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Imran Tessori Appointed Chairman Of Pakistan Gems & Jewellery Traders And Exporters Association

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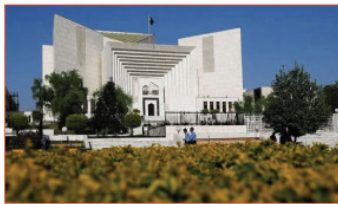
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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

CJP Isa-Led Bench To Tackle Explosive Constitutional Amendment Petition On Oct 17

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Saturday fixed for hearing a petition against the proposed constitutional amendment proposed by the coalition government aimed at introducing judicial reforms including establishing separate court to hear constitutional matters.



A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will hear the case on October 17. The bench will also include Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan, according to a supplementary cause list issued by the registrar's office.

The petition was filed by former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Abid Shahid Zuberi, Shafiqat Mahmood, Ishfaq Ahmed, Shahab Sarki, Munir Kakar and others. In a constitutional petition filed under Article 184(3), the apex court has been requested to set aside the proposed amendments and declare them "ultra vires" the Constitution, principle of separation of powers, independence of judiciary and fundamental rights enshrined under the law. "It is prayed that the separation of powers and independence of the judiciary and its powers and functions to enforce the fundamental rights be kindly declared as sacrosanct under the Constitution and beyond the power and competence of the Parliament to withdraw, interfere or tamper with in any manner whatsoever," the petition read. The petitioners requested the court to restrain the federal government from tabling the bill, order the suspension of the operation of the proposed amendments, and stop it from being signed into law by the president of Pakistan

Law Minister Sets October 24 Deadline For New CJP: Countdown Begins!

ISLAMABAD: As the coalition government stepped up its efforts to evolve consensus on the proposed judicial package, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that the notification for the new chief justice of Pakistan can be issued one or two days ahead of the retirement of the incumbent top judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa.



"The notification will be issued InshaAllah. The cut-off date [of notification] for the Ministry of Law is October 25," Tarar said while responding to a question in his interaction with journalists in Islamabad.

Detailing reason behind early notification of Justice Isa as the chief justice, the law minister said that it was issued early in view of the formation of the caretaker government. It is noteworthy to mention here the major opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), had demanded the federal government for naming the next CJP at the earliest, alleging that the government was planning to extend Justice Isa's tenure via its judiciary-centric constitutional amendment which the party strongly opposed.

"Government will issue the notification on October 24 for the venue of oath-taking ceremony [for new CJP]," he added.

The Imran Khan-founded party had announced backing Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who is next in line to become the chief justice, as the next top judge of the country. Tarar, commenting on progress on proposed constitutional amendment, said that the contentious legislation could be passed after before or after October 25 — the day of CJP Isa's retirement.

"We have formed a sub-committee of legal experts to give recommendations to the parliamentary committee. [...] discussions are underway on four to five items [of the draft amendment]," he added.

His statement came after a sitting of the special parliamentary committee — a body led by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MNA Syed Khurshid Shah having representation of all parties — formed to discuss the contentious constitutional amendment and evolve a consensus.

The proposed amendments, also called constitutional or judicial package, among other things, aims to set up a federal constitutional court and fix the tenure of the 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. However, a progress was witnessed in the ongoing consultation process on the 56-point draft as the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, a day ago, showed a willingness to support the government's "constitutional package" with "ifs and buts". However, after today's meeting the Fazl-led party has refused to back the government's proposal to form separate court to hear constitutional matters, instead proposing to form constitutional bench for such cases. To pass the constitutional amendments, the government needs two-thirds majority in parliament, while it is short of 135 votes in the National Assembly (NA) and nine in the Senate.—RT/Agency

Chaos In Kurram: 15 Dead, Dozens Wounded In Violent Tribal Clashes

KURRAM: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district witnessed violence once more as a clash between two tribes led to the death of at least 15 people, officials told Geo News on Saturday.



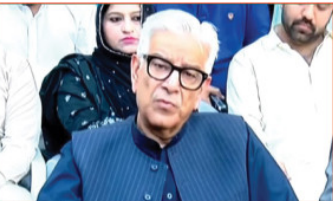
Kurram Deputy Commissioner (DC) Javidullah Mehsud said that the unfortunate incident took place at the Kunj Alizai mountains, situated near the Pak-Afghan border.

The six people who sustained injuries have been transported to a hospital," the deputy commissioner said. The official added that steps are being taken to make the roads safe and bring the situation back to normal in the district.

Local police said that its personnel and security forces have reached the area and have started an investigation into the clash. The clashes stopped last month and the authorities also re-opened the Pak-Afghan border crossing at Kharfachi. Last month's clash saw 60 people's deaths and dozens of injuries, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi had said. The dispute involves two rival tribes who have been fighting over a piece of land. In August, the two sides had reached a two-month ceasefire after the armed clashes resulted in 50 casualties and wounded 226 others.—RT/Agency

Government Vows 'Full Force' Crackdown To Crush PTI Protest During SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: The government on Saturday vowed to use "full force" to stop the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) planned protest, which coincides with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit on October 15.



"The call for protest on October 15 is an attack on the integrity of the country [...] We will not allow [anyone] to damage the honour and reputation of the country [...] The state will use it's all of its power and resources to prevent the invasion of Islamabad," said Asif while speaking to the media in Stalok.

The defence minister's remarks refer to the Imran Khan-founded party's announcement to hold a demonstration in the federal capital on the same day the city is set to host representatives of several countries who will be visiting Pakistan to attend the Council of Heads of Government meeting scheduled from October 15 to 16. The demonstrations, if held, would be the second in a month in the city. The previous one last week saw violent protests as the workers of the former ruling party, under the leadership of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, took to the streets in what the party claimed was meant for the "independence of the judiciary" — as the government aims to introduce constitutional amendments — and for the release of its incarcerated founder.

The said protests, as per a report submitted to the city's chief commissioner by the Islamabad Inspector General's office, caused damages worth Rs240 million to private and public property.

Firing a fresh salvo, Asif said that the PTI wanted to repeat the events of the May 9 riots — which saw military installations being vandalised — and that the party wanted to prevent the country's progress and development.

The politician also called for the courts to intervene and take notice of the matter. "Do the courts not see what the PTI founder is doing with the integrity of the country? The actions of the judiciary today will determine their role in history," he remarked.

For his part, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that nine heads of state would visit Pakistan during the SCO summit and the government will aim to bolster ties with them. "The Chinese prime minister is going to visit Pakistan after 11 years [...] However, tehrrek-e-intehsar [PTI] has decided to hold a protest," Iqbal told media persons in Islamabad. He also drew parallels between the Karachi airport attack — which killed three including two Chinese — and PTI's October 15 protest. "I think that their script writer is the same. In 2014, PTI postponed the Chinese president's visit through their sit-in."—RT/Agency

JUI-F Pushes For New Constitutional Bench Amid Judiciary Shake-Up

ISLAMABAD: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) on Saturday suggested the government to constitute a constitutional bench instead of establishing a separate court to hear constitutional matters.



The JUI-F proposed this during a meeting of the special parliamentary committee formed to discuss the contentious constitutional amendment. JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and PTI senior leader Asad Qaiser attended the key meeting via video link, while Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari was not among the attendees.

Hoping to reach a consensus with the PPP on a joint draft, JUI-F Senator Kamran Murtaza said the drafts prepared by the two parties had just one difference of constitutional court and constitutional bench. Otherwise, he said, his party had no objection to the PPP's rest of the draft.

Meanwhile, the special parliamentary body's meeting was adjourned till October 17, while a sub-committee was formed to contemplate all the drafts pertaining to the constitutional amendment. The sub-committee will submit its report to the main committee. 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.

It is pertinent here to mention that, JUI-F chief Fazl on Friday showed a willingness to support the government's "constitutional package" with "ifs and buts", while stressing the need for building consensus among all political forces.

Interacting with journalists after a meeting of the Special Committee of Parliament in Islamabad a day earlier, the JUI-F chief said: "We can agree on a very suitable draft if our proposals are accepted [by the government]." 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 representative of the people then it should not ignore their wishes."—RT/Agency

'No Rush' On Constitutional Amendments, Says Nawaz Loyalist Irfan Siddiqui



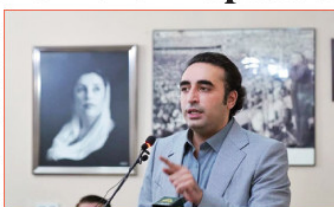
ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Saturday announced that two key parties have submitted draft proposals for the constitutional amendments, paving the way for a potential consensus with Maulana Fazlur Rehman's Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) and other parties.

Talking to a private news channel, he emphasized the importance of unity in passing constitutional amendments for the national interest. Senator Irfan Siddiqui has reaffirmed that the proposed constitutional amendments are not tailored to benefit any specific individual. Instead, they aim to bring about meaningful reforms to Pakistan's constitution.

To achieve this, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), is actively engaging in discussions with other political parties to support for the amendments, he added. The PML-N is seeking broad consensus on the constitutional reforms, recognizing that unity among parties is crucial for the nation's interest, he highlighted. By building alliances and fostering cooperation, Siddiqui hopes to create an environment conducive to passing the amendments. This collaborative approach demonstrates the PML-N's commitment to prioritizing the country's well-being over individual interests, he mentioned.

Bilawal Invites Public To Weigh In On PPP's Bold 26th Amendment Proposals

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has called for public suggestions on improving the 26th constitutional amendment, sharing his party's proposed draft and inviting input for judicial reforms.



In a series of tweets on Saturday, Bilawal emphasised that the proposed amendment aligns with the unfinished agenda of the Charter of Democracy. He stated, "We propose the establishment of a federal constitutional court with equal representation from all federating units."

Advocating for a new system that merges judicial and parliamentary committees to ensure equal roles for the judiciary, parliament, and the legal community, Bilawal also mentioned that the PPP had shared its draft proposal with the government months ago and recently with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) and a special parliamentary committee. "We are in productive talks with opposition parties, including JUI-F, to reach a consensus," he added. The PPP chairman invited citizens to submit "valid and meaningful suggestions" to further improve the amendment. He stressed that the party had already launched a broad nationwide consultation campaign, engaging political parties, bar associations, and civil society in the process. Bilawal expressed hope that the consultations would lead to a unified draft, paving the way for broad political consensus to pass the 26th amendment. "We believe a joint draft could form the foundation for wider political agreement," he stated.—RT/Agency

Governor Sindh, MQM Leaders Hold Critical Talks With PM

ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and a delegation of Mutahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) on Saturday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



During the meeting, the current political situation in the country was discussed. The MQM delegation included Dr Farooq Sattar and Syed Aminul Haq, PM Office Media Wing said in a

press release. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Azam Nazeer, Adviser to PM Rana Saadullah and Khawaja Saad Rafique.—RT/Agency

THE HEARTLAND



LARKANA: SMBMMU VC, Prof Dr. Nusrat Shah along with Chairman of the Institute S. Iqbal Babu and others is inaugurating a photo exhibition at the Chandka Institute of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences.—Photo By Nadeem Soomro

Nawab Taimoor Talpur urges cadets to lead disciplined lives for success

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: Cadet College Petaro recently bid a heartfelt farewell to Cadet Talha Nadeem Bajwa, a bright and ambitious student of Class XII, Liaquat House, who tragically lost his life in a road accident in Bahria Town, Karachi, on September 29, 2024.



To honor his memory, the college organized a Fateha Khawani and Obituary Service, attended by Talha's family, college faculty, military and civil staff, and distinguished guests. The ceremony commenced with Fateha Khawani at the College Masjid after Juma Prayer, followed by a memorial service at the College Auditorium. Family members and entry mates shared heartfelt tributes to Talha's resilience, ambitions, and energy. Nawab Muhammad Taimoor Talpur, Member Provincial Assembly of Sindh, advised cadets to lead disciplined lives to avoid similar painful incidents. Commodore Faisal Iqbal Qazi Sitara e Intiaz (Military), Principal Cadet Col-

Recovery of abducted student demanded in Khairpur

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: Fourteen days after high school student Abdul Faheem was abducted, his family is in distress, with his parents deeply worried and his mother frequently fainting. Abdul Faheem, from Goth Muhammad Saleh Katohar in UC Gajo, was reported missing to the B Section Police, but no progress has been made in locating him. Local leaders revealed that the kidnapers are demanding a significant ransom, which Abdul Faheem's father, a poor laborer, cannot afford. Abdul Kareem Katohar has appealed to police and local political figures for assistance in safely recovering his son, also requesting intervention from higher authorities, including the Sindh Inspector General of Police and the DIG Sukkur.



Special Task Force raids drug factory, arrests three



By Hakim Baloch

JAM NAWAZ ALL: The Special Task Force against drugs, led by DSP Dr Muhammad Moosa Abro, conducted a raid at a gaska factory in the Muzka Khaskheli village near Tando Adam. The operation resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of prepared gutka and machinery, along with the arrest of three suspects. During the raid at the residence of Mukhtar Ali Khaskheli, police recovered over 700,000 PKR worth of gutka, including more than ten bags filled with illegal substances. The arrested individuals including Mukhtar Ali Khaskheli, Ali Sher Khaskheli, and Shaukat Khaskheli face charges under the Narcotics Act. DSP Dr Muhammad Moosa Abro stated that the Sindh government, under the direction of the IG Sindh, is actively pursuing a campaign against drugs to rid the province of narcotics and protect the youth. He assured that any police officer involved in drug-related activities would face action, emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy towards drug dealers.

Hundreds of caravans to take part in PPP's Hyderabad rally: MNA Javed Ali Shah Jilani

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: Pakistan People's Party's senior leader and Member of National Assembly, Syed Javed Ali Shah Jilani, stated that thousands of caravans from across Pakistan will participate in a rally in Hyderabad on October 18 to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy. He emphasized that the people will never abandon the party of the martyrs and democratic values, noting that the existence of the PPP was established by these martyrs. Jilani



highlighting that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is regarded as a great leader not only in Pakistan but across the region. He accused anti-democratic elements of orchestrating her assassination. He stressed that no party can succeed without a clear ideology, asserting that the PPP's success is rooted in its strong principles. Preparations for the October 18 rally are underway across the district, and a large turnout from PPP workers is expected for what will be a historic event.

Over 5400 students compete in SAU's entry test for Undergraduate Admissions 2024-25

By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: More than 5,426 candidates from across Pakistan participated in the entry test for Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tando Jam, for undergraduate admissions in the 2024-25 academic year. The entry test, conducted on Saturday at four different centers, included 955 female candidates among the total of 5,426 participants, all competing for various undergraduate programs. The test centers were established at Public School Hyderabad, Public School Sukkur, SAU Campus Umerkot, and the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUTEMS), Quetta. According to the university's official statement, 4091 candidates, including 631 females, appeared at the Hyderabad center. At Umerkot campus, 579 male and 77 female students took the test, while 566 male and 57 female candidates



participated in Sukkur. In Quetta, 54 male and 2 female candidates took the test. The entry test consisted of 100 multiple-choice questions (MCQs), which candidates had to complete within 100 minutes. The seat allocation for successful candidates includes 1,785 seats at the main campus, 318 at the Umerkot campus, and 220 at other centers. Strict security measures were in place at all test centers, including walk-through gates and the deployment of police and university security personnel to ensure a smooth and safe testing environment. Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, Dr. Fateh Marri, visited the main test center at Public School Hyderabad to oversee the arrangements. He praised the excellent management and commended the enthusiasm of the candidates. Dr. Marri further stated that the inclusion of women in the agriculture sector is a game-changer and that the university is committed to providing every possible opportunity for their success in this field. Senior faculty members, deans, and heads of administrative departments were also present at the event.

Migratory cranes being hunted openly in Mirpur Sakro, locals demand protection for them



By Hyder Shah

MIRPUR SAKRO: In a shocking incident at Dandri Lake, hundreds of migratory cranes have fallen victim to hunters' gunfire. Many cranes were killed, and several others were injured. The scene was distressing as injured cranes were seen fluttering in the air. The cranes, which migrate from Siberia and arrive in Pakistan's coastal areas, flocked to the extensive Dandri Lake area near the Indus River and coastal beaches. Local hunters armed with guns flocked to the area to hunt them, despite efforts from local residents to stop them. The residents expressed their sorrow over the mass killing of the cranes and called upon wildlife officials to ensure the protection of these migratory birds.

Providing health services is a top priority of the Sindh government: SACM Syed Qasim Naveed



By Abdul Sattar

TANDO MUHAMMAD KHAN: Providing health services is our primary responsibility. Due to inflation, rural residents are deprived of medical treatment. Following the directives of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, efforts are underway to improve the performance of hospitals across Sindh. These remarks were made by Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh, during a visit to the Taluka Hospital in Bulri Shah Karim. During his visit, Qamar emphasized the provision of basic health facilities through PPPHI in Bulri Shah Karim and surrounding areas. He also assured immediate assistance for the construction of wards by the Bulri Shah Karim Rice Mills Association and for ground filling on both sides of the main entrance gate by the Town Committee. Additionally, he promised the installation of a new 100 kV transformer by HESCO.



TALHAR: Leader of PPP's Ladies Wing Badin District, Sharf-un-Nisa Junejo is presenting a traditional gift of a Lungi to President of PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuhro.—RT

Meeting on Sindh Employees Social Security Institution held in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: An important meeting regarding the Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI) was held in the committee room, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Badin, Yasir Bhatti. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Yasir Bhatti emphasized that SESSI is a leading social institution focused on providing various social and financial services to laborers and their families in Sindh. The institution targets workers in private sectors, including rice mills, sugar mills, petrol stations, brick kilns, private hospitals or schools, vegetable and tomato markets, and hotels. Any private establishment employing five or more workers must register with SESSI. To facilitate this, the Labor Department will set up awareness desks in each



taluka next week for one week, allowing employees of private enterprises to register. The institution offers financial support to workers during illness, ensuring they receive necessary resources to improve their lives and those of their families. For more information, the SESSI website (www.sessi.gov.pk) can be visited. The meeting was also attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Dalpat, all Assistant Commissioners, and officers from other relevant departments.

DIG Syed Pir Muhammad Shah, DC Fayaz Husaain Abbasi review arrangements for women's marathon

By Absar Alvi

SUKKUR: A separate marathon race for women has been announced on December 25, as part of the Kotdiji-Sukkur Marathon 2024. The women's marathon will stretch over a distance of 10 kilometers, starting from Babro to Public School Sukkur. DIG Sukkur Pir Muhammad Shah made the announcement while chairing a meeting on marathon race arrangements, accompanied by Commissioner Sukkur Fayaz Husaain Abbasi at commissioner's office.



Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Sukkur added that the city will host a marathon on December 25, featuring two events. The men's category will comprise a 42.195-kilometer marathon from Kotdiji to Sukkur, while the women's category will feature a 10-kilometer run from Babro to Public School Sukkur. He said that this is a national event aimed at showcasing the world that we have no shortage of talent. He further stated that to ensure participant safety, medical check-ups will be facilitated through the presence of 1122 ambulance services, doctors, medical staff, and essential medications during the marathon. He pointed that the road from Bhurgani to Garhi Bridge is severely damaged and falls short of national standards, requiring urgent upgrades. He sought cooperation from the Motorway Police officers for arrangements for the closure of one side of N-5 traffic from Therli to Babro for 3 hours and assured that additional police personnel will be provided if there is a shortage of staff. He further stated that first aid camps will be established at various locations for the marathon race. These camps will be set up at intervals of either 10 kilometers or 5 kilometers, and the final decision will be made in the next meeting. Commissioner Sukkur, Fayaz Husaain Abbasi, directed that the repair work on Sukkur Barrage should be suspended on the day of the marathon and the historical site should be decorated. He also instructed the DC and DHO of Khairpur to arrange for medical check-ups and deploy doctors and paramedics for the local participants of the marathon.

He directed that work should be initiated immediately to improve the road conditions at various locations between Kotdiji and Sukkur. Additionally, the road from Kot Bungalow to Shah Abdul Latif University should be cleared before December 25. If funds are not available for road repairs, an urgent request should be made under M&R (Maintenance and Rehabilitation). Time is extremely limited, therefore, the road repair work must be completed on time. No compromise will be tolerated in this matter, he added. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Khairpur Syed Ahmed Fawad Shah, Additional Commissioner One Muhammad Amir, Regional Head 1122 Gulam Mustafa, Deputy Director Sports Mir Muhammad Kalhoro, XEN Sukkur Barrage Muhammad Zahid Mughal, Deputy Director Sukkur Irrshad Ali Memon, Additional DHO Khairpur Dr. Muhammad Rafique, Agha Haroon from Lok Sahaita, and officers from Motorway Police, among others.

Mehar Court brawl over property dispute leaves nine injured

By Murtaza Panhwar

MEHAR: In Mehar, a property dispute erupted into a violent brawl between two groups, injuring nine individuals during a court hearing. The chaos unfolded at the main gate of the Mehar court premises, resulting in the area resembling a battleground. Among the injured were Nawab Maheser, Abdul Rasool Maheser, Mehboob Liaquat, Sarfraz, Intiaz Maheser, Shoukat, and Deedar Khoso. They were taken to the Taluka Hospital in Mehar for treatment. Despite the violence, police response was delayed, taking over half an hour to arrive as the two groups clashed within the court premises. During the altercation, attempts were made to snatch a rifle from a police officer on duty, who managed to retain it. Four police officers eventually apprehended three of

the assailants. Former Mehar Bar Secretary Advocate Saeed Panhwar stated that incidents of violence have become common due to a lack of police presence in courts, citing a similar incident last year that resulted in the deaths of three individuals, including two brothers. The failure of Mehar police to enhance security in the court has allowed such violent occurrences to continue unabated.

NATIONAL



SOUTHERN PUNJAB

Punjab Government Boosts Public Welfare Programs In Toba Tek Singh



By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In Toba Tek Singh, Brigadier (Ret) Babar Alauddin, Chairperson of the Evaluation and Feedback Directorate, announced that under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's leadership, the Punjab government has actively pursued public service improvements over the past nine months. He emphasized the monitoring of services in agriculture, health, education, and municipal sectors during a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sindh reported that implementation of the Chief Minister's 78 public welfare initiatives is ongoing, with a focus on feedback and follow-up. Alauddin stated that political interference in government departments has been curtailed, and e-tendering is resulting in lower contract rates. He highlighted ongoing upgrades to rural health centers, aimed at bringing healthcare to residents' doorsteps, and introduced the 'Apna Ghar Apni Chhat' scheme providing interest-free loans for housing.

Additionally, measures are being taken to inform the public about illegal housing societies. Alauddin stressed the importance of public trust in government offices and urged officers to actively meet their targets. He underscored the need for community participation in health and school councils to ensure high-quality provision of basic necessities. Notably, a media briefing by Alauddin was postponed by the local administration, likely due to concerns about potential questions regarding government issues.

PTI's D-Chowk Protest During SCO Conference A Conspiracy: Governor Kundi

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday said that the announcement of a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest at D-Chowk during the conduct of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference is part of a conspiracy. He criticized PTI for consistently pursuing an agenda against the country and collaborating with enemies of the state. Kundi emphasized that they will not allow any plots to destabilize Pakistan to succeed and urged PTI to retract their call for protest on October 15.



Talking to media here, Kundi pointed out the significance of the upcoming international conference, saying that Pakistan aims to present a positive image to the world. He expressed concern that PTI's protest coinciding with the conference is detrimental. Kundi reiterated that if PTI's demands will align with the constitution, they will be addressed, recalling that the establishment of a constitutional court was announced by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.—RT/Agency

Military Intervention Not Needed In Balochistan: CM Bugti



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarda Saifurazam Bugti has emphasized the importance of creating a consensus against terrorism, stating that there is no need for military operations in the province. Speaking to media at the Civil Hospital in Quetta on Saturday, Bugti asserted, "Balochistan is a vast province, and we will defend every inch of the state."

He highlighted the recent surge in terrorist activities, pointing out that militants often target soft targets in the region. "Recently, individuals have been martyred in Balochistan as terrorists seek out these vulnerable targets. In Turbat, our forces successfully intercepted a vehicle loaded with explosives," he added. Bugti expressed grave concern over the ongoing violence, stating that mere condemnation of terrorism is insufficient. "If resigning could stop terrorism, I would do it in a heartbeat. My resignation is not a significant action, I will remain the chief minister as long as the provincial assembly desires."

He reiterated the necessity of fostering agreement within the assembly to address the issue of terrorism, stating, "Tomorrow, we will attempt to achieve a consensus against terrorism in the assembly, and we will bring all matters to the forefront." The chief minister stressed that military operations are not required in Balochistan, as the federal government is fully supportive of the province. He mentioned that search operations have been ongoing since the recent Duki incident, though he promised to disclose further details later. Bugti noted that the adversary is leveraging modern technology for their operations and confirmed that six individuals involved in the murder of the Deputy Commissioner of Panjgur have been killed. He also pledged to increase financial assistance for the families of victims of terrorism.—RT/Agency

Punjab Ministers Commend Efforts In Educating Disabled Students

By Dr Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain and Provincial Minister for Education Sikandar Hayat commended the efforts of the Deaf and Dumb Welfare Association in Gujranwala for educating hearing-impaired individuals. They emphasized that those working towards the betterment of humanity, especially by empowering disabled individuals through education, hold a high status in this life and hereafter. They spoke during a ceremony to award a medal to Fiza Zahra, a student from the National Institute for Deaf, who secured third position in the DSE exams conducted by the Punjab Technical Education Board. The event was also attended by the school principal Javeria Nauman and Chairperson of the Punjab Technical Education Board, Sahibzada Wasima Umar.



THE HEARTLAND

Thar coal project victims demand justice

By Ashraf Kunhar

MITHI: Thar coal project victims and social activists, including Riyam Lanjo and Sohrab Soomro, held a press conference at the Thar Media Center, revealing that the Sindh government has collected 24 billion rupees in royalties from coal projects, which remain unutilized for over two years. They emphasized that the people of Thar have sacrificed their homes and agricultural land for national development, yet they have not benefited from the electricity generated from these projects. They called for the



royalties to be used to address basic issues in Thar, asserting that local communities have a legal right to this funding. The activists highlighted the lack of essential services such as clean drinking water and healthcare in the region and expressed concern that the government might misallocate these funds. They urged elected representatives and civil society to join the campaign for the rightful use of Thar coal royalties.

BISP Chairperson Visits Faisalabad Payment Campsite To Address Beneficiaries' Issues



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, visited the BISP Dynamic Registry Center and Payment Camp Site in Faisalabad to address the concerns of beneficiaries. During her visit, she addressed the women who had come for registration and collection of payments, reiterating that BISP does not charge any survey fee, said a news release received here. She emphasized that 8171 is the only official BISP number through which messages are sent to eligible women, and any message from a different number should be considered fraudulent. For complaints related to deductions or corruption, beneficiaries should contact the BISP Helpline at 0800-26477. Senator Rubina Khalid stated, "The purpose of my visit to Faisalabad is to understand the issues faced by eligible women."

During her visit, she met with the women, listened to their concerns, and issued instructions to BISP staff for the immediate resolution of these issues. The women expressed their gratitude to Senator Rubina Khalid for addressing their concerns and taking prompt action.—RT/Agency

Man Dies In Police Custody Following Arrest

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: Zafraol police have come under scrutiny following the death of Zeeshan Qaiser, a clerk for Advocate Talha Samran, who allegedly died in custody. Zeeshan, known as Shani, was arrested a few days ago for drug dealing and was

booked under case number 1439/24. Police sources reported that Zeeshan's health deteriorated and he was rushed to THQ Hospital, where he could not be revived. However, his family claims he suffered severe police torture, which they allege led to his death. Following this incident, locals and family members recorded a protest demonstration. They demanded that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Inspector General of Punjab take notice of their son's death, call for a judicial inquiry, and file charges against those responsible. There is widespread anger and grief in the community over this incident.

ADC Nawab Sameer Laghari chairs meeting for reduction in public transport fares

By Farooq Junjo

SHAHEED BEN-NAZIRABAD: A meeting regarding the reduction of public transport fares was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Nawab Sameer Laghari. He stated that due to the government's reduction in fuel prices, transport operators must ensure a decrease in fares. Nawab Sameer Laghari instructed



that if transporters do not reduce fares, action will be taken against them. He also directed Secretary Regional Transport Authority Haroon Jamali to inspect various routes daily and impose fines on those charging excess fares, as well as to ensure that the extra fare collected is refunded to passengers. Other relevant officials were also present at the meeting.

Armed Robbers Steal Livestock Worth Rs 5 Million In Toba Tek Singh

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: In a shocking incident near the Saddar Gojra Police Station, unknown armed robbers stole livestock worth approximately 5 million rupees from two landlords at gunpoint. The

robbery occurred last night in Chak No. 351 JB Kalyan Das, where the robbers arrived in a truck and took about 20 valuable animals, including cows and buffaloes, from the farms of landlords Abdul GhaFar and Munawar. When the workers attempted to resist, the robbers assaulted them before loading the livestock onto the truck and fleeing via the motorway. DSP Akhtar Ali Wains and SHO Saddar Hakim Ali responded to the incident and gathered evidence at the scene. No formal case has been registered yet.

Clash Erupts At Gojra Land Record Center

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A physical fight broke out at the Land Record Center in Gojra between two staff members, Faheem and Haris, drawing the attention of clients and colleagues. The dispute escalated during duty hours, leading to punches and kicks being thrown, along with serious threats and insults. Reports indicate that Faheem called in some associates to join the fray, but other staff and clients intervened to defuse the situation. Citizens have called for strict action from higher authorities, particularly against Faheem for disrupting the office environment and involving outsiders in the altercation. Sources suggest the conflict stemmed from a disagreement over alleged spoils taken by one of the employees.

369th Annual Mela of Shri Ramdev Pir continues in Tando Allahyar

By Afaq Khanzada

TANDO ALLAHYAR: The 369th annual Mela of Shri Ramdev Pir is underway from October 11 to 14, attracting pilgrims from Sindh and India. Many arrive on foot, carrying the Ramdev flag, especially those whose wishes are fulfilled. With the absence of Kishore Kumar Parmani, event arrangements are managed by the Leela Ram Jadani Mandir committee. SSP Tando Allahyar Abrez Ali Abbasi has deployed over 100 police officers and a bomb disposal team to ensure security. Leela Ram Jadani commended the district administration for their efforts and highlighted the provision of cold water camps for pilgrims. Various shops and attractions will conclude with a final celebration and prayers on October 14.



29th Urs of Hazrat Baba Nazar Shah (RA) celebrated in Tando Adam



By Mumtaz Ali Tahim

TANDO ADAM: The 29th annual Urs of Hazrat Baba Nazar Shah (RA) was celebrated with great fervor at his shrine in Hamdabad, alongside the Tando Adam railway line. The shrine was washed with rose water, and a ceremonial chadar was laid. Artists from across Sindh performed Sufi poetry, filling the atmosphere with devotion and joy. The event was attended by notable figures, including Sardar Rana Mukhtiar, Malik Gulzar Hussain, Muhammad Hameer Qureshi, Baba Faqir Muhammad, and others. The gathering enjoyed the celebrations. The event concluded with a collective prayer, asking for the integrity of Pakistan, the recovery of flood victims, and solutions to issues facing the Muslim world. Many participants came from remote areas, alongside political and social leaders from Tando Adam, showcasing a strong community presence.

MONEY

Sindh Outpaces All Provinces in Tax Collection Despite Lower Rates

KARACHI: Sindh's tax collection has outperformed all provinces this year, according to the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB), despite a lower tax rate. Chairman of the Sindh Revenue Board, Wasif Memon, revealed that the target for the previous financial year was set at Rs235 billion, but the province managed to collect Rs237 billion. He added that for the current financial year, a target of Rs350 billion has been set. In an exclusive interview with media on Saturday, Memon noted that the restaurant sector has been increasing, particularly after the implementation of the Point of Sale (POS) system, which has seen tax collection rise from Rs20 million to Rs80 million. He explained that an eight per cent tax is applied to card payments, while a 15 per cent tax is levied on cash payments. Some restaurant owners have expressed their objection to the higher cash payment tax, insisting they would only charge 15 per cent. Memon emphasized that technology is being utilized to combat tax evasion. He also mentioned that this financial year, intra-city goods transporters have been included in the tax net, as well as educational institutions and hospitals, which is expected to further boost the province's revenue.—RT/Agency



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EDITORIAL

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Sunday, October 13, 2024



A perennial source of embarrassment for Pakistan

The Pakistan cricket team, once a symbol of national pride and a formidable force in the cricketing world, now finds itself in a state of disarray. What was once a team that evoked fear and admiration on the pitch has become a laughing stock, unable to string together consistent performances. Their recent series of defeats, including a whitewash by Bangladesh and a humiliating innings loss to England despite scoring over 500 runs in the first innings, has left fans and experts questioning the state of the game in the country.

The problem isn't just about losing matches; it's about a systemic decline. Pakistan cricket has long been known for producing world-class talent and thrilling matches, but now the team appears to lack direction, consistency, and mental resilience. Frequent second-innings collapses have become a painful routine, and despite efforts to improve physical and mental fitness, little progress has been made. The

leadership, both on and off the field, seems unable to stop this downward spiral.

With six consecutive Test losses under their belt, it's clear that the current setup isn't working. The failures of the Test team are mirrored by struggles in limited-overs cricket, and there are growing calls for a complete overhaul. Pakistan cricket does not just need minor adjustments; it requires a serious, thoughtful rebuilding process. The mighty have indeed fallen, and the road back to greatness will be a challenging one, but without decisive action, the future of Pakistan cricket remains bleak.



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THE HEARTLAND



49th death anniversary of former CM Sindh Pir Illahi Bux observed in Dadu

By Javed Laghari

DADU: The 49th death anniversary of former Sindh Chief Minister Pir Illahi Bux was held at Pir Illahi Bux Law College in Dadu. Retired Justice Abdul Rasool Memon, as a special guest, addressed the gathering of hundreds, highlighting that Pir Illahi Bux's contributions are well documented in history. He encouraged students to pursue law as a noble profession and mentioned his own journey from journalism to becoming a justice. Noted writer and educationist Dr. Dar Muhammad Pathan stressed the need for a research institute dedicated to his legacy and proposed the establishment of a District Historical Society to honor him. Deputy Commissioner Dadu Mukhtar Ali Abro spoke about Pir Illahi Bux's lasting impact, recalling his critical role in political decisions during his tenure, including his opposition to the



centralization of Karachi. He noted that despite political challenges, Pir Illahi Bux viewed politics as a form of worship and contributed significantly to education in Sindh. Professor Dr. Syed Azhar Ali Shah, Vice Chancellor of Naushero Feroze Campus, emphasized Pir Illahi Bux's commitment to public service and his pivotal role in the Khilafat Movement. He served as the first Minister of Revenue and later as Minister of Education, founding several educational institutions in Sindh. The ceremony featured speeches from various dignitaries, including provincial assembly member Barrister Peer Mujibul Haq and other legal professionals, who reflected on Pir Illahi Bux's life and legacy. The event was hosted by Bakht Mehranvi, with the Pir family presenting guests with shields, ajraks, lungis, and caps as gifts. The gathering also remembered Pir Illahi Bux's friendships with prominent leaders like Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Sain GM Syed.

Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli chairs meeting for Karsaz tragedy memorial



By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A meeting chaired by District Chairman Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli was held at the District Council Office in Umerkot to discuss the upcoming gathering organized by the Pakistan People's Party in Hyderabad on October 18, 2024, in honor of the Karsaz tragedy martyrs. During the meeting, the District Chairman emphasized that the leadership, including Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Adi Faryal Talpur, and Nisar Ahmed Khuro, has directed that workers from the district be mobilized for maximum participation in the Hyderabad rally. He outlined his responsibility to ensure all party members are informed about this directive. The meeting was attended by elected members of the District Council, Union Council Chairpersons, Vice Chairman Mian Khalid Wadhari, District President Sufi Nawaz, Information Secretary Burhan Kumbhar, and Taluka Presidents Allah Bachayo and Aijaz Rahu.

JSQM protests for transfer of male staff from GGSS Thul

By Khair Muhammad Golo



THUL: In Thul, a protest was held by JSQM demanding the transfer of male staff from the Girls Higher Secondary School. The protest included strong slogans and a sit-in, with a call for the appointment of female staff at the school. According to reports, the demonstration began at the JSQM House and moved to Rahbar Chowk, where the protesters blocked the road and raised slogans. Speaking to the media, leaders Mama Shaman Soomro, Comrade

Liaquat Surki, Waseem Qureshi, Akhtar Jaffari, Bashir Lashari, Gulmir Buriro, Dada Qureshi, and others stated that male staff have been appointed at the Girls Higher Secondary School instead of females, which is incorrect and causing considerable distress. They demanded that the principal and the entire staff at the Girls Higher Secondary School be female; otherwise, their protest would continue.

SHRC Chairman Iqbal Ahmed Detho visits District Jail Dadu

By Javed Laghari



DADU: The Chairman of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, Iqbal Ahmed Detho, visited Dadu and the District Jail, where he met with prisoners and addressed issues raised by an inmate, Yasin Rind, who is visually impaired. Rind protested against the Mehar police, alleging they filed a false case against him. Chairman Detho took notice of the situation, stating that human rights violations would not be tolerated and demanded a report from the Dadu police regarding the case. He emphasized the need for an investigation into why a case was registered against a blind person. During his visit, Detho also commented on the issue of child marriages in Dadu and Sindh, acknowledging that such practices persist. He called for an investigation

into reported statistics on child marriages, particularly concerning 45 minor girls. Furthermore, the Chairman provided training to police officers about the Child Marriage Act, emphasizing its illegality and the responsibility of law enforcement to prevent such marriages. He also informed officers about laws regarding domestic violence, underscoring that abuse can affect not only women but also children and men. Present during the visit were various officials, including child protection officer Syed Hidayat Ali Shah, probation officer Habibullah Soomro, and others involved in child protection and legal training.

Collective Efforts Needed for Implementation of Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act: Tehseen Fatima

DADU: A crucial consultation meeting was convened at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Dadu to address the enforcement of the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013. The meeting gathered key stakeholders, including representatives from district government departments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and prominent community members. The session was presided over by Tehseen Fatima, Secretary of the Human Rights Department, alongside Iqbal Detho, Chairman of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, Agha Fakhur Hassan, Director of Human Rights, Agha Fakhruddin, and Mukhtar Abro, Deputy Commissioner of Dadu. Representatives from the Sindh Human Rights Commission and various NGOs



also contributed significantly to the discussions. The primary focus of the meeting was on developing collaborative strategies to eradicate child marriage in Sindh, particularly in the Dadu district. Discussions highlighted the importance of enforcing the law, raising community awareness, and fostering greater cooperation between government and civil society to safeguard children's rights. Key participants included law enforcement officials, educators, and healthcare professionals, all committed to the shared goal of protecting the future of Sindh's children. Special emphasis was placed on enhancing monitoring mechanisms and providing legal and psychological support to victims. The Human Rights Department reiterated its commitment to ensuring the effective implementation of the law and extended gratitude to all stakeholders for their active involvement in this critical initiative.—RT

Pediatric Conference at LUMHS addresses child health trends

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The Department of Pediatrics at Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences held a two-day conference at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad, focusing on "Current Emerging Trends in Pediatric and Neonatology." The event was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ikramuddin Ujjan and featured discussions on childhood illnesses by renowned experts. Participants included family physicians, postgraduates, and pediatricians. On the first day, topics such as maternal and infant malnutrition were addressed, alongside a quiz activity among institutions. Prof. Dr. Shazia Memon, Chairperson of the organizing committee, emphasized the need for collaboration among health stakeholders to tackle basic child health issues like malnutrition.



She pointed out the rising number of children with complex care needs due to multiple conditions, stressing the importance of comprehensive care that goes beyond single-disease focus. Experts highlighted the challenges faced by children and families in accessing adequate psychological support and health education, underscoring the need for a holistic approach to child health care.

Construction of Kandhu Kalhoro Road demanded in NWM



By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: Due to recent heavy rains, the Kandhu Kalhoro Road near Nawab Wali Muhammad has become severely damaged, leaving residents distressed. This road connects several villages to Nawab Wali Muhammad city, and its poor condition is hindering emergency access to hospitals for patients. Additionally, students from various villages, including Lal Bux Brohi and Kandhu Kalhoro, are facing difficulties reaching schools and colleges in Nawab Wali Muhammad and other cities. Local residents are urging their elected representatives to reconstruct the Kandhu Kalhoro link road to alleviate their hardships.

Pakistan Youths Movement protests against artificial water shortage in Bolhari



By Shaikh Sindhi

KOTRI: Pakistan Youth Movement held a protest in front of the main gate of the Municipal Committee Bolhari in Kotri, opposing the artificial water shortage and the tanker mafia affecting various wards. Led by Abdul Sattar Luhr, Shahbaz Memon, and others, the protesters expressed their frustration to the media, highlighting that communities just a few kilometers from Karachi Wah are deprived of essential water services. Instead of proper water lines, residents are forced to buy water from tankers. The protesters vowed to continue their struggle until the artificial water crisis in Kotri's various colonies is resolved, condemning those who support the tanker mafia.

Sukkur Police holds an awareness session on women's rights

By Salman Ali

SUKKUR: An informative awareness session about women's law, its implementation and mechanism, was organized by DIGP Sukkur Syed Pir Muhammad Shah at IBA University Sukkur, the second largest university in Pakistan. This session was conducted by the "Women and Children Protection Cell" range Sukkur (WCPC) make women & children aware their basic right and laws, through which how can they get relief from their issue by using proper platforms, aiming to bring this process to a fingertip touch. In the session, the

WCPC mobile app/web was introduced. DIGP Sukkur Syed Pir Muhammad Shah informed the students and faculty about the features of this app, how it facilitate women at their home, where they may get rapid response from Sindh Police, which was highly appreciated by the Sindh Police's initiative.

SPORTS



Harry Brook has everything to be England's finest: Anderson



MULTAN: England batter Harry Brook has all the attributes needed to overtake the country's highest run-scorer in Test cricket, Joe Root, and former top order batter Kevin Pietersen, bowling great James Anderson said.

Pakistan's Asim Khan, Aashab Irfan advance to final of Mile High 360 Squash Classic

KARACHI: Pakistan's Muhammad Asim Khan and Muhammad Aashab Irfan secured their places in the final of the Mile High 360 Squash Classic after winning their semifinal matches earlier on Saturday.



Khan overcame fellow Pakistani Noor Zaman in a dramatic five-game contest, coming from two games down to win 6-11, 8-11, 14-12, 11-9, 11-2 in 96 minutes.

The final will feature an all-Pakistani clash between Khan and Irfan. Earlier, Khan faced a challenging quarter-final against second seed Cesar Salazar of Mexico.

Women's national football team finally gets clearance for SAFF Championship



KARACHI: In a positive development, the women's national football team finally received on Saturday a no objection certificate (NOC) to participate in the SAFF Women's Championship.

Over-hyped players lose touch with reality, Arthur warns Pakistani stars

KARACHI: Former Pakistan cricket coach Mickey Arthur has expressed concerns over the impact of excessive promotion of players, stating that it distances them from reality and makes them believe they are more important than they actually are.



He also pointed out the harmful role of media-driven narratives, describing how the media's negative rhetoric can hurt the team noting that the "vile rhetoric from media and media-driven agendas do not help".

Arthur warned that the promotion of players by agents or the media, which he believes gives them a false sense of importance.

PCB will conduct fitness tests of four players before second Test against England



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to conduct fitness tests for four national team players ahead of the second Test match against England, set to begin in Multan on October 15.

Plimmer's half-century helps New Zealand thump Sri Lanka

SHARJAH: Georgia Plimmer's anchoring half-century powered New Zealand to a thumping eight-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the 15th match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 here at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Saturday.



Sri Lanka then suffered a massive blow to their batting expedition as both Athapaththu and Samarawickrama perished in quick succession, leaving their side reeling at 76/3 in 14.2 overs.

She remained the top-scorer for New Zealand with a well-crafted 53 off 44 deliveries, laced up with four boundaries.

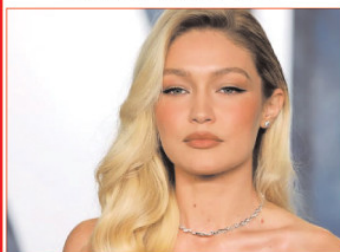
Face of the Day



Name: Azeem Saim Location: Gujranwala About me: I love to study and write Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Gigi Hadid steps out in show-stopping looks in NYC



Gigi Hadid strutted down the runway in show-stopping looks from top designers like Versace and Moschino. However, the model was in much more low-key on Friday as she grabbed lunch in New York City.

America's sweetheart Taylor Swift and boyfriend Travis Kelce drop 'major' hint amid engagement rumours



Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce appeared to be more "loved-up" than ever during their double date night with Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds.

REGIONAL TIMES

THE HEARTLAND



MNA Ayaz Ali Shah Sheerazi condoles death of journalist Habib Rehman Mewati

By Kamran Hidayat

SUJAWAL: PPP MNA Syed Ayaz Ali Shah Sheerazi and Town Committee Chairman Syed Aftab Shah Sheerazi expressed their condolences on the passing of young journalist Habib Rehman Mewati, son of senior journalist Akhtar Ali Mewati. During the occasion, Ayaz Shah Sheerazi stated that the Sheerazi brothers are committed to serving the public without any distinction, regardless of whether they are friends or opponents.

Chairman Aftab Shah Sheerazi approved the construction of a road in Ward No. 2, attended by respected citizens, journalists, and local residents.

Additionally, MNA Syed Ayaz Ali Shah Sheerazi visited the his-



toric public library in Sujawal. He expressed great happiness at seeing 65,000 invaluable books, including copies of the Quran in 26 languages. He noted that daily, local students come to the library to request materials for CSS preparation and various publications, emphasizing that a love for books can lead to a

bright future. The public library has been in existence since 1961, supported by the local government, and its caretaker, Haji Abdul Aziz Mendhro, has played a significant role in making it well-known in the region. Plans are underway to install a solar system and provide internet facilities at the library soon.

Forum in Khairpur advocates for rights of female agricultural workers

By Naeem Shaikh

KHAIRPUR: The Nari Foundation Sukkur, in collaboration with the Sindh Human Rights Commission and other organizations, held a Provincial Advocacy Forum at the Press Club to empower female agricultural workers in Sindh. Speakers stressed the need for technical experts to enhance the Women Agricultural Workers Law, urging prompt implementation of its rules. Advocates and local leaders discussed the challenges faced by female workers, noting that the draft of the Sindh Women



Agriculture Workers Act 2019 has been sent to the Law Department for review. They highlighted the need for revisions due to the law's shortcomings and the hasty passage. Council members shared their expe-

riences, emphasizing the struggles of women in agriculture. The Nari Foundation called on Bilawal Bhutto to ensure the law is reviewed and implemented to protect the rights of female agricultural workers.

Chandka Institute of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences holds an exhibition



By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: An exhibition showcasing the first batch of Doctor of Physical Therapy and BS Nursing students was held at Chandka Institute of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences. Students presented over 20 projects on topics such as muscle tissue, circulatory system, fertilization, and more. The event was attended by notable guests,

including Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Medical University, Professor Nusrat Shah, and other officials. They toured the exhibition, where student group leaders provided briefings on their projects. Professor Nusrat Shah praised the students' work, noting the institute's commitment to providing quality education and training. She highlighted the impor-

tance of practical exposure in medical education and encouraged collaboration with universities and other institutions for enhanced learning opportunities. The Vice Chancellor commended the Chairman, S Iqbal Babu, for his significant contributions to the institute, emphasizing that both profitability and performance are vital for success in the private sector.

TEO Samaro leads rally to pay tribute to Pak Army's martyrs

By Muhammad Bachal

UMERKOT: A large rally was organized in Samaro, led by TEO Primary Muhammad Choupan, to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army. A significant number of teachers and students participated in the rally, which started from Shah Latif Chowk and concluded at the National Press Club Samaro. During the event, participants raised slogans such as "Long Live the Pakistan Army" and "Long Live Pakistan," honoring the sacrifices made by the soldiers. Speakers, including senior teacher Shoukat Qamrani, Ashfaq Johio, Chane-sar Kapri, Rashid Ali Arain, Haji Ismail Zulfiqar Khuro,



Asif Punjabi, and others, expressed their solidarity with the army, emphasizing that they would always stand with it as it is the true asset of the nation and is constantly working to protect the country. A large number of students also joined the rally.

Khairpur Journalists' Alliance demands provision of funds for press clubs



By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Chairman of the Khairpur Journalists' Alliance, Ghulam Hussain Chang, President Jamal Mahmood Khuro, and General Secretary Hussain Bux Kubar expressed concern that the annual funds allocated to press clubs by the District Council of Khairpur have been suspended for 20 years, which they deemed unjust. Speaking at a meeting of the jour-

Awareness Event on Free Treatment for Congenital Clubfoot Held at SAFCO Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: An awareness event on the free treatment of congenital clubfoot was organized at SAFCO Hyderabad, where medical experts from Prime Medical Specialists Group and Prime Hospital Bahria Town, including Dr. Shafiq Musyri, Muhammad Afzal Qureshi, and Tayyab Ahmed, shared valuable insights on the condition and its treatment.

During the event, Dr. Musyri emphasized the importance of early detection, advising mothers, delivery nurses, and midwives to be aware that if a child is born with a twisted foot, it can be corrected painlessly within a month, free of cost. However, delays in treatment could increase costs, and if left untreated for years, multiple expensive surgeries may be required.

The doctors urged parents to bring children with clubfoot to their hospital in Karachi for free treatment, ensuring the child avoids permanent disability. They



highlighted that surgeries, which usually cost lakhs, are provided at no charge as part of their campaign to raise awareness and encourage early intervention. Dr. Musyri also noted that prenatal ultrasounds can detect clubfoot, and post-birth symptoms include short, wide feet, downward heels, upward-pointing forefeet, stiff heels, and tightened shin tendons.

SAFCO Group founder Suleman G. Abro expressed gratitude to the doctors, commending Dr. Musyri and his team for their dedication to this noble cause.

Shopkeepers deprived of their valuables in Tando Jam



By Irfan Khushk

TANDO JAM: At the main railway crossing in Tando Jam, four unknown robbers on two 125cc motorcycles targeted local shops. They first stole 50,000 rupees in cash and a mobile phone from Parkash Kumar's confec-

tionery store. Following this, they robbed Rustam Talpur's cement agency of 100,000 rupees and a mobile phone. The robbers then assaulted Gulshar Marr's grocery store, where they made off with cash in the millions and additional mobile phones before fleeing the scene easily.

District and Sessions Judge Nadeem Badar Qazi visits hospital and libraries in Moro



By Akhtar Laghari

MORO: The District and Sessions Judge of Naushehro Feroze, Nadeem Badar Qazi, visited Moro Hospital, where he interacted with doctors and staff, checked patient attendance, and reviewed medications. He assessed the hospital's cleanliness and addressed patient complaints, also noting the delay of the 1122 ambulance service. Judge Qazi also visited the Culture Center and Mehran Citizens Club libraries, praising their importance. He emphasized that officials assigned to public service should play an active role to address social issues. Chairman of the Municipal Committee Moro, Nazir Ahmed Memon, and other key leaders were present during the visit.

JUI-F rallies for peace in Shikarpur

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: The JUI-F Shikarpur organized a peaceful march against escalating crime in the district, led by district chief Maulana Abdullah Mahar, Maulana Muhammad Tayyab Mekho, Ameer Ali Jatoi, Hafiz Rafiq Ahmed Shar, and Agha Shamsuddin Pathan. Thousands of activists and citizens participated in the march from Madrasa Taj-ul-Uloom to Lakhidar, culminating in a protest at the square, where participants held placards demanding peace and displayed party flags. In their speeches,

the district leaders accused the elected representatives of Shikarpur of conspiring to plunge the area into chaos. They stated that the situation in the district has deteriorated to a point where no one's life, property, or honor is safe. People now hesitate to leave their homes, fearing abduction, robbery, or murder. Leaders voiced the anguish of the common people, questioning where they could turn for relief. They criticized local MNAs and MPs for prioritizing politics over public safety, claiming that these representatives enjoy law and order.

Daily reports of kidnapping, robbery, and killings have become commonplace, with innocent children still held captive by criminals, causing panic in their homes. The leaders demanded that the DPO of Larkana, SSP of Shikarpur, and other officials take urgent and decisive action to restore law and order.

Badin fishermen protest against Kamal Shah's arrest

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The Pakistan Fishermen Forum and local fishermen protested against the arrest of Syed Kamal Shah, uncle of the Pakistan Fishermen Forum Chairman, Syed Mehran Ali Shah. They accused authorities of political retaliation and violating the sanctity of homes during a

police raid. Protesters claimed police severely tortured women and children during the incident and called for investigations by Sindh's Chief Justice, Chief Minister, and IG Sindh Police. Mehran Shah stated that Kamal Shah, brother of the Late founder Muhammad Ali Shah, has long advocated for fishermen's rights and opposed drug trafficking. He condemned the police for allegedly registering a false case against his uncle at the behest of political rivals. Shah warned that such misuse of power could have serious repercussions for the People's Party and announced plans for a wide-spread protest across Sindh against these actions.

SPSF President Mansoor Ahmed Shahani advocates for constitutional court

By Saleem Soomro

LARKANA: In a press conference at the Larkana Press Club, SPSF President Mansoor Ahmed Shahani announced the party's support for establishing a constitutional court, backed by peaceful student marches across Sindh. He called for unity among political parties

to strengthen democracy and expedite justice for ordinary citizens, noting over 52,450 pending cases in the Supreme Court. Shahani emphasized that this demand is historically rooted, dating back to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1931. He expressed disappointment over resistance from university vice chancellors regarding the restoration of student unions, which the student wing had previously advocated for. The conference followed a rally organized by the student wing, highlighting their commitment to educational rights and promoting healthy activities in institutions, while opposing weapon culture.

Services of Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Siyal lauded in Sakrand



By Zeeshan Soomro

SAKRAND: District President of the Pakistan People's Party, Salim Khan Zardari, praised Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Siyal for his multifaceted contributions as a writer, poet, teacher, and activist during a ceremony honoring his PhD in Sindhi literature. He expressed intentions to return to the

school with party colleagues to further acknowledge Dr. Siyal's achievements.

Dr. Muhammad Sadiq Siyal, Secretary of the Thalassemia Patients Welfare Society, highlighted that Dr. Siyal completed his PhD at 56, emphasizing that education has no age limit and determination leads to success. District Education Officer Muhammad Saleem Bhatti

noted that Dr. Siyal's accomplishment elevated the department's prestige. Various personalities presented Dr. Siyal with shields, shawls, and gifts during the event, which also featured speeches by Ghulam Nabi Channa, Kashif Noorani, and Madam Shehnaaz Lakho. Other attendees included Adam Khan Jamali, Maroof Bhatti, and others.

Daulatpur man protests against Police harassment

By Aijaz Johio

DAULATPUR: In a demonstration at the Daulatpur Press Club, a laborer named Ghulam Muhammad Khaskheli expressed concerns over police harassment by the Daulatpur police. He alleged that the police, acting on behalf of influential individuals, had filed false drug-related charges against him, severely disrupting his life and livelihood. During the protest, Khaskheli stated that he is a laborer struggling to support his family but is constantly hindered by



police roadblocks and unwarranted legal actions. He claimed to have sworn on the Quran in front of the SSP and DSP, affirming his innocence in any wrongdoing. Khaskheli appealed to SSP Tanveer Tunio and other high-ranking officials to dismiss the false charges and provide him with protection.

471st Urs of Hazrat Pir Rukanuddin Shah (RA) celebrated in Matiari

By Sajjad Ali Abbasi

MATIARI: The annual Urs of the great Sufi saint Hazrat Pir Rukanuddin Shah (RA) was celebrated with deep reverence and respect. The event was marked by the

shrine's caretakers, Syed Pir Allahyar Shah Hashmi and Syed Pir Ameer Ali Shah Hashmi, who laid a ceremonial chadar and offered prayers. Hundreds of devotees from across Sindh participated in the celebrations. Syed Pir Allahyar Shah Hashmi emphasized that Hazrat Pir Rukanuddin Shah (RA) memorized the Quran at the age of 15 and illuminated with his teachings, being a perfect saint throughout his life.

METRO KARACHI



REGIONAL TIMES NATIONAL

Imran Tessori Appointed Chairman Of Pakistan Gems & Jewellery Traders And Exporters Association

KARACHI: Imran Tessori, a leading figure in the gold and jewellery sector, has been unanimously appointed as the Chairman of the Pakistan Gems & Jewellery Traders and Exporters Association (PGJTEA). Tessori has pledged to tackle the industry's pressing challenges and focus on boosting jewellery exports from Pakistan.



Currently, Pakistan's gold jewellery exports stand at USD 12 million, but Tessori aims to elevate this figure to USD 5 billion, contingent on government support and reforms, particularly the modification of SRO 760 to meet exporter demands. A proposal for these changes has already been submitted, and while discussions with relevant ministries have taken place, progress has been slow.

Tessori, who also serves as an advisor to the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) on Government Affairs, Trade, and Foreign Investment, has been actively involved in the business community. He has previously contested FPCCI elections for the position of Vice President. In his new role, Tessori has committed to working closely with all industry stakeholders to address their concerns and enhance the sector's contribution to Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, thereby supporting the country's economic recovery.—RT

Sindh CM Approves Key Reforms, Increases Minimum Wage For Labourers



KARACHI: The Sindh Government has approved a significant increase in the minimum wage, raising it to Rs 37,000 during a provincial cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah. The session also focused on improving policing across the province.

Under the new reforms, 407 police stations across Sindh will receive allocated budgets, with Station House Officers (SHOs) authorized to utilize special funds. Police stations in different categories will have tailored budgets, with Category A stations in Karachi receiving Rs 15.2 million. SHOs will be permitted to spend up to Rs 0.2 million per month.

The cabinet also approved amendments to the rules of the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC), allowing for the creation of a waiting list for vacant positions. In addition, nine dispensaries in Tharparkar will be operated in partnership with NGOs, and the Health Department plans to abolish 731 vacant posts. During the meeting, the cabinet also called for a halt to the excessive fines being imposed on the public by electricity distribution companies.—RT

Political Interests, Not Principles, Driving Constitutional Amendments: Farooq Sattar

ISLAMABAD: MQM Pakistan leader Farooq Sattar has stated that the proposed constitutional amendments were being made not on principles but based on political interests.



In response to a question about supporting the proposed amendments, Sattar noted that the MQM has yet to see the draft of the constitutional reform.

He further explained that the amendments being introduced were influenced by political necessities, noting that if the PTI were in power, they would also propose similar amendments. Sattar added that the PTI was also in agreement on enhancing the role of Parliament in the appointment of judges and constitutional courts.—RT/Agency

Karachi Airport Blast Tied To Foreign Intelligence Agency

KARACHI: A preliminary investigation into the recent explosion near Karachi's Jinnah International Airport suggests foreign intelligence agency involvement in the attack, according to a report submitted by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) to an anti-terrorism court.



The report indicates that the suicide bombing, which targeted Chinese engineers, was part of a broader conspiracy aimed at undermining Pakistan-China relations. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) has been identified as a key player in orchestrating the attack.

Police and Rangers personnel rushed to the scene following the explosion, which left three people dead, including two Chinese nationals, Li Jun and Sun Huazhen. More than 12 individuals were injured, including Waqar, Ilyas, Naeem, Rano Khan, Azeem, Tariq, Ali, Hamza, and Sabih. The explosion also caused the destruction of 15 vehicles. A case has been registered at the Airport Police Station, and the CTD report includes charges of murder, attempted murder, terrorism, and the use of explosives.—RT/Agency

International Lawyers Forum Urges National Referendum On 26th Constitutional Amendment

KARACHI: The International Lawyers Forum (ILF) has called for a nationwide referendum on the proposed 26th Constitutional Amendment, raising concerns about the credibility of current parliamentarians and the lack of unity among political parties.



Addressing the media, ILF Chairman Nasir Ahmed Advocate stressed that public confidence in the existing political leadership is at an all-time low. He pointed out that unresolved election disputes in the courts have further complicated the country's political situation. "Given the current parliamentary and political turmoil, the most appropriate step is to allow the public to express their views directly through a referendum," said Nasir Ahmed. He argued that with the ongoing lack of national cohesion and the significance of this constitutional amendment, relying solely on parliamentary procedures may not accurately represent the people's will. The 26th Constitutional Amendment could bring significant changes to Pakistan's governance framework, and the ILF believed that a referendum would ensure transparency and restore public trust in the democratic process. The ILF's appeal comes amid rising political tensions, with both government and opposition factions struggling to reach an agreement. The forum hopes that a referendum would offer a more democratic and inclusive resolution to the current political deadlock.—RT

Sialkot School Trip Tragedy: One Student Killed, Several Injured In Islamabad Bus Crash

ISLAMABAD: A school trip took a tragic turn when a bus carrying students from Sialkot on Saturday involved in an accident at Shakarparian, Islamabad.



According to a spokesman for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, one student lost his life, and seven others sustained serious injuries in the crash. The incident occurred when the bus, en route from Sialkot, veered off course at Shakarparian after the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle.

All injured students were promptly transported to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and Polyclinic Hospital for medical treatment. The district administration confirmed that the students were receiving the necessary medical care. In the aftermath, transport arrangements have been made to safely return the remaining students to Sialkot. Officials stated that they are working closely with both the school administration and Sialkot district authorities to ensure the students' safe journey back home.—RT/Agency

Coal Miners Strike Following Duki Terror Attack

DUKI: Labour organisations have gone on strike, with coal miners ceasing operations to protest the deadly terror attack in Duki earlier this week.



According to media, former provincial minister and central leader of Pash-tunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) Nawab Ayaz Jozgezi, along with others, held a press conference demanding protection for workers. They threatened to halt work if their demands were not met. District President of the Labour Federation, Ambar Khan Yousafzai, stated that work would remain suspended until workers' safety is ensured, expressing sorrow over the tragic incident in which 20 miners were killed the previous day. PKMAP leader Nawab Ayaz Jozgezi described the killing of workers in Duki as a heartbreaking incident. District authorities reported that the as-killed and around eight were injured. He added that this incident is neither the first nor the last, as such occurrences are increasing daily. "For 76 years, the small nations in this country have been exploited," he said. District authorities reported that the as-killed and around eight were injured. He added that this incident is neither the first nor the last, as such occurrences are increasing daily.—RT/Agency

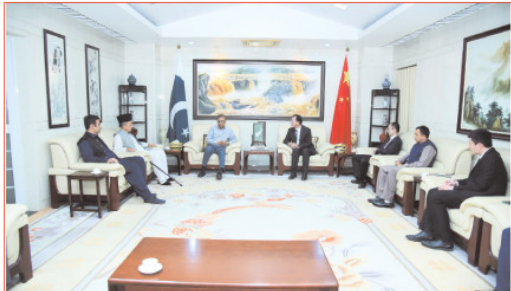
Ibrahim Hyderi Police Arrest PFF leader Kamal Shah For Drug Offences



KARACHI: In Karachi's Ibrahim Hyderi area, police conducted a raid on the home of fishery leader Kamal Shah and arrested him. His family claims that police personnel entered the house without a lady search officer, assaulted the women, and violated the sanctity of the home. Kamal Shah has been falsely accused of drug offenses, and his son, Siraj Shah, stated that this action was taken in retaliation for his father's writings against the drug trade in the area. Local dignitaries condemned the police's actions and demanded the immediate release of Kamal Shah. Meanwhile, the SHO of Ibrahim Haidari claimed that Kamal Shah is a drug dealer with several pending cases against him. This incident has drawn significant attention from authorities.

By Asif Qureshi

PTI Delegation Visits Chinese Consulate In Karachi To Offer Condolences



KARACHI: A delegation from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) visited the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi to express condolences over the tragic loss of Chinese nationals in the recent Karachi airport blast. Led by former President Dr. Arif Alvi, the delegation included Senior Vice President PTI Firdous Shamim Naqvi, Mustafa Karani, and MPA Rehan. Dr. Alvi conveyed his deep sorrow over the incident, noting that such acts aim to disrupt the strong ties between Pakistan and China and to distract from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. "We value our friendship with China, and I was the first head of state to visit China post-COVID-19, where I met President Xi. This reflects the vision of Imran Khan, who has always admired China's rapid development," Alvi stated. Firdous Shamim Naqvi also extended condolences on behalf of PTI, emphasizing the bond between the two nations. He reiterated that the focus should remain on the Belt and Road Initiative, which has the potential to transform the region. Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong welcomed the PTI delegation and expressed gratitude for their unwavering support and continued solidarity with China.—RT

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Lift Seeker Turns Robber, Karachi Man Mugged At Gunpoint



KARACHI: A woman posing as a hitchhiker robbed a man in the Korangi area on Friday night, amid the growing wave of street crimes in the city. The incident occurred around 8 pm near Singer Chowrangi, when the victim, riding a motorcycle, offered a lift to a "veiled elderly woman." Upon reaching Korangi No. 5, the man asked her to dismount, as his route home diverged.

However, the woman pulled a gun from her handbag, pressed it against the man's chest, and demanded his belongings. The victim handed over his mobile phone and Rs5,000 in cash. After the robbery, the woman fled with the assistance of three male accomplices, who had been trailing the motorcyclist on two bikes since the offer was made. The victim has lodged a complaint with Awami Colony Police Station, urging authorities to take swift action against the culprits. Street crimes continue to plague Karachi, with over 50,000 cases reported by the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) between January and August this year. The true figure is believed to be higher, with many incidents going unreported. On average, 208 criminal cases are reported daily in the city, with mobile phone, car, and motorcycle thefts being the most frequent. In addition to the loss of valuables, 100 individuals have lost their lives, and nearly 500 others have been injured due to armed robberies.—RT

Pakistan To Send Humanitarian Aid To War-Torn Palestine And Lebanon

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has invited bids from reputable air cargo companies for charter flights to transport humanitarian aid to Palestine and Lebanon.



The authority sought two charter flights, each capable of carrying approximately 100 tons of relief supplies. To participate in the bidding process, interested air cargo companies must be registered with the Income and Sales Tax departments. The bid application forms can be downloaded from the NDMA and PEPPRA websites. Bid documents, along with instructions and terms as part of its humanitarian support for the regions affected by Israeli attacks. The charter flights will transport essential relief supplies, including food, shelter, and medical equipment, to support affected communities in Palestine and Lebanon.—RT/Agency

Selected bidders will be announced on the same day in the presence of the bidding companies. Sources said that Pakistan will send 200 tonnes of relief supplies to Palestine and Lebanon.

Gandapur's Absence Demoralized PTI Workers: Atif Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Atif Khan said that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amin Gandapur's absence demoralised party workers during their protest at Islamabad's D-Chowk. The workers should have been communicated clearly to hold just a protest or stage a sit-in, Atif Khan added.

He said that after all that, the PTI workers are disappointed. Expressing concerns over the party's current trajectory, Atif Khan said that currently they are lacking clear direction and decision-making. To a question, he said the PTI cannot be eliminated by the forces who want to do so.—RT/Agency

"Do not compare yourself to others. If you do so, you are insulting yourself."

—Adolf Hitler

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SUNDAY OCTOBER 13 2024

IMF Alarm Bells: Pakistan Trails Regional Neighbors In Living Standards

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has underscored "the need for urgent" policy reforms in Pakistan in its recent staff report, saying that the country has failed to match the living standards of its peers in the region, media reported on Saturday.

"Pakistan has been falling behind its peers in recent decades in terms of income per capita, competitiveness, and export performance. From 2000 to 2022, Pakistan's GDP per capita grew at an average annual rate of only 1.9%," the report read.

As per the report, Pakistan's peers achieved more than twice the aforementioned growth of 4.5%. India reached 4.9%, Vietnam 5%, and China a growth of about 7.5%," the Washington-based lender stated.

The IMF has reviewed the last 10 years of its sponsored programmes in Pakistan and acknowledged that



underlying challenges have persisted, recommending enhanced ownership as a key lesson learned.

The IMF evaluated Pakistan's performance over the past decade. During this period, Pakistan had three upper credit tranche arrangements and one use of the Rapid Financing Instrument under the General Reserve Account (GRA).

These programmes were generally initiated against the backdrop of weak external conditions or unprecedented external shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic

and floods, combined with prolonged fiscal and external vulnerabilities, along with structural challenges. Although early progress was often made due to stronger policies under fund-supported programmes, this progress was not sustained, leading to the re-emergence of imbalances and the need for successor programmes.

To be effective, programme conditionality needs to evolve to capture emerging risks and policy issues. For the new Extended Fund Facility (EFF), this is particularly important. During the 2013 EFF, reform efforts weakened, leading to 13 waivers being required. While spending and external borrowing were initially contained, large future borrowing commitments set the stage for the re-emergence of imbalances.

It has emerged, under the IMF's \$7 billion EFF, Pakistan has accepted 22 conditions, including a written commitment to phase out incentives for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by 2035.

The government will prepare a phased plan by June 2025 to eliminate all current SEZ incentives. Additionally, Pakistan has agreed to adjust gas tariffs by the end of December 2024 and impose a 5% Federal Excise Duty (FED) on fertilisers and pesticides in the 2025-26 budget.

To enhance the anti-corruption framework's effectiveness, the government will amend the Civil Servants Act by February 2025.

Brace For Impact: Petrol and Diesel Prices Set To Soar In Upcoming Review

KARACHI: The price of petroleum products is likely to rise up to Rs10 per litre in the upcoming review in the wake of a spike in global petroleum prices, media reported on Saturday.

According to estimates from the oil sector, petrol price may surge by Rs3-4 per litre, while the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) is expected to increase by more than Rs10 per litre.

The price of HSD is expected to increase by more than Rs10 per litre in the next price review, following a spike in global oil prices.

The demand for petroleum products, particularly HSD, has surged significantly in recent days, driven by expectations of the upcoming price hike in the next fortnightly review.

According to insiders in the oil sector, the rise in HSD demand is unexpected, as there was no significant increase in demand from the industrial or agricultural sectors.

"The surge is primarily due to dealers hoarding petroleum products, especially HSD, in anticipation of a price hike," they explained.

Industry experts noted that the average daily sale of HSD has jumped to 24,000



litres, compared to the usual 16,000-17,000 litres per day. They dismissed claims that the government's crackdown on smuggling has contributed to the increase in legal HSD sales.

"It is mainly hoarding by oil marketing companies (OMCs) and dealers aiming to maximise profits before the expected price hike," they said.

A top official at a refinery confirmed the recent surge in HSD sales.

"We are selling more HSD than usual, but we're unsure if this is due to hoarding by oil marketing companies or dealers ahead of the price increase," the official said.

He added that the true demand for HSD will become clear after the price review, which will show whether the increased sales are driven by

genuine demand or hoarding. In recent months, the country has faced an oversupply of diesel due to low consumption. HSD demand has dropped from 750,000 tonnes per month to just 500,000 tonnes, driven by several factors, including smuggling. "With reduced demand, local refineries can easily meet about 80% of the country's needs," the Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) wrote in a letter to the government a while back.

The letter opposed the government's decision to allow a private oil marketing company to import HSD. "There is no justification for importing excessive HSD, yet imports were allowed in three months, leading to a serious glut and operational challenges for local refineries," the OCAC had said.—RT/Agency

'Political Terrorism': Ahsan Iqbal Slams PTI's October 15 Protest Plans

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday strongly condemned the PTI's D-Chowk protest call for October 15, when the two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit is set to begin, as "political terrorism," aimed at maligning the country and stopping its development and economic progress.

The PTI has announced the suspension of its protests in Punjab and issued a nationwide call urging party leaders and workers to converge in Islamabad on Oct 15. The PTI has also demanded immediate action for party leaders and family members to its founder, Imran Khan, who is incarcerated in Adiala Jail. The government earlier banned visits to prisoners at Adiala Jail until Oct 18 due to security concerns related to the high-profile SCO summit.



Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the planning minister expressed disappointment at the timing of the PTI's protest coinciding with the SCO summit, which he said was a great honour for the country.

"Now there is no doubt, that terrorism in Karachi and political terrorism protest calls are similar," the minister said adding that the "scriptwriter" was the same person who on one hand was using terrorists to carry out

economic recovery efforts. It's crucial to acknowledge the damage caused by these actions and consider the consequences of supporting policies that hinder Pakistan's growth and development," he urged.

The minister said the country cannot afford to indulge in destructive politics. "Just because PTI's leader is jailed, doesn't justify chaos," he said.

The minister said that it was a proud moment for Pakistan to host the SCO summit on Oct 15-16 and a significant diplomatic achievement for the country.

Separately, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said while speaking to the media in Sialkot that the courts should take notice of the protest call, saying they were bound to do so.

"The state will use all its power, resources and might ... to stop this attack at the

country's repute," he said, adding that the government would not allow anyone to sabotage the SCO moot.

"Absolutely not," the defence minister vowed.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Amir Muqam also strongly rejected the PTI's protest call.

"It is proof of anti-nationalism. There is no doubt that PTI's agenda seemed to be anti-Pakistan because PTI has declared the protest on this important occasion."

He added that the PTI "once again showed its real face as the meeting of SCO is very important for Pakistan."

The minister noted that in any case, the protest could not be allowed on the occasion and the protest call was "condemnable and very sad," adding that protests and processions could be held at any other time.—RT/Agency

Abbasi Fires Back Against Controversial Constitutional Amendments

ISLAMABAD: Senior politician Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has strongly opposed the proposed 26th Constitutional Amendment, stating that undermining the judiciary's independence is not a solution to past mistakes.

In a statement on the proposed amendments, Abbasi, an Awam Pakistan Party leader, voiced concerns over the government's actions, questioning its mandate.

He warned that the proposed amendment would severely impact the judiciary's autonomy.

"The proposed law allowing the transfer of High Court judges will be used to put them under pressure," Abbasi said, further stating that this would weaken the protection of citizens' fundamental rights.

He also criticised the introduction of a Federal Constitutional Court, suggesting it would diminish the role of Supreme Court judges.

Abbasi also raised alarms over the potential expansion of military court trials, describing them as a direct assault on civil liberties.

"Destroying judicial independence is not a remedy



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

He added that the public had rejected the government's initial draft.

The constitutional package aims to establish a federal constitutional court and set a three-year tenure for the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). The government initially attempted to present the amendments last month, but faced resistance from both allies and opposition members, prompting a consultation process.—RT/Agency

Pakistan Army Shines With Gold At UK's Elite Cambrian Patrol 2024

LONDON: The Pakistan Army Cambrian Team has won gold in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2024 by securing the highest points 864 in Ex CP-24 and defeated 118 teams representing Europe.

The 67 Punjab Regiment won the gold medal by securing the highest-ever 864 points in the competition which also included teams from entire Europe. 67 Punjab Regiment participated in the event for the second consecutive year after standing first in the Pakistan Army's internal competition. The premier patrolling event has been running for over 60 years and is the British Army's principal All Arms



Patrol Exercise. It is open to all three Services (Regular and Reserve) and international participants. Army and Air Adviser UK Col Taimur Rahat said that Cambrian Patrol is the world's most challenging test of basic soldiering skills, especially under



fatigue, sleep deprivation, and stress. Participants are assessed on their performance, individual training, robustness, and leadership, he said, commenting on Pakistan's win.—RT/Agency

PM Shehbaz 'Confident' In Preparations Ahead Of Crucial SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad on Saturday to review arrangements for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, scheduled to be held on 15th and 16th of this month.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar and other relevant authorities also accompanied the prime minister. The prime minister was briefed by the CDA chairman

and officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the arrangements being made for holding the SCO Summit. Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction over the arrangements.

Earlier, Shehbaz Sharif visited the capital city to review the arrangements being made for the summit yesterday. The prime minister was briefed on the reception arrangements for the guests attending the SCO Summit.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi briefed the prime minister about the arrangements.—RT/Agency

Adiala Jail Dismisses Rumors Of VIP Treatment For Imran

ISLAMABAD: A jailer at the Adiala prison has rebutted the reports about the change of the cell or barrack for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, media reported.

Khan has not been shifted to a new cell or barrack, he is still staying where he is being kept, Adiala Jail Superintendent Ghafour Anjum told the publication in an exclusive conversation.

The deposed prime minister has been incarcerated at the facility for over a year since his arrest in case related to state gifts.

the jail. "Shaukat Khan Hospital doctors came to the jail, examined his teeth and gave medicines which made him healthy. He did not complain of hemorrhoids or any other such ailment after coming to prison," he added.

Khan is imprisoned under better-class (B-class) facilities with high security due to his status as a former premier. He is facing several cases, including the £190 million reference, the Toshakhana case and others. Anjum termed the speculations about Khan's health baseless, saying that the cricketer-turned-politician "works out for about three hours intensively without interruption".

Dar Heads To Karachi For High-Stakes Talks On Constitutional Amendment

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar will visit Karachi tomorrow (Sunday) to hold meetings with the parliamentary parties in order to bring consensus for the much-talked-about constitutional amendment.

According to sources, Dar will meet the MQM leadership at its office in Bahadurabad.

The deputy prime minister would be accompanied by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, former minister

Mohsin Naqvi Demands Crackdown On Criminal Gangs In Capital

ISLAMABAD: In a formal oath-taking ceremony held at the Ministry of Interior on Saturday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi administered the oath to the newly elected officials of the Islamabad Crime and Interior Reporters Association.

The event brought together prominent figures from both journalism and the government, underscoring the vital role of crime reporting in safeguarding public interests.

The association's key leaders included were Chairman Shakeel Qarar, Vice Chairman Naem Janjua, President Qamar Al-Manawar, and Secretary General Zulqarnain Haider stood at the forefront, pledging their commitment to upholding the values of journalism and integrity.

Other notable office-bearers who took the oath included Senior Vice President Adil Tanoli, Vice Presidents Naem Asghar and Bilal Afridi, Information Secretary Nasir Butt, and Finance Secretary Saqib Syed.

During his address, Minister Naqvi congratulated the new office bearers and praised the association for its critical role in bridging the gap between the media and



core of every investigation and report. "I am confident that this association will lead by example in promoting fact-based, responsible reporting, which is crucial for both the security and awareness of our society," he said.

With increasing challenges faced by reporters, especially those covering crime and corruption, Minister Naqvi reassured journalists that their safety would be a top priority. "We are committed to ensuring that every journalist, especially those in the field, has the protection they need to do their job without fear. You have my full support," he promised.

The ceremony concluded with a renewed sense of purpose, as the journalists vowed to continue their mission of holding those in power accountable while shedding light on the darker corners of the city.—RT/Agency