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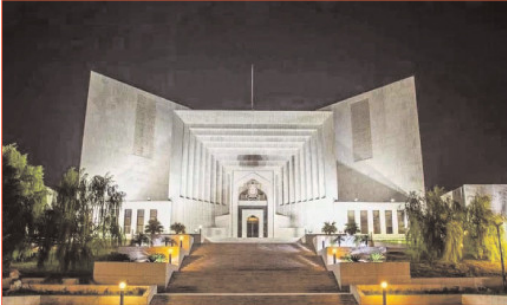
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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Supreme Court Criticizes ECP Delays, Orders Swift Implementation Of Reserved Seats Decision

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Saturday came down hard on the Election Commission of Pakistan for its "attempts to create confusion" on its July 12 reserved seats verdict, saying that the clarification sought by the commission was nothing but an attempt to "obstruct implementation" of the judgment declaring PTI eligible for reserved seats in parliament.



"Putting together the record placed before us [top court], and considering the same in light of the short order, leaves in little doubt that the clarification sought by the commission is nothing more than a contrived device and adoption of dilatory tactics," the eight judges stated in a clarification.

After notifying 39 out of 80 Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) as PTI members, the electoral watchdog had sought legal and constitutional guidance from the apex court on the

matter of the remaining lawmakers in the national and provincial assemblies.

The ECP submitted a plea to the top court's registrar via its secretary Omar Hamid Khan to seek an elaborated version of its July 12 order regarding the PTI-backed independent candidates in which the SC declared the former ruling party eligible

for reserved seats.

Following the apex court's July 12 ruling, PTI lawmakers in the national and provincial assemblies had submitted their affidavits of allegiance to the Imran-founded party to the ECP.

The electoral body had pointed out its records which did not authorise Barrister Gohar Ali Khan as the party

the PTI through Barrister Gohar Ali Khan as its Chairman, the Commission "gave recognition to both the party and the office holder".

The court noted that the ECP, even if one were to consider the application in the most sympathetic light, has "apparently forgotten the well-known de facto doctrine or rule, in terms of which the acts of a person who holds an office are protected even if there may be any issue with the position de jure."

"It would be completely illogical to assume that a political party, a juristic person, is fully functional yet there are no natural persons who are either de facto or de jure performing its functions or running its affairs," it added.

Furthermore, the top court said the Election Commission cannot now turn around and purport to seek guidance from the court with regard to how the certifications are to be dealt with. "It cannot appropriate and reprobate, taking

whatever (shifting) stance as it desires and as may seem to suit its immediate purposes for the moment," it noted.

The ECP, in its clarification plea, had also stated that the PTI lacked an organisational structure as per the ECP's record, which "is statutory obligation of every enlisted political party to conduct intra-party elections in terms of Section 208 of the Election Act 2017."

Responding to this query, the court said, "It sufficed and the Commission was duty bound in terms of the Constitution to keep in mind that the admitted position (as stated before the Court during the hearing of the case) is that the PTI was, and is, an enlisted political party."

Faez Isa, Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhal.

"Their lordship appears to have also accepted the validity of the party certificates (party tickets) issued by Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and thus his capacity to act for PTI as its Chairman."

"There could have been no conceivable doubt that the certifications referred to above were correct," the SC said, warning that the continued "denial and refusal of the Commission" to accept the same may expose it to action as may be warranted in terms of the Constitution and the law.

Alluding to another fundamental aspect, the court said it was categorically declared in paragraph 8 of the short order that the seat secured by such candidate shall be forthwith deemed to be a seat secured by that political party.

"As per the position so determined, the seat returned

candidates were and are the returned candidates of PTI and thus members of the parliamentary party of PTI in the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies conferred, for all constitutional and legal purposes."

It further stated that the attempt by the ECP to confuse and cloud what is otherwise absolutely clear as a matter of the Constitution and the law must therefore be strongly deprecated."

Moreover, the apex court said the list required to be issued by the electoral body was "nothing more than a ministerial act," for the information and convenience of all concerned, and has no substantive effect.

"Nonetheless, the continued failure of, and refusal by, the Commission to perform this legally binding obligation may, as noted, have consequences. This obligation must be discharged forthwith," it concluded.—RT/Agency

Bilawal Demands Accountability For Imran's Remarks Against Army Chief

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, has stated that if former Prime Minister Imran Khan made the recent statement accusing the army chief and committing contempt of court, he must face the constitutional consequences.



Speaking in the National Assembly, Bilawal noted that the nation read the statement last night, which accused key institutions of wrongdoing.

Bilawal praised his party's Southern Punjab organisation, commending their resilience in confronting lies through the power of the vote.

He urged political parties to accept election outcomes and emphasised the importance of trusting the people's decisions for the future of democracy.

He further stated that the people of Pakistan are no longer supporting conspiracies or abusive language, particularly referencing "Prisoner 804" (Imran Khan), who he claims is isolated in his political stance.

Bilawal urged PTI to investigate whether Imran Khan made the statement or not.

The PPP chairman also

criticised attempts to politicise the appointment of the army chief, recalling that as Director General of the ISI, General Asim Munir exposed corruption linked to the PTI founder.

He added that, instead of acting on corruption, Imran Khan had replaced the intelligence chief at the time.

Bilawal noted that this was part of a broader conspiracy, including rejecting the no-confidence motion, pushing for early elections before the army chief's appointment, and attempting to undermine the credibility of the position.

He warned that there would be significant revelations regarding the propaganda surrounding Forms 45 and 47.

Bilawal concluded by calling on PTI to reflect on

how actions tied to Imran are creating further instability, not only for the party but for the nation as a whole.

Referring to a social media post shared from the account of the PTI founder, Federal Interior Minister Attaullah Tarar said Imran was again turning to his previous practice of committing sedition.

He added the PTI founder wanted to create anarchy in the country, which was also condemnable.

The FIA would initiate an investigation against the PTI founder for inciting people, and questioning the country's integrity.

It would be ascertained that who was the handler of his social media accounts, and whether such posts were being made at his behest or someone else's directives, he added.—RT/Agency

Fatal Bus Crash In Sherani, Balochistan: 6 Dead, 20 Injured



QUETTA: At least six people were killed and 20 injured after a bus fell into a ditch in district Sherani's Damisar area of Balochistan's Zhoib division, Levies told media on Saturday.

According to the Levies, those injured in the accident have been transferred to the hospital.

The ill-fated bus was going from Islamabad to Quetta, they added.

The Balochistan government has ordered probe into the deadly accident.

In the last one month, Pakistan has witnessed several accidents, claiming the lives of dozens of people.

In one of the deadliest recent crashes, a bus carrying pilgrims plunged into a ditch at the Makran Coastal Highway on August 25.

The incident killed 11 and

wounded more than 30 others, according to the police. Another bus accident on the Kahuta-Rawalpindi route on the same day claimed the lives of 25 people, including 17 men, 7 women, and 1 child.

The accident occurred when a passenger bus traveling from Rawalpindi to Patalpindi plunged into a deep ravine near Garari Bridge, Azad Pattan. One critically injured passenger was rescued from the wreckage and rushed to hospital.

The accident was a stark reminder of the hazards on hilly roads across Pakistan. Many locals have long voiced concerns over the lack of infrastructure and safety measures on the Kahuta Road, urging government intervention to prevent further accidents.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Condemns U.S. Sanctions, Labeling Them Politically Driven And Unjust

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, on Saturday, said that Pakistan considered the United States' decision to impose sanctions on commercial entities over alleged connections to Pakistan's ballistic missile program as biased and politically motivated.



In response to media inquiries about the US decision to impose sanctions on commercial entities over alleged connections to Pakistan's ballistic missile program, she stated that similar listings of commercial entities in past years based on mere suspicion, involved items not listed by any export control regime, and yet were broad, catch-all provisions.

It is widely known that some countries while claiming strict adherence to non-proliferation norms, have conveniently waived licensing requirements for advanced military technologies to their favoured states.

Such double standards and discriminatory practices undermine the credibility of global nonproliferation regimes, increase military

asymmetries, and endanger international peace and security, said the spokesperson.

The US State Department on Thursday imposed sanctions on a Chinese research institute and several companies it said have been involved in supplying Pakistan's ballistic missile program. Washington similarly targeted three China-based companies with sanctions in October 2023 for supplying missile-applicable items to Pakistan. Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a statement that the Beijing Research Institute of Automation for Machine Building Industry had worked with Pakistan to procure equipment for testing rocket motors for the Shaheen-3 and Ababeel systems and potentially for larger systems.

The sanctions also targeted Hubei Huachangda Intelligent Equipment Co, Universal Enterprise, and Xi'an Longde Technology Development. Innovative Equipment and China national, for knowingly transferring equipment under missile technology restrictions. Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington, said: "China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction that have no basis in international law or authorization of the UN Security Council." China will "firmly protect" Chinese companies' and individuals' rights and interests, Liu said.—RT/Agency

Govt To Establish Constitutional Court, Amend Defection Clause Amid Reforms

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is considering the formation of a constitutional court and modifications to Article 63-A, the defection clause, as part of its much-discussed constitutional package. This development arises amid speculation surrounding the extension of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa's tenure, who is set to retire in October, following Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call for an early announcement of the next CJP last month.



While the government has refrained from disclosing details of the proposed constitutional amendments, it emphasized that the reforms are not focused on any individual but aim to enhance judicial procedures. Among the proposed changes is an increase in the retirement age of superior court judges by three years. Currently, Article 179 stipulates the retirement age of Supreme Court judges at 65, and Article 195 sets the

high court judges' retirement age at 62.

In addition, the government is contemplating revising the seniority principle in the selection of the CJP, according to Barrister Aqeel Malik, the government's legal spokesperson. At present, the senior-most Supreme Court judge is appointed as the CJP under Article 175A based on seniority.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reportedly called for a federal cabinet meeting to approve the draft of the constitutional amendments. Sources indicate that parliamentarians from Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and other allied parties have been consulted and assured their support for the amendments, which are expected to be presented in parliament tomorrow.

During a dinner with coalition parliamentarians, PM Shehbaz emphasized the need for legislative reforms in the national interest, underlining the supreme role of parliament in addressing key national issues. He reiterated that political stability is essential for economic progress and warned against involving constitutional institutions in politics.—RT/Agency

Khawaja Asif: PTI Founder Contemplating 'Separation Movement' In KP



ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that PTI founder Imran Khan sowed seeds of hostility that would bear sore fruits.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Khawaja Asif stated that the language being used in the recent meeting reflects separatist sentiments.

He suggested that the PTI founder is keeping the option of a separation movement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He accused the PTI

leader of fueling hatred in the province. He said that no path of reconciliation seems to remain open. The Defence Minister also commented on Faiz Hameed's support for the PTI founder, questioning the reasons behind the establishment's recommendation to postpone the meeting. Khawaja Asif further claimed that Ali Amin Gandapur is playing a double game, and urged that any public statements made should be verified to ensure they were genuinely from the PTI leader.—RT/Agency

FIA Interrogates Imran At Adiala Jail Over Alleged 'Anti-State' Social Media Post

RAWALPINDI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) completed the first phase of its investigation regarding an anti-state post made from the X—formerly Twitter—account of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, Imran Khan, media reported citing sources. The FIA's three-member special team questioned the PTI founder in the presence of his legal team, focusing on the posts made from his X account, sources said. A team from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrived on Saturday at Adiala Jail to interrogate the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regarding an anti-state post shared by Imran Khan's account on X—formerly Twitter—account. The post had sparked serious concerns about its implications, leading to the launch of a formal investigation by the authorities. According to sources, the FIA's three-member team consisted of Assistant Director Ayaz Khan, Sub-Inspector



Muneeb Ahmed, and officer Anees. The team had already visited the prison last night to question the PTI leader but was unable to proceed as he refused to meet with them.

The PTI founder reportedly declined the FIA's request for an interview, insisting that he would only participate in the investigation in the presence of his legal counsel. Sources indicate that this refusal prompted the FIA to return to the jail today in an effort to continue the investigation. The authorities are probing how an anti-state message was shared from the PTI founder's official X account. There were speculations that the account may have been compromised or that others may have accessed it to post the controversial content. However, during the investigation, the PTI founder reportedly stated that his media statements were posted on the X account and that his intent was not to target any specific institution or individual but rather to discuss the elite capture of the country. Following the interrogation, the FIA team left Adiala Jail, with sources indicating that further cases may be registered after the investigation is fully completed.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



MPA Rehana Laghari condoles with journalist Nadeem Shehzad Khatti

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Former Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Assembly, MPA Rehana Laghari, visited the residence of Nadeem Shehzad Khatti, General Secretary of the Press Club Sujawal, to offer condolences on the passing of his mother, who was also the aunt of senior journalist Hidayat Khatti. She expressed deep sorrow over the loss. On this occasion, Ishaq Khatti, Naveed Rehman



Khatti, Hanif Mallah, Imran Malik Qasim Mallah, Gul Khatti, Shafi Laghari, Memon, and others were Nawab Laghari, Councilor also present.

DC Mukhtiar Ali Abro reviews ongoing anti-polio campaign in Dadu District

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Deputy Commissioner Dadu, Mukhtiar Ali Abro reviewed the progress report of the ongoing polio eradication campaign, now in its fifth day, which will continue until September 15. He emphasized that teams are working door-to-door to protect innocent children, as delicate as flowers, from becoming permanently disabled due to the dangerous disease of polio. Despite the challenges faced in the areas of Kachho and Katcha, the staff is fulfilling their duty and working towards achieving the set target. The Deputy

Commissioner further stated that the target of administering polio drops to children should be completed as soon as possible. He also urged that any difficulties faced by the teams should be identified, so that appropriate measures can be taken to resolve them, ensuring that no child is left without receiving the polio drops. In the meeting, N-STOP Officer Dr. Ashfaq Hussain Memon briefed on the campaign's progress, stating that out of 470,723 children, 387,740 have already been given polio drops, achieving 95% of the target. He further added that 1,085 polio teams

are working on the campaign, supervised by 280 area in-charges and 8 team supervisors. Assistant Commissioners and Mukhtiararks are also playing their part in making the campaign successful. The meeting was attended by District Health Officer Syed Imdad Ali Shah, Assistant Commissioner Johi Samiullah Wagan, Assistant Commissioner Khairpur Nathan Shah Mohsin Raza Dasti, Assistant Commissioner Mehar Ghulam Fatima Ghalo, Mukhtiarark Khairpur Nathan Shah Aslam Chando, Mukhtiarark Dadu Shiraz Panhwar, PPHI, police, and other relevant officials.

SHO Munir Ahmed Baladi vows to continue operations against criminals, drug dealers



By Mehtab Shar

JHOL: The newly posted SHO of Jhol Police Station, Munir Ali Baladi while talking to the media said that the operations against the criminals and drug dealers will remain continued without fear or favor. He directed the police officials to

take stern action against the drug dealers and criminals by keeping a vigilant eye on them. He also urged the people to report the crimes at the police station and the police department will sincerely work to resolve their problems.

Sunil Kumar felicitates PPP's Ali Asghar Halipoto and Dr. Sajjad Chandio



TALHAR: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Minority Wing leader Sunil Kumar expressed his gratitude to the PPP leadership for appointing Ali Asghar Halipoto as the President and Dr. Sajjad Chandio as the General Secretary of the party in District Badin. He noted that PPP always believes in democracy, and

these appointments reflect merit. Sunil Kumar expressed hope that Ali Asghar Halipoto and Dr. Sajjad Chandio will strengthen the party in District Badin and provide support to the hardworking and underprivileged communities. He also expressed full confidence in the newly appointed leaders.—RT

JI briefs about importance of celebrating Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)

By Mumtaz Thahim

TANDO ADAM: Deputy Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Sindh and renowned religious scholar, Moulana Hafiz Nasrullah Channa, emphasized the significance of Rabi-ul-Awal for the Muslim Ummah and urged the community to highlight and disseminate the teachings of the Holy Prophet

Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) throughout the month. Speaking at a Seerat-un-Nabi (SAWW) gathering at the Jamaat-e-Islami center in Tando Adam Moulana Channa noted that the mission of the Holy Prophet (SAWW). He underscored that Jamaat-e-Islami aims to implement Allah's system on Earth, freeing people from servitude to others and guiding them towards obedience to Allah and His Messenger. The gathering also featured speeches from District Ameer Abdul Ghafoor Ansari, Deputy District Ameer Mushtaq Ahmad Adil, and local Ameer Abdul Sattar Ansari, who echoed similar sentiments.

APC demands justice for sexually abused Polio worker Abida Unar

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Under the hosting of the Sindh Dost Committee at Shaheed Bhutto House, an All Parties Conference (APC) was held in Jacobabad. The conference saw large participation from political, social, religious, business, journalistic, educational, legal organizations, as well as leaders of the Hindu General Panchayat and civil society members. During the conference, Sindh Dost



Committee leaders including Intizar Chhalgeri, Nadeem Qureshi, Muhammad Alam Khoso, Zahid Soomro, Zubaida Jakhraani, GM Soomro, and others strongly condemned the heinous act of assault against lady polio worker Abida Unar by anti-social elements. They criticized the fact that instead of registering an FIR for the assault, the police had filed an FIR for robbery, which they claimed was an attempt to protect the culprits. This, they said, was a grave injustice to the victim, a daughter

of the city. They also demanded the removal of the DC Jacobabad, SSP Jacobabad and DHO for concealing the facts and mishandling the case. The conference expressed disappointment at the local MPA, MNA, and Senators for not issuing any statements condemning the assault. They called on these elected representatives to raise their voices in their respective assemblies against the injustice faced by the polio worker and to distance themselves from the incompetent administration. The APC also demanded that the government and higher judiciary register an FIR based on the actual facts of the incident, include terrorism clauses in the case, and transferred it to an anti-terrorism court. The conference unanimously agreed to launch a well-organized protest movement to seek justice for the lady health worker and improve the law and order situation in Jacobabad. The first phase of this protest will include a major demonstration on Monday, September 16 (tomorrow).

Polio worker Abida Unar reveals gang rape and Police coercion, claims assault was recorded

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: In Jacobabad, a shocking statement has emerged from polio worker Abida Unar, who has disclosed that she was gang-raped. She revealed that the assault was recorded on video. Abida Unar accused the police of pressuring her to change her statement under threats of murder. During a media briefing, she recounted that while she was in the village of Allah Bux Jakhraani for a polio campaign, a man lured her to another location under the pretense of administering

anti-polio drops. When she refused, he threatened her with a pistol and warned her that if she resisted, he would shoot the accompanying boy. She was then dragged to a secluded area where three masked individuals were already present.

Two of them restrained her while Ahmed Jakhraani raped her, and one person recorded the incident. She suffered severe physical abuse during the assault. After escaping, she was assisted by local women and taken to JIMS Hospital, where police coerced her into altering her statement. Abida Unar reported that her life has been devastated, her husband abandoned her and she is now living with her father. She also claimed that Ahmed Jakhraani is the main perpetrator and while she cannot identify the other three assailants due to their masks, she is in danger from her husband or his family. Her lawyer, Nisar Ahmed, confirmed that the police had forced her to change her statement under threat, which has put her life at risk. The lawyer called for protection for Abida Unar and demanded justice and security for her.

Dargah Luari Sharif celebrates Jashn-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)

By Jibrán Talpur

BADIN: The current Sajjadnashin of Dargah Luari Sharif, Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi Naqshbandi, celebrated Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with great reverence and respect at Dargah Aliya Luari Sharif. A splendid and illuminating gathering was held at the shrine where Pir Noorullah Qureshi and Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi welcomed the guests. The event featured prominent scholars including Maulana Ahmed Sadiq Baghdadi, Maulana Ghulam Mustafa Bughio, Maulana Asadullah Dahri, Maulana Mufti Muhammad Daud Jat Naemi, Maulana Ayaz Ahmed Soomro, Maulana Abdul Ghani Naemi, Maulana Mufti Habibullah Jat Naemi, Maulana Mohabbat Ali Jami, and Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Younis Abro. They elaborated on the life of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad



(SAWW), emphasizing that the arrival of the Holy Prophet (SAWW) was a blessing and a source of enlightenment for humanity. Special prayers were made for the country, the nation, and the Pakistani Army. The day-long event also included the distribution of food.

The Nishat Organization of Jamaat Luari Sharif and the Najia Student Organization Nishat provided security and volunteer services. In addition to the

celebrations, Dargah Aliya Luari Sharif and Dar-ul-Uloom Hazrat Sultan-ul-Auliya were decorated with flags and bunting. During the Milad gathering, six children were honored with turbans for completing their Quranic recitations. The honors were bestowed by Pir Noor Allah Qureshi, Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi, Maulana Asadullah Dahri, Maulana Ghulam Mustafa Bughio, and others.

Haakro Welfare Association to improve skilled training of students



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A social welfare organization Haakro Welfare Association which was led by Patron Muhammad Ramzan and Dr. Maqbool Ahmed Shar. On the demand of livelihood skills among the schools along with education, all the stakeholders approved and passed the resolution. On this occasion, Additional Director Chandu Mal agreed to the sugges-

tions and assured to cooperate in all ways. After that Madam Fauzia, Deputy Director Education, also supported with suggestions and praised the work of Haakro Welfare Association team. Deputy DEO Secondary Rajab Ali Kumbhar Sahib and Deputy DE Ali Khan also assured to give all possible cooperation for the education of girls in every school of his district for the works and suggestions of HWA.

SSGC suspends gas supply after leakage in NWM's main line

By Yousef Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: In response to a gas leak in the main line, instead of fixing the leak, the gas authorities cut off the gas supply, leaving hundreds of households without gas. This led to protests by local residents. The incident occurred near Lal Bux Gaincho village, located along the National Highway near Nawab Wali Muhammad. Due to the gas leak, areas such as Karimabad Stop, Mithalabad and Dino Machine Stop were affected, with no gas supply being restored for hundreds of homes. In protest against the gas shutdown, students gathered at Dino Machine



Stop on the National Highway, expressing their frustration. They stated that due to the lack of gas, they were forced to go to school without breakfast. Local residents also complained that rather than fixing the leak, the gas authorities had shut off the

supply for a week, causing difficulties in cooking. On the other hand, the gas authorities mentioned that water had accumulated at the site of the leak, making it difficult to repair. They assured that the leak would be fixed soon.

Jacobabad Police arrest main accused in sexually abused polio worker's case

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Deputy Commissioner Jacobabad Zahir Ahmed Marri and SSP Jacobabad, Dr. Sumair Noor Channa, held a press conference at the Deputy Commissioner's office. During the conference, they announced that the main suspect, Ahmed alias Ambi Jakhraani, involved in the robbery and alleged assault of a female polio worker, has been arrested. A pistol, found in the suspect's possession without a license, has also been recovered. SSP Jacobabad, Dr. Sumair Noor Channa, further stated that additional sections will be added to the FIR based on the victim's statement regarding the alleged assault. A



Joint Investigation Team (JIT), headed by DSP City, has been formed to investigate the incident, with SHO Moladad and Sub-Inspector Nayyar Sultana, in-charge of the Women and Child Protection Cell, appointed as mem-

bers. Medical samples of the victim have been sent to the laboratory for testing. After receiving the report, a final charge sheet will be submitted to the court to ensure the suspect receives appropriate punishment.

Hyderabad Police arrest a notorious criminal

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police conducted a raid in the jurisdiction of the Tando Yousif Police

Station and managed to arrest a notorious criminal named Ghulam Mustafa Solangi in injured condition. The police recovered pistol and bullets from

possession of the arrested man, who was shifted to the hospital. According to the police, the arrested man was wanted by the police in several cases.

15 injured in different Tando Adam road mishaps

By Mumtaz Thahim

TANDO ADAM: In Tando Adam and its surrounding areas, 15 people, including two women, were injured in various road accidents,

according to reports. In Rashid, Deedar, Habibull-collisions involving motor-cyclists and rickshaws, the injured include Arif Hussain, Azeem, Abdul Rashid, Hashmat, Sagar, Raju, Arshad, Azam, and

NATIONAL

Kuchlak Explosion Near Quetta Claims Lives Of Two Police Officers

QUETTA: At least two police officials were killed in a blast near a police mobile van in Kuchlak town on Saturday, police told media.

The police added that rescue teams had reached the incident site situated near Quetta following the explosion.



Two cops injured in the incident were rushed to a hospital for treatment. One of them was pronounced dead after examination by doctors upon arrival at the hospital, while the other also succumbed to his wounds soon after, the police said.

The senior superintendent of police (operations) earlier said condition of the other policeman was critical.

Police said 8-10 kilogramme explosive material was used in the time bomb on Boston road that targeted the police van.

In another deadly attack

on police earlier this week, a remote-controlled bomb attack on a police van in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) South Waziristan injured 13 people, including six police personnel and seven civilians.

Police officials said the bomb had exploded on a police van at Kir Kot Road in the Wana Rustam Bazar following which the injured were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, while one of the critically injured victims of the attack had been shifted to Dera Ismail Khan.

As Pakistan teeters in its struggle to overcome several challenges including economic instability and political unrest, terrorism adds to the country's woes as the terror incidents witnessed a surge in August.

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 and Balochistan.—RT/Agency

ANF Seizes 28 Kilos Of Narcotics In Multiple Raids, Six Suspects Detained



RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country during last 24 hours managed to recover 28 kg drugs worth Rs 20 million and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters here on Saturday.

He informed that 115 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused netted near a university in Peshawar.

570 intoxicated tablets were recovered from an accused arrested in Sohrah Goth Karachi.

In third operation, 4 kg Ice was recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Quetta.

The arrested accused during investigation confessed selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

In another operation,

3.6 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted on Karakoram Highway Mansehra and an accused was arrested.

8.4 kg hashish was recovered from the bag of an accused held from Margalla Road Islamabad.

1 kg ice was recovered from the possession of an accused nabbed near Tammi Mor in DG Khan.

400 grams ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Bahrain at a courier office at Jinnah International Airport Karachi.

10.2 kg heroin hidden in an uninhabited area near Pak-Afghan border in Chagai was recovered.

Separate cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigations under underway.—RT/Agency

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Narowal: DPO Malik Naveed Launches Operation To Eliminate Illegal Weapons

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's safe Punjab vision to eliminate illegal weapons, strict crackdown continues in Narowal and other districts. During the special campaign, thousands of dangerous firearms, bullets and cartridges were recovered this year. In connection with the safe Punjab vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a strict crackdown is underway to eliminate illegal weapons, under the leadership of IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar and RPO Gujranwala

ing to the details, 1166 Kalashnikovs, 31579 pistols, 2462 guns, 2255 rifles, 503 revolvers were recovered from the possession of the accused throughout the province including Lahore, 02 lac 37 thousand 735 bullets and cartridges were also recovered from the accused. DPO Malik Naveed directed strict legal action against the accused involved in air firing and advertisement of weapons on social media. License and stock inspection of dealers involved in arms business should be done regularly.

Toba Tek Singh Police Nab Three Suspects In Murder Cases

By Abid Mahmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Two brothers, along with their father, have been arrested for killing their sister in the name of honor in the area of Thana Arrouti. The murder weapon has also been recovered. According to the details, the police were informed that a woman had been shot and killed in the area of Thana Arrouti. Upon receiving the information, SDPO Pir Mahal Circle and SHO, along with their team, arrived at the scene, examined the situation, and using modern technology and received information, they were able to trace the crime. The actual situation came to light, revealing that the victim, Mafha Bibi, was shot in the head and abdomen. The accused had fled the scene and a tip-off, the police arrested the two brothers who unjustly killed Mafha Bibi, along with their father. The arrested murderers include Ghulam Shabbir son of Zahoor, Zahoor, son of Zulfiqar and Umar Daraz, son of Zahoor. The accused confessed that they killed Mafha Bibi on suspicion of immoral behavior. The 30-bore pistol used in the crime was also recovered from the accused. Legal action has been taken against them.

incident and immediately ordered the registration of an FIR. DPO formed a team under the leadership of DSP Pir Mahal, including SHO Thana Arrouti and other police officers, to ensure the immediate arrest of the accused. Action on intelligence information and a tip-off, the police arrested the two brothers who unjustly killed Mafha Bibi, along with their father. The arrested murderers include Ghulam Shabbir son of Zahoor, Zahoor, son of Zulfiqar and Umar Daraz, son of Zahoor. The accused confessed that they killed Mafha Bibi on suspicion of immoral behavior. The 30-bore pistol used in the crime was also recovered from the accused. Legal action has been taken against them.

Jam Kamal Stresses For Strengthening Pakistan-China Strategic Ties

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Saturday emphasized the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China, often referred to as "iron brothers."

The Commerce Minister highlighted the importance of aligning the two countries' economic cooperation with their strong political and strategic ties. "While our economic partnership has grown significantly, particularly through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA), there is still vast untapped potential," the minister noted.

Federal Commerce Minister delivered a virtual keynote address at the Pakistan Investment Conference held during the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), China's second-largest exhibition.

Organized by Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing in collaboration with China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and the Beijing Municipal Government, the event aimed to bolster B2B exchanges and foster investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Focusing on Phase II of CPEC, which emphasizes business-to-business (B2B) exchanges and win-win partnerships, the Commerce

Barrister Saif: K-P Government Focusing On Boosting Trade And Social Relations With Afghanistan

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Adviser, Barrister Saif, has reiterated the provincial government's desire to strengthen social and trade relations with Afghanistan.

In a statement, he emphasized the importance of fostering better ties between the two neighboring countries for regional peace and mutual benefit.

Barrister Saif dismissed criticism from what he called "fake ministers" regarding a meeting with KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Afghanistan's Consul General, labelling the remarks as absurd.

He pointed out that such ministers were either ignorant of constitutional provisions or attempting to mislead the public.

Pakistan's Foreign Office on Thursday stressed that foreign policy remains a federal responsibility, responding to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's plan to send his own delegation to Afghanistan to address security concerns.

Citing the powers granted by the 18th Amendment, Barrister Saif, noted that chief ministers are authorised to engage in foreign trips and sign agreements.

He further mentioned that past leaders, including Shehbaz Sharif, had conducted foreign visits and negotiated trade deals during their time in office. The information adviser also challenged critics to explain the diplomatic engagements of Maryam Nawaz when she served in an official capacity. He added that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has held and will continue to hold meetings with foreign diplomats, including Afghan representatives, to promote regional peace and trade.—RT/Agency

Pervaiz Ashraf: PTI Leadership Acting Against Pakistan's National Interests

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and senior leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Saturday, criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, calling them the enemy of Pakistan's interests, democracy, parliament, constitution, and peace.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said, "The leadership of PTI is an enemy of consensus, Pakistan, peace, and the interests of the people, as well as democracy, parliament, and the constitution."

He said that while the committee established by the National Assembly Speaker aims to improve the parliamentary atmosphere, the PTI leadership appears to have a different agenda.

He also referenced PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's question regarding a controversial tweet, saying



than any political party. He highlighted the contributions of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's grandfather, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who granted Pakistan the right to vote and a constitution. In contrast, he criticized the grandfather of the opposition leader for laying the foundation of dictatorship in the country. He recalled that Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto refused to bow down and sacrificed his life for democracy, the constitution, and the people. He also praised former president Asif Ali Zardari for restoring the powers of the parliament through the 18th Amendment.

He warned that the path chosen by the PTI leadership leads towards destruction. He urged the need for unity and consensus to pull the country out of its current crises, lamenting that the PTI leadership has failed to highlight the issues faced by ordinary citizens.—RT/Agency

Punjab Slashes Court Fees, Easing Financial Burden On Public And Lawyers

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



LAHORE: Punjab Government has announced a reduction in court fees, following the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

The Punjab Government made the adjustment to court fees on various petitions and applications followed by lawyers and citizens about the increased fees in the budget.

Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, took notice of these concerns and instructed the federal and provincial law ministers, Mr. Azam Nazir Tarar and Sohaib Ahmed Bherth, to consult with all stakeholders and address the issues.

In response, a high-level meeting was held at the Law and Parliamentary Affairs office, chaired by Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Provincial Law Minister Sohaib Ahmed Bherth.

The meeting was attended by key legal figures, including Punjab Bar Council Vice Chairman Babar Waheed, Executive Committee Chair-

man Rao Fazal ur Rehman, High Court Bar Association Secretary Qadir Bux, Lahore High Court Bar President Munir Hussain Bhatti, Senior Member of Pakistan Bar Council Ahsan Bhoon, and other regional bar association leaders. The committee carefully reviewed the court fees and unanimously agreed to reduce them as much as possible, ensuring that the public can access justice more easily and affordably. Law Minister Malik Ahmad Bhurath stated that under the revised structure, the court fee for obtaining certified copies of orders or judgments from civil courts has been set at one-time fee of Rs 100, while for high court orders, the fee is Rs 500. Additionally, the fee for each certified copy page is now Rs 10. The revised notification also stipulates a one-time fee of Rs 500 for review applications filed with the Board of Revenue or commissioners under the Punjab Tenancy Act 1887.—RT/Agency

Martyred Police Constables From Lala Moosa Accident Given Final Honors

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: The funeral prayer of police constables named Zeshan and Mehmoond Gondal, DSP Sadar Jalalpur Sheebaz Hanjara, DSP Traffic Police Gujrat Tariq Shafi, DSP Kharian Sirai Alamgir and 26 SHO District Deputy Commissioner Gu-

jarat Safdar Hussain, DPO Gujrat Dr. Mustansir Ata Bajwa, SP Mahar Riaz Naz, DSP Legal Akhtar Mehmoond Gondal, DSP Sadar Jalalpur Sheebaz Hanjara, DSP Traffic Police Gujrat Tariq Shafi, DSP Kharian Sirai Alamgir and 26 SHO District Deputy Commissioner Gu-

Federal Government Cracks Down On Newspapers Circulating Exclusively As PDFs

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The federal government has decided to cancel the declarations of all newspapers and magazines across the country that are not being printed and are only operating as PDFs. These newspapers and magazines, which are not being regularly printed and are functioning solely through PDF files, will soon have their declarations revoked. After a report was presented by the Federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the federal government sent a letter to the provincial govern-

ments, which will soon start issuing notices to these publications. Additionally, there has been news for journalists associated with PDF newspapers. In the future, they will no longer receive government perks, such as plots, accreditation cards, and discounted travel on trains and airplanes. These journalists will also not be able to obtain membership in local press clubs. Moreover, any news published against individuals in viral social media posts that appears in PDF newspapers will be considered illegal and punishable. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will have the authority to take direct action against such offenses. The Punjab government has expressed willingness to launch an effective public awareness campaign soon to guide those associated with the field of journalism. Talks are also ongoing between the federal government and other provincial governments. Journalists have been urged to exercise caution and not become involved in any illegal activities without reason. They are advised to fulfill their journalistic duties only with newspapers and magazines that are printed and available in the market.

PTI's Shoaib Shaheen Secures Bail From Anti-Terrorism Court

RAWALPINDI: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) has granted bail to PTI lawyer Shoaib Shaheen, ordering his immediate release, while the bail applications of other PTI leaders were postponed due to the absence of the relevant judge.

The bail hearing of PTI leaders Sher Afzal Marwat, Sheikh Waqas Akram, Shoaib Shaheen, and others took place before ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sirpa. PTI MNAs were represented by lawyers Riasat Ali Azad and Adil Qazi.

The court inquired about Shoaib Shaheen's physical remand, to which the lawyer responded, "Shaheen was remanded for eight days, but the remand was suspended on the same day. He, along with other assembly members, remains in jail."

Judge Sirpa summoned the prosecution and the case record from Sangiani police station, after which a brief adjournment was called.



FIR mentions assaulting a police officer, but no medical certificate is attached."

Judge Sirpa asked about the recovery of the baton, to which the lawyer replied, "Yesterday, before the Islamabad High Court, the investigating officer confirmed the recovery of a baton from Shaheen."

The court granted Shoaib Shaheen bail against a surety of Rs100,000 and ordered his immediate release.

The hearing for other PTI leaders' bail applications was adjourned until Monday at 9am.

Judge Tahir Sirpa is currently presiding over jail trials at Adiala Prison in place of ATC Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, who is on leave. As a result, delays or postponements in hearings for the PTI leaders' bail applications are likely due to the absence of the designated judge.—RT/Agency

Youth With Disabilities Commits Suicide

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A deaf-mute young man shot himself dead in a village near Mongi Bangla area. After re-

ceiving the information, the rescue and police reached the spot and took the deceased to the hospital. The President of Police Gojra handed over the body of the deceased to the heirs after necessary formalities.



Breaking the Borrowing Habit: Pakistan's Debt Trap Dilemma

Pakistan's persistent reliance on borrowing, particularly from the IMF, has trapped the nation in a vicious cycle of debt. Instead of focusing on long-term solutions to its economic woes, successive governments have sought quick fixes, often at the expense of the country's fiscal sovereignty. The latest \$7 billion bailout from the IMF may provide temporary relief, but it does little to address the fundamental issues that plague the national economy.

Decades of IMF-dictated austerity measures have crippled Pakistan's ability to grow sustainably, leading to unprecedented levels

of stagflation. Constant borrowing has led to a weakened economy where growth remains stagnant while inflation spirals out of control.



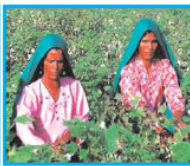
Each bailout delays the inevitable, with the government kicking the can down the road rather than implementing structural reforms that could revitalize the economy.

This reliance on external loans has burdened taxpayers, while those already in the tax net are further squeezed through mini-budgets. Meanwhile, the government's in-

ability to expand the tax base or stimulate exports reflects its short-sightedness. Instead of finding innovative ways to grow the economy, policymakers seem content with meeting IMF revenue targets through painful measures that hit the working class hardest.

The question Pakistan must now face is this: how long will the nation remain beholden to foreign lenders? Without a comprehensive, self-reliant economic strategy, Pakistan risks sinking deeper into the debt trap. It's time to break free from the IMF's cycle of loans and foster homegrown solutions to its economic crisis. Otherwise, this will surely not be the last bailout.

THE HEARTLAND



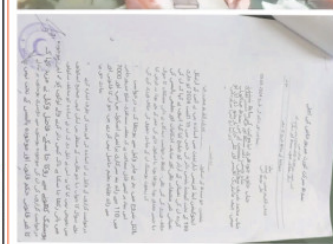
Two martyred cops laid to rest in Mehar

By Murtaza Panhvar

MEHAR: In the vicinity of Mehar, the villages of Syed Jo Goth and Ghazi Khan Janwri, two police officers, Roshan Ali Debar and Syed Rakhio Janwri, who were martyred in a road accident in January, were honored with a funeral prayer in police honor. The ceremony included a police salute, and their bodies were covered with the national flag and Sindh Ajraks. The funeral prayer was attended by SSP Dadu Ameer Saud

Magsi, DSP Muhammad Younis Rodnani, SHO Syed Asghar Shah and Qurban Ali Qambrani, along with political, social, and local community members. The burial took place in the ancestral graveyard, where a salute was given to the national flag. During the occasion, SSP Dadu Captain (Retd) Ameer Saud Magsi informed the media that the families of the martyred officers would be provided with jobs, a compensation of one crore each, and a martyr package.

SHC cancels transfer orders of teachers



By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: The Sindh High Court Mirpurkhas Circuit has ruled in favor of teachers in a constitutional petition filed against the forced trans-

fers of teachers. The court, under the leadership of Azam Khan Hazarvi, the Divisional President of PTA (Primary Teachers' Association), response to a constitutional petition filed against the forced trans-

Coming days will be crucial for the country's future: MNA Javed Ali Shah Jilani

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MNA Syed Javed Ali Shah Jilani stated that the forthcoming period will be crucial for the country's future. He emphasized that apart from the senior leadership and leaders of the

PPP, no other entity has a robust policy or ideology. MNA Syed Javed Ali Shah Jilani highlighted the ongoing development work in different UCs. Syed Javed Ali Shah Jilani further commented that inflation is becoming a global issue, exacerbated by ongoing wars and

unemployment in various countries, leading many nations into the quagmire of inflation. He stressed that Pakistan's future will be decisive. He also expressed full confidence in the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardar and President Asif Ali Zardari.

LHWs protest against unequal distribution of mosquito nets in Tando Bago



By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: In the surrounding villages of Tando Bago, recent distribution of mosquito nets by Indus Hospital has been marred by complaints. Despite the issuance of tokens for distribution in various villages, many villagers have not received mosquito nets, and some have alleged favoritism. Led

by Lady Health Workers including Ghulam Muhammad Junejo, Rukhsana, Parveen, and others, a protest was held in front of the main gate of the Taluka Hospital. The protesters stated that due to the improper distribution of mosquito nets, they face difficulties while carrying out their polio vaccination campaigns in these villages. Villagers, frustrated by the lack of mos-

Karoonjhar Sujag Forum opposes Sindh Cabinet's decision

By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI: On September 14, the Sindh Cabinet's decision to technically cancel the 21,000 acres of the Karoonjhar area as a national heritage site. The leaders of the Karoonjhar Sujag Forum stated that they would completely reject this decision and start a protest movement. They also announced their intention to file a petition in the Sindh High Court Mirpurkhas Bench against the Cabinet's decision. They urged the Sindh government to issue a notification declaring the entire Karoonjhar area as national heritage, rather than de-cieving the people of Sindh.

quito nets and inadequate distribution despite having tokens, are reportedly showing disrespect towards the health workers and even expelling them from the villages. This situation has led to a boycott of polio vaccination efforts. The health workers have expressed their severe concerns and called for immediate intervention to resolve the issue.

Hindu Panchayat, AKF hold a free medical camp in Shahdadpur

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: The Hindu Panchayat of Shahdadpur, with the support of the Al-Khidmat Foundation Karachi, organized a free medical camp for the poor and needy members of the community. Over 200 patients received free checkups and necessary medications at the camp. On this occasion, Hindu Panchayat President Vinod Kumar, Mama Paramanand, Gopal Das, and others expressed their gratitude to the Al-Khidmat Foundation for setting up the free medical camp in response to their request. They acknowledged the assistance of the doctors' team and staff, which ben-



efited over 200 poor and needy individuals, including children, women, and men. They emphasized that the Hindu Panchayat of

Shahdadpur will continue to conduct such activities from time to time, with their primary goal being the service of humanity.

Tando Allahyar Police arrest two Gutka suppliers

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the orders of SSP Tando Allahyar, Abrez Ali Abbasi, the Tando Allahyar Police continues its crackdown against drug dealers, criminal elements, habitual offenders, and the illegal trade of substances such as raw alcohol, Gutka, and Mainpuri. Recently, 300 packets of Royal Indian Gutka were seized and two suspects were arrested. According to the details, under the supervision of SDPO Tando Allahyar, and following a tip-off, SHO A Section Mir Afzal Gul Magsi stopped a Swift car with registration number BXP-953 near Nasir



and Aurangzeb Brohi, are from Hub Chowki, Karachi. A case has been registered against them at the A Section Police Station in Tando Allahyar.

Floodwater submerges village Sajan Chandio in Kachho

By Murtaza Panhvar

MEHAR: In Kachho's Faridabad, floodwater has inundated the village of Sajan Chandio, completely submerging homes. Innocent children and women are crying out for help, protesting against the lack of aid. The floodwater from Balochistan has inundated Sajan Chandio, affecting over 200 homes. The cries of children and women are unheard. Villagers and flood victims, including Haji Muhammad Chandio, Muneer Chandio, Karam Ali Chandio, Qasim Chandio, Ali Nawaz Chandio, Muhammad Hassan Chandio, Amir Ali Chandio, Zahid Ali Chandio, and Ms. Mehnaz Chandio, protested



in front of the media, lamenting that the floodwater has engulfed the entire village. They said that nothing was left in their homes, and they had to escape with their lives. They claimed that no aid has reached them since the village was submerged and they are now sitting

under the open sky without clean drinking water. They demand that rations and tents be provided. They have requested Sindh's Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah to address the needs of the flood victims, warning that otherwise, their protest will continue.

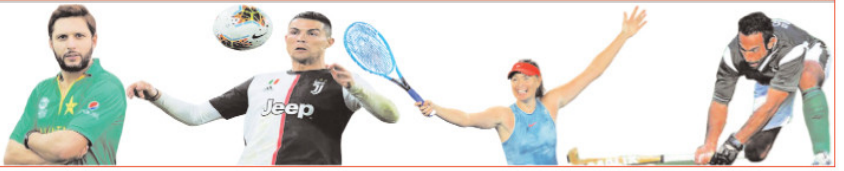
Jilani House's Media Coordinator Ehsan Lehrani passes away

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: A young Media Coordinator of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) at Jilani House, Ehsan Lehrani passed away due to a heart attack. He had been suffering from stomach pain and was taken

to Kotdiji Hospital for treatment. After being given medicine by the doctor, he returned home, but sadly, he was unable to get off his motorcycle and passed away. Upon hearing the news, PPP MNA Dr. Nafisa Shah expressed her deep sorrow. Due to the constitutional amendment being brought forward later this week, I will not be able to attend his funeral, which only adds to my grief. However, my team will provide every possible support to his family until I can personally be there.

SPORTS



After sweeping Pakistan, Bangladesh captain confident about tough India tour



CHENNAI: Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto is full of confidence after his team's historic 2-0 Test series sweep against Pakistan in Rawalpindi.

The victory has elevated Bangladesh to No 4 in the World Test Championship standings. This triumph has strengthened the team's belief in their ability to win abroad. As they gear up for a two-match Test series against top-ranked India, Shanto hopes the success against Pakistan will provide strong motivation.

Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024: India defeat Pakistan to remain unbeaten



HULUNBUIR: Pakistan's Harmanpreet Singh with the second one coming in the second quarter. India during their match in the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024 played at the Moqi Training Base, Hulunbuir, China.

Both Pakistan and India have qualified for the semi-finals with the latter finishing the round stage unbeaten to secure the top position on the points table after handing down Pakistan their first defeat of the tournament.

During the match today, Pakistan secured an early lead courtesy of Hannan Shahid's skillful pass to Ahmad Nadeem who managed to find the back of the net.

Face of the Day



Name: Moiz Malik Location: Karachi About me: Strike a pose if you love modeling like me!

PCB delays England Test series schedule due to venue ambiguities



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is encountering difficulties in finalising the schedule for the upcoming Test series against England, leading to frustration from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Barmy Army, a dedicated group of English cricket fans.

The PCB has promised to announce the final schedule within 24 to 48 hours.

England is scheduled to tour Pakistan early next month for a three-match Test series. According to the original schedule, the first Test was set for October 7-11 in Multan, the second for October 15-19 in Karachi, and the third for October 24-28 in Rawalpindi.

Even fruit and vegetable sellers know who should be coach and captain: Younis Khan criticises PCB

LAHORE: Former captain Younis Khan, in a conversation with the media, criticised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), stating that even vegetable, fruit, and grocery sellers know who should be the team captain and coach, but the PCB remains unaware.



He added that sometimes he feels the PCB is like a crow trying to imitate a swan and forgetting its own walk.

He mentioned that his coaches had also told him that Younis Khan was not part of their future plans, questioning how a coach, uncertain about his own fu-

ture, can decide the future of the players. Former captain Younis Khan further criticised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), stating that it seems the PCB still doesn't know what it is. Younis also took a dig at the Sindh government, saying that looking at Karachi, it feels like he's living in Mohenjo-daro.

Uganda holds funeral for murdered Olympian Rebecca Cheptegei

UGANDA: Ugandans on Saturday paid tributes to Olympian Rebecca Cheptegei, who died after her partner set her on fire in Kenya, ahead of her funeral in her family village.



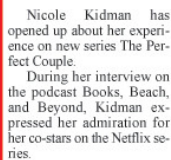
The 33-year-old, who debuted this summer in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics, succumbed to severe burns last week after being attacked by Kenya's Dickson Ndiema Marangach.

The brutal assault shocked the East African region and prompted a global outpouring of tributes, with activists condemning another act of gender-based violence in Kenya.

On Saturday morning, residents, officials and relatives waited in the cold morning light to pay their re-

spects in the village of Bukwo, some 380 kilometres northeast of Uganda's capital Kampala. "We are extremely saddened," said her estranged husband Simon Ayeko, with whom she had two daughters with. "As a father it has been very difficult," he told AFP, explaining he had not been able to break the news to their children. "Slowly we will tell them the truth." The service to honour Cheptegei, a sergeant in the Uganda People's Defence Forces, started around 10am, with officials and relatives gathering at the local council office.

Nicole Kidman shares secrets from the set of 'The Perfect Couple'



Nicole Kidman has opened up about her experience on new series The Perfect Couple.

During her interview on the podcast Books, Beach, and Beyond, Kidman expressed her admiration for her co-stars on the Netflix series.

She said, "I love working in an ensemble because you have so many different characters on set and watching everybody and getting to know everyone."

She also praised Liev Schreiber, Dakota Fanning, and Eve Hewson, revealing, "I just spoke to Dakota the other day going, 'You're so good at this.' And Liev, but also Eve is just such a delight... I think she's just so intoxicating."

"You're all working together as an acting troupe, and that's the thing I love most," she added.



In the series, the actress plays the role of Greer Garrison Wimbury, a novelist, faces a dramatic turn of events when a body is discovered during her son's wedding, leading to a murder investigation. Kidman also appreciated the opportunity to explore more humorous side of her acting, saying, "I love the wit. She's funny, and a lot of times, I don't get the chance to do that. And that was a huge draw card for me."

Jennifer Lopez seems to intensify workout sessions amid Ben Affleck split



Jennifer Lopez seemingly geared up her workout sessions amid her high-profile divorce with Ben Affleck.

The On the Border hitmaker was spotted outside a hair salon on Friday in Los Angeles, while the Gone Girl singer was seen enjoying a cigarette during a drive. During her short trip to the salon, the 55-year-old singer was spotted showcas-

ing her toned body as "she looked more than ready for a pampering session". For her self-care outing, Lopez donned a white cropped top featuring a roll-neck design which showcased her ripped abs, teaming with pair of baggy beige trousers and heels.

The actress-singer, who is divorcing her fourth husband after two years of marriage, accessorized with large hoop earrings and a pair of designer shades.

Her visit comes few days after a report that the Ain't Your Mama singer and Leah Remini reportedly "reconnected recently" amid their respective divorces.

Leah, on other hand, had split from her husband, Angelo Pagan, whom she married in 2003. As per this source, stars had a "long heart-to-heart," and shared that while seeing each other the stars "couldn't believe they were both in the middle of a divorce." "Leah and J.Lo bonded over the shared experience," the source claimed.

Awais Munir, Asjad Iqbal secure wins in Snooker World Cup opening matches



KARACHI: Pakistani cueists Awais Munir and Asjad Iqbal delivered outstanding performances on the first day of the Snooker World Cup taking place in Mongolia, winning both of their matches.

Asjad Iqbal and Awais Munir secured victories in both of their games without dropping a single frame.

In his first match, Asjad Iqbal defeated Mongolia's Batar khuu Naranhuu with a score of 3-0, the frames ending 71-38, 71-51, and 110-32.

In the second match, Asjad again triumphed over Japan's Junji Miyazawa, with scores of 68-18, 63-11, and 83-01.

Awais Munir won his first match against Mongolia's Kash Uchir, with frame scores of 60-17, 62-12, and 81-09.

In his second match, Awais defeated Oman's Husain Al-Wati without losing a frame, with scores of 68-06, 10175-12, and 83-15.

Remember, both departed from Karachi on Thursday to participate in the Mongolia World Cup as well as the World 6-Red Snooker Championship.

Munir's coach, Shoaib Arif, banked on the cueist's remarkable track record and added that he is well-prepared for the tournaments.

"As a coach, I can say Awais Munir is well prepared for the tournaments and by the will of Almighty Allah, he will succeed and bring joy to the nation, said Arif.

It must be noted Awais is the only Pakistani cueist to make it to the finals in his first three international tournaments, winning one of them. Thus, he has one gold and two silver medals to his name.—Agency

Mohammad Amir breaks Bhuvneshwar Kumar's all-time T20 record



LAHORE: Left-arm Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir, broke India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar's all-time record of bowling the most maiden by a pacer in T20s.

The left-arm pacer, representing Antigua and Barbuda Falcons in the ongoing Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2024, achieved the feat in his side's Thursday fixture against Barbados Royals.

Bowling the first over as the Falcons set to defend 177, Mohammad Amir outlasted hard-hitting batter Rakheem Cornwall with his exceptional All-Indies (26) and West Indies' Sunil Narine the batter to score a single (30).—Agency

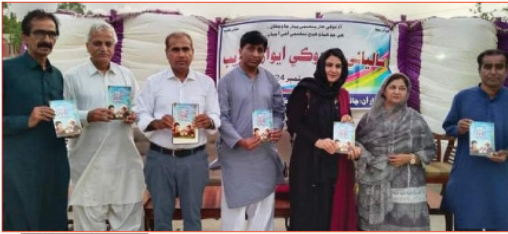
REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT



THE HEARTLAND



Chandoki Award distribution ceremony held in Jamshoro



By Munawar Chandio
 JAMSHORO: The annual Chandoki Award distribution ceremony was held with the support of the Culture Department at the Teachers' Club Jamshoro. Poet Javed Soz Halai supervised the awards distribution ceremony which was also attended by Aziz Gopang, Dr Naveeda Katar, Ali Dost Ajiz and others. The awards were provided to the literary figures for the literary works, who included Prof Dr Ali Murtaza Dharejo, Dr Parveen Moosa Memon, Rahimad Jogi, Waheed Mohsin, Sar-mad Abbasi, Riaz Kalhoro, Lochi Ladham Lal and others.

Health Dept, PPHI hold free medical camps in Radoolabad, Hingorja



By Sajjad Chang
 HINGORJA: A free medical camp was organized by the Health Department and PPHI in Radoolabad and Hingorja after the outbreak of malaria. THO Sobhodoro Dr Abdul Rehman Memon is supervising the free medical camps. While talking to the media, THO Sobhodoro said that the Health Department has taken notice of the death of two children and in this regard free medical camps are being organized and healthcare facilities are being provided to the people at their doorsteps.

Protest erupts against influential landlord

By Sajid Ali Janyaro
 KETI BANDER: Residents of Ibrahim Dabro, a village near Keti Bandar, have staged a protest against local landlord Babu Jat. The demonstrators claim that Jat has been using a heavy crane to remove slit from the road running through their village, leading to disruption and discontent among the locals. Protesters have blocked the road, demanding an immediate halt to the dust-removal operation. They have vowed to keep the road closed until their demands are met. This blockade has caused significant disruption, with long queues of vehicles halted on the Keti Bandar-Karachi road. Passengers stranded due to the road closure are experiencing anxiety and frustration. Authorities have yet to respond to the situation, and the protest shows no signs of subsiding until the villagers' grievances are addressed.

SSP Larkana suspends a cop for beating a man

By Saleem Soomro
 LARKANA: A video went viral on social media, showing a police head constable in Larkana City, on Vegetable Market Road, beating a civilian with a baton. The footage, which shows the police constable physically assaulting the civilian, prompted an immediate response from SSP Larkana, Mir Rohail Khan Khoso. SSP Khoso took notice of the incident and suspended the head constable, Ghulam Hussain Mangi, transferring him to police lines. Additionally, SSP Khoso ordered the appointment of DSP Haidari, Paras Bukhari, as the inquiry officer to investigate the incident. Further departmental actions will be taken based on the findings of the inquiry report.

AC Raja Khan Qureshi inspects main store of CMC Hospital



By Saleem Soomro
 LARKANA: Larkana's Assistant Commissioner Raja Khan Qureshi visited the main store of Chandka Medical Hospital, where he met with the staff and inspected the medications. Khan Qureshi said that the visit was part of the inspection process for the medicines provided by the Sindh government to Chandka Hospital. During the visit, various types of medications available in the store were checked.

Mufti Nazir Ahmed Umrani chairs meeting of JUI-F Sujawal



By Kamran Hidayat
 SUJAWAL: Taluka President of JUI-F Sujawal, Mufti Nazir Ahmed Umrani chaired a meeting of the party leaders at Madrasa Al-Hashmia Sujawal. The meeting reviewed arrangements for the Mufti Mehmod Conference which will be organized on the 14th October in Mirpurkhas. They announced to attend the conference in large number. On the occasion, the new members of Majlis-e-Shura of Sujawal Taluka were elected, who included Maulana Abdul Razaq Khattai, Maulana Muhammad Anwar Soomro, Maulana Ghulam Hussain Memon, Hanif Soomro and others.

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

General Sahir Shamshad, CJCS, Holds Talks With Chinese Military Leaders

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza held key meetings with top officials of the Chinese military. CJCS on an official visit to the neighbouring country held separate meetings with General He Weidong, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and General Liu Zhenli, Chief of CMC Joint Staff Department. During meetings, both sides appreciated deep and historic relationship of Pakistan and China in multiple domains and acknowledged progress on the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership and defence cooperation. The Chinese leadership also reaffirmed their unfettered commitment to support Pakistan on its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Gen Sahid Shamshad Mirza also delivered a talk in 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum on the Role of Pakistan towards regional peace and stability.—RT/Agency



Anjuman Hyderi takes out a mourning procession in Hyderabad

By GM Chandio
 HYDERABAD: A mourning procession was taken out in Hyderabad by Anjuman Hyderi from Qadimgah Maula Ali (AS). A large number of people belonging to different walks of life participated in the procession which culminated at the Imambargah Dadan Shah. Foolproof security measures were taken by the police and Rangers in the city, while more than 50 streets connecting to the route of the mourning procession were sealed as the people were allowed to enter the mourning procession from the entry point only. On the occasion, Allama Baqir Hussain addressed a Majlis-e-Aza also.

JSQM protest for recovery of abducted Saddam Bhatti

By Khair Muhammad Golo
 THUL: JSQM leaders and activists took out a protest rally for the recovery of abducted youth Saddam Bhatti on Saturday. While talking to the media, the protest leaders, who included Shahan Soomro, Wasim Qureshi, Gulmir Burrio, Son Lashari, Jaffar Sindhi and others said that Saddam Bhatti had been abducted one month ago from Thul but the concerned authorities have still not succeeded to find his whereabouts. On the occasion, the protesters demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter and ensure the recovery of abducted youth, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Four Students Expelled After Filming Content For Social Media Platform

SHANGLA: A principal expelled four students from school after their video, which was filmed in the classroom, went viral on social media platform, TikTok. The video, which was shot by the 10th-grade students at Government High School Danna Kol, went viral on social media, prompting swift action from the school administration and expelled the four students. Upon discovering the video went viral on TikTok, the school's headmaster took immediate disciplinary measures, media reported. The four students involved were expelled from the school, and their textbooks were confiscated. In addition to the expulsion, the students were issued "bad character" certificates, a move that further tarnishes their academic records. The headmaster stated that such actions were necessary to maintain discipline and uphold the school's reputation. However, the decision to expel the students has sparked controversy. Members of the local civil society have condemned the harsh punishment, calling it an overreaction that could severely impact the future of the students. Civil society representatives have urged the school administration to reconsider the expulsions, arguing that alternative forms of discipline, such as counselling or warnings, could have been more appropriate.—RT/Agency

Nooriabad Executive Club of Trade and Industries host reception for SSP Zafar Siddique

By Shams Palari
 NOORIABAD: Nooriabad Executive Club of Trade and Industries hosted a reception in honor of SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chhanga. The members of the trade organization briefed the SSP Jamshoro about the security issues in the industrial area. SSP Zafar Siddique assured the traders that the foolproof security measures will be taken to provide foolproof security to the businessmen community. He further said that Nooriabad has a very important and big industrial zone and there will be no compromise on its security. He also vowed to continue operations against criminals and drug dealers.



Newborn dies due to alleged negligence of doctors

By Younis Chandio
 MIRPURKHAS: At the New Civil Hospital, a newborn died recently due to alleged medical negligence by doctors. In an emergency situation, the hospital's doctors reportedly issued a referral letter to the parents for Hyderabad Civil Hospital, and attempted to remove the baby from their care. This led to a significant protest by the Hindu community of Samaro at Mirpurkhas Civil Hospital, where they demonstrated against the doctors. The situation escalated as doctors reportedly locked themselves in their rooms and remained hidden within the hospital. Amidst the chaos, the baby passed away, and the grieving parents wept inside the hospital. Hashim Sharf, founder of the Press Foundation, arrived at the scene to offer support to the bereaved family. The body of the deceased baby was transported to Samaro via ambulance.

NTS test passed candidates demand offer orders

By Zeeshan Soomro
 SAKRAND: A long march of the NTS test passed candidates, which had been taken out from Dadu four days ago reached Sakrand under the leadership of Habib Sindhi, Lal Bux Sehto, Gulsher Solangi and others. The local NTS in 2013 but the government has still not provided orders Sakrand including Gal Muhammad Unar, Bashir Mirani and others welcomed the participants of the long march. The leaders while talking to the media said that they had passed written test for the posts of teachers in 2013 but the government has still not provided orders Sakrand including Gal Muhammad Unar, Bashir Mirani and others welcomed the participants of the long march. The leaders while talking to the media said that they had passed written test for the posts of teachers



TMC Tando Jam launches campaign to cover open manholes

By Mumtaz Ali
 TANDO JAM: The Central Chairman of Asan Jo Ailan Puram Pakistan Muhammad Taslim Rajput said that the campaign has been launched by the TMC Tando Jam to cover the open manholes on the orders of AC Shaista Jabeen, CMO Shahjahan Panhwar, Mukhtiar Kar Imran Khokhar, TMC Chairman Badar Ahmed Memon and other officials. He added that the local administration is taking steps to facilitate the masses. He also urged the people to get their children administered anti-polio drops so that they could remain safe from the future disabilities.

REGIONAL TIMES MONEY

Saudi Arabia Proposes 15% Investment In Reko Diq Mining Project

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia has offered fifteen percent investment in the mega Reko Diq gold and copper project, media reported. The Kingdom has also offered grants to build road infrastructure around the Reko Diq project. Special Investment Facilitation Council has approved the structure of the offer but the final decision has been left to the Cabinet Committee on Intergovernmental Transactions. Pakistan expects Saudi investment of up to five billion dollars in mining and agriculture sector by June next year. Last year in December, Pakistan and Barrick Gold Corporation have signed \$8 billion landmark agreement on project after Supreme Court (SC) termed the deal 'legal'. The \$8 billion landmark agreement was signed by Reko Diq Gold Corporation representative and federal and Balochistan government representatives. The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan on Dec 9 ruled that new deal on the gold and copper mining project in Balochistan is legal. Reko Diq is considered one of the world's largest undeveloped copper-gold mines. The project is being restarted after remaining on hold since 2011. "Reko Diq is one of the bigger copper-gold undeveloped projects in the world," said Mark Bristow, chief executive of Barrick, which aims to start mining in 2028 subject to an ongoing feasibility study. "It's a very big deal. Any copper mine right now is one of the world's largest a big deal."—RT/Agency



METRO KARACHI



Sindh Education Minister Criticizes Lack Of Federal Cooperation On Education Emergency



By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Provincial Education and Mineral Development Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah expressed disappointment over the federal government's declaration of an education emergency without consulting the provinces. Speaking at an event organized by the Sindh Education Foundation in Karachi, he emphasized that no collaboration had been made to address the crisis, despite the federal announcement. He also revealed that 20,000 schools in Sindh were affected by recent heavy rains, leaving 2 million children to study in inadequate conditions.



Shah criticized the absence of a clear federal policy for the country's 26 million out-of-school children, urging the central government to prioritize the restoration of Sindh's flood-damaged schools. He expressed hope that the federal government would fulfill its promises in this regard. The ceremony at the Marriott Hotel honored individuals who have adopted non-school government schools under the Sindh Education Foundation's "Adopt a School Program." Shah praised the adopters for their role in revitalizing 319 schools, providing education to 125,000 children. He further urged lawmakers to take responsibility for at least three schools in their constituencies, reinforcing the importance of collective responsibility in improving education. Secretary of School Education Sindh, Zahid Ali Abbasi, and Sindh Education Foundation MD Qazi Kabir also commended the adopters, highlighting Sindh's leadership in educational reforms and the impact of the school adoption policy since its inception in 1998.

Customs Thwart Drug Smuggling At Karachi Airport

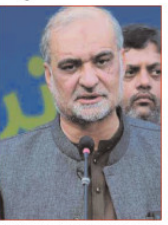


KARACHI: Customs officials successfully foiled an attempt to smuggle drugs at Jinnah International Airport on Saturday, seizing over one kilogram of ice heroin from a passenger, according to media reports. The passenger, who was planning to travel to Bahrain on a foreign airline, was stopped based on suspicion. Upon searching his luggage, authorities discovered the heroin. The suspect has been arrested, and further investigations are ongoing. In a separate incident, customs officers at the same airport intercepted two passengers bound for Dubai. Muntazir Mehd and Mohammad Kashif, who were preparing to board a Pakistan International Airline (PIA) flight, were found carrying over AED 100,000 during routine checks. The passengers claimed the money was for purchasing videography equipment, but customs officials seized the funds and initiated legal action for breaching currency regulations. Additionally, customs officials prevented a money laundering attempt when they stopped a passenger about to board an international flight to Doha. The suspect was arrested and investigations are underway.—RT/Agency

Cherry-Picking Judges Will Undermine Public Trust In Judiciary: Hafiz Naeem



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeem criticized the federal government for allegedly selecting judges for the Supreme Court based on favoritism. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Rehman expressed concerns over the potential erosion of public trust in the judiciary due to such practices. He called on Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa to clarify his stance on the age of judges and to reassure the nation that he has no interest in extending his tenure. Rehman also urged the government to refrain from meddling in judicial affairs and warned against altering the constitution, which has already been agreed upon by all parties. Additionally, Rehman asked the government to investigate recent statements made by PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja, who revealed that his family had received threats from unknown sources. He further emphasized the need for unity between the public and the armed forces, expressing concerns about the worsening security situation in the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Rehman also highlighted the growing popularity of the JI, as more people are joining the party, seeing it as a source of hope. He concluded by demanding a reduction in electricity bills, noting the rising unemployment across the country.—RT/Agency



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Municipal Commissioner Saddar Town Noor Hassan Jokhio reviews arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Municipal Commissioner of Saddar Town, Noor Hassan Jokhio, has stated that the arrival of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (?) is a tremendous blessing from Allah for the entire universe. Providing all municipal facilities to the followers of the Holy Prophet (?) during the blessed month of Rabi-ul-Awal is also considered a form of worship. In preparation for the events of 12 Rabi-ul-Awal, the Saddar Town Administration is making arrangements for lighting, road repairs, and the spraying of disinfectants around mosques, and places of gatherings using available resources. This was announced during a meeting at the town's central office to finalize the arrangements for 12 Rabi-ul-Awal. The meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer M&E Iqbal Dahri, Superintendent Engineer B&R Rafiq Sheikh, Director Sanitation Asim Ali Khan, Director Administration Mohammad Riyaz, Director Land Enforcement Ali Murad, Chief Account Officer Naem Yousuf, and other departmental officers. The Municipal Commissioner also instructed Director Land



Enforcement Ali Murad to accelerate the ongoing anti-environment campaign and directed the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation officers to ensure that no sewerage issues arise around the procession routes and around mosques to avoid any inconvenience to the participants. He affirmed that the Saddar Town administration will ensure cleanliness, lighting arrangements, and the spraying of lime around the procession routes, mosques, and gathering places throughout the month of Rabi-ul-Awal, especially on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awal.

KCCI Urges CM And Mayor To Address Karachi's Deteriorating Road Infrastructure



KARACHI: Acting President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Altaf A. Ghaffar, has made a strong appeal to Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah and Mayor Karachi Muraza Wahab, calling for immediate action to repair Karachi's crumbling road network. He emphasized that the city's deteriorating roads, which suffer from frequent traffic jams, have become a source of daily frustration and mental stress for residents. Ghaffar highlighted the numerous complaints received by KCCI regarding the severe damage to roads, particularly following this year's monsoon rains. The delay in repairs, he said, has caused widespread anxiety not only among the business community but also the general public. He pointed out that most roads are now nearly im-

passable due to potholes and overflowing sewerage lines, making both driving and walking a challenge. He specifically mentioned areas such as Jodia Bazaar, Mauripur, Keamari, Bolton Market, Lyari, and MA Jinnah Road, describing them as "war-ravaged" due to the poor condition of the roads. Ghaffar warned that the public's frustration is growing, especially as Karachi continues to generate the largest share of national and provincial revenue yet remains neglected in terms of basic infrastructure. "Karachi contributes more than 65% to the national exchequer and 95% to the provincial budget, yet it receives little more than empty promises," he said. Ghaffar added that the worsening road conditions have made commuting in the city a dangerous ordeal, with frustrated drivers often violating traffic rules, leading to accidents and further congestion. He also pointed out the disparity between elite areas, which receive better services, and the rest of the city, where infrastructure is in dire straits. This imbalance, he warned, is fostering a growing sense of resentment that could escalate into serious social and law-and-order issues if not addressed. Ghaffar once again urged the Chief Minister and Mayor to prioritize the city's road infrastructure, stressing that Karachi plays a vital role in Pakistan's economy and deserves immediate attention from both provincial and federal governments.—RT

Sindh Cabinet Approves Key Reforms And Initiatives



By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: The Sindh cabinet, in a significant meeting, approved the Sindh Defined Contribution Pension Scheme 2024, set to begin on 1st July 2024. Under this scheme, the government and employees will contribute 12% and 10% respectively towards pensions. The cabinet also approved an amendment to the Sindh Civil Servant Act 1973, introducing a Defined Contribution Pension Scheme for civil servants appointed after 2024, replacing the traditional pension system. In environmental protection, the cabinet declared the Karoonjhar Mountain Range, covering 21,000 acres, as a protected heritage site. To preserve marine life, the cabinet imposed a ban on bottom trawling, a destructive fishing method, through amendments in the Fisheries Rules 1983, prohibiting its use within 12 nautical miles off the Sindh coast. In economic matters, the cabinet approved Rs 3.3 billion in outstanding payments to sugar mills as part of Cash Freight Support and an additional Rs 281 million for further relief. The cabinet also sanctioned Rs 434 million for the rehabilitation of the Islamkot Mega RO Plant in Tharparkar to ensure water availability. A significant decision to hand over Cadet College Kakar to the Pakistan Navy was made, alongside a grant of Rs 250 million to complete its remaining components. Additionally, the cabinet approved raising the monthly pay for teachers under the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) and Basic Education Community Schools (BECS) to Rs 37,000, alongside the issuance of the Benazir Hari Card to support small farmers.

Zainuddin Tareen Clinches Gold At 4th Asia IKD Karate Championship

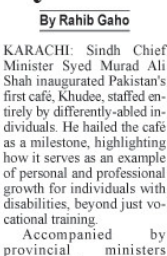


By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Pakistani karateka Zainuddin Tareen secured the gold medal in the under-18 category at the 4th Asia IKD Karate Championship held in Isfahan, Iran. Tareen triumphed over competitors from Tajikistan, Iraq, and Iran in the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals, respectively, bringing honor to Pakistan. The championship saw participation from 11 Asian nations, including Iraq, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Oman, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Indonesia, and the host country, Iran. Approximately 80 referees from international, Asian, and national levels officiated the matches. The event featured Pakistan's national karate team, guided by IKD Pakistan President Jalaluddin Tareen.—RT

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Murad Inaugurates Pakistan's First Café Staffed By Differently-Abled Persons



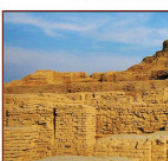
By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated Pakistan's first café, Khudee, staffed entirely by differently-abled individuals. He hailed the café as a milestone, highlighting how it serves as an example of personal and professional growth for individuals with disabilities, beyond just vocational training. Accompanied by provincial ministers Saeed Ghani and Zulqifur Shah, and KVTC CEO Senator Haseeb Ahmed, the CM was briefed about the initiative. Shah praised the Karachi Vocational Training Centre (KVTC) for its efforts in empowering the differently-abled community through vocational training programs, particularly in culinary arts, which equip students with practical skills for professional environments.



He commended the KVTC team for their dedication, stating that their efforts were helping students break barriers and realize their full potential. The Khudee café, he said, is more than just a business-it is a symbol of what can be achieved when opportunities for personal and career growth are provided. "This café is a testament to inclusion and empowerment," Shah noted, emphasizing the significance of such initiatives in uplifting individuals by offering dignity through work. He expressed hope that Khudee would inspire others to create similar platforms for the differently-abled community. The CM concluded by calling for continued support for the differently-abled, ensuring they have the opportunities they need to succeed in society.

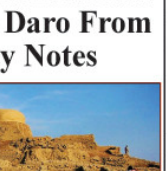
Sindh Protests Removal Of Mohenjo Daro From Currency Notes



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The Sindh government has raised concerns over the removal of Mohenjo Daro's image from Pakistan's currency notes in a letter addressed to the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan. Sindh's Minister for Culture and Tourism, Zulqifur Ali Shah, urged the central bank to reconsider its decision, highlighting the cultural and historical significance of the world heritage site. In the letter, Shah pointed out that the image of Mohenjo Daro first appeared on the Rs 10 note in the 1970s and was later featured on the Rs 20 note. However, the minister noted that the image of the ancient site has been replaced by the Bab-e-Khyber on the new Rs 20 notes. Shah emphasized that Mohenjo Daro, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a 5,000-year-old symbol of Sindh's rich history, represents national pride. The minister warned that excluding such an iconic symbol from the currency sends a negative message and expressed hope that the State Bank would reconsider its decision.—RT/Agency

Customs Intelligence Seizes Smuggled Vehicles And Goods Valued At Rs 376 Million In Major Operation



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Under the strict directives of Muhammad Ali Raza Hanjra, Director General of Intelligence & Investigation-Customs, Islamabad, and the supervision of Masood Ahmed, Director of Customs Intelligence and Investigation, Karachi, a series of anti-smuggling operations were carried out. Between September 1 and September 13, 2024, these efforts resulted in the seizure of 17 consignments of smuggled or non-duty paid foreign vehicles and various goods worth approximately Rs. 376 million. The vehicles seized include two heavy bikes and seven luxury cars such as Lexus, Prado, Surf, and Aqua, with a combined market value of Rs. 260 million. The goods confiscated include 400 LCD TVs, 28,700 kg of plastic dunnage, 1,950 kg of Sodium Glutamate (Ajinomoto), 900 kg of printing ink, 720 kg of refrigerant gas in 10 kg cylinders, 4,790 kg of black paper, along with tyres, carpets, betel nuts, skimmied milk powder, and other items, as well as the carrier vehicles including passenger buses, trucks, and cars.—RT

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Quaidabad police constable demands justice

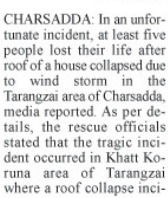


By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: A Police Head Constable Sajjad Talani, stationed at the Quaidabad Police Station in District Malir, has faced warnings for suspension from senior officials after a year-old TikTok video was circulated

on social media by black-mailers. In response, Sajjad Talani told the reporter that the video was a year old and that certain mischief-makers were trying to mislead senior officials to get him suspended. He respectfully requested that the police department conduct a thorough inquiry into the matter. He also urged that the mischief-makers stop their attempts to damage his reputation. Sajjad Talani stated that he would use his legal rights and approach the honorable court if necessary.

Tragic Roof Collapse In Charsadda Claims Five Lives

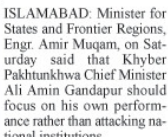


By Asif Qureshi

CHARSADDA: In an unfortunate incident, at least five people lost their lives after a roof of a house collapsed due to wind storm in the Tarangzai area of Charsadda, media reported. As per details, the rescue officials stated that the tragic incident occurred in Khatt Koruna area of Tarangzai where a roof collapse inci-

dent killed five including Sajid, his wife and three children 8-year-old Mosa, 7-year-old Hanifa and 8-months old Duanoor. Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the sad incident and directed the authorities to provide relief to affected family.—RT/Agency

Muqam Urges Gandapur To Prioritize Performance Over Attacks On Institutions



By Asif Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Engr. Amir Muqam, on Saturday said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur should focus on his own performance rather than attacking national institutions. Speaking in the National Assembly on a point of order, the minister stressed that the Chief Minister needs to adopt a constructive approach to address the province's challenges. Amir Muqam said that the sacrifices made by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for peace

condemned the unfortunate incident that took place in Parliament and expressed dissatisfaction with opposition leaders who persist in criticizing political figures. Amir Muqam also voiced concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighting that some residents are afraid to leave their homes at night. Condemning Gandapur's remarks against Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the minister stressed that women should be treated with respect and their dignity upheld.—RT/Agency

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more.

—Mark Twain

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15 2024

Imran Denies Knowledge Of Police Entry Into Parliament Lodges During His Tenure

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan, founding leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has claimed ignorance regarding the police operation at Parliament Lodges during his tenure as Prime Minister.

In March 2022, while Imran was in office, Islamabad police conducted a raid at Parliament Lodges, resulting in the arrest of 19 individuals, including JUI-F MNAs Salahuddin Ayubi and Maulana Jamal-ud-Din. The operation sparked significant controversy and was widely covered on social media.

When asked about the incident during an informal discussion with journalists at Adiala Jail on Saturday, Imran asserted that no one was forcibly removed from Parliament under his leadership and criticised the current government for allegedly ignoring democratic norms.



Addressing queries about the drug case involving Rana Sanaullah, Imran stated that the case was initiated by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF). He confirmed that he had called upon the ANF head, who briefed the cabinet and presented evidence related to Sanaullah's case.

Imran acknowledged relying on the statements and evidence from the ANF, that is headed by a Major General, despite claims from PTI leaders suggesting the case was fabricated.

Imran also dismissed other legal issues involving Sharif, Nawaz Sharif, and Ishaq Dar as outdated claiming that only the money laundering case had proven charges.

Imran targeted Qazi Faez Isa and condemned recent amendments that he said undermined democratic processes. Imran argued that democracy in Pakistan is at risk with smaller parties gaining parliamentary representation and criticised media restrictions and judicial threats.

He urged his party to prepare for a street movement, indicating that if the government thought they would remain silent about these amendments, they were mistaken. Despite restrictions, he announced a rally in Lahore on 21 September, asserting that holding such rallies is both a democratic and constitutional right. He criticised the government for blocking rallies over the past year and a half, warning that the situation in Punjab could turn into a "police state" if these restrictions continued. The PTI founder concluded by emphasising that his party would continue to fight for democratic principles and resist any attempts to enforce what he described as "slavery."

Dar: Constitutional Bill, Supported By All Parties Including PTI, Aligns With Charter Of Democracy

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senate and Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar on Saturday apprised the Upper House of the Parliament that the Constitutional Bill was in line with the provisions of the Charter of Democracy (COD) endorsed by all the political parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).



The Leader of the House was addressing the 10th meeting of the 342nd Senate session held under Chairman Senator Syed Yousaf Gillani. Senator Ishaq Dar underlined that there was a disconnect between the Leader of the Opposition's party leadership in the Senate and the National Assembly.

Senator Dar informed the House that the issue emerged after Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari made a statement for joint efforts to restore the prestige of the Parliament and proposed a committee of all political parties on the arrest of some members of the lower house of the Parliament.

"It was the third in camera meeting of the Special Parliamentary Committee in the Parliament which was participated by Chairman PTI, Barrister Gohar Ali and Opposition Leader Omar Ayub Khan who was absent in the previous two meetings. There have been discussion on different agenda items," he said.

"On behalf of the government I instantly endorsed the suggestion and after the House resolution, a committee was formed and all political parties in the National Assembly have their representation. I would request that committee to give representation to the Senate as it's a special body on general issues and the resolution TORs entitled matters pertaining to the parliament, parliamentarians, constitution and rules and business of procedure." The Leader of the House said.

He added that the Opposition Leader should seek details from his colleagues on the special committee meetings.

added.—RT/Agency

Prime Minister Sets November Deadline For Finalizing Electric Vehicle Policy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday instructed relevant authorities to formulate a detailed financial framework for electric vehicles by November this year and streamline licensing regulations for their manufacture in Pakistan.



Chairing a meeting in Islamabad, the prime minister instructed that essential consultations be held with the Finance Ministry, the State Bank of Pakistan, all provinces, federal units, and relevant stakeholders concerning the electric vehicles policy.

Shehbaz Sharif emphasized, "The government is prioritizing the promotion of electric vehicles in the country."

He highlighted, "These vehicles will not only conserve valuable foreign exchange by reducing imports of petrol and diesel but also offer environmental benefits."

The Prime Minister announced plans to distribute e-motorbikes to exceptional students from government schools, following a model similar to the laptop scheme.

The prime minister stated that, moving forward, all federal government institutions would exclusively purchase electric motorbikes to conserve national resources. He had instructed that directives be issued to all federal ministries accordingly. Additionally, he directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to develop a detailed plan for implementing electrified public transport in Islamabad. During the briefing, it was reported that, since 2022, 49 licenses had been issued for the local production of two- and three-wheeled electric vehicles, with 25 factories were already operational. The forum was informed that the first license for the domestic production of four-wheeled electric vehicles was issued in September this year, and the first locally manufactured electric car is expected to be available in the market by December. The meeting was informed that the country currently has 45,000 two- and three-wheeled electric vehicles, as well as 2,600 four-wheeled electric vehicles. Additionally, it was told that the installation of recharging stations for electric vehicles would be prioritized along motorways, GT Road (National Highway 5), and National Highways 65 and 70.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Power Owais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Insaan Afzal, and other senior government officials.—RT/Agency

Barrister Gohar Raises Alarm Over Rule Violations In Constitutional Amendment Process



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has criticised the government's potential move to introduce a constitutional amendment bill, stating that such action without following due procedure is against parliamentary rules.

Speaking to the media in Islamabad on Saturday, Gohar expressed frustration with the government's tendency to pass legislation "under the cover of darkness."

"We have always said that if you want to legislate, follow the proper procedure. The Constitution clearly outlines the legislative process, and we must adhere to the law and the Rules of Business," he remarked.

Gohar highlighted that private member bills first go to a committee, requiring permission a month prior, before being placed on the agenda. "Government bills are handled by the ministry, then passed through the cabinet with the prime minister's signature. Rules of Business 16 and 27 require the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs to advance these bills," he explained.

He further criticised the current government's approach: "There has been no cabinet meeting, no approval. If the bill is introduced without these steps, it will be a clear violation of the rules."

Zartu Gul, a PTI leader, also condemned the government's actions, referring to the abduction of the wife, daughter, and aunt of Faisalabad MNA Saadullah Baloch. "They were told to present themselves before unknown entities. Imagine, present themselves to whom?" she questioned.

She also raised concerns over the disappearance of another PTI member, Aurangzeb Kachhi, stating, "For three days, we've had no news of him. The PML-N's unconstitutional actions will not only harm Pakistan but also damage parliament."—RT/Agency

cedures," the Leader of the House said. The issues pertaining to the Constitutional Bill have been discussed in the Special Committee, the Opposition Leader should get details from his colleagues, he said, adding, "Under the Charter of Democracy, the article four demanded a constitutional court in the country to hear constitutional petitions and dispose of them. The elite class in the country gets swift petition hearings whereas 60,000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court including 25% constitutional petitions and 50% constitutional petitions in the High Courts." The charter was not done by two political parties whereas after few weeks all political parties were convened, and they endorsed the document including the then PTI Chairman, and founder, he added.—RT/Agency

JUI-F Stands Firm On Extending Chief Justice's Tenure

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) has once again rejected the proposal for legislative extension of the chief justice's term.



Sources said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman to discuss proposed constitutional amendments.

The meeting, held at Maulana Fazlur Rahman's residence on Friday night, was meant to agree on co-operation on constitutional reforms.

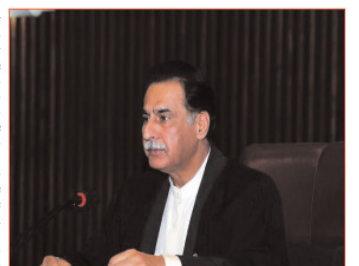
Earlier, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) leader ruled out any possibility of imposing Governor's Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Despite the discussion, Maulana Fazl did not give a positive response to the extension proposal.

He told journalists in the National Assembly that the law and order situation in KP was not good. "Can the governor control such a situation," he asked.

Ayaz: Reinforcing Democratic Institutions Key To Nation's Success

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Saturday emphasized that the strength of the democratic system and the stability of democratic institutions are pivotal for the development and prosperity of the country.



He said that in democratic nations, people have the right to choose their leadership through their votes.

"They elect their representatives to the assemblies, and these elected representatives legislate and make policies to protect the people's rights and ensure their welfare in line with the public's aspirations." He expressed these views in his message on the International Day of Democracy, observed annually on September 15.

The Speaker highlighted that democracy guarantees freedom of expression and other fundamental rights. "The country's progress and prosperity are closely tied to the continuity of the democratic system," Ayaz Sadiq said that in

development and the promotion of democratic values. He noted that in a democracy, resolutions to issues are found through mutual consultation, and our religion also emphasizes consultation, which is a fundamental aspect of democracy. The Speaker said that democracy provides the common person with the opportunity to be involved in national affairs. He moving the democratic added that through the system to establish a strong and stable society. He urged all political parties to set aside their differences and work together for the country's prosperity.—RT/Agency

IHC Suspends Arrest Orders For Sher Afzal Marwat By Law Enforcement Agencies

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Saturday stopped the law enforcers from arresting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat without permission in any case.



After hearing the plea filed by the PTI parliamentarian, the IHC has issued notices to the Ministry of Interior secretary, Islamabad inspector general, Punjab inspector general and Federal Investigation Agency in this regard.

The court has directed relevant authorities to submit paragraph-wise comments on Marwat's petition and also sought details of the cases lodged against him.

Issuing a written order on the PTI leader's plea, Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz directed not to arrest the senior lawyer in any case without the court's permission.

Marwat had resisted the arrest and asked the police to show arrest warrant.

He was arrested for violating regulations devised under a new law — Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024, and also accused of clashing with police personnel on the rally day.

It should be noted that at least 10 PTI lawmakers, who were arrested from the premises of Parliament House, were brought to the lower house on September 12 after their production orders were issued by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq.

Fawad Warns Governor Rule In KP Could Aggravate Current Situation



LAHORE: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said on Saturday that the government should not even think of imposing Governor Rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, cautioning matters would spiral out of control otherwise. Speaking to reporters outside the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), the former minister said that the PM is sitting in the parliament with only 18 seats, adding that while government was cobbled together through a fake mandate. He said people were whisked away from inside the parliament while pointing out that whole country was standing behind the judiciary. "People should lend an ear to what Ali Amin Gandapur is saying. He is urging the government for resolving the issues. At least 90 people lost their lives during this month only. The government is not taking matter of terrorism seriously. Everyone should take responsibility for lowering political temperature," he concluded.—RT/Agency