

The REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

Heartland

MNA Dr Nafisa Shah visits UC Mohabbat Wah



Money

-Zafar Moti is Happy!
PSE 100-index up by 764.27 points to close at 82,247.91



NATIONAL

Barrister Saif Calls Constitutional Amendments 'An Insult To Constitution And Democracy'



SPORTS

Pakistan squash duo shine at 2024 Charlottesville Open



Mayor Wahab: Efforts Underway To Expedite Water And Drainage Projects

Imran Expresses Full Support For Justice Mansoor Ali Shah As CJP

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) jailed founder Imran Khan has said his party is completely backing Supreme Court's Justice Mansoor Ali Shah to become the country's next top judge.

"The appointment of the next chief justice should be announced soon. [We] completely back Justice Mansoor Ali Shah," the former prime minister said while speaking to journalists informally in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Wednesday.



Khan, who was removed from power via a parliamentary vote in April 2022, said that the purpose of the constitutional court is to end the power of the Supreme Court's chief justice, adding that the "government is bent on destroying the judiciary."

"They want their own judges to cover the [2024] election fraud," the PTI founder insisted, stressing that the government "does not want the PTI to rise at any cost."

The ousted premier made these comments in light of the ongoing saga surrounding the constitutional package chalked out by the ruling coalition which allegedly provisions regarding extension in the retirement ages of the high court and supreme court judges.

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 PTT's

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

However, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), despite having the support of its allies such as the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and others, had postponed introducing the constitutional amendments in the parliament despite claiming to have secured the "magic number" earlier.

The deferment came after Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) refused to lend its support to the ruling coalition, short of 13 votes in the National Assembly (NA) and nine in the Senate as the said legislation, aimed at amending the Constitution, requires a two-thirds majority in both houses in the National Assembly, the ruling coalition needs 224 votes to pass the constitutional amendments, whereas in the Senate the number stands at 64. Currently, as per reports, treasury benches have 211 members against the opposition's 101 MNAs. Although JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has so far remained seemingly

unwilling to back the amendments, which he, in fact, has termed a bid to protect the coalition government, Adviser on Political and Public Affairs and PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah had hinted at evolving "minimum consensus" among political parties on controversial judiciary-centric constitutional amendments that also included the proposal to establish constitutional court — which PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has said would be introduced "come what may".

The PM's aide also 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 and opined that the government would table the constitutional package after developing a "minimum consensus".—RT/Agency

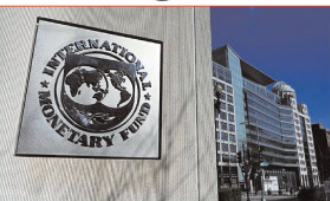
IMF Board Approves \$7 Billion Bailout Package For Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday approved a \$7 billion new bailout package after Pakistan promised to overhaul its agriculture income tax, transfer some fiscal responsibilities to provinces and had to take the most expensive loan in the nation's history.

The Executive Board of the IMF approved the 37-month Extended Fund Facility totaling \$7 billion. It also authorised to immediately release the first loan tranche of nearly \$1.1 billion. It is the 25th IMF programme that Pakistan has obtained since 1958 and 6th EFF.

The IMF board has approved the programme without addressing one of the root causes of taking these loans — the need for restructuring of the external and domestic debt that consumed 81% of Pakistan's tax revenues in the last fiscal year.

The new bailout package targets achieving the macroeconomic stability by consolidating public finances, rebuild foreign exchange reserves, reduce fiscal risks from state-owned enterprises, and improving the business



environment to encourage growth led by the private sector.

To qualify for the programme, the government imposed Rs1.4 trillion to Rs1.8 trillion in additional taxes, increased electricity prices up to 51% and committed to bring transparency in the affairs of the Sovereign Wealth Fund.

The government also took Pakistan's history's most expensive loan of \$600 million to win a board meeting date from the IMF.

Unlike in the past, when the provincial budgets were out of the purview of the IMF, the new programme is also expanded to the provincial budgets and their revenues. There are nearly one dozen IMF conditions that

directly impact the provinces under the new programme. The federal and four provincial governments would sign a new National Fiscal Pact by next Tuesday to transfer the responsibilities of health, education, social safety net and road infrastructure projects to the provincial governments.

All the four provincial governments would align their agriculture income tax rates to the federal personal and corporate income tax rates by amending their laws by October 30. As a result, the agriculture income tax rate would increase from 12-15% to up to 45% from January next year.

All the provincial governments would not give any further subsidies on electric-

ity and gas and these governments would not establish any new Special Economic Zones or Export Processing Zones.

The federal government would not be entitled to have any new such economic zone and would end the tax incentives of the existing zones by 2035.

According to another condition, Pakistan would show a primary budget surplus of 4.2% of the Gross Domestic Product during the three-year programme period. The primary budget surplus is calculated after excluding interest payments.

A 4.2% of the GDP deficit would significantly squeeze non-interest expenses and put an additional tax burden equal to 3% of the GDP on the existing taxpayers.

Under the IMF programme, a primary surplus equal to 1% of GDP will have to be shown in this fiscal year and about 3.2% over the next two years to put the debt-to-GDP ratio on a sustainable declining path.

In case of tax shortfall, the government has committed to bring a mini

budget that would result into increasing tax rates on imports, contractors, professional service providers and on fertilizer.

For this fiscal year, Pakistan will be bound to keep the spending on defence and subsidies at the previous fiscal year's level in terms of the size of the economy.

However, the design of the programme has not completely addressed the issue of debt sustainability and is built around the strategy of rolling over the maturing external debt during the programme period.

Pakistan has committed that it would not repay the \$12.7 billion debt to Saudi Arabia, China, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait during the programme period.

The Asian Development Bank warned on Wednesday that the rising political and institutional tensions may make it difficult to implement the reforms that Pakistan has committed to deliver to the IMF. It said that these reforms were crucial to make sure that the external lenders keep lending to Pakistan.—RT/Agency

PM Calls For Resolution Of Kashmir Dispute And Ceasefire In Gaza

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to use his good offices for the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and to ensure the right of self-determination of Kashmiris.

He was talking to Guterres on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's session in New York on Wednesday.

Briefing the UN chief on the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (ILOJK), the premier underscored Pakistan's serious concerns over PM Modi-led government's egregious actions in the occupied valley and stressed upon the need to resolve the dispute to ensure lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

PM Shehbaz also condemned Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinians and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. He urged the international community to hold Israel accountable.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the establishment



of a viable and sovereign State of Palestine.

The PM also underscored the need for stemming the rising tide of Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims worldwide. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to actively contribute towards international peace and security as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the year 2025-26.

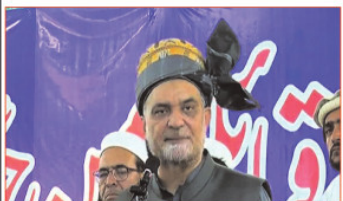
Besides, the prime minister welcomed the initiative by the UN secretary general to organise the "Summit of the Future", and expressed his hope that its outcome would help the developing countries in bridging the financial gap for the imple-

mentation of SDGs and climate goals.

Guterres thanked PM Shehbaz for Pakistan's active engagement at the United Nations as well as for its role towards international peace and security in the form of its UN's Peacekeeping Force.

Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Education Minister Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi accompanied the prime minister. Yunus warmly welcomed PM Shehbaz and members of his delegation at the ceremony held on Tuesday night on the sidelines of the UNGA session.—RT/Agency

Hafiz Naem Proposes Mediation For Pakistan-Afghanistan Talks



PESHAWAR: Jamaat-e-Islami emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman expressed his willingness to mediate between Pakistan and Afghanistan, underscoring the importance of dialogue over military action.

Speaking at the Tribal Peace Jirga in Peshawar, the JI head criticised the role of the United States in promoting terrorism in the tribal areas. He stressed that Afghan territory should not be used against Pakistan. He said that constitutional limits should guide governance in every institution to ensure

peaceful resolutions to tribal conflicts.

Rehman underscored the need for the government to prioritise education, healthcare, and employment opportunities in the tribal areas, warning that the nation cannot be controlled through force alone. He stressed the Pakistani government to engage in dialogue with the Afghan Taliban, stating that negotiations are the only practicable solution for both nations. Hafiz Naem further offered Hafiz's services in facilitating these negotiations.—RT/Agency

ECP Divided Over Implementation Of SC Ruling On Reserved Seats



ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) remains divided over the implementation of the Supreme Court (SC) order regarding reserved seats.

According to sources, two ECP members support the SC's decision, citing no alternative but compliance.

However, the chief election commissioner

and three other members favour a "wait and see" approach.

Despite holding its seventh meeting, the commission has yet to reach a final decision.

It has been suggested to delay action until the legal team's review petition is resolved. The matter will be discussed again in a meeting scheduled for Thursday.—RT/Agency

Trump Alleges 'Significant Threats' To His Life From Iran

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump said Wednesday there were "big threats" on his life posed by Iran after the Republican presidential candidate's campaign team said US intelligence warned him of "real and specific" threats from Tehran.

"Big threats on my life by Iran. The entire US Military is watching and waiting," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

"Anyone were already mad by Iran that didn't work out, but they will try again... I am surrounded by more men, guns, and weapons than I have ever seen before," he said, following increased scrutiny of the US Secret Service since two attempts on Trump's life this year.

Trump's campaign team said in a statement Tuesday that US intelligence had warned the former president from Iran to assassinate him. It was not immediately clear if the threats referred to by the campaign and Trump himself were new or threats that have previously been reported.

"President Trump was briefed earlier today by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence regarding



real and specific threats from Iran to assassinate him in an effort to destabilise and sow chaos in the United States," campaign communications director Steven Cheung said in the statement.

"Intelligence officials have identified that these continued and coordinated attacks have heightened in the past few months, and law enforcement officials across all agencies are working to ensure President Trump is protected and the election is free from interference," he added.

The campaign did not elaborate on the claims, which come as world leaders scramble to try to avert hostilities between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel escalating into a wider regional war. Iran has rejected accusations that it is trying to kill

Trump this summer, shortly after a gunman opened fire at a rally in Pennsylvania, killing one person and wounding the presidential candidate.

Days after the July 13 assassination attempt, US media reported that authorities had received intelligence on an alleged Iranian plot against the Republican, prompting his protection to be boosted. Iran rejected the "malicious" accusations.

"If they do 'assassinate President Trump,' which is always a possibility, I hope that America obliterates Iran, wipes it off the face of the Earth — If that does not happen, American Leaders will be considered 'gutless cowards!'" Trump said on his social media platform, Truth Social, at the time.—RT/Agency

Turkish President Commends Shehbaz's Economic Policies At UN General Assembly Meeting

NEW YORK: In an important diplomatic encounter on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his government's impressive economic performance.

Insiders who observed the meeting told media that President Erdogan specifically commended Prime Minister Shehbaz's administration for successfully improving Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators and bringing inflation down to single digit. The Turkish leader expressed optimism about Pakistan's continued economic progress under PM Shehbaz's leadership.

"Prime Minister Sharif's economic policies have played a crucial role in stabilising Pakistan's economy,"



President Erdogan remarked during their bilateral meeting. He further praised the prime minister for his commitment to economic reform and strong leadership under challenging financial circumstances. The two leaders engaged in discussions on various bilateral matters, agreeing to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, defence, and security domains. They also reviewed preparations for the upcoming 7th session of the Pak-

istan-Türkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) scheduled to be held in Islamabad Regional and global issues were on the agenda as well, with both leaders expressing concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza and calling for an immediate ceasefire. Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated Turkey's steadfast support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (ILOJK).—RT/Agency

IHC Questions Government On ISPR's 'Exclusive Right' To Define Defense Analysts

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court's Justice Babar Sattar has grilled the federal government on how the military's media wing was assuming the "exclusive right" to decide who qualifies as a defence analyst, it emerged on Wednesday. The development came to light on Tuesday when the IHC issued an order about a case that challenged Pemra's directives mandating retired officers to seek permission from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) before appearing on television. In April 2019, Pemra instructed all television channels to seek prior clearance from the ISPR before inviting retired military



officers on news and current affairs programmes "to solicit their views on matters of national security". The directives were challenged by the Ex-Servicemen Legal Forum in the IHC while the Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society sup-

ported them. The IHC order, a copy of which is available with media, said Assistant Attorney General Adeel Akhtar Raja had relied on the response filed by the defence ministry and ISPR during the hearing.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



DC Abrar Jaffar orders for quality road construction in Jacobabad

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Deputy Commissioner Jacobabad Abrar Jaffar, along with Assistant Engineer Bilal Jakhani, and Executive Engineer Nasir Ahmed Bhutto, paid a surprise visit to inspect the ongoing construction of the Shah Road from Mouladad Phatak to Jamali Bypass.

During the inspection, Deputy Commissioner Abrar Jaffar expressed his anger over the use of sub-standard materials in the road construction and the advance payments made to the contractor.

He criticized the contractor for using 8 to 10 inches of stones instead of the specified 2 to 3 inches, insisting that the engineer and contractor must ensure that the remaining work is completed within a month



according to the received funds. Failure to do so would result in legal action against them.

While addressing the situation, Deputy Commissioner Abrar Jaffar stated that the road work was pro-

gressing slowly and that inferior materials were being used. He has now mandated that proper materials be utilized and that the remaining work on the road be completed within one month.

Prof. Dr. Amir Azam Khan assumes charge as Vice Chancellor of KFUEIT



By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: Renowned academician Prof. Dr. Amir Azam Khan has officially taken charge as the Vice Chancellor of Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology (KFUEIT) Rahimyar Khan upon his arrival at the university. He was warmly welcomed by the acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shehzad Murtaza, accompanied by the university's Registrar, Dr. Muhammad Sagir. The university's security guards presented him with a formal salute.

Following his arrival, Prof. Dr. Amir Azam Khan met with the associate deans of various faculties in an introductory meeting, where he was given a detailed briefing about the university's operations.

During the meeting, he emphasized his commitment to continuing the advancement of higher education and the development of KFUEIT. He highlighted that all available resources would be fully utilized to align education and research at the university with highest standards.

Dr. Amir Azam Khan

also assured that every possible measure would be taken to provide the best educational facilities to the students, expressing confidence that the university will soon be recognized as one of the leading knowledge centers both nationally and internationally. Prof. Dr. Amir Azam Khan is a distinguished educationalist in Pakistan and previously served as the Principal of the School of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad.

Construction of primary school demanded in UC Paryal Buledi

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: In the village of Saeed Khan Chandi near Union Council Paryal Buledi, villagers and students protested to demand the reopening of a primary school that has been closed for five years. Led by local residents Abdul Ghafoor Chandio, Ghulam Nabi Chandio, Mubeen Chandio, and Ghulam Haider Chandio, the villagers called for repairs to the dilapidated school building and urged the start of education for the innocent children of the area.

During the protest, Mubeen Chandio and Ghulam Nabi Chandio expressed that the closure of the school has devastated their children's education, forcing



them to tend to livestock instead.

They mentioned that they have repeatedly submitted requests to education department officials to reopen the school, but no action has been taken. The villagers ap-

pealed to the Sindh Minister of Education, elected representatives, and education department officials to take action to revive the Saeed Khan Chandi primary school and protect the future of the innocent children in their villages.

Commissioner Faisal Ahmed Uqaili chairs meeting of Divisional Task Force

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Divisional Commissioner Faisal Ahmed Uqaili stated that the achievement of set targets during the anti-polio campaign is a result of working collaboratively.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the Divisional Task Force to review the performance of the anti-polio campaign at the commissioner office.

He emphasized that eradicating polio is linked to the

bright future of our children, urging that no negligence be tolerated in this regard.

He directed health department officials and the WHO area coordinator to conduct a detailed review of the micro plan developed for the success of the polio campaign to address any shortcomings.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner-I Dr. Ali Nawaz Bhoat, Additional Commissioner-II Sano Khan Chaudhry, Director PPHI Mazhar Waseer, Director Health Dr. Abdul Shakoor Jarwar, Dis-

trict Health Officer Dr. Jairam Das, District Focal Person for the Polio Program Dr. Narain Das, UNICEF Communication Officer Muneer Abro, WHO Area Coordinator Tahoor Hussain, Dr. Alam Azad, PPHI District Manager Ms. Sumaya Khan, along with Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan, Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar Abdul Haleem Jagirani, and Deputy Commissioner Umerkot Naved ur Rehman Larik, who participated via video link.

MNA Dr Nafisa Shah visits UC Mohabbat Wah



By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Pakistan Peoples Party's central leader and Member of National Assembly Dr. Nafisa Shah visited various areas of Union Council Mohabbat Wah and Union Council Bafu in her NA-202

constituency, Kotdiji Tehsil. During her visit, she expressed condolences to the political and social figures for the demise of their loved ones.

PPP Taluka Kotdiji officials and local leaders were also present on this occasion.

PPP's Imtiaz Manghar lauds services of party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari



By Shoukat Khakheli

THANA BULA KHAN: The Taluka Information Secretary of the PPP Thana Bula Khan, Imtiaz Manghar while addressing a press conference lauded the services of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari which he is rendering for the country and its development. He added that the PPP believes in freedom of media and it has rendered matchless services for democracy in Pakistan. He

expressed concern over the PTT's political approach and urged its leaders to work for the country. He further said that the President of PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuroo has also clarified about the stance of PPP about the new canals. He vowed that the PPP will protect the rights of Sindh and its people at any cost without compromising on the principles. On the occasion, Chetan Mal, Ramesh Lal and other party leaders were also present.

STP will continue raising its voice for people's rights: Nisar Keerio

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: The Vice Chairman of the STP, Nisar Ahmed Keerio paid a visit to Sakrand where he was warmly welcomed by the party leaders and workers. He paid a visit to the Sakrand Press Club also along with other party leaders. While talking to the media, Nisar Ahmed Keerio said that the STP is struggling for the rights of the people of Sindh under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Qadir Magi. He



praises Kalabagh Dam and other anti-Sindh projects. On the occasion, Syed Athar Ali Shah, Budhal Magi, Rafique Mallah, Saleem Magi, Shahnawaz Keerio, Hakim Umar, Gul Inqilabi, Gul Hassan Banglani, Comrade Mir Laghari and others were also present.

Birthdays of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW), Hazrat Imam Jaffar Sadiq celebrated in Tando Adam

By Dildar Ali Samo

TANDO ADAM: Allama Mashooq Ali Najafi addressed the celebration of the birth of Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) and Hazrat Imam Jaffar Sadiq (AS) at the central Imambarah Tando Adam. Addressing on the occasion, Allama Mashooq Ali Najafi stated that the noble character of the Holy Prophet (SAWW) embodies the highest qualities and perfection, serving as a role model for the Muslim community and all of humanity. He emphasized that while celebrating the birth of the Holy Prophet (SAWW), it is essential to keep his teachings in mind and to rectify the severe deterioration in every sector of life based on the light of the Holy Prophet's (SAWW) guidance.

Allama Ajaz Ali Inqilabi remarked that if we firmly



believe in one God, one Prophet (SAWW), one Quran, and one Kaaba, we should cultivate the habit of addressing differences in a scholarly, civilized, and respectful manner. Religious authorities have made it clear that respecting the sanctities of all sects is obligatory, and any form of disrespect is prohibited.

Liaquat Ali Jatoi vows to stand for truth and justice

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: GDA's central leader and former Chief Minister Liaquat Ali Jatoi, during emergency visits to the KN Shah and Radhan areas, addressed the media and corner meetings. He stated that he has been battling for the public's rights against the PPP for 16 years but remains undeterred. He expressed complete faith in God, believing that their downfall has begun and will be astonishing.

He mentioned that he has no personal ties with Imran Khan and is focused on his role in GDA. He emphasized that every individual has the democratic right to seek freedom and to succeed or fail based on public support. Jatoi recounted winning elections three times but claimed that each time, his results were manipulated through rigging



and tampering, leading to his defeat.

He asserted that those in power do not want leaders who advocate for the rights of the people, water, jobs, and overall betterment of their lives. Jatoi vowed to stand for truth and justice, stating that if he sought to please others, he would have already won. He reiterated his commitment to fighting for the people, stating that he would work tirelessly to remove them from power and bring about change. He also paid tribute to the friends who have stood by him throughout the years.

Professors of SUTA Sufi Group posted on all administrative posts including Directorate of campus security

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: In a move that has stirred considerable controversy, Sindh University Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro has appointed several teachers to administrative posts, contravening a Sindh High Court ruling. Since his appointment on January 21, 2021 as VC, he has replaced many officers with teachers, leaving the university's administrative staff unsettled and uncomfortable.

According to university regulations and the Sindh High Court's decision, these administrative positions should be filled by officers of the appropriate grades. The appointees are reportedly all members of the Sufi Group of the Sindh University

Teachers' Association, led by Dr. Irfana Mallah. With the new postings by the VC other group of teachers is being deprived of fair promotions and postings even as chairpersons and directors of academic departments. Senior professors including Dr. Muhammad Hassan Agham and Professor Ayaz Haider Mugheri have already written a joint letter to the Chancellor of Sindh Universities and the Chief Minister of Sindh against the injustices and disparities of incumbent Vice Chancellor, but no solid action has been taken yet.

The situation escalated when the Assistant Professor at the Department of Media & Communication Studies Dr. Abdul Razaque Chhachar wrote to the Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, demanding an investigation against Vice Chancellor Kalhoro as he deliberately bereaved him of the promotion. Another Assistant Professor at IBA SU & Sindh poetess Naveeda Katpar, who was also denied promotion as Associate Professor also complained to the Chief Minister and Chancellor of Sindh about being overlooked for promotion despite fulfilling all requirements. In response, the Chief Minister instructed the Universities and Boards Department to take action against the VC. This unfolding controversy continues to impact the university's administration and academic environment. The officers are decisive to launch a protest movement against the VC and his policies.

Regional Director Ombudsman Ali Akbar Jagirani to hold open katchery on Sept 26th

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Regional Director of the Ombudsman in Larkana, Ali Akbar Jagirani, has announced that an open katchery will be held on September 26, 2024, at 11 AM in the District Accounts Office, Larkana.

This session aims to address issues faced by government employees and the general public. Anyone with a complaint is encouraged to attend at the specified time and place so that their issues can be rectified.

NATIONAL



President Zardari Commits To Promoting Eco-Friendly Transportation System

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to promoting the development of a safe, sustainable, efficient and environment-friendly transportation system in the country.

The president, addressing the Global Sustainable Transport Forum-2024, through a video message, being held in Beijing from September 25-26, 2024, said that Pakistan would work closely with China to achieve the goals of sustainable development to usher in an era of peace and prosperity.

He emphasized that the world needed resilient infrastructure for efficient, environment-friendly and low-carbon transport solutions to fulfill the needs of the people.

He appreciated China's lead role in promoting and advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly recognizing the critical importance of the transport sector.

Highlighting the initiatives taken by the government, President Zardari apprised the Forum that



Pakistan had introduced pink buses specifically for women to provide a safe, comfortable and accessible mode of public transportation.

He underlined that rural accessibility to all-weather roads in Pakistan witnessed significant improvement reaching 92%. Improved rural accessibility could potentially contribute to promoting sustainable development as well as providing essential services to the rural population, he added.

The president apprised the participants that Pakistan was facing the challenges of sustainable maintenance of its infrastructure and the effects of climate change.

He highlighted that over the last five years, devastating floods, heavy rainfall and

Barrister Saif Calls Constitutional Amendments 'An Insult To Constitution and Democracy'

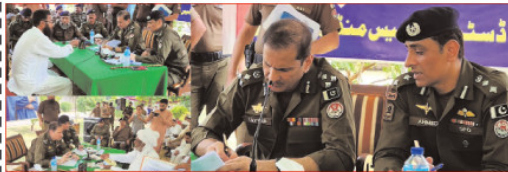
PESHAWAR: Adviser to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information Barister Mohammad Ali Saif on Wednesday lashed out at the prospective constitutional amendments, terming them as an "insult to the Constitution and democracy". "How can the current parliament introduce constitutional amendments? It is incomplete and unconstitutional and therefore lacks the authority to legislate" the CM's adviser questioned in a statement.

Barrister Saif's remarks come against the backdrop of the ongoing saga surrounding the constitutional package chalked out by the ruling coalition which allegedly provides extension in

the retirement ages of the high court and supreme court judges. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), despite having the support of its allies such as the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and others, had postponed introducing the constitutional amendments in the parliament despite claiming to have secured the "magic number" earlier. The deferment came after Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) refused to lend its support to the ruling coalition, short of 13 votes in the National Assembly (NA) and nine in the Senate as the said legislation, aimed at amending the Constitution, requires a two-thirds majority in both houses.—RT/Agency

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

RPO Tayab Hafeez Cheema Conducts Open Katchery In Mandi Bahauddin



By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The Regional Police Officer Tayab Hafeez Cheema visited Mandi Bahauddin and held an open katchery at the DPO office, where he listened to the citizens' issues. He emphasized the need to bridge the gap between the public and police, not only to ensure justice but also to create a peaceful society.

General of Police Punjab's detailed meetings with all open-door policy, RPO Tayab Hafeez Cheema facilitated the open katchery and urged citizens to act as the eyes and ears of the police, collaborating to eradicate drug trafficking, illegal weapons, and other crimes. He addressed the concerns raised by citizens and issued immediate directives for their resolution.

During his visit, he held meetings with all SHOs, heads of the Organized Crime Unit, and SDPOs regarding property crimes and related matters. RPO Cheema stressed that, in accordance with the IG Punjab's directives, stringent actions must be taken against drug dealers, and justice should be delivered to the public at their doorstep. He reiterated a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption.

Robber Shot Dead In Police Encounter In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: Three unidentified armed robbers were robbing people at a checkpoint near Chak No. 354 JB on Mochiwala Road when the police arrived after receiving a report through Police Helpline 15. A reported shootout ensued. According to details, SHO Hakim Ali of Police Station Sadar received information that three unidentified armed robbers were stopping and looting passersby at gunpoint near Amban Wali Pul, Chak No. 354 JB. A heavy contingent of police reached the spot and cordoned off the area.



On seeing the police, the robbers hid in nearby fields and opened fire on the police party. The police returned fire in self-defence, during which one of the robbers was allegedly severely injured by gunfire from his own companions. Meanwhile, his two accomplices took advantage of the darkness and the fields to escape. The injured robber died before receiving medical aid, and his body was shifted to THQ hospital. The deceased robber was identified as Hasnain alias Tariq alias Bholi, son of Khurshid Alam, resident of Chak No. 372 JB, who had recently been living in a village near Lahore. According to the police, the robber Hasnain alias Bholi was extremely dangerous and was wanted by police in various stations, including Toba Tek Singh, Faisalabad, and Lahore. A case has been registered by the Sadar Police against the two unidentified robbers.

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Suspected Baloch Woman Suicide Bomber From Turbat Claims She Was Brainwashed For Terrorism

TURBAT: A suspected female suicide bomber, who was arrested in Balochistan's Turbat, has revealed that she was rescued by security agencies after a Baloch separatist organization tried to lead her astray to use her for their own vested interests.



"I was brainwashed for terrorism. The youth are being lured into terrorism," Adeela Baloch said while addressing a press conference on Wednesday, flanked by Farah Azeem Shah and Shahid Rind, the Balochistan government's spokespersons.

The suspected suicide bomber's parents were also seated on her right during the presser. Baloch said she was walking on the "wrong path" and was "deceived". "I survived because of the Balochistan government."

She revealed that, apart from her, there was another girl in the mountains

who was beguiled towards terrorism. The woman, who received her primary education from Turbat and pursued a nursing course from Quetta, said terrorists use people for their purposes. "Some people lured me towards suicide bombing. I did not think that innocent people would die because of that."

Speaking during the press conference, Baloch advised the people not to get lured by terrorists. The woman's father,

Two Police Officers And Ten Others Injured In Quetta Blast Targeting Police Vehicle



QUETTA: At least 12 people, including two cops, were injured after an explosion near a police mobile on the eastern bypass in Quetta, police told media on Wednesday.

The rescue officials found a wrecked motorcycle near the site of the blast and the police claim that explosive material was planted in the motorcycle. According to the law enforcers, a bomb disposal squad was called at the spot, while the nature of the blast was being determined.

The injured, meanwhile, were shifted to the Civil Sandeman Hospital, said the police.—RT/Agency

Farewell Ceremony Held In Honor Of Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad Gujjar



By Naz Solangi

ISLAMABAD: A colorful farewell ceremony was held at the headquarters of Radio Pakistan in Islamabad to mark the completion of the term of Chaudhry Muhammad Arshad Gujjar, Central Chairman of the PBC Employees Union. The event was attended by Director General of Radio Pakistan, Saeed Ahmed Shaikh, and a delegation of officials led by Farukh Kamal, General Secretary of the PBC Employees Union, as well as members from across Pakistan.

Other speakers, including Farukh Kamal and Muhammad Malook Kathore, also commended Chaudhry Arshad Gujjar expressed gratitude for the respect and honor he received from his colleagues, assuring them that his commitment to serving them would continue, even after retirement, now with renewed vigor for the development of the organization and the rights of employees.

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The Punjab Police spokesperson confirmed that Sultan Ahmed's details were included in the PNIL (Prohibited National Identity List). With the assistance of the FIA, police arrested him before he could board his flight. Sultan Ahmed had previously attempted to murder TikToker Samina last month in the Qila Deedar Singh area, with an FIR registered at the local police station.

Gojra Police Seize 890 Kilos Of Contaminated And Harmful Meat

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The mafia selling meat from sick, weak, and dead animals in Gojra has been apprehended by the Punjab Food Authority. In a major operation by the PFA in the jurisdiction of City Police Station, Gojra, 890 kg of harmful and contaminated meat was recovered, with one suspect arrested and two fleeing. A case has been registered.

According to details, a notorious group involved in selling meat from sick, weak and dead animals in Gojra was caught by the Punjab Food Authority. During a major raid at a unit in the City Police Station area, 890 kg of decayed and harmful meat was recovered. Two suspects fled the scene, while one was arrested and handed over to the police. City Police has registered a case against the suspects.

After veterinary doctors declared the recovered meat to be substandard and hazardous, the PFA destroyed it on the spot. Additionally, the Punjab Food Authority confiscated equipment and other items used in the meat processing and distribution.

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According to the Punjab Food Authority, Toba Tek Singh, the poor-quality meat was intended to be supplied to various hotels and other food outlets. A case has been registered at the City Police Station, and further investigations are ongoing. The operation was carried out under the leadership of the Deputy Director (Operations), with the participation of police and livestock officials.

Gujranwala Police Capture Criminal In Flight

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The Gujranwala Police's Special Operations Cell and Qila Deedar Singh Police have successfully thwarted an attempt by a notorious TikToker star, Samina, to be attacked for honor. They apprehended the suspect while trying to flee abroad. The suspect, Sultan Ahmed, is the brother of the complainant and was attempting to escape from Sialkot Airport to Oman.



The Punjab Police spokesperson confirmed that Sultan Ahmed's details were included in the PNIL (Prohibited National Identity List). With the assistance of the FIA, police arrested him before he could board his flight. Sultan Ahmed had previously attempted to murder TikToker Samina last month in the Qila Deedar Singh area, with an FIR registered at the local police station.

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University Closed Following Death Of Female Student In Multan Bus Accident

MULTAN: Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture (MNSUA) in Multan has been closed for two days after protests erupted over the death of 21-year-old Minahil, a 5th-semester biochemistry student, who was fatally struck by a university bus on Monday.



Minahil was riding her motorcycle when she collided with a bus approaching from the opposite direction. The accident occurred inside the campus, and she died on the spot. Rescue officials confirmed that her body was taken to Nishtar Hospital.

Following the incident, a large number of students gathered outside the university, chanting slogans against the administration and demanding accountability for the tragedy. In response, the university administration decided to close the campus for two days in mourning.

A university spokesperson expressed deep sorrow over Minahil's death, stating that the closure was a mark of respect. The bus driver involved, identified as Aamir, has been suspended and is currently under investigation. Shah Shams Police Station House Officer (SHO) Rao Mehtab stated that Minahil's father informed the police that he did not wish to lodge a formal complaint. However, the police will begin an investigation if a formal application is submitted.

MNSUA spokesperson Riaz Hiraj provided further details about the incident, explaining that the accident occurred at 8:30 am Minahil, who was reportedly driving at a high speed, lost control of her motorcycle after seeing the bus, leading to the collision. Resultantly, she was run over by the bus and died on the spot, he added. The university spokesperson added that CCTV footage of the accident was shown to Minahil's parents, and her father acknowledged that the bus driver was not at fault.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Karachi Encroachment Removal And Development Projects Discussed In High-Level Meeting

KARACHI: A key meeting between Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hider Shah, and Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, along with Additional Chief Secretary Local Government, Khalid Haider Shah, and Municipal Commissioner, Muhammad Afzal Zaidi, centered on tackling encroachments, road repairs, and other vital development projects in Karachi.

It was decided that Assistant Commissioners will be granted additional powers to accelerate the removal of encroachments, with a particular focus on clearing areas around hospitals to ensure uninterrupted public access to healthcare services.

Mayor Wahab also announced that the Chief Minister of Sindh has approved a fund of Rs. 1.5 billion for the repair and reconstruction of roads damaged by recent rains. Plans were also outlined to enhance the city's drainage system to prevent future disruptions.

Malir District And Sessions Judge Issues Arrest Warrants For Police Officials

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In a case concerning the theft of sand and gravel in Malir district, the District and Sessions Judge has issued arrest warrants for the Superintendent of Police (SP) of the complainant and the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Minerals and Mines department due to their failure to appear in court.



The warrants were issued during a hearing of a petition filed by Nasir Raza Rind, president of the District Bar, who asserted that despite a ban imposed by the Sindh High Court, the illegal extraction of sand and gravel persists. The court noted that this marked the second hearing where the relevant officers failed to appear, prompting the judge to order their arrest and presentation in court. The hearing has been adjourned until October 5.

Jinnah Inter-School Declaration Contest Scheduled For September 26-28 At Quaid-e-Azam House Museum

KARACHI: A total of 38 schools from Karachi are set to participate in the Jinnah Inter-School Declaration Contest, taking place from September 26 to 28, 2024.

The preliminary rounds will occur on September 26 and 27, with the final event scheduled for September 28 at the Quaid-e-Azam House Museum.

Judges for the final competition will include (1) Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin, (2) Mrs. Ameena Saiyid, and (3) Mrs. Spenta Kandawala. Attractive prizes will be awarded to the top three students in the final event.

Originally initiated by the Jinnah Society, the contest is now sponsored by the Board of Management of the Quaid-e-Azam House Museum, established by the Government of Sindh. The Board is funded by the Sindh Government through an Endowment Fund approved by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. This year's event has sparked significant interest among schools and the student community, being regarded as a vital initiative for nation-building among the younger generation.—RT/Agency



The Perils of Upper Sindh: A Haven for Banditry and Lawlessness

Upper Sindh continues to spiral into an abyss of lawlessness, where banditry reigns unchecked and the rule of law remains a distant dream. The recent incident in Shikarpur, where eight individuals, including four women, were lured into a trap under the guise of a marriage proposal, starkly illustrates the state of extreme insecurity. This is not an isolated case but part of a long-standing pattern where the notorious katcha area has become synonymous with organized crime and violence.

Despite occasional operations by the po-

lice and Rangers, the situation has shown little improvement. Law enforcement's sporadic success, like the recent killing of a no-



torious bandit, does little to ease the daily fears of residents who remain at the mercy of these criminal networks. Tragically, even those tasked with restoring order, such as the 12 policemen martyred in Rahim Yar Khan, are regularly ambushed and out-gunned.

Under these conditions, it's no wonder that investment in the region remains non-existent. Who would want to live, let alone invest, in an environment where basic safety cannot be guaranteed? The plight of the common man, trapped in this cycle of violence and fear, is continuously ignored by the government and stakeholders who seem oblivious to the urgency of the situation.

It is high time that the authorities prioritize the restoration of law and order in Upper Sindh. Until then, the region will remain a no-go zone, abandoned by both its people and the prospects of development.

THE HEARTLAND



Cold storage workshop equips future agricultural leaders with essential banana export skills

By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM. In a strategic effort to enhance agricultural education and emphasize the importance of innovation and business in agriculture, the Directorate of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tando Jam, hosted a high-impact, one-day field workshop focusing on cold storage technologies. The workshop, titled "Farm to Freezer: The Vital Role of Cold Storage in Banana Export," took place at the esteemed Rashdi Fruit Farm near Khesana Mori.



Led by Dr. Tanveer Fatima Miano, Director of ORIC, the workshop attracted a diverse group of postgraduate students eager to gain real-world expertise. Dr. Miano, along with Shabir Shah Rashdi, CEO of Rashdi Fruit Farm and an SAU alumnus, delivered comprehensive training sessions that delved into the full banana export process, emphasizing the importance of cold storage in ensuring product quality and longevity.

During her address, Dr. Tanveer Fatima underscored the growing global demand for high-quality agricultural products and the critical role played by cold storage in

meeting international standards. She highlighted the pressing challenges facing the agricultural sector, especially in fruit exports like bananas, and stressed the need for SAU graduates to be well-versed in packaging standards and maintaining the shelf life of exportable goods.

"This workshop equips our postgraduate students with a complete understanding of the banana export process from cutting-edge cultivation techniques to the critical post-harvest and cold storage practices.

The event's keynote session by Shabir Shah Rashdi provided invaluable, hands-on insights. He emphasized the necessity of washing bananas twice with fungicides to prevent

spoilage, ensuring compliance with stringent international quality standards. Additionally, Mr. Rashdi explained the importance of proper packing techniques for cold storage, essential to preserving the freshness of bananas during long transit periods.

The workshop featured interactive demonstrations, allowing students to apply what they learned in real-time. Discussions focused on the intricacies of maintaining product quality throughout the transport process and understanding the broader economic prospects for banana exports. Participants walked away with practical knowledge, equipped to lead innovations in agricultural export practices.

ARI calls for accelerated efforts to provide affordable and effective services for tobacco cessation

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR. The Alternative Research Initiative (ARI) has called for accelerated efforts to provide affordable and effective services for tobacco cessation across the country. Currently, around 31 million people in Pakistan use tobacco in various forms. ARI's Project Director, Arshad Ali Syed, made this demand during a recent event, emphasizing that tobacco use is a major health issue in Pakistan, leading to cancer, heart disease, and lung conditions. Beyond health, tobacco use incurs significant financial and social costs, including billions in healthcare expenses and reduced productivity, which cost the country billions annually.

Arshad Ali Syed highlighted the need for affordable and accessible services to help people quit smoking, stressing that the issue cannot be delayed



further. Arshad noted that many people want to quit smoking but lack any government support. While some smoking cessation programs have had partial success, they remain largely inaccessible to most people, especially in rural areas. He stressed that a comprehensive strategy could help adult smokers quit, which should include public awareness campaigns, improved access to counseling, and affordable nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) clinics.

Arshad Ali Syed, along with NARI Foundation Chairperson Afshan Asghar and Executive Director Anwar Mahar, urged the establishment of affordable clinics at the district level to significantly reduce the number of smokers. This, they said, would lessen the financial and social burden of tobacco use on the country. They called on the government and all stakeholders to join them in this mission to improve public health and save lives.

Dr Abdul Majeed Chhutto, Dr Mariam Majeed Chhutto laud services of SIMS Director



SHAHDADPUR. Establishing institutions is easy, but managing them is challenging. We dreamed of advancing the SIMS Hospital, and we are now witnessing that vision come to fruition. The current director has made significant improvements at SIMS Hospital. These thoughts were expressed by the former Director of Health Dr. Abdul Majeed Chhutto during a media interaction while visiting SIMS Hospital, where he was accompanied by former director Dr. Mariam Majeed.

Upon arrival, the current Director Dr. Bashir Ahmed Jamali and the staff warmly welcomed them. After touring various departments, including the newly established surgical complex, diagnostic center, and midwifery school, Dr. Abdul Majeed Chhutto and Dr. Mariam Majeed noted that it was encouraging to see Dr. Bashir Jamali reinstate inactive machinery within a month and prepare new wards.

Director SIMS Dr. Bashir Ahmed Jamali assured that he is working diligently to advance the institution and provide necessary medical facilities to patients.

MIRPURKHAS: In Mirpurkhas, nine suspects arrested in the case of burning the body of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar, who was allegedly killed in a police encounter, were presented in an Anti-Terrorism Court.

The court granted police a seven-day remand for the arrested individuals. The case was registered against 34 people, including 15 unidentified suspects, based on a

PAT not to compromise on Sindh's rights: Sardar Anwar Khan Soomro

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH. The Convener of the Pakistan Awami Party Sindh, Sardar Anwar Khan Soomro while talking to the media said that there will be no compromise on the construction of any new canal to get the water from the River Indus to deprive Sindh of its share of water. He added that the mission of his party is to raise voice for the rights of the masses and resolve the longstanding problems of the people. He also announced to form organizing committees throughout



the country to strengthen Memon, Shakil Ahmed Pakistan Awami Party. On Soomro and others were the occasion, Imtiaz also present.

Umerkot's civil society demands justice for Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar

By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI. Members of civil society continued their protest against the alleged extrajudicial killing of a doctor accused of blasphemy in Umerkot, expressing lack of confidence in police inquiry and demanding a judicial inquiry into the matter.

In Umerkot, civil society and rights bodies staged a protest demonstration outside the Press Club against the extrajudicial killing of Dr. Shahnawaz Kumbhar. The protesters included Sindhu Nawaz Ganghro, Shahnawaz's brother Babar ali, daughter

of shahnawaz Hareem Kunbhar, Kamred Bakhsal Thalho, Manzor Solangi Nawaz Kunbhar, Punhal Sario, Haji Sand, Gul Munir and others.

They claimed that Dr. Kumbhar was killed in a staged encounter by police teams from Mirpurkhas near Sindhri town.

Concerns were raised about the involvement of Umerkot police officials, who allegedly handed Dr. Kumbhar over to the CIA police in Mirpurkhas after arresting him in Karachi.

They demanded the registration of FIRs against ten

suspended police officials, including the DIG of Mirpurkhas, SSP Mirpurkhas, SSP Umerkot, police and CIA officials of Mirpurkhas and Umerkot, accusing them of orchestrating the fake encounter.

Those who are glamorizing this horrific police action should also be held accountable for Dr. Kumbhar's murder and should face rigorous questioning, they asserted.

They demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing of the doctor and said they did not have trust in the inquiry being led by police to ascertain 'facts' of the case.

HESCO Chief Roshan Otho orders for complete eradication of electricity theft and full recovery of dues

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD. According to a spokesperson for HESCO, the CEO held a meeting today in the HESCO conference hall with all officers from the Operation Circle of Larkana, Mirpurkhas, and Nawabshah, including Superintending Engineers, XENS, DCMS, DDTs, and SDOs, to assess their performance. He emphasized that the Ministry of Energy's clear directives mandate the complete eradication of electricity theft and full recovery of dues. "You must ensure the total elimination of electricity theft and achieve 100% recovery. Accelerate efforts with the help of recovery magistrates and Sindh police. You are responsible for reporting your performance daily." He also instructed that all consumer-related issues be addressed during the open courts held daily from 11 AM to 1 PM. Officers with poor performance will be dismissed. It is noted that under



the consumer-friendly service, HESCO is currently providing electricity across the entire region. "It is our duty to maintain constant communication with our esteemed consumers and the public M&T Javed Ahmed Siddiqui, and PSO Faheemullah Memon, who are also participated via Zoom video conference.

SPORTS



SAFF U17 Championship: Pakistan reach semi-finals after 5-1 victory over Sri Lanka



BHUTAN: Pakistan's U17 football team grabbed a dominating 5-1 victory over Sri Lanka in their final group match and advanced to the semi-finals of the 2024 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U17 Championship in Bhutan.

Subhan Kareem opened the scoring for Pakistan in the 20th minute, giving his team a 1-0 lead. Ten minutes later, Mohammad Talha doubled the advantage, making it 2-0. Subhan struck again in the 36th minute, netting his second goal of the match and putting Pakistan ahead 3-0 at halftime.

As the second half began, Sri Lanka's defence faltered, leading to an own goal that pushed Pakistan's lead to 4-0. Abdul Ghani added to the scoreline in the 56th minute, extending Pakistan's lead to 5-0. Sri Lanka managed to score their lone goal in the 76th minute, but it was too little, too late to challenge Pakistan's dominant performance.

In the previous game, Pakistan ended in a 3-3 draw against Bhutan.

Both teams showcased impressive skills, keeping the fans involved in the game.

Pakistan's Khabib Khan initiated the game after smashing a goal in the 38th minute of the match.

Subhan followed the footsteps of Khabib and doubled the lead by scoring in the 46th minute.

In regard to this, Bhutan made a strong comeback and equalised the score.

However, the Men in Green eyeing for victory regained the lead with Abdul Samad smashing the third goal in the 67th minute, which was countered by Bhutan ending the match in a draw.—Agency

Hundred hero Brook keeps England alive in Australia ODI series

ENGLAND: England captain Harry Brook's maiden one-day international century revived his side's series hopes against Australia as they beat the world champions by 46 runs at Chester-le-Street.

Victory in the third ODI left England 2-1 down with two to play. England slumped to 11-2, chasing 305 to win, after Mitchell Starc removed openers Phil Salt (nought) and Ben Duckett (eight) in the space of four balls.

But Will Jacks (84) and Brook (110 not out) then added 156 in a third-wicket partnership of good judgement as well as shot-making skill.

Rain stopped play



with England 254-4 had ended Australia's run of 14 consecutive ODI wins.

But they were 46 runs ahead of where they needed to be under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method for weather-affected matches.

And, with a down-pour preventing any further play, England

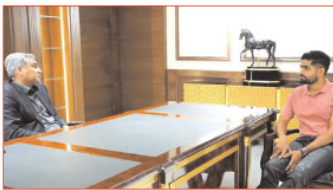
one on the board and hopefully plenty more to come.

"We just have to keep doing what we said we are going to do (in Friday's fourth ODI at Lord's) and keep being positive, take the game to them (Australia)."

Jacks missed out on a maiden century when he peruperc a Cameron Green bounce to backward point to end an 82-ball innings featuring nine fours and a six.

Brook, however, went to 99 by driving Starc back over his head for four before a single off the paceman saw him to an 87-ball hundred including 12 fours and two sixes.—Agency

Former Pakistan chief selector slams PCB over lack of vision



KARACHI: Former Chief Selector Haroon Rashid has expressed grave concerns about the current state of Pakistan cricket, stating that the sport is facing numerous challenges that require more than a quick fix.

Speaking to the media in Karachi, Rashid emphasized that these issues cannot be resolved in a brief one or two-hour meeting, and pointed to his own past association with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). "Such a situation has never been witnessed before," he remarked, adding that the world is now mocking both the PCB and the national team due to poor management and decision-making.

He specifically criticized recent actions by the PCB, such as starting an Under-19 tournament only to abruptly cancel it, and scheduling a white-ball tournament just before a crucial red-ball series. "It Naseer, described the camp PCB are confused and lack vision," Rashid observed.

The former cricketer called for more in-depth discussions and strategic planning to address the growing concerns. "If we want to improve Pakistan cricket, we need to hold lengthy sessions. A short meeting won't be enough," he said, adding that after such sessions, the conclusions reached must be implemented to bring about meaningful change.

Rashid also highlighted a lack of unity within the national side, which became apparent during the recent connection camp. "The camp revealed to the world that the team is not united," he noted. "It was made clear that there is no cohesion within the team."

It must be noted that on Monday PCB organised a "Connection Camp" on Monday to enhance communication, collaboration, and performance among the national cricket team members.

PCB's Chief Operating Officer (COO), Salman Naseer, described the camp as timely, considering the busy season ahead for the team.—Agency

Future ICC chairman Jay Shah plans to stay on as BCCI secretary

DUBAI: Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah is set to continue in his role until the end of November, despite his recent appointment as the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Reports from an Indian media outlet indicate that the BCCI will not be seeking a replacement for Jay Shah during the upcoming Apex Council meeting.

Jay, who has been elected unopposed to the ICC position with support from 15 member nations, will officially take charge of the global cricket governing body on December 1.

However, his dual responsibilities pose a significant challenge for the BCCI, which now faces the task of finding a new secretary once Jay departs.

The Apex Council is



discussions regarding the nomination process for a new secretary.

While the appointment of a new secretary was anticipated to be on the agenda, it has been confirmed that Jay will continue in his role until the transitions to the ICC.

Among the key issues to be discussed is the matter of Byju, the former title sponsor for the BCCI, which terminated its contract prematurely and has outstanding dues from October 2022 to March 2023. There will also be a discussion on the inauguration of the state-of-the-art National Cricket Academy.—Agency

Alcaraz joins Sinner, Zverev in ATP Finals field



PARIS: Carlos Alcaraz has secured his place in the season-ending ATP Finals to be held in Turin in November, joining world number one Jannik Sinner and twice champion Alexander Zverev.

Alcaraz, 21, won the French Open and Wimbledon this year to take his Grand Slam tally to four, before bagging the silver medal at the Paris Olympics.

The world number three from Spain, who also won the Indian Wells title, has qualified for the season finale for the third consecutive year and will be aiming to win the trophy for the first time after reaching the semi-finals last year.

An abdominal injury forced him out of the 2022 edition.

Sinner, last year's runner-up, qualified in August during his run to the Montreal quarter-finals, while 2018 and 2021 champion Zverev earned his spot after making the last eight of the U.S. Open this month.

The ATP Finals, which features the world's best eight singles players and doubles teams determined by the separate Race to Turin rankings, will run from November 10-17.—Agency

Pakistan squash duo shine at 2024 Charlottesville Open

FAISALABAD: Pakistani squash players Ashab Irfan and Asim Khan made an impressive start at the 2024 Charlottesville Open Squash Championship, securing victories in their respective first-round matches.

Ashab Irfan defeated Guatemala's Alejandro Enriquez in straight games, winning 3-0. His dominant performance saw scores of 11-6, 12-10, and 11-4, as he advanced to the next round.

Asim Khan, after falling behind two games, staged a remarkable comeback to overcome Brazil's Diego Gobbi with a 3-2 victory. Despite losing the first two games 5-11 and 9-11, Asim rallied to win the next three games 11-8, 11-8, and 11-8.

In the second round, Asim will face world No. 45 Yahya El Nawassany of Egypt, while Ashab



will go up against Egypt's Ibrahim Elkabbani.

The total prize pool for the Charlottesville Open stands at \$28,750, with top-ranked international players competing.

Earlier in July, Khan clinched the Jones Creek Open Squash Championship title in the USA.

The final, which offered a prize money of USD 12,000, saw World No. 73 defeating his fellow countryman Ashab Irfan by 3-1.

The second-seeded Asim triumphed over third-seeded Ashab with scores of 11-7, 7-11, 4-11, and 4-11. This victory marks Asim Khan's third PSA title of the year and the 10th of his career.

Earlier in 2024, Asim had already clinched two titles, winning the Wild Card Challenger in Washington and the Squash Inspire Challenger in March.—Agency

Mbappe strikes again as Madrid hold off Alaves in La Liga



MADRID: Kylian Mbappe struck for the fourth consecutive game as Real Madrid survived a late scare to beat Alaves 3-2 in La Liga.

Real Madrid, second, cut the gap on Barcelona to one point before the leaders host Getafe on Wednesday.

Madrid dismantled Alaves with goals from Lucas Vazquez, Mbappe and Rodrygo before a late salvo from the visitors rocked Carlo Ancelotti's side.

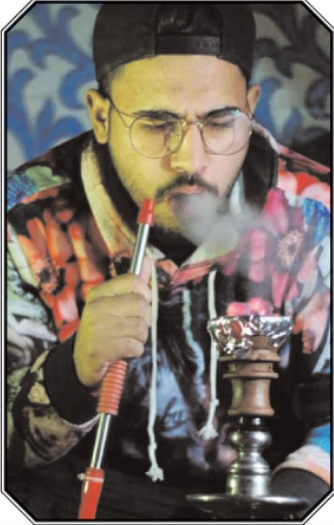
Carlos Protezioni and Kike Garcia scored two goals in two minutes in the final stages but Madrid held on.

"This is football, you can think the game has finished, (then there's) a small slip and they score the first, they get confidence and you lose it, this is what happens," Ancelotti told reporters.

"Obviously we don't want this to happen, but it can.—Agency

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Face of the Day



Name: Ali Raza
Location: Karachi
About me: I love modeling and taking selfies!

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

Angelina Jolie believes she will be at the top again



Angelina Jolie is seemingly going to establish herself as the most celebrated actress once again.

By starring in the biopic, Maria, the actress is reportedly going to make her way to the top of Hollywood, per an insider privy to In Touch Weekly.

The source claimed, "This is a career-defining role."

They also addressed, "Angie is assuming the identity of a woman who was every bit the glamorous star she once was and can be the kind of film that vaults her right back to the top!"

"This role means everything to Angie," the source even declared.

It is pertinent to mention here that Maria made its debut at the Venice Film Festival where the 49-year-old even received an eight-minute-long standing ovation.

Reflecting on the noteworthy career of Angelina, the source remarked before concluding, "This woman was a symbol of the elegance and excellence that has been associated with her and she hopes will be again."

As per an earlier report of the outlet, Angelina Jolie will be Lady Gaga for the Academy Awards next year as they are both looking to take the Best Actress award home.

Katy Perry clueless about AFL amid upcoming finale gig



Katy Perry just got candid about her general knowledge of AFL.

The popstar is expected to make her highly anticipated appearance at the Grand Final in Melbourne to be held on Saturday.

In an exclusive conversation with the host of The Project, Waleed Ali, he asked how much the Roar singer knew about the game at which she is scheduled to perform.

She had a rather confused expression on her face and comically stammered during her response as Perry answered, "It's a great game... with a ball," she meekly responded to much applause and laughter in the studio.

However, she is aware of one aspect of the game, the attire of the players when the panelist, Sarah Harris asked if she had seen the uniforms that the AFL players wear.

"Short shorts," she responded with excitement.

Perry also added how she was very keen to learn more of the sport during her Down Under jaunt and also knew the names of the teams that were facing off in the big game. "I love it. I know it's the Lions and the Swans," she said adding, "Yes, I'm singing Roar and there is no advantage there. I was going to sing it before the Lions got in." Katy Perry continued, "I'm really excited to learn a lot more. I noticed that the AFL existed before the NFL, that means the Americans are copying the Australians."

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



Tando Allahyar Police arrest a notorious criminal, recover stolen motorcycles

By Afaq Ahmed Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The Special Team of the SSP in Tando Allahyar has claimed to have arrested a suspect from a motorcycle theft gang along with seven stolen motorcycles. During a media briefing at the CIA office in Tando Allahyar, DSP CIA Dhani Bux Marri and In-Charge CIA Hamid Akhund stated that the CIA police apprehended a suspect named Imran, son of Mahmood Abbasi, during an operation in the Bheel Colony of the city. Two of his accomplices managed to escape, and efforts are underway to locate them. They mentioned that the



arrested suspect and his associates steal vehicles in Tando Allahyar and sell them in Hyderabad, while also stealing vehicles in Hyderabad to sell in Tando Allahyar. The gang primarily targets motorcycles parked outside civil hospitals, government institutions. The DSP noted that other members of the gang will also be arrested soon. Contact has been made with the owners of the stolen motorcycles, and once the inquiry is complete, the recovered vehicles will be returned to their owners.

Tando Allahyar Police arrest five drug dealers during ongoing operations



By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Under the supervision of SDPO Jhandu Marri, an operation was carried out by SHO Mashahid Hothi based on a tip-off, leading to the arrest of a suspect involved in drug dealing. 5 packets of Indian Safina Gutka were recovered, and a case was registered against the suspect. Arrested man was named Mir Hassan, son of Jalo Khan Marri.

In another operation led by SDPO City, SHO B-Section acted on a secret tip, resulting in the arrest of 2 suspects involved in drug selling. 190 units of mainpuri were seized, and cases were registered against the suspects, who were named Vinod, son of Natho and Prem, son of Wajji Kachhi Kohli.

Additionally, SHO A-Section Mir Afzal Gul Magi acted on an confidential tip, leading to the arrest of another suspect. 50 units of mainpuri were confiscated, and a case was registered against the suspect named Faizan Chhipa, resident of Shahi Bazaar.

Jacobabad Police arrest two journalists

By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: Jacobabad Police have registered a case against the General Secretary of the National Press Club Ghulam Yasin Dayo, Khair Muhammad Dayo and their four other family members at the City Police Station. After the registration of case police arrested the journalists Ghulam Yasin and Khair Muhammad Dayo. A case of encounter has been registered against them. The President of PPP-SB



Nadeem Qureshi, President of Sarafa Bazaar Samiullah Surhio, JUI-F's Dr AG Ansari and other leaders while talking to the media condemned the arrest of journalists and demanded of the higher authorities to take notice of the matter, otherwise they have announced to record a protest against the police.

SUP's Liaquat Chouhan, Yar Khan Chachar grieved

By Shaikh Sindi

KOTRI: The Central Vice President of Sindh United Party Roshan Ali Buroio, Finance Secretary Mukhtiar Memon, CEC Member Khuda Bux Khaskheli, District Vice President Fayaz Soomro, Sarwar Burfat, Saleem Lakho and others offered condolence with the senior party leader Liaquat Chouhan over the sad demise of his father in Kotri. The leaders also offered condolence with Yar Khan Chachar over the sad de-



mise of his father-in-law. On the occasion, Fatcha was offered for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

People's Labor Bureau celebrates Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's birthday

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: The People's Labor Bureau of Tando Muhammad Khan celebrated the 36th birthday of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto by cutting a cake. During the event, District President Abdul Hakim Dasti, General Secretary Ghulam Rasool Jalalani, Taluka President Dildar Magso, City President Maqbool Burdi, City General Secretary Juman Baljo, City Vice President Akbar Memon, District Deputy General Secretary Dr. Rajesh, Information Secretary Taluka Tando Ghulam Haider Ali, General Secretary of Taluka Buri Shah Karim Juman Dasti, Taluka President Akbar Noohani, senior PPP leader Nooruddin



Lakho, and PPP leader Nadeem Soomro were present.

During the ceremony, leaders expressed their desire to see Bilawal Bhutto as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, stating that the day is not far when he will achieve this position. They emphasized that

the establishment of the People's Labor Bureau by the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto aimed to uplift the working class and selflessly serve the poor. They expressed hope that Bilawal Bhutto would follow in his grandfather's footsteps in advocating for workers' rights.

Keenjhar Scouts celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)



By M Rafique

LARKANA: In celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW), a program was held at the Keenjhar Scouts office, just like every year. The event featured renowned Naat khawan Muhammad Mushfiq Tahiri as the special guest, along with District Scout Secretary Qazi Suhail Shahid Qureshi, group founder Haji Sikandar Ali Jarwar, President Haji Muhammad Rafiq Sheikh, Haji Mujahid Hussain Jarwar, Habib ur Rahman Shaikh, Rafiq Ahmed Junjo, Abdul Fattah, Saad Ahmed Halipoto, Muhammad Anwar Sheikh, Arbab Ali Jarwar, Muhammad Ramzan Bughio, Muhammad Mansoor Jarwar, Nawaz Bilawal ur Rahman, Arsalan Shaikh, and many other scouts who participated in large numbers. On the occasion, Naats and Darood Pak were recited to celebrate the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW).

TMK's civil society launches tree plantation campaign



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: In Tando Muhammad Khan, students and civil society have jointly launched a plantation campaign, planting over a thousand saplings. The initiative saw participation from social leader Dr. Chaman Lal Jiwaami, Taluka Education Officer Syed Amjad Shah, Learning Coordinator Mir Naem Akhtar Talpur, Market Committee Vice Chairman Shah Nawaz Kandrah, and several other community leaders. Students from The Smart English School, Fauji Foundation School, and Government Primary School Karimabad also took part in the campaign, planting hundreds of trees around the City Cricket Ground, Shahzad Bozdar, Danish Khilji, and Arif Qureshi, who supported the initiative, stated that the aim of today's plantation drive is to raise awareness about tree planting among citizens. They plan to plant an additional 10,000 trees in the future.

Three killed in fatal Khairpur road mishap

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

Khairpur: A tragic accident occurred near Khairpur where a speeding truck ran over motorcycles, resulting in the death of three individuals, including a woman. According to police sources, the deceased include Zakia, wife of Abdul Qadir Channa, Ali Khan, son of

Abdul Qadir Channa, and a young child. The bodies were handed over to the family after postmortem. However, a case has not yet been registered regarding the incident. There was a scene of mournful when the bodies were brought to the victims' home.

Traders decrease paddy rates after arrival of new crop

TALHAR: In Talhar, the season for rice has begun, and traders are taking advantage of the situation by lowering the prices. Currently, paddy is being sold at 2,800 rupees per maund, down from 3,200 rupees per maund earlier. Traders state that the prices in the global market for rice

have decreased, which is why they are purchasing at lower rates. They anticipate that as rice prices increase, prices in Talhar and other cities will also rise. On the other hand, farmers expressed concerns that every year during the rice season, traders reduce prices, resulting in significant losses for them. Farmers have urged the Provincial Minister of Food Sindh to set a government rate of 5,000 rupees per maund for paddy and enforce regulations requiring that rice be purchased at this rate to protect farmers from losses.—RT

LUMHS restores admission of nursing students after they settle clash

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The LUMHS administration has clarified that the protest of nursing students has been ended with reconciliation between the two groups of the students of Nursing and College of Technology. The students of nursing involved in physical attack on the another group have apologized for their act, whereas the affected students have accepted the apology and withdrawn their complaint.

Keeping in view the reconciliation between the students, the management of this university has restored the admission of the students. Furthermore the authorities have strictly warned the students to refrain from creating any law in order situation at the campus, in other case stern disciplinary action will be initiated as per rules of this University.

ing involved in physical attack on the another group have apologized for their act, whereas the affected students have accepted the apology and withdrawn their complaint. Keeping in view the reconciliation between the students, the management of this university has restored the admission of the students. Furthermore the authorities have strictly warned the students to refrain from creating any law in order situation at the campus, in other case stern disciplinary action will be initiated as per rules of this University.

PPP's Jam Zaheer Ali Khan vows to continue serving the masses

By Khadim Kaskheli

SANGHAR: The District Vice Chairman Jam Zaheer Ali Khan, while talking to the media stated that the PPP has always stood by the poor. He emphasized that through the Sanghar District Council, they are currently providing significant relief in developmental works for the people of the district, which will greatly benefit them.



Jam Zaheer Ali further mentioned that with the support of the Sindh government, Sanghar will become a model district in Sindh. He asserted that they are working to resolve the issues faced by the public and that the opposition should wait for the upcoming elections, as the people of the district continue to stand with the PPP.

SEPCO launches operation against power theft in Moro

By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: On the strict directives of SEPCO WAPDA Engineer Aijaz Ahmed Detho, an operation was carried out by the entire labor force of Sub-Division Moro-1 near Jamali House and Korai Muhalla. During this operation, a large number of illegally installed wires were removed, illegal connections were terminated, and the connections of regular consumers were also disconnected, with their wires taken down.



Lists of electricity thieves and regular consumers have been sent to the higher authorities for strict legal action. The operation was led by LS in-charge Muhammad Kandhro,

Shahzad Ramzan Khokhar, Police Hydro Union leader Sikandar Ali Sandilo, and Noorani Qafila leader Allah Bachayo Mallah, along with the entire labor force of Sub-Division Moro-1 and personnel from the Sindh

Advisor for Livestock issues show cause notice to Director of Sindh Institute of Animal Health

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Advisor to Chief Minister Sindh for Livestock & Fisheries has taken a serious notice of utilisation of funds in respect of purchasing medicine and drugs and other veterinary relevant items by the Director Sindh Institute of Animal Health without adopting or following departmental rules & regulations. An explanation letter issued to Director of Sindh

Institute of Animal Health Dr. Nazir Kalhoro due to financial embarrassment in purchasing drugs, medicine, and other items. It has been mentioned in the explanation letter that Nazir Kalhoro didn't follow the departmental guidelines, procedural formalities and clearly violated policies while purchasing medicine and drugs. Furthermore, it is clearly mentioned in the letter the purchasing was held two times. The first purchasing cost center K-3 46, having

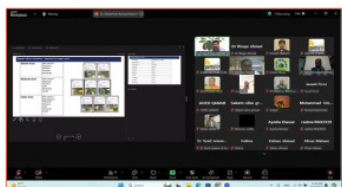
invested cost is Rs. 1185900. The second purchasing cost center KQ-2296, having invested amount is Rs1,009,830,000. While responding to a query regarding the violation of policies and rules & regulations, Mr. Kalhoro said the letter has been issued mistakenly. There is no such kind financial embarrassment. We got an approval from the concerned authority on 9 August 2024. However the letter was issued by official of concerned Ministry.

REGIONAL TIMES

NATIONAL

PHDEC Organizes Webinar On 'Olive Production: Prospects And Challenges In Pakistan'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's olive sector is poised for growth, with 10 million acres of land suitable for cultivation, nearly double the olive-growing area of Spain, the world's top olive oil producer. Since 2010, Pakistan has been producing olives, with annual production of 830 tons of table olives, all consumed domestically. The country aims to produce 16,000 tons of olive oil by 2027, focusing on regions like Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). In a recent webinar organized by the Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export Company (PHDEC), olive farmers, growers, and key agricultural workers received vital training on production practices. The expert-led session, conducted by Dr.



Muhammad Ramzan Asner, Project Director of the Center of Excellence for Olive Research and Training (CEFORT), addressed the current state of olive cultivation in Pakistan, highlighting the last decade's growth trends and global comparisons. Dr. Asner emphasized the nutritional benefits and antioxidant properties of olives, while providing insights into the challenges faced by local growers. These include a lack of agronomic research, and post-harvest issues. He underscored the importance of modern techniques, government support for cold storage, and better market access to improve production and minimize losses. Participants appreciated the knowledge shared and the collaborative potential to overcome sector challenges. PHDEC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the olive industry, aiming for sustainable growth and development within Pakistan's olive saplings, insufficient horticulture sector.—RT

METRO KARACHI



Mayor Wahab: Efforts Underway To Expedite Water And Drainage Projects

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, announced that significant efforts are being made to fast-track the completion of water supply and drainage projects at the Karimabad Underpass, Lal Qila Park in Azizabad, and Soba Nagar in Federal B Area.



Fully aware of the challenges faced by citizens, Mayor Wahab outlined a strategy to accelerate all ongoing development projects, ensuring their swift and high-quality completion to improve facilities for Karachi's residents.

During a visit to development projects in the Central District, Mayor Wahab, accompanied by key officials including KDA Director General Shujaat Hussain and other elected representatives, reviewed the progress of the under-construction Karimabad Underpass. He directed that all hurdles in the construction process be removed to complete the project quickly, enhancing transportation in this busy area. The under-

pass, a significant project initiated by the Sindh government, aims to reduce traffic congestion and provide a signal-free route from Memon Foundation to Ziauddin Hospital.

Additionally, Mayor Wahab inspected the reconstruction of Lal Qila Park in Azizabad, emphasizing the need for modern recreational facilities, including indoor games, a gym, and a selfie point, while ensuring the park caters to the needs of women and children. The project aims to offer residents a quality park experience with improved amenities.

Mayor Wahab also highlighted the completion of Iqbal Park in Gulberg Town, developed under the Karachi Mega Project, and announced further park initiatives in the Central District. In Soba Nagar, he reviewed the ongoing work on the water supply and drainage restoration project, noting that over 70% of the work has been completed, with full completion expected by December to alleviate local water and drainage issues.—RT

Sindh High Court Seeks Arrest Of Israeli PM Netanyahu Over War Crimes

KARACHI: On Wednesday, the Sindh High Court (SHC) initiated proceedings for the arrest of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in connection with alleged war crimes in Gaza.

According to reports, the plea, filed by Advocate Sohail Hameed, accuses Netanyahu and other Israeli officials of causing the deaths of over 41,000 Palestinians, including 15,000 children, amidst the ongoing siege of Gaza.

The petition emphasized that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has already issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and several other Israeli officials. It calls on the court to direct respondents—including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of the Cabinet, and the United Nations—to adhere to these warrants and ensure accountability for those implicated in war crimes.

Notably, in May, the ICC prosecutor sought an arrest warrant against Netanyahu concerning war crimes related to the conflict in Gaza.—RT/Agency

KCCI Urges Extension For Income Tax Return Filing Deadline

KARACHI: The President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh, has called on the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to extend the deadline for filing Income Tax Returns by one month.

leaving them unable to finalize the necessary paperwork for filing their returns. With the current deadline of September 30 approaching, the KCCI president stressed the importance of an extension to ease the burden on taxpayers.

He also pointed out technical issues with the FBR's IRIS portal, which became inoperative on Wednesday morning.

Even when it was accessible later, the portal's sluggish performance caused concern among taxpayers who struggled to update their data. Sheikh noted that similar issues arise

annually as the filing deadline nears, urging the FBR to enhance the system's capacity to avoid such disruptions.

The KCCI president further criticized the FBR's focus on penalizing non-filers while neglecting improvements to the IRIS system. He emphasized the need for a simplified system that would allow taxpayers to file returns independently, without having to hire tax consultants, which adds to their financial burden. He argued that the complexity of the current process discourages many from becoming tax filers.—RT

Sindh Government Approves Historic Health Insurance Scheme For Secretariat Employees

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: In a landmark decision, the Sindh government has approved comprehensive health insurance coverage for Sindh Secretariat employees and their families. This groundbreaking agreement between the Sindh Government and State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) will provide health coverage to employees of the Sindh Secretariat, Chief Minister's House, Governor's Secretariat, and Sindh Assembly.



The agreement was officially signed by Secretary General Administration (SG&CD) Sohail Ahmed Qureshi, representing the Sindh Government, and Shahid Iqbal Baloch, Executive Director of State Life Insurance. The signing ceremony was also attended by Special Secretary Muhammad Zaman Narejo, Irshad Ali Sodhar, and Qureshi Javed Hussain, CEO of SLIC, along with other senior officials.

Secretary Sohail Ahmed Qureshi praised the agreement as a significant milestone in enhancing employee welfare. He explained that each family member of the insured employees will receive health coverage worth Rs 700,000, allowing access to over 800 hospitals nationwide, including 176 in Sindh, featuring top private hospitals. A dedicated management cell will be established within the Services General Administration department, with all records integrated with NADRA to ensure transparency and accessibility.

The announcement sparked widespread celebration among Sindh Secretariat employees. Leaders of the Sindh Secretariat Officers Welfare Association (SOWA) and the Sindh Secretariat Employees Non-Gazetted Welfare Association (SENWA) expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, and other key officials for securing this benefit.

Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah congratulated the employees, highlighting that the policy will benefit 24,639 employees and their dependents, with the government allocating Rs 402 million annually for the scheme. This initiative marks a significant step toward improving the health and well-being of government employees and their families.

Father Killed, Son Injured In Karachi Robbery Shooting



KARACHI: A tragic robbery incident in Karachi's Bilal Chowringhi area resulted in the death of a father and serious injuries to his son when armed robbers opened fire after the duo resisted their attempts.

The victims, identified by rescue officials as 50-year-old Abdul Malik and his son Kashif, were attacked near a petrol pump in the Korangi area shortly after withdrawing money from a bank. The robbers, a gang of three on motorcycles, attempted to snatch the cash in front of a factory entrance.

When Abdul Malik and Kashif resisted, the assailants fired upon them, fatally wounding the father while injuring the son. CCTV footage captured the struggle, showing Kashif trying to defend them and firing back at the robbers, hitting one of them in the back.

Authorities later apprehended one of the suspects, identified as Imtiaz Ahmed, who had sustained a gunshot wound during the incident. Police recovered the stolen amount of Rs 300,000. Witnesses also reported that some bystanders managed to seize additional cash during the chaos.

Investigations are underway as police interrogate the arrested robber and search for the remaining suspects. Imtiaz Ahmed's criminal history has been uncovered, revealing prior charges of illegal weapons possession and robbery.—RT/Agency

from an educated family, with her father being a justice who connected the works of Shakespeare to the poetry of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, noting that Bhitai's verses symbolize peace and brotherhood more than any other. He emphasized the need to support Sindh if we aspire for global peace.

Ghulam Shah also recognized Bejeal Sindh as a national artist and mentioned that Madam Shah, along with other party officials and supporters.

During the reference, Syed Ghulam Shah highlighted that Madam Suraya Makhdoom hailed

SUP Holds Condolence Reference In Gulshan-e-Hadeed



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: The Sindh United Party (SUP) organized a condolence reference in Gulshan-e-Hadeed to pay tribute to the late Syeda Suraya Makhdoom, Bejeal Sindh, and Dada Muhammad Ali Bozdar, who have recently passed away. The event witnessed notable attendance from senior nationalist leader Syed Ghulam Suraya had received a parliamentary ticket from the UK's Labour Party, where she contributed to various NGOs. He acknowledged Dada Muhammad Ali Bozdar as

a member of their organization, stating that although Bejeal Sindh and Madam Suraya Makhdoom were not official members, they deserved this tribute for their contributions to the cause of Sindh.

The reference was attended by various leaders, including Manzoor Abro, Qutub Jatoi, Wahab Dero, and Asghar Baghi from the Sindh Adabi Sangat, among others. The event concluded with performances by national artists. Additionally, Zameer Ahmed Soomro and others, who departed from the Jeay Sindh Movement, joined the SUP under Ghulam Shah's leadership.

around the world compete. Pakistan's national champion will represent the country in the global finals in London.

An engaging Q&A session followed, with Artificial Intelligence becoming a focal point, prompting lively discussions and thoughtful contributions from attendees.—RT

Sindh Minister Acknowledges Half Of Schools Damaged By Floods



KARACHI: Sindh Education Minister Sardar Shah admitted on Wednesday that the province's schools took a serious hit, with floods wiping out 50% of them.

Speaking at a press conference with Universities Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani, Shah didn't sugarcoat the situation. "Half the schools in Sindh are basically wrecked. Unlike Punjab, which didn't face the same rains and flooding, Sindh's been through the wringer," he said.

Shah also pointed out that many of the government

schools are in no shape to welcome students back. And with limited ADP (Annual Development Program) funds, fixing them all isn't exactly easy.

But it's not all doom and gloom—Shah also announced that Sindh is working on an educational policy for the transgender community, a step towards more inclusivity.

He wrapped up by mentioning that students are learning in both Sindhi and Urdu, highlighting the importance of keeping the region's languages alive.—RT

English Speaking Union Of Pakistan Hosts Renowned Guest Speaker Miles Young At Karachi Event



KARACHI: The English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP) held a highly anticipated gathering at the Beach Luxury Hotel, featuring an insightful address by Mr. Miles Young, Chairman of the English Speaking Union and Warden of Oxford University, UK.

The event drew a notable audience of ESUP

members, diplomats, educationists, and other distinguished individuals.

Mr. Young highlighted the importance of higher education and introduced the outstanding academic opportunities available at Oxford University. He also discussed the prestigious ESU International Public Speaking Competition, where students from

around the world compete. Pakistan's national champion will represent the country in the global finals in London.

An engaging Q&A session followed, with Artificial Intelligence becoming a focal point, prompting lively discussions and thoughtful contributions from attendees.—RT

Chairman Manghopir Town Thanks Bilawal Bhutto Zardari For Addressing Delays In Yusuf Goth Development Scheme

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Town Municipal Corporation Manghopir Chairman Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi expressed his gratitude to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for taking prompt action on complaints regarding delays in the development scheme for UC-6 Yusuf Goth, Manghopir Town.



Following Chairman Brohi's recent meeting where concerns about the slow progress of the scheme were raised, Bilawal Bhutto directed Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab to inspect the ongoing work.

In response, Mayor Murtaza Wahab, accompanied by his team, visited the site in Yusuf Goth and expressed dissatisfaction with the delay.

He issued immediate instructions to expedite the completion of the project, emphasizing that any negligence would not be tolerated. The development scheme, initiated by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, aims to provide swift relief to the people of the area, and the local administration is committed to addressing residents' concerns promptly.

Joining Mayor Wahab

during the inspection were Spokesman Karamullah Waqasi, Vice Chairman Rana Arif, District West President Abid Sati, General Secretary Jameel Diary, Information Secretary Ali Akbar Kachhilo, Youth President Akhtar Hind, UC-12 Chairman Hilal Rahmani, Juman Darwan, Qadir Brohi, and several town officials and staff.

PTV Managing Director Syed Mubasher Toqeer Shah Visits Karachi Center

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Syed Mubasher Toqeer Shah, Managing Director of Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV), paid a visit to the PTV Karachi Center, where he was warmly received by General Manager Syed Amjad Hussain Shah. Heads of various departments, staff members, and CBA union officials were also present to welcome the MD.



During his visit, the Managing Director toured several departments, including the News Department, and praised the decorative improvements made at the center. General Manager Syed Amjad Hussain Shah provided an overview of the

programs produced at the Karachi Center, while Branch Secretary Adnan Sikandar Rind, General Manager of PTV National, briefed him on the programs aired from the center. PTV National

presented cultural gifts of Sindh, including the traditional Ajrak and Topi, to the Managing Director.



KARACHI: DG PTD, Mrs. Irum Tanveer is receiving a memento during the seminar on World Maritime Day, organized by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) in collaboration with the Maritime Training Institute (MTI)—RT



KARACHI: MPA Sardar Khan Chandio is presenting a lovely floral bouquet to Adi Faryal Talpur on her return after performing Umrah.—Photo by Faheem Soomro

An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

—Benjamin Franklin

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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26 2024

ADB Predicts IMF-Backed Reforms Will Lift Pakistan's Growth To 2.8% In FY25

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF)-backed reform agenda is expected to boost Pakistan's economic growth in fiscal year 2025 (FY25), according to the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Asian Development Outlook September 2024 report.



The Manila-based lender projects a moderate growth rate of 2.8% for Pakistan in FY25, driven by the 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) agreement between Pakistan and the IMF.

The ADB reported that growth in Pakistan rebounded to 2.4% in FY2024, while inflation was lower than anticipated.

Inflation has seen a significant decline, averaging 23.4% in FY 2024, down from 29.2% the previous year.

This economic improvement was attributed to fiscal discipline, a market-driven exchange rate, and enhanced efficiency in the energy sector.

Furthermore, increased agricultural income and higher remittances supported private consumption, while improved crop production helped control food prices.

The ADB also highlighted that the IMF-supported re-

form programme is expected to create a more stable macroeconomic environment, promoting economic activity.

Private investment is forecasted to rebound due to better macroeconomic conditions, including easier access to foreign exchange, which will benefit the manufacturing and services sectors.

However, the ADB raised concerns about higher personal income tax rates and the government's spending restrictions, which could limit both private and public consumption in FY25.

Additionally, growth in the agricultural sector is expected to slow due to increased gas prices and re-

duced fertiliser subsidies.

The report noted that public debt is expected to decline as a percentage of GDP, though interest payments have reached nearly 60% of fiscal revenues.

Inflation in Pakistan is projected to moderate to 15% in FY25, supported by tighter monetary policies and stable global commodity prices.

Pakistan's current account deficit is anticipated to remain moderate but may rise to 1% of GDP in FY25.

The trade deficit is likely to expand as domestic economic activity recovers, leading to higher imports.

However, higher remittances and improved access to multilateral and bilateral financing

due to the IMF programme will help offset some of the deficit.

Despite a larger current account deficit, international reserves are expected to grow to 2.1 months of import cover by FY25.

The ADB warned that Pakistan's economic outlook remains vulnerable to shortfalls in external financing and potential lapses in policy implementation, which could lead to increased pressure on the exchange rate and worsen debt vulnerabilities.

The report also noted that external risks, including geopolitical tensions, higher food and oil prices, and tighter global financial conditions, could impact Pakistan's macroeconomic stability.

However, improved global financing conditions and lower international food and fuel prices would help reduce fiscal and external vulnerabilities.

Pakistan's economy has shown notable improvement, supported by a combination of economic discipline, increased agricultural income, and remittances from abroad.

These factors have contributed to a steady recovery, with the GDP projected to grow by 2.8% during the

2024-2025 fiscal year, up from 2.4% in the previous year.

The decline is largely attributed to enhanced agricultural production and more stable food prices.

Looking ahead, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasts that inflation will continue to fall, reaching as low as 15% by 2025.

This reduction is expected to be driven by stable monetary policies, improvements in the exchange rate, and the stabilization of global food prices.

Furthermore, financial discipline and an improved business environment have been crucial in stabilizing Pakistan's economy.

These factors are laying the groundwork for private-sector-led growth, although challenges persist in the agricultural sector.

The ADB emphasises that for Pakistan to maintain this positive trajectory, it must continue implementing economic reforms, particularly in state-owned enterprises, and encourage private investment.

These steps are essential for avoiding financial risks and ensuring long-term, sustainable growth.—RT/Agency

£190 Million Case: Court Offers 'Final Chance' To Lawyer Representing Imran And Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD: The accountability court hearing the £190 million case, has given a final deadline to the lawyers representing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi for cross-examination of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) investigation officer.



The hearing took place at Adiala Jail, where both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were present.

The court adjourned the next hearing until Friday due to the absence of Bushra Bibi's lawyer, Usman Gul, who was reported to be suffering from dengue.

The defence requested a delay, explaining that Usman Gul's illness prevented him from attending NAB lawyers, however, pointed out that Bushra Bibi had four lawyers named in the case, and any of them could have conducted the cross-examination. NAB lawyers argued in court that the defence themselves brought an order from the Islamabad High Court to proceed with the trial. Now, the defence lawyers are deliberately causing delays in the hearing of the reference. The court instructed the defence lawyers that they are being given a 'final opportunity,' and the cross-examination of the NAB investigation officer must be completed in the next hearing. The court, led by Judge Nasir Javed Rana,

granted the defence one final opportunity to cross-examine the NAB officer during the next hearing. The £190 million reference hearing was conducted inside Adiala Jail, where the PTI chairman and his wife were presented before the court. Defence lawyers, including Intizar Panjutha, Naem Panjutha, and Faisal Fareed Chaudhry, were present, while the NAB team was represented by Sarin court that the defence themselves brought an order from the Islamabad High Court to proceed with the trial. Now, the defence lawyers are deliberately causing delays in the hearing of the reference. The court instructed the defence lawyers that they are being given a 'final opportunity,' and the cross-examination of the NAB investigation officer must be completed in the next hearing. The court, led by Judge Nasir Javed Rana,

On September 18, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) barred the accountability court from delivering a final judgment in the £190 million case involving Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi. A two-member IHC bench, consisting of Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, heard the couple's plea for acquittal in the case. While the court ordered the trial court to continue the proceedings, it instructed that no final verdict should be issued at this stage. On September 7, Imran Khan had filed an acquittal plea in the case, citing the Supreme Court's ruling on NAB amendments, which reinstated previous legal provisions.

However, the accountability court rejected Imran Khan's plea on September 12, after hearing arguments from all sides during a hearing held at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.—RT/Agency

Court Reserves Judgment On Future Of Toshakhana Vehicles Case Involving Zardari And Nawaz

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court in Islamabad on Wednesday reserved the verdict on whether to refer the Toshakhana reference against President Asif Ali Zardari, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani back to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).



Accountability court Judge Abida Sajjad heard the plea, filed by the anti-graft body, involving the former prime ministers and the incumbent head of state, and reserved the verdict set to be announced on October 14.

The case relates to the 2020 reference filed by NAB against the trio alleging that President Zardari and ex-PM Nawaz obtained vehicles from the Toshakhana by paying 15% of the price of the cars — and all of this was facilitated by Gilani.

During today's hearing, President Zardari's lawyer Farooq H Naek said the said court lacks the authority to hear the case following the NAB amendments and, therefore, it should be referred back to the anti-graft body.

"Earlier such a case was sent back to NAB," said the counsel.

At this, the NAB prosecu-

tor said that when a case does not fall within the jurisdiction of the accountability court, then the merit of the case will not be discussed and the court has to decide if the reference is to be sent back to the NAB.

The case against President Zardari cannot proceed as he has presidential immunity, the prosecutor remarked, adding that the case against him will be referred to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

The NAB official further requested the court to refer Nawaz's case back to the watchdog and maintain the stay order to the extent of the president.

The reference filed by the NAB alleges that President Zardari was gifted luxury cars by the governments of Libya and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and he used

them instead of submitting them to the Toshakhana.

Meanwhile, Nawaz, as alleged by the anti-corruption watchdog, was given a car from the Toshakhana by the PPP government in 2008 even though he did not hold any official position in the government.

It is pertinent to note that in May this year, the accountability court halted proceedings against President Zardari owing to the immunity enjoyed by the country's head of state. Prior to it, NAB exonerated Nawaz in the said vehicle reference and requested the court to acquit the PML-N president saying that the car in question was not a part of the Toshakhana at the time of purchase by the former prime minister.—RT/Agency

Shahid Khaqan Calls For CJP Isa To Retire After Completing His Term



MURREE: Former prime minister and Awam Pakistan Party leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has called for Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa to retire after completing his tenure, amidst what he described as political instability and chaos in the country.

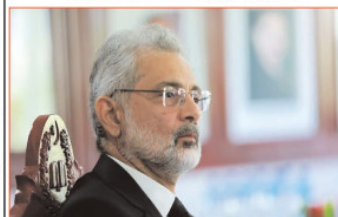
Speaking to the media at the Murree Press Club on Wednesday, Abbasi stressed that Pakistan is facing severe political turmoil. "The country is in a state of political instability and unrest. There is no option but to run the country according to the

Constitution," he said.

Abbasi criticised the lack of transparency in recent constitutional amendments. "Parliament is unaware of the constitutional amendments being made. Attempts have been made to undermine the Constitution in the dead of night," he remarked, reiterating that Justice Isa should retire after completing his term.

Reflecting on Pakistan's political history, the former premier said, "Every election in Pakistan has been rigged, yet no one has learned any lessons.—RT/Agency

'Culture Of Depriving Women Of Inheritance Must End': SC Orders Transfer Of Widow's Inheritance



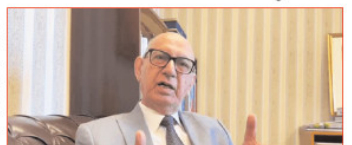
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has ordered the immediate transfer of a widow's inherited property after 26 years of false litigation. The court imposed a fine of Rs 500,000 on the opposing parties for submitting false testimonies and filing bogus claims in an attempt to deprive the widow of her rightful inheritance. A three-member bench, led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, ruled on a 456-kanal land dispute in Chakwal. The case had dragged on for years due to false claims and fake witness testimonies produced by the opposing parties.

The court ruled that the fine must be paid within three months, failing which the revenue department will recover the amount from the property. During the proceedings, Chief Justice Isa remarked that a simple inheritance case was made unnecessarily complex, stating, "The culture of depriving women of their inheritance must end." He further added that the parties responsible for providing false testimonies should face legal consequences for their actions. The case involved the widow of Mehrban, who passed away in 1998. His nephews, from his second wife Akser Jan's side, had falsely claimed that the land had been gifted to them. The court's decision brings an end to the decades-long legal battle, with the Chief Justice urging the guilty parties to reflect on their actions, warning them of consequences in both this world and the next.—RT/Agency

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Irfan Siddiqui: Judiciary Has Never Opposed Martial Law Amid Constitutional Amendment Controversy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui has criticised the judiciary for failing to stand against martial law, while a heated debate surrounds a recent constitutional amendment.



Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, Siddiqui questioned the legal basis of recent court decisions, particularly in relation to reserved seats and party defections.

"No member in the case of reserved seats said they wanted to change parties. Under what law can the judiciary tell someone to join another party?" Siddiqui asked, adding, "The judiciary has never stood up against martial law, and now there's an uproar over parliament's constitutional amendment."

He expressed concerns over a recent court ruling that, according to him, created unnecessary complications. "The decision regarding reserved seats has raised many questions. It has made the situation so complex that it seems impossible to resolve."

Siddiqui also criticised the frequent striking down of

laws by the judiciary. "We often hear that certain laws are in conflict with the Constitution, and the judiciary interprets and rules on them. But is it possible for a judiciary bench to make a mistake? What were the reasons behind such errors?" he asked, referring to the Election Act being repeatedly violated in this case. The senator pointed to the constitutional requirement that members join a party within three days. "These people joined the Sunni Ittehad Council within the given time. The Constitution restricts this for five years, but the judiciary breaks this rule and tells the 'birds' to fly out of the cage and join PTI.

How does the judiciary have this authority? If it has been assumed, it has been wrongly done. He further criticised the principle of "complete justice," stating, "No member expressed a desire to switch parties. Under what law can you force them to do so? The judiciary never stood firm against martial law, and now it's challenging parliament's constitutional amendments. We are left wondering which direction to take." Siddiqui concluded by pointing to Article 239 of the Constitution, which states that constitutional amendments cannot be challenged in court.

"This provision has been effectively nullified, and the authority of parliament is being restricted. Due to overreach, constitutional provisions are being paralysed," he said.—RT/Agency

Awais Leghari Emphasizes Need For Energy Reforms

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Awais Ahmed Leghari on Wednesday highlighted the need of reforms in energy sector, media reported.



Addressing a gathering Awais Leghari said that the country's power sector faces many problems and required energy reforms.

Energy minister said that Pakistan has reservations with regard to the Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

Leghari said an absence of strategy has been the reason of expensive electricity. "Consumers are bearing the burden of high interest rate and circular debt," he said.

He said EV charging stations will be made across the country, petroleum imports will be decreased.

Energy minister said that 10 power distribution companies will privatize by the end of current year.

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Shehbaz Attends Bangladesh's 50th Anniversary Of UN Membership

NEW YORK: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif attended a ceremony celebrating Bangladesh's 50 years of United Nations membership at the invitation of Chief Advisor Dr Muhammad Yunus.



Accompanying the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif were federal ministers Khawaja Asif, Atta Tarar, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi. Dr Muhammad Yunus warmly welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Pakistani delegation.

Both Pakistan and Bangladesh, during the event, agreed to enhance cooperation in various sectors and discussed expanding bilateral relations.

It is pertinent to mention here that Bangladesh officially joined the United Nations on September 17, 1974, becoming the 136th member state. This milestone came after the country gained independence in 1971, following a brutal liberation war.

The relatively young South Asian country, Bangladesh, has made remarkable progress in various sectors, since joining the UN, including human development, economic growth, and social reforms while being a strong advocate for global issues such as climate change, poverty alleviation, and women's empowerment.

Bangladesh's commitment to multilateralism is evident through its active engagement in UN forums and its election to the UN Security Council for terms in 1978-1980 and 2000-2002.

Meanwhile, in a conversation with journalists at the United Nations, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed concern over the situation in the Middle East. He said the recent attack in Beirut, describing it as an attempt to escalate the conflict. While warning the international community, the prime minister said that attacks on Lebanon could have devastating consequences for the peace-loving world. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized the need for global condemnation of Israeli actions, stating that these attacks are pushing the conflict beyond the Middle East and could have severe repercussions worldwide.—RT/Agency

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