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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

Azam Nazeer Tarrar briefed MQM-P on the amendments proposals.

MQM-P emphasised the importance of both constitutional amendments and changes in local government laws, advocating for the devolution of powers to lower levels. The PML-N delegation assured full support for MQM-P's proposals, with Prime Minister's backing.

The meeting saw key figures from both parties, including Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Dr Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal, Amin ul Haq, and Khawaja Izzat ul Hassan from MQM-P, and Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Sanaullah, and Azam Nazeer Tarrar representing PML-N. Ahsan Iqbal conveyed the Prime Minister's greetings to Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui. —RT/Agency

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

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

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

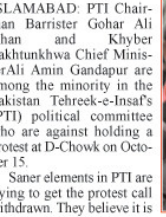


LAHORE: In the much-anticipated protest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) scheduled for October 15, Lahore Police have intensified their efforts and arrested more than 35 party activists from various locations across the city, media reported on Sunday.

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

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



ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Salman Akram Raja and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur are among the minority in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (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 Organisation (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.

It sounds unbelievable but

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 PTV, 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 behaviour 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' fundamental rights.

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.

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

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

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
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.



He emphasized the commitment of the PPP 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.

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.

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.

Earlier, while addressing PPP workers in Badin, Khuhro announced a grand rally in Hyderabad to honor the October 18 martyrs, featuring a speech from Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. He urged the people of Badin, and Sindh as a whole, to prepare to pay tribute to the martyrs and actively participate in the rally. He declared that the Hyderabad gathering would be historic, with the public committed to the ongoing struggle for democracy, constitutional supremacy, and the establishment of people's governance under Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership.

The convention also saw speeches from various PPP leaders, including Haji Rasool Bakhsh Chandio, Haji Taj Muhammad Mallah, Arbab Amanullah, Dada Muhammad Halipot, Yasmeen Shah, Tanzila Qumarami, and Sindh government spokesperson Abdul Wahid Halipot, Chairman Municipal Committee Badin Pir Muhammad Saleh Qureshi, and Secretary Information District Badin Fida Hussain Mandro.

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 Khelifa 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.

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 Phulputa. 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.

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 Keero, 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

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, served as Education Minister for a decade and was the Chief Minister of Sindh from 1948 to 1949.—RT

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 Keero. 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



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

EDITORIAL

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

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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.

SEPCO continues its operations against power theft in Naushehro

By Hasnain Shahid

NAUSHEHRO FEROUZE: 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,



Line Superintendent Muhammad Jaurial Detho, Naushehro Feroze City 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. This operation is on-

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

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 Haveli in the Memon neighborhood, seven armed men stormed the shop, held the owner, and fled with the cash. City Police were notified of the incident and arrived promptly to gather information 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 Muneer, 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

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

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

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 Muneer, 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

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 our 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.'" Trump revealed that he thinks the border is the number one issue facing the nation, blaming Biden, Harris and California Governor Gavin Newsom for the migrant crisis. "I think the border is number one, because you know, you know we can fix things we can do, but what they've done to our country at the border is unbelievable," said Trump.—Agency

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 by PEOPLE that West committed "sexual battery" after giving her a drink that was laced with a substance. 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. Previously, a legal representative for West denied Pisciotta's other claims and stated that "Ye will be filing a lawsuit against Ms. Pisciotta." According to the now-amended complaint filed on Oct. 8 in Los Angeles County Court, Pisciotta alleges that before her employment with West, he invited her to a studio session in Santa Monica, Calif., where "drinks were served to others in attendance, followed by an announcement that everyone had to drink if they wanted to stay." The lawsuit claims that West and Combs co-hosted the studio session, and Pisciotta attended with a "former artist management client." Although Combs is named in the amended complaint as a co-host, Pisciotta is not accusing him of any wrongdoing. The filing further alleges that the drink served to Pisciotta allegedly by a studio assistant at West's request was "laced with an unidentified drug," causing her to feel disoriented after just "a few small sips." "As plaintiff began to slip into an altered and heavily impaired state, she felt less in control of her body and speech, and that is where plaintiff's memories of that night escape her," the complaint reads.

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.—Agency

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

BEJARUS: 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 attracted over 100 students and faculty members, highlighting Pakistan's foreign policy priorities, its role in regional and international affairs, and the strengthening of ties between the two nations.



Additionally, the Embassy organized a photo exhibition in the Academy's central hall, showcasing the growing cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus in education, trade, and culture. The event concluded with a reception featuring traditional Pakistani cuisine, offering attendees a glimpse into the country's rich culinary 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. They emphasized the importance of educational exchange programs in fostering mutual understanding and cooperation.—RT

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. Presentations on business prospects were provided by Jay Gomez, Partner at Triay Lawyers, and Selwyn Figueras, Partner at Hassans International Law Firm.

A highlight of the event was a productive discussion between Minister Santos and myself regarding the potential for PBBC to lead a delegation of UK and Pakistani businesses to Gibraltar in early 2025, with travel and tourism identified as key sectors for collaboration. I was joined by my team, including Adeel Khan, Director of Trade and Investment; Amir Liaqat, Head of Media & Podcast; and Irfan Ali Atif, Associate Producer for Podcast.

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

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. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has vowed Israel's response will be "deadly, precise, and surprising." Araghchi was in Baghdad to discuss the wars in Gaza and Lebanon with Iraqi officials, according to the ministry. 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.—Agency

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.—Agency

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

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.

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.

MONEY

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. In Hyderabad, a 20-kilogram flour bag is priced at Rs2,000, while in Khuzdar, it is being sold for Rs1,950, 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.

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. 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." He expressed optimism that the MoUs would foster mutual economic growth and prosperity.

Dr. Ahmad Syofian, Consul for Economic Affairs, highlighted that the agreements showcase the collaborative efforts of a diverse array of stakeholders, including private firms, micro, small, and medium enterprises, and government entities. 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

