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Heartland

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Pakistan bowlers must be more effective to win tests, says Shan Masood



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Full Court Reference for Outgoing CJP Isa Set To Be A Historic Event On October 25

ISLAMABAD: A full court reference for outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Fazal Isa has been scheduled for October 25, according to an official letter written by top court's registrar Jazeela Aslam to Supreme Court Bar Association President Shahzad Shaukat.

Senior Puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah is set to replace CJP Isa as the country's top judge.

The full court reference is a customary practice to bid farewell to the outgoing chief justice.

The confirmation follows weeks of political uncertainty, with rumours suggesting that the ruling coalition was planning to extend the chief justice's tenure through a "closely-guarded" judiciary-centric legislation.

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



hanging in the balance. Ostinately, 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.

Amid speculations, CJP Isa clarified that he would not accept any "individual specific" proposal on fixing the tenure of the country's top judge.

Reacting to the CJP's statement "misreported" in the media, CJP's Secretary Muhammad Mushfaq Ahmad had clarified last month that the top judge was surrounded by journalists who spoke to

him and asked him questions following the commencement of the proceedings of the event to mark judicial year.

"The Chief Justice made it clear that he was talking to them off the record, but since the conversation has been misinterpreted and widely disseminated it is necessary to accurately reproduce what transpired," the statement added.

The chief justice informed the journalists that he told the law minister, "if the proposal was individual specific, and if enacted, it would not be something he would accept".—RT/Agency

Fazl Backs Constitutional Package, But With Explosive Conditions

ISLAMABAD: Stressing the need for building consensus among all political forces, seasoned politician Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Friday showed a willingness to support the government's "constitutional package" with "ifs and buts".

While interacting with journalists in Islamabad, the JUI-F chief said: "We can agree on a very suitable draft if our proposals are accepted [by the government]."

The constitutional package, among other things, aims to set up a federal constitutional court and fix the tenure of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) for three years.

The government had attempted to present the bill to amend the Constitution last month, but its allies as well as members from the opposition benches vehemently opposed the proposal, forcing



the administration to begin a consultation process.

Following a meeting of the Special Committee of Parliament today, Fazl said: "We are trying to remove the 'controversial contents' from the draft."

He said that people have rejected the concept of the government's draft of the constitutional amendments.

People are hailing the JUI-F's stance over the contentious constitutional amendments, Fazl stated, adding: "If parliament is rep-

resentative of the people then it should not ignore their wishes."

Responding to a question, Fazl said that JUI-F and PPP would move forward towards a consensus draft, adding that the government should also take other allies into confidence over the matter.

Termining the government's amendments to the Constitution "unacceptable", Fazl said his party would be in a position to vote in favour of the constitutional package if the government accepted

the party's suggestions regarding the contentious legislation.

After reaching a consensus with the PPP, the JUI-F would share the draft with PTI and the Bilawal-led party would share it with the government, he added.

To another question, the JUI-F chief also opposed politicising the superior court judges for vested interests.

When asked if he is in favour of establishing separate court for hearing constitutional matters, Fazl said a constitutional court and bench could be substitute for each other.

Talking about the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting — scheduled for October 15-16 — the JUI-F leader said that they would warmly welcome all the participants of the meeting.

"We are making efforts that the moot should be held in a peaceful environment," he said that staging protests on the eve would be "inappropriate".—RT/Agency

Zardari And Putin Join Forces, Vow To Strengthen Ties

ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Friday emphasised further strengthening of bilateral relationship between the two countries.

The development came during an informal meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of two-day international forum on "Interaction of Times and Civilisations- Basis for Peace and Development" here in the Turkmen capital.

The moot was held to commemorate the 30th birth anniversary of Magtymguly Faragi, a great Turkmen thinker, poet and philosopher.

Both leaders expressed good wishes for each other, according to a statement issued by the President House.

Earlier, the President, who arrived here on Thursday for a two-day visit, also addressed the forum which was also attended by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Kyrgyz President Sadyr



Japarov and others.

In his address, the president stressed need to focus on promoting connectivity among regional countries and help strengthen cultures and economic cooperation.

He said Pakistan and Turkmenistan share a deep rooted bond of brotherhood which is built on a mutual respect, commonality of faith and a shared vision of a better peaceful future.

The president extended his heartfelt appreciation to the government and brotherly people of Turkmenistan for organising prestigious event aimed at promoting understanding, peace and dialogue among cultures.

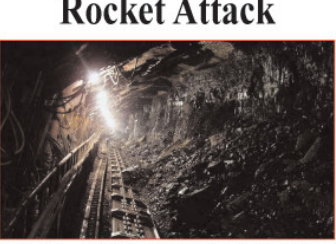
President Zardari expressed his delight to share that our national poet, Allama

Muhammad Iqbal and towering figure of Turkmen literature, Makhдум Gulji Fraghi share several commonalities in their poetry and thoughts on Sufism and nationalism.

He commended the president of Turkmenistan, Sardar Berdi Muhammedov, for organising this event to promote the works of Makhдум Gulji Fraghi as well as providing an opportunity to interact with the leadership of regional countries that would help strengthen our bonds of friendship.

The president also congratulated the Turkmen nation on the announcement of 2024 as the "Year of the great poet and thinker of the Turkic world- Makhдум Gulji".—RT/Agency

Death Toll Skyrockets To 20 In Devastating Duki Coal Mines Rocket Attack



QUETTA: Unidentified armed assailants launched a deadly attack with rockets on local coal mines in the Duki district of Balochistan in the wee hours of Friday, resulting in the death of 20 miners.

The bodies and the injured miners were rushed to nearby Teaching Hospital Loralai for medical care.

Teams of police and FC personnel have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation.

Police earlier said that two labourers were killed in the attack. However, Medical Officer Dr Johar Sadozai confirmed that the death toll from the attack had risen to 20, with seven miners injured.

The outlaws gathered the miners at one place and opened fire at them. Police said the assailants used hand grenades and rockets in the attack.

The owner of the coal mines, District Chairman

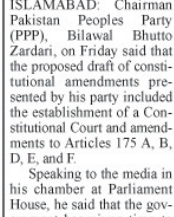
Haji Khairullah Nasir, said that there are ten coal mines located in the area where the local attacks not only carried out an assault but also set the mining machinery on fire.

Two of the deceased belonged to Pishin and two others were residents of Qila Saifullah while one of them was from Kuchlak and three others came for work from Afghanistan, according to the medical officer.

Reuters added: "A group of armed men attacked the Junaid Coal company mines in the Duki area in the wee hours using heavy weapons," said Humayun Khan, the police station house officer for the town, located east of the city of Quetta. They fired rockets and grenades at the mines as well, he added.

"We have received 20 bodies and six injured so far at district hospital Duki," said Johar Khan Shadzai, a doctor in Duki.—RT/Agency

Bilawal Reveals PPP's Bold Proposal For A New Constitutional Court



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Friday said that the proposed draft of constitutional amendments presented by his party included the establishment of a Constitutional Court and amendments to Articles 175 A, B, D, E, and F.

Speaking to the media in his chamber at Parliament House, he said that the government has given time to reach a consensus on constitutional amendments related to judicial reforms.

Bilawal said that while the PPP's final document has been released, the draft from Maulana Fazlur Rahman has not yet been formally received.

He also mentioned that the PPP's draft has been with Kamran Murtaza for over a week.

"If the government has a two-thirds of majority and still seeks consensus, it is commendable," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stressed that the government intends to work within the framework of the constitution and the law, noting that the PPP has always pursued constitutional amendments through consensus.

"The PML-N has the right to amend the constitution in line with the Charter of Democracy," he said.

Expressing gratitude to the government, Bilawal said, "I appreciate their will-

ingness to insist on consensus among all political parties. However, if consensus cannot be reached, how long will the government wait?" He reiterated that only the PPP's full draft has been released, and the JUI's draft is still pending.

He shared that a detailed meeting of the Parliamentary Committee took place on Friday, where all parties presented their views. The PPP presented its original draft proposals, which focused on issues related to the Constitutional Court.

Bilawal also mentioned that the Law Minister conducted thorough consultations with lawyers, whose suggestions were considered during the meeting. Opposition parties also shared their feedback on the proposals.

He said that Maulana Fazlur Rahman reaffirmed his position of wanting to develop a consensus-based draft with the PPP. "We also reiterated that any constitutional amendment should be carried out through consensus among political parties. Our efforts are focused on producing a consensus draft, and we are not opposing suggestions without reason," he said.

Bilawal further highlighted that the federal government is confident in its majority. "The Law Minister indicated they have a two-thirds majority, but they are still willing to engage all political parties to build consensus on this issue," he said.

"I appreciate their approach, but since last month, we've been working towards a consensus. The question now is, how long will the government provide us with space and time to reach one?" he added.

Bilawal said, "I am doing my best to foster a consensus. If this process takes longer than expected, the government may choose to exercise its constitutional right and proceed with the amendments".—RT/Agency

No Chaos Will Be Tolerated At SCO Conference In Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure to welcome foreign delegations including 12 heads of the governments for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Conference, scheduled for October 15-16.

"Those who have a mindset to conspire against the country should better stay at home as no miscreant will be allowed to disrupt the SCO Conference in Islamabad," the minister said while talking to the media.

"The announcements do not make any difference as Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure," he said while referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) which had announced to hold protest in coming days.

"It (SCO Conference) will go as planned and will



elevate Pakistan's prestige and improve its image at international level," the minister remarked.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has personally reviewed the arrangements for the reception of the SCO conference at a different head of governments arriving in Islamabad to attend the SCO conference. "This shows the importance of such a grand event in

PTI Plans Explosive Rally At D-Chowk, Aiming To Disrupt SCO Summit



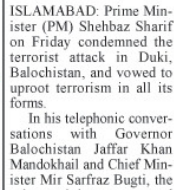
ISLAMABAD: As the foreign dignitaries all set to arrive in Islamabad for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced holding another protest at the federal capital's D-Chowk on October 15 - the same day crucial regional moot scheduled to begin.

The announcement came

only a week after the embattled opposition party clashed with law enforcers in a bid to stage anti-government protest at D-Chowk, turning the entire federal capital into a curfew zone for two days.

In a statement, the Imran Khan-founded party's political committee announced organising a demonstration on October 15 at D-Chowk.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Vows To Wipe Out Terrorism In All Its Forms-No Exceptions



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Friday condemned the terrorist attack in Duki, Balochistan, and vowed to uproot terrorism in all its forms.

In his telephonic conversations with Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, the prime minister expressed deep grief over the loss of lives and conveyed his sympathies to the families of the slain miners.

PM Shehbaz prayed Allah Almighty to grant the fallen souls rest and the injured people quick healing. He instructed the relevant authorities to ensure their best medical treatment for the injured persons.

PM Shehbaz also sought a report from the authorities concerned on the incident and reiterated his government's resolve to purge the

country of terrorism. He also assured to provide all possible support to the families of the slain miners.

The death toll in Duki coal mines attack reached 20 as the armed men with rockets and hand grenades attacked coal mines in the district of Balochistan, leaving at least 20 miners dead and several injured. The deceased and injured were transported to local hospitals. The police confirmed that the victims hailed from various regions, including Pishin, Qilla Saifullah, Zhoib, Muslim Bagh, Musa Khel, Quetta, and Afghanistan. According to police, the attackers gathered the miners into groups before opening fire. SHO Humayun Khan stated that all of the deceased and injured were Pashtuns.

Balochistan witnessed several terrorist attacks against ordinary labourer or wage earners in recent months but those primarily targeted people from the Punjab province.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



DC Badin Yasir Bhatti reviews arrangements for anti-polio campaign

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: In a crucial effort to combat polio and protect the health of future generations, a comprehensive meeting of the District Polio Eradication Committee convened at the Darbar Hall, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti. This gathering focused on evaluating the outcomes of the previous anti-polio campaign and meticulously planning for the next round of vaccinations, which is set to commence on October 28. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Bhatti underscored the vital role of community engagement in the fight against polio. He urged parents, media representatives, civil society members, and citizens at large to actively promote and participate in vaccination efforts. "Our children are our future, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure their protection against this debilitating disease," Bhatti stated. He highlighted the significance of widespread vaccination, emphasizing that community participation is essential in preventing chronic disability caused by polio. The meeting also addressed security



concerns surrounding the vaccination campaign. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sheeraz Nazir assured attendees that the safety of polio workers is a top priority. He announced that police personnel would be deployed at each vaccination point to ensure a secure environment for both health workers and the families they serve. Dr. Manzoor Memon, the N-Stop Officer, provided an overview of the logistical aspects of the upcoming campaign. He detailed that a staggering 425,824 children aged 0 to 5 years are expected to receive the polio vaccine during this campaign. To facilitate this extensive effort, the district will be mobilizing 1,259 mobile vaccination teams, 104 fixed vaccination sites, 73 teams at transit points, and 80 Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) centers. The meeting saw participation from various stakeholders, including District Health Officer Dr. Anjum Soomro, Additional Director of Social Welfare Abdul Ghaffar Khoso, and numerous district officials, all of whom voiced their commitment to the anti-polio initiative. As the campaign approaches, Deputy Commissioner Bhatti reiterated the urgency of the situation. "Polio is a preventable disease, and we must leave no stone unturned in our efforts to eradicate it. Every drop of the vaccine counts, and together we can make a significant difference in the lives of our children." With the collaborative efforts of government officials, health workers, and the community, the upcoming anti-polio campaign aims to achieve its goal of safeguarding children from this preventable disease, paving the way for a healthier and more prosperous future for the district.

Advocate Zain-ul-Abdin Sehto raises his voice for addressing public issues in Jamshoro

By Munwar Chaudhri

JAMSHORO: Renowned Senior Advocate Zain-ul-Abdin Sehto has taken a significant step towards enhancing public safety and access to essential infrastructure by filing a public interest litigation in the Sindh High Court's circuit court at Hyderabad. His legal action demands immediate attention to the long-overdue construction of the NHA 5 double road, which connects Kotri to Thatta.



This critical infrastructure project has faced prolonged delays, resulting in a rise in accidents and limiting access to important historical sites, including Kenjarh Lake, Makli Necropolis, and the Badshahi Mosque. Additionally, the slow progress of this road has hindered connectivity to the Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, which is vital for economic development in the region. In a compelling presentation of arguments, Advocate Sehto highlighted the urgent need for the road's construction, emphasizing the safety concerns and economic implications associated with the delays. His advocacy underscores the broader impact of infrastructure development on the community's quality of life and economic prospects. Following the hearing, the division bench issued notices to several key officials, including the Chairman of the National Highway Authority, the Federal Secretary for Communication, the Secretary for Planning and Development in

Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi included in list of world's 500 most influential Muslims

By Dildar Ali Samo

TANDO ADAM: In a significant recognition of his impact and leadership, Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi, the esteemed leader of the Jaffiana community in Pakistan, has been named among the 500 most influential Muslim figures in the world for 2025.



This announcement was made by Dr. Abid Rasool Hashmi, Vice President of the Shia Ulema Council in Sanghar district, during a recent media interaction. The acknowledgment comes from the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center in Jordan, a prestigious organization known for its annual compilation of influential Muslim personalities. Dr. Hashmi highlighted that Allama Naqvi's inclusion in this list reflects not only his longstanding commitment to his community but also his broader influence on the global Muslim landscape. "For over a decade, Allama Naqvi has consistently been nominated, which speaks volumes about his contributions and the respect he commands both nationally and

internationally," Dr. Hashmi stated. Expressing his joy over this recognition, Dr. Hashmi emphasized that it is a proud moment for the Shia community and for all those who look up to Allama Naqvi as a guiding figure. "It is a source of great pride for us that our leader is acknowledged on a global scale. His efforts in promoting peace, education, and interfaith dialogue have made a significant impact," he added. Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi has been a prominent voice in advocating for the rights of the Shia community and promoting unity among different sects within Islam. His work has not only focused on religious teachings but also on social justice, education, and community development, earning him respect across various demographics. As the news spreads, members of the Jaffiana community and supporters of Allama Naqvi celebrate this achievement, viewing it as a testament to his dedication and influence. The recognition serves as an encouragement for continued efforts towards fostering understanding and cooperation among diverse communities, both within Pakistan and globally. With his name now included in the ranks of the world's most influential Muslim figures, Allama Naqvi's ongoing work is likely to inspire many others to follow in his footsteps, contributing positively to society and the Muslim Ummah at large.

Awami Ittehad demands basic facilities for people of Naro

By Gada Hussain Bhanbho

NARO: In a powerful demonstration of community solidarity, leaders of the Awami Ittehad, alongside concerned citizens and members of the Nara Bar Council, organized a significant protest rally in Naro. The rally commenced at Zero Point and made its way to the Ideal Bus Stop, drawing attention to the pressing needs of the local population.



Prominent figures in the rally, including lawyers Sajjad Panhwar, Aijaz Shar, and Mushtaq Rajar, passionately articulated their concerns regarding the deteriorating infrastructure and lack of basic services in Naro, which is recognized as the largest taluka in Khairpur. They pointed out the dismal state of roads, schools, and hospitals, emphasizing that these fundamental facilities are crucial for the welfare and development of the community. The speakers expressed frustration over the apparent disconnect between the revenue generated by local resources and the lack of investment in community development. They noted that despite the presence of three major gas companies operating in the area, the substantial funds—amounting to millions of rupees—are not being allocated to improve

conditions in Naro. "While documents may suggest progress on road construction, the reality on the ground tells a different story," Rajar stated, highlighting the gap between promises and actual progress. Additionally, the rally leaders raised concerns about the extraction of valuable resources such as stones, sand, and crushed gravel from the region. They pointed out that these activities contribute significantly to mineral and mining taxes, yet the benefits are not being reinvested into the local community. "The wealth generated from our land should be used to uplift our infrastructure and provide essential services to our people," Shar asserted, echoing the sentiments of many participants. The protest not only aimed to spotlight these critical issues but also called upon higher authorities to take immediate action. The leaders urged government officials and policymakers to prioritize the needs of Naro's residents and allocate necessary resources for development. "We hope this rally will serve as a wake-up call for those in power to recognize the discontent among our people and take steps to address it," Panhwar concluded. As the rally ended, participants expressed a renewed sense of purpose, vowing to continue their advocacy for basic facilities and improvements in their community. With the collective voice of the Awami Ittehad and the support of the local population, the movement seeks to bring about meaningful change in Naro, ensuring that its residents receive the services and infrastructure they rightfully deserve.

Sindh Cultural Forum leaders visit Sarwech Sujawali Govt Public Library



By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: In a significant initiative to promote cultural and literary growth in the region, Chairman of the Sindh Cultural Forum, Sadiq Lakho, along with distinguished colleagues, visited the Sarwech Sujawali Government Public Library, recently established by the Sindh Culture Department in Sujawal city. The delegation included prominent literary figure Ghulam Nabi Zauar, agricultural expert Dr. Ali Hassan Marri, and Afaq Ahmad Sehto. Upon arrival, the team was warmly welcomed by library supervisor Zubair Ahmed Jaffarian, who guided them through various sections of the library, showcasing its resources and facilities. Jaffarian provided a comprehensive briefing on future priority projects planned for the library, highlighting the institution's role in fostering literacy and cultural awareness in the community. During the visit, the members of the Sindh Cultural Forum expressed their admiration for Jaffarian's dedication and hard work. They recognized that positive outcomes often stem from individuals taking responsibility with a national spirit, particularly within institutions that play a crucial

role in the literary, social, and educational landscapes. "The management of such institutions is vital, and we commend the efforts put forth by Zubair and his team," Lakho stated. The delegation underscored the importance of libraries as pillars of knowledge and culture, especially in areas that have historically been neglected. They praised the establishment of the Sarwech Sujawali Government Public Library as a commendable effort by the Sindh government's culture department, emphasizing that such initiatives deserve recognition and appreciation. "This library is not just a building; it is a gateway to knowledge and a source of inspiration for the youth of Sujawal," said Dr. Ali Hassan Marri. The forum leaders committed to advocating for further support and development of the library, aiming to enhance its role in the community. As the visit concluded, the Sindh Cultural Forum members reiterated their dedication to promoting cultural initiatives and ensuring that institutions like the Sarwech Sujawali Government Public Library thrive. Their visit serves as a reminder of the importance of fostering a love for reading and education, paving the way for a brighter future in Sujawal and beyond.

DC Naveed Rehman Larik reviews EPI Program in Umerkot

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In a pivotal monthly meeting regarding the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), Deputy Commissioner Naveed Rehman Larik convened at his office to assess the program's progress and outline strategies for improvement. The meeting highlighted the importance of a well-structured approach to upcoming vaccination campaigns, reflecting the administration's commitment to public health.



Deputy Commissioner Larik expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the EPI staff but emphasized the urgent need to enhance the program's effectiveness. He pointed out that a strong focus on the micro plan is essential to ensure the success of future vaccination initiatives. "A detailed and precise micro plan will guide our efforts, allowing us to identify specific needs and address challenges effectively," he remarked. During the discussions, the Deputy Commissioner called for the immediate resolution of any issues affecting the ongoing EPI program in the district. He underscored the importance of accountability within the workforce, stating that strict action would be taken against employees who had previously fulfilled their duties during

the COVID pandemic but are now neglecting their responsibilities. "We need to ensure that every individual involved in the vaccination process is committed to their role. Complete reports must be provided where vaccinators are needed," he added, stressing the need for transparency and responsibility. Dr. Imran, the EPI focal person, provided a comprehensive briefing on the current vaccination efforts across the district. He reported that ongoing immunization activities are being conducted in all 27 union councils across the four tehsils of Umerkot district. Dr. Imran highlighted the progress made so far while also identifying areas that require additional attention and resources. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Additional Deputy Commissioner I Javed Ahmed Dahri, Assistant Commissioner Umerkot Rajib Ali Sathio, Assistant Commissioner Samaro and Pithoro Sanjeev Kumar Turkiyo, Assistant Commissioner Kunri Muhammad Khan, District Health Officer Dr. Nand Lal, WHO representative Dr. Darqah Shankar, and Medical Superintendent of Civil Hospital Umerkot Dr. Farid Ahmed, among others. Their collective insights and expertise contributed to a thorough evaluation of the EPI program. As the meeting concluded, there was a renewed sense of determination among the attendees to enhance the vaccination program in Umerkot. The Deputy Commissioner's proactive approach signals a commitment to safeguarding public health through effective immunization strategies, aiming to protect the community from preventable diseases and improve overall health outcomes.

DC Khairpur notifies decrease in public transport fares

By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: In a move to ease the financial burden on commuters, Deputy Commissioner Syed Ahmed Fawad Shah has issued an important notification under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance of 1965, announcing a decrease in public transport fares following the recent reduction in petrol prices. The notification also includes a detailed intra-city fare list for both air-conditioned (AC) and non-air-conditioned (non-AC) transport services. The new fare structure specifies rates for various routes originating from Khairpur, aiming to provide clear and transparent pricing for the local population. Notably, the fare

benefit the local populace by making public transportation more affordable and accessible, especially amid fluctuating fuel prices. Deputy Commissioner Shah emphasized that the fare adjustments are part of a broader effort to ensure fair pricing in public transport and to encourage the use of these services among residents. He encouraged citizens to take advantage of the reduced fares and assured that the administration remains committed to monitoring the situation to ensure compliance among transport operators. With the new fare rates in effect, residents of Khairpur can look forward to more economical travel options as they navigate their daily commutes.

Principal of GGHSS clashes with Biometric Office over teachers' attendance

By Khair Muhammad Golo

THUL: A significant confrontation has erupted at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) in Thul between Principal Niaz Sarki and biometric officer Taufiq Noonari over the contentious issue of teacher attendance. The altercation has prompted calls for an investigation into the matter by concerned parties and stakeholders. The conflict began when Taufiq Noonari attempted to carry out his duties related to recording the teachers' attendance. Upon arriving at the school, he reportedly found several staff members, including teachers, who had not reported for duty. In response, Principal Sarki confronted the biometric officer, leading to a heated exchange. Instead of allowing Noonari to fulfill his re-

sponsibilities, the principal ordered him to leave the premises. Noonari claimed that Principal Sarki reprimanded him, stating he should not enter the school without prior permission. This assertion highlights the tension surrounding the implementation of the biometric attendance system, which aims to ensure accountability among teachers. Conversely, Principal Sarki defended his actions by stating that the biometric officer was disrupting the school environment. He accused Noonari of arriving early and unnecessarily bothering the teachers, which he felt was inappropriate. Sarki further emphasized that the officer did not inform him of his intentions to enter the school, labeling this behavior as illegal. He indicated plans to report the incident to higher authorities in an official complaint. The situation escalated when a video of the altercation circulated on social media, attracting significant attention and concern from the community. Many individuals have since called for a thorough investigation into the incident, questioning the efficacy of the biometric attendance system and its implementation within the school. The clash has raised broader concerns about communication and cooperation between educational authorities and administrative staff, as well as the importance of maintaining a conducive learning environment for students. As the situation unfolds, both parties are expected to provide their accounts to the authorities, shedding light on the complexities of enforcing attendance regulations in educational institutions.

REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL



SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Urs Festivities For Hazrat Khwaja Ghulam Farid (RA) Continue In Full Swing

By RT Correspondent



RAJANPUR: The second day of the celebrations for the great Sufi saint and multilingual poet Hazrat Khwaja Ghulam Farid (RA) is ongoing. Following the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the district administration has made extensive arrangements for the event. A poetry gathering in memory of Hazrat Khwaja Ghulam Farid (RA) was held at the District Public School Rajpur, attended by Deputy Commissioner Shafiqullah Mushtaq, District Police Officer Dost Muhammad, Commandant Border Military Police Qasim Gul Wali, and other district officials. During the event, poets mesmerized the audience with their words and received enthusiastic applause. The participating poets included Amanullah Arshad, Shehzad Baig Saleem Shehzad, Bilal Nazki, Sagheer Tabassum, Amir Sohail, Muhammad Afzal Khaksar, Qamar Raza

Shehzad, AH Atif, Hissam Hasan, Ali Raza Noshahi, Dr. Shakeel Patafi, Ashiq Buzdar, Hasnain Iqbal. At the conclusion of the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Shafiqullah Mushtaq and DPO Dost Muhammad addressed the attendees, stating that the poetry of Hazrat Khwaja Ghulam Farid (RA) teaches us lessons of brotherhood, love, and peace.

KP CM Orders Maximum Support For Jamrud Jirga Participants In Power-Packed Site Visit

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday visited the site of a peace jirga in Khyber district to oversee arrangements for the gathering and ordered the administration to fully facilitate the participants with whatever they needed.



Earlier today, he had announced that the provincial administration would host the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement's (PTM) three-day jirga and ensure that all the matters were resolved peacefully. The federal government agreed, in principle, to lift a recently-imposed ban on the PTM during a multiparty grand jirga, hosted by the provincial government on Thursday. The jirga agreed

that the "proscribed" PTM would be allowed to hold its scheduled Pashtoon (Qaumi) Jirga today, which would be hosted by the KP government and attended by CM Gandapur. Visiting the site at the district's Jamrud area, the chief minister reviewed security and other arrangements for holding the jirga after being briefed by the relevant authorities. Representatives of the provincial government, divisional and district administration officials and police officers were present on the occasion.—RT/Agency

Azma Bukhari Warns Of Stern Action Against Political Opponents Resorting To Taliban-Style Tactics



LAHORE: Punjab's Information Minister Azma Bukhari has stated that those employing Taliban-like methods in political opposition will be treated like the Taliban. She said that the government neither possesses fake accounts nor intends to create them. She had earlier criticised PTI, suggesting that its leaders are trying to replicate the kind of chaos that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

This came after the Punjab government imposed Section 144, banning public gatherings for three days across eight cities in response to the planned protests by the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

The Information Minister also added that when the Prime Minister takes action, it is labeled as a violation of freedom of speech, and these incidents are not happening coincidentally but with complete planning.—RT/Agency

Punjab Information Minister Uzma Bukhari Takes a Grand Tour Of Alhamra Academy Of Performing Arts

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar



GUJRANWALA: Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Punjab, Uzma Bukhari, visited the Alhamra Academy of Performing Arts, accompanied by Provincial Secretary Information and Culture, Syed Tahir Raza Hamdani. They were warmly received by Chairman Alhamra, Razi Ahmed, and Executive Director, Sarah Rashid.

During her visit, Uzma Bukhari toured various classes, interacted with teachers, praised their services, and showed keen interest in the work of young artists. She emphasized that the Punjab government is recognized as a major educational center, offering cultural heritage services in 12 disciplines of fine arts. The experienced faculty provides a conducive environment for learning. Supported by the Punjab government, Alhamra is dedicated to promoting the national language, literature, and cultural heritage.

TDAP Hosts Game-Changing National Exporters Training Program In Quetta

QUETTA: The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in collaboration with the Tarqaqee Foundation and ITC (GRASP), successfully held the National Exporters Training Program (NETP) in Quetta. This long-awaited event attracted over 60 participants, including new exporters and women entrepreneurs, aimed at equipping local businesses with the tools to compete in the global market.



The session began with welcoming remarks from Mr. Idrees, Program Officer (NETP), followed by a dynamic presentation from Mr. Afshan Uroos, Deputy Manager at TDAP. She introduced four modules focused on transforming export inquiries into successful transactions and provided a detailed analysis of Balochistan's export potential in minerals, fruits, and livestock. Key markets identified included the Middle East, China, and Central Asia.

Mr. Zain-Ul-Abideen, GSPOfficer at TDAP Quetta, played a vital role in organizing the event and facilitating discussions, receiving positive feedback for his contributions. The program concluded with remarks from Mr. Hubbard Ali of the Tarqaqee Foundation, who emphasized the need to expand the initiative across more districts to promote entrepreneurship in Balochistan.

The event concluded with the distribution of participation certificates, underscoring TDAP's commitment to fostering export growth and empowering local entrepreneurs in the region.—RT

Maritime Symposium Shines A Spotlight On Blue Economy And SDG Goals For Pakistan's Future



ISLAMABAD: At the International Maritime Symposium, Federal Minister for Planning Professor Ahsan Iqbal underscored the significance of achieving a blue economy as part of Pakistan's sustainable development strategy. He emphasized the need to realign efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to harness the country's extensive maritime resources, including over 1,200 kilometers of coastline and rich biodiversity. Professor Iqbal noted that less than one percent of the potential in fishing and aquaculture is currently utilized and called for investment in offshore renewable energy and maritime tourism. He stressed the importance of modernizing ports and fostering public-private partnerships to enhance maritime capabilities. The symposium aimed to analyze challenges in Pakistan's maritime economy and promote collaboration among stakeholders. Professor Iqbal urged for awareness campaigns on the benefits of a blue economy and sustainability in resource use. Notable participants included Senator Syed Mushahid Hussain and Vice Chief of Naval Staff.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar Takes Charge, Reviewing Province-Wide Law And Order



GUJRANWALA: IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar chaired an important meeting to review the overall law and order and security situation in the province. He emphasized that the safety of citizens will be ensured and that no one is permitted to take the law into

their own hands. Dr. Anwar stated that they will respond decisively to any violations. He acknowledged the extraordinary challenges posed by the current security situation and reiterated that while peaceful protest is a right, vandalism, violence, and riots are not tolerated. Dr. Anwar directed all units, including operational ones, to develop a unified action plan and enhance coordination to maintain law and order. He mentioned that districts will receive personnel, logistics, anti-riot forces, and transport resources. These remarks were made during a significant meeting held at the Central Police Office.

Inter-Ministerial Workshop Launches Ambitious Anti-Trafficking Action Plan 2024-2025 In Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Ministry of Interior conducted an Inter-Ministerial Consultative Workshop today at FIA Headquarters to discuss Pakistan's Anti-Trafficking Action Plan for 2024-2025. The event gathered representatives from various government departments and international organizations to strategize against human trafficking.

Ministry of Interior. The role of international organizations in combating trafficking was also highlighted by Ms. Shahida Gillani from UNODC. The workshop reviewed the progress of TIP committees related to the Anti-Trafficking Action Plan and set targets for 2024-2025. The session was moderated by Mr. Saqib Sultan Al-Mehmood, Director of the Anti-Human Smuggling Wing, FIA. It concluded with remarks from Ms. Shahida Gillani of UNODC-RT.

In a technical session, presentations addressed concerns raised in the U.S. State Department's 2024 Trafficking in Persons report, delivered by Rai Nasrullah of FIA and Ms. Seep Jan from the

FBR Set To Jack Up Property Valuation By A Massive 75%



ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to increase property valuations by up to 75%. Property valuations have been determined for 42 major cities across the country, and the revised prices have been finalized, Express News cited FBR sources.

A notification regarding the new property valuations is expected to be issued soon. The valuations have been determined based on fair market value and location. In the next phase, the new property valuations for an additional 15 cities will also be included in the list. Earlier yesterday, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Langrial has issued a stern warning that large-scale action against non-filers will begin after November 1.

Speaking to the media in Islamabad on Thursday, Langrial revealed that the number of income tax returns filed has exceeded four million, doubling compared to last year. "There will be no extension in the deadline for submitting income tax returns," he said, reiterating that the final date for submissions is October 14. Langrial added, "We have complete data on non-filers, and action will commence on a large scale from November. The prime minister has directed that no tax evaders should be spared.—RT/Agency

Punjab Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani Makes High-Profile Visit To Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, visited Toba Tek Singh to chair a meeting regarding the upcoming visit of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The meeting focused on preparations for the Kisan Card activation ceremony scheduled for October 15. Key attendees included National Assembly member Chaudhry Junaid Anwar and other officials. The minister announced that 1.25 million farmers have registered for the Kisan Card, with ongoing printing and dis-

tribution through 136 centers across the province. He highlighted the Chief Minister's commitment to agricultural development, including the Green Tractor Scheme, which offers a subsidy of 1 million PKR per tractor, and the introduction of an Agricultural Graduates Internship Program for 1,000 interns. Afterward, the minister inspected arrangements at the Sports Stadium for the main event.

Three Killed, Two Injured In Separate Road Horrors In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mehmood Ch



TOBA TEK SINGH: Toba Tek Singh witnessed a series of accidents that resulted in the deaths of three individuals, including a 14-year-old boy, and left two others critically injured.

In the first incident, two motorcycles collided near Chak Seawal on Toba Road, leading to the immediate death of a 35-year-old Rashid and 50-year-old Javed. Two other individuals, 40-year-old Athar and 24-year-old Ehtesham, suffered serious injuries. In a separate accident, 14-

year-old Muhammad Hussain was struck and killed by a speeding bus on Abdul Haq Road in the Sandhlianwali area. Rescue teams transported the injured and deceased to the District Headquarters Hospital, where police later handed the bodies over to the families after completing necessary procedures.

METRO KARACHI

PSX Rings In The Future With Burj Clean Energy Modaraba Listing At Vibrant Gong Ceremony

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) held a gong ceremony to mark the listing of Burj Clean Energy Modaraba, the first Shariah-compliant green energy fund on the Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) Board. The ceremony featured Mr. Muneer Kamal, Chairman of Burj Modaraba, and Mr. Saad Zaman, Sponsor Director, alongside Mr. Shahid Ali Habib, CEO of Arif Habib Limited, and Mr. Nadeem Naqvi, Acting CEO of PSX. Burj Modaraba represents a significant advancement for sustainable energy investments in Pakistan, bridging clean energy developers and investors to promote renew-

able initiatives. Supported by Meezan Bank, Habib Bank, and Arif Habib Corporation, the fund aims to reduce dependency on conventional fuels while addressing rising electricity costs. It will invest in solar, wind, energy storage, and efficiency solutions, adhering to high Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards. The initial offering included 10 million certificates, with applications for 10,244,000 at Rs 10 each, raising Rs 102,440,000. This capital will install solar solutions for residential clients, targeting 700 KWP within six months. The event concluded with the presentation of commemorative tombstones to representatives from participating institutions.—RT

End The Extension Culture Once And For All For Everyone!

The recent confirmation that Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa will retire as scheduled, with no extension in his term, brings much-needed clarity to a situation fraught with speculation. The rumors of a potential extension to his tenure — even under the guise of uniform changes to retirement ages for judges — reflected a deeper, troubling pattern in Pakistan's governance: the tendency to extend the terms of powerful individuals. This is not just a legal issue; it speaks to the unhealthy culture of dependency on individuals rather than institutions. Over the years, extensions have been

granted in various sectors, from the military to the judiciary, and each time, they have only postponed the resolution of underlying



structural issues. Such extensions prevent the healthy rotation of leadership and create an impression that certain individuals are indispensable, a dangerous notion in any democracy. Pakistan's myriad challenges — from political instability to economic crises — will not be solved by extending the influence of

any one person, no matter their capabilities. Instead, these problems demand institutional strength, transparency, and accountability. A system that relies on the whims of individuals, rather than robust mechanisms, cannot hope to navigate these challenges effectively. If Pakistan is to move forward, it must end this practice. The country's future should not be held hostage to the personal decisions or influence of a few powerful figures. Justice Isa's decision not to seek an extension sets an example that should be followed across the board. The time has come for Pakistan to trust its institutions, not just its leaders.

THE HEARTLAND



Govt Girls Degree College Kotri celebrates Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with religious fervor

By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: The Government Girls Degree College in Kotri witnessed a grand annual celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW), marked by heartfelt devotion and a vibrant display of reverence for the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW). The event was a splendid gathering that brought together students, faculty, and the local community in a spirit of celebration and reflection.



The program commenced with students presenting soulful Naats, honoring the Prophet and filling the atmosphere with a profound spiritual ambiance. The melodic recitations resonated with the audience, serving as a testament to the love and respect the students hold for the Holy Prophet (SAWW).

Among the speakers at the event were Principal Madam Rukhsana Parveen Junjo, event organizer Professor Sakina Soomro, and Assistant Professors Raheela Baloch and Shabbaz Lanjar. They delivered inspiring speeches that emphasized the significance of the Holy Prophet (SAWW) as a mercy to all of creation. "The life of

the Prophet serves as a guiding light for us," said Principal Junjo. "His teachings and exemplary conduct are foundational to our faith and daily lives."

The speakers highlighted the integral role of love for the Holy Prophet (SAWW) in the life of a believer, asserting that true faith is demonstrated through adherence to his exemplary behavior. "Celebrating the birth of our beloved Prophet is not only an expression of our love but also a commitment to embody his teachings," emphasized Professor Soomro.

The attendees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to celebrate this significant occasion, viewing it as a profound blessing bestowed by Allah Almighty.

The event served not only as a celebration but also as a reminder of the values and principles taught by the Holy Prophet (SAWW), encouraging all present to reflect on these teachings in their lives. As the celebration concluded, the atmosphere was filled with a sense of unity and devotion. The students and faculty left with renewed spirits, inspired to carry forward the message of love, compassion, and guidance embodied by the Holy Prophet (SAWW). The annual celebration at Government Girls Degree College Kotri stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the Prophet and the commitment of the college community to uphold his teachings.

BISP beneficiaries urged to get themselves registered in Dynamic Survey

By Khadim Hussain Khaskheli

SANGHAR: Women benefiting from the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) are urged to complete their dynamic survey as soon as possible, or they risk losing their payments Assistant Director Faisal Majeed Gujjar shared this message with the beneficiaries in Sanghar.

He emphasized that women who have received payments through the BISP card must visit the BISP office in Sanghar to conduct their dynamic survey. He noted that this is the final payment for those who have not been surveyed. Fu-

ture payments will only be available to those who complete the survey. To register for the survey, women must have their children's birth forms, along with their own and their husband's identification cards and the husband's phone number. Faisal Majeed Gujjar reminded them that the survey could close within a few days, and no further surveys will be conducted afterward. He also mentioned that there is no fee for the survey, which will be open from Monday to Saturday at the Benazir Income Support Program office located near Government Boys High School Sanghar.

Rice mill workers protest for increase in their daily wages



By Sher Ali Khawaja

TANDO BAGO: In Tando Bago, hundreds of workers from the All Palidar Labor Union protested against the failure to increase daily wages, staging a boycott of all rice mills in the city. They locked the gates of the mills, including Dilbar Sindh, Sachal Halipoto, and Karo Halipoto, with union leaders like Misri Malah, Latif Mallah, Mola Bux, Zahid Khaskheli, Shahid Sheedi, and Akbar Mallah present.

The workers marched from Allah Wala Chowk to Badar Chowk, demanding a wage increase. Union leaders addressed the crowd, stating that they have been working in various rice mills for the past twenty years, receiving only 2 to 3 rupees per

month daily. In contrast, the rice mill owners charge farmers 20 rupees per pound but only pay the workers a meager amount.

They expressed their struggles, saying that low wages have made it difficult to provide even one meal for their families amid rising inflation, where a cup of tea costs 50 rupees. Despite repeated appeals for a wage increase, the mill owners have only given false reassurances. The leaders highlighted that while the harvest season is ongoing, the mill owners continue to exploit workers, pocketing their rights. They warned that if wages are not increased, the workers would resort to self-immolation and intensify their protests by blocking the gates of the rice mills.

DC Abdul Haleem Jagirani chairs meeting to reduce public transport fares

By Ashraf Kunbhar

MITHI: Following the continuous decline in petrol prices, a meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Tharparkar, Abdul Haleem Jagirani, at the Darbar Hall in Mithi to determine passenger vehicle fares in line with the new petrol rates. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated that as petrol prices have decreased, vehicle operators should adjust their fares accordingly. He warned that vehicles not adhering to OGRA's guidelines would not be allowed on the roads.



He directed relevant officials to conduct surprise checks on vehicles, seizing those fitted with illegal CNG kits and ensuring compliance with certification requirements for permitted vehicles. He also stressed the importance of verifying route permits, fare lists, and other necessary documentation, stating that vehicles not meeting regulations should be prohibited from operating. All relevant officials attended the meeting.

Town Chairman Nisar Hussain Khaskheli served legal notice

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Councilor Sanam Rajpar of Ward No-3 in the Faqirabad Town Committee has issued a legal notice to Chairman Sirai Nisar Hussain Khaskheli for passing the budget in violation of legal protocols. The notice demands an unconditional apology and resignation from the chairman.

Sanam Rajpar, representing the Pakistan Peoples Party, has highlighted that the chairman has been

absent from the office for a considerable period, preferring to stay in various hotels in Karachi instead of attending to the affairs of Faqirabad. The legal notice states that the Town Committee office has been closed for an extended duration, raising questions about when and in which meeting the new financial year's budget was passed. It alleges that Chairman Nisar created fraudulent budget papers, including forged signatures of committee

members, who have since distanced themselves from this action. Furthermore, the notice asserts that the chairman violated the law by not convening a budget meeting and passing the budget without formal sessions, which is considered a legal offense. Sanam Rajpar demands that Chairman Nisar Khaskheli publicly apologize within fourteen days and warns of contacting relevant authorities for further action if he fails to comply.

Construction of a school demanded in Phulji Station

By Abdullah Shahani

PHULJI STATION: The residents of Phulji Station organized a protest rally led by the Dadu Awami Forum against the five-year delay in the construction of the Government Girls High School building. The rally, which included leaders from political, social, and nationalist organizations, began at Haidar Chowk and proceeded to the dilapidated school building, where demonstrators expressed their grievances.



Protesters, including Ashiq Ali Zaur, Warayam Sindh, Nabi Baksh Halipoto, and others, demanded that the contractor be held accountable for the delayed construction. They highlighted that despite five years passing, the

building work remains incomplete, leaving thousands of female students in distress.

Due to the absence of a proper school building, girls have been receiving education in temporary classrooms at the higher secondary school, which has now ceased operations for repairs, restricting students to their homes for the past month. The protesters

criticized the silence of elected representatives and called upon high officials, including the D.C. Dadu, to take immediate action to complete the school's construction and safeguard the education of these girls. Despite the Sindh government's allocation of billions for educational reforms each year, the protesters questioned where this budget is being spent.

Bakhtawar Cadet College for Girls concludes 3-Day teachers' professional development program

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: Bakhtawar Cadet College for Girls (BCCG) in Shikohabad successfully wrapped up a three-day Teachers' Professional Development Program designed to enhance educators' teaching skills and methodologies. The initiative reflects BCCG's commitment to continuous improvement in educational quality and the professional growth of its staff.

The program kicked off with an engaging workshop led by Professor Dr. Tariq Umran, the former Director of the Institute of English Language and Literature at the University of Sindh. Dr. Umran's interactive sessions focused on innovative teaching strategies and effective classroom management techniques, providing valuable insights that participants can apply in their own classrooms.

Dr. Qurat-ul-Ain Ali Shaikh, Principal of Government Sakhrat Sarmast Degree College in Nawabshah, attended the program and commended its significance for youth development. She noted the valuable contributions of two professors from



her college, Prof. Dr. Mehmooh Dahri from the Sindh Department and Prof. Aftab Ahmed Abro from the English Department, who participated as facilitators in the workshops.

The concluding ceremony was held at the Jinnah Auditorium, where Deputy Commissioner Shehryar Gul Memon graced the event as the Chief Guest. He distributed certificates of participation to the educators, acknowledging their commitment to professional development. During his address, Memon praised BCCG for its proactive approach to advancing education and expressed optimism

about the positive impact of such programs on the community.

"This initiative is a significant step toward enhancing the skills of our teachers, which ultimately benefits our students," he stated. The successful completion of this professional development program underscores BCCG's dedication to fostering an environment of continuous learning and improvement. By investing in its educators, the college is not only enhancing the quality of education provided but also preparing its students to thrive in an increasingly competitive world.

SPORTS



PCB adds Aleem Dar, Azhar Ali, others to national selection committee



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday announced changes to the national selection committee, adding some former Pakistani cricketers to the body. In its announcement, the governing body of cricket confirmed that the new additions to the committee include, former cricketer Aqib Javed, ex-captain Azhar Ali and former International Cricket Council (ICC) umpire and first-class cricketer Aleem Dar. Additionally, Hassan Cheema was also confirmed by the board as the new addition to the committee. Meanwhile, right-handed batter Asad Shafiq retained his membership of the committee. According to sources, Javed will oversee other key matters of committee while top-order batter Ali has been tasked with further development chores. Yousuf, Cheema will serve as the data analyst for the selection team. The previous selection committee consisted of members such as the captain, head coach, Shafiq, and five non-voting members. The latest development comes two weeks after former cricketer Muhammad Yousuf resigned from his position. In a statement on X, Yousuf said, "I announce my resignation as a selector for the Pakistan cricket team for 'personal reasons'. Serving this incredible team has been a profound privilege, and I am proud to have contributed to the growth and success of Pakistan Cricket."—Agency

Pakistan bowlers must be more effective to win tests, says Shan Masood

MULTAN: Pakistan captain Shan Masood said his bowlers had to learn how to take 20 wickets in a test match and their opponents England had shown them the way after sealing an innings victory in the series opener on Friday. After putting up 556 on the board in their first innings, Masood's side squandered the advantage and allowed the tourists to post a colossal 823-7 declared and complete an innings and 47-run win on day five. Despite no help from a flat pitch in Multan, the tourists bagged 19 wickets to prevail as Abrar Ahmed did not bat on the final day due to illness. "The trick for us is that we should learn, obviously, from England as well. They found ways to get those 20 wickets. You can't win tests without picking up 20 wickets," Masood said. "As a team, we have that second innings of batting to improve but the most important thing is we must also learn how to pick 20 wickets. So that's the challenge the side has going forward." Defeat was Pakistan's sixth on the trot and they have now gone 11 matches without victory on home soil since beating South Africa in 2021. Masood, who replaced Babar Azam as test skipper in November and has lost all six of his matches at the helm, said he would not shy away from responsibility in the wake of the big defeat. "What hurts is that we're not getting the results that Pakistan deserves. We're all trying hard. We're going to give it our all, and we're going to try and turn this around," he said. "We have to get this right as a squad and as a cricket playing nation." Pakistan will have a chance to set the record straight when the teams meet in the second of three games starting on Tuesday and Masood welcomed the quick turnaround.—Agency



England 1-0 after thrashing Pakistan by innings, 47 runs in first Test showdown

England 1-0 after thrashing Pakistan by innings, 47 runs in first Test showdown

MULTAN: England completed an extraordinary innings and 47-run victory over Pakistan on the fifth day of their record-breaking opening test after staving off a fightback from the depleted home side on Friday. With Abrar Ahmed not batting due to illness, the tourists reduced Pakistan to 220-9 after some early resistance to spark huge celebrations among a small but vocal group of travelling English fans. Pakistan resumed on a precarious 152-6 and Salman Agha was the first to depart in the morning after a defiant 63, with the introduction of Jack Leach helping England snap his 109-run partnership with Aamer Jamal. He was then granted a lifeline when stand-in captain Ollie Pope put down a difficult chance at square-leg - England's fifth dropped catch of the innings - and remained not out on 55. Leach pulled off a stunning catch off his own bowling to remove Shaheen Afridi before having Naseem Shah stumped to seal the victory. England had declared after making their highest total in 86 years, a colossal 823-7 in 150 overs after Harry Brook's 317 and Joe Root's 262, and extracted the most out of a lifeless pitch at the Multan Cricket Stadium to rattle Pakistan on Thursday. The hosts had flexed their muscles in the early part of the test with 556 in the first innings but found themselves under the gun trailing England by 115 runs at the end of the fourth day and they folded under pressure.—Agency



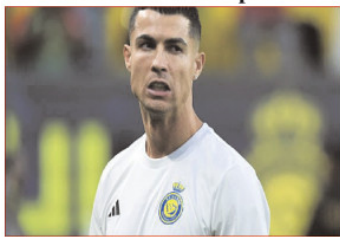
India's visa denial to Pakistan Women's Netball team draws flak

Last-gasp Luiz Henrique effort gives Brazil 2-1 win at Chile



Lacklustre Brazil pulled off a last-gasp 2-1 away victory over Chile in the South American World Cup qualifiers, thanks to a goal by substitute Luiz Henrique in the 89th minute. Off the back of a disappointing loss to Paraguay and losing four of their last five qualifiers with a series of poor performances, Brazil had to recover from a goal down as Eduardo Vargas put the locals in front with a fine header from a Felipe Loyola cross in the second minute. Chile wasted chances to extend their lead, but Brazil managed to find the equaliser in added time before the break, when Savinho made a good run down the right and crossed to Igor Jesus who nodded a towering header past the goalkeeper, scoring on his first call-up for the national team. Brazil controlled the second half and found a duly deserved winner late with a fine effort by Jesus' teammate at Brazilian league leaders and Copa Libertadores semi-finalists Botafogo Luiz Henrique, who slotted a curling strike from the edge of the box to rescue the five-time World Cup champions three much needed points. The victory lifted Brazil to fourth in the standings with 13 points, two behind Uruguay and eight from leaders Argentina. Chile are down from bottom on five points. Earlier on Thursday, leaders Argentina were held to a 1-1 draw against Venezuela in Lionel Messi's return to international duty from an injury. The Argentine captain brilliantly assisted Nicolas Otamendi on a drenched pitch to open the scoring 13 minutes after kick-off, but a relentless Venezuela fought back to equalise with a Salomon Rondón's second half and found a Salomon Rondón's second half and found a Salomon Rondón's second half.—Agency

Ronaldo allegedly sent fiery message to ex-Real Madrid star after 'disrespect'



Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo has been accused of sending a list of all his trophies and achievements, along with a fiery voice note, to Italian footballer Antonio Cassano. Cassano, 42, accused Ronaldo, 39, of sending him a text listing all of the trophies he has won, the goals he has scored, and the statistics from his career, after the Italian left him out of his top 10 list of the greatest players of all time. Goal reported. He mentioned the likes of Lionel Messi, Pele, and Diego Maradona in his list but left out Ronaldo. The claims, made by Cassano, came as he recently appeared on The BSMT Podcast, hosted by Italian radio host Gianluca Gazzoli. During the podcast, former Real Madrid star told Gazzoli that he believed that "Ronaldo is number one". Then, he clarified that he was referring to the former Brazilian football legend who is the third-highest goal scorer for his national team and goes by the same name as the five-time Ballon d'Or award winner. "I said Ronaldo is number one, the Brazilian, Cristiano Ronaldo doesn't make my top five, or even top ten, because for me the quality of a player is another thing," Cassano told Gazzoli, during the podcast. The former Roma, AC Milan and Inter Milan star alleged that after his remarks, he got a text message from a number originating from Spain, listing all the trophies, goals and statistics Ronaldo has and his name. "Then he (Ronaldo) sends me a voice note, telling me, 'You disrespected me, don't do anything like that again. You only scored 150 goals, you only won four trophies.' Perfect. So I answer him. I say, 'Dear Cristiano, listen to me. You think I disrespected you, I just don't like you as a player. What's the problem?' He went to the trouble of messaging me, imagine."—Agency

Gardner takes four as Australia crush Pakistan by nine wickets

DUBAI: Ashleigh Gardner's four-wicket haul remained the cornerstone of Australia's nine-wicket thrashing of Pakistan in the 14th match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 here on Friday. Chasing a modest 83-run target, Australia comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of just one wicket and 54 balls to spare. Openers Alyssa Healy and Beth Mooney (15) gave Australia a flying start to the pursuit with a rampant 36-run partnership, which lasted with the latter's dismissal in the fifth over. But Healy continued smashing the Pakistan bowlers and had brought Australia to touching distance but severe cramps forced her to retire hurt in the 10th over. She remained the top-scorer for Australia with a 23-ball 37, laced up with five fours. Experienced all-rounder Ellyse Perry was then joined by Ashleigh Gardner in the middle and the duo made sure to steer Australia to an important victory without further damage. Perry scored an unbeaten 22 off 23 balls, while Gardner made seven not out. For Pakistan, Sadia Iqbal picked up the solitary wicket. Put into bat first, Pakistan only managed 82 before getting bundled out on the penultimate delivery of the innings. Their greens started their innings cautiously with stand-in skipper Muneeba Ali and Sidra Amin batting defensively. To cope with the slow start, Muneeba looked to accelerate and target Sophie Molineux in the fourth over but ended up handing a simple catch to Phoebe Litchfield after scoring seven off 12 deliveries. Pakistan then lost three more wickets in quick succession and had been reduced to 29/4 in eight overs. Australia's bowlers extended their dominance over Pakistan with regular strikes but Aliya Riaz offered a notable fightback and made sure to keep the scoreboard ticking until her dismissal in the final over. She remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with a 32-ball 26 with the help of three boundaries. Besides her, only Sidra Amin and Iram Javed (12 each, and Nida Dar (10) made it to the double figures. Ashleigh Gardner was the standout bowler for Australia, returning brilliant figures of 4/21 in her four overs. She was supported by Annabel Sutherland and Georgia Wareham, who bagged two wickets each.—Agency



India's visa denial to Pakistan Women's Netball team draws flak



KARACHI: The Indian government has not yet issued visas to the Pakistan's netball team, barring them from participating in the forthcoming 13th Asian Netball Championship. It is to be noted that the Championship is set to kick off on October 18 in Bangalore, India. In regard to this, the Pakistan's Netball Federation (PNF) criticised the Asian and World Netball bodies over the exclusion of the national team. The sudden announcement has been detrimental to the PNF, with the federation facing significant financial losses. In retaliation, the PNF reported: "The team's preparation efforts are wasted."—Agency

Kids' Corner



Names: Intisham Ali and Irtiza Ali Location: Talhar About us: We love our parents up to the moon and back! Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Rihanna gets candid about 'things I look for' while picking a dress



Rihanna just revealed how motherhood has influenced her fashion sense. The 36-year-old Diamonds hitmaker, who is a mother to two sons, RZA, 2 and Riot, 14 months admitted how she has dropped wearing rather glamorous outfits for relatively comfortable clothes to fulfill her parental duties. At the Savage X Fenty Lavish Lace Collection Preview, in Los Angeles, she spoke to PEOPLE magazine, saying, "I wear hanna continued. "It's the small things. Take my makeup off at night. These are just little things that mean a lot. It feels like self-care and it feels good." "Things that don't scratch me, don't scratch them. We've got a lot of work to do in a day of a life of a mom," Rihanna added. The Fenty Beauty brand owner also unveiled her rules on wearing a lingerie as outerwear, noting, "Lingerie to me should be worn any way and anywhere that you want. Whether you want it to be seen on display outside of T-shirts, inside a jacket falling off, or just to be cozy or just to have a little support."—Agency

Jennifer Lopez opens up about difficult decisions



Jennifer Lopez does not seem to be the person who cries over the past as she's the one who believes in moving on by taking bold decisions. The Hollywood star, in a recent interview, shared her thought process behind career choices. The Atlas star told Nikki Glaser in Interview magazine, that she was warned not to sign up as the judge on American Idol. "I'd done all these big movies and made these albums and now they're asking me to do reality TV," the mom of two said. "I've had kids and I haven't worked for a couple of years. American Idol was a big show at the time," she explained the reason behind taking up the job. She added that her decision-making process "really comes down to, what do I think I can bring to something?" She shared that her advisors feared she's "going to be reduced to just a reality star." But she disagreed, saying, "No. I don't think that's what's going to happen. I think I have something to contribute." I love music and I love mentoring people, and I wanted to share the things that I knew about the business. So it became more about, 'What do I think I can do with this?'" The On the Floor songstress continued, "When I'm choosing things, even if they seem like not the best idea to everybody else, if I feel it in my gut that it's the right thing to do, nobody can talk me out of it." Speaking of the importance of intuition for her decisions, the Marry Me actress added that she has turned down offers that didn't feel right, even when she was pressured by others to do them. "There's been movies like that. Sometimes they'll offer you tons of money to do a commercial or a private show, and you're just like, 'No, I like it.' Please do it! We all want the mission! And I'm like, 'I can't do that.'"

