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Heartland

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Bilawal Affirms PPP's Commitment To Justice And Democracy

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhatto Zardari has reaffirmed the party's commitment to the ideals of peace, justice, democracy and human dignity.

In a message on the occasion of International Peace Day, he stressed that peace is not just the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, equality, and respect for human rights.

"True peace can only be achieved when every individual, regardless of their background or beliefs, is treated with fairness and dignity," he said.

He highlighted that Pakistan, as a nation, has faced challenges in its pursuit of peace, both domestically and internationally, but has remained resilient in its quest to build a harmonious and prosperous society.

"PPP has always been at the forefront of advocating for peace, dialogue and reconciliation, values that were championed by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohatma Benazir Bhutto," he added.

Bilawal Bhatto also acknowledged this year's United Nations theme for International Peace Day, "Cultivating a Culture of Peace".



He urged the global community to work together in addressing shared challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change, which are critical to fostering lasting peace.

"Peace is interconnected with development, and the sustainable progress of any nation depends on the well-being of its people and the fairness of its systems," he said.

He also cautioned the international community that the ongoing Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the Israeli brutality in Palestine pose a grave threat to global peace and stability.

He further emphasized that in today's world, emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, must be governed ethically and responsibly to ensure that they contribute to peace and do not exacerbate inequality or conflict.

"It is vital that we use technology as a force for good, promoting transparency, justice, and inclusivity," he remarked.

Bilawal Bhatto calling on all citizens of Pakistan to contribute to the peaceful development of society.

"Let us honor this International Peace Day by standing firm in our resolve to build a Pakistan where peace, justice, democracy, and human dignity prevail, and where every citizen can live without fear or oppression," he said.—RT/Agency

PTI Lahore Rally Abruptly Ends After City Administration Cuts Power And Seizes Stage

LAHORE: The much-hyped Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Lahore rally ended abruptly with the firebrand leader Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur even failing to reach the venue before the 6pm deadline set by the local administration in a no-object certificate (NOC).

Following the expiration of the deadline, Lahore police took control of the stage and turned off the microphone and lights, with PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and other party leaders leaving the stage.

Except Gohar and Salman Akram Raja, first tier leadership didn't manage to address the participants of the rally — which Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari claimed at-



tended by a few hundreds. Bokhari also censured Gandapur for turning a blind eye to the issues his province was facing and instead focusing on public gatherings.

Gandapur and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub, who were leading convoys from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, had not arrived at the venue by the end of deadline.

The chief executive was reportedly bringing rescue 1122 ambulances and heavy machinery to remove any hurdles on their way, drawing flak from the Punjab government for "using KP's resources" for Lahore rally.

On the other hand, the deputy commissioner Lahore has warned of "stringent action" if the former

ruling party violated the conditions mentioned in the NOC. He ordered the Jalsa administration to end the public gathering immediately.

Today's rally comes after a no objection certificate (NOC) was issued by the provincial capital's deputy commissioner a day earlier following the Lahore High Court's (LHC) instructions which had directed the city's administration to decide on the Imran Khan-founded party's request for a public gathering.

Addressing the participants of the rally, Barrister Gohar said that his party would not accept anything other than independent judiciary.

Congratulating the PTI Lahore chapter for organis-

ing such a 'huge rally', Gohar urged the authorities to refrain from creating obstacles for party workers and open the roads leading to Lahore and the venue.

For his part, PTI leader Sardar Latif Khosa castigated the government over controversial constitutional package, saying that they will now allow anyone to make decisions against the Constitution of Pakistan.

"The government was being run through an ordinance," he said, adding that the sitting rulers want favourable judges and decisions.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Waqas Akram noted that PTI founder Imran Khan has instructed to stand by the judiciary and fight for 'real freedom'.—RT/Agency

Chinese Minister Meets Naqvi



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Minister for Legal and Political Affairs Chen Mingguo called on Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday.

Naqvi welcomed the high-level delegation led by the Chinese Minister at the Interior Ministry office.

The duo discussed joint counter-terrorism efforts while agreeing to enhance cooperation against smuggling.

The two sides also discussed effective border control to avoid any untoward incident.

It was also agreed in the meeting that the Gilgit Baltistan policemen will be trained at China's Xinjiang Police College. For that, it was decided that a Pakistani delegation would also visit Xinjiang soon.

"Xinjiang province is very vital for Pakistan as we share a 600-kilometre-long border with this Xinjiang. The China Pakistan Eco-

nom Corridor (CPEC) also passes through Xinjiang. Pakistani delegation's visit will further strengthen the coordination between two countries," Naqvi said.

The Chinese Minister noted that terrorism was a mutual problem for both China and Pakistan. He said that Xinjiang remained in the grip of terror for a long time, suggesting that Pakistan could learn from Xinjiang for eliminating terrorism from its soil. The Chinese delegation included Xinjiang's Deputy Secretary of the Committee for Parliamentary and Legal Affairs, Executive Director General of Police, and Vice President of the Xinjiang Police Academy whereas Interior Secretary Khuram Ali Agha, Special Secretary of the Interior Waqas Ali Mahmood, and the Additional Secretary of the Interior, Nazir Muhammad Buzdar, were also present in the meeting from Pakistani side alongside Naqvi.—RT/Agency

Atta Tarar Claims PTI Won't Dare Hold Another Jalsa After Lahore Setback

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attallah Tarar on Saturday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would not dare to hold another public gathering anywhere in the country after a flop show in Lahore which witnessed a minimal turn-out of the people.

Talking to the media, the minister said the PTI had miserably failed to galvanize the support of their workers for the public gathering in Lahore, despite the all-out facilitation by the administration which not only kept the roads completely open but also provided a foolproof security in the designated area.

No obstacle was placed in any city, including Islamabad, Attock, and Mianwali, from where the PTI had asked their workers to participate in the public gathering, he said, adding that their leader and workers were given free access to enter Lahore from across the country.

He said similarly, the PTI had failed to gather the people in their public gathering of Islamabad, which also saw the presence of a small number of the people.

The minister challenged the PTI leadership to release drone shots of their public gathering in Lahore, which exposed their support among the masses.

Tarar said this showed that the people of Pakistan had rejected them completely, showing full confidence in the governance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who have been taking crucial steps to provide relief



to the masses. He said the people of Pakistan knew that the inflation had been reduced to a single digit, which, during the tenure of the PTI, reached a double digit from the four percent that was achieved under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

The international financial institutions are acknowledging that the Pakistani economy was taking off, while Bloomberg identified Pakistan's stock market as an emerging and best market in Asia, he said, adding Fitch and Moody had improved ratings for Pakistan as well.—RT/Agency

Imran Claims Musharraf and Zia's Martial Laws Were Superior To Current Democratic Setup

RAWALPINDI: In a fresh salvo against the incumbent ruling coalition, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has said that former military rulers Pervez Musharraf and Zia-ul-Haq's martial law regimes were "better" than the current democratic setup. The News reported on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters during the hearing of the £190 million case at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail on Friday, Khan said that those who respect democracy and vote were standing on one side of the divide whereas on the other were those who only respected the powers that be.

The former prime minister, who has been behind bars for over a year now, has time and time again criticised the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led administration for not being a legitimate power while citing alleged interference and manipulation in the February 8 polls.

Refusing to hold talks with the ruling parties, the ex-premier, however, has expressed willingness for negotiations with the establishment — a move criticised by the government for dragging them into politics.

"Given Pakistan's geographical position and the military's significant role in the private sector, it would be foolish not to foster such a relationship," Khan had said last month, adding that there was "no harm" in engaging with the "establishment".

"We are open to any dialogue that could help improve the dire situation in Pakistan," he remarked.

Speaking about the party's Lahore rally being held today (Saturday), the PTI founder questioned why the his party wasn't allowed to hold a rally at Minar-e-Pakistan monument when the permission for the same was given to Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman in the past.

It may be noted that the PTI had sought permission from the Lahore district ad-



ministration for holding the rally at the historic site but it was allowed to organise the event at Kahna under strict conditions. Addressing the prospective highly controversial constitutional amendments planned by the incumbent rulers, Khan said that the chief justice would be a direct beneficiary of the concerned changes in the constitution. Earlier, Islamabad's Special Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana adjudged the hearing of Al-Qadir Trust reference against Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in £190 million financial scandal ill Sept 24.

In addition to the two accused and their lawyers, NAB lawyers including Sardar Mazaffar Abbasi and Amjad Parvez were also present.—RT/Agency

JUI-F Chief Declines Support For Political Arrests



ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman refused to support political arrests saying they affect the lives of common people adversely.

In the media talk, Maulana Fazlur Rehman reiterated his stance against the PTI-led government. He stressed that all institutions should operate within their defined limits to ensure the country's progress.

When asked about the possibility of a new constitutional amendment, Maulana Fazlur Rehman deflected,

suggesting that the question should be asked from those backing the amendment.

It is to be recalled that Fazlur Rehman categorically rejected the bill drafted for the constitutional amendment, asserting that it would be an utter dishonour with the nation to support it.

Speaking to media after the lunch hosted by PTI leader Asad Qaiser, the JUI-F chief said 'they' denied the ownership of the draft. He questioned the draft that was delivered earlier and said it was nothing short of a joke.—RT/Agency

Supreme Court Bar Association Decries Attack On 'Judicial Independence And Constitutional Rights'

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBAP) has voiced strong objections against the recent ordinance amending the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act 2023.

President of SCBAP Muhammad Shahzad Shaukat, and Secretary Syed Ali Imran, along with the 26th Executive Committee, expressed "deep remorse and anguish" over the promulgation of the ordinance, calling it a direct insult to the long-standing efforts of the legal community's struggle, which had culminated in the establishment of the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act 2023.

In an official press release on Saturday, the SCBAP described the ordinance as "a clear defiance"



The Act had been seen as a significant step forward for the judicial system, aiming to ensure a more transparent and equitable legal process.—RT/Agency

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Former Special Assistant To CM Sindh Ismail Dahiri Arrested On Drug Charges

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad police have arrested a former Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Sardar Ismail Dahiri, along with his accomplice, Inayat Otho, media reported on Saturday.

The arrest occurred during an operation on Auto

Bahn road, where police recovered over 1000mg of hashish and unlicensed Kalashnikov from Dahiri's vehicle, while the unregistered vehicle was also confiscated.

The police later filed two separate cases against Dahiri

and Otho for drug possession and illegal weapons. Police revealed that the accused have confessed to using drugs in their initial statements. Further investigations are underway, as Dahiri has a history of criminal cases.—RT/Agency

Dar Leads Meeting Of DISCOs' Boards Of Directors

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired the meeting of the Chairpersons of the newly constituted Boards of Directors of the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs).

The meeting was also attended by Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari.

The discussions focused on the critical need for human resource by the DISCOs. The chairpersons of the Boards of Directors were asked to reassess the level of human resource requirements in light of the functional requirements and the



principles of outsourcing for maximum efficiencies, reduction in line losses, elimination of power theft and customer care.

They were also urged to look into all those ageing

posts which are now redundant.

The deputy PM expressed full resolve of the Government to address the issues of governance in the DISCOs.—RT/Agency

NATIONAL



SOUTHERN PUNJAB

President Advocates For A Culture Of Peace, Tolerance, And Respect To Uphold Individual Dignity

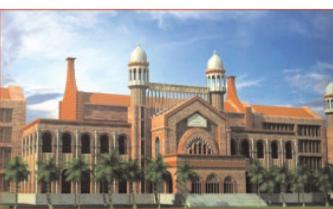
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday emphasized the need for collective efforts to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, and respect for the dignity of all individuals.



"Together, we can shape a peaceful future and a better world where our successive generations could live in peace and harmony," he said in a message in connection with International Day of Peace.

had unleashed a reign of terror in Palestine and was committing a genocide by killing thousands of people in Gaza. Similarly, he said the Hindutva-inspired Modi regime was committing grave human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and was persecuting Muslims and other minorities in India and depriving them of their fundamental rights.

Supreme Court Practice And Procedure Ordinance Challenged In Lahore High Court



LAHORE: The Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Amendment Ordinance, 2024 was challenged in Lahore High Court in a petition requesting the court to declare it unconstitutional and all orders or actions taken in this regard to be set aside. The petition made the request arguing that the sole objective of this Ordinance is to target PTI's founding chairman Imran Khan and to divide the judiciary. Petitioner Munir Ahmed filed the petition through advocate Azhar Siddique praying the court to declare this Ordinance ultra vires in view of Articles 9, 10, 10-A, 14, 17, 25, 37, 38, 46, 48, 75 & 89 read with Articles 4 & 5 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. Petitioner's counsel implored in the petition that all orders or actions taken pursuant to this Ordinance are in violation of the fundamental rights provided in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973.

Journalist Mian Tahir Saleem Arrested In Crackdown On PTI Supporters

By Abid Mahmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Local journalist and private-TV channel reporter Mian Tahir Saleem was arrested along with 12 others during a police crackdown on PTI workers. The police forcibly entered his home while he was sleeping, violating his rights and treating him unprofessionally. Despite being journalistically fulfilling his duties, Mian Tahir Saleem and others were wrongfully detained by the SHO Suddar. The police not only arrested them but also confiscated Saleem's mobile phone and documents, preventing him from

against the situation. Abid Mahmood noted that he had informed district police spokesperson Assistant Sub-Inspector Attullah about the events, yet the police exhibited inappropriate behavior towards the journalists. Journalists across the district condemned the unjust arrest of Mian Tahir Saleem and his detention, viewing it as an attack on press freedom. They emphasized that journalists should not be treated as political workers, and that this incident was a deliberate attempt to obstruct their journalistic responsibilities.

DG Livestock Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Evaluates Anti-Dengue Initiatives In Gujranwala

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: Director General (Extension) Livestock Punjab, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, visited the Business Facilitation Center, Civil Veterinary Hospital Pandawala, and the Domestic Directorate of Livestock. He was accompanied by Dr. Sajid Iqbal, Director Livestock Gujranwala, and Additional Director Dr. Saima Iram Syed. During the visit, Dr. Iqbal briefed Dr. Ashraf on the institution's performance and activities. Dr. Ashraf emphasized that the visit aimed to assess anti-dengue measures as instructed by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He reviewed various sections of the Civil Veterinary Hospital

and expressed satisfaction with the infrastructure. Dr. Ashraf highlighted the government's initiatives, including the Livestock Card, which provides interest-free loans for fattening animals and allocates funds for improving livestock. He announced plans for disease control and the introduction of international beef breeds to enhance production. He also urged all officers to raise public awareness about dengue prevention and the Chief Minister's initiatives. The visit concluded with Dr. Ashraf planting a sapling as part of the "Plant for Pakistan" campaign.

Azma Bokhari Warns Of Legal Action Amidst Rising Chaos

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Saturday denied that roads were blocked with containers ahead of the PTI rally.



"No road is blocked and no road will be blocked," she said. Addressing a press conference, she warned that no one would be allowed to take law into their own hands. They were allowed to hold a public gathering within constitutional boundaries, she said. She stated that Ali Amin Gandapur was bringing weapons and troublemakers in the rally and he must seek apology in the public rally for his misbehaviour in the Islamabad gathering. She said law and order

situation would be monitored through the latest technology by the Punjab Safe Cities Authority and the PTI would be facilitated in every possible way. She claimed that the KP government was misusing public resources by bringing Rescue 1122. The province was already in debt, having weak health and education infrastructure and fragile law and order, she said. The PML-N leader labelled the PTI a "group of terrorists" which planned May 9 and misled the nation. Azma Bokhari claimed that KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur couldn't go to his constituency without giving extortion to the Taliban.—RT/Agency

CTD Detains 5 Suspects In 65 Intelligence-Based Operations Throughout Punjab



LAHORE: Punjab's Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested five "suspects allegedly linked to terrorist organisations" during 65 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) carried out across the province, the agency said on Saturday. The Punjab CTD regularly carries out operations across the province to prevent and investigate terrorism-related activities and gather intelligence. Operating under the provincial police department, the agency plays a key role in maintaining internal security and countering terrorism within the country. In a statement issued today, the CTD said 63 individuals were interrogated during the actions, which were taken in Lahore, Mianwali, Bahawalpur, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh. Three of the arrested suspects were identified as Amjadur Rehman from Toba Tek Singh, Sher Ali from Jhang and Zahab Ullah from Lahore - who it said were connected to the banned group Fina-al-Khawarij (Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan). The other two were Tayyab Raees from Bahawalpur, who CTD said was associated with the militant Islamic State group (IS) - also known as Daish - and Baaz Khan, alias Bahar Khan, from Mianwali. Five first information reports (FIRs) were registered under Pakistan's Explosives Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 1997, among other statutes, with cases filed in the Faisalabad, Lahore, Bahawalpur, and Sargodha districts. During the operations, the CTD said it recovered 2,570 grams of explosives, four hand grenades, three detonators, 18-foot safety fuse wire, a Kalashnikov rifle with 40 rounds of ammunition, a 30-bore pistol with 20 bullets, four hand grenades, mobile phones, Rs22,100 in cash, and materials linked to IS such as stickers and pamphlets. The Punjab CTD conducted 980 combing operations this week, in collaboration with local LEAs, resulting in the screening of 32,662 individuals, the statement added. "These operations led to the arrest of 109 suspects and the registration of 102 FIRs with 88 recoveries reported."—RT/Agency

Climate Change And Vulnerable Communities: The Unequal Burden Of A Global Crisis

By Ali Ashiq Sindhu

A stark reality emerges during the quiet hours of the morning when the world appears most tranquil. Climate change, a term often cloaked in scientific jargon and political debate, is fundamentally a human story. It's about the fisherman whose nets run dry as oceans warm, the farmer whose fields turn to dust, and the families forced to flee their ancestral homes in search of a safer, more stable future. While these stories are diverse, they share a common theme: they unfold on the front lines of a struggle against an unseen enemy, with the stakes being nothing less than our planet's future. The release of greenhouse gases from human activity is causing the Earth to warm at an unprecedented rate. The effects of global warming are not evenly distributed; some regions suffer more acutely than others, experiencing rising sea levels, extreme weather patterns, and ecological shifts. The implications extend beyond the environment, affecting livelihoods, health, food security, and overall societal stability. However, this chal-

enge also presents an opportunity for innovation and leadership. The global response to climate change is driving advancements in green infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy technologies. Scientists, politicians, and entrepreneurs are collaborating to reduce emissions, enhance resilience, and transition to a low-carbon economy. These initiatives envision a future that is equitable, economically viable, and mitigating risks. The narrative of climate change is also a call for solidarity. This issue transcends environmental concerns; it is a matter of social justice. Communities that have contributed the least to climate change are often the hardest hit by its impacts. Ensuring these communities have access to the resources and support necessary for adaptation is critical. It speaks to fairness, compassion, and the recognition of our interconnectedness within the global ecosystem. It urges us to reconsider our relationship with the environment, evaluate whether our consumption patterns are sustainable, and advocate for policies that protect both the ecosystem and its inhabitants. Each of us has a role to play in addressing climate change—whether that means reducing our carbon footprint, supporting environmentally conscious businesses, or raising awareness about the issue. As we stand at this crossroads, the choices we make today will shape the legacy we leave for future generations. The struggle against climate change may feel overwhelming, but there is hope. Communities around the world are mobilizing, driven by the belief that a better future is attainable. From the halls of power to the streets of our cities, a movement is gaining momentum, fueled by the conviction that we can reverse the tide of climate change through collective action.

METRO KARACHI

SSWMB Steering Committee, Led By Saeed Ghani, Extends Waste Disposal Contracts For Three Karachi Districts



KARACHI: The provincial steering committee of the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) has approved a three-year extension for contracts awarded to private contractors responsible for garbage disposal services in Malir, West, and Keamari districts of Karachi. Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani chaired the third session of the provincial steering committee, emphasizing the importance of effective waste management. The committee also agreed to compensate the contractors in Pakistani rupees rather than US dollars. During the meeting, it was reported that renewing these contracts is expected to reduce waste disposal costs by 25% in Malir and by 28% in West and Keamari districts.

The Minister received a comprehensive briefing on a research study regarding the waste disposal in these areas. The new contracts will enhance waste collection and disposal operations, accompanied by an effective monitoring system. The committee also decided to issue a tender for contractor services in District East, with interim services provided until the tendering process concludes. Additionally, a proposal was discussed to consult with town municipal corporations in Karachi to establish waste collection fees for residential, commercial, and industrial sectors to generate revenue for the SSWMB. The committee approved an assessment report for waste disposal efforts in Shaheed Benazirabad and Mirpurkhas. Furthermore, the selected sanitation services company has been authorized to manage landfill sites in Sukkur and Hyderabad. The Local Government Minister was informed about the ongoing tender process for managing Jam Chakro and God Pass landfill sites in Karachi, allowing the current company to continue operations until the tendering is finalized. The meeting included participation from Additional Chief Secretary for Local Government Syed Khalid Hyder Shah, SSWMB Managing Director Imtiaz Ali Shah, and various local officials, with mayors from Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Larkana joining via video link.—RT

Lahore Police Establish Special Teams To Apprehend May 9 Fugitives



LAHORE: The Lahore Police have established special teams to apprehend fugitives from the events of May 9, 12 to 15. Specialised teams have been created, with the names of the wanted individuals provided to them. The police teams were actively working to arrest these fugitives. A heavy police presence has been deployed across various areas of the city, and raids to capture the fugitives continued late into the night. Multiple PTI activists have been detained and taken to police stations.—RT/Agency

From Displacement To Belonging: The Struggles And Successes Of Refugee Integration

By Ali Ashiq Sindhu

A silent caravan of spirits moves forward in the gentle warmth of dawn, where the horizon blurs between promising new beginnings and the remnants of past turbulence. These are the refugees, their stories etched in the creases of their faces, bearing the weight of broken dreams and abandoned homes. Their journey, filled with whispers of peace and echoes of conflict, exemplifies the endurance of the human spirit and the persistent search for safety and acceptance in a society that often neglects those most in need. Their footsteps serve as a silent call for compassion as they traverse uncharted landscapes, their eyes reflecting a mosaic of grief and hope. The journey toward integration into new cultures is a labyrinth, with each turn presenting fresh hurdles that test their resolve and the core values of the communities they aspire to join. Upon arrival, refugees confront a significant challenge in the form of a complex web of laws and regulations that often feels like an immense trial. The quest for refuge becomes a long and arduous journey, testing both endurance and resilience, and offering a glimmer of hope for many. Yet perhaps the most fundamental challenge lies in the intangible realm of cultural fusion. The true test of integration unfolds in everyday interactions, shared meals, and quiet moments of community life. Refugees strive to

maintain their cultural identity while adapting to new customs and expectations. This delicate dance of integration requires both refugees and host communities to work together, embracing diversity as a source of strength rather than division. Amid these challenges, glimmers of hope emerge—moments of connection that transcend language, culture, and circumstance. The essence of integration is revealed in children's laughter, a neighbor's helping hand, or a warm greeting at a community gathering. These fleeting moments serve as powerful reminders of our shared humanity, bridging national, religious, and historical divides. The journeys of refugees reflect society's collective capacity for empathy, charity, and solidarity. They urge us to look beyond our differences and recognize the universal human longing for safety, acceptance, and the chance to build a better future. Their narratives of suffering and resilience not only call us to action but also teach us about the enduring power of hope and the unwavering determination of those who dare to envision a society where everyone belongs.

Traffic Officer Among Two Killed In Shershah Shooting

KARACHI: A shooting incident in Karachi's Shershah area claimed the lives of two people, including a traffic policeman, officials reported. The firing, which occurred at Shershah Piracha Chowk, resulted in the deaths of traffic officer Khuda Bux

and a pedestrian named Ghousullah, according to police sources. Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho, has taken notice of the incident and requested a detailed report from department officials. Karachi Police Chief has also called for a thorough inquiry from the DIG-South and ordered the swift arrest of those responsible for the deadly attack. The police are still working to determine the nature of the incident.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Stock Surge vs. Daily Struggles: The Unseen Divide

While the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) celebrates an all-time high, with the KSE-100 soaring by 2,741 points to reach a historic 82,074, this bullish wave remains detached from the harsh reality most Pakistanis face. The stock market's optimism, fueled by the anticipation of a \$7 billion IMF loan and global market trends, paints a picture of progress. Yet, for the common man, this market euphoria is nothing more than a distant spectacle.

Behind the glitter of financial gains lies an economy still shackled by crippling inflation

and soaring electricity bills. Despite minor upticks in manufacturing and a current account surplus, Pakistan's economy is still on



life support. The 0.12% appreciation of the rupee and improved reserves, though encouraging on paper, offer no respite to a population weighed down by skyrocketing costs of living.

For the average Pakistani, the daily struggle remains unchanged. The soaring costs of basic

necessities and utility bills far outweigh any theoretical gains from stock market surges. Ordinary citizens are shackled by inflation that continues to erode their purchasing power. Electricity bills, which have spiraled beyond affordability, remain a crushing burden, making survival itself an uphill battle.

While the stock market may hint at growth, the common man sees no improvement. Until real economic reforms address the day-to-day challenges, stock market victories will remain hollow triumphs, disconnected from the realities of a population grappling with an unaffordable existence.

THE HEARTLAND



DC Shehryar Gul Memon felicitated on performing Umrah



By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: Deputy Commissioner of Shaheed Benazirabad, Shehryar Gul Memon, has announced that he will soon provide books for CSS exam preparation for Shah Latif Public Library, Sakrand. He further mentioned that he has reviewed the list of books submitted by the youth and students who frequent the library, and it includes basic and small books. However, considering

the modern era's needs, he aims to provide comprehensive and beneficial books that can help students. Shehryar Gul Memon made these remarks during a congratulatory meeting organized by Sakrand Press Club, where the delegation congratulated him on performing Umrah.

He expressed his appreciation for the enthusiasm shown by students and intellectuals of Sakrand at the recent book distribution event

held in the "Abdul Hakeem Arshad Hall" of Shah Latif Public Library. During the event, the delegation of Sakrand Press Club, including Raza Muhammad Siyal, Qazi Javed Sanai, Ghulam Haider Solangi, Ghulam Nabi Mallah, and Zeeshan Soomro, presented the Deputy Commissioner and his PA, Zubair Qadri Mallah, with traditional Sindhi Ajraks and garlands to congratulate them on the completion of Umrah.

DC Mukhtiar Ali Abro orders operation against illegal sale of LPG

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Deputy Commissioner Dadu, Mukhtiar Ali Abro, has ordered action against illegal LPG shops operating in the district. He has directed all assistant commissioners to initiate measures against these unlawful establishments. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that illegal LPG shops pose a significant threat to human lives in urban areas. He instructed assistant commissioners to take immediate action to close down these illegal outlets. Strict measures are being implemented against those involved in the illegal LPG filling business



within the district. He clarified that this operation is not aimed at harassing or troubling anyone but is focused on ensuring the safety and security of citizens and their property. Shops that are legally licensed and operating under

standard operating procedures (SOPs) should not be disturbed. There will be strict enforcement of SOPs at approved LPG filling stations, and trained personnel will be assigned to better handle any untoward incidents.

Former SAU VC Dr. Zaheer Memon files constitutional petition against promotions

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: The former Vice Chancellor of Tando Jam Agriculture University, Dr. Zaheer Memon, has filed a petition in the Hyderabad High Court against the Chief Secretary of Sindh, the Secretary of the Universities Board, the Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, and the Registrar of Agriculture University, citing irregularities, favoritism, and violations of merit in recent promotions of meritorious professors to grade 22 through the Special Selection Board. According to reports, the former Vice Chancellor claims that as per the law, all university professors should

have been informed via a circular about the grade 22 promotions. However, the administration allegedly issued the circular on 18/09/2023 and only distributed it among preferred professors without informing Dr. Memon, despite his seniority and high-ranking position. Dr. Memon further claims that he was deliberately kept in the dark while promotions were granted to favored individuals in violation of laws and the Constitution, disregarding merit. Sources reveal that the current Vice Chancellor, Dr. Fatah Muhammad Marri, promoted seven professors to grade 22 as meritorious professors, despite the fact that

the required quorum for the Syndicate was not met. The total number of Syndicate members is 22, but only 14 attended the Selection Board meeting held on 10/08/2024. Legally, any candidate for promotion or their family member is not allowed to participate as a member of the Syndicate during such meetings. However, four candidates, including Dr. Inayat Rajpar, Dr. Jan Muhammad Marri, Dr. Aijaz Khuharo, and Dr. Ghayyuddin Shah, were part of the Syndicate and voted for themselves, which is both illegal and unethical. As a result, senior professors were unfairly deprived of their rightful promotions.

PPP Kashmore celebrates 36th birthday of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari



By Adnan Bhatti

KASHMORE: Speaking at a ceremony in Kashmore held to celebrate Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's 36th birthday, PPP District President and Chairman of Kashmore District Council, Mir Gul Muhammad Khan Jakhri, stated that the solution to the country's current challenges lies solely under the leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

He expressed confidence that, God willing, Bilawal will become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He further

added that the PPP has the answers to the current political crisis, and under Bilawal's leadership, the country can be steered out of the crisis and onto the right path. District Secretary and Vice Chairman of Kashmore District Council, Mir Altaf Ahmed Khoso, also addressed the gathering, noting that even political opponents are acknowledging Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's wisdom and political acumen.

On the occasion of his 36th birthday, Khoso reiterated the commitment to make Bilawal the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

AC Maqsood Ahmed Jokhio leads crackdown against unlicensed LPG gas shops



By Khuda bux Brohi

THATTA: In a crackdown led by Assistant Commissioner Maqsood Ahmed Jokhio on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner Thatta, several LPG gas shops were raided. The raids targeted businesses operating without proper licenses and necessary safety equipment, including life-saving kits. Speaking to the media, Mr. Jokhio stated that the operation was launched following specific instructions from the DC Thatta. The focus was on

shop owners who failed to comply with legal requirements, despite prior warnings to relocate their shops from urban areas and meet safety standards. Despite these warnings, many shopkeepers continued to operate illegally, lacking both proper licenses and essential safety measures. He stressed that strict actions would be taken against those who remain non-compliant, with shops violating regulations facing immediate closure and being sealed to ensure public safety.

No anti-Sindh amendment will be accepted: Rashid Mehmood Soomro

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: In a press conference in Sujawal, Rashid Mehmood Soomro, General Secretary of JUI-F Sindh, stated that lawlessness, theft, and corruption are at their peak in the country. He criticized the rulers for being preoccupied with their own interests and expanding their businesses. Soomro alleged that they have shown their success through bogus elections from 2018 to 2024. He mentioned a major conspiracy by the government under President Zardari's leadership to make Sindh barren through an amendment to the IRSA Act and asserted that they would



never accept this anti-Sindh amendment.

He further noted that incidents of lawlessness, abductions, thefts, and robberies are increasing in Sindh, with the land and resources of the province being auctioned off. Soomro announced that Mufti Mehmood Confer-

ence would be held on October 14 in Mirpurkhas to open the eyes of the rulers. He was accompanied at the press conference by JUI-F leaders, including Maulana Abdul Qayoom Halevi, Molvi Ghulam Hussain Memon, Molvi Anwar Soomro, Molvi Ashraf and Hanif Soomro.

Five armed men loot a building materials shop in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In the Sheikh Zayed Colony Mor area under the Sachal Police Station in Larkana, armed robbers entered a building materials shop, held the owner and employees at gunpoint, and fled with 65,000 rupees in cash and two mobile phones. Despite being informed, the police arrived late at the scene. Shopkeeper Shoaib Ahmed Abbasi reported that five armed men entered the store, took him and his three employees hostage, and stole the cash and mobile phones before escaping.

He noted that lawlessness in Larkana has escalated, with police limited to their stations.

He mentioned a similar incident two months ago when motorcycle-riding robbers stole 250,000 rupees and four mobile phones in the same manner, and expressed frustration that the police have not taken action against criminals. He appealed to the SSP of Larkana to take notice of the situation, apprehend the robbers, recover the stolen money and mobile phones, and ensure protection for the citizens.

Corpse of a youth found in Larkana

In the limits of the Allahabad Police Station in Larkana, an unidentified young man's body was found,

showing signs of violence, near the Abu Bakar Graveyard. Residents of the area informed the local police about the discovery. Upon receiving the report, police arrived at the scene to gather details and have started an investigation from various angles. According to the police, the body was found severely injured, with marks indicating it was struck with a sharp weapon, and identification has not yet been established. As of the latest reports, the identity of the deceased remains unknown, and the reasons behind the incident are still unclear.

SHRC Chairman Iqbal Ahmed Detho meets with Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar's family

By Narain Das

MIRPURKHAS: Chairperson of Sindh Human Rights Commission, Iqbal Ahmed Detho met with Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar's family to offer support, promising all possible assistance as the Commission continues its inquiries over the next few days. The SHRC is dedicated to upholding justice and protecting the rights of all citizens in Sindh. On Saturday, September 21,

Iqbal Ahmed Detho, visited Mirpurkhas to investigate the alleged fake police encounter and extrajudicial killing of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar. His visit aimed to assess the situation following this tragic event. Chairperson (SHRC) met with DIG Mirpurkhas and other law enforcement officials, engaging in a comprehensive discussion about the ongoing investigation. Later, he held a detailed meet-

ing with civil society representatives and media at the Circuit House Mirpurkhas, where he outlined the steps taken by the Sindh Human Rights Commission, the status of the inquiry, and the future action plan. In response to media inquiries, Chairperson (SHRC) emphasized the Commission's commitment to providing legal protection to the deceased's family and ensuring a transparent investigation into the matter.

SPORTS



David Beckham spills heartwarming reason behind Lionel Messi's MLS transfer



Inter Miami co-owner David Beckham recently pulled back the curtain on the major motivation that drove his team's star, Lionel Messi, to decide to join the club over a year ago.

Beckham, 49, who is still in awe of Inter Miami's acquisition of Messi, 36, revealed that the World Cup champion wanted his family to live the life of their dreams, USA Today reported.

Earlier this week, while speaking at Stella Artois' "Let's Do Dinner" event, Beckham said: "All he (Argentinian star) was interested in is a place where his family could enjoy and have a great life. That was really important for Leo (Lionel Messi)."

"I mean, from day one, from the moment he put his foot down in Miami, it's been a dream, honestly."

Additionally, he spilled that, despite having the eight-time Ballon d'Or award winner as a part of Inter Miami for over a year, he still cannot believe it.

"To be able to say that we've signed the world's greatest ever player to ever play the game. Everybody's got their opinion on who they think is the best player of all time - whether it be Diego Maradona, Pete, all of these great players," he said.

"But to say that we have in the MLS, in Miami, the greatest player to play the game, it's just like a dream, you know? It's a dream every time that I'm there," Beckham continued.

"If I go for the whole of the summer, which I went for four weeks this summer, I go into training every single day because, personally, I can't believe we've got Leo. Secondly, I just want to watch what he does. And that's a special thing for us," Beckham will attend Saturday's match as Messi and Inter Miami face New York City FC at Yankee Stadium, which will also be the Argentine footballer's third game after returning from a right ankle injury.—Agency

Misbah-ul-Haq leaves Champions One-Day Cup midway to attend charity events in USA

FAISALABAD: Former Pakistan cricket captain and current mentor of the Markhors team, Misbah-ul-Haq, has departed for the USA, leaving the ongoing Champions Cup to attend charity events, media reported on Saturday.

According to sources, Misbah had left with the permission and approval of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to attend priority scheduled charity events in the U.S.



A PCB source confirmed that when Misbah was being appointed as a mentor for the Champions Cup, he had informed the PCB of his pre-existing commitments, including the one in the

U.S. during the Champions Cup window.

However, Misbah's decision has received some criticism as well. Many fans on social media have criticised the former cap-

tain, questioning his priorities. Critics argue that while Misbah is being paid a significant amount as a mentor, he should have prioritised his role in the Champions Cup.

PCB insiders have added that Misbah will return soon, and he is expected to rejoin the team.

Remember, Markhors faced their first defeat against the Lions yesterday by 35 runs. They are at the top of the points table with 38 points and have qualified for the next round.

The Stallions are ahead of the Panthers with 28 points after winning two out of three matches while the Shadab Khan-led side are at third with 23 points.

The Lions are at fourth with 12 points while the Dolphins are yet to register a win.—Agency

FIFA unveils Intercontinental Cup schedule with Real Madrid to play final in Qatar



DOHA: The first edition of the annual FIFA Intercontinental Cup for club teams from around the world will have five matches, with European Champions League winners Real Madrid to play in the final on December 18 in Doha, the world soccer body said.

The tournament, which was announced in December last year, replaces the annual Club World Cup which will now be played every four years with 32 teams from 2025.

AFC Champions League winners Al Ain will first host OFC Champions League winners Auckland City on September 22 in the African-Asian-Pacific Cup playoff, with the winners set to face CAF Champions League winners Al Ahly in Cairo on October 29.

The first two games will be on the home turf of the higher-ranked team, allowing locals to watch their club play.

The action then switches to Doha, Qatar, where the 2024 CONMEBOL Libertadores winners play Mexican side Pachuca, the winners of the CONCACAF Champions Cup, on December 11 - a match described by FIFA as the "Derby of the Americas".

The winners of the these two matches play each other in the Challenger Cup three days later to earn a spot in the Intercontinental Cup Final against Real Madrid on December 18.

The day is celebrated as Qatar's National Day while it also marks the two-year anniversary of the 2022 World Cup final where Argentina beat France.—Agency

Wow! Can you believe this? Afghanistan secure historic first ODI series victory over South Africa

SHARJAH: Afghanistan reached a major milestone by securing their first-ever bilateral ODI series win over South Africa.

In the second match in Sharjah, Afghanistan's commanding 177-run victory gave them an unsailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

This triumph also marks their first series victory against a top-five ICC-ranked ODI team, making it a landmark achievement for Afghan cricket.

The triumph was Afghanistan's largest margin of victory in ODI cricket, surpassing their previous best, a 154-run win over Zimbabwe in



2018 at the same venue. Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Rashid Khan were the standout performers in this landmark win.

Gurbaz showcased his talent with an impressive century, his seventh in ODIs—the most by any Afghan batter in the format.

His innings was well-supported by Rahmat

Shah, who scored a solid 50, and Azmatullah Omarzai, who smashed an unbeaten 86 off just 32 balls. Omarzai's blistering knock included the fastest fifty by an Afghan player in ODIs.

Thanks to these contributions, Afghanistan posted a formidable total of 311/4 in their 50 overs,

marking the 10th time they have crossed the 300-run mark in ODIs and their highest-ever score ever.

With the ball, Rashid Khan celebrated his 20th birthday in style, taking a brilliant five-wicket haul that dismantled South Africa's batting lineup.

Nangeyalia Kharote, playing only his third ODI, also impressed by taking four wickets, as South Africa crumbled from a strong 73/0 to being bowled out for just 134.

Afghanistan will look to complete a historic whitewash when they face South Africa in the final ODI on Sunday, September 22.—Agency

Fakhar Zaman urges consistency in Pakistan's domestic cricket structure



FAISALABAD: Fakhar Zaman has stressed the importance of establishing a stable domestic cricket structure in Pakistan, noting its crucial role in building a strong reserve of players.

The 34-year-old cricketer believes that holding consistent tournaments over several years will help discover fresh talent and reinforce the national team's strength.

"I think it will be beneficial if these tournaments take place regularly for 3-4 years. Then you'll see how many backup players

Pakistan will have," Fakhar said.

Fakhar pointed out that frequent changes in the domestic setup have hindered the progress of many cricketers.

It's our bad luck that the domestic structure changes every year. This year it's one structure, another year it'll be different.

When players talk among ourselves, we say that if the domestic structure stays stable for 5-6 years, whatever the structure is, it will benefit our cricketers," he further added.—Agency

Arsenal's mean defence faces acid test to shut out Man City again

MANCHESTER: Arsenal's Premier League title ambitions face the ultimate test on Sunday when a relentless Erling Haaland aims to fire Manchester City five points clear of the Gunners at the top of the table.

Mikel Arteta's men managed to stop City scoring twice last season, but still could not deny the English champions a record fourth consecutive Premier League title.



For the past two seasons Arsenal have finished second to Pep Guardiola's winning machine.

Many believe this is their season to end a 21-year wait to win the title since Arsene Wenger's "Invincibles" romped to glory without losing a game.

City remain their biggest obstacle, although the path could be cleared should the

holders be hit by a points deduction for 115 alleged breaches of Premier League rules by the end of the campaign.

Haaland has struck a record nine times in the first four matches of the new Premier League campaign.

The Norwegian's stunning form has ensured City are the only side in the English top-flight yet to drop points.

But Arsenal are on their tails again - just two points behind - after proving their

competitions, Arsenal have conceded just one - a goal that arrived when down to 10 men against Brighton.

"We all want to achieve something. Winning this Premier League is not easy, but when you finish twice second, you want to win," said Saliba.

"We will give everything, even more than last season, because we don't want to finish second, third or fourth. We want to win this league and we'll give everything."

When Arsenal shut out City in a 0-0 draw on the final day of March, there were muted celebrations from the visitors as they left the Etihad still on top of the table.

But City did not drop another point in the final nine games of the season to snatch the title by two points.—Agency

PCB releases ad inviting applications for high-performance red-ball coach



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has announced a vacancy for the role of high-performance coach for the red-ball team.

This position is key, as the chosen candidate will support the head coach in strategizing and work closely on pre- and post-tournament preparations to boost the team's overall performance.

The PCB has set certain criteria for applicants, requiring a minimum of five years of coaching experience and at least a Level 2 coaching certification. Interested candidates have until October 7 to submit their applications.

Recently, Tim Nielsen took on the responsibilities of high-performance coach during the series against Bangladesh.

He was brought in from South Australia alongside red-ball coach Jason Gillespie. Sources indicate that performance.

Tim Nielsen is likely to continue in this role, with the advertisement serving as a formal procedure for his official appointment.—Agency

ENTERTAINMENT

Angelina Jolie reveals sweet gesture to twin with daughter Vivienne



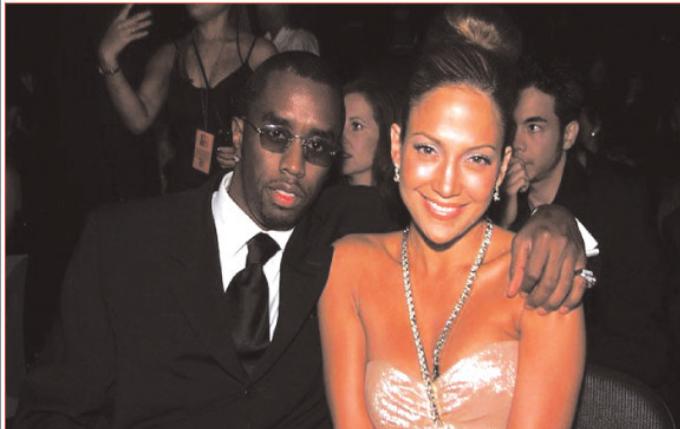
Angelina Jolie and her daughter Vivienne got matching tattoos during their time working on *The Outsiders*.

In a new interview with CR Fashion Book, Angelina shared that she and Vivienne got Stay Gold tattooed during their time working on the Broadway musical *The Outsiders*.

"I got 'Stay Gold' with my daughter Viv during our time with *The Outsiders*," Jolie revealed of the phrase, which is the title of one of the songs featured in the musical.

"It means so much to us separately and together," she noted. The *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* star's new ink could be seen on her wrist along

Jennifer Lopez, Sean Diddy Combs relationship: new details resurface amid rapper's trial



Jennifer Lopez and Sean Diddy Combs reportedly discussed about their marriage.

Recent in a week, the *On The Floor* singer's ex, Diddy, was arrested for serious accusation of sex trafficking and racketeering charges and transportation to engage in prostitution.

"She and Diddy had talked about marriage at one point, but she left him for a reason. Now people is horrified by all of the accusations."

While reflecting on songstress and Diddy were dating on-and-off between 1999 and 2001, in addition to that, the insider told, "She doesn't want to be associated with him at all anymore."

Moreover, the source went on to say, "There were many wild moments with Diddy, and it gives J. Lo the creeps to think that she was with him for so long."

"She wasn't happy in the relationship," the insider concluded.

For those unversed, Lopez and Diddy were arrested in a violent crime after fleeing the scene of a nightclub at Club New York in 1999. Lopez spent 13 hours in jail. Later, charges against her were dropped.

Face of the Day



Name: Shameer Khan
Location: Karachi
About me: I love taking selfies!

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

THE HEARTLAND



Tando Allahyar residents protest for supply of drinking water

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The residents of different villages including Dhani Bux Khaskheli, Saleh Khaskheli and others have raised serious concerns about the inefficiency of a water supply system that was built with a budget of crores of rupees. Despite a population of around 700 to 800 homes in each village, there is no access to clean drinking water. The groundwater in the area is contaminated, causing various diseases among children and adults. The residents are calling for the improvement of the water supply system. They have appealed to the



Deputy Commissioner of Tando Allahyar, Saleemullah Odho, to address their grievances and have also requested the district council

People's Lawyer Forum celebrates Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's birthday



By Javed Laghari

DADU: The People's Lawyer Forum, led by President Barister Pir Mujibul Haq, celebrated the birthday of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at the District Bar Association in Dadu, as they

do every year. The celebration included cutting a birthday cake amidst enthusiastic slogans. A large number of lawyers, including Shafi Muhammad Memon, Madam Zeha Wighio, and Kora Khan Memon, participated in the event, praying for Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's long life.

Retired army officer threatens to set himself on fire after occupation of his land

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In a press conference at the Larkana Press Club, retired army officer Syed Hubdar, alias Abdul Sattar Shah, along with his brothers Syed Fahim Shah and Rizwan Shah, alleged that on September 17, influential individuals Asad Thaeem, Zahir Thaeem, Barkat Thaeem and Habibullah Khokhar attacked him on his one-acre agricultural land in Dokri village. They reportedly held

him at gunpoint, locked him in a room, and subjected him to severe violence, resulting in broken arms and fingers. Following the incident, the accused took control of his land. He stated that when he went to file a case at the Dokri Police Station, the police refused to register his complaint, and the Medical Superintendent of Dokri also denied him a necessary medical certificate. He claimed that the influential land grabbers have the backing of local political figures, enabling them to mistreat him. He appealed to the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court, the Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, the Chief Minister of Sindh, and other authorities to take notice of the situation and take action against the accused. He demanded justice and the restoration of his land, warning that if no action is taken, he would set himself on fire in front of the SSP Larkana, holding the land grabbers and their supporters responsible.

Residents of village Abdullah Chawro demand better civic facilities

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The ancient village of Abdullah Chawro in Jamshoro is facing critical issues like power outages, damaged roads and a failing drainage system, leading to stagnant sewage water that has caused distress among residents. Despite a month since the rains, rainwater remains, exacerbating health concerns. Frustrated with the negligence of the local authorities, villagers organized a protest, chanting slogans and staging a sit-in at the Jamshoro District Press Club, led by community leaders. They highlighted the lack of basic services and criticized officials for merely taking photos during visits without addressing the issues. The villagers urged Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to intervene, demanding accountability from the Jamshoro Town Committee and calling for proper drainage systems and road repairs. They threatened to escalate their protest if their demands were unmet. In response, Town Committee Chairman Bilal Qadir Shoro announced efforts to secure a mega drainage project for the village, with work expected to start soon. He mentioned that the committee is using lift machines to manage drainage and has arranged for emergency piping to address the situation. Shoro emphasized that their cleaning efforts are ongoing and that the office remains open for public service.

New office-bearers of Jhudo Press Club elected



By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: Journalists from Jhudo Press Club held a meeting to organize their association, electing new officials. Shahid Majeed was appointed as the Chief Patron, with Aatif Latif as President, Shafiq Jan as Senior Vice President, Azeem Arain as First Vice President, Habibullah Memon as Second Vice President, Hassan

Kachhi as General Secretary, Kachi as General Secretary, Nadeem Ali Hassan as Joint Secretary, Nisar Raza Arain as Secretary Information and Broadcasting, Naveed Majid as Liaison Secretary, Adil Qamrani as Treasurer, and Rahim Khaskheli as Office Secretary. Additionally, a six-member Management Committee was formed to oversee press club administration, consisting of Abdul Salam Anif, Javed Zafar, Mir Nisar

Talpur, Ali Nagori, Shakeel Mujahid, and Nadeem Nawab. The committee congratulated the newly elected officials and other members, including Shahid Memon, Umar Akram, Rana Asif, Muhammad Saleem, Naiman Qaimkhani, and Mudasir Afzal, presenting them with garlands. Former Chairman Aslam Qaimkhani also gifted Ajraks to the Management Committee.

Three of a family killed after being hit by a train

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Three people, including a woman, tragically lost their lives after being struck by a train in an accident that occurred at the Mehrabpur railway station. The incident took place when four family members were crossing the railway tracks from the down platform to the up platform to board the Karachi Express train traveling from Karachi to Lahore. According to railway police sources, 49-year-old Saleem Jutt, his 48-year-old sister-in-

law Razia Bibi, and their innocent granddaughter Abiha were killed instantly, while another granddaughter, Aina, sustained serious injuries. She was initially treated at the Mehrabpur hospital before being transferred to Nawabshah Hospital. The affected family belonged to the Jutt clan from Pir Wasan and had arrived at Mehrabpur railway station to catch the train to Bahawalpur. The bodies have been handed over to the relatives after necessary formalities.

JUI-F demands recovery of Fazila Sarki, Pariy Kamari and Naveed Lashari

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: JUI-F organized a protest led by District Ameer Dr. AG Ansari for the recovery of Fazila Sarki, Pariy Kamari, and Naveed Lashari, who were reportedly abducted. The demonstration began at the Muhammad Mosque, with key figures including Mufti

Abdul Shakoor Khoso, Abdul Qadir Channa, Maulana Taj Muhammad Bhatti, and others participating. Protesters marched through various streets, raising slogans and eventually staging a sit-in at Shaheed Sarfaraz Chowk. Speakers highlighted that despite years of protests for the recovery of Fazila Sarki, Pariy

Kamari, and Naveed Lashari, authorities have shown little concern. They expressed the anguish of the families and called on the brave SSP of Jacobabad, Sadam Hussain Khaskheli, to ensure the immediate recovery of the missing individuals and to alleviate the ongoing distress faced by their families.

Woman killed, five of a family injured in Tando Adam fatal road mishap

By Mumtaz Ali

TANDO ADAM: At the Khandu Road area near village Nadir Farm, a high-speed Mazda collided violently with a motor rickshaw. The rickshaw was carrying five members of the same family from village K-2 Farm including 60-year-old Dharmun Bheel, 22-year-old Darhoon Bheel, 50-year-old Kilan, 12-year-old Pooja, and 9-year-old Anita, all of whom sustained serious injuries.

An elderly woman, 80-year-old Rani W/o Huzari Bheel, tragically died on the spot. Local residents arrived promptly to transport the deceased woman and the injured to the Taluka Hospital, where the necessary procedures were carried out before handing the body over to the family. The police arrested the Mazda driver and took the vehicle into custody. As of the news filing, no case had yet been registered regarding the incident.

Commissioner Fayaz Hussain Abbasi bans illegal bus stands in Sukkur

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Hussain Abbasi has imposed a ban on public transport vehicles at Babarloi Bypass and illegal bus stands, exercising powers under Section 144 of the Cr.P.C. This decision follows a recommendation from the Deputy Commis-

sioner Sukkur to maintain traffic flow and ensure public safety by redirecting vehicles to the Rohri Bus Terminal. The order emphasizes that the illegal bus stand at Babarloi Bypass is collecting significant sums of money in "bhatta" and allowing vehicles to park on the Main Super Highway, causing traffic management issues and difficulties for citizens. Despite the presence of a designated bus stand at Rohri, unauthorized stands continue to operate, charging excessive fares and generating numerous complaints. The ban aims to ensure public safety and facilitate smoother traffic flow.

People's Lawyer Forum celebrates Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's birthday

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The People's Lawyer Forum in District Larkana celebrated Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's 37th birthday by cutting a cake at the District Bar Association Larkana. The special guest was Inayatullah

Morio, the General Secretary of the People's Lawyer Forum Sindh. Muhammad Ameen Shaikh, General Secretary of the divisional forum, and Tariq Ali Khuhawar, the Division's Information Officer, also attended. Along with a large number of members, prominent

attendees included Muhammad Ismail Abro, Asghar Kichei, Safdar Ghouri, Amanullah Luhar, Noshad Ali Tagar, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, Abdul Nabi Sario, Nadir Ali Bhutto, Ashiq Chaudhry, Qadeer Domki, and many others who participated in significant numbers.

Motorcyclist killed in fatal Tando Allahyar road mishap

By Afaque Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, a tragic accident occurred on the Hyderabad Road near the Keerina Branch Bypass Road when a motorcycle slipped, resulting in the death of the driver, Saleem Halo. After the accident, bystanders rushed to the injured individual to the civil hospital, where doctors confirmed his death. Following necessary

procedures, the body was handed over to the family, leading to chaos at the family home upon its arrival. It has been reported that Saleem Halo was the driver of Assistant Commissioner Lala Iqbal Pathan. He was a resident of Usman Shah and had come to Tando Allahyar to offer condolences to relatives. Tragically, he lost his life in the road accident while heading to his village.

Social organization holds a free medical camp in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A medical camp was organized by the social organization near Badin to treat patients and provide them free medicines. A one-day free medical camp was organized in which 335 patients were examined by experts in malaria, skin, sugar,

blood pressure and stomach diseases. In-charge Owais Khatri told reporters that on this occasion, 49 disabled people have been found and registered in the institution, after which they will be given facilities under the institution's policy regarding the education and future of these disabled people.

SFA continues crackdowns against sale of chemical-laden milk

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The Food Control Authority conducted surprise raids in various markets in Hingorja, particularly targeting hotels and milk shops. Following public complaints, a team led by Abdullah Ujjan of the Food Authority carried out these inspections under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner of Khairpur. They imposed fines totaling PKR 30,000 on several shopkeepers and hotels for selling chemical-laden milk. Upon the team's arrival, many milk vendors closed their shops and fled. Abdullah Ujjan clarified that these raids were being conducted as per the Deputy Commissioner's directives, aiming to protect public health, as some vendors were selling milk mixed with chemicals. The food authority officials stated that these operations would continue.



Hingorja Police arrest a notorious criminal in an injured condition

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: In the jurisdiction of Hingorja police station, the police claimed to have arrested a criminal after an alleged encounter on the Setharja Link Road. The suspect, identified as Gulsher Junejo, was captured in an injured condition, and weapons were recovered from him. Following his arrest, he was initially transferred to Hingorja Hospital and later moved to Khairpur Civil Hospital for further treatment. The arrested criminal was wanted by the police in over 10 cases, including robbery, theft, murder, and previous police encounters. According to SHO Amjad Iqbal Mughal, the suspect

is a notorious criminal who, along with his accomplices, was planning a robbery on the Link Road when the encounter took place. Gulsher Junejo was arrested in an injured state, and weapons were seized from him. A case regarding the police encounter has been registered at Hingorja police station.

Nawab Wali Muhammad becomes a safe haven for criminals

By Yousef Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: In Nawab Wali Muhammad, insecurity has intensified, leaving residents deeply concerned. School students also feel unsafe. This morning, a 6th-grade student, Tanveer

son of Allah Bachayo, was coming from Umar Bughio to Indus Public School when three unidentified robbers snatched his 2024 model CD motorcycle near the Bhambra Hotel in Nawab Wali Muhammad. Due to the rising insecurity, residents are extremely worried. On the same day, an un-

known thief stole a 2021 model CD motorcycle belonging to Iqbal Rahu, a resident of Laung Khan Soomro, from the Bhambra Hotel in Nawab Wali Muhammad. Due to the rising insecurity, residents are extremely worried. On the same day, an un-

SGF holds child marriage awareness seminar at Shahdadpur Press Club

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHADDPUR: A child marriage awareness seminar was held at the Shahdadpur Press Club, organized by the Sindh Green Foundation and the Social Justice Forum. Deputy Director Tariq Rahim Lakho and others addressed the rising trend of child marriages, which violate human rights and harm girls' education and health, and social lives. They noted that, despite laws prohibiting marriage under 18, many children still face violations. The speakers highlighted the severe health risks associated with child marriage and called for collective efforts to eradicate this social issue.

METRO KARACHI

CM Murad Suspends DIG And SSP Mirpurkhas

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has suspended the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Mirpurkhas, as per an official notification issued by the Chief Secretary. Sindh Home Minister Zia Hassan Janjani confirmed that the SSP of the CIA and the concerned Station House Officer (SHO) had already been suspended prior to this move.



Janjani emphasized the Sindh government's commitment to the rule of law, noting that there was no hesitation in taking action against officials. A formal letter has been sent to the Establishment Division for further proceedings against the suspended DIG and SSP, reinforcing the government's dedication to justice and accountability.

Separately, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) suspended three senior officers, including the Director of Administration and Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh, over charges of "misconduct and inefficiency." The officers will remain suspended for 120 days as the ECP continues its investigation. Meanwhile, in Punjab, the irrigation secretary suspended four officials, including a superintendent engineer (SE) and executive engineer (EXEN), for corruption and negligence related to a project involving Rs300 million.—RT

Tessori: Pakistan's Contributions To Global Peace Are Indelible



KARACHI: On the occasion of the International Day of Peace, Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori emphasized that Pakistan's contributions to global peace are indelible. He noted that by taking a leading role in the global fight against terrorism, Pakistan has successfully thwarted numerous conspiracies aimed at undermining world peace. Tessori highlighted the serious threats to global stability posed by India and Israel, urging the international community to respond decisively to any actions that jeopardize peace. He asserted that until Palestine and the occupied regions of Jammu and Kashmir are liberated, true global peace will remain an elusive goal.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Dr. Mirza Ikhitar Baig, Member of the National Assembly, attended the Lifestyle Furniture Expo at the Expo Centre, Karachi, where he visited various companies' stalls. The event received an overwhelming response from the public. Zahra Faisal, the organizer of the Expo, was also present during MNA Baig's visit.—RT

Karachi University students celebrate International Coastal Cleanup day

By Sajid Ali Janjano

KARACHI: To celebrate international coastal cleanup day, students of Department of Mass Communication University of Karachi in collaboration with Mahegeer Samaji Sangat visited Rehri Goth in Korangi District on 21 Sep 2024. Students were briefed about coastal communities, where they interacted and became aware of their issues. They visited social startups

like Community Kitchen which provides meal for the households in the community, prawn sorting factories, where women of the community work to earn livelihood for their families. Moreover, to enhance awareness regarding coastal habitat, Students were provided with a visit of the Mangrove forest and nearby Islands. Students unanimously called on for the preservation of Mangrove and surrounding coastal environment. Younis Khaskheli, a social activist for coastal climate, said that Mangroves serve as nursery for species of fish, birds and provide livelihood to the thousand of the fisherman, yet Mangroves are ruined by dumping industrial waste in to the ocean. Nazir Ahmed Bhutto, Town Chairman of the area, welcomed students and stressed that more such interactions be organized so that youth can be mobilized for awareness.

PTI's Advocate Khalid Mahmood Ali announces to approach Election Tribunal



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In an emergency press conference at the District Press Club Malir, PTI candidate Advocate Khalid Mahmood Ali claimed he was defeated through rigging in the recent general elections, with an election tribunal case currently in progress. He reported that he received information about stolen ballot papers in the Pipri area, which had been reported missing a few days ago, and a case has been registered. Khalid stated he attempted to file an FIR at the Bin Qasim police station, but the police refused to accept it. He alleged that the ballot papers from his constituency were stolen and that he would be filing a petition in court regarding this matter. Other PTI leaders present included Rashid Nawaz Abbasi, Umair Shahid, Zubair Baloch and Junaid Shah.

Afghan Citizens Using Pakistan For Illegal Travel To Other Countries

KARACHI: A recent report has revealed that Afghan citizens are allegedly exploiting Pakistan to illegally travel to other nations. Authorities have apprehended nine Afghan nationals attempting to reach Japan and the United States using fraudulent medical visas issued from Pakistan. Immigration sources suggest that this rise in forgery is linked to the suspension of Pakistani visit visas for Afghan citizens. These individuals reportedly entered Islamabad from Kabul under the pretense of seeking medical treatment, armed with fake medical certificates, and subsequently applied for visas at various embassies and consulates for onward travel. In the last three days, immigration officials at Karachi Airport detained these nine individuals, resulting in the filing of three cases (No. 205, 207, 213/2024) against them. Following court directives, the arrested suspects have been transferred to jail. The arrests have sparked concerns regarding the potential involvement of certain Pakistani officials and agents who may be facilitating this illegal activity.—RT/Agency

Lack Of Government Schools In Manghopir Worrying For Future Of Students, Says TMC Chairman

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, Chairman of the Town Municipal Corporation Manghopir, expressed concern over the lack of government schools in Manghopir, emphasizing the potential impact on the town's future architects and students. Brohi revealed that the municipal authorities have submitted written requests to the education department, urging the establishment of government schools in the area. He pointed out that the increasing privatization of education has made quality schooling unaffordable for many families. "Our goal is to provide the same facilities found in English-medium schools within government schools, and we are working tirelessly to achieve this," he stated. Addressing teachers during a course distribution event at a government school in Sarjani 5D, Brohi stressed the need for government schools to match the standards of private institutions. "Parents who sacrifice other desires to give their children a good education should feel confident in the quality of government schools," he added, calling for collective dedication and honesty in this endeavor. Vice Chairman Rana Arif and Director of Education, along with school staff, were present during the event.

Town Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto commits to provide education to every child in Ibrahim Hyderi



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In a speech at the ceremony for the government school in Atta Rehman Goth, Yousaf Rahi, Ibrahim Hyderi Town Municipal Corporation Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto emphasized the critical importance of education. He announced the opening of 16 new schools across 11 UCs in Ibrahim

Hyderi Town to ensure that every child has access to education. Bhutto expressed confidence that they would improve the quality of public schools to such an extent that parents would prefer them over private schools. He highlighted that education elevates individuals and encouraged the youth to see Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as a role model, noting his commitment to leading the country toward development in line with the legacy of his grandfather, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Teachers, including Saif Kamal and Noor Habib, also spoke at the event. Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto awarded certificates, shields, and medals to students who secured the top three positions in a speech competition.

Massive Corruption Uncovered In SBCA And SSWMB

KARACHI: An audit report has revealed significant financial irregularities amounting to millions in the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) and the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), media sources reported. The report disclosed that the SSWMB made unauthorized utility allowance payments, totaling Rs. 4.8 million, while the SBCA administration was found to have made unauthorized payments of Rs. 17.4 million. These actions were identified as clear violations of financial regulations. The audit recommended the immediate cessation of the utility allowances in the SSWMB and called for the recovery of all unauthorized payments. Despite being asked to explain these expenditures in October 2023, the administrations have yet to respond.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: A group photo with Kausik Iqbal, Chairman of the Consumers Association of Pakistan, at the Pakistan FMCG Summit 2024. Pictured are Ahmed Qadir, DG CCP, Azhar Zia, EMA CEO, Shahzad Umar Sama and Mehtab Hussain Baloch, Organizer.—RT

Justice (R) Wajihuddin Proposes Grand Jirga To Address Balochistan Crisis

KARACHI: Justice (Retd.) Wajihuddin, Founder Chairman of Aam Log Ittehad, has advocated for a Grand Jirga to resolve the ongoing crisis in Balochistan, emphasizing the need for a collective effort involving all stakeholders. Speaking at a party meeting, Wajihuddin highlighted the complexities of the situation, calling for cooperation from political leaders and local communities to ensure long-term peace and stability.



Key party members, including Chairman Farrukh Zia Sheikh, Chief Organizer Commodore (Retd.) Sadeed A. Malik Kashir, and Secretary Information Muhammad Sagheer Qureshi, were present. Wajihuddin also announced plans to meet prominent Baloch leaders such as Sardar Akhtar Mengal and Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Abdul Qadir Baloch to garner support for a peaceful resolution. Wajihuddin stressed the need for quality education and job opportunities for Baloch youth, proposing stipends if employment cannot be immediately provided. Commodore (Retd.) Sadeed A. Malik urged the party to strengthen its outreach campaign, particularly on social media, to raise awareness of Aam Log Ittehad's policies and Balochistan's critical issues.—RT

Rs 20 Million Worth Of Crystal Meth Seized At Karachi Airport

KARACHI: Customs officials at Jinnah International Airport foiled a drug smuggling attempt, seizing 1,250 grams of methamphetamine (ice) valued at approximately Rs. 20 million. The contraband was found in the luggage of Muhammad Mithal Jamali, a passenger en route to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Customs Deputy Collector Hamad Ahmed initiated the operation after suspicions arose during baggage scanning. Upon inspection, the drugs were discovered concealed in the suitcase. Preliminary investigations revealed the meth's value exceeded Rs. 2 crore. Jamali has been detained for further questioning regarding his possible links to smuggling networks. In a separate incident, customs officials intercepted two Dubai-bound passengers attempting to smuggle over AED 100,000 out of Pakistan.—RT/Agency

First Phase Of Karachi Safe City Project Kicks Off

KARACHI: The first phase of the Safe City project has officially commenced in Karachi. Director General of Sindh Safe Cities Authority, Asif Ijaz Sheikh, announced that the process of installing cameras on poles, linked to the S-4 control room at the Central Police Office (CPO), has begun. So far, 25 cameras have been activated on five poles,



with installations completed on a total of 43 poles across the city. The project aims to enhance surveillance and public safety in Karachi.—RT/Agency

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22 2024

Power Minister Anticipates Tariff Relief Following Completion Of IPPs' Review

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that the masses will get relief in electricity tariffs in the coming weeks as the Power Sector Task Force has completed its review of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and state-run power plants, media reported on Saturday.



"The committee has been provided with all necessary information regarding the IPPs [...] We will soon share the good news with the public about the IPPs," Leghari said during a briefing to the Senate Standing Committee on Power.

The minister's remarks come at a time when Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government is under the spotlight over sky-high electricity tariffs which have further burdened the inflation-weary masses.

Owing to the flak received regarding the IPPs, the government has been renegotiating contracts with the power producers to rein in "unsustainable" electricity tariffs — the highest in the region.

The announcement regarding relief in tariffs fol-

lows the Power Division's earlier statement on a relief of up to Rs2.65 (tax inclusive) in electricity bills for September courtesy of fuel adjustments.

Combining both the adjustments, agricultural and domestic consumers using up to 300 units would get relief of Rs2.19 per unit in their September bills, while Rs2.65 per unit (tax inclusive) would be provided to other consumers, the Power Division had said.

Expanding on the measures taken up by the government, Leghari informed the Senate committee — chaired by Senator Mohsin Aziz — that the task force had conducted a comprehensive assessment of the return on equity (ROE), operation and

costs to consumer grievances and shared her family's experience of having to visit the power office 28 times in three months due to incorrect meter readings.

Senator Palwasha condemned the behaviour of officials, likening it to mafia conduct, and called for stringent action against those responsible. She proposed referring the matter to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to dismantle the alleged group behind the malpractice and set a precedent for accountability.

Committee Chairman Senator Mohsin Aziz acknowledged the senator's concerns, agreeing that the issue was of public importance and likely indicative of a broader problem, whereas a senior Power Division official confirmed that action had already been taken, including the transfer of the employee responsible for the faulty meter readings.

In response, Leghari remarked that the senator's concerns fell under customer care, which is not directly part of electricity distribution companies. Moving on, committee

President And PM Condemn Indian And Israeli Atrocities On 'Peace Day'

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday emphasised the significance of "tolerance" and "dialogue" in the road to achieving global peace as the world marked yet another International Day of Peace.



The president emphasised the need for collective efforts to promote a "culture of peace, tolerance, and respect for the dignity of all individuals."

"Together, we can shape a peaceful future and a better world where our successive generations could live in peace and harmony", he said in a message.

Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz called for fostering "peace and stability" in the region by resolving longstanding disputes through dialogues.

The premiers' remarks come at a time when the world is witnessing some of the most deadly conflicts and their escalations, especially in the Middle East region and the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Zardari stressed that the theme of this year's International Day of Peace — "cultivating a culture of peace" — "calls upon us to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, and coexistence among the comity of the nations."

He expressed regret over Israel's "reign of terror in Palestine" and its "genocide" which has killed over 41,000 Palestinians. He emphasised that such geopolitical tensions and conflicts in certain regions are threatening world peace.

His remarks came after around 14 were killed in an Israeli air strike on Lebanon's capital Beirut. This followed days after 37 people were killed in the country in an "unprecedented" attack in which pagans and walkie-talkies blew up, injuring over 3,000 people.

However, he also noted that, "together, we can shape a peaceful future and a better world where our successive generations could live in peace and harmony."

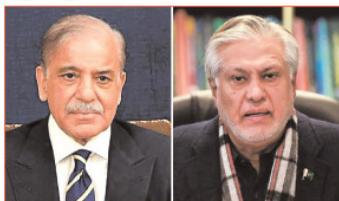
Similarly, Zardari stressed that the Hindutva-inspired Modi regime was committing grave human rights violations in IIOJK and was persecuting Muslims and other minorities in India and depriving them of their fundamental rights.

He said these blatant violations of international law and human rights endangered global peace and security. "We need to raise our voices against injustice and oppression. The priority of the world should be to address the problems being faced by humanity, including poverty, hunger, injustice, oppression, inequality, and the violation of basic human rights rather than disputes and conflicts," he added.

Additionally, the president added that world could not achieve progress and development in the absence of peace as wars and conflicts increase the problems and miseries of people. —RT/Agency

Shehbaz Leaves For New York As Dar Skips UNGA Session Due To Diplomatic Engagements

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday reacted to media speculation regarding Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar skipping the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) scheduled to be held from September 23 to 27 in New York.



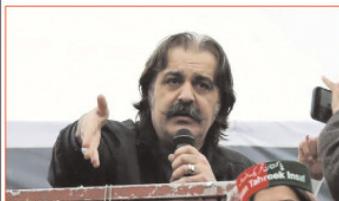
PM Shehbaz and Dar along with senior government officials were scheduled to visit New York to attend the upcoming UNGA session, however, it was rumoured that Dar cancelled his foreign visit due to uncertain political situation in the country.

PM Shehbaz has departed for New York to represent Pakistan at the 79th UNGA session from Islamabad today. He will make a stopover in London for two days before reaching New York on September 23. The premier said in an X post, "Departing for New York to represent Pakistan at the 79th UN General Assembly. Looking forward to a busy week full of engagements."

However, Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch clarified in a statement today that Dar was skipping the UNGA session in view of some important upcoming diplomatic engagements. The deputy premier was also not proceeding for the UNGA session due to the "ongoing preparations for the 23rd Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)," she added. However, Premier Shehbaz's programme for participation in the UN summit remains unchanged, concluded Baloch.

multilateralism and express support for the role of the United Nations in forging global peace, security, and prosperity. The premier will also emphasise the importance of addressing longstanding issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council, including the question of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, he will attend several high-level meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA session, including the high-level meeting on existential threats posed by sea-level rise and the UN Security Council's open debate on leadership for the world. The bilateral meetings with world leaders, meetings with the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres and President of the UNGA, Philomena Yang, and members of the Pakistani diaspora are also on the agenda of the prime minister's visit. —RT/Agency

Islamabad ATC Issues Non-Bailable Arrest Warrants For Gandapur And Three Others



ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Saturday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and three other politicians over terrorism charges in the case pertaining to vandalism at the Judicial Complex, Islamabad.

Some of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) current and former leaders had been booked in a case under terrorism charges at I-9 police station in Islamabad.

Beside Gandapur, the court issued non-bailable arrest warrants for former deputy speaker Punjab Assembly Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi, Isteekham-e-Pakistan leader Aamer Mehmood Kiani and PTI leader Raja Rashid Hafeez as among those it also declared ex-PTI leader Umer Tanveer

PTI Pledges To Oppose Proposed Constitutional Amendments

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar said that his party will resist proposed constitutional amendments and not let any restrictions be imposed on an independent judiciary, media reported.



Addressing a public gathering in Lahore, Barrister Gohar took a jibe at the government for "creating hindrances" for the public gathering.

"We were not given a No Objection Certificate (on time) to hold the public gathering. Getting a US visa is easier than acquiring a NOC," the PTI chairman added.

Barrister Gohar said that his party does not want institutions to fight each other. "We will continue to struggle for judicial independence."

Speaking on the occasion, PTI MNA Sardar Latif Khosa slammed the government for attempting to pass the constitutional amendment unlawfully.

"This is a Form 47 government imposed on us; the country is occupied. PTI's founder will lead the people to freedom," Khosa added.

"Navaz Sharif vowed to uphold the respect of the vote. This how you respect the vote?" Sardar Latif Khosa asked.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub who were leading convoys from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, had not reached the venue by the end of the gathering.

According to reports, the chief executive was "using KP's resources" for the Lahore rally by bringing heavy machinery and rescue 1122 ambulances to clear any obstacles in their path, which infuriated the Punjab administration. After exceeding the time allotted by the district administration, the PTI power show in Lahore faced law enforcement intervention. The police and district officials contacted the rally organizers, urging them to end the rally as agreed on the allotted time, warning of

legal action for violating the terms of the NOC.

As the event extended beyond the permitted time, the DJ switched off the sound system and lights, leaving the crowd in darkness. In response, attendees turned on their mobile phone flashlights, while some began to exit the venue. The police also started to close the key entry points to the city, including Ring road, Motorway Babu Saba Interchange, Shahdara, and Abdul Sattar Edhi interchanges, resulting in long traffic queues.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza stated that any violation of the NOC would be handled legally, as law enforcement officers followed directives to block key roads and manage the situation. —RT/Agency

Pakistan Committed To Dialogue With Taliban Despite Existing Differences: UN Envoy Munir Akram

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram, stated that Pakistan remains committed to maintaining its ties with the Taliban, despite any differences.



Speaking in an interview with a US broadcaster, Munir emphasised that the mistakes of the Afghan government should not be borne by the Afghan people, highlighting Pakistan's enduring relationship with its neighbour.

Munir pointed out that Pakistan has always supported engagement with Afghanistan, stressing that diplomacy aims to transform situations through dialogue and policy. He reiterated that while the Taliban's mistakes are recognised, Afghanistan's internal and external issues require a joint strategy and collective efforts. Therefore, ambassador Munir Akram, raised alarms at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) regarding the increasing terrorist threat emanating from Afghanistan. He emphasised that the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a

terrorist group which Pakistan refers to as Fitna al-Khawarij, is rapidly expanding its influence with the support of the Afghan interim government. Backed by the Taliban, these terrorists are equipped with advanced weaponry and increasingly collaborate with other insurgent factions, including secessionist groups like the Majed Brigade. Pakistan fears that the TTP's growing alliance with Al-Qaeda could elevate it to a central role in regional and global terrorist activities. The ambassador also stressed Pakistan's readiness to collaborate with regional and international bodies to curb this growing menace, as Islamabad continues its nationwide crackdown on Fitna al-Khawarij. Furthermore, the ambassador criticised the Afghan interim government for its ongoing human rights abuses, particularly against women and girls.

Asad Qaiser Accuses Bilawal Of Supporting Undemocratic Figures To Abolish 1973 Constitution



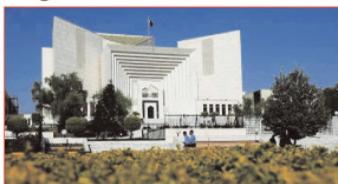
SWABI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leading member Asad Qaiser berated Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for supporting undemocratic individuals to abolish constitution of 1973.

The PTI leader was referring to the support of Bilawal Bhutto for the PML-N led incumbent government on proposed constitutional amendment.

Addressing a public gathering in Swabi, Asad Qaiser raised the question on the claims of PPP calling itself champion of democracy, saying he was dismayed at the PPP involvement in the conspiracy. He stressed that grandson

PTI Approaches SC For Clarification On NA Speaker's Letter To ECP Regarding Reserved Seats

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday moved the Supreme Court seeking clarification on the letters written by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and Punjab Assembly's custodian Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on the matter of reserved seats.



The plea, filed by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan via lawyer Uzair Karamat Bhandari, seeks the top court's clarification that "the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024 had no bearing or effect on the binding nature of the short order dated 12 July 2024 and the implementation thereof cannot be refused on the basis of the said statute."

The petition comes after NA Speaker Sadiq wrote to the ECP terming the SC ruling, which had declared the PTI eligible for reserved seats, "incapable of implementation" after the amendments to the Election Act 2017 — a similar letter was

also written to the ECP by the Punjab Assembly's speaker as well.

The incumbent ruling coalition, following the ruling, had bulldozed the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024 in both house of parliament on August 6 and the legislation came into force with President Asif Ali Zardari's assent on August 9.

In his letter to the electoral body, the speaker underscored two "particular provisions" — amendments to Section 66 and Section 104-A, which he said, were relevant for the Election Commission's consideration. In its amendment to Section 66 of the Elections Act, the bill says that if a candidate does not submit a declaration of his affiliation with a political party to the returning officer (RO) before seeking allotment of the election symbol, they shall be "deemed to be considered as an independent candidate and not a candidate of any political party." Meanwhile, the amendment to Section 104 reads that the declaration, consent or affidavit, by whatever name called, of an independent returned candidate once given for joining a political party shall be irrevocable and cannot be substituted or withdrawn. —RT/Agency