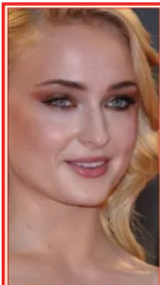


REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day



Saeed Ghani Calls For Youth Skills Development Programs Across All 25 Towns In Karachi



Sophie Turner resonates with Joan Hannington story amid Joe Jonas divorce

Heartland

PPP Cultural Wing Commemorates Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's 36th Birthday In Style



Money

OGDC And China's CCDC Sign MoU For Shale And Tight Gas Development In Pakistan



NATIONAL

Gandapur Has To Navigate Challenges While Traveling In Punjab: Barrister Saif



SPORTS

Pakistani-origin boxer Hamzah Sheeraz bags Middleweight European title



Gandapur Dismisses Apology Demands, Plans Rally In Mianwali On September 29

PESHAWAR: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur stated that he will not apologise, questioning, "Who should I apologise to and why?" He stated that apologies should come from those who have laid hands on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan.

In a video address on Sunday, Gandapur criticised the government for spreading false narratives regarding access to rallies, asserting that no expectations can be held for the "small-minded."

He accused former Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari of undermining democracy and going to any lengths for power. He claimed that Nawaz Sharif has exploited the nation's wealth, while Shahbaz Sharif is merely a scyophant, and Maryam Nawaz has been nurtured in the environment of dictatorship.

Gandapur expressed concern that the current rulers are pushing the nation into darkness, noting that Imran Khan has been imprisoned for 414 days. He declared that the nation was not en-



slaved and would not tolerate government being ousted.

Looking to the future, he outlined a plan to secure freedom for upcoming generations. He called for peaceful protests nationwide on September 27 and announced a rally in Mianwali on September 29, along with events in Rawalpindi and other cities. He concluded that the movement will not stop and urged the public to remain supportive and ready for action.

He noted that if cases are to be registered against them, they should proceed, as injustices have been inflicted on their workers, and questioned who would apologise for that.—RT/Agency

PM: People Have Rejected 'Politics Of Anarchy' And Support Government's Robust Economic Policies

ISLAMABAD: Apparently referring to yesterday's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) power show in Lahore — which the government called a dud — Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said "the people of Pakistan have rejected 'politics of anarchy' and prioritised improvements in economic policies."

A day earlier, the former ruling party held a public rally in Lahore, which came to an abrupt end after police stormed the stage, turning off the microphone and lights, forcing PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and other party leaders to leave.

The police and district administration swung into action after the PTI rally exceeded the 6pm deadline specified in the no-objective certificate (NOC).

Even the first-tier leadership, including Omar Ayub, Assad Qaiser, and "firebrand" Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, failed to arrive at the venue before the 6pm deadline.

Federal Minister Attaullah Tarar claimed that Imran Khan-founded party failed to gather supporters despite receiving a "free



hand" from the government, while Punjab Minister Azma Bokhari stated that fewer than 3,000 people attended the rally from across the country.

In a statement on the country's political and economic situation issued today, PM Shehbaz said that "the public wants relief from inflation, solutions to their problems, and economic development."

The prime minister, stressing the urgency of addressing the public's economic concerns, called for a shift in political priorities, arguing that, instead of focusing on rallies and gatherings, the immediate need is to improve the economic condition of the masses.

"We will hold rallies in 2028, but right now, it is time to work hard to fulfill the pledges made to the people."

He linked the success of the country's economic recovery directly to political stability, warning that political chaos would disrupt efforts to provide relief to the public. "Economic recovery is tied to political stability; political chaos means affecting the process of providing relief to the people," he said.

He praised the people for

their role in supporting economic growth by promoting political stability and emphasised that national unity was crucial for sustaining this progress. "National unity for political stability will prove to be the guarantee of Pakistan's bright economic future and relief from inflation," he remarked.

To address the country's ongoing economic and security challenges, the prime minister called for collaboration between political parties, institutions, and provinces. "To tackle economic challenges and terrorism, the nation, political parties, institu-

tions, and provinces must work together," he urged.

Recalling the past political instability, PM Shehbaz lamented that a lot of time had been wasted in political chaos rather than in the interest of the country and the nation.

On the economic front, the prime minister was optimistic about the country's progress, noting that inflation had returned to single digits and that Pakistan's overall economic situation was improving.

"Thank God, inflation has returned to single digits, and the economic situation is improving," he said, highlighting key indicators such as rising exports, the stability of the rupee, increasing remittances, and declining interest rates. Looking forward, the prime minister underscored that the current International Monetary Fund (IMF) program should be the last one for Pakistan, saying "if it is so, it will be a true success".

He warned that abusive language, violence, and chaos would not lead to progress, urging every province and institution to play its role in solving the public's problems.—RT/Agency

CJP Isa Asks Registrar To Address Nine Questions Regarding Reserved Seats

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa has sought "explanation" from the registrar of the Supreme Court asking nine questions on the decision on reserved seats pronounced on July 12.

According to sources, the CJP wrote a letter to the registrar Jazela Aslam in which he put nine questions regarding apex court's September 14 majority decision on reserved seats.

The CJP questioned registrar Ms Jazela when did the Election Commission (ECP) and Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) file civil miscellaneous request for clarification?

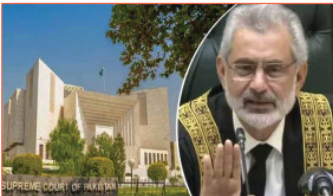
Why the applications were not sent to the Practice and Procedure Committee?

How were the miscellaneous petitions fixed for hearing without issuing a cause list?

Why has the cause list not been issued for hearing the applications?

Did the Registrar's Office issue a notice to the parties concerned and the Attorney General? In which courtroom or chamber were the applications heard?

The Chief Justice asked



why the order was not fixed in a courtroom for pronouncing.

How was the order uploaded (on website) without the original file and the order being deposited in the Supreme Court Registrar Office?

Who gave the order to upload the order on the Supreme Court website?

It may be recalled that the Supreme Court had issued a written order on the ECP's plea for clearing ambiguity on the majority decision on reserved seats. The apex court, in its judgement, declared that the ECP had recognised that PTI was a registered political party. It is mala fide on part of the ECP not to acknowledge the cer-

tificates of the PTI members. For its act [of defiance] the ECP may face constitutional and legal consequences.

The apex court's decision categorically declared that all those who submitted certificates would be considered members of the PTI. The decision would be applicable to the national and provincial assemblies.

The Supreme Court strongly rejects ECP's attempt to create confusion, declared the decision. The written order mentioned that the ECP had recognised the PTI as a registered political party and Barrister Gohar as its chairman. Now the commission cannot change its position in the name of clarification.—RT/Agency

FBR Considers Imposing Rs 1 Million Fine And Other Penalties On Tax Evaders

ISLAMABAD: Amid the incumbent government's strenuous efforts to address the country's financial woes, the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) is mulling strict measures including imposing a Rs1 million penalty on various categories of tax evaders, media reported on Sunday.

The tax authority has proposed six key measures against null, non-filers while identifying 10 major revenue spinner sectors for hiring independent experts which include textile, financial and insurance, chemical and fertiliser, petroleum, tobacco, iron and steel, beverages, tea, cement and real estate activities.

The development comes a day after the body announced that it would not be extending the September 30 deadline for the submission of tax returns.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led administration in its tax-heavy budget passed in June, set out an ambitious taxation plan to boost its prospects of securing a fresh bailout deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — which it eventually did as the programme now awaits the approval of the Fund's executive board.

However, the FBR faces



a monumental tax shortfall in the first quarter (July-September) under the IMF programme of \$7 billion Efficacy Fund Facility (EFF) coupled with its failure to bring 3.2 million retailers into the tax net, the tax collecting body has geared up for significant taxation measures against millions.

Sources say that an internal assessment of the FBR has shown a tax shortfall of over Rs220 billion for the first quarter (July-September) against the agreed target of Rs2,652 billion.

The authority faced a shortfall of Rs98 billion in August 2024. The FBR had collected Rs1,456 billion in the first two months (July and August) against the assigned target of Rs1,554 billion leaving the body with the challenging task of fetching Rs1,196 billion during the ongoing month to materialise the first quarter agreed target with the IMF.

The annual tax collection target of FBR envisaged Rs12,970 billion, which was approved by parliament (Rs12,913 billion).

Therefore, the Tax collecting body has chalked out half a dozen strict measures with the first one being the blocking of utilities for all three categories.

Out of the remaining five proposed actions, the freezing of bank accounts would be implemented. The FBR has also suggested the attachment of properties on non-registration from manufacturers and wholesale distributors — however, the attachment of property has not been proposed for retailers.

The sealing of premises for tax evasion and non-registration has been proposed for manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors while

retailers will remain exempted from this measure.

The fifth stern action has been proposed for the imposition of a new penalty of Rs1 million for the three categories.

Furthermore, the appointment of receivers only for manufacturers whose turnover exceeded Rs250 million on a per annum basis has also been proposed.

For enforcement measures for non-registration against manufacturers, wholesalers/ distributors and retailers, the FBR has suggested stern action against those manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors who possessed a turnover of Rs250 million and retailers whose turnover exceeded Rs100 million.

Furthermore, taking over the premises of factories having a turnover of over Rs250 million has also been proposed along with the appointment of a receiver if the revenue collector found non-registration in case of manufacturer and imposition of Rs1 million penalty from manufacturer, wholesalers, distributors and retailers.

The tax authority has estimated a tax gap of Rs700 billion in the textile sector in all three major taxes — sales tax, income tax and Customs duty. In the cement sector, the FBR estimates show that the tax gap stands at Rs100 billion.

For the appointment of independent experts for ten selected sectors, the FBR official said the tax authorities would find out former CFOs of the respective tax selected sectors to ascertain alleged wrongdoings and generate desired tax revenues in accordance with their real/ actual potential.

A presentation given to the prime minister by the FBR has revealed that despite raising tax rates and abolishing tax exemptions and special regimes, tax collection remains stagnant showing there was massive tax evasion even in the case of those who are so-called registered sectors or individuals.

The FBR established a model taxpayer office in Karachi which alone collects 32% of total revenues collected by the revenue body. Currently, 68% of FBR's revenue is generated through these large taxpayer offices located in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Multan. There is a gap of 1,550 auditors across the FBR which would be filled in three phases.—RT/Agency

At Least 51 Killed, 20 Injured In Iranian Coal Mine Explosion

KHORASAN: The casualties from the coal mine explosion in Iran's South Khorasan Province on Sunday soared to 51, state media reported revising the death toll, as some of the injured succumbed to their wounds.

Currently, there are 20 injured who are being treated at the medical facilities.

As per the reports, the accident was caused by a methane gas explosion in two blocks, B and C, of the mine run by the Madanjoo company.

"76% of the country's coal is provided from this region and around 8 to 10 big companies are working in the region including Madanjoo company," the governor of South Khorasan Province Ali Akbar Rahimi told state TV on Sunday.

The rescue operation in



block B has been completed. Of the 47 workers, who were in the block, 30 died and 17 were injured, Rahimi said earlier.

Rescue operations in block C have started. Methane density in the block is high and the operation will take around 3-4 hours, he added.

There were 69 workers in the blocks at the time of the explosion, state TV reported. "Seventeen injured peo-

ple were transported to the hospital and 24 people are still missing," it said earlier on Sunday citing the head of Iran's Red Crescent.

The explosion occurred at 9pm (1730 GMT) on Saturday, state media said. President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed condolences to the victims' families. "I spoke with ministers and we will do our best to follow up," Pezeshkian said in televised comments.—RT/Agency

Pakistan To Address Palestine, Kashmir, And Islamophobia Issues At UNGA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will be attending the upcoming 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) wherein he will highlight Palestine, Islamophobia and other issues during his address slated for September 27, the Foreign Office said in a statement on Sunday.

The premier, set to attend the UNGA session from September 23 to 27, will underscore the importance of addressing long-standing issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council (UNSC) such as Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine.

The prime minister, a day earlier, reached London for a short tour from where he would depart for New York on Monday (tomorrow).

"Departing for New York to represent Pakistan at the 79th UN General Assembly. Looking forward to a busy week full of engagements. We will present Pakistan's perspective to the world," the PM said in a post on X.



Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar was also scheduled to travel to the US for the UNGA session, however, his trip was cancelled hours before PM Shehbaz left for London.

"In view of some important upcoming diplomatic engagements and the ongoing preparations for the 23rd meeting of the Council of

the Heads of Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Deputy PM and FM [Ishaq] Dar will not proceed to New York for the 79th session of the UNGA," an FO spokesman said.

Sources told media that the decision for the cancellation of the foreign minister's trip to New York was taken on Friday afternoon in a meeting at the FO.

Expanding on PM Shehbaz's trip, the FO said that the scheduled will not only reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and support for the UN's role in fostering global peace, security, and prosperity but will also accentuate the importance of addressing the inequities in international economic relations and reforming the international financial architecture during his time in New York.

The premier will also highlight the country's priority to place people at the heart of the domestic and global development agenda.

He will express Islamabad's commitment as an incoming member of the UNSC for the year 2025-26, to work with all UN member states to uphold the UN Charter, preventing conflict, fostering peace, and promoting global prosperity, the FO added. Furthermore, PM Shehbaz would urge the international community to take decisive measures in addressing climate change and countering the rising tide of Islamophobia.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



PPP Cultural Wing Commemorates Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's 36th Birthday In Style

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Cultural Wing in the Shaheed Benazirabad Division hosted a lively celebration on Sunday in honor of the party chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, marking his 36th birthday. Organized by Nisar Ahmed Wassan, President of the PPP Cultural Wing, the event took place at his riverside bungalow in Kandhari, drawing a large crowd of party workers, officials, and local leaders.

A grand 50-pound cake was cut to celebrate the occasion, symbolizing Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's rising influence and leadership within the party and the nation. Key figures present included Fahad Wassan, Chairman of the Kandhari Town Committee, Faiz Muhammad Mari, President of the People's Doctor Forum in Sanghar District, and Yasir Khan Mari, among others, reflecting the party's unity and strength in the region.

In his address, Nisar Ahmed Wassan lauded Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership and vision, emphasizing his unwavering commitment to serving the people of Pakistan, particularly the youth. He remarked that while other political entities may rely on empty slogans, Bilawal has proven to be a genuine leader, dedicated to tackling the nation's challenges. Wassan credited Bilawal for advocating for



the rights of the underprivileged and marginalized, akin to his mother, Benazir Bhutto, and grandfather, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. "Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is a beacon of hope for the youth of this nation," Wassan stated. "He works sincerely for the people, while others merely engage in deceptive politics."

The event featured enthusiastic speeches from various party leaders, who echoed Wassan's sentiments and pledged their unwavering support for Bilawal's leadership. They highlighted his efforts to promote democratic values, address economic challenges, and safeguard the rights of women, youth, and minorities in Pakistan.

Fahad Wassan remarked that under Bilawal's guidance, the PPP has remained steadfast in its commitment to democracy and social justice. "Today's celebration goes beyond a birthday; it recognizes the dynamic leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari offers, especially in these challenging times," he noted.

The gathering also provided an opportunity for PPP workers to reflect on the party's achievements and future objectives. Speakers discussed the importance of unity and dedication to the party's mission, stressing the need to support Bilawal as he navigates Pakistan's complex political landscape.

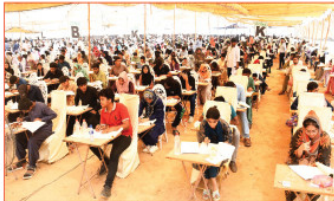
The festive atmosphere at the riverside bungalow was further enlivened by cultural performances and traditional music, showcasing the PPP Cultural Wing's dedication to preserving Sindhi's rich heritage. Party workers and leaders expressed joy and optimism for the future under Bilawal's leadership, reaffirming their commitment to the party's cause.

As the event concluded, Nisar Ahmed Wassan and other leaders reiterated their dedication to ensuring the continued success of the Pakistan People's Party under Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership, vowing to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people and the prosperity of Pakistan.

LUMHS Successfully Conducts MDCAT For 2024-25 Academic Year

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) in Jamshoro successfully held the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) for the 2024-2025 academic session on Sunday, September 22, 2024. The exam, aimed at admissions to the MBBS and BDS programs, attracted a substantial number of aspiring medical students from across the region.



A total of 12,659 candidates participated in the test, comprising 5,859 male and 6,800 female applicants, reflecting a strong interest in medical and dental careers. The examination was conducted in an organized manner, ensuring a smooth process throughout the day.

LUMHS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Ikrumuddin Ujjan, personally supervised the arrangements to uphold the highest standards of vigilance and transparency during the examination. Expressing his satisfaction with the preparations, Dr. Ujjan praised the staff for their commitment and the candidates for their discipline. "This is a crucial step for thousands of young students, and we have ensured that the examination process is carried out with the utmost integrity and fairness," he stated.

For the 2024-2025 academic session, LUMHS has allocated 350 seats for the MBBS program and 100 seats for the BDS program. Additionally, the Liaquat Institute of Medical & Health Sciences in Thatta has been designated 100 MBBS seats, while Bilawal Medical College, Jamshoro, has reserved 100 MBBS seats exclusively for male candidates.

The MDCAT is a highly competitive exam, and the significant turnout underscores the increasing interest among students in the medical field. Candidates were evaluated on essential subjects including biology, chemistry, physics, and English, which are vital for medical education.

Prof. Dr. Ujjan reiterated the university's commitment to academic excellence and merit-based admissions. "We are dedicated to selecting the brightest minds for our programs. Medicine is a demanding field, and we aim to admit only the most capable and hardworking students," he added.

Candidates and their families praised LUMHS for the well-organized examination process, noting the security and efficiency of the arrangements. Strict measures were implemented to prevent any misconduct, with multiple teams of invigilators ensuring adherence to protocols.

The MDCAT results will be announced soon, and successful candidates will move forward in the admission process for their respective programs. The university administration assured candidates that the selection will be transparent and merit-based, in line with LUMHS's longstanding tradition. The successful completion of the MDCAT marks another achievement for LUMHS, solidifying its reputation as a leading medical institution in the region.

The university continues to play a crucial role in training future healthcare professionals, with a strong emphasis on academic rigor, ethical practice, and community service.

Tributes Paid To Bilawal Bhutto Zardari On His 36th Birthday, Celebrating His Leadership And Legacy

Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The 36th birthday of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was celebrated nationwide, including in District Thatta, where local party leaders and supporters gathered to honor his contributions to strengthening democracy in Pakistan. The event, held at Sadiq Ali Memon's residence, featured dedicated PPP members reflecting on Bilawal's leadership, which builds upon the democratic legacies of his grandfather, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and his mother, the late Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.



Prominent local figures attended the celebration, including PPP District General Secretary Imtiaz Qureshi and emerging leaders like Aashiq Hussain Zardari, Abdul Hameed Panhwar, Peer Rehmani, and Aftab Ahmed Soomro. Together, they paid tribute to Bilawal's dynamic leadership and ongoing efforts to promote democracy in Pakistan.

Speakers at the event praised Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his visionary approach, progressive ideas, and unwavering commitment to democratic ideals. They noted that under his guidance, the PPP has become stronger and more organized, upholding the party's tradition of sacrifice for democracy. The participants emphasized that Bilawal continues to embody the principles upheld by his grandfather and mother in protecting Pakistan's democratic process.

Bilawal's leadership is viewed as a continuation of the democratic vision established by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who founded the PPP in 1967 and championed the rights of the common people. His daughter, Benazir Bhutto, the first woman to lead a Muslim-majority country, persevered through immense challenges, advocating for democracy and women's rights until her tragic assassination in 2007.

Taking up the mantle of leadership at a young age after his mother's death, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has tirelessly worked to uphold the

values of his family. He has become a prominent voice for democratic governance, human rights, and social justice, addressing the needs of youth, women, and marginalized communities.

Speakers at the Thatta event highlighted how Bilawal's vision and modernization efforts have reinvigorated the PPP, acknowledging the sacrifices made by the Bhutto family in their pursuit of a just and democratic Pakistan. They expressed confidence that Bilawal is well-equipped to lead the party toward greater achievements.

As the PPP celebrates the birthday of its young leader, party workers remain hopeful that Bilawal will continue the legacy of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, ensuring that their struggle for democracy and equality endures for future generations.

Kumb Residents Protest Outside Khairpur Press Club, Demand Justice For Injured Livestock Trader

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

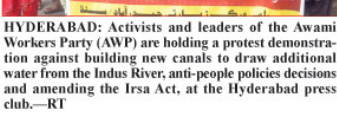
KHAIRPUR: Residents of Kumb, including Ghanur Khan Jafferi and AD Mirjat, staged a protest outside the Khairpur Press Club, accusing local authorities of negligence and corruption in the case of their brother, Kamber Jafferi, a livestock trader who was critically injured in a gun attack a month ago. According to the protesters, four armed men identified as Gulzar Ali Jafferi, Allah Dino, Ali Muhammad Jafferi, and one unidentified individual opened fire on Kamber Jafferi, leaving him with severe gunshot wounds before fleeing the scene.



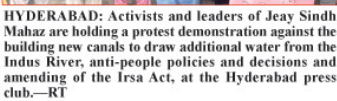
A case was registered at Kumb Police Station, but the protesters alleged that SHO Kumb Aslam Laghari, ASI Nazaqat Shino, and other police officials accepted bribes worth millions from the accused to suppress the case. They claimed that despite medical reports confirming the gunshot wounds, the police are downplaying the incident as a minor injury.

The protesters further accused the suspects of having connections with criminals and the police, alleging that they are now being threatened with false death threats if they do not pursue justice. They called for authorities to intervene, conduct a fair investigation, and ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable.

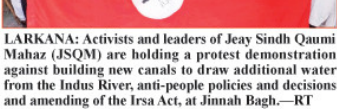
HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of the Awami Workers Party (AWP) are holding a protest demonstration against building new canals to draw additional water from the Indus River, anti-people policies decisions and amending the Irsa Act, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of the Awami Workers Party (AWP) are holding a protest demonstration against building new canals to draw additional water from the Indus River, anti-people policies decisions and amending the Irsa Act, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT



HYDERABAD: Activists and leaders of Jeay Sindh Mahaz are holding a protest demonstration against the building new canals to draw additional water from the Indus River, anti-people policies and decisions and amending of the Irsa Act, at the Hyderabad press club.—RT



LARKANA: Activists and leaders of Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM) are holding a protest demonstration against building new canals to draw additional water from the Indus River, anti-people policies and decisions and amending of the Irsa Act, at Jinnah Bagh.—RT



LARKANA: A large number of students are gathered outside the Police Training School to attend the Entry Test of the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT).—RT



LARKANA: Chairman of the Town Committee Darri, Shahrukh Syal and others are cutting a cake to celebrate the birthday of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.—Photo by Nadeem Soomro

Mastermind Behind Transformer Theft Gang Arrested In Khairpur Operation



By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh The police recovered five transformers, coils, and other valuable items from the suspects, registering a case against them. According to SHO Mushtaq Jatoi, investigations are ongoing. During interrogation, the suspects admitted to stealing 21 transformers from the Shaheed Benazir Basti, selling them at Raza Qureshi and Haji Soomro's workshop. They revealed that a transformer valued at Rs. 1.2 million was sold for a mere Rs. 100,000. Additionally, the suspects disclosed that police official Khadim Suhag, Raza Qureshi, Muhammad Bachal Mari, and Haji Soomro were police personnel who accepted a bribe of Rs. 30,000 for each stolen transformer.

PPP Strongly Opposes Amendments To IRSA Act And Construction Of New Canals On Indus River

Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: The Information Secretary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Thatta chapter, Syed Mahmood Alam Shah Bukhari, has strongly condemned the proposed amendments to the IRSA Act and the construction of new canals along the Indus River.



At a press conference, Bukhari, flanked by key party leaders including Ghulam Nabi Sheikh, Muhammad Rahim Soomro, Bhoru Saraki, Ismail Rand, Suhail Palijo, Advocate Javed Brohi, and Advocate Akhtar Jamari, raised serious concerns about the amendments, asserting that they threaten the interests of Sindhi.

He explained that Sindhi is currently facing severe water shortages, compounded by the threat of sea intrusion that is damaging its fertile lands. The proposed construction of new canals, he warned, would only worsen these challenges and jeopardize the province's agricultural productivity. Bukhari urged all political parties to come together to tackle Sindhi's water crisis, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the province's rights. He reaffirmed the PPP's commitment to a democratic system and a true federal government but made it clear that there would be no compromise on critical water issues affecting Sindhi's future.

He reiterated the PPP's longstanding opposition to any dam or canal projects that undermine the rights of federating units, particularly Sindhi. He pointed out that the Sindhi Assembly has already passed a resolution against these amendments, reflecting widespread public dissent throughout the province.

Bukhari reiterated the PPP's longstanding opposition to any dam or canal projects that undermine the rights of federating units, particularly Sindhi. He pointed out that the Sindhi Assembly has already passed a resolution against these amendments, reflecting widespread public dissent throughout the province.

University Of Sindh's Pakistan Study Centre Hosts Health Awareness Seminar On Thalassemia And Blood Donation Camp

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: The Pakistan Study Centre (PSC) at the University of Sindh, in collaboration with Dr. Essa Lab and the Rotary Club of Hyderabad Galaxy, organized a significant health awareness seminar focused on thalassemia and related health issues.



In his address, Professor Dr. Shuja Ahmed Mahesar, Director of the Pakistan Study Centre, highlighted the crucial role of youth in community service. "The youth are the backbone of the society, and their involvement in community outreach is essential for societal progress," he stated. Dr. Mahesar emphasized that awareness seminars equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to tackle critical health challenges in their communities. He also underscored the importance of sports in maintaining good health, stating, "Physical activities are not just for recreation; they are a fundamental part of a healthy lifestyle." He noted that regular participation in sports can strengthen the body, enhance

mental well-being, and help prevent various health issues. Keynote speaker Ms. Seema Laghari provided valuable insights into thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder that impairs the body's ability to produce hemoglobin. She discussed the different types and symptoms of the condition, as well as treatment options, including regular blood transfusions, iron chelation therapy, and bone marrow or stem cell transplantation. Ms. Laghari stressed the importance of preventive screening and genetic counseling, particularly in areas where thalassemia is common, urging couples to seek screening before planning for children. Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro, Riaz Wassan, visited the medical camp and

praised the Pakistan Study Centre for organizing the event. He expressed his commitment to fostering collaboration between the administration and academia to promote health awareness initiatives for the youth. The event also featured attendance from Rotary Club of Hyderabad President Imdad Ali Bughio, Miss Umama, Dr. Ghulam Akber Mahesar, Dr. Ghazala Panhwar, Dr. Abdul Razaq Channa, Dr. Zareem, Majid Noonari, and Mr. Irshad Burtai. Following the seminar, members of the Health and Sports Club at the Pakistan Study Centre assisted in organizing a blood donation camp, further enhancing the success of the initiative.

NATIONAL



Gandapur Has To Navigate Challenges While Traveling In Punjab: Barrister Saif

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Advisor Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif has said that Chief Minister Khawaja Asif and Atta Tarar dared Gandapur despite challenges and roamed around Lahore.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said self-styled minister Khawaja Asif and Atta Tarar dared Gandapur to cross Attock. "They are dumb now," Saif added.

He said Khawaja Asif had been counting days to the Lahore rally. He and Tarar dared him to cross into Punjab, he continued. Barrister Saif said that



Chief Minister Gandapur went to Lahore. But the fazed ministers broke up the rally before Gandapur's arrival. However, Gandapur reached the venue despite hurdles, the information adviser stated. The adviser said that yesterday the whole of Pakistan came out for the PTI founder. No one can keep Imran Khan behind bars now, he concluded.—RT/Agency

President Congratulates Sri Lanka's Newly Elected President On Electoral Victory



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday extended heartfelt felicitations on the electoral victory of Sri Lankan President-elect Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

In his congratulatory message, the president stated that Pakistan greatly valued its ties with the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as both countries enjoyed excellent cooperation in various areas of mutual interest, according to a President House press release. He expressed the hope that bilateral relations between the two countries would further strengthen under his leadership. President Zardari also wished good health and continued prosperity for the leadership and the people of Sri Lanka.—RT/Agency

NAB Recovers Rs 168.5 Billion In BRT Peshawar Case

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Sunday announced the recovery of Rs 168.5 billion in the BRT Peshawar project, marking its largest recovery in the bureau's 25-year history, media reported.



The investigation into the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project began in 2018, amidst allegations of illegal contract awards and misappropriation of funds. The case saw NAB rejecting contractors' claims of Rs 31.5 billion in the International Court of Arbitration.

Investigations revealed six major contracts were wrongly awarded to specific companies, which later breached their terms. Over 400 bank accounts were inspected, revealing further evidence of misconduct. The contractors submitted fake guarantees and de-

layed project completion, leading to Rs 86 billion in damages sought by the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA). NAB's efforts resulted in a saving of Rs 108.5 billion, along with an additional Rs 9 billion in financial expenditure saved by completing the project within its original cost framework.

The investigation revealed that contractors failed to complete work within the stipulated time-

Three Policemen Martyred In Balochistan Attack In Zhob

ZHOB: Three officers of the Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF), including an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), were martyred when unidentified assailants opened fire on their vehicle in Zhob, media reported.

According to details, the Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF) vehicle was ambushed in Zhob, an area of Balochistan, by unknown attackers, resulting in severe injuries to two police officers who later succumbed to their wounds, raising the death toll to three. One officer remains hospitalized and is receiving treatment.

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

53 Officers Promoted To Inspector Rank At Ceremony In Central Police Office, Gujranwala

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: A rank ceremony was held at the Central Police Office where 53 officers were promoted to the rank of Inspector Inspector General (IG) Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, along with senior police officers, oversaw the event, assigning ranks to the newly promoted inspectors. Families, including parents, children, and relatives of the officers, attended in large numbers to celebrate the occasion. During his address, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar highlighted the ongoing efforts of the Punjab Police in maintaining law and order, countering terrorism, and addressing issues of religious hatred and extremism. He stressed that despite limited resources, the Punjab Police are facing these challenges with courage and determination. This year, the Punjab

Police will promote over 600 sub-inspectors, 700 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), and 800 head constables, with more than 1,000 promotions in total. He also announced that a promotion board will soon be established for the officers of the Safe City Authority and the Organized Crime Unit, along with SPs. IG Punjab urged the newly promoted officers to enhance their professionalism, embrace modern technology for effective policing, and ensure justice through excellent

service delivery. He emphasized the importance of upholding justice without any external pressures and urged officers to deal with the public with integrity, particularly the poor and underprivileged. The ceremony was attended by senior officials, including Additional IG Punjab Sultan Ahmed Chaudhry, DIG Headquarters Ahsan Nums, DIG Establishment One Sulaiman Sultan Rana, and DIG Establishment Two Captain (retd) Li-aquat Ali Malik.

Price Control Magistrates Conduct Performance Review Meeting In Toba Tek Singh



By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A performance review meeting for the Price Control Magistrates for the current month was held at the DC Office, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Zeeshan Labha Masih, following the directives of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu. The meeting, attended by Price Control Magistrates, focused on evaluating efforts to reg-

ulate market prices. District Officer Industries, Arif Hussain, provided an overview of the magistrates' activities, reporting that 10,707 locations were inspected in September, resulting in fines amounting to Rs 2,625,500 for price violations. Additionally, 20 individuals were arrested for overcharging during these inspections. ADCG Zeeshan Labha Masih instructed the magistrates to extend their inspections to towns and villages, ensuring that violators of the price lists are held accountable. He stressed that no leniency should be shown to those exploiting citizens. Emphasizing the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, ADCG reiterated that providing relief to the public remains a top priority. He encouraged citizens to report overcharging to the Assistant Commissioner's Office or via the Punjab Price App for swift action against non-compliant shopkeepers.

Remote-Controlled Bomb Targets Police Van In Swat, Resulting In Officer's Death

SWAT: At least one police officer was martyred, and four others were wounded in a "remote-controlled bomb explosion" targeting a police van guarding a convoy of foreign envoys heading to Malam Jabba from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat district on Sunday.



District Police Officer (DPO) Zahidullah Khan confirmed the explosion, stating the attack targeted a group of foreign diplomats, resulting in one officer losing his life and four others being injured.

DPO Khan detailed that the affected mobile van was leading the convoy of 11 foreign diplomats, adding that the martyred policeman was identified as Burhan while four wounded cops include a sub-inspector. Police officials informed the media that all envoys were safe after the explosion and had been shifted to Islamabad. They added that the diplomats were heading to Malam Jabba after attending an event at the Chamber

of Commerce in Mingora when the explosion occurred in the suburban area of Sherabad. The police confirmed that the convoy included ambassadors from Russia, Portugal, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Iran, and other countries. The wounded officers were transported to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) in Saidu Sharif. Heavy contingents of law enforcement agencies were deployed in the area following the incident. They added that the diplomats were heading to Malam Jabba after attending an event at the Chamber

Police Release List Of 73 Most Wanted Terrorists

LAKKI MARWAT: Police have released a list of 73 most wanted terrorists, including their names, addresses, and details of their accomplices, media reported.

As per details, the list also includes individuals who have been involved in extremist activities, extortion, and bomb blasts. The police have directed their teams to intensify operations against these terrorists and their accomplices. Earlier, at least 37

Toba Tek Singh: One-Wheeling Stunt Ends In Tragedy, 14-Year-Old Boy Hospitalized

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: A dangerous one-wheeling stunt resulted in a tragic accident near Adra Mungi Bangla, where two motorcyclists were critically injured. The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of Thana Sadar on Mungi Bangla Road when 14-year-old Hassan from village 161 GB was performing stunts on his motorcycle, riding without holding the handlebars. He collided head-on with a speeding motorcycle, driven by 44-year-old Umar Hayat, approaching from the opposite direction.

Both riders sustained serious injuries and were rushed to Civil Hospital Gojra by rescue teams. Due to the severity of their condition, they were later referred to Al-

Mariyum Claims The Jerusalem Post Exposed Imran

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb has stated that the Jerusalem Post has exposed Imran Khan's duplicity.

In response to an article published in the Israeli newspaper, Mariyum Aurangzeb mentioned that the Jerusalem Post described Imran Khan as an ally and that the founder of PTI wanted normal relations with Israel. She stated that the remarks made by the Jerusalem Post were eye-opening, as the article revealed Imran Khan's contradictory statements and deceitfulness.

PML-N leader Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry highlighted that Pakistan was being weakened today and their (opposition) only way to weaken the country was by undermining its military. He claimed that the PTI was attempting to weaken the Pakistan Armed Forces. He noted that the people of Pakistan had consistently raised questions about the burning of martyrs' statues and making

Rawalpindi Administration Extends Ali Wazir's Detention For An Additional 15 Days

RAWALPINDI: The district administration of Rawalpindi has extended former member of the National Assembly Ali Wazir's detention by 15 days, media reported on Sunday.



The Rawalpindi deputy commissioner has issued MPO 3 against the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) leader, which grants power to the administration to arrest and detain suspected persons. The politico is imprisoned at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi as he was facing a terrorism case. Earlier, the district administration had issued orders to keep Wazir under custody from September 4 to 19. While under the fresh orders, he will remain imprisoned till October 4. Meanwhile, the PTM leader's lawyers have approached the Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi

Bench against the MPO orders. LHC Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz will hear the case pertaining to the orders on September 24. The ex-MNA from South Waziristan has spent years in jail as he was booked in several cases in different police stations, pertaining to delivering hate speeches against state institutions "one of them" at the hospital which led to the filing of a case against the politician under the Anti-Terrorism Act.—RT/Agency

Rare Eagle Valued At Rs 100 Million Recovered In Punjab

LAHORE: The wildlife department of Punjab government has recovered a rare species of eagle in the Taunsa area, valued at over Rs100 million in the international market, media reported on Sunday.



The wildlife department conducted an operation during the ongoing crackdown against the illegal trade and smuggling of rare wild animals and birds in the province. According to the spokesman of the wildlife department, after receiving a tip, wildlife protection department and the police carried out a joint operation and recovered the rare species of eagle.

The species involved in the illegal sale of rare animals and birds abroad has also been arrested. The authorities confirmed that the rare eagle is physically healthy and is worth more than \$36,000 in global market. On the other hand, Senior Minister Maryam Aurangzeb lauded the department on behalf of Chief Minister Punjab and directed to release the eagle into the wild after mounting a tracker to monitor its movement, emphasizing the importance of birds in maintaining ecological balance. She also noted that several rare animals and birds have been recovered and transferred to zoos, with many receiving treatment that saved their lives.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL

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

Monday, September 23, 2024



Championing Pakistan's Youth: Unleashing Untapped Potential

Shahzaib Rind's historic triumph in the Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Championship stands as a beacon of inspiration for Pakistani youth. His success story—from a young boy with a dream to the first-ever Pakistani to win a world title in martial arts—demonstrates that, with resilience and determination, no goal is beyond reach. However, it also exposes a critical gap: the lack of institutional support for our budding talents.

The youth of Pakistan are brimming with potential. From the rugged terrains of Balochistan to the bustling streets of Karachi, young

men and women possess the talent to excel on the world stage. Yet, they often find themselves navigating a landscape devoid of resources and



official support, much like Shahzaib, who lamented the government's apathy even after previous victories. Despite these challenges, he pursued his dream with relentless perseverance, ultimately bringing pride to the nation.

This untapped reservoir of talent needs to be nurtured on a war footing. Pakistan's youth

must be encouraged and supported not just for their individual successes, but for the collective image of the country. Their achievements can elevate Pakistan's global standing, shifting focus from negative stereotypes to a narrative of triumph, skill, and excellence. Moreover, when young Pakistanis see role models like Shahzaib, they too are inspired to pursue their dreams, proving that anything is possible, despite the odds.

It's time for Pakistan to harness this potential and invest in its youth. If we fail to do so, we risk losing the very generation that can shape a brighter future for the nation.

THE HEARTLAND



Grand Conference On The Life Of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Held At Faisal Mosque, Tando Adam

By Mumtaz Ali Tahaim

TANDO ADAM: A grand conference on the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was held at Faisal Mosque, featuring a keynote address by Dr. Miraj-ul-Huda Siddiqui, a prominent scholar and leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan. In his speech, Dr. Siddiqui stressed that adhering to the exemplary life of the Prophet (PBUH) ensures success in both this world and the Hereafter.



Dr. Miraj-ul-Huda Siddiqui speaking at the conference.

He urged the Muslim community to spread the mission of the Prophet (PBUH) by liberating humanity from servitude and

main vulnerable due to neglecting the teachings of the Prophet and the Quranic call to jihad. He called for greater unity among Muslims and a stronger bond with the Quran, asserting that if Muslims truly embody the principles of the Prophet (PBUH), no worldly power could overpower them. The conference was attended by district Ameer Abdul Ghafoor Ansari, Deputy Ameer Mushtaq Ahmad Adil, local Ameer Abdul Sattar Ansari, and members of the mosque committee, including Anwar Ali Sheikh and Moulana Dhani Bakhsh Lashari.

New Building And Science Fair At Pak-Turk Maarif International School, Khairpur Campus Inaugurated

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: An inauguration ceremony for the new building and a science fair was held at the Pak-Turk Maarif International School and Colleges, Khairpur Campus. The event was attended by special guests DSP City Faraz Mithlo and Civil Judge Farooq Mithlo, along with honorary guests Campus Director Umar Aydin and Principal Benjamin Mashih. Students showcased various science projects at stalls, drawing significant interest from attendees.



Students showcasing science projects at the fair.

In their addresses, DSP Faraz Mithlo, Umar Aydin, and Benjamin Mashih noted that two years ago, the school building was in a dilapidated state, posing safety risks for both students and staff. To resolve this issue, a new building was constructed to ensure a safer and improved learning environment. They emphasized the collaboration

between the two nations in Pakistan towards a common vision for the future, highlighting that such activities enhance creativity and instill a competitive spirit among students. They pointed out that science exhibitions are vital for advancing scientific knowledge and fostering discovery, learning, and critical thinking.

The event featured a variety of science projects, including those related to mathematics, medicine, and electricity, as well as cultural stalls that showcased Sindh

Khairpur: Radio Pakistan Employees Protest Over Deteriorating Conditions



Protesters demanding better conditions.

KHAIRPUR: Employees of Radio Pakistan, led by PBC Employees Union President Muhammad Malook Kathoar, General Secretary Ashiq Ali Mehr, Vice President Wassaluddin Ansari, and Senior Vice President Shafi Muhammad, staged a protest on the Old National Highway. They voiced serious concerns regarding the declining state of Radio Pakistan, which they described as a national institution on the verge of collapse, with both current and retired employees facing in-

Grand Ceremony Held At Hazrat Syed Gul Shah Ghazi Mousavi Shrine To Celebrate The Blessed Arrival Of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)



A large gathering at the shrine ceremony.

creasing hardships. Protesters emphasized that both pensioners and active employees are being denied essential medical facilities. They reported that due to a lack of medicines, dozens of employees have died over the past four months. Additionally, 380 employees who retired four years ago have yet to receive their commutation payments. Despite rulings from the Ombudsman and the President of Pakistan, the organization has failed to disburse gratuity, salaries, and pensions in a timely manner.

Two Motorcyclists Killed In Kashmir Trailer Collision

KASHMIRE: A tragic road accident near Dera Mor early Sunday morning resulted in the deaths of two motorcyclists and left another critically injured when their motorcycle was struck by a speeding trailer. According to Rescue 1122, the collision involved a trailer and a motorcycle carrying three members of the Naich community. The impact was so severe that both riders, identified as Ali Nawaz Naich and Mohammad Nawaz Naich, died instantly. A third passenger, whose identity remains unknown, suffered serious injuries and was quickly transported to the hospital for emergency treatment. The deceased were former employees of the Water and Power Development

Authority (WAPDA) and were well-regarded in their community for their years of service. Their sudden passing has left the local community in deep shock and mourning.

A team from Guddu Police Station arrived at the scene shortly after the accident, cordoning off the area and managing traffic flow. The bodies were taken to Civil Hospital Kashmir for postmortem examination, while the injured individual was admitted to the emergency ward for urgent care. The driver of the trailer fled the scene after the incident. Police have filed a case against the unidentified driver and initiated a manhunt for their apprehension. The incident has raised concerns about the rising num-

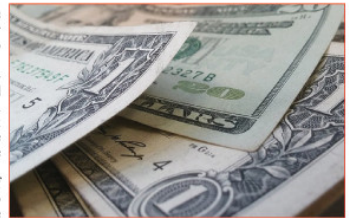
ber of road accidents in the area, prompting calls for stricter enforcement of traffic laws and improved road safety measures. Local residents expressed their sorrow over the tragedy and urged authorities to take immediate action to prevent similar incidents. "This road is notorious for accidents due to reckless driving and insufficient safety measures. We have voiced our concerns for years, but little has changed," lamented a witness to the aftermath of the crash. Kashmir police are continuing their investigation into the accident, reviewing CCTV footage from nearby locations and interviewing witnesses to establish the exact cause of the collision.—RT

GLOBAL WATCH

US Man Wins \$1 Million Lottery Prize During Stop For An Energy Drink

Virginia resident Nicholas Foxx's impromptu stop for an energy drink turned into a life-changing moment.

While visiting family in Altavista, Mr. Foxx popped into the A1 Mini Mart on Main Street to grab a quick pick-me-up. On a whim, he decided to purchase some scratch-off lottery tickets. Little did he know, one of those tickets would prove to be a \$1 million top prize winner in the 20X the Money game. However, he chose the cash option of \$625,000 rather than the option of taking the full \$1 million prize over 30 years. "I thought I was reading it wrong. You don't know anyone who's hit the Lottery for that amount of money," he told lottery officials, reported WFXR.



As a result of Mr. Foxx's win, the A1 Mini Mart, where he purchased the ticket, will receive a prize ranging from \$10 to \$10,000 bonus from the Virginia Lottery. When asked about his plans for the windfall, he chose to keep his intentions private. According to WFXR-TV, a Fox News affiliate, his win marks the fourth top prize awarded in the 20X the Money game, indicating two remaining \$1 million prizes yet to be claimed. The game features prizes ranging from \$10 to \$10,000. The game offers impressive odds, with a 1 in 1,958,400 chance of winning the top prize and a 1 in 3.65 chance of winning any prize. Notably, every prize awarded by the Virginia Lottery benefits Virginia's K-12 public schools, supporting education statewide.—Agency

US Man Discovers He's Been Paying His Neighbour's Electric Bill For 15 Years

In a startling revelation, a resident of California discovered he had been footing the bill for his neighbor's electricity for over 15 years. According to ABC News, Ken Wilson is a Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) customer who has lived alone in an apartment complex in Vacaville since 2006. His suspicions were raised when his bills seemed unusually high, despite his best efforts to reduce energy consumption.

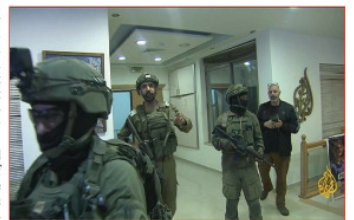


An inquiry by the local power company uncovered the shocking mistake, exposing the 15-year mix-up that had Mr. Wilson unknowingly shouldering the financial burden of his neighbor's electricity usage all along. Before the discovery, Mr. Wilson has been taking proactive steps to reduce his soaring electricity bills by cutting back on usage and purchasing a device to track the wattage of his appliances. Despite these efforts, he noticed his meter bill continued to rise, even when his

breaker was switched off. "I've been trying to conserve electricity and lower my costs because it was getting really expensive. I kept going outside to check my meter... and I couldn't believe it. Even after I turned off my breakers, I kept going outside to check my meter to see if it was still running and it was still running," Mr. Wilson told local TV station KMAX/KOVR. Suspicious, he contacted Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to investigate, presenting his findings and the measures he had taken to reduce usage. PG&E launched an inquiry and ultimately confirmed his suspicions. Turns out, he had been inadvertently paying his neighbor's electricity bill since 2009, three years after moving into his apartment. "Our preliminary investigation has found the meter number for the customer's apartment was being billed to another apartment since potentially 2009," a spokesperson for PG&E said. "We sincerely apologize for the oversight and regret any inconvenience caused by the duration of this issue," the spokesperson added.—Agency

Israeli troops raid, order closure of Al Jazeera's West Bank bureau

Israeli forces raided the bureau of media network Al Jazeera in the West Bank city of Ramallah early on Sunday morning, issuing it with a military order to shut down operations, the network and the Israeli military said on Sunday.



The Qatar-headquartered channel aired live footage of Israeli troops entering the office with their weapons drawn and handing a military court order to Ramallah bureau chief Walid al-Omari forcing the bureau to close for 45 days. The Israeli military said, in response to a Reuters query, that the channel's offices had been sealed and its equipment confiscated. The military added that the order was signed after an intelligence assessment determined that the offices were

being used "to incite terror" and "to support terrorist activities." The channel's broadcasts endanger the security and public order in both the area and the State of Israel as a whole," the statement said. Al Jazeera called the raid "a criminal act" and held the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responsible for the safety of its journalists, it said in a statement. The network added that it would take legal action to protect its rights and promised to continue its coverage. "Al Jazeera rejects the draconian actions, and the unfounded allegations presented by Israeli authorities to justify these illegal raids," it said.—Agency



Pakistani-origin boxer Hamzah Sheeraz bags Middleweight European title



Pakistani-origin British boxer Hamzah Sheeraz has clinched the Middleweight European Boxing title by defeating British boxer Tyler Denny.

On September 21, at London's Wembley Stadium, Sheeraz completely dominated Denny. The undefeated middleweight sent his British opponent to the canvas twice before over-coming him via technical knockout.

The right cross and left hook combination early in the first round resulted in the first knockdown. Sheeraz downed outpaw Denny once more in the second round with a powerful left hook. Referee Mark Bates declared the bout over and waved it off, despite the fact that the latter was able to stand again.

The Pakistani-origin boxer, a resident of London now, has remained undefeated raising the tally of his victories to 21-0 with this one.

In addition to winning Denny's European title, the 25-year-old also won the Commonwealth and WBC 'Silver' titles.

33-year-old Denny, on the other hand, dropped to 19-3-3 and lost the strap. The defeat broke the English athlete's six-fight winning streak.—Agency

All-round Ashwin powers India to 280-run Test win over Bangladesh

CHENNAI: Ravichandran Ashwin claimed six wickets after a first-innings century with the bat to inspire India to a 280-run thrashing of Bangladesh in the first Test here on Sunday.

The Bangladesh team arrived in India in a confident mood following a historic victory in Pakistan but they were no match for the hosts for whom Rishabh Pant celebrated a triumphant return from a serious car crash.

The visitors were bowled out for 234 in the first session of an overcast day four while chasing a victory target of 515.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto top-scored with 82 after he and overnight partner Shakib Al Hasan rested in a 48-run partnership.

The hosts took an emphatic 1-0 lead in the two-match series as they look to extend their advantage at the top of the World Test Championship rankings.

"It was a great result looking at what lies ahead," skipper Rohit Sharma said after India made an ominous start to a fresh Test season of 10 matches.

Hometown hero Ashwin struck first to end a stubborn overnight stand by getting Shakib caught at short-leg for 25.

Ravichandran Ashwin, who took three wickets on day three, then dismissed Mehdi Hasan Miraz for eight to bag his 37th five-wicket haul, equalling the late Shane Warne. Muttiah Muralitharan remains well out in front with 67.

The feat added to Ashwin's heroics after his 113 guided the hosts to 376 in the first innings.

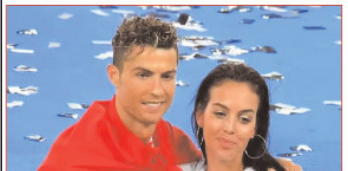
Meanwhile, left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja removed Litton Das for one after the wicketkeeper-batsman edged the ball to Rohit at first slip. Jadeja also ended Najmul's valiant stand and took three wickets for the innings.

For the unversed, Ravichandran Ashwin and Jadeja had played a key batting role in the first innings when their 199-run seventh-wicket stand lifted India from a precarious 144-6 to a challenging total on the first day.—Agency



Bangladesh having resumed the day on 158-4.

Georgina Rodriguez expresses relief after her beau Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr transfer



Cristiano Ronaldo's girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez has expressed relief over his partner's shift from Manchester United to Al Nassr.

Earlier, the Portuguese forward's famous feud with the Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag affected his fans, leaving them disheartened.

However, the Spanish model termed it a positive change for their family.

Speaking in the latest season of I Am Georgina on Netflix, the 30-year-old said: "When Cristiano told me that he'd be playing for Al Nassr, I was so relieved. Because I really wanted to leave Manchester."

Despite tensions after the exit from the Old Trafford, Rodriguez was optimistic about the new chapter.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner and his girlfriend have been together since 2016 and share two children.

Rodriguez is also the step-mother to three of Ronaldo's other children.

In an interview released on his recently launched YouTube channel, the Al Nassr striker referred to Rodriguez as his wife, while casually discussing his morning routine.

Rodriguez, 30, further highlighted that it was hard adjusting in Saudi Arabia, however, they gradually adapted to the new location.

The 39-year-old's record \$200 million contract with Al Nassr provided a lifestyle filled with opportunities.

Previously in 2022, the Argentine-Spanish model appreciated the facilities they were enjoying in the English city because of Manchester United. "The good thing is that we live near to the children's school. In Italy, we lived further away. I'm living my dream right now," she said.

Despite the bitterness over exit to Ronaldo's career, Rodriguez recalled their time with former club by wearing Ronaldo's iconic No.7 jersey during Fashion Week earlier this year.—Agency

PCB to host strategic Connection Camp for unified vision in Pakistan cricket



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is set to host a high-level Connection Camp at a local hotel on Monday, aimed at establishing a cohesive and clear vision for the future of cricket in Pakistan.

This strategic initiative follows a series of consultations that PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has had with former cricketers since taking office earlier this year.

The camp will feature nine prominent cricketers, including Babar Azam (Pakistan's white-ball captain), Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Rizwan, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shaqueel, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Shan Masood (Pakistan's red-ball captain). They will be joined by national team head coaches Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten, assistant coach Azhar Mahmood, and High Performance specialist David Reid.

Chairman Mohsin Naqvi will lead the day-long session alongside the PCB leadership team. The primary goal is to define a shared vision and mission while establishing a roadmap to revive the pride and excellence that have historically characterized Pakistan cricket since the nation achieved Test status in 1952.

The session will emphasize stronger collaboration between players and the PCB, with the board reaffirming its commitment to supporting athletes in achieving strategic objectives. The ultimate aim is for players to take an active role in inspiring the next generation of cricketers through exceptional performances.

Mohsin Naqvi stated, "The Connection Camp is a critical step toward unifying our approach to restore Pakistan cricket to its former glory. Our aim is to identify key issues, foster open dialogue and collectively agree on a strategic path forward."

He added, "By addressing these challenges directly, we will establish clear, actionable goals that meet the expectations of our passionate cricket fans.—Agency

Max Verstappen protests against FIA's 'ridiculous' punishment after Singapore GP qualifying

Max Verstappen criticized the FIA's decision to penalize him for swearing during a press conference in Singapore, calling it "ridiculous" after he was ordered to complete public interest work for using an expletive when discussing his Red Bull car's performance.

Verstappen, who qualified second for the Singapore Grand Prix, responded by giving brief answers in Saturday's official press conference and later explained his actions while speaking to journalists in the paddock. "I find it ridiculous what happened, so why should I then give full answers?" he told Sky Sports F1.

Verstappen clarified his frustration was with the FIA's rules, not the stewards. "They are very understanding but it's in the rules, and they have to apply something. For me, it's not the right way to go forward in our sport."

Lewis Hamilton, who qualified third, supported Verstappen, stating, "I think it's a bit of a joke, to be honest. I certainly wouldn't be doing it, and I hope Max doesn't do it."

Lando Norris, a close friend of Verstappen, also expressed his disagreement, calling the penalty "pretty unfair."

The topic of swearing has been widely discussed in the Singapore paddock, especially following FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem's comments criticizing the frequency of swearing over team radios. Hamilton also criticized Ben Sulayem's remarks, calling them "stereotypical" and adding, "I don't like how he expressed it. Saying rappers is very stereotypical as most rappers are Black."—Agency



CATALUNYA

ATP roundup: Top seed Lorenzo Musetti advances at Chengdu Open



CHENGDU: Italian 6-4, 6-4 winner against Argentina's Federico Agustin Gomez.

China's Zhizhen Zhang survived a bracket full of carnage Saturday, defeating Italian Mattia Bellucci 6-3, 6-0 on the strength of six aces and four of 11 break points converted. Zhang advanced to the quarterfinals, where he'll face Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena, who defeated Mitchell Krueger 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Juncheon Shang will represent China in the quarterfinals after defeating No. 8 Roman Safiullin of Russia 5-7, 6-3, 6-3. His opponent will be No. 2 seed Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan, a

CHENGDU: Italian 6-4, 6-4 winner against Argentina's Federico Agustin Gomez.

China's Zhizhen Zhang survived a bracket full of carnage Saturday, defeating Italian Mattia Bellucci 6-3, 6-0 on the strength of six aces and four of 11 break points converted. Zhang advanced to the quarterfinals, where he'll face Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena, who defeated Mitchell Krueger 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Juncheon Shang will represent China in the quarterfinals after defeating No. 8 Roman Safiullin of Russia 5-7, 6-3, 6-3. His opponent will be No. 2 seed Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan, a

Vinicius guides Real Madrid to fightback win against Espanyol

Vinicius Jr came off the bench to score once and set up another goal to steer champions Real Madrid to a 4-1 fightback victory over Espanyol in LaLiga.

Real Madrid dominated proceedings but fell behind in the 54th minute due to a rare blunder by their goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who accidentally deflected a low cross from Jofre into his own net.

However, Real found the equaliser four minutes later with a close-range strike by Dani Carvajal, taking advantage of a mistake by Espanyol goalkeeper Joan Garcia, who let a Jude Bellingham lateral shot from close range squeeze under him, leaving the ball free for Carvajal to smash into an empty net.

Vinicius Jr then worked his magic within three busy minutes, first lifting a brilliant cross with the outside of his foot to Rodrygo, who netted a first-touch effort from the middle of the box in the 75th minute, and then scoring himself with a tidy finish from a counter-attack in the 78th. Kylian Mbappe finished off the win from the penalty spot after substitute Endrick was fouled inside the box in the 90th minute following a fine individual play by the Brazilian teenager. Real remained second on 14 points, one behind leaders Barcelona who have a game in hand and visit fourth-placed Villarreal on Sunday. "We played a very good game but it's true that it was difficult for us to finish plays. We created a lot of chances but we have a lot of room for improvement," captain Luka Modric told Movistar Plus. "I don't know if it was our best or not but it was a great game, from start to finish. We must continue like today. To have Vinicius, Mbappe, Bellingham and



RODRIGO IS AWESOME; THEY ARE GREAT. "THEY AND THE WHOLE TEAM ARE DOING EVERYTHING RIGHT BUT WE STILL CAN IMPROVE; WE'LL KEEP GOING IN THE NEXT FEW GAMES UNTIL WE FEEL WE REACH OUR TRUE POTENTIAL. THIS MATCH CAN GIVE US CONFIDENCE."

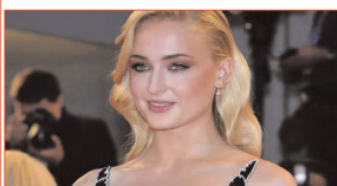
Face of the Day



Name: Muhammad Fyz Qamar
Location: Gujranwala
About me: I am an Educational Consultant
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Sophie Turner resonates with Joan Hannington story amid Joe Jonas divorce



Sophie Turner has opened up about her experience filming Joan while going through divorce from Joe Jonas.

Turner, who stars as Joan Hannington in the film, admitted that her personal struggles affected her performance.

"I'm a Pisces, I'm emotional," Turner said during a recent press conference.

The story of Joan Hannington involves escaping a violent marriage and striving to provide for her daughter, which resonated deeply with the Game of Thrones actress.

Talking about her character in the film, Turner said, "She is so funny but she has gone through so much trauma and is so ambitious."

She added, "There really is so much to her - mother, lover, liar, thief. It's just remarkable that it's all a true story."

"And I'm a mother, so anything to do with children and it just flows out. I think sometimes when you are doing a show like this and there's diamonds and glamour, you get swept away by it all," Turner said.

Turner and Jonas, who announced their split in September 2023, finalized their divorce recently after a year-long process, complicated by a custody battle over their daughters.

The former couple, who tied the knot in 2019, co-parent their two daughters, Willa and Delphine.

Kim Kardashian speeds up work for prison reform



For quite some years, Kim Kardashian has been working for prison reform, and in light of her activism, she is said to have met the Menendez brothers, who had been jailed for killing their parents.

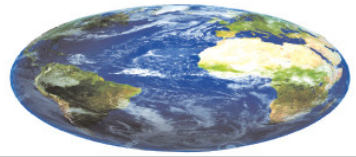
According to TMZ, the visit came over the weekend at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego County, where the aspirant lawyer spoke about prison reform.

Scores of people met the inmates besides her, including her family, Khloe Kardashian and Kris Jenner, film producer Scott Rudnick, and Cooper Koch, who plays one of the jailed brothers in Ryan Murphy's Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story.

The show is based on a real-life story in which the brothers said to shoot their parents after their father sexually abused them for years with the knowledge of their mother.

The Netflix series, meanwhile, received a thumbs-down from Erik, who wrote, "It is with a heavy heart that I say, I believe Ryan Murphy cannot be this naive and inaccurate about the facts of our lives so as to do this without bad intent."

His wife, Tammi Menendez, shared his message online. "It is sad for me to know that Netflix's dishonest portrayal of the tragedies surrounding our crime have taken the painful truths several steps backward - back through time to an era when the prosecution built a narrative on a belief system that males were not sexually abused, and that males experienced r*** trauma differently than women."



GLOBAL WATCH

Harris' abortion rights bus tour aims for votes big rallies don't reach

ALLEN TOWN: An intimate crowd gathered around a blue bus and listened intently while Hadley Duvall, an abortion rights advocate and a supporter of Kamala Harris's presidential campaign, told how her stepfather raped and impregnated her when she was 12.



Duvall ultimately had a miscarriage but said that under new abortion laws in her home state of Kentucky, she would have been forced to carry the pregnancy to term.

Democrats see abortion rights as a popular issue for Harris to use against Trump, a Republican who while president appointed three Supreme Court justices who in 2022 helped overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that had legalized abortion nationwide.

Aleyda Garcia, 53, held a Harris campaign sign in Spanish and teared up. Her son Brandon Rodriguez, 18, wiped a drop from his mother's cheek. A first-time voter, he had yet to decide between Harris, a Democrat, and the Republican Donald Trump.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted from August 21-28 found a majority of voters, including 34% of Republicans, want the next president to protect or increase abortion access.

Duvall's story, part of the Harris campaign's "Reproductive Freedom" bus tour, made Garcia think of her granddaughters.

Trump says he backs abortion rights in circumstances of rape, incest or when a mother's life is in danger but says it's up to each state to decide for itself, and some allow no exceptions. He denies Democrats' assertions he plans to sign into law a national ban on abortions.

"You never know when something can happen like that," Garcia said. "I want them to have a choice."

The bus will make at least 50 stops that began with a few laps around Trump's Florida home in West Palm Beach. It will hit all seven battleground states expected to decide the election. The aim is to take the fight to small-town and neighbourhood voters that big rallies will not reach.

Reuters followed the bus tour for two days in Pennsylvania. Most who showed up support Harris while a few, like Rodriguez, came to hear more about her. Voters like him make up the small group who could swing the November 5 election.

Floods, landslides hit central Japan months after major quake



WAJIMA: Floods and landslides left one dead and at least six missing in central Japan, with rescue and recovery teams at work on Sunday in a remote peninsula already devastated by a major earthquake earlier this year.

"Unprecedented" heavy rains that lashed the area from Saturday began to subside, leaving muddy scenes of destruction as the national weather agency urged residents to stay vigilant for loose ground and other dangers.

In the city of Wajima, piles of splintered branches and a huge uprooted tree amassed at a bridge over a river whose raging brown waters almost reached ground level.

People were seen wading into the mud to try to dig out half-buried cars, while elsewhere flood waters inundated emergency housing built for those who had lost their homes in the New Year's Day earthquake that killed at least 318 people.

North Korea Executes 2 Women Who Helped People Escape To South Korea



North Korea's recent actions have sparked international concern after two women, Ri and Kang, were executed on August 31 following a public trial in Chongjin, North Korea. According to Jang Se-yul, head of the Seoul-based human rights organization Gyooreol Unification Solidarity, the women were charged with assisting other North Koreans in China to escape to South Korea. Radio Free Asia reported.

Ri, 39, and Kang, 43, were among approximately 500 North Koreans forcibly repatriated by China in October 2023. Nine other women received life sentences, highlighting the extreme measures taken by the North Korean government to deter defection.

According to Radio Free Asia, a resident of Chongjin reported that two women were subjected to a public trial in a marketplace, attended by hundreds of residents and merchants. The trial, which lasted only an hour, commenced at 11 am and concluded with the execution of the two women by officials from Hamgyong province on the same day.

UN holds 'Summit of the Future' to tackle global crises

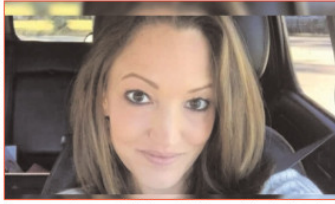


Global leaders are gathering in New York on Sunday for a "Summit of the Future" aimed at addressing 21st-century challenges ranging from conflict to climate, amid scepticism over whether the final pact will meet its lofty goals.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres first proposed the meeting in 2021, billing it as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to reshape human history by rekindling international cooperation.

US School Shooter's Mother Charged With Taping His Grandmother To Chair

Georgia: The mother of Georgia school shooter Colt Gray, who allegedly killed four people at Apalachee High School last month, is now facing disturbing charges of her own. Marcee Gray, 43, has been accused of taping her elderly mother, Deborah Polhamus, to a chair for nearly 24 hours and damaging her home during an incident in November, The Atlanta-Journal Constitution reported.



Indicted this week in Ben Hill County, Marcee Gray is charged with exploitation and intimidation of an elderly person, false imprisonment and criminal damage to property. She faces several felony charges and could receive up to 20 years in prison for the top charge of elder exploitation.

Authorities revealed that the incident began when Gray, in a fit of anger, demanded her mother accompany her to confront her ex-husband, Colin Gray. When Ms Polhamus refused, Gray allegedly taped her to a chair, stole her phone and damaged several parts of the house, including a bathroom mirror and a door.

The situation escalated further when, according to the police report, Gray threatened her mother saying she had to go with her because

she was going to "kill her ex." When Ms Polhamus resisted, Gray pushed her against a wall, injuring her wrist.

Deborah Polhamus was discovered the following day by a family friend after her daughter, Annie Brown, who lives out of state, became concerned when her mother stopped answering her phone. "Deborah explained that she agreed that Marcee needed to be punished for what she [had] done, but she wanted Marcee to get help for her drug addiction," the police report stated.

This shocking incident coincides with the murder charges faced by Marcee Gray's teenage son, Colt Gray, who is accused of killing two students and two teachers at his school last month. Colt's father, Colin Gray, has also been charged with murder, accused of providing his son with the AR-15 rifle used in the shooting.

Neither father nor son has entered a plea as of their September court appearances.

Colt Gray had sent an apologetic text to his mother the morning of the shooting, and she had reportedly called the school 30 minutes before the gunfire, attempting to warn them about her son's intentions. After the tragedy, she released a public statement insisting that her son "is not a monster," despite the horrific nature of his actions.

Marcee Gray's legal troubles have been long-standing, with a criminal record that spans nearly two decades. A former neighbour claimed she would sometimes lock Colt and his sister out of the house at night. However, Marcee's father, Charles Polhamus, defended his daughter, disputing any claims of child abuse, stating that she only tried to help Colt. — Agency

Former Iran Military Unit Chief, Notorious For Assassination Plots, Dies

Reza Seraj, former foreign intelligence chief of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), died on September 21 after undergoing surgery for a brain tumour. Seraj played a critical role in Iran's overseas assassination plots and was designated by the US Treasury Department for human rights abuses.



#BREAKING The IRGC-Intelligence Organization's former Foreign Intelligence chief Reza Seraj has died of "brain tumor", according to Iranian state media.

The US-designated official previously led the IRGC-IO Special Operations Division "focused on special activity against Israel, ... in orchestrating the IRGC's covert operations abroad. Last year, the US Treasury Department sanctioned him for his involvement in overseas assassination attempts and numerous human rights violations in Iran.

His career within Iran's intelligence apparatus spanned decades, beginning in the 1990s when he operated as a senior interrogator under the alias "Alavi", notorious for extracting forced confessions from political and student activists through

torture.

Among his controversial actions was his leadership of the IRGC's Special Intelligence Directorate, Unit 4000, where his role in an uncovered plot to assassinate an Israeli in Cyprus eventually led to his removal. Javad Ghaffari, a figure once expelled from Syria, took over the unit following Seraj's dismissal.

Throughout his career, Seraj earned a reputation for his brutal interrogation tactics, which impacted numerous activists, including political figure Ali Afshari. In a recent interview, Afshari described Seraj as the lead interrogator responsible for his suffering during his 2000 arrest.

Ahmad Batebi, a journalist, also pointed to Seraj's role in his own mistreatment, detailing the torture he endured that resulted in false

confessions aired on state television.

Reza Seraj's influence extended beyond Iran's intelligence community. He served as head of the Student Basij, where he was instrumental in the suppression of student protests in 2009, and later appeared frequently in state media as an "academic and analyst." His involvement in these protests and his broader work for the regime made him a target for human rights organisations.

In his later years, Seraj held key roles within the Supreme National Security Council, serving as a spokesperson and communications deputy. Despite his varied titles and public appearances, his legacy remains tainted by his human rights abuses, with many viewing him as a key figure in Iran's repressive apparatus. — Agency

US warns regional escalation not in Israel's interest amid rising tensions with Lebanon

A regional military escalation is not in Israel's "best interest," White House National Security spokesman John Kirby said on Sunday, as heightening cross-border tensions between Israel and Lebanon have led to fears of an all-out war.



"We don't believe that escalating this military conflict is in their best interest," Kirby said on ABC's "This Week," adding that the United States was "saying this directly to our Israeli counterparts."

Israel and the Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah have engaged in rapidly escalating cross-border exchanges, including intense rocket fire overnight at northern Israel that sent hundreds of thousands of people to bomb shelters, according to the military there.

Netanyahu says Israel has "landed a series of blows on Hezbollah." "The tensions are much higher now than they were even just a few days ago," Kirby said.

"The overnight rocket fire reached Kiryat Bialik on the edge of north Israel's biggest city Haifa, leaving a building in flames, another pockmarked with shrapnel, and vehicles incinerated."

The attacks follow a Friday air strike on Beirut that killed 45 people — including Hezbollah commanders — and deadly blasts of communication devices across Lebanon earlier in the week that left 39 dead and almost 3,000 wounded.

Israel has signalled its intention to turn its focus to Hezbollah after nearly a year of cross-border fire that began in October, after the Palestinian armed group

Hamas launched an unprecedented raid on Israel that precipitated its war in Gaza.

"We've been working since the beginning of this conflict, October 8th and on, to try to prevent an escalation, to prevent a broadening of this conflict there and in around Israel, but also in the region," Kirby said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier in the day vowed to return residents of northern Israel displaced by nearly a year of fighting near their homes. "An escalating war is certainly not going to be in the best interest of all those people that Prime Minister Netanyahu says he wants to be able to send back home," Kirby said. — Agency

Sri Lanka's Dissanayake wins presidential election

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka elected Marxist-leaning Anura Kumara Dissanayake as its new president on Sunday, putting faith in the 55-year-old's pledge to fight corruption and bolster a fragile economic recovery following its worst financial crisis in decades.



Dissanayake, who does not possess political lineage like some of his rivals in the presidential election, led from start to finish during the counting of ballots, knocking out incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe and opposition leader Sajith Premadasa to become Sri Lanka's 10th president.

coming true," he said in a statement shortly after the announcement.

Sri Lanka's president-elect on Sunday invited his compatriots to help him "rewrite" history in the cash-strapped island nation after winning a vote coloured by discontent over an unprecedented financial crisis.

"This victory belongs to all of us," he filled. "Millions of eyes filled with hope and expectation push us forward, and together, we stand ready to rewrite Sri Lanka's history."

Dissanayake, the once-fringe leader, whose party won less than 4% of the vote in parliamentary elections four years ago, saw a surge of support as the economic meltdown forced widespread hardships upon Sri Lankans.

Outgoing President Wickremesinghe — who took office at the peak of the 2022 economic collapse and imposed tough austerity policies per the terms of an IMF bailout — was a distant third in the contest with 17% of the vote.

"History will judge my efforts, but I can confidently say that I did my best to stabilise the country during one of its darkest periods," he said in a statement. He congratulated Dissanayaka on the win and said he was "confident" the politician would "steer Sri Lanka on a path of continued growth and stability."

At least four die, 18 wounded in Alabama mass shooting

At least four people were killed and 18 others sustained injuries in a mass shooting in Birmingham, Alabama, CNN reported.



Speaking on the incident that occurred on Saturday evening (local time), Birmingham Police Officer Truman Fitzgerald said that multiple shooters fired several shots targeting a group of people in the Five Points South area.

Four of those gunshot victims are [facing] life-threatening [injuries], the others have various injuries," Fitzgerald said. University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital spokesperson Hannah Echols told the outlet that the facility was treating at least 11 people wounded in the incident.

Two men and a woman were found "unresponsive" by police officers at the incident site only to be later pronounced dead on the scene, Fitzgerald added. Noting that no one has been arrested for the fatal incident so far, the police officer said that the victims, which also included a fourth person who died in a local hospital, were out in the open when they were targeted. Meanwhile, more gunshot victims were identified in the area and were shifted to local hospitals.

With police investigating the possibility of multiple shootings, detectives are probing whether the attackers approached the victims in person or targeted them via a drive-by. So far, it is unclear how many attackers were involved in the incident and what was their motivation. The investigation is being assisted by multiple law enforcement agencies (LEAs) with Birmingham police seeking to obtain surveillance footage from nearby businesses.

As an opening act for the annual high-level week of the UN General Assembly, which begins Tuesday, dozens of heads of state and government are expected to adopt a "Pact for the Future" on Sunday.

But after intense last-minute negotiations, Guterres expressed some frustration, urging nations to show "vision" and "courage," and calling for "maximum ambition" to strengthen international institutions that struggle to respond effectively to today's threats. — Agency

METRO KARACHI



Hafiz Naeem Criticizes Country's Education System, Calls For Accessibility And Depoliticization

KARACHI: Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, leader of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), condemned the government's policies, asserting that it has failed to provide citizens with essential services like health and education.

Speaking as a guest of honor at a two-day convention organized by the Pakistan Medical Association at the Expo Centre in Karachi on Sunday, Rehman emphasized the need to inspire hope and awareness among the younger generation. He cited the resilience of the Palestinian people, highlighting their steadfastness in pursuing rights while remaining content with God's will. He encouraged youth to remain hopeful and draw inspiration from such examples.

Rehman offered a sharp critique of the education system, stating that education in Pakistan has become a lucrative business, pushing higher



education out of reach for the middle class. He urged the government to make education more accessible and remove it from commercial interests.

He also expressed concerns about the underdevelopment of Balochistan and the insufficient healthcare facilities available. He pointed out that high tuition fees in medical colleges are preventing middle-class families from obtaining education.

"It is our collective responsibility to guide the younger generation away from drugs and social issues towards education and training," he asserted. He noted a troubling decline in the number of doctors in Pakistan, as many qualified professionals seek better opportunities abroad. The convention at the Expo Centre attracted significant participation from doctors nationwide, featuring five main sessions and 16 scientific discussions.—RT/Agency

Bangladesh Seeks Enhanced Trade Relations With Pakistan: "Two Countries, One Nation"

KARACHI: His Excellency Muhammad Rukh Alam Siddique, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, addressed an event hosted by the Karachi Council of Foreign Relations (KCFR) at a local hotel, emphasizing the Bangladesh government's commitment to strengthening bilateral trade and fostering people-to-people relations with Pakistan.

Highlighting the historical ties between the two nations, Siddique noted that Bangladesh, as a former part of Pakistan, shares a profound connection with Pakistani culture. He pointed out that both countries face similar challenges that could be more effectively addressed through collaborative efforts.

To facilitate trade, Siddique expressed optimism about working toward a no visa, no tariff policy, which would encourage direct trade between the two countries in-

stead of routing through Dubai. He believes this initiative will also promote travel and cultural exchange between citizens.

Siddique underscored the importance of sports as a platform for engagement, recalling that the Bangladesh cricket team was the first to visit Pakistan during its time of international isolation. He also highlighted agriculture as a critical sector for cooperation, with Bangladesh importing cotton, rice, and raw materials from Pakistan while exporting jute, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals.

The High Commissioner mentioned that Pakistan is providing assistance to Bangladesh in the defense sector and identified youth, tourism, and sports as mutual areas of interest. He noted that two NGOs from Bangladesh are active in Pakistan's education sector and celebrated the contribu-

tions of Pakistani artists like Runa Laila, Shahnaz Begum, and Shabnum, who hail from what is now Bangladesh.

In his closing remarks, KCFR Patron-in-Chief Ikram Seghal stated that a no visa, no tariff policy would strengthen ties between the two nations, reiterating the sentiment that Pakistan and Bangladesh may be separate countries but are united as one nation. He referenced the historic words of Sher-e-Bengal and Muslim League leader A.K. Fazlul Haq, who urged against dividing Punjab and Bengal in 1946.

KCFR Chairperson Nadra Punjwani opened the event by encouraging both nations to move forward by putting past misunderstandings behind them, emphasizing that increased trade and stronger relationships are the best paths to mutual growth.—RT

Saeed Ghani Calls For Youth Skills Development Programs Across All 25 Towns In Karachi

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani has urged all 25 town municipal corporations in Karachi to implement youth skills development programs focused on technical training for students. He made this call during his address at the entry test for the Peoples Youth Skill Development Programme, organized by the Town Municipal Corporation Korangi, where thousands of male and female students participated.

Ghani commended Korangi Town for its efforts in providing cutting-edge IT training to local students. He engaged with candidates at the Korangi Eidgah ground, learning about their



aspirations and encouraging them to pursue modern IT skills to contribute to the advancement of their city, province, and country.

Highlighting the importance of resourcefulness, he praised Korangi Town for leveraging its available resources to enhance the fu-

ture prospects of the younger generation. He was particularly impressed by the strong turnout of female students eager to gain knowledge in computer and IT fields.

The Local Government Minister announced that the Sindh Board of Technical

Education would award certificates to graduates of the program. He also noted that a governing board is being established by Korangi Town to oversee the training initiative and commended the creation of an IT lab dedicated to this purpose.

Korangi Town Chairman Naeem Sheikh shared that the skill development program aims to train around 3,000 students annually. He projected that if all 25 towns initiated similar programs, up to 75,000 students in Karachi could receive up-to-date IT training each year. Sheikh expressed hope that program graduates would pursue entrepreneurship, reducing reliance on government jobs.

In a separate media interaction, Minister Ghani criticized anti-Pakistan elements supporting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan, referencing pro-Khan articles published in an Israeli newspaper.—RT

Pakistan Railways Employees Caught Stealing Diesel From Depot

KARACHI: A video has emerged online showing employees of Pakistan Railways stealing diesel from the Karachi Railway depot.

The footage, obtained by media sources, features three individuals, including an engine driver, unlawfully taking diesel from the Karachi Cantt Railway Station depot. Reports indicate that these employees have been engaged in diesel theft for the past three months. They have since been arrested and the case has been filed at the Cantt police station.

In a related development, the railway department has announced plans to operate 10 passenger trains under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. According to Pakistan Railways officials, the first phase of this privatization initiative will begin soon, with 10 trains set to be handed over to private operators. Interested parties have been invited to submit their applications, with technical bids to be opened on the same day.—RT/Agency

JUI's Abdul Ghafoor Haideri Criticizes Government, Demands Immediate Elections

KARACHI: Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Secretary General of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), asserted that the current government is unable to continue in power and called for immediate, transparent elections.

Speaking to the media in Karachi on Sunday, he emphasized that the government's authority is waning nationwide. Haideri highlighted alarming issues in rural Sindh, where banditry and kidnappings are rampant, and in Balochistan, where national highways are left unprotected. He criticized the legitimacy of both the 2018 and 2024 elections, claiming they failed to establish stable governments and accused officials of placing corrupt individuals in power through these processes. Haideri pointed

out that even government representatives have recognized the current administration's ineffectiveness.

He argued that problems in Balochistan cannot be resolved through force and urged for serious attention to the demands in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Additionally, he stated that ordinances lack substantial constitutional value and should only be utilized temporarily.

Haideri also accused the government of being overly influenced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), claiming that misleading statements are being made regarding inflation reduction. He stressed the importance of uniting all stakeholders to address and improve the country's economic situation.—RT/Agency



BMG Sweeps KCCI Elections 2024-26, All 30 Candidates Elected

KARACHI: The Businessmen Group (BMG) achieved a resounding victory in the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Elections for the 2024-26 term, with all 30 BMG candidates securing a total of 92,954 votes. In contrast, candidates from the Businessmen Alliance (BMA) received 21,613 votes.

According to provisional results announced by Election Commission members Agha Shahab Ahmed Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed Vohra, and Abdul Nasir Rangoonwala, Jawed Bilwani from BMG garnered the highest individual total of 3,148 votes, while BMA's Saleem Kapadia received 794 votes.

Other notable BMG candidates included Zia ul Arfeen (3,106 votes), Faisal Khalil Ahmed (3,143 votes), and Muhammad Rehan Hanif (3,136 votes). In total, several BMG candidates received over 3,000 votes, showcasing strong commu-



nity support. On the BMA side, candidates like Wasiq Hussain Khan and Arshad Khurshid received 762 and 755 votes, respectively, but were unable to match the overwhelming success of the BMG candidates.

Following the results, BMG Chairman Zubair Motiwala, along with Vice Chairman and other key members, expressed gratitude to the Karachi business and industrial community for their trust in the group. They

emphasized their commitment to serving the needs of the business community and enhancing public service.

Motiwala attributed BMG's continued success since 1998 to the group's dedication to public service, noting that their consistent electoral victories reflect the confidence of the business and industrial community in BMG's policies and commitment. He commended the efforts of all BMG supporters during the election campaign.—RT

Ceremony Held At Iranian Consulate In Karachi To Celebrate Rabi-ul-Awwal

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: A ceremony was hosted by Iranian Consul General Hassan Nourian at the Iranian Consulate in Karachi to commemorate the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. The event was attended by Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, along with Provincial Ministers Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Saeed Ghani, Syed Zulfiqar Shah, and others.

In his address as a special guest, Senior Minister Memon highlighted the significance of Rabi-ul-Awwal, which marks the birthday of the beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). He expressed his honor in participating in this important occasion and emphasized that the teachings of the Prophet, centered on compassion, jus-



tice, and unity, serve as guiding principles for all.

Memon underscored the deep and enduring relationship between Pakistan and Iran, founded on shared heritage, mutual respect, and cooperation. He noted that both nations boast rich cultural traditions, literature, and art, which enhance mutual understanding and create opportunities for connection.

Addressing current global challenges in food security and sustainable development, he stated

that Pak-Iran cooperation is vital for regional stability and for advancing agricultural expertise and resource exchange. Memon called for collective action to tackle issues like malnutrition and stressed the importance of dialogue and collaboration to enhance economic partnerships and cultural exchanges.

He concluded by urging a renewed commitment to strengthening the ties between Pakistan and Iran.



KARACHI: The Sindh Chief Minister organized an Eid Milad-un-Nabi programme at the CM House. Renowned Naat Khawans recited naats, and religious scholars delivered speeches on the life and teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH).—RT

Factory Sealed In New Karachi After Gas Leak Incident

KARACHI: A factory in New Karachi has been sealed following a gas leak that resulted in severe breathing difficulties for local residents, according to media reports.

The incident occurred near the Bilal Colony Police Station, prompting authorities to take immediate action. Police confirmed that the gas leak, which originated from a compressor pipe within the

factory, has been addressed. However, the factory will remain sealed until further notice to prevent any recurrence.

Local residents expressed concern over the hazardous conditions created by the gas leak, emphasizing the need for stringent safety measures and regular maintenance checks in industrial areas to safeguard public health.—RT/Agency

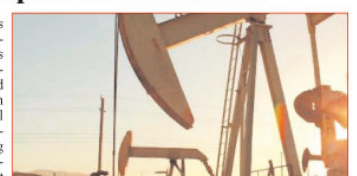
ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan's leading Exploration & Production company, and CCDC, the major player in Drilling and upstream Oil field Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sunday for the development of shale and tight gas potential of Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China, witnessed the MoU signing ceremony during the ongoing 8th Silk Road International Expo for Investment and Trade, according to a news release received here. The MoU highlights the commitment of both countries to developing Pakistan's shale and tight gas potential, aiming to address the coun-

OGDCL And China's CCDC Sign MoU For Shale And Tight Gas Development In Pakistan

try's energy needs through indigenous resources. Mumtaz Ali Soomro, Executive Director (Production) of OGDCL, and Mr. Zhang Zhidong, Vice President of CNPC Chuangqing Drilling Engineering Company Ltd., signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalif Hashmi also attended the event. Dr. Musadik Malik ex-

pressed hope that cooperation in the energy sector between both nations will continue to strengthen in the future, benefiting both countries mutually. He highlighted the collaboration between OGDCL and CCDC on shale and tight gas, stating that this partnership will open a new chapter in the exploration of Pakistan's untapped energy resources.—RT/Agency



You can do anything, but not everything.

—David Allen

The REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

READERS

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newsagent Agency at (0300-2719454). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990).

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23 2024

Bars Criticize SC Practice And Procedure Amendment Ordinance As 'Bad Law'

ISLAMABAD: Days after the incumbent government passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance 2024, several lawyer bodies across the country have termed it a "bad law" for being detrimental to the independence of the judiciary and protection of fundamental rights, media reported on Sunday.



Two senior lawyers bodies, namely the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) and the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), have reacted strongly to the promulgation of the said ordinance which was signed into law by President Asif Ali Zardari following the federal cabinet's approval on Friday.

The ordinance in the ordinance provisions sub-clause 1

of the Act's Section 2 according to which the Practice and Procedure Act Committee will fix the cases for hearing. The body will comprise the chief justice, the most senior judge and the judge nominated by the chief justice.

Apart from amendment in Section 3 of the Act, the ordinance also provisions each case to be heard on its

procedure for the formation of a bench under Section 2 of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023.

"This is a bad law and detrimental to the independence of judiciary and protection of fundamental rights for which Article 184(3) of the Constitution is invoked by an aggrieved person," the senior lawyer said, adding that it was a longstanding demand of the PBC and the legal community that a committee of senior judges should be constituted to decide constitution of benches and fixation of cases.

"Now amendment to the said Act through the ordinance is a clear defiance of the long-standing struggle of lawyers," he remarked.

Echoing Naek's point of view, SCBA President Muhammad Shahzad Shaukat, along with Secretary Syed Ali Imran also expressed concern over the timing and manner of the promulgation of the ordinance.

They also noted that the law practically amounted to the repeal of the SC Practice and Procedure Act which, they added, was unacceptable particularly when the said legislation had already been upheld by the top court.

The SCBA officials further said that institutions like parliament and judiciary are on a collision course which would have devastating effects on democracy and supremacy of the Constitution, if both sides do not exercise restraint it can derail the whole system.—RT/Agency

Fazl Urges All Institutions To Uphold The Constitution

KARACHI: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief stressed the need for fair elections to bring forward genuine public representatives in Pakistan, media reported on Sunday.



The chief of JUI-F, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, expressed concern over the current state of political representation in Pakistan, stating that people are increasingly aware that their so-called representatives do not truly represent them.

He emphasized the need for fair elections to bring forward genuine public representatives, especially in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), where he claimed that no current representative can face the people.

Rehman criticized the prioritization of personal political interests over national needs, stating that the country's constitution, and parliament needs instead of their own personal political interests. Rehman also highlighted the concerns of Pakistan's friendly countries over its deteriorating economic conditions.—RT/Agency

Embassy Assisting In Repatriating Body Of Pakistani Student From China, Says FO

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Sunday said that the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing was facilitating the process of the repatriation of the dead body of a Pakistani student who passed away in China and was in contact with the university and her family members.

WEEKLY BRIEFING FOREIGN AFFAIR



Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, responding to the social media reports on the delay in repatriation of the mortal remains of a Pakistani student, said in a statement.

"The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing is facilitating the process. It is working towards completion of the legal procedures and to facilitate repatriation with the next available Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight."

She said that legal procedures and regulations needed to be fulfilled in the repatriation of dead bodies from China.

Furthermore, she said that the transportation through commercial flights involved

special arrangements including embalming of the body and transportation of the remains in a specialised vehicle with cold storage.

The dead body can be sent after the completion of these arrangements.

She said that at the embassy's intervention, the insurance company had agreed to pay compensation to the family and the university had also offered to bear the cost of transportation of the dead body.

In June, before concluding his five-day visit to China, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced sending as many as 1,000 students to the brotherly country for advanced training in the agriculture sector.

Last month, South Punjab Additional Chief Secretary Fawad Hashim Rabbani met Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren to discuss matters of mutual interest, including plans to cultivate red chilli in the region.

To address youth unemployment and poverty, Zhao Shiren proposed sending 200,000 Pakistani students to China for information technology training. He also announced that Huawei experts would provide artificial intelligence and IT training to South Punjab's youth.

China expressed its commitment to supporting Pakistan's agricultural sector through initiatives such as corporate farming, seed research, improving cotton quality, and modern irrigation systems. Zhao Shiren indicated that a Chinese company would visit South Punjab to assess red chilli pepper cultivation, while a South Punjab delegation would be sent to China to study advancements in various sectors.—RT/Agency

Government Sources Claim IPPs' Negative Impact Is Harming The Economy

ISLAMABAD: The government sources have made startling disclosures about the negative role of some of the country's IPPs that have damaged the national economy.



The government sources have disclosed that some Independent Power Producers (IPPs) received billions of rupees without generating electricity with wrongful contracts.

The Government of Pakistan burdening consequences of the IPPs wrong contracts.

Sources said that the IPPs, in comparison to Bangladesh and Vietnam, installed the similar capacity wind power plants with four-times expensive price.

"The IPPs also made over-invoicing in these contracts," official sources said.

Sources said that despite availability of coal deposits the IPPs using imported fuel for power generation. "Due to it, expensive electricity being generated."

"The IPPs didn't generate the volume of electricity which should have been produced with the fuel imported," sources said.

"These plants will not become the government's property after end of the contract period despite bearing expenses."

"The IPPs evading forensic audit despite the government's insistence for the due diligence practice," according to sources.

"They have also received billions of rupees for maintenance of plants while the maintenance not required 1/4th of that amount," sources further said.

"Surprisingly the government itself bearing charges of the IPPs insurance. The government had initially borne the expenses of the plants installation," according to sources.

Sources said that the IPP owners were also facilitated in respect of tax, duty and insurance. "These plants will not become the government's property after end of the contract period despite bearing expenses."

"Most of the owners are local but deliberately contracts made with some foreigners names," sources said.

"Massive payments to the IPPs caused difficulties in investment in key sectors, while the IPPs have earned 100-times profit from their investments," experts said.

advising reviewing the IPP agreements. Government sources said that most of the IPPs have monopoly of few influential families of the country. "Some IPPs voluntarily prepared to hold talks with government and slash prices," sources said.—RT/Agency

President Zardari and Shehbaz Condemn Terrorist Attack On Police Van In Swat

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police mobile in the Malam Jabba area of Swat district.



In a statement, the prime minister prayed for a higher status in heaven for the police personnel martyred in the attack, and extended his condolences to the bereaved family.

The prime minister also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured personnel and directed that they be provided with all possible medical assistance.

Shehbaz Sharif said the entire nation salutes the sacrifices of the police force in the fight against terrorism. He said such cowardly acts cannot shake our resolve to completely eradicate terrorism.

Meanwhile, President Zardari also paid tribute to the martyred police officer and expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

The President said terrorist elements are enemies not only of the country and the nation but also of humanity.

He expressed the resolve to continue efforts for complete elimination of terrorism from the country.

Earlier, a policeman was martyred, and three others were injured on Sunday when their vehicle, part of a convoy escorting foreign diplomats, was hit by an explosion on Malam Jabba Road in Swat. According to police sources, this terrorist act occurred near Jehanabad in Malam Jabba Road, where a bomb was detonated remotely as the police mobile passed by, severely injuring three policemen.—RT/Agency

Ahsan Iqbal Claims Zionist Lobby Aims To Restore Imran Khan to Power



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has alleged that a Zionist lobby is attempting to re-establish Imran Khan as the prime minister of Pakistan.

During a press conference in Islamabad on Sunday, he criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder, saying he supports Israel based on an article published in an Israeli newspaper recently.

Iqbal stated that the article suggested that Khan is seen as the only acceptable figure for the Israeli lobby in Pakistan. He maintained that the public has begun to understand who is behind Khan and the PTT's agenda.

He noted that Khan openly opposed a Pakistani-origin candidate in the London mayoral elections and has been perpetuating a politics of hate and division since 2013, which has resulted in significant societal rifts in Pakistan.—RT/Agency



TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Sunday that 12 people have been arrested for being operatives collaborating with Israel and planning acts against Iran's security.

"As the Zionist regime (Israel) and their Western backers, most notably the United States, have not succeeded in their sinister goals against the people of Gaza and Lebanon, they are now seeking to spread the crisis to Iran with a series of actions planned against our country's security," the statement said.

Tensions in the Middle East have shot up since thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies used by Lebanon's Hezbollah members exploded in an attack widely blamed on Israel. Hezbollah and Israel have exchanged some of the heaviest cross-border fire in a conflict running in parallel to the almost year-long Gaza war. The Revolutionary Guards added that members of the network of 12 operatives were arrested in six different Iranian provinces, but did not say when.—RT/Agency

Dr. Musadik Meets With Shaanxi Coal And Chemical Industry Group To Strengthen Energy Cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr Musadik Malik Sunday visited Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Industry Group Co., Ltd in Shaanxi Province China, to explore enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and China in the fields of energy, petrochemicals, and sustainable industrial development.



According to a news release, Dr Malik was welcomed by Zhao Futang, General Manager of Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Group, along with senior executives.

During the visit, the minister was given a comprehensive overview of the company's operations, including coal mining projects, petrochemical processing

plants, and advancements in clean energy technologies. Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Industry Group is one of China's largest state-owned enterprises, with major investments in coal, coal mining, Sindh Engro Chemicals, and new energy sectors. The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in coal, and

both parties engaged in potential discussions about joint ventures. Representatives from the Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Industry Group and Sindh's Energy Department were also present at the meeting.—RT/Agency

after their trip to Malam Jabba and Swat.

"Our sympathies are with the families of the Shaheed policeman and three injured in the incident," the spokesperson said.

"We honour our law enforcement authorities that remain steadfast in the face of terrorists. Such acts will not deter Pakistan from its commitment towards the fight against terrorism," the spokesperson added.—RT/Agency

HIOJK Elections: Mushaal Mullick Calls It A 'Shameful Drama'

ISLAMABAD: Senior Kashmiri leader and wife of Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Yasin Malik, Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Sunday called the impending elections in the region, a "drama" and a "Shame."



In an interview with PTV News, she stated that these elections represent a facade of normalcy that is both misleading and harmful to the Kashmiri people.

She described the elections as a continuation of a long-standing strategy by India to undermine the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri populace. "This is not the first time we have seen such a charade," she noted.

Mullick criticized the Modi government for controversially granting domicile rights to approximately 5 million non-residents, whom she believes will masquerade as locals to partici-

pate in the electoral process. "Dressed in Kashmiri attire, they will play their parts in this orchestrated drama," she warned.

She accused India of employing both old and new actors to maintain a narrative of normalcy in a region still under heavy military occupation. "The concept of normalcy is impossible here, it is all a deception," she declared.

Since 2019, Mullick noted, many non-Kashmiris have moved into the area under the protection of a

large military presence. "This is not just about elections; it is about erasing our identity," she emphasized. She urged the global community to support the Kashmiri people, who continue to face oppression. Mushaal reiterated her commitment to challenging these oppressive measures and vowed to advocate for the right to self-determination for the Kashmiri people. "We will raise our voices both locally and internationally; our struggle will not cease," she added.—RT/Agency

Diplomats Safe After Blast Near Mallam Jabba, Reports FO

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office Spokesperson on Sunday confirmed that the diplomats traveling with the convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) near Mallam Jabba, Swat remained unharmed and have safely returned to Islamabad.



In a press release, the spokesperson said that a police convoy escorting a group of diplomats near Malam Jabba, Swat, was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) today, resulting in the martyrdom of one policeman and injuries to three others.

The group of diplomats was traveling to Islamabad

after their trip to Malam Jabba and Swat.

"Our sympathies are with the families of the Shaheed policeman and three injured in the incident," the spokesperson said.

"We honour our law enforcement authorities that remain steadfast in the face of terrorists. Such acts will not deter Pakistan from its commitment towards the fight against terrorism," the spokesperson added.—RT/Agency