

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.

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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 investigations.—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 died on the spot. The driver of the vehicle involved in the accident fled the scene immediately after the incident, leaving the area quickly. Despite efforts to locate the driver, no arrests have been made, and no FIR had been registered by late evening. The body of Zulfikar Ali Dayo was transported to a local hospital for medico-legal formalities. Following the completion of these procedures, the body was handed over to his 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

EDITORIAL



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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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

launched in February 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.

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".

Government Boys Degree College Nawabshah Commemorates Defence Day With Zeal

By Samad Ayaz

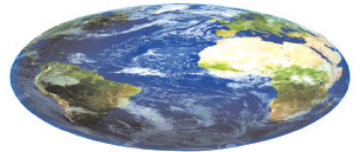
NAWABSHAH: The Defence Day of Pakistan was observed with great reverence at the Government Boys Degree College Nawabshah, under the guidance of Principal Muzamil Zahoor Gujjar. The event took place with notable figures including Regional Director Colleges Prof. Dr. Saifullah Joyo, District President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

The event concluded with an award ceremony where certificates and trophies were presented to students for their outstanding contributions and performances. This recognition was well-received and appreciated for its educational and emotional impact, serving as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the nation's heroes.

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...



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...

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..."

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.

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).

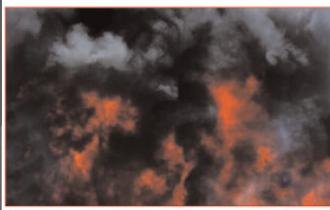
Yagi lifted roofs and uprooted trees in the country's capital, Hanoi, leading to power outages in the region, according to BBC. Vietnamese official media reported that three people were killed due to the storm in northern Quang Ninh province on Saturday and another person died in Hai Duong.

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 were evacuated 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.

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 was said.

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.

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

"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.

Residents of central and southern Gaza areas reported intrusion in internet and communication services, which the Palestinian Telecommunication Company said was because of "the ongoing (Israeli) aggression."

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.

laboration 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.

"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.

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 officials.—Agency

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 intrusion in internet and communication services, which the Palestinian Telecommunication Company said was because of "the ongoing (Israeli) aggression."

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.

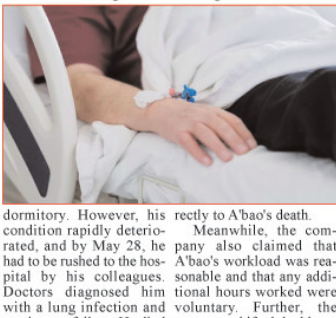
Roof Collapse At Madrasa Results In Two Deaths And Ten Injuries

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. Rescue 1122 is conducting a search operation in the debris, and efforts to remove the debris are underway.—RT/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.



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, committing to work on a project until January of this year.

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, 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.

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 stable is still omnipresent. So even though there has been significant buying pressure last week, the rupee remained range-bound, according to the report. "Liquidity in the interbank was slightly more squeezed than last week and resulted with swap premiums in the shorter range (1 week) trending around 14 per cent versus premiums in the medium tenors (3 months) trending around 8.0 per cent," it said. In the State Bank of Pakistan's next monetary policy meeting on September 12 (Thursday), 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 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

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

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

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

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



private sector. He stressed the importance of literacy in combating challenges such as injustice, terrorism, and exploitation, and underscored its significance for national security. 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

Consul General Of Italy Inaugurates Novacolor Café In Karachi



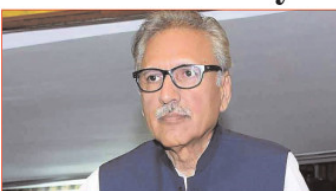
KARACHI: The Consul General of Italy in Pakistan, Danilo Giurdanella, inaugurated the exclusive Novacolor Café in Karachi, marking the launch with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was attended by notable figures from the worlds of architecture, arts, and industry, including former senator Javed Jabbar, 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

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 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

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. Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari also criticized the PTI, accusing the party of using fake videos to support its narrative.—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

