

THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

Heartland

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



Money

PSE 100-index up by 30.18 points to close at 85,483.40



NATIONAL

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



SPORTS

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



Murad Denies IMF Concerns, Slams Rumors Surrounding NFC Award And 18th Amendment



Jennifer Lopez opens up about difficult decisions

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 Fazl Isa has been scheduled for October 25, according to an official letter writ 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 query, the JUI-F chief stressed the need for restoring the 18th Amendment and abolishing the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, saying doing so would increase the parliament's role in the judicial appointments.

The JUI-F leader was of the view that all the political forces should be brought on the same page over the draft. "If we have to vote [in favour of the amendments], we would have voted," Fazl said, adding that his party did not support the draft because it was unacceptable for them.

To a question about the timeframe of the passage of the constitutional package, the JUI-F leader said: "We took 9 months for the 18th Amendment. At least 9 days would be required to decide this matter."

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.

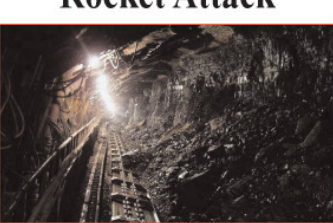
The president extended his heartfelt appreciation to the government and brotherly people of Turkmenistan for organising prestigious event aimed at promoting understanding, peace and dialogue among cultures.

President Zardari expressed his delight to share that our national poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and towering figure of Turkmen literature, Makhdum Gulli 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 Makhdum Gulli 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- Makhdum Gulli".—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 coal mines in the Duki district 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



Pakistan which will be instrumental to boost the economic growth in the country," he added.

The minister said all the security arrangements have been finalized in Islamabad with the deployment of all the law enforcement agencies including Pakistan Army and Rangers.

He said all the heads of governments participating in the SCO would be accorded a warm welcome in Islamabad as the whole nation is ready to celebrate the event with national pride.

The whole Islamabad has been decorated which would eventually leave a positive impression of Pakistan in minds of the visiting delegations, he noted. He believed that the SCO would be a great success for Pakistan and would help enhance regional cooperation with a discussion on many important topics.—RT/Agency

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

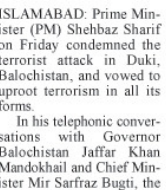


ISLAMABAD: As the foreign dignitaries all set to arrive in Islamabad for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced holding another protest at the federal capital's D-Chowk on October 15 - the same day crucial regional moot scheduled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

fullah, Zhob, 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 Pashuns.

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

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 Panhjar, 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," Panhjar 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 Zaur, agricultural expert Dr. Ali Hassan Marri, and Afaq Ahmad Sehto. Upon arrival, the team was warmly welcomed by library supervisor Zubair Ahmed Jaffari, who guided them through various sections of the library, showcasing its resources and facilities. Jaffari 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.

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

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 multi-party 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.

While speaking to the media, Azma Bukhari said that this is not the government's incompetence but its decency that such individuals are not being dealt with more severely.

She alleged that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has a propaganda cell that is used to insult people.

The Punjab minister emphasized the need for regulations and guidelines to govern the use of social media to prevent its misuse.

Bukhari further claimed that 500 SIM cards have been issued in the name of a female accused, which are being used by her husband.

These SIM cards are being used to blackmail and

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

to promote the cultural sector. The Chairman and Executive Director briefed the Minister on the academy's services, performance, and contributions to arts education. The Alhamra Academy is recognized as a major educational center, offering 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 Tarqaee 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 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

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

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

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

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.

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

EDITORIAL

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

Saturday, October 12, 2024



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.

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.

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.

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 mound daily. In contrast, the rice mill owners charge farmers 20 rupees per mound 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.

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.

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

By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: Bakhtawar Cadet College for Girls (BCCG) in Shaheed Benazirabad 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 education 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.

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.

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 Sindhvi, 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.

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 youth development chores. Furthermore, 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 Ahrar 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

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.

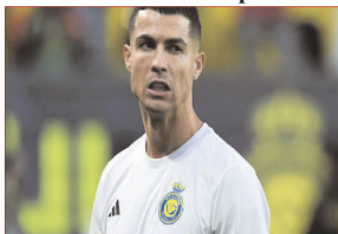
Brazil controlled the second half and found a duly deserved winner late with a fine effort by Jesus' teammate at Brazilian league leaders and Copa Libertadores semi-finalists Botafogo Luiz Henrique, who slotted a curling strike from the edge of the box to rescue the five-time World Cup champions three 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 second 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 winner late with a fine effort by Jesus' 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

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 Ahrar 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

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 in 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



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 get-

ting bundled out on the penultimate delivery of the innings.

The Green Shirts 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

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.

Despite being fully prepared, the team has been left out of the event, and the federation facing significant financial losses.

In retaliation, the PNF reported: "The team's preparation efforts are wasted." —Agency

applications were submitted three weeks ago, but no response has been received from the Indian authorities despite multiple reminders.

It is worth noting that the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) granted a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the team.

Meanwhile, the PNF hired a foreign women's coach for the team's training.

With some players getting trained under the supervision of the foreign coach in London.

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 anything that's cozy, anything that's stretchy, anything that's easy to bend down and pick my kids up in. Those are the things I look for."

"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." Rihanna 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."

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's going to talk me out of it." Speaking of the im-

portance 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'm like, 'Please do it! We all want the commission! And I'm like, 'I can't do that.'"

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

THE HEARTLAND



Shahdadpur Press Club hosts reception for SAFWCO Chief Suleman G Abro

By Sajjan Jani

SHAHDADPUR: The Shahdadpur Press Club held a reception for the renowned social reformer and founder of SAFWCO, Dr. Muhammad Suleman G Abro, in honor of receiving his PhD degree at an international level. A large number of dignitaries attended the event. In his presidential address at the ceremony organized by the club officials and journalists, Dr. Suleman emphasized the need to promote education and eradicate one's abilities to recognize mental poverty. He stated that this PhD degree is a recognition and a result of tireless efforts for a family of laborers. He noted that achieving any goal requires facing numerous difficulties, just as a rose is accompanied by thorns,

which must be managed. Dr. Suleman shared that the hard work he has put into acquiring knowledge since childhood is now beginning to bear fruit. He acknowledged that this degree has increased his responsibilities, which he is committed to fulfilling. He remarked that journalists play a crucial role in society and expressed his ongoing connection with the Press Club. He felt honored by the recognition from his fellow journalists. The occasion was also graced by PPP leader Aurangzeb Khan Tahim, Director of SIMS Dr. Bashir Ahmad Jamali, businessman Haji Ghulam Dastagir Qureshi, Javed Qureshi, former President of the Shahdadpur Bar Association Advocate Tariq Muhammad Arain, Taluka

Education Officer Muhammad Anwar Zardari, Syed Zulfiqar Shah, Raees Ghulam Nabi Zardari, Ghulam Mustafa Nizamani, Raees Ghulam Ali Brohi, Arif Shaukat, and others, who expressed their thoughts and paid tribute to Suleman G Abro. The President of the Press Club Mehdi Hassan Panhwar, Senior Patron Nisar Baladi, Patron Noor Sindh, Shad Ali Mangi, Sajjan Jani Detho, Ali Nawaz Sierwali, and other guests were presented with Ajrak gifts. The Shahdadpur Press Club also awarded a commemorative shield to Suleman Abro in recognition of his contributions. The event witnessed a significant participation from the city's political, social, academic, and literary personalities.

Pir Mazhar, Pir Mujib to lead rally from Pir House to mark Karsaz tragedy



By Javed Laghari

DADU: To honor the martyrs of the Karsaz incident on October 18, senior politician and CEC member Pir Mazhar Haq, along with MPA Barrister Pir Mujib Haq and Municipal Committee Chairman Pir Danish Ali, has called on

the educated public of Dadu to participate in a large procession from Pir House Dadu. The Pakistan People's Party leaders and supporters urge maximum participation in the rally, where Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will deliver a significant address to pay tribute to the martyrs.

Nawab Ali Wassan chairs meeting of PPP Khairpur



By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: An important meeting of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) district Khairpur was held at the Khairpur, Aijaz Khalid Rajpar from Naro, and Syed Li-aqat Ali Shah from Gambat; district president of the ladies wing, Zainab Shar, Madam Shazia Shah; city president of Khairpur, Munir Hussain Mangi; city president of Kingri, Syed Ikram Shah; city Gambat's Rafiq Abbas Sheikh; Ghulam Abbas Kabir from Thari Mirwah,

and other district officials, as well as members of the sub-wings, including the SPSP, Youth, Culture Wing, Labor Wing, town chairmen, and others. In his address, Nawab Ali Wassan stated that the Karsaz incident on October 18 was a dark day in which hundreds of PPP workers were martyred, leaving a permanent mark on history. He further mentioned that the rally in Hyderabad on October 18 would be a significant milestone.

Central Jamaat Ahle Sunnat rallies against Israeli atrocities

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: A peaceful protest rally was held by the Central Jamaat Ahle Sunnat-Mehar against Israeli aggression and in solidarity with the oppressed Muslims of Palestine and Lebanon. Led by central leader Syed Muhammad Shah Rizvi, the rally started from the central Jamia Mosque Akbari and marched to Ghanta Ghar Chowk, holding flags and banners. During the rally, participants emotionally chanted slogans and burned the Israeli flag.



Panhwar, and Hafiz Ahmad Zahin Magi addressed the crowd, stating that the Israeli state, built on terrorism, continues its aggressive actions against Palestine, causing unrest in the Muslim world. They criticized the silence of the

United Nations and Muslim countries regarding the daily atrocities faced by the oppressed Palestinians. They declared their solidarity with the victims of Palestine and expressed their hatred towards Israel by burning its flag.

Occupations at Khairpur's shrines and cemeteries spark protests



By Naeem Ahmed Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Several shrines and cemeteries, including the historic shrine of Gharib Shah, the cemetery of Jadu Shah, the shrine of Shaheed Badshah, and the shrine of Khaki Shah, have been taken over by land grabbers. Citizens have repeatedly lodged complaints with Deputy Commissioner Khairpur, Ahmed Fawad Shah, but the district administration, municipal anti-environment staff, and revenue department officials have only provided temporary solutions. Allegations suggest that they accept bribes, allowing the encroachments on these sacred sites to persist.

In response, citizens are appealing to the honorable judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan for immediate action to demolish the illegal constructions and remove all encroachments. They have warned that failure to address this issue will lead to escalated protests.

DC Shahryar Gul Memon chairs meeting to control fertilizer prices

By Farooq Junejo

SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD: A meeting was held at the DC Office's Durbar Hall under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Shahid Benazirabad, Shahryar Gul Memon, to discuss controlling the prices of agricultural fertilizers in the district. The Deputy Commissioner instructed fertilizer dealers and company representatives to ensure the availability of sufficient fertilizer as the wheat season approaches and to provide it to farmers at government-set prices.



He emphasized that all fertilizer dealers must display price banners in their shops to facilitate farmers in purchasing fertilizers easily. He warned that any dealer found hoarding or charging excessive prices would face action. The Deputy Commissioner directed agriculture department officials to inspect all fertilizer shops in the district to ensure compliance with official rates. During the meeting, fertilizer dealers informed the Deputy Commissioner about current

stock levels and prices, assuring full cooperation. Representatives from fertilizer companies reported no shortage of any type of fertilizer in the district and mentioned that supply centers are being established, providing relief to farmers. The meeting was attended by Additional Director of Agriculture Muhammad Ramzan Channa, fertilizer dealers, and company representatives.

DC Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa reviews arrangements for anti-polio campaign

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa emphasized that polio is a crippling disease, urging everyone to work together to protect their children from it. The upcoming campaign will be held from October 28 to November 3, targeting approximately 407,959 children for

polio vaccination. These remarks were made during a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office, where he noted that all assistant commissioners, health department staff, PPHI, and the District Emergency Operations Center personnel will oversee the campaign to ensure no child is left unvaccinated. He instructed health officials to plan thoroughly and mobilize their teams to guarantee all children receive the vaccine. He also mentioned the need to monitor transit points effectively during the campaign. The meeting was attended by District Health Officer Larkana Dr. Shoukat Abro, all assistant commissioners of the tehsils, tehsil health officers, district focal persons, and other relevant health officials.

Janwri community protests against deteriorating law and order situation

By Bashir Shaikh

HANDIARI: In Thari Mirwah, fruit vendor Niaz Janwri was kidnapped at gunpoint from his car, and while traveling between Ranipur and Gambat, he was assaulted by passengers who attempted to resist, resulting in severe head injuries. In response to the growing insecurity, the Janwri community staged

a sit-in at Thari Mirwah's Naka Chowk, blocking the road and demanding justice. Protesters informed the media that the Mirwah police have failed to maintain peace, with increasing incidents of robbery and abduction occurring daily. They urged IG Sindh, DIG Sukkur, and SSP Khairpur Dr. Samiullah Soomro to take notice and restore law and order.

Dilbar Sain addresses Tajdar Khatam-e-Nabuwat Conference

By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: A grand gathering was held in the village of Jamal Lakho on the topic of "Tajdar Khatam-e-Nabuwat" and the revered Yaarheen Sharif. The event featured a speech by Pir Alama Muhammad Karamullah, also known as Dilbar

Sain. He emphasized that our Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) is the last of the prophets, and belief in the finality of Prophethood is a fundamental tenet of Islam. Following his address, recipients presented heartfelt naats, and the event concluded with the distribution of Langar (community meal).

World Teachers Day celebrated at GHSS Thana Bula Khan

By Shoukat Khaskheli

THANA BULA KHAN: A teacher is a sacred profession, and it is our duty to respect it, stated Pandhi Khan Talpur, the Education Officer of Jamshoro district, during the Best Teacher Award ceremony at Government Higher Secondary School Thana Bula Khan. He emphasized that a single pen, book, or teacher has the power to change the destiny of a nation. He urged teachers to honor their noble profession and to act sincerely, as they play a crucial role in imparting life's skills to children, just after parents. The event recognized outstanding teachers in the region, including Nisar Ali Memon, Muhammad Mithal Khaskheli, Nasreen Khaskheli, and many others. They were awarded certificates and gifts in honor of World Teachers' Day. The ceremony was attended by various dignitaries, including Surfaraz Otho, Ghulam Ali Palari, and other educators, who celebrated the significant contributions of teachers to education.



DC Abrar Jaffar visits Civil Hospital Jacobabad

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Deputy Commissioner Jacobabad Abrar Jaffar made an unexpected visit to the Civil Hospital Jacobabad, where he inspected the emergency ward and various departments. During his visit, he found several doctors and staff absent, leading him to express his anger towards the Medical Superintendent. Patients complained about the lack of medica-

tions, inadequate treatment, and other facilities. Speaking to the media, DC Abrar Jaffar stated that his visit aimed to assess the hospital's conditions, which he found to be in a dilapidated state. He noted the poor behavior of the doctors present and highlighted the severe shortage of medicines. He further announced that he would write to the Secretary of Health regarding action against the ghost doctors and staff who were absent during his visit.

District and Sessions Judge Abdul Qudoos Memon visits Garhori Library

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: In line with the directives from the Sindh High Court, session judges across various districts have been instructed to visit public libraries. In this context, Session and District Judge Abdul Qudoos Memon visited the Garhori Library. During the visit, the judge expressed strong dissatisfaction regarding the lack of facilities for students' study

and educational needs. Judge Abdul Qudoos Memon remarked that the library resembled more of a book storage facility than an academic center. He directed the relevant authorities to immediately provide internet and Wi-Fi facilities, construct additional rooms, and pay special attention to cleanliness. He further stated that the purpose of a library is not merely to collect books but to provide students and read-

ing enthusiasts with a suitable and peaceful educational environment where they can derive maximum benefit. The judge ordered prompt measures to enhance the library's functionality so that students and researchers visiting it can access necessary resources and facilities. Following this visit, improvements in the library's condition are anticipated, which will prove to be a positive step for students.

Former NA Speaker Illahi Bux Soomro laid to rest

By Hashim Brohi

JACOBABAD: Former Speaker of the National Assembly and senior politician Illahi Bux Soomro's body arrived in Jacobabad from Karachi, where his funeral prayer was held at Eidgah Ground. The prayer was attended by his nephew, former caretaker Prime Minister Muhammad Mian Soomro, along with his sons Zubair

Soomro, Muhammad Umar Soomro, Ihtikhar Soomro, Mousa Bux Soomro, Ibrahim Jatoi, Advocate Asif Soomro, Sardar Sakhi Abdul Razaq Khoso, Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi, Dr. A.G. Ansari, Mansab Khan Jakhri, and thousands of dignitaries, politicians, citizens, and relatives. The deceased was laid to rest in the ancestral graveyard of Jacobabad. In mourning for the

veteran politician, local markets were closed, and the city was enveloped in a somber atmosphere. Illahi Bux Soomro was regarded as a highly respected figure in Jacobabad, wielding significant influence in the district's politics. He had been elected as a member of the National Assembly twice and served as both a federal minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly.

PPP Tando Allahyar to take part in rally to mark Karsaz Tragedy

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: In Tando Allahyar, separate meetings were organized by PPP Taluka President Ghulam Qadir Dal and Taluka Chamber President Ramzan Marri regarding the Karsaz tragedy. These meetings quickly transformed into a rally attended by numerous dignitaries, including PPP District President Zaheer Abbas Pitafi, General Sec-

retary Ghulam Muhammad Kumbhar, and others. During the event, leaders addressed the gathering, emphasizing that the PPP has never forgotten its martyrs. They recalled how Benazir Bhutto honored the victims of the October 18 incident. They expressed pride that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is continuing his mother's mission and has remembered the Karsaz victims despite na-

tional challenges. The speakers assured that the upcoming October 18 rally in Hyderabad would be historic, with thousands of PPP workers and supporters paying tribute to the martyrs and demonstrating that Tando Allahyar remains a stronghold of the PPP. Among those present were district council members and local leaders from various sectors.

SU drivers and employees required to undergo drug tests for campus safety

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Sindh University administration has mandated drug testing for all drivers, cleaners, security guards, and sanitary workers to ensure a safe and healthy campus environment. In a

circular issued on Friday, University Registrar Professor Dr. Mushtaq Ali Jariko emphasized that this measure is essential for the safety and well-being of faculty, students, and administrative staff. Attendance for the drug test is mandatory for the des-

ignated employees. This initiative is crucial for creating a secure environment on campus, he stated. The university has warned that non-compliance will result in strict disciplinary action according to the university's rules and policies.

UC Chairman Shah Muhammad Dero vows to continue serving the masses

By Mumtaz Ali Tahim

TANDO ADAM: The Chairman of Union Council Faqir Sher Muhammad Dero, Shah Muhammad Dero, speaking to the media, stated that more than a year has passed regarding the funds, and they are also carrying out devel-

opment work outside the union council. He pointed out that in the union council, the secretary and other staff often trouble the public unnecessarily, but this has stopped with the arrival of chairmen Shah Muhammad mentioned that entering politics is a new test for him, but he finds it easier to

work due to the support of his father, Khadim Hussain. He clarified that many public issues are being resolved under this system but also noted that he cannot be sure of the future regarding whether he will serve again as chairman, as he has a desire to serve the public.

Tando Allahyar man demands justice

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: Taj Muhammad Bhatti, a resident of Data Nagar Colony, held a protest outside the Tando Allahyar Press Club against the oppression from his brothers. Accompanied by his son Kashif Atta Bhatti, he ex-

pressed grievances about his other brothers allegedly harassing him after he married his younger son, Asif Bhatti, to his niece. He claimed his brothers filed false cases against him and threatened to evict him from the colony. Taj Muhammad highlighted that after his son's marriage, they

faced violence, resulting in his son's wife being taken away and false documents being created for a divorce. He appealed to the IG Sindh, DIG Hyderabad, and SSP Tando Allahyar for legal action against his oppressive brothers and for protection and justice.

Trawler driver shot and injured in Nooriabad

By Shams Palari

NOORIABAD: A few unidentified armed men intercepted a trawler driver in Nooriabad and attempted to

loot valuables from him. He offered resistance to the armed men due to which they injured him by opening a fire. After the incident, the attackers managed to

escape from the scene. The injured driver was rushed to a local area hospital, while no case of the incident was lodged till the filing of this news.

METRO KARACHI



Murad Demands Crackdown On Power Companies Unfairly Penalizing Citizens

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah urged the federal government to stop power distribution companies from unfairly penalizing citizens for line losses during a Cabinet meeting, where several key initiatives were approved.

SHOs Granted Financial Authority to Improve Police Operations

The Sindh cabinet approved Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) powers for Station House Officers (SHOs) statewide, alongside a budget of Rs. 69.2 million for 485 police stations.

A Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Shah on Friday included provincial ministers, advisors, and other officials to discuss various pressing matters.

The Sindh Public Service Commission's proposal for a waiting list of successful candidates to fill future vacancies was approved by the cabinet, aligning it with similar federal provisions.

The Sindh government called for reforms in load management laws to address load shedding issues, label-



ing current penalties on consumers unconstitutional.

The cabinet approved the creation of 434 clinical care posts in teaching hospitals by surrendering 731 redundant positions, enhancing healthcare services.

The cabinet sanctioned Rs. 367.5 million for a new 36-bed hospital in Taiser Town, managed by the Pakistan National Forum on Women's Health.

Nine dispensaries in Tharparkar will be handed over to NGO HELP as Maternal and Child Health centers, with Rs. 136.23 million allocated for their operation.

The Health Department received approval to interview candidates for 715 vacant vaccinator positions in EPI Sindh after a successful examination by the National Testing Service.

The cabinet initiated plans to reform the Sindh

Seed Corporation to better support growers with quality seeds and establish a more effective management structure.

The Sindh cabinet sanctioned a minimum wage increase for unskilled workers to Rs. 37,000, along with adjusted rates for other skill levels.

In recognition of International Women's Day, the cabinet endorsed the Women Empowerment Package 2024, aimed at improving women's lives through various directives.

The cabinet extended Dr. Wasif Ali Memon's contract as Chairman of the Sindh Revenue Board until December 2025.

Gulshan-i-Sikandar's jurisdiction has been transferred from the District South and Boat Basin Police Station to District West and Jackson Police Station.

Chairman Brohi Pushes For Major Road Improvements To Fuel Manghopir's Development Boom

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Haji Nawaz Ali Brohi, Chairman of the Town Municipal Corporation Manghopir, emphasized that enhancing road conditions is a top priority for the area's development and the convenience of its residents. He announced that the carpeting of all major roads will be completed soon, facilitating smoother traffic flow and improved travel for locals.

The chairman highlighted that the road carpeting initiative aims to foster overall development in the region. This project is expected to not only ease traffic congestion but also boost commercial activities. He assured that high-quality materials would be used and that the work would be completed on schedule, ensuring lasting benefits for the public.

Brohi welcomed suggestions from residents and mentioned that further development projects are being planned for the future.

He addressed the community's concerns, clarifying that some criticisms were directed at projects outside their purview, while reaffirming their commitment to advocating for the community's needs.

These comments were made during an inspection of the road carpeting works under the ongoing special scheme in Yusuf Goth. Accompanying him were Municipal Commissioner Agha Khaliq, Vice Chairman Rama Arif, District Engineer Hasan Ali Shaikh, and other municipal staff and local dignitaries.

Chinese Investigation Team Lands In Karachi To Uncover Truth Behind Shocking Airport Attack



KARACHI: A high-level delegation of Chinese investigators has arrived in Karachi to examine the site of a recent suicide attack near the airport that targeted a Chinese delegation and their security convoy, according to media reports on Friday.

Sources revealed that after inspecting the blast location, the Chinese team received a briefing from Pakistani investigators regarding the findings thus far. Pakistani officials informed their Chinese counterparts that the assault could not breach the airport's stringent security measures, leading him to execute the attack at a signal outside the facility.

The Chinese investigators reviewed evidence collected by Pakistani agencies and gathered additional evidence from the site. However, no official statement has been issued regarding the purpose or findings of the Chinese team's visit.

In related developments, sources indicated that the human remains found at the scene have been identified as those of the suicide bomber, named Shah Fahad. This identification was confirmed through the matching of two fingers from the bomber's left hand with records from the National Database and Registration Authority.

Other body parts recovered included the bomber's torso, a left hand with two fingers, and fragments of the head, according to sources. Investigators are currently awaiting the results of explosive samples sent for analysis, which will help ascertain the type of explosives used in the attack.

The investigation is ongoing, with an expanded scope that includes geo-fencing and analysis of call detail records, as well as continued interrogation of detained suspects.—RT/Agency

Chaos In Karachi: Masked Men Torch Ballot Sack, Steal Another In Dramatic NA-231 Vote Recount Heist

KARACHI: A vote recount at the regional election commission office for the NA-231 (Malir-III) constituency was disrupted when masked assailants set a ballot sack on fire and stole another. The recount had been ordered by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) following a Sindh High Court tribunal's directive to reassess votes from four polling stations.



The incident sparked chaos at the Sadder-based commission office, as workers from the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) exchanged accusations over the violence.

The recount was being conducted for polling stations PS 65, 71, 98, and 175, after PTI-backed candidate Khalid Mehmood Ali contested the election result, which declared PPP's Abdul Hakeem Baloch the winner.

In the aftermath of the attack, election commis-

sion personnel began clearing the debris from the burnt ballots. South Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) vowed to take swift action against those responsible, ensuring the stolen ballots would be recovered.

Regional Election Commissioner Imtiaz Kalhoro and Election Commissioner Officer Mushtaq briefed the media on the incident, revealing that the violence injured Naib Qasid Zubair. Mushtaq stated that the recount had barely begun

when the attack occurred, emphasizing that ECP officials were more concerned with preserving lives due to the inadequate security.

The attack took place despite police presence at the venue. According to Mushtaq, a formal request had been made to deploy Rangers, but they were not stationed at the site during the recount. Zubair, who was injured during the assault, recounted how masked men suddenly stormed the office, leading to the chaos.—RT/Agency

Aam Log Ittehad Calls For Urgent General Elections, Saeed A. Malik Leads The Charge

KARACHI: The Aam Log Ittehad has urged for immediate general elections in Pakistan, asserting that the current government lacks legitimacy and is not representative of the people. This demand was voiced during a meeting chaired by Barrister Farrukh Zia Shaikh, Chairman of Aam Log Ittehad, at the party's central office, where key party leaders convened to assess the nation's political landscape.

During the meeting, the leadership highlighted widespread disillusionment among the public with traditional political parties, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), leading many to abandon them.



Commodore Saeed Malik, the Chief Organizer, emphasized that the party's leader, Justice (R) Wajihuddin, has assembled a dedicated and knowledgeable team capable of addressing the political void. He invited those disillusioned with the current parties to unite with Aam Log Ittehad's district organizers to elevate Pakistan's status within the international community.

The party plans to strengthen its organizational

structure in preparation for the upcoming elections, with new district-level Presidents and General Secretaries set to enhance its activity. Malik reiterated that the party's manifesto prioritizes the welfare of the people, focusing on education, healthcare, and job creation through industrialization. He advocated for electing representatives who genuinely champion the public's interests through a commitment to welfare.

Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto Graces Football Tournament In Ibrahim Hyderi, Inspiring Young Athletes

By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Nazir Ahmed Bhutto, Chairman of Ibrahim Hyderi Town Municipal Corporation, participated as a special guest in the All Karachi Martyrs Pakistan Peoples Party Football Tournament held in Samo Goth. The winning team of the final match was awarded a trophy and cash prize.

In his address, Town Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto emphasized the importance of sports for a healthy society, stating that youth should engage in sports to stay away from drugs and social evils. He mentioned that Ibrahim Hyderi Town is providing sports grounds and all necessary facilities to promote sports, enabling the youth to excel in sports and bring glory to



themselves and the nation. Nazir Ahmed Bhutto presented trophies and cash prizes to the winners of the football match. Prior to this, sports organizers and social leaders expressed their gratitude, stating that the personal interest of Town Chairman Nazir Ahmed Bhutto has greatly pro-

motored sports. Competitions in football, cricket, and other sports are taking place, and previously dilapidated sports grounds have been improved. They thanked Nazir Ahmed Bhutto for providing excellent sports facilities that have attracted the youth towards sports.

Madhubala's Long-Awaited Relocation To Safari Park Finally Set In Motion



KARACHI: A herd of female African elephants was brought to Karachi's Safari Park from Tanzania in June 2009. Madhubala, the last surviving elephant following the death of her sister Noorjehan in April 2023, is scheduled to move to the Safari Park by November 2024 to join fellow elephants Malika and Sonia.

The UAE Consul General, H.E. Dr. Bakheet Ateeq Alreemithi, has arranged for essential medications for Madhubala, which were urgently delivered on two occasions. During his visit to assess the elephants' health, H.E. Dr. Alreemithi also planted a tree, highlighting the UAE's dedication to animal welfare in Pakistan.—RT

ABAD Honors Sultan Gohar Ejaz As The Ultimate Real Estate Visionary At Prestigious Awards

KARACHI: The Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD) has extended heartfelt congratulations to Sultan Gohar Ejaz, CEO of Lake City Lahore and ABAD member, on receiving the "Best Real Estate Developer" award from President Asif Ali Zardari during the FPCCI Excellence Awards ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadar.

Chairman Muhammad Hassan Bakshi, Senior Vice Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed, Vice Chairman Tariq Aziz, Northern Region Chairman Sheikh Muhammad Nabeel, Hyderabad Sub-Region Vice Chairman Zulfikar Hmed Farooqi, and Southern Region

Chairman Ahmad Owais Thanvi praised Sultan Gohar for this prestigious achievement, recognizing it as a significant milestone in his remarkable career in the construction industry.

According to ABAD officials, this honor is not only a source of pride for Lake City but also a notable achievement for Pakistan's construction and real estate sectors.

They emphasized that the award is a well-deserved acknowledgment of Sultan Gohar's exceptional contributions, which have raised industry standards and inspired a new generation of builders and developers. This recognition also

reflects positively on ABAD.

ABAD highlighted its pivotal role in promoting the construction industry, regarded as the backbone of Pakistan's economy. The association has consistently advocated for supportive policies and presented proposals to the government to foster sector growth.

The acknowledgment of Sultan Gohar's outstanding accomplishments bolsters ABAD's mission. ABAD officials expressed their hope that Sultan Gohar Ejaz will continue to leverage his skills for the development of Pakistan and the advancement of the construction industry.—RT

Zulfikar Ali Nizamani Climbs To Power With Prestigious Promotion To Secretary In Sindh Government

KARACHI: Following the Provincial Selection Board-I meeting on May 10, 2024, and approval from the Chief Minister of Sindh, Zulfikar Ali Nizamani, a BS-19 officer of the Provincial Secretariat Service, has been promoted to Secretary (BS-20) on a regular basis, effective immediately. His posting details will be issued separately.—RT



Murad Denies IMF Concerns, Slams Rumors Surrounding NFC Award And 18th Amendment

By Rahib Gaho

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah clarified that neither the federal government nor the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approached him with any concerns regarding the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award or the 18th Amendment.

Speaking to the media after attending the launch of the World Bank's South Asia Development Update (SADU) and Pakistan Development Update (PDU) in Karachi, CM Shah affirmed that the 18th Amendment is being implemented, with several federal ministries either devolved or dissolved.

CM Murad expressed that while his government is engaged in discussions with the federal authorities on certain matters, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) would only endorse decisions beneficial to the country.

When asked about reports of the federal government ending contracts with five independent power producers (IPPs) to reduce electricity tariffs, the CM suggested sur-



plus electricity be offered to industries at discounted rates, encouraging additional shifts to boost production and generate employment.

He praised the World Bank's reports for providing a roadmap to tackle economic challenges in Pakistan and South Asia. The CM also addressed the province's recovery from the 2022 floods, which submerged 70% of Sindh, causing severe infrastructural damage.

Despite these hardships, CM Shah noted that his administration had restored key infrastructure and alleviated economic difficulties. He highlighted the Emergency Housing Reconstruction Project, aimed at providing homes to over two million flood-affected residents, as a major initiative focused on climate resilience and socio-

economic improvement in rural Sindh.

To combat inflation, the Sindh government is actively regulating prices of essential commodities and collaborating with the federal government to manage the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Sensitive Price Index (SPI).

Referring to the World Bank's insights on Pakistan's circular debt in the power sector, CM Shah stated that efforts to curb electricity theft and enhance bill recovery have been intensified in cooperation with federal authorities.

The event was attended by several provincial ministers, lawmakers, and World Bank representatives, including Chief Economist for South Asia, Franziska Lieselotte Ohnsorge.

Debis School Malir Marks International Egg Day With Grand Celebrations



By Asif Qureshi

KARACHI: Debis School in Malir celebrated International Egg Day with students presenting tableaux, sketches, and humorous poetry. Experts and edu-

cators, including members of the Pakistan Poultry Association, emphasized the importance of educating children about the health benefits of eggs. They noted that increased awareness encourages

consumption and contributes to better health. To recognize outstanding performances, the association awarded cash prizes and gifts to students excelling in their presentations.

Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi And Rear Admiral Abdul Munib Take The Helm Of Karachi And Pakistan Fleets In Command Shift

KARACHI: Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi has officially assumed the role of Commander Karachi, while Rear Admiral Abdul Munib has taken over as Commander of the Pakistan Fleet during change-of-command ceremonies held on Friday. In the ceremony, Vice Admiral Abbasi received the command of the Pakistan Navy Fleet from Rear Admiral Abdul Munib, and Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem transferred command of Karachi to Vice Admiral Abbasi, according to a news release.



Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi is a distinguished graduate of the Pakistan Navy War College in Lahore, the Naval Command College in the USA, and the National Defence University in Islamabad. He boasts an

impressive naval career with extensive experience in various command and staff positions, including Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Operations, Director General Naval Intelligence, and Commander of the Pakistan Fleet. For his exceptional service, he has been awarded the Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military). Similarly, Rear Admiral Abdul Munib is also a graduate of the Pakistan Navy War College (Lahore), the Naval Command College (USA), and the National Defence University (Islamabad). He has also been honored with the Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) for his commendable service.—RT

Doubt thou the stars are fire, Doubt that the sun doth move, Doubt truth to be a liar, But never doubt I love.

—William Shakespeare

THE REGIONAL TIMES

Uniting People Every Day

READERS

If you are having difficulty in getting your copy of REGIONAL TIMES please contact our Karachi newsagent, Syed Rashid Masood Karachi Newsagent Agency at (0300-274945). For the rest of Sindh please contact Tahir Shah of Sakhi Shah News Agency at (0333-2714034), (0332-2647713), (0302-3028990).

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 2024

Government and Opposition Inch Closer To High-Stakes Joint Constitutional Amendments Draft

ISLAMABAD: Major political parties, including the opposition, on Friday decided to move towards reaching a consensus and bring about a "joint draft" later on for amending the Constitution, a first breakthrough after days of deadlock. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said.



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 fifth in-camera meeting was attended by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) parliamentarians and federal ministers.

The JUI-F top leader said that the PPP had also given suggestions, adding that the parties will begin consultations with the government in this regard.

He said that the JUI-F would hold consultations with the PPP separately.

Fazl, while talking to journalists today, said that the government presented their draft for the constitutional amendments before his party for the first time.

Moreover, the party will also share its draft with the PTI as well to reach a consensus, the veteran politician added.

The statement came after a meeting of the Special Committee of Parliament today to hold a discussion on the proposed constitutional amendments.

Fazl, however, declined to mention the time by which the constitutional matter will be resolved. "Right now, we have just agreed to reach an agreement on the proposed constitutional amendments."

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said that all the political parties expressed their opinion in the meeting. The PPP also presented its "draft" before the committee, while the government informed the committee about its consultation with the lawyers' bodies.

draft before the PPP as the latter has presented before the former.

"Maulana Fazlur Rehman reiterated his stance that he wants to present the 'joint draft' with the PPP," he said while referring to the JUI-F chief.

Bilawal, the former foreign minister, further said that the ruling coalition decided that they would not bring the constitutional amendments before the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, which is scheduled to take place in Islamabad on October 15 and 16.

"I also repeated the same stance that all the political parties should be on board," he added.

A report published by media said that the PML-N and the PPP have made significant progress in their discussions, reaching a consensus on the draft of proposed constitutional amendments.

Bilawal went on to say that the law minister expressed confidence about having the "complete numbers".

This breakthrough occurred during Thursday's crucial meeting at the Punjab House between PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and Bilawal.

If the federal government wants to bring a "joint draft" despite having a two-thirds majority then it is for the best, he said.

Meanwhile, sources said that the PTI had not yet made any statement regarding today's meeting. They said that the Imran Khan-led party would make the "final statement" after meeting him in Adiala jail where he is currently prohibited.

However, he said that how long will the government wait for a joint draft to be finalised, with all the other tasks pending.

The PTI founder was also present at the meeting. He said that the PTI founder would make the "final statement" after meeting him in Adiala jail where he is currently prohibited. —RT/Agency

PM Declares Quality Education The Key To Unlocking National Progress

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday emphasized that the provision of quality education and technical training was the government's top priority, as no nation can progress without a high-quality education system.



He was chairing an important review meeting on Federal Education and Technical Training Affairs.

The Prime Minister stated that, in today's education landscape, skills development, information technology, and digitization have become indispensable, stressing the urgent need to align Pakistan's education system with these modern principles.

He further highlighted that, in line with the government's commitment to ensuring no child in Pakistan is left out of school, the incumbent administration had implemented an educational emergency. Additionally, he underscored the importance of holding a National Curriculum Summit to facilitate the introduction of a uniform education system across the country.

The Prime Minister called for the formulation of a strategy to provide monthly stipends to female students in rural areas of Islamabad, aiming to increase enrollment in these schools. "Technical training should be integrated into the curriculum of Islamabad schools," the Prime Minister said.

He added that students who had dropped out of education for any reason should be offered free technical training, and an awareness campaign should be launched to encourage them to return to school. "Teachers are the builders of the nation," he said, highlighting the critical need to establish a high-quality teacher training institution in Islamabad. He also directed a third-party audit of teacher training programs and the assessment of teachers' skills.

In his directive to set up Special attention, he ties —RT/Agency

Hafiz Naeem Slams Proposed Amendment As 'Constitutional Sabotage,' Rallies Opposition To Reject It

GUJRAT: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman criticised the proposed constitutional amendment regarding the Supreme Court, labelling it an "attack on the constitution" and called on the opposition to fully reject it.



"Debate the amendment's details is tantamount to strengthening the government. Any vote in favour will be seen as a tool of the establishment," he stated.

JI chief also called on the government to immediately terminate contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) linked to the military, bureaucracy, and the Sharif family.

He urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to announce public relief by reducing electricity bills from next month, citing potential savings of PKR 411 billion if five IPP contracts are ended.

During his speech, Hafiz Naeem criticised previous governments, saying, "Whether it was Roti, Kapra, Makaan" or "Naya Pakistan", the hopes of the nation have been betrayed."

Speaking at a rally in Gujrat, Hafiz Naeem said, "The military and civilian bureaucracy should forgo their privileges, as the public can no longer bear the burden of the ruling class's extravagance."

He also took aim at Pakistan's elite, stating that landowners and feudal lords, backed by the local and global establishment, have long evaded taxes, while the burden is shifted onto the public.

He added that JI's movement had brought the issue of IPP profiteering to light, which would otherwise have continued unchecked.

He added, "Electricity bills are loaded with multiple taxes, and IPPs are not only paid capacity charges but are also given tax exemptions. Meanwhile, the people are deprived of basic necessities."

Hafiz Naeem lamented the control of Pakistan's resources by an elite class for the past 77 years, calling for a decisive fight against this dominance.

He stressed the need for implementation of the economic reforms policies.

He urged the public to join JI's "Haq Do Tehreek", which he said is aimed at

On the issue of inheritance rights, Hafiz Naeem vowed that JI, upon coming to power, would ensure women receive their rightful share of inheritance, and warned that any civil, military officer, or politician withholding this right from their daughters or sisters would lose their position.

He concluded his address by calling on Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa to voluntarily resign his retirement, regardless of whether the constitutional amendment is passed.

He also called for the official notification of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's appointment.

JI leaders from northern Punjab, including Dr Tariq Saleem, Qaiser Sharif, and Choudhry Ansar Mahmood Dhoul, were also present at the rally, which saw significant participation from women and families. —RT/Agency

IHC Grants Rare Permission For PTI Founder To Meet Sister Noreen Niazi



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) directed authorities to allow meeting between sister Noreen Niazi and PTI founder Imran Khan.

Imran Khan's doctor, Dr Asim, to assess his health, questioning what would happen if a medical emergency arose.

The Deputy Superintendent informed the court that the ban on meetings at Adiala Jail was imposed from October 5 to October 18. After hearing the arguments, the court reserved its decision, which was later announced in favour of Noreen Niazi.

The court ordered that the meeting between Imran Khan and his sister be arranged according to the jail manual once the ban is lifted.

Also, Chief Justice Farooq requested a medical report on Imran Khan's health and instructed jail authorities to ensure the PTI founder received the best medical treatment. —RT/Agency

He stressed the need for

Three Notorious Fitna al-Khawarij Eliminated In Fierce Sibi Operation

SIBI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) killed three Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists in operation near Dhadar, Sibi, media reported on Friday.



As per details, the operation was conducted near Dou Pasi Bridge, and a huge cache of arms was recovered from the killed terrorist's possession.

The Khawarij were planning to carry out a terrorist attack, the SSP Kachi added.

Earlier on September 7, Security forces thwarted an attack on the Frontier Corps (FC) headquarters in Mohmand district, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the assault was carried out by a group of four suicide bombers affiliated with the extremist group Fitna al-Khawarij.

The attempt to enter the camp was effectively thwarted by the security forces personnel, and resulted in the Khawarij, all four suicide bombers, were sent to hold before they could cause the intended damage," it said.

The ISPR said sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. In separate incident, CTD and police killed a Fitna al-Khawarij commander Inam Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The CTD and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police conducted a joint operation in Lakki Marwat, upon receiving information of the terrorists' presence. The operation targeted the local commander of the Fitna al-Khawarij. During the exchange of fire, Inam alias Sarh Lumba was killed. The forces have launched a search operation to apprehend the fleeing militants. —RT/Agency

ECP Ramps Up Consultations Over Reserved Seats After Punjab And NA Speaker Letters

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday decided to continue its consultation process on the letters written by the speakers of National Assembly and Punjab Assembly related to the reserved seats.



A meeting was chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja on Friday to discuss the letters written by both the speakers.

Earlier, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq had demanded the allocation of reserved seats under the amended Election Act.

Sikandar Sultan Raja was briefed that both the speakers wrote two letters to the ECP demanding the issuance of notification related to the reserved seats.

Ayaz Sadiq had written a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja regarding the reserved seats.

The sources said that the ECP's meeting remained inconclusive and the commission decided to continue the consultation process.

He had mentioned that the Supreme Court's decision on reserved seats cannot be implemented after the amendment to the Election Act.

In the letter, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq told the chief election commissioner that reserved seats cannot be changed after the amendment to the Election Act. —RT/Agency

IMF Lays Down Tough \$7 Billion Loan Demands For Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has unveiled new loan conditions for Pakistan, media reported on Friday.



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board on September 25 approved Pakistan's 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement of about US\$7 billion.

has been asked to ensure economic reforms and conducive conditions for the private sector to boost the economy.

The 37-month Extended Fund Facility arrangement aims to support Pakistan's economic stability and growth, with key policy goals including sustainable public finances, reduced inflation, and strengthened external buffers.

The international lender has also urged Pakistan to increase its tax net and slash government spending and expedite reforms in the government-owned entities.

The report predicted Pakistan's GDP to remain between 4 to 4.5pc during FY2024-25 to 2029-30 while the inflation is predicted to remain between 6.6 to 9 per cent.

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) received SDR 760 million —equivalent to USD 1026.9 million— as the first tranche from the IMF on Friday, according to SBP. —RT/Agency

Imran And Bushra Deserve Family Visits Amid Legal Battle



ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Barrister Salman Akram Raja on Friday said that the PTI founder Imran Khan and former first lady Bushra Bibi must be allowed to meet the family, adding that it was a basic human right to let inmates see their families.

He said that he was appearing in court cases on a daily basis, adding that the PTI founder was only allowed to meet twice during Toshakhana case hearing. —RT/Agency

Speaking outside the Islamabad High Court (IHC), the PTI Secretary General said that he would plead before the court to let Khan meet his sister and doctor while hoping that the government may show a more humane approach this time.

He said that he was appearing in court cases on a daily basis, adding that the PTI founder was only allowed to meet twice during Toshakhana case hearing. —RT/Agency

PM Scrutinizes Last-Minute Preparations For Highly Anticipated SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the capital city to review the arrangements being made for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

On the occasion, the prime minister was briefed on the reception arrangements for the SCO summit by the relevant authorities. He also met with the Prime Minister Attaulah Tahir and other key officials accompanied him. Interior Minister Moinuddin Khan and other key officials were also present. The prime minister briefed the prime minister about the arrangements. —RT/Agency