

THE REGIONAL TIMES

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Heartland

SSP Muhammad Zafar Siddiq Chhaanga holds an open katchery in Sehwan



Money

-Zafar Moti is Sad! PSE 100-index down by 589.95 points to close at 81,657.96



NATIONAL

Gilani Comments Security Forces For North Waziristan Operation Success



SPORTS

Congratulations Usman! Pakistan's Usman Wazeer knocks down Indian boxer in just 65 seconds



Umerkot Blasphemy Suspect Killed In 'Staged' Police Encounter: Sindh Home Minister



Jennifer Lopez's 'secret attempts' amid Ben Affleck split revealed

PM Shehbaz Urges UN To Sanction Israel, Stop 'Genocidal War' In Gaza

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called on the United Nations Security Council to end Israel's "genocidal war" against Palestine and impose sanctions, during the "Leadership for Peace" debate. "We must compel Israel to halt its genocidal war in Gaza and prevent its attempt to provoke a wider conflict in the Middle East," he stated. "It is time to consider sanctions against Israel, including an arms and trade embargo." He maintained that holding Israel's leadership accountable for crimes against Palestinians is necessary. Sharif urged the Security Council to craft an impartial ceasefire plan and a peaceful solution to the Ukraine war, emphasizing the need to avoid further escalation. The conflict, sparked by a Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 in response to deteriorating conditions for



Palestinians, has since claimed over 43,000 lives, including women and children, according to Palestinian health officials. World bodies, including the International Court of Justice, have condemned Israel's occupation and criticized the war's disproportionate civilian casualties, especially those in hospitals and residential areas. PM Shehbaz also brought attention to the ongoing situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, saying, "The Council must call for a halt to the massive violations of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people and implement its resolutions that demand a plebiscite for self-determination in Kashmir." He also raised concerns over regional security, particularly the resurgence of terrorism in Afghanistan, mentioning Da'ish and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, and called for a global commitment to reverse the arms race, reaffirming Pakistan's cooperation.—RT/Agency

ECP Seeks Supreme Court's Guidance After Prolonged Deliberations On Reserved Seats Dilemma

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has once again approached the Supreme Court to seek its guidance whether to follow amended Election Act 2017 or its judgment on the matter of allocating reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In its plea on Thursday, the top electoral authority mentioned the National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq's letter stating that amendments were made to the Election Act after the top court's verdict declaring the opposition party eligible for the reserved seats. It is worth mentioning here that Speaker Sadiq had told the ECP in his July 12 ruling was "incapable of implementation" after the amendments to Election Act 2017. The ECP sought SC's advice on whether to prioritise the amended Election Act or the detailed verdict to resolve



the reserved seats' row. It also informed the SC that denotified lawmakers had also approached to seek implementation of the amended law and the ECP implemented the court order to the extent of 39 Members of the National Assembly (MNAs). The amended act has been applied retroactively with modified laws relating to reserved seats, the ECP stated. It added that the court gave clear verdicts that parliament's wisdom could not be reviewed, therefore, it would be a question mark if the Election Act is not implemented in view of the court orders. In his last week's correspondence, the NA speaker urged the ECP to maintain the supremacy of parliament by allocating reserved seats in accordance with the Election Act Amendment Bill. He pointed out two "particular provisions"—amendments to Section 66 and Section 104-A, which he said, were relevant for the ECP's consideration. In its amendment to Section

66 of the Elections Act, the bill says that if a candidate does not submit a declaration of his affiliation with a political party to the returning officer (RO) before seeking allotment of the election symbol, they shall be "deemed to be considered as an independent candidate and not a candidate of any political party". Meanwhile, the amendment to Section 104 reads that the declaration, consent or affidavit, by whatever name called, of an independent returned candidate once given for joining a political party shall be irrevocable and cannot be substituted or withdrawn. "As the SC judgement was rendered based on the law prior to the enactment of the amendment, the said judgment is now incapable of implementation," it said, noting that it is the amended Election Act that shall prevail and supersede the prior ruling. Following his letter, Sadiq had also changed party position in the lower house of the parliament in which 80 PTI MNAs were shown as Sami Iftikhar Council (SIC) members. The ECP, after submitting a fresh petition in the apex court today, detailed that it took steps after days-long deliberation on the SC's detailed verdict and the Election Act amendments related to the reserved seats. A review has been filed on a few points in the Supreme Court's detailed verdict, according to a declaration issued by the ECP, adding that additional grounds were added to the previous review plea. It stated that a Civil Miscellaneous Application (CMA) was submitted to seek guidance on whether to implement the reserved seats' allocation formula in light of the amended law or the top court's judgment.—RT/Agency

New Toshakhana Case: Imran And Bushra Bibi To Face Indictment On October 2

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi will be indicted in the new Toshakhana reference on October 2, it emerged on Thursday. The proceedings of the new Toshakhana reference started last week after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was barred from pursuing the matter and the case was transferred to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in line with the Supreme Court's verdict restoring amendments to the anti-corruption laws. The deposed prime minister has been imprisoned for almost a year upon his conviction in four cases — two Toshakhana references, the cipher case, and the Iddat case, in which his wife is also incarcerated. The new Toshakhana reference against the couple came to the fore after NAB arrested them shortly after a district and sessions court in Islamabad acquitted Khan and Bushra in the Iddat case



— also known as the Islamic nikah case which was the last hurdle in the couple's release from jail. Meanwhile, Imran and Bushra came to the rostrum Arjumand heard the post-arrest bail applications of the party founder and his spouse, who were brought to a makeshift court in Adiala prison. During the hearing, defence lawyers completed their arguments on the applications while the prosecution sought more time in this regard — a demand which drew strong opposition. Salman Safdar, PTI founder's counsel, asked

Security Forces Neutralize 8 Terrorists In North Waziristan Operation



RAWALPINDI: At least eight terrorists have been killed after the security forces conducted an intelligence based operation (IBO) in general area Razmak of the North Waziristan District, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday. According to the military's media wing, the operation was conducted on the "reported presence" of terrorists on the night between September 25 and 26. "During conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and Khawarij, as a result of which, eight Khawarij were sent to hell," read the statement. The ISPR added that the security forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as target killing of innocent civilians. "Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other Khawarij found in the area as security forces are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country," the media wing added.—RT/Agency

Info Minister Optimistic About Pakistan Joining Growing Economies As IMF Deal Concludes

ISLAMABAD: After the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said efforts for economic rehabilitation were underway alongside further steps for country to join world's growing economies. Tarar, while addressing a presser in New York, said the world was acknowledging Pakistan's efforts towards economic recovery. "Government's prudent policies are yielding positive results in the form of decline in inflation and stability in prices of daily commodities. Reforms are being implemented to augment economic growth and provide relief to people," said the minister. Tarar's remarks, highlighting other measures taken by the government with regards to the country's economy, came after the Washington-based lender sealed the deal with Islamabad, approving Pakistan's loan with its first tranche of \$1.1 billion likely to be released by September 30, 2024. The interest rate on the loan is less than 5%, sources



in the Ministry of Finance said, adding the IMF may disburse the second instalment within this fiscal year. Meanwhile, Tarar claimed that all economic indicators in Pakistan are positive and the rate of inflation has slowed down. Statements he added, about the drop in inflation were not imaginary, as prices of petroleum products and edible items had slumped significantly during the last few months. "The government launched a crackdown on illegal money exchanges and prevented dollar smuggling," he said. Tarar acknowledged that a big chunk of the country's revenue was generated from Karachi, therefore, justice (in terms of expenditures) should be served to the metropolis. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he said, highlighted the effects of the climate changes, which inflicted a loss of more than 30 billion dollars across the globe. The countries that emitted the most carbon had the resources in abundance, he maintained. Senior Provincial Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb on September 15 praised the premier for bringing economic stability to the country. She had noted that the historic reduction in inflation from 38% to 9.6% was nothing short of a miracle. "The decrease in the interest rate (policy rate) from 22% to 17.5% is proof of successful economic policies," she had said.—RT/Agency

Donald Lu Commends Strengthening Ties With Shahbaz Sharif's Government

NEW YORK: The United States is enjoying a stronger relationship with Pakistan under Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's government, according to Donald Lu, US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia. In an interview with a local private media channel, Lu expressed optimism over Pakistan's economic recovery and ongoing reforms. "We are greatly encouraged by the economic recovery Pakistan is undergoing," Lu remarked during the interview, following his recent meeting with Pakistan's Finance Minister, Aurangzeb, at the World Bank headquarters. They discussed Pakistan's economic reforms, which Lu described as essential for its future. "These reforms are not easy, but they are crucial for Pakistan's long-term stability," he said, adding that their successful implementa-



tion would benefit all segments of society, including the youth. On security cooperation, Lu reaffirmed the United States' support for Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts. "We are working alongside Pakistan's military and government in their fight against terrorism," he noted. He also highlighted the deep connection between the US and the people of

PM Reaffirms Commitment To Achieving Pakistan's Development Objectives



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to achieving Pakistan's development goals, aligned with Vision 2025 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The prime minister was talking to President of the World Bank Ajaypal Singh Banga in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb was also present in the meeting. During the meeting, the prime minister appreciated the World Bank's continuous support to the Government of Pakistan in introducing criti-

Pakistan To Abolish 'Non-Filer' Status, Introduce Strict Penalties For Tax Evaders: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Aurangzeb has announced that the government will eliminate the term "non-filers" and impose strict penalties on those who fail to declare their income. These individuals will face significant restrictions that will impact their daily activities. In an interview with VOA on Thursday, the minister stated that the government has gathered extensive data on non-filers, including their lifestyles, vehicle ownership, and international travel. "We are now at a point where we cannot afford leniency. Those who hide their income and evade taxes will be restricted from many essential services," Aurangzeb said. He highlighted plans to reduce the tax burden on salaried individuals, while expanding the tax net to under sectors like retail, wholesale, agriculture, and real estate. "We aim to ease the load on the working class while ensuring that previ-



ously untaxed sectors contribute their fair share," he explained. When asked about the IMF's concerns regarding debt repayment, the finance minister said the government had presented a comprehensive economic reform plan. "We had no choice but to implement these reforms, and we will also bring all untaxed groups into the system," Aurangzeb noted that despite a 29% increase in tax revenues last year, the tax-to-GDP ratio remained at 9%, a figure too low to stabilise the economy. He credited support from China and Saudi Arabia for securing \$7 billion in IMF loan and emphasised that large-scale reforms are necessary if Pakistan hopes to avoid future IMF programmes. "Pakistan cannot sustain its economy on such a low tax-to-GDP ratio if we wish this to be the last IMF programme, we have to bring large-scale reforms for long-term economic stability," he added.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: Sindh Minister for Health, Dr Azra Fazal Pechubo is inaugurating the international conference on family planning at SMBMMU. —Photo by Nadeem Soomro

SSP Muhammad Zafar Siddiqi Chhanga holds an open katchery in Sehwan

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: SSP Jamshoro, Muhammad Zafar Siddiqi Chhanga, has initiated a series of open public meetings to address community issues. The first public meeting was held at the DSP office in Sihon, where residents from various areas participated.

The public raised complaints about motorcycle theft, robbery, drug issues, obscenity, and traffic problems. SSP Jamshoro listened attentively to these complaints and directed the SHO of Sehwan, Bhan Syedabad, and other police stations to resolve the issues within a week.



While discussing the incident of rape in Sehwan, the SSP stated that the culprits would be apprehended promptly and face severe punishment. He also mentioned that open meetings would be held weekly in different towns to directly hear and resolve community problems.

The event was attended by DSP Sehwan Ahmad Bakhsah Rahujo, SHO Sehwan and other officials.

Protests continue for kidnapped shopkeeper Saddam Bhatti's recovery

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: In Thul, relatives and political party leaders including Waseem Qureshi, Liaquat Sarki, Sultan Bhatti, and Babu Bhatti staged a protest at Rahbar Chowk for the recovery of shopkeeper Saddam Bhatti, who was abducted over a month and a half ago from the jurisdiction of Garhi Hassan police.



The protesters set up a hunger strike camp in front of the press club, which is now in its fifth day. The demonstrators stated that it has been 54 days since Saddam Bhatti was kidnapped, yet Garhi Hassan police have failed to secure his release. They expressed that the family of the kidnapped man is in despair, as the abductors have demanded a ransom of one crore rupees and threatened to kill him if not paid. The protesters accused the police of not taking the situation seriously and claimed that the elected representatives have not supported this poor family's plea for help.

They emphasized that Saddam Bhatti, a daily wage earner, has not been rescued by the police despite the passage of time, labeling it a failure on the part of law enforcement. The protesters urged the authorities to ensure the immediate recovery of Saddam Bhatti without further delay.

E-commerce centre inaugurated in Tando Jam



By Irfan Ali Khushk

BADIN: An e-commerce center has been opened at the Naka Stop in Tando Jam for student training, inaugurated by Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Kazmi. According to reports, the center aims to provide convenience for students in Tando Jam, eliminating the need for them to

travel to Hyderabad. Alongside e-commerce training, courses on Amazon and FB wholesale will also be offered at a lower fee than in Hyderabad.

This initiative will allow students from Tando Jam and surrounding areas to make their mark in the online world and bring recognition to their country.

Sindh Ombudsman's Regional Director Badin holds an awareness seminar



By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: On the special instructions of Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Regional Director of Ombudsman Badin Manzoor Ali Soomro conducted a "Brand Ambassador Program" about the importance of Provincial Ombudsman and their functions in the Electoral College. An outreach workshop was organized under the Regional Director of the Ombudsman Badin Manzoor Ali Soomro said that the institution of the

Provincial Ombudsman was established in 1991. Thousands of applications are received in this institution every year, out of which 80% of the applicants get relief. He said that the purpose of the workshop is to send a message to the common people through the students that if there is any complaint against any provincial department, the application should be written on a plain paper and handed over to the High Ombudsman office of Badin or by post or online through the website.

Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani urges to extend deadline for filing income tax returns

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, has urged the Government of Pakistan to immediately extend the deadline for filing income tax returns, which is currently set for September 30, 2024. He highlighted the severe challenges faced by the business community in submitting their returns on time due to the current economic conditions and disruptions in business activities.



Chamber President Farooq Shaikhani highlighted that rising inflation, record-high electricity prices, and the increasing burden of taxes over the past years have placed immense pressure on traders. In such circumstances, not extending the deadline for filing returns would be unfair to the business community. He further added that in the midst of the ongoing economic crisis, where the

business community is already struggling financially, enforcing strict deadlines from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) could further exacerbate the situation.

Shaikhani appealed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shabbaz Sharif, the Minister of Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb and the Chairman of FBR, Rashid Mehmood Langrial, to consider the difficulties faced by traders and to announce at least a one-month extension for filing income tax returns. This extension would provide relief to

those traders who have been unable to file their returns so far, allowing them to fulfill their legal obligations. He pointed out that such a step would also encourage more people to enter the tax net, benefiting the national exchequer. Moreover, Shaikhani referred to the recent disagreements between the FBR and the business community over tax collection matters. The traders argue that the government's implementation of tax laws without any relief is creating further hardships for them.

At this moment, he also urged traders to file their annual returns as soon as possible and play their part in strengthening the national economy. Chamber President Farooq Shaikhani stated that offering traders some respite in these tough times would not only support business activities but also reflect business-friendly policies, which are essential for the growth of the national economy.

Municipal Chairman Pir Danish Ali reviews civic facilities in Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: Chairman of the Municipal Committee Dadu, Pir Danish Ali, along with Junior Pir Mazhar and other officials, conducted a city tour to assess ongoing improvements. They emphasized the importance of lighting major roads, covering drainage manholes, and carrying out mosquito control spraying.



Following heavy rains, there has been a significant increase in mosquitoes in Dadu. In response, Chairman Pir Danish Ali has initiated daily mosquito spraying throughout the city, including in all 24 wards and key institutions such as the DHQ Hospital, Central Jail, and Usman Bukhari Degree College, supervised by Principal Muhammad Irfan Kalhor.

No-6, the lack of covers on the main drainage channel had created a hazardous environment, causing significant distress for local residents. Covers were installed on the open manholes under the supervision of Councillor Hafeez Jamali.

Additionally, in Ward

Mundar Naka Road, Larkana Road, and Court Road are being repaired to enhance city lighting. The cleaning and sanitation efforts are being conducted under the supervision of Chief Municipal Officer Javed Ahmed Rahputo, Focal Person Haji Liaquat Soomro, and committee members Haji Qurban Chandio, Muhammad Aslam Chawhan, Alawal Mangi, and worker Tahir Hussain Laghari.

SALU hosts Nutrition Care Synergies Conference and Exhibition

By Naoem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The Students Societies Center Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, hosted two-day exhibition and conference organized by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) landmark two-day event titled "Nutrition Care Synergies: Experience Sharing and Innovations Showcase." The event focused on addressing the key issues pertaining to nutrition care through collaborative, experienced and innovative solutions.



During the conference various themes were covered i.e. webinars, panel discussions, theatre performances on nutrition, music performances, and presentations by government stakeholders, as well as NGOs and INGOs. An exhibition with the 24 stalls showcased contributions from university departments and leading NGOs, i.e. SALU, IRC, MERF and SPO.

Meritorious Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yousuf Khushk, Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University, "Dr. Carlo De Rosa, First Secretary and Development Advisor for Rural Development and Nutrition at the European Union Mission at Pakistan and Dr. Rano Mal IRC jointly inaugurated the Event they visited the stalls. In his keynote address, Meritorious Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yousuf Khushk* Commended the efforts of IRC and the European Union for providing an opportunity to host this mega event at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur. "Dr. Khushk* highlighted that the significance of nutrition in the society. He said healthy and positive mindset could contribute positively in the society. Vice Chancellor announced that the course of nutrition will be taught in relevant department after getting the statutory approval. He lauded the efforts of Ms. Shabnam Baloch Country Director IRC and Dr. Rano

62nd death anniversary of poet Muhammad Siddique Musafir observed



By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: In Tando Bago, a ceremony was held to commemorate the 62nd death anniversary of Muhammad Siddique Musafir, the headmaster of the first school established by Mir Ghulam Muhammad Khan Talpur, and a renowned poet, author, researcher, and historian. Organized by the Shadi Active Group Sindh, the event featured General Secretary Sagar Sheedi, Peer Bakhsh Sheedi, Rashid, Dr. Professor Muhammad Ismail Memon, Asif Sheedi, Inayat, Yusuf Mirani, and members of the Tando Bago Town Committee including Yaar Muhammad Khaskheli, Raja, Sabir Hussain, and Taufiq Ahmed.

Participants laid floral wreaths on Muhammad Sadiq Musafir's grave and offered prayers. During the ceremony, Dr. Professor Muhammad Ismail Memon and Sagar Sheedi, General Secretary of the Shadi Active Group Sindh, along with Peer Bakhsh Sheedi, the district president of Badin, highlighted that Muhammad Siddique Musafir, along with Mir Ghulam Muhammad Khan Talpur, illuminated the path of knowledge in the Laar region. They noted that not only the descendants of the impoverished in Laar benefited from this knowledge, but the entire Sindh province was enriched by it. They emphasized that the contributions of their benefactors would never be forgotten.

Meezan Bank expands career opportunities for SAU graduates



By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: Prof. Dr. Aijaz Ali Khuharo, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Social Sciences at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tando Jam, emphasized the importance of the banking sector in providing internships, scholarships, and job opportunities for students to strengthen Pakistan's agricultural sector.

He made these remarks during a seminar titled "Islamic Banking, Internships, and Career Opportunities for Graduates of Sindh Agriculture University," held at Dr. AM Shaikh Auditorium, organized by SAU's Business Incubation Centre (BIC) in collaboration with Meezan Bank Hyderabad Zone. Dr. Khuharo stressed the need for banks to actively engage with universities to better prepare students for real-world challenges. He praised SAU Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri for his visionary leadership in ensuring students gain practical

opportunities that align with their academic achievements. He also urged Meezan Bank and other financial institutions to offer paid internships and scholarships to agricultural students, creating a bridge between academia, the agricultural industry, and the financial sector. Khurram Behzad Memon, General Manager of Meezan Bank for the Hyderabad Region, shared various internship and employment opportunities available for SAU graduates. He encouraged students to prepare for the highly competitive financial sector and assured that successful candidates would be offered paid internships at Meezan Bank. Abdul Diyan, Regional Shariah Scholar of Meezan Bank, delivered an insightful presentation on the core principles of Islamic Finance. He highlighted the ethical framework of Shariah-compliant banking, rooted in fairness, risk-sharing, and the prohibition of interest, positioning it as a sustainable alternative to conventional banking.

Dr. Ghulam Hussain Wagan, Deputy Director of BIC, praised SAU's commitment to student development, noting that the university holds over 150 academic and professional sessions annually to boost students' skills and knowledge, while Mr. Wagan has been appointed as the focal person for SAU to ensure a streamlined partnership with Meezan Bank, facilitating student placements and professional growth. The event concluded with a symbolic tree-planting ceremony, symbolizing the strong and growing partnership between SAU and Meezan Bank. The gathering was attended by Prof. Dr. Ghulam Muftaba Khushk, Dr. Shabana Tunio, Dr. Muhammad Yaqoob Koondhar, the regional manager of Meezan Bank, faculty members, students, the local business community, progressive landlords, and a large number of SAU graduates and postgraduates.

NATIONAL



China Pledges To Deepen Collaboration With Pakistan's HEC

ISLAMABAD: Chairman China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) Luo Zhaohui has resolved to strengthen collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan for the uplift of higher education sector in Pakistan.



Welcoming Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, who visited the CPEC Headquarters in Beijing on his invitation on the sidelines of HUAWEI Connect 2024 event, the Chairman CIDCA reiterated his support to all higher education projects being executed under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said a press release on Thursday.

The meeting was in continuation of Zhaohui's visit to Islamabad in April 2024 wherein he had visited the Air University and interacted with students and faculty from various universities connected

through Smart Classrooms. Zhaohui expressed satisfaction over the execution of Smart Classrooms, as HEC has set up 100 Smart Classrooms connected to high-speed, dedicated internet through Learning Management System (LMS).

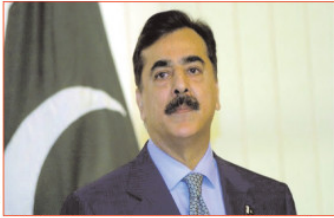
"It was a matter of great pleasure to see teachers and students connected from remote areas through a seamless high-speed internet using these classrooms. This is an important area of further collaboration and CPEC can play an important role in this regard," he underlined.

Reiterating his support to CPEC projects, especially those related to higher education, he showed keen interest in training Pakistani youth, particularly from Balochistan and erstwhile FATA.

He mentioned the available funds for such initiatives, including interest-free loans from China.

He also hinted at availability of scholarships for Pakistani students to pursue higher education in China.—RT/Agency

Gilani Commends Security Forces For North Waziristan Operation Success



ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, on Thursday, commended the security forces for their successful intelligence-based operation against eight Fina Al Khawarij in Razmak area of North Waziristan.

During the operation, the forces killed eight Fina Al Khawarij involved in multiple acts of terrorism, including targeted killings.

Gilani appreciating the security forces, said, "The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with our forces in the war against terrorism. The terrorists cannot succeed in their nefarious designs to spread chaos and unrest in the country."

He reiterated the nation's resolve to eradicate the roots of terrorism, expressing his best wishes for the brave soldiers engaged in this fight.

"The whole nation is praying for the continued success of our courageous security forces," he added.—RT/Agency

Pakistani Conjoined Twins Successfully Separated In Turkiye

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani twins who were joined at the head have been successfully separated with the help of a team of medical professionals led by Kashmiri-British neurosurgeon Owase Jeelani in Turkiye.

11-month-old Mirha and Minal underwent a couple of operations lasting around 14 hours at Bilkent City Hospital in the Turkish capital city of Ankara.



The twin girls were taken to Turkiye in May this year after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan assured to help the family, who was unable to get the suitable treatment in Pakistan.

President Erdogan was contacted by the London-based pediatric neurosurgeon Jeelani for assistance in the case.

The separation was done in two stages under the supervision of the surgical team led by Dr. Jeelani, along with Turkish physicians Dr. Harun Demirci and Dr. Hasan Murat Ergani.

The final 14-hour surgery was conducted on July 19, successfully separating the twins.

The successful surgery demonstrates the brotherly relations between the two Islamic countries besides sending a message globally that nations should prioritise collaboration in goodwill efforts to overcome challenges.—RT/Agency

PTM Accused Of Using Afghan Refugees For Anti-Pakistan Protests

ISLAMABAD: The Pash-tun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) has allegedly been using Afghan refugees to organise protests against Pakistan.



According to reports, PTM's leadership abroad, including Afghan demonstrators, has been coordinating anti-Pakistan protests.

Some Afghan individuals with clear pro-Indian leanings are said to be promoting PTM's propaganda in Western countries.

Abdul Rehman Hanif, recently appointed as PTM's Nebraska State Coordinator in the USA, is a former member of the Afghan military and has openly expressed admiration for India and Hinduism.

This suggests PTM's connections with both Afghanistan and India.

Similarly, Sharifullah Sharafat, an Afghan national based in Virginia, USA, has been appointed as PTM's State Coordinator for Maryland-Virginia.

Recently, Afghan individuals, allegedly incited

by hostile forces, participated in an attack on Pakistan's embassy in Germany.

These Afghan nationals are believed to be following PTM's agenda, which is viewed as a foreign-backed proxy aimed at creating division rather than addressing legitimate concerns.—RT/Agency

Powerful Blast At Swabi Police Station Claims One Life, Injures 16



PESHAWAR: At least one person was killed and another 16 injured, including police officers on duty, after a powerful explosion rocked the Swabi City police station in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday, causing the building to collapse, local authorities confirmed.

The blast occurred in the station's storage room, where explosive materials seized from terrorists were reportedly being kept. According to initial reports, the explosion was triggered by a short circuit, which caused multiple detonations.

District Police Officer (DPO) Swabi said investigations are underway to determine the exact nature of the blast. "The explosion has severely damaged the building, and rescue teams are on the ground," he stated.

Rescue workers and fire brigade personnel quickly reached the scene, transferring the injured to nearby hospitals, including the Bacha Khan Medical Complex, where an emergency has been declared.

A hospital spokesperson confirmed that eight injured have been admitted so far, with two in critical condition. "All necessary medical care is being provided, and the hospital administration is closely monitoring the situation," the spokesperson added.

Bomb disposal squads have been called in to ensure the area is safe and assess the remaining risks.—RT/Agency

Neptra Hearing Raises Concerns Over Declining Power Consumption

ISLAMABAD: The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) informed in the NEPRA hearing that 12.75 billion power units were sold in August this year.



The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority was hearing an application on the Fuel Adjustment Charges for the month of August. The CPPA said that the power consumption was decreased by 20 percent in August and called the reduction in industries' power consumption as alarming.

Member Neptra Rafiq Shaikh said that the consumption has dropped in industries and agriculture sector. "Hike in power tariff has been one of the reasons for reduced consumption," he said.

Chairman Neptra said the authority has concern over decrease in the power consumption. "The industries are being shutdown owing to which the power demand is decreasing," Neptra member said.—RT/Agency

Chairman Neptra said the authority has concern over decrease in the power consumption. "The industries are being shutdown owing to which the power demand is decreasing," Neptra member said.—RT/Agency

Mashhood Encourages Youth To Embrace Tourism Diversity

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, on Thursday emphasized the need for youth to engage in tourism activities and explore diverse cultural traditions.

Celebrating World Tourism Day at a local hotel, he highlighted the importance of tourism in youth development and its impact on the economy.

The event featured discussions on tourism initiatives, cultural exchanges, and networking opportunities.

Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan reiterated the government's commitment to promoting tourism and empowering youth.

He encouraged youth to take advantage of tourism opportunities and contribute to the country's economic growth. The event aimed to promote tourism and cultural exchange among youth and was attended by youth leaders, tourism stakeholders, and government officials.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Professor Barkat Baloch advances research on Shaikh Ayaz in meeting with his son



KARACHI: Renowned literary figure Shaikh Ayaz in Karachi, he met with Professor Barkat Baloch is continuing his research on the celebrated poet and literary figure Shaikh Ayaz. During the meeting, they discussed Ayaz's life, shared memorable stories, and reflected on their time spent together.—RT

Two Killed In Shooting Outside Islamabad Judicial Complex

ISLAMABAD: At least two dead and one other sustained injuries in firing outside Judicial Complex in Islamabad, media reported.

According to sources, the deceased have been identified as Syed Tafseer Haider and Nazir, while the injured person has been identified as Nadeem.

The firing allegedly started when the opposing party opened fire after the other party was released from the court.

Earlier, at least one person killed and another sustained injury after unidentified men opened fire at the judicial complex in Lakkhi Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.

The police while confirming the incident at the Lakkhi Marwat judicial complex said that they arrested one person for his role in the firing incident. "The body and injured shifted to a district headquarters hospital," they said.

This is not the first such incident of violence inside courts nationwide as recently in Lahore, two people facing murder charges were shot dead outside a sessions court in Lahore.—RT/Agency

FO Unaware Of Diplomats' Visit To Swat: Baloch

ISLAMABAD: In a startling revelation, the foreign office on Thursday disclosed that it was not aware of the recent visit of about a dozen ambassadors to Swat where they narrowly escaped a terrorist attack.

At least one police official part of the security squad was martyred when an explosion hit the vehicle leading the diplomats on the way to Malam Jaba earlier this week. All foreign ambassadors, who attended an event organised by the chamber of commerce, were unharmed and returned to Islamabad safely.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

However, the incident raised serious questions about the security arrangements. The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government claimed it was not informed about the visit of foreign diplomats to the region which was once a hotbed of terrorism.

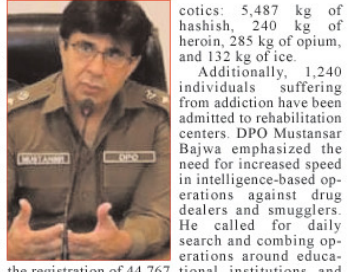
On Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was asked a series of questions about the incident, protocols and the role of the foreign ministry.—RT/Agency



SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Gujranwala Police Intensify Anti-Narcotics Operations Under CM Maryam's Directive

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: In alignment with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision for a drug-free Punjab, targeted anti-narcotics operations are being intensified across various districts, including Gujrat. Under the supervision of IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar and DPO Mustansar Bajwa, the police have conducted a total of 80,910 raids on drug dealers' hideouts this year.

The operations have led to the arrest of 44,830 suspects involved in drug trafficking and seizures include over 7,37,000 liters of alcohol, along with substantial quantities of narcotics: 5,487 kg of hashish, 240 kg of heroin, 285 kg of opium, and 132 kg of ice.

Additionally, 1,240 individuals suffering from addiction have been admitted to rehabilitation centers. DPO Mustansar Bajwa emphasized the need for increased speed in intelligence-based operations against drug dealers and smugglers. He called for daily search and combing operations around educational institutions and hostels to combat the drug supply chain and ensure severe penalties for all involved in this heinous trade.

Significant seizures include over 7,37,000 liters of alcohol, along with substantial quantities of narcotics: 5,487 kg of hashish, 240 kg of heroin, 285 kg of opium, and 132 kg of ice.

Robbers Loot Goods Transport Warehouse

By Abid Mahmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Unknown armed robbers broke the locks and chains of a local goods transport warehouse and escaped after looting dinner sets, lentils, and other items worth millions of rupees. It has been learned that Malik Muhammad Yoonis of Chak No. 298 JB had set up a warehouse for a goods transport company near the PASCO warehouse on Toba Road. Early last night, Malik Muhammad Yoonis loaded a truck loaded with goods from various cities for different shopkeepers and locked up the warehouse before going home. During this time, three unidentified armed robbers broke into the warehouse, stealing 24

expensive dinner sets, several sacks of lentils, and other goods, loading them onto a loader rickshaw, and fleeing the scene. The stolen goods are estimated to be worth over 450,000 rupees. Notably, one of the robbers was allegedly carrying a wireless set and stopped two motorcyclists passing by, impersonating a police officer. He searched them under the pretense of checking and snatched thousands of rupees in cash and mobile phones before escaping. So far, the City Police Station, after some delay, has registered a case of theft from the goods transport warehouse. The public has expressed concern over the increasing incidents of theft, robbery, and snatching within the limits of the City Police Station.

EDITORIAL

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

Friday, September 27, 2024



Welcoming Pakistan's Last IMF Deal

Pakistan's recent approval of a \$7 billion loan agreement from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) marks a crucial turning point in the country's economic history. Supported by "significant financing assurances" from China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, this deal offers a temporary respite from the immediate financial crisis. The backing from these key allies goes beyond simply rolling over \$12 billion in loans, signaling strong international confidence in Pakistan's economic potential. However, the larger question remains—will this finally be Pakistan's last IMF bailout?

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's commit-

ment to making this the last IMF program for Pakistan brings hope to a nation weary of decades of dependency on international finan-



cial aid. This is Pakistan's 23rd IMF program since 1958, an alarming number that reflects deep-seated economic issues that need urgent resolution. The new agreement calls for "sound policies and reforms" to stabilize the economy, and the Pakistani government must not only follow through but also take bold, long-term steps to strengthen macroeconomic

stability.

While this deal offers a necessary lifeline, it is critical that Pakistan breaks the cycle of recurring financial crises. Economic reforms must focus on promoting sustainable growth, reducing fiscal deficits, and diversifying the country's economy. The international backing provides a platform for rebuilding, but the responsibility now falls on the leadership to ensure this opportunity is not wasted. If Pakistan follows through on the Prime Minister's promise, this could indeed be the last IMF deal, providing a pathway toward self-reliance and economic independence. Now is the time to make that promise a reality.

THE HEARTLAND



Surprise visits to primary schools reveal absenteeism and school closures

By Roshan Memon

JOHI: Shahabuddin Shahani, the Taluka Education Officer for Primary Schools in Johi, conducted surprise visits to various primary schools in the region to assess educational standards. During these visits, several schools were found closed, and some teachers were absent.

The TEO expressed astonishment upon discovering that a school with an enrollment of 120 students had only three teachers present, with only six students actually attending. He emphasized that such inflated enrollment figures would not be tolerated.

Several schools were found closed which include Government Primary School Allah Bachayo Jamali, Government Primary School Selman Panhwar, Government Primary School Urs Jamali, Government Primary School Wahi Ja Faqir, Government Primary School Shadan, Government Primary School Qadir Bakhsh Kalhoro Explanations have been issued to the absent staff, requiring them to respond within three working days. Failure to provide a satisfactory response will result in reports to the Director's office for further action under AND rules, ensuring that the futures of innocent children are not jeopardized.



Government Primary School Wahi Ja Faqir, Government Primary School Shadan, Government Primary School Qadir Bakhsh Kalhoro Explanations have been issued to the absent staff, requiring them to respond within three working days. Failure to provide a satisfactory response will result in reports to the Director's office for further action under AND rules, ensuring that the futures of innocent children are not jeopardized.

Helping Hands Pakistan organizes cricket tournament

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: A two-day cricket tournament was organized in Jacobabad by Helping Hands Pakistan in collaboration with the Sports and Youth Affairs Department. The tournament featured eight teams composed of children from local streets, with the Jeay Shah and Young Tigers teams reaching the final.

After an exciting match in the final, the Jeay Shah team claimed the trophy. At the conclusion of the tournament, special guest Chairperson Shahzoor Khan Rind, District Sports Officer Masood



Ahmed Soomro, and CEO Zulfiqar Ali Brohi presented trophies and prizes to the captains of the winning and runner-up teams, allowing their talents to emerge. Leaders emphasized

SAU and KCAET celebrate academic excellence and global recognition in Sindh



By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Dr. Jam Ghulam Murtaza Sehto, Principal of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tando Jam, eloquently emphasized the institution's role in nurturing skilled professionals critical for the development of Sindh province in Pakistan. Speaking at an event hosted by the Khairpur College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology (KCAET) on Thursday, he lauded the university's efforts in creating a brain drain powerhouse through its programs. This ceremony honored Dr. Liaquat Ali Lund, who for the second time has been ranked among the top two scientists globally in the field of math-

ematics by the prestigious Stanford University and Elsevier. Dr. Lund, a dedicated faculty member of KCAET, has once again brought immense pride to SAU and KCAET. His remarkable achievements underscore the high academic standards and the rigorous scientific culture fostered within these institutions. The ceremony at KCAET was a celebration of academic excellence, global recognition, and the promising future of educational institutions in Pakistan. As SAU and KCAET continue to nurture talent and foster innovation, they stand as beacons of hope and progress for Pakistan and its four provinces especially for Sindh province.

First global conference on family planning held at SMBBMU

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: The Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University held its first global conference on family planning. Addressing the conference, Provincial Minister for Health and Population Dr. Azra Fazal Pechhuo remarked that hosting the first global conference on family planning in the ancestral city of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto is commendable. She congratulated Vice Chancellor Professor Nusrat Shah and the presenters of research papers for organizing such an extraordinary event.

Dr. Pechhuo emphasized that assembly seats should not be linked to population growth, as doing so would lead to an increase in population rather than a decrease. She mentioned that the allocation of NFC awards also depends on population, and it is crucial to consider how to control population growth.

She highlighted improvements in the productive health care system, making awareness and access to medications more efficient and accessible. Dr. Pechhuo noted that the Health Depart-



ment in Sindh is focusing on child nutrition through enhancements in the Child Nutrition Act, and efforts are underway to create a baby-friendly environment in every hospital, allowing working women to breast-feed their children comfortably. Abdullah Khan, Secretary of the Population Welfare Department in Balochistan, pointed out that Pakistan ranks fifth globally in terms of population. If this trend continues, Pakistan will be the fourth most populous country in 26 years. He highlighted the alarming statistics of 6.1 million births annually in Pakistan, with maternal and child mortality rates also concerning. The conference was attended by notable figures, including Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Population Nida Khuroo, Sindh Secretary for Health Rehan Iqbal Baloch, Secretary for Population and Welfare Hafiz Abdul Hadi Baloch, Vice Chancellor of Peoples University of Medical and Health Sciences Nawabshah Professor Dr. Gulshan Ali Memon, and Vice Chancellor of Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University Sukkur Professor Tahmina Nangarhar, along with many officers, doctors, and personalities related to health and population welfare sectors.

Jacobabad journalists demand justice for their colleagues



By Muhammad Ali Surhio

JACOBABAD: In Jacobabad, journalists and citizens staged a protest against the false charges and subsequent arrests of young journalists Ghulam YasIn Dayo and Khair Muhammad Dayo, led by the city police. Filed by journalist Muhammad Ali Surhio, the protest began at Shaheed Allah Bakhsh Soomro Park, gathering a large crowd, including JUI district Amir Dr. AG Ansari, PPP leader Nadeem Qureshi, and Haji Ghulam Nand Rand, president of the Labor Citizens' Union.

Marching through various streets, the demonstrators reached DC Chowk and held a sit-in outside the DC House, chanting slogans against the police. During the speeches, leaders condemned the city police for filing false charges and unlawfully arresting journalists, stating that such actions are an attack on free press, which will not be tolerated. They demanded that IG Sindh, DIG Larkana, and SSP Jacobabad conduct a transparent investigation into the false charges, ensure the safety of journalists, and take action against the involved police officers. They warned that if their demands were not met, they would escalate their protests.

Chlorine gas leak at WASA Filter Plant leaves 25 children unconscious

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: In the Khurshid Town area near the Panjari Police Station, a chlorine gas leak from the WASA filter plant caused widespread panic, leading to 25 children fainting due to inhalation. According to doctors, three of the children are in critical condition.

Local residents evacuated the area as Rescue 1122 teams arrived to initiate cooling operations. The Medical Superintendent of the Civil Hospital reported that 25 unconscious and semi-conscious children

have been admitted for treatment, with efforts being made by the civil administration and doctors to ensure their recovery. Some children's health remains critical.

MD WASA Zahir Khamtio, discussing the incident, confirmed that a chlorine gas cylinder at the filter plant had leaked. He speculated that unknown individuals may have attempted to steal the cylinder, but he had no prior knowledge of the leak. He added that the leak has now been sealed. They highlighted that covers for manholes, procured years ago, were sourced from pre-

ferred contractors who provided substandard products. Calls for proper inspections of these contracts were made, suggesting that many underlying issues would come to light.

WASA sources indicated that while this incident occurred in the pumping area, similar chlorine cylinders are present at every water pumping station, raising concerns about potential leaks elsewhere. They emphasized the importance of testing chlorine cylinders upon purchase, asserting that the favoritism in contract awards has led to these safety oversights.

Farmers warn of strong protests against rice mills and traders

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: In Sujawal district, farmers are deeply troubled by rice mills and traders lowering the prices of paddy after the harvest. According to reports, the paddy harvest has begun in various towns of Sujawal, where rice mill owners and traders have set their preferred prices, causing difficulties for the farmers.

Farmers Abdul Ghafour Palipotto, Raees Shaukhat Ali Laghari, Syed

Abdullah Shah, Raees Amin Chang, Raees Manzoor Ali Laghari, Azeem Lund, Maqbool Ali, and others spoke to journalists, stating that after the paddy harvest, the rice mill owners and traders have established a monopoly by lowering prices. They reported that before the harvest, paddy was selling for 3,750 rupees per mound and 75,000 rupees per acre, but now that the crop has entered the market, the price has dropped to 2,800 rupees per mound

and 56,000 rupees per acre, which they describe as outright injustice. The farmers also mentioned that recent rains have severely damaged the crops, causing standing water in the fields, which has adversely affected the harvest. They called on the Sindh government and higher authorities to take strict action against the rice mills and traders, demanding fair prices, or else they will announce strong protests.

One more member of gang of thieves arrested

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A few days ago 5 armed suspects escaped from Golarchi by stealing 15 lac rupees cash and an iPhone from Imtiaz Soomro, an employee of Postal Host Company. Bakhsh Ko-rejo and Ashana Jatoi were arrested and Rs 35 lac cash was recovered from the possession of the accused. Last day, Bakhsh Keerio was

under the leadership of DSP Shaheed Fazil Rahu Shakeel Ahmad Solangi, SHO Shaheed Fazil Rahu Police Station Inspector Ghulam Mustafa Aqlani took action and arrested another operative of the gang named Allah Bakhsh 30 bore pistol, 5 rounds and 2 lac rupees cash has been recovered. Accused are being conducted to the rest him.

SPORTS



-Congratulations Usman!

Pakistan's Usman Wazeer knocks down Indian boxer in just 65 seconds



THAILAND: Pakistan's Usman Wazeer sensationally dismantled Indian boxer, Thehlak Selvam, in just 65 seconds in a highly anticipated professional boxing clash.

The six-round bout, held at a boxing arena in Thailand, barely made it past the first few seconds of the opening round when Wazeer delivered a powerful punch that knocked the Indian boxer to the ground.

Struggling to recover, Thehlak Selvam received another heavy blow after which he couldn't recover.

Seeing that the Indian boxer was unable to respond, the referee stopped

the fight, declaring Usman Wazeer the winner on technical grounds.

This victory marks Usman Wazeer's 14th consecutive win in professional boxing, solidifying his reputation as a rising star in the sport. He has secured prestigious titles including the World Youth Title, Asian Title, and Middle East Title, bringing honour to Pakistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. Taking to X (formerly Twitter) after his triumph, Wazeer called upon the prime ministers of Pakistan and India to work towards fostering better relations between the two nations. —RT/Agency

PAK vs ENG: Zahid Mahmood included in Pakistan squad ahead of first Test

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has provided an update on the Test squad ahead of the first Test of the three-match series against England.

Leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood will join the pre-test camp in Multan as the 16th player, but the final squad will be trimmed to 15 players for the first Test, set to begin on October 7.



"Kamran Ghulam and Mohammad Ali will remain on reserve but will continue playing domestic matches to stay match-ready," the PCB said in a statement.

"All three players are part of the Pakistan Test team setup, but 15 players are sufficient for the home Test series due to logistical reasons," he added.

The PCB highlighted that it would be more beneficial for Ghulam and Ali to gain playing time in domestic matches rather than sitting in the dugout during the series. The move allows them to keep sharp and in form for potential call-ups during future matches.

Remember, PCB confirmed the squad for the first Test on Tuesday. The squad will assemble in Multan on Monday, September 30, with the training camp commencing on October 1.

The selected players were withdrawn from the Champions One-Day Cup playoffs to allow them some rest ahead of the series. —Agency

Asim Khan upsets Egypt's Yahya Al-Nawasani to reach Charlottesville Open quarter-finals



VIRGINIA: In the Charlottesville Open Squash Tournament, Pakistan's Asim Khan pulled off a major upset by defeating second seed Yahya Al-Nawasani of Egypt in a thrilling match to reach the quarter-finals.

In this tournament, held in the US state of Virginia, Asim overcame his strong Egyptian opponent after a grueling hour-long battle.

Asim Khan triumphed over Yahya Al-Nawasani with scores of 11-7, 4-11, 11-6, 7-11, and 11-7. This impressive victory has secured Asim a place in the tournament's quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, another Pakistani player, Ashab Irfan, was knocked out in the second round by Egypt's seventh seed Ibrahim Al-Kabbani. Ashab suffered defeat 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

England captain Stokes 'on track' to play Pakistan Tests

LONDON: England Test captain Ben Stokes on Thursday, has been given a green signal to participate in the three-match Test series against Pakistan, scheduled to commence on October 7.



The all-rounder has been out of action since suffering a hamstring injury while playing for the Northern Superchargers in The Hundred 2024.

Stokes underwent scans on Wednesday, which indicated that he is 'on track' to attain match fitness for the upcoming series against Pakistan.

"The results of the scans were positive and confirmed that his recovery, since sustaining the injury six-and-a-half weeks ago, remains on track to participate in the upcoming Test series against Pakistan," an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) statement said.

England are set to depart for Pakistan on October 1 with the opening Test scheduled to begin on October 7.

Despite being on track to participate in the upcoming series, there are some doubts about whether Ben Stokes would be able to bowl.

"I think that's you getting ahead of yourself. Obviously I've been six-and-a-half weeks now of just walking and doing stuff in the gym," said Stokes in response to a question regarding the chances of him bowling in the Pakistan Tests.

"There's a lot more than just my hamstring that I need to get back firing and working up again in terms of bowling, because you use everything, so I need to get that all right to make sure I don't do any damage to other parts of my body," he added.

The three-match Test series between Pakistan and England, part of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC), will run from October 7 to 28 with matches scheduled in Multan and Rawalpindi.

For the unversed, this will be England's second tour of Pakistan in two years. They won the last Test series 3-0 in December 2022. —Agency

Under-fire Bangladesh ex-skipper Shakib announces retirement



KANPUR: Bangladesh ex-captain Shakib Al Hasan, facing prosecution for his relationship with the country's former leader, said on Thursday he would soon retire from international cricket but hoped to play at least one more match back home first.

Shakib is facing murder charges along with dozens of other members of ex-premier Sheikh Hasina's party who have been accused of culpability in a deadly police crackdown on protesters.

The 37-year-old, who briefly served as a lawmaker under Hasina this year, has not returned to Bangladesh since the toppling of her government last month in a student-led revolution.

Shakib said that next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan would be his last international outing.

But he added that he wanted to return home for a slated two-Test series against South Africa, and had asked the Bangladesh Cricket Board if he could come back.

"It's my desire, I have said this to BCB and the selectors," Shakib told reporters ahead of Friday's second Test against India in Kanpur.

"They agreed with me, that they are trying to organise everything if possible, so that I can go back to Bangladesh, play those two Test matches in Mirpur and finish my Test career there."

He added: "If that doesn't happen maybe this is my last one."

The South Africa tour due to start on October 21 is still under a cloud, with the Proteas assessing whether Bangladesh is safe enough after last month's revolution. Shakib told reporters ahead of Friday's second Test against India in Kanpur that he did not "want to talk much" about the criminal proceedings against him. "You all know what type of case it is, and where I was and what I was doing at that time," he said. Shakib was playing in a domestic Twenty20 cricket competition in Canada during the unrest that ousted Hasina. —Agency

Red-ball coach Jason Gillespie stresses importance of showing faith in cricketers

FAISALABAD: Pakistan's red-ball cricket team head coach Jason Gillespie has emphasised on the importance of giving confidence and showing faith in existing group of cricketers.



"We picked a squad which is not too dissimilar to what we had against Bangladesh. I'm really keen to show our faith and belief in our players," said Gillespie.

The head coach also discussed a range of topics, from player development to fitness challenges and the lessons he has learned so far while speaking during commentary at the Champions Cup match between Lions and Stallions on Wednesday.

"We don't want to have knee-jerk reactions after every bad game or a result that hasn't gone our way. We want to show the faith and belief in these players because they're very good players, and we showed glimpses of good cricket in both the first and second Test against Bangladesh in Pindi," Gillespie said.

However, the head coach recognized the need for greater consistency. "We just need to do it a little bit more consistently," he added, stressing that maintaining trust in the players could help them achieve the desired results.

Gillespie - who also

touring to Australia with the Pakistan Shaheens - shared his experience of getting acquainted with the players and support staff.

"The team's been great," he said. "I was fortunate enough to be in Darwin with the Pakistan Shaheens, which was a great experience to get to know some of the guys playing underneath the test side. Obviously, the test series didn't go the way we would have liked against Bangladesh, but to start getting to know the players, the support staff, and everyone within Pakistan cricket has been fantastic."

Gillespie, himself a renowned fast bowler, also acknowledged the importance of fitness in Test cricket.

"Fitness has been well-documented in the press. That's certainly something, as far as I'm concerned, and having spoken to Gary Kirsten, is controllable. It's something that we can control. We can continue to develop and work on that because, as we know, Test cricket is a challenge," Gillespie remarked.

One player who has caught the eye of the cricketing community is Kamran Ghulam, who has been in outstanding form in the Champions Cup, scoring two centuries. —Agency

PCB seeks consultant in Sports Medicine to address cricketers' fitness challenges



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced their decision to appoint a consultant in Sports Medicine to ensure the timely diagnosis and management of fitness issues affecting cricketers at both domestic and international levels.

This move comes in response to ongoing challenges in identifying and treating injuries that have impacted players' performance.

In a bid to fill this crucial role, the PCB has issued a public advertisement, seeking qualified candidates with expertise in Sports Medicine. The applications are open till October 10. —Agency

be responsible for diagnosing and treating players' injuries, as well as overseeing their rehabilitation.

The role will also involve close collaboration with physiotherapists and trainers from both the national and domestic teams, ensuring a coordinated approach to maintaining player fitness.

According to the PCB, candidates must hold an MBBS degree, possess at least 10 years of relevant experience, and demonstrate a solid understanding of sports culture and decision-making abilities. The applications are open till October 10. —Agency

Face of the Day



Name: Abdu
Location: Karachi
About me: Strike a pose if you love modeling like me!
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Cardi B breaks silence on Offset cheating allegation



Offset claimed Cardi B cheated on her during her pregnancy. Now, the latter is seemingly breaking silence in a cryptic way.

The Bodak Yellow rapper on the internet wrote a two-word response, "AND DID I!!!!!!"

This post sparked a frenzy among her fans who, according to The Independent, believed the Grammy winner had confirmed the allegations her ex-husband leveled at her during her Instagram Live session, where he dropped a comment, "U

Jennifer Lopez's 'secret attempts' amid Ben Affleck split revealed



Jennifer Lopez reportedly still believes that she and Ben Affleck can give their crumbling marriage another chance.

Even though Jennifer Lopez, who tied the knot with the director in 2022, filed for divorce from Ben in April 2024, she is struggling to say goodbye to him, as per the findings of Heat Magazine.

Spilling the beans on the matter, an insider recently shared with the outlet, "While Jen has been trying to be strong in public, behind closed doors she's less sure of herself."

As per this confidante, the On The Floor crooner "has admitted that she's been missing Ben a lot."

"Shed secretly hoped that filing for divorce would spark him to take drastic action to turn things around and try to win her back, so the fact he still wants to go ahead with their split is heartbreaking," the source continued.

Similar claims were made by an insider privy to In Touch Weekly, who revealed earlier that "J. Lo has been through a lot in her life. But this year has really tested how much pain she can withstand."

In addition to this, the insider maintained at the time, "Though she's putting on a brave face in public, behind closed doors she's been in tears," and added, "It's the worst year of her life."

THE HEARTLAND



Khairpur Police arrest two for fleecing BISP beneficiaries

By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Khairpur Police conducted a raid at the Benazir Income Support Program center on the orders of DIG Sukkur, arresting two device holders for illegally deducting funds from women's welfare payments.

At the Benazir Income Support Program center, two device holders, Aziz Ahmed Manglo and Musawir Khuro, were found illegally deducting money from the welfare funds intended for poor, underprivileged women. The Police have registered a case against them under government orders and



arrested the culprits. However, several other influential device holders remain free from any action.

Newlywed couple demands protection



By Mumtaz Ali they have contracted on their freewill due to which relatives of Ramsha are issuing dire threats to them. On the occasion, the protesters demanded of the concerned authorities to take notice of the matter and provide protection to them.

TANDO ADAM: A newlywed couple named Tahir Gahro and Ramsha addressed a press conference at the Tando Adam Press Club on Thursday. Addressing on the occasion, the couple said that

Judicial enquiry demanded in Dr. Shahnawaz's murder

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In Umerkot, a massive protest was held against the murder of Dr. Shahnawaz Kunbhar, led by Sindhu Nawaz, Waheed Ali, Noor Muhammad, Ghangro, Punhal Sario, and others. The rally started from Teen Talwar Chowk and proceeded to Allah Wala Chowk, drawing thousands of participants.



extrajudicial killing that would not be tolerated. They demanded the arrest of all officials involved in the incident and called for a judicial inquiry into the matter. Meanwhile, efforts to reach the SSP for a response were unsuccessful as he did not answer calls.

During the speeches, leaders condemned Dr. Shahnawaz's murder as an

Protest recorded for completion of hospital's construction work

TALHAR: In the village of Haji Gohram Khan Chandio, within Union Council Lakhi at Tando Ghulam Hyder, the construction of a hospital building has remained incomplete for the past eight years.



Leaders from the Pakistan People's Party, including Haji Gohram Khan Chandio, Shabir Chandio, Mureed, Sitar, Inayat, Shahbaz Chandio, Taj Khaskheli, and others, held a protest to highlight the issue. They expressed frustration that the ten-bed hospital has not been finished despite the lengthy delay.

The protesters ap-

pealed to PPP Chairman Muhammad Khan to expedite the completion of the Chief Minister of the hospital so that the community can access the department, and Deputy better healthcare facilities. —RT/Agency

DC Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan chairs meeting of District Reforms Oversight Committee

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: Bright future of our children is associated with better and quality education. These views were expressed by Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan while presiding over the District Reforms Oversight Committee meeting in his office. He further said that Sindh Education Department is planning better strategies and keeping in view the requirements of time to provide quality education in government schools so that the children have a bright future as well as prepare themselves for the competition. Therefore, the district administration is making every possible effort

to open the closed schools in the district immediately and expose the children to the skills of education. He directed Chief Monitoring Officer Abdul Wahab Memon to activate monitoring teams to ensure the attendance of teachers in schools and to take departmental action against teachers who are consistently absent and whose buildings are in bad condition. Their full report should be provided. He directed the District Coordinator of the Reforms Support Unit to give a detailed report of the ongoing programs in the district under the Reforms Support Program which is ongoing by the Government of Sindh for the improvement of education and in this context, the social organizations regarding education. A report should also be given for whatever responsibility is there. Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Dr. Rasheed Masood Khan directed the Assistant Engineer Education Works Sajjad Memon to provide a complete report of the schools which have renovation and repair schemes across the district.

Bhutto family protests against attacks by local landlords



By Zeeshan Soomro with sticks and stones and frequently issuing threats.

SAKRAND: In Sakrand, residents of village Palivo Bhutto, including Raham Ali Bhutto, along with family members Satabi Bhutto and Mirzadi Bhutto, staged a protest outside the Sukkur Press Club. They alleged that Gulsher Bhutto and Ghulam Rasool Bhutto have been attacking them

Badin couple seeks protection in Mirpurkhas Court after love marriage

By Younis Chandio

MIRPURKHAS: A couple from Badin, who got married five months ago, has filed a plea in the Mirpurkhas court seeking protection. The couple, Gulam Hussain and Zaib-un-Nisa, residents of Golarchi, Badin, claim that they are receiving continuous death threats.



The couple has appealed order for their protection, to the SP of Mirpurkhas and the respondents continue to harass them, preventing them from living their lives despite the court issuing an order.

According to Gulam Hussain, son of Muhammad Ramzan, and his wife Zaib-un-Nisa, daughter of Mir Muhammad Khaskheli, Zaib-un-Nisa's uncle, Ali Dino, her father, Mir Muhammad Khaskheli, and Bilawal Khaskheli from Islamkot are threatening to kill them. Additionally, Gulam Hussain's maternal uncles, Ramzan and Saleem, are also receiving similar threats.

Selection process for Rapid Response Force officers underway

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Under the direction of Inspector General of Police Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, the selection process for police officers to serve in the Rapid Response Force (RRF) is currently ongoing at the police headquarters in Hyderabad.

Led by SSP RRF Madam Naseem Ara Panhwar, along with DSP Parvez Abro and Inspector Muhammad Aslam, the selection committee is meticulously reviewing the educational qualifications, physical health standards, service records, and ages of police officers from the districts of Dadu, Jamshoro, and Badin who are under transfer or replacement.

Present at the selection were In-Charge Establishment DIGP Office Hyderabad Range Bashir Ahmed Shah and establishment clerk Himmat Ali Junejo. SSP RRF Madam Naseem Ara Panhwar stated that the RRF has made outstanding contributions to



maintaining law and order in Sindh. Officers and personnel of the RRF have sacrificed their lives to protect the safety and dignity of citizens and to combat crime. She expressed hope that the selected officers would demonstrate their best capabilities in uprooting crime, upholding the rule of law, and establishing peace and order. She also mentioned that the selected officers would receive an RRF allowance.

Tando Allahyar Police holds blood donation camp



By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Following the orders of SSP Tando Allahyar Abrez Ali Abbasi, the Tando Allahyar police organized a one-day blood donation camp at the police headquarters to support patients suffering from thalassaemia and hemophilia. A team of medical professionals conducted various blood tests and fitness assessments on the police personnel before collecting their blood donations. Under the supervision of DSP Investigating Azeem Khan Durani, Inspector Muhammad Sadiq Daraz, and Accountant Umar Daraz, the police officers donated blood to aid patients in need. In appreciation of their efforts, SSP Tando Allahyar congratulated the donating officers, who were also provided with CC-III and juice refreshments after their contributions.

Armed men attack prisoner van and get a notorious criminal free in Pir Jo Goth

By AQ Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: A group of armed individuals attacked a prisoner van outside the gate of the Civil Court in Pir Jo Goth, freeing a prisoner named Mehboob Ali Narejo, from police custody. The assailants, who arrived on six motorcycles with twelve attackers, managed to escape with the prisoner in handcuffs. During the attack, two police officers were injured while resisting the attackers. According to SSP Dr. Samiullah Soomro, a search operation has been launched in the area to apprehend the culprits. The prisoner van was

transporting several inmates to the Senior Civil Judge's court for hearings when the armed men attacked and surrounded it. Despite resistance from the police officers guarding the van, the attackers successfully freed Mehboob Narejo, a notorious criminal with numerous serious charges across various police stations in the district. The injured officers, Muhammad Ali Mallah and Ghulam Hussain Joyo, were taken to the hospital for treatment. Upon receiving news of the attack, SSP Khairpur Dr. Samiullah Soomro, along with a heavy police force, rushed to the crime scene outside the court.

After inspecting the site and gathering details from the police personnel present, a search operation was initiated to track down the attackers and the escaped prisoner. Dr. Samiullah Soomro stated that the operation would continue until all involved including Mehboob Narejo, are apprehended. He emphasized that those involved in criminal activities will face severe consequences, and the escaped prisoner, who is involved in multiple serious cases, will be re-arrested at any cost. Investigations into the incident are ongoing, and action will be taken against anyone found complicit.

Students protest against alleged misconduct during MDCAT exam



By Mumtaz Ali Soomro

QAZI AHMED: In Qazi Ahmed, students preparing for medical admissions protested outside the Qazi Ahmad Press Club, holding placards and chanting slogans against the alleged violation of merit and the rumored leak of test papers. During the protest, speakers including Imran Baloch, Abdul Qadir Detho, and Zeeshan Ali stated that recent medical entrance test papers were reportedly sold for thousands of rupees. They urged the authorities not to infringe on the rights of hard-working and intelligent students and called for an end to the disregard for merit. The protesters demanded a retake of the medical entrance test to ensure fairness and justice for deserving students.

NATIONAL

FBR Dismisses Mini-Budget Rumors, Confident In Meeting Revenue Targets Despite Hurdles

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) ruled out the mini-budget, asserting confidence in meeting its revenue targets despite the challenges ahead, media reported Thursday.



Earlier, the tax-collecting authority was poised to introduce a mini-budget with an aim to generate around Rs650 billion in revenue primarily by cracking down on tax evaders and increasing general sales tax (GST) on properties, tractors and other items. During a meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, chaired by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, FBR Member Policy Hamid Ateeq Sarwar acknowledged the difficulty of reaching the tax target

challenges, Sarwar announced plans to hire 4,000 auditors and integrate an additional 2 million traders into the tax net. He emphasized that "there are no new tax measures under consideration." The FBR is also focused on bringing wholesale markets into the tax system, despite ongoing difficulties in this area.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI



Umerkot Blasphemy Suspect Killed In 'Staged' Police Encounter: Sindh Home Minister

By Ashraf Kunbhar

KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar disclosed on Thursday that a probe committee has concluded that Dr. Shah Nawaz Kunbhar, a blasphemy suspect from Umerkot, was killed in a fabricated police encounter. The minister vowed to take strict action against those involved in the incident.

Dr. Kunbhar, a medical professional, had been charged under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code by the Umerkot police for allegedly sharing blasphemous content on social media. He was taken into "protective custody" on September 18, and subsequently transferred to Mirpurkhas. However, the following day, he was shot dead by Sindhri police in what was claimed to be an encounter.

Sindhri SHO Niaz Khoso alleged that the doctor, along with his accomplices, fired upon the police, leading to retaliatory action in which Dr. Kunbhar was killed, while one accomplice managed to escape. Following the incident, the doctor's body was handed over to his family, but a mob later re-emerged and set it ablaze.

The alleged encounter sparked widespread public outrage, prompting Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to take notice of the incident. As a result, the



DIG and SSP of Mirpurkhas, along with other police officers, were suspended. At a press conference on Thursday, Home Minister Lanjar revealed that the investigation, led by DIG Pervaiz Chandio of Shaheed Benazirabad, determined the police encounter was staged. He noted that the suspension of such high-ranking officials and the initiation of a thorough probe is an uncommon occurrence.

Lanjar detailed that the 31-page investigation report included analysis of CCTV footage, call data records (CDR), and mobile phone tracking. "Our police officers are implicated in this incident," he stated, adding that an FIR will be filed against them, and the chief minister has been informed of the findings.

Furthermore, the minister confirmed that the DIG and SSP of Mirpurkhas have been suspended, and an FIR will be registered

against them. "At least six cases have been filed so far, and no one involved will be spared," he emphasized.

He also mentioned that the suspect's family has been briefed on the ongoing inquiry and urged them to file a case, stating that if they refuse, the state will proceed with filing the FIR. Lanjar clarified that the investigation is focused on the circumstances of the encounter, rather than the blasphemous charges against Dr. Shah Nawaz.

The minister also announced that a new DIG has been appointed, and the inquiry committee, consisting of two SSPs from Umerkot and Shaheed Benazirabad, will continue investigating the FIRs. He assured that after the investigation is complete, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah will announce compensation for the suspect's family, affirming that no extrajudicial incident will be tolerated.

Sharjeel Calls For Constitutional Courts And Judicial Reform

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon reiterated the Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) long-standing demand for the establishment of constitutional courts, a proposal also advocated during the signing of the Charter of Democracy. Speaking to the media after inaugurating the Pakistan Sustainability Week exhibition on alternative energy at the Expo Center in Karachi, Memon emphasized the need for swift and direct justice for the people, noting that the PPP is committed to this cause. He highlighted that justice has often been delayed for decades in Pakistan, citing the unresolved murder case of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto as a tragic example.



Memon criticized former Chief Justices Ifkhar Chaudhry and Saqib Nisar, describing them as a "disgrace" to the judicial system and calling for the revocation of their privileges. He questioned the legitimacy of Nisar's involvement in projects like the construction of dams, asking where such responsibilities are outlined in the Constitution. He also

expressed frustration over the indefinite postponement of the murder case of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, contrasting it with the judiciary's focus on less critical cases.

Memon affirmed the PPP's respect for the judiciary, stating that despite the hardships the party has faced due to judicial activism, it has never disrespected the courts. He



criticized the practice of political figures endorsing judges from jail, referring to recent statements made by the founder of PTT, and called for reforms to ensure the judicial system operates fairly and without bias. During the exhibition, Memon praised the efforts to showcase alternative energy technologies, stressing the importance of reducing reliance on costly conventional energy sources. He noted that over 200 national and international companies participated in the event, which he sees as a positive step towards enhancing trade relations and providing affordable energy solutions to the public. Memon also toured the exhibition, reviewing the modern machinery on display and commending the organizers for their successful event.

PML-N Youth Wing Leader Involved In Karachi Hit-And-Run Incident



KARACHI: The general secretary of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) youth wing, Rehan Mustafa, has been accused of running over a motorcyclist on Karachi's University Road, as reported on Thursday. Rehan, who holds the position of General Secretary within the PML-N Youth Wing, allegedly drove his Revo vehicle in the wrong direction, striking Athar, a father of two and an employee at Karachi Medical and Dental College (KMDC). Eyewitnesses reported that two women, suspected to be in-

toxicated and present in the vehicle with Rehan, fled the scene on foot after the collision. Athar sustained severe head injuries and is currently in a coma, receiving treatment in the ICU at Civil Hospital. Police investigations revealed that Rehan resides with his father, a doctor, in a home owned by a retired DSP of Sindh Police. The accused has been on the run since the incident, with authorities intensifying their search, tracing his last known location to the Drigh Road area—RT/Agency

STEVTA Signs MoU With Avari Hotels International For Hospitality Training

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: In a significant development, the Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (STEVTA) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Avari Hotels International Karachi (AHIK) to provide practical training in hospitality and hotel management to its students. The signing ceremony took place at STEVTA headquarters in Karachi, with Managing Director Mr. Munawar Ali Mithani representing STEVTA, and Mr. Dinshaw B. Avari, Director/Owner of Avari and Beach Luxury Hotels, representing Avari Hotels. The event was also witnessed by Mr. Byram Avari and Dr. Syeda Lubna Rizvi, Additional Director of STEVTA.



Under the MoU, both STEVTA and AHIK will jointly select Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) courses in hospitality and hotel management, with AHIK providing hands-on training for students enrolled in these programs. STEVTA will focus on delivering the theoretical components, while AHIK will assist in curriculum development and revision within the sector. Additionally, AHIK will offer both long-term and short-term internships to STEVTA students and graduates, with the duration of these internships to be determined by mutual agreement.

Furthermore, AHIK will support capacity building initiatives in the hospitality sector for lower-grade staff from government departments, as selected by both parties. Both STEVTA and AHIK expressed their satisfaction in achieving this milestone, emphasizing their shared commitment to equipping the province's youth with essential skills for the job market, a primary objective

Italian Consul General Unveils Advanced FPT Diesel Engines In Karachi, Emphasizes Sustainable Innovation



KARACHI: Mr. Danilo Giurdanella, the Consul General of Italy in Karachi, attended the launch event for the new R24 FPT diesel engines, showcasing Italy's cutting-edge technological innovation. The unveiling, held in Karachi, marks a significant step towards providing innovative and efficient solutions to industries across Pakistan, aimed at reducing carbon footprints and enhancing operational efficiency.

During the event, Mr. Giurdanella congratulated the management of Power Zone for their efforts in bringing FPT Industrial—a name synonymous with "Made in Italy" excellence—to Pakistan. He praised the introduction of sustainable and alternative energy solutions, emphasizing the importance of such innovations in the country's industrial landscape. The event was also attended by key figures

from Italy, including Mr. Riccardo Pavani, Head of Asia Pacific Region, Mr. Gianmaria Pece, Head of Marketing, and Mr. Zeeshan Yousef, Head of Sales for South East Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

Trade relations between Pakistan and Italy have been growing robustly, with a trade surplus recorded at \$624.518 million in 2023, nearly doubling from \$316.995 million the previous year. Pakistan's overall exports to Italy reached \$1,151.448 million during this period, up from \$1,087.434 million in 2022.

Italy ranks first among European countries in the number of machinery and equipment companies and is a global leader in machinery and mechatronics, with 60,000 functioning units. FPT Industrial, one of the largest companies in the powertrain sector and

now part of the Iveco Group, produces powertrains for various applications, including on-road, off-road, marine, and power generation.

The event also saw the presence of the President of the Pakistan Society of Agricultural Engineers and the Country Head of CNH Industrial, a company that has been successfully operating in Pakistan for over two decades. CNH Industrial has played a key role in promoting mechanization in Pakistan, showcasing the success of Italian technology in the region. Mr. Giurdanella expressed his hopes for FPT's continued presence in Pakistan for many more decades and encouraged other sister companies under the Iveco Group to explore opportunities in Pakistan, capitalizing on the country's true potential.—RT

Arshad Pappu Murder Case: Court Informed Of Missing Victim's Wife

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) was informed on Thursday that the wife of Arshad Pappu, the complainant in his murder case, has gone missing during a hearing on a bail petition of one of the accused.

The court was considering the bail plea of Zubair Baloch, the brother of Lyari gang leader Uzair Baloch, in connection with the 2013 murder of rival gangster Arshad Pappu and two others.

The government prosecutor revealed that a notice was issued to Arshad Pappu's wife, but it could not be delivered as she had changed her address. The defense lawyer further noted that an investigation officer had reported to the trial court that the com-

plainant could not be located.

The court directed the investigation officer to trace the complainant and adjourned the hearing for three weeks.

Uzair Baloch, former Lyari MNA Shahjahan Baloch, Zakir Dada, Zubair Baloch, Yusuf Baloch, and others have been accused in the triple murder of Arshad Pappu, Yasir Arafat, and Shera Pathan in 2013. The case's FIR was filed at the Kalakot police station in Lyari.

The case has been marred by violence, with a key witness, former police inspector Chand Khan Niazi, being murdered, and another accused, Javed Baloch, also killed on January 14, 2022.—RT/Agency

Women Chamber Of Commerce And Industry (East) Elects New Leadership For 2024-2026 Term



KARACHI: The Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (East), led by Mrs. Saeeda Saeeda Bano, Former Vice President of FPCCI and Founder President of KWCCI (East), successfully held its elections for the 2024-2026 term today. Mrs. Bano emphasized the importance of empowering dynamic new entrepreneurs to fuel Pakistan's economic growth, particularly through enhanced exports.

The newly elected office-bearers are: Ms. Ufaira Shirazi - President, Dr. Kiran Faysal - Senior Vice President, Ms. Seema Sohail - Vice President.

Mrs. Bano pledged her full support to the new leadership, urging them to take bold steps in shaping the future of Pakistan's business landscape. This election marks a significant milestone in advancing leadership opportunities for women in commerce.—RT

Police recover stolen mobile phones and arrest over 36 robbers



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: In a significant achievement, under the directives of IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho, and DIG East Azfar Maheer, and supervised by SSP Malir Kashif Aftab Abbasi, police operations have led to the arrest of over 36 robbers during encounters. Weapons and mobile

phones snatched from citizens have been recovered.

This was stated by DSP Quaidabad Mansoor Bozdar and SHO Quaid-

abad Ghulam Hussain Pirzada. They further mentioned that stolen and lost mobile phones taken during crimes in the Quaidabad police station's jurisdiction have been successfully recovered. They added that nine mobile phones were

returned to their original owners, thanks to the hard work and advanced technical skills of the Quaidabad police.

DSP Mansoor Bozdar and SHO Ghulam Hussain Pirzada expressed their commitment to prioritizing citizens' issues and providing all possible assistance. Citizens expressed their gratitude to the police upon receiving their recovered mobile phones.

Specific Procurement Notice
Request for Bids
WORKS
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Pakistan
Name of Project: Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK)
Contract Title: CBG Schemes-1 2023-24
Loan No./Credit No.: 89980-PK
RFB Reference No.: PK-LGD-422178-CWR-REB

- The Government of Pakistan has received a credit from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for CBG Schemes-1 2023-24. For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing.
- The Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK), Local Government Department invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Works consisting of following TMC offices:

Lot	TMCs	District
1	Landhi	Korangi
	Model	Korangi
	Gadap	Malir
	Ibrahim Hyderi	Malir
	Malir	Malir

Bidders may bid for one or more lots as described in the Instruction to Bidders but evaluation will be done individually for each lot.

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers. PROCUREMENT IN INVESTMENT PROJECT FINANCING Goods, Works, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services July 2016. Revised November 2020 (Procurement Regulations), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Competitive and Livable City of Karachi, Program Director CLICK, info@click.gos.pk and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 0930 to 1630 hours at the address given below.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PKR 10,000/- in favor of "Program Director CLICK". The method of payment will be cash only. The document may also be collected in person. Bidding documents can be seen at <https://click.gos.pk/tender>.
- Bids must be delivered to the address given below on or before 02:30 p.m. on 29th Oct, 2024 and must be accompanied by a security of Bid Security of 2% of the total bid value or an equivalent amount must be in the form of Pay orders/ Bank Guarantee / demand drafts in a freely convertible currency.
- Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of bidders' representatives and anyone who choose to attend at 02:30 p.m. on 29th Oct, 2024 at the address given below. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. The bidders are requested to give their best and final prices as no negotiations are expected.
- The address referred to above is:

Zain-Ul-Abdin Mirani (PAS)
Deputy Project Director
Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK)
1st Floor, DMG south office, Haqqani Chowk, Aram Bagh
Karachi, 75600, Pakistan.
Tel: +92-21-99218874-5

INF-KRY No: 3059/24

You can do anything, but not everything.

—David Allen

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 2024

CJP Isa Explains Removal Of Justice Akhtar From Judges' Committee

ISLAMABAD: In response to senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's letter raising questions on removing Justice Munib Akhtar from the judges committee, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday gave 11 reasons to justify his action.



CJP Isa on September 20 appointed Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan to the three-member judges' committee, excluding Justice Munib Akhtar from the committee. He gave 11 reasons for his replacing Justice Akhtar from the body. The chief justice said Justice Akhtar ardently opposed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, which had removed the dominance of the chief justice over the Supreme Court as well. "He was one of two judges who availed the full summer vacations, indifferent to the piling backlog cases," he said. The letter mentioned that while on vacation and not available to do court work, Justice Akhtar insisted on participating in the committee meetings, suggesting his lack of trust in the next senior judge, Justice Yahya Afridi.

other reason behind the chief justice's decision.

Giving further reason for his choice of cutting Justice Akhtar from the committee, CJP Isa mentioned the display of his rude and unreasonable behaviour towards a distinguished member of the committee and walking out of the meeting. The said committee comprised all the chief justices, senior puisne judges, and distinguished members of the bar.

The apex court's chief justice also said the bench headed by Justice Akhtar adjudged most of the cases and often finished its work before 11am; a concern expressed by his companion judges. He also said the senior puisne issued a stay order in the audio leaks case and did not fix it for hearing.

In a letter written to the secretary of the Supreme Court on September 23, Justice Shah raised concern over the judges' committee's re-constitution and Justice Akhtar's removal from the composition of the committee within hours of the promulgation of the ordinance.

Justice Mansoor, in his letter, noted that no reasons were given as to why the second senior-most judge, Jus-

Justice Akhtar, was removed from the composition of the committee. "Furthermore, no reasons were given why the next senior most judge was ignored and instead, the fourth senior most judge was nominated as a member of the committee.

"Such unfortunate cherry picking and undemocratic display of one-man show are precisely what the Act tried to discourage and replace stance that was upheld by the Full Court Bench of this Court in Raja Amer," he wrote.

Justice Mansoor also emphasised the importance of collegial decision-making within the judiciary, saying that "the principle of collegial working stands as a cornerstone for ensuring justice, fairness, and the larger good of the people who seek its intervention."

"The concentration of ultimate administrative powers in the hands of a single individual, such as the Chief Justice. Runs counter to the ideals of democratic governance and judicial fairness," he wrote, referencing the Supreme Court's own ruling in the Raja Amer case.—RT/Agency

Imran Rejects Raof Hasan's Claims, Says Talks With Establishment Are Futile

ISLAMABAD: Jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has rebuffed the claims of his party's chief spokesperson that the embattled opposition is ready to hold talks with the establishment.



The former ruling party's spokesperson Raof Hasan had claimed that a dialogue between his party and the establishment is inevitable for which PTI is prepared.

Speaking to journalists at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Thursday, the PTI founder said there is no use in holding talks with the establishment. The cricketer-turned-politician said that Hasan had some misunderstanding, adding that he gave a clear message after the Islamabad power show that his party would not hold talks with anyone.

Prior to Khan's statement, the PTI spokesperson had told a private television channel that the Imran-founded party was ready for talks with the establishment yesterday and was prepared even today

for this exercise. "It has been PTI's policy that we want to engage with the establishment and I will go a step ahead to say that dialogue between my party and the establishment is inevitable for this state and we must not delay this," Hasan contended.

He advocated the initiation of dialogue so that solutions to the country's problems and challenges could be found and Pakistan taken forward.

He disagreed with the questioner that, currently, the policy of establishment was not to engage with PTI and

added they have engaged with his party and why he should not be hopeful that they would again engage. Hasan, however, maintained that a conducive environment would have to be created for which both sides would have to make efforts.

Earlier this month, Khan had closed his doors to talks with all the parties, including the establishment, signalling a hardened stance amidst the ongoing political turmoil.

He also alleged that the establishment had deceived them, and he was closing the doors to negotiations with all the parties.—RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz Discusses Polio Eradication Efforts With Bill Gates At UNGA 2024

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Bill Gates, founder and co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 2024) session in New York.



A statement in this regard was issued by the PM's Office on Thursday.

Recalling Gates' recent visit to Pakistan in June this year, the PM thanked him for the invitation to visit the Gates Foundation in Seattle in December 2024.

He also appreciated the Gates Foundation's engagement and support to Pakistan on polio eradication, maternal and child health, nutrition, immunisation, digitisation, and financial inclusion.

PM Shehbaz highlighted Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensure the complete eradication of polio from the country.

He thanked the BMGF for its longstanding support in this effort and underscored the need for sustained efforts and support to Pakistan, particularly for health system strengthening and maternal and child nutrition in this regard.

Acknowledging Pakistan's efforts, Gates stressed polio eradication was vital to

protect future generations from the crippling disease. He appreciated the PM's supervision and engagement of the provincial governments in the polio vaccine program across the country.

Gates shared updates on a comprehensive health dialogue with Afghanistan and requested support for the initiative. He also communicated his willingness to focus more on the pockets where the number of missed children or refusal of polio vaccines is higher especially where the morbidity of children is higher.

He further shared King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre's support for polio and other health relief-related initiatives with PM Shehbaz.

Gates also highlighted his

foundation's work on nutrition, especially the micronutrients for pregnant women and how it can be increased by providing them additional vitamins in support of UNICEF.

The PM commended the Gates Foundation for its polio campaign in Gaza which faces the challenges and the plight of children in the region. He stressed an immediate ceasefire and the resolution of the conflict as per the UN Resolutions.

He also applauded BMGF for being a trusted ally in Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed interest in broadening collaboration in areas such as information technology, STEM education, agriculture, and livestock.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Secures Contract To Sell JF-17 Block-III Fighter Jets To Azerbaijan



RAWALPINDI: As part of Pakistan's efforts to enhance defence cooperation with friendly countries, a contract for the sale of JF-17 Block-III fighter aircraft to bolster the air power capabilities of Azerbaijan was recently signed by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday.

During his recent visit to Pakistan, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev was briefed on the combat capabilities and versatile employment options of JF-17 BLOCK-III fighter aircraft, the military's media wing said.

Under President Aliyev's visit and at the request of the government of Azerbaijan, Pakistan deployed a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) contingent at Baku to participate in ADEX-2024 showcasing the aerial prowess and static display of pride of Pakistan JF-17 Thunder Block-III.

During deployment, JF-17 carried out air-to-air refuelling from the PAF Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft deploying in a single hop to Baku, demonstrating long haul capability and reach of the PAF's fighter jet.

President Aliyev witnessed the static display of JF-17 BLOCK-III and later witnessed its enthralling aerial demonstration, showcasing the agility and manoeuvrability of the fighter jet alongside the professional competence of PAF pilots.

The JF-17 Thunder Block-III is an AESA radar and long-range BVR-equipped 4.5 generation multi-role fighter aircraft capable of undertaking a wide array of combat missions providing contemporary air power employment options, thus strengthening the National Security Paradigm of Azerbaijan.—RT/Agency

PTI And Fazl Discuss Proposed Constitutional Amendments

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) called on Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and discussed proposed constitutional amendments, media reported.



The PTI delegation comprising Salman Akram Raja and Akhunnada Hussain while Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza also reached Maulana Fazlur Rehman's residence in Islamabad.

The PTI delegation discussed the constitutional amendment, the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act as well as the overall political situation.

Speaking to media before the meeting, Sahibzada Hamid Raza said that a meeting between them and Maulana Fazlur Rehman is scheduled.

"We will discuss political issues including the constitu-

tional amendments," he added.

Earlier, the JUI-F chief said that the proposed constitutional amendments were aimed at 'protecting' the government.

Addressing a presser in Multan, Maulana Fazlur Rehman vowed to strive to prevent incorrect decisions or legislation in the parliament.

"The JUI-F will not allow any amendments that compromise human rights or undermine the judicial system," he said.

He said that protecting fundamental rights is crucial and parliament should be involved in this process. The JUI-F chief said that his party members did not agree with the government's proposed draft of the constitutional amendments.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman also expressed concerns over the establishment of a constitutional court, citing potential 'mala fide intentions'.—RT/Agency

PTI Challenges SC Practice And Procedure Ordinance In Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday moved the apex court against the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance 2024, requesting for it to be declared "unconstitutional".



The constitutional petition, filed by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan, requested that all the decisions of the Practice Procedure Committee — taken after the approval of the ordinance — should be declared "illegal" and "annulled".

The newly-constituted practice and procedure committee should be suspended from work for as long as the constitutional petition is pending, read the plea. It added that the old committee should be allowed to function during the petition against the ordinance.

The PTI petition has been filed a week after the president and federal government approved the much-debated ordinance.

The federal cabinet adopted the ordinance "through a circulation" after

the Ministry of Law had sent it to the prime minister and cabinet on the night of September 19.

The ordinance said the court bench would look at the cases keeping in view the fundamental human rights and public importance.

As per the ordinance, each case will be heard on its turn otherwise reason will be furnished for its taking out of turn. "Each case and appeal will be recorded and its transcript will be prepared, which will be available to the public," it also stated Gohar's petition — that includes the federation, law ministry and President Asif Ali Zardari as

parties — stated. "... pending the disposal of the titled Constitutional Petition, the operation of the Impugned Ordinance may kindly be suspended.

"Further, the committee purportedly re-constituted pursuant to the Impugned Ordinance may kindly be restrained from constituting benches and fixing any cases before them and the lawfully constituted Committee under Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023 consisting of the Chief Justice of Pakistan and the two next senior most judges may be allowed to continue functioning."—RT/Agency

Waqas Akram Appointed As PTI's New Secretary Information, Replacing Raof Hasan



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday announced a major reshuffle, replacing Raof Hasan with Sheikh Waqas Akram as the party's Central Information Secretary.

The move comes as part of a broader organisational overhaul. PTI Chairman, Barrister Gohar, issued official notification to this effect. Hasan, previously holding the information post, was

appointed to lead PTI's policy think tank.

Akram was one of the 10 arrested MNAs of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf from the parliament premises. Other detained PTI members were Zain Qureshi, Sher Afzal Marwat, Malik Owais Bhakar, Malik Amir Dogar, Ahmad Chatha, Zubair Khan Wazir, Syed Naseem Ali Shah, Syed Ahmad Ali Shah, and Yousaf Khan.—RT/Agency

PM Appreciates IMF's Role In Strengthening Pakistan's Institutions And Economic Management

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday appreciated the IMF's technical assistance and capacity-building programs, which have helped strengthen the country's institutions and improve its economic management.



He was talking to Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva in a meeting on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York.

Appreciating the collaboration expressed by the Fund's successful Staff Level Agreement (SLA) for a 37-month, USD 7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan, the prime minister highlighted the government's commitment to implementing structural reforms and promoting private sector development.

The IMF managing director expressed the Fund's support for Pakistan's efforts and emphasized the importance of maintaining macro-economic stability and promoting inclusive and sustainable growth.

During the meeting, they also discussed the urgent need to mobilize adaptation financing for climate growth.—RT/Agency

change the prime minister agreed to have the finance minister take up this critical issue with senior management at the IMF during the Annual Meetings in October. The two leaders also agreed to strengthen cooperation between the government and the IMF to promote economic stability and growth.—RT/Agency

Saudi Ambassador Meets Dar

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy Thursday called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar.



A wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

The deputy PM underlined the importance of deep-rooted and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He extended warm wishes on the occasion of the 94th National

Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. DPM Dar appreciated the Kingdom's commitment to further strengthening the strategic partnership between various international platforms. The Arabia.—RT/Agency