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Pakistan Meets IMF Loan Conditions As Finance Minister Stresses Need For Structural Reforms

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that his government is working to implement the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) conditions to complete the \$7 billion loan programme, which he hopes will be the country's last.

Pakistan and the IMF reached an agreement on the 37-month loan programme in July. The IMF has said the programme was subject to approval from its executive board and obtaining "timely confirmation of necessary financing assurances from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners."

"Once the IMF board approves the programme, we will enter a new phase," the premier said, according to Reuters on Tuesday, adding, "Working on implementing all conditions for IMF programme."

Moody's, which upgraded Pakistan's rating to Caa2 last week, citing increased certainty on external financing after the IMF staff-level pact, expects IMF board approval for the loan programme within weeks.

However, Pakistan's loan approval is not included in the IMF Executive Board's latest meeting agenda, which raises concerns as this loan deal is crucial for stabilising the country's struggling economy.

On the other hand, the government is optimistic that the country will secure approval for a \$7 billion bailout package from the IMF next month.

Meanwhile, in a televised message today, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, stated that Pakistan had already signed a Staff Level Agreement (SLA) with the IMF and was in the advanced stages of securing the agreement's approval by the IMF executive board.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (left) and IMF officials during a meeting.

proval by the IMF executive board. While sharing the Prime Minister's hopes that this will be the last IMF programme, Aurangzeb warned that it would depend on structural reforms and the country becoming self-sufficient.

The finance czar reaffirmed the government's resolve to carry forward the reforms agenda, aiming at broadening the tax base and right-sizing the federal government to achieve macro-economic stability what he called "basic hygiene" for sustainable growth.

He vowed to persevere with plans for new taxes on the retail sector despite strike threats, as a step towards winning approval from the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the loan.

The taxes, in line with ambitious revenue targets adopted to clinch a staff-level deal on the 37-month IMF programme, faced public backlash after they were introduced in the June budget.

scheme and high electricity rates, the latest of the last few months protests against the new tariffs, taxes and inflation.

Although Muhammad Sharjeel Gopani, chairman of a group of traders, the All-City Tajir Ittehad Association, had threatened an indefinite strike if the demand was not met, no further action has been announced since.

The Fund's board approval hinges on confirmation of financing assurances for Pakistan from development and bilateral partners.

Local media reported the approval was delayed by a lack of additional financing and unpaid energy sector subsidies announced by the eastern province of Punjab and the federal government.

In a statement, Punjab's information minister, Azma Bukhari, said the federal government and the IMF had not adopted to clinch a staff-level deal on the 37-month IMF programme, faced public backlash after they were introduced in the June budget.

The IMF, the finance ministry and the power ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Reining in unresolvable debt across Pakistan's power sector is a top concern of the IMF, which ended a \$3-billion bailout in April that led to higher tariffs, hurting the poor and middle class, and cut household use for the first time in 16 years.—RT/Agency

Army Leadership Vows To Safeguard Gains In Fight Against Terrorism



Army leadership meeting.

RAWALPINDI: Amid a spike in terror incidents, particularly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the military's top commanders on Tuesday reviewed the threats posed by "inimical forces" and vowed that the Pakistan Army would not allow hard-earned gains against terrorism to be reversed.

A resolve to this effect was agreed upon during the Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, presided over by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

In assessing the inimical forces, malicious actors, subversive proxies, and the facilitators of Pakistan's external and internal adversaries, particularly those active in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the top commanders deliberated on a range of measures to neutralise these threats.

"The forum reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army, with the unwavering support of the people, will not allow the

hard-earned successes against terrorism to be reversed," it added. Pakistan's armed forces launched intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in the southwestern Balochistan province in response to attacks by insurgents that martyred over 50 people on August 26, the ISPR said last week.

The military's media wing said five insurgents were killed and three others wounded in the three operations launched in the province. "Operations will continue until all perpetrators, facilitators and abettors

of these atrocious acts are brought to justice," the army said in a statement. Moreover, security forces neutralised at least 12 terrorists in IBOs conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Tirah Valley, according to ISPR. "Since August 20, 2024, security forces are conducting extensive IBOs in Tirah Valley, Khyber District, on the reported presence of Khawarij," the ISPR said in a statement.

During the meeting, the military top brass emphasised that the army was a disciplined institution, upholding the highest standards of professional

ism, integrity, and loyalty to the state and institution. "The institution's well-established and rigorous system of accountability ensures that these values are preserved with unwavering commitment, allowing no room for exceptions or partiality," the meeting stressed, adding, "This strict adherence to accountability fortifies the Army's integrity, ensuring that no individual is above the law or exempt from scrutiny."

Recognising the urgency and significance of a robust and effective legal system,

the COAS emphasised that the Pakistan Army would continue to extend comprehensive support to the government, administrative apparatus, and law enforcement agencies in taking swift and lawful action against terrorists, anarchists, and criminal mafias.

The forum expressed satisfaction over ongoing efforts against illegal spectrum operating in collusion with terrorist networks, underscoring the critical need to safeguard national cyberspace through stringent cybersecurity measures. In a show of solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, who continue to suffer gross human rights violations, the forum honoured the martyrs of the Freedom Movement. The blatant continued violence and genocide of Palestinians by Israel were also condemned in the strongest terms. The forum expressed confidence in the operational preparedness and readiness of the Pakistan Army and vowed to continue to uphold the standards in pursuit of professional excellence, according to the ISPR—RT/Agency

Majority Of Released Terrorists Now Based In Afghanistan, Says Naqvi



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has informed the Senate Standing Committee on Interior that most individuals involved in recent terrorist activities in the country had been released under a previous agreement and were operating from Afghanistan.

While briefing the Senate committee on Tuesday, Naqvi stated that there were no plans for a military operation in Balochistan. He added, "The incident on August 26 was orchestrated by banned organisations, involving multiple groups."

Naqvi detailed an attack on an FC (Frontier Corps) camp, highlighting its intensity. "There were 14 towers at the building, and all of them were under fire. Alhamdulillah, our forces confronted them. Had they managed to breach the compound, the damage could have been catastrophic," he said.

The interior minister noted that operations in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa were being conducted based on intelligence. "Wherever there is information on the presence of terrorists, action is taken," he said.

Explaining the increase in terrorism, Naqvi pointed out that many attacks were being planned from Afghanistan, with a significant presence of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants gathering there.

"Most of those orchestrating attacks against Pakistan are the ones released under the agreement. Our Home Secretary has already visited Afghanistan and provided all the evidence, urging them to take action," Naqvi stated.

Speaking about the situation in the riverine areas, known as 'Kacha', Naqvi emphasised the need for proper management before any operation.—RT/Agency

PM Promises MQM Action On Demands, Including Lowering Power Tariffs

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from MQM-Pakistan, led by Chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to present their demands and review agreements made with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

According to the MQM spokesperson, the delegation raised concerns about the implementation of development packages for Karachi, Hyderabad, and other urban areas of Sindh. They reiterated their demand for a reduction in electricity tariffs.

Prime Minister Shehbaz assured the delegation of swift action on their demands. The MQM-P also urged the prime minister to intensify efforts to recover



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (right) meeting with MQM delegation.

their missing political workers. Acknowledging MQM-P as a crucial ally of the federal government, Shehbaz Sharif committed to addressing their issues. He assured that efforts are underway to provide relief to the residents of Sindh's urban areas, find a lasting solution to their prob-

lems, and recover the missing MQM-P political workers. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister Nazir Tarar, Syed Mustafa Kamal, Dr Farooq Sattar, Aminul Haque, Rana Sanaulah, and Javed Hanif.—RT/Agency

Fawad Urges For A Grand National Dialogue To Ease Political Tensions

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry claimed on Tuesday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) were ready for talks while suggesting the Establishment to be open for the dialogue.

Speaking to media after his hearing in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) contempt case, Chaudhry said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and federal ministers stood nowhere closer to the PTI founder in the political arena, adding that people came out to vote for the PTI on Feb 8 despite multiple restrictions



on the party. He blamed the government for destroying everything in its pursuit of finishing Khan's politics, adding that Pakistan was isolated globally as China kept a distance from the country while criticising the government for mortgaging the

economy to the global lender, the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He requested the ECP to soften its attitude towards him and the PTI founder, claiming that country was not running smoothly without the PTI founder.—RT/Agency

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THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members of the All Pakistan Marble Association block the road in protest against prolonged electricity load shedding and demand the replacement of the electric transformer in their area.—RT

MPA Noor Ahmed Bhurgari, Mir Anwar Ali Talpur visit rain hit areas in UC Ahmed Khan Bhurgari



By Maqbool Dal
KOT GHULAM MUHAMMAD: MPA Raees Noor Ahmed and Mir Anwar Ali Talpur along with Muhammad Yousif Bhurgari paid a visit to the rain affected areas in UC Ahmed Khan Bhurgari. Mir Anwar Ali Khan Talpur assured the people of UC Ahmed Khan Bhurgari to make all out efforts for the provision of relief to them by resolving their basic problems. MPA Noor Ahmed Bhurgari said that the recent rains have resulted in a huge loss to the people of UC Ahmed Khan Bhurgari. On the occasion, PPP Taluka President Muhammad Rafique Bhurgari, Haji Allah Rakhio Dal, District Council Member Khadim Hussain Behrani, Chairman Mumtaz Khaskheli, Dilip Kumar, Rizwan Ali Khokhar, Azam Marri, Muejeb Chang and others were also present.



HYDERABAD: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Sindh Chief, Muhammad Hussain Mehani, along with others, cuts the ribbon during the inauguration ceremony of an R.O. Water Filtration Plant organized by Al-Khidmat Foundation, held at Civil Hospital premises.—RT

Only PPP can bring change in the country: MNA Javed Ali Shah Jilani

By Naeem Shaikh
KHAIRPUR: Syed Javed Ali Shah Jilani, an MNA from Pakistan People's Party, has stated that due to climate change, farmers have suffered heavy losses this year. The increasing inflation is impacting everyone, and people are facing growing difficulties. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is a person with strong thoughts and firm intentions. Only the PPP can bring change to this country. MNA Syed Javed Ali Shah Jilani said that the PPP aims to bring revolutionary changes in the country. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari wants to eliminate poverty from the nation. He expressed these views during a meeting with workers and other political and social leaders from Gambat, Singri, Sohodero, and other areas at his residence. He stated that, God willing, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will become the Prime Minister



and bring about the green revolution that was envisioned by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. The country is in strong hands; we only need to control inflation and restore peace and order, which requires every individual in the nation to play their part. Our leadership is no longer asking for just photographs, instead, they are seeking real work, which we are diligently per-

PPP's Junaid Buland visits Jhudo's rain affected areas



By Shahid Majeed
JHUDO: The Pakistan Peoples Party's highly active and senior leader, Junaid Buland, who has recently been appointed as the General Secretary for District Mirpurkhas, conducted an organizational visit to the Jhudo Taluka. During this visit, he met with Town Chairman Mir Kamran Talpur, Taluka President Niaz Bhambro, City General Secretary Humayun Akhtar Qaimkhani, and others. Speaking to the media, Junaid Buland stated that the Pakistan People's Party is committed to public service. He expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him by Bi-

Sindh Minister Sardar Muhammad Bux Khan Mahar announces to restore Karo Naro drainage system

By Shad Mahar
Aftab, Director SIDA Muhammad Ali Zardari, and Chief Officer District Council, among other district officials. The Provincial Minister highlighted that despite the relatively low rainfall in Ghotki, the preparations were thorough, and all relevant agencies were on high alert. He mentioned that they are formulating a strategy to permanently restore the Karo Naro system to prevent flooding in the district. He has also discussed improving district hospitals with the Provincial Minister of Health and emphasized the need to resolve public issues on a permanent basis. These remarks were made during a meeting chaired by Sardar Mahar in the DC Office's committee room, reviewing the situation after the monsoon rains. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali, Assistant Commissioner Ghotki Amir Jajja, AC Mirpur Mathelo Babar Ali, AC Daharki Zeeshan Ahmed, AC Ubauro Syed S. Ilahi, DHO Dr. Rao

Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi chairs meeting of Divisional Task Force on Polio Eradication



By Absar Alvi
SUKKUR: Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi chaired a meeting of the Divisional Task Force on Polio Eradication was held. The meeting was attended by DC Khairpur Ahmed Fawad Shah, DC Sukkur Dr. MB Raja Dharejo, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Liaquat Ali, and other relevant officials from health, education, EPI, PPHI, WHO, and police departments. During the meeting, Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi directed that focus should be on the 22 Union Committees in Sukkur. He highlighted that the performance of polio teams in 12 out of 14 Union Committees in the city was unsatisfactory, with some teams showing negligence. He warned that

due to increasing polio cases in Balochistan, Sukkur Division might face issues, and emphasized not waiting for control measures in Balochistan. He instructed that in the next anti-polio campaign, a 100% target should be achieved and no child should miss the polio drops. He also mentioned that if the dispute between Solangi-Jagrirani in UC Kot Mir Muhammad of Khairpur was not resolved, that area should be excluded from the current anti-polio campaign and included in future campaigns. Commissioner Sukkur strictly instructed the polio officers to present accurate and factual data about polio, stating that fake reporting would not be tolerated as it hinders the eradication efforts. He noted with concern that discussions at the national level have

Bashir Ahmed Hub assumes charge as TEO (Secondary) Moro



By Akhtar Laghari
MORO: Bashir Ahmed Hub has been appointed as the Taluka Education Officer (Secondary) of Moro and has taken charge and started working. The appointment of Bashir Ahmed Hub has been met with happiness by teachers, parents, citizens, and students. In this regard, the

SAU Sub-Campus holds an awareness program on agriculture in Umerkot



By Muhammad Bachal
UMERKOT: The Sindh Agriculture University Sub-Campus in Umerkot organized a program to raise awareness about the admissions campaign for Higher Secondary School Chhor Old. During the event, speakers highlighted the historical significance of agriculture in the region, noting that the depiction of a cow in the Mohejo-Daro civilization, which is 5,000 years old, reflects the longstanding association with agriculture. The speakers emphasized the fortunate opportunity for residents of nearby villages to enroll in the Sindh Agriculture University Sub-Campus in Umerkot. They mentioned that local people can affordably educate their children at the university. They expressed optimism that one day the Umerkot Sub-Campus would achieve full university status, allowing local students to benefit from higher education in their area. The event featured various dignitaries, including Forum leaders Jalal Kori, Dr. Nazir Muhammad Kaisrani, teachers from Higher Secondary School Chhor, Professor Amanullah Soomro, Principal Higher Secondary School New Chhor, Murad Ali Mangrio, Inayat Soomro, social organization CSSP Umerkot's Mir Hassan Arisar, Town Committee Chhor members Manday the Umerkot Sub-Campus Government Degree College Chhor, Ali Akbar Kunbhar, Principal of Government President Prithvi Sodha, higher education in their area. The event featured various dignitaries, including Forum leaders Jalal Kori, Dr. Nazir Muhammad



HYDERABAD: Residents of Hosri hold a protest at Hyderabad Press Club, demanding their grievances be addressed.—RT

Pir Jo Goth pedophile sexually abuses a minor boy

By AQ Khilji
PIR JO GOTH: A minor boy student of the three class was detained by a pedophile in village Main Wah near Pir Jo Goth when he was returning from the school. The culprit sexually abused the boy and managed to flee from the scene. After the incident the family members of the boy recorded a protest demonstration under the leadership of Muhammad Fazal Mangnejo, Wahid Bux Mangnejo and others said that a man named Javed Kanhar has sexually abused their minor boy. They demanded of the concerned authorities to provide justice to them by arresting the accused rapist.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Mehar stage a protest at Hyderabad Press Club against the high-handedness of influential individuals in their area.—RT

REGIONAL TIMES
NATIONAL



Government Employees Must Now Obtain Permission Before Using Social Media

ISLAMABAD: The Establishment Division has barred the government employees from using social media without permission to prevent disclosure of official information and documents. In an office memorandum issued on Tuesday, the government has bound employees to abide by the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1964. According to the memorandum, a government ser-

vant will not be able to use any social media application without permission. "Government employees cannot express opinions or facts that affect the reputation of the government," read the memorandum, adding that employees are not allowed to speak against government policy, decisions, national sovereignty and dignity. It added that public servants cannot express their

opinion or rhetoric on social media without permission, while strict action will be taken against them for violation of the instructions. The memorandum stated that a government servant cannot share official document and information with unrelated persons. It maintained that employees cannot speak to the media in a way that affects relations with other countries.—RT/Agency

Ahsan Emphasizes Need For Youth Training In Advanced Computing

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday stressed the need for capacity building of youth in advanced computing education, as digitalized education could play an important role in achieving the national goal of development and prosperity. He expressed these views while chairing a committee meeting of the National Computing Education Accreditation Council

(NCEAC), which was attended among others by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Mukhtar Ahmed and senior officials of the Ministry of Planning. Ahsan Iqbal said the country needed to focus on teachers' training along with curriculum education, regretting that students were still being taught a 100-year-old curriculum.—RT/Agency

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz launches Clinic on Wheels Project to provide healthcare facilities to people



By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, is successfully continuing the "Clinic on Wheels" project in Toba Tek Singh, providing healthcare services to citizens at their doorstep. On the instructions of CEO Health, Dr. Kashif Mehmood Kamboh, the Coordinator of the "Clinic on Wheels" project, Dr. Ahsan Bhatti, inspected the clinic on Wheels camp set up on Wariam Wala Road and reviewed the medical facilities being provided. Dr. Ahsan Bhatti also checked the availability of medicines, ultrasound, and other facilities at the clinic and gathered feedback from the citizens regarding the project. Dr. Ahsan was briefed that the "Clinic on Wheels" project includes tests for diabetes, blood pressure, anemia, nutritional assessment in children, and valuable advice for pregnant women. Ambulances are being sent to all areas of the district in phases, ensuring the provision of medical treatment at citizens' doorsteps, following the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

REGIONAL TIMES
THE HEARTLAND

Livestock Dept sets up free medical camps for animals in NWM

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: In light of the recent rains, the Livestock Department of Shaheed Benazirabad, under the leadership of Deputy Director Dr. Barkat Ali Lakho, has set up free medical camps in various villages across the district. These camps provided vaccinations and preventive

treatments for livestock to protect them from various diseases, as well as treatment for sick animals. The initiative of free medical camps in the district is ongoing. On this occasion, Dr. Barkat Ali Lakho, Deputy Director of Livestock Shaheed Benazirabad, urged livestock owners to stay in contact with the department's veterinarians to protect their ani-

mals from dangerous diseases. He mentioned that medical camps have been established in different villages during the rainy season, with teams of doctors actively working. He also stated that the doors of his office are always open for livestock owners, who can directly contact him during office hours for any possible help and complete support.

No Talks With Terrorists, Asserts CM Bugti



By Abid Mehmood Ch

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti stated that he believes in negotiation and will welcome it if a consensus is reached. Addressing the Balochistan Assembly session on Tuesday, the CM emphasised that those involved in terrorism would face the consequences and there would be no negotiations with them. "Terrorists are attempting to break the country. A well-coordinated conspiracy is being hatched against Pakistan," he added. He further stated that the terrorists aim to separate Balochistan from Pakistan, which is not permitted by the Constitution. "The Balochistan government has ended the practice of selling government jobs. All parties must unite to improve governance in the province," he concluded.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Railways starts Sir Syed Express train service

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Sir Syed Express train has been launched for the Karachi to Rawalpindi route. Consisting of 16 coaches, the Sir Syed Express will travel via Faisalabad. This train is operated under a public-private partnership. The train includes one AC sleeper coach, three AC business coaches, and one AC standard coach, along with eight economy coaches and a dining car. A top-tier company will provide meals on the train, and special arrangements have been made to ensure the supply of water and cleanliness. Additionally, passengers will have access to free Wi-Fi. According to the Railway's Public Relations Department, tickets for this train can be purchased from home through mobile applications. The newly launched Sir Syed Express is expected to generate approximately 3 billion rupees annually for Pakistan Railways. The train is being run on a self-sustaining model through the public-private partnership, which will also boost railway revenue. Railway officials have stated that ten more trains will be launched under public-private partnership next month.

Sindh Government increases budget for local bodies

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: The Sindh Government has increased the funds for 1,119 Union Councils from 500,000 to 1,000,000 rupees, while the funds for 499 Union Councils have been raised to 1,200,000 rupees. This decision was detailed in a notification issued on August 30. The increase in budget is intended to address rising salaries, pensions, and inflation, and to accelerate development projects. Additionally, the Sindh government has raised the share of local bodies, including Municipal Corporations and Municipal Committees, in the OZT (Octroi Zila Tax) distribution. Public circles have urged that the expenditures of these increased funds be closely

monitored. They suggest that despite the additional funds, the existing revenue sources of these local bodies should also be scrutinized. To ensure proper oversight, they recommend that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) or the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) be given special powers to check and balance the use of these funds.

NA Speaker Vows To Resolve Capacity Payments Dispute Soon



By Abid Mehmood Ch

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the issue of capacity payments was under discussion hoping that the issue would be settled soon. While addressing a ceremony of privatisation of the Discos, the NA speaker said that the Pakistani parliament in 2015 became the first green parliament in the world. He said that it was not the job of the government to do business but to regulate all such frameworks. He noted that there is currently a global issue with energy prices and highlighted the difference in the dollar rate now compared to when the independent power producers (IPPs) were set up. In 2008, there was a lot of load shedding, and nobody was interested in investment, Sadiq held. Sadiq also mentioned that oil prices have increased due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and the losses faced by Discos are substantial. He questioned why someone else should cover these losses. The Prime Minister, he said, is considering solarising tube wells, and due to solarisation, many large consumers are moving off the grid. The National Assembly speaker also pointed out that when he resumed his role after five years, he found that IT personnel were involved in legislative matters. He added that electricity demand will increase in winter, and there is work underway to provide incentives for increasing electricity use during winter.—RT/Agency

Two men shot and injured for complaining to DPO Ibadat Nisar in an open katchery

By Abid Mehmood Ch

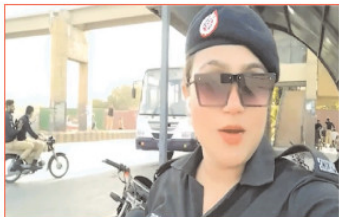


TOBA TEK SINGH: District Police Officer Ibadat Nisar held an open katchery at Police Check Post Naeem Shaheed in Chak 281 JB Dwakhri, where a man and his nephew requested the DPO about the provision of protection to them from their rivals. Both men were severely subjected to torture when they came out of the open katchery. The assailants managed to escape the scene, and the injured were transferred to THO Hospital. Due to their critical condition, Babar Faizan and his uncle Usman were later referred to Allied Hospital Faisalabad. The shooting was carried out by police officer Waqas and his brother Mudassar, who reportedly targeted the victims out of resentment against their appearance at the open katchery. The attackers, Waqas and Mudassar, are real brothers and both police officers. The dispute is said to stem from a longstanding enmity between the two parties, who are residents of the same village, Chak 281 JB Dwakhri. Following the incident, both suspects fled the scene. While the police are reportedly investigating, no case has yet been registered against the accused officers. Waqas served as a computer operator at Sadar police station, while his brother Mudassar was previously a constable at City police station and is currently assigned to the PC. The public has expressed deep sorrow and outrage over this incident, especially considering it occurred near the DPO's open katchery.

METRO KARACHI

Karachi Lady Constable Suspended Following Viral Social Media Incident

KARACHI: A lady constable has been suspended from service over making TikTok video in a police uniform in Karachi, media reported on Tuesday.



According to details, a TikTok video of constable Maria Gill went viral on social media after which DIG South Syed Asad Raza took notice of the videotape and ordered suspension. Maria, a female constable, is deputed at Gizi police station in Karachi. DIG South said the police is a professional institution and personnel cannot be allowed for such 'irresponsible' behaviour. She demanded of the

authorities to review the decision and provide her justice. Earlier in June, the then AIG Karachi took notice of increasing trend of TikTok making in police officials including ladies police constables. Ex-Karachi police chief has said that the uniform given for performing official duty and not for the personal publicity. "During duty hours making TikTok in uniform is inappropriate," Imran Yaqoob Minhas had said.—RT/Agency

Motul holds a customer engagement session



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: A major customer engagement session by Motul was held in Karachi, marking the first session of scheduled programs across Pakistan. Similar events will be held in Lahore, Islamabad, and other parts of the country. Motul, a renowned European company, specializes in the production, preparation, and distribution of high-performance lubricants in Pakistan. Saad Swati has been appointed as the Country Manager for Motul in Pakistan, operating through an authorized distributor house in the region. The global Motul team, including Business Development Manager Hassan Ali Khwaja and Technical Manager for the Middle East, Hasham, shared their valuable insights and informed customers about the company's expansion plans in Pakistan. The event saw participation from Motul sports enthusiasts, MPA Nadir Magsi, and other notable figures, along with key accountants and distributors.

CAA Warns Of Slippery Runways During Heavy Rains In Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a cautionary directive to pilots of all airlines, urging them to exercise extreme care during landing and take-off at Islamabad International Airport, media reported on Tuesday. The airport authority issued the advisory after the concerns of runway slipperiness caused by stormy monsoon rains. Runway No. 18L at Islamabad Airport is reported to be particularly wet, raising fears of planes potentially slipping during flight operations.

The CAA has emphasized the importance of caution, especially during this season's unpredictable weather. Heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds has lashed Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore and other parts of Punjab. In Lahore, heavy rainfall has broken the heat spell in several areas including Shadman, Gulberg, Model Town, Jail Road, and Ichhra. Heavy showers also lashed Gujarat and its surrounding areas. In Kasur's Kanganpur and nearby regions, there were also significant downpours. Showers were also reported in Azad Kashmir on Friday. Areas including Dadyal, Chakswari, Islamgarh, Khari Sharif, Jatlal and Mangla experienced heavy rain.—RT/Agency

Lack of facilities at GMC Teaching Hospital Gujranwala irk masses

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The residents of Punjab are facing severe distress due to the negligence of hospital administration. The lack of essential equipment to monitor the heartbeats of newborns, including CTG (Cardiotography) machines, has become a major issue. In the Gynecology OPD, Labor Room, and Gynecology Ward, CTG machines have been unavailable for a prolonged period. Despite claims by the Chief Minister of Punjab, the Chief Secretary, the Provincial Minister of Health, and the Secretary of Health, these issues remain unresolved. At the GMC Teaching Hospital in Gujranwala, the persistent difference of the administration has led to severe inconvenience for pregnant women who are forced to endure difficulties in getting their newborns' heartbeats checked. Pregnant women are being advised to use mobile phone cameras to capture images for the lady doctors due to the absence of CTG machines. Furthermore, patients admitted to the Gynecology Ward are being asked to procure medications like Flagyl from outside source. The shortage of essential medicines in the Gynecology Ward and other hospital wards has led patients and their families to buy medications from private medical stores. In addition to the shortage of medicines, there are ongoing issues of theft within the hospital. Patients and their families have urgently appealed to the Chief Minister of Punjab to take immediate action. They urge for a legal inquiry into the negligence of the staff and request that the hospital administration ensures the immediate provision of all necessary equipment and medications. This situation has left Punjab's impoverished population vulnerable to worsening healthcare conditions, and immediate intervention is needed to address these growing and serious problems.

CPO Faisalabad Kamran Adil holds open katcheries

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: CPO Faisalabad Kamran Adil, following the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, continues the series of daily open katcheries. After listening to the complaints of citizens, immediate orders were issued on the spot to the concerned officers for their resolution. Various issues faced by the citizens were heard during the open katchery, and instructions were issued on the spot to the concerned officers for their immediate resolution. Kamran Adil stated that the purpose of the open katchery is to establish direct contact with the public. Citizens can freely share their issues and complaints with me. I will personally follow up with the concerned police officers on the orders issued during the open court until the complaints are resolved. Additionally, my doors are always open for you.

EDITORIAL

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

Wednesday, September 04, 2024



The sad and pathetic demise of Pakistan Cricket

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman must resign immediately following the humiliating defeat of Pakistan's cricket team at home to Bangladesh, a result that underscores the deep rot within Pakistan's cricket administration. Once revered as a cricketing powerhouse, Pakistan's consistent decline is no longer a mere slump—it's a crisis born out of rampant internal politics and a shocking disregard for merit.

The recent 2-0 Test series loss to Bangladesh, a team that until now had never won a series against Pakistan, is not just a defeat—it's a national embarrassment. This

result is a direct consequence of years of mismanagement and nepotism that have taken precedence over selecting players on merit. The PCB, under its current leadership, has turned a blind eye to the deteriorating standards of our domestic cricket, and the result is a team that fails to compete even on home soil.

The failures on the field are only the symptoms of a larger issue. The PCB's leadership has been embroiled in infighting and

politics, with decisions seemingly driven by personal agendas rather than the betterment of the team. This toxic environment has left the players demoralized and the fans disillusioned. The lack of accountability at the top has allowed this decay to fester, and now, the chickens have come home to roost.

The Chairman must take responsibility for this debacle and step down to allow for new leadership that can restore integrity and meritocracy in Pakistan cricket. The nation's pride in its cricketing legacy is at stake, and it is time for a change before Pakistan's fall from grace becomes irreversible.



REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Former MNA Aslam Bhootani welcomes his released supporters



By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: Former Member of the National Assembly Aslam Bhootani, while addressing a ceremony held to honor the workers released from false cases, stated that no matter how long the night of oppression, the morning will inevitably come. He men-

tioned that false cases were lodged against their workers and associates, and extreme retaliatory actions were taken. He expressed these views while addressing delegations from various cities of Sindh, including Shahdadpur, Tando Adam, Bhitshah and Udero Lal, who had come to congratulate those who were released.

Aslam Bhootani further said that false cases against innocent people were made by the SP at the behest of some powerful forces, but the workers were released after being granted bail by the Hub Court. He added that the days of the SP and Hub police's excesses are numbered and justice will prevail.

Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri visits rain affected areas



By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALI: In a show of solidarity and commitment to public service during difficult times, Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri recently visited areas affected by recent heavy rains. During the visit, she toured a medical camp set up for flood victims at the Police Lines and interacted with the affected individuals to understand their issues. Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri highlighted the ongoing efforts of her brother, Aurangzeb Khan Marri, who has been working dili-

JWC delegation visits Khairpur Medical College and Teaching Hospital

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Rabel Gul Phulpot, President of JWC Sindh, led a delegation, including Bisharat Rasool Sahriani, to visit Khairpur Medical College and Teaching Hospital in response to public complaints. The delegation toured various departments and wards, inspecting the facilities and issues faced by patients. During the visit, patients voiced significant concerns, noting that while the hospital building is aesthetically pleasing, the internal conditions are starkly different. Complaints included a lack of medication, poor cleanliness, unprofessional behavior and absenteeism of doctors and staff, and preferential treatment for patients



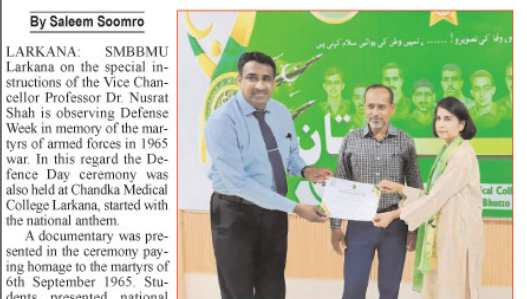
with connections. The food provided was reported to be unsanitary and of poor quality. Allegations of financial mismanagement and corruption in local purchases were also raised. The delegation emphasized that public re-

Allegations of favoritism surface about SAU Tando Jam's promotion meeting

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: Recently, a selection board meeting at Agricultural University Tando Jam, chaired by the current Vice Chancellor Dr. Fatah Muhammad Marri, has raised concerns over favoritism and merit violations. The meeting, which included six members, controversially promoted and advanced individuals based on nepotism rather than merit. It is reported that associate professors and professors who did not meet the qualifications were given promotions and advanced to higher grades, while more senior professors were overlooked. Sources have revealed that Dr. Fatah Muhammad Memon was under pressure to promote favored individu-

SMBBMU observes Defense Week



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: SMBBMU Larkana on the special instructions of the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nusrat Shah is observing Defense Week in memory of the martyrs of armed forces in 1965 war. In this regard the Defence Day ceremony was also held at Chandka Medical College Larkana, started with the national anthem.

A documentary was presented in the ceremony paying homage to the martyrs of 6th September 1965. Students presented national songs and gave speeches on the importance of Defence Day. Addressing the event, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah said that, I was a child, I remember there used to be an atmosphere of fear during black outs of Indo-Pak wars. But after the 1971 war, our great leader Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had the vision to acquire the nuclear technology to make Pakistan safe. He said we will eat grass but will make the atomic bomb, and he did it even though he had to sacrifice his life for this. Principal Chandka Medical College Professor Dr. Zameer Ahmed Soomro said that our real heroes are those who sacrificed their lives for the integrity of the country, and today reminds us that Pakistan is in strong hands. Director Academic Dr. Shahid Hussain Soomro also addressed the ceremony.

The Dean Prof. Dr. Qarao Shah, Prof. Saeed Ahmed Sheikh, Prof. Riaz Ahmed Sheikh, Prof. Salam Sheikh, Vice Principal Chandka Dr. Fauzia Chandio, Prof. Shabnam, Director Students Affairs Dr. MP Shahani, Admin Officer Waheed Zaman, Security Officer Sultan Ahmed Bhutto were present in the ceremony. Faculty members and students participated in large numbers. The program was followed by Certificate Distribution to faculty, and officers who had helped in organising the 14 August 'Youm e Azadi' program another hand yesterday Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between SMBB Medical University, Larkana, and Baqa Medical University, Karachi. The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah, Vice Chancellor and Dr. Mir Hassan Khoso, Director ORIC from SMBBMU with Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor and Dr. Nazeer Khan, Director ORIC from BMU Karachi.

Johi's flood affected people appeal for relief



By Roshan Memon

JOHI: In Johi Taluka, more than ten union councils, including UC Kamal Khan, UC Pat, UC Drigh Bala, UC Wahi Pandhi, UC Qasbo, UC Koh Mano, UC Tando Rahim Khan, UC Chhani, UC Shah Hassan and UC Sawro, have been inundated by rain and flood water. Hundreds of villages and homes are submerged, and livestock is rapidly dying due to lack of fodder. Thousands of affected individuals are now mentally distressed and displaced. Despite the promises made by the Sindh Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Provincial Health Minister, and Secretary Health, the MNV drain's breaches from the 2022 flood remain undressed even after two years. Billions of rupees allocated for repairs by WAPDA's SCARP Irrigation Department have been misappropriated. The MNV drain's raised water levels have further exacerbated the situation, causing severe flooding in UC Kamal Khan's villages, including Datto Channa, Rahim Dino, Chhapar Jamali, Mirza Channa, Babu Channa and others. In response to this negligence, villagers from Allah Rakhio Channa, led by Allah Rakhio Channa, Muhammad Soomra, Channa, Kamran Channa, Shaban, Shamsad, Farhana and Nasser Ali, staged a protest demonstration.

They accused the authorities of exploiting the flood situation for foreign funding and failing to address the ongoing human suffering. Protesters claimed that despite the severe impact, elected representatives have abandoned them. They alleged that the MNV drain's breaches continue to worsen, with water levels rising daily, submerging UC Kamal Khan's villages.

The water has turned into a reservoir in many homes, and the lack of clean water has led to outbreaks of disease. They expressed frustration with the lack of government response, criticizing elected officials for their negligence and failure to provide aid. The protesters demanded immediate closure of the MNV drain's breaches and assistance for the affected communities, emphasizing their plight and the urgent need for relief.

Man killed, 5 injured in Pir Jo Goth's Solangi-Jagirani clash

By AQ Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: The clash between the Solangi and Jagirani communities around Pir Jo Goth, including areas like Wada Machhi, Dargahpur, Gharfar Shah, and Kot Pul, has intensified despite the decision date being set for September 5. In the village of Dargahpur, during a shooting incident, three members of the Solangi community including Shahzaib, Anees and Nadeem Solangi were severely injured due to gunshots and were taken to the hospital. Shahzaib, son of Shahid Solangi, succumbed to his injuries at

the hospital. Following this, shooting resumed in the Menghlo Jagirani area, severely injuring Abdul Jabbar Jagirani and Muhammad Amin Jagirani. There are also reports of a woman being injured. The affected areas are now resembling a battlefield with both communities intermittently firing on each other's villages. The conflict has severely impacted local businesses and educational institutions are closed. Children are seen with weapons instead of pens, and traffic coming to and from Pir Jo Goth, Khairpur, and Sukkur is also significantly affected. The public is deeply distressed

and facing severe difficulties. There are also reports that people from both communities are checking police vehicles. Peace-loving residents of the area are questioning the administration's capability, asking if it is so weak that it cannot control the situation. They wonder if the people from these communities are above the law, given the open display and use of modern weapons. They urge that if the decision is not made on September 5, the law should be activated, an operation should be carried out, and weapons collected from both sides should be seized to restore peace.

Jamshoro Police arrest two notorious criminals

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: On Hyderabad Road M-9 near Nooriabad Jamshoro Police faced an encounter on Tuesday. The police managed to arrest two notorious criminals identified as Muhammad Malook S/o Muhammad Bux Mangi in injured condition and Raju Palari. The police recovered pistols and bullets from possession of the arrested men and started further investigation to check their criminal record.

SPORTS



Bangladesh Stuns Pakistan with Historic Test Series Whitewash



RAWALPINDI: Bangladesh on Tuesday made history after securing a six-wicket win in the second Test against Pakistan to clean-sweep the two-match series.

The guests continued their innings from 42-0 on the fifth and the last day today after the rain ended the play early on Monday and successfully chased down Pakistan's second innings' 185-run target to secure their first-ever Test series win over Green Shirts.

With openers Zakir Hasan (40) and Shadman Islam (24) providing a strong start, the visitors never allowed the Shan Masood-led side to come back into the match with experienced Mushfiqur Rahim (22*) and Shakib Al Hasan (21*) completing the run chase in the successful run phase in 56 overs.

With today's defeat, Pakistan have now lost five Test series - three against Australia and two against Bangladesh - in the ongoing World Test Championship.

During their chase, Hasan and Islam fell to Mir Hamza and Khurram Shahzad, respectively. However, skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (38) and Mominul Haque (34) provided much-needed partnership to the guests.

Brendon McCullum Takes Helm as England's White-Ball Coach



LONDON: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) today confirmed that Men's Test Head Coach Brendon McCullum will also take on the role of England's White-Ball Head Coach as part of a strategic restructure of the England Men's senior set-up.

McCullum, who has been at the helm since May 2022, has extended his contract until the end of 2027.

He will assume leadership of both the Test and white-ball teams starting January 2025, coinciding with England's white-ball tour of India and the ICC Champions Trophy.

In the interim, Marcus Trescothick will serve as Interim Head Coach for the upcoming series against Australia and the tour of the Caribbean later this year.

Commenting on the restructure, Rob Key, Managing Director of England Men's Cricket, said: "I'm delighted that Brendon has chosen to do both roles now with England. I believe we are incredibly fortunate that a coach of his quality is prepared to commit wholeheartedly to English cricket."

"Being able to align all teams now is particularly exciting and we look forward to taking on all challenges that come our way."

"For the last two years, constant clashes between formats have made it challenging for the white-ball environment; fortunately, these are easing starting from January."

"The timing of the schedule (from January) will allow him to dedicate the necessary focus to both roles, and we're confident this restructure will bring out the best in our players and coaching staff."—Agency



Name: Sherry Butt Location: Karachi About me: I am angry with the Pakistan Cricket Team! Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

Shan Masood Issues Apology After Pakistan's Crushing Defeat

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood acknowledged the team's shortcomings in their recent 2-0 series defeat against Bangladesh.

Masood, while addressing the post-match press conference here on Tuesday, emphasized the need to work for the betterment of Pakistan cricket.

"We apologize to the nation. Our common goal should be to work for the betterment of Pakistan cricket," Masood said.

"We need more experienced players in the Test format. I am very grateful that the selectors and all of us look at the playing XIs and selectors through a democratic lens."



Shan Masood highlighted Bangladesh's strengths that paved the way for their historic victory before acknowledging that the national players need to work on their fitness to excel in the longest format of the game.

"I think, we should respect the opposition. Every opposition has its own qualities and Bangladesh's quality was their discipline, which was more than ours in both Test matches," said Shan.

"We need to analyze our mistakes and we made a lot of mistakes in this series."

"Test cricket demands fitness, both mental and physical, and I think, that is something we need to work on."

Shan Masood also shared that the reason behind going with an all-pace attack in the opening Test was made, considering the fitness level of the pacers.

"The reason behind playing four pacers in the first Test was also due to fitness because we thought going with three pacers would put them under immense load. And then when we went with three pacers in the second Test, unfortunately, we lost a pacer in each of the innings."—Agency

Swiatek Dominates, Powers Into US Open Quarterfinals

Iga Swiatek swept past Liudmila Samsonova 6-1 at Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach the quarterfinals at the US Open as the top seed continued her flawless run through the Flushing Meadows draw.

Swiatek, the only former women's champion still standing, has not dropped a set in New York and in her 100th Grand Slam match the 23-year-old lost only four points on her first serve.

Samsonova, the 16th seed, was gunning for her first Grand Slam quarterfinal but never got into the match and failed to set up a single break point against the Pole.



American Jessica Pegula, whom she beat in the quarter-finals two years ago.

"She has a pretty tricky game style, so you have to really work on your legs and be ready for longer rallies, but also for some intense hitting," said Swiatek of Pegula.

"It's going to be a fought off three break challenge."

Samsonova defended two break points in the fourth game but could not hold off the clinical Swiatek, who applied pressure from the baseline to break the Russian to love in the 10th game.

Down 0-3 in the second set, Samsonova points in the fourth game but then handed Swiatek the break with a double fault.

Swiatek closed it out on the second match point with some nimble play at the net before Samsonova sent a backhand out.

The French Open champion, who had skipped the Toronto tune-up event, said she felt she was finally hitting her stride in New York.

"At the beginning it wasn't easy to get the rhythm, especially because we kind of put our focus more on recovery than actually, you know, practicing before the slams," she said.—Agency

Harsha Bhogle Slams Pakistan's 'Embarrassing' Loss to Bangladesh

Renowned commentator and Cricket Author Harsha Bhogle shared his two cents on Pakistan's humiliating Test series defeat against Bangladesh at home.

Bangladesh outclassed Pakistan by six wickets in the second Test match to complete the clean sweep and win their first-ever series against the Green Shirts.

The touring side had won the first Test thumpingly by 10 wickets.

Meanwhile, Bhogle, who highlights Pakistan's men's cricket team's strengths and shortcomings exceptionally well, recalled his verdict when he claimed that Pakistan are stronger in the shorter formats but will be exposed in longer formats.



He, however, acknowledged that he did not expect Pakistan to lose from Bangladesh.

"I remember saying some time ago that the shorter the game, the more dangerous Pakistan would be, and almost as consequence, that the longer the game, the more vulnerable they would be," he wrote on Twitter.

"But I didn't expect it to be this stark. Well as Bangladesh played, this is embarrassing for Pakistan," Harsha Bhogle added.

Set to chase a modest 185, Bangladesh knocked the winning runs in the second session of the final day, just 25 minutes before the Tea Break.

Opening batter Zakir Hasan provided Bangladesh with a solid platform with a brisk 40-run knock from just 39 balls.

Following his departure, skipper Najmul Hasan Shanto anchored the run-chase with a sensible 38-run knock.

Later, an unbeaten 32-run partnership for the fifth wicket between veterans Shakib Al Hasan (22*) and Mushfiqur Rahim (21*) steered Bangladesh to a historic victory.

For Pakistan, Mir Hamza, Abrar Ahmed, Salman Ali Agha and Khurram Shahzad could pick up a wicket apiece in the fourth innings.—Agency

Jason Gillespie Defends Shan Masood After Bangladesh Humiliation

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan head coach Jason Gillespie has publicly backed captain Shan Masood following the team's disappointing 2-0 Test series loss to Bangladesh.

Gillespie praised Masood's leadership despite the team's recent struggles.

"Shan has led the side very well. We just haven't played well as a team and that's the reality," Gillespie said after the series ended.

The series saw Bangladesh secure a historic whitewash, as Pakistan's home Test performances continued to falter.

Issues such as inconsistent team play and a lack of cohesion have been evident. Gillespie addressed these concerns head-on, stating, "We need to sharpen up on certain areas, and we will sharpen up."

"I really want to back and believe in these players; they are good enough and have shown glimpses of how good we are. We just need to do it more often and consistently."

In the final match, Bangladesh chased down a target of 185 with relative ease. Zakir Hasan provided a solid start with 40 runs from 39 balls before being dismissed. Contributions from Najmul Hossain Shanto (38) and Mominul Haque (34) helped set up the victory, while veterans Mushfiqur Rahim (22*) and Shakib Al Hasan (21*) guided their team to complete the chase.

Jason Gillespie, the red-ball head coach of Pakistan, is set to depart for Australia after the conclusion of the second and final Test against Bangladesh, according to sources.

Gillespie, along with the team's high-performance coach Tim Nielsen, is scheduled to leave Pakistan on Wednesday (tomorrow).—Agency



ICC Reveals 2025 World Test Championship Final Details



DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the dates for 2025 ICC World Test Championship (WTC) which will be held at Lord's Cricket Ground in London.

Lord's will host its first WTC Final, with the first edition in 2021 held at Southampton and the second edition in 2023 at The Oval.

New Zealand won the first final, while Australia claimed victory in the second.

The one-off Test match is scheduled to take place from 11 to 15 June 2025, with 16 June reserved as a backup day in case of any delays. The first time that Lord's will host the WTC final.

The final will feature the top two teams from the WTC standings at the close of the current cycle.

Right now, India, under Rohit Sharma's captaincy, is in the top spot, with the defending champions Australia not far behind.

Despite this, numerous points are still up for grabs, leaving teams like New Zealand, England, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Bangladesh in the running for a place in the final. Fans interested in the 2025 WTC final at Lord's can now register for tickets.

ICC CEO Geoff Allardice expects strong demand for the highly anticipated contest. "The ICC World Test Championship Final has quickly become one of the most anticipated events in the cricketing calendar and we are pleased to announce the dates for the 2025 edition," Geoff said.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Madonna's Harsh Rules for Akeem Morris Uncovered



Madonna is reportedly controlling her new partner Akeem Morris.

As per Life & Style, an insider recently shared about the singing sensation, who is reportedly inspired by Britney Spears' social media posting, "Madonna spoils Akeem with clothes and gifts and first-class travel."

Nonetheless, the confidant claimed that he never enjoys the freedom of choice while availing these luxuries.

"But everything is always on her terms," the source mentioned and noted that Madonna "is very strict with everyone in her life and just because he's sharing her bed he doesn't get a pass."

"That means he has to go to sleep when she does, get up when she does, eat the same diet as she does, he's banned from watching T.V. and she doesn't like him to be on his phone unless he's doing something for her," they declared.

Angelina Jolie's Stunning Opera Transformation for 'Maria' Revealed



Angelina Jolie played an opera singer in the biopic Maria, but the transformation process was quite challenging for the actress and she has named the person who helped her get there.

Angelina praised the film's director Pablo Larraín for supporting her through the learning process, which she found daunting.

The Salt alum plays soprano Maria Callas in the new biopic, which received an eight-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival.

Getting candid about the "daunting" process of learning opera and playing Maria, Angelina told Variety, "It wasn't easy. I was fortunate to have a director who truly understood and respected her. He knew how much work was required and assembled a team around me to teach me."

"He made sure I had the classes I needed and gave me the space to practice. From the beginning, he understood that I needed extra time to prepare, and he always supported my transformation process," she continued.

Revealing what made her take on the challenging project, she said, "You always have to work with directors you've admired, and I've wanted to work with Pablo for a while. It is a gift to take on something like this, knowing you're in good hands and can push yourself to the edge because they'll catch you."

"Her music was daunting, but it's good to feel scared. As an artist, being so challenged that you're unsure if you can do it is a great feeling," Angelina Jolie concluded.

THE HEARTLAND



New District President of PPP Shaheed Benazirabad Salim Khan Zardari felicitated

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: A grand and remarkable reception was held for the newly elected President of Pakistan People's Party, District Shaheed Benazirabad, Salim Khan Zardari, upon his arrival at Keerio Petrol Pump, Sakrand. On this occasion, Zardari House spokesperson Sheraz Khan Marri, along with Syed Atif Hussain Zaidi, Muhammad Hayat Kakopoto, Abdul Rasool Brohi, Youth Wing Director, President Akhtar Hussain Rind, Sultan Rind, Asad Ali Zardari, Abdul Nabi Jamali, Farhan Laghari, Faqir Mashooq Rind, and several other party workers and office bearers actively participated. Upon the arrival of the new president, the workers warmly welcomed Salim Khan Zardari and Ali Haider Shah by adorning them with garlands and congratulating them.

Two brothers killed, 1 injured in Hingorja road mishap

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: On the Tando Masti National Highway, a tragic accident occurred when a truck collided with a motorcycle. As a result, two brothers, Abdul Jabbar Mashori and Sadoro Mashori, residents of Nihal Mashori village in Sagiyon, died on the spot. Another person, Abdul Hameed Mashori, was severely injured and has been admitted to Khairpur Hospital. When the bodies of the two deceased brothers were brought to their home in Nihal Mashori village, there was an outpouring of grief. The two brothers were laid to rest in their ancestral graveyard. Meanwhile, the Tando Masti police have taken the truck into custody. As of the last report, no case has been registered regarding the road accident.

Dr Fehmida Mirza's son-in-law passes away in Islamabad

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Umar Amir, the son of former Air Marshal (Retd) Amir Masood and the brother-in-law of Hassam Mirza, passed away in Islamabad. He was also the son-in-law of former Interior Minister Dr. Zulfiqar Mirza and former Speaker of National Assembly Dr. Fehmida Mirza, the brother-in-law of GDA leader and former parliamentary leader Hassam Mirza. Funeral prayers and burial services for the deceased were held in Islamabad. Various political, social, academic, literary, and business personalities, activists, citizens, and journalists, have extended their condolences to Dr. Zulfiqar Mirza, Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Hassam Mirza, and Hassam Mirza.

New Express Feeder connection installed at DHQ Hospital Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: An Express Feeder connection has been installed at the 435-bed DHQ Hospital in Dadu, with a significant investment of over 4.5 crore rupees by the LMHS management. This achievement is credited to the relentless efforts of MPA Barrister Pir Mujibul Haq, who personally supervised the installation of the power connections for several hours. The Assistant Commissioner of Dadu, Shah Nawaz Mirani, District Health Officer (DHO) Syed Imdad Hussain Shah, Medical Superintendent Dr. Amjad Hussain Musto, Mukhtiar Khan Dadu Sheeraz Panhwar and SEPCO officials coordinated the provision of electricity to the hospital. Additionally, the Vice Chancellor of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences, Professor Dr. Ikramuddin Ujan, along with the DHO of Dadu, has overseen the relocation of essential services to the new hospital building. This includes the Emergency Ward, General OPD, Blood Bank, Digital X-Ray, and Laboratory facilities. The new DHQ hospital will offer improved facilities, including CT scans and MRI machines, once fully operational. This upgrade will not only benefit the people of Dadu but also residents of nearby cities. The old hospital building which was in poor condition and posed a risk of major accidents will no longer be in use.



DS Sukkur Farman Ghani inspects Setharja Railway Station

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: DS Sukkur, Farman Ghani, DTO Mohsin Siyal, and DCO Ibrahim Baloch inspected Setharja Railway Station. Social worker Dr. Syed Javed Hussain welcomed them and presented them with an Ajrak and Sindhi cap. As part of the tree plantation campaign, a tree sapling was planted at the station. Dr. Syed Javed Hussain requested DS to repair the shade on the platform, improve the platform's lighting, and allocate quotas for the Awam Express and Rehman Baba Express on the down side. Station Master Khadim Hussain was also present.



Jagdish Ahuja chairs meeting of SUP Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A meeting of the Sindh United Party (SUP) Thul was held under the chairmanship of Central Secretary General Jagdish Ahuja. The meeting was attended by central leaders Wali Muhammad Sahriani, Fatabh Muhammad Khaskheli, Shikarpur Division President Jamal Jost Burrio, President Bhatti, Liaquat Panhwar, and taluka leaders Ghulam Hussain Kanrani, Hassan Sindhi, Asif Jost Burrio, Fida Hussain Sarki, Andal Burrio, Hafeez Noonari, Dad Muhammad Noonari, Ghauz Bakhsh Burrio, Alam Jaffari, and others. In their speeches, Jagdish Ahuja and others stated that the Sindh United Party is a national democratic revolutionary party of dedicated workers of Syed's ideology. They emphasized that they are touring the entire Sindh province to transform the Sindh United Party into a well-organized political party that meets the demands of the 21st century. They also mentioned that political training classes for workers would soon be initiated. They announced the introduction of Sindh United Party International and the commencement of online membership to strengthen the party in facing future challenges. They expressed confidence that, in the coming era, the Sindh United Party would engage in political struggle on all fronts, becoming the true heir to the ideology of GM Syed and serving as a remedy for the sufferings of the people of Sindh.

Construction of Gahand Link Road demanded in Daultpur

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULTPUR: Due to the recent rains, the Gahand Link Road, which connects over 300 villages to Daur in Daultpur, has been completely destroyed. As a result, hundreds of villagers are finding it difficult to travel, causing significant distress for both travelers and locals. In response, villagers have started a symbolic hunger strike in front of the Daultpur Press Club to protest against the non-reconstruction of the Gahand Road. During the protest, villagers such as Ali Nawaz Unar, Suleman Mallah, Allah Warayo Otho, Muhammad Musa Unar, and others expressed their frustration, stating that the Gahand Road has been in a deteriorating condition for several years and was completely ruined after the recent rains. They demanded of the higher authorities to take steps for the construction of the road, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.



Annual Urs of Hazrat Imam Rabbani Mujaddid Alf Sani Sheikh Ahmed Farooqui (RA) celebrated

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In connection with the annual Urs of Hazrat Imam Rabbani Mujaddid Alf Sani Sheikh Ahmed Farooqui (RA), a remarkable rally was organized from Gulzar Khalil Pir Sarhandi to Eidgah Samaro. The rally was led by Pir Ayoub Jan Sarhandi, the spiritual leader of the Gulzar Khalil Darbar and the prominent leader of the Khalili Jamaat Pakistan. The rally included notable participants such as Pir Ibad Jan Sarhandi, Chief Khalifa of Khalili Jamaat Pakistan Pir Sanaulah Jan Sarhandi, Pir Hamad Jan Sarhandi, Pir Amjad Jan Sarhandi, Pir Agha Jan Sarhandi, Pir Anwar Jan Sarhandi, Pir Rafiuddin Jan Sarhandi, Pir Ikram Jan Sarhandi, Sahibzada Pir Abdullah Hamad Jan and others. Senior journalists from Samaro such as Abdul Khaliq Arain, Dr. Bakhsh and Rashid Hanif Qaimkhani also participated in the rally.



Director Information Muhammad Moosa Gondal chairs a condolence reference for senior journalist's father

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: A condolence meeting was held at the Directorate Office of the Information Department, Shaheed Benazirabad Division, under the chairmanship of Director Information Shaheed Benazirabad Division, Muhammad Moosa Gondal. The meeting was attended by Deputy Director Ghulam Abbas Goraho, Information Officer Aijaz Ahmed Tumo, and other office staff. During the meeting, deep sorrow and grief were expressed over the passing of Haji Murad Ali Asadi, the father of senior journalist Shehbaz Ali Asadi, who is the General Secretary of the Regional Union of Journalists Pakistan, Sindh Province. Prayers were offered for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



Tando Adam Police arrest 4 gutka suppliers

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: Under the directions of SSP Sanghar Ghulam Nabi Keerio and DSP Tando Adam Dr. Muhammad Moosa Abro, SHO City Tando Adam Muhammad Hanif Mahar and his police team have conducted an operation resulting in the arrest of four suspects involved in illegal activities. The arrested individuals included Moola Bux son of Dhani Bakhsh Rahu, Razi Ali son of Mola Bakhsh Rahu, Shahid Ali son of Mola Bakhsh Rahu and Rashid Ali son of Mola Bakhsh Rahu. 22 bundles of betel nuts (supari), weighing 299 kilograms, 9 bundles of safina (a type of tobacco product), 30,600 pieces were seized by the police. A case under Section 5.81(1) of the Maaw Gutka Act has been registered as case number 335/2024.



SSP Jamshoro returns recovered Rs 4 million to rightful owners

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Under the special directives of SSP Jamshoro, Zafar Siddique Chhangha, actions were taken under the leadership of SHO Nooriabad, Sub-Inspector Naik Muhammad Khoso, resulting in the recovery of looted property worth 4 million rupees from Crime No. 83 of Sehwan Police Station and Crime No. 82 of Nooriabad Police Station. The recovered amount of 4 million rupees was handed over by SSP Jamshoro to the rightful owners, Sabir Ali Dars and Rizwan Ali Jatoi, who expressed their gratitude upon receiving their money back. SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chhangha also announced commendation certificates for the Nooriabad police team in appreciation of their efforts.



Martyrdom Day of Hazrat Imam Hassan al-Mujtaba (AS) marked in Tando Allahyar



TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar city, a traditional mourning procession with Taziyah and Zuljanah was taken out on the day of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hassan al-Mujtaba (AS) from the Mehdi House in the Rahib Faqir Muhalla. According to the details, on the occasion of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hassan al-Mujtaba (AS) the mourning procession carrying Alam of Ghazi Abbas Alamdari (AS) and the Taziyah of Imam Hassan al-Mujtaba (AS) were taken out in the presence of thousands of people under the leadership of Agha Ghulam Shabbir Haidari. The arrangements for the procession were managed by Qafilah Salar Mudabir Mehdi Haidari.

TMK Police arrest two men pretending to be Sarhandi Pirs

By Abdul Sattar

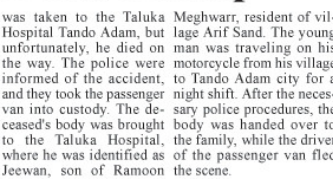
TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Under the directives of SSP Abid Baloch, DSP Mujahid Shah and City SHO Imran Akhtar Chandio conducted an operation and arrested three key members of an inter-provincial gang, Shafiq Punjabi, Usman Qureshi, and Arsalan. These individuals falsely claimed to be spiritual leaders (Sarhandi Pirs). They were arrested following a complaint filed by Gelo, son of Dablu, under FIR 2024R No. 161, and charged under Section 380. It has also been reported that these individuals created fake WhatsApp and Facebook accounts to deceive people. The search for the remaining gang members is ongoing.



Youth killed in fatal Tando Adam road mishap

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: A speeding passenger van coming from Karachi collided with a motorcycle from behind on Hyderabad Road within the City Police Station limits, near Rahu Mori. As a result, a 19-year-old youth was seriously injured. He was taken to the Taluka Hospital Tando Adam, but unfortunately, he died on the way. The police were informed of the accident, and they took the passenger van into custody. The deceased's body was brought to the Taluka Hospital, where he was identified as Jeewan, son of Ramoon Meghwar, resident of village Arif Sand. The young man was traveling on his motorcycle from his village to Tando Adam city for a night shift. After the necessary police procedures, the body was handed over to the family, while the driver of the passenger van fled the scene.



Sale of adulterated milk and diseased meat continues unabated in Mirpurkhas

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: In Mirpurkhas city, illegal practices involving livestock markets and animal slaughterhouses are rampant. Large scale dairy owners are involved in adulterating milk with chemical before selling it in the city. Additionally, slaughterhouses in the city are involved in purchasing sick, weak, and even dead animals at low prices. The meat from these animals is then processed and sold cheaply at biryani centers, haleem centers, and hotels. Despite reports on social media about these illegal activities, the food department and district administration have not taken adequate action. As a result, the public is being served adulterated milk and meat from diseased or dead animals, jeopardizing human health. The lack of response from the authorities has allowed this hazardous and unlawful trade to continue, putting lives at risk.

Religious organizations to take out Khatm-e-Nubuwwat Rally on Sept 7th

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, a rally was organized by the leaders of JULF, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the World Assembly for the Protection of Finality of Prophethood (Khatm-e-Nubuwwat) Hyderabad Division, from Soomro Colony to the Tando Allahyar Press Club. During the rally, the leaders, including Maulana Rashid Mehboob, Maulana Dost Muhammad Farooqi, Muhammad Younis Qaimkhani, and Muhammad Kashif Hanafi, addressed the gathering, stating that they have made significant sacrifices to thwart the conspiracies against the Finality of Prophethood. They emphasized that this struggle has been ongoing for 1,400 years and that they will not allow any conspiracies against the Finality of Prophethood. They recalled the historic decision of 1974 in the National Assembly, which declared Qadiyani outside the fold of Islam and labeled them as non-Muslims. They announced that on September 7th, a rally will be held to commemorate the Protection of Finality of Prophethood Day.

METRO KARACHI



Sindh Government's Efforts Revitalizing Business Activity Across The Province: Jam Ikram

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, emphasized the significant improvement in the business environment in Sindh, particularly in Karachi, attributing it to the efforts of the Sindh government under the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party. He remarked that there was a time when conducting business in Karachi was challenging, but now, due to these efforts, it has become easier for industrialists and the business community to operate across the province.



Dharejo highlighted that the Sindh government is offering numerous incentives to both domestic and international investors to encourage investment in the province. He also mentioned the establishment of new industrial zones as part of the government's strategy to boost industrial development.

The minister made these remarks during the inauguration of 'Pak-Industry Gateway to Industrial Future and Expo Conference' at the Karachi Expo Center. The expo features participation from various industrial sectors, showcasing their products and innovations. During his visit, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo toured various stalls and engaged with exhibitors about their products. He reiterated the government's commitment to industrial development in Sindh, emphasizing the creation of employment opportunities in collaboration with the private sector. He also expressed optimism that such exhibitions would not only enhance Pakistan's image globally but also attract more investors to the province.—RT

Sindh High Court Overturns PEMRA's Ban On PTI And Imran



KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has once again suspended PEMRA's notification of banning the PTI and its founder Imran Khan. The notification was initially issued on May 31, 2023. The division bench of Chief Justice Mohammad Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Javed Akbar overturned PEMRA's appeal against the suspension, which had previously been ordered by a single judge of the Sindh High Court. During today's hearing, PTI's lawyer Barrister Ali Tahir argued that after the suspension of the May 31 notification, PEMRA had reissued the same notification on November 11, 2023. The court has now suspended both notifications issued by PEMRA. Barrister Ali Tahir stated that there were currently no restrictions on the coverage of PTI or its founder. He argued that PEMRA's actions were unconstitutional and against its own regulations, emphasizing that PTI, being the largest party in the country, should not face any coverage bans. The division bench also directed the single judge to make a final decision within six weeks.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Navy To Commission Babar And Hunain Warships On Defence Day

KARACHI: Two warships PNS Babar and PNS Hunain will be formally inducted into the fleet of Pakistan Navy on the occasion of Defence Day which is observed on September 6 in Pakistan, said a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Tuesday.



According to the military's media wing, President Asif Ali Zardari will be the chief guest on the occasion of induction of the warships. As per the statement, PNS Babar has been built in Turkey while PNS Hunain in Romania. These will further increase Pakistan Navy's defence capabilities. The media wing said construction of PNS Babar began on June 4, 2020. While, it was launched on August 15, 2021, and its commissioning took place on September 23, 2023. Four Babar class ships equipped with vertical launching system were being inducted into Pakistan Navy, said the statement.

The 2,888-tonne Babar-class ship has a vertical launch system to deal with aerial threats. The vertical launch system of the 2888 Babar-class ship can hit air targets," ISPR said. Meanwhile, recently commissioned third offshore patrol vessel (OPV) PNS Hunain arrived in Karachi from Romania, the Pakistan Navy (PN) director general public relations (DGPR) said on August 30. The DGPR said a ceremony was held at the PN Dockyard and Commodore Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi was the chief guest on this occasion. PNS Hunain is a multi-purpose medium sized OPV, with state of the art electronic warfare, anti-ship, anti-air warfare weapons and sensors, self-protection and terminal defence system. The ship was built and commissioned in July this year at Romania's Damen Shipyard. The Commodore Pakistan Fleet, on this occasion, highlighted that addition of PNS Hunain will significantly enhance PN capability of safeguarding maritime frontiers. He emphasized that induction of such multipurpose state of the art platforms would provide support to PN Maritime Security patrol in the Indian Ocean. Reception ceremony of PNS Hunain was attended by large number of PN officers, CPOs/sailors and families of crew members.—RT

Lions Club Leading Global Humanitarian Efforts, Says Dr. Manoj Shah



KARACHI: Dr. Manoj Shah, the Third Vice President of Lions Club International, highlighted the increasing demand for Pakistani pharmaceuticals in Kenya, leading to significant investments by Pakistani manufacturers in the region. Speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by former International Director PMJF Lion Malik Khuda Bakhsh at a local gymkhana, Dr. Shah revealed that four Pakistani pharmaceutical plants are currently being established in Kenya. He emphasized the potential for Pakistani companies to make a substantial impact in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in Kenya.

former Federal Minister Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, President of United Business Group Zubair Tufail, former Senior Vice President of FPCCI Khalid Tawab, Deputy Patron-in-Chief of KATI Zubair Chhaya, and PCC Lion Ms. Ayesha Malik Distinguished guests such as the Chairman of Arif Habib Group, Arif Habib, Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan, Mian Zahid Hussain, Atif Munir, Noor-ul-Siam Noor, and other prominent figures were also in attendance.

Dr. Manoj Shah expressed his willingness to facilitate trade opportunities between Pakistan and Kenya, offering to provide necessary information to Pakistani investors interested in expanding into African markets. He also underscored the Lions Club's leading role in humanitarian efforts worldwide, including in Pakistan, where the organization has provided aid and built homes for flood victims. He commended Malik Khuda Bakhsh and Ayesha Malik for their exceptional contributions to Lions Club International. In his address, Malik Khuda Bakhsh expressed pride and joy in welcoming Dr. Manoj Shah to Pakistan, thanking him for accepting the invitation to visit. He acknowledged Dr. Shah's election as the Third Vice President in Australia and his longstanding dedication to Lions Club International. Khuda Bakhsh also emphasized the significant value of Dr. Shah's unwavering support for Pakistan over the years.—RT

PIA Receives Award At Karachi Leadership Conference

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was recognized for its outstanding contributions in the field of social services, receiving the prestigious CSR Award at the Seventh 24th CSR Leadership Conference and Awards Ceremony. On this occasion, Khan shared insights into PIA's extensive CSR activities, emphasizing the airline's commitment to social responsibility at a macro level.—RT/Agency

Karachi Authorities Close Down Counterfeit Milk Factory

KARACHI: The Sindh Food Authority on Tuesday raided a factory in Karachi's Bhains Colony area, where chemicals were mixed with water to produce milk, media reported.



According to ADG Sindh Food Authority, Muzamil Haliputo, the factory was producing 9,000 liters of milk using 750 kilos of chemicals. The authorities destroyed the chemically-laced milk, which had been made by mixing the chemicals with 480 liters of water. The staff involved in producing the harmful milk were arrested, and legal action is being pursued against them. Muzamil Haliputo stated that the authorities would not tolerate actions that endanger public health. Last month, the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) raided a synthetic milk-producing factory, seizing toxic chemicals and arresting the staff. According to the SFA, the operation was conducted in Karachi's Bhains Colony area upon receiving complaints that the factory was producing fake (synthetic) milk by adding chemicals to water. The network of fake milk producers was operating for a long time, supplying impure milk to various areas of Karachi, labeling it as "fresh milk from Bhains Colony." ADG Muzammil Halipoto headed the SFA team that confiscated 750 kg of chemicals being used to make 9,000 litres of fake milk. Moreover, 480 liters of prepared fake milk were taken and discarded. The entire staff of the factory has been arrested and the SFA vowed to take strict action against those involved in the production and supply of adulterated milk.—RT/Agency

PLUS and AAN Collaborate With DEPD To Train Judges On Sindh Disability Empowerment Act 2018



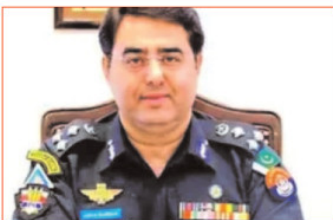
KARACHI: The Pakistan Legal United Society (PLUS) and AAN, in partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), recently conducted a Capacity Building Workshop for judges. The workshop aimed to strengthen the judiciary's understanding of the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018, and other related legal frameworks. The workshop underscored the judiciary's crucial role in safeguarding the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), as guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan and the 2018 Act. Key topics included the legal obligations under the Act, inclusive legal practices, and the challenges PWDs face in accessing justice.

Notable speakers included Ms. Salma Habib, Program Manager of PLUS, who highlighted PLUS's efforts in implementing the Act, and Ms. Mahreen Nazir, Assistant Professor of Law at IBA, who emphasized mediation's role in treating PWDs with equality. Prof. Dr. Farhan Essa discussed the need for inclusive facilities in Pakistan, while District and Sessions Judge Shahid Shafiq provided a detailed overview of the Act's legal sections. The workshop also featured interactive sessions led by Ms. Ena Junejo of Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA) and discussions on penalties under the Act by AAN CEO Mr. Ahsan Shahid. The event concluded with insights from DEPD Secretary Mr. Tuaha Ahmad Faruqi and Director General SPPDA Mr. Ghulam Multi-ud-Din Asim, who engaged with judges and advocates on DEPD's ongoing efforts to uphold the rights of PWDs.—RT

Naegleria Claims Fifth Victim In Karachi

KARACHI: The Naegleria brain-eating amoeba, which has claimed another life in Karachi, pushing the tally to five this year, media reported on Tuesday, quoting the Sindh Health Department. According to the health department, a 19-year-old resident of East district in Karachi was admitted to hospital for the last 12 days due to severe symptoms, said the spokesperson of the Sindh Health Department. The youngman breath his last after illness of 12 days. The latest death brings total tally to 5 in Sindh including four in Karachi and one in Hyderabad. In June, the National Institute of Health (NIH) issued an advisory after increasing cases of brain-eating amoeba; Naegleria fowleri.—RT/Agency

DIG East Ghulam Azfar Mahesar directs police to help people during current rains



KARACHI: DIG East Zone Ghulam Azfar Mahesar has issued instructions to the SSPs, DSPs, and SHOs of the East Zone's three districts including Malir, Korangi and East. He emphasized that during the rains, all operational police personnel must remain present in their areas and assist traffic police if needed. They are to ensure smooth traffic flow during and after the rains. DIG East Zone Captain (Retd) Azfar Mahesar also directed that police vehicles on patrol be equipped with necessary tools, tubes, and equipment/items for removing vehicles stuck in the rain. Furthermore, he instructed that police maintain communication with city administration to ensure timely assistance to the public. DIG East Zone requested the public to stay away from electrical wires, poles, trees and signboards. In case of any emergency, the public should immediately contact the police helpline 15 or the Electronic Complaint Cell at 03138938939, and for traffic information and guidance, call 1915. DIG East Zone Captain (Retd) Azfar Mahesar assured in a conversation with reporters that the police are utilizing all available resources to ensure public safety and service.

SSGC Managing Director Resigns

KARACHI: Sui Southern Gas Company's (SSGC) Managing Director (MD) Imran Maniar has resigned from his position to "pursue other opportunities", media reported. Imran Maniar was already working on a six-month contract extension going to be ended on September 13. Imran Maniar excused from taking another extension as Managing Director SSGC and maintained that he would not be available after September 13. Imran Maniar was appointed as managing director of SSGC in February 2021. Meanwhile, the SSGC informed the Stock Exchange about the resignation of the development through a notice. "Please be informed



that an emergent Meeting of the Board of Directors of Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) was held on Monday, September 2, 2024, at 4pm to consider the resignation submitted by Imran Maniar. From the position of Managing Director (MD)/Chief Executive Officer (CEO)," read the statement. "The board, with the utmost respect for Maniar's decision to pursue other opportunities, accepted his resignation," it added. According to the notice, Imran Maniar's final day with the company would be September 13, 2024. The SSGC in its notice also acknowledged Imran Maniar's contributions to company during his tenure and expressed gratitude for his services.—RT/Agency

Karachi Man Jailed For Distributing Inappropriate Photos Of His Wife

KARACHI: In a bizarre incident, a Karachi man was sentenced to nine years in jail for sharing his wife's 'obscene pictures', media reported on Tuesday.



Police presented the man accused of sharing his wife's 'objectionable pictures' and blackmailing her before the court of Judicial Magistrate East. The judge after hearing the arguments handed over nine years imprisonment to the Karachi man and slapped a fine of Rs90,000. The court remarked that the man humiliated the complainant and her family with his act. Earlier, a separate disturbing incident surfaced in Punjab where a man resorted to blackmailing his former wife after recording her videos of solitary activities. The blackmailer, the woman's ex-husband, continuously recorded videos of her solitary activities and made these videos viral after their divorce.—RT/Agency

"We don't see things the way they are. We see them the way we are!"

— Talmud

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WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 04 2024

Captured Terrorist Discloses Suicide Bombers Were Injected For Desensitization

ISLAMABAD: A militant belonging to outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Rooh Ullah, has revealed that suicide bombers were administered injections to desensitize them two days before their departure for the terror attacks.

In a video statement, the detained terrorist made revelations about his and other suicide bombers training in a seminary in Afghanistan and how they infiltrate the Pakistan-Afghanistan border via facilitators.

Noor was caught by security forces who along with other suicide bombers illegally crossed the Afghan border to enter Pakistan to carry out bombings in a cantonment area. However, the terrorist plot was foiled by security personnel via timely action.

The terrorist, in his statement, said that he was a student of a seminary — Tar-teel-ul-Quran — in Tortam village in Afghanistan's Dandagan for one year.

He said that the seminary gives training to suicide bombers and he also received training for 10 days. Molvi



Sibghatullah along with Farooq and Zakir taught them about suicide bombings in the seminary, said Noor.

He also revealed that injections were administered to the attackers two days before their departure [for the missions] to numb them, after which they could no longer comprehend what was happening around them.

After the completion of their training, Noor along with four others were transported to British village of Tari district in a green-coloured vehicle and later they started travelling to the Afghan border.

He said that a facilitator named Jawad received the group of suicide bombers who helped them to enter

Dar And US Ambassador Discuss Strengthening Bilateral Ties



ISLAMABAD: United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Tuesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the meeting, they discussed various aspects of Pakistan-US bilateral relations including the avenues for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields, according to a foreign ministry's press release.

They also discussed matters relating to the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Inflation Slowing, But Economic Stabilization Still Required: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a federal cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad on Tuesday. At the start of the session, he expressed satisfaction over inflation falling into single digits in August.

"The efforts of the Ministry of Finance, the State Bank of Pakistan, and other relevant institutions in controlling inflation are commendable," Shehbaz said. "The burden of inflation is gradually easing. We need to bring more stability to the economy, and creating job opportunities remains our top priority."

The federal cabinet approved a post-facto framework trade agreement between MERCOSUR and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

Akhtar Mengal Resigns From National Assembly Amid Balochistan Crisis

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan National Party (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal on Tuesday resigned as the National Assembly member over the worsening situation in the province, declaring no confidence in the state, the president and the prime minister.

"I announce my resignation from the Assembly today. I made this decision after witnessing the situation of Balochistan," said Mengal during the National Assembly session.

Regretting the he could not do anything for the people of the province, the politician said they have not been given the right to rule for a year and that he has lack of trust in the whole system.

"People are not interested in the issues of Balochistan and everytime this issue is raised, we face a blackout," he said. "This assembly does not listen to us, what's the point of sitting here?"

Speaking to media, Mengal said that the decision is made by his conscience. He questioned where they would go when the roads to the Parliament are all blocked.

Mengal, who is the member of NA-256, said the prevailing situation in Balochistan has compelled him to take this step.



"Our province has consistently been marginalised and ignored by this House. Each day, we are pushed further to the wall, leaving us with no choice but to reconsider our roles. The lack of genuine representation in this assembly for the people of Balochistan have left voices like mine unable to bring meaningful change," said the resignation letter.

Mengal said that his attempts to speak or protest are met with hostility. Our people are either silenced, labelled as traitors, or worse, killed."

"I find it impossible to continue in this capacity, as my presence here no longer serves any purpose for the people I represent," he said.

The politician's decision comes in the wake of the province's worsening law and order situation. Balochistan, on August 26, was marred by 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 Rarasham 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.—RT/Agency

ECP Refuses To Brief Senate Committee On 2024 Election Expenses

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has excused itself from providing relevant information to the Senate's Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs regarding its internal expenses and overall expenditures on the February 8 nationwide polls.

The Senate body's session was held under the chair of Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand on Tuesday sought details of the salaries of the ECP members and employees, as well as their travel expenses and the expenditures for the 2024 general elections.

However, ECP Secretary Omar Hamid Khan sent a letter to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, a copy of which is available with Geo News, stating that the upper house's standing committee was exceeding its jurisdiction by questioning the commission's expenditures "which is 'charged' against Federal Consolidated Fund". "ECP is not obliged to provide the requisite information," the commission's secretary stated in a letter, saying that it is an "independent constitutional body" unlike other ministries, divisions, and its associated public bodies. It added that the poll organising authority was neither representing the federal government nor any provincial govern-



ment and is therefore, outside the purview of the Senate body on parliamentary affairs." Accordingly, the budget allocated to the Election Commission is not voted in the National Assembly for inclusion in the Annual Budget Statement as provided in Article 82(1) ibid," it stated.

The ECP also stated that it is ready to assist the parliamentary body on legislative business pertaining to the election laws and constitutional provisions, as per its defined role. Responding to the letter, the committee chairman Senator Mohmand lamented that the ECP was stating that it was not answerable to parliament that "established it". The chairman added that the Senate body, as per the rules, has powers to summon any individual including the chief election commissioner (CEC) and ECP officials besides reviewing documents and records.

Bill To Increase Supreme Court Judges' Seats Moves To National Assembly After Senate Approval

ISLAMABAD: A bill seeking an increase in the number of judges in the Supreme Court was tabled in the National Assembly on Tuesday, a day after the similar bill was introduced in the Senate.

A day earlier, "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2024" was introduced by independent Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir in the upper house to increase the number of apex court judges to 21.

In the bill tabled today in the lower house, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) parliamentary member Danyal Chaudry called for increasing the number of judges to 23. The statement and objects and reasons of the bill tabled in the Senate say that increasing the number of judges in the apex court is important because it deals with a significant backlog of cases. The proposed legislation was met with criticism from PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan in today's NA session, who said

Cabinet Approves Trade Agreement Framework Between Pakistan And Southern Common Market

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday gave ex-post facto approval and endorsed the signing of Trade Framework Agreement between Pakistan and Mercosur, a South American trade bloc comprising Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The prime minister, who chaired the meeting of the federal cabinet, said that the South American Market could prove advantageous for the Pakistani products which could not be explored yet, he remarked.

He instructed the authorities to swiftly pursue the agreements and MoUs related to the economy which had been pending for long.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the inflation rate declined to single-digit in August this year and appreciated the finance ministry, State Bank governor and other allied departments for their efforts in this regard.

Calling for more efforts to bring in economic stability, the prime minister said that the creation of employment opportunities was among government's priorities.



The federal cabinet approved the signing of an MoU between the Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Albania's Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs for bilateral political consultation.

On the foreign ministry's recommendation, the cabinet also endorsed the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) 2010.

The body approved extension in the tenure of Syed Junaid Ikhtlaq, Senior Joint Secretary of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training as Chairman

Imran's Petition Against Potential Military Trial Challenged By IHC Registrar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Tuesday filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to stop his potential military trial in connection with the May 9 cases.

The plea filed under Article 199 of the Constitution comes amid speculations about a military trial of the deposed prime minister trial in a military court.

Last week, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarrar said that if needed, the Punjab government would decide to refer the PTI founder's case to a military court.

"The prosecution of May 9 cases is being done by the Punjab government and the provincial government will decide to refer the case to a military court," The News quoted him as saying in an informal talk with media persons on August 29.

Similarly, responding to the PTI founder's demand for an "open trial" of ex-syrmaster General (ret'd) Faiz Hamid last month, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif hinted at the possibility of the deposed prime minister's trial in a mil-



itary court for the May 9 riots.

Violent protests broke out across the country after the cricketer-turned-politician was arrested from the premises of IHC in a graft case on May 9, 2023. Amid the protests, the alleged PTI supporters vandalised military installations including General Headquarters in Rawalpindi and engaged in arson at the Lahore Corps Commander House.

After receiving Khan's plea, the IHC registrar's office raised objections on it.

How can the petitioner seek relief without referring to any specific first information report (FIR)?

No documentation or order has been attached to the petition.

PTI Seeks Forgiveness Only from God, Not Anyone Else: Omar Ayub

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Omar Ayub has asserted that his party seeks forgiveness only from God, not from any other entities. Speaking to the media, he dismissed calls for apologies, stating that PTI has not committed any wrongful acts that would necessitate such gestures. He also criticised political opponents and past administrations for the economic decline, claiming that they have misrepresented facts and failed to address economic issues effectively.

He accused various political figures, including General Bajwa, of driving the economy into a crisis, contrasting this with the economic improvements during Imran Khan's tenure.

Imran Appeals To Islamabad High Court To Prevent Possible Military Custody

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated former premier and founding chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan has approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to prevent his transfer to military custody for trial in cases related to the events of 9 May.

The petition, filed by his lawyer, Uzair Karamat Bhandari, seeks to ensure that Imran remains under civilian jurisdiction.

The application names several government officials as respondents, including the Secretary of Law, Secretary of Interior, Inspector General of Islamabad and Punjab, the Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and the Inspector General of Prisons.

The plea requests the court to restrain authorities from handing Imran over to military custody and to ensure his trial remains within the civilian judicial system. Yesterday, Imran ex-



pressed his willingness to engage in dialogue, stating that discussions will take place only with those who make the decisions.

During a conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail, Imran Khan remarked that May 9 is their "insurance policy." He further claimed that if May 9 is disregarded, the government and its policies will come to an end.

He suggested forming a judicial commission to investigate the events of May 9.