government and others in the case by adjourning the case hearing until September 9.

In the last hearing of this case on August 24, LHC's Justice Shakeel Ahmad heard the case and issued the two-page written verdict.

Petitioner in his petition contended that four amendments were made in the Election Act to revoke the Supreme Court reserved

seats verdict. The amendment act was passed without approval of the relevant committee and consultation. The petitioner contended that Parliament couldn't nullify the member bench decision by amendment in the act and requested to declare the amendment null and void.

Citizen Mashkoor Hussain had also filed the petition through Nadeem Sarwar against the Election Act amendment.

It is pertinent to note that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has also challenged the Election Act amendment in the Supreme Court on August 7, labelled it violation of constitution and law and aimed to thwart PTI.—RT/Agency

Adiala Jail Administration Denies PTI's Claims About Imran's Facilities

RAWALPINDI: The Adiala jail administration on Friday denied reports about withdrawing facilities for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, while the party is insisting he is facing hardships citing a lack of due facilities.

The superintendent of Central Jail Rawalpindi, famously referred to as the Adiala jail, said all the facilities were provided to Khan, with special attention on his security and health.

"The PTI founder is supplied one English newspaper daily. He has an exercise machine and place for walk [to keep him fit]," he said.

The jail official added that the former prime minister and his incarcerated spouse, Bushra Bibi, had been allocated a separate kitchen, while prison staff was present 24/7 for his security.

The Adiala jail superintendent said books were also available for him to read.

The official repudiated the report about an open sewer in Khan's cell and rats in Bushra Bibi's cell, saying, "There is no veracity in the news of an open sewer in



Khan's cell or rats in Bushra's."

The official said the PTI founder was allowed to meet family, lawyers as well as hold political meetings twice a week. Also on the occasion of case hearings the PTI founder met those who attended the hearings in the jail, the official maintained.

The jail official said Khan also had the facility of television in his prison cell.

The jail's stance comes in the wake of claims made by PTI Senator Muhammad Ail Khan Saif who relayed media about a spectrum of "facilities" his leader is being deprived of. The senator said he called on Khan at the prison and found he was encountering adversities there.

The PTI founder was not given the facilities that President Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif enjoyed during their respective jail terms, he maintained.

"The PTI founder is suffering from ear pain. He's not being provided an electric toothbrush and a dumbbell for exercise," he said.

Saif said the ex-premier was not being allowed to talk to his sons as well over the phone.

He conveyed the workers' sentiments to the PTI supreme, saying that they were dejected after the August 22 public rally was postponed abruptly.

The PTI founder directed him to make the party leaders sit down and resolve grievances, he said.—RT/Agency

Federal Cabinet Approves Talks On ML-1 Financial Agreement



ISLAMABAD: The Federal cabinet on Friday approved starting negotiations on the Financial Commitment Agreement between China and Pakistan Railways for the up gradation of the ML-1 project, a crucial component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, instructed that the final agreement (on ML-1) be brought back to the cabinet for approval.

The prime minister briefed the cabinet on his recent visit to Quetta, highlighting ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies, such as the police and levies, in Balochistan.

The prime minister stated that the entire nation was committed to eliminate terrorism and setting an example by dealing firmly with terrorists.

He also praised the Balochistan provincial government for its commendable efforts to integrate Baloch youth into the national mainstream, aiming for their development and prosperity.

The prime minister stated that the federal government will fully support the Balochistan government in offering world-class education and equal development opportunities to Baloch youth.

The Cabinet also approved the decisions made by the Economic Coordination Committee on August 29, 2024.—RT/Agency

US Welcomes Pakistan's Envoy Rizwan Saeed At Credential Presentation Ceremony

WASHINGTON: Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Pakistan's new ambassador to the United States, received a warm welcome by top diplomats of America as he was presented with a copy of credentials for his new role, a statement issued by the Pakistan Embassy in Washington said on Friday.

According to the statement, Rizwan attended the traditional ceremony at the US Department of State, almost a week after he formally assumed his new diplomatic responsibilities in Washington.

The ceremony was attended by top US diplomats, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst.

Speaking to the attendees at the ceremony, the new Pakistan envoy to the US vowed to contributing to cementing Pak-US bilateral ties



to the best of his abilities. He particularly emphasised the significance of enhancing the frequency of "high level interaction, economic linkages and people-to-people contacts between the two countries".

Last week, as he assumed his new responsibilities, Rizwan held introductory meetings with officers from the embassy and discussed priorities in the context of Pakistan's economic situation.

Rizwan, who previously served as the deputy chief of

Mission at the Pakistan Embassy for a long time, has held diplomatic responsibilities with former ambassadors Jali Abbas Jilani, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Asad Majeed Khan, and Ali Jahangir Siddiqui.

On his first day in office, last week, he had also highlighted the importance of the Pakistani diaspora in the US, describing them as a valuable asset of the country while also noting their role in serving as a strong bond in the Pak-US relationship.—RT/Agency

Pakistan And Bangladesh Emphasize Need For Closer Cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Bangladesh's Chief Adviser, Professor Muhammad Yunus, have agreed on the "need for closer collaboration" to advance the progress and prosperity of both Pakistan and Bangladesh during a telephone conversation on Friday.

The chief executives of the two South Asian countries also stressed that "greater regional cooperation could play a vital role in uplifting the lives of the people of South Asia," according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Premier Shehbaz congratulated Professor Yunus on his appointment as Chief Adviser and acknowledged his significant contributions to Bangladesh's socio-economic development.

He also expressed his sympathies over the recent flood devastation in Bangladesh.

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was sworn in as Bangladesh's interim leader on August 8, vowing to "uphold, support and protect the constitution".

He flew into the capital, Dhaka, just days



after Sheikh Hasina, the woman who ruled Bangladesh with an iron fist for 15 years - fled across the border to India.

During today's call, Shehbaz also highlighted the importance of "revitalizing bilateral relations" between the two nations through enhanced cooperation across various domains.

He emphasised the shared historical, religious, and cultural bonds and expressed a "keen desire to boost commercial relations, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contacts."

Professor Yunus expressed gratitude for the prime minister's call, reaffirming the commitment to strengthen ties

between the two countries. Ms Hasina resigned as prime minister after weeks of student-led protests - which left hundreds dead - escalated and culminated in calls for her to stand down. The decision to name Prof Yunus as chief adviser of the interim government followed a meeting between President Mohammed Shahabuddin, military leaders and student leaders.

The students had been clear they would not accept a military-led government but wanted Prof Yunus to lead. Among his new cabinet are Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud, students who led the anti-government protests.—RT/Agency

Ahsan Iqbal: Imran Khan Will Not Receive An NRO



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Friday Imran Khan would not be granted National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) and he had to prove his innocence in courts.

As for provision of facilities to Imran Khan in Adiala Jail, Iqbal said the best possible facilities equivalent to those of a five-star hotel had been provided to the PTI founder in the jail.

The minister said almost all PML-N senior party leaders, including Rama Sanaullah, Khawaja Asif and himself (Ahsan Iqbal), faced the ordeal of imprisonment with courage and proved their innocence in courts in-

stead of begging seniors of US Congress for relief. He stressed that the PTI had to face the music due to its acts.

Iqbal recalled that the PTI leaders during their rule kept asking for receipts from the PML-N leaders but now they were not providing their receipts to courts in corruption cases such as 190 million pounds reference.

"PTI leaders should follow those principles which they set for the then opposition members (PML-N) during their tenure," he said. The PML-N leader said the PTI leaders were now seeking NRO but it would not be given to them, rather they had to prove their innocence in courts.—RT/Agency

Omar Ayub: Government Came To Power Through Fake Mandate

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Omar Ayub said on Friday the incumbent government came to power through a fake mandate.

Speaking to media outside parliament, he said the situation in Balochistan was highly volatile and the interior minister had failed to answer the questions in this regard.

Continuing his onslaught of the current government, he said PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif was allowed to meet people in prison. "Institutions changed the medical tests of Nawaz Sharif to facilitate

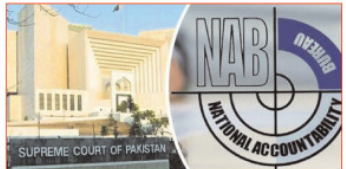


him," he alleged. He added that the political opponents in Sindh had been facing oppression. "The PPP is involved in blackmailing the GDA members," he said.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar also said the cases against Imran Khan would have ended if there was an impartial judicial process.—RT/Agency

NAB Recovers Rs 7 Billion From Corrupt Elements In 2024

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) recovered a significant amount of money from corruption cases in the first seven months of 2024 and deposited the same in the national exchequer, media reported. According to NAB spokesperson, the corruption watchdog recovered over Rs 7.08 billion from January to July 2024 and deposited the same into the national exchequer. Additionally, the spokesperson said that the NAB returned over Rs 4 billion to 21,760 victims of fraud and cheating during the period. According to the



NAB, over Rs 2 billion has been deposited to the federal government; over 136 million to the Punjab government; over Rs 13 deposited into the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's account; and over Rs 259 million to the Sindh govern-

ment. The NAB's spokesperson said that Rs 500,000 of plea bargain have been deposited with the Balochistan government while over Rs 43 million has been deposited into various government departments and financial institutions.—RT/Agency