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Ahsan Iqbal Vows To Tackle MQM-P's Uproar Over Controversial Constitutional Amendments

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) leader and Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Prof Ahsan Iqbal, has said that he arrived in Karachi on the Prime Minister's directives, where Muttahida Quami Movement-P (MQM-P) was taken into confidence regarding the proposed constitutional amendments.



He assured that any concerns would be addressed.

Speaking at a joint press conference with MQM-P, Ahsan Iqbal remarked that no democratic party can oppose these amendments.

He stressed that parliamentary affairs should not be dictated by judicial rulings, as political decisions by courts can lead to instability in the country.

Ahsan Iqbal criticised the judiciary for its involvement in political matters, stating that the removal of governments through Article 58-2(b) ended with its repeal, but the courts began intervening again. He emphasised that the judiciary should remain separate from political affairs.

He further remarked that Pakistan's development journey was halted when the PML-N government was ousted. He accused the judiciary of overreaching its authority, referencing the dis-

qualification of Nawaz Sharif and the dismissal of Hamza Shehbaz's government by a few judges.

The federal minister also criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s governance, claiming it pushed the country to the brink of bankruptcy. He appreciated MQM-P's support over the past 26 months, acknowledging their role in backing the government.

MQM-P leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui stressed the importance of working together in the future. He highlighted that their discussions covered constitutional amendments, Article 140-A, missing persons, and independent power producers (IPPs).

Earlier, PML-N and MQM delegations met, where Federal Law Minister

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to withdraw its October 15 protest call in the "larger national interest".

The deputy PM remarks came as the country is all set to host Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting slated to be held on October 15 and 16 in Islamabad wherein significant issues would be discussed under the SCO framework.

Talking to journalists after his visit to review arrangements for the upcoming CHG-SCO meeting, Dar said that for the sake of politics, it was not good for the political party that had been repeating the same scenario of 2014. Due to their protest,



Chinese president's visit had been postponed.

It had already crossed all the red lines in the past and attacked the state institutions, Dar observed and stressed upon its leadership to rectify its wrong decision. The deputy PM said that certain countries had requested for bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the CHG-SCO which were finalised.

Afghanistan had neither been invited to nor participated in SCO meetings.

Therefore, he said, Pakistan could not take decision alone in this regard as the decisions were taken on the SCO forum by the member states.

Dar, to another question, said Pakistan is a host to CHG-SCO and would fully meet the responsibility.

About the North-South and South-South connectivity with the relevant countries were in progress and continuing on the bilateral and multilateral levels. But within the SCO framework and protocol, certain matters would be discussed under specific scope of discussions and within its contours, he further clarified. He said that the entire region required integration

and peace and it was the core objective of the PML-N leadership including former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, besides it was also included in the PML-N manifesto.

He enumerated the incumbent government's efforts to bring down inflation ahead of the target set for the next year.

Dar advised those quarters who had been claiming that Pakistan was in diplomatic isolation to reassess their projections as Pakistan had become a hub of regional trade and investment and referred to the recent visits of Malaysian premier and the Saudi delegation.

With the SCO member states, matters related to the trade and commerce had also been discussed continuously, he added.—RT/Agency

Government Urges PTI To Ditch October 15 Protest 'For The Sake Of National Unity'

Crackdown Begins: Over 35 PTI Activists Detained In Lahore Ahead Of Planned Protests



LAHORE: In the much-anticipated protest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) scheduled for October 15, Lahore Police have intensified their efforts and arrested more than 35 party activists from various locations across the city, media reported on Sunday.

As per the details, the Punjab police conducted raids in several areas, including Defence, Kot Lakhpat, and Johar Town, targeting individuals believed to be involved in organizing the protest.

The police operation is part of a broader strategy to

maintain order and prevent any disruptions as Pakistan is set to host the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit on October 15-16.

PTI leadership has announced the protest to voice concerns regarding political grievances, which has heightened tensions between the party and law enforcement agencies.

In light of these developments, police officials have emphasized their commitment to ensuring public safety while also respecting citizens' rights to protest.—RT/Agency

PTI Torn Apart By Internal Rift Over Bold Protest Plans Amid Critical SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur are among the minority in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) political committee who are against holding a protest at D-Chowk on October 15.



Saner elements in PTI are trying to get the protest call withdrawn. They believe it is not in the interest of Pakistan to hold such a protest on the occasion when many foreign dignitaries will be attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in the capital city.

Asad Qaiser, Hamid Khan and Raouf Hasan are also among the minority that believe it is not in the interest of Pakistan to hold such a protest. Ali Muhammad Khan though not a part of the PTI's political committee, is also upset with the protest call for October 15.

PTI sources have said that Shehbaz Gill, Hamid Azhar, Khalid Khurshid and Hafiz Farhat are leading the hawkish elements, who prevailed in pursuing the political committee to give a call for protest at the D-Chowk Islamabad for October 15—the first day of the two-day SCO summit.

A source said a person like Salman Akram Raja also supported the hawkish elements and endorsed the idea of protest in the Red Zone at a time when the SCO leadership would be meeting within a few kilometres from the protest site. The lawyer could not be reached for comments.

As against him, CM Gandapur, who in public appears aggressive, voted against the PTI protest on the occasion of the SCO summit.

Murad Saeed is not a member of PTI's political committee, but he is reportedly the first one to post on "X" about the protest call. The sources noted that the likes of Gill and Azhar use the party's social media to target those in the party who resist decisions like holding a protest at the D-Chowk on October 15 and boycotting the All-Parties Conference. Those who are trying to

get the protest call withdrawn fear any untoward incident or any clash between the PTI supporters and law-enforcing agencies will not be in the interest of Pakistan. It may hurt the SCO summit and upset the high-profile foreign guests, including heads of government.

Three PTI leaders contacted by media, on condition of not being named, said they are trying their level best to call off the October 15 protest in the interest of Pakistan and to pay respect to visiting dignitaries. One of these leaders said the ordinary voters of PTI are not happy with the protest call on the occasion of the SCO summit. The source said many people may not join the protest. He, however, admitted even if it is successful, the protest will be in conflict with the interests of Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Economists Warn: PTI Protest During SCO Summit Could Jeopardize Pakistan's Economic Future

ISLAMABAD: Businessmen and economic analysts on Sunday expressed grave concerns over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call ahead of the highly anticipated Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, urging the party leadership to reconsider and postpone their decision.



As the foreign dignitaries are set to arrive in Islamabad to attend the SCO moot, the former ruling party had announced holding another protest at the federal capital's D-Chowk on October 15.

PTI spokesperson also announced that all district-level protests were suspended given the forthcoming demonstration in the federal capital next week.

The Imran Khan-founded party had launched a series of protests for the "independence of the judiciary"—as the government aims to introduce constitutional amendments—and for the release of its founder jailed at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for more than one year.

channel PTI, economists slammed PTI's protest call during the SCO summit as "self-destructive," citing concerns over economic instability and damage to Pakistan's global image.

The business community in Islamabad stressed that the SCO conference was an important platform to promote regional economic cooperation and hoped that PTI would reconsider the decision to protest for the country's national interest.

Renowned economist Dr Noor Fatima said: "This move will undermine Pakistan's credibility in the international community. We

need to focus on economic diplomacy, not political posturing."

"The SCO conference is an opportunity to strengthen our ties with regional countries," she emphasised. Another analyst, Mirza Ikhtiyar Baig warned that PTI's call may jeopardise the country's chances of benefiting from this platform.

The SCO conference is critical for Pakistan's economic revival. The protest call will only create uncertainty and deter foreign investors," he said, adding that Pakistan needs to showcase its "economic potential, not its political divisions."—RT/Agency

Asad Qaiser Pledges PTI's Support For SCO Summit, Despite Internal Protest Chaos



ISLAMABAD: Former speaker and PTI leader Asad Qaiser said that his party was not intending any harm to the SCO Conference in Islamabad.

"We have concerns over the health of the PTI's founder, no doctor being sent to attend him, we want the party leaders' contact with the chairman," Asad Qaiser said. It is to be mentioned here that the PTI has announced protest on October 15 during the SCO summit in the federal capital. PTI leader alleged that the kidnapping for vote being practiced for passing proposed constitutional amendments' bill. "The government's behav-

iour has been condemnable," he said.

"We are not against the legislation but won't accept any legislation by force," he added. Pakistan hosting the 23rd meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on 15 to 16 October 2024 in Islamabad. SCO member States will be represented by the prime ministers of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as the First Vice President of Iran and External Affairs Minister of India.—RT/Agency

FAFEN Calls For Urgent Political Consensus On Essential Constitutional Overhauls

ISLAMABAD: The Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) has urged political parties to engage in transparent and comprehensive negotiations on proposed constitutional reforms in Pakistan, media reported on Sunday.



Addressing critical weaknesses in the current constitution, Fafen emphasized the need for wide-ranging amendments to strengthen the legislative, electoral, and local government systems.

Fafen highlighted that the ongoing political instability in Pakistan stems from constitutional deficiencies and urged immediate reforms to empower Parliament as the ultimate protector of public interests.

The organization called for amendments focused on enhancing parliamentary authority, ensuring that Parliament plays a central role in safeguarding citizens' funda-

mental rights. Fafen's proposal also stresses the need for public scrutiny in the appointment of constitutional officeholders and recommends empowering the Election Commission to oversee elections for all such offices.

Additionally, they proposed that future reforms address key issues of representation in the electoral system, calling for the Election Commission to have the authority to manage elections in the Senate to prevent conflicts

like the one in 2021.

Fafen also called on political parties to put aside personal and communal differences and prioritize the larger national interest, emphasizing that a strong, independent Parliament is essential for safeguarding democracy and citizens' rights.

The organization reiterated the importance of consensus-building on these reforms to ensure political stability and good governance in Pakistan.—RT/Agency

Gilani Pushes For Robust Economic Ties With Regional Powerhouses

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousof Raza Gilani said that Chinese companies working in Pakistan were contributing positively in the national economy of the country.



Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, he said Pakistan offered immense potential in trade, investment and joint ventures in various sectors.

He said Pakistan wanted to strengthen regional cooperation by fostering stronger economic ties with our partner nations.

Gilani stressed the need to enhance people to people contacts and cultural linkages besides strengthening economic ties for reaching the common goal of an integrated, peaceful and cooperative region.—RT/Agency

He said China has shared its desire with Pakistan in achieving sustainable development goals. bilateral

THE HEARTLAND



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of Jeay Sindh Mahaz are holding a protest demonstration for the acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

-Can you believe this is happening in 2024? Students of GBPS Jareli Bheel getting their education under the open sky



By Ashraf Kunbhar
MITHI: In the village of Jareli Bheel near Mithi, innocent children are forced to study under the open sky due to the lack of school buildings. The Government Boys Primary School Jareli Bheel currently has 73 enrolled students who are sitting under a tree to receive their education. Teacher Ramchand Bheel and local residents have expressed their concerns, urging the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Tharparkar, the District Education Officer (DEO), and elected representatives from Thar to address this urgent issue. They hope to resolve it so that their innocent children can access education in a proper learning environment.



HYDERABAD: Members and leaders of Kissan Welfare Forum are holding a protest demonstration for the acceptance of their demands, at the Hyderabad press club.-RT

Nisar Khuhro Champions Constitutional Courts and Democratic Values at PPP Workers' Convention in Badin

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, President of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sindh, stressed the urgent necessity of establishing constitutional courts, asserting that the PPP is both the creator and protector of the constitution. Speaking at a workers' convention in Badin, held to prepare for the commemorative event for the martyrs of the October 18 tragedy in Hyderabad, he emphasized Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's commitment to ensuring that any constitutional amendments are made through consultation with all political parties.



Khuhro articulated the PPP's ongoing struggle to uphold the constitution and parliament, enhance democracy, and ensure the rule of law. Following the convention, he addressed journalists at the residence of provincial assembly member Haji Taj Muhammad Mallah, accompanied by other provincial leaders and assembly members.

He reaffirmed the PPP's historical fight for democracy and the protection of the rights of Sindh and its people. Khuhro insisted that constitutional amendments are vital for the continuity of democracy, adding that the establishment of constitutional courts is essential. He noted that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is keen to consult all political factions before any constitutional changes are approved.

Clarifying the amendment process, he stated that a unanimous resolution is not required, but the constitutional procedure and member count must be adhered to. Khuhro highlighted the PPP's consistent opposition to anti-Sindh and anti-people initiatives, particularly the amendments in the IRSA Act and the illegal construction of canals from the Indus River. He remarked that the PPP was the first to raise these concerns in the Sindh Assembly.

Moreover, he referenced the party's collaborative efforts with other democratic and political groups to halt the construction of the Kalabagh Dam, which was successfully stopped through a resolution approved in the Sindh Assembly. Khuhro reiterated that the PPP's manifesto prioritizes the development and prosperity of Sindh, with initiatives currently underway. He mentioned the provision of free and advanced healthcare facilities and the ongoing recruitment of teachers based on merit to elevate educational standards. The goal is to establish universities at the district level to ensure every child has access to quality education locally.

Faqir Sahib Khan appointed Spokesperson of Pakistan Global Sufi Council



By Naeem Shaikh
KHAIRPUR: The central leadership of the Pakistan Global Sufi Council, a well-organized representative body formed by the custodians of various shrines, has appointed Khulifa Faqir Sahib Khan Latifi, personal secretary to Sajadnashin Syed Waqar Hussain Shah Latifi of the shrine of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai (RA), as the central spokesperson of the Pakistan Global Sufi Council for the fourth time. This decision was made in recognition of his excellent services over the past three years. Meanwhile, custodians of various shrines, leaders of Latifi Jamaat, the Shah Latif Foundation, intellectual, literary, and social organizations, along with journalists from Khairpur, have congratulated him on this achievement.

SU conducts pre entry test for its Bachelor degree programs at Jamshoro campus

By Munawar Chandio

JAMSHORO: The phase-wise entry test for admission to various bachelor's degree programs for the academic year 2025 began at the University of Sindh, Jamshoro, on Sunday.



A total of 9,787 candidates, including 1,938 female students, took the test in the first phase out of as many as 21,809 candidates seeking admission against almost 11,000 seats in 70 disciplines of bachelor's degree programmes offered by the university. SU Vice Chancellor Professor (Meritorious) Dr Muhammad Siddique Kalhoro reviewed the test process and personally supervised it. He expressed his satisfaction over the arrangements made by various committees for the exam. Prof Dr Abdul Sattar Shah, registrar Dr Mushtaq Ali Jariko, director admissions Prof Dr Ayaz Keerio, Dr Irfana Malal, Dr Misbah Bibi Qureshi, Dr Hamadullah Kakepoto, Dr Khalil ur Rehman Khambhati, Dr Agha Asad Noor, Dr Nek Muhammad Sheikh, Dr Anila Naz Soomro, Dr Rabia Asma Memon, Dr Tania Mushtaq, PD Gulam Shabbir Abbasi, Dr Muhammad Younis Laghari, Dr Kiran Sami Memon, Dr Muhammad Aqeel Bhutto, Dr Ali Nawaz Siyal, Munawar Rajar, Ghulam Saqib Burrito, Engr Sajjad Shah, Engr Murad Shah and others accompanied the VC during his visit. Separate blocks were set up for the 1,938 female candidates at

the Institute of Biochemistry, Institute of English Language & Literature and Institute of Art & Design. The 9,787 male candidates were accommodated in the Faculty of Arts, Department of Media & Communication Studies, Department of Zoology, MA Kazi Institute of Chemistry and Faculty of Engineering & Technology. During the first phase of the entry test, the candidates appeared represented various districts across Sindh, which included Dadu 1,809 candidates including 458 females, Ghotki 598 candidates including 30 females, Jacobabad 292 candidates including 39 females, Karachi division 50 candidates including 21 females, Kashmorelandkot 278 candidates including 20 females, Khairpur Mirs 790 candidates including 93 females, Larkana 710 candidates including 131 females, Matiari 773 candidates including 205 females, Naushero Feroze 1,184 candidates including 248 females, Qambar-Shahdadkot 661 candidates including 123 females, Sanghar 1,411 candidates including 380 females, Shaheed Benazirabad 526 candidates including 95 females, Shikarpur 333 candidates including 54 females, Sukkur 232 candidates including 19 females and 140 candidates including 22 females from Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan. It may be noted that the University received a total of 24,687 online applications this year. Of these, 21,809 were for undergraduate admissions, including 16,209 male and 5,603 female applicants. Moreover, 2,878 candidates exempted from the test have applied for the BS (3rd Year) program, including 1,690 males and 1,188 females.

JSM protests against arrest of Chairman Riaz Chandio

By Mumtaz Ali Tahim

TANDO ADAM: In protest against the arrest of Jeay Sindh Mahaz Chairman Riaz Chandio and the police raid on his house, a demonstration was held on MA Jinnah Road in Tando Adam, led by Taluka President Saddam Khaskheli, Manthar Choliani, and Dr. Zahid Keerio. Jeay Sindh Mahaz workers raised

strong slogans against the arrest of their chairman. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders condemned the police raid and arrest of Riaz Chandio in the strongest terms. They stated that holding protests and rallies is a constitutional and legal right of every citizen. They described Riaz Chandio as a peace-loving and tolerant leader

and alleged that his arrest was an attempt to harass the party's workers. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continuing their peaceful struggle and demanded the immediate release of Riaz Chandio and all other detained national activists. They warned that if their demands are not met, the scope of their protests will be expanded.

HANDS accused of jeopardizing future of educated youths in Larkana

LARKANA: In Larkana District, nine schools built by USAID and handed over to HANDS under the EMO Project RFP#5 are experiencing significant issues due to HANDS's poor performance. These schools include GHS Purnoabad, GHS Karani, GHS Jakhra, GHS Mehrab Sandilo, GHS Haji Abdul Karim Unar, GHS Saudero, GHS Pir Jo Goth, GHS Zakario Mahesar, and GHS Phulpota. Teachers at these institutions are receiving salaries of Rs 14,000, Rs 17,000, and Rs 22,000, which are not competitive enough to attract qualified professionals. Alarming, even peons and sweepers earn the same Rs 14,000, underscoring HANDS's lack of educational expertise. This wage structure negatively impacts the quality of education provided to students. School Coordinators, assigned by HANDS, have expressed dissatisfaction over low salaries and the absence of annual increments for the past three years, violating their contractual agreements. The shortage of qualified teachers persists, as many leave for better opportunities, dismissing the low salary offered by HANDS justifies the low salaries by claiming they signed contracts at minimal costs, reflecting a lack of efficiency in negotiating reasonable pay rates with the government. Staff at these schools face hardships, including illegal salary deductions and delayed payments. Allegations suggest that HANDS operates with a mafia-like mentality, while anyone can join, those wishing to leave often lose their last one or two salaries due to poor management oversight. Currently, the EMO Project RFP#5 continues in Larkana without a Project Manager and with some schools lacking School Coordinators. Over the last four years, five Project Managers have resigned due to unprofessional conduct from higher authorities. The government seems to benefit from organizations like HANDS, leaving their actual performance unassessed. Although USAID-constructed schools may appear successful in photographs, there is little real improvement in student education or teacher effectiveness.—RT

Esteemed Scholar Dr. Dur Muhammad Pathan Honored at 49th Death Anniversary of Pir Illahi Bux

DADU: Professor Dr. Dur Muhammad Pathan, a renowned researcher, educationist, and scholar, served as the keynote speaker at the 49th anniversary celebration of Pir Illahi Bux held at Government PIB Law College in Dadu. During the event, he was presented with a shield by Barrister Pir Mujeeb ul Haq, MPA Dadu and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Law Colleges of Hyderabad Division. Also in attendance was Pir Mazhar ul Haq, former Senior Minister of Sindh Education and Dr. Pathan's father.



Pir Illahi Bux, celebrated as a pioneer of modern education in Sindh from 1948 to 1949.—RT



HYDERABAD: Workers of the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) are busy disconnecting illegal electricity connections under the supervision of HESCO CEO Roshan Ali.-RT



LARKANA: Police officials are carrying out a combing search operation against criminals as security has been heightened in the city.-RT

NATIONAL



Maryam Urges Nationwide Preparedness: 'Natural Disasters Don't Wait, Neither Should We!'

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz asserted that awareness, effective planning and preparedness were required to deal with natural disasters.

Sharing her message on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, she revealed that the Punjab government was planning to deal with emergency situations adopting the latest technology for protection of citizens.

The Punjab government was taking effective measures to mitigate risks of natural disasters.

These measures included mitigation of risks of climate change, upgradation of control rooms of relevant departments to counter natural calamities and development of PDMA on latest technology.

Punjab government had also introduced air ambulance and motorway ambulance.



Maryam Nawaz vowed to ensure the safety of citizens by taking effective measures against natural disasters.

Awareness campaigns and cooperation of the community were crucial for better management of disasters, the Punjab CM stressed.

Maryam Nawaz shared her vision of providing safe and secure and sustainable to future generations by eradicating natural disasters threats.

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is being observed today.

The day focuses on the role of education in protecting and empowering children for a disaster-free future.

Many disasters, often worsened by climate change, pose significant threats to the well-being of children and youth.—RT/Agency

Metro Chaos! Twin Cities Bus Service To Halt During SCO Summit



ISLAMABAD: Metrobus Service would be suspended in twin cities, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi amid Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit (SCO).

On the direction of district administration, the bus service would not be operationalised from October 14 to 17.

However, the metro bus service would run as usual till October 13.

It is pertinent to note that Pakistan is all set to organise SCO Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad from October 15, to 16.—RT/Agency

Massive Crackdown: Pakistan Railways Fires 97 Officials Amid Corruption Scandal

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways has held responsible and penalized over 97 officials of the department on corruption charges during its efforts to control malpractices.

Several steps are being taken to control corruption in Pakistan Railways which include introducing ticket vending machines and online reservation of tickets to avoid black marketing.

The official said, "Pakistan Railways has established a task team to keep watch on any irregularities and check the attendance of staff in the organization."

He said, "Ticketless campaigns through Special Ticket Examiners (STEs) groups and officers are being carried out on a daily basis in the divisions to check and charge such passengers with a penalty."

"The payment of pension is being carried out through online banking system to facilitate the pensioners as well as to eliminate the ghost pensioners from the department," he added.

He said, "All the auctions are transparently held through the designated committee and the deposited amount is being received through CDR duly verified by the concerned Divisional Accounts Officers (DAO)."

The official said, "Employees who have been nominated from all departments of Pakistan Railways to promptly resolve the complaints reported through the Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU)."

Kacheri as well as Khuli Kacheri are held on a monthly basis to resolve the grievances of staff, pensioners, and the public." He said, "Vigilance offices have been established over the system to control corruption and resolve any complaint received from the public and Railway staff."

The official said, "The regular performance review meetings are conducted to ensure the timely disposal of disciplinary cases of employees."

He said, "Focal persons have been nominated from all departments of Pakistan Railways to promptly resolve the complaints reported through the Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU)."

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College Horror: Suspect Arrested For Brutal Assault On Student In Lahore

LAHORE: A security guard allegedly raped a student at a private college in Lahore, police said on Sunday, adding that they were able to arrest the suspect within 10 hours of the incident.

A statement from the spokesperson for Deputy Inspector General (Operations) Faisal Karman said that as soon as the incident was reported to the police via its sources, the DIG formed a special team to apprehend the suspect and probe the matter further.

A first information report (FIR) related to the incident has not yet been registered.

"Immediately after the incident, the suspect went into hiding," DIG Karman said, per the statement.

His office added in the statement that the suspect was later detained from outside Lahore and that he was arrested after multiple raids.

"The process of investigation is underway and we are also trying to reach the victim's family... the legal process is ongoing."

"Perpetrators of heinous crimes do not rest until they are caught," the DIG said, adding that he is following the Punjab Government's "zero-tolerance" policy against violent crime.

According to reports, students will stage a protest outside the college on Monday (tomorrow).—RT/Agency

Senator Talal Chaudhry Slams PTI: 'Stop Hijacking The SCO Summit With Political Stunts'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry on Sunday called that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) may contemplate staging protests in Islamabad during the SCO summit, but lacks the resolve to actually follow through.

In a statement, he asserted that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest is an attempt to blackmail the state and threatens to disrupt the up-

coming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference, where 200 delegations will gather in Pakistan.

He highlighted that this conference is vital for the nation, as its economy and future depend on it.

Talal Chaudhry asserted that the founder of PTI is the most VIP prisoner in history, holding meetings in jail and enjoying special privileges. He noted that PTI is using the SCO conference as an excuse for this behavior, emphasizing that this VIP prisoner is receiving preferential treatment.—RT/Agency

Tragic End: Pakistanis Trying To Enter Spain Illegally Die In Perilous Journey

WAZIRABAD: Four Pakistani nationals lost their lives while attempting to illegally travel to Spain, media reported on Sunday.

As per details, the young men, who were hiding in the ship's cargo, succumbed to suffocation in the hold.

According to reports, the incident occurred in Mauritania, where one of the vic-

tims has been identified as Abu Huraira, a resident of Wazirabad's Jinnah Colony.

Family sources revealed that Abu Huraira had left for Spain a month ago, and was sent off by an agent named Usman.

Earlier, a boat carrying migrants capsized off Spain's Canary islands overnight, killing at least

nine people and leaving 48 missing, the national maritime rescue service said on Saturday.

Eighty-four people were on board and 27 were rescued after rescuers responded to a distress call received shortly after midnight from off El Hierro, one of the islands in the archipelago, a statement said.—RT/Agency

Police Sweep: Seven Criminals Nabbed, Weapons Cache Discovered



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Sunday apprehended seven individuals involved in various criminal activities, including the possession of illegal weapons and ammunition.

According to a police statement, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police has intensified its crackdown on criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city.

The Islamabad Police teams from Karachi Company, Sabzi Mandi, and Kirpa police stations took legal action against those involved in illegal weapons possession. As a result, seven individuals

were arrested, and authorities recovered two rifles, five pistols, and ammunition from their possession.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad, Syed Ali Raza, reaffirmed the police's commitment to ensuring the safety of citizens' lives and property in the capital. He emphasized that no criminal element would be allowed to disturb the peace of the city.

Citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, the emergency helpline "Pukar-15," or the "ICT 15" app, to support efforts in making the city crime-free through public and police cooperation.—RT/Agency

Liquor Bust: ICT Police Seize Massive Stash, Arrest Three Dealers



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Kirpa police team on Sunday raided a distillery in the area of Jinnah Garden which led to the recovery of a huge quantity of liquor. According to a police statement, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified its crackdown against criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city.

In this regard, the Kirpa police teams conducted a raid at the distillery and recovered huge cache of liquor. Police

team also nabbed three liquor dealers namely Zeeshan Ilyas, Muhammad Tariq and Khalid Masih during the raid while efforts are underway to arrest his other accomplices, he added. He said case has been registered against those running this distillery and further investigation is underway.

DIG Syed Ali Raza directed the police officers and said that it is the prime responsibility of police to provide relief to the citizens and every possible effort would be made to ensure it.—RT/Agency

Political Shockwave: Shah Farman Steps Down As Senior Advisor To KP Chief Minister

PESHAWAR: Former Governor Shah Farman on Sunday tendered his resignation as senior advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister.

The CM appointed him as the senior advisor on political affairs a few days ago.

He said he was grateful to the chief minister for appointing him as the senior advisor. However, he highlighted that he was also a member of the accountability committee formulated by the PTI founder. As its member he said he had to keep a watchful eye on the performance of the provincial government.

The post of senior advisor could affect my performance and role in the committee.—RT/Agency

Deadly Clashes In Kohistan: Four Lives Lost, Including Two Women

KOHISTAN: Four people, including two women, have lost their lives in clashes between two groups in Kohistan, media reported.

According to police reports, the death toll

rised to four, with two injured individuals are also receiving medical treatment.

The police have launched a search operation in addition to the fatalities, five people were also injured in the reports, the death toll

CENTRAL PUNJAB

FIA Strikes! Man Arrested For Running Illegal Currency Exchange Network

By Dr. Mirza MB Qamar

GUJRANWALA: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has conducted a significant operation in Sialkot and Gujrat, resulting in the arrest of a suspect traveling on fake documents and a kingpin involved in illegal currency exchange. According to details, the suspect, Zahid Abbas, hailing from Bhimber, Azad Kashmir, arrived at Sialkot Airport on flight number EK620 from Hong Kong. He claimed that his passport was lost during transit. However, upon suspicion, authorities searched his luggage and found a passport belonging to Arsalan Shahid. During the preliminary investigation, Zahid revealed that he acquired this passport from a person named Arsalan Shahid for 10,000 Hong Kong dollars. He obtained the passport through an agent named Yasir, who is based in



Mirpur. Zahid has since been transferred to the Anti-Human Smuggling Circle in Gujranwala for further investigation.

Additionally, the Gujrat Circle apprehended another suspect, identified as Shamsah Ahmad, who was involved in illegal currency exchange and hundi transactions amounting to millions

of rupees. The suspect was found to have conducted suspicious transactions exceeding 7.8 billion rupees over the past six months. He failed to provide satisfactory explanations or any documentation regarding these transactions to the authorities. Investigations are ongoing for both detained suspects.

Raging Inferno: Fire Devours Bhassi Forest, Authorities Scramble To Control Blaze

By Abid Mahmood Ch

TOBA TEK SINGH: A sudden fire erupted in the Bhassi Forest near Chak 741 GB, quickly engulfing several acres. Hundreds of valuable trees were

reduced to ashes, with damages estimated in the millions. The fire started unexpectedly on Bhassi Road, spreading over 5 acres. Despite efforts, the fire brigade and authorities struggled to reach the scene for several

hours. The Wildlife Department successfully rescued and relocated animals to safer areas while collaborating with local residents to control the blaze. The cause of the fire remains undetermined.

Hosting the 2024 SCO Summit: A Landmark For Pakistan's Regional Leadership, Says UBG

KARACHI: Zubair Tufail, President of the United Business Group (UBG), along with fellow leaders Khalid Tawab, Hanif Gohar, and Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir, expressed their enthusiasm for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Pakistan, which will host heads of state and high-level delegations from member nations.



This significant event aims to enhance regional cooperation, diplomacy, and economic ties among Eurasian countries. The summit will gather leaders from the eight member states and observer nations to discuss pressing issues such as regional security, economic collaboration, cultural exchanges, climate change, energy security, and counter-terrorism. The UBG leaders highlighted the importance of establishing banking channels to facilitate trade and investment among member countries, stating, "Creating banking channels will streamline transactions, reduce costs, and enhance economic cooperation, benefiting businesses and communities."

They noted that hosting the SCO Summit underscores Pakistan's commitment to the organization's goals and principles. "This summit presents a unique opportunity for Pakistan to contribute to regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity," they remarked. The UBG anticipates that the summit will increase trade and investment, strengthen

cultural connections, enhance people-to-people exchanges, and advance economic cooperation, including discussions on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Pakistan's role as a host highlights its growing influence in regional diplomacy and its strategic position as a bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. The UBG leaders congratulated the Government of Pakistan for its efforts to ensure the summit's success.—RT

Tariq Rashid Elected Unopposed As Central Vice Chairman Of Pakistan Hardware Merchants Association

KARACHI: Syed Tariq Rashid, a distinguished industrialist, has been elected unopposed as the Central Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Hardware Merchants Association (PHMA) for the 2024-2026 term. This appointment underscores his extensive experience in tackling trade and industry challenges, including his previ-



ous role as President of the North Karachi Association of

Trade & Industry (NKATI). In his statement, Syed Tariq Rashid reaffirmed his commitment to fulfilling the trust placed in him by the members and vowed to leverage all his efforts to address their concerns effectively. He also highlighted his intention to advocate strongly for their issues with the relevant authorities.—RT

EDITORIAL

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

Monday, October 14, 2024



PTI Must Act Responsibly And Let The SCO Summit Shine

As Pakistan gears up to host the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), an event of critical importance for regional cooperation, it is deeply concerning that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) plans to stage protests during the summit. While the right to peaceful protest is an essential part of democracy, there is a time and place for everything, and PTI must recognize that its actions could jeopardize the nation's image and interests on the international stage.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar has rightly called on PTI to show restraint and with-

draw their October 15 protest call. With leaders from China, Russia, and other regional powers arriving to discuss trade, connectivity, and cooperation, the summit offers a rare opportunity for Pakistan to present itself as a hub of stability and progress. Disruptions, as seen in the past, only serve to reinforce a narrative of unrest, potentially deterring future investments and diplomatic engagements.

The memories of the 2014 protests, which

led to the postponement of the Chinese president's visit, should serve as a stark reminder of the potential repercussions. PTI should learn from history and act with maturity, putting the nation's interests above political differences. The government has already taken extensive security measures, even declaring public holidays, to ensure a smooth event.

It is time for PTI to demonstrate political wisdom, defer their protests, and allow Pakistan to shine on this significant platform. The world is watching, and the stakes are too high to let political strife overshadow this golden opportunity.



THE HEARTLAND



Pakistan will soon emerge as a stronger country on the global stage: Shabbir Qaimkhani

By Shahid Majeed

JHUDO: The current situation in Pakistan is challenging, but despite these difficulties, Pakistan is destined to endure and will continue to do so, stated MQM Pakistan's Coordination Committee member, Shabbir Qaimkhani. During his visit to the Jhudo area, Shabbir Qaimkhani addressed the media, emphasizing that Pakistan was created in the name of the Kalima (Islamic declaration of faith), and it was not established easily, approximately 2.5 to 3 million people sacrificed their lives to forge this nation.

He noted that while every country faces its share of challenges, Pakistan is encountering significant obstacles, yet he remains hopeful that the nation will overcome these trials and one day emerge as a stronger entity on the global stage.

He urged citizens not to lose hope, suggesting that a savior will eventually rise to strengthen Pakistan. Shabbir Qaimkhani remarked that Pakistan has now been in existence for 75 years, during which it has repeatedly faced



crises. He acknowledged the difficult conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, but expressed gratitude to the military and other institutions that sacrifice their lives for the nation, ensuring its stability.

He conveyed a message of solidarity with those suffering from inflation and unemployment, criticizing the Pakistan People's Party's governance over the past 16 years and stating that the performance of the party is evi-

Kidnapped, forcibly married woman found dead in Tando Jam



By Irfan Ali Khushk

TANDO JAM: The body of a young woman, who was kidnapped seven months ago and forcibly married, was found four days ago. A local woman from Moosa Khatian visited the Tando Jam Media Center and informed the media that the young woman had been murdered by her husband. She called for an investigation and the arrest of those responsible. According to Zainab Khatian, seven months ago, her niece Azim, daughter of Khadim Hussain, was forcibly abducted by Shahmir Khaskheli, son of Mukhtiar Khaskheli, who later married her. Despite their pleas, carrying the Quran and visiting the kidnappers' house, they were unable to bring Azim

back. Even after appealing to the village elders, no action was taken due to the influence of the abductors. Four days ago, when they went to meet Azim in Hyderabad, they were handed her body, which had been dead for three days. The family, being poor, found no one willing to help them. At the Tando Jam Media Center, they explained that they attempted to file a report at the Hyderabad police station, but it was not accepted due to their poverty. They appealed to senior MPA Sharjeel Inam Memon, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the IG of Sindh, the DIG, and the SSP of Hyderabad to take notice of the incident, arrest the culprits, launch a full investigation, and deliver justice to the helpless and impoverished family.

9th Rahbar Rozay Dhani (RA) Conference organized in Pir Jo Goth

By AQ Khilji

PIR JO GOTH: As in previous years, the 19th Rahbar Rozay Dhani Conference was organized by the Rahbar Rozay Dhani Committee in Pir Jo Goth in memory of Rahbar Rozay Dhani (RA) and Hazrat Pir Syed Shah Mardan Shah Chhatt Dhani (RA). Prominent scholars praised the services of Hazrat Pir Syed Muhammad Rashid Rozay Dhani (RA), founder of Khanqah Rashidia, for the elevation of Islam.

The conference was attended by the Chief Khalifa of Hur Jamaat, Faqir Qadir Bux Mangrio, and Khalifa Faqir Ghulam Haider Dodo Unar. Addressing the gathering, Mufti Dost Ali Sikandari, head of Jamia Rashidia, Pir Jo Goth, along with Mufti Dr. Haq Nabi Sikandari Al-Azhari, Mufti Faiz Muhammad Sikandari, and Mufti Ghulam Shabbir Sikandari, emphasized the



supreme status of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW). They expressed their willingness to sacrifice everything for the honor of the Holy Prophet (SAWW). They further highlighted the ongoing contributions of Khanqah Rashidia under the guidance of Rahbar Rozay Dhani (RA) for the promotion of Islam. They expressed pride in being followers of a pious figure like Rahbar Rozay Dhani (RA) and emphasized that the organized all the arrangements for the conference. The current Pir Shahib Pagara is continuing the traditions of his forefathers, advancing religious education. They expressed confidence that the blessings of Rahbar Rozay Dhani (RA) would continue until the Day of Judgment. The Rahbar Rozay Dhani Committee organized all the arrangements for the conference.

Tragic Discovery: Body of Comrade Ali Ahmed Jokio Found Hanging at Shaheed Fazil Rahu's Shrine

By Raja Zafar Iqbal

BADIN: The lifeless body of Comrade Ali Ahmed Jokio, a close associate of Shaheed Fazil Rahu and a leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party in District Badin, was discovered hanging from a tree at the shrine of Shaheed Fazil Rahu in Rahuki. A bag containing letters addressed to Muhammad Ismail Rahu was found with the body.

On Friday morning, local residents spotted the hanging body and expressed their outrage by confronting the police and relatives of Ali Ahmed Jokio. Subsequently, the Ghanwar police, along with the deceased's relatives, transported the body to the hospital for a post-mortem examination. After the procedure, the body was returned to the family for burial in the village cemetery.

Many political and social leaders attended the funeral, including former provincial minister Muhammad Ismail Rahu, Muhammad Aslam Rahu, Jr., Fazil Rahu, Sulaiman Dahri Advocate, Dr. Aziz Memon, Dr. Abdul Sattar



Chana, Dr. Akash Ansari, Fida Hussain Mandhroo, Shah Nawaz Jamali (Vice Chairman Municipal Badin), Ali Akbar Memon, Shahnawaz Siyal, and numerous community members.

The circumstances surrounding Jokio's alleged suicide remain unclear. Muhammad Ismail Rahu expressed his deep sorrow over the loss, stating that Ali Ahmed Jokio was an integral part of their political and national move-

Pir Syed Muhammad Asif Ali Shah Jilani urges Muslims to get united



By Sajjad Chang

HINGORJA: Pir Syed Muhammad Asif Ali Shah Jilani, a central leader of the Tehreek-e-Ishq Mustafa Al-Qadria Pakistan and Ahl-e-Sunnat Jamaat, visited various cities, including Hingorja, Sobhodero, and Ranipur, to distribute invitations for the upcoming program at Qadri Darbar Aliya Ranipur Sharif, scheduled for October 15. During his visit, he invited prominent figures such as Raees Haji Muhammad Hashim Chang, Haji Ranjhan Chang, Advocate Haji Din Muhammad

SEPCO continues its operations against power theft in Naushehro

By Hasnain Shahid

NAUSHEHRO FEROZE: On the orders of SEPCO Chief Sukkur Saeed Ahmed Dawach, a grand operation against electricity theft is underway in Naushehro Feroze. Speaking to the media, SEPCO Engineer Syed Shahid Ali Shah, SDO SEPCO Abdul Sami Gujar, and Line Superintendent Muhammad Jaurial Detho stated that they have received instructions from SEPCO Chief Saeed Ahmed Dawach and CTO, Aijaz Ahmed Channa to carry out the operation across all subdivisions of the Dadu Circle, including all headquarters. The operation targets illegal direct connections and defaulter connections. The SEPCO administration of Naushehro Feroze mentioned that this crackdown will help control electricity theft, which in turn will reduce line losses. Today,



going not only in Muhammad Jurial Detho, Naushehro Feroze City division, but across the entire sub-division, with thousands of illegal connections being cut off. Citizens have supported the move and called on the government to completely eliminate electricity theft, reduce electricity rates, and bring load shedding under control, so business owners can continue their operations smoothly.

Brazen Armed Robbery: Thieves Steal Rs. 600,000 from Confectionery Shop in Tando Adam

By Mumtaz Ali Thahim

TANDO ADAM: Lawlessness continues in Tando Adam as armed robbers made off with Rs. 600,000 in cash from a local confectionery shop.

Reports indicate that shop, held the owner, the crime situation in Adnan Malik, at gunpoint, remains point, and fled with the cash. In a brazen daylight robbery near Roshan affiliated of the incident and Haveli in the Memon turned promptly to neighborhood, seven armed men stormed the about the crime.

SPORTS



Ashab Irfan Triumphs Over Fellow Pakistani Asim Khan to Claim Mile High 360 Classic Glory!



KARACHI: Pakistan's Ashab Irfan has won the Mile High 360 Classic squash tournament in Denver, United States, after a tough 112-minute battle against fellow countryman Asim Khan. The final went to five games, each showcasing a close contest between the two. In the first game, Ashab came out strong, narrowly winning 11-13 after several intense rallies. However, Asim fought back in the second game, adjusting his tactics to level the score via an 11-8 win. Asim kept the pressure on in the third game, taking it 11-9 with sharp play, putting him ahead. But Ashab wasn't ready to give up. He regrouped in the fourth game, winning 11-8 to force a fifth and final game. The deciding game was tight, but Ashab managed to edge Asim 11-9, claiming the \$15,000 championship, with a final score of 15-13, 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, and 11-9. Today's final comes after both the players qualified for the final after securing victory in their respective matches a day earlier. Asim won against fellow Pakistani Noor Zaman, whereas Ashab cruised to a 3-0 victory over England's third-seeded Tom Walsh, winning 11-8, 11-7, 11-3 in 46 minutes. Earlier in the tournament, Asim faced a challenging quarter-final against second-seed Cesar Salazar of Mexico. After taking a 2-1 lead, Salazar retired in the fourth game, handing Khan victory with a final scoreline of 12-10, 2-11, 11-7, and 11-0. Furthermore, he also defeated India's Veer Chotrani and produced a strong showing against Dillon Huang of the United States.—Agency

Pak vs Eng: Pakistan Reveals Squad For Remaining Tests, Shockingly Leaving Out Shaheen And Babar

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has finally announced a 16-member team for the second and third Tests against England after much deliberation, with key players including Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi out of the squad. Young pacer Naseem Shah and experienced wicketkeeper-batter Sarfaraz are also not part of the team. "Taking into consideration the current form and fitness of key players and looking ahead to Pakistan's future assignments in the 2024-25 international cricket season, the selectors have decided to give rest to Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Shaheen Shah Afridi," a statement released by the cricket governing body read. It stated that the four players have been replaced by Haseebullah, Mehran Mumtaz, fast bowler Mohammad Ali, off-spinner Sajid Khan and all uncapped Kamran Ghulam. Noman Ali and Zahid Mehmood, who were initially part of the original first Test



squad but were subsequently released, have also been included in the 16-player squad, the PCB added. It further stated that leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed remains unavailable for the second Test as he is still recovering from dengue fever. The PCB said that the same squad had been finalized for the third Test match as well, which will be played in Multan and Rawalpindi on 15 and 24 October, respectively. Speaking to the media after the squad announcement, member of the men's national selection committee Aqib Javed said: "Selecting the squad for the upcoming Tests against England has been a challenging task for the selectors. We've had to carefully consider current player form, the urgency to bounce back in the series and Pakistan's demanding 2024-25 international schedule." He said that the decision to rest Babar and other key players has been made in the best interest of Pakistan cricket and its players.—Agency

Women's T20 World Cup: Fatima Sana Makes Triumphant Return To Pakistan Squad For New Zealand Showdown



LAHORE: Pakistan captain Fatima Sana has arrived in Dubai to rejoin the national squad ahead of tomorrow's ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 clash against New Zealand at Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Fatima had left the tournament midway to attend her father's funeral in Karachi on 10 October. She missed Pakistan's match against Australia, where the team suffered a humiliating nine-wicket loss under the captaincy of Muneeba Ali. Pakistan are currently placed in fourth place in Group B with one victory and two losses after three games. They will play their last match against New Zealand, which is a must-win game for them to keep their hopes alive for the semi-final. The Green Shirts have to beat New Zealand by a substantial margin and then hope for other results to go their way. Fatima Sana's return will be a big boost for Pakistan considering their struggling performance against Australia in her absence. It's worth noting that the ongoing tournament is Fatima's first as captain and she has been leading Pakistan from the front with four wickets in two games along with 43 runs at a strike-rate of 153.57. Fatima Sana played a key role in Pakistan's victory over Sri Lanka in their tournament opener and earned the Player of the Match award for her performance.—Agency

PCB Races To 'Complete Performance And Fitness Evaluation' Of New Players Before Series End

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to complete the performance and fitness evaluation of new players by the end of the ongoing three-match Test series against England. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday held a separate meeting with the selectors which was followed by a joint huddle with the selection committee members and mentors to review the team's recent performance and players' fitness. The two-hour-long meetings came after the national side suffered their sixth consecutive loss in the red-ball format wherein they crumpled against England's 823-run mammoth total, which resulted in a defeat by an innings and 47 runs in the first Test at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The home series is part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 and Shan Masood's men need to improve if they are to preserve their chances in the tournament as the Green Shirts are currently ranked at ninth spot. Since the Friday's defeat, the board has already made changes to the national selection committee with the inclusion of former cricketer Aqib Javed, ex-captain Azhar Ali and former International Cricket Council (ICC) umpire Aleem Dar on the panel. Additionally, Hassan Cheema was also appointed as the board's new addition to the committee. Meanwhile, right-handed batter Asad Shafiq retained his membership of the committee. During the meeting, PCB Chairman Naqvi and the mentors agreed to complete the process of evaluating the performance and fitness of new players by the end of the ongoing series. With the PCB head issuing directions for the improvement in the quality of the pitches, the selection committee and mentors also pitched in with suggestions on related issues. The huddle was attended by selection committee members Javed, Ali, Dar, Cheema, adviser Bilal Afzal, Domestic Cricket Director Abdullah Khurram Niazi, High-Performance Centre Director Nadeem Khan and mentors Shaob Malik, Misbah-ul-Haq, Waqar Younis and Saqlain Mushtaq.—Agency



clusion of former cricketer Aqib Javed, ex-captain Azhar Ali and former International Cricket Council (ICC) umpire Aleem Dar on the panel. Additionally, Hassan Cheema was also appointed as the board's new addition to the committee. Meanwhile, right-handed batter Asad Shafiq retained his membership of the committee. During the meeting, PCB Chairman Naqvi and the mentors agreed to complete the process of evaluating the performance and fitness of new players by the end of the ongoing series. With the PCB head issuing directions for the improvement in the quality of the pitches, the selection committee and mentors also pitched in with suggestions on related issues. The huddle was attended by selection committee members Javed, Ali, Dar, Cheema, adviser Bilal Afzal, Domestic Cricket Director Abdullah Khurram Niazi, High-Performance Centre Director Nadeem Khan and mentors Shaob Malik, Misbah-ul-Haq, Waqar Younis and Saqlain Mushtaq.—Agency

Fakhar Zaman Fiercely Defends Babar Azam After England Test Squad Omission Sparks Outrage



LAHORE: Pakistan's white-ball batting mainstay, Fakhar Zaman, has defended star batter Babar Azam, who was dropped from the squad for the upcoming two Test matches against England. Earlier today, the newly appointed selection committee announced the squad for the upcoming second and third Test matches, which will be played in Multan and Rawalpindi on 15 and 24 October, respectively. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) revealed the squad through a press release on their official website. "Taking into consideration the current form and fitness of key players and looking ahead to Pakistan's future assignments in the 2024-25 international cricket season, the selectors have decided to give rest to Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Abrar Ahmed (who is recovering from dengue fever) was unavailable for selection," the statement said. "The four players have been replaced by Haseebullah, Mehran Mumtaz, Kamran Ghulam (all uncapped), fast bowler Mohammad Ali and off-spinner Sajid Khan. "Noman Ali and Zahid Mehmood, who were initially part of the original first Test squad but were subsequently released, have also been included in the 16-player squad." Fakhar Zaman took to his official X (formerly Twitter) account and expressed his disappointment over the suggestions to drop Babar. He cited the example of how India treated Virat Kohli during his rough phase from 2020 to 2023. "It's concerning to hear suggestions about dropping Babar Azam. India didn't bench Virat Kohli during his rough stretch between 2020 and 2023, when he averaged 19.33, 28.21, and 26.50, respectively," Fakhar posted. The left-handed batter praised Babar, calling him the best Pakistani batter of all time, while highlighting the need to make calculated moves rather than "pressing the panic button.—Agency

Cristiano Ronaldo Shatters Records As He Extends Goal Tally In Portugal's Domination Over Poland

Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo shined once again on the field after scoring yet another goal for his national team as they beat Poland 3-1 for their third straight Nations League win. Bernardo Silva volleyed Portugal ahead in the 26th minute in Warsaw as Bruno Fernandes cleverly nodded a cross from Ruben Neves back towards the Manchester City midfielder. Ronaldo then found himself in the right place at the right time to turn in the rebound for Portugal's second after Rafael Leao's shot came back off the post following a brilliant surging run by the AC Milan winger. With his latest goal, the 39-year-old Al Nassr striker has now struck in all three



games of this Nations League campaign for Portugal, taking his record men's international goals tally to 133. Jan Bednarek's own goal sealed victory for Portugal, the lone remaining team in League A with a 100% record, and they could secure a place in the quarter-finals next week, AFP reported. "We worked very hard the last few days, preparing various solutions for this game, and we were able to show it on the pitch. I am really satisfied because we controlled this game," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez. "We played great as a team." Meanwhile, the five-time Ballon d'Or award winner celebrated his national team's victory with a social media post, featuring a series of snaps from the match. In the Instagram post, the former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus star wrote: "Important win in the Nations League. Thanks for everyone's support, let's go all out!" Additionally, in an Instagram Story update, Ronaldo shared a screenshot of his message on the Meta-owned photo and video-sharing app, which read: "We felt your support on the pitch. Thank you for helping us win today!"—Agency

England Destroys Scotland To Maintain Unbeaten Streak In Women's T20 World Cup



SHARJAH: Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Maia Bouchier scored dominant half-centuries to power England to a thumping ten-wicket victory over Scotland in the ongoing ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 at Sharjah Cricket Stadium here on Sunday. With this victory, England jumped to the top of Group B, having won all three of their matches in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 so far. Chasing a 110-run target, England took only 10 overs to finish the game with Bouchier hitting the winning boundary. Bouchier set the tone for the chase with three boundaries off the first three balls of the innings. Danni Wyatt-Hodge also joined the party in the fourth over, hitting tre boundaries against Olivia Bell. Both batters continued their dominant batting display, striking regular boundaries to achieve the target in ten overs. Maia Bouchier scored an unbeaten 62 runs from 34 balls, which featured 12 boundaries, while Danni Wyatt-Hodge struck 51 off 26 with seven boundaries. Scotland opted to bat first after winning the toss and got off to a cautious start as they managed 38 runs in eight overs before Nat Sciver-Brunt broke the opening stand. Saskia Horley went back to the pavilion after scoring a mere 13 runs from 23 balls. Meanwhile, Sarah Bryce scored 27 off 31 before falling prey to Sophie Ecclestone. Kathryn Bryce held on to one end for Scotland, but could not find enough support from the other end. She top-scored with 33 runs from 28 balls with the help of four boundaries.—Agency

Kids' Corner



Name: Eshal Naz Abbasi Location: Larkana About me: I adore my parents! Please email us your photo for our Model Watch and Kids' Corner section at regionaltimes10@gmail.com

REGIONAL TIMES ENTERTAINMENT

Kim Kardashian Spoils Co-Stars with Lavish Gift



Kim Kardashian has treated her All's Fair co-stars Niecy Nash-Betts and Glen Close with a special gift. Taking to Instagram on Friday, Niecy posted a photo from the sets of Ryan Murphy's upcoming legal drama. The photo showcased Kim, Niecy and Glen donning The Kardashians star's SKIMS pajamas. The trio posed with their hands in the air. In the caption, the actress and comedian, 54, wrote, "This is what happens when our leading lady @kimkardashian gifts our cast @skims." "It's a Pajama Party on the set of All's Fair with the icon @glenclose Thank you Kimberly, Niecy added. Murphy's upcoming Hulu series stars Kim in the lead as a successful divorce lawyer working at an all-female law firm. Previously, in an episode of The Kardashians, Kim, Murphy and Kris Jenner talked about the reality TV star's role in the series during a lighthearted conversation. Kim drew parallels between her role and that of her own divorce lawyer Laura Wasser, saying, "There's even so many fun moments with like Laura and I where I'm just like, 'Don't ever let me do this again!'" She adds with a laugh, "Then the next [divorce], she would be like 'Hi, you reminded me last time, don't ever let you do this again.'" Although the filming of the series started in late September, the release date is yet not announced.

Ariana Grande Throws Shade at Celine Dion Amid Explosive Lip Syncing Scandal



Ariana Grande has seemingly taken a dig at Celine Dion by impersonating the legendary singer during a sketch on Saturday Night Live. Grande showed off Dion's impersonation as she played the singer's role as a spokesperson for UFC during the sketch. The 31-year-old singer performed the 56-year-old singer's It's All Coming Back to Me Now with additional lyrics. Grande while mimicking Dion said, "Football, it is a sport that connects who are to who we were." She continued, "That is why last week, I, Celine Dion, made a promo for Sunday Night Football, OK?" "But football isn't the only sport that connects to us in the past... there is another sport whose timeless emotion ignites the bittersweet memories that live inside my soul and the octagon." Then the 7 Rings singer sang, "There was breaking of bones and there were knees to the balls." The segment of Grande impersonating Dion comes just after a day when the My Heart Will Go On hitmaker was accused of lip-syncing her performance at the Paris 2024 Olympics live performance. The performance, which was held in August, was recently released for TV where the 56-year-old singer was said to be performing a pre-recorded set. Moreover, Paris 2024 officials have not responded to any such claims as the allegations escalate in response to the promise they made that the show would be completely live.



GLOBAL WATCH

'Biden likes me more': Trump takes jab at Harris as he rallies in Coachella

Former United States president Donald Trump proudly claimed that President Joe Biden liked him more than his presidential rival Vice President Kamala Harris, as he took the stage in a heavily Democratic California.

Trump slammed the vice president's work as he made a campaign stop in her home state, as part of his plan to campaign in "deep blue" states ahead of the November 5 presidential elections despite low winning prospects.

Trump, 78, attacked Harris, 59, for how she obtained the presidential nomination and insisted that Biden, 81, prefers him over her. Daily Mail reported.



more than he likes her," said the Republican presidential candidate, as he addressed a rally in Coachella. The desert city is best known for the annual music festival with the same name. "You know, I beat Biden. So we have a debate, he went down. In all fairness to him, he got 14 million votes, she got none. So he goes down, they said 'we want you out of here.'"

Kanye West Sued By Former Assistant For Allegedly Raping, Drugging Her At Diddy Party



Kanye West's former assistant has filed a lawsuit, accusing him of drugging and sexually assaulting her during a studio session he co-hosted with Sean "Diddy" Combs. Lauren Pisciotta, who was employed by West from 2021 to 2022, claims in an amended complaint obtained with a "former artist management client."

Pisciotta's allegations are an extension of her earlier wrongful termination lawsuit against West, in which she alleged she was subjected to explicit messages, pornographic images, videos, and phone calls from him before she was fired. She began working with West in July 2021 to assist with his Yeezy women's fashion line and collaborate on his 2021 album, Donda.

According to the filing, Pisciotta woke up the next day "feeling physically ill and confused" and experienced "immense shame and embarrassment" for not being able to recall what happened after drinking at the studio session.

Seminar Explores Pakistan's Foreign Policy And Bilateral Relations With Belarus

BELARUS: Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan presented an informative lecture at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Belarus, focusing on Pakistan's foreign policy and its bilateral relations with Belarus.



The event concluded with a reception featuring traditional Pakistani cuisine, offering attendees a glimpse into the country's rich cultural heritage. Earlier, Ambassador Khan met with the Academy's Rector, Mr. Igor Buzouski, and senior staff to discuss opportunities for enhanced collaboration between academic institutions in Pakistan and Belarus.

Pakistan Britain Business Council Supports Exclusive Networking Event In Gibraltar

LONDON: The Pakistan Britain Business Council (PBBC) recently backed an exclusive networking event hosted by HM Government of Gibraltar, sponsored by the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) along with strategic partners Triay Lawyers and Hassans International Law Firm Limited.



The prestigious gathering featured notable addresses from Gibraltar's Minister for Business & Commerce, Gemma Arias-Vasquez MP; Minister for Culture & Tourism, Christian Santos MP; Lord Marland, Chairman of CWEIC, and Deputy Chair, Lord (Hugo) Swire.

The event offered an in-depth look at Gibraltar as a strategic hub for international business, emphasizing trade and service opportunities. Attendees engaged in valuable networking sessions, followed by keynote presentations and a dynamic Q&A segment.

Ministers Arias-Vasquez and Santos highlighted Gibraltar's key advantages as a global business center, while Lord Swire emphasized its significant role within the Commonwealth.

This exclusive event effectively showcased Gibraltar's potential as a vibrant player in the global business arena.

Iran Vows "No Red Lines" In Defense Before Israel's Expected Retaliation

Baghdad: Iran's top diplomat vowed Sunday there would be "no red lines" for the country in defending its people and interests, ahead of Israel's expected retaliation for Iran's recent missile attack.



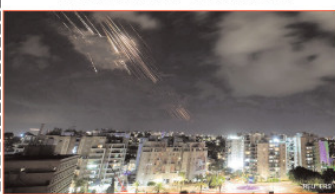
"While we have made tremendous efforts in recent days to contain an all-out war in our region, I say it clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X.

Iran fired 200 missiles at Israel on October 1 in what it said was retaliation for the killing of Tehran-aligned operator leaders in the region and a general in Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Iran's defense minister, Ali al-Moussawi, political advisor to the Iraqi prime minister, told AFP Araghchi's visit was part of a diplomatic effort "to silence weapons and violence... to establish security and stability in the region."

After Baghdad, Araghchi will head to Oman, the Iranian ISNA news agency reported. On Thursday, Araghchi was in Qatar where he met Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani over the wars in Gaza and Lebanon.

US To Send High-Altitude Anti-Missile System THAAD To Israel Amid West Asia Conflict



Washington: The Pentagon said Sunday it will deploy a high-altitude anti-missile system and its US military crew to Israel to help the ally protect itself from potential Iranian missile attacks.

At the direction of US President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin "authorized the deployment of a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery and associated crew of US military personnel to Israel to help bolster Israel's air defenses following Iran's unprecedented attacks against Israel on April 13 and again on October 1," Pentagon press secretary Pat Ryder said in a statement.

THE HEARTLAND

Mentally ill man burnt to death in Naro

By Gada Hussain Bhanburo

NARO: In the jurisdiction of Sorah police station near Mithali village, a person named Babal, son of Zafar Rind, mentioned that the deceased had a mental health condition and was usually kept chained at home. At the time of the incident, all the family members were outside picking cotton when they received news that their house was on fire.

Kohistan's fire victim family appeals for help

By Shams Palari



NOORABAD: In the Upper Mol area of Kohistan, a resident of Goth Siddique Shahno, laborer Dar Muhammad Shahno, experienced a devastating incident when two of his houses caught fire due to a sudden lightning strike. The blaze completely destroyed his homes, along with all their contents, including household items, bedding, grain, and dowry for his daughters.

Left homeless and without support, the struggling family is now sitting under the open sky. Dar Muhammad has appealed to the DCO of Jamshoro and other elected representatives to assist him in recovering from this loss and to help him rebuild his homes.

Flour Crisis Deepens: Prices Skyrocket To Rs2,200 For 20kg In Karachi

KARACHI: Karachi residents are compelled to buy expensive flour as the price of 20kg bag has hit Rs2,200 in the metropolis, media reported, quoting the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).



According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the price of a 20-kilogram flour bag in Karachi has reached as high as Rs2,200, making it the most expensive in the country. In the past two weeks, the price has surged by Rs200 in the city.

and in Islamabad, it is available for Rs1,946. The price of 20 kg flour bag in Rawalpindi stands at Rs1,933, and in Quetta, it has reached Rs1,880. In Bannu, the 20-kg flour bag is sold for Rs1,850, in Larkana for Rs1,840, and in Peshawar and Sargodha, the price is Rs1,800. In Sialkot, Bahawalpur, and Gujranwala, the price remains around Rs1,800.—RT/Agency

Pakistan And Indonesia Sign Agreements Worth \$10.70 Million At Trade Expo

Jakarta: The Consulate General of Indonesia in Karachi hosted a business dinner on 11 October 2024, honoring the participation of around 25 Pakistani and Indonesian businesses and dignitaries at the Trade Expo Indonesia.



The dinner celebrated the signing of agreements and memorandums of understanding for bilateral cooperation valued at \$10.70 million. Abid Nisar, Chairman of the Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council (PIBC), and Shamoon Zaki, President of the Pakistani-Indonesia Business Forum (PIBF), were in attendance and expressed their appreciation to the Consulate General of Indonesia and the Government of Indonesia for facilitating the dinner and enabling the Pakistani business delegation's participation in the Trade Expo.

Abid Nisar remarked, "The connection between our two nations is deeply rooted in history and culture, evolving into a strong partnership that benefits both sides, particularly in trade and commerce."

According to H.E. Teguh Wiweko, Acting Consul General of Indonesia, these agreements were finalized following a series of business matching events during the Indonesia-South and Central Asia Business Forum (INASCA) and Trade Expo Indonesia 2024. The agreements span various sectors of trade, including commodities like copra, gum copal, cocoa, desiccated coconut, ginger,

and spices. Additional trade facts were also established in the fast-moving consumer goods and auto parts sectors, added the Indonesian envoy. H.E. Teguh Wiweko praised the involvement of Pakistani partners and described the visit as a pivotal step in strengthening economic and trade relationships between Indonesia and Pakistan, particularly with business communities in Sindh Province. During the event, Naveed Gilani, Country Head of Apical Pakistan, received an award from the Government of Indonesia, presented by the Acting Consul General. This award recognized Mr. Gilani and Apical's steadfast support for Indonesian palm oil in Pakistan, as he is the largest importer of Indonesian crude palm oil (CPO) in the Pakistani market. Throughout this year, the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia has facilitated approximately 25 MoUs with representatives from Sindh Province, including members of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries.—RT

Lebanon Conflict Forces Expectant Mothers To Flee, Risking Premature Births



Beirut: Tahani Yassine was in her third trimester of pregnancy when she chose to return to her hometown of Beirut to deliver her baby. Living in Equatorial Guinea with her husband and three young children, she had more faith in the Lebanese healthcare system.

But just a few days after her arrival in Beirut, Yassine began to regret her decision. Israel intensified its military campaign in Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah strongholds in the south, the Bekaa Valley in the east and the southern suburbs of Beirut, closer to her home. Although her area wasn't directly hit, the strikes were unnervingly close, and the boom of Israeli warplanes breaking the sound barrier overhead filled her with fear. Anxious for the safety of her unborn child, the 36-year-old moved to an apartment closer to hospital where she was due to deliver. "My doctors told me that I was too far along in my pregnancy to travel. I had no choice but to stay and deliver here," she told Reuters just hours after giving birth at Trad Hospital in central Beirut on Oct. 10. Lying in her hospital bed with her newborn girl nestled next to her in a crib, Yassine expressed her relief that both she and her baby were healthy - a very different experience to many expectant mothers in the escalating conflict in Lebanon. Nicolas Baakini, an obstetrician and gynaecologist in Beirut, says he has noticed an increase in premature births and foetal deaths since hostilities began last year. "What has increased the most, and what was shocking to me, is the number of foetal deaths in utero babies who died in their mothers' wombs," said Baakini, 61, who has a private clinic and also works in several Beirut hospitals. "There are many malformations, and surprisingly, several colleagues have observed the same. When, in one year, you have two foetal deaths in-utero, and then suddenly, in two months, you have about 15, it indicates that something is wrong," he added.—Agency

Beyond Blood Ties: The Lost Bonds Of The Heart



By Nisar Banhan

place I seldom returned to. But this journey, swaying in the tanga, felt different—it carried the weight of meaning. Sharing the ride were two others: a curious young boy and an old man who stared thoughtfully at the flowing canal. Breaking the silence, the boy asked, "Baba, what's the difference between a connection and a relationship?" The old man, still gazing at the water, turned slowly and answered with a wisdom that struck deep. Through their conversation, it became clear—connections—like family ties—are inevitable, but true relationships are nurtured through time, care, and love. As we rolled forward, their exchange resonated with me. So many of us are connected by blood, yet we are distant, leaving behind the people and places that raised us. In a rush to build new lives, we forget the quiet sacrifices of those who stayed behind. In that brief journey, I understood the profound difference between being connected and truly relating.

METRO KARACHI



Sharjeel Accuses Imran Khan And Israel Of Plotting To Undermine SCO Conference

KARACHI: Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has accused Imran Khan, founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), of attempting to sabotage the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference through alleged connections with Israel.

In a press conference, Memon claimed that Khan's political actions were not in Pakistan's interest but rather aimed at protecting Zionist agendas. He suggested that Khan's ties to Tel Aviv were part of a larger conspiracy by adversarial forces to destabilize the SCO.

Memon characterized the PTI-Israel alliance as a significant compromise of Pakistan's national interest, recalling instances where Khan allegedly conspired to jeopardize relations with China during a visit by the Chinese president.

He asserted that PTI's leadership was following anti-Pakistan agendas backed by foreign entities,



placing their interests above the nation's security and sovereignty. Memon alleged that PTI's think tank was operating from Tel Aviv and actively plotting against Pakistan.

Highlighting that key policy advisors of PTI were based in Israel, Memon claimed the party received directives and support from Tel Aviv, with Israeli handlers engaged in international lobbying for PTI. He further noted that foreign support aimed to incite political instability within Pakistan and hinder its economic and diplomatic progress.

Memon cited Zac Goldsmith's endorsement of Pakistani-origin Sadiq Khan for London mayor as evidence of the PTI-Israel alliance. He also pointed out that PTI's absence from an All-Party Conference (APC) opposing Israeli aggression in Palestine further exposed this partnership.

He concluded by stating that figures like Goldsmith promote an anti-Pakistan narrative that aligns with PTI interests, suggesting that conspiracies against the country's institutions are being orchestrated with backing from Israel.—RT

Mustafa Kamal Raises Concerns Over PTI's Planned October 15 Protest

KARACHI: Mustafa Kamal, a senior leader of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), has voiced his concerns about the potential consequences of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) planned protest on October 15 at D-Chowk, Islamabad.

Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Kamal emphasized that the survival of politics and democracy in the country depends on the existence of a stable state. He noted that while political dissent is natural, it must not come at the cost of national integrity and unity.

"The economic challenges Pakistan faces are well-known," Kamal said. "The government and state institutions are working hard to stabilize the situation. PTI's protest plan is not in the country's best interest at this critical time."

Kamal also expressed MQM-Ps support for constitutional amendments to address PTI's grievances but advised the party to adopt a more constructive approach.



He cautioned that PTI's actions could further alienate them and tarnish their image, particularly when they are accused of being anti-state.

"PTI is a popular political party, but they need to act responsibly," he remarked. "I urge them to reconsider their protest and work within the political framework. We have no hostility towards PTI and are always open to dialogue." Drawing comparisons with the unrest in countries like Iraq, Libya, and Syria, Kamal warned of the dangers of destabilizing state institutions, particularly the military. He

cited the chaos and violence that erupted in those nations after the destruction of their armies, turning them into lawless states where armed groups took control.

Reflecting on the May 9 unrest in Pakistan following Imran Khan's arrest, Kamal said, "The events of May are well-known, and while we have remained silent on them, PTI's protest plans compel us to speak out now. PTI must understand that their actions affect the entire state, not just their party."—RT/Agency

Sindh Police To Receive Discounted Housing Plots And Interest-Free Motorcycles

KARACHI: In a welfare initiative for Sindh police personnel, the Sindh Police, in partnership with the National Police Foundation (NPF), has announced plans to provide discounted housing plots and interest-free electric motorcycles for officers up to the rank of inspector.

During a gathering at the Police Headquarters in Garden South, Sindh Inspector General (IG) Ghulam Nabi Memon, along with senior police officials and NPF Managing Director Irfan Zaman, outlined the initiative. Zaman revealed that the NPF will cover Rs50,000 for each



of the first 2,000 plots in the Police Housing Society.

The program also includes interest-free electric motorcycles, offered in installments, a plan proposed by IG Sindh to further support the welfare of officers.

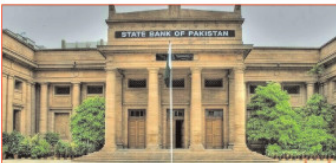
Additionally, IG Memon highlighted a new police health insurance scheme, with Rs5 billion allocated to provide officers access to top hospitals in Karachi once NADRA finalizes the family tree documentation.—RT/Agency

Business Leaders Call For Major Interest Rate Cut To Boost Economy

KARACHI: Business leaders and traders have urged the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to lower interest rates to single digits to stimulate economic growth and end the ongoing economic stagnation.

Majid Aziz, former president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), praised recent rate cuts but stressed the need for further reductions to drive private sector investment. He noted that lower rates would encourage businesses to invest in machinery, expand operations, and improve production.

Muhammad Saleem Memon, President of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small



Traders, echoed the call for rate cuts, highlighting the negative impact of high borrowing costs on small businesses. He urged the SBP to align its policies with global trends to spur industrial output and job creation.

KCCI President Muhammad Jawed Bilwani and PRAC Chairman Mohammad Younus Dagha also

pressed for a 300-basis-point rate reduction, citing a decline in inflation and stabilizing commodity prices. They argued that this move is crucial for reviving large-scale manufacturing and alleviating pressure on businesses, particularly as the sector continues to struggle with high interest rates and limited access to credit.—RT/Agency

Murad Issues Guidelines For 2025-26 ADP Preparation

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has released guidelines for the formulation of the Annual Development Program (ADP) for 2025-26, urging all government departments to align with current economic conditions and federal policies.

The directives, issued through the Planning & Development (P&D) department, emphasize a focus on sectoral priorities and socio-economic impacts. Mr. Shah instructed departments to ensure that proposed projects contribute to measurable outcomes in line with the government's development strategy.

Departments must adhere to the federal Public Sector Development Program



Mr. Shah mandated that 80% of the development budget be allocated to ongoing schemes, stating that projects expected to be completed by June 2025 should adhere to their original plans. He also directed departments to allocate remaining funds to projects that have utilized over 70% of their budget to en-

sure completion in FY 2025-26.

The Chief Minister highlighted the need for counterpart funding for international projects and called for adjustments in the ADP to address recovery from the 2022 floods. He encouraged the identification of new projects under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, aligning them with national objectives like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Shah urged the use of current data sources, such as the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and Population Census, to establish baselines and quantifiable targets for new projects. He in-

structed departments to begin the approval process for new schemes by October 2024, aiming for completion by March 2025 to ensure inclusion in the ADP.

The Chief Minister reiterated that any incomplete schemes approved before FY 2018-19 should either be finalized with the available budget or revised for realistic costs and scopes.

The provincial government remains focused on long-term socio-economic development and recovery efforts amid ongoing economic challenges. "These guidelines provide a structured approach for the 2025-26 ADP," concluded the CM.—RT

Pakistan, US Navies Conduct Bilateral Exercise To Boost Maritime Cooperation



KARACHI: The navies of Pakistan and the United States have successfully conducted a bilateral exercise in the Arabian Sea, aimed at strengthening interoperability and reinforcing their shared commitment to regional maritime peace.

According to a statement from the Pakistan Navy's (PN) media wing, the US Navy Ship USS O'Kane visited Karachi and took part in the exercise alongside Pakistan Navy Ship Babur.

The media wing highlighted that this collaboration reflects Pakistan Navy's dedication to fostering regional stability and maritime security in partnership with global allies. The exercise also contributed to joint efforts in combating terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking, and human

smuggling in the region. The visit of the US Navy ship underscores the deep-rooted ties between the two navies and their respective nations, the statement added.

Earlier in July, the Pakistan and US armies conducted the first-ever Infantry Rifle Company Exercise 2024, focusing on counterterrorism operations. The two-week-long exercise concluded at the National Counter Terrorism Centre in Pabbi, Nowshera, with a closing ceremony attended by senior military officials from both countries.

The exercise aimed at refining counterterrorism tactics, urban warfare procedures, and marksmanship skills, strengthening the professional expertise of the participating troops.—RT

Pakistani Airlines Set To Resume Flights To UK, EU And US



KARACHI: Pakistan's aviation sector is on the verge of a major transformation, with reports indicating that direct flights to the UK and EU may soon resume.

The UK Department for Transport (DfT) is expected to send a safety assessment team to Pakistan, followed by a security evaluation of key airports. This could pave the way for Pakistani airlines, such as Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Airblue, to restart flights to the UK.

Upon successful completion of these assessments, airlines like Serene Air may also receive clearance for direct flights to Europe. This development is crucial for lift its ban on Pakistani airlines.

Restoring EU clearance will not only reinstate flights but could also prompt the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to reconsider Pakistan's aviation category. Currently, Pakistan

is classified as Category 2 following the EU ban. A positive reassessment from the EU could lead to an upgrade to Category 1, enabling Pakistani airlines to expand international operations, including potential routes to the U.S.

To facilitate this progress, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Pakistan must strictly adhere to the safety and security standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the UK. Ensuring comprehensive compliance across the aviation industry is essential for lifting existing restrictions and fostering future growth in international flight operations.

If all regulatory requirements are met, 2025 could witness the revival of direct flights from Pakistani airlines to the UK, EU, and potentially the U.S., marking a significant milestone for the country's aviation industry.—RT/Agency

Over 100 Arrested As Karachi Protests Escalate, Defy Section 144

KARACHI: Violent clashes broke out between protesters and police across Karachi, resulting in the arrest of over 100 people, including women, for violating Section 144, which was imposed just a day earlier.

Protests erupted in various areas such as the Karachi Press Club and Teen Talwar in Clifton. TV footage captured scenes of police using batons to disperse demonstrators, leading to multiple arrests.

The Sindh Rawadari March participants confronted police outside the press club after breaching Section 144, which prohibits gatherings of more than five people. Law enforcement reported that protesters from different groups were arrested from key locations, including outside the press club, Metropole Hotel, and Jimmah Hospital.



During the clashes, four police officers sustained injuries and were rushed to the hospital. South Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Asad Raza stated that at least 20 individuals, including women, had been detained. More police personnel were deployed to block roads leading to the press club.

Another confrontation unfolded near the Governor House, where police resorted to tear gas to disperse protesters from a religious group holding a counter-demonstration. Protesters responded by throwing stones, injuring two

officers, and reportedly setting a police van ablaze.

Additionally, 27 protesters were arrested near Teen Talwar in Clifton, including several women.

Sindh Home Minister Zia Lamiar confirmed the arrests for violating Section 144 and warned that strict action would be taken against anyone flouting the law. He also ordered an investigation into the reported mistreatment of journalists at the Karachi Press Club, assuring accountability for those involved.—RT/Agency

Shehbaz Commemorates World Standards Day

KARACHI: On World Standards Day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to upholding international standards and quality control. He emphasized the crucial role of the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) in encouraging standardization among local manufacturers and fostering a culture of excellence throughout the country.

This year's theme, "Shared Vision for a Better World," set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), highlights the importance of reliability and trust in

both the manufacturing and service sectors. In his message, the Prime Minister stressed that standards are foundational to everyday life and urged a reassessment of the competitiveness of Pakistani products in the global market.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif noted, "In line with our commitment to public safety, health, and environmental protection, I am proud to announce that the PSQCA has established rigorous safety standards for automotive vehicles to safeguard our citizens. Additionally, we have implemented a limit of 2% on industrially produced Trans Fatty Acids (iTFAs) in food

products, a vital measure in reducing cardiovascular diseases in Pakistan."

He reiterated that the expansion of Pakistan's exports is closely linked to compliance with international standards. "This alignment not only enhances global consumer confidence in Pakistani products but also expands opportunities for our businesses worldwide, fostering economic growth."

The Prime Minister urged all stakeholders to actively participate in the standardization process, ensuring that Pakistan continues to advance toward a healthier, more prosperous future.—RT

Pakistan Chefs Club Hosts Inaugural Culinary Championship And Achievement Awards



KARACHI: The Pakistan Chefs Club (PCC) successfully held its first Culinary Championship and Achievement Awards at a local banquet, gathering over 70 senior chefs and more than 50 participants, including professional, junior, home chefs, and special chefs (individuals with disabilities).

Participants presented over 70 dishes, with some prepared live before judges. Awards included gold, silver, and bronze medals, with Chef Ayesha ment to promoting Karachi as a culinary hub.

She emphasized the event's aim to spotlight hidden talent and create job opportunities for chefs and food entrepreneurs. Participants presented over 70 dishes, with some prepared live before judges. Awards included gold, silver, and bronze medals, with Chef Ayesha ment to promoting Karachi as a culinary hub.

recognized as Best Menu Designer. Notable winners also included Chef Majeeda Gaya (Best Cake Artist), Chef Muhiuddin (Best Caterer), and Chef Sadaf Barolia (Best Community Chef).

A highlight of the event was a live demonstration of a 100-pound cake, showcasing culinary techniques that thrilled the audience.

Chef Naureen Ashraf, Founder & CEO of PCC, received accolades for her leadership and commitment to promoting Karachi as a culinary hub. She emphasized the event's aim to spotlight hidden talent and create job opportunities for chefs and food entrepreneurs.—RT

Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to culinary legends, including Chef Muhammad Mehdi and Chef Saeeda Khan, recognizing their significant contributions to the field. The event was broadcast live on social media for transparency.

Additionally, the event celebrated International Chefs Day and supported breast cancer awareness, with attendees wearing pink ribbons to promote early diagnosis. The successful debut of the PCC's Culinary Championship has set a high standard for future culinary events, establishing its significance in Karachi's vibrant culinary scene.—RT

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

—William Shakespeare

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MONDAY OCTOBER 14 2024

Government Sparks Debate By Proposing Chief Justice Selection From Supreme Court's Top Three

ISLAMABAD: The successor of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will be picked from the three most senior judges of the Supreme Court, the government has proposed in its draft for the intended constitutional amendments, media reported on Sunday.

The selection for the coveted post will reportedly be made by an eight-member parliamentary committee.

The coalition government has stepped up its efforts to evolve consensus on its controversial 'Constitutional Package' with all political parties regularly holding meetings of the special parliamentary committee — a body led by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MNA Syed Khurshid Shah — to discuss the proposed constitutional changes.

To pass the constitutional amendments, the government needs two-thirds majority in parliament, while it is short of 13 votes in the National Assembly (NA) and nine in



the Senate.

The government and JUI-F shared their respective drafts for the constitutional amendment in Saturday's meeting, with the former proposing the structure of Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), and the latter proposing a constitutional bench of the top court for constitutional matters.

According to the government draft, the FCC will consist of seven members, including the chief justice.

The first chief justice of the FCC will be appointed by the president on the advice of

the prime minister. The first chief justice and three senior judges of the constitutional court will be appointed on the recommendation of the committee that would include four members of the parliament, federal law minister and a representative of the Pakistan Bar Council.

It has been proposed that a commission will be formed for the appointment of FCC judges, the head of which will be the FCC chief justice, and its five most senior judges will be members of the commission.

Apart from this, there will

be provincial constitutional courts.

According to the proposed amendment, the prime minister will send the matter to the president after consultation on the name of a qualified judge.

The remaining members of the FCC will be appointed by the president in consultation with its chief justice, the names of chief justice and judges will be given to the prime minister through the parliamentary committee.

The age of a judge will be 40 years, three years of court experience and 10 years of legal experience will be mandatory.

An FCC will be established for the dismissal of a judge and the president will give the final approval for dismissal of any judge.

The proposed amendment states that the decision of FCC cannot be challenged in any court, while the decisions of four provincial constitutional courts can be appealed in the FCC.

Meanwhile, according to the JUI-F's draft, special benches of the Supreme Court will be formed to hear constitutional cases. The constitutional bench will consist of Chief Justice of Pakistan and four senior judges.

Fazl's party proposed to implement the 18th Amendment to the extent of appointing judges while the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court will be authorised to hear appeals against the decisions of the constitutional bench of the high courts.

Meanwhile, the cases related to interpretation of the Constitution will be heard by the constitution bench only. 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.—RT/Agency

Atta Tarar Hypes SCO Summit as Game-Changer For Pakistan's Economic And Regional Future

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar claimed that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit would be a game changer for Pakistan, boosting economic and regional ties.

Briefing the international media in Islamabad today about preparations for the upcoming SCO summit, he stated that Pakistan was all set to host a major event and it was a great honour for Pakistan to be acknowledged for its true potential by the global community.

Information minister added that Islamabad had been decorated and turned into a picturesque city reflecting the cultures of SCO member states.

Tarar hailed the conference as a crucial forum for regional cooperation, and stressed the SCO would be pivotal to resolve challenges, including climate change and terrorism.

Federal minister maintained that Pakistan was an advocate of independent policy on trade and investment and committed to the promotion of trade and peace in the region.

Information minister



claimed the recent visit of the Malaysian Prime Minister Datu Seri Anwar Ibrahim was successful and exports would strengthen the ties between the two countries.

The visit of business delegations from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan remained fruitful with regard to increasing Pakistan's trade and investments, he highlighted.

Attallah Tarar emphasised that agreements worth 2.2 billion dollars were signed in the field of agriculture, mining, IT, livestock and energy during the visits of Saudi delegations.

He disclosed that Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman had expressed the desire to increase investment in trade in Pak-

istan. He also recalled the visit of the late Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi which strengthened the ties between the two countries. The minister said Pakistan valued its partnerships with other countries. Attallah Tarar said Pakistan was opening up to the world and the economic indicators were continuously improving, the inflation rate had decreased from 32 pc to 6.9 pc while exports surged by 14 pc with foreign remittances rising to 8.8 billion dollars.

Visit of the Chinese premier would prove a game changer for CPEC which was performing better in the second phase, he added.—RT/Agency

High-Stakes CPEC Talks On The Horizon As Chinese PM Li Qiang Touches Down In Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Premier Li Qiang will embark upon a four-day visit to the federal capital, where he will discuss various matters of mutual interests with Pakistan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

The Chinese dignitary is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and will stay here from October 14-17, a statement released by Ministry of Foreign Affairs read.

The Foreign Office added that PM Li would be accompanied by ministers and senior officials including from the ministries of foreign affairs and commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China International Development Cooperation Agency.

"PM Shehbaz and Premier Qiang will lead their respective delegations to comprehensively discuss all aspects of Pakistan-China relations including economic and trade ties and cooperation under the China Pakistan Economic Cooperation (CPEC). The two sides will also discuss regional and global developments," the statement read.

The Chinese premier will call on President Asif Ali Zardari and hold meetings with parliamentary leaders and senior military leader-



ship of Pakistan. He will also attend the SCO meeting in Islamabad.

The FO said that Li's visit to Islamabad is an expression of the importance attached by Pakistan and China to their "all-weather strategic cooperative partnership".

"It will be an occasion for the two sides to reaffirm mutual support on issues of core interest, advance high-quality development of CPEC, and reinforce regular exchanges on important regional and global developments," it stated.

Islamabad is set to host the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting with major foreign leaders on October 15 and 16.

According to Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, PM Shehbaz will preside over the CHG meeting as the current chair.

Besides the Chinese premier, PMs of Russia, Be-

larus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as the first vice president of Iran and external affairs minister of India will visit Pakistan to represent their respective SCO member states.

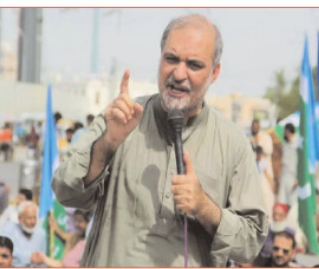
Federal Minister for Information Attallah Tarar on Sunday said the Chinese prime minister's visit and the SCO summit would prove to be a game changer for Pakistan.

He said that good progress was being made in the multi-billion-dollar project's second phase.

The minister added that Islamabad had been decorated for the SCO, which would promote economic and regional ties.

"Bilateral meetings of heads of state will be held on the sidelines of the SCO summit," Tarar said.—RT/Agency

Ji Chief Demands Drastic Cut In Electricity Bills, Calls For Immediate Action



KARACHI: Hafiz Naemur Rehman, the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, announced that the party will continue its struggle until the government implements an agreement regarding electricity bills. He emphasised that the government must reduce electricity charges without fail.

During an online meeting chaired by Rehman, 54,000 members from across the country, including 47,000 men and 7,000 women, participated from various cities such as Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta.

In his address, he stated that the aim of Jamaat-e-Islami's "Haq Do Awam" movement is to secure rights for the people. He asserted that the struggle will persist until the Rawalpindi agreement is implemented.

Rehman expressed satisfaction with the overwhelming public interest in the

party's membership campaign, inviting citizens to join Jamaat-e-Islami and become part of a peaceful resistance movement.

He reiterated that Jamaat-e-Islami will engage in politics solely from its own platform. "Whether it is a public movement, a stance, or a campaign, Jamaat-e-Islami will conduct political resistance independently," he said.

The chief added that the party will hold discussions with various political entities, including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), but clarified that Jamaat-e-Islami will not form alliances with any party in the elections.

Rehman also stressed the necessity for the government to reduce electricity bills and terminate further Independent Power Producer (IPP) agreements to provide relief to the public.—RT/Agency

Naqvi Assures PM Shehbaz of Unprecedented Security For Critical SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi on Sunday apprised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of the security arrangements ahead of the all-important Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

According to details, Naqvi called on PM Shehbaz at the latter's residence. On this occasion, both the leaders had exchanged views on the country's political situation.

Earlier, it was reported that the preparations in connection with the forthcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit have entered the final



stage. Sources divulged on Sunday that the arrival of the representatives from various countries for the staff-level negotiations had also been started.

It is expected that the negotiations at the ministerial-level will begin on October 15.

The delegations will be reached tomorrow for ministerial-level negotiations.—RT/Agency

Islamabad Turns Into A Fortress: Heightened Security Ahead Of SCO Summit Amidst Protest Fears

ISLAMABAD: The federal authorities were preparing on Sunday to shut down the capital ahead of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, an event of international importance.

In a statement, Islamabad Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Nasir Ali Rizvi said that a 'comprehensive' security plan had been chalked out ahead of the all-important summit in the federal capital.

"Security personnel will be deployed at funnel areas, hotels and places where foreign delegations are staying," he said, adding that they ensured the security of foreign leaders, delegations and guests.

Furthermore, Rizvi said search and information-based operations were underway, with personnel of the Pakistan Army, intelligence agencies, Frontier Corps (FC) and Rangers performing their duties.

The police chief pointed out that more than 9,000 personnel of the police force have



been deployed for security. "An integrated traffic plan has also been issued for the convenience of citizens."

Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin will be among the senior regional government officials attending the two-day conference on Tuesday and Wednesday (October 15-16).

In the weeks leading up to the summit, the government has introduced new laws that restrict protest in the federal capital.

They have also arrested hundreds of supporters of key opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), who attempted to march in Islamabad earlier this month, to register protest for "independence of the judiciary" and release of its jailed founder Imran Khan.

A deadly attack on a convoy of Chinese engineers in the mega port city of Karachi last week also deepened security fears.

Local administration has banned protests, sit-ins, rallies and public gatherings in Karachi under Section 144 for a period of five days citing security concerns.—RT/Agency

Sherry Slams PTI's 'Mob Mentality' For Daring Protest During Key SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD: PPP Vice-President Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said that PTI's "worst legacy" was that it had "incessantly shrunk the space for democratic politics by resorting to extremes no one has gone to before" as the opposition prepared for a protest at D-Chowk on October 15.

Her statement came as the PTI 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 when the two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit will begin.

The PTI has also demanded immediate access 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 the prison until Oct 18 due to security concerns related to the high-profile SCO summit.

"If the PTI goes forward



[with] its call for protest in Islamabad on the day of the SCO summit when 7 Prime Ministers are visiting, then no one should be faulted for shaming them as the worst face of mob-led narcissism. This is not politics," Senator Rehman said in an X post.

She added that no one had forgotten "PTI's violence" when Chinese President Xi Jinping cancelled his visit over the party's mass anti-government demonstrations in Islamabad in 2014.

"That's not going to happen again," she said. "We have all been under arrest in

worse conditions but no one has done this."

The former federal minister went on to say that much of the PTI's concerns could be addressed after the summit, however, the party's "worst legacy" was that it had "incessantly shrunk the space for democratic politics by resorting to extremes no one has gone to before."

Responding to her post, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja questioned whether she was aware of the "assaults underway on PTI MNA's homes".—RT/Agency

PTI Leaders Push For Emergency Meeting With Imran Amid Growing Tensions



ISLAMABAD: The interior ministry on Sunday officially received the application moved by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking permission to hold meeting with party founder Imran Khan in Adiala Jail. The application was moved by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar and chief of Sumi Ittehad Council Sahibzada Hamid Raza. "We should be granted immediate permission to meet the party founder who last met with his legal team on Oct 3," said the application. Earlier, Is-

lamabad High Court was also approached by Noreen Khan Niazi, sister of Imran Khan, seeking permission to meet the PTI founder. Earlier, PTI has made the cancellation of its planned protest on October 15 in Islamabad conditional on a meeting with the party's founder, Imran Khan. According to sources, the PTI's core committee concluded an emergency meeting after lengthy discussions, chaired by Secretary General Barrister Salman Akram Raja.—RT/Agency