

REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

Heartland

DC Naved Rehman Larik chairs AEFI meeting in Umerkot



Money

-Zafar Moti is Sad! PSE 100-index down by 366.86 points to close at 81,483.64



NATIONAL

LHC Orders Parvez Elahi's Removal From No-Fly List



SPORTS

Pakistan cricet beats his Indian rival to reach snooker championship final



Sindh CM Praises Progress On Safe City Project



Jennifer Lopez holding Ben Affleck hostage with major legal move

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari Vows To Establish Constitutional Court Regardless Of Obstacles

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has categorically said that the formation of the constitutional court is compulsory and his party will ensure its formation come what may.



Addressing the Sindh High Court Bar Association on Tuesday, the PPP chief said that 19th constitutional amendment was introduced under duress "following a threat from the Supreme Court".

"The judicial reforms would be undertaken in line with the Charter of Democracy (COD) come what may," he vowed.

The government pushed the proposed constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, who is set to retire in October this year, following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) request last month for the early issuance of a notification regarding the appointment of the next top judge.

Bilawal continued that the parliament had replaced the judges' appointment procedure with a globally recognised law via 18th amendment. "In the United States, entire parliament decides on the appointment of judges that is why martial law is never imposed in the US," he added.

Termining the ex-premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's death sentence a "judicial murder", Bilawal said that it was "necessary and also our compulsion" to establish a constitutional court so no other prime minister could be executed and justice would be served to the people.

He came down hard on military rulers and said that her mother Benazir Bhutto had seen the military dictator General Zia-ul-Haq's era in which all political workers went through brutal torture.

The politico recalled that our system was broken. At that time, [former chief justice] Iftikhar Chaudhry was not a revolutionary, but a PCO judge."

"[...] nor there was any 'dam wala judge,'" Bilawal said while referring to ex-CJP Mian Saqib Nisar without naming him.

He said that a decision was taken to form a constitutional court citing the need of the people to get justice "when courts were fixing the prices of pakora and tomatoes at that time".

Despite claims of securing the "magic number" needed to push the bill through, the government

failed to table the judiciary-centric amendments — possibly including the establishment of a separate constitutional court — in parliament and postponed its move indefinitely.

To pass the constitutional amendments, the government is short of 13 votes in the National Assembly (NA) and nine in the Senate.

To attain the required parliamentary strength for passing the judicial package, the ruling coalition parties — the PPP and the Pakistan Muslim League-Navaz (PML-N) — held a flurry of meetings to woo Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, but to no avail.

The ruling coalition is inclined towards the politico-religious party as it remained a close ally of both parties in the previous government led by the Pakistan Democratic Movement.

This multi-party party alliance successfully ousted former premier Imran Khan from office via a no-confidence motion in 2022.—RT/Agency

Biden Emphasizes Diplomacy Over Conflict In Final UN Address As President

NEW YORK: US President Joe Biden makes his final appearance at the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, after dropping out of the race in July and endorsing his vice president as the Democratic nominee, the 81-year-old is not taking any chances.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also attended the opening session of the 79th UNGA being held today marking the beginning of the annual gathering of world leaders.

Biden asked world leaders to prevent "full-scale war" over Lebanon, as clashes escalated between Israel and Hezbollah, prompting the UN chief to warn of a situation "on the brink".

The UN General Assembly, the high point of the diplomatic calendar, comes as Lebanese authorities say Israeli strikes killed 558 people — 50 of them children.

"Full-scale war is not in anyone's interest. Even though the situation has escalated, a diplomatic solution is still possible," Biden said in his farewell address to the global body.

"In fact (it) remains the only path to lasting security to allow the residents from both countries to return to their homes on the border safely," Biden said.

Biden also pushed again for an elusive ceasefire between Israel and Hamas,

Hamis — condemned the "senseless and incomprehensible" inaction by the UN against Israel.

Israel's ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon hit back at the UN chief, calling the General Assembly debate an "annual charade of hypocrisy."

"When the UN Secretary General speaks about the release of our hostages, the UN assembly is silent, but when he speaks about the suffering in Gaza, he receives thunderous applause," Danon said.

Since last year's annual gathering, when Sudan's civil war and Russia's Ukraine invasion dominated, the world has faced an explosion of crises.

With Israel's leader Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas expected to address the General Assembly this week, there could be combustible moments Abbas

took his seat alongside the Palestinian delegation in alphabetical order for the first time after the delegation received upgraded privileges in the assembly in May.

Biden said that Russian President Vladimir Putin's war has failed at its core aim. He set out to destroy Ukraine, but Ukraine is still free "It is unclear if the grand diplomatic gathering can achieve anything for the millions mired in conflict, poverty and climate crisis globally. Additionally, he urged all countries to stop arming rival generals in Sudan, whose bloody war has triggered a major humanitarian crisis.

"The world needs to stop arming the generals. Speak with one voice and tell them: 'Stop tearing your country apart. Stop blocking aid to the Sudanese people. End this war now,'" Biden told the UN General Assembly.—RT/Agency

Sustainable Development Unattainable Amid Tragedies Like Gaza, Says Khawaja Asif

NEW YORK: Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has stated that sustainable development will remain out of reach as long as tragedies like Gaza continue, blaming developed nations for perpetuating such crises.



Speaking at the UN's Summit of the Future in New York, Khawaja urged the international community to address global economic disparities and ensure equitable growth for developing countries.

In his address, Khawaja called for improved representation of developing nations in international financial institutions and advocated for a review of the sovereign debt framework to ensure fairness.

He also pressed for the creation of an equitable international tax system.

reforms in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Khawaja argued that such changes would help developing countries expand exports and promote development.

He warned against introducing new forms of environmental protectionism that could hinder progress.

The Defence Minister also expressed support for adopting the UN's Pact for the Future, describing it as a vital document reflecting the global community's determination to tackle pressing challenges.

He emphasised the importance of upholding the commitments made in the pact.—RT/Agency

Ji Chief Hafiz Naem Calls For 'Referendum' On Payment Of Electricity Bills



MANCOORAH: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan leader Hafiz Naemur-Rehman has announced that a 'public referendum' will be held to decide whether citizens should continue paying electricity bills or not.

Speaking at a press conference in Mansoorah, Hafiz Naem revealed that the referendum will take place from October 23 to 27, following a series of nationwide protests.

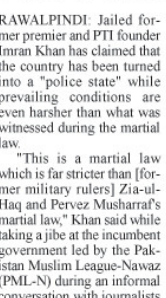
The JI leader criticised the government for imposing 'unjust taxes' and allowing 'Independent Power Producers' (IPPs) to 'benefit at the public's expense'.

He accused the government of failing to deliver on its promises of providing relief to citizens and vowed to launch a fresh wave of

protests after October 7 if the situation does not improve. As part of its 'Haq Do Awam Ko' (Give People Their Rights) movement, Jamaat-e-Islami has organised a series of demonstrations against rising electricity bills, and taxes.

Hafiz Naem also highlighted the party's successful shutter-down strike, which, according to him, fostered national unity. He called for an end to the privileges given to government ministers and IPPs, arguing that the common people are paying the price for policies favouring a few. He added that 'JI's upcoming protests and referendum' are aimed at ensuring justice for the public and putting pressure on the government to take corrective measures.—RT/Agency

Imran Accuses PML-N Government Of Turning Pakistan Into A 'Police State'



RAWALPINDI: Jailed former premier and PTI founder Imran Khan has claimed that the country has been turned into a "police state" while prevailing conditions are even harsher than what was witnessed during the martial law.

"This is a martial law which is far stricter than [former military rulers] Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf's martial law," Khan said while taking a jibe at the incumbent government led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Navaz (PML-N) during an informal conversation with journalists at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

Last week, the deposed premier, who has been behind bars for over a year now, had termed the former military rulers Pervez Musharraf and Zia-ul-Haq's martial law regimes "better" than the current democratic setup.

The deposed prime minister said that the Supreme Court's verdict on the reserved seats had made everything clear.

He added that the bid to keep the former ruling party out of the election and remove his party from the country's political landscape was "fully exposed".

He has time and time again criticised the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led administration for not being a



"legitimate" while citing alleged interference and manipulation in the February 8 polls.

Throwing shade at the coalition government, Khan said that the subordinate judiciary was in complete control of the current rulers. He further alleged that any judge, who is not in control of the rulers, got transferred.

The former premier also claimed that a judge was also replaced who was going to give a verdict in the May 9 mayhem cases.

Expressing displeasure over the judiciary's lack of response, Khan claimed that the PTI's request for hearing its petitions against the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments' case was also turned down.

He also alleged that the amended Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Ordinance was promulgated to "violate the democratic procedure to fix hearing of

cases". He was referring to the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance 2024 approved by President Asif Ali Zardari last week which granted additional powers to the chief justice to nominate a judge as a member of a committee and assign cases.

The cricketer-turned-politician also unveiled a schedule of his party's upcoming protests and a power show. He said that the PTI would register a protest for the independence of the judiciary on Thursday followed by another demonstration on Friday.

He added that a power show would be organised in Rawalpindi on September 28 and warned that his party would strongly react if permission is not granted for the public gathering.—RT/Agency

UN Chief Warns Lebanon On The 'Brink' Following Israeli Strikes

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told world leaders on Tuesday that Lebanon was "at the brink" and warned against allowing the country to turn into "another Gaza," a day after Israeli strikes killed more than 550 people there.



"Gaza is a non-stop nightmare that threatens to take the entire region with it. Look no further than Lebanon," Guterres said at the opening of the UN's annual gathering as hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, an Iran-backed armed group, threatened to plunge the region into all-out war.

"We should all be alarmed by the escalation. Lebanon is at the brink. The people of Lebanon, the people of Israel, and the people of the world cannot afford Lebanon to become another Gaza." War featured prominently in the UN chief's remarks, with references to Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan, and other ongoing conflicts. "Nothing can justify the abhorrent acts of terror committed by Hamas on October 7, or the taking of hostages — both of which I have repeatedly condemned," said the 75-year-old former prime minister of Portugal. "And nothing can justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people," he continued. Humanity faces three major threats to sustain-

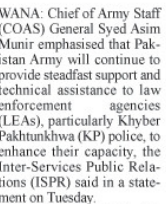
ability that must be confronted, said Guterres: impunity, which erodes international law, inequality, which destabilizes nations, and uncertainty, "where unmanaged global risks threaten our future in unknowable ways." "Uncertainty, he said, was compounded by the existential threats of the climate crisis — long a signature issue for the UN chief — and the rapid advance of artificial intelligence, which he said would require a global approach to manage.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Condemns Israel's Aggression Against Lebanon



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday condemned in the strongest possible terms, Israel's latest military aggression against Lebanon, massacring hundreds of civilians in a statement, the Foreign Office (FO) said that the act of aggression against the Republic of Lebanon is a grave violation of the UN Charter and international law. "It is a dangerous escalation that has further endangered peace and security in an already volatile region," it

Army Chief Reaffirms Support For KP Police, Law Enforcement During Wana Visit



WANA: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir emphasised that Pakistan Army will continue to provide steadfast support and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies (LEAs), particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police, to enhance their capacity, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday.



The military's media wing said the army chief made these remarks during his visit to Wana in South Waziristan district where he received a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation, ongoing counter-terrorism operations, and development initiatives.

"During his interaction with officers and troops, [the] COAS appreciated the high level of preparedness and exceptional morale to counter hostile threats. He reaffirmed Pakistan Army's unwavering commitment to thwarting the nefarious designs of hostile forces and their facilitators," the military's media wing stated.

Additionally, COAS General Munir paid heartfelt tribute to the security forces and the LEAs, who have made ultimate sacrifices in the line of duty. The army chief also acknowledged the pivotal role of the people of KP in maintaining peace and advancing various projects under the South Waziristan Integrated Development Plan. He underscored Pakistan Army's dedication towards leveraging its resources for the prosperity and development of the people of KP, as per the ISPR. Furthermore, the military's media wing said that the army chief expressed gratitude for the tribal elders' invaluable support in combating terrorism and their unwavering backing of the Pakistan Army.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



DC, SSP Dadu hold talks with protesting residents of Wahi Pandhi

By Javed Laghari

DADU: In Wahi Pandhi, following the murder of a woman, concerns arose regarding the filing of an FIR against the culprits. To address the situation, Deputy Commissioner Dadu Mukhtiar Ali Abro reached the ongoing protest on the Indus Highway, which had been organized by the Birhamani community for three consecutive days.

During the meeting with the protesters, the Deputy Commissioner expressed his condolences for the loss and inquired about their demands, assuring them that their issues would be resolved. After gaining assurance regarding action against the perpetrators, partial restoration of traffic on the Indus Highway was implemented, and a delegation of

protesters was invited to the DC office in the presence of the SSP Dadu. For four hours, discussions took place between the Deputy Commissioner, SSP Captain (Retd) Ameer Saud Magi, and the protesters. The fears regarding the non-filing of the case were allayed, leading to a successful dialogue between the administration and the protesters. Subsequently, the protesters announced the end of their demonstration and opened the Indus Highway for traffic.

At the insistence of the victim's relatives, the Deputy Commissioner remained present at Wahi Pandhi Police station until the FIR was lodged. The protesters thanked Deputy Commissioner Mukhtiar Ali Abro for the administration's support. Citizens

gathered outside the station also chanted slogans in favor of the district administration. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that there is no room for tribal conflicts in Sindh, stating that Sindh is a land of peace and love, urging collective efforts for the progress of the country and nation. He further noted the community's concerns about the FIR, which were jointly addressed, and confirmed that the FIR was registered according to the victim's family's wishes.

Among those present during the discussions were the General Secretary of the Press Club, Ghous Jhatial, social leader Ashiq Ali and relatives of the deceased, including Ali Asghar Brahmani, Bashir Birhamani and Zulfiqar Birhamani.

Seminar on importance of girls' education held at GGHSS Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Ahmad Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Regional Director of the Ombudsman in Hyderabad, Abdul Wahab Memon, emphasized the importance of girls' education during a seminar titled "Why Girls' Education is Necessary" at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Tando Allahyar. He stated that without girls' education, the development of the country is impossible. He highlighted that the goal of education should not be limited to obtaining a degree, but should also encompass learning ethics and culture.

He noted that certain traditional beliefs hinder girls' education, and the government is making numerous efforts to improve educational conditions.

During the seminar, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Tando Allahyar, Sajid Ali Pahore, District Education Officer Madam Ghazala Samo, and Principal Madam Safia Qureshi also expressed their views. Students delivered speeches

in Sindhi, Urdu, and English. Additionally, Abdul Wahab Memon conducted a workshop at Government Degree College Tando Allahyar, introducing the workings of the Ombudsman Sindh institution. He informed students and teachers about ways to seek justice in cases of injustice.

Principal Khemchand discussed the college's issues and staff shortages, while students posed questions to the Regional Director.

SSP Tanvir Hussain Tunio chairs meeting of police officials

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: SSP Shaheed Benazirabad Tanveer Hussain Tunio convened an important meeting with motorcycle patrollers assigned to various police stations in the Shaheed Benazirabad district. During the meeting, he issued instructions to all patrollers, emphasizing the importance of performing their duties with integrity and ensuring the safety of citizens, which is the police's responsibility. He urged them to remain vigilant during patrols and to keep a close eye on criminals, stating that any laxity would not be tolerated. SSP Tunio recognized the



outstanding performance of certain patrollers from various stations by awarding them commendation certificates. He also directed disciplinary action against those who displayed negligence or irresponsibility in their duties. Addressing the officers, he stressed that they are the

strength and pride of the department, and any weakness or negligence on their part could empower criminals. He encouraged them to reinforce their commitment to duty, assuring that a strong Sindh Police would lead to better protection of citizens' lives and property.

Regional Director Gul Hassan Shaikh addresses seminar on working of Sindh Ombudsman's office

By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: The Regional Director of the Sindh Ombudsman in Ghotki, Gul Hassan Shaikh, stated that the general public should bring their complaints forward, assuring them that justice will be provided. He made these remarks while addressing an awareness seminar held at Government High School Mirpur Mathelo. The seminar was attended by DEO Primary Syed Israr Ahmed Shah, DEO Secondary Abdul

Malik Baloch, TEOS, teachers, and students.

During his address, Gul Hassan Shaikh mentioned that, following the directives of Sindh Ombudsman Muhammad Sohail Rajput, efforts are being made to address public complaints.

He emphasized that there is no need for a lawyer to file a complaint, a simple written request on plain paper is sufficient. He noted that the regional office in Ghotki plays a vital role in resolving issues for

both the public and government employees. The purpose of the awareness seminar is to inform the public so they can contact the regional office for resolving their issues.

During the seminar, DEO Primary Israr Ahmed Shah highlighted that officials from Education Works are showing delays in development work for school buildings, and he called for directives to ensure that construction is completed on time and to a high standard.

Deputy Director Secondary Ali Anwar Channa visits GBHSS Nawab Wali Muhammad



By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: The Deputy Director Secondary Ali Anwar Channa, Assistant Director Ali Asghar Zardari paid a visit to the Government Boys Higher Secondary School Nawab Wali Muhammad. The officials visited classes

and reviewed the facilities available at the school. They were also briefed about the shortage of books and non-availability of power and water in the school. Principal Noor Muhammad Sehto, Headmaster Muhammad Afab Shah, Soomro, Ahmed Shah and other teachers were also present on the occasion.

Chief Engineer Sukkur Mansoor Ahmed Memon visits Rohri Canal



By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: Chief Engineer Sukkur, Mansoor Ahmed Memon, paid a surprise visit to the Rohri Canal, inspecting both its banks. During the visit, he engaged with lower staff at various locations and issued instructions.

Near Baqir Mori, he assessed the specific sites along the Rohri Canal from Shahdadpur to Kumb Leman, gathering information and inspecting the area. He also

evaluated the gates at the Kumb Leman regulator and provided several directives.

In a special discussion with registered journalists from the Shahdadpur Press Club, Chief Engineer Memon acknowledged the issue of patching in the Baqir Mori area. He stated that he had issued instructions to the engineering works team to expedite the repairs, ensuring the safety of surrounding villages and lands, including Golo Pir Mori and Baqir Jalmali.

Long march of Local Govt employees reaches TMK



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The long march of local government employees has reached Tando Muhammad Khan, where they were warmly welcomed with flower petals.

According to reports, the march began at the shrine of Benazir Bhutto in Garhi Khuda Bux and traveled through various areas of Sindh, finally arriving in Tando Muhammad Khan.

Upon arrival, the employees marched on foot to the Municipal Committee of Tando Muhammad Khan, where they participated in a reception organized by the Employees Union. Leaders of the long march, including Mushtaq Keerio, Abdul Hadi Markhani, Abdul Hafeez Bughio, Pir Bux

Khaskheli, and Sikandar Bhatti, addressed the gathering.

They criticized the Pakistan People's Party's provincial government for its unfair treatment of local government employees, which has compelled them to march towards the provincial capital, Karachi.

The employees' primary demand is that their monthly salaries be transferred to the treasury, acknowledging their legitimate demands across Sindh. They called for an end to salary cuts, highlighting that injustice against local government employees has persisted for too long. They warned that if this trend does not cease, a series of severe protests will begin after the Karachi sit-in on September 26.

PPP Cultural Wing celebrates Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's birthday with zeal

By Khadim Khaskheli

SANGHAR: The General Secretary of the PPP Cultural Wing Sindh, Liaquat Shahani celebrated the 30th birthday of party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with other leaders at the Circuit House. Dr Nisar Ahmed Memon, Fayaz Kalyar, Qadir Saba, Ghulam Qadir Dal, Imran Khanzada, Qazi Tariq Hussain, Muhammad Juman Lund, Ali Nawaz Lund, Ghulam Abbas Wasseem, Mir Shahid Talpur, Faqir Saleem Shaikh, Aijaz Deepar, Sarwar Sakhirani, Javed Shahani, lauded the services of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and announced to continue serving the nation under his leadership. He also paid tribute to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Be-Shoukat Khaskheli and other



ers attended the birthday celebrations and cut a cake also. Addressing on the occasion, Liaquat Shahani lauded the services of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and announced to continue serving the nation under his leadership. He also paid tribute to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Be-Shoukat Khaskheli and other

SAU 's Dept of English organizes Poster Presentation and Project Display

By Irfan Ali khushk

TANDO JAM: Department of English at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tando Jam hosted an inspiring event, "Poster Presentation and Project Display," where BS English students showcased their brilliance and creativity through a series of engaging projects and posters. The event was a testament to the exceptional talents of first and second-semester students.

The exhibition was officially inaugurated by the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Social Sciences (FASS), Prof. Dr. Aijaz Ali Khuharo, along with Dr. Shabana Sartaj, Chairperson of the English Department, through a ceremonial ribbon-cutting. The event drew considerable attention, with faculty and students from across the university attending and engaging with the exhibits.

Prof. Dr. Aijaz Ali Khuharo, while addressing the gathering, praised the students' efforts: "This event not only highlights the academic and creative abilities of our students but also enhances



their critical thinking and communication skills, which are essential for their future success." He emphasized the importance of combining creativity with academic learning for a well-rounded educational experience. Chairperson Dr. Shabana Sartaj expressed her pride in the students, stating: "The dedication and hard work demonstrated by our students in bringing these projects to life reflect the solid academic foundation we provide. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments." She encouraged students to continue striving for excellence

and compete with their peers at other institutions. Under the dynamic supervision of Ms. Naila Balooh, 38 students presented 60 posters on topics such as Phonetics, Sound Formation, and Phonetic Transcription. In addition, 35 students exhibited four innovative projects centered on Philosophers of English Language and Literature as part of their semester tasks.

A special segment featured three research posters on Gender Discourse, presented by 9 students under the guidance of Ms. Saima Lank.

DC Naveed Rehman Larik chairs AEFI meeting in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A monthly meeting of the AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunization) was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Umerkot, presided over by Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik.

The meeting included District Health Officer Dr. Nand Lal, AEFI focal person Dr. Imran, WHO representative Dr. Dargah Shankar, MS of Civil Hospital Umerkot Dr. Farid Ahmed Hangoorjo, and other health officials.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that any officer or vaccinator failing to perform



their duties in administering the AEFI vaccines would not be tolerated and would face strict legal action.

He urged all employees to perform their duties diligently.

He instructed Dr. Imran to provide a complete report on any complete report on any vaccinators who are not fulfilling their responsibilities or where there is a need for additional vaccinators.

Seerat-un-Nabi (SAWW) Conference held at Govt Boys Degree College Sujawal

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: A Seerat-un-Nabi (SAWW) Conference was held at Government Boys Degree College Sujawal under the supervision of Principal Professor Muhammad Hassan Bhatti. The event was celebrated with great enthusiasm, featuring students reciting Naat and delivering speeches in honor of the holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW).

Professor Muhammad Hassan Bhatti also gave a speech highlighting the significance of the Holy



Prophet's (SAWW) character. Trophies and certificates were awarded to students who excelled in their competition. The conference saw a large turnout of college staff and students, showcasing their dedication to this important occasion.

NATIONAL



Punjab Cabinet Approves Hiring Of 7,000 College Teaching Interns

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab cabinet on Tuesday approved the recruitment of over 7,000 college teaching interns across the province.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz chaired the cabinet meeting while ministers and others concerned attended it.

In its 16th meeting, the cabinet discussed various matters, including the introduction of a comprehensive housing policy.

The cabinet praised the police personnel serving in Rahim Yar Khan and Kacha areas besides approving a special allowance for them.

Additionally, the chief



minister stopped the increase in hostel fees for working women and appreciated the smooth conduct of MDCAT exams.

A monthly support plan for the visually impaired was announced, and Rs 500 million were allocated to the Writers' Welfare Endowment Fund.

The cabinet also praised the Irrigation department officials for effectively managing the floods.—RT/Agency

LHC Orders Parvez Elahi's Removal From No-Fly List



LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered the removal of former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parveez Elahi's name from the Passport Control List (PCL), according to local media sources on Tuesday.

Justice Shams Mahmood Mirza presided over the hearing, during which the court also directed that the names of Rasikh Elahi and Zara Elahi be removed from the Exit Control List (ECL).

The court's ruling came after contempt petitions were filed by Parvez Elahi and others.

Following the hearing, the court disposed of the petitions based on the public advocate's report.

This legal victory follows an earlier plea, filed by Abuzar Salman Niazi on behalf of the Elahi family, requesting the removal of their names from the PCL to allow them to travel abroad for Umrah.

The plea stated that the family's inclusion on the PCL was preventing their travel plans.

Parveez Elahi, who is also the President of PTI, had recently emerged from a year-long legal battle, securing his release from prison.

In a statement, Elahi expressed gratitude to his supporters and the judges, thanking them for standing by the truth.—RT/Agency

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Ambassador Wada Mitsuhiro inaugurates Japanese art exhibition

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: A Japanese art exhibition focused on folklore and cultural heritage was inaugurated at Alhamra by Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Wada Mitsuhiro. The event was attended by Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan, Chairman of Alhamra Razi Ahmed, and Executive Director Sara Rashid.



A large number of attendees showed great interest in Japanese art. The Japanese ambassador thanked the Alhamra administration for their cooperation, emphasizing that hosting such exhibitions in a literary and cultural hub like Alhamra is commendable. He noted that understanding cultures helps bring people closer together and that this exhibition would promote mutual understanding between Pakistan and Japan.

The exhibition showcased the vibrant and beautiful heritage of Japan and expressed folklore themes related to supernatural powers. It was organized through a joint effort by Alhamra, the Japan Foundation, and the Lahore Arts Foundation Trust. The Japan Foundation's exhibition, "Yokai Parade," will continue until October 3.

BISP Signs MoUs With WHO, UNICEF For Benazir Nashonuma Initiative

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has signed two separate agreements with UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) under the Benazir Nashonuma Programme, aimed at tackling malnutrition and improving the health of children and mothers in Pakistan.



The agreement with UNICEF focuses on Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) and the provision of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).

The agreements were signed by Secretary Amer Ali Ahmad from BISP, Mrs. Abdullah Fadi from UNICEF and Dr. Luo Dapeng from WHO.

This partnership aims to enhance community awareness and provide life-saving nutrition support to affected children and mothers.

The agreement with WHO involves the management of stabilization centers across the country at the district level within District Headquarters Hospitals (DHQs).

These centers will provide specialized care for children suffering from SAM with complications.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid highlighted the importance of these agreements in combating malnutrition in Pakistan.

"Together, we aim to build on our strong working relationships to provide health and nutrition support to vulnerable communities across Pakistan. I am confident that through this collaboration, we will achieve impactful results and make a lasting difference in the lives of our beneficiaries," she said.

"Children living in impoverished communities and households need to be prioritized when it comes to nutrition and social protection programmes to ensure they can survive, thrive, and reach their full potential," UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Abdullah Fadi said.

"WHO is honoured to partner with BISP to provide evidence-based interventions aimed at providing life-saving treatment to 75,000 severely acute malnourished children with medical complications as well as protecting, supporting and promoting breast feeding as a key strategy to prevent stunting," Dr. Luo Dapeng said.

"This is a landmark event for BISP, marking a significant step forward in our efforts to enhance the wellbeing of our beneficiaries. We are committed to strengthening our partnerships with UNICEF and WHO to ensure that the fruits of this collaboration reach those who need it the most," Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad said.—RT/Agency

Governor KP Meets President Zardari



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari at the President House.

The discussion focused on various issues affecting the province, including security, economic stability and the welfare of its residents.

During the meeting, Governor Kundi briefed the President Zardari about the recent terrorist attack on a convoy of foreign diplomats in Swat, as well as the rising incidents of terrorism in the southern districts and merged tribal areas.

He highlighted the deteriorating law and order situation in the province.

President Zardari commended Governor Kundi for his efforts towards the overall improvement of the province.

He assured his full support for the development and prosperity of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the merged districts.—RT/Agency

DC Muhammad Naem Sindhu reviews Khelta Punjab Program

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Organizing sports competitions is crucial for building a healthy society, expressed Deputy Commissioner of Toba Tek Singh, Muhammad Naem Sindhu, during a meeting about the "Khelta Punjab" initiative. It is worth noting that, in line with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's vision, sports competitions are

being held in all districts of the province under the "Khelta Punjab" program. The aim is to engage youth in healthy activities and promote the development of a healthy society.

Under the Khelta Punjab program, competitions in athletics, cricket (tape-ball), hockey, football, badminton, and kabaddi will be organized at the district level. Children up to the age of 22 will be eligible to participate. Registration for the teams at the district level will be completed from 20th September to 27th September 2024. Teams can register either online or at the offices of the respective District Sports Officer. The sports competitions under the Khelta Punjab program will officially begin on 2nd October 2024.

DPO Ibadat Nisar holds an open katchery in Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: District Police Officer (DPO) Toba Tek Singh, Ibadat Nisar, organized an open katchery at the Mangi Bangla Police Post, Police Station Sadar Gojra, on special instructions from Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, and Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar. The purpose was to listen to and resolve public grievances. During the session, citizens presented various complaints and issues. DPO Ibadat Nisar listened to their concerns and issued on-the-spot orders for their resolution.



that the purpose of the open court was to personally hear the issues of people from Mangi Bangla, Sadar Gojra, and adjacent areas, so that citizens could directly present their complaints. This helps ensure that justice is served promptly, and their grievances are addressed. The stronger the connection between the police and the public, the more society can be reformed, and the path to law and justice can be smoothed.

SDPO Gojra Akhtar Ali, SHO Police Station Sadar Gojra, in-charge of Mangi Bangla Post, and media representatives were also present on the occasion.

Chairperson of Punjab CM's Directorate for Monitoring and Evaluation Babar Alauddin reviews government initiatives in Gujranwala

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Chairperson of the Chief Minister's Directorate for Evaluation, Feedback, Inspection, and Monitoring Brigadier (Retd) Babar Alauddin, stated that Chief Minister Punjab Naved Haider Sheerazi's vision is to improve governance in the province. He mentioned that



77 initiatives are underway across various sectors to enhance the quality of services and improve the citizens' standard of living. He expressed these thoughts during a meeting with Commissioner Gujranwala Syed Naved Haider Sheerazi. Later, he visited the Quaid-e-Azam Divisional Public School and met with students. Additional Commissioner Muhammad Shafiq, AC Revenue Muhammad Yaseen, MD Solid Waste Management Company Shabid Abbas Jota, Director Development Abdul Rauf and Director Colleges Shahzad Manzoor were also present.

METRO KARACHI

Robbers Attack And Rob Policemen In Karachi's Malir Area

KARACHI: Robbers attacked policemen and snatched their weapons and mobile phones at M-9 Motorway in Karachi's Malir, media reported.

As per details, the policemen were patrolling when they were attacked and robbed by the robbers. The case has been registered at Gadap Police Station on the complaint of injured Sub-Inspector Shehzaad.

According to the report, Sub-Inspector Shehzaad was accompanied by Constable Zakir Hussain

and Lady Head Constable Mehwish. They were using government-issued pistols and a private car and motorcycle. The team had been on a covert operation from 2 pm to 8 pm for surveillance.

According to injured cops, they were on a mission under orders from the SHO to track down the robbers. The statement further revealed that at 8 pm, after sending the female constable back, both officers were traveling on a motorcycle when suddenly, three armed sus-

Maryam, Nawaz Engage With US Envoy On Trade Promotion



LAHORE: United States Ambassador Donald Blome and Consul General in Lahore Kristin Hawkins discussed steps to increase trade opportunities between Pakistan and the US during a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Matters of mutual interest, promotion of Pakistan-US relations and cooperation in various fields were discussed in the meeting.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said on the occasion, "Pakistan and the US have excellent cordial relations and we are determined to strengthen them. There is immense potential in Pakistan-US trade, which needs to be benefited from. The government has gained remarkable achievements in several sectors in a short span of time."

She said Pakistan is more secure and peaceful as compared to the past. "The PML-N government has set new standards of good governance and transparency. Pakistan has achieved great success in the war against terrorism and extremism, she added. During his visit to Lahore, Ambassador Blome highlighted his government's commitment to the US-Pakistan Green Alliance framework aimed at tackling climate change, food security and energy challenges.—RT/Agency

ECP Sindh Completes Preparations For LG By-Elections

KARACHI: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Sindh finalized preparations for local government (LG) by-elections on 77 municipal seats across the province, media reported.

According to details, the by-elections will also be held on four vacant chairman seats, two vice chairman seats and four ward councilor seats.

The sources said that the ECP Sindh chapter has already submitted the schedule to the ECP for approval. In its report, the ECP Sindh also sent the proposed names for

district returning officers and returning officers.

The final schedule will be announced by the ECP.

Earlier, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sultan Akram Raja said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is prepared to conduct the Local Government (LG) polls in Punjab.

The ECP, headed by the Chief Election Commissioner, held a high-level meeting in Islamabad to discuss preparations for the upcoming LG elections in Punjab.

Sultan Akram Raja said that the delimitation of constituencies in Punjab has already been completed. He said that the demarcation of UCs and wards in Islamabad will be finalized by July 23.

The CEC said that the ECP is quite prepared to conduct the local government elections in Punjab; however, some legal complexities are delaying the polls. Sultan Akram Raja said that the summary of the reserved seats for the Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation has been sent to the Prime Minister's Office.—RT

Barrister Saif Urges Action Against ECP Chief Under Article 6

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif on Tuesday demanded action against Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja under the Article 6 of the constitution.

Expressing his views after the SC issued detailed verdict on the reserved seats case, Saif said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should immediately issue the notification of reserved seats and give them to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

"The ECP doesn't have any option of ifs and buts after the detailed verdict by the apex court in the reserved seats case in which the SC has termed the March 1st verdict unconstitutional. Action must be taken against the ECP chief for violating the constitution," he highlighted.

He dubbed the ECP chief responsible for all the mess going on in the country, adding that both the premier and the ECP chief had committed contempt of court.—RT/Agency

Senate Committee Instructs PWD To Transfer Constantia Lodge Possession

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works Tuesday directed the Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD) to facilitate the demarcation process and transfer possession of the Constantia Lodge to the ministry, as well as to resolve all related issues.

The Senate body that met here with Nasir Mehmood in the chair addressed agenda items, examining the jurisdiction mechanisms, and processes for implementing the Building Code of Pakistan 2021, including the Seismic Provisions of 2007 and environmental protection measures nationwide.

It was noted that the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) oversees the building code and that notifications are issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The code establishes minimum standards for building safety, structural integrity, and sustainability.

Provinces can modify specific provisions to address regional characteristics, such as seismic risks and climate conditions.

Local planning departments evaluate submitted plans for compliance with structural and environmental standards, often involving expert consultants.

Senator Bilal Ahmed raised concerns that the involvement of consultants and contractors could lead to fraud and urged the need for clearly specified authorizations.

It was revealed that approximately 90% of buildings do not conform to approved structures.

The committee highlighted that while the Building Code of Pakistan 2022 provides a framework for safe, sustainable, and environmentally responsible construction, it lacks the authority to approve building plans or monitor construction; these powers rest with local departments.—RT/Agency



The Exploitation of Pakistani Artists Must End

The recent controversy surrounding Ghotki-based artist Seffy Soomro's misused artwork is a stark reminder of how Pakistan fails to appreciate and protect its artists. Soomro's paintings, initially reported missing by Karachi's Frere Hall, later surfaced in a popular television drama without his consent. This issue, which has now been brushed off as a "misunderstanding" in a government inquiry, underscores the broader systemic negligence faced by artists in Pakistan.

The inquiry, ordered by the Sindh Culture Minister, reveals the disrespect and disre-

gard often shown to those in the art world. Soomro's paintings were not only wrongfully withheld but also exhibited and rented



out for profit — all without his knowledge. The report's claim that Soomro did not take a "serious interest" in retrieving his work is absurd. Is an artist expected to constantly beg institutions for what is rightfully theirs? This is not just about Soomro; it's about a broken system where artists, instead of receiving support, are dragged into

unnecessary controversies and exploitation.

Art, an essential reflection of culture and society, is constantly sidelined in Pakistan. The country's artists are rarely given the recognition and support they deserve. Instead, their work is treated as a commodity, easily misappropriated by those in power. The lack of accountability in this case sets a dangerous precedent for others, and the government must take immediate action to safeguard the rights of artists. Otherwise, this pattern of exploitation will only continue, pushing talent away from the very institutions meant to protect them. Artists must be uplifted, not taken advantage of.

THE HEARTLAND



Residents of Channa Muhalla protest against SEPCO

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The residents of the Channa Muhalla, Aqil Road in Larkana have staged a protest by blocking the Naudeto Chowk against the suspension of electricity supply for three days. They chanted slogans against SEPCO. During the protest, residents Zubair Soomro, Madad Khuhro, Nadeem Abbasi, Abdul Haq Surhio, and others expressed their grievances, stating that they have been receiving electricity from the Bahapur feeder for the past 30 years. However, four months ago, this feeder was shut down, and they were switched to the Kachi Tube Well feeder, which is frequently inoperative.

They further explained that SEPCO cut 11,000 elec-



tricity wires three days ago, leaving them without power. The residents mentioned that they have previously protested to restore electricity from the Bahapur feeder, but no officials have addressed their concerns, leading to ongoing electricity issues in their area. Due to the power outage, men, women, and children are

facing significant hardships, especially in the intense heat. The protesters demanded the immediate restoration of the 11,000 electricity wires and the provision of electricity from the Bahapur feeder instead of the Tube Well feeder, threatening to escalate their protest if their demands are not met.

Abducted shopkeeper Saddam Bhatti's family protests for his recovery

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: The family members of an abducted shopkeeper named Saddam Bhatti recorded a protest demonstration along with leaders of different organizations for his recovery on Tuesday. The protest leaders, who included Wasim Qureshi, Sultan Bhatti, Babu Bhatti and



others said that Saddam Bhatti had been abducted one and half month ago but the police have still not succeeded to find his whereabouts. On the occasion, the protesters demanded of the higher authorities to take steps for the recovery of Saddam Bhatti, otherwise they have announced to widen their protest.

Hyderabad Police arrest two drug dealers

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Successful operation by A-Section Police, drug supply thwarted, large quantity of hashish and a Kalashnikov recovered, 2 suspects arrested.

Under the leadership of SHO Inspector Naik Muhammad Khoso, the A-Section Police conducted an operation based on secret information on Auto Bhan Road near the drainage motor.

During the check, two individuals in vehicle V8 number 2345 were searched, leading to the recovery of over 5 kilograms of hashish and one unlicensed Kalashnikov.

Both suspects, identified as Muhammad Ismail Dahri and Inayat Otho, were taken into custody. In their initial statements,



they confessed to selling drugs. The recovered vehicle was also found to be unlicensed, and both suspects have multiple prior cases against them. A Section Police have registered two cases against the suspects under the Narcotics Act and Arms Act. Further investigations are ongoing.

TMK journalists demand justice, protection for their colleagues



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A strong protest will begin in the halls of power for the arrest of the killers of brave journalist Jan Muhammad Mahar and Nasrullah Gadani, who were brutally murdered in Sindh. The newly elected officials of the Tando Muhammad Khan Press Club were honored at a reception in Qazi Ahmad village organized by pri-

ivate TV reporter Qazi Shams. The event was attended by Press Club President Ramzan Shoro, Governing Body Chairman Ghulam Nabi Kario, General Secretary Muzaffar Rind, senior journalists including Imtiaz Mangi, Muhammad Sadiq and Zulfiqar Chandio, among others. During the speeches, they emphasized that journalists in Sindh have always raised the voice of the people for their rights

through print and electronic media. They pointed out that cities and villages across Sindh lack basic facilities, facing a severe drinking water crisis. The government has failed to take effective measures for health and education reforms, with drainage systems in ruins and roads in poor condition. At the event, the guests were presented with gifts of Sindh culture, including ajrak and topis.

34 booked for setting Dr Shahnawaz Kunbhar's body on fire

By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI: Police officials from the City Police Station in Umerkot registered an FIR on Tuesday against 19 known and 15 unknown miscreants involved in the burning of Dr. Shahnawaz's body in the Nabisar area on September 19. The FIR was filed by Muhammad Ibrahim Kumbhar, Dr. Kumbhar's brother-in-law,

under various sections of the Pakistan Penal Code, including 341, 296, 297, 114, 336 B, 147, 148, and 149, as well as sections 5/7 of the Anti-terrorism Act, 1979. The FIR names individuals including Mehboob, Sand, Riaz Ahmed, Amjad, Gamshad, Noor Hassan Panhwar, Daud Panhwar, Lakshmir Samejo, Arshad Samejo, Aleem, Saleem Sand,

Allama Syed Shahenshah Hussain Naqvi visits Sultan-ul-Madaris in Khairpur



By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Renowned religious scholar Allama Syed Shahenshah Hussain Naqvi visited the prestigious Islamic school, Sultan-ul-Madaris, and delivered a message of Islamic brotherhood, love, and harmony to the students. During his address, Allama Syed Shahenshah Hussain Naqvi emphasized that Islam is a religion of peace and unity. He stated that the Muslim world is currently facing many challenges and it is crucial for all Muslims to stand united and raise a collective voice against oppressive regimes.

In his speech to the students, Allama Syed Shahenshah Hussain Naqvi highlighted the importance of acquiring both religious and worldly education, especially in the current era. He urged Muslim countries to unite and speak with one voice to ensure that the injustices against Muslims are stopped. He also praised Khairpur district, acknowledging it as a leading region in terms of education compared to other districts in Sindh and Pakistan. On this occasion, educational experts Professor Dr. Sajjad Hussain Raeesi, Principal of the Madrasa, Maulana Ghulam Qambar Qureshi, Advocate Niaz Hussain Junejo, Lala Aijaz Pathan, and others were also present.

DEO Karim Bux Soomro celebrates Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) in Kotri

By Sheikh Sindhi

KOTRI: A grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) celebration was held at the Kotri Cultural Complex Center, organized by the DEO Secondary Jamshoro. DEO Secondary Karim Bux Soomro welcomed the guests. The event featured performances by students from various district schools, including Naat recitations, Quranic recitations, speeches, and quiz competitions. Awards were given to students who secured first, second, and third positions, and officers and teachers were also presented with shields.

The compere duties were carried out by Allah Bux Solangi and Muhammad Ali Samo. Special guests included Director of School Education Hyder-



abad Ghulam Sarwar Malah, DEO Majid Ali Dawach, Khokhar, DEO Primary Pandhi Khan Talpur, Deputy DEO Imran Korjo, Assistant Education Officer Saba Saleem, President of the GSTA District Jamshoro who participated in large numbers.

2nd death anniversary of Raees Budhal Khan Chang observed in Hingorja

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: The 2nd death anniversary of Raees Budhal Khan Chang was observed in Hingorja on Tuesday. Chairman of Khairpur Journalists' Alliance Ghulam Hussain Chang, Shaman Rajpar, Molvi Gulbahar Channa, Hafiz Bashir Ahmed Chang, Atta Muhammad Chang, Peeral Khan Chang and others attended the death anniversary and laid floral wreaths on the grave of



Raees Budhal Khan Khan Chang which he rendered for welfare of the poor and needy people.

SPORTS



Pakistan cueist beats his Indian rival to reach snooker championship final



ULAANBAATAR: Pakistan's cueist Asjad Iqbal delivered an impressive performance as he made it to the final of the IBSF World Six Red Snooker Championship by defeating India's Malkhet Singh in the semi-final.

Iqbal secured his place in the final with a comprehensive 6-0 victory in the contest being held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Iqbal dominated every frame, starting with a comfortable 49-18 win in the first.

He continued dismantling Singh's defence, claiming the subsequent frames with scores of 38-34, 46-13, 40-31, 52-13, and finishing with a clean sweep at 45-0 in the sixth frame. Iqbal's brilliant form was highlighted by a 40-point break in the final frame, further emphasizing his dominance.

Singh struggled throughout the match, unable to mount any significant challenge or secure a single frame, as Iqbal kept the pressure on from start to finish.

Earlier, in the quarter-finals, Iqbal had defeated Cyprus' Michael Georgiou 5-2, setting the stage for his semi-final triumph.

With this emphatic victory, Iqbal now advances to the final, where he is seen as a top contender for the title. —Agency

New Zealand Women's team fined for slow over-rate in T20I against Aussies

MACKAY: New Zealand Women's cricket team has been fined for maintaining a slow over-rate during the first T20I against Australia in Mackay.

The team was found to be one over short of the required rate after taking time allowances into account.

As a result, the players were penalized five percent of their match fees for every over they failed to bowl within the allotted time, according to Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct.

This rule applies to minimum over-rate offences.

New Zealand captain Sophie Devine accepted the penalty, and since she pleaded guilty, a formal hearing was not required.

The charge was laid by on-field umpires Andrew Crozier and Troy Penman, along with third umpire Ben Treloar and fourth umpire Daryl Brigham.

The sanction was imposed by Match Referee David Gilbert.

Australia won the first T20I by five wickets and followed it up with a 29-run victory in the second match at the same venue.

The two teams are set to face off again in the third T20I on Tuesday, September 24, before heading to the UAE for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, which starts on October 3.

In the first game, New Zealand, who batted first, posted a total of 143 runs and also lost 7 wickets. Even with the ball, they failed to apply pressure on the opposition as they went on to lose the first game of the series by 5 wickets as Australia chased the target in just 18.4 overs.



In the second T20I, New Zealand came up with a great performance with the ball. They were right on the money as they bundled out Australia for 142 runs.

Amelia Kerr was the pick of the bowlers as she bagged a four-wicket haul and returned with the figures of 4/20.

But they failed to get going with the bat as they lost wickets at regular intervals. Suzie Bates (34) was the top run-maker for her team and got no support from the top and middle order.

Maddy Green (22) fought hard in the end but couldn't carry on as Australia restricted the opposition to 113 runs to win the game by 29 runs. —Agency

Mikel Arteta stands by defensive tactics in fiery Man City clash



LONDON: Mikel Arteta stood by Arsenal's defensive tactics in their explosive Premier League clash with Manchester City, saying he would have been "thick" not to learn from previous clashes.

Leonardo Trossard was shown a second yellow card for kicking the ball away when Arsenal were 2-1 up at the end of the first half at the Etihad.

After the break the Gunners sat back and soaked up pressure, ceding almost all the possession to the Premier League champions until John Stones netted a stoppage-time equaliser.

Arsenal, who had led for most of the contest after goals from Riccardo Calafiori and Gabriel Magalhães, were accused of employing the "dark arts" by City defenders Kyle Walker and Stones.

City forward Bernardo Silva accused them of "time-wasting".

But Arsenal boss Arteta stood by his team's approach on Tuesday, referencing their 5-0 defeat to Manchester City in 2021, when former captain Granit Xhaka was sent off.

Speaking ahead of Wednesday's third-round League Cup tie against third-tier Bolton, the Spaniard said his team "had to play the game that we had to play."

"Unfortunately we've been in the same situation," he said. "We were in that same situation with Granit and when we lost 5-0. So we'd better learn. If not I would be very thick."

Erling Haaland threw the ball at Arsenal defender Gabriel's head after City's equaliser as tempers flared but Arteta played down the tensions. —Agency

Champions One-Day Cup Qualifier: Panthers reach final after defeating Markhors

FAISALABAD: Panthers sealed their berth in the Champions One-Day Cup final after grabbing a dominating 7-wicket victory over Markhors in Qualifier 1 played at Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium on Tuesday.

Shadab Khan-led side chased down a target in just 23.4 overs. The standout performance came from Usman Khan, who powered his side to victory with a blistering unbeaten 54 off just 26 balls, striking 5 fours and 4 sixes at a strike rate of 207.69.

Saim Ayub provided a solid foundation at the top of the order, scoring 33 from 36 balls before being trapped lbw by Zahid Mahmood Azan Awaiz, though starting well, was dismissed for 13, caught by Salman Ali Agha



The innings began on a shaky note when Haseebullah Khan was dismissed for just three runs, caught behind by Usman off the bowling of Ali Raza in the second over.

This early loss set the tone for a difficult innings as Fakhar Zaman followed shortly after, contributing only 11 runs before falling to Hasnain, again caught behind.

Kamran Ghulam had a disappointing outing, making just one run before being trapped LBW by Hasnain. The captain, Mohammad Rizwan, faced just one delivery before being dismissed for a duck, leaving the team in a precarious position at 10 for 3. —Agency

Manchester City star equals one of Cristiano Ronaldo's records



MANCHESTER: Manchester City star Erling Haaland recently reached a significant milestone, netting his 100th goal for the club during a 2-2 draw with Arsenal, placing him alongside football legend Cristiano Ronaldo.

The 24-year-old Norwegian footballer's swift ninth-minute strike at the Etihad Stadium placed him alongside the 39-year-old Portuguese player as the fastest man to score 100 goals for a European club.

Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or award winner, made the record while playing for Real Madrid, back in 2011. Meanwhile, both players managed to achieve the feat in their 105th appearance for their clubs, ESPN India reported.

In 2024, Kevin De Bruyne became the 18th Manchester City player to reach 100 goals, achieving the accolade in his 372nd appearance for the club.

Haaland, whose goal-scoring prowess has solidified his status as a prominent figure in European football, had already broken the record for most goals through four games of the Premier League season with nine, including two hat tricks.

Such a prolific start meant he went into the Champions League game at home against Inter Milan on 99 goals from 103 game appearances and with a chance to break Ronaldo's record.

But despite having a couple of first-half chances, he was left frustrated in a goalless draw. —Agency

ICC reveals all-female panel of match officials for Women's T20 World Cup

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled an all-female panel of match officials for the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to be played in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from October 3.

The apex cricketing body revealed a group of 13 match officials (10 umpires and three match referees) to supervise the mega-event.

Claire Polosak will bring the most experience to the panel, having officiated in four previous Women's T20 World Cup tournaments. Kim Cotton and Jacqueline Williams will be making their fourth appearance at the event, both having the distinction of officiating the final of the previous edition between Australia and South Africa. The ICC announced in a press release.

"Sue Redfern, who served as the TV umpire for the previous final, also returns for her fourth appearance at the event, both having the dis-



support with an not out 5.

Earlier, Panthers bowled Markhors out for 137 in 36 overs, primarily due to a superb bowling display from Mohammad Hasnain and Saim Ayub. The team struggled right from the start, losing wickets at regular intervals.

ICC Senior Manager - Umpires and Referees, Sean Easey: "The ICC is proud to be contributing to the advancement of women in our sport. To be announcing this all-female lineup of match officials for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 is wonderful."

"This group, selected as the most deserving umpires for this event following their recent form in bilateral and other cricket, are some of the very best from around the world."

We are confident that they will do a great job at this event. I wish them the best of luck as they oversee the world's top women's cricketers in what will be an exciting tournament for all involved. —Agency

PAK vs ENG: Khurram Shahzad, Aamir Jamal declared fit ahead of England series



LAHORE: Fast bowler Khurram Shahzad has been declared fit and is available for selection ahead of Pakistan's upcoming Test series against England, media reported on Tuesday citing sources.

It is also reported that Aamir Jamal is being considered for selection after recovering from fitness issues.

Jamal has regained full fitness and recently participated in two matches of the Champions One Day Cup. Shahzad, however, was rested during the tournament with the England series in mind, and his medical reports have been cleared.

Jamal missed the series against Bangladesh due to an injury while playing county cricket. Shahzad also suffered an injury during the second Test against Bangladesh but he has since fully recovered.

The announcement of Pakistan's squad for the England series is expected in the coming days. The national team is set to report in Multan on October 2 to begin preparations for the series. England's team will also arrive in Pakistan on the same day.

Remember, PCB confirm the schedule last week. The second Test, which was originally planned at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi from October 15-19, will now be played at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The remaining two Tests will be played as originally planned, i.e. October 7-11 in Multan and October 24-28 in Rawalpindi.

The match has been shifted from Karachi to Multan as the National Bank Stadium is undergoing a major facelift for next year's ICC Champions Trophy 2025, which will also be played at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium and Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. —Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Usama Jawaid
Location: Karachi
About me: I'm the selfie king of Karachi

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

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Kate Winslet blames media for making life unpleasant during Titanic success



Kate Winslet is railing against media in a recent admission.

Winslet, 48, was speaking at an advance screening of her new movie *Lee* on Monday when she opened up about media intrusion back in 1997.

"I felt like I had to look a certain way or be a certain thing, and because media intrusion was so significant at that time, my life was quite unpleasant," Winslet said of her peak Titanic fame.

Winslet recalled how she had to sneak into a movie theater in NYC to see *Titanic* for the first time with two friends after missing the premiere.

"When it premiered in London, I was really unwell. I had terrible food poisoning and I was actually in hospital in London, really weird. And then when it came out in the US actually I was at the funeral of a boyfriend," the British actress explained.

"I mean, it's a horrible thing to even think about now. And obviously I wasn't gonna miss that, so I sort of missed everything around the release of *Titanic*, which I don't know, is that the universe's way of protecting me or just reminding me to do the things that matter?"

She also described as "quite strange" being in a "packed theater" watching the film like that.

Winslet's recent *Titanic* comments come after she confessed to Porter in February about the discomfort she felt about her fame after the release of the 1997 hit Oscar-winning film.

Jennifer Lopez holding Ben Affleck hostage with major legal move



Jennifer Lopez has reportedly been holding Ben Affleck at her mercy because of their divorce battle, so much so that feelings of being 'trapped' are also starting to circulate.

News about all of this has been brought forward by an inside source that is close to the couple.

This insider dished over everything during their interview with *OK* magazine.

There it was revealed that all these feelings of helplessness are because of a lack of a prenup.

It's been making the star feel 'trapped' following the divorce, because of the need to maintain civility during these proceedings.

In the eyes of the outlet, "Because there's no prenup, the divorce, and how smoothly it goes, is going to depend on them playing nice."

"Which means Ben's got no choice but to try and be as civilized with J. Lo as possible," according to the source.

For those unversed, this isn't the first time this fear was made public because according to a separate insider, Affleck feels he can't even "have fun" because "he can't risk p***** J. Lo off."

Considering Affleck's issues with "how controlling she was," the source

claims, "you can just imagine how upsetting it is for him that she's essentially still controlling him."

Especially when "He's got so many hot women blowing up his phone but he's gun shy because he can't risk upsetting J. Lo."

It is pertinent to mention that the couple's divorce documents cite 'irreconcilable differences' as the reason for their separation.

NATIONAL



Social Media Influencer Arrested For Using Fake Number Plate In Lahore

LAHORE: Lahore police arrested a TikToker for affixing a fake number plate on his vehicle and registered a case against him, media reported on Tuesday.

A case has been registered against the accused at Defense Police Station based on a complaint by ASI Khalid Mehmood.



The TikToker Nadeem Mubarak, known as Nadeem Nani Wala had placed a fake number plate, "IK 804," on his vehicle, which is a violation of the law.

The police emphasized that using fake number

plates is not only illegal but also poses serious risks.

Such actions can lead to legal consequences, including fines or arrest, and can facilitate illegal activities, adding to societal instability.

Authorities urge citizens to follow the proper procedures for vehicle registration and number plates by contacting the relevant authorities to avoid legal trouble and ensure compliance with the law.—RT/Agency

Woman Takes Extreme Measures Over High Energy Bills

DASKA: A 50-year-old widow ended her life by consuming poisonous pill after receiving hefty energy bills in Daska, a city in Punjab, media reported.

According to details, the woman named Razia received 25,000 rupees utility bills (16,000 for gas and 9,000 for electricity) that exacerbated the family's financial struggles.

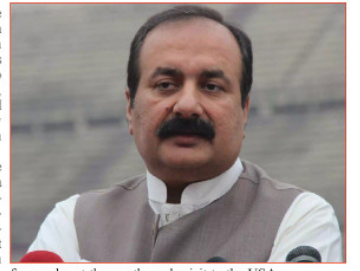
Razia was falling more into poverty as her three sons were unable to find job. Razia lost it and ended her own life when the utility company came to disconnect

power since she hadn't paid the high energy bill. Razia ran a small grain-roasting business to support her family.

Earlier in a similar incident in Faisalabad, a man burdened by hefty electricity and gas bills reportedly took his own life by jumping in front of a train. The utility bills of the deceased, identified as Fida Hussain, amounted to Rs28,300. Fida Hussain, who lived in the Roda Tali area, had received an electricity bill of Rs. 24,800 and was charged Rs. 3,500 for gas.—RT/Agency

Balochistan's Rising Star Shah Zeb Hailed As National Hero: Rana Mashood

QUETTA: Chairman, Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashood said on Tuesday that Balochistan's rising star athlete Shah Zeb Rind is our national hero, with his victory in World Karate Champion, every Pakistani feels pride with this triumph.



He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) in connection with acknowledging the national heroes.

While lauding the victory of Shah Zeb Rind, he said youth of Balochistan are so talented to represent Pakistan globally.

Shah Zeb is 'Pakistan's hero as his tireless efforts brought title of World Karate Champion to Pakistan.

The youth of Balochistan has immense talent, if they get a chance, they can represent Pakistan in the world.

"I visited Balochistan be-

fore and met the youth, and

I was impressed by these youths, he said lauding the girl who made the logo of the National Volunteer Corps belongs to Quetta's Sariab Road, which is yet another big achievement for the province.

Just like Arshad Nadeem, Balochistan's rising star Shah Zeb Rind would be invited to Prime Minister House as soon as the Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif returns to Pakistan from his official

visit to the USA.

Chairman Youth Program noted that 3 Danish schools are being opened in Balochistan to promote education. Earlier, Shah Zeb Rind while addressing the event said that the world title is an honour not only for Pakistan but for Balochistan as he started his career from a small club. He said that he was lucky that he played in such a big league in America. It was my dream that I could open the way for the youth.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND

Mehar's civil society protests against deteriorating law and order situation

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: The residents of village Ghari, led by Parvez Junjo, Ashiq Bhutto, Babar Bhutto, Mir Muhammad Junjo, Faizan Junjo and others, protested on Ghari Link Road against a recent robbery incident. They raised strong slogans against Mehar B-Section police, stating that

five unidentified armed robbers had threatened local milk vendors and villagers the previous night, stealing two motorcycles, mobile phones, and 30,000 rupees before fleeing.

Despite filing a report at the Mehar B-Section police station, the police had not arrested the culprits. Protesters expressed that such robbers

had become a daily occurrence on their village road, leaving them feeling unsafe due to the absence of police patrols. They demanded that the IG Sindh and SSP Dadu ensure the arrest of those involved in the robbery, the return of stolen items, and the establishment of a police post on their village road for their safety.

Demo staged for increase in laborers' daily wages

By Aijaz Johkio

DAULATPUR: In Daulatpur and surrounding areas, workers protested for the rise in daily labor wages at the Daulatpur Press Club. According to reports, the brick kiln mafia has doubled the prices of bricks, while daily laborers are still receiving low wages.

Laborers and members of the Jeay Sindh Qaumi

Mahaz (JSQM) organized a rally starting from the Katpara petrol pump and demonstrating in front of the Daulatpur Press Club. During the protest, leaders Nazir Dahri, Anwar Ali Otho, Ghulam Yasin Johkio, and Mithal Otho spoke to reporters, stating that kiln owners are making 42,000 rupees per truckload, yet laborers are paid only 500 rupees per day.

They expressed that rising costs of daily necessities are making life increasingly difficult for them, while their wages remain stagnant. Protesters demanded that the Deputy Commissioner of Shaheed Benazirabad and the Assistant Commissioner of Qazi Ahmed take legal action against kiln owners to lower the prices of bricks and increase the daily wages for laborers.

22 LPG shops sealed in Hyderabad

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Following the directives of the Sindh government and the orders of Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zainul Abidin Memon, a total of 22 illegal LPG shops across all four talukas of Hyderabad have been sealed.

The materials from these shops have also been confiscated, and heavy fines have

been imposed on the shopkeepers for violating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Deputy Commissioner/Controller of Civil Defence.

In detail, the Assistant Commissioner Babar Saleh Rahupoto and Mukhtiar Ali Jawad Ahmed Patoli sealed 5 LPG shops in Taluka City. In

Taluka Qasimabad, Assistant Commissioner Hatif Sial and Assistant Mukhtiar

Aftab Magasi sealed 10 LPG shops until further notice. Similarly, in Taluka Lati-fabad, Assistant Commissioner Saud Ahmed Lund and Assistant Mukhtiar Asad Junejo sealed 4 LPG shops, while in Taluka Rural, Mukhtiar Imran Khokhar sealed 3 LPG shops.

The aim of this action is to prevent further incidents and ensure public safety.

Nine injured in Lashari community clash

TALHAR: A clash erupted between two groups of the Lashari community in the village of Tharo Lashari, located in the Tando Ghulam Hyder area, over a land dispute. The incident resulted in injuries to nine individuals,

including both men and women, due to blows from sticks and hatchets. The injured include Rozeena Lashari, Azmat, Rashidani, Umecid Ali, Sadruddin, Asadullah, and Muhammad Rahim, among others. The

injured were immediately transferred to the Taluka Hospital in Tando Ghulam Hyder, and from there, they were referred to the Civil Hospital in Hyderabad. As of now, no report of the clash has been filed.—RT

Qatar Charity distributes sewing machines amongst Sanghar women

By Mumtaz Thahim

TANDO ADAM: Qatar Charity organization provided sewing machines to underprivileged widows and wheelchairs to disabled individuals in Sanghar district on

Tuesday. At the event, Deputy Commissioner Imran-ul-Hasan Khanwaja and Qatar Charity's Manager Ashraf Mughal highlighted the collaborative efforts of the government and social organizations to uplift

marginalized communities. They emphasized that this initiative is a significant step toward improving the lives of the needy. Disabled individuals also shared their happiness and appreciation for the assistance provided.

25-year-old youth electrocuted in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A 25-year-old youth named AD Lonai was electrocuted by a high tension electric wire on Shah Burhan Road on Tues-

day. He was rushed to the local area hospital where the doctors confirmed his death. The body of the deceased was handed over to his heirs after completing the necessary medico legal for-

malities. The heirs of the deceased recorded a protest demonstration against the HESCO authorities and demanded registration of a case of the death of the youth.

Legislation Banning Protests Without Permission Challenged In IHC



ISLAMABAD: The legislation banning peaceful assemblies without permission in Islamabad has been challenged in the Islamabad High Court.

Chief Justice Amir Farooq heard the case, while Advocate Iman Mazari represented the petitioner.

During the hearing, Iman Mazari argued that peaceful protests were a fundamental right of every citizen and should not be prohibited.

The Chief Justice remarked that assemblies were subject to permission and designated locations, highlighting that in Europe, the UK, and worldwide, gatherings typically require authorisation.

Mazari pointed out that

violators were to face a three-year imprisonment according to the legislation, to which the Chief Justice stated that such a penalty contradicted fundamental rights.

The court subsequently issued notices to the federal government and the Secretary of Law and has acquired a response. The court while summoning the Attorney General for judicial assistance, adjourned the hearing for two weeks. It is noteworthy that on September 5, the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill 2024 was passed by a majority vote in the Senate amidst strong protest from the opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.—RT/Agency

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah Urges Dialogue To Fortify Institutions



ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the Supreme Court has emphasised the importance of dialogue in strengthening institutions, urging district and sessions judges to promote a culture of communication, sharing, and care.

Speaking at a two-day workshop, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah reiterated that mediation is crucial for resolving disputes. He said that without mediation, the judiciary could not effectively handle the backlog of 2.4 million cases.

"Pakistan is a litigation-heavy society, with the number of pending cases growing every day. Only 4,000 judges are available to handle these cases," he added.

Addressing the workshop participants, Islamabad High Court Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani stressed the significance of communication, cautioning judges against crossing the red line to avoid being perceived as biased.

At the conclusion, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah distributed certificates among the participants.—RT/Agency

PTI Requests Green Light for Oct 5 Minar-e-Pakistan Rally



LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday submitted another application to the Lahore administration to hold a gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan on Oct 5.

The party has submitted the request at the city's district commissioner office.

It merits mention that the event, if allowed, is to celebrate the birthday of PTI founder Imran Khan, and the party has requested the rally to be held from 5pm to 10pm.

It emerged that the PTI has assured that all participants will strictly adhere to legal protocols.—RT/Agency

Sanaullah Predicts Major Breakthrough On Constitutional Package Soon

LAHORE: Prime Minister's Adviser on Political and Public Affairs and PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday hinted at evolving "minimum consensus" among political parties on controversial judiciary-centric constitutional amendments that also included proposal to establish constitutional court.

Sanaullah signalled a possible breakthrough in the coming days on the constitutional package as alongside the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the opposition party — Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) were separately preparing the draft of the constitutional amendments.

The government pushed the proposed constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, who is set to retire in October this year, following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) request last



month for the early issuance of a notification regarding the appointment of the next top judge.

Speaking on private tv programme, the PM's aide responded to the query regarding the progress on the proposed constitutional amendment that could not be tabled in parliament as the government lacked two-thirds majority in both houses to pass the judiciary-centric legislation.

The ruling PML-N leader said that the consultation process with other political parties on the judicial package has not stalled as the Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari-led

PPP and Maulana Fazlur Rehman-led JUI-F were working on their draft amendments.

He added that the drafts could be discussed in the forthcoming consultative sessions after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's return from the United States where he would address the United Nations General Assembly's session.

He was of the view that the government would table the constitutional package after developing a "minimum consensus", including the legislation related to the establishment of a constitutional court.—RT/Agency

US Ambassador Pushes Clean Energy, Climate Action In Lahore Visit

LAHORE: US Ambassador Donald Blome, along with Consul General Kristin Hawkins, highlighted the American government's commitment to the US-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework, aimed at tackling climate change, food security, and energy challenges during his visit to Lahore.

Ambassador Blome toured Zyp Technologies and emphasized, "Tackling global challenges, like climate change, demands creativity, strong partnerships, and diverse perspectives."

The United States has financially supported Zyp Technologies in its efforts to actively cut carbon emissions and fight air pollution by offering eco-friendly transportation solutions. The company's innovative elec-



tric motorcycles are revolutionizing Pakistan's transportation sector, driving it towards a more sustainable and innovative future.

While in Lahore, Ambassador Blome also visited AgriLift AI Private Limited, which has received US government support to attract investment to fund operations and research. AgriLift AI Private Lim-

ited precision farming technology exemplifies how innovative solutions can revolutionize agriculture.

"This program is just one example of the US government's support in advancing agri-tech, improving crop yields, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Pakistan," noted Ambassador Blome.—RT/Agency

Punjab Governor-CM Clash Intensifies Over VCs' Appointments

LAHORE: Tensions escalated between Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and the provincial government over the issue of appointing vice-chancellors (VCs) of the universities in Punjab.

Sources revealed that Governor Haider rejected all 13 summaries forwarded for the appointment of VCs, citing reasons for each rejection in a detailed response to the provincial government. This move follows the provincial government's recent appoint-

ment of VCs at seven universities. The Punjab government justified that the mandatory 14-day review period was over.

Governor House sources asserted that while the provincial government can propose three candidates for each vice-chancellor position, the final appointment authority lies with the governor, who is also chancellor of the varsities. They also pointed out that the 14-day period for six universities' summaries had not yet expired. The gov-

ernor's office highlighted that no appointments would be made beyond merit. On the other hand, sources in the Chief Minister's office argued that the governor's role is merely ceremonial. The appointments made were legal.

The discord comes just a day after the provincial government appointed vice-chancellors for prominent institutions, including Punjab University, University of Gujrat, and Bahauddin Zakariya University and some others.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI



Sindh Govt Has Allocated Rs 434m For Restoration Of Islamkot RO Plant: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government and Public Health Engineering, Saeed Ghani, announced that the provincial government has earmarked Rs 434 million for the restoration of the reverse osmosis (RO) water filtration plant in Islamkot. This allocation, he clarified, is not for any new development project.



Ghani made the statement while responding to questions during the Sindh Assembly's session on Tuesday. He informed lawmakers that Islamkot's RO plant, a major facility of filtering 1.5 million gallons of water daily, has been non-functional due to technical difficulties. He explained that Engro Corporation had initially requested Rs 1.4 billion for the plant's revival, and while the provincial cabinet approval, an additional Rs 600 million needed to operate the plant over four years was not provided.

The minister also shared that a committee was formed during the former caretaker Sindh chief minister's visit to Islamkot

to assess the plant's restoration costs. The committee's report concluded that Rs 434 million would be sufficient for the plant's revival. Ghani assured the assembly that his department, along with the committee of engineers, had received a written commitment to restore the plant for this amount, with qualified staff to operate it without interference.

In response to another question, Ghani stated that the Public Health Engineering Department had recruited 109 individuals, with 86 percent of the jobs allocated to children of deceased employees and the remaining 14 percent to special persons, in compliance with court orders. Additionally, he clarified that the areas served by the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation and the Water and Sanitation Agency in Hyderabad do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Public Health Engineering Department. He further mentioned that the department's role in urban Sindh will decrease with the establishment of water and sanitation agencies in Sukkur, Nawabshah, and Mirpurkhas. Ghani also confirmed that the department has no involvement in the K-IV bulk water supply project for Karachi.—RT



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Deputy Consul General of Saudi Arabia, Abdul Rahman, cut a cake in celebration of Saudi Arabia's National Day.—RT

Sindh CM Praises Progress On Safe City Project

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed satisfaction with the progress made on the Karachi Safe City Project, describing it as a significant step toward improving the city's security through advanced surveillance and rapid response systems.



"I have significantly accelerated the long-delayed Safe City Project. Phase-I, and it has now reached several important milestones aimed at enhancing public safety in Karachi," CM Shah stated during a meeting held at CM House on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, and other officials.

The Inspector General of Police briefed the Chief Minister on the project's developments, revealing that 1,300 cameras are set to be installed across various locations in the city. Surveys of 300 pole sites and 18 Points of Presence (POP) have been completed, along with the necessary Right-of-Way (RoW) approvals. Foundation work at 200 pole sites

has also been completed, and 50 poles have already been installed, with work continuing on the remaining sites. The CM was further informed that equipment, including Control Room and Data Center components as well as a Video Wall, has been installed at the Central Police Office (CPO), enabling live monitoring through 35 cameras across seven locations. All necessary shipments of equipment from suppliers, including Hikvision, Huawei, Vertiv, and others, have been received and safely stored.

Additionally, five Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) have been procured and branded, while the allocation of 18 POP sites within police stations has been completed, with renovation and groundwork underway.

Karachi Is Home To All Communities, Says Aimal Wali



KARACHI: Awami National Party (ANP) President and Senator Aimal Wali Khan has said Karachi holds central importance for Pakistan for both economically and culturally. Speaking to the media in the city, he said all communities in Karachi had equal rights. He criticized attempts

Larkana Industrial Zone Designated As Special Economic Zone: Jam Ikram



KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, announced that the Larkana Industrial Zone has officially been granted the status of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to foster the economic development of Larkana and its surrounding areas.

The industrial zone project, initiated in 2017 and completed in 2021 at a cost of over Rs 1.36 billion, spans 500 acres and includes 9,000 one-acre industrial plots and 1,000-acre commercial plots.

Speaking at an agreement ceremony between the Government of Sindh's SITE, the Special Economic Zone Authority, and the Government of Pakistan, Dharejo highlighted the significant opportunities this designation will provide for local entrepreneurs and industrialists. The Larkana Industrial Zone, now recognized as an SEZ, was fully handed over to the Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA) following the completion of infrastructure development.

Dharejo emphasized that the SEZ is equipped with all basic facilities, offering a prime opportunity for both local and national entrepreneurs to expand their businesses and launch new industries. He reiterated that Pakistan People's Party Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, envisions industrial development in every district of Sindh, as true national progress is impossible without industrial growth. MD SITE Ghazanfar Ali Qadri was also present at the ceremony.—RT

Future Generations Must Learn About The Sacrifices And Struggles Of MRD Martyrs: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, emphasized the need for future generations to understand the sacrifices made by the martyrs of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), launched in 1983 to end military dictatorship in Pakistan.



Ghani made these remarks during the Sindh Assembly session on Tuesday, while supporting a resolution presented by PPP lawmaker Ghulam Qadir Chandio to honor the MRD martyrs of Sindh. He expressed concern that the youth engaged in today's political processes are often unaware of the significance of the MRD movement.

He highlighted that while MRD was a nationwide movement, it held particular significance in Sindh and remains a crucial part of Pakistan's political history. He noted that the MRD stood out as one of the era's peaceful movements in South Asia, with peace-loving political activists and ordinary citizens taking part to challenge an autocratic regime.

He stressed that it is vital for Pakistani youth to be aware of the struggles and the ultimate sacrifices made by the MRD martyrs.—RT

He called for the inclusion of MRD-related content in school curricula, so future generations can learn about the sacrifices of political activists in restoring democracy. He stressed that it is vital for Pakistani youth to be aware of the struggles and the ultimate sacrifices made by the MRD martyrs.—RT

SHC To Announce Ruling On Petition Challenging SC Practice And Procedure Act



KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has reserved its verdict on a petition challenging the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Act. A two-member bench headed by Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed heard the case on Tuesday.

Advocate Ibrahim Saifuddin, representing the petitioner, argued that the president signed the amendment ordinance on September 20, but it was not presented in the National Assembly.

Gadap Town Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch reviews ongoing development works



KARACHI: Chairman of the Town Municipal Corporation Gadap Town, Tariq Aziz Baloch, along with Municipal Commissioner Ahmad Yar, held a meeting at the Gadap Town office with council members and officials. During the meeting, all council members provided updates on ongoing development projects in their respective union councils.

Chairman Tariq Aziz Baloch stated that development projects are being implemented across all union councils, taking into account the public's issues. He mentioned that Gadap Town is utilizing its resources for development projects in all union councils. An assessment of all schemes is underway to resolve any issues before their completion.

He emphasized that while there may be delays in development work, there will be no compromise on quality. New projects will be initiated soon, based on the council members' demands and public needs.

The meeting was attended by members including Muhammad Rafiq Jokhio, Murtaza Yar Muhammad Baloch, Abdul Sattar Jokhio, Saleem Memon, Ali Muhammad Gadap, Dad Karim Baloch, Danish Barfat, Isa Baloch, Sunni Masih, Lady Member Seema Jokhio, Superintendent Engineer Farman Ali Lashari, Superintendent Engineer (M&E) Noor Ali Jamali, AEE (M&E) Waseem Arain, Director Information Rizwan Saber, Deputy Director Advertisement Ghulam Hussain Sheikh, and PS Chairman Lal Jan Nabi.

Fatal Karachi Van-Truck Collision Leaves One Dead, Several Injured

Karachi: One person was killed and scores of others were wounded when a van collided with a truck head-on due to over-speeding, killing a man on the spot and injuring several others.

Motorway M9 near DHA City Gate where a van collided with a truck head-on due to over-speeding, killing a man on the spot and injuring several others. Police and rescue teams reached the spot after the accident and shifted the dead and injured to Hospital. The deceased was identified as Mubarak Ali. Rescue sources informed that most of the injured were in critical condition.—RT/Agency

SHC Criticizes PTA Lawyer Over Remarks On Lifting X Ban

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) reprimanded Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) lawyer during a hearing of a plea against the ban on social media platform X.

SHC Criticizes PTA Lawyer Over Remarks On Lifting X Ban

At the outset of the hearing, Chief Justice of Sindh High Court posed a critical question to the PTA's lawyer: "Who instructed you to make a statement about lifting the ban on Twitter?"

The PTA lawyer responded by stating that an affidavit had been submitted in court. However, the Chief Justice further inquired, "Who gave the directive to withdraw the notification regarding X's ban?" The lawyer for the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) explained that the instructions were issued due to a misunderstanding. The SHC, visibly surprised, questioned, "What was the misunderstanding?" After hearing Moiz Jafri's arguments, the notification was suddenly withdrawn.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: President of Pakistan Business Forum - Karachi Chapter, Malik Khuda Bakhsh, is seen in a group photo with Arshad Feroq, Mehmood Yaqoob, Bina Amin, Ejaz Alam, and Rubina Rasheed following a meeting.—RT



KARACHI: PPP MPA Muhammad Sajid Jokhio along with other party leaders is celebrating the birthday of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Buledi House in Medina.—Photo by Asif Qureshi



VIRGINIA: Aftab Memon, Vice President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) USA, hosted a lovely celebratory event at his residence for the birthday of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. PPP leaders Atif Shah, Faraz Shah, Safulah Soomro, Makhdoom Asad, and others are seen in a group photo at the occasion.— Photo by Zia Qureshi.

If music be the food of love,
play on.

—William Shakespeare

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 (0300-2714034). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990).

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25 2024

Finance Minister Confident Of Securing \$7bn IMF Deal Today

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, voiced confidence on Tuesday that the International Monetary Fund's board will greenlight a \$7 billion, 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF), at its meeting tomorrow (Wednesday).



"Pakistan successfully concluded a 9-month SBA (Stand-by Arrangement) with IMF and we have its board meeting tomorrow (Wednesday) here in the US. We are very hopeful the board would approve the 37-month 7 billion Dollars programme," he said speaking at "High Level Private Sector Dialogue - CPEC-II and the Region" virtually through Zoom.

The event was organised by the Pakistan Regional Economic Forum. Pakistan and the IMF reached an agreement on a loan programme in July. The IMF said the programme was subject to approval from its executive board and obtaining "timely confirmation of necessary financing assurances from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners."

The finance czar said Pakistan was committed to structural reforms under the programme, and it needed to pursue the reform agenda, whether in taxation, the energy sector, state-owned enterprises, or privatisation. "We will stay on course," he resolved.

Earlier this month, finance minister vowed to persevere with plans for new taxes on the retail sector despite strike threats, as a step towards winning approval from the board of the IMF for a \$7-billion loan.

"One thing I want to be very clear (about) ... This is not going to be taken back," Aurangzeb said in a televised speech urging wholesalers,

He said the currency and foreign exchange reserves were stable, with two months of import cover, while inflation had decelerated, leading to a reduction in policy rates and eventually KIBOR, to the benefit of the industry.

Aurangzeb said the government had recently rejected Treasury Bills (T-bills) and Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs), saying the decision aimed to convey a clear message that the government was no longer desperate to borrow domestically.

"If required, the government will borrow domestically on its own terms, signalling the banking sector to lend to the private sector," he said.

However, he said investment inflows in terms of debt and equity were welcome, as they would bring foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country.

Attaching great importance to macroeconomic stability, the finance minister said a foundation had been laid to promote economic stability.

"The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Phase II is

No Final Decision Yet On Imran Khan's Military Trial, AAG Informs IHC

ISLAMABAD: On the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) seeking clarification from the government over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's possible military trial, Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Duggal on Tuesday apprised the court that no decision had so far been taken in this regard.



Hearing the former prime minister's plea, the high court on September 16 ordered the Ministry of Defence to give a clear stance about his military court trial on the next hearing on September 24 (today), upon which the ministry had sought time.

The PTI founder had petitioned against the military trials in the May 9 case that witnessed military installations being vandalised following his arrest in a graft case in 2023.

Khan's petition had come in the wake of statements by government high-ups including Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Law Minister Azam Naezer Tarar that fuelled rumours of his military trial, over his alleged involvement in the May 9 riots.

It is pertinent to know that in July 2023, an anti-terrorism court in Lahore — in a four-page written verdict — had said that reasonable grounds existed to connect

the PTI founder with the May 9 incidents.

Meanwhile, the additional attorney general said if any decision about Khan's military trial was taken then legal procedure would be adopted for it.

"If a decision about military trial is taken, the plea will be submitted to the civil magistrate first," he said.

At this, IHC Justice Misgungul Hassan Aurangzeb disposed of the PTI founder's petition.

Apart from the AAG, a representative of the Ministry of Defence was also present during the hearing.

It is to be noted that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led government had initiated military trials of those involved in targeting state and military installations in 2023's riots.

The matter ended up in the Supreme Court which declared civilians' trials in military courts null and void in its October 23, 2023, verdict which was later suspended by the apex court in a 5:1 majority ruling in December.

Durable World Peace Hinges On Resolving Palestine And Kashmir Disputes, Says Tarar

NEW YORK: Federal Broadcast for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attallah Tarar said on Tuesday that durable peace in the world was not possible without permanent resolution of Palestine and Kashmir issues.

Talking to media outside the United Nations General Assembly, he said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had raised both issues at all international fora.

He said on Palestine issue, the PM had stated that war crimes were being committed in the area, genocide of armless



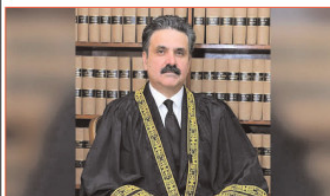
Palestinians was being committed and the world should take notice and bring the perpetrator Israel to justice.

He said the Prime Minister had also made clear that Pakistan wanted restoration of pre-1967 borders in which Jerusalem should be the capital of Palestine.

We want immediate ceasefire in Gaza and accountability of the aggressor Israel for war crimes and genocide being committed in Palestine," he remarked.

Tarar said that Pakistan had dispatched humanitarian aid through ships and C130s. Moreover Pakistan had offered to give admission to Palestinian medical students

Justice Yahya Directs ECP to Reassess Reserved Seats Notification



ISLAMABAD: As the reserved seats saga continues to grip the country's political landscape, Supreme Court's Justice Yahya Afridi's separate note has been issued by the apex court with the pensive judge directing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to revisit its notification of returned candidates on the reserved seats.

A returned candidate, who declared himself to represent a political party, duly submitted a certificate of nomination and didn't withdraw the declaration via any written intimation, has to be declared a returned candidate representing the said political party and not otherwise, reads Justice Yahya's note originally dated August 13, 2024.

The development comes a day after the top court issued the detailed judgment of its July 12 short order which had declared the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) eligible for reserved seats.

Supreme Court Reserves Verdict On ECP's Appeal Against LHC's Election Tribunals

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved the verdict on the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) appeal against the Lahore High Court's order appointing eight election tribunals in Punjab to address election disputes after the February 8 general polls.

The development comes as the country's top electoral authority's plea was heard by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa-led five-member bench comprising Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghani and Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbas.

The matter involves the authority to constitute election tribunals which have been a point of contention between the LHC and the ECP for months.

The issue arose first when the ECP, on February 14, sought a panel of serving judges from the LHC for election tribunals.

The then LHC chief justice nominated two judges on February 20 which was followed by the nomination of another six judges by the CJ on April 14.

Out of these six nominated judges, two were not-



ified by the ECP on April 26. However, the electoral body then additional names for the appointment to Rawalpindi and Bahawalpur election tribunals.

This, however, was denied by the LHC chief justice with the high court's registrar calling on the electoral body to notify the election tribunals consisting of the judges nominated by the CJ.

On May 29, Justice Shahid Karim ordered the electoral body to appoint six more judges, nominated by the LHC chief justice, as election tribunals for hearing election petitions regarding the general elections and said that the notification was deemed to have been issued in case of the ECP's failure to comply by the court's orders.

The electoral body, while refusing to accede to the high court's registrar's demand, said that if it went through with notifying the election tribunals it would mean that they were in fact solely appointed by the LHC CJ and not as a result of consultations between the ECP and the chief justice — which essentially would be a violation of Section 140(3) of the Elections Act.

The then LHC Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad then constituted eight election tribunals for hearing cases related to the February 8 polls — a move which was then challenged by the ECP in the apex court. The dispute owes its origins to the amendments made to the Election Act 2017 regarding which judges could be part of election tribunals. —RT/Agency

£190m Reference: Court Issues 'Final Warning' To PTI Lawyers For Cross-Examination

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court in Rawalpindi on Tuesday gave lawyers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, a "last chance" to cross-examine the sole remaining witness in the £190 million settlement case. The court expressed discontent over the defendant's counsels once again seeking to postpone the hearing without cross-examining the witness.



Accented court judge Nasir Javed Rana heard the case at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi against the couple that is accused of causing billions of rupees loss to the national exchequer through embezzlement. The lawyers apprised the court that Bushra's counsel Usman Gul could not show up as he was unwell. Hence, he said, cross-examination could not be held from the investigation officer (IO), the last witness in the reference. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) prosecutor opposed the request for adjourning the hearing, saying 12 letters of attorney had been submitted by the suspects' lawyers. Therefore, he was of the view that other senior lawyers present in the

court could cross-examine the witness. The accountability watchdog prosecutor said the last witness of the 190 million pound reference had been appearing for the previous 23 hearings, but he was not being cross-examined. "Barrister Ali Zafar and Intazar Panjutha are present in the court. They should cross-examine the witness," the NAB official said.

He also said the Islamabad High Court (IHC) stopped the trial court from announcing a verdict, but not from carrying a trial. Giving the last chance to cross-examine the witness, the court has adjourned the hearing till Wednesday (tomorrow) IHC on September 18 stopped the accountability court from issuing a final verdict in the £190 million settlement case against incarcerated

IPP Owners Pressured To Renegotiate Power Agreements Or Face Consequences

ISLAMABAD: Task Force on Independent Power Producers (IPPs) has completed its work, media reported on Tuesday, citing well-informed sources.

According to details, owners of four independent power producers (IPPs) set up under the 1994 policy and another, established under the 2002 policy, have been warned of consequences if they don't terminate the power purchase agreements (PPAs) voluntarily, the sources said.

The task force has asked the owners of the IPPs to end capacity charges payment and charge against the power supplied to the government only.

The Independent Power Producer owners have also been warned of forensic audit if they continue to go with the present PPAs, the sources said.

Earlier on September 22, the government sources 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 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 Independent Power Producer also made over-invoicing in these contracts," official sources said. —RT/Agency

CJP Questions Salman Akram Raja: 'Do You Want Judges Of Your Choice?'

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) Tuesday reserved the verdict on the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) plea against the Lahore High Court's (LHC) order to form election tribunals in Punjab, media reported.

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa conducted the hearing today. The bench also comprises Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghani and Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbas.

In the previous hearing, on July 5, the bench had suspended the LHC's decision to establish eight election tribunals until further notice.

The top court also directed the chief election commissioner and the LHC chief justice to resolve the matter through meaningful consultation.

On May 29, LHC's Justice Shahid Karim ordered the ECP to notify additional



election tribunals for Punjab. Later on June 12, the LHC CJ formed eight election tribunals in line with the May 29 order. The ECP had challenged the order in the SC.

During the hearing today, Salman Akram Raja's lawyer Hamid Khan raised an objection and appealed the CJP to rescue himself from the case which was turned down the CJP Qazi Isa.

"If you want to withdraw from the case, then you can," the CJ replied to Hamid Khan and instructed him to remain seated.

Following this, Salman Akram Raja's lawyer Hamid Khan left the courtroom.