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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Supreme Court Overturns Verdict Preventing Lawmakers From Defecting In Parliament

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday annulled its 2022 verdict on the interpretation of Article 63(A) of the Constitution, which barred lawmakers from going against party directions when voting in parliament.

Hearing the Supreme Court Bar Association's (SCBA) plea, the five-member bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa announced the unanimous verdict and approved the revision petition with the top judge saying that the detailed verdict will be issued later.

The case revolves around the apex court's previous ruling, which stated that the votes of parliamentarians who deviated from their party's directives and policies were to be disregarded and not counted.

During the hearing today, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar apprised the court that he met the PTI founder, however, the meeting didn't have the attorney-client privilege as it was also attended by police officers.

The lawyer further said that the incarcerated ex-prime minister has requested to appear before the court himself and that he wishes to raise certain arguments via virtual appearance.

Reiterating the party's



earlier opposition to the bench, he said that the PTI founder said that the bench is not legal and so there is no point of moving forward," he remarked, adding that the PTI wanted to distance itself from the court proceedings. "I will not appear before the court if the PTI founder is not given permission [to present his arguments]," he noted.

However, the lawyer's repeated mention of Khan didn't sit well with the CJP who said: "Why are you taking [Imran] Khan's name again and again, [you should] talk without taking [any] names."

Furthermore, the top judge also warned the coun-

sel of contempt of court proceedings on his remarks regarding a perception that the court will allow horse-trading in light of the Constitutional amendments expected to be tabled by the government.

"We can hold you in contempt of court [for this statement]," said CJP Isa.

Moving on, the chief justice asked Barrister Zafar if he would be ready to act as amicus curiae to which the latter replied in the affirmative.

The court then appointed the lawyer as amicus curiae after SCBA President Shahzad Shaikat said that he didn't oppose the said nomination after which the PTI lawyer continued his arguments before the court.

Addressing the PTI counsel, CJP Isa said all the political parties should sit together and settle their issues, clarifying that "there is no division among judges".—RT/Agency

Fazl Accepts SC Ruling On Rebel MPs Amid Concerns Over 'Match-Fixing' As Constitutional Package Approaches

ISLAMABAD: Hours after the Supreme Court annulled its 2022 verdict on the interpretation of Article 63(A) of the Constitution, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman said he accepts the verdict but warned against any 'match-fixing' amid the government's efforts to pass judiciary-centric constitutional package.

Deemed a major win for ruling coalition, the apex court unanimously accepted a revision petition against its 2022 verdict related to the defection clause, which barred lawmakers from going against party directions when voting in parliament.

In its May 17, 2022 verdict, the SC — via 3-2 judgment — ruled that votes cast contrary to the parliamentary party lines in four instances outlined in Article 63(A) should not be counted.

These four instances are the election of prime minister and chief minister, a vote of confidence or no-confidence, a Constitution amendment bill, and a money bill.

Three judges — then-CJP Umar Ata Bandial, then Justice Ijazul Ahsan, and Justice Munib Akhtar — had voted in favour whereas Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan



Miankhel were the dissenting judges.

Today's verdict, pronounced by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, means that in any future legislation, the votes of parliamentarians who deviated from their party's directives and policies will be counted.

"We accept the court's ruling, but there should be no match-fixing [...] It should not become a mean of buying or selling," the JUI-F chief said while addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday.

In response to a question regarding potential horse-trading ahead of constitutional package, Maulana Fazl said that not a single member of his parliamentary party has ever resorted to "floor crossing" in national and provincial assemblies.

Meanwhile, the veteran

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to postpone its anti-government protests.

However, he clarified, his party has no intention of putting its weight behind the government's proposed judicial package at any cost. "No legislation was made on any of our recommendations," he regretted.

Questioning the government's urgency in tabling the constitutional package, the JUI-F chief said they waited for almost nine months for the passage of 18th Amendment.

"Today, they [the government] are insisting on amending the Constitution within 24 hours," he said, adding that in its current state with its details and rules, the bill was incapable of "being passed and supported".

Furthermore, Fazl noted that no progress was made for an Islamic legislation, noting that the matter related to registration of madrassahs was still unresolved.

Responding to a question, the politician said JUI-F and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have decided to separately chalk out constitutional amendment drafts and try to achieve a consensus.

A day earlier, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

(PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui said the constitutional amendment proposed by the government was amended with the consent of Maulana Fazl.

"Maulana Fazlur Rahman informed me about his reservations regarding the amendment. He has no objection on formation of the constitutional court as well as the amendment's basic points," he said while speaking on Geo News programme 'Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Saath'.

Last month, the coalition government made a futile attempt to pass a "closely-guarded" constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa.

However, the government failed to even table the amendments in parliament after JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman refused to support the government's judicial package, leaving the contentious amendments hanging in the balance.

Ostensibly, the government was short of 13 votes in the National Assembly and nine in the Senate as the said legislation requires a two-thirds majority in both houses.—RT/Agency

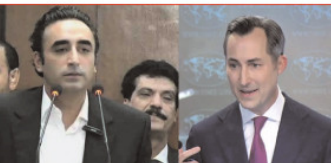
US Responds To Pakistan's Management Of \$400M Flood Aid Following Bilawal's Claims

WASHINGTON: The United States took notice of a statement by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari regarding his allegations against the Shehbaz Sharif government for mismanaging \$400 million intended for flood victims.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari claimed that he secured a \$400 million loan and aid for flood victims, which the federal government has allegedly appropriated for itself.

The PPP chief stated that the \$400 million obtained from the World Bank has been retained by the federal government, which is providing him with rupees instead, under the pretext that they will be used for projects.

He criticized the federal government for failing to construct a single house in recent years and urged that the funds be directed to the flood victims.



"We take this matter very seriously, not just in Pakistan but also wherever American taxpayer dollars are used and where urgent humanitarian interests are at stake," State Department spokesperson Mathew Miller said during a press briefing.

Miller highlighted that both the State Department and USAID employ stringent monitoring and evaluation systems in providing assistance, and they cease assistance when it is observed to be misdirected or misused.

Responding to a query about Secretary Blinken's meeting with Indian counter-

part Jaishankar, Miller stated that they discussed their enduring commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, coordinating closely on regional and global challenges, and advancing cooperation on critical and emerging technologies.

"I won't divulge all the details of those conversations, but we frequently raise human rights issues in our discussions with governments worldwide," he remarked when asked if human rights violations and religious freedom were discussed with the Indian Minister.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Condemns Israel's Ban On UN Chief's Entry

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has condemned Israel for its "unjustified and slanderous" attacks against the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, barring him from entering the country and declaring him "persona non grata."

"Pakistan stands in full solidarity with the UN Secretary-General and commends his principled and courageous stance on the situation in the Middle East, particularly the atrocities in Gaza and the aggression against Lebanon," Ambassador Munir Akram said in an interview with APP's UN correspondent.

"We strongly condemn Israel's unjustified and slanderous attacks against the UN Secretary-General and the UN, which is a pillar of world order," the Pakistan UN envoy said. "Insult and abuse is the weapon of aggressors and oppressors," he added. Israel's aggression in Gaza has killed over 41,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and its new offensive against Lebanon has also caused thousands of casualties in both war zones as well as massive displacement of people there.—RT/Agency

Vawda Accuses Imran Of Inciting Violence



ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda has claimed that the PTI was calling for protests that could endanger innocent lives.

During a press conference in Islamabad, Vawda stated that a political party was playing a nefarious game for power, expressing concern that the PTI founder was worried about the improved economy.

He criticised Imran Khan for speaking about freedom and liberation, urging him to first free himself from mental slavery. Vawda accused the PTI of planning to create unrest, saying they were now

seeking casualties.

He remarked that the PTI was trying to provoke conflict, calling for protests to incite violence.

Vawda noted that foreign personalities and investors were coming to the country, and criticised the government for not highlighting these developments.

Vawda further stated that Gandapur was merely a pawn in a larger narrative. He suggested that if one wished to engage in politics, it should be done constructively rather than resorting to thuggery and intimidation.—RT/Agency

Supreme Court: CJP Cannot Force Participation On A Bench

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has rejected objections raised by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legal team during the hearing of the Article 63-A review case.

The court stated that the chief justice cannot compel any judge to sit on a bench and that the objections raised were not legally justified.

The court also dismissed the concerns regarding the late filing of the review petition and the formation of the bench, clarifying that the review petition was filed 21 days before the detailed decision was issued.

During the proceedings, PTI's lawyer, Ali Zafar, raised concerns regarding the formation of the bench, objecting to the presence of certain judges.

However, the Supreme Court stated that bench formation is carried out according to the law, and the chief justice cannot force any judge to be part of a bench.

The court said that Justice Mansoor Ali Shah had voluntarily excused himself from the bench, following which



Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan was included.

The court also addressed the issue of the petition being heard out of turn, a claim raised by the PTI legal team.

The court clarified that the review petition was rightly scheduled and dismissed this objection as well.

It stated that the opposition to the review petition being filed out of time was not supported by Additional Attorney General and Farooq H. Naek, while Ali Zafar was the only one objecting. The court further explained the

role of the President in filing the reference. It stated that the President, as a symbol of national unity, does not need to issue notices to every citizen when filing a reference, clarifying the legal process. The Supreme Court made it clear that while the chief justice is responsible for forming benches, he is not legally required to provide an explanation for his decisions. However, in this case, the chief justice chose to issue a clarifying statement despite not being bound to do so by law.—RT/Agency

Task Force Reports Completion Of Discussions With Most IPPs, NA Informed

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's standing committee on power on Thursday considered mechanism to determine the lifeline and protected consumers.

PTI MNA Sher Ali Arbab complained that instead of Chairman NEPRA Waseem Mukhtar, a junior officer has been sent to represent the regulator.

Secretary Power Division said that the committee didn't summon the Chairman National Electric Power Regulatory Authority

(NEPRA), all information of government's contracts with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), Nepra official said.

"If the NA committee wants, it can summon the chairman Nepra in its next session," secretary said.

"The NA body has been provided all details of government's contracts with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs)," Nepra official said.

"It has been the crucial issue of the IPPs, and the chairman Nepra

should have been present in the committee's meeting," PPP's Khuresh Junejo said.

Secretary power division said the Task Force has been in talks with the IPPs.

PML-N's Ameer Muqam said, it will be better to get briefing after completion of report on the IPPs.

Secretary power division informed the meeting that the task force has made enough work, and talks have been completed with most of the IPPs.—RT/Agency

Bilawal Pledges Support For Jamaat-E-Islami's Gaza Million March

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, was invited to participate in the Gaza Million March by Ameer of Jamaat-E-Islami Pakistan, Hafiz Na'eem-ur-Rehman, during a meeting between the two leaders.

A delegation led by Hafiz Na'eem-ur-Rehman reached Zardari House in Islamabad for the meeting with Bilawal Bhutto.

Liaqat Baloch and Mayor of Karachi Murtaza Wahab were also present on the occasion.

Hafiz Na'eem extended the invitation to Bilawal Bhutto for the Gaza March. Speaking to the media



after the meeting, Hafiz Na'eem-ur-Rehman, along with Bilawal Bhutto, condemned Israel for state terrorism, highlighting its recent attack on Lebanon. He called on the government to focus on the Gaza situation. "On October 7, we will take to the streets across the country at 12 pm to protest. Despite political differences, we must

unite for Palestine," he stated. It is noteworthy that Jamaat-E-Islami will hold a Million March on October 7 from Embassy Road in Islamabad to express solidarity with Gaza and Lebanon. Bilawal Bhutto, while speaking on the occasion, said that despite ideological differences, "we stand together on this issue.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



Mir Nadir Magsi vows to provide all basic facilities in schools

SHAHDADKOT: Senior PPP leader and MPA Mir Nadir Khan Magsi stated that recent floods and heavy rains have severely impacted schools and educational institutions. He announced that immediate steps will be taken to provide necessary buildings and furniture to ensure children's education is not disrupted. At an event at Government Provincial High School, he emphasized that educational issues would be prioritized and certificates



were awarded to top students in the annual examinations. District Education officials noted that many

school facilities in Shahdadkot are in urgent need of repair due to flood damage.—RT

Jamshoro Police arrest 191 criminals in one month

By Manawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Under the leadership of SSP Jamshoro Zafar Siddique Chhangha, the Jamshoro Police is actively engaged in crime prevention.

The following are the statistics regarding the successes achieved against crime and the resolution of public complaints in the last month. In the past month, 175 cases of various crimes were registered across the district's police stations.

191 accused individuals were arrested in these cases.

There were 7 police encounters with criminals, resulting in the capture of 7 criminals in injured condition.

7 gangs involved in robbery, theft of vehicles, and burglaries in homes and shops were apprehended.

During the month, the list of 153 absconding and wanted criminals decreased, with 22 absconders and 131 wanted individuals arrested.

19 cases were registered against individuals possessing illegal weapons, leading to the recovery of 19 pistols, 102 rounds of ammunition.



In operations against vehicle lifters, 30 stolen vehicles were recovered.

Recoveries of stolen property included 17 motorcycles, 9 four-wheeled vehicles, 36 mobile phones.

In actions against drug dealers, 84 cases were registered, and 102 drug dealers were arrested, with recoveries of

34 kg 150 g of cannabis, 29 kg of bhang, 358 g of ice, 319 liters of alcohol,

3718.875 kg of harmful gutka material was recovered from gutka sellers. 9 cases were registered against gamblers and bookies, leading to the arrest of 9 individuals, with recoveries including cash amounting to 7000, playing cards, and betting books.

In response to an incident of rape in Sehwan, immediate action resulted in the arrest of 3 suspects.

During the month, a total of 345 complaints were received at the District Complaint Cell through various channels.

Out of these, 301 have been resolved, while 44 applications are still under investigation.

Haji Ali Hassan Zardari attends key infrastructure meeting in Islamabad



By Khuda Bux Brohi

THATTA: Sindh Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, elected from Thatta, attended a crucial meeting of the Standing Committee on Communications in Islamabad, chaired by Aijaz Jakhri. Zardari emphasized the swift completion of the 24-kilometer national highway connecting Gharo to Keeti Bandar and the urgent reconstruction of the historic New Baran Bridge on the Thatta-Hyderabad National Highway, built in 1860,

which is in critical condition.

He also raised concerns about the rapid deterioration of the Thatta-Keenjhar Road, just six months after its construction. Discussions included major projects like the Sukkur to Hyderabad Motorway, with funding allocated for timely completion.

Post-meeting, Zardari reaffirmed his commitment to improving infrastructure in Sindh, aligning his efforts with the party chairman's vision for regional development.

Sakrand notables celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with zeal

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: The local dignitaries including Wajid Ali Chandio, Sanam Khan Chandio, and Ali Baksh Chandio celebrated the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) with great devotion and respect, as they do every year in village Sirai Murad Ali Chandio.

The event was attended by scholars, Hafiz, and numerous community members, including Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah's son Syed Shayan Shah, Haji Shakel Ahmed Attari, Sakhi Baeha Shah Jilani, Hafiz Mukhtar Ali Karmi, Munir Ahmed Lakho, and Qazi Javed Sanai.

During the occasion, Allama Peer Khalif Jan Al-Azhari remarked that there are two types of events in the world: those filled with sins and those filled with blessings. He noted that today's event is a blessed one, aimed



at celebrating and honoring the birth of the Holy Prophet (SAWW). He highlighted that while hosts Sanam Khan Chandio and Wajid Khan Chandio deserve commendation for their hospitality, the efforts of Hafiz Ashiq Hussain Baghi also contributed significantly. He emphasized that those who recognize the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) as the leader of both worlds have their ships anchored safely.

Prior to the speeches, the compere Muhammad Din Chandio systematically introduced the scholars and guests to the stage, which included Allama Abdul Sattar Madani, Maulana Nazir Ahmed Jamali, Allama Shahzeb Madani, Allama Ahmed Raza Madani, Maulana Ijaz Ahmed Sikandari, Allama Sarfaraz Madani, Hafiz Abdul Rahman Mangi, Umar Daraz Akhtar Qadri, Hafiz Gul Muhammad Attari, Gulam Nabi Attari, Hafiz Saddam Hussain Attari, Sagheer Ahmed Qadri, Sher Lakho, Ghulam Sarwar Rand, Zeeshan Soomro, and Ghulam Nabi Mallah among others.

In the Milad gathering, Inad Hussain Attari and Yasin Chandio presented heartfelt Na'at in honor of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW).

ICEF starts free sewing and beautician courses for women in Khairpur

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: In Khairpur, a free sewing center and beautician course have been launched for women through a joint initiative by the Indus Community Empowerment Foundation and the local administration at the Ladies Gymkhana. The first session aims to train 100 women.

Syeda Hina Shah, a senior leader of the People's Party Ladies Wing and social worker, along with Ms. Aqsa Mughal, Education Manager of the Indus Community Empowerment Foundation, and teacher Sameen Baloch, shared details with reporters. They emphasized that the goal of establishing these centers is to empower



women with skills. Upon completing the free courses, all trainees will receive sewing machines at no cost to help them start their own businesses alongside their families.

They noted that social organizations, in collaboration with the government, are committed to promoting women's development and empowerment.

SAU announces entry test for undergraduate programs on October 12



By Irfan Ali khushk

TANDO JAM: Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tando Jam, is set to hold the entry test for its undergraduate degree programs on Saturday, October 12, 2024. The test will include admissions for SAU's main campus as well as its affiliated Umerkot Campus and Khairpur College of Agricultural Engineering and Technologies.

To ensure that candidates from across the region can easily access the test centers, four locations have been established. These include Public School Hyderabad, Umerkot Campus,

Public School Sukkur, and, for candidates from Balochistan, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) in Quetta.

A high-level meeting chaired by Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri focused on finalizing the arrangements for the test.

Dr. Marri stressed the importance of ensuring smooth operations and maintaining high levels of security for all candidates. He emphasized that every effort is being made to provide a seamless experience, from the registration process to the execution of the test.

Sub-committees have been formed to address specific to ensure a well-coordinated process.

Several senior university officials were in attendance, including Chairman of the Admission Committee Dr. Inayatullah Rajpar, Chairman of the Management Committee Dr. Aijaz Ali Khuharo, Registrar Ghulam Mohiuddin Qureshi, Director Finance Syed Fida Hussain Shah, Dr. Bachal Bhutto, Dr. Javed Sheikh, Dr. Aijaz Soomro, and Dr. Shahnavaz Mari. Fahad Ahmed Qureshi, Gul Sher Lochi, and Sajid Aziz Samo.

Nishat Girls Wing organizes a training workshop



By Jibran Talpur

BADIN: A one-day training workshop on career counseling for interested female students was organized by the Nishat Girls Wing of Badin District at the Khan Sahib Abdul Rahman Library. The workshop focused on the importance of digital media and building careers in the media industry, chaired by Sadaf Saleem Talpur, Central President of Nishat Girls Wing.

During the event, young journalist Nasir Channa provided a lecture on the significance of digital media, including electronic, print, and social media. He also offered

detailed insights into creating careers in the media sector. A large number of students participated in the workshop.

Sadaf Saleem Talpur emphasized that Nishat Girls Wing consistently focuses on the education and training of female students, organizing various seminars, training workshops, and camps to help them succeed in their respective fields. Furthermore, Pir Muhammad Sadiq Qureshi of the Naqshbandi order also stresses the importance of educating girls. The organization aims for its students to excel and bring honor to the country and community.

Commissioner Bilal Ahmed Memon reviews ongoing development works in Dadu



By Javed Laghari

DADU: Commissioner Hyderabad Division Bilal Ahmed Memon held a video link meeting regarding pending public health engineering schemes in Dadu and other districts.

During the meeting, DC Abro informed the Commissioner about the progress of 11 schemes managed by the Public Health Engineering Department in Dadu district. He emphasized that the district administration is actively taking measures to expedite the completion of these projects.

The meeting also addressed the construction of the new Gaj Dam in Kachho, along with budget and security updates. Other officials, including Assistant Commissioners Samiullah Wagan and Mohsin Raza Dashti, and Public Health Engineering Department Engineer Ishrat Hussain Panhwar, were also present.

Tando Adam men demand justice

By Mumtaz Tahmin

TANDO ADAM: The residents of the City Police Station area, including Zohaib Chakrani, Moiz Khaskheli, Hafiz Khaskheli, and Rana Adil Rajput, staged a protest outside the Public Press Club against false allegations made against them.

During the protest, the demonstrators shouted to the media that Malik Anwar is falsely accusing them of baseless charges. They stated that Malik Anwar had taken money from them for a joint business venture, for which they have checks as evidence. They emphasized that they are honorable businessmen, and the world operates on trust, and Malik Anwar, who owns numerous plots, should compensate for their losses. They mentioned that they have provided details of the entire incident at the police station.

They demanded the immediate return of their money so that justice can be served, warning that further protests would occur if their demands are not met.

Dejected man ends his life

A man named



Muhammad Wasim S/o Muhammad Akbar committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan at his home in Tando Adam on Thursday. The body of the deceased was handed over to his heirs after completing necessary medico legal formalities, while no case of the incident was lodged till the filing of this news.

Muhammad Ali Shaikh chairs meeting of Shaikh Rajooni Ittehad



By Khadim Shaikh

KADHAN: An important meeting of the Shaikh Rajooni Ittehad was held at the Gymkhana Badin, chaired by Muhammad Ali Shaikh. The meeting was attended by Khadim Hussain Shaikh, Muhammad

Hanif Shaikh, and Mumtaz Ali Shaikh. In his speech, Muhammad Ali Shaikh stated that the trust has provided rations to thousands of people in Badin district and has organized over 200 community weddings. The meeting also discussed the situation of the coastal area of Shaikh Qariyo Bhandari and considered reopening a primary school that has been closed since 2019. Additionally, it was mentioned that over 150 houses are being constructed for flood victims in Badin district.

Shahrukh Anwar Siyal urges people to take precautionary measures against dengue, malaria

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Shahrukh Anwar Siyal, the Chairman of Darri Town in Larkana, emphasized the importance of precautionary measures against dengue virus and malaria during a media briefing at his residence. He noted a rise in cases and urged citizens to take necessary pre-

cautions. Following directives from President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and other party leaders, Siyal mentioned that arrangements for spraying and cleanliness have been made in various areas of Darri Town to combat these diseases. Responding to a question, he revealed that health department re-

ports indicate over 3,000 malaria cases in Larkana district, highlighting the need for vigilance. He urged the public to cooperate with the administration and prove their commitment as responsible citizens, asserting that the Sindh government is providing all necessary resources for public welfare.

NATIONAL



Sherry Congratulates Newly Elected EJF Executive Body

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday felicitated the newly elected members of the Environment Journalists Forum (EJF).

In a statement here, she said, "Congratulations to the successful candidates for election to the Executive Body of the Environment Journalists Forum. My felicitations to Ali Jabir for being elected as President and Asghar Hayat as General Secretary of EJF."

She also congratulated Rozina Ali, Ayesha Naz, Saadullah Saeed, Fauzia Ali, Sohail Butt, and Muhammad Makhtar for being elected to the Forum's executive body



and also to Saqib Rathore, Amna Janjua and Aftab Jahan for being elected as members of the governing body.

"It is hoped that Environment Journalists Forum will play an important role in the development of environmental journalism and the forum will pave the way for improving the quality of reporting on complex and critical issues like climate

President Zardari Confers Nishan-E-Pakistan On Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday conferred the Nishan-e-Pakistan, the country's highest civilian award, on Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim. The award was given in recognition of his unwavering support for Islamic causes and his strong friendship with Pakistan. The special investiture ceremony, held at Awan-e-Sadr, was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal ministers, military chiefs, diplomats, and senior government officials. During the event, it was noted that Anwar Ibrahim, an admirer of Allama Iqbal, has found inspiration in the philosopher's works. Anwar's career has been distinguished by his advocacy for humanitarian causes and Islamic values, with a focus on social justice and addressing issues facing the Muslim world. The Malaysian prime minister has been a strong supporter of self-determination movements, speaking out against global oppression. He continues to fight against Islamophobia and promotes interfaith harmony by encouraging understanding and respect among different cultures and religions. President Zardari later hosted a state dinner in honour of Prime Minister Anwar and his delegation. —RT/Agency

PTI's Alvi Accuses Chief Justice Isa Of Encouraging Floor-Crossing To Extend Tenure

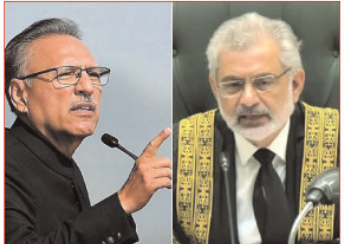
LAHORE: Former president and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr Arif Alvi has accused Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa of creating an atmosphere conducive to floor-crossing, driven by a "lust" to extend his tenure.

Alvi likened Isa's actions to those of the current government, which he alleged is "ruining the Constitution for its survival."

"I have never seen a chief justice like Faez Isa in my life," Alvi said while speaking to reporters at the Anti-Terrorism Court, where he met with PTI lawmakers arrested in connection with the May 9 riots following the arrest of PTI founder Imran Khan.

Alvi went on to criticise the chief justice, stating, "He has damaged the country more than Justice Munir," referring to the controversial former judge who was criticised for judicial overreach in the 1950s.

The former president expressed concern over what he described as a "bazar of cruelty," claiming that the CJP



had opened "a market for buying and selling people, like how slaves were once sold in America."

Alvi also questioned the timing of the invocation of Article 63-A, which deals with defection, claiming it was unnecessary and only served to prolong Faez Isa's tenure. He stressed the need for judicial reforms in the lower courts to provide justice to the public, instead of what he saw as efforts to extend each other's tenures.

Regarding PTI's rallies, Alvi said that the police were solely responsible for the violence and chaos at the rallies. "PTI's rallies are peaceful, it's the police who create anarchy," he stated.

When asked about the ongoing situation in Gaza and Palestine, Alvi thanked Iran for its response to Israel and urged Muslim countries not to forget the plight of Muslims in Gaza, Palestine, and Kashmir. "Israel is acting like a hoodlum, and Muslims must stand united. Quid-e-Azam's vision was for a single state with a Palestinian majority," he said. —RT/Agency

Egyptian, Ethiopian Envoys Meet National Assembly Speaker To Discuss Bilateral And Regional Issues

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday said Pakistan valued high its cordial ties with Egypt and intended to further expand the existing relations through enhanced parliamentary and economic cooperation. He expressed these views in a meeting with Ambassador of Egypt Dr. Ihab AbdelHamid Hassan who called on him at the Parliament House. Ayaz Sadiq said the relation between the two brotherly countries was based on common religion, culture, history, mutual respect and brotherhood. He expressed grave concern over the current situation in the Middle East and condemned Israeli aggression in Palestine and Lebanon. He urged upon the international community to



play its role in ending Israeli occupation and aggression so that durable peace can prevail in the region. Highlighting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, the speaker said parliamentary diplomacy could play a vital role in strengthening the bilateral relations. He further said the exchange of parliamentary delegations would enable parliamentarians of both countries to learn from each other's experiences. He also said enhanced contacts between Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs) of both countries would result in strengthening of bilateral relations as well. Ayaz also extended invitation to his Egyptian counterpart to visit Pakistan along with parliamentary delegation. Egyptian Ambassador Dr. Ihab AbdelHamid Hassan appreciated the remarks of the speaker for further expanding relations between both brotherly countries and parliaments. —RT/Agency

Maryam Approves Special Police Force To Clear Encroachments On RUDA Land

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has approved formation of a special police force to prevent encroachment on RUDA land.



Amin briefed the participants about the RUDA projects.

It was decided to collaborate with China and other international organisation for the completion of RUDA projects. CM Maryam ordered to stop the illegal sale and purchase of land in RUDA area while special police will be formed to protect the land. —RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI

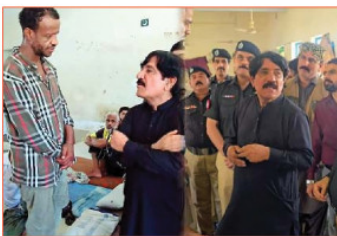
PBDN Hosts First-Ever Policy Dialogue On Disability Inclusion



KARACHI: The Pakistan Business and Disability Network (PBDN) held its inaugural Policy Dialogue on Disability Inclusion, bringing together government, private sector, international organizations, and OPDs to discuss disability-inclusive policies. The dialogue focused on the SME Policy, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Policy, and Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP). Chaired by Ghulam Mohiuddin Asim, Additional Secretary of DEP, the event highlighted the need for effective policy implementation and collaboration across sectors to ensure persons with disabilities (PWDs) are fully included in Pakistan's national development agenda. —RT

Sindh Minister Ali Hassan Zardari visits Malir District Jail

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Works and Services Ali Hassan Zardari paid a visit to Malir Jail. During the visit, he met with on-duty officers and spoke with inmates to understand their issues. The jail administration provided him with a detailed briefing. Zardari stated that the visit was prompted by complaints of mistreatment of prisoners and demands for bribes. He expressed concern over the quality of food served in the jail kitchen and instructed the superintendent and staff to improve the conditions and food quality for the inmates. He emphasized



the importance of treating prisoners with respect and ensuring no complaints of inhuman treatment arise. Zardari vowed to enhance the jail system, providing better facilities so that inmates can reintegrate into society as skilled individuals, moving away from crime. His surprise visit aimed to listen to the problems directly and initiate prompt resolutions.

ANF Arrests 11 In Nationwide Operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas managed to recover 58 kg drugs worth Rs 6.5 kg and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 82 in-toxicated tablets, 70 grams ice and 168 grams hashish were recovered from an accused arrested near a college in Lahore. 105 grams opium and 90 grams hashish were recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Lahore. 198 ecstasy tablets and 130 grams hashish were recovered from a drug dealer netted near a major university in Lahore.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. Establishing drug-free educational institutions is first priority of ANF, the spokesman added.

Gilani Stresses The Role Of Literature In Documenting History And Inspiring Change

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Thursday emphasized the essential role of literature in capturing history, reflecting cultural diversity, and inspiring meaningful change.

Speaking at the launch of Testament of Love, a captivating collection of short stories by Dr. Nasir Hussain Bukhari, he said, "Testament of Love beautifully encapsulates the essence of the human experience, shedding light on the struggles faced by ordinary individuals in our society."

The event celebrated not only Dr. Bukhari's remarkable literary achievement but also the profound impact storytelling has on society. Gilani praised Dr. Bukhari for his exceptional talent and his unwavering commitment to education, democracy, and literature. He commended Dr. Bukhari's ability to create authentic characters whose stories resonate deeply with readers, fostering empathy and understanding across societal divides.

Gilani also recognized the invaluable contributions of the Foundation for Education, Entrepreneurship, and Literature (FEEL), led by Engr. —RT/Agency

Three Policemen Injured, Drug Dealer Killed In An Encounter



GUJRANWALA: Gujranwala Police continued operations against the criminals and drug dealers and in this regard faced an encounter in Kamonki. In exchange of fire with drug dealers three police constables sustained injuries, while one drug dealer was killed. The killed man was identified as Rashid Gujjar, while Sajjad Akhtar, Waqar and another cop were amongst the injured. —RT

Governor KP Calls For Prioritizing Improvements In Education System

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Khan Kundi on Thursday underlined the need of improving and generalizing the education system on priority basis. While addressing the Annual Swearing-in Ceremony of Pakistan Chamber of Education, he said that private public sector partnership is essential for quality education.

Private educational institutions can revolutionize, by improving quality, he said adding that sitting together can solve many problems.

On this occasion, newly elected office bearers of Islamabad, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, besides district, divisional presidents, executive members and advisory council were sworn in.



In the formation and Broadcasting, swearing-in ceremony, former Senator and Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Siraj-ul-Haque, Sardar Shah Jahan Yusuf, Parliamentary Leader of the Provincial Assembly of Islamabad, Malik Abrar Ahmed, Member National Assembly Danyal Chaudhry, Parliamentary Secretary In-

SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Naveed Ahmed Takes Charge As Deputy Commissioner Of Gujranwala

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Naveed Ahmed has officially assumed the charge as the Deputy Commissioner in Gujranwala. He announced an Open Door Policy, ensuring public accessibility to his office. Previously serving as Deputy Secretary at the Chief Minister's Office, Ahmed prioritized improvements in public service delivery and price control. He emphasized a teamwork for district development and met with administrative staff to align



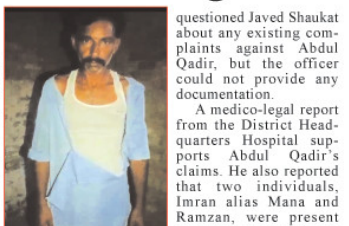
glecting community issues will not be tolerated, he stated.

Police Brutality Reported In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In Chak 94 JB, under Thana Saddar Gojra, a police sub-inspector and his team have been accused of brutally torturing a villager, Abdul Qadir. A medical board confirmed the abuse, leading to a formal complaint submitted to the judicial magistrate.

Abdul Qadir claims that despite being a law-abiding citizen with no prior complaints against him, Sub-Inspector Javed Shaukat forcibly took



questioned Javed Shaukat about any existing complaints against Abdul Qadir, but the officer could not provide any documentation. A medico-legal report from the District Headquarters Hospital supports Abdul Qadir's claims. He also reported that two individuals, Imran alias Mana and Ramzan, were present with the police during the incident. Abdul Qadir is seeking the registration of a case and legal action against the involved officers.

Police Constable Muhammad Sajjad Laid To Rest With Full Honors

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: The funeral prayer for Constable Muhammad Sajjad was held at Chak 151 G/B in the Rajoana police station area. Many locals, along with district police officers including DPO Toba Tek Singh Iqbal Nisar, attended the service, which was filled with emotion.



Constable Muhammad Sajjad joined the Toba Tek Singh district police on February 1, 2005, and served for nearly 19 years across various police stations and with the Elite Force. He was well-respected and known for his cheerful and kind nature. Recently stationed with the Elite Force, he passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack after returning home from duty. He is survived by two sons, two daughters, and his widow.



The Path to Peace Must Prevail

The escalation of violence between Iran and Israel has brought the Middle East to the edge of a catastrophic regional conflict. Missiles flying across borders, lives lost, and the intensifying rhetoric from both sides have only heightened the danger of a wider war. It is imperative to recognize that this dangerous cycle of aggression and retaliation cannot be the solution to the deep-rooted issues plaguing the region. Violence only breeds more violence, leading to further devastation and suffering for countless civilians.

Dialogue, no matter how difficult, remains

the only viable path to lasting peace. The international community must step forward, not to fan the flames of conflict by support-



ing one side against the other, but to bring the parties to the negotiating table. Israel's actions, including assassinations of key figures and bombings, may be seen as strategic moves, but they ultimately undermine any possibility of reconciliation. Similarly, Iran's missile strikes, justified or not, only exacerbate tensions, risking a full-scale war

that could engulf the entire region.

Both sides must show restraint and take meaningful steps towards de-escalation. Global powers, especially the United States and the United Kingdom, have a responsibility to temper their support and instead encourage genuine diplomatic efforts. The cost of war is too high, and without peaceful dialogue, this conflict threatens to spiral beyond control. Now is the time for calm heads and constructive conversations, not more violence and inflammatory rhetoric. Only through diplomacy can peace be achieved and stability restored in the region.



Training session for teachers concludes in Khanpur Mahar



By Shad Mahar

GHOTKI: The three-day training session for subject teachers in Taluka Khangarh concluded on Thursday. PTA District President Mir Hassan Mahar emphasized the need for collective efforts to improve education.

The training, held at the Government Boys Primary School in Khanpur Mahar, was conducted by guide teachers Talib Hussain Mahar, Bhura Lal, Abdul

Haleem Mahar, Ghulam Mustafa Mahar, Barkat Ali Qazi, Saleem Allah Mahar, and Hazoor Baksh Mahar, who trained teachers from 126 schools in Taluka Khangarh on Sindhi and Urdu subjects.

The goal of the training was to equip teachers with specific skills to provide quality and modern education to students in the government schools. On the final day of the training, PTA District Presi-

dent Mir Hassan Mahar attended to review the arrangements and expressed his thoughts to the participating teachers. He stated that such training inspires and rejuvenates teachers, enabling them to work diligently for the betterment of education and shape the future of Sindh. The training was organized by the MDF Foundation, represented by their representative Ghulam Ali Sandilo.

SSP Singhar Malik visits Moro



By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: SSP Naushehro Feroze Singhar Malik visited Moro city and held meetings with local citizens, traders, and political leaders, accompanied by DSP Moro Sarder Khan Chandio and SHO Raja Naveed Sarfraz Rajput. During the visit, he received Sindhi caps and Ajraks as gifts. Addressing the gathering, SSP Malik emphasized their commitment to public service and vowed to eliminate social

evils like drug trafficking and prostitution in Naushehro Feroze.

He instructed his officers to take strict actions against criminals and ensure public safety, leveraging IT department support for crime control.

He mentioned ongoing operations in various areas and assured citizens that his office would address their concerns, emphasizing open access for complaints against police misconduct. He later visited the Moro and Dars police stations.

Agha Gohar Ali chairs meeting of PPP Sindh's Cultural Wing



By Khadim Khasakheli

SANGHAR: An important meeting of the PPP Cultural Wing Sindh took place at the People's Secretariat in Karachi, presided over by Senior Vice President Agha Gohar Ali. The special guest of the meeting was Liaquat Shahani, the Provincial General Secretary of the PPP Cultural Wing Sindh.

Provincial officials pres-

ent included Sagar Samejo, Bakhtshah Mehranwi, Muzaffar Hussain, Saddam Rajpar, Abdul Ghani Gopang, Arshad Shierwani, Nisar Ahmed Wassan, Dr. Nisar Ahmed Memon, Syed Parvez Ali Shah, Barkat Ali Lashari, Pappu Parkash, Imran Khanzada, Ejaz Deper, Syed Siman Shah Bukhari, and Nadeem Jafri, along with a large number of workers from the PPP Cultural Wing.

The meeting decided to fully participate in the rally in Hyderabad on October 18 to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz. To ensure public participation in the rally, it was decided to launch a public outreach campaign, where committees were formed under the division presidents to coordinate the outreach efforts down to the district and sub-district levels.

Sujawal growers protest against decrease in rate of paddy crops

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: Farmers in Sujawal district staged protests against traders for reducing the prices of paddy. The protests took place at both the barrage mori and the DC office, where farmers expressed their dissatisfaction with the low prices they were receiving.

Demonstrators blocked the main Karachi-Badin highway near Barrage Mori, causing long traffic jams. Simultaneously, farmers marched from Public Park Sujawal to the DC office, demanding action.

Leaders such as Abdul Ghafoor Palipoto, Hussain Azad Memon, Ayaz Laghari, and others highlighted that as paddy crops were coming to



market, traders were artificially lowering prices, causing significant distress among farmers.

They criticized the district administration for being helpless against the trading mafia and demanded that the government set price for

paddy to be established to protect farmers from economic hardship.

JUL-F district leader Fazlullah Fayaz also participated in the protests. The administration eventually negotiated with the farmers to end the demonstration.

200,000 children reported out of schools in Umerkot District

By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI: In Umerkot district, 200,000 children are out of school, including 53,451 girls. The Pithoro taluka has 23,000 children out of school, with 12,936 girls among them. In Thar Education Alliance's literacy report, the Kunri taluka, 42,104 children, including 23,000 girls, are missing out on education. Additionally, 38,078 children are never attended out of school in the Samaro taluka, including 20,535 girls.

Anjuman Ghulaman-e-Qalandar celebrates Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: Anjuman Ghulaman-e-Qalandar Welfare Sindh Pakistan organized an Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) celebration at Khanqah Ashiana Qalandari in Bustan Kunri. Patron Saint Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Qalandari emphasized the dangers of extremism on society. Thousands attended the event, contributing to prayers, 11.85 million Darood Pak, and 1100 Khatam al-Quran. The gathering featured Sufi poetry and Dhamaal performances by Ustad Khuda Baksh Kachhi. Additional arrangements included a medical camp, book stall, and security. Community leaders and members of the association participated actively, promoting unity and spiritual growth.

Hosri Police arrest two notorious criminals

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: In a recent operation, Hosri police arrested two street criminals as part of an ongoing crackdown against fugitives, drug dealers, and other criminals, led by SSP Hyderabad Dr. Farukh Ali Lanjar. Under the supervision of SHO Inspector Maqsood Raza Manghanhar, the police acted on secret information. The arrested individuals were identified as Zulfikar Ali, son of Ramzan Halipoto, and Ghulam Mustafa, son of Bhai Khan, both of whom were found in possession of two pistols, which have been confiscated.

During preliminary investigations, the suspects admitted to roaming in the area



with the intent to commit crimes. Both individuals have previous criminal records linked to PS Tando Jam and PS Chhalgri. Hosri police have registered a case against them under the Sindh Arms Act.

Preparations for Beejal Sindhi's 40th anniversary underway

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Preparations for the 40th anniversary of Sindhi revolutionary artist Beejal Sindhi are in the final stages. Leaders of the Beejal Sindhi Memorial Committee, which will include Sufi Hamid Beejal, Dodo Halipoto, Zahid Jiskani, Shahid Noor Memon, and Juman Mallah, spoke to the media about how

Beejal Sindhi revitalized the national movement with his enchanting voice.

To honor his contributions, a commemorative gathering will be held at his shrine on October 5th at 5 PM. Attendees will participate in a Q&A session about subjects and general knowl-

DEO Muhammad Ismail Buriro visits GLSS Waris Dino Noonari

By Khair Muhammad Golo

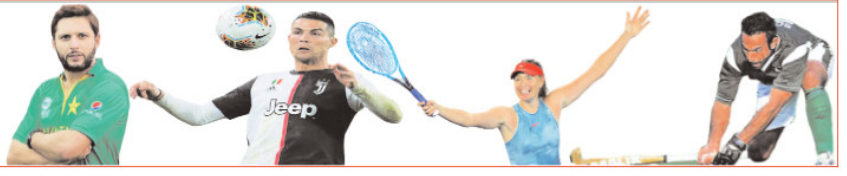
THUL: During his unexpected visit to various high and middle schools in Thul, DEO Secondary Muhammad Ismail Buriro was warmly welcomed at Government Lower Secondary School Waris Dino Noonari by teachers and students. Headmaster Muhammad Zaman Noonari honored him and other guests with traditional Sindhi aarak.



DEO Buriro expressed happiness over increased student enrollment and regular attendance. He engaged students in a Q&A session about subjects and general knowl-

edge, rewarding correct answers with prizes. The visit concluded with the planting of trees as part of an environmental initiative by DEO Buriro and Headmaster Muhammad Zaman Noonari.

SPORTS



PCB awards international broadcast rights, reveals star commentary team for Pak Vs Eng Test series



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a stellar commentary team for the series, which begins on 7 October at Multan Cricket Stadium. Former England captains David Gower, Michael Atherton, and Nasser Hussain will return as commentators, having previously covered Pakistan's Test series against England in December 2022.

In addition to the broadcast, the PCB has announced a consortium comprising Trans-Group and ARY has secured the international broadcast rights for the upcoming three-match Test series between England and Pakistan. The much-anticipated series, which starts next week, will be played in Multan and Rawalpindi.

The broadcast rights were awarded following a transparent and competitive tender process. Cricket fans around the world will be able to enjoy the series through cutting-edge broadcasting, featuring 28 High-Definition cameras, including innovative drone and buggy cams, along with a complete Hawk-Eye review system.

Stepping away from captaincy will be beneficial for Babar Azam, says Younis Khan

LAHORE: Former Pakistan skipper Younis Khan has endorsed ex-captain Babar Azam's decision to resign from captaincy, stating that it will be "beneficial" for him.

The veteran cricketer has also proposed the names of wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and left-hand batter Fakhar Zaman as new contenders for the post.

"In our culture, we often make the biggest player the captain, which I believe is a mistake," said Younis, adding that Rizwan or Zaman should be considered for the role.

Babar, on Tuesday, announced that he was stepping down from white-ball captaincy, saying that it was time for him to focus on his playing role and personal growth.



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had reappointed him as the national team's captain for T20I and one-day internationals (ODIs) on March 31. He had earlier ended his years-long stint as skipper in November 2023 after he stepped down as captain of the national side.

The former batter's remarks came during his visit to the Adelaide Oval earlier today where he was honored with the official South Australia Redbacks cap by Mark Cosgrove, former Australian cricketer and current High-Performance Coach of the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA).

The legendary batter, who arrived in Australia this morning, represented the Redbacks during the 2008-2009 season.

During a media briefing at the iconic venue, Younis

expressed optimism about Pakistan's chances in Australia, acknowledging the presence of young talent in the current white ball squad but also pointing to issues with team selection.

"I hope the Pakistan men's cricket team performs well in Australia. The current squad includes young players, and there are certainly some issues with team selection that need to be addressed," the veteran cricketer stated.

"I have played cricket with Jason Gillespie, he is working hard to improve the Pakistan team. However, there needs to be better decision-making when it comes to selection," he added. Younis is also set to take part in the upcoming Australian Summer Cricket Festival, scheduled for October 5 in Melbourne.—Agency

Pakistan to host South Asian Cross Country Athletics Championship next month



KARACHI: Pakistan will host the South Asian Cross Country Athletics Championship for the first time, with the event scheduled to take place on November 24 in Islamabad, officials confirmed.

The championship, a major milestone for athletics in Pakistan, will feature athletes from seven South Asian nations, including India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.

The Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) confirmed that the government has granted clearance to all participating teams, including India's, ensuring a smooth process for international participation.

"This is a significant event for Pakistan's sporting landscape," an AFP official said, adding that the Pakistan Sports Board has also issued the necessary no objection certificate (NOC) for the event. Cross country running is a long-distance sport where individuals and teams compete over natural terrain. The courses typically range from 3 to 12 kilometers and often feature varied surfaces, including grass, dirt, and gravel, along with natural obstacles like hills and woodlands. Athletes are evaluated both on their individual performance and through a team-based points system.—Agency

Stuart Broad backs England's 'Bazball' style for triumph against Pakistan



MULTAN: England's former bowler Stuart Broad said that his national team's aggressive approach, famously known as the 'Bazball' style, will help when they face spin-friendly conditions in Pakistan during their Test series this month.

England returned to Pakistan for a red-ball series after defeating the hosts 3-0 in Tests in 2022 when Harry Brook scored three centuries and spinners thrived.

The three-Test series against Pakistan, as part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25, will begin in Multan on October 7.

The 38-year-old former cricketer said England have got the players to deal with spin in Pakistan but will have to play with their ultra-aggressive style to get positive results, Reuters reported.

"I think the style will work in Pakistan, for sure," Broad said, during an interview, ahead of the launch of Inside Lord's, Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) new digital platform.

"I think they're really positive and aggressive, they can find the boundary and don't get tied down by spin. England will have to play fast-paced cricket to force results over there because you generally do need five days to make something happen."

England's fast-bowling unit, led by Chris Woakes and including Matthew Potts, Olly Stone, Gus Atkinson and Brydon Carse, will be without experienced Mark Wood, who has an elbow injury, and skipper Ben Stokes, who is not yet fit to bowl.

Broad said Pakistan, who were defeated 2-0 at home by Bangladesh last month, would be looking to take advantage of England's inexperienced fast bowling lineup, but the visitors must capitalise on the hosts' underwhelming form.

"Pakistan have not been playing the best cricket. They've been struggling, so England should see that as a positive and go there trying to apply pressure to that team as soon as they possibly can," Broad said.—Agency

Bowlers give Bangladesh triumphant start to Women's T20 World Cup 2024

SHARJAH: Sobhana Mostary's anchoring 36-run knock, followed by a combined bowling effort led Bangladesh to edge past Scotland in the opening match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024.

Set to chase 120, Scotland's batting unit struggled against a disciplined Bangladesh bowling attack and could accumulate 103/7 in the allotted 20 overs despite Sarah Bryce's unbeaten 49-run knock.

Bryce lamented subtle support from the other end as none of her teammates could put up a fight against Bangladesh's bowling with only Kathryn Bryce and Ailsa Lister, 11 each, managing to amass double figures.



The wicketkeeper batter remained stranded on an unbeaten 49 off 52 deliveries with the help of a boundary.

Ritu Moni led the bowling charge for Sri Lanka with two wickets, while Rabeya Khan, Fahima Khatun, Nahida Akter and Marufa Akter shared four wickets between them.

Bangladesh opted to bat first but failed to get the desired start as Murshida Khatun departed after scoring 12 runs in the fifth over.

Shathi Rani and Sobhana Mostary then stitched a 42-run partnership for the second wicket to push the team's total to 68. Katherine

Fraser provided the breakthrough when she dismissed Rani, who scored 29 off 32.

Meanwhile, Mostary fell prey to Olivia Bell, after top-scoring for Bangladesh with a scratchy 36-run knock from 38 balls.

Horley further dented Bangladesh's progress with a double-wicket over, dismissing Shorna Akter (5) and Ritu Moni (5).

Skipper Nigar Sultana (18) and Fahima Khatun helped push the total to 118 before the former also fell to Horley off the penultimate ball of the innings. Fahima Khatun remained unbeaten on 10 as Bangladesh managed 119-7 in their allocated 20 overs.—Agency

Leg-Spinner Usman Qadir bids farewell to Pakistan cricket



LAHORE: Pakistan's leg-spinner Usman Qadir has announced his retirement from international cricket, marking the end of a career that saw him represent his country in 25 T20 Internationals and one ODI. The 31-year-old cricketer shared the news via a heartfelt post on X (formerly known as Twitter), expressing gratitude for the opportunity to represent Pakistan.

Qadir, the son of legendary leg-spinner Abdul Qadir, reflected on his journey, thanking his coaches, teammates, and the fans who supported him throughout his career.

"It has been an immense honour to represent my country," Qadir wrote. "I'm thankful for the support of my coaches and teammates who have been with me every step of the way."

Despite his accomplishments, Qadir also faced challenges, including frustrations over his exclusion from the national team.

In May 2024, he voiced concerns about former PCB technical director Mohammad Hafeez, alleging that Hafeez influenced his absence from the squad.

Qadir has vowed to continue his father's legacy as he steps away from Pakistan cricket. "As I step into this new chapter, I will be continuing my dad's legacy, embracing both my love for cricket and the lessons he instilled in me," Qadir stated.

Usman Qadir concluded his international career with 29 wickets and an economy rate of 7.95 in T20Is. He last represented Pakistan in 2022 and had since been playing for the Dolphins in the Champions One-Day Cup.—Agency

Women's T20 World Cup: ICC launches AI tool to help players avoid 'toxic content'

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has launched a new AI tool as part of the social media moderation programme for the Women's T20 World Cup to help protect the players from harmful content.

The move will help the women cricketers avoid hate speech, harassment and misogyny during the mega event.

The cricketing body released a statement on the opening day of the T20 World Cup 2024 saying that the software will "promote a more positive and inclusive online experience for teams and players."

As per the statement issued by ICC, 60 of the cricketers participating in the event have already opted for the programme.

ICC has collaborated with GoBubble to provide a combination of AI and human resources to monitor comments on ICC's social media handles and the 60 players who have signed up for the initiative.

"The cutting-edge technology is designed to identify and hide from public view toxic content such as hate



speech, harassment, and misogyny, helping to create a safer and more welcoming space for fans to engage with the World Cup," the ICC release said.

"We are dedicated to fostering a positive and inclusive environment for all participants and fans of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, it's been great to see so many of the players and teams embrace our new initiative," ICC head of digital, Finn Bradshaw said.

The women cricketers are overjoyed with this initiative with South African wicketkeeper-batter Sinalo Jaftha saying that this kind of protection is "very big."

"For me with social media protection I think it takes a lot of weight off players, especially at World Cup campaigns as that is the worst of it," the Proteas keeper was quoted saying in the ICC release.

"There is nothing worse than opening up your phone after a loss - or after a victory - and regardless of what side you find yourself there is always some degrading content about your personality," she added.—Agency

Kids' Corner



Names: Aatif, Ahsan, Talha Abbasi
Location: Larkana
About us: We love our Sindh Dharti

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Aniston breaks silence on bizarre rumour about her late therapist



Jennifer Aniston has addressed strange rumour about her late therapist.

During her appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live, Aniston talked about bizarre piece of gossip surrounding her late therapist's ashes.

Kimmel questioned Aniston, "You have a zip-lock bag filled with your dead therapist's ashes?" adding, "That was a little bit true, right?"

Aniston, famed for her role as Rachel Green in hit show Friends, admitted, "It's a little true."

She hilariously added, "I'm going to sound like I really need a therapist after this."

Previously in an interview with GQ in 2012, Aniston talked about her late therapist saying she had been a mother figure to her.

The Good Girl actress revealed that after the therapist's passing, attendees at the funeral were given small bags of her ashes. "They split her up into little Ziploc bags they handed out like party favors," she told the magazine.

Additionally, Aniston also confirmed other rumours including that she once received a salmon sperm facial.

She said to Kimmel, "I just took the woman's word for it. Don't I have beautiful salmon skin?"

Selena Gomez 'makes every dream come true' with Benny Blanco



Selena Gomez is reportedly happier than ever after meeting the love of her life, Benny Blanco.

Recently, an insider shared with Life & Style that the Emilia Perez actress is living the life of her dreams alongside new beau, Benny Blanco, who is reportedly really "supportive" of her.

"Life is good for Selena. She's telling friends she has everything she could ever hope for and more," they also claimed.

Moreover, the source didn't fail to admit that it was her mother's constant support which allowed Selena to make her dream come true.

Through multiple jobs and sacrifices, her mother, who was also an aspiring actress, "made sure Selena got an education."

Her mother set an example for Selena, and her work ethic "taught her to work hard and follow her dreams," the source remarked in conclusion.

This report comes after claims that the songstress is planning a child with Benny Blanco despite the fact that she cannot carry one on her own.

"While the thought of not being able to give birth on her own still hurts at times, she's moving on," the source dished earlier.

Selena and Benny have definitely talked about both adoption and surrogacy. They might have even started at least one of the processes already," the source concluded. "They would have no problem welcoming a child before tying the knot."

THE HEARTLAND



Umerkot Police arrest three during ongoing operations

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: On the orders of SSP Umerkot Uzair Ahmed, a major action was taken against whiskey liquor. Accused arrested. 456 bottles of whiskey recovered.

According to the details, Kunri police station recovered 456 bottles of whiskey during a raid in the suburbs of Bustan.

A case has been registered against the absconding accused suppliers named Kirpal Malhi and Rashid Khakheli under the Limitation Ordinance.

Raids are being conducted to arrest the accused. The Khokhrapar police station arrested the accused Muhammad Baksh



Halipoto while conducting the operation. The accused was wanted under Crime No. 29/2024 Section 114-504-337F6-34 Penal Code of Pakistan.

DIG Tariq Razzaq Dharejo reviews law and order situation



DIG Tariq Razzaq Dharejo reviewing law and order situation.

Poor sanitary conditions irk masses

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: In Tando Jam's Liaquat Town, the burnt motor of the drainage station has not been replaced for the past six days, causing the town to be submerged in sewerage water. The Municipal Committee and Public Health have been unresponsive, leading residents to feel trapped in their homes.

According to the chairman of Liaquat Town, after reporting the burnt drainage motor, the Public Health SDO, Javed Iqbal Arain, delayed fixing the motor for four days and is now unresponsive to calls. Due to the overflowing gutters, water has accumulated on the roads, increasing the mosquito problem, which has prevented innocent children from going to school. Residents are distressed and are demanding that the Assistant Commissioner of the Taluka take notice of the situation and replace the burnt motor.

UNICEF team inspects Government Girls Primary School in Tando Bago

By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: In Tando Bago, the UNICEF team conducted a visit to the Government Girls Primary School, where they assessed the dilapidated condition of the building. Education Department representative Riaz Chandio provided the

team with a briefing on the school's infrastructure issues and inquired about the release of SMC funds. The team engaged with students, who answered questions correctly, earning praise from the teachers. The team acknowledged the poor state of the building, emphasizing the hardships faced by the innocent students. They assured that a new building would be provided soon, highlighting the importance of education and commending the local community's efforts. Additionally, it was mentioned that a boundary wall would be constructed for the school plot.

Free medical camp held on MPA Malik Asad Sikandar's orders

By Shoukat Khakheli

THANA BULA KHAN: On the instructions of PPP MPA Malik Sikandar Khan, a free medical camp was organized in the village of Adam Shoro Burfat, led by UC Chairman Rashid Shah Beg Hamrani and under the supervision of Hassan Ali Burfat, in collaboration with DHO Jamshoro Imanuddin Khoso and Al-Shifa Foundation.



Jamshoro has been in contact with me for the last three days, and in case of any emergency, patients will be admitted to LUMHS Hospital in Jamshoro

The camp provided free check-ups for throat diseases and general ailments, along with free medicines. According to UC Chairman Rashid Shah Beg Hamrani, efforts have been made to control the spread of throat diseases in the area for quite some time. The DHO

By GM Chandio

HYDERABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police Tariq Razzaq Dharejo emphasized the need for citizen cooperation in combating crime during a high-level meeting at the Hyderabad Police Headquarters. The meeting discussed the overall law and order situation, including the merger of police stations. DIG Dharejo urged SSPs to enhance

JUI-F reviews arrangements for its Badin conference

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: A consultative meeting of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam was held at Madrasah Ashraf Uloom Tando Bago, chaired by District Amir Maulana Abdul Wahid Farooqui and Nazim General

Maulana Fateh Muhammad Maheri. Officials from across Badin district participated, starting with a recitation of the Holy Quran. The agenda included discussions led by Mufti Mahmood on preparations for an upcoming conference, emphasizing the importance of maximizing attendance. Plans were made for a rally consisting of one thousand vehicles, led by District Amir Maulana Abdul Wahid Farooqui, to depart from various cities in Badin and join the special meeting in Mirpur.

Birthday of Makhdoom Talib-ul-Maula to be celebrated today

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: Birthday of the 16th Sajjadanashin of the shrine of Makhdoom Nooh Sarwar, renowned poet Makhdoom Muhammad Zaman Talib-ul-Maula, will be celebrated on October 4, 2024. Makhdoom Saeed-uz-Zaman "Atif," Chairman of the Sindh Adabi Board, praised Makhdoom Talib-ul-Maula's contributions to poetry and literature, noting his unique ghazals and his lasting impact on Sindh culture. He was a close associate of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and a key figure in the Pakistan Peoples Party.



Makhdoom Talib-ul-Maula known for his revolutionary spirit and dedication to Sindh. Different programs will be organized to celebrate the birthday of the spiritual leader of the Sarwari Jamaat.

Mehfil-e-Milad celebrated at GBHSS Arazi

By Qaimuddin Memon

SEHWAN SHARIF: A special Milad gathering was held at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Arazi to commemorate the birthday of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW). The event highlighted the blessed life of the Holy Prophet, where students recited naats. Both students and teachers participated enthusiastically.



Anwar Odho, Headmaster Ijaz Ali Panhwar, Chairman of the Union Council Arzi Hassnain Raza Shah, Zahir Karim Memon, Syed Mukhtar Shah Khalid Jatt, Iahi Bakhsh, Faisal Solangi, Obaidullah Soomro, Muhammad Ali Shoro, and others.

Subject Specialist Waqas Ali Bughio spoke about the greatness of the Holy Prophet (SAWW). The Milad event was attended by Principal Muhammad

Islamabad journalists visit Gambat



By Hafeez Mallah

GAMBAT: A delegation from the Islamabad National Press Club, led by President Azhar Ali Jatoti and Secretary General Nayar Ali, visited Gambat. During this visit, the delegation inspected the Gambat Press Club and GIMS Hospital, where they were welcomed by members of the Gambat Press Club. Delegation members expressed happiness about vis-

iting the land of Sufis in Sindh and praised the modern healthcare facilities at GIMS Hospital. The Director of GIMS Hospital, Dr. Rahim Bux Bhatti, welcomed the journalists and provided a briefing about the various departments of the hospital. The delegation included Mian Zubair Ahmed Pirzada, Safdar Sehto, Hafeez Mangi, Qamarudin Shaikh, and others.

Naval Chief Inaugurates Bahria University College Of Medicine In Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Thursday inaugurated Bahria University College of Medicine (BUCM) in the Federal Capital.



Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Naveed Ashraf appreciated the Bahria University's services and achievements in providing quality education in various fields, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

He underscored that while there were many opportunities and challenges ahead, BUCM would evolve into a premier institution for providing top-quality medical education.

The Naval Staff emphasized that the professionalism, commitment and dedication of faculty members were crucial to establish the campus as one of the leading

medical institutes in the country. Earlier, during his welcome address, Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral (R) Asif Khalid acknowledged the support provided by Pakistan Navy in developing the campus. The Project Director of Bahria University Health Sciences Islamabad presented details of the project and highlighted the facilities available for students. The Naval Chief also visited various facilities at the campus and appreciated state of the art infrastructure. The inaugural ceremony was attended by senior officials from Health Ministry, Pakistan Medical & Dental Council and Higher Education Commission, former rectors and faculty members of Bahria University and students.—RT/Agency

Shortage of water intensifies in Hingorja

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Farmers and landowners staged a protest against severe water shortages in the Benazir Mines, Machhar Minea, and Mehrab Wah areas. Led by Haji Hassan Mangnejo, Khadim Hussain, and Abdul Latif Mangnejo, the demonstrators gathered at the Press Club in Hingorja. They accused authorities of failing to supply water, causing their crops to wither and die.



They warned that if water theft by upstream farmers continues and the situation does not improve, they will escalate their protests significantly.

Protesters highlighted that the irrigation channels have not been cleared for the past

Pir Jo Goth Police arrest a murderer

By AQ Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: In a brutal murder case involving the death of Nasir Metlo, a woman killed for her gold earrings, police have arrested the main suspect, Shakil Metlo. The arrest was announced during a press conference by DSP City Khairpur Faraz Metlo, DSP Pir Jo Goth Nazeer Soomro, and SHO Ameer Ali Chang, who revealed that gold earrings and the pistol used in the crime were recovered from the suspect. Initial investigations in-



dictated the case was a blind murder, with no evidence found at the crime scene. Using modern technology, police tracked down the suspect, who allegedly sold the stolen gold to a jeweler in Pir Jo Goth. The suspect has confessed to the crime, and further investigations are ongoing. He will be presented in court for further proceedings following judicial orders.

Murderer jailed for life in Larkana

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In Larkana, the Model Trial Court has sentenced a man to life imprisonment for the murder of his wife, Uzma Magi. The case was heard in the Sessions of First Additional Sessions and Model Criminal Trial Judge Rasheed Ali Dayo. The incident occurred one and a half years ago in the jurisdiction of the Haidri police station, where the accused, Fatah Ali Magi, killed his wife. The case was registered at the Haidri police station based on a complaint filed by the victim's brother, Muhammad Rafiq Magi.

Maryam Launches 'Himat Card' Initiative For Differently-Abled People

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has launched the Himat Card initiative for differently-abled individuals in the province.



Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, she expressed her gratitude for the realisation of another dream, emphasizing the inclusion of 65,000 special persons into the mainstream. The government has allocated Rs2.6 billion for the project and after every three months the funds will be increased. Additionally, Himat Card

holders will enjoy free metro bus travel. Highlighting economic progress under PML-N, CM Maryam criticised the previous government for inflation. She also condemned PTI's leadership for unrest and accused them of hindering public service.—RT/Agency

Court Upholds Arrest Warrant For KP Chief Minister In Terrorism Case

ISLAMABAD: The court has upheld the arrest warrants for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in a case registered under anti-terrorism laws, while initiating proceedings to declare the accused Tanveer Butt a proclaimed offender. During the hearing at the Anti-Terrorism Court presided over by Judge Fahir Abbas Sipra, PTI leaders Faisal Javed and others appeared in court. However, Ali Amin Gandapur, Umar Tanveer, and Wasiq Qayoom did not attend. Rashid Hafeez submitted a request for exemption from attendance, which the court granted. The court maintained the arrest warrants for KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and began the process to declare PTI leader Umar Tanveer Butt a proclaimed offender.—RT/Agency

METRO KARACHI



Sindh Minister Highlights Government's Commitment To Boost Small And Medium Enterprises At Microsoft Conference

KARACHI: Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, speaking as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the 8th Annual Microsoft Conference, outlined the Sindh Government's vision for creating opportunities for the middle and lower-middle classes through skill-based training and the promotion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Addressing the audience at a local hotel, Shah emphasized the government's commitment to fostering a supportive environment for young entrepreneurs and ensuring sustainable livelihood opportunities.



SEDF has supported major business initiatives, such as Day Fresh Milk and various poultry and cold storage projects. The Sindh government has also expanded its micro-finance programs, including the Peoples Poverty Reduction Project (PPRP) and the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO), which provide interest-free loans to over 300,000 rural families for small business ventures. Loan limits have recently been increased to Rs. 2-3 million to further support medium-sized enterprises, with a recovery rate exceeding 90%. Additionally, Shah discussed several donor-funded projects such as PAIDAR (EU-funded), IFAD, and LivAqua (World Bank-funded), all of which focus on skill training and interest-free loans for agribusinesses. The

US Consul General Opens Trading Session At Pakistan Stock Exchange



KARACHI: U.S. Consul General Scott Urbom inaugurated the trading day at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) by striking the gong during a special ceremony. The event was attended by PSX Chairperson Dr. Shamsah Akhtar, Acting CEO Nadeem Naqvi, PSX board members, and senior management, along with representatives of U.S. companies operating in Pakistan. In

Italian Consulate In Karachi Celebrates Italian Language Week With Puppetry Performance For Children

KARACHI: The Consulate of Italy in Karachi celebrated "Italian Language Week 2024" by hosting a special puppetry performance by Italian artist Pamela Mastroianni. The event, organized in collaboration with Paramount Books Pvt. Ltd. and sponsored by Gerry's Group, took place at Habbitt City, with Turkish Airlines serving as the travel partner for the celebration.



The initiative aimed to introduce young students to the beauty of the Italian language and culture, fostering an appreciation for Italy's rich heritage. Italian, spoken by approximately 85 million people worldwide, is one of the most studied languages for culture and tourism. Consul General Danilo Giurdanella warmly welcomed students and teachers from various schools, encouraging them to explore Italy's language and culture. The children were entertained by puppet artists Pamela Mastroianni and Franck Le Lay, who captivated the audience with their interactive performance. The event also included a delightful breakfast for the children, adding to the festive atmosphere. As part of the celebration, the Consulate distributed special editions of "A Thousand Wonders" by Gerónimo Stilton, the beloved children's character. The book takes readers on a journey through Italy, showcasing the country's rich cultural, historical, and traditional treasures. Italian Language Week, scheduled for October 2024, will be celebrated globally by Italian diplomatic and cultural missions. This year's theme, "Italian and the Book: The World Between the Lines," will focus on the connection between language and literature, emphasizing the importance of books in preserving Italian cultural heritage and identity.—RT

Turkish Consulate Hosts Event Honoring Hassan Ali Effendi's Legacy And Pakistan-Türkiye Relations

KARACHI: The Turkish Consulate General in Karachi, in collaboration with the Yunus Emre Institute, organized a special event titled "Love for Türkiye in the Context of Hassan Ali Effendi." The gathering celebrated the contributions of Hassan Ali Effendi, the first Consul General of the Ottoman Empire in Sindh and the founder of Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU), highlighting his role in modern education and fostering cultural ties between Pakistan and Türkiye.



The event commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by a welcome address from Mr. Cemal Sangu, Consul General of Türkiye in Karachi. He praised Effendi's efforts in strengthening educational and cultural exchanges between the two nations. Prominent scholars enriched the event with their speeches. Prof. Dr. Hail Tokar from Istanbul University discussed the historical ties between Türkiye and Pakistan, offering insights from his book "Journey of Friendship and Brotherhood." He traced Turkish roots in the subcontinent, even before the Mughal Empire, revealing centuries-old graves as evidence of early Turkish presence.

Dr. Fatima Hassan, a lecturer, author, and poet, explored the literary and historical significance of Pakistan-Türkiye brother-

hood. He also announced the upcoming English translation of biographies on Effendi, which will help introduce his legacy to a global audience. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh, former Vice Chancellor of SMIU, who highlighted Effendi's role in building ties between Sindh and Türkiye. He shared personal stories, including his meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, where Effendi's contributions were recognized and honored.

The event concluded with a speech from Dr. Shaista Effendi, Hassan Ali Effendi's grandchild, who expressed her gratitude to the Turkish Consulate for acknowledging her grandfather's legacy and staying connected with the Effendi family. Participants enjoyed high tea, further engaging in discussions about the rich historical and cultural relationship between Pakistan and Türkiye. This event was a tribute to Hassan Ali Effendi's lasting contributions and reinforced the enduring bond between the two nations.—RT

Karachi Man Shot Dead By Robbers For Resisting Motorcycle Theft

KARACHI: A man, Faisal, was fatally shot by robbers in Sarjani Sector 36 after refusing to hand over his motorcycle, police reported. Faisal and his brother were returning home after receiving their salaries when two armed assailants on a motorbike confronted them. Despite being robbed of their belongings, including Rs80,000 in cash, Faisal resisted, prompting the robbers to open fire. He was

Pregnant Woman Dies Due To Alleged Medical Negligence

KARACHI: A pregnant woman tragically passed away at a private hospital in Orangi Town due to alleged medical negligence, according to media reports. The woman, mother of a young child, was admitted for the delivery of her second baby but died shortly before giving birth. Her grieving family claims that an incorrect injection administered by the hospital staff led to her death. However, the attending doctor stated that the patient was already in critical condition and had received appropriate medical care. The family has called on the Sindh Health Department to improve the standards of care at private hospitals.—RT/Agency

MNA Agha Rafiullah Discusses Development in Ibrahim Hyderi Town



KARACHI: MNA Syed Agha Rafiullah met Town Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto in Ibrahim Hyderi Town to discuss public issues and development efforts. Bhutto highlighted ongoing projects aimed at providing essential services, including improved access to clean drinking water. Despite challenges due to the town's large population, he noted that development work continues with limited resources. Rafiullah praised Bhutto for effectively addressing public concerns and reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing services in alignment with Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision. He emphasized that their doors remain open for public service. Other town members were also present at the meeting.

Positive Outlook For Pakistan's Ghee Exports As Local Companies Eye UAE And African Markets

KARACHI: Encouraging developments are underway for Pakistan's export sector, with local companies gearing up to export ghee to the United Arab Emirates and African countries. During a media briefing on Thursday, Sheikh Umar Rehman, Chairman of the Pakistan Vanaspathi Manufacturers Association, announced that a delegation will soon meet with Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss export opportunities.



needed to meet domestic demand. He called on the Ministry of Industry to implement regulations for establishing new ghee factories, similar to those in place for the sugar industry.

Currently, Pakistan exports ghee to African markets via road, with sea exports restricted. Rehman highlighted the need to lift these restrictions, stressing that the local ghee industry could significantly boost foreign ex-

change earnings if given the opportunity. A major challenge facing the ghee industry is the sales tax under section 8-B, with over 100 billion rupees stuck with the government, according to Rehman. He noted that Pakistan has 148 ghee manufacturing companies, but only 100 mills are

operating. Rehman also shared that Pakistan's annual demand for ghee is 4.5 million tons, while the country imported 3.2 million tons of palm oil last year to meet this demand. Although ghee prices rose by ten rupees per kilo after the budget, further increases are unlikely due to the turnover tax implementation. Ghee companies contribute over 700 billion rupees in taxes to the national treasury.—RT

Sindh Food Authority Intensifies Inspections Of Water Plants Following Sindh High Court Directive

KARACHI: Following directives from the Sindh High Court, the Sindh Food Authority (SFA) re-examined licenses of water plants across the province, ensuring compliance with water testing standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO). The SFA launched a comprehensive campaign, physically inspecting 463 food business units and Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants involved in producing and supplying bottled and filtered water to the public.

The inspection campaign began by visiting 238 units, 13 units were discovered operating in unsafe and unhygienic conditions, and their production was suspended immediately to protect public health. Improvement notices were issued to 238 units, giving them 14 days to address safety and quality concerns identified by the SFA teams. So far, sample results from 82 plants were deemed satisfactory and safe for human consumption, while 62 were found unfit, leading to the suspension of their production and legal action. Additionally, 52 unlisted RO plants were visited, and those failing to meet standards were temporarily sealed.

The Director General of the SFA, Muzamil Hussain Halepot, presented the findings to the Sindh High Court, which praised the SFA's efforts and urged the authority to expedite its work to ensure the public receives safe drinking water.—RT

Bandit Facilitators Kidnap Nine From Karachi To Katcha Area

KARACHI: Bandit facilitators have abducted nine individuals from Karachi and taken them to the Katcha area, according to SSP Ansel Hyder of the Anti-Kidnapping for Ransom Cell. "The facilitators, posing as factory workers, lured victims with promises of good jobs and a better future before sending them to the

Katcha area," SSP Hyder revealed. Four hostages have been recovered, and efforts are underway to rescue the remaining five. The kidnappers have been demanding over Rs 10 million in ransom, as well as expensive mobile phones. Several victims were also trapped through false marriage proposals.—RT/Agency



KARACHI: Syed Hamid Hussain, former President of the Pakistan Association of Press Photographers, met with Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo, at his office.—RT



KARACHI: Muhammad Farhan Ashrafi, prominent businessman and Joint Secretary of Al-Mustafa, along with Abdul Ghaffar Saedi, President of the Al-Mustafa Welfare Society Sindh, presents an English translation of the Holy Quran to Iqbal Memon, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department Sindh.—RT

FIA Requests More Time To File Charges In Sarim Burney Case

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday requested additional time to submit the challan in the human smuggling and document forgery case against Sarim Burney, the founder and chairman of the Sarim Burney Welfare Trust. Burney was arrested on June 6 at Karachi Airport following a request from the U.S. Consulate. He is accused of trafficking a newborn, Haya, to the U.S. after allegedly purchasing her for Rs 1 million. The defense counsel criticized the FIA for delaying the case during a hearing at the Additional District and Sessions Court East.—RT/Agency

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"In every Game I play and I win, but Relations, I always loose.... You know, why?? Because I never play with them."

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 04 2024

Prime Ministers Of Pakistan And Malaysia Reaffirm Commitment To Strengthen Partnership

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, investment, defence, and agriculture. Both countries also reiterated their strong positions on regional issues such as Gaza and Kashmir.

Following a one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks, the two prime ministers held a joint press conference, highlighting their commitment to strengthening collaboration in areas of mutual interest and addressing regional and international matters.

As part of their efforts to boost bilateral trade, both leaders announced that Pakistan would export halal meat worth \$200 million annually, along with 100,000 metric tonnes of Basmati rice to Malaysia.

The total trade volume between Malaysia and Pakistan currently stands at \$1.4 billion, encompassing products such as palm oil, textiles, chemicals, electronics, and apparel. Pakistan is Malaysia's third-largest trading partner in South Asia.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed confidence in the quality of Pakistan's exports. He assured that Pakistan would uphold the highest



standards for its products. Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim assured Pakistan that any discrepancies in the import of Pakistani rice would be addressed.

PM Shehbaz described their meeting as "wonderful," noting that they discussed enhancing trade and investment, as well as exploring further cooperation in defence, tourism, agriculture, green energy, skilled labour, and youth empowerment.

He stressed both countries' commitment to elevating trade and investment cooperation to new heights, envisioning a bright future for the two nations.

On defence and security cooperation, he expressed Pakistan's readiness to further strengthen ties. He also highlighted the role of the thousands of Pakistani students currently studying in Malaysia in fostering closer people-to-people connections.

Shehbaz also praised Malaysia's development, suggesting it as a model for other Muslim countries due to its success in attracting foreign direct investment and boosting exports.

He stated that both leaders discussed the tragic situation in Gaza, condemning the ongoing Israeli aggression.

He called for an immediate ceasefire, describing the situation as "heart-wrenching" and "heart-breaking."

Regarding Kashmir, he reiterated Pakistan's stance, condemning the denial of Kashmiris' right to self-determination despite decades of sacrifices. He expressed hope that Kashmiris would soon attain their rights in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and their aspirations.

PM Ibrahim stated that both countries had reached significant agreements, with follow-up discussions planned at the upcoming joint commission meeting in Kuala Lumpur to ensure swift implementation. He announced the opening of a Malaysian trade office in Karachi to bolster economic cooperation. He also expressed Malaysia's interest in hiring more skilled labour, particularly in sectors like IT, artificial intelligence, and semiconductors, identifying Pakistan as a potential source of this talent. Additionally, he confirmed Malaysia's commitment to importing 100,000 tonnes of Basmati rice from Pakistan. He praised PM Shehbaz's address at the UN General Assembly for effectively advocat-

ing for Gaza and commended Pakistan's firm stance against Israel's aggression. He further remarked that the current violence in Gaza and Lebanon was not simply a conflict between two nations but a violation of international norms, criticising the global community's inaction. Reaffirming Malaysia's support for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue, PM Ibrahim reiterated Malaysia's commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions. The two leaders witnessed the signing of several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and a Letter of Cooperation. These agreements included an MoU between the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) on trade cooperation, an MoU between the Pakistan-Malaysia Business Council (PMBC) and the Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council (MPBC) for cooperation in halal trade. A Letter of Cooperation between the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Malaysia Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) was also signed.—RT/Agency

IMF Official States Bailout Could Be Last If Reforms Are Implemented Earnestly

ISLAMABAD: International Monetary Fund's mission director for Pakistan Nathan Porter has said that the recent bailout package secured by the country could be its last if the reforms suggested by the lender are sincerely implemented and its advice is acted upon in letter and spirit, media reported on Thursday.

Speaking to an American media outlet, Porter said that the IMF would ensure Islamabad retained a strong macro and fiscal exchange rate and financial monetary policies along with liberalising its economy and enabling the private sector to contribute to the country's economic development.

The remarks come as the country, on September 25, secured the much-awaited approval of the Washington-based lender's Executive Board for the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Ever since, Pakistan has received the first tranche of \$1.03 billion (SDR 760 million) pushing the foreign exchange reserves, as per the publication, to \$10.7 billion.

The incumbent government has, time and again, expressed that it wants the existing bailout programme to be the country's last. Addressing the hurdles in Pakistan's economic progress and the Fund's role along with factors behind declining foreign investments, the IMF official elaborated on the country's 24th loan programme and said that the first review of the ongoing debt programme would start in December and probably by



March or April it would be sent to the board.

The Pakistani government and some economic experts have stated that the IMF imposed strict conditions on the country for the current programme. Recently, Pakistani Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb also stated that owing to the trust deficit, the IMF had put strict conditions on Islamabad for the debt programme.

Porter, however, disagreed with such claims. He said the IMF considered issues of the country whenever it came up with a programme for any country and recommended their solutions. He said the programme for Pakistan was devised in a similar manner and it was not very strict.

He recalled that when the IMF initiated its last programme, inflation was very high in Pakistan along with a high deficit in the current account. He said no economic progress was happening and the programme intended to stabilise the country's economy and be successful.

Regarding the Chinese loans to Pakistan, he said

Beijing was a major Islamabad and was not different from its stance on the loans of other countries.

The lender has also called for steps for the country's agricultural sector, with reports saying that the IMF's recommendations include ending the support price system for food and subsidies on agriculture.

Commenting on this, the Fund's mission director explained that there was evidence that the support price benefited wealthy and big farmers but small farmers actually faced difficulties due to it.

He said such schemes resulted in a debt increase that was to be borne by the provinces and last year, the support price scheme actually caused an increase in the floor price.

To a question about the economic burden on the people of Pakistan as a result of adopting the IMF policies, the mission director said Pakistan needed to make its tax system effective and fair, for which steps had been taken in this year's budget.—RT/Agency

Aurangzeb Dismisses Immediate Changes To NFC Award In Centre-Provinces Fiscal Pact

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that there would be no immediate change in the National Finance Commission (NFC) regarding the financial agreement between the federal and provincial governments, media reported on Thursday.

"At the first stage, there will be no changes in the NFC Award at the moment but the fiscal space will be created through shifting provincial nature projects from the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) to the federating units from the PSDP and thereby improving governance through collaborative efforts."

"For instance, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) related spending will be shifted to the provinces. Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has not yet been taken as discussions are still underway," he said while talking to a select group of reporters after launching the Pakistan Economy Dashboard.

The statement follows the finance czar's earlier remarks regarding a "National Fiscal Pact" (NFP) aimed at addressing Pakistan's external financing gap through the harmonisation of provincial taxes and enhancement of revenue collection.

"We will sign the National Fiscal Pact with the provinces, which will help us address the external financing gap," he said last month.

The fiscal pact is aimed at creating a unified fiscal framework between the federal government and all four provinces, focusing on expanding tax revenues from the agriculture sector, growing provincial revenues and realigning federal expenditures.

Expanding on the matter, Aurangzeb said that the NFP would focus on three major areas, including raising tax revenues through close cooper-



mination such as slapping Agriculture Income Tax (AIT) by the provinces, devolving expenditures such as shifting provincial nature development projects to the federating units from the PSDP and thereby improving governance through collaborative efforts.

"The NFP, he added, was a step in the right direction. The minister said that the federal government's PSDP stood at Rs1,100 billion but the two largest provinces' ADPs were more than Rs2,000 billion.

However, he expressed hope that after this diversion of projects to the provinces, the fiscal space would be made available but he showed reluctance to share any projected figures.

Earlier, in his address on the launch of "Pakistan Economy Dashboard", the

minister said: "Pakistan's economy is at a good place and there is a need to leverage this position for achieving permanence."

He mentioned that the stabilisation was achieved and now the focus will be on the growth path. He said debt management rejected bids for the provision of borrowing in recent weeks conveying a clear message that the government was no more a desperate borrower. The inflation, he said, had receded more than expected and the government was no more desperate for borrowing. The banks, he said, would have to go out to find out borrowing from the private sector, which is known as the engine of growth. There is not only the policy rate but it's the KIBOR (Karachi Inter-Bank Offered Rates) which plays an important role in increased borrowing for the private sector. The minister said there was a need to leverage hard-earned macro-economic stability for achieving economic growth on a sustained basis. "We will continue undertaking structural reforms for improving tax to GDP ratio," he said, adding that there was a need to avoid the populist approach.—RT/Agency

Naqvi Issues Warning Against Leniency Regarding PTI's Planned Protest In Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has warned of a strict action against those who launch an "onslaught on Islamabad" as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) plans to stage a demonstration at the federal capital's famous D-Chowk area on Friday (tomorrow).

Amid its anti-government campaign, the former ruling party — founded by Imran Khan — is holding protests for the "independence" of the judiciary and the release of the former prime minister from jail. The protest will coincide with the final day of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

The authorities have already enforced Section 144 and "the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, 2024", regulating holding of public assemblies at certain places in Islamabad. "The PTI's top leadership should review its protest call

[...] No one will be allowed for an onrush on Islamabad," the security czar said while addressing a presser along with officials of the federal police.

The interior minister said Section 144 was already in place in Islamabad, warning that the authorities were prepared to deal with any potential protests.

The foreign delegations including from China and Saudi Arabia would be arriving in the federal capital, the minister said adding that the upcoming SCO summit, scheduled for October 15 and 16 in Islamabad, is of utmost importance for the country. "Paramilitary forces, army and Rangers have been called in. We have to ensure security in the [federal capital]," he added. Naqvi said the country's interest should be given priority over political goals, stating that any act that could tarnish the country's image should be avoided.—RT/Agency

IHC Rejects Petition Against CEC's Appointment

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday dismissed a petition challenging the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja declaring it non-maintainable.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, who heard the case filed by PTI leader Akram Khan Bari, observed that Mr Raja had retired from government service before his appointment as CEC.

The petitioner claimed that Sikandar Sultan Raja was a serving bureaucrat when he was appointed against the key post.

Citing judicial verdicts, he pleaded that a serving bureaucrat could not be appointed against the instant post. Only a retired Grade-22 officer or the top court's



retired judges were eligible for the post, he added.

The chief justice asked the petitioner to satisfy the court as he had not attached any relevant material to prove his case.

The petitioner replied that he had taken information from the website of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The ECP's lawyer on

the occasion presented the retirement notification of Sikandar Sultan Raja before his appointment as CEC.

Mr Raja was appointed as Chief Election Commissioner on January 24, 2020 while he retired from service in November 2019, he said. After hearing arguments, the court reserved the verdict and later nullified the case.—RT/Agency

Bushra Bibi Seeks Bail In Toshakhana-II Case Through IHC Petition



ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan's spouse Bushra Bibi has moved Islamabad High Court (IHC) for post-arrest bail in Toshakhana-II case.

The spouse of PTI founder Imran Khan challenged the court verdict rejecting her bail plea in Islamabad High Court. Bushra Bibi filed the plea through her counsel Khalid Yousef Chaudhry, requesting the court to approve the post-arrest bail plea. The application mentioned that the arrest

of the leader was unfair with false allegations and blackmailing witnesses to record statements against her in the Toshakhana case. It was added that the case based on mal-intent and FIA had violated law. It is pertinent to note that a special judge central Islamabad rejected the post-arrest bail pleas of former prime minister Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana-II case on Toshakhana-II case.—RT/Agency

PIA Privatization: Bidders Urge Swift Action Against Employees

ISLAMABAD: As the government proceeds with the privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), new conditions from potential buyers have emerged related to airline's employees, media reported.

During a Senate Privatization Committee meeting chaired by Senator Talal Chaudhry, it was revealed that companies interested in acquiring PIA are requesting significant changes.

Key among the new demands is the immediate dismissal of all employees, alongside the acquisition of 76 per cent of PIA's shares, with the government responsible for clearing tax payments.

The bidders also requested an extension on the date for completing the diligence, indicating that the privatization process could be delayed.

The Privatization Commission sought to negotiate terms that would protect em-



ployees from layoffs for at least two to three years.

However, the bidders have reportedly refused to commit to this, expressing reluctance to retain employees or cover pension obligations.

Despite four pre-bid meetings, there is still uncertainty over taxes and the future of PIA's workforce.

The privatization process, now set for October 31, has drawn criticism for the lack of a clear plan to safeguard employees. Chairman Talal Chaudhry

expressed concern over the impact of the delays on PIA's reputation, while the Privatization Commission acknowledged that negotiations with the bidders are underway.

The outcome could see the sale of up to 76 per cent of PIA's shares, depending on the final agreements reached.

Mohsin Aziz criticized the Privatization Commission, stating that it has not achieved anything significant in the past 12 years, aside from the privatization of a few banks.—RT/Agency