



Jennifer Aniston sets the record straight on her 'Friends' dress

Price Rs. 10

FOUNDED BY (LATE) KAZI SAEED AKBAR & (Late) Kazi Jawad Akbar PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM KARACHI and HYDERABAD

The only comprehensive English daily with a regional perspective

The REGIONAL TIMES Of Sindh

Uniting People Every Day

Heartland

Haji Ali Hassan Zardari Highlights Major Development Projects In District Thatta



Money

FBR Expected To Extend Deadline For Tax Return Submissions



NATIONAL

Kundi: Region From Dera Ismail Khan To Kohat Designated As A No-Go Zone



SPORTS

Pakistan's Asim Khan Wins World Tour Squash Title In US



Bilawal Bhutto Has Achieved A Milestone By Building Consensus For New Constitutional Court: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI Edition Vol. XV No 279 Regd. No. 114 visit us at

www.regionaltimes.com

Monday, September 30, 2024, Rabi ul Awwal 25, 1446 A.H 8 Pages

CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Government Plans To Eliminate 150,000 Vacant Positions And Dissolve CADD Ministry: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb has said the government has decided to abolish 150,000 vacant posts as well as dissolve one ministry and merge two others.

Addressing the media in Islamabad on Sunday, he said after the federal cabinet's approval, the rightsizing committee had decided to scrap 60% of the vacant seats, which would help reduce the expenditures.

Putting the rumours to rest on the name of the ministry, the finance czar said the Capital Administration and Development Division (CADD) ministry would be dissolved.

A government spokesperson on September 1 told media that scores of high-ranking officials would be put on the chopping block.

"The rightsizing committee has reviewed six ministries so far in the first phase. Dissolution of one ministry has been approved, while two others will be merged," he said.

Whereas, the cabinet committee on institutional reforms on August 16 recommended curtailing 150,000 vacant positions, banning contingency recruitment, and outsourcing non-core services like cleaning, janitorial work, which would gradually phase out many positions in



grades 1 to 16.

In a meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, to reduce public sector size and expenses, a committee headed by the finance minister, had presented its recommendations for rightsizing the federal government departments.

The Ministry of Finance was asked to oversee the cash balances of other federal ministries.

The committee provided a detailed briefing on recommended reforms for five federal ministries: the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan (GB), the Ministry of State and Frontier Regions, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, the Ministry of Industry and Production, and the Ministry of National Health Services.

Addressing the media today, Aurangzeb said the government's measures including securing the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

bailout package would bring economic stability.

On expanding the tax net, he said the government had every kind of data that would be utilised in this regard. "Only 14% retailers are registered in the sales tax at the moment."

"We will be forced to block utility services of non-registered people," he warned, adding the government had ended all the exemptions on tax.

"It is not appropriate to treat taxpayers and non-taxpayers alike. We are left with no option but to expand the tax net," he added.

The federal minister also said the government would have to boost the efficiency of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and for that reason 2,000 chartered accountants would have to be hired.

"The FBR's ability to audit will also be enhanced. Hence, 2,000 tax audit experts will be appointed in the FBR."—RT/Agency

Pakistan, China, Russia, And Iran Consider Afghanistan-based Terror Groups As Global 'Threats'

NEW YORK: A ministerial meeting of the Quadrilateral Group — comprising Pakistan, China, Iran, and Russia — expressed deep concern over the security challenges originating from Afghanistan, stating that terrorist groups operating in the war-torn country "pose a serious threat to regional and global security."

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant attacks since the Taliban government returned to power in neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021, mostly in the northwestern border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), but also in southwestern Balochistan, which borders Afghanistan and Iran.

According to data from the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), the two most vulnerable provinces saw a sharp rise in deadly attacks last month.

The digital database of security incidents managed by the Islamabad-based think-tank suggested an alarming situation as the number of attacks jumped from 38 in July to 59 in August. These incidents included 29 attacks in KP, 28 in Balochistan, and two in Punjab.

The government in Islamabad has time again called on Kabul's interim rulers to prevent their land from being used by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)



and other militant organisations for carrying out attacks against Pakistan.

The quadrilateral meeting was held in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session on September 27, according to a joint statement issued on Sunday.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif attended the meeting on behalf of Pakistan while China, Russia and Iran were represented by their respective foreign ministers.

During the meeting, the ministers said that terrorist groups such as Daesh, Al-Qaeda, the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), Jaish ul-Adl, Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), TTP and other groups based in Afghanistan, "continue to pose a serious threat to regional and global security."

The session also condemned the recent terrorist attacks in all shapes and forms in Afghanistan and the region, including the attacks

early date."

"They called on [Afghan Taliban rulers] to take visible and verifiable actions in fulfilling the international obligations and commitments made by Afghanistan to fight terrorism, dismantle, and eliminate all terrorist groups equally and non-discriminatory and prevent the use of Afghan territory against its neighbours, the region, and beyond," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the four countries also reiterated their support for Afghanistan's national sovereignty, political independence, unity, and territorial integrity.

"They reaffirmed principles of international law, particularly non-interference in its internal affairs, and the right of the Afghan people to independently decide the future of their country in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter," it added.

The ministers stressed that all members of the international community have a shared interest in a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, "a country that should serve as a platform for international cooperation rather than geopolitical competition."

Furthermore, the countries urged Afghan rulers to create conditions that facilitate the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland, prevent further migration, and take serious measures to

ensure returnees' livelihoods and reintegration into political and social processes to achieve a lasting solution.

Last year, when the country witnessed a surge in terror-related incidents, the then-caretaker government in October decided to repatriate illegal refugees including undocumented Afghans residing in the country.

Ever since the government commenced the repatriation campaign last year, more than 500,000 undocumented Afghans have gone back from Pakistan so far, according to UN figures.

The ministers urged the international community and donors to provide, adequate, predictable, regular, and sustainable financial support and other necessary assistance, in line with the principle of international responsibility and burden sharing, for time-bound and well-resourced repatriation of refugees back to Afghanistan, as well as to countries hosting Afghan refugees, particularly Iran and Pakistan.

"The ministers emphasised that strengthening peace and stability in Afghanistan and countering the threats of terrorism, and drug crime emanating from its territory are in line with our common interests in the region," the statement concluded.—RT/Agency

Gandapur Vows To Respond To Every Bullet And Baton Following PTI-Police Clashes

PESHAWAR: Commenting on the recent clashes between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers and the police in Rawalpindi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur stated that his party would respond to every bullet, tear gas shell, and baton strike against its supporters.

In a statement on Sunday, the firebrand PTI leader claimed bullets were fired on three of their workers and whereabouts of one of them could not be traced.

"More than 50 PTI workers have been injured in shelling as shells and bullets were fired every three kilometres on us," he said.

The KP Chief Minister Gandapur said this after returning to Peshawar as the PTI protest in Rawalpindi was "called off" amid violent clashes between protesters and riot police near Li-



aquat Bagh.

The Gandapur-led convoy remained stuck at the interchange for several hours due to closure of roads as the authorities had placed containers at Burhan Interchange in an attempt to thwart PTI's protest.

Addressing the participants, the KP chief executive directed them to return to Peshawar and castigated the government for not granting PTI its "constitutional right".

Vowing to come back

with "all resources", he regretted that the police fired teargas and rubber bullets at the protesters.

On the other hand, Gandapur said, scores of police officials were caught by the party activists but he rescued them.

"They [police] have set a precedent of firing bullets [...] We also have guns," he stated. Meanwhile, he saluted the residents of KP and Rawalpindi Division over their support for the former ruling party.—RT/Agency

Naqvi Commends China's Historic Contribution To Strengthening Pakistan's Economy



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said China's historical role for strengthening Pakistan's economy is unforgettable.

He expressed the remarks during meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren in Lahore on Sunday. He said that CPEC projects have taken Pakistan-China friendship to new heights.

The interior minister felicitated him on Chinese National Day. They discussed matters of mutual interest and ways to boost bilateral ties.

Mohsin Naqvi said that under President Xi Jinping's leadership, China has crossed new milestones of progress.

He said that China is most trusted and loyal friend of Pakistan and its fast paced progress is a role model for all.

Interior Minister said that China's historical role for strengthening Pakistan's economy is unforgettable.

He said that Pak China friendship will remain intact and strong forever.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Consul General thanked Interior Minister on doing some procedural amendments on Chinese businessmen's request.

He said that Pakistan is China's best friend and our cooperation will always continue.—RT/Agency

Over 20 Laborers Kidnapped In Musakhel, Balochistan

QUETTA: Balochistan continues to suffer from violence as more than 20 labourers were "abducted" by armed men in Musakhel, police said on Sunday.

The gunmen opened fire on the camp of the labourers working for a gas company, set ablaze eight bulldozers and took away over 20 labourers with them, the police added.

The incident comes hours after seven labourers were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in a house in the province's Panjgur district.

Police detailed that the labourers were residing in a house in the district's Khuda-e-Abadan area, where the incident occurred and left seven people dead and one wounded.

The Panjgur deputy commissioner also confirmed the gruesome incident and said that the attackers barged into the house and opened fire at the residents.

Police officials told the media that the deceased and injured persons were shifted to Panjgur District Hospital.



Meanwhile, a search operation has been launched to track down the perpetrators of the brutal attack.

Both the Musakhel and Panjgur incidents reflect the security challenges faced by the province which has witnessed the brunt of terrorist attacks, along with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, amid the increase in terrorist incidents faced by the country in recent months.

Last month, 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from buses and trucks in the Karasham area of Muskhel district.

According to the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) report, during the second quarter of the

current year, the country witnessed 380 violence-linked fatalities and 220 injuries among civilians, security personnel, and outlaws.

Meanwhile, condemning the Panjgur incident, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have expressed sorrow and have offered condolences to the bereaved families.

"Targeting innocent labourers and citizens is a very brutal and reprehensible act," said President Zardari.

Whereas, PM Shehbaz has reiterated the government's resolve to "root out all forms of terrorism" from the country.—RT/Agency

Fazl Elected Unopposed As Leader Of JUI-F

PESHAWAR: Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been elected unopposed as the leader of Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) for the next five years, media reported. The central general council's electoral meeting for intra-party elections of Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) was held at Mufti Mahmood Centre in Peshawar, attended by approximately 1,500 members from across the country.

In the meeting, Maulana Fazlur Rehman was once again elected unopposed as the leader of JUI for the next five years, while Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri was elected unopposed as the General Secretary. The Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) was originally established in 1945 by Shabbir Ahmad Usmani as a pro-Pakistan offshoot of the Jamiat Ulema Hind. The party later split into different factions, with the most prominent being JUI-F (Fazlur Rehman



group) and JUI-S (Samial Haq group). The JUI-F faction, led by Maulana Fazlur Rehman, emerged in 1988. Maulana Fazlur Rehman became the leader of JUI-F in 1980, following the death of his father, Mufti Mahmood. He has been a significant political figure in Pakistan, known for his influence and leadership within the party. Political experts argue that political parties in Pakistan, and in South Asia, have become dynamic, which undermines democratic principles by concentrating power within a few families, leading

to potential corruption, lack of accountability, and limited opportunities for new leaders to emerge. After the intra-party election, Maulana Fazlur Rehman held a press conference and said that elections should be held in the country and true representatives of the people should come forward as the current parliament is not qualified for such major amendments. The government is moving towards major amendments for political purposes, said he while referring to proposed constitutional amendments.—RT/Agency

Abbasi Raises Alarm Over Secretive Passage Of Constitutional Amendments



PESHAWAR: Former prime minister and Head of Awam Pakistan Party (APP), Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, has criticised the government during a press conference stating that the country could not be governed by imposing unjust or "black laws".

He expressed concerns about constitutional amendments being passed in secrecy, without informing members of the National Assembly, questioning the democratic process. Abbasi also highlighted the growing frustration among Pakistan's youth and called for the political, judicial, and military leadership to come together to resolve the country's challenges and ensure its future stability.—RT/Agency

Crisis Management Unit Established To Assist Pakistanis In Lebanon

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has activated its Crisis Management Unit (CMU) to assist Pakistani nationals and their families affected by the crisis in Lebanon.

The foreign Office spokesperson in a statement stated that the ministry in Islamabad and the Pakistani embassy in Beirut are continuing their efforts to assist Pakistani nationals impacted by the situation in Lebanon. She urged Pakistani nationals affected by the situation to contact the



CMU at its Islamabad's at the following contact details: Cell/WhatsApp numbers: 00961-9207887 or via email at cmu1@mofa.gov.pk. 81669488 and 00961-81815104, and email: parepbeirut@mofa.gov.pk.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Sindh Prisons Minister, Ali Hassan Zardari interacts with prisoners during his surprise visit at the Central Jail to review the facilities in the jail.-RT

Haji Ali Hassan Zardari Highlights Major Development Projects In District Thatta

By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Provincial Minister for Works, Services, and Jails, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, proudly showcased the extensive development and public welfare projects executed in District Thatta under his leadership and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), in collaboration with the Sindh government.



Speaking to journalists in Thatta, Zardari emphasized that the district has witnessed unprecedented progress compared to other regions, with residents being firsthand witnesses to these advancements. Zardari outlined a series of mega projects that have been successfully completed in the district, including the construction of roads, hospitals, schools, drainage systems, and clean water schemes. Many of these projects were completed within his own constituency, bringing significant improvements to the quality of life for local residents. He further noted that, in comparison, only 50% of similar development projects had been accomplished in Shaheed Benazirabad (Nawabshah), attributing the slow progress in other districts to the absence of strong political representation.

Among the key infrastructure achievements, Zardari highlighted the swift completion of roads from

Thatta and Ghoro Barrage to Keti Bunder, which have enhanced connectivity and economic opportunities for coastal communities. Additionally, the strengthening of the Adero Canal has ensured a reliable water supply for both agricultural and drinking purposes, significantly benefiting the region's farmers and residents in coastal areas. He also discussed the revamping of drainage systems in key cities like Keti Bunder, Baghan, Lal Gohari, and War, where previously neglected streets have been upgraded with paver blocks, improving the urban environment and reducing flooding risks. Zardari proudly announced the impending opening of the Taluka Hospital Ghoro Bari, a long-awaited healthcare facility that will offer affordable medical services to residents of the coastal belt. He also celebrated the completion of the Thatta-Jhampir road, a billion-rupee project, which has brought relief to residents of Kohistan and

Kotri Protests Erupt Over Water Shortage And Tanker Mafia Exploitation



By Sheikh Sinधि

KOTRI: Residents of the twelve wards of Bholhari under the Kotri Site Municipal Committee have launched a significant protest against the persistent shortage of drinking water and the exploitation by the tanker mafia, organized by the Pakistan Youth Movement. The demonstrators, including prominent activists Abdul Sattar Lahar and Shehbaz Memon, gathered to voice their frustration over the municipal committee's failure to ensure a consistent water supply.

During the protest, speakers highlighted that the municipal committee has cut off the water supply to numerous colonies in Bholhari, forcing residents to rely on the tanker mafia for their daily water needs. They accused the administration of complicity in this issue, alleging that officials are accepting hefty bribes to favor the tanker mafia, which is selling water at increasingly inflated prices. As a result, many working-class families are struggling to access basic

water facilities, severely impacting their quality of life. The protesters expressed their discontent with the municipal committee's inaction, emphasizing that while the administration has historically provided free water delivery to homes through pipelines, the current situation reflects a blatant disregard for residents' needs. They warned that if elected representatives and the district administration do not take immediate steps to restore water supply through existing pipelines in the twelve wards of Bholhari, they will escalate their protests. The demonstrators vowed to widen the scope of their protests, indicating that they would mobilize greater support from the community and potentially engage in more disruptive actions if their demands for equitable water access are not met promptly. The situation remains tense as residents call for urgent governmental intervention to resolve the water crisis and dismantle the exploitative practices of the tanker mafia.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the All Pakistan Marri Ittehad are holding a protest demonstration against the Sindh police department, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

Jamaat-e-Islami Tando Adam Organizes Seerat-Un-Nabi (SAWW) Conference, Highlights Islamic Teachings And Social Justice

By Mumtaz Ali Thahim

TANDO ADAM: Jamaat-e-Islami Tando Adam held a profound Seerat-un-Nabi (SAWW) conference in Joharabad, where Deputy Secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Sindh, Moulana Abdul Quddus Ahmadani, underscored the timeless message of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a beacon of mercy for all of humanity. In his address, Moulana Ahmadani emphasized the importance of embodying the Prophet's character in daily life, asserting that true success lies in following the teachings of Islam both in this world and the hereafter.



Speaking to a large gathering, Moulana Ahmadani reiterated that the finality of Prophethood was completed with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and no new prophet will come until the Day of Judgment. He urged the Muslim community to spread the Prophet's message, encouraging people to transition from servitude to man-made systems toward obedience to Allah and His Messenger.

Reflecting on the state of the country, Moulana Ahmadani expressed grave concern over the erosion of jus-

ice and merit in society. He pointed out that issues like corruption, drug abuse, and violence have escalated due to the widespread neglect of Islamic values and the teachings of the Holy Quran. He also criticized the global silence on the suffering of Muslims, particularly Palestinians, condemning the lack of vocal support from Islamic nations in the face of ongoing human rights violations. In his speech, Moulana Ahmadani reiterated Jamaat-e-Islami's firm stance against sectarianism and corruption, lauding the leadership of

Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman for his relentless efforts to safeguard the rights of the people. He contrasted the Jamaat's commitment to justice with other political entities that, he argued, continue to exploit the public through unjust taxation and self-serving political maneuvering. He concluded by calling on the public to join Jamaat-e-Islami's membership campaign, encouraging unity in the fight against oppression and to work collectively for justice, equality, and the rights of the people.

Jamshoro: Urgent Call For Reinstatement Of Security Workers At Rafhan Maize Company



By Munwar Chando

JAMSHORO: The People's Labor Bureau District Jamshoro has submitted an application to the Labor Department following the illegal expulsion of security workers by Rafhan Maze Company in Kotri. An inquiry was initiated by the Regional Director Labor Hyderabad, Ghulam Sarwar Atrio, to address this pressing issue. On September 25, 2024, the inquiry officer, Mr. Ibrahim Aziz Hungoro, met with key representatives, including Shahzad, the Admin Manager of Rafhan Maze Company, Ghulam Hussain Mughal, the General Secretary, and Akhtar Shuro, a representative for the affected security workers. During the proceedings, it was revealed that the security workers had been employed by Rafhan Maze Company Limited through a third-party security firm. Despite their registration with the AOBI (Accident and Occupational Benefit Insurance) and Social Security, the inquiry officer found that the dismissal of these workers was unlawful.

Ibrahim Aziz Hungoro instructed Shahzad that the workers must either be reinstated to their original positions or receive their legal dues, including unemployment benefits and gratuity. However, the Rafhan Maze Company administration has yet to respond to these direc-

tives, demonstrating a lack of urgency and concern for the welfare of the dismissed workers, which has led to growing distress and hardship in their households. The People's Labor Bureau has urgently called upon several authorities, including Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Labor Minister Shahid Abdul Salam Thahim, the Regional Director of Labor Hyderabad, and the Deputy Commissioner and SSP Jamshoro, to take immediate action on the matter. They emphasized that the reinstatement of the security workers should be treated as a priority. In a firm stance, the People's Labor Bureau District Jamshoro announced that as of October 2, 2024, if the situation remains unresolved, they will establish a protest camp outside Rafhan Maze Company Limited's gates. They warned that any escalation of violence or disruption in company operations would be the responsibility of the Rafhan Maze Company administration, holding them accountable for any untoward incidents that may ensue.

Imtiaz Hungoro, the General Secretary of the People's Labor Bureau District Jamshoro, reiterated the urgency of the situation and the need for swift resolution to alleviate the struggles faced by the affected security personnel and their families.

Key Meeting On Paddy Purchase Held To Support Farmers

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An important meeting convened in the Darbar Hall, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Badin Yasir Bhatti, focused on the procurement of paddy from rice mill owners and farmers. The gathering aimed to address critical issues surrounding the purchasing process and to ensure fair treatment for local farmers.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Bhatti announced that there would be no deductions on the purchase price per mound of paddy, emphasizing that the moisture content would be permitted to range between 18% to 22%. He instructed Assistant Commissioners from Badin and the concerned talukas to conduct surprise inspections of rice mills to ensure compliance. Any mill found deviating from the agreed standards would face immediate sealing and substantial fines.

The Deputy Commissioner further stated that ISO-certified mill owners must provide payments to farmers according to their preference, either through cash or cheque. He reaffirmed the importance of agriculture as the backbone of the country's economy, stressing that the administration is committed to ensuring that no farmer suffers due to unfair practices.

To address moisture content concerns more thoroughly, Bhatti announced that a follow-up meeting with rice mill owners and farmers would take place within the week to establish clear limits and guidelines. This proactive approach aims to foster a cooperative environment between farmers and mill owners while promoting fair trade practices. Attending the meeting were Additional Deputy

Commissioner I Kashif Raza Mangi, Additional Deputy Commissioner II Rajesh Dalpat, Deputy Director Agriculture Ramesh Meghwar, along with Assistant Commissioners from all taluhs. Key representatives from the agricultural community, including Rice Mills Association President Abdul Shakoor Memon and Sindh Chamber of Agriculture leaders Shah Nawaz Khan Jamali, Dada Hashim Jamali, Wafa Latif Jokio, and Ashiq Ali Gopang, were also present.

Local farmers, including Taluk Presidents Haji Qasim Chando and Sattar Panhor, as well as influential business leaders such as Imtiaz Ali Memon, President of the Fertilizer Dealers Association, participated in the discussions, highlighting the collaborative effort between the government and the agricultural sector to ensure a prosperous future for local farming communities.

People's Party Vows To Protect Sindh's Water Rights Amid Irsa Act Amendments

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The People's Party of Badin, led by District Information Secretary Fida Hussain Mandru, has vehemently rejected the federal government's amendment of the Irsa Act and the proposed construction of six illegal canals in the Indus River. During a press conference held at the Badin Press Club, Mandru emphasized the party's long-standing commitment to safeguarding the rights of Sindh and its residents, stating that any obstruction to Sindh's water supply would not be tolerated. Alongside notable figures such as Haji Hanif Khakhsheli, Ghulam Mustafa Jar, Al Asti, and Abdul Ghani Ansari, Mandru outlined the People's Party's historical struggle against policies perceived as anti-Sindh. He reminded attendees of the sacrifices made by leaders like Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

for the restoration of democracy, constitutional supremacy, and parliamentary integrity in Pakistan. He pointed out that the People's Party has consistently protested against projects such as the Kala Bagh Dam, Thal Canal, and Chashma Canal, which they view as detrimental to Sindh's water resources. Mandru reiterated that the party was quick to respond to the recent attempts to amend the Irsa Act, with the President of the PPP Sindh, Nisar Ahmad Khoro, endorsing a resolution against these amendments in the Sindh Assembly. Furthermore, the party's Information Secretary Uzam Dhamra highlighted a province-wide media campaign to voice strong opposition to the amendment and the illegal canals being constructed in the Indus River.

The leaders underscored that the criticism aimed at the People's Party by an alliance of political factions is merely an attempt to gain media attention and score political points. Mandru and his colleagues firmly stated that the Sindh government, under the People's Party, would not permit any reduction in the water flow from the Indus River. In a show of unity and resolve, Mandru stated that Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, along with PPP members and workers, are actively voicing their opposition on every possible platform. He warned that if the federal government persists with its anti-Sindh measures, the People's Party is prepared to launch widespread protests across Sindh to mobilize public sentiment against these initiatives. The press conference concluded with a strong message of resilience from the People's Party, reaffirming their commitment to protect the rights and resources of the people of Sindh.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Jeay Sindh Tehreek are holding a protest demonstration against the killing of Dr. Shah Nawaz, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT



HYDERABAD: Students are holding a protest demonstration for the re-taking of the MDCAT, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

NATIONAL



KP Government To Pursue Legal Action Against Police Crackdown On PTI Protest In Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI/PE-SHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Sunday announced to take legal action over clashes between Punjab police and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers during its protest in Rawalpindi for which cases have been registered against dozens of party leaders.

"The government had planned a Model Town-like tragedy yesterday. [Our] workers were [subjected] to straight firing [and] our women [workers] were shelled upon," said Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information Minister Mohammad Ali Saif.

The spokesperson's statement comes after the Imran Khan-founded party "called off" its protest in Rawalpindi due to violent clashes between police and workers on



Saturday.

The former ruling party had announced holding a demonstration in the city, however, the Punjab government had then imposed Section 144 banning all political gatherings, sit-ins, rallies, protests and similar activities.

With PTI workers attempting to head towards the Liaquat Bagh, the police had resorted to teargas shelling to disperse the crowd which was then retaliated by party

activists who started hurling stones and glass bottles at the law enforcers.

Speaking to media on yesterday's events, Barrister Saif said that the KP government will approach the courts and directions will be issued to the provincial advocate general for taking legal action in this regard.

Which law justifies the use of shelling against peaceful workers, questioned the provincial government official.—RT/Agency

Rana Sanaullah Strongly Condemns Killing Of Innocent Laborers In Balochistan



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination and Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah strongly condemned the brutal killing of labourers in Panjgur, Balochistan.

He said in his statement issued here on Sunday, the killing of innocent people like this is the worst example of terrorism.

There is a demand

from the Balochistan government to bring these beastly enemies of humanity to justice and make them face the consequences.

In this hour of grief, we express our condolences to the families of the deceased. May the Almighty grant the martyrs a high place in heaven and patience to the bereaved. Rana Sanaullah said.—RT/Agency

Punjab Government Seeks Three-Month Extension Of Section 144

LAHORE: The Punjab government presented an amendment bill in the provincial assembly which would allow the imposition of Section 144 for a minimum of three months, media reported on Sunday.

Punjab Minister for Finance Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman presented the Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Act 2024, which seeks to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, in the Punjab Assembly on September 5.

Currently, the law allows the provincial government to impose Section 144 for a maximum of two days, extendable to seven days, unless there is a threat to human life, health, or safety.

However, the proposed amendment would empower the deputy commissioner (DC) to enforce a ban on public gatherings for up to 30 days, while the secretary of the Home Department could impose the ban for as long as 90 days. The current law grants the power to impose Section 144 to the office of the mayor (or zila nazim),



who acts on a written recommendation from the police. The amendments, however, propose transferring this authority to the deputy commissioner or the secretary of the Home Department, while removing the requirement for a police recommendation. Mujtaba, who tabled the bill, told media that the amendments were introduced after approval from the provincial cabinet. He said that the period of restriction under Section 144 has been extended because "it is neither desirable nor practicable to seek prior approval of the provincial cabinet each time such a ban needs to be imposed in any district of Punjab."

The proposed amendments have been introduced to address grave and emergent situations that are likely to endanger public peace and order. They are intended to prevent imminent breaches of peace and provide a preventive jurisdiction and speedy remedy in the public interest," the minister argued. For now, the bill, has been referred to a committee of the Punjab Assembly. It is also important to note that violating Section 144 makes individuals liable for prosecution, with penalties ranging from one to six months' imprisonment. A 2022 report by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, titled "Freedom of Peaceful Assembly in Pakistan", referred to Section 144 as an "unchecked authority", enabling the provincial government and administration to "ban assemblies on virtually any pretext for extended periods"—RT/Agency

Government Prioritizing Business-Friendly Measures To Attract Foreign Investment

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan has said the government is working on increasing Ease of Doing Business in Pakistan to make it an attractive destination for foreign investment.

Addressing a function in connection with the fortieth anniversary of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Minister said the government remains fully committed to foster an environment that enables businesses to thrive.

The Minister said that prudent and effective policies of the Government have

brought down inflation, whereas, stable and increased foreign reserves have brought down interest rate.

He said government has been working relentlessly on bringing down power tariffs for the industry in general and exporters in particular.—RT/Agency

He said government has been working relentlessly on bringing down power tariffs for the industry in general and exporters in particular.—RT/Agency

Bokhari: Gandapur Not Permitted To Engage In Vandalism In Punjab



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari warned the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur not to do vandalism in Punjab.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Sunday, she said that no one would be allowed to do vandalism in Punjab.

"The PTI violated the section 144 in Rawalpindi. Law will take its course in case of violence and chaos," she said.

She added that the ruling party of KP is jealous of the progress and development being carried out in Punjab.

"Why don't you stage protest in KP," Azma asked.

The provincial minister said that there are over 30,000 seats vacant for teachers in KP while the number of public sector universities are also on the decline.

According to Azma Bokhari, Ali Amin Gandapur wanted to create rift between the Punjabis and Pakhtuns.—RT/Agency

ing party of KP is jealous of the progress and development being carried out in Punjab.

"Why don't you stage protest in KP," Azma asked.

The provincial minister said that there are over 30,000 seats vacant for teachers in KP while the number of public sector universities are also on the decline.

According to Azma Bokhari, Ali Amin Gandapur wanted to create rift between the Punjabis and Pakhtuns.—RT/Agency

Green Energy Utilization Essential For Addressing Environmental Challenges, Says Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE: Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal stressed on promotion of green energy to mitigate environmental challenges.

Addressing a ceremony in Lahore, he highlighted that the economy was moving towards development and the government was taking measures to boost the energy sector.

Federal minister recalled that Pakistan faced power challenges of load shedding for long hours in the past due to power shortage.

He claimed that their government initiated energy projects under CPEC to resolve power woes. Iqbal emphasised on provision of cheap and eco-friendly power alternatives for all.

Minister disclosed that



various projects were running including alternative energy sources to meet the demand of power shortage.

The process of reforms in the energy sector was going on, the planning minister announced.

He revealed that Pakistan was working with the Central Asian states, Tajikistan, to meet the needs of energy.

Ahsan Iqbal insisted that climate change was the biggest environmental challenge and Pakistan faced losses of billions in flash floods in 2022. Planning and development minister stressed for collective cooperation of Asian countries to mitigate the risks of climate change and other challenges, as it was inevitable for regional development and prosperity.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

Turkish Cooperation Official Tours Luminary Learning Circle Foundation

KARACHI: The Luminary Learning Circle Foundation (LLCF) had the privilege of hosting Mr. Khalil Ibrahim Basaran, a prominent representative from the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), part of the Republic of Turkey's Ministry of Culture & Tourism. Accompanying him were LLCF Chairman and former MNA Mohammed Najeeb Haroon, along with MQM MNA Syed Hafeezuddin Advocate.

During his visit, Mr. Basaran witnessed LLCF's comprehensive approach to delivering quality early and primary education to over 400 students at the Javed Mianud Campus.

A standout feature of the tour was the LLCF Organic Kitchen Garden, where students have planted and labeled their own vegetable pots. Mr. Basaran expressed particular interest in how the students are not only responsible for planting but also for nurturing their plants. This hands-on experience fosters a sense of ownership and environmental responsibility while promoting healthy, sustainable living practices.

Mr. Basaran also explored other distinctive features of the school, including the White Room for personal development and grooming, as well as the in-house kitchen that provides daily meals for students. He was briefed on LLCF's extensive healthcare initiative, which ensures access to vital medical services for students and their families.

"I am truly inspired by the kitchen garden model. It's an excellent initiative that we



hope to replicate in other schools supported by TIKA. The student-teacher ratio is impressive, and it was wonderful to see the students so happy and engaged," Mr. Basaran stated enthusiastically. He added, "The deep-rooted brotherhood between Turkey and Pakistan encourages me to support more initiatives here, further strengthening our bond through impactful collaboration."

LLCF appreciates the recognition and interest shown by Mr. Basaran and TIKA, reaffirming our shared belief in the transformative power of education. We look forward to future opportunities to expand our efforts and create a greater impact on our students' lives.—RT

Armed Individuals Set Fire To Private Company In Quetta

QUETTA: In yet another incident, unknown armed men set a private construction company ablaze in Musa Khel area of Quetta, media reported.

As per details, news surfaced that unknown armed men abducted over 12 laborers of a private construction company in Musa Khel. The attackers stormed the company's camp last night, set the machinery on fire, and

kidnapped the workers. According to district administration officials, the abducted workers include drivers and laborers. The incident occurred in the Taiser Isot area of Musa Khel.

However, the Deputy Commissioner refuted such reports, saying that the workers rushed to nearby areas to save their life and later returned to the company site.—RT/Agency

Kundi: Region From Dera Ismail Khan To Kohat Designated As A No-Go Zone

MULTAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has stated that the area from Dera Ismail Khan to Kohat has become a "no-go area."

He emphasised that the provincial government's authority was absent in the region.

Speaking to the media in Multan, Kundi expressed concerns over the increasing unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, criticising the provincial government for its failure to establish peace.

He remarked that the Chief Minister KP was too occupied with rallies to address these issues.

Kundi claimed that although the KP government received 600 billion for security, yet the KP police lacked the necessary resources.



Kundi said that he had invited all political leaders, including PTI leaders, in the province to sit together to address these issues.

He suggested drafting a case to present to the federal government, emphasizing that it should be based on reasoned arguments.

He underscored that restoring peace and security in the province was a priority and that he planned to discuss this matter in detail with the Prime Minister.

Additionally, he acknowledged the challenges within coalition governments but expressed a commitment to resolving grievances.

Kundi noted that Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto, was actively campaigning for the establishment of constitutional courts.—RT/Agency

Ji Announces Plans To Halt Electricity Bill Payments Following October Referendum



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan staged a protest in Lahore against unjust taxes on electricity bills and called for the termination of Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The party also held a memorial prayer for Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was recently killed in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut.

During the protest, Deputy Amir Liaquat Baloch announced that a public referendum would be conducted in October to ensure citizens' rights. He stated that the demonstration was a clear message to the government that they could not evade their commitments.

Baloch asserted that Prime Minister Shahbaz

Sharif had completed negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and no obstacles were remaining for implementing relief measures for the public.

General Secretary Amir ul-Azheem of Jamaat-e-Islami declared, "We will not pay our bills. If the public decides to stop payments, the IPPs will be forced to retreat, and we will be successful."

Other leaders echoed his sentiments, stating that the rising electricity costs have made it impossible for citizens to manage their bills. They warned that if the government failed to lower prices, they would push for accountability.—RT/Agency

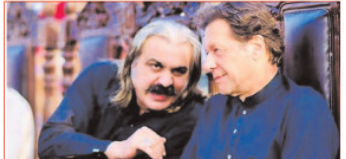
Terrorism Charges Filed Against Gandapur and Imprisoned Imran In Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: A terrorism case has been registered against incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in connection with protests and vandalism in Rawalpindi.

The case was filed at New Town police station by Sub-Inspector Umar Siddique.

The charges included interference in government operations, rioting, and an attack on a government vehicle with a petrol bomb, along with provisions related to conspiracy to commit vandalism.

The FIR named Imran



Khan, Ali Amin Gandapur, and 45 other leaders and activists.

According to the FIR, the accused obstructed public access by burning tires and clothes, creating difficulties for citizens. It also stated that they engaged in arson and stone-throwing, making it

challenging for police personnel to protect themselves. Police officials reported that five suspects were arrested at the scene, including Khalil, Imran, Sadaqat, Yasen, and Tahir. A petrol bottle was recovered from the possession of the suspect Tahir.—RT/Agency

Tragic Incident in Karachi: Child Suffocates To Death In Locked Car

KARACHI: A heartbreaking incident occurred in the Gulistan-e-Johar Block 19 area of Karachi, where two children became trapped inside a parked car, resulting in the suffocation of one child, as reported by media on Sunday.

According to police reports, the children, aged 3 and 4, climbed into the vehicle while playing but were unable to escape once the doors locked from the inside. Tragically, 3-year-old Rauf, son of Hashar Ali, suffocated and lost his life, while his 4-

year-old brother, Hassan, was discovered unconscious and rushed to the hospital in critical condition.

Police responded promptly to the scene after receiving notification, and an investigation into the incident is currently underway.—RT/Agency

EDITORIAL



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

Monday, September 30, 2024

Spin or Substance?

Once again, Pakistan's economy finds itself under the stewardship of yet another finance minister trying to reassure a weary nation. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has boldly proclaimed that the current IMF programme will be the country's last, signaling a push toward a "homegrown" reform agenda. His message, laden with talk of tax reforms, climate financing, and a shift toward an export-led economy, strikes all the right chords. Yet, it feels all too familiar—another politician promising transformative change, another set of "tough decisions" with no guarantee of execution.

Pakistanis have heard this rhetoric before. The nation has been through 24 IMF programmes

since 1950, each one promising to be the last, and each one failing to deliver the sustained growth and stability that was envisioned. The bitter truth is that no economic reform, no matter how well-conceived, can succeed without political stability and genuine accountability. Without these, the economy remains a ship adrift, vulnerable to shocks, and reliant on international lenders to stay afloat.

Moreover, the current government's credibility is questionable at best. Decades of failed policies

and broken promises have eroded public trust. The citizens are tired of hearing that better days are just around the corner while they struggle with inflation, unemployment, and the consequences of political mismanagement. For any meaningful progress, the finance minister must not only focus on numbers and reforms but also on restoring faith in the system itself—an uphill battle, but one crucial to Pakistan's economic future.

Real reform demands more than words—it requires a fundamental change in governance, a clear break from the political chaos of the past. Without that, Aurangzeb's promises will be just another spin in an endless cycle of unmet expectations.



THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Majlis Wahdat-ul-Muslimeen (MWM) are holding a protest demonstration against the killing of Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon.-RT

Sanghar Police Crack Down On Drug Trafficking, Arrest 14 Suspected Dealers



By Mumtaz Ali Thahim

TANDO ADAM: In a major offensive against the drug trade, Sanghar District Police have intensified their crackdown, leading to the arrest of 14 suspected drug dealers and the recovery of significant quantities of illicit substances. The operations, carried out across the district, aim to dismantle drug networks and enhance public safety.

In one notable raid, SHO Tando Adam, Inayatullah Jamal, and his team intercepted a suspicious Alto car on Khandro Road. Upon inspection, the police seized nearly 5 maunds of raw tobacco, typically used in the production of mawa gutka, a harmful substance. The vehicle, believed to be part of a larger drug transportation network, was confiscated as evidence.

In a separate operation, SHO Khadro Zakir Hussain Solangi arrested a suspect, Habib-ur-Rehman Brohi, recovering an illegal TT pistol in the process. The suspect is believed to be involved in criminal activities linked to drug trafficking in the area.

Other coordinated police actions across the district in-



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of the Anjuman-e-Tajran Qasimabad are holding a protest demonstration for the acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

Protest By All Pakistan Marri Ittehad In Tando Adam Against Police Killing Of Youth



By Mumtaz Ali Thahim

TANDO ADAM: The All Pakistan Marri Ittehad staged a large protest rally outside the Tando Adam Press Club, led by Qadir Bakhsh Mari, to denounce the alleged extrajudicial killing of Yasin Mari, a young man reportedly murdered in a staged police encounter. The rally drew significant attention as protesters voiced their outrage over police brutality and demanded justice for the slain youth.

Qadir Bakhsh Mari revealed that a formal case has been filed against several police officials, including SSP Tanveer Munio and SHO Qurban Kalhoro, for their alleged involvement in the encounter. In addition to the legal case, the Marri Ittehad has submitted a petition to the High Court, demanding the immediate arrest of the accused officers and calling for stringent legal action.

The protesters demanded that those responsible for the encounter to cover up the wrongful arrest and killing of the youth.

The rally concluded with a strong message from the Marri Ittehad and allied groups, vowing to continue their fight for justice until the perpetrators are brought to justice and reforms are introduced to curb police violence.

Injustice Prevails In Central Jail Hyderabad: Sub-Inspector Muneer Allegedly Exploiting Prisoners

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Alarming reports have emerged from Central Jail Hyderabad, where Sub-Inspector Muneer is allegedly acting as the defacto superintendent, imposing illegal fees and exploiting prisoners. According to multiple sources, including a death-row inmate, Ali Hassan Chandio, Muneer is accused of robbing half of the goods brought by prisoners' relatives and levying excessive charges for basic jail facilities.

Inmates have reported that Sub-Inspector Muneer charges prisoners for the malfunctioning of essential utilities such as donkey motors, light bulbs, and other items, which should be maintained by the prison administration. Those who resist paying these illegal fees are subject to physical punishment by a group of inmates allegedly loyal to Muneer.

Speaking to The Regional Times, Ali Hassan Chandio, who has been imprisoned for 10 years on what he claims are politically motivated charges, shared a grim ac-



HYDERABAD: Pakistan Nazryati Party leader, Syed Hamza Naqvi along with other party leaders is addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

SUKKUR: Activists and leaders of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) are holding a protest demonstration against prolonged electricity load shedding and inflated electricity bills.-RT

SPORTS



Pakistan women's team gears up for Asian Netball Championship 2024 in India



FAISALABAD: Pakistan women's team would feature in the Asian Netball Championship, scheduled to take place in India, from October 18 to 27, sources confirmed on Sunday.

Sources told Geo News that the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has issued a No-Objection Certificate (NOC), allowing the national women's team to compete in the event.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Netball Federation (PNF) also submitted visa applications for the team and officials, who are expected to travel to India in the coming weeks.

A total of 12 players and five officials are likely to

represent Pakistan in the tournament. Furthermore, sources claimed that the federation has also sought PSB's approval for the national team's budget.

Among the prospective players, some British-Pakistani athletes were also being considered for the squad.

Sources added that while the diaspora players have started their training in the United Kingdom (UK), the Pakistan-based players will resume camp once the budget is approved.

The Asian Netball Championship will be held in Bengaluru, India from October 18 to 27. —Agency

Pakistani golfer finishes runner-up in ADT Championship



CAMBODIA: Pakistan's emerging golfer Ahmad Baig secured second place at the Asian Development Tour (ADT) Championship held in Cambodia, delivering a strong performance over the four-day event with a 19-under-par finish.

Baig showcased his talent by posting 2-under, 7-under, and two consecutive 5-under rounds on the final two days.

Despite leading after the first three rounds, Thailand's Nopparat Panchaphol edged Baig out with a final round of 7-under, finishing just one stroke ahead to claim the title.

The championship, with a total prize pool of \$100,000, saw Baig take home \$11,500 for his second-place finish.

His impressive showing has now moved him up the ADT rankings, where he currently holds the second spot overall.

According to the Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF), this achievement marks a significant milestone in Baig's international career, drawing praise from golf enthusiasts and experts.

"This achievement not only highlights Ahmad's skill and perseverance but also propels him to 2nd place on the Asian Development Tour, with cumulative earnings of USD 46,772.95. His consistent performances throughout the tournament have drawn praise from golfing enthusiasts and professionals alike," reads a message by PGF.

In addition to his success in Cambodia, Ahmad recently cut in the Asian Tour's International Series Morocco, earning an additional USD 20,300, further cementing his standing in the international golf scene.

"With this stellar performance, Ahmad continues to position himself as one of the top emerging players in the region. His journey is one to watch as he competes for even greater accolades on the international stage," the PGF said. —Agency

No talks with PCB over Pakistan players' association: WCA CEO



World Cricketers' Association (WCA) Chief Executive Tom Moffat has clarified that the cricketers' association is not involved in any discussions regarding the formation of a players' association in Pakistan.

In a recent interview with Cricket Pakistan, Moffat emphasized that the decision to establish a players' association is solely in the hands of the Pakistan players and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

While the WCA maintains regular dialogue with various stakeholders in world cricket, the topic of a players' association in Pakistan has not been a focal point of their discussions with the PCB.

"We engage with various stakeholders in world cricket, including administrators around the world," Moffat stated.

"Our discussions with PCB have focused on potential collaboration and various areas in which we may be able to align and work together, and there has been no discussion on forming a players' association in Pakistan. A players' association with prominent Pakistani figures like Sana Mir,

along with the PCB." Moffat stated.

The WCA chief executive expressed his admiration for Pakistan's rich cricketing history and reiterated the organization's commitment to supporting the development of the game in the country.

He also highlighted the WCA's existing partnerships with prominent Pakistani figures like Sana Mir,

a member of the WCA Board, and Imran Ahmad Khan, the head of Apex Sports.

"Pakistan is an important cricket country with an amazing history and we want to ensure we can help players and support the game there wherever possible," Moffat said. "We have always had a good relationship with the PCB around the PSL, and hope that the relationship only continues to strengthen and grow."

"We already work closely with Sana Mir, who is on our Board, and Apex Sports led by Imran Ahmad Khan, both of whom have great experience in a range of areas. We look forward to more regular contact with the PCB and other important stakeholders," he concluded. —Agency

Pakistan's Asim Khan wins World Tour squash title in US



VIRGINIA: Pakistan's top squash player, Muhammad Asim Khan, secured his first career World Tour title by triumphing at the Charlottesville Open Squash Championship 2024.

Held in the US state of Virginia, Asim defeated top-seeded English player Nick Wall in an intense 65-minute final.

The match saw Asim lose the first game 12-14 but make a remarkable comeback to win the next three games 12-10, 11-5, and 11-6, clinching the title in a thrilling 3-1 victory. The win brings great pride to Pakistan as it marks Asim's debut World Tour championship triumph.

The Charlottesville Open, featuring a total prize pool of \$28,750, was a significant milestone in Asim Khan's career.

With this victory, he also gained 500 ranking points, which are expected to boost his global standing.

Asim's performance reflects the resurgence of squash talent in Pakistan, a nation with a rich history in the sport.

Legendary squash champion Jahangir Khan once dominated the international squash scene, and Asim's recent success adds to the country's legacy in the sport. —Agency

Robert Sanchez addresses mistakes after Chelsea's win over Brighton



Chelsea extended their unbeaten run in the Premier League with a 4-2 win against Brighton & Hove Albion, but goalkeeper Robert Sanchez came under scrutiny for mistakes that led to both of Brighton's goals.

Brighton's Georginio Rutter opened the scoring after Sanchez rushed off his line, leaving space for Rutter to capitalize on the error. The Seagulls' second goal came when Sanchez mistakenly passed the ball to Brighton's Carlos Baleba, who raced through to score.

Despite these mistakes, Sanchez redeemed himself with several strong saves throughout the match, helping Chelsea maintain their lead. After the game, Sanchez took to Instagram to address his performance, stating, "Mistakes happen - we're all human, except the legend Cole Palmer. Thank you fans.... This group can achieve big things together! One day I help, the next day they help me, this is how we grow as a team."

Sanchez's statistics for the match include four saves, four successful

rumours, and a 71% passing accuracy. He also completed four out of 18 long balls and made one critical error leading to a goal. Despite the pressure, Sanchez remains trusted by Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca, who is unlikely to drop him ahead of a busy schedule with European and domestic cup fixtures on the horizon.

Sanchez reassured fans that he's in peak physical condition, saying he feels the fittest he has been in two years, which should benefit the team during this demanding period. —Agency

Mohammad Yousaf resigns as Pakistan team selector



LAHORE: After serving for about six months in the capacity, former cricketer Mohammad Yousaf on Sunday stepped down as a member of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) selection committee "due to personal reasons".

In a statement, Yousaf said he was proud to play his part in growth of the national squad. He wished the team all the best, saying he had faith in the players' talent.

"I announce my resignation as a selector for the Pakistan cricket team due to personal reasons. Serving this incredible team has been a profound privilege, and I am proud to have contributed to the growth and success of Pakistan Cricket."

"I have immense faith in the talent and spirit of our players, and wish our team all the best as they continue to strive for greatness," he wrote on X.

On the other hand, confirming Yousaf's resignation, the PCB said the former cricketer great took this decision to focus on other key responsibilities within the cricket board.

"The PCB expresses its sincere gratitude to Mohammad Yousaf for his invaluable contributions during his

tenure as a selection committee member. Yousaf will continue to play a pivotal role at the PCB, sharing his extensive knowledge and experience as the batting coach at the High Performance Centre," said the PCB spokesperson.

Yousaf was the head coach of the Pakistan U19 side that finished third in the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024 in South Africa, the official added.

Yousaf was appointed as a member of the Pakistan team's selection committee in March this year.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on March 24 announced a reorganised national selection committee comprising seven members.

Speaking during a press conference in Lahore, Naqvi had said that the committee would not have a chairman and all seven members would have equal powers. —Agency

Panthers beat Markhors to win Champions One-Day Cup final



FAISALABAD: Panthers defeated Markhors by five wickets in the final to win the first-edition of Champions One-Day Cup at Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium.

Shadab Khan-led Panthers chased down the 123-run target in 18 overs after they dismantled the Markhors' batting lineup in just 33.4 overs.

Earlier, Markhors opted to bat first and could post a competitive total. Zain Abbas was the first to depart, caught by Umar Siddiq off Mohammad Hasnain's bowling for 6 runs from 8 balls. Fakhr Zaman provided a brief spark, scoring 46 off 49 deliveries, including five boundaries and a six, before falling to Sajid Khan, caught by Rizwan Mehmoed.

Kamran Ghulam was dismissed cheaply for 2 runs,

trapped leg-before-wicket by Ali Raza, leaving the Markhors at 26/2 early in the innings. Haseebullah Khan and Bismillah Khan attempted to steady the innings, contributing 27 and 16 runs, respectively, but both fell before they could anchor the team. Haseebullah was bowled by Sajid Khan, while Bismillah was caught by Abdul Bangalzi off Arafat Minhas. Skipper Ifthikhar Ahmed, expected to provide stability, was dismissed for just 3 runs, falling leg-before to Hasnain. Abdul Samad followed without scoring, caught by Sajid off Hasnain's bowling. Lower-order resistance was minimal, with only Zahid Mahmood, who remained not out on 7, and Akif Javed, who hit a quickfire 8 off 8 balls. —Agency The tall collapsed quickly as Mohammad Imran and Shahnaaz

Dahani were dismissed cheaply by Arafat Minhas. Hasnain and Minhas took three each while Sajid took two scalps. In reply, the Panthers successfully chased down the target in 18 overs but encountered a few obstacles along the way. Umar Siddiq provided a steady start but was bowled by Shahnavaz Dahani after scoring 19 off 21 balls. His opening partner, Abdul Bangalzi, contributed a solid 41 off 43 deliveries, including five boundaries and two sixes, before being caught by wicket-keeper Bismillah Khan off Mohammad Imran. Sajid Khan added 15 runs from 13 balls but was trapped lbw by Akif Javed, while Usman Khan chipped in with a brisk 13 off 8 balls before falling to Akif Javed, caught by Zain Abbas. —Agency

Faces of the Day



Names: Kamran Ali Rajput With His Son Asan Raza
Location: Moro
About us: We Love Pakistan!
Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Lopez hiding resentment amid Ben Affleck divorce



Jennifer Lopez is reportedly deeply hurt as she is going to be divorced for the fourth time.

Even though Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are maintaining an amicable image in front of the cameras, this image is reportedly just for their kids and nothing more.

Recently, an insider shared with In Touch Weekly, "Jennifer would never make a scene in public."

They went on to mention, "Especially in front of their kids, but she has so much resentment." She's made it plain she'll never forgive Ben for being such a cold-hearted j***," the source continued.

In addition to this, the confidante claimed that Jennifer believes that "giving up on the marriage in such a savage manner," after which they moved on to the next discussion.

This report comes after the duo, once called "Bennifer," were papped as they packed on PDA on 14th of September. The pair was sighted coying up to each other less than a month after the songstress filed for divorce from the actor.

Jennifer Aniston sets the record straight on her 'Friends' dress



Jennifer Aniston, famed for her role as Rachel Green in the hit show, Friends, clarified the confusion among fans.

Taking to Instagram Story, Aniston clarified the colour of a famous dress worn by her character in the show.

The confusion started when Max shared images celebrating the 30th anniversary of the beloved sitcom.

The image shared on Instagram were from the iconic episode The One Where No One's Ready, where Rachel wears a mint green dress while Ross (David Schwimmer) tries to get their friends ready for a black-tie event.

However, the new 4K version of the episode showed the dress appearing as baby blue, leading to confusion among fans.

One fan commented, "Ok what's the real color of that dress?" while another added, "Wait, the dress wasn't green, was my life a lie."

Aniston quickly addressed the issue in now-expired Instagram Story, stating, "For the record, the dress was mint green," as quoted by the Entertainment Weekly.

The actress' character Rachel Green became a fashion icon during the show's ten seasons from 1994 to 2004, known for her stylish outfits while working at Bloomingdale's and Ralph Lauren.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND

Thari Mirwah Organizations Protest Against Israeli Brutality And The Killing Of Syed Hassan Nasrullah

By M Iqbal Soomro

THARI MIRWAH: In a powerful response to Israeli aggression and the unjust killing of Hezbollah leader Syed Hassan Nasrullah, Shia organizations in Thari Mirwah organized a large-scale rally, expressing their outrage and solidarity with the oppressed. The protest march, which started from the Inambargh, was led by several prominent figures, including Maulana Asad Ali Shar, President of the Shia Ulema Council District Khairpur Maulana Zahoor Hussain Jalbani, Maulana Nabi Baksh Danish, Maulana Raza Hussain Rizwani, Zainwar Singar Ali Manghar, Waqar Hussain Manghar, Faiz Muhammad Soomro, and others.



against Israel and the United States, condemning their roles in the ongoing violence in the Middle East. The leaders, addressing the crowd, declared that the world is witnessing a global outcry, with every sensitive heart mourning and every eye shedding tears of blood over the atrocities being committed.

The procession made its way through the city streets, drawing significant attention as it culminated at the Thari Mirwah Press Club. Here, a passionate protest was held

leader, Syed Hassan Nasrullah, and to denounce the brutal actions of Israel. They expressed solidarity with all the victims of Israeli aggression and called for continued protests until justice is served. The protest was not only a demonstration of local support for the Palestinian and Lebanese people but also a reflection of the broader sentiment shared by millions across the world. The leaders vowed to keep their struggle alive and urged the Muslim world to unite against the injustices being carried out in the region.

MOU Signing Ceremony Held To Enhance Medical Services At DHQ Hospital TMK

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A significant step towards improving healthcare in Tando Muhammad Khan was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DHQ Hospital Tando Muhammad Khan and the Fatimid Foundation. The ceremony, held at Fatimid's Head Office in Karachi, aims to strengthen pathology services and provide free blood transfusions to thalassemia patients at DHQ Hospital.



The partnership seeks to enhance medical services, offering crucial support to patients suffering from thalassemia and other blood disorders. As part of the agreement, the Fatimid Foundation will ensure that free-of-cost pathology services are provided to patients, significantly easing the financial burden on the underserved population in the region. Additionally, the initiative is expected to improve the overall quality of care, which has been a pressing need in the area.

While this MOU marks a significant step forward in improving healthcare services, challenges remain. On the positive side, this partnership will likely lead to enhanced medical facilities, free blood transfusions, and better access to vital health services for the region's poor. However, the initiative will need sustained financial and operational support to remain viable in the long run, and logistical challenges may arise in scaling services across neighboring areas.

The event was graced by MNA Syed Naveed Qamar Zaman Shah, former Federal Minister, who attended as the Chief Guest. Other prominent attendees included Dr. Waleed bin Azhar, CEO of Fatimid Foundation Pakistan; Mr. Shahzad Shaikh, Deputy Commissioner Tando Muhammad Khan; Dr. Sadiq Ali Khuwaja, Dis-

trict Health Officer; Dr. Shahla Gul Shah, Medical Superintendent of DHQ Hospital Tando Muhammad Khan, and several key figures from the Fatimid Foundation and the hospital, including Dr. Amir Ali Channa, Mr. Wazir Ali Abbasi, Administrator Fatimid TMK, and other healthcare professionals.

Dr. Muhammad Suleman G. Abro Honored At International Leadership Conference

By Sajan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: In a moment of immense pride for the community, Dr. Muhammad Suleman G. Abro, Founder and CEO of SAFWCO Microfinance Company (Pvt.) Ltd., was recognized with multiple prestigious accolades at the Masterminds Business School International Leadership Award and Conference held in Dubai. His exceptional leadership and contributions to the development sector have earned him international acclaim.



At the event, Dr. Abro received an Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Leadership (honoris causa) for his outstanding work in advancing social development and empowering underserved communities. This honorary degree acknowledges his efforts to drive impactful change in society through microfinance and social upliftment programs.

His innovative strategies in microfinance have not only transformed the financial landscape for rural communities but also promoted economic self-reliance among those traditionally excluded from formal financial systems.

Dr. Abro further enhanced his expertise by completing an Executive MBA in Leadership & Management, reflecting his commitment to continuous learning and professional

development. This accomplishment has strengthened his leadership skills, equipping him to better guide organizations toward sustainable growth and long-term success. These honors serve as a testament to Dr. Abro's dedication to excellence and his impactful leadership. The local community of Shahdadpur celebrates the significant achievements, anticipating even greater contributions from him in the future.

REGIONAL TIMES

GLOBAL WATCH



SpaceX launches rescue mission to bring home stranded astronauts



A SpaceX rocket lifted off with two passengers on Saturday to retrieve two American astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) for months, according to NASA.

The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, at 1:17pm, carrying NASA astronaut Nick Hague and a Russian cosmonaut Alexander Gorbunov to the ISS. The mission, Crew-9, features two empty seats intended to return Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, who have been stranded on the ISS for months due to issues with their Boeing-derived Starliner spacecraft.

"Congrats to NASA and SpaceX on a successful launch," NASA chief Bill Nelson wrote on X. "We live in an exciting period of exploration and innovation in the stars. Wilmore and Williams, originally intended for an eight-day stay, had their mission extended after propulsion problems forced NASA to reconsider their return plans. A bit unique in that this launch is a 'win' because it is moving from the plan for crew members to two," noted NASA Associate Administrator Jim Free—Agency

Israel strikes Houthi targets in Yemen after killing Hezbollah leader in Lebanon



Israel said it bombed Houthi targets in Yemen on Sunday, expanding its confrontation with Iran's allies in the region after killing the Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Friday in an escalating conflict in Lebanon. The airstrikes on Yemen's port of Hodeidah were in response to Houthi missile attacks on Israel in recent days, Israel said, amid fears that Middle East fighting could spin out of control and draw in Iran and Israel's main ally the United States.

The strikes took place as Israel attacked more targets in Lebanon, where its intensifying bombardment over two weeks has killed a string of top Hezbollah leaders and driven hundreds of thousands of people from their homes. Lebanon's Health Ministry said Israeli strikes on Sunday had killed 24 people in Ain Deleb in the south and 21 people in Baalbek-Hermel in the east and that 14 medics had been killed in airstrikes over the past two days. Israeli drones hovered over Beirut overnight and for much of Sunday, with the loud blasts of new airstrikes echoing around the Lebanese capital. Hezbollah and Israel have been trading fire across the border since the start of the war in Gaza, which was triggered by the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas militants. Yemen's Houthis have launched sporadic attacks on Israel throughout that time and disrupted Red Sea shipping. Israel rapidly ramped up its attacks on Hezbollah two weeks ago with the declared goal of making northern areas safe for residents to return to their homes, killing much of the group's leadership.—Agency

170 dead in Nepal floods after relentless monsoon rains

KATHMANDU: Residents of Nepal's flood-hit capital returned to their mud-caked homes on Sunday to survey the wreckage of devastating floods that have killed at least 170 people across the Himalayan republic.



Deadly rain-related floods and landslides are common across South Asia during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity.

Entire neighbourhoods in Kathmandu were inundated over the weekend with flash floods reported in rivers coursing through the capital and extensive damage to highways connecting the city with the rest of Nepal.

Home ministry spokesman Rishi Ram Tiwari told AFP that bulldozers were being used to clear several highways that had been blocked by debris, cutting Kathmandu off from the rest of the country.

"More than 3,000 people have been rescued," he added.

At least 36 of those killed were aboard three vehicles and were buried alive when earth from a landslide careened into a highway south of Kathmandu, Nepal Police spokesman Dan Bahadur Karki told AFP.

The valley in which the capital sits recorded 240mm (9.4 inches) of rain in the 24 hours to Saturday morning, the country's weather bureau told the Kathmandu Post newspaper. It was the highest rainfall recorded in Kathmandu since at least 1970, the report said.—Agency

MONEY

FBR Expected To Extend Deadline For Tax Return Submissions

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) is likely to extend the deadline for the submission of tax returns following the meeting of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir with the business community in Karachi, media reported on Sunday citing sources.



Sources within the FBR say that the deadline for filing income tax returns for the year 2023-24 is likely to be extended by 15 days for individuals, associations of persons, businessmen and companies.

Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Friday.

The development comes after the tax authority, last week, ruled out any extension by the September 30 deadline.

President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram has also requested FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langryal and his team to extend the returns filing date to October 15. Ikram said that he was in constant contact with the FBR on his suggestion and noted that the last date for filing annual tax returns for individuals should be extended to October 15 so that maximum tax returns could be filed and difficulties faced by taxpayers could be eased. Meanwhile, FBR sources say that its offices will remain open on Sunday and Monday and banks and tax offices will collect tax returns till 8pm on Monday and ensure that no citizen misses out on filing tax returns.—RT/Agency

"Historically, a facility used to be given [to the masses] by extending the overall deadline. However, this time the decision has been made that the date [for submission of tax returns] will not be extended and September 30 will be the last date to file tax returns," FBR spokesperson Bakhtiar Muhammad had said while speaking to media.

However, the tax body is mulling extending the deadline after the business community, during their meeting with the army chief, suggested that the FBR should create convenience for businessmen instead of difficulties.

Acknowledging that some filers may find it difficult to submit their returns before the due date, the spokesperson said such peo-

ple can reach out to their respective tax commissioners and seek an individual extension as provisioned in the law. They can secure an extension owing to their specific reasons, however, the deadline will not be pushed beyond September 30 for the entire country overall, he added.

Shia Organizations Rally In Support Of Palestinian And Lebanese Victims



for the liberation of Al-Quds and to stand with the oppressed people in the region. The speakers declared that martyrdom is a divine blessing for the youth of Hussaini, vowing to continue their support for the oppressed until the last drop of their blood is shed. They emphasized the need for unwavering solidarity among Muslims and called for practical actions to defend the rights of Palestinians and Lebanese victims of aggression.

In powerful speeches, the leaders criticized the negligence of Islamic governments in addressing the plight of the Palestinian and Lebanese people. They urged Muslims worldwide to rise in protest and take to the streets in a unified defense of their oppressed brothers and sisters. The rally concluded with a symbolic burning of Israeli and American flags, sending a strong message of opposition to the actions of these nations. The event reflected the deep-rooted commitment of the Shia community to stand against injustice and oppression.

Let's WASH Out Dengue And Chikungunya



By Kashif Shamim Siddiqui

Dengue and chikungunya have emerged as significant health concerns in Karachi, particularly in the city's slum areas. Poor living conditions in these communities leave residents increasingly vulnerable to these viral diseases.

In addition to improving sanitation, WASH Committees will lead awareness campaigns within the community. These initiatives will educate residents about disease prevention, recognizing dengue symptoms, proper waste disposal, and the importance of a clean environment. Acting as a bridge between the community and health officials, these committees will ensure that vital health information reaches everyone, particularly those in marginalized areas who may lack access to such resources.

Many individuals in these slums grapple daily with poverty and lack access to essential health and sanitation services. As a result, many remain unaware of the risks posed by viral infections or the preventive measures available to them. However, some community members recognize the urgent need for action to protect lives.

WASH Committees do more than just clean; they empower communities to take charge of their health. Their work fosters a culture of hygiene and preventive care, reducing the community's dependence on external assistance and equipping them to face health challenges independently. By nurturing a sense of ownership and responsibility, WASH Committees will lay the groundwork for long-term health improvements in Karachi's slums. In the ongoing struggle against dengue and other viral diseases, WASH Committees provide a well-organized and sustained approach to sanitation and hygiene. Their efforts extend beyond individual actions, positioning them as key players in maintaining a healthy environment that helps prevent disease transmission. The success of these committees will be essential in fostering healthier, more resilient communities in the city's slums.

Karachi is a vast city with numerous residents living in overcrowded slums that often lack basic amenities, such as clean water and effective waste management systems. Stagnant water is a prevalent issue in these neighborhoods, providing ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes that transmit dengue and chikungunya. Poor sanitation exacerbates ongoing health challenges, making it difficult for residents to prioritize their health amid financial struggles. This situation under-

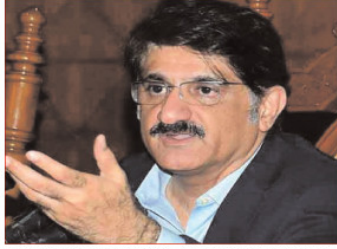
METRO KARACHI



Murad Allocates Rs1.5 Billion For Karachi Road Repairs

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah announced a strong focus on addressing Karachi's challenges, emphasizing efforts to enhance public convenience. He confirmed that road repair work in the city began following recent rains, with the Sindh government releasing Rs1.5 billion to the Municipal Corporation specifically for these repairs.

The Chief Minister highlighted that a total of Rs200 billion is being invested in various projects across Karachi, with significant progress on key transportation initiatives. He noted that the completion of the Red Line and Yellow Line BRT



projects is expected to greatly alleviate transportation issues in the city.

Additionally, he mentioned that discussions have resumed with Chinese offi-

cial, facilitated by the federal government, regarding the restoration of the Karachi Circular Railway, a project that the Pakistan Peoples Party aims to bring

to fruition for citizens soon. Murad Ali Shah also pointed out that the Malir Expressway's completion will enhance traffic flow and reduce congestion in Karachi. Plans are underway for a new expressway connecting Karachi Port to Jam Sadiq Bridge. He emphasized that once projects related to transport, road improvements, the Safe City initiative, and the K-4 project are completed, Karachi will emerge as a major city.

Previously, the Chief Minister chaired a meeting to assess the damage caused to city roads during the 2024 rainfall. He ap-

proved Rs1.5 billion for necessary repairs and instructed the Local Government Department to evaluate the conditions of roads constructed or repaired since 2022 that were subsequently damaged.

Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab reported that approximately 17.86 million square feet of road area was affected during the rainfall. He noted that around Rs1.5 billion is required for the repair and reconstruction of damaged roads, bridges, and flyovers, a request that the Chief Minister promptly approved, directing that quality work be carried out.—RT



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman along with other party leaders is addressing a press conference, at the Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq.—RT

Sindh To Launch New Development Projects Worth \$450 Million With World Bank Support: Nasir Shah

KARACHI: Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, the Provincial Minister for Development and Planning in Sindh, announced that several new development projects will be initiated throughout the province with the assistance of the World Bank. He made these remarks during a high-level meeting at the Development and Planning Department's office, attended by Chairman PND Najam Ahmad Shah and other officials.



The meeting revealed that while the World Bank had pledged \$450 million for new development initiatives in Sindh, only \$200 million has been disbursed to date. Minister Shah emphasized the need to expedite the commencement of these development projects and men-

tioned his plans to engage with the World Bank regarding the remaining funds. He expressed optimism that the remaining amount would be released soon, as the World Bank has expressed satisfaction with the progress of ongoing development projects in Sindh and commended the Sindh government's initiatives. The new projects will focus on irrigation, water rescue, and road development, with the Minister highlighting Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's keen interest in these schemes. Shah reiterated the urgency of launching these projects promptly with World Bank support.—RT

Grand Opening Of The Carnivore Restaurant Held In Karachi



KARACHI: Following the tremendous success of its branches in Islamabad, Lahore, and Riyadh, the Carnivore - Baked Meat Restaurant made a grand entrance today with an elaborate launch event, attended by prominent figures from the city. Notable attendees included Consul General of Italy HE Danilo Giurdaneli, Vice Consul General of Kuwait Mr. Abdullah M. Almansour, Honorary Consul General of Morocco Mr. Ish-tiaq Baig, and various renowned personalities such as Sheema Kermani, Aameena Saiyid, Seemi Pasha, Angie Marshall, Tapu Javeri, Asim Battal, and many others.

The restaurant prides itself on its motto of "Service within three minutes," having established a strong reputation across its chain for both delivering on this promise and offering unique, health-conscious dishes. No wonder The Carnivore has rapidly become the fastest-growing restaurant chain in Pakistan and internationally, with its fourth branch opening within just a year.

During the event, the visionary brothers behind the venture, Shoab and Zohaib, expressed their excitement about launching in Karachi. Shoab remarked, "I am overwhelmed by the support and affection we have received since arriving here. We are thrilled to be in this wonderful city that appreciates diverse culinary offerings." It's noteworthy that the brothers have plans to open their next restaurant in Dubai soon.—RT

Bilawal Bhutto Has Achieved A Milestone By Building Consensus For New Constitutional Court: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani praised Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto for achieving a significant political milestone by uniting various political parties in support of establishing a new constitutional court in the country.



Ghani made this statement during a reception at a banquet hall on Sunday, celebrating the integration of the Pashtoon Quami Movement (PQM) into the PPP, led by Chairman Dawood Jan. He emphasized that the establishment of a new constitutional court aligns with the PPP's election manifesto and is also a component of the Charter of Democracy signed with the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) in 2006.

The minister noted that the court's formation represents a commitment to both the PPP's manifesto and the vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. He asserted that no other political party possesses a leader who can rival Bilawal's political acumen and growing popularity. Ghani highlighted that the PPP consistently provides representation to candidates from diverse ethnic backgrounds in the Senate, assemblies, and local government. He stated that no other party exhibits the same level

of inclusivity and broad-mindedness. Responding to a media inquiry, he addressed a controversial judgment regarding reserved assembly seats awarded to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, citing criticism from various legal experts, including those outside the PPP. He emphasized the need to uphold the powers of parliament in light of differing opinions between the legislative and judicial branches.

Welcoming PQM office-bearers into the Peoples Party, Ghani acknowledged the PQM's previous efforts to strengthen its presence in Sindh and other provinces, focusing on resolving the challenges faced by the Pakhtun community.

He reiterated the PPP's long-standing commitment to improving the lives of the underprivileged, laborers, farmers, and marginalized groups. Ghani described Karachi as a microcosm of Pakistan, rep-

resenting all communities, religions, and ethnicities. He urged unity among the diverse communities of Karachi for the city's progress and development, noting that the residents face common challenges. "Achieving Karachi's progress requires our collective unity," Ghani stated. He advocated for ideological discussions rather than divisive politics based on ethnicity.

The minister lamented the impact of hate-driven politics in Karachi over the past three to four decades, recalling tragic incidents involving members of the Pakhtun community. He expressed hope that the politics of hatred are fading, allowing for peaceful political engagement.

Ghani concluded by asserting that the PPP is well-equipped to foster unity and development in Karachi.—RT

Police Clash With Protesters In Karachi During Nationwide Demonstrations Following Nasrallah's Killing



KARACHI: Police deployed tear gas and protesters responded with stones on Sunday evening in Karachi during a rally that was part of widespread demonstrations across the country condemning Israel's killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and its ongoing bombing campaign in Lebanon.

In Karachi, a substantial crowd, including women and children, gathered to denounce the killing of the Hezbollah chief, chanting slogans against Israel and its long-time ally, the United States.

Thousands joined the protests nationwide after Hezbollah confirmed on Saturday that Nasrallah had been killed in an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon, as reported by AFP. Tel Aviv acknowledged conducting an airstrike in the southern suburbs of Beirut the previous day, marking a significant setback for the group amid escalating Israeli attacks.

According to the Karachi Police, the rally was organized by the religio-political party Majlis Wahdat Muslimen (MWM). The protest was set to start at the PIDC intersection, progressing towards Mai Kolachi Road via the ICI Bridge, and concluding at the US Consulate.

However, several protesters began their march from the Old Numash roundabout along MA Jinnah Road. When they attempted to approach the US consulate after descending from the Native Jetty Bridge, police stationed there prevented them from advancing. The police had already established barriers and containers on MT Khan Road and Mai Kolachi Road to block access to the consulate. Tensions escalated when protesters attempted to dismantle these obstacles, leading to clashes. Social media footage captured clouds of tear gas as protesters gathered near Bahria Complex on MT Khan Road, west of the consulate, waving Hezbollah flags and shouting slogans, while some were seen throwing stones at riot-equipped police.—RT/Agency

MQM-P Signals Potential Exit From Government



KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement - Pakistan (MQM-P), a coalition partner in the federal government, has issued a stern warning about the possibility of leaving the government and resigning from the assembly, according to media reports on Sunday.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) regarding the quota system, despite having an agreement with the PML-N.

Expressing his dissatisfaction, National Assembly member Mustafa Kamal stated that the MQM-P has not received the respect it deserves from the PML-N government since it took office eight months ago. Kamal criticized the federal government for instructing MQM-P to engage in negotiations with the

He emphasized that MQM-P currently lacks a mayor and that it is the federal government's responsibility to communicate with the PPP on their behalf. Kamal also highlighted the sacrifices made by MQM-P workers in restoring peace in Karachi, noting the loss of many lives during this process. He cautioned that if MQM-P withdraws from its role in the government, it could become increasingly challenging to maintain peace in Karachi.—RT/Agency

Ayesha Farooqi Elected Unopposed As Chairperson Of Handicraft Association

KARACHI: Ayesha Farooqi has been elected unopposed as the Chairperson of the Handicraft Association, with Kashif Zaheer assuming the role of Senior Vice Chairman and Asma Amir as Vice Chairperson.



During a central meeting focused on the nomination of office-bearers, Ayesha Farooqi, Kashif Zaheer, and Asma Amir were all elected without contest. Additionally, Nida Inayat Nawab was nominated as the Executive for Sindh, while Bagiya Zahri will serve as the Executive for Balochistan.

In her remarks, Ayesha Farooqi emphasized the commitment to promoting

women's handicraft skills from across Pakistan at both domestic and international levels. Following her unopposed election, various leaders extended their congratulations, including Sardar Abdul Majeed Arain, Central President of the organization, Arain Muhammad Jameel Arain, Asma Wajid, Director of AZB Global Trade and Exhibition, Syed Tarab Shah, Chairman of AZB Global Trade and Exhibition, and Muhammad Farooq Afzal, CEO of AZB Global Trade and Exhibition.—RT

Tragic Death Of Citizen Struck By Vehicle Of PML-N Youth Wing Leader In Karachi

KARACHI: A citizen who suffered serious injuries after being struck by the vehicle of the General Secretary of the PML-N youth wing has sadly passed away while undergoing treatment at a Karachi hospital, according to media reports on Sunday.

The victim, identified as Athar, was hit by a Revo driven by Rehan Mustafa, the General Secretary of the PML-N Youth Wing, five days ago. A father of two, Athar worked at Karachi Medical and Dental College

(KMDC) and lived in Gulshan-e-Maymar. Witnesses indicated that two girls and Rehan Mustafa's brother-in-law were also in the vehicle at the time of the incident when they ran over the motorcyclist.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Leader and activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) are holding a protest demonstration against prolong load shedding and inflated electric bills, in Malir.—RT



KARACHI: View of the clash between security officials and supporters of the Majlis Wahdat-ul-Muslimeen (MWM) and Inmama Students Organization (ISO) during a protest rally against the killing of Hassan Nasrallah, Chief of Hezbollah in an Israeli Airstrike in Beirut, outside the US Consulate building. Police fired tear gas to stop people from marching towards the US consulate in Karachi. They stopped protesters near the Mai Kolachi Bridge by placing containers.—RT

It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.

—William Shakespeare

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

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30 2024

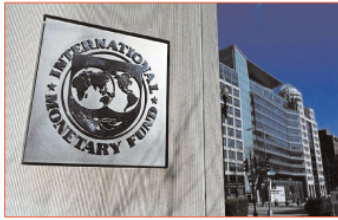
IMF Outlines Key Targets For \$7 Billion Bailout With A Focus On Reforms

ISLAMABAD: Although the incumbent government after months of strenuous efforts finally secured the approval of a new loan programme by the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Executive Board, it seems that the work is far from over as the lender has set out key fiscal targets for the government as part of the \$7 billion loan programme. The News reported on Sunday.

The country has also received the first tranche of approximately \$1.03 billion (SDR 760 million) under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

The Fund has underscored the need for strong fiscal reforms to ensure long-term sustainability saying that government revenue, including grants, is projected to rise from 12.6% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in FY2024 to 15.4% in FY2025.

The fiscal deficit (income-expenditure gap), including grants, is expected to narrow from 6.7% to 6.0% of GDP during the same period while excluding grants, the deficit is projected at 6.1% of



GDP for FY2025.

Meanwhile, the country's primary balance (excluding grants) is expected to shift from a surplus of 0.9% of GDP in FY2024 to 2% of GDP in FY2025, a substantial turnaround from the 0.9% deficit seen in FY2023.

Public debt, which was 74.9% of GDP (excluding IMF obligations) in FY2023, declined to 67% in FY2024 and is now projected to rise slightly to 69% in FY2025. External debt, which stood at 28.6% of GDP in FY2023, dropped to 22.6% in FY2024 and is projected to rise again to 24% in FY2025.

Pakistan's current account deficit, which had shrunk from 1.0% of GDP in

FY2023 to 0.2% in FY2024, is expected to widen again to 0.9% by FY2025. Foreign direct investment (FDI), which held steady at 0.5% of GDP in FY2024, is forecast to decline slightly to 0.4% of GDP in FY2025.

The IMF anticipates significant improvement in foreign exchange reserves, which are projected to rise from \$9.38 billion in FY2024 to \$12.76 billion in FY2025, covering 2.1 months of imports by the end of FY2025.

The lender estimates that the country's economy is expected to recover steadily in FY2025, with real GDP growth rising to 3.2%, up from 2.4% in FY2024. This growth is crucial for a nation

of 236 million people with a per capita GDP of \$1,572 as of FY2024.

Inflation, which has been a pressing concern over the past year, is expected to ease significantly. The IMF projects that average consumer price inflation, which stood at 23.4% in FY2024, will drop to 9.5% in FY2025. This disinflation has allowed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to cut its policy rate by 450 basis points since June 2024.

The IMF estimates the unemployment rate at 8% for FY2024 and is projected to gradually decrease to 7.5% by FY2025.

Energy sector reforms remain a critical component of the EFF program and the Washington-based lender has called for deeper cost-cutting measures and energy tariff adjustments to reduce circular debt and ensure the long-term viability of Pakistan's energy sector.

These reforms, along with state-owned enterprise (SOE) restructuring, are essential for improving efficiency and service provision in public utilities.

Despite short-term improvements, Pakistan faces deep structural challenges, including a difficult business environment and weak governance.

The Fund has highlighted the need for broader tax reforms, including the removal of sector-specific exemptions and the inclusion of under-represented sectors such as large-scale agriculture, industrialists, and developers in the tax net.

The program also underscores the importance of building resilience to climate change through sustainable investments and improved infrastructure. Strengthening anti-corruption frameworks and governance reforms will be crucial in fostering a more competitive economy.

As part of its fiscal reform, the IMF has urged Pakistan to continue improving its tax base and strengthening federal-provincial fiscal arrangements. Ensuring fiscal sustainability through sound macroeconomic policies is seen as essential for promoting long-term economic growth and stability.—RT/Agency

'Illegitimate' Parliament Lacks Mandate For Constitutional Amendments: Fazl

PESHAWAR: After being re-elected as the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief for five years, Maulana Fazlur Rehman has slammed the incumbent government, saying that the "fake parliament" lacks a real mandate for a major constitutional amendment.

"We want a fresh [general] election," Fazl said while addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the party's intra-party poll in Peshawar on Sunday.

"This parliament does not deserve this huge constitutional amendment," he said.

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

The ruling coalition left no stone unturned to woo Fazl, with leaderships of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) holding a flurry of meetings with the cleric, but to no avail.

Detailing ongoing consultations with the PPP and the major opposition party PTI, he said that the JUI-F and the said parties would share their draft amendments.

Moreover, the cleric strongly condemned the Israeli fierce attacks on Lebanon that saw the martyrdom of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah.

He said that Israel achieved the second biggest



target [after Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's martyrdom] to hit the Palestinian movement.

He added that despite Nasrallah's martyrdom, "Jihad will be continued till the independence of Al-Aqsa Mosque."

Fazl warned that the fire that erupted in Lebanon by Israel could engulf the entire world. The politico urged the Arab countries to devise a combined defence system, otherwise, the flames of war would affect all of them.

Prior to his press conference, Maulana Fazl was re-elected unopposed as the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief for a five-year tenure as the politico-religious party held its intra-party polls.

Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri was also elected unopposed for another term as the JUI-F secretary-general.

According to the party's spokesperson, the election was held during a general council meeting at Mufi Mahmood Markazi, Peshawar.

The meeting was attended by nearly 1,500 general council members from across the country, added spokesperson Aslam Ghauri.—RT/Agency

KPK CM's March On Islamabad Aims To Reenact May 9 Violence, Warns Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur had made his intention clear to create another May 9 like chaos in the country by announcing his plans to march on Islamabad and Punjab.

The minister, in a news statement, condemned the alleged remarks made by the KPK CM about use of force in the protests, calling it an admission of his own failure to govern the province effectively.

"The Chief Minister's threat of firing bullets from a bloodshed is a clear manifestation that he is incapable of running the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. His threats to march on Islamabad and Punjab with force are nothing but an attempt to repeat the May 9."

He further criticized the KPK Chief Minister's transition from verbal abuse to hurling threats of violence, warning that this approach would only harm him, not anyone else.

"There is nothing democratic, political, or parliamentary about the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) provincial government's statements, actions, or conduct," the minister added.

Tarar lamented that the



provincial leadership of PTI had never focused on competing with the center and Punjab in areas such as education, healthcare, employment, or economic improvement.

He urged that if PTI wanted to bring about a revolution, it should focus on transforming these sectors for the betterment of the people.

"Corruption and incompetence have reached their peak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The real competition should have been in providing relief to electricity consumers, as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz led governments has done in Islamabad and Punjab," he said, adding it should have been about building hospitals and educational institutions to serve the people.

Tarar accused the PTI of trying to disrupt the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(SCO) summit in a similar fashion it had attempted to sabotage President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan with its previous sit-ins in Islamabad in 2014.

He said the economic stabilization had perturbed the PTI, which had brought Pakistan to the brink of default.

The substantive drop in the inflation from 32 per cent to 9.6 per cent had literally irked them, he added.

"Violence, threats, and guns will not reduce inflation or unemployment," he said, while regretting the sheer corruption in KPK during the last 11 years of the PTI tenure.

Tarar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's firm stance in support of Palestinians and against Israel at the United Nations General Assembly had caused a real inconvenience to the "Israeli agents" in Pakistan.—RT/Agency

KP Chief Minister Accused Of Thuggery And Sabotage By Amir Muqam



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister and President of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Amir Muqam, has criticised the provincial government for its lack of policy, rampant corruption, and deteriorating law and order situation.

He described Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's actions as akin to "thuggery," adding that he should be labelled a saboteur. During a meeting of the PML-N in Swat, he expressed concerns about the government's performance.

"It's unclear what is happening under this government; no one knows its policies or priorities," he stated, adding that the province has accrued a debt of up to Rs3 trillion over the last two to three years. Muqam highlighted that the security situation is alarming, noting, "After sunset, no one can leave their homes. Numerous attacks have occurred, and now theft and robbery are rampant."

He criticised the destruction of provincial institutions, indicating that corruption is pervasive and that disputes

over commissions exist among the CM and his ministers.

He also pointed out the lack of essential medicines in hospitals, corruption in health cards, and vacant positions in educational institutions, stressing, "Swat University has not received salary funds, and educational lands are being mortgaged."

The minister called for the CM to be labelled a saboteur and challenged him to compete in governance with Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz. Muqam accused the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for deceiving its supporters, urging them to hold rallies in their districts instead of seeking a national platform. He expressed his unwavering commitment to peace, stating, "The people of K-P have made sacrifices against terrorism. We commend those striving for peace and are united in our efforts."

He insisted that his party would not compromise on security and would remain steadfast against terrorism.—RT/Agency

Government Will Face Repercussions For Breaching Rawalpindi Agreement: Hafiz Naem

KARACHI: Hafiz Naemur Rehman, the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, accused the government of violating the Rawalpindi Agreement and warned that it would face consequences for its actions.

Addressing a press conference at the Noor Haq Institute on Sunday, he criticised the high electricity costs resulting from unfavourable Independent Power Producer (IPP) agreements and oppressive taxes imposed on the public and traders.

Rehman announced the launch of the next phase of the 'Haq Do Awan' (Give Rights to the People) movement, which includes nationwide protests against these issues.

He indicated that the movement has options for a long march to Islamabad and a potential strike lasting one to three days. From October 23 to 27, a public referendum will also be conducted regarding the non-payment of electricity bills across the country.

He outlined plans to show solidarity with the people of Gaza and to protest against Israeli aggression.

Major events are scheduled, including public gatherings in Chitral on October 2 and Faisalabad on October 4, culminating in a significant "Gaza and Lebanon Million



March" on October 6 in Karachi. On October 7, participants from all walks of life will take to the streets at noon to protest against Israel.

Rehman urged the government to officially announce a nationwide protest on October 7 to send a clear and effective message against Israeli aggression and terrorism.

He stressed that the liberation of the Al-Aqsa Mosque is a matter for the entire Muslim community, not just a single political party. He said he plans to engage with both the government and opposition parties to unite on a single agenda regarding Israel.

He asserted that if the Muslim community, especially its leaders, were to unite, Israel would lack the courage to continue its Pakistan's national bombings in Gaza. He criticised the silence and cowardice of current rulers, suggesting that it has emboldened Israel to extend its aggression into Lebanon.

Ji chief highlighted the historical resistance of Hamas and Hezbollah against Israeli and American forces. He condemned discussions surrounding a two-state solution for Palestine, stating that such talks merely serve to appease the United States and Israel.

He further criticised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent statements at the United Nations regarding Kashmir and Palestine, arguing that by endorsing a two-state solution, the prime minister was attempting to placate the US and Israel, which contradicts Pakistan's national stance.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Condemns Israel's 'Reckless Killing' Of Hezbollah Leader Hassan Nasrallah: Foreign Office

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday condemned Israeli "adventurism" in the Middle East region, terming the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon a "reckless act", constituting a major escalation in the region.

Lebanon's Hezbollah had on Saturday confirmed that its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was killed and vowed to continue the battle against Israel.

Tel Aviv said it conducted an airstrike in Beirut's southern suburbs a day earlier in what would be a devastating blow to the group as it reels from an escalating campaign of Israeli attacks.

A statement released by the Foreign Office today read, "Pakistan strongly condemns the growing Israeli adventurism in the Middle East. Its unbridled attacks on civilian populations and disregard of international law have reached alarming levels."

It noted that for the past several days, Israel had "engaged in unacceptable viola-



tions of the sovereignty of Lebanon, relentlessly targeting civilian population centers, and undermining its stability and security."

"We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of Israeli aggression and the people of Lebanon," the statement said.

"Pakistan continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Lebanon," it added, urging the United Nations Security Council to stop Israel from its "adventurism in the region and vio-

lations of international law". Nasrallah's death marks a major blow not only to Hezbollah but also to its alleged backers in Iran. He was a leading figure in the Tehran-backed "Axis of Resistance", helping to project Iranian influence across the Middle East.

Lebanese health authorities confirmed six dead and 91 wounded in the initial attack on Friday—the fourth on Beirut's Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs in a week and the heaviest since a 2006 war.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Expresses Condolences Over Tragic Flooding In Nepal



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his heartfelt sorrow and sadness over the tragic loss of precious lives resulting from the devastating floods in Nepal.

In a post on social media platform X, the prime minister stated, "Our hearts go out to

Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and the people of Nepal during this difficult time."

PM reflected on Pakistan's own experience with severe floods in 2022, reaffirming that Pakistan stands in full solidarity with Nepal and is prepared to offer any needed assistance.—RT/Agency

NA Speaker Congratulates Fazl On His Uncontested Election As Ameer Of JUI

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Sunday congratulated Maulana Fazlur Rehman on his successful election as Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and to Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri for his successful election as General Secretary JUI.

He expressed his best wishes for Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri.

"Maulana Fazlur Rehman is not only a prudent and far-sighted political leader but



added Maulana Fazlur Rehman's election as the leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam is a positive sign for democracy, said Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

He said that the election of Maulana Fazlur Rehman as the Ameer of JUI will promote democracy. Ayaz Sadiq also expressed his appreciation that under Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has always practised politics based on democratic values, both inside and outside Parliam—RT/Agency