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NATIONAL

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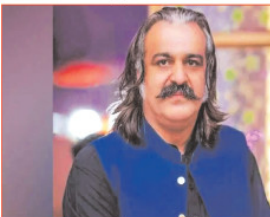
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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Non-Bailable Arrest Warrant Issued For Gandapur

ISLAMABAD: A court in the federal capital city on Wednesday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in a case pertaining to arms and liquor recovery.



The KP chief minister's plea seeking exemption from attendance before the court on medical grounds was also rejected by the court.

Civil judge Shaista Khan Kundi ordered the Barakahu station house officer (SHO) to arrest Gandapur and produce him before the court.

Judge Kundi said the case was called thrice since morning and the suspect still did not show up.

Assistant to the lawyer, Fatahullah Burki said the chief minister could not turn up before the court due to the situation of floods.

Hasan, on the other hand, said he would submit a medical report about Gandapur as he was unwell.

Expressing bewilderment over the contrasting statements, the judge remarked: "You said he was not doing well while your assistant said it was due to flood that he could not appear."

Judge Kundi said she previously gave relief to the KP CM on the last hearing as well and adjourned the hearing for a long time as requested.

The lawyer said their acquittal plea was still pending before the court. The judge replied acquittal would not be granted, as per the

Supreme Court ruling, if the case was on its last stages; hence, it would be disposed of on merit.

She added that it was for the eighth time that a statement could not be recorded under Section 342. "Then you say that you are not given a free trial," she maintained. The lawyer maintained it was unjustified as the suspect was a provincial chief minister. The court said if the suspect was innocent, he should be brave and face the trial.—RT/Agency

ECP Delays Islamabad Local Government Polls After Legal Changes

ISLAMABAD: Following the amendments to Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act, 2015, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has put off local bodies elections, that were scheduled to be held on October 9, until further notice.

"The ECP has decided to hold in abeyance, the Election Programme issued vide its notification even numbered 20/8/2024 for conduct of local government elections in Islamabad Capital Territory, till further orders," stated a notification issued today.

President Asif Ali Zardari, on August 29, assented to the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2024, after it was passed in the National Assembly and the Senate, amidst strong protest by the opposition.

In the new bill, the government has increased the number of general seats of union councils (UCs) from existing six to nine and



seats of women from two to three, according to The News.

According to an amendment to Section 7 of Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2024, the electoral watchdog shall delimit union councils into nine wards for

the election of members on the general seats. Previously, there were six wards in a union council.

As per substitution of Section 15, all nine general members of each union council shall be directly elected by the voters registered in the corresponding union council.

Meanwhile, an amendment to Section 17 stated that the words, the expression the Representation of People Act, 1976 will be substituted with the Elections Act, 2017.

Another substitution of Section 11 noted there will be chairman and vice chairman of a union council as joint candidates, nine general members, one woman, one peasant or worker or business

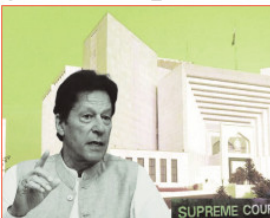
or technocrat, one youth member and one non-Muslim.

Earlier, the election commission — in response to requests from political parties — had rescheduled polling for October 9 instead of September 29.

"To facilitate the participation of various political parties and prospective candidates in the election process and to provide them with all possible accommodations, the election commission has officially notified the revised election programme, according to which polling will now be held on October 9, 2024," said a statement.—RT/Agency

Imran Warns Of Protest Movement If Supreme Court's Authority Is Compromised

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan, the founding leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has warned of a nationwide protest movement if any attempts were made to undermine the authority of the Supreme Court.



Speaking informally with journalists at Adiala Jail after attending a hearing in the 190 million pound reference case, Imran criticised efforts to weaken national institutions, stating, "The institution belongs to everyone, not just the army chief."

Imran expressed concern over the appointment of "corrupt and incompetent individuals" to key positions, arguing that such decisions were damaging the nation.

He cited the Pakistan cricket team's recent whitewash by Bangladesh as an example, blaming poor leadership and appointments for the decline of the sport.

He also raised concerns about delayed court rulings,

particularly regarding the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments, which he believes are being postponed until a verdict is reached in his reference case.

The PTI founder pointed out that several high-profile cases involving former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and incumbent Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, along with President Asif Zardari, are stalled due to the pending NAB ruling.

Imran Khan further alleged that there were at-

tempts to close down the Al-Qadir University, stressing that while it would not affect him personally, the closure of Shaukat Khanum Hospital would greatly impact the public.

The former prime minister reiterated that the Supreme Court remains one of the last institutions representing the country's integrity, and any effort to destroy it would be met with nationwide protests.—RT/Agency

Bilawal Meets BISP Chief At Zardari House For Discussions



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday met Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) chairperson Rubina Khalid.

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present during the meeting in which the BISP chief gave a detailed briefing about the steps to provide relief to the deserving masses.

Later, the member of PPP's Coordination Committee Nadeem Afzal Chan also met the PPP leadership to discuss political affairs of the country.

Chan briefed the PPP leadership over the consultation process with PML-N.—RT/Agency

PM Honors Brave Excavator Driver With Rs2.5m For Rescuing Flood Victims In Balochistan



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed Mohibullah, an excavator driver who risked his life to save people stranded in floodwaters in Qila Abdullah, at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The prime minister praised Mohibullah's bravery and his dedication to saving lives, stating, "The entire nation, including myself, is proud of you." He added, "You are a hero of the nation. You displayed courage in saving precious human lives."

Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the significance of Mohibullah's actions, saying, "Risking your own life to save others in such difficult circumstances is an act of bravery. You have fulfilled a national duty by rescuing those in distress."

In recognition of his courage, the prime minister awarded Mohibullah with a cash prize of Rs2.5 million on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. He also announced free university education for Mohibullah's children and free healthcare for his family. Speaking to the prime minister, Mohibullah said, "It is a great honour for me to meet the prime minister of my country. I never imagined I would have this opportunity." Mohibullah expressed his gratitude, adding, "I never thought that my actions in saving lives would gain national attention. I am thankful to the prime minister and the government for recognising my efforts and taking the time to meet me." Mohibullah expressed heartfelt thanks for the respect and recognition he received at the Prime Minister's House.—RT/Agency

US Reiterates Support For Pakistan In Fight Against Terrorism

WASHINGTON: The United States strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan, which resulted in the deaths of over 50 people, including 14 security personnel.

The US State Department's spokesperson Matthew Miller, at a news briefing, said that "Washington strongly condemned last week's deadly attacks that targeted security officials and civilians, including the murder of 23 innocent civilians in Musakhail."

Last week, over 50 people, including 14 security personnel, were martyred in different terrorist attacks in Balochistan. In one of the deadliest attacks, at least 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from passenger buses and trucks in the Musakhail.

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

Furthermore, at least 14 brave sons of soil, including 10 security forces soldiers



and four personnel of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), were martyred in clearance operations, wherein at least 21 militants were neutralised.

Responding to a question about Balochistan attacks, Miller said: "The Pakistani people have suffered greatly at the hands of violent extremist terrorists and our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those killed."

The US and Pakistan have a shared interest in combatting threats to regional security, he said, adding that they will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan in its

fight against terrorism.

In response to another query about the Pak-Iran gas pipeline project, the State Department's spokesperson said, "So what I'll say is that we will continue to enforce our sanctions against Iran. And as a matter of course, we also advise anyone considering business deals with Iran to be aware of the potential ramifications of those deals."

"At the same time, helping Pakistan address its energy shortage is a priority for the United States, and we continue to discuss energy security with the government of Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Akhtar Mengal Stands Firm On Resignation As Government Attempts To Satisfy Balochistan Leader

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan National Party (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal on Wednesday refused to take back his National Assembly (NA) resignation, tendered over "prevailing situation" in Balochistan, as the government assured the politician of addressing his grievances.



"I have no intention of withdrawing [my] resignation," the veteran lawmaker said while speaking to journalists after meeting a government delegation, which was headed by Adviser to Prime Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah.

The delegation — which also comprises Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Usman Badiani, Aijaz Hussain Jakhri and Khalid Magi — assured Mengal of addressing his grievances and asked him to withdraw his resignation.

However, the BNP-M chief said they tried to convince him, but instead "I convinced them". During the meet-

ing, Mengal said, he raised issues regarding Balochistan's exploitation, missing persons, and unfair distribution of resources.

A day earlier, Mengal tendered his resignation from the lower house of parliament over a "worsening situation" of his province, declaring no confidence in the state, the president and the prime minister.

"I announce my resignation from the Assembly today [Tuesday]. I said that the former had made this decision after witnessing the situation of Balochistan," he said during the NA's session. Regretting that he could do nothing for

the people of the province, the politician said they had not been given the right to rule for a year and that he had a lack of trust in the whole system. "People are not interested in the issues of Balochistan and every time this issue is raised, we face a blackout," he said. "This assembly does not listen to us, what's the point of sitting here?" Talking to media after meeting the BNP-M chief today, Sanaullah said that the former had been asked to change his mind and remain part of parliament. He [Mengal] has always spoken about the rights of his province.—RT/Agency

Omar Ayub In NA: 'Balochistan's People Show Greater Patriotism Than Ours'

ISLAMABAD: As the political landscape of Balochistan witnesses turbulence in the wake of the August 26 terror attacks and the resignation of veteran lawmaker Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Omar Ayub — the leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly — has termed the people of Balochistan "more patriotic" than the rest of the country.

Speaking during a session on the floor of the lower house of parliament on Wednesday, Ayub, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) secretary-general, insisted on taking Mengal's resignation seriously, asking for redressal of the grievances pertaining to the province's stakeholders.

"A fact-finding mission should go to Balochistan and assess the situation," the politician said, demanding the formation of a committee that could talk to Balochistan's people.

A day earlier, Balochistan National Party (BNP-M) chief Akhtar Mengal resigned as a member of the NA over the "worsening situation" of his 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 lower house's session.

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

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

Meanwhile, speaking on the NA floor, Ayub insisted that the ministers of the Balochistan government cannot talk to

people and the province's youth does not want to listen to them.

"They [people of Balochistan] have a right to their resources. Talk to them," he said, claiming that the federal government doesn't want to talk to them.

"If they do not talk, how will the federation work?" he added. Hinting at the lack of interest by the government in resolving the issue, the PTI leader said, "The tragedy is that dictation is taken from elsewhere."

"The politico also spoke about the 'persecution' being faced by his own party and its founder, Imran Khan." The PTI people are being forcibly disarmed. Our prime minister [Imran Khan] is sitting in jail. The entire leadership has been put in jail in false cases.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



TALHAR: A boy holds an Alam Pak during the mourning procession to observe the martyrdom day of Hazrat Imam Hassan (AS).—RT

DC Naveed Rehman Larik Reviews Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) Plans

By Muhammad Bachal
 UMERKOT: Deputy Commissioner of Umerkot, Naveed Rehman Larik, chaired a high-level meeting at the DC office to discuss the arrangements for 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal, the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW). The meeting was attended by various scholars from different schools of thought, SSP Umerkot Asif Raza Baloch, SR Mushtaq from Pakistan Rangers Sindh New Chhor Wing, Assistant Commissioners of Umerkot, Samaro, and Pithoro, Principal Degree College Umerkot Professor Abdul Umerkot Soomro, DO Primary Syed Aslam Shah, Chief Municipal Officer Umerkot Syed Sajid Shah, and other relevant officials. During his address, Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik highlighted the significance of 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal, marking the birth of the holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW), and emphasized that it is a day of great importance for Muslims. He instructed the Health Department officers to ensure the availability of ambulances, medicines, and doctors for processions. He also directed the WAPDA officials to prevent unannounced power outages, especially during the night, to avoid inconvenience for the event organizers.

Sujawal Teacher Tabassum Laghari Triumphs In UNESCO Competitions

By Kamran Hidayat
 SUJAWAL: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently organized an online competition on how to advance education using modern scientific foundations. Teachers from around the world participated in this event, and names of educators from Sindh were submitted by the Sindh Government for a project on this topic. Among the participants, Tabassum Laghari, a teacher from Government Girls High School in Sujawal, secured the first position in this global competition organized by UNESCO, which focused on education, science, culture, and modern artificial intelligence. UNESCO officially announced her achievement. Tabassum Laghari hails from the Irrigation Colony in Sujawal and is the daughter of an irrigation clerk. After her father's passing, she faced financial difficulties and worked at a private school to support herself. She completed her primary, middle, high school, and college education at government institutions in Sujawal. To celebrate her success, a small ceremony was held at the Government Girls High School Sujawal, attended by the headmaster, Naser Memon, and the entire staff. UNESCO is planning to organize a ceremony in a country yet to be decided, where Tabassum will be honored with an award.

CMO Ghulam Mohiyuddin Buriro Takes Charge In Thul Taluka

By Khair Muhammad Golo
 THUL: Following the special instructions of Director General Monitoring and Evaluation, Zainul Abidin Ansari, the Chief Monitoring Officer of the Education Department, Ghulam Mohiyuddin Buriro, conducted visits to various schools in Thul Taluka. During these visits, saplings were also planted. The Chief Monitoring Officer visited several schools, including Middle School Arsal Banglani and Middle School Waris Dino, and distributed books to the children. At the Girls Higher Secondary School Jacobabad, books were distributed, and saplings were planted as well. Additionally, he toured the book warehouse and reviewed the distribution of books at various schools. Ghulam Mohiyuddin Buriro mentioned that under the guidance of Director General Zainul Abidin Ansari, a campaign for tree planting and student enrollment has been initiated across the district. He noted that they are inspecting book distributions at each school and have instructed teachers to plant and maintain at least one tree each, as the lack of trees is contributing to rising temperatures. Planting trees is seen as a crucial measure to combat this issue.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Sakrand protest against the high-handedness of influential people at the Hyderabad Press Club.—RT

Device Mafia Robs BISP Beneficiaries In Mirpurkhas



By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: In Mirpurkhas, on Iqbal Pump, Chooona Factory Road, there are reports of open misconduct by the device mafia at the Benazir Income Support Center. The staff of the device mafia has been accused of exploiting underprivileged women from rural Sindh by demanding money from 1,000 to 1,500 rupees under duress. This exploitation is reportedly happening at the Benazir Income Support Center on Factory Road. It has been claimed that around 50 journalists and police officials from the city are benefiting from this center, which has private female agents appointed. The device operators and staff members are reportedly involved in this extortion. Despite the visible exploitation and corruption, both the police administration and the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) administration have remained silent on the issue, and the reason for their inaction has not been clarified.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Jeay Sindh Tehreek protest at the Hyderabad Press Club, demanding the recovery of missing persons.—RT

SSP Ameer Saud Magsi Reviews Dadu's Law And Order

By Javed Laghari



DADU: An important meeting regarding law and order and other departmental matters was held under the chairmanship of SSP Dadu, Captain (Retd) Ameer Saud Magsi. The meeting was attended by all DSPs, SHOs, DSP Legal, police station heads, and branch heads. SSP Dadu reviewed the overall law and order situation in the district, the crime statistics from police stations, and the performance of the police. SSP Dadu directed all officers to further improve their performance. He issued orders to expedite actions against the culprits in cases of murder, robbery, abductions, and police personnel martyrdom, and to maximize arrests. SSP Dadu instructed all SHOs to take effective actions against drug dealers and other social evils to achieve better results. Regarding case investigations, SSP Dadu instructed that cases should be investigated by trained investigation officers, completed within the stipulated time, and resolved promptly. He emphasized the need to improve the ratio of crime convictions and encouraged officers who achieve better results through quality investigations and diligent case follow-ups to receive exemplary sentences from the courts. Investigation officers will also receive timely payments for expenses incurred during investigations. SSP Dadu directed that duty officers should be appointed and ensured a good presence of officers with a positive mindset in police stations at all times. He instructed that duty officers are authorized to file FIRs in cases of known crimes and to treat complainants courteously. SSP Dadu advised all SHOs and Head Muharar to avoid filing false FIRs and not to create unnecessary obstacles in the registration of valid FIRs. SSP Dadu also stated that all SHOs have the authority to spend the allocated budget for police stations, but it should be used for the betterment of the department. He ordered all DSPs and SHOs to be present at the police stations daily from 5 PM to 7 PM to listen to public complaints and ensure their resolution. SSP Ameer Saud warned the negligent officers of departmental action.

PPP's Sunil Kumar Visits Rain-Battered GPS Muhammad Sharif Laghari



TALHAR: Sunil Kumar, a leader of the Pakistan People's Party Minority Wing from the Taluka Talhar, visited the village of Bambo Laghari and the Government Primary School Muhammad Sharif Laghari. The school and the village were submerged in rainwater. During his visit, Sunil Kumar also met with the school's head teacher, Nadeem Ali Khawaja, and the students. He stated that the recent rains have caused significant damage to rural areas in Sindh. He assured that the Sindh Government is doing its best, and that the rainwater would soon be cleared from the school to resume educational activities. Sunil Kumar also promised to contact the Sindh Government's Department of Education for the repair of the school building so that children can continue their education without any fear.—RT

Rain-Starved Tharparkar Finally Soaked By Heavy Showers

By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI: Thar Desert has received three spells of moderate to heavy rainfall, bringing relief to the rain-deprived region. Lush green shrubs and wild grass now cover hills, plains, and desert areas following widespread torrential rains. Tourists are flocking to witness the breathtaking beauty of Karoonjhar hills, Jain temples, Bhodisar Mosque, Maya Dam, Ancharsar, Kasbo, and Gadhi Bhatti in Mithi town and other desert locations. Thar Desert is home to various indigenous flora, with grasses feeding over six million livestock. Recent rains have been recorded in nearly all areas of Thar, including Nangarparkar, Islamkot and Chhachhro. Thari residents are overjoyed, as the rains will help recharge water tables, revive withering greenery, and replenish natural ponds for future use. Rain is crucial for Tharis, who have limited forestation and rely heavily on downpours. With the recent rains, Thar has come back to life, bringing joy to the faces of its people, who understand the significance of rain more than anyone else.

Syed Muhammad Shah Rizvi Launches LPG Service In Tando Jam



By Irfan Ali Khushk
 TANDO JAM: In response to the pressing needs of the citizens of Tando Jam, social worker and youth activist Hareesh Kumar has launched LPG gas services in the area. The inauguration ceremony for the LPG gas service was held at the Tando Jam Naka Stop, with PPP leader and Chairman of UC 72, Syed Muhammad Shah Rizvi, performing the opening. The event was attended by a significant number of social and political figures, including social worker Shafi Muhammad Wassan and Hareesh Kumar. Presenting traditional Sindhi gifts, including Lungis and Ajraks, to the chief guest Syed Muhammad Shah Rizvi and other attendees, showcasing Sindh's rich cultural heritage.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Abadgar Ittehad President, Nawab Zubair Talpur, addresses a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club.—RT

NATIONAL



SOUTHERN PUNJAB

PHP Police Present Performance Report For August 2024

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: Under the direction of Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr Usman Anwar, the Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) has been on high alert across the province, including Lahore. The force remains committed to citizen service, crime prevention, and law enforcement. The PHP has released its performance report for August 2024, detailing their activities and achievements. According to the report 3.8 million individuals were checked via the e-police post app, 601 wanted criminals and judicial absconders were apprehended. 1.5 million vehicles were inspected, resulting in the recovery of 269 stolen vehicles/motorcycles. Under the road safety campaign, 235,000 traffic violations were ticketed. More than 45,000 overloaded vehicles were fined and legally

processed for axle load violations. A total of 99.1 million rupees in fines was collected. 962 vehicles were subjected to legal action for illegal use of gas cylinders. 15,000 driving licenses were issued for public convenience. 58 missing children were reunited with their parents. 291 temporary and permanent encroachments were removed to improve traffic flow. Assistance and guidance were provided to 9,989 passengers. 6,017 citizens received various police services at police service centers. 84 cases were registered for illegal weapon use. 1,575 liters of alcohol and 10,225 grams of charas were seized from drug dealers. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar praised the PHP force for their exceptional performance and instructed all teams to maintain their diligent field patrolling efforts. He stressed the importance of continuing efforts to combat crime and ensure the safety and service of citizens on the roads.

Azma Expresses Readiness To Address IMF's Concerns Over Electricity Bill Relief

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari asserted to talk and clear reservations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on subsidy in electricity bills.



Punjab information minister berated other provinces for copying Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz and her projects and also issuing statements against her. Azma Bokhari highlighted key projects of Punjab CM including lowering rates of Roti (Bread), decreasing fares of transportation and introducing air ambulance service.

Citizens could get a loan with a monthly installment of Rs 14,000 to pay back in seven years.

She revealed that more than Rs 78,000 citizens had applied for this project and around 0.2 million calls had been received for information and guidance of this project.

She stated that banks and other financial organisations take service charges for such projects but the government will pay the service charges

and tax for the Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar program.

Bokhari added that CM Maryam Nawaz herself baling this program every month for strict scrutiny and to avoid inclusion of convicted and criminals in this program.

She also clarified that projects were being announced after finalisation of programs funding and all details.

Terrorists In Balochistan Will Be Held Accountable, Vows Sarfraz Bugti



QUETTA: Balochistan CM Sarfraz Bugti stressed that terrorists in Balochistan wouldn't get any refugee and would face the music. Talking at the cabinet session, he reiterated that the Balochistan Assembly condemned terrorism fiercely in the wake of a surge in terrorist attacks in the province.

He highlighted that few terrorists made innocent people their soft target and made them victims of targeted killings.

Balochistan CM clarified that terrorism had no link with Baloch ethnicity, Baloch always fought wars and followed their traditions. Sarfraz Bugti insisted that terrorists killed Pakistanis and any Punjabi and Pashtun was not murdered by any Baloch.

He emphasised the on duty presence of provincial government secretaries in every district for better governance.

Balochistan CM announced that the government was all set to send bright students to Harvard and Oxford. It is necessary for Baloch people to identify terrorists and nationals. He vowed to keep serving the public. —RT/Agency

FIA Launches New Border Control Units And Forensic Lab



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has enhanced its border control and risk management capabilities with the launch of a new Risk Analysis Unit and a refurbished Third Line Technical Forensic Lab at its headquarters.

The forensic lab, funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Risk Analysis Office, funded by the European Union and the Austrian Ministry of Interior, were inaugurated as part of an ICMPP-led initiative to bolster Pakistan's border management.

The Risk Analysis Unit aims to improve data-driven

policy making and resource allocation by providing detailed analysis and recommendations on border threats. The new facilities represent a significant advancement in intelligence-based border management.

The inauguration ceremony, attended by senior FIA officials, including DG FIA Ahmad Ishaque Jehangir, and international representatives from the EU, ICMPP, Denmark, and Austria, highlighted the collaborative efforts in tackling irregular migration and enhancing border security.

DG FIA Jehangir emphasized the importance of these developments for national security and stability.

Dr. Sebastian Lorion from the EU and Ms. Marija Raus from ICMPP praised the strengthened partnership and the enhanced capabilities for managing irregular migration.

Peter Emil Nielsen of the Danish Embassy and Hannes Machor of the Austrian Embassy also commended the efforts in improving border control and respecting human rights.

The ceremony concluded with DG FIA Jehangir expressing gratitude to all supporting stakeholders for their vital contributions. —RT

JUI-F Appeals To CJP For Expedited Hearings On Interest-Based System Challenges



ISLAMABAD: JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman penned a letter to the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Qazi Faez Isa, urging for a fast-track hearing of the appeals related to the interest-based financial system.

JUI-F sources said that the letter mentions the Federal Shariat Court's decision announced last year that ordered to make the system interest-free within five years.

The appeals filed by various banks against this decision be heard soon, the letter added.

The JUI-F chief also asked the CJP to take steps to establish an interest-free economic system. He praised the chief justice's recent short order on the finality of the prophethood (Khatam-e-Nabuwat) and expressed that issuing a detailed judgment would fully satisfy the Pakistani Muslims. —RT/Agency

Churna Island Named Pakistan's Second Marine Protected Area



QUETTA: The government of Balochistan has officially declared Churna Island as Pakistan's second Marine Protected Area (MPA), a significant move to safeguard the region's fragile marine ecosystem.

In a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, the decision was approved, following the declaration of Astola Island as the country's first MPA in June 2017.

Churna Island, located near Karachi, is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, much like Astola Island, and is home to coral habitats that are rare in Pakistan.

The area is a popular destination for recreational activities such as scuba diving, snorkelling, cliff jumping, and jet skiing, while also serving as an essential fishing ground for both Sindh and Balochistan fishermen.

However, the marine ecosystem surrounding Churna Island faces mounting threats from human activities, including the development of power plants, oil refineries, single-point mooring, and extensive recreational usage.

WWF-Pakistan, in response to the cabinet's approval, has expressed its support for the declaration, viewing it as a vital step toward protecting the island's delicate environment.

In a statement, WWF-Pakistan applauded the efforts of the Balochistan government, particularly recognising the contributions of Dostain Jamaludini, Secretary of the Forest and Wildlife Department, and Sharfuddin Baloch, Chief Conservator of Wildlife.

The environmental organisation highlighted the importance of this designation in preserving marine biodiversity. Pakistan, as a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, is committed to protecting 30% of its ocean areas by 2030 under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The designation of Churna Island as an MPA is a crucial step toward achieving this 30x30 goal. —RT/Agency

Punjab Government Introduces Key Performance Indicators for District Assessments



By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu, an important meeting was held regarding the implementation of key performance indicators (KPIs) to evaluate the district's performance improvement measures (initiatives) of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Zeshan Lubha Masih, Assistant Commissioners from all four tehsils, Deputy Director Development, Chief Officers of Health, Education, Municipal

Committees, Deputy Director Local Government, and other officials. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sindhu stated that the Punjab Government has set functional performance indicators (KPIs) to evaluate 100% compliance with these indicators by conducting maximum inspection of bread prices, the Clean Punjab Program, visits to development projects, Marriage Act compliance, price control, monitoring of hospitals and health centers, cleanliness and medical facilities, providing amenities to students in educational institutions, covering man-

District Emergency Officer Mian Faraz Munir Conducts Public Hearing

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A public hearing was held at the Central Station of Rescue success of Rescue 1122 is the result of the dedicated efforts of its staff. The young personnel who perform exceptionally in all kinds of emergencies are considered a valuable asset. The public hearing was attended by Control Room In-Charge Akhlaq Ahmed Farooqi, Senior Accounts Officer Muhammad Farhan Razaq, Tehsil In-Charge Kamalia Muhammad Bisharat Gojra, Ramadan Qadri, Tehsil In-Charge Pir Mahal Muhammad Waheed Anwar, Transport Maintenance In-Charge Muhammad Khurram, Shift In-Charges, Lead Fire Rescuers, Control Room Shift In-Charges, Media Focal Person Malik Abrar, and a large number of rescue personnel.

Agency Officer Mian Faraz Munir expressed that resolving staff issues is his top priority and that the success of Rescue 1122 is the result of the dedicated efforts of its staff. The young personnel who perform exceptionally in all kinds of emergencies are considered a valuable asset. The public hearing was attended by Control Room In-Charge Akhlaq Ahmed Farooqi, Senior Accounts Officer Muhammad Farhan Razaq, Tehsil In-Charge Kamalia Muhammad Bisharat Gojra, Ramadan Qadri, Tehsil In-Charge Pir Mahal Muhammad Waheed Anwar, Transport Maintenance In-Charge Muhammad Khurram, Shift In-Charges, Lead Fire Rescuers, Control Room Shift In-Charges, Media Focal Person Malik Abrar, and a large number of rescue personnel.

Gujranwala Board Releases Intermediate Exam Results

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Gujranwala Board of Education has announced the results of the intermediate exams, out of a total of 142,834 candidates. 89,019 candidates were declared successful. A grand ceremony was organized on this occasion, in which Commissioner Gujranwala/Chairman Education Board Syed Naveed Haider Sheerazi while speaking on this occasion congratulated the position holders and passed students.

He said that Gujranwala Education Board is being developed on modern lines, confidentiality and merit have been kept in mind. Education Board Gujranwala is the only board which has been shifted to automation and 20% working has become paperless. Commissioner/Chairman Education Board said that MoU of education board has been signed with NADRA after which the possibility of mistake in the date of birth and father's name of the candidate will be eliminated. He said that the students of all public and private educational institutions are the children of this nation and are equally important for the Punjab government and the education board. Earlier, Secretary Education Board Professor Muhammad Naeem Butt delivered the welcome speech.

Rising Tensions In KP As Governor Kundi Urges CM Gandapur To Seek Confidence Vote

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has declared the provincial government a complete failure and demanded that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur seek a vote of confidence.



Speaking to media in Peshawar, Governor Kundi criticised the provincial government for its failure to appoint vice chancellors in universities, stating that the court had rejected the government's authority on this matter. He urged the provincial government to expedite the appointment of vice chancellors and

not to jeopardise the future of the youth. Governor Kundi highlighted that 26 universities in the province were currently without vice chancellors. He expressed concern over the potential sale of university land and vowed that no university land would be sold while he was in office. He also pointed out that the assembly sessions had been suspended four times, which suggested that the chief minister was avoiding calling sessions and had likely lost confidence of the assembly members. —RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Plots Will Be Cancelled if Industry Is Not Established Within Six Months: Jam Ikram

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo has announced that plots allocated in industrial zones will be cancelled if the recipient does not establish an industry within six months. This directive comes as part of a broader initiative to combat unemployment in the province, as outlined by Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who has emphasized the need for industrial zones in every district.



Minister Dharejo made the announcement while addressing the media in his office today. He also highlighted a recent memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Sindh Small Industries Corporation and the Sindh Enterprise Development Fund, held in his office. The MoU was signed by Sindh Small Industries Corporation MD Sarwat Faheem and Sindh Enterprise Development Fund CEO Khizr

Pervaiz. During the ceremony, Minister Dharejo, along with Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasin Shar Baloch, MD Site Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, Secretary Investment Department Raja Khurram Shahzad Umar, Secretary Information and Technology Noor Ahmed Samoo, and Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Ahmed Barro, emphasized that the MoU aims to foster employment opportunities and strengthen links between the two departments to support small-scale industries.

Dharejo stressed the importance of establishing agro-based industries in the

Larkana Industrial Zone and pledged that loans for industrialists would be merit-based with a focus on transparency. He also highlighted that priority would be given to women entrepreneurs and those seeking to start businesses. Encouraging investors to set up industries in interior Sindh, Dharejo reiterated that plots would be cancelled if industries were not established within the stipulated six-month period, aligning with Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision for widespread industrial development across the province. —RT

EDITORIAL

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

Thursday, September 05, 2024

A History Of Broken Promises

The recent statement from the U.S. State Department, expressing a commitment to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Pakistan in combating terrorism, might seem like a reassuring gesture to some. However, seasoned observers of U.S.-Pakistan relations know better. This is not the first time Washington has made grand promises of support, only to later withdraw when the geopolitical winds shift. For the current Pakistani government, the Biden administration's latest rhetoric should be a reminder that they've been down this road before—repeatedly.

History is replete with instances where the U.S. has alternated between treating Pakistan as

a critical ally and viewing it with suspicion. The relationship has often been characterized by a "hot and cold" dynamic, with periods of intense



cooperation followed by abrupt distancing. Pakistan's strategic location has made it a valuable partner for the U.S., but this partnership has rarely been one of equals. The U.S. has often prioritized its own interests, with little regard for the long-term stability or security of Pakistan.

The Biden administration, widely seen as a lame duck due to its dwindling domestic support

and international credibility, offers little assurance that things will be different this time. While the State Department spokesperson's words may seem comforting in the face of rising terrorism, they ring hollow against the backdrop of history. Pakistan must approach this latest U.S. overture with caution and a clear-eyed understanding that Washington's promises have often been as fleeting as they are fervent.

Ultimately, Pakistan's fight against terrorism is its own. The U.S. can offer words of support, but true security will come from within—through policies and partnerships that put Pakistan's interests first, not those of a faraway ally with a record of unreliability.

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Sunni Tehreek (PST) Central Senior Vice President, Muhammad Khalid Qadri, speaks to the media during a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club.—RT

Deputy Director Livestock Hakim Ali Jalbani Inspects Animal Medical Camps

By Ashraf Kunbar

MITHI: Deputy Director of Livestock and Animal Husbandry Tharparkar, Hakim Ali Jalbani, visited the Veterinary Center in Mithi. During his visit, he reviewed the facilities available to livestock owners, the availability of medicines, staff attendance, and other matters. He stated that during the rains and possible floods, the department has launched a campaign to prevent diseases spreading among livestock. For the guidance of livestock owners in the Tharparkar district, mobile teams have been formed in all seven talukas of the district. These teams, comprising doctors, stock assistants, and other staff, provide the necessary medicines to livestock owners on a daily basis. He further mentioned that through



these camps, more than 700,000 animals have been vaccinated against various diseases so far. Additionally, in addition to treating animals suffering from various diseases, deworming medicines have been administered to 37,000 animals. He assured that the

BISP Beneficiaries Block Road In Stipend Protest



By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: In Tando Bago, hundreds of deserving women staged a protest and blocked the road in front of the Mono Technical College due to not receiving the installment of their Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) stipend. The roadblock caused traffic to be suspended for two hours. The protesting women stated that they had been waiting for five days and the

division officials had not disbursed the funds. The BISP program manager explained that due to network issues caused by the city, the disbursement was delayed. The issue was expected to be resolved by evening. After the protest, the private bank's staff restored the links for the Tando Bago center's devices after two hours, which allowed the process of disbursing funds to the deserving women to resume.



LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana, Sharjeel Noor Chana, administers polio drops to children during the launch ceremony of the Polio Eradication Campaign at his office.—RT

LUMHS Honors Independence And Defense Day With Grand Celebrations

JAMSHORO: The Vice Chancellor LUMHS Prof Dr Ikramuddin Ujjan expressed that every year on this day, we pay tribute to our Martyrs and Ghazis and reiterate our resolve to defend the country. He said that it is a matter of great pride that the nation and armed forces have also displayed similar spirit, courage and commitment in the war against terrorism. He said that with the unwavering support of the entire nation, our armed forces, law enforcement agencies, police and intelligence agencies have shown resolute courage, professionalism and commitment while fighting this difficult war. He said that they have de-

Govt High School Bagh Manik Demands Basic Facilities

By Aijaz Jokhio

DAULATPUR: Near Daulatpur, the Government High School Bagh Manik, established in 1948, faces severe neglect despite having 700 enrolled students. The Education Department has not provided any furniture, leaving students with no option but to sit on the ground during classes. The school, which houses primary, middle, and high school sections, has not received new furniture in the past ten years. Due to insufficient SMC funds, the school cannot purchase furniture, and it also lacks a boundary wall, with construction work on the building still incomplete. Additionally, the school's sanctioned teaching staff (SNE) has not been approved, resulting in only three teachers being assigned to the

400 primary students. Teachers and local villagers, including Mansoor Sarwar, Qutubuddin, and Asif Bhutto, have expressed their frustration, stating that the district administration has ignored the school for years. The lack of basic facilities, such as furniture and a boundary wall, has caused significant distress among students, parents, and teachers. Despite repeated appeals to the Education Department officials, the issues remain unresolved. They have urged the officials of the Shauheed Benazirabad Education Department, the Deputy Commissioner, and elected representatives to address the severe lack of facilities in this historic and important educational institution. Otherwise, they warn that they will resort to protests and take the matter to court.

Dr. Safdar Abbasi Offers Condolences To Larkana Notables



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi, the Convener of the Larkana Awami Ittehad and former Senator, visited various areas of the city. During his visit, he offered condolences to the heirs of Shamsuddin Soomro in the Waleed Muhalla and Abdul Rashid Bhutto in the village of Mai Bhatti. Additionally, Dr. Safdar Ali Abbasi met with Syed Hassan Ali Shamsi in the Allahabad Muhalla. Speaking to the media, he stated that their struggle for the country's betterment, peace, and security would continue. He condemned the ongoing system of commissions and contracting in strong terms. He also extended his condolences to the

Sujawal's Rural Areas Still Flooded With Rainwater

By Kamran Hidayat

SUAWAL: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has taken serious notice of the failure to drain rainwater from residential areas in Sujawal city and has ordered the immediate removal of the water. Following his directive, the district and town administration deployed large machinery to drain water from the urban areas. However, Ward No-9 and the cemetery in the main area of the city are still submerged in rainwater. The surrounding area of the Boys High School Su-

jawal is also waterlogged, and students and teachers have to wade through water to reach the main school building. A road leading to the school, which is also used by thousands of women coming to collect their Benazir Income Support Program payments, has become difficult to navigate, causing significant inconvenience for both students and the women. In addition, rainwater has not been drained from hundreds of villages in the Sujawal district, leaving water standing in and around these villages and on the roads. Many villages are completely surrounded by water, leading to the destruction of homes and severe damage to crops. Millions of rupees worth of crops have been submerged and destroyed. The administration has not paid any attention to these villages, and in the affected urban areas, there has been an increase in cases of scabies, skin diseases, malaria, and stomach ailments. The residents have urged the government to set up medical camps in the affected areas and provide emergency medical treatment to the people.

feated the enemy's violence on both the internal and external fronts. He said that the outcomes of the successful operations against terrorists are significant. He said that these achievements are the result of the courage of our people and sacrifices of the Armed Forces of Pakistan. No other nation has sacrificed as much as the people of Pakistan in the war against terror. He added that the nation salutes the heroes who rendered sacrifices to protect the dear homeland and the armed forces for making its defense unconquerable. He said that it is our foremost duty to defend every inch of the motherland.—RT

SPORTS



Pakistan Hits Rock Bottom in Test Rankings, Worst Since 1965



DUBAI: Shan Masood-led Pakistan succumbed to a historic series defeat against Bangladesh, leading to their fall to their lowest ICC Men's Test Team Rankings since 1965.

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.

The back-to-back losses against Bangladesh resulted in Pakistan dropping two places to eighth with 66 rating points.

"This is the lowest rating points Pakistan have had in the Test rankings table since 1965, barring a brief period where they did not have a place in the rankings due to an insufficient number of matches," the ICC press release stated.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh gained 13 rating points, however, they are still sitting in the ninth position behind Pakistan in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings.

Due to Pakistan's decline in the rankings, Sri Lanka and West Indies have both advanced one position to claim sixth and seventh place, respectively.

"Extremely disappointed, we were excited for the home season but the story has been the same as Australia," Pakistan skipper Shan Masood said after the loss in the second Test to Bangladesh. "We have not learnt our lessons. We thought we were playing good cricket in Australia but not doing the job, that's something we need to work on."—Agency

Babar Azam Plummets Out of Top 10 Test Batsmen

LAHORE: Star batsman Babar Azam has ostensibly lost the shine for which he was admired across the world as he has slipped out of the top 10 list in ICC men's Test batmen ranking, for the first time in more than four and a half years.

The former captain has dropped to No12 with 712 points after losing three places as he seems to be in a lackluster form.

It can be established through the fact as well that the 29-year-old has not hit a half-century during his last 16 innings in Test format, while he scored 64 runs only across four innings at the home ground in the recently concluded two-match Test series against Bangladesh.

Mohammad Rizwan is the only Pakistani batter retaining a spot in top 10 that too on the edge at 10th position.

The third Green Shirts batsman that can be spotted among top 20 batters is Saud Shakil at 20th position. The middle-order batsman has plummeted by seven places from 13. Whereas, Salman Ali Agha moved nine spots up to reach 31 from 40.

On the other hand, after two back-to-back hundreds in the second Test against Sri Lanka, Joe Root's incredible batting has pushed the English batsman on the ICC Test Batter Rankings' lead position.

With 63 rating points between Root and Kane Williamson of New Zealand, Root (922 rating points) has the advantage and can surpass his own record. He is only one rating point away from the 923 rating he achieved in July 2022 at Edgbaston following a century against India.

Len Hutton, Jack Hobbs, and Peter May are the only three English batters with higher career rating among Test batsmen.

Even though Root had several impressive performances in the second Test match against Sri Lanka, Gus Atkinson was the player of the match for his all-round performance.

The ICC said after becoming just the third player in Men's Test history to score a century and claim a five-wicket haul at the hallowed venue, Atkinson moved up 48 spots, into the top 20 for All-Rounders, and into the top 30 for bowlers.—Agency



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided against showing leniency towards players in the lead-up to the series against England.

Following a disappointing performance against Bangladesh, the PCB is tightening its grip on player fitness and performance standards.

The decision comes as part of a broader strategy to address concerns over the team's recent form.

The PCB Chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, was unable to undergo a planned surgery, and the visiting Bangladesh team has departed after a standout performance that has raised alarms within the PCB.

In preparation for the England series, the PCB has scheduled rigorous fitness tests for players on September 7 and 9 in Lahore.

All cricketers on central contracts will be required to participate, particularly those who missed earlier regional fitness evaluations.

The tests will include a two-kilometre run within eight minutes and additional sprint drills, with stricter criteria in place compared to previous assessments.

The PCB is also planning to announce new central contracts before the series.

However, there will be no increase in contract fees.

Instead, player categories will be adjusted based on fitness test results and recent performance, reflecting the board's focus on improving the team's overall standards.—Agency

PCB Cracks Down on Players Ahead of High-Stakes England Series



LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed has disclosed his future as a player after being named as the mentor of the Dolphins side for the Champions One-Day Cup, which is scheduled to be held in Faisalabad from 12-29 September.

Out of the five mentors announced for the Champions Cup, Sarfaraz is the most active Pakistan player. The 37-year-old described this as a great learning opportunity for him and confirmed that he would be available for domestic and international duties.

"This is a great opportunity for me. It's also a chance for me to learn. I will strive to bring forward good players who can represent Pakistan," he said in a presser.

"I will be available for the Pakistan team. When I will have domestic duties, I will fulfil them. Whenever I am selected, I will be available."

"With time, everything will fall into place. Right now, I feel I can still play. I will continue to play as long as I can," he added.

Pakistan recently slumped to a 2-0 Test series defeat to Bangladesh and Sarfaraz has asked fans to support.

"My message to the fans is that this Pakistan team will make a comeback. Support your players. Support your players in the Champions Cup."

Sarfaraz revealed how he picked his side for the forthcoming competition.

"I have selected the team while working closely. We have chosen players from a draft of 150 players."

"We will focus on the development of U19 players and with my experience, we will try to bring forward good players."

"In just twelve to fourteen days, it's not possible to fix everything. What's done is done, but we will now try to set Pakistan cricket on the right path," he added.—Agency

Sarfaraz Ahmed Breaks Silence on Future After Taking Champions Cup Role



KARACHI: Legendary Pakistan cricketers including Javed Miandad and Inzamam-ul-Haq reacted to the national men's team's first-ever Test series defeat against Bangladesh.

The Green Shirts succumbed to a 2-0 loss in the two-match series against Bangladesh, which culminated at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Bangladesh outclassed Pakistan by six wickets in the second Test to complete the clean sweep. The touring side had won the first Test thumpingly by 10 wickets.

Former Test captain Javed Miandad, known for his blunt remarks, expressed his disappointment specifically with the team's batting woes while lauding the touring side for their disciplined performances.

"It is hurting that our cricket has come to this stage. Bangladesh deserve credit for their disciplined performances. But the way our batting has collapsed in this series is a bad sign," said Miandad.

Another former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq expressed his concerns over the team's struggle in home conditions.

"Home series were always considered our best chance of beating the best sides in the past. But for this to happen the batsmen need to get runs," Inzamam said.

Pakistan's leading century-scorer in Test cricket Younis Khan emphasized that the national players need mental strengthening to overcome the losing streak at home.

"Our batters have got runs in the past but right now I think they need mental strengthening and a clear mind to overcome this crisis," stated Younis.

Former Pakistan Test spinner Iqbal Qasim, on the other hand, asserted that the national team needs to improve in the spin-bowling department, highlighting that the national team does not feature great pacers like Wasim Akram.—Agency

Miandad, Inzamam React in Shock to Pakistan's Historic Loss to Bangladesh



HULUNBUIR. Pakistan's hockey scene continues to struggle, with authorities unable to revive the sport that once brought the nation immense pride.

Despite a few promising moments earlier this year, the Green Shirts are once again facing uncertainty as they prepare for the Asian Champions Trophy in Hulunbuir, China, starting on September 8.

Throughout the year, Pakistan's hockey team showed glimpses of progress. They secured a silver medal at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup and placed fourth in both the Paris Olympics Qualifiers and the FIH Nations Cup. Yet, inconsistency in coaching and a lack of strategic planning have left the team floundering ahead of the tournament.

In recent months, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) brought in Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans to guide the national side. However, despite his expertise, Oltmans refused to continue due to the PHF's failure to offer him a long-term contract.

The federation had only been compensating him on an event-by-event basis, and financial difficulties were cited as the reason for not securing a more stable arrangement.

With Oltmans out of the picture, former Olympian and ex-captain Tahir Zaman was quickly appointed head coach. Tahir, who previously coached Pakistan, is no stranger to the role but has yet to lead the team to any major victories.

Despite limited preparation time, as Tahir will only have three days to work with the squad before the tournament kicks off, the PHF saw him as the most convenient option given the circumstances.

The PHF's financial woes have further complicated the team's preparations. The federation even faced challenges in covering travel costs for the China tour, underscoring the financial strain that prevented a long-term deal with Oltmans.

Moreover, key players such as Abdul Rehman Jr, Ahtisham Aslam, and Mur-taza Yaqoob are unavailable, as they are committed to European leagues, while Arbaz Ahmed withdrew due to personal reasons.—Agency

Pakistan Hockey Team Enters Asian Champions Trophy Amidst Uncertainty



PARIS: In a recent turn of events, Roger Federer admitted that he "felt a little bit sorry" for Rafael Nadal after witnessing his defeat at the Paris Olympics and with Casper Ruud in Bastad.

The Spanish duo was unable to get their hands on the medal at the Paris Olympics.

In this regard, Federer stated that "He was hoping, I think, to make a medal. Of course, it was Alcaraz in the doubles. I think also to make a medal."

The veteran player ended the conversation by regarding his rival Nadal as one of the iconic players.

"But you know, overall I just spoke to him this last week. He wanted to ask me something, and we had a chat, and, um, I felt a little bit sorry for him. That his summer didn't go as well as planned because, at the French Open he had a tough draw. Olympics, he had a tough draw as well."

Meanwhile, the 38-year-old played 17 single matches across seven tournaments this year and doubles alongside Carlos Alcaraz at the Paris Olympics and with Casper Ruud in Bastad.

The Swiss former tennis player was spotted at Arthur Ashe Stadium for the first time since retirement during the quarter-final match between Grigor Dimitrov and Frances Tiafoe.

During his visit, the former world's number one in singles attended an interview with USA TODAY where he was asked about his former rival, Nadal.

In response he said: "I actually just spoke to him this last week. He wanted to ask me something, and we had a chat, and, um, I felt a little bit sorry for him. That his summer didn't go as well as planned because, at the French Open he had a tough draw. Olympics, he had a tough draw as well."

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Federer Expresses Sympathy for Nadal After Paris Olympics Blow



KARACHI: Former Pakistan Test captain Javed Miandad, known for his blunt remarks, expressed his disappointment specifically with the team's batting woes while lauding the touring side for their disciplined performances.

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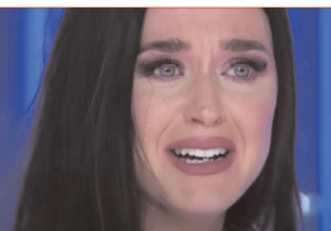
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REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Katy Perry Stands Firm: Defends Controversial Collaborator



Katy Perry and Dr. Luke have a history of belting hit tracks, and they also worked on her latest album, 143. However, there is one problem.

It has to do with the record producer as he faced accusations of sexually abusing the rockstar Kesha.

Though the parties settled the matter last year, the backlash against the California Gurls singer was intense for giving him a platform.

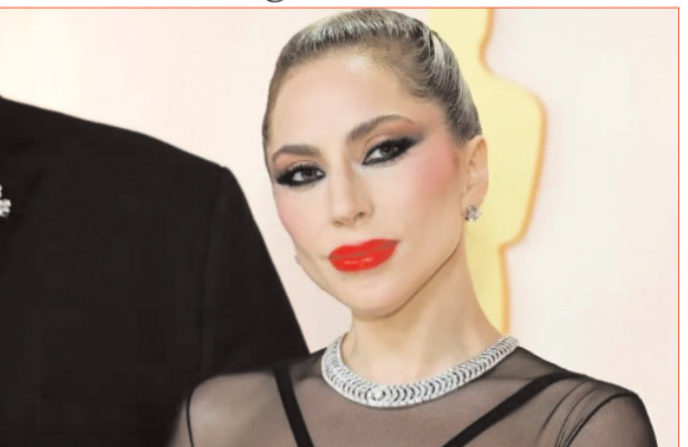
Defending her choice, the Grammy-nominated singer said on Call Her Daddy podcast, "I understand that it started a lot of conversations and he was one of many collaborators that I collaborated with. But the reality is, it comes from."

She continued without taking the controversial artist's name, "The truth is, I wrote these songs from my experience of my whole life going through this metamorphosis, and he was one of the people to help facilitate all that. One of the writers, one of the producers. I am speaking from my own experience."

Katy further claimed she collected her experience and melted into the song, "When I speak about 'Woman's World,' I speak about feeling so empowered now."

"As a mother, as a woman, giving birth, creating life, creating another set of organs. A brain! A heart! I created a whole *** heart! And I did it, and I'm still doing it."

Lady Gaga Reveals Passionate Leap Into Acting: 'I Love Movies'



Lady Gaga, originally named Stefani Germanotta, got candid about her decision to move into the acting industry.

While speaking at the Venice Film Festival, the singing sensation explained why she decided to make a career switch after making her mark in the music industry for decades, as per Hollywood Reporter.

She kicked off the chat by saying, "The reason I started making music when I was really little was because I just had something to say, and trying to figure out how to do that."

Lady also revealed, "One of the reasons I love music and I love movies so much is the stories that you get to tell," adding, "and the way that we get to express something to the world that will hopefully help people feel good about life and give them a moment to escape into another world to fall into somebody else's story."

It is pertinent to mention here that Lady Gaga will star as Harley Quinn, in the highly anticipated flick, Joker: Folie A Deux.

"I think that what I really meant to say is that I believe that movies have a tremendous power to change the way people feel, and that's part of why I love to create," she remarked before moving on to the next topic.

Face of the Day



Name: Syed Asher Ali
Location: Karachi
About me: I am the selfie king of Pakistan!

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

THE HEARTLAND



Ph.D. Graduate from China Faces Legal Trouble Upon Return

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: Tando Jam police have made a significant move by filing an FIR against a recent Ph.D. graduate from China, Riaz Hussain Jamali, for firing at his own relatives' home. According to reports, Riaz Hussain Jamali, who has recently returned to

the country after completing his Ph.D. in China, has been accused in an FIR for allegedly firing at the home of his relatives. The brother of the accused, while speaking to the media, explained that the dispute originated from a minor issue within the community. He alleged that the influential parties involved

Tragedy In Tando Adam: 5-Year-Old Drowns In Canal

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: Near Tando Adam, a tragic incident occurred when a 5-year-old boy named Muhammad Saleh, son of Waheed Ali Mallah, drowned in the Tando Adam Branch Canal. People nearby rescued him in an unconscious state and

rushed him to the Tando Adam Taluka Hospital where doctors confirmed his death. The child's body was then handed over to his family, who took the body for burial. It has been reported that the family, originally from Mulan Katyar, had come to Tando Adam to work as laborers in brick kiln production.

Jacobabad Man Robbed Of Rs 1 Million

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: In Jacobabad, the situation of law and order has severely deteriorated. Due to the police's incompetence, robbers have become unrestrained. Armed assailants near the Circuit House in Jacobabad easily escaped after robbing a citizen, Saleem Abro, of 1,045,000 rupees at gunpoint. Citizens in Jacobabad are suffering from insecurity due to the unrest, while the police have completely failed to restore peace in the city.

Councilor Aziz Memon Meets DC Syed Fawad Hussain Shah

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Deputy Commissioner Khairpur, Syed Fawad Hussain Shah, met with PPP leader from Hingorja, Town Committee Councilor, and social activist Aziz Memon at the DC office. During the meeting, Aziz Memon informed the DC that many people have been affected by the recent

rains and emphasized the need for timely assistance. He pointed out that the homes of poor and underprivileged people have collapsed, and they are facing difficulties in receiving aid from PDMA due to strict conditions. He requested that the process be made easier. In response, DC Khairpur Syed Fawad Hussain Shah assured him that the aid

Six Cops Charged With Taking Bribes For Job Recruitments

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In Larkana, a case has been registered at the city's Sachal Police Station against six individuals, including the Sheet Clerk of the SSP office, for allegedly accepting bribes amounting to millions of rupees for police recruitments. The case was filed on the complaint of ASI Muhammad Ramzan Samo. The accused include ASI Irshad Abbasi of PTS Larkana, Head Constable

Tariq Sohu of Hassan Wahab Police Station, Head Constable Mithal Gopang of Taluka Police Station, Sheet Clerk Imran Chandio of the SSP office, and constables Nadir Abbasi and Samad Kalhoro of the SRP. It is reported that the SSP office's sheet clerk and other officers had been taking bribes from candidates appearing for police department tests, promising to issue orders for their recruitment.

NATIONAL

12th Rabiul Awwal To Be Celebrated On September 17 Due To Moon Not Being Sighted

ISLAMABAD: The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee on Wednesday announced that the 12th Rabiul Awwal will be observed on Tuesday, 17th September as the moon of the Islamic month is not sighted, media reported.



The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee held its meeting in Islamabad, chaired by Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, to determine the sighting of the new moon. However, there were no reports of the moon being sighted in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, or any other part of the country. The Islamic month will begin on Friday (September 06) and Eid Miladun Nabi (PBUH) will be observed on 12th Rabiul Awwal on 17th September. The moon sighting meeting included religious scholars from all schools of thought of Islam and weather experts. Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad noted that while the weather was cloudy in most parts of Pakistan and clear in others, no moon sighting was reported from any location in the country. The Ministry of Religious Affairs later confirmed this through an official notification. The meeting was attended by members of the Central and Zonal Ruet-e-Hilal Committees, including Mufti Zameer Ahmed Sajid, Mufti Muhammad Iqbal Naumi, Mufti Abdul Salam Jalali, Allama Mustafa Haider Naqvi, and others. Muslims worldwide observe Eid Miladun Nabi, the birth of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), on the 12th of Rabiul Awwal, the third month of the Islamic lunar calendar.—RT/Agency

DC Dr. Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja Reviews Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) Preparations

By Khuda Dino Kachhai

SANGHAR: Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) will be celebrated with religious devotion and respect. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Imran-ul-Hassan Khawaja has announced that, as in previous years, Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) will be celebrated with great reverence this year as well. The cities and mosques will be illuminated, and gatherings for reciting Naats and pro-

grams focusing on the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) will be organized. Religious scholars will deliver speeches on the simplicity of the life of the Holy Prophet (SAW). In this regard, a meeting was recently held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Saleem Jatui, attended by various officials, leaders of different religious groups, and representatives from the Sanghar Federation of Commerce, including Haji Yameen Qureshi and Malik Sher Muhammad. They assured their full cooperation for facilitating processions on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal. Additionally, the heads of municipal and town committees were instructed to improve cleanliness in the city, and HESCO officials were advised to avoid load shedding from Maghrib until midnight.

Fatal Sehwan Road Crash Claims Young Life

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN: A speeding truck ran over the motorcycle, causing the motorcyclist to come under the truck and die at the scene. Upon receiving the report, the police arrived at the accident site and transported the deceased's body to the Syed Abdullah Shah Medical Institute, where the victim was identified

as Najibullah Rind. The body was handed over to the family after the necessary formalities, leading to mourning in the village. The police stated that the motorcyclist was coming from the wrong direction, which led to the accident. Following the incident, the police filed an initial report and arrested the truck driver for further investigation.

Petroleum Minister Refutes Claims Of \$18 Billion Penalty In Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline Dispute

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum Musaddik Malik on Wednesday refuted reports of Iran imposing a US\$18 billion penalty on Pakistan for not completing the gas pipeline project, media reported.

Speaking to media persons, Musaddik Malik said that Iran never mentioned \$18 billion penalty on Pakistan. "I am not aware of where this figure of \$18 billion came from. I have reviewed all the files and documents, and there is no mention of the said amount anywhere," the petroleum minister added. Musaddik Malik also refused to comment on the current status of the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project. "I will be able to comment after consulting with the Attorney General of Pakistan," the petroleum minister added. Earlier on March 21, Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to Iran Pakistan gas pipeline project as Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that it is the sovereign decision of the Pakistani government to move forward on the project. During her weekly news briefing, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch responded to the queries of the media persons regarding US congressional hearing. She made it clear that at this point there is no room for any discussion or waiver from any third party for the construction of the pipeline inside Pakistan's territory. She said Pakistan has also conveyed to the US authorities the importance of this project for its energy security. When asked about the concerns raised at the US congressional hearing over the alleged rigging in the general elections, the spokesperson said some statements made there reflected misunderstanding of Pakistan's domestic situation and electoral laws. She hoped to engage in meaningful discussion with the US to address these misunderstandings.—RT/Agency

Jacobabad Police Accused Of Killing Youth In Fake Encounter

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: The suspects who were standing on the National Highway with the intention of committing a crime opened fire upon seeing the police. In the retaliatory firing by the police, one suspect, Nazim Ahmed Jakhani, was injured and subsequently arrested. He was taken to the Civil Hospital, where he succumbed

to his injuries. In response, the family of the deceased young man who was allegedly killed in the police encounter staged a protest on the National Highway with the body, blocking the road for several hours and causing traffic disruptions. The protesters chanted strong slogans against the police. The family members, Altaf Jakhani, Galosh Mumtaz, Miss Azima, Jijan

Corpse Of Youth Discovered In Tando Bago

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: Near Tando Bago, close to Dargah Aulia Khan Shah, the body of a young man who drowned after slipping was found in the 16 LS Canal around 6 in the morning. The

deceased was identified as Ramesh Kolhi. Relatives arrived upon receiving the news and took the body back to their village. Neither the police were informed of the discovery of the body, nor was a postmortem conducted.

Mohsin Naqvi Holds Talks With Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman On Promoting Peace

By Hashim Brohi

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday met with Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad. During the meeting measures to establish peace and eliminate terrorism and sectarianism were discussed. In addition, matters related to religious harmony, tolerance, and inter-sect unity were also discussed. The interior minister said that terrorists have no religion, adding that scholars have always guided the nation in the fight against terrorism and still there is a dire need for an effort to develop an effective narrative against terrorism, a national campaign to consult scholars of all sects will be started soon. He underscored that the war against terrorism is the war for the survival of Pakistan. He stressed that scholars need to



Passengers Furious Over Constant Train Delays

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: The Saman Sarkar Express, traveling from Kotri to Hyderabad, Tando Jam, Tando Allahyar, and Mirpurkhas, as well as the Marvi Passenger Train, which runs from Mirpurkhas to Shadi Patti, Pithoro, and Khokhrapar are frequently delayed for various reasons.

As a result, passengers at Hyderabad station have been protesting. Both the Saman Sarkar Express from Hyderabad to Mirpurkhas and the Marvi Passenger from Mirpurkhas to Khokhrapar face daily delays. On September 3, 2024, when the train remained at Hyderabad until 7:40 AM, passengers experienced significant inconvenience. Hundreds of passengers questioned the railway administration, who responded that the engine was in Kotri and the train would only depart once it arrived. Despite the ongoing protest by hundreds of passengers at Hyderabad Railway Station, the railway administration appears to be unresponsive.

Youth Killed In Hit-And-Run Horror

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Sujawal Junjo near the village of Bakhar Mahesar, a motorcyclist lost control and crashed into a tree. As a result, three individuals from the village of Allahabad Jalbani in the Sujawal taluka were severely injured. The injured included an 18-year-old student named Ali Dino, son of Rajan Khan Jalbani, his 12-year-old brother Saheed, and 6-year-old Zeeshan, son of Asif Jalbani. They were transported by locals in a critical condition to the Chandka Hospital Trauma Center in Larkana city. Ali Dino Jalbani succumbed to his injuries and passed away while the treatment for the others is ongoing under the care of doctors. Relatives of the deceased and injured told journalists that their children attended school in the village of Arzi Bhutto. The accident occurred while they were returning from school and the motorcycle crashed into a tree near the village of Bakhar Mahesar.

DG Zain-ul-Abidin Ansari Monitors School Book Distribution

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: According to a statement issued by the District Information Office of Tando Allahyar, following the orders of Sindh Provincial Minister for Education Syed Sardar Ali Shah and Secretary of Education Sindh

Zahid Ali Abbasi, the responsibility for distributing free educational books among students in primary schools was assigned to Director General M&E Zain-ul-Abidin Ansari. Under the supervision of District Education Officer (Primary) Mitho Oad, Chief Monitoring Officer Hamad

Sacked Constable Protests For Reinstatement

By M Rafique

LARKANA: A sacked police constable of Sanghar District Police, Haji Khan Shaikh (PC-350) staged a protest demonstration in Larkana for his reinstatement on Wednesday. While talking to the media, the protesting constable said that he had been sacked from the service in 1998 due to absence

for the medical grounds. He said that in this regard several orders were passed by the Sindh Government but he has always been ignored despite complaining to the higher authorities also. On the occasion, he demanded of the Sindh CM and IG Sindh Police to take steps for his reinstatement, otherwise he will be compelled to widen his protest.

Ahsan Iqbal Emphasizes Government's Support For Women's Role In National Development

By Hashim Brohi

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said the government was committed to providing a secure environment to women at workplaces as it believed in their active participation in national development. "Soon after coming into power, we established a gender unit so that women can work in the office with a sense of security, and the Ministry of Planning is the safest place for women to work," he said. Ahsan Iqbal expressed these views while chairing a committee meeting established by the ministry to address issues related to harassment against women. The meeting was attended by the Secretary of Planning and all female ministry staff. He said the aim behind establishing a Gender Unit was to create a workplace environment where women feel secure and confident in their roles and make the ministry a safety model for women. The minister mentioned that a state-of-the-art daycare facility had been established to provide mothers, allowing them to focus on their work without concerns or worry for their children's well-being. He said that no society could progress without the active involvement of 50 percent of its women and his utmost effort was to make the Ministry of Planning a role model for women's empowerment. He assured that there would be no discrimination against any woman in the ministry. During the meeting, the female officers and staff of the ministry shared their thoughts and feedback with the federal minister.—RT/Agency

NWM Dervish Killed In Shocking Hit-And-Run

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Near Nawab Wali Muhammad city, a wandering dervish was struck and killed by an unidentified vehicle while walking along the National Highway near the

telephone exchange. The body was taken by Nawab Wali Muhammad police to Taluka Hospital Qazi Ahmed. According to the police, the man was a dervish who used to walk along the road and has not been identified. The vehicle involved in the accident has not been traced, and the body is unrecognizable. After completing the necessary paperwork, the police placed the body in the morgue at Taluka Hospital Qazi Ahmed, and efforts are being made to locate the deceased's relatives.

METRO KARACHI



US Secretary Of State Urges Strengthening Economic And Cultural Relations With Pakistan

KARACHI: US Consul General in Karachi Scott Urbom has expressed his wish to strengthen economic and people-to-people ties between the United States and Pakistan.



Recalling his experience in the country, the diplomat noted that he has been in Pakistan only for a short time and praised the country's culture and hospitality.

"I want to increase education and business opportunities," Urbom said while speaking to the media during his visit to Mazar-e-Quaid - the mausoleum of Pakistan's founder Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi on Wednesday.

The American top diplomat's remarks come after he officially took charge as Washington's consul general in the port city last month.

Pakistan and the US share a long history of bilateral relations involving cooperation in various domains including security, social uplift, business, etc.

Speaking on the bilateral ties between the two countries, he said that Washington supported Quaid-i-Azam's vision of a united, democratic and prosperous Pakistan.

"I want to meet a lot of people on my visit to Sindh and Balochistan. I want to benefit from your ideas to strengthen Pakistan-US relations," he said.

Furthermore, commenting on the issue of climate change, the envoy remarked that both countries will tackle environmental challenges through the Green Alliance Framework - a bilateral initiative for cooperation in agriculture, clean energy, water and other sectors.

Urbom's statement follows the US State Department's strong condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan, which resulted in the deaths of over 50 people, including 14 security personnel.

Washington strongly condemned last week's deadly attacks that targeted security officials and civilians, including the murder of 23 innocent civilians in Musakhail," US State Department's spokesperson Matthew Miller said.—RT/Agency

-Can you believe this? Sindh To Allocate Rs2 Billion For New Vehicles For Assistant Commissioners



KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to buy new vehicles worth Rs2 billion for assistant commissioners, media reported.

As per details, Sindh's general administration department has penned a letter to the finance department for the release of Rs2 bln for buying new double cabin vehicles for 138 assistant commissioners.

The assistant commissioners will use the new vehicle for their day-to-day office work.

Earlier, the Punjab government's decision to provide new vehicles to additional commissioners and other revenue officials was challenged in the Lahore High Court.

Mudassar Chaudhry Advocate has filed the petition challenging the government's decision on behalf of petitioner Sheeraz Altaf.

Petitioner pleaded that the public money should be used for public welfare as the country is passing through a critical economic situation. "These privileges should be offered after stability in the economy is achieved," petitioner said.—RT/Agency

SSGC To Host National Defence And Air Force Days Cycle Race From Karachi To Hyderabad On September 8

KARACHI: Under the patronage of the Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF), Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) will organize the National Defence and Air Force Days Cycle Race from Karachi to Hyderabad on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

This prestigious event will feature both elite and amateur male cyclists, with an open cycle race also planned for elite female participants. The elite cyclists, representing various PCF-affiliated units, will arrive in Karachi on September 7, 2024. The race is set to showcase top cyclists from across the country, reflecting the growing popularity of cycling in Pakistan.

The event is being organized to express solidarity with the armed forces and to pay tribute to the nation's martyrs. The race will commence from SSGC's head office at 9:00 AM and conclude at the Hyderabad Toll Plaza.

The event will also be graced by the presence of PCF President Syed Azhar Ali Shah and other officials. Asif Ansari, Secretary of SSGC Sports Board, has been appointed as Chairman of the Organizing Committee by PCF, while Sardar Nazakat Ali of SSGC will serve as the Organizing Secretary. A dedicated team of PCF technical officials and commissaires will conduct the race, ensuring that all safety measures are in place and that the rules and regulations are strictly followed to create a fair and competitive environment.

This race not only aims to promote cycling as a sport but also to unite cycling enthusiasts from different regions, fostering camaraderie and sportsmanship. Both PCF and SSGC are committed to making this event a memorable experience for all participants and spectators.—RT

KCCI Calls On State Bank To Cut Policy Rate By 500 Basis Points

KARACHI: The Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) has called on the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to reduce the policy rate by 500 basis points, lowering it from 19.5% to 14.5% in the next monetary policy statement. KCCI Chairman Zubair Motiwala and President Iftekhar Ahmed Sheikh emphasized that with inflation dropping to 9.6% in August, its lowest in three years, there is a strong justification for a significant rate cut to stimulate economic growth.

They highlighted that the Large-Scale Manufacturing Index (LSMI) showed marginal growth of just 0.9% in FY24, underlining the negative impact of prolonged high-interest rates. The policy rate reduction, they argued, would provide much-needed relief to the manufacturing sector and boost economic activity by encouraging private sector borrowing and investment.

Motiwala noted that Pakistan's real interest rate, currently at 9.9%, is much higher than in neighboring countries, reducing the nation's regional competitiveness. He also pointed out that a 1% reduction in the policy rate could save the government approximately Rs467 billion in debt servicing costs.

Sheikh added that despite a sharp increase in the policy rate from 7% in August 2021 to 22% by May 2023, inflation was not effectively controlled, suggesting that alternative monetary tools should be considered. He further noted that the government's share of total credit has risen significantly, crowding out the private sector. A reduction in the policy rate, he argued, would help rebalance credit distribution towards the private sector.

The KCCI leadership expressed hope that the SBP would announce the recommended rate cut, which would provide essential relief to businesses struggling with the high cost of doing business.—RT

SEDF And SSIC Partner To Boost Sindh's Economic Development

KARACHI: The Sindh Enterprise Development Fund (SEDF) and Sindh Small Industries Corporation (SSIC) have officially partnered by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today.



The signing ceremony took place at the office of the Minister of Industries & Commerce Department in the Sindh Secretariat, Karachi. This collaboration is poised to enhance the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across Sindh, driving economic growth and creating new job opportunities.

The Minister for Industries & Commerce, Jam Iqbal Khan Dharejo, who served as the Chief Guest at the event, highlighted the significance of this partnership, stating, "This agreement marks a major step toward industrialization in Sindh. The new industrial zones being established will greatly benefit from this initiative, opening doors for aspiring entrepreneurs. As industries are established, numerous job opportunities will arise. This agreement is a significant achievement for the provincial government and the beginning of a new era for the province's industries."

SEDF, established by the Government of Sindh, is dedicated to promoting investment in SMEs and stimulating economic development in the region. With its financial and technical support, SEDF has already mobilized significant private sector investments, making a substantial impact on Sindh's economy. SSIC, on the other hand, will play a key role in facilitating the acquisition of industrial plots and land for SMEs across Sindh, encouraging further investment.

The event also featured remarks from Secretary Industries & Commerce, Yasin Shar Baloch, Secretary Investment Department, Raja Khuram Shahzad Umer, CEO of SEDF, Khizar Perawat Faheem. They shared their perspectives on Sindh's economic growth, emphasizing the proactive steps being taken by the Sindh government, including this strategic partnership, to advance economic development. Their comments underscored the importance of such initiatives in empowering local entrepreneurs, boosting the economy, and creating sustainable employment.—RT

SSGC Disconnects Over 3,000 Illegal Gas Connections In Sindh And Balochistan



KARACHI: The Sui Southern Gas Company Ltd. (SSGC) has intensified its efforts to reduce unaccounted for gas (UFG) by actively targeting gas theft, a persistent issue affecting society. The Security Services and Counter Gas Theft Operations (SS&CGTO) teams, in collaboration with the Customer Relations Department (CRD) and Recovery teams, have been working diligently to curb the rising incidents of gas theft.

In the past week alone, SSGC has made significant progress, disconnecting 3,276 illegal gas connections across its franchise areas in Sindh and Balochistan.

In Karachi, the teams removed 2,895 illegal connections, while in Balochistan, 365 illegal connections were cut off. Additionally, 16 illegal connections were disconnected in Upper Sindh. These operations involved raids on both domestic and commercial units suspected of gas theft.

Through extensive surveys, the teams identified high-risk areas for gas theft, conducted raids, and confiscated rubber pipes and other materials used to steal gas from the company's main service line. Following these actions, FIRs were filed against the offenders.—RT

Karachi Crime Rate Has Dropped Significantly: Additional IG Javed Alam Odho

KARACHI: Karachi has witnessed a significant improvement in its law and order situation, with daily criminal incidents dropping from 252 to 107, according to Additional IG Sindh Police, Javed Alam Odho. Speaking at a Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) event, Odho credited enhanced police strategies and improved investigative processes for this reduction. He highlighted the city's 60% crime detection rate, surpassing those of some developed nations.

Odho also discussed the ongoing Safe City project, which aims to strengthen Karachi's security infrastructure through extensive CCTV coverage. Despite these improvements, he acknowledged the challenges posed by a shortage of police personnel, with only 15,000 of-

ficers serving the sprawling metropolis. To address this, Odho announced plans to boost police mobility with the addition of 500 motorcycles and the integration of the Rapid Response Force (RRF) into the 54 Project.

KATI President Johar Qandhari expressed concern over Karachi's economic crises, noting that the closure of over 300 industries has exacerbated unemployment and contributed to crime. He praised the Sindh Police's ef-

orts, particularly the effectiveness of the 15 App and neighborhood policing in Korangi, but stressed the need for more personnel.

Deputy Patron-in-Chief Zubair Chhaya and Standing Committee Chairman Danish Khan called for increased police patrols and blockades to further curb criminal activities. The business community urged swift completion of the Safe City project to ensure sustained improvement in Karachi's security.—RT



Sindh High Court Criticizes Missing Persons Reports

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has expressed dissatisfaction with the reports on the recovery of missing persons.



Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto presided petitions related to missing persons. The court expressed frustration over the lack of progress and criticized the police officials.

Justice Phulpoto remarked that despite 13 years of JIT meetings, the progress was minimal, with sessions often ending with only tea being served.

He noted that elderly people who have been suffering for years must be curing the authorities.

He emphasized that if the police had worked honestly, the issue of missing persons would have been resolved by now.

He criticized the inability to determine who was responsible for the disappearances and warned that poor performance could lead officials into jail prison.

During the proceedings, Justice Phulpoto reprimanded the DSP of Pakistan Bazaar police station. The court has summoned the head of the JIT for the next hearing and directed effective measures for the recovery of missing citizens, including Syed Arif and Syed Abbas Shah.

The Sindh High Court had also asked for a report from federal government agencies within four weeks and adjourned the case.—RT/Agency

Suspect in Karsaz Accident Seeks Bail In Court

KARACHI: Natasha Danish, the prime accused in the Karsaz accident case, has filed a bail plea in the local court on Wednesday, media reported. Natasha has submitted her bail plea through her lawyer. The court has issued notices on bail application to relevant parties. In bail plea, the accused mentioned history of mental health issues and previous treatment from multiple psychiatrists. Natasha's lawyer argued that the charges against her client are bailable and that she should be granted bail considering her mental health condition. The lawyer also submitted medical certificates and records of Natasha's treatment history from private hospital. Separately today, the court granted interim bail to Danish Iqbal, husband of prime accused in the Karsaz accident case. The East court approved Iqbal's bail application against surety bonds of worth Rs. 100,000. It should be noted that the woman - who ran over Amna, Imran Arif and injured five others in the Karsaz Road - is currently in judicial custody following orders by a Karachi East court a day after it ordered its production in the court.—RT/Agency

Tessori Unveils Logo For New Science And Technology University

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurated the logo of Imam Ahmed Raza University of Emerging Sciences and Technology at a ceremony held at the Governor House. During the event, he also distributed awards to the students who designed the logo. Notable attendees included Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman and Professor Rashid Kamal Ansari.



In his address, Governor Tessori emphasized the importance of higher education and modern IT training for the nation's future. He praised the efforts of the Saylani Welfare Trust in promoting education and assured his support. Tessori also highlighted the commitment of both civil and military leadership to a stable economy and strong defense, stressing unity against external threats.

Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman lauded the Governor's initiatives, including public access to the Governor House and the introduction of IT courses for youth. Maulana Bashir Farooqi, founder of Saylani Welfare Trust, announced the establishment of the university and noted the global academic recognition of Imam Ahmed Raza, with 52 PhDs completed in his name.—RT/Agency

Home Minister Stands Firm Against Pressure In Karsaz Accident Case

KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Linjar on Wednesday said that the government will not bow down to any pressure in the Karsaz accident case to give undue favour to suspect Natasha Danish, media reported.



Speaking to media persons here, Ziaul Hassan Linjar said that action has been taken on merit in the case. He said that the provincial government will ensure that justice is served.

The home minister said that the police will not show any negligence in the case and will present the challan according to suspect Natasha's medical report.

Speaking on lawlessness in the Katha area (riverine area) and street

crimes in Karachi, Ziaul Hassan Linjar said that organized action is being taken against dacoits in the city and outskirts.

He said that when he assumed the office, there were 27 kidnapped persons in Shikharpur alone, adding that 26 of them have been recovered.

Earlier in the day, Natasha Danish, the prime accused in the Karsaz accident case, filed a bail plea in the local court

ASI Muhammad Khan Abro Named In-Charge Of Memon Goth Link Road Police Post

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi has appointed ASI Muhammad Khan Abro as the in-charge of the police post at Link Road in Memon Goth. This appointment has caused significant concern among criminals in the area. Under the guidance of SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi, ASI Muhammad Khan Abro has imposed a ban on activities such as the theft of sand and gravel, as well as the sale and production of drugs, Gutka and Mawa.



ANF Discovers NGO Involved In Drug Trafficking In Landhi

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has conducted a major operation based on intelligence information, leading to the exposure of an NGO in Karachi's Landhi area that was involved in drug trafficking under the guise of human rights work. The operation resulted in the arrest of a woman, was operating in Karachi, Hyderabad, and surrounding areas, trafficking drugs to students. ANF intercepted the female drug courier as she arrived in Karachi from Tando Adam, arresting her along with drugs. Following her identification, other members of the group were also apprehended. The operation led to the seizure of 400 grams of heroin from the female suspect and 500 grams from another suspect. The case has been registered, and during further investigation, the group's leader was also arrested with illegal weapons and additional drugs. In total, one and a half kilograms of heroin were recovered, along with various press cards, press monograms, and fake number plates found in the vehicle. ANF officials reported that during the investigation, it was revealed that the suspects were also involved in drug smuggling in Hyderabad. Raids are ongoing to arrest other members of the network. Cases have been filed under the Anti-Narcotics Act, and further investigations are underway.

"Every heart sings a song, incomplete, until another heart whispers back."

—Plato

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 05 2024

Information Minister Criticizes Absence Of Effective Systems To Counter Misinformation

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday lamented the "lack of mechanisms" to control and counter the spread of false information on digital platforms, stating that they cause damage to the country's image and fragile economy.



Addressing an event in Islamabad, the information minister said that in the digital age, verification, and authentication had become "the two most important tools that provided people with a true perspective on what's going on and what the reality is."

"If you look at the brief historical background, as far as newspapers and TV are concerned, you had some form of editorial control," the minister said. "You had systems, training, and people well-equipped to deal with information and how to disseminate it."

"In the digital age, unfortunately, we don't have mechanisms to authenticate and verify information and it causes a lot of damage and losses," Tarar lamented, citing the example of how misinformation could damage Pakistan's fragile economy. "Our economy is very fragile and one small false news item can cause losses to the image of the country that can't be measured," he said.

his constituency in Lahore, with a wedge allegedly being driven between Christians and the government by religious extremists.

"I have 70,000 Christian voters in my constituency," he said. "When I reached out to them I could sense fear... I could sense they were insecure. I told them I would hold an open mic, we would sit down and discuss what the problems are."

"Some false information spread by religious extremists had created such a huge wedge between us and them that it took almost a week for me to convince them that this country is theirs as much as ours," Tarar stated.

platforms.

The information minister also said that Tech Valley, an organisation partnered with Google, will launch a programme to train journalists on how to verify reports online. Highlighting the wide-spread use of Google software within Pakistan, Tarar said that this training "will help build our society and bridge gaps we have between our communities."

He expected this training to "eradicate religious extremism and hate mongering on certain social media platforms."

Tarar added that besides misinformation, the digital space was being used by terrorists to further their political goals.

"We have been helpless against this issue because certain groups acting against the safety and security of the nation... we have no means of countering them," he said, highlighting that before the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan, information about them had already spread on social media.

"With the right amount of training and focus, we will be able to create an environment in which we will be able to provide harmony among our people," Tarar said, reiterating his ministry's commitment to working with these groups.

"The digital space can be used positively and negatively. With this training, we will not only create a positive image for our country but we will create a safe and secure environment for our people," the minister said.—RT/Agency

Continuing his speech, Tarar cited the example of how misinformation affected

Finance Minister Pledges Full Government Support To Foreign Investors

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb assured foreign investors of the government's full support in facilitating their ventures in Pakistan.



In a meeting with a delegation of international investors, led by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) J.P. Morgan Pakistan, Amin Mohammad Khawaja, the finance minister also welcomed their interest in contributing to the country's economic growth, a press statement issued here said.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said Pakistan has made in improving its macroeconomic indicators including the 14 percent rise in exports, the decline in inflation to 9.6 percent (which is 34 months low), and an overall decline in the Current Account deficit.

The finance minister reaffirmed the government's resolve to carry forward the comprehensive reforms agenda to enhance the efficiency and governance of public institutions.

"These reforms," he noted, "are designed to create a more conducive environment for foreign investment and to ensure the long-term stability of the economy," he stated.

£190m Case: Court Awaits Verdict On Bushra Bibi's Acquittal Plea



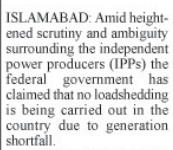
RAWALPINDI: An accountability court on Wednesday reserved verdict on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi's acquittal plea in £190 million settlement case.

The incarcerated former premier and his wife are accused of causing billions of rupees loss to the national exchequer in a case also involving a property tycoon.

Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana will announce the verdict on Bushra's plea tomorrow (Thursday) after the parties in the case concluded their arguments.

The couple was produced at makeshift court room setup in Adiala Jail owing to security reasons in today's hearing, however, cross-examination of the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) investigation officer was not conducted due to the

Government Asserts No Nationwide Electricity Load-shedding



ISLAMABAD: Amid heightened scrutiny and ambiguity surrounding the independent power producers (IPPs) the federal government has claimed that no loadshedding is being carried out in the country due to generation shortfall.



Speaking on the National Assembly floor on Wednesday, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that distribution companies (Disco) are carrying out load management in areas based on losses in corresponding feeders.

The minister's remarks come as the incumbent government faced much scrutiny owing to exorbitant electricity bills and hours-long power outages across the country — especially during this year's summer.

Ever since coming to power in February earlier this year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's administration has faced challenges on multiple fronts with power sector being one of them.

The Centre faced country-wide protests over prolonged loadshedding and sky-high bills throughout the summer. The incumbent rulers have also faced flak on the IPP issue with calls to review

the government agreements with them as the government has admitted that the country has the highest electricity tariffs in the region.

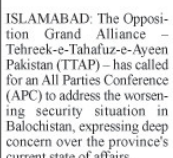
However, Energy Minister Awasi Leghari has said that the nation would receive "good news" regarding the IPPs soon.

Speaking in the lower house of parliament today, Tarar also underscored that feeders with up to 20% losses are exempted from loadshedding.

The minister also said that in the first phase, smart meters will be installed on transformers to keep a check on electricity theft.

Informing the House that Private Power and Infrastructure Board was working on promotion and development of Alternative and Renewable Energy technologies for power generation in line with the government's vision to diversify the energy generation, the lawmaker articulated that as many as 58 alternative and renewable energy based projects were operational which were producing 3,837 megawatts of electricity cumulatively.

Opposition Alliance Demands APC On Deteriorating Security Situation In Balochistan



ISLAMABAD: The Opposition Grand Alliance — Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Ayeeen Pakistan (TTAP) — has called for an All Parties Conference (APC) to address the worsening security situation in Balochistan, expressing deep concern over the province's current state of affairs.



During a press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, PTI leader Asad Qaiser stated, "Our alliance is seriously concerned about the situation in Balochistan. We will meet with the National Assembly speaker and urge him to take action, including convening an APC on Balochistan."

Qaiser emphasised the need to address the grievances of "our estranged Baloch brothers," noting that despite raising the issue in the assembly, the government has shown little interest. He also lamented Akhtar Mengal's resignation from the National Assembly, calling it "a regrettable development."

He stressed the importance of a serious discussion on Balochistan, warning, "Our enemies are exploiting this situation. We are planning nationwide protests and rallies, including a day of countrywide demonstrations." Latif Khosa criticised the government's economic policies and attempts to amend the Constitution, which he said have caused widespread public concern.

He stressed the importance of a serious discussion on Balochistan, warning, "Our enemies are exploiting this situation. We are planning nationwide protests and rallies, including a day of countrywide demonstrations." Latif Khosa criticised the government's economic policies and attempts to amend the Constitution,

sentiments, calling it a positive sign that all parties believe in the supremacy of the Constitution. He announced the formation of a committee that will start working immediately to arrange the APC. "If our demands are not met, we will launch nationwide protests," Achakzai warned, but added that if the APC is held, "we won't need to resort to protests." He also assigned Asad Qaiser the task of meeting with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq Achakzai criticised the indifference towards the crisis in Balochistan, saying, "We are laughing while Balochistan burns. All parties must agree to remove the entrenched elite families." Raouf Hasan reiterated that their rally would go ahead as planned, regardless of any obstacles posed by the administration.—RT/Agency

Fazl: Political Solutions Needed For Terrorism, Not Military Action

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), has called for addressing terrorism through political measures rather than military force.

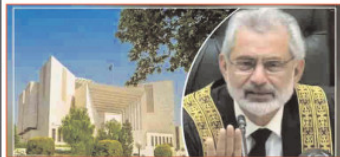


Speaking in the National Assembly, Rehman emphasised that blaming Afghanistan for Pakistan's security issues was misguided.

He urged the government to focus on its responsibilities along the borders.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman highlighted the recent attacks on Pakistan's military and institutions, stating that it is the parliament's duty to take these issues seriously.

CJP Suggests For Dismissal Of Officials Involved In Unauthorized Tree Cutting



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa remarked that officers and employees involved in deforestation must be sacked.

IHC Orders IGP To Submit Detailed Report On Missing Faizan Usman By Sept 10

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday ordered Inspector General of Police (IG) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan to submit a final report in the case of Faizan Usman's alleged abduction in court by September 10.

of the Shehzad Town Police Station as respondents.

In a court order given yesterday, sent by media, the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority, and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) for more information on the disappearance. "The court enquired whether the charge (for the abduction) was on intelligence agency, so did you inquire anything from them?" Justice Sattar asked. The police chief said the ministry of defence had been contacted in this regard. "Contact the intelligence agency, they don't come under the defence ministry but are subordinate to the prime minister," Justice Sattar said.—RT/Agency

wars involving major international powers, complicating efforts to advance infrastructure projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He called on the parliament and political leaders to engage directly with local issues to prevent further deterioration. Rehman also addressed the ongoing issue of missing persons, asserting that the government has a duty to inform families about the status of their relatives. He expressed concern that the actions taken in response to incidents like the Army Public School attack have eroded public trust, creating resentment that could persist for generations.—RT/Agency

The three-member bench headed by CJP Qazi Isa heard a case pertaining to illegal cutting of precious Shisham trees (Indian rosewood) in Mardan. The Supreme Court has dismissed the appeal by upholding dismissal and imposed fines on a regional officer of the forest department, Meher Badshah. The SC has summoned details from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government about the five year

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