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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

US Authorities Charge Pakistani National With Plotting New York Attack

WASHINGTON: Authorities in the United States have charged a Pakistani man for allegedly plotting to carry out an attack in New York City in support of the Daesh, media reported quoting the US Department of Justice.

Identified as Muhammad Shahzeb Khan, also known as Shahzeb Jadoon, was arrested on Wednesday and is accused of plotting a mass shooting at a Jewish centre in Brooklyn.

US Attorney General Merrick Garland has said that Khan aimed to kill "as many Jewish people as possible."

The suspect, who may face up to 20 years in prison, allegedly attempted to travel from Canada to the US where he intended to use automatic and semi-automatic weapons to carry out the attack, according to the indictment.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement Friday they arrested Khan on Wednesday in Ormstown, Quebec, south of Montreal.

The Pakistani man had allegedly told two under-



cover law enforcement officers of his plans to create "a real offline cell" of Daesh supporters to carry out an attack, the indictment alleged.

Khan — set to appear before a court in Montreal on September 13 — allegedly instructed them to obtain AR-style assault rifles, ammunition and other materials to carry out the attacks and identified specific locations where the attacks would take place.

Prosecutors have said that the suspect New York City because it has "the largest Jewish population in America."

"We are deeply grateful to our Canadian partners for their critical law enforcement actions in this

matter. Jewish communities — like all communities in this country — should not have to fear that they will be targeted by a hate-fueled terrorist attack," said Garland.

The development comes weeks after authorities in Washington charged a Pakistani man named Asif Merchant for allegedly having ties with Iran in connection to a foiled plot to assassinate US politicians Merchant,

46, had sought to recruit people in the US to carry out the plot in retaliation for the US killing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards' top commander Qasem Soleimani in 2020, according to a criminal complaint.—RT/Agency

Police Crack Down On PTI Supporters As Deadline Passes For Islamabad Rally

ISLAMABAD: Following the directives issued by the district administration, the police have launched a crackdown after the deadline of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) much-hyped rally at outskirts of the federal capital ended on Sunday.

The rally kicked off with tight security in the federal capital as the participants of the rally gathered at the venue — Sangyani locality, while multiple caravans moved towards the city under the leadership of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, despite roadblocks at various points.

The former ruling party had been finally allowed to hold the gathering today (September 8) under a no-objection certificate (NOC) issued earlier in the week, after postponing it twice — once in July and then in August — after authorities revoked the permission. The multiple deferrals drew scathing criticism from party leaders and workers for not being able to hold the public



gathering. However, the Islamabad district administration put the security on high alert this morning and blocked off multiple arteries leading to the capital city, in the light of the "Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024" aimed at regulating public gatherings, which was signed into a law by President Asif Ali Zardari just a day ahead of the rally.

The public rally began with PTI leader Hamid Azhar addressing the crowd, stating that the hindrance created by the incumbent rulers evinced that they were afraid of incarcerated Imran

and the Constitution. "We will enter Punjab with 50,000 people from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa within a week," he said, adding that they will even set off on foot and face the tear gas.

Meanwhile, party leader Muhammad Ali Khan said they had never thought that Imran Khan would be jailed, lamenting that many other PTI leaders, including Qasim Suri, Shehryar Afridi, and Murad Saeed, had been forced to leave the country.

Listing the former ruling party's demands, Ali Khan demanded that those who came to power on the back of Form 47 release the PTI founder, warning that otherwise, "you will be swept away by the sea of people."

He also called for the restoration of the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law. "When an attempt was made to subvert the Supreme Court and judiciary under the guise of legislation, Imran Khan urged people to take to the streets," Ali Khan said, adding that, as all institutions

have been destroyed, hopes are now pinned on the apex court.

As the PTI leaders addressed the gathering, Islamabad district administration issued a notification of the deadline for rally conclusion, according to which, the party is supposed to wrap up the event by 7pm.

Islamabad Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon said that PTI has been officially notified about the time limit and an action will be taken on the violation of the NOC.

"Not concluding the gathering within the deadline will be considered a violation of NOC," he added.

The official further stated that the loudspeakers and microphones will be turned off and entry points into the city will be closed after the deadline's end to prevent any further incoming participants.

As soon as the deadline ended, the district administration directed the police to take action against the rallygoers for not complying to the NOC.—RT/Agency

On Literacy Day, PM Calls For Nationwide Support To Ensure Education For All

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called upon the nation to support the government's efforts in promoting literacy and ensuring education for all, emphasising the importance of building a bright future for the children and the country.

"Literacy is a fundamental human and constitutional right that guarantees the future of our country," the prime minister said in a message on Sunday, International Literacy Day.

Literacy Day is observed every year on September 8 to remind policymakers of the critical importance of literacy. This year's theme of the day is: "Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace".

The premier said literacy was not merely the ability to read and write, it was a gateway to empowerment, economic opportunities, and active participation in society.

"Today, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing the education



agenda, striving for a more informed and sustainable nation," he said, adding, "Education is the backbone of our society. For this purpose, we have declared an educational emergency across the country, launched an enrollment campaign for students, and initiated mid-day meals for children in schools."

To reduce the dropout rate and encourage every child to complete their education, the prime minister pointed out that the government had introduced scholarships and other incentives.

In this rapidly emerging world, developing literacy and skills in line

with technology was more informed and sustainable nation," he said. He said the government was implementing a comprehensive plan to integrate technology into the educational system, ensuring that the youth were equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in the digital economy.

He said private sector and civil society organisations were equal partners in the government's efforts.

"By establishing effective partnerships, we can link education with employment and self-employment opportunities, creating a stronger and more inclusive workforce," he added.—RT/Agency

Rana Sanaullah Denounces Imran And PTI As 'Israeli Political Brand'



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister and President of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) Punjab Rana Sanaullah has called Imran Khan and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) an "Israeli political brand."

In a statement on Sunday, Sanaullah highlighted that the Times of Israel has revealed the truth behind the so-called 'revolution' and 'change' in Pakistan, providing clarity on the planning and motives behind the May 9 attacks.

The PML-N leader criticised the 'foreign funding' and 'social service' initiatives, suggesting they were part of a broader scheme aimed at altering Pakistan's Islamic ideology and foreign policy.

He stated that reading the Israeli newspaper's article makes it evident why efforts were made to oust Nawaz

Sharif, who is credited with advancing Pakistan's nuclear capabilities, introducing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and elevating the country's economic development to unprecedented levels.

Sanaullah also questioned why Israel had supported Imran Khan and why the US Congress had passed a resolution in favour of his policies, suggesting that the connections between these events are now clearly exposed. He argued that Imran Khan and PTI represent an Israeli brand that was strategically given an 'Islamic touch' to gain popularity among Muslims.

He called for a boycott of this "political brand" by all Muslims, including those in Pakistan, asserting that PTI now faces not just criticism but a need for a reckoning.—RT/Agency

Tarar Visits Naval HQ, Honors Martyrs With Floral Wreath

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday visited the Naval Headquarters on the occasion of Pakistan Navy Day.

The minister laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial, paying tribute to the sacrifices of Navy personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing on the occasion, Tarar expressed pride in being present at the memorial and praised the eternal services rendered by the Pakistan Navy for the country's defense.

He highlighted the significance of Operation Dwaraka, launched on September 7, 1965, and commended the bravery of Navy personnel who targeted enemy positions during the operation.

Attaullah Tarar also re-



membered Lieutenant Aftab Ahmed Shaheed and other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

He emphasized the importance of unity in the face of terrorism and expressed confidence that the nation's morale would remain high.

In addition to honouring the martyrs, Tarar discussed the significance of the Blue Economy in the current era.

He highlighted Pakistan's focus on exploring this sector through joint ventures with multiple countries, including China, and Middle East to secure the country's economic revival.

The minister reaffirmed the Navy's role in ensuring the security of Pakistan's seas and contributing to the country's economic revolution through the Blue Economy.—RT/Agency

British MPs Of Pakistani Descent Meet Dar In London

LONDON: The Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had a detailed and comprehensive interaction with British parliamentarians of Pakistani origin at a dinner hosted by the High Commissioner Dr Muhammad Faisal at the Pakistan House in London.

The dinner was attended by the Deputy Speaker House of Commons Ms Nusrat Ghani, Ms Yasmin Qureshi (MP), Lord Qurban Hussain, Baroness Noshah Mubarak, Lord Zameer Chaudhry, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Baroness Shaista Goher, Mr Muhammad Afzal Khan (MP), Ms Naseem Shah (MP), Mr Imran Hussain (MP), Mr Tahir Ali (MP), Mr Zubair Ahmed (MP), Mr Adnan Hussain (MP), Mr Muhammad Yasin (MP) and Mr Ayoub Khan (MP).

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Prime Minister congratulated the newly elected British-Pakistani Members of Parliament (MPs) and reiterated that



He recalled that during the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from 2013 to 2017, Pakistan had grown to the world's 24th largest economy and was projected to become a member of the G20. However, political instability, beginning in 2018, had derailed Pakistan's economic trajectory.

Moreover, the previous government's policy of appeasing and rehabilitating extremist groups, like the Tehreek-e-Taliban and release of over 100 hardened terrorist criminals, had led to a resurgence of terrorism.—RT/Agency

Ruling Coalition Asserts Two-Thirds Majority For National Assembly Legislation

ISLAMABAD: The ruling coalition claimed having a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly for legislation, government sources informed on Sunday.

Sources said the government also called for a meeting of all parliamentarians of the allied parties on Monday in the capital.

The National Assembly members would be taken into confidence over the legislation process happening in



coming days. Meanwhile, it also emerged that JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur

Rehman also gave green light for his conditional support to the government.—RT/Agency

PM Pays Homage To Pakistan Navy On Navy Day

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday commended the Pakistan Navy for their unwavering dedication to duty and passion for the country.

"On Navy Day, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to all members of the Pakistan Navy. Their steadfast commitment to protecting our maritime boundaries exemplifies their unwavering dedication to duty and passion for the country," the prime



minister wrote on his official X timeline. He said regardless of the challenges they faced, their determination and spirit remained resolute.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Muslim League (PML-N) Leader, Kheal Das Kohistani is addressing a press conference, at Talpur House-RT

Eight Hospitalized In Khairpur After Consuming Poisonous Food



KHAIRPUR: Eight people, including women and children, were hospitalized in Khairpur after consuming poisonous food in the village of Babarlu. The incident, which occurred after the family's evening meal, has raised significant concern among local residents. The affected individuals were rushed to Civil Hospital Khairpur in an unconscious state following their meal of chickpeas and bread. The symptoms displayed included severe vomiting and loss of consciousness, indicating acute food poisoning. According to the family's relatives, the food was prepared at home, and no prior issues had been reported. Upon arrival at the hospital, doctors immediately began treatment, focusing on removing the toxic substances from the patients' stomachs. The hospital's medical team is working diligently to stabilize the patients. Initial reports suggest that the patients are expected to regain consciousness soon as treatment progresses. Authorities are investigating the source of the contamination to prevent future incidents and ensure the safety of the local food supply. This unfortunate event underscores the need for heightened food safety practices and vigilance to avoid similar occurrences in the future. The community is anxiously awaiting further updates on the condition of the affected individuals.—RT



LARKANA: Members and leaders of the All Sindh Education Department Lower Staff Association are holding a protest demonstration for the acceptance of their demands, at Jinnah Bagh-RT

Hyderabad Anti-Terrorism Court Delivers Verdict In High-Profile Terrorism Case

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: In a significant development, the Honorable Anti-Terrorism Court has handed down a stringent sentence to a notorious terrorist, marking a crucial victory for law enforcement in the fight against extremism. The convicted terrorist, identified as Arbab Bhil, Vice President of the banned Jeay Sindh Quami Mahaz (JSQM) Areser faction and a key facilitator for the banned Sindh Revolutionary Army (SRA), has been sentenced to five years in prison and fined Rs. 100,000. Additionally, he has been given ten years' imprisonment for his involvement in two separate cases under the Sindh Arms Act.



Arbab Bhil, a prominent figure in the terrorist networks operating within the Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas regions, was apprehended on January 15, 2024. His arrest was the result of a meticulously executed intelligence-based operation led by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Hyderabad. The operation uncovered significant evidence linking Bhil to terrorist financing and arms smuggling. During the raid, law enforcement officials recovered a substantial sum of Rs. 50,000, which was believed to be intended for terrorist activities. In addition to the cash, Bhil was found in possession of a receipt book related to SRA funding and several unlicensed firearms. These discoveries led to the registration of FIR Cr/No 02/2024 for terrorist financing and FIR Cr/No. 03/2024 for violations under the Sindh Arms Act at the CTD Hyderabad police station. The case against Bhil was heard at the Anti-Terrorism Court Hyderabad No. 2, with proceedings conducted within the confines of Central Jail Hyderabad due to the high-security nature of the case. The court's ruling reflects a decisive stance against terrorism and is expected to serve as a deterrent to others involved in similar criminal activities. The successful prosecution and sentencing of Arbab Bhil underscore the ongoing efforts of the CTD Hyderabad in combating terrorism and ensuring justice for the people of the region. The verdict also highlights the effectiveness of intelligence-driven operations in dismantling extremist networks and securing public safety.

Urgent Appeal For Drainage As Villages Near Badin Face Major Crop Losses

Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Union Council of Abdullah Shah, near Badin, is on the brink of a major agricultural crisis as hundreds of acres of standing crops in the villages of Somar Jamali and Karim Bakhs Jamali are submerged under floodwaters. Chief Minister Sindh, Adil Faryal Talpur, has issued an urgent appeal for the immediate drainage of the water to mitigate the damage. Reports indicate that the extensive flooding has inundated both crops and residential areas in these villages, with many households experiencing waterlogging that has made daily activities, such as commuting to schools, increasingly difficult. Despite the dire situation, influential local figures, including Master Ashraf Jamali, have reportedly obstructed drainage efforts, citing various concerns and threats. Villagers, including Luqman Jamali and Muntaj Jamali, have voiced their frustration, emphasizing their long-standing support for the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) since the era of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. They have expressed their disappointment with the party's failure to address their current plight effectively. The affected residents have directed their appeals to several high-profile figures, including: President Asif Ali Zardari, Chief Minister Sindh, Focal Person for Rain Emergency Faryal Talpur, President of PPP Badin District Jam Asghar Ali Halpuitu, Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti. The villagers are demanding urgent action to drain the water from their lands and end what they describe as "oppression of pride." Their calls for help underscore the severe impact of the flooding on their livelihoods and the urgent need for effective intervention by both local and provincial authorities. As the situation continues to develop, it is crucial for the concerned officials to address these grievances promptly to prevent further loss and provide relief to the affected communities.

Orientation Meeting Launches Project For Protection Of Women And Minorities' Rights In Upper Sindh

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: An orientation meeting for the newly launched project, "Protection of Rights of Women and Minorities in Northern Sindh," was held at the Bhitai Social Watch and Advocacy (BSWA) head office in Khairpur. The session was chaired by Meritorious Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yousuf Khushk, Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur. The meeting featured presentations by Fozia Hanif, Manager of Programs at BSWA, and Abdul Jabbar Khaskheli, Program Advisor at BSWA. They provided an overview of the project's key features and highlighted the various initiatives undertaken since 2013 in collaboration with Shah Abdul Latif University. The project, being implemented in partnership with the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC), Government of Sindh, and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), aims to create a platform for dialogue and strategy development on the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda in Sindh. The project seeks to challenge existing gender stereotypes and enhance women's participation in peace-building processes. It also aims to build community resilience against extremist tendencies and the impacts of climate change through innovative strategies. The first phase of the project will involve academic institutions forming a Consortium that includes: Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur, Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University (BNBWU) Sukkur, Aror University of Art, Architecture, Design & Heritage, Rohri. The Shaikh Ayaz University, Shikarpur. The University of Larkana. During the meeting, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yousuf Khushk praised the efforts of the BSWA team for their commitment to community service, engagement, and youth development. He commended Khadim Hussain Mirani, Executive Director of BSWA, and his team for their contributions to their close collaboration with Shah Abdul Latif University. Prof. Khushk assured continued support and dedication to the development and progress of the university. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur and BSWA for a two-year period. This agreement includes provisions for academic linkage, capacity building of youth, and the organization of seminars and training sessions. Notable attendees at the meeting included: Syed Ahmed Fawad Shah, Deputy Commissioner Khairpur. Prof. (Rtd.) Dr. Taj Muhammad Lashari, Academic Advisor at BSWA. Dr. Ali Raza Lashari, Assistant Professor and Focal Person of the Project. Habibullah Mallah, Board Member at BSWA. Ali Gul Mallah, Incharge DIB Khairpur. Waseem Gul, PA to Deputy Commissioner Waseem Kalohoro. The orientation meeting marked a significant step towards advancing women's and minorities' rights and fostering academic and community-based initiatives in Northern Sindh.



Police Clash With Accused's Relatives In Badin: SSP Vows To Maintain Law And Order

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In a significant escalation of a criminal case, the Badin police faced violent resistance from the relatives of an accused motorcycle thief on the Hyderabad-Badin main road. SSP Badin, Shiraz Nazir, addressed the situation, asserting that no one would be permitted to take the law into their own hands. This assertion follows a recent incident involving the arrest of John Muhammad, alias Janu Magasi, who was apprehended by the Matli police on charges of motorcycle theft. The theft case was registered at Matli police station based on the complaint filed by Sardar Kashmiri, a local resident of Matli. The accused, John Muhammad, had allegedly stolen a motorcycle from Sriwal Colony, an act witnessed firsthand by the plaintiff. As the Matli police were transporting the accused to the station, they were intercepted by the accused's relatives who forcibly rescued him from police custody. This act of defiance led to severe disruptions on the Hyderabad-Badin main road, causing considerable inconvenience to passengers and other road users. The situation escalated further when the Magasi community members reportedly fired at the police and threw stones, resulting in injuries to several officers. In response, the Matli police have registered cases against hundreds of individuals involved in obstructing justice and blocking the main highway.

So far, three suspects—Asif Magasi, Sohail Magasi, and Abdul Majeed Magasi—have been arrested in connection with the violent confrontation. SSP Shiraz Nazir emphasized that Badin is a district committed to maintaining peace, and the law enforcement agencies will not tolerate any form of lawlessness. The SSP assured that the Badin police are resolute in their commitment to uphold the rule of law and maintain public order. The department's morale remains high, and efforts to address criminal activities and ensure the safety of the community will continue unabated. The authorities are determined to restore order and hold those responsible for the violence accountable.

Two Bodies Recovered Near Khairpur In Separate Incidents

KHAIRPUR: Police in Khairpur recovered two bodies on Sunday from different locations, with one case involving a young man who appeared to have been tortured to death. In the first incident, the naked body of a young man identified as Darvesh, son of Sayed Fayaaz Shah, was discovered near the Sui Gas area. Authorities reported that Darvesh had been subjected to severe torture before being discarded in an open field. His body was subsequently transported to Taluka Hospital Tharimrah for a postmortem examination. Darvesh's father, Sayed Imdad Ali Shah, expressed profound grief and shock over the brutal murder, stating that his family had no known enemies. The family is struggling to come forward and assist with the investigation.—RT

Labourer Killed In Road Accident On National Highway Near Shikarpur

SHIKARPUR: A tragic road accident on the National Highway near Hamayoon, within the jurisdiction of Sultankot police station, resulted in the death of a labourer on Sunday. According to initial reports, the victim, identified as Zulfikar Ali Dayo, a resident of Sultankot, was struck by a speeding car while working near the highway. The collision was severe, and the body was handed over to the Zulfikar Ali Dayo family for burial. The incident has sparked outrage within the community, raising concerns about road safety and the need for stricter enforcement of traffic laws. Local residents are calling for immediate action to apprehend the driver responsible and to prevent similar tragedies in the future. The Sultankot police are continuing their investigation and are urging anyone with information about the accident or the whereabouts of the fleeing driver to come forward and assist with the inquiry.—RT



LARKANA: Activists and leaders of the Awami Tehreek are holding a protest demonstration against the amendment in the IRSA Act, at Jinnah Bagh-RT



HYDERABAD: Women naat khawan reciting Naat during Mehfil-e-Milad in connection with Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebrations organized by the Anjuman-e-Shediyah-e-Rasool (PBUH), at Latifabad No.10.-RT

NATIONAL



Punjab Information Minister: Imran Khan Won't Secure Release Through Power Displays

LAHORE: As the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prepares to flex its political muscle in Islamabad today, Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari claimed on Sunday that such power shows would bring the party's founder, Imran Khan, out of jail.



The major opposition party is set to hold a public rally in Sangiani, a locality of the federal capital, today, with convoys of loyalists led by senior PTI leaders arriving from various cities across the country.

"Today, they [PTI] are going to stage a drama in Islamabad," said Bokhari in a press conference, slamming the Imran-founded party's power show in the federal capital.

She added that such public gatherings and rallies would do nothing to release the incarcerated premier.

She said that the PTI

founder could only be released from jail via courts after facing cases against him. "There is neither an NRO for him nor will these power shows change anything," she added.

The provincial minister said that the government was not afraid of political events, however, "we are concerned about their [PTI] past activities."

She was referring to the violent protests that erupted after the ex-premier's arrest on May 9 last year in which government

President Honors 1965 War Naval Heroes



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday paying tribute to the Pakistan Navy on 'Navy Day', praised its role in the country's defense, the bravery of officers and personnel, and their sacrifices.

In a message on Navy Day, the president highlighted that the Pakistan Navy, during the 1965 war, proved its capabilities by conducting successful operations against the enemy.

The Pakistan Navy has full capability to deal with both traditional and non-traditional maritime challenges facing the country, the president added.

He emphasized that a strong navy was the guar-

antor of Pakistan's security and prosperity.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to further modernize and strengthen the Pakistan Navy, the president said the Pakistan Navy played a key role in national defense and promoting regional peace.

"The Pakistan Navy is always ready to defend Pakistan's maritime interests and territorial waters," he said the nation was proud of the bravery, dedication, and patriotism of the Pakistan Navy and its personnel, adding that the sacrifices of the heroes of the Pakistan Navy serve as a guiding light for the nation.—RT/Agency

Climate Change Advisor Advocates For Expanded Marine Protected Areas

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, on Sunday urged the Sindh and Balochistan governments to boost efforts to conserve marine ecosystems.



Following the recent declaration of Churna Island as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) by the Balochistan government, Romina Alam called for additional MPAs to be established to achieve the global target of protecting 30% of the ocean area by 2030.

Alam also praised the Balochistan government's move for the protection of Churna Island, stating it a "positive step towards protecting marine resources and promoting environmentally sustainable development."

Churna Island, known for its extensive coral habitats and biodiversity, is now Pak-

istan's second MPA. The island is home to over 50 species of corals, 250 species of fish, and numerous invertebrates and vertebrates.

She offered full support to the Balochistan government in conserving marine biodiversity and safeguarding the island's fragile ecosystem and diverse wildlife.

With over 5,000 MPAs globally, covering more than 8% of the ocean, the Coordi-

nator stressed the importance of adopting ecosystem-based management approaches to minimise human impacts and ensure sustainable use of marine resources. She highlighted the urgency of protecting marine ecosystems and wildlife from climate change and human activities, emphasizing the need for collective action and shared responsibility to address these environmental challenges.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Nazia Adalat Calls For Urgent Actions For Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.W) Celebrations

KARACHI: Renowned interfaith and social activist Nazia Adalat has issued a call for urgent arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.W) celebrations. In her appeal, she emphasized the need for immediate action to organize processions and rallies in key areas including Mehmoodabad, Azam Basti, Manzoor Colony, and Akhtar Colony, which are renowned for hosting large-scale events during the celebrations.

Nazia Adalat urged City Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, to address several critical is-



sues: repairing roads and procession routes, rectifying sewage lines, ensuring a continuous electricity supply, and implementing robust security measures. She also stressed the importance of providing additional facilities for re-

ception camps set up along the procession routes.

Recognizing the diverse community in these areas, which includes a significant Christian population, Adalat called on Catholic Bishop Benny Mario Travis, Bishop Frederick John of the Church of Pakistan, and Major Samuel John of the Salvation Army to encourage the Christian community's active participation in promoting religious harmony during the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.W) events. She urged them to issue directives to their congregations, fostering cooperation and support for the celebrations.—RT

FIA Dismantles International Human Trafficking Ring Operating In Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: In a joint operation, Pakistan's security agencies along with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Sunday reportedly busted an international human trafficking network, operating in the country, media reported.

Acting on intelligence reports, the FIA apprehended the group, scamming the citizens of the country by offering fake overseas jobs.

The gang stole billions of rupees and provide forged documents produced at their own printing press to the citizens aimed to settle abroad.

As per the FIA officials, the printing press created fake documents for various

countries, aiding those seeking the political asylum.

The group also included individuals from India and Afghanistan, meanwhile, the investigations revealed that the gang has connections to international criminal gangs and exposed an Indian plot to tarnish Pakistan's reputation.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi lauded the efforts of Pakistan's intelligence agencies and FIA Lahore on the successful operation, calling it a significant milestone to combat human trafficking.

He vowed to continue similar operations and pledged to tackle the human trafficking mafia with "iron hands"—RT/Agency

Nationwide Anti-Polio Vaccination Campaign Launches Today

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to launch a nationwide anti-polio campaign on September 9 (tomorrow), targeting children under five years of age.



The initiative aims to administer polio drops to millions of children to curb the spread of the disease.

In preparation for the major immunisation drive, several district administrations have already begun local polio vaccination efforts.

These drives set the stage for a larger campaign organised by the health department, scheduled for Monday.

In Punjab, the week-long campaign will focus on vaccinating 13.9 million children in key districts such as Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Faisalabad.

Other districts, including Attock, Chakwal, Multan, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, and others, will hold a five-day campaign to vaccinate children.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

has constituted over 35,000 polio teams to carry out door-to-door vaccinations, ensuring every child under five receives the polio drops.

In Sindh, the drive will span a week and aim to reach 9.4 million children across 30 districts, including Hyderabad. Meanwhile, in Balochistan, more than 11,000 teams have been formed for the week-long vaccination effort.

The Provincial Coordinator of the Emergency Operation Center has called on parents, media, and citizens to actively support the campaign to make it a success and protect the future generation from polio.

Islamabad has reported its first case of poliovirus in 16 years, bringing the total number of cases in Pakistan this year to 17, officials confirmed.

The newly reported case comes from Islamabad's Union Council Rural 4, near Sangiani Toll Plaza, according to the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio at the National Institute of Health. The victim is an eight-year-old boy, marking the city's first polio case since 2008.—RT/Agency

Saylani IT Training Alumni Pledge To Boost Pakistan's Economy With Overseas Earnings



KARACHI: Hundreds of alumni from Saylani Welfare International Trust's (SWIT) IT training program have pledged to bring their overseas earnings back to Pakistan to bolster the national economy and help address the country's debt crisis. This commitment was announced during the first-ever reunion of graduates at Mohatta Palace, Clifton, inaugurated by Turkish Consul General Cemal Sangu.

The event saw both physical and virtual attendance from graduates who completed the decade-long IT training program. SWIT's program, in collaboration with various partners including the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), aims to support the growth of Pakistan's IT sector and promote women's participation in tech.

SBP Support: Saleemullah, Deputy Governor of the State Bank of

Pakistan (SBP), highlighted the central bank's initiatives to facilitate freelancers by easing account opening procedures, allowing foreign currency holdings, and issuing debit cards for foreign currency accounts. He expressed SBP's commitment to enhancing Pakistan's software export sector.

Turkish Support: Consul General Cemal Sangu emphasized Turkey's readiness to support Pakistani youth through higher education, employment, and business opportunities, fostering greater collaboration between the two nations.

Industrialist Insights: Muhammad Ali Tabba, a renowned industrialist, advocated for increased government support for mass IT education programs and urged alumni to establish large IT companies. Fayzal Bank CEO Yousuf Husain emphasized the importance of IT professionals in advancing digital banking.

SWIT's Vision: SWIT

Maryam Asserts Efforts Are Ongoing To Provide Public Relief



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said that every possible measure is being taken to provide relief to the public, media reported.

Talking to citizens at a roadside tea stall, on her return from School Nutrition Program launching ceremony in DG Khan, she said price hike has now been lowered and edible items including flour, sugar, oil, pulses and vegetables become cheaper.

She said PML-N President Nawaz Sharif is seriously concerned about costly electricity bills and federal and Punjab governments are striving hard to provide further relief to the public in this regard.

Its worth mentioning here that, former Prime Minister and PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif has announced a major relief for electricity con-

sumers in Punjab, with focus on providing relief to low-income households.

The PML-N supreme stated that consumers using up to 500 units of electricity will receive a relief of Rs 14 per unit.

Sharif praised Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz for her efforts in providing relief to the people and announced that she will be launching a solar panel scheme to provide further relief.

He added that the Punjab government has allocated Rs 700 billion for the solar panel scheme, which will help further reduce electricity bills in the future.

The relief package includes a relief of Rs 14 per unit for consumers using up to 500 units, which will cost the Punjab government Rs 45 billion.—RT/Agency

Two Brothers Of SHO Killed In Lakki Marwat Attack

LAKKI MARWAT: Two brothers of a police Station House Officer were killed by unidentified gunman in Abkhal village of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province's Lakki Marwat district.



According to the police, terrorists targeted the SHO's residence and opened fire. Two of the police officials brothers, one of whom was himself a police constable, were standing outside the house when it came under attack.

The assailants managed to escape from the scene.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

The police official is reported to have received no recent threats from terrorists or militants recently. Recently there has been an uptick in violence in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and southern Balochistan province.

In response to the escalating violence, the military has intensified its operations, killing 21 suspected militants and thwarting a major attack

between between the two.

Majority of the recent high impact attacks originated from Afghanistan involving Afghan nationals and modern weapons left by US forces during their chaotic withdrawal in 2021.

The incumbent government also blames PTI government's 2022 change in policies for the surge of violence and terrorism in the country recently pointing out that 102 hardened criminals were freed from jails who were involved in killing school children and disgracing Pakistani flag in Malakand.—RT/Agency

Aurangzeb Claims Critics Of NAB Amendment Law Now Seeking Its Relief

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Marriyum Aurangzeb had berated her political opponent Imran Khan.



She gave a response on the filing of an acquittal application by Imran Khan in 190 million pounds reference and seeking relief from new NAB law.

She stressed that those attacking the state by planning would not provide any relief and they would be held accountable whether they hold public gatherings, and whine

They would not get NRO, she insisted.

PML-N leader Imran Khan, who labelled the NAB Law a 'law for thieves', had now filed for relief under this law.

She highlighted that this person wanted to escape through NRO who maligned others and was watch, Toshakhana thief and culprit of 190 million pounds.

Marriyum Aurangzeb stated that Imran Khan begged for NRO daily but didn't seek apology. PML-N recalled that they faced an ordeal and became the victim of his revenge but never begged for NRO, even they appeared in courts and remained in prisons.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Monday, September 09, 2024



Safeguarding Interprovincial Harmony: The Irsa Law Debate

The recent proposed amendments to the Irsa law, which would alter the composition and authority of the Indus River System Authority, pose a significant threat to Pakistan's interprovincial harmony. Given the country's scarce water resources, any changes in the mechanisms of water distribution must be handled with extreme caution. The Water Apportionment Accord of 1991, designed to allocate water fairly among provinces, is critical to Pakistan's survival as a federation. Tinkering with this delicate balance risks deepening distrust between provinces, especially between Sindh and Punjab.

Proposals to shift control over Irsa from provincial representatives to the federal government could erode the authority of

stirred.

Pakistan's unity as a federation depends heavily on fair resource distribution, particularly when it comes to water, which is the lifeblood of its agricultural economy. Irsa must continue to function as a democratic and federal institution, representing the interests of all provinces. The proposed changes could fuel interprovincial discord and jeopardize the fragile cooperation that is essential for the country's development. It is crucial for the government to reconsider its approach, engage in open dialogue with stakeholders, and work towards a solution that fosters harmony, not division.



the provinces in water-sharing matters. This has already sparked concerns in Sindh, where many fear that the changes will unfairly benefit Punjab, potentially diverting water for large-scale farming projects. The opposition from farmers and civil society in Sindh is a clear indication of the level of anxiety these amendments have

GLOBAL WATCH

Russian Military Drone Crashes On NATO Territory, Says Latvia

Riga: Latvia's president on Sunday said a Russian military drone had crashed on its territory, adding that airspace breaches had increased along NATO's eastern borders.



The Baltic state, which was once ruled by the Soviet Union but is now an EU and NATO member, has had tense relations with Moscow following independence, and ties have further deteriorated since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

A "Russian military drone... crashed in the eastern part of Latvia yesterday. There is an ongoing investigation," said Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics said on X.

"We are in close contact with our allies. The number of such incidents is increasing along the eastern flank of NATO and we must address them collectively," he added.

Latvia's defence ministry said in a statement that the drone had flown into the country's airspace from Belarus and crashed in the municipality of Rezekne.

"This situation is a confirmation that we

need to continue the work we have started to strengthen Latvia's eastern border, including the development of air defence capabilities and electronic warfare capabilities to limit the activities of UAVs of different applications," said Defence Minister Andris Spruds.

Fellow NATO member Romania also on Sunday said a Russian attack drone targeting civilian infrastructure in neighbouring Ukraine overnight had entered its airspace.

Bucharest strongly condemned the "renewed violation" brought on by Moscow's "illegal attacks".

Since launching its invasion, Russia has repeatedly carried out night attacks on cities across

Ukraine, frequently targeting ports in the southern Odessa region after exiting a grain export deal.

Poland has also recorded at least two cases of its airspace being violated by Russian missiles or drones attacking Ukraine, most recently in December.

Warsaw late last month declared that a flying object had intruded into its airspace but later backtracked on the claim. In an interview with the Financial Times published last week, Polish Foreign Minister Dariusz Sikorski said Warsaw should have the right to shoot down Russian missiles targeting Ukraine before they enter Polish airspace, despite NATO opposition.—Agency

Elon Musk now controls 62% of Earth's active satellites after latest Starlink launch



Elon Musk has solidified his dominance in space, with nearly two-thirds of all active satellites now under his control.

This development follows the launch of SpaceX's 7,000th Starlink satellite, bringing the total number of active satellites to 6,370.

SpaceX's internet satellite constellation, Starlink, has been expanding at an impressive rate, with an average of three satellites launched per day since its inception in 2019.

According to data from non-profit satellite tracker Celestrak, SpaceX now controls over 62 percent of the world's operational satellites.

This number is nearly ten times the amount operated by its closest competitor, OneWeb, a UK-based company that became reliant on SpaceX after the Russian in-

vasion of Ukraine forced it to abandon launches with Russia's Soyuz.

The Starlink constellation, designed to provide high-speed internet and phone connectivity worldwide, currently operates in 102 countries and serves over three million customers.

SpaceX plans to launch up to 42,000 satellites in total, extending coverage to more countries. Afghanistan, China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Syria are excluded from the list due to trade embargoes and internet restrictions, but reports have surfaced of illegal Starlink equipment entering restricted regions like Iran.

Musk recently highlighted his control of the satellite network, tweeting "Starlink now constitutes roughly 2/3 of all active Earth satellites."—Agency

THE HEARTLAND

Prof. Engineer Abdul Aleem Khanzada Emphasizes Youth Education And Skill Development On World Literacy Day

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: On World Literacy Day, Member of the National Assembly Prof. Engineer Abdul Aleem Khanzada highlighted the crucial role of educated and skilled youth in Pakistan's development. As a prominent figure from MQM and a member of the Standing Committee on Federal Education, Vocational Training, National Heritage, and Aviation, Prof. Khanzada emphasized that the future of Pakistan depends significantly on its youth, who constitute more than half of the country's population.



In his message, Prof. Khanzada underscored that for Pakistan to secure a prominent position on the global stage, it is imperative that every young person is both educated and skilled. He expressed his commitment to providing opportunities for students and youth through collaboration with provincial governments.

"In today's globalized world, information tech-

nology offers unprecedented opportunities for advancement," Prof. Khanzada noted. He stressed that a welfare and progressive society can only be achieved through the empowerment of educated, talented, and skilled individuals. He also pointed out that enhancing general and vocational education for boys and girls is essential for addressing societal challenges and fostering development.

To further this goal, Prof. Khanzada advocated for the estab-

lishment of a robust monitoring system and emphasized the need for meritocracy in educational institutions. "We must ensure that our talent is not wasted and make education up to matriculation compulsory for every child in Pakistan," he added.

The message reflects a commitment to improving literacy rates and providing modern educational facilities to foster a well-educated and skilled workforce, crucial for the nation's progress.

CIA, MI6 chiefs warn world order facing greatest threat since Cold War

LONDON: CIA Director Bill Burns and UK MI6 chief Richard Moore warned on Saturday that the world order "was under threat in a way we haven't seen since the Cold War".



Writing in a Financial Times op-ed, the two spy chiefs said "we have no more trusted or esteemed allies" than each other, adding that the partnership would be vital as they "face an unprecedented array of threats", chiefly from Russia, China and in the Middle East.

The ongoing conflict in Gaza is of particular concern, and Burns later told an FT conference in London that he was "working hard" with Egyptian and Qatari mediators to refine a framework for a ceasefire.

"We will make this more detailed proposal, I hope, in the next several days," he added.

The United States and UK are among the leading financial and military supporters of Ukraine in its resistance to the Russian invasion

launched in February 2022.

"Staying the course is more vital than ever," they wrote in the op-ed. "We continue to work together to disrupt the reckless campaign of sabotage across Europe being waged by Russian intelligence."

The pair also explained how they were now using advanced AI and cloud technologies to harness the vast troves of data they collect.

The joint article comes days before UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to Washington on September 13,

where he will be received by US President Joe Biden.

They will discuss, among other things, "continuing robust support to Ukraine" and the desire to achieve a truce in Gaza, the White House said on Friday.

This meeting takes place at a time when the two nations' stance on Israel is diverging. Biden has announced the suspension of 30 arms export licences to Israel, citing a risk that they could be used in violation of international law in war-destroyed Gaza.—Agency

Eight bodies retrieved from rubble of collapsed building in India



NEW DELHI: Indian rescuers pulled out eight bodies Sunday from the wreckage of a three-storey building in the city of Lucknow, reports said, with the state minister calling the deaths "heart breaking".

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency broadcast images of piles of concrete, and state rescue teams with heavy digging machines searching for bodies.

as a vehicle workshop — collapsed on Saturday afternoon.

PTI quoted officials as saying eight bodies had been pulled out, and 28 people were injured.

It was not clear if there were others still trapped. The cause of the collapse is not known, but building and construction accidents are common during India's June-September monsoon season, with old and rickety structures buckling under days of non-stop rain.—Agency

Government Boys Degree College Nawabshah Commemorates Defence Day With Zeal

By Samad Ayaz

NAWABSHAH: The Defence Day of Pakistan was observed with great reverence at the Government Boys Degree College Nawabshah, under the guidance of Principal Muzamil Zahoor Gujjar. The event took place with notable figures including Regional Director Colleges Prof. Dr. Saifullah Joyo, District President of PPP Salim Khan Zardari, and other distinguished guests in attendance.



The ceremony commenced with a series of heartfelt tributes to the Martyrs of Defence Day.

The college's students took center stage, showcasing their patriotic fervor through a variety of performances.

These included tableaux depicting historical events, inspiring speeches, and renditions of national songs, all contributing to a moving tribute to the nation's heroes.

The event concluded with an award ceremony where certificates and trophies were presented to students for their outstanding contributions and performances.

This recognition aimed at encouraging students to embrace and honor the values of patriotism and sacrifice. The observance not only highlighted the significance of Defence Day but also reinforced the spirit of national unity and pride among the students and attendees.

The ceremony was well-received and appreciated for its educational and emotional impact, serving as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the nation's heroes.

SPORTS



Pakistan-Malaysia opening match ties in Asian Champions Trophy



HULUNBUIR: The hockey match between Pakistan and Malaysia tied in the Asian Champions Trophy on Sunday, with two goals apiece.

Pakistan failed to convert a 2-0 lead into victory in the tournament at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, China. Nadeem Ahmed and Su-fyan Khan scored goals for the Green Shirts.

Neither team had any goal by the end of the opening quarter. It was thanks to Su-fyan that Pakistan gained the lead. Then, Nadeem's goal put Pakistan further in the commanding position in the third quarter, until Malaysia scored the first goal through a penalty corner and Aiman Rozemi helped Malaysia level the game just five minutes ahead of its conclusion.

Pakistan must be disappointed with the final result, particularly after the 2-0 lead. Pakistan's Anam Butt received the Player of the Match award, a memento and a \$200 cheque.

Pakistan's Asian Champions Trophy Itinerary

- vs South Korea - September 9
- vs Japan - September 11
- vs China - September 12
- vs India - September 14

The Asian Champions Trophy's eighth edition kicked off on Sunday (today) in China. Six teams will contest against each other in a round-robin format before four teams, which are slated for September 16. Whereas, the third-place playoff match and the final will take place on September 17.—Agency

Shaheen Afridi aims to lead Lions 'from front' in Champions One-Day Cup

FAISALABAD: Left-arm pacer Shaheen Afridi has expressed his aim to lead the Lions from the front with his performances both with the bat and the ball during the upcoming Champions One-Day Cup.

The five-team tournament will be played at Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad from 12-29 September. This 50-over tournament will be played in a single-league format.

Shaheen Afridi, the two-time Pakistan Super League (PSL) winning captain, reflected on what lies ahead for both him and his team as they enter the tournament under the mentorship of former Pakistan captain



Waqar Younis.

"Leading the Lions will be a thrilling experience for me, especially given the high stakes of the Champions One-Day Cup and the presence of several young and exciting players on our roster," said Shaheen.

"I look forward to giving my best to the team - with the ball, the bat, and through my leadership throughout the tournament."

Shaheen fondly recalled his debut in the domestic One-Day Cup back in 2018, when he burst onto the scene as a teenage prodigy.

"I have great memories of playing the

One-Day Cup in Faisalabad as an 18-year-old in 2018. Returning here as captain with a wealth of international experience feels surreal. I'm committed to helping create memorable experiences for all the young players on our team."

Speaking about the intensity of the competition, Shaheen emphasized the importance of preparation in the Champions One-Day Cup. "Our opening game is against a strong Stallions squad, which shows the level of competition we will face game after game. That's why I firmly believe our preparations must be spot-on so we can hit the ground running."—Agency

Record-breaking Iranian javelin thrower stripped of Paralympic gold over display of 'religious' flag



PARIS: Beit Sayah set a new Paralympic record in the men's javelin F11 category at the Paris Paralympics 2024 with a throw of 47.64 meters.

The Iranian para-athlete celebrated his victory by showing a religious flag, which led to his disqualification from the games.

This turn of events altered the medal standings, upgrading the silver medal of India's Navdeep Singh to gold.

Beit Sayah told reporters that he had displayed a religious flag during his victory celebration at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games without any issues.

Indian para-athlete Navdeep Singh's silver medal in the men's javelin throw F11 was then upgraded to gold.

This victory marks India's first-ever gold medal in the F11 men's javelin category.

Navdeep Singh, a 23-year-old athlete from Haryana, achieved a personal best of 47.32m, securing the top spot in the competition.

Navdeep, who competes in the classification meant for athletes of short stature, originally ended with a silver after he upstaged world record holder Sun Pengxiang of China with a 47.32m throw.

However, that was upgraded to an unprecedented gold after Sadeq's disqualification. Pengxiang (44.72m) finished with a silver.

Sayah had managed to nose ahead of the field with a new Paralympic record of 47.64m in his penultimate throw but lost the medal owing to his antics.

Social media users and prominent political and cultural figures in Iran criticized the decision to disqualify Beit Sayah, saying the athlete was right to express his religious enthusiasm after winning the gold medal.—Agency

Mohammad Haris vows to uphold Stallions' legacy in Champions Cup

FAISALABAD: Wicket-keeper batter Mohammad Haris on Sunday stated that he is honoured to lead the Stallions side in the upcoming Champions One-Day Cup, which will be played at the Iqbal Stadium from 12-29 September.

The Stallions will kick off their tournament campaign against Shaheen Afridi's Lions on Friday, 13 September, with the match scheduled to begin at 3 pm (local time).

Mohammad Haris assessed his squad as being particularly strong and is fully aware of the high expectations as the tournament gets underway.

"It is an honour to lead the star-studded Stallions



and resources we have at our disposal, I assure you that we will entertain both the crowds in the stadium and the television audiences during the tournament."

Haris is also mindful of the challenges ahead, given the high-calibre competition in the Champions One-Day Cup, which features some of the best players in the country.

"The Champions One-Day Cup is exciting in every sense. All the teams are strong, the conditions are challenging, and the 50-over format will truly test our abilities. I hope the fans in Faisalabad come out in large numbers to enjoy the tournament."—Agency

Malik and the team over the years in various domestic seasons.

He aimed to uphold that legacy by setting high standards as they prepare for their first of four league matches on 13 September.

"The Stallions have a rich legacy of winning in Pakistan's domestic cricket. With the talent

'Super proud' Sabalenka downs Pegula to win US Open thriller



NEW YORK: Aryna Sabalenka said she felt "super proud" to win the US Open and claim her third Grand Slam crown with a thrilling victory over a gallant Jessica Pegula in a rollercoaster final.

World number two Sabalenka triumphed 7-5, 7-5 to add the New York title to her back-to-back Australian Open victories.

Pegula went down fighting, however, recovering from 0-3 and break point down to lead 5-3 in the second set before Sabalenka came through.

The 26-year-old from Belarus clubbed 40 winners to become the first woman since Angelique Kerber in 2016 to capture both hard-court majors in the same season.

"I remember all those tough losses in the past here and it's going to sound easy but never give up on your dream and just keep trying, keep working hard," said Sabalenka, the runner-up last year and semi-finalist in 2022 and 2023.

"I'm speechless right now. So many times I thought I

'It's the right time': England's Moeen Ali retires from international cricket

ENGLAND: England batting all-rounder Moeen Ali on Sunday announced retirement from international cricket, saying that he has done his part and its now time for him to step down.

The 37-year-old, who was not selected in the national squad for series against Australia, announced his retirement from all formats of the game.

He had already stepped down from the longest format of the game in September 2021.

"I'm very proud. When you first play for England, you don't know how many games you're going to play.



So to play nearly 300. My first few years were all about Test cricket," said Moeen while speaking to Daily Mail.

"Even now, I've tried to be realistic. I could hold on and try to play for England again, but I know in reality I won't. Even retiring, I don't feel it's because I'm not good enough - I still feel I can play. But I get how things are, and the team needs to evolve into another cycle. It's about being real to myself."

"People forget the impact

you make in games. It might only have been 20 or 30, but it was a crucial 20 or 30. For me, it was about making an impact. I know what I brought to the side, on and off the field," said Moeen.

He added that he was happy as long as he felt people enjoyed watching him play whether or not he did well.

Moeen Ali represented England in 68 Tests, 138 one-day internationals (ODIs) and 92 T20is.

However, the cricketer will continue playing franchise cricket. He also hopes to coach in the future.—Agency

Affan Salman leads Pakistan to fifth World Youth Scrabble Championship Title



COLOMBO: Pakistan's Affan Salman became the World Youth Scrabble Champion in Sri Lanka. The 16-year-old won 19 out of 23 games during the championship.

Pakistan is the first country to win the WYSC in this many times. A total of 138 players from around the world participated in the championship.

The first World Youth Scrabble Championships were held in Wollongong, Australia 2006. Competitors from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, England, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates and United States have competed in the annual tournament so far.

WYSC is open to anyone under the age of 18 on January 1 of the year of each tournament. So far the WYSC tournament has been held in Malaysia five times, Australia twice, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and the United Kingdom once each.—Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Aqeel Abbasi
Location: Karachi
About me: I love modeling!

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

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Nicole Kidman 'shocked' by mother's death hours before Venice film award



Nicole Kidman arrived in Venice to receive prestigious award at the Film Festival.

However, just hours before the award ceremony, it was announced that her beloved mother, Janelle, had passed away at the age of 83.

As per DailyMail, Kidman was seen arriving in good spirits, wearing a smart light grey suit, white T-shirt, cap, and dark shades.

In a statement read by her director, Halina Reijn, Kidman expressed her grief and dedication to her late mother.

"Today I arrived in Venice to find out shortly after, that my beautiful, brave mother Janelle Ann Kidman has just passed," statement

Jennifer Lopez reveals struggles while filming Ben Affleck's 'Unstoppable'



Jennifer Lopez, who will soon star in estranged husband Ben Affleck's co-produced film Unstoppable, revealed that she struggled filming the upcoming film.

The 55-year-old actress, who recently attended the premiere of her forthcoming movie at the 2024 TIFF, told People magazine, "I struggled on the set a couple of times. I was like, 'Ugh, too close.'"

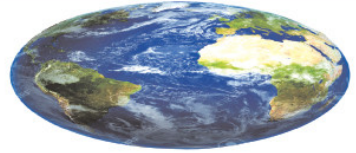
The Atlas actress then explained that the reason behind struggling was "the character traits and development," which "hit too close to home."

"Women who are moms who get in relationships and you struggle with them, and you find yourself in dynamics that are not healthy, but you care about the person, love the person!" the On The Floor hit-maker explained, adding that that's those complicated dynamics about life that she understood really well.

In forthcoming movie, Jennifer plays the role of Judy Robles, a mother of NCAA wrestling national champion Anthony Robles, played by Jharrel Jerome.

Unstoppable had its premiere in the Special Presentations section at the Toronto International Film Festival on September 6, 2024, followed by a theatrical release in December 2024.

GLOBAL WATCH



Bangladesh To Extradite Sheikh Hasina From India, Try Her On Mass Killing Charge

Dhaka: Bangladesh will take necessary steps to extradite deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India to try her on charges of mass killings during the student-led mass movement against her government, the newly-appointed chief prosecutor of the country's International Crimes Tribunal said on Sunday.



Following unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India. Necessary steps will be taken to bring former prime minister Hasina back under the extradition treaty with India to try her on charges of mass killings during the student-led protests in July and August. International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam was quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper. "We will file an application with the International Crimes Tribunal, when it resumes functions, to issue arrest warrants against all the accused including Sheikh Hasina in connection with the cases filed for mass killing and crimes against humanity," he said at a press briefing on the ICT premises in Dhaka. Replying to a question, he said a decision would be taken after consulting with the government about amendments to the existing International Crimes Tribunal Act for holding trial of the new cases filed with it. "Information, documents and evidence against the accused persons will have to be collected from across the country and those will have to be compiled, examined and placed properly before the tribunal, which is very much challenging and huge task," Islam added. According to the interim government's Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum, more than 1,000 people have been killed and hundreds injured during the protests against the Hasina-led government. Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) last month launched an investigation against Hasina and nine others on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity that took place from July 15 to August 5 during the students' mass movement. Islam said the International Crimes Tribunal and its investigation team will have to be reconstituted by appointing new judges and investigators as previous judges, prosecution team and investigation agency appointed by the previous government have stepped down after the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was formed in the country following the fall of the Hasina-led government. — Agency

Trump threatens action against 2020 election 'cheaters' in latest campaign speech

Former US President Donald Trump threatened to target those who "cheated" in the 2020 presidential election if he wins the race to the White House in November.



Trump, who lost to Joe Biden in 2020, claims the vote was fraudulent and rigged against him. "The 2024 Election, where Votes have just started being cast, will be under the closest professional scrutiny and, WHEN I WIN, those people that CHEATED will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law, which will include long term prison sentences so that this Depravity of Justice does not happen again," the former president wrote on his social media platform Truth Social. "Please beware that this legal exposure extends to Lawyers, Political Operatives, Donors, Illegal Voters, & Corrupt Election Officials. Those involved in unscrupulous behaviour will be sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels, unfortunately, never seen before in our Country."

Vice President Kamala Harris and Trump will take the stage next week in the only planned debate between the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates. Both are locked in a tight race, especially in the crucial swing states needed to win the election.— Agency

Typhoon Yagi weakens after killing 14 in Vietnam

Asia's most powerful typhoon this year, Yagi, has killed 14 people in Vietnam and injured 176 others after making landfall in the country, as per Vietnamese state media.



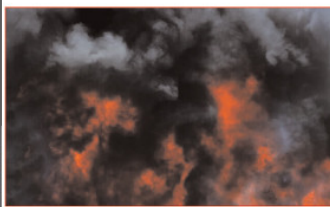
The Super Typhoon has now downgraded to a tropical depression, still, the authorities have alerted about risks of flooding and landslides as the storm moves towards the west.

The Indo-Pacific Tropical Cyclone Warning Center stated that the storm hit Hai Phong and Quang Ninh provinces in Vietnam with high winds of up to 203km/h (126mph). Yagi lifted roofs and uprooted trees in the country's capital, Hanoi, leading to power outages in the region, according to BBC.

Vietnamese official media reported that three people were killed due to the storm in northern Quang Ninh province on Saturday and another person died in Hai Duong. BBC also reports that four family members died in a landslide incident amid Yagi's landfall in the Hoa Binh province, a mountainous region, around midnight.

Several areas of the port city, Hai Phong, were submerged under 1 ft of floodwaters on Sunday as Yagi swept the town, damaging power lines and electrical poles, AFP reports. The city, housing two million people, faced the brunt of the storm with prolonged power outages. Over 50,000 residents from coastal areas of Vietnam as authorities emphasised and issued a warning to remain indoors as the typhoon raged in the country, BBC states. Calm returned on Sunday morning to Hanoi, a city of 8.5 million, after heavy winds and rains overnight caused widespread damage, leaving toppled trees scattered across the city centre and other neighbourhoods. Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport, the busiest in northern Vietnam, reopened after closing on Saturday morning, state media said. The government said Yagi had caused waves up to 4m (13 feet) high in coastal provinces, where rescue operation for those missing as sea was expected to start on Sunday when conditions allow.— Agency

48 Killed After Fuel Truck Explodes In Nigeria After Collision With Vehicle



Nigeria: At least 48 people were killed on Sunday in a fuel tanker truck explosion following a collision with another vehicle in north-central Nigeria, the state's disaster management agency said.

The State Emergency Management Agency in north-central Niger state said the fuel truck collided with a truck carrying travellers and cattle. Several other vehicles were also caught up in the accident, it said. The agency's spokesperson Hussaini Ibrahim put the death count at 48 and officials were still trying to clear the scene of the incident. Nigeria's state-owned firm NNPC Ltd last week hiked the price of gasoline by at least 39%, the second major increase in more than a year but shortages have continued, forcing motorists to queue for hours in the country's major cities and towns.— Agency

"We Are Afraid": Israeli Strike Kills Gaza Civil Emergency Service Director

Cairo: An Israeli airstrike on a house in Jabalia on Sunday killed Mohammad Morsi, deputy director of the Gaza Civil Emergency Service in the northern areas of the Gaza Strip, and four of his family, health officials said.



The Civil Emergency Service said in a statement that Morsi's death raised to 83 the number of its members killed by Israeli fire since Oct 7.

There was no immediate Israeli comment on Morsi's death. Residents said Israeli forces had also blown up several houses in the Zeitoun suburb of Gaza City 5 km from Jabalia. Medical teams said they were unable to answer desperate calls by some of the residents who had reported being trapped inside their houses, some wounded. "We hear constant bombing in Zeitoun, we know they are blowing up houses there, we don't sleep because of the sounds of explosions, the roaring of tanks sound close and the drones don't stop circling," said one resident of Gaza City, who lives around 1 km away.

"The occupation is wiping out Zeitoun, we are afraid about the people trapped in there," he told Reuters via a chat app, refusing to be named. Later on Sunday, the Gaza health ministry said Israeli military strikes across the enclave killed at least 15 people. Residents of central and southern Gaza areas reported interruption in internet and communication services, which the Palestinian Telecommunication Company said was because of "the ongoing (Israeli) aggression."

Palestinians say internet and communication outages, the first in months, impact the ability of medical staffers to dispatch ambulances to bombed areas and make it difficult for people to check on their relatives or report attacks. Israel and Hamas continued to blame one another for the failure of mediators, including Qatar, Egypt and the U.S., to broker a ceasefire. The U.S. is preparing to present a new proposal, but the prospects of a breakthrough appear dim as gaps between the sides' positions remain large. Meanwhile on Sunday the United Nations, in collaboration with local health authorities, extended by a day a campaign to vaccinate children in the southern Gaza Strip against polio before it moves on Monday to the north. The campaign aims to vaccinate 640,000 children in Gaza after its first polio case in around 25 years. Limited pauses in the fighting have allowed the campaign to proceed. U.N. officials said they were making progress, having reached more than half of the children needing the drops in the first two stages in the southern and central Gaza Strip. A second round will be required four weeks after the first. The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict was triggered on Oct 7 when the Hamas group attacked Israel, killing 1,200 and taking about 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.— Agency

Chinese Man Dies From Organ Failure After Working For 104 Days With Only 1 Day Off

In a tragic incident that highlights the devastating effects of overwork, a 30-year-old Chinese man died from organ failure after a grueling 104-day work stretch with only one day of rest. According to the South China Morning Post, the man identified as A'bao, who worked as a painter, contracted a pneumococcal infection leading to his death in June 2023. Notably, A'bao had entered into a contractual agreement with a company in February last year, committing to work on a project until January of this year.



Following the signing of the contract, A'bao was assigned to a work project located in Zhoushan, a city in the eastern Chinese province of Zhejiang. He then embarked on an exhausting work schedule, working every day for 104 consecutive days from February to May last year, with only one day of rest on April 6. On May 25, he finally took a sick day, feeling unwell and spending the day resting in his dormitory. However, his condition rapidly deteriorated, and by May 28, he had to be rushed to the hospital by his colleagues. Doctors diagnosed him with a lung infection and respiratory failure. He died on June 1. After his death, his family filed a lawsuit against his employer, alleging gross negligence. The legal action came after social security officials controversially ruled that A'bao's death could not be classified as a work-related injury, citing the timing of his death as the reason. However, his family argued that the prolonged period of excessive work and lack of rest contributed directly to A'bao's death. Meanwhile, the company also claimed that A'bao's workload was reasonable and that any additional hours worked were voluntary. Further, the company shifted the blame to A'bao's pre-existing health conditions and alleged that his failure to seek timely medical attention aggravated his situation. However, a Chinese court ruled in favour of the painter's family, holding A'bao's employer 20% liable for his death. The court found that A'bao died from multiple organ failure due to a pneumococcal infection, often linked to a weakened immune system.— Agency

China Woman Claims Her Son Developed Vitiligo After Being Slapped By Teacher



A woman in China has claimed that her 11-year-old son, Liu, developed vitiligo, a condition causing white patches on the skin, after being slapped by his teacher. The teacher's harsh punishment was for not completing his mathematics homework, the South China Morning Post reported. Liu, a student at Yifu Primary School, told his mother that his teacher humiliated him by bringing him to the front of the classroom, and then slapped him three times on the right side of his face and once on the left.

Following the incident, Liu's mother surnamed Huang, noticed severe swelling on her son's face and took him to the hospital for medical attention. Three months after the incident, Liu began to exhibit a distressing physical symptom: the loss of pigmentation in certain areas of his skin. Although the exact causes of vitiligo are still not fully understood, research suggests that environmental stress factors, such as physical or emotional trauma, may play a role in triggering the onset of the condition. The school is currently awaiting the outcome of a police investigation and a forensic injury assessment, which will inform their decision on disciplinary actions against the teacher responsible for the incident. The teacher's identity, including their gender, has not been disclosed.

Meanwhile, Liu's mother has expressed frustration at being unable to contact the teacher or receive reimbursement for her son's medical expenses, despite the hospital having sent the bill to the teacher. Research from the National Institutes of Health reveals that individuals with vitiligo are more likely to experience anxiety or depression. On social media, the incident has sparked outrage and many users demanded strict punishment against the teacher. One user wrote, "How could a teacher hurt a student so badly without receiving any punishment for three months?" Another said, "Slapping a boy in the face is a step too far." Notably, China's law bans teachers from inflicting corporal punishments on students. However, incidents of teachers abusing students continue to be a massive problem. Last year, a nine-year-old girl underwent emergency surgery for a severely damaged skull, after a teacher allegedly used a metal ruler to hit her on the head. The teacher, identified as Song Mouming, was employed at Bocai Meixihu Primary School in Hunan province, central China. He was arrested by the local police after the incident.— Agency

NATIONAL

Lahore Police Identify Suspect In Javed Butt Murder Case

LAHORE: A huge development has emerged in Javed Butt murder case, as the police identified the shooter allegedly involved in the Javed Butt, the brother-in-law of Taifi Butt, murder case in Lahore, media reported on Sunday.

The police made CCTV footage public in which the alleged shooter can be seen riding a motorbike after the incident. The police officials disclosed that the shooter, wearing a helmet, parked his motorcycle, boarded a rickshaw to approach Javed Butt's car, and opened multiple fire which resulted in the death of the victim.

The investigation team claimed that the shooter was aged between 60-65 years old and had a white beard, meanwhile, the police stated that the investigation team is currently obtaining all the relevant information about the shooter before taking action. It is worth mentioning

here that Javed Butt, the brother-in-law of Taifi Butt, the main suspect in the murder of Ameer Balaj, was shot dead in Lahore. As per the details, the incident occurred near the underpass on Kunal Road in the Ichhra area of Lahore, where motorcyclists opened fire on his car. Javed Butt, a resident of Iqbal Town, was killed in the attack, while his wife sustained serious injuries and was taken to the hospital for immediate medical attention.—RT/Agency

Roof Collapse At Madrasa Results In Two Deaths And Ten Injuries

HARIPUR: The newly constructed roof of a girls' madrasa located in Model Town collapsed, resulting in the death of two female students and two others, media reported on Sunday.

The injured have been moved to the week ago and even the trauma center, where an emergency has been opened. Rescued 1122 is conducting a search operation in the debris, and efforts to remove the debris are underway.—RT/Agency

MONEY

Rupee Faces Potential Pressure Amid Uncertainty Over IMF Bailout

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee is anticipated to face pressure, potentially exceeding 279 per dollar due to uncertainties surrounding the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) loan programme, a report said.



The government is exploring various options to bridge the external financing gap, crucial to obtaining final approval for a \$7 billion loan from the IMF. Rollovers pose a significant challenge for the government. In addition to ongoing negotiations with bilateral partners, the government is actively seeking commercial loans from international banks and investors. The finance minister is tasked with a difficult job of closing the funding gap at favourable rates within a limited timeframe to ensure timely approval from the IMF board. Although the government is still optimistic that funding can be obtained soon, any further delays in the loan programme could cause financial markets to become uneasy. The rupee witnessed

some fluctuations in the interbank market this week. On Monday, the local currency finished at 278.64 per dollar, on Wednesday, it ended at 278.76 after further declines. On Friday, though, it gained momentum and closed at 278.50 to the dollar. "The rupee will benefit from the 9% drop in oil with Brent trading around the \$71 level," said Tresmak in a client note. "Going forward, the outlook looks stable for the rupee but its likelihood of breaching 279/\$ at any point has increased due to uncertainty around the IMF programme. For now, forward traders are expecting a 100-basis point interest rate drop due to a notable decline in inflation.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Munam Zafar is addressing a press conference, at University road.—RT

Sindh Home Minister Inspects First Model Car For Safe City Project



KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar inspected the first model car equipped with advanced cameras and surveillance tools on Sunday, marking the launch of the Safe City Project. This initiative, spearheaded by the Sindh government, is designed to enhance security and crime monitoring in Karachi. Accompanied by the provincial Home Secretary, Lanjar announced that four model cars will begin patrolling Shahrah-e-Faisal as part of the project's initial phase. Ultimately, a total of 123 model cars will be deployed for comprehensive citywide surveillance. "The Safe City Project will be a vital tool in ensuring safety and protecting citizens," Lanjar stated. "The future lies in embracing modern technology. We must act now to avoid falling behind on a global scale." He emphasized that these model cars will be instrumental in monitoring high-crime areas and aiding in the apprehension of suspects. The project aims to boost public safety and enhance law enforcement capabilities in Karachi.—RT/Agency

Tessori Pays Tribute To Pakistan Navy Martyrs On Navy Day

KARACHI: The Pakistan Navy marked Navy Day with a solemn and dignified ceremony honoring the families of martyrs at PNS Bahadur in Karachi. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori was the chief guest at the event. In his address, Governor Tessori praised the courage and dedication of the Ghazis and martyrs of the Pakistan Navy, emphasizing their extraordinary bravery during the 1965 war. He noted that the stories of their valor continue to inspire and resonate globally. Governor Tessori expressed that the sacrifices of the martyrs cannot be fully honored with mere words. He acknowledged the debt owed to them can never be repaid and paid tribute to the mothers who sent their sons to embrace martyrdom. He also highlighted Vice Admiral Ahmad Tasmim's exceptional service, noting his receipt of the Tamgha-e-Shujaat twice, and described him as a proud son of the nation. Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem extended his gratitude to Governor Tessori for joining the families of the martyrs. He reaffirmed the Pakistan Navy's commitment to being a combat-ready, multi-dimensional force dedicated to protecting the nation's maritime boundaries and resources. Following the ceremony, Governor Tessori met with the families of the Navy's martyrs, offering his heartfelt tribute to their profound sacrifices and emphasizing the nation's deep debt of gratitude.—RT/Agency

Sindh PDMA Calls For Coordinated Efforts To Mitigate Flood Impact

KARACHI: The Sindh Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) urged coordinated action to address the impact of recent floods during a high-level meeting chaired by Director of Operations Imdad Hussain Siddiqui. The floods have displaced over 141,000 people and caused extensive damage in districts including Khairpur, Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, and Sanghar. Siddiqui emphasized the need to prioritize health, education, water, sanitation, and the dewatering of stagnant water in affected Union Councils. From July to September, the floods caused 73 fatalities, 153 injuries, and the loss of 932 livestock, with 525 homes either partially or completely destroyed. To date, 163 relief camps and 40 medical camps have been established, with over 6.9 million animals vaccinated and 5,085 people evacuated. Relief efforts also include the distribution of essential items such as tents, mosquito nets, and hygiene kits across Karachi, Jamshoro, and Sukkur. Siddiqui highlighted the ongoing flood situation at Gudu, Sukkur, and Kotri barrages, and called for innovative solutions to prevent future casualties. He stressed the importance of collaboration between the PDMA, District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), and humanitarian partners to effectively address the needs of affected populations. The meeting concluded with a call to action, urging all stakeholders to work together in flood relief and recovery efforts, focusing on critical sectors such as health, education, and water sanitation, and water sanitation stressed the importance of



collaboration between the PDMA, District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), and humanitarian partners to effectively address the needs of affected populations. The meeting concluded with a call to action, urging all stakeholders to work together in flood relief and recovery efforts, focusing on critical sectors such as health, education, and water sanitation, and water sanitation stressed the importance of

Pakistan Navy Day 2024: Honoring Operation Dwarka's Legacy



KARACHI: Pakistan celebrated Navy Day 2024, commemorating the Navy's pivotal role in the 1965 Indo-Pak war, especially the daring Operation Dwarka. On September 8, 1965, Pakistan Navy vessels, including PNS Babur and Khyber, launched a surprise attack on the Indian naval base at Dwarka. The four-minute strike inflicted significant damage and crippled Indian operations against Karachi. Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf hailed the day as a tribute to the bravery of Pakistan's naval officers and sailors, whose sacrifices continue to inspire patriotism. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the Navy's unwavering dedication to defending the country's maritime boundaries, reaffirming the nation's pride in its naval forces. Navy Day, observed annually on September 8, highlights the Navy's role in securing Pakistan's maritime interests and acknowledges its continued vigilance, including the detection of an Indian submarine in 2019. Operation Dwarka stands as a symbol of Pakistan's naval strength and its commitment to national defense.—RT/Agency

Sudden Gas Outage Affects Several Areas Of Karachi

KARACHI: A sudden gas outage has affected multiple areas of Karachi, further worsening the ongoing gas crisis in the city, local media reported on Sunday. The shortage in the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) system has intensified, leaving residents in areas such as Manzoor Colony, Chanesar Goth, PECHS Society, and Gulshan-e-Iqbal without gas for two hours. Other affected areas include New Karachi, Orangi, Landhi, Malir, Baloch Colony, and Karsaz. Additionally, residents in Liaquatabad, Keamari, and Khawaja Ajmer Nagri are also experiencing similar gas outages. The disruption has impacted both domestic and commercial consumers, particularly on a holiday, causing significant inconvenience. According to authorities, a power failure at the Naimat Basal plant on Saturday night disrupted the gas supply to SSGC. The plant typically produces 160 MMCFD of gas to SSGC; however, only 57 MMCFD has been restored so far, with efforts underway to recover the remaining 103 MMCFD. Efforts are being made to fully restore the gas supply as soon as possible.—RT/Agency

Former Federal Minister Nisar Memon Urges National Commitment To Literacy On International Literacy Day

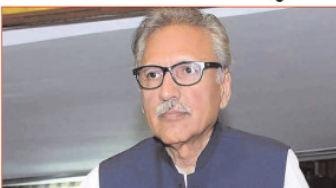
KARACHI: On the occasion of International Literacy Day, former Federal Minister and Senator Nisar A. Memon called upon the people and leadership of Pakistan to prioritize literacy, emphasizing its crucial role in safeguarding human rights and driving social and economic progress. Senator Memon highlighted the disparity between Pakistan's adult literacy rate of 70% and countries like Sri Lanka (94%), China (98%), and the USA (99%), urging coordinated efforts from federal, provincial, and district governments alongside the



With over 40 million smartphones and expanding internet access, Pakistan has the potential to leverage digital tools to bridge the literacy gap. Senator Memon called for a focus on basic, functional, digital, and critical literacy, particularly in women and rural areas, as essential for equitable development across the country. Quoting Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Senator Memon reminded the nation that "Education is a matter of life and death for our country," and emphasized that literacy is the foundation for achieving this vision.—RT

Alvi Apologises For Sharing Old Video Of PTI Rally

KARACHI: Former president and PTI leader Dr. Arif Alvi has issued an apology after sharing an old video on X (formerly Twitter), claiming it showed the PTI's convoy heading to Islamabad. In his statement, Alvi admitted to mistakenly sharing a video from a different occasion. He stated, "After a fact-check, I have deleted two posts as they were from a previous event. I apologise for the error. Social media is too vast to control, but error corrections are necessary to manage it." It is noteworthy that the former president initially dated the video as footage of the PTI convoy. However, he removed the post after several users pointed out that the video was outdated. Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari also criticized the PTI, accusing the party of using fake videos to support its narrative.—RT/Agency



Consul General Of Italy Inaugurates Novacolor Café In Karachi



KARACHI: The Consul General of Italy in Pakistan, Danilo Giurdanella, inaugurated the exclusive Novacolor Café in Karachi, marking the launch with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was attended by notable figures from the worlds of architecture, arts, and industry, including former senator Javed Jabbar, Jimma Engineer, Sheema Kermai, and others. Novacolor Café, conceived by Nasar Khan, Zillay Huma, Zubair, and Shameer, offers a unique blend of premium coffee, snacks, and an exclusive fragrance range. Guests were treated to a sit-down service in a luxurious setting with gold-textured walls and murals. The evening featured live entertainment by Syed Hassana and Sharukh, creating an elegant, artistic ambiance. Nasar Khan, known for his work in premium wall finishes, brings over three decades of expertise to this venture, while Zillay Huma, founder of SEP Productions, lent her creative vision to the café's unique concept. The café is the first of seven outlets planned, embodying Huma's motto, "Coffee connects the world."—RT

PIA Issues Tender For Sugar Procurement

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has issued a tender for the procurement of 32,000 kg of sugar, which will be used for passenger services, according to media reports citing well-placed sources. The tender requires interested companies to submit a sample of five kilograms along with their offer. The sugar will be used to meet the needs of the national airline's catering services. Separately, Pakistan's sugar imports in the first month of the current financial year saw a significant decline, dropping by 44.90% compared to the same period last year. In July, the country imported 280 metric tons of sugar valued at \$0.297 million, compared to 574 metric tons worth \$0.539 million in the corresponding month of the previous year, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Additionally, the imports of edible oils, including soybean and palm oil, have also decreased by 93.20% and 13.99%, respectively, compared to the same period last year.—RT/Agency

Karachi Records 5,960 Street Crime Incidents In August

KARACHI: Karachi has experienced a surge in street crime, with 5,960 incidents reported in August alone, according to media reports. The Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) also highlighted three cases of kidnapping for ransom and six cases of extortion. Earlier, on August 10, police reported that over 44,000 street crime incidents were recorded in Karachi during the first seven months of 2024, with Motorcycles were particularly targeted, with 656 stolen at gunpoint and 3,385 reported stolen overall. Additionally, 1,737 mobile phones were snatched from citizens. The report also highlighted three cases of kidnapping for ransom and six cases of extortion. Earlier, on August 10, police reported that over 44,000 street crime incidents were recorded in Karachi during the first seven months of 2024, with motorcycle thefts being the most common crime. More than 31,000 motorcycles and over 11,800 mobile phones were either stolen or snatched during this period. Despite the high number of incidents, recovery rates remain low. Police reports indicate that only 1,500 motorcycles, 220 cars, and 120 mobile phones have been recovered so far, leaving residents concerned about the rising insecurity in the metropolis.—RT/Agency

Sindh To Establish 3,000 Non-Formal Education Centers For Out-Of-School Children

KARACHI: Sindh will set up 3,000 non-formal education centers to address the educational needs of out-of-school children, as announced during a World Literacy Day event at Karachi's Marriott Hotel. Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, the chief guest, highlighted the importance of these centers in providing both education and vocational training to children who have dropped out of school. The initiative aims to support around 90,000 children and address the educational gap caused by economic constraints and lack of population control. The event, organized by the Directorate of Literacy and Non-Formal Education, featured key figures including Sindh School Education Secretary Zahid Ali Abbasi, social activist Shehbaz Roy, and JICA representatives. The focus was on promoting multilingual education and integrating native languages into the curriculum to enhance learning. The new non-formal education centers will operate in high-demand areas and offer flexible hours to accommodate children's needs. A new curriculum, developed with middle school standards, was also unveiled at the event. Officials stressed the need for improved educational priorities and funding, emphasizing that only 2% of the GDP is currently allocated to education. The event concluded with commendation shields awarded to education organizations for their contributions.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Opposition Leader in the Sindh Assembly, Ali Khurshidi addresses during the protest demonstration of Pak Muslim Alliance (PMA-Dewan) over the derogatory statement against Bengalis and Biharis in the Sindh Assembly.—RT



KARACHI: Students are busy in solving their questionnaire paper during the entry test for vacancies in the Foreign Ministry organized by Karachi University Assessment and Testing Services.—RT

"The beginning is the most important part of the work."

—Plato

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 09 2024

Dar Accuses PTI's Policies Of Fueling Terrorism And Economic Woes

ISLAMABAD: With the country engaged in retaliatory measures following a recent spate of attacks, Senator Ishaq Dar alleged on Sunday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's policy of 'appeasing and rehabilitating' extremist groups contributed to the resurgence of terrorism.

Dar, who is the Deputy Prime Minister and also the Foreign Minister of the country, made these remarks during an interaction with British lawmakers of Pakistani origin at a dinner hosted by the High Commissioner Dr Mohammad Faisal at the Pakistan House in London, said a statement issued today.

The dinner was attended by the Deputy Speaker House of Commons Nusrat Ghani, Yasmin Qureshi (MP), Lord Qurban Hussain, Baroness Nosheen Mubarak, Lord Zameer Chaudhry, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Baroness Shaista Gohir, Mohammad Afzal Khan (MP), Naseem Shah (MP), Imran Hussain (MP), Tahir Ali (MP), Zubair Ahmed (MP), Adnan Hussain (MP), Mohammad Yasin (MP) and Ayoub Khan (MP).

Dar informed the audience that during the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government from 2013 to 2017, terrorism was



contained at an immense cost of blood and national exchequer.

However, the previous government's policy of appeasing and rehabilitating extremist groups, such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP), and the release of over 100 hardened terrorists, led to a resurgence of terrorism, he noted.

The nation has been reeling under rising violent attacks since the Taliban rulers returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan.

The two most vulnerable provinces saw a sharp rise in deadly attacks last month, according to data from the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS).

The digital database of security incidents managed by the Islamabad-based think-tank suggested an alarming situation as the number of attacks jumped from 38 in July to 59 in August. These incidents included 29 attacks in KP, 28 in Balochistan, and two in Punjab.

The most recent and deadliest among the 28 attacks in the southwestern province resulted in 57 deaths and injuries to another 84 people.

Meanwhile, the deputy premier briefed the British Pakistani lawmakers on the government's roadmap to economic revival.

He recalled that during the Nawaz Sharif-led government from 2013 to 2017, Pakistan had grown to the world's 24th-largest economy and was projected to be-

was drawing significant foreign investors' interest in Pakistan's energy, mining, IT and agriculture sectors," he added.

The foreign minister also asked the Members of Parliament for suggestions on how the government could draw more British foreign direct investment in Pakistan and increase the bilateral trade volume.

Highlighting Pakistan's recently introduced new visa-free policy to encourage Pakistani expatriates to visit Pakistan, Dar stressed that it was important for young British Pakistanis to stay connected with their roots.

Referring to Imran Khan-founded party, the Deputy PM said that there could be no question of engaging with those who "attacked state institutions and used international forums to undermine the national interest."

He also vowed that the government would not allow any internal or external elements, intent on fomenting political instability, to derail Pakistan's journey to development and prosperity.

Dar also thanked the British Parliamentarians for raising the issue of atrocities inflicted upon the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) and the people of Gaza.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Pledges To Eradicate Polio Through Collective Efforts

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday reaffirmed his commitment to making Pakistan polio-free, stating that with collective efforts, the disease will be completely eradicated and prevented from re-emerging in the future, ensuring a healthier future for the nation's children.

Speaking at the ceremony after launching the 7-day polio eradication campaign, the prime minister stressed that a unified approach and collaborative efforts are crucial to successfully tackling the polio challenge and achieving a polio-free Pakistan.

At the ceremony, the prime minister extended a warm welcome to the attendees and expressed his appreciation for the outstanding collaboration and tireless efforts of federal and provincial government staff, foot soldiers, and security offi-



cers, who have worked together seamlessly to drive the polio eradication campaign forward.

The prime minister voiced his confidence that by working together with provincial chief ministers, chief secretaries, health ministers, and health secretaries, the government will successfully eliminate polio, paving the way for a polio-free future and eradicating this preventable disease in the years to come.

The prime minister assured that the polio eradication campaign is in capable hands, being led by expert teams, and expressed optimism that the federal government's joint efforts with the provinces will ultimately lead to the disease's eradication.

He further pledged that once polio is eliminated, the government will ensure it never returns, providing a safer future for generations to come.—RT/Agency

Asif Accuses Imran Of Failing To Condemn Israeli Actions Against Palestinians

ISLAMABAD: After an Israeli publication suggested PTI founder Imran Khan could reveal Pakistan's stance on Israel, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, in a jibe at the jailed leader, claimed the former premier never openly condemned Israeli barbarism against Palestinians.

The defence czar was referring to an opinion piece in The Times of Israel titled 'An Unlikely Ally: How Imran Khan Could Shape Israeli-Pakistani Relations,' which prompted Khan's political opponents to accuse him of compromising Pakistan's long-standing stance against Israel.

"Israeli media has written in favour of the PTI founder," said Asif while speaking to media, adding, "[...] which endangers our [national] image as Pakistan has an important position in the Muslim world."

The publication highlighted that the ex-premier, who ruled the country from 2018 to 2022 before being ousted from office via a no-confidence motion, had "publicly maintained Pakistan's traditional support for the Palestinian cause" and "dismissed the idea of normalising relations with Israel". However, Imran's "pragmatic approach" to foreign relations during his tenure suggested that he "may have been more open to reevaluating Pakistan's position on Israel than his public statements indicated", it read.



Asif alleged that the publication confirmed Imran's "political adoption" by the Israeli media and termed him "a product of Zionism".

He went on to say that the PTI founder had always attempted to damage the national image. Pointing towards the blog, Asif said that "Imran is standing with the Zionist butchers" amid the massacre of Palestinians in Gaza.

The federal minister also blamed Imran for "misguiding the Pakistani youth" and appealed to the PTI founder's supporters to thoroughly analyse the ex-premier's objectives. The blog also claimed that "Imran's close relationship with the Goldsmith family plays a significant role in understanding his potential shift in stance towards Israel". The Israeli media's publication sees Imran's support for Zac in the London mayoral polls as his "loyalty to the [Goldsmith] family and their broader network, which in turn has supported him in the past".

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader slammed the cricket-turned-politician for "campaigning for a Jew instead of a Muslim" in London mayoral elections.

Asif was pointing towards Khan's campaigning for Zac Goldsmith, brother of his former wife Jemima Goldsmith, in 2016 against mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan.

It is worth mentioning that Labour Party's Sadiq had defeated Zac from the UK's Conservative Party by nearly half a million votes to become the first Muslim mayor of London. The online newspaper also urged Israel and its allies to ensure that "Imran is free again to participate in Pakistani politics" as the politico's "unique position, relationships, and strategic thinking could influence Israeli-Pakistani relations".

The 71-year-old former prime minister has been in prison for more than a year after he was booked in a plethora of cases, including the Toshakhana case, cipher case, and the un-Islamic marriage case.—RT/Agency

PPP Assembles Lawyers In Islamabad To Discuss Judicial Bills

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party has summoned its legal experts in Islamabad to consider over the judiciary related bills in the parliament.

The party's chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has also proceeded to Islamabad from Karachi, sources said.

Former Senate chairman Farooq H. Naik, Sindh's law minister and other law experts have been summoned to Islamabad, sources said.

The PPP intends to thorough review of the legislation related to the judiciary.

The party leadership will hold a meeting in federal capital Islamabad next week.

It is to be mentioned here that recently bills seek-



ing to enhance Supreme Court's bench strength introduced in the National Assembly and the Senate.

Independent Senator Abdul Qadir presented 'The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2024' in the upper house to increase the number of apex court judges to 21.

A bill tabled in the lower house, by PML-N parliamentarian Daniyal Chaudhry called for increasing the number of judges to 23. Both bills pointed out called for increasing the number of judges in the apex court to deal with a significant backlog of cases.—RT/Agency

Naqvi Honors Pakistan Navy's Sacrifices and Services



ISLAMABAD: In his special message on National Navy Day, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid glowing tribute to the great sacrifices and unparalleled services of the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy.

He added that September 8 is another glorious and memorable day in the defence history of Pakistan.

He said that the valiant personnel of the Pakistan Navy destroyed the enemy's naval power in the 1965 war.

The Interior Minister said that September 8 has a history of sacrifices, immortal passions, and extraordinary achievements, as on this naval forces of Pakistan also repulsed the enemy like the army and air force.

of the Pakistan Navy defeated the enemy and defended the maritime borders, adding that the officers and personnel of the Pakistan Navy, who protect the maritime borders, are our pride.

Mohsin Naqvi highlighted that the indelible role of the Pakistan Navy in the 1965 war will always be remembered in history with golden letters.

He emphasized that the Pakistan Navy is always ready to face all kind of challenges.

He reiterated that "Navy Day" is a day to pay tribute to the valiant soldiers of the Pakistan Navy. He underscored that the Pakistan Navy is determined to keep the spirit of September 8, 1965, alive.—RT/Agency

Khawaja Asif Suggests Evidence Points To Military Trial For Imran

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has stated that evidence against Imran Khan may lead to a military trial, with former ISI chief Faiz Hameed potentially turning into an approver against him.

Asif suggested that Hameed could reveal details about his ties with Khan and might aim to shift blame onto him.

Asif noted that the military installations targeted during the May 9 protests were likely directed by Khan.

He also mentioned that both Khan and Hameed were distressed over the



loss of power. He said that Hameed hoped to become the army chief and sought support from the PML-N for the matter. Additionally, Asif discussed the role of former Defense Minister Pervez Khattak in initiating amendments in NAB regulations, which received clearance from Hameed. He criticised Khan for not engaging in political dialogue despite offers from Shehbaz Sharif.—RT/Agency

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Pakistani Forces Kill Eight Afghan Taliban In Retaliation For Border Attack



ISLAMABAD: Afghan Taliban once again resorted to unprovoked aggression on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and Pakistani forces, in a befitting response, killed eight Afghan Taliban.

According to sources, Afghan Taliban opened unprovoked firing with heavy weapons yesterday from inside Afghanistan, targeting Pakistani check posts.

The facilitation of terrorist attacks against Pakistan by the Afghan Taliban is no secret.

In addition to terrorist attacks, the Afghan Taliban's aggression on the international border is now openly visible.—RT/Agency

Hafiz Naem Criticizes Political Elites And Launches National Membership Campaign

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief Hafiz Naemur Rehman criticised both the ruling and opposition parties for their focus on personal wealth accumulation rather than addressing the country's core issues.

Speaking at a rally in Karachi on Sunday as part of JI's nationwide membership campaign, Rehman argued that the political elite are indifferent to critical issues such as water, electricity, gas, and fuel shortages. He asserted that these problems require decisive action to address the "crumbling walls" of the current system.

The JI chief denounced the current ruling class, which he described as comprising feudal lords, capitalists, and dictatorial figures, who he claimed have amassed significant wealth without being taxed. He also criticised the government for its agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), which he said have burdened the public.



Rehman stated that JI represents the strongest voice for Pakistan's poor and is actively mobilising its base through a campaign aimed at securing five million new members across the country.

He called for a unified effort against what he termed a "tyrannical system" and promised to continue advocating for the public even if it meant taking the struggle to Islamabad.

The JI chief recalled the party's past success in Bangladesh, where it had played a significant role in challenging local authorities, and urged that Pakistan avoid a similar crisis.

He further criticised the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for corruption and mismanagement, particularly in Sindh. He claimed that despite Karachi contributing significantly to provincial revenue, the local government spends the budget on lavish expenses rather than on the city's needs.

He accused the PPP of exploiting the people of Sindh and failing to decentralise power as required by Article 140-A of the constitution.

Moreover, Rehman condemned the alleged establishment's support for corrupt political figures and urged respect for democratic processes and public opinion.—RT/Agency

Naqvi Demands Report On Stone-Pelting At Police During PTI Rally

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi took notice of unfortunate incident of stone-pelting at police officers by the PTI workers during the Islamabad rally on Sunday.

He sought a detailed report from the Inspector General of Islamabad Police to review the circumstances surrounding the attack.

The interior minister also contacted the injured Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shoab Khan by telephone to inquire about his health.



cerned to provide the best medical treatment to the injured police officials.

Earlier, the capital police have launched a crackdown on the PTI workers as the deadline for the Islamabad rally ended.

Many police officers were injured when the PTI protesters started pelting stones. According to the police, the PTI workers violated the code of conduct at many places including Chungi 26.—RT/Agency